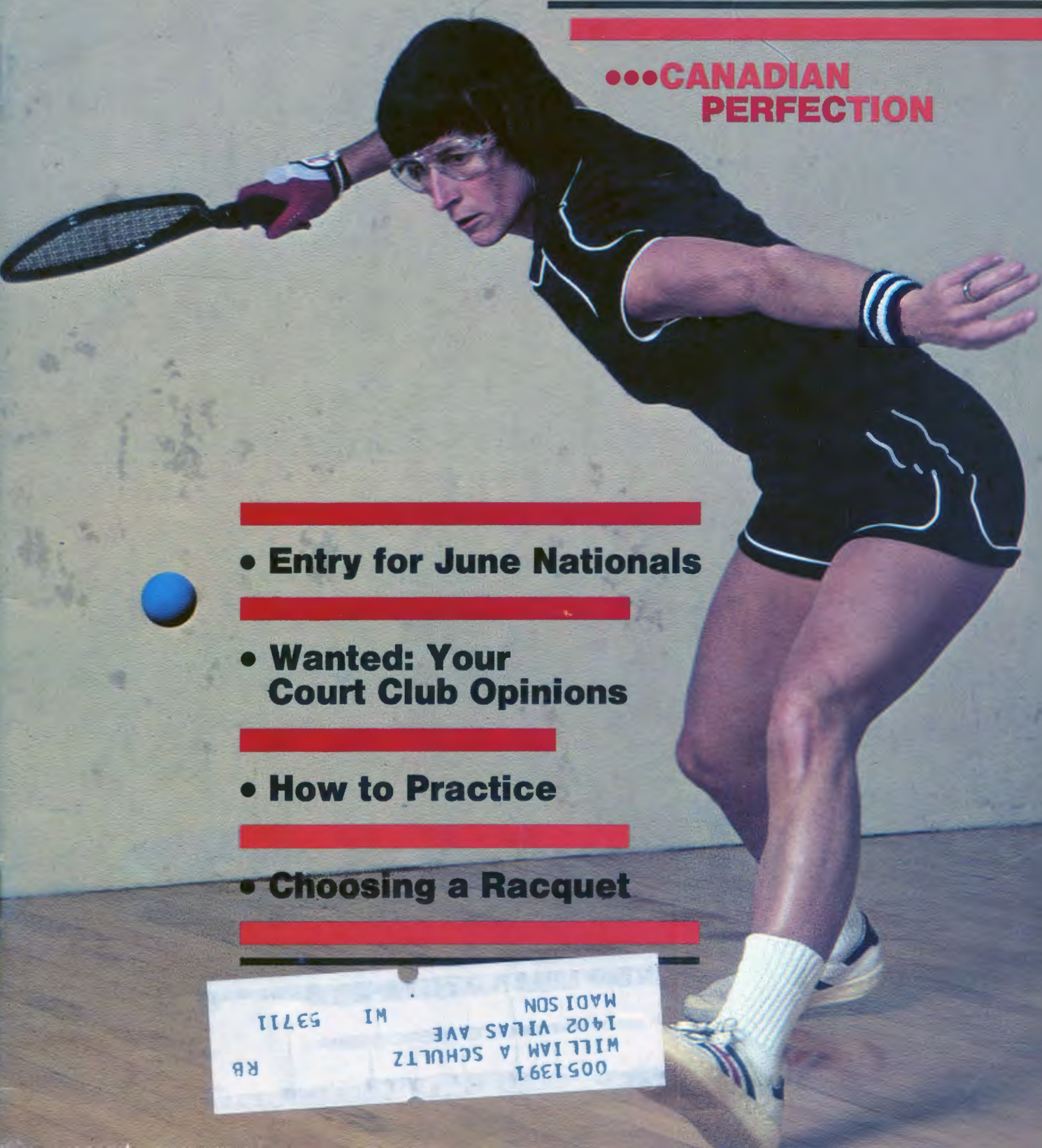


National Racquetball®

Vol. 10 No. 4
April, 1981
\$1.50

...CANADIAN
PERFECTION



• Entry for June Nationals

• Wanted: Your
Court Club Opinions

• How to Practice

• Choosing a Racquet

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RB 53711



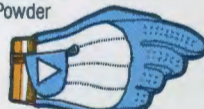
R-200

JOIN THE PROS...

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Ask for Saranac's ALL AMERICAN R-200 Super Suede. The Saranac R-200 racquetball glove is truly an ALL AMERICAN. . . the choice of the pros and the official glove of the U.S. Racquetball Association. Each glove is made in the U.S.A. by Saranac's skilled craftsmen from ultra-thin suede carefully shaved to assure ultimate racquet control. The deep-vented stretch back, Velcro tab closure and elastic wristband give this ALL AMERICAN a custom fit. The R-200 is available at pro shops and sporting goods stores everywhere in eight vibrant colors, each with coordinating wristbands, in men's and Lady Saranac sizes. Join the Pros. . . ask for Saranac. . . the Mark of Excellence!

Powder



Lemon



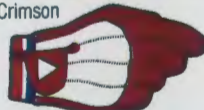
Burnt Orange



White



Crimson



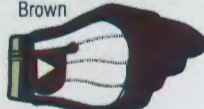
Beige



Green



Brown



OFFICIAL GLOVE



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Saranac

SARANAC GLOVE COMPANY
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The Official USRA Ball

MEET THE ASSASSIN

PATENT PENDING

The revolutionary Dimpled Racquetball by Seamco.

The unique design provides deadly accuracy plus exceptional control. Add spin or english and the ball will curve, rise, dip . . . a totally new dimension to racquetball.

We could talk dimples and aerodynamics or we could talk innovative technology in tooling and secret rubber compounds, but we won't. We prefer the Assassin talk for itself. So, lure your favorite enemies to the court and assassinate them.



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SEAMCO INC., HATFIELD, PENNSYLVANIA, 19440

National Racquetball®

Vol. 10 No. 4
April, 1981
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—Tony Leighton photo

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YOU'RE READY FOR THIS RACQUET, BUT YOUR COMPETITION ISN'T.

ΩMEGA'S GALAXY 21.

One look says Omega isn't offering you "just another pretty racquet." This one is different. Dramatically! In fact, the Galaxy 21 is the most technologically advanced racquet in the game. From bumper strip to butt cap, the Galaxy 21 boasts more performance-enhancing properties than any other racquet on the market today.

The most remarkable difference is in the stringing pattern. It's unlike anything you've ever seen. So distinctive it's patented

(U.S. Patent #4184679). The exclusive MadRaq™ stringing damps vibration better than conventional stringing methods.

Traditional right angle stringing disperses ball impact in only four directions. Galaxy's stringing distributes shock in six directions, four ways diagonally and two ways vertically. Thus, you can play "all out" racquetball with substantially less shock transmission to arm, elbow and wrist.



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But the secret to a better racquetball game is to mix kill shots with finesse to catch your opponent off guard. And finesse is yours with the

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Galaxy 21 has no throatpiece; another engineering design plus to create a lighter, "quicker" racquet. Only 240 grams. You'll swing through the ball faster. (And you won't tire as rapidly.)

Ah, and now the frame. Shiny black metal; quadrangular shape. Pin striped in red and technologically advanced by virtue of its "solid state" construction. The frame extends all the way to the butt cap (which is an integral part of the frame under another patent). The result is further shock absorption and vibration dampening. Beneath a rich silver embossed

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There you have it, the sound technical reasons why you should own this engineering marvel.

You're ready for this racquet. But your competition isn't.

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OFFER
SAVE \$5.00
SEE RACQUET TAG FOR DETAILS.

From Bob Kendler



A Simple Statement of Fact

If you hear the stories we hear, you must wonder how racquetball ever reached such heights of popularity in just one decade. I can assure you it was certainly not by accident. Ten tedious years of trial and error is the real story of its beginning. It is tremendously interesting, full of frustration and conspiracy and rife with fairy tales that find their origin in battered minds.

It is like a Horatio Alger story, and I'll let you decide who was Horatio Alger by simply reciting the facts. It serves to inform you who we are, whence we came and whither we are bound. We think it's good to clear the air periodically and, for the newcomers particularly, re-state our motives and strengths.

In 1935 we came upon a National Championship that did little to reflect glory on the oldest sport in history from which many sports emerged—handball. Through all the ages it was the pride of the Irish, and its fame spread wherever men admired fierce competition. Naturally it was our plan to pry the championship loose from our Irish friends and in the ensuing years we succeeded. It was not easy.

To perpetuate our achievement we formed the United States Handball Association, and soon it was chartered as an eleemosynary foundation which simply means it is not-for-profit. It has been eminently successful, and as we close in on our 50 years of service, we take inspiration from the 900 year history of this grand old game and hope we may be able to continue to provide the countless opportunities that make our association a sanctuary for the young and sometimes misguided.

Contrary to popular opinion I did not invent handball. It may not be the same game it was when I came along, but it has a recorded history of almost one thousand years. To preserve its history I established the Handball Perpetuation Fund and, with many of handball's real friends, we are providing for its future. Then I invented the Glass Court and the boom began. Neither handball nor racquetball were ever the same.

Now I didn't invent racquetball either, and it is not the game it was when I came along. The fellow who deserves credit for starting it is Joe Sobek. It was a wooden paddle sport in the beginning and fellows like Steve Keeley were the early champions. I formed the National Paddle Association and later the International Racquetball Association. After some years, this became the American Amateur Racquetball Association. This organization has gone on without me inasmuch as I turned my attention to the United States Racquetball Association. We have a cordial relationship and for some strange reason they list me atop their masthead as president from 1969 to 1973. I am flattered and grateful.

That brings us up to the USRA and its counterpart for professionals the National Racquetball Club, both of which owe their existence to the United States Handball Association and the National Handball Club. All of them are as solid as the Rock of Gibraltar and have survived every legal attack that the legal beagles can generate. Some run into millions of dollars. None have succeeded. Either the Good Lord is looking after us or the way we serve youth has its own reward.

Dollars Back to Racquetball

We don't operate any sport for profit. Although a couple of million dollars come in every year, when we get through traveling the kids around, giving to charities and providing scholarships, there is nothing left. In fact we frequently get help from our goodhearted friends. In truth there is no more loving and understanding charitable group in sports than ours, and we make it work to the advantage of the losers as well as the winners.

You have never heard us tell of this, and there is no reason why we should. We promote our sports for one purpose only, so we can do good, and even more good. That's all we want in life. What parents say to us and about us is our real reward.

You know you can send your child to our tournaments without the slightest fear of harm. We have Joe Ardito, who is known as the Pied Piper of Racquetball. In all our years there have never been problems of any kind because we are responsible parents and look after your children as we

look after ours, and most of us have children—in my case seven children and 12 grandchildren. All the men in our family play handball and my grandson, Jon, is the current National Junior Handball Champion (under 17 years).

We have a wonderful organization of people who are by nature charitable. One man spends his free time doing volunteer work for the St. Vincent De Paul Society, taking the elderly shopping and visiting. Another spends his free time teaching kids handball at the Y. Another gives racquetball classes to kids who can't pay. Another works tirelessly for a group helping the retarded, and they are achieving remarkable results.

Believe it or not I worked my way to the top of a great charitable fraternity considered the largest in the world. I report this only to make you aware of the nature of our complex organization and to assure you that our staff members are noble people. Everyone on our team is a good shepherd and gives of himself constantly.

Payroll of 200

The only trouble is that the team is getting so big. In Washington, DC in 1935 we put on the National Handball Championship for \$300. Now we need a hundred people and \$100,000. I never wanted to make big business out of the court sports but it has become big business. The other day I was signing our sports checks and was amazed to find we have over 200 people on our payroll. That was a week when we had one team in Ireland, one team in Hawaii and another in San Francisco. That is one of our problems. To do the work of governing handball and racquetball, we have to be all things to all people, and in all places.

Now what I really want you to know is that we are a big organization and have a solid State staff . . . 50 commissioners in racquetball and 50 commissioners in handball. They are doing a wonderful job and all the tea in China won't change their faith in us.

Don't believe the stories that say there are new leaders. Thank goodness the racquetball regulars know better and prefer our thinking. And they are not persuaded by racquetball revolutions. This is not a Communist sport and it certainly does not need revolutionary reference. We are so conscious of the responsibility of governing our sports that we go to extremes to observe and implement the will of the vast

SEAMCO "BLUE 600"

A Smashing New Idea in a Racquetball!

It's Official...
It's the Racquetball
adopted by the



This new pressureless ball has the look and performance of a champion. Off the wall, "Blue 600" responds with a consistent bounce, coupled with lively action—play after play. Whether you play in a power game or a ceiling game you are always in control. Brilliant blue color gives it high indoor visibility, too. Has the unique distinction of bearing the seal of the USRA. And that's official. Next time, put Seamco "Blue 600" into play and see what it does for your game. It's a blast! It's the ball control players can appreciate!

IF IT BOUNCES SEAMCO MAKES IT...OFFICIAL

SEAMCO

Seamco Inc.
Hatfield, Pennsylvania 19440



majority of the players that we represent. Our far flung State organizations are sounding boards for all ideas.

What you have to guard against today is not only misleading stories, but also misleading rules. A certain manufacturer is about to distribute new rule books that have playing and scoring changes the regulars would not tolerate. Unfortunately they are given to new players who don't know any better. All this leads to confusion and disorganization, and that may be just what this manufacturer wants. Be sure to play by our rule book because when you get into the big tournaments, you'll be playing by our rules. You are aware, I presume, that we run important tournaments around the country and every one of the National Championships. And about 500 more!

We never intended to run all the tournaments. We are so occupied with the big ones and are so busy with our long range plans for both sports that it would be physically impossible to properly supervise the many fine local events that don't need our help. As long as they follow our pattern and maintain a standard format with dignity and orderly conduct, we will recognize both the tournament and the players. We think they are good for the game just as Little League and Pony League helped baseball.

Proven Staying Power

Never doubt for a moment our strength or our staying power. We'll be here long after our imitators have disappeared. We were here before they were born and you can assume, as we go world wide, there will be someone in our family to take charge of the next generation's tournaments. We are developing a super structure as all of the major sports have done, and we have the backing of the principal sponsors in both sports. We point with pride to Spalding who has been our handball sponsor for 33 years. Leach, Seamco, Champion and Saranac have been with racquetball from Day One.

It may surprise you to know that we turn down more ads than we accept. For example we don't run liquor ads or cigarette ads. Numerous products have been bypassed because they don't reflect the wholesome image we wish to encourage. Naturally we get a backlash of criticism for taking this position, and it may be that some of it has come your way.

You know if you are bored with this prolonged discourse, I don't wonder. You read *National Racquetball* because you

want to improve your game, and we're here to provide you with that and with tournament stories and with news, instruction and features about our great game. But if you have read this far, you will be glad to learn I don't intend to review our history and list our contributions to the sport soon again. We'll let a spotless record of 50 years speak for itself. Remember—We make the news.

Ernie & Bob Kendler

Ernie and Bob Kendler

-
-
- St. Matthew 5:14 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid.
- 15 Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.
- 16 Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven.
-
-

From the National Commissioner



Bright Racquetball Facts No Fantasy

It seems as if it would be easier to pin a Hollywood screen writer down to facts than to get reliable figures on the racquetball business. So the economic state of racquetball is often anybody's guess.

That being the case—some people in the industry are hanging the black crepe,

guessing that the best is over for our sport. And when I've disputed their interpretation of the trends, some have called me a Pollyanna—believing what I want to believe about the sport I love.

So I've been doing a little digging. First I started with our own files here at USRA headquarters. I've seen how new clubs write to us week after week asking to be put on our complimentary list for *National Racquetball* magazine and on our list of new clubs in the Court Club section. When I added up that list of clubs that grows every week, I found that today there are more than 2,000 clubs in business from coast to coast. When I checked other lists in our office of YMCAs, JCCs, recreation facilities and colleges that receive *National Racquetball* every month, I found another 1,000 racquetball centers.

Then I went one step further. I checked with some of the major retailers in the country. I called Richard Levy, racquet sports buyer of Herman's, a 90 store chain that sells more racquetball equipment than any other string of sporting goods stores in the country. Levy's comment? "*Racquetball equipment sales were up in 1980 over 1979.*" I also checked with Randy McIntyre at the K mart chain, who says "*racquetball equipment sales are good—it's a strong, viable category.*"

I realize that figures can do whatever a person wants to make them do. But I know, too, from talking with court club owners and players, that when a club gives its members their money's worth, the members continue playing a lot of racquetball—and that they bring in their families and friends to share the fun.

Now I've reinforced my feelings about the bright future of racquetball with some reassuring facts. Let's get on with the business of making our great sport grow.

Joe Ardito

Joe Ardito



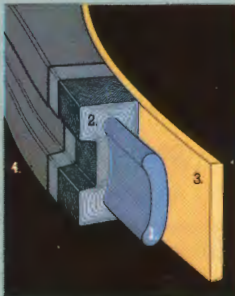
The Ektelon Composite 250G™...the most important points are the ones it can add to your game.

Introducing Ektelon's Composite 250G — the first continuous-fiber graphite/fiberglass composite in the game. Revolutionary design, construction and unparalleled tournament performance have made it the most popular racquet in its class.

Point One: Unique Construction. Ektelon craftsmen hand-lay laminations of continuous fiberglass fibers around a continuous graphite fiber core. Using precise variations in the proportions, positions, and relative angles of these two materials, Ektelon fine-tunes every millimeter of the racquet frame ... making it flexible where it should be flexible, stiffer where it should be stiffer, and lighter where it needs to be lighter.

Point Two: Power. Ektelon's carefully controlled use of stiffer, lighter graphite fibers gives the 250G tremendous snap at impact with the ball.

Point Three: Control. Ektelon's unique use of tough, heavier fiberglass fibers provides exceptional flexibility and control, while adding strength.



1. Continuous graphite fibers.
 2. Continuous fiberglass fibers.
 3. Vibration-damping urethane ring.
 4. Torque-tube construction.
- Racquet Specs: 250 grams.
18 1/4" long.

Point Four: Durability. Utilizing a torque tube design (the fiberglass completely encases the graphite), Ektelon minimizes racquet face distortion and maximizes durability. Like all Ektelon racquets, the Composite 250G features a full two-year racquet frame and ninety-day string warranty.

Point Five: Winning Points. The popularity of the 250G among knowledgeable players points to just one thing: performance. Its innovative features add up to surer passes, harder kills, fewer skips, more points game after game and match after match. And that's the whole point of a racquetball racquet.

EKTELON

The Most Recommended
Racquet in Racquetball.*

*Research results available from Ektelon.

Composite 250G is a trademark of Ektelon, San Diego, CA.

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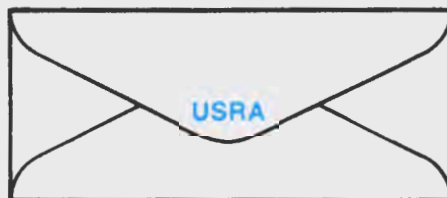
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From Our Readers



Search for the Smallest

Dear Editor:

I am wondering—what's the smallest town, population-wise, that boasts a racquetball court? Pinedale, WY, (population 1,074 from the 1980 census) has a one court racquetball club.

Judi Myers
Pinedale, WY

Know of a smaller town with a racquetball club? Send us word. ED

Thanks for Convictions . . .

Dear Mr. Kendler:

Just a note of thanks for expressing some outstanding Christian perspective on life and sports in the January issue of *National Racquetball*. Proverbs 3:5,6 has been a constant companion for five months of personal crisis and racquetball has become a release for some of the stress. I hope you will continue to share convictions in both of these areas.

Tom Bowers
Ontario, Canada

. . . Another View

Sirs:

As a long time racquetball player I find the magazine *National Racquetball* very interesting. However I do not feel that religion, particularly constant preaching about Jesus, is appropriate for the association to sponsor.

I think that you should switch to other magazines rather than have the national association connected with such narrow and inappropriate editorials.

Jerrold Michaels, D.V.M.
Crystal Lake, IL

Racquetball Scholarships

Dear Editor:

The year of panic is upon us. To many parents, this is the year our sons and daughters are finally thinking about college. It's the junior year of high school. We gaze in wonder at all the scholarships in sports that are open to them if they are interested in basketball, football, baseball,

etc. But what if they're not into these activities. What if their main interest and outside-of-school pleasures revolve around racquetball. What is open to them?

Let me tell you a little about a very determined young man. David is 16 as of October 1980. He has been playing racquetball since the age of 10; and by the way plays quite well. His father got him interested in the sport. His home club is Cove Courts in Lombard, IL and he works there part time as an instructor and plays as much as possible under an unlimited schedule, which costs \$200 every four months. David has entered and placed well in many tournaments all over the state. He has been on the winning team in Junior Excellence that has played six other clubs during the '79 winter season. Cove Courts has great hopes for him and so do we.

What are the opportunities for players like David? Are you behind this child and the hundreds or thousands of others out there who are really interested in our sport? Where do we turn for help to further their education? Why are there golden opportunities for the person playing the right sport? And who says which is the right one? Help us! We need the scholarship! Are you supplying them or are you telling us that this isn't the great and upcoming sport of our future for determined young people? Give us the backing and we'll take the sport to the top.

Thank you for your articles and suggestions which I know many read faithfully. Now show us you care about our young men and women who want to further their education.

John and Nedra Bachar
Lombard, IL

The USRA's scholarship contributions have been \$3,000 a year for the boy and girl who win the 17 and Under divisions at the National Junior Championships. Then we've awarded \$8,000 in scholarships to four men and four women who win our Intercollegiate. Add to this a \$5,000 scholarship award presented at the Nationals to the Player of the Year. Though these contributions are substantial, we constantly encourage sponsors to make it possible for more young players to go to college on racquetball scholarships. ED

100 in Three Minutes

Dear Carol:

Let me set the facts straight. Though I can do a lot of pushups I can't do 300 in one minute, as stated in the February issue of

NOW THE CROWD PLEASER IS A PLAYER PLEASER TOO!



Introducing **TWIN-VUE®** Glass Walls.

The crowd sees it as clear glass. The players see it as solid wall.

Up to now, attracting the spectators has always meant distracting the players—with backgrounds that intrude on every shot. But not any more. Now, patented TWIN-VUE glass lets the players concentrate totally on their game, as if they had the house to themselves. They see opaque walls on all sides. Yet they're surrounded by spectators watching the action more clearly than they would through conventional glass.

With TWIN-VUE, switch on the specified lighting system and the surface *as seen from the inside* appears milk-white, shutting out the outside to the players. While from the fans' point of view, the action comes through sharper than ever. Even television through TWIN-VUE is far superior.

With TWIN-VUE, YOU PLEASE EVERYBODY. A better window for the crowd. A

better wall for the players. Our standard two-way glass wall has always been the finest you could install. But now, by applying the TWIN-VUE process, we've made our best even better.

Write or call for further information!

*Standard Features For Every
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*All-tempered glass in compliance with
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6-ft high all glass doors.

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ASSOCIATION.**

**GLASS
SYSTEMS** by



TWIN-VUE®
Glass Walls
*All the action.
No distraction.*

National Racquetball. What I can do is 100 pushups in three minutes with one minute rest in between sets. That's a total of 300 pushups in nine minutes.

Charlie Siddle
San Diego, CA

More Racquetball Auto Mates

Dear USRA:

In reference to your article, "Racquetball on Wheels" (December, 1980), enclosed you will find a photo of my wheels. If you



can find a spot in a future magazine issue, it would be appreciated.

Robert R. Drouin
Dover, DE

P.S. When I get my personalized plate it will read "USRA."

Another Eyeguard

Dear Editor:

Your January article about eyeguard protection was an excellent way to draw attention to the need for that equipment. There was only one problem. Dr. Gregg omitted mention of an eyeguard that fits the requirements for excellent eye protection. It's the Guardian All-Sport fashion eyeguard, which protects the entire eye and comes with padding to prevent cutting of the brows and nose.

I'm sure your readers would want to know about this product available at pro shops or sporting goods stores.

Jerome Terracino
Danbury, CT

Sandbagging

Dear Editor:

We had the opportunity to attend a tournament in Chico recently, and we found it a wonderful way to meet different people with the same interests. We have made many new friends at tournaments. I was scheduled to play Women's D division (I have been playing approximately one year). I happened to be watching a

doubles match and I saw a woman playing Men's Bs. This same woman was playing Women's Ds. I don't need to tell you who won first place. I was her second game and I continued to watch her throughout the rest of the tournament; no one ever got more than three points on her.

Why would she do such a thing, and how can we stop it from happening again? The tournament directors said there was nothing they could do about it, *everyone* in our class protested the matches, but even at that she wouldn't withdraw. (How can you feel proud about winning a trophy like that?)

I think sandbagging is the worst thing you can do in a tournament.

Liz Smith
Modesto, CA

Anyone have ideas about combatting sandbagging? ED

Club Eye Consultants

Dear Editor:

I found the article by Dr. Gregg very timely and informative. I only hope the racquetball players take his advice before any more suffer serious and possible irreversible eye damage.

Additionally I trust that my fellow eye care practitioners are offering these services, in terms of consulting to their local racquetball clubs.

Lynn Stanford Smith, O.D., M.P.H.
Oakland, CA

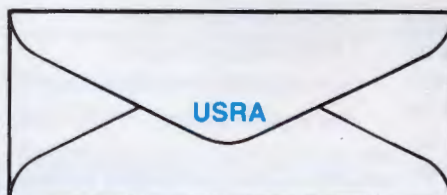
He Needs Nose Protection, Too

Dear Editor:

I just had nose surgery and want protection across my face. I tried a catcher's mitt, but it was too heavy. Where can I get the masks that were pictured in your excellent January article on eye protection?

Dan Kliegman
North Miami Beach, FL

Write to the author, James R. Gregg, O.D.,
412 S. Rolling Hills Pl., Anaheim, CA
92807. ED



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the all-around
athletic sock
...anything else
is a substitute



Luxurious blend of 85% Orlon Acrylic/15% Nylon. Fully cushioned over-the-calf sock that protects feet from shock . . . even under the most vigorous activity. True rib top prevents sagging or drooping. Wigwam's tube construction means a perfect fit for all women's sizes.



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1981 LEACH National Pro-Am Racquetball Championships

Sanctioned by the NRC/USRA

The Arizona Athletic Club, with its 14 courts, swimming pool, lounge/disco and every other amenity a racquetball player could hope for, is preparing to host the 1980-81 Leach National Pro-Am Racquetball Championships sanctioned by the NRC/USRA.

The tournament June 6-13 will feature more amateur divisions of play than any other Nationals, with competition in 25 categories ranging from Open to Veteran Golden Masters for both men and women. And the top 32 men pros will battle for the title of 1981 National Champion.

As we said in 79, the last time the AAC was Nationals host, *"If they can't do it at the Arizona Athletic Club, then it can't be done."* Besides providing unbeatable hospitality the AAC offers varied between-match activities on its basketball courts, running paths, billiard rooms and tennis courts.

Needless to say the amenities of the club and the proximity to the southern California racquetball community make the 1981 Nationals look to be the biggest in history. None of this could be possible without the support of our sponsors, and especially Leach Industries, recently acquired by Diversified Products. DP Leach leads the way with support of all NRC/USRA programs, as well as its achievements in racquetball racquet technology. Diversified Products' commitment to be number one and their awareness of the major role physical fitness plays in today's society makes the company the natural teammate for the NRC/USRA, providing the finest in racquetball to all players across the country.

Another sponsor the NRC/USRA holds in highest regard is Seamco, Inc. which generously supports our programs. Seamco has been a major voice in making racquetball the sport of the 80s. This past season the leaders—Leach, Seamco and the National Racquetball Club/United States Racquetball Association—have offered the finest in racquetball pro-am events with the following co-sponsors:

Catalina, Adolph Coors Brewing Co, William B. Tanner, Coca-Cola, Kunnan Enterprises and Robert W. Kendler. Our hats are off to all of them and I'm sure

they all wish the best of individual success to each and every one of you who are participating in the Nationals. Good luck!

—Dan Bertolucci,
NRC Director



Ticket order form . . .



arizona athletic club

Backwall Seating Diagram

Row 15	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Row 14	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Row 13	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Row 12	1	2	3	4	5	6		8	9	10	11	12
Row 11	1	2	3	4	5	6		8	9	10	11	12
Row 10	1	2	3	4	5	6		8	9	10	11	12
Row 9	1	2	3	4	5	6		8	9	10	11	12
Row 8	1	2	3	4	5	6		8	9	10	11	12
Row 7	1	2	3	4	5	6		8	9	10	11	12
Row 6	1	2	3	4	5	6		8	9	10	11	12
Row 5	1	2	3	4	5	6		8	9	10	11	12
Row 4	1	2	3	4	5	6		8	9	10	11	12
Row 3	1	2	3	4	5	6		8	9	10	11	12
Row 2	1	2	3	4	5	6		8	9	10	11	12
Row 1	1	2	3	4	5	6		8	9	10	11	12

Glass Backwall

Seating Information

- All backwall seats are cushioned, with the first five rows having backrests.
- Ticket entitles holder to a reserved seat for the entire seven day event.
- Prices are as follows:
First five rows • \$200 Second five rows • \$150 Third five rows • \$100.
- Your seat assignment will depend on how soon we receive your check. Seat assignment is on a first come first served basis.

NOTE: Seating is also available at tables upstairs in our comfortable restaurant and lounge. Each table seats six (6), and provides excellent viewing over the entire exhibition court area. Table service for food, beverages, and cocktails will be available. Cost per table: \$1,400.

To Order: Circle the seat(s) you wish to reserve, and enclose this order form with a check payable to the Arizona Athletic Club. Send to:
Arizona Athletic Club — 1425 W. 14th, Tempe, Arizona 85281 — Attention: Denny Poor

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Hotels . . .

Fiesta Inn

2100 South Priest Drive
Tempe, AZ 85282
602-967-1441
Single \$32.00
Double \$38.00

Holiday Inn

915 East Apache Boulevard
Tempe, AZ 85281
602-968-3451
Single \$26.00
Double \$33.00

Regal 8 Inn

1720 South Priest Drive
Tempe, AZ 85281
602-968-4401
Single \$18.88
Double \$21.88
3 or 4 people \$24.88

Howard Johnson's Motor Lodge

313 Apache Boulevard
Tempe, AZ 85281
602-967-9431
Single \$26.00
Double \$32.00
Double/Double \$34.00

Persons calling for rooms should ask for reservations and identify themselves with the National Racquetball Championships.

All hotels within
5 minutes of club.

1980-81 LEACH National Pro-Am Racquetball Championships

SITE: Arizona Athletic Club, 1425 West 14th St., Tempe, Arizona 85281. Phone: 602-894-2281.

FACILITIES: 14 regulation racquetball courts, 6 outdoor tennis courts; swimming pool, complete spa facilities including jogging track, whirlpools, cold plunges, complete Nautilus equipment; 1 three-glass walled exhibition court and 1 two-glass walled court. Seating capacity 1,000.

ELIGIBILITY: Any USRA member (memberships available at the tournament, cost is \$12 per year at the tournament.) Be prepared to show your USRA membership card at registration or include \$8 membership special cost with entry for all new members.

ENTRY FEES: \$100 in professional event (top 32); \$50 in amateur events. Limit 2 events per player—no exceptions. \$15 for second event.

ENTRY DEADLINE: In our possession by 6 p.m. Friday, May 22, 1981. Entry fee must accompany entry form. Entries received unsigned or without entry fee will not be accepted. No phone entries—no exceptions. Late entries will not be guaranteed a souvenir item.

SANCTION: By U.S. Racquetball Association (USRA) and National Racquetball Club (NRC) as part of the NRC Pro/Am Racquetball Tour, co-sponsored by Seamco and Leach.

OFFICIAL BALL: Seamco 559 (green) in professional event. Seamco 600 (blue) in all amateur events.

AWARDS: \$100,000 in prize money and awards. Look for additional information in the May issue of *National Racquetball*.

STARTING TIMES: All participants will be notified by mail of starting time(s) and also by calling 602-894-2284 **no earlier** than June 1, 1981.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: U.S. Racquetball Association.

MAIL CHECKS AND COMPLETED ENTRY FORM TO: Leach Nationals-USRA, 4101 Dempster St. Skokie, Illinois 60076.
Attention: Dan Bertolucci

SPECIAL NOTE!!! Entry fee entitles player to the following additional amenities:

1. Free general admission ticket to each tournament player for viewing all matches on exhibition court (sidewall seating). Tournament player may view matches on other courts at no-charge.
2. Free admission to player at annual Awards Banquet.
3. Free Tournament Souvenirs (Other give-aways designated by host).
4. Free all-day, daily hospitality for player.
5. Free use of courts for warm-up by early arrivals on June 4 & 5.
6. Free use of club's facilities for player.

RULES, REGULATIONS AND NOTES:

1. All match winners will be expected to referee in amateur events or be subject to forfeiture.
2. No partner changes will be allowed in doubles events after entry deadline.
3. Entry fees are non-refundable.
4. All NRC/USRA rules apply including 5 minutes rest between all games and all matches played two games to 21 and third game to 11, if necessary. Winners must referee following match on court assigned to them.
5. A minimum of 8 entrants or teams is required for a division of play to occur. If 8 entrants or teams are not attained, then those players or teams will be automatically placed in the next youngest applicable division of play.

SHIRT SIZE: S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____

SHORT SIZE: S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____

PLEASE ENTER ME IN: (Check events desired — maximum of two):

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ Men Pro Singles (top 32 only) | ☐ Women Amateur Singles Open |
| ☐ Men Amateur Singles Open | ☐ Women Veteran Singles (30 +) |
| ☐ Men Veteran Singles (30 +) | ☐ Women Senior Singles (35 +) |
| ☐ Men Senior Singles (35 +) | ☐ Women Veteran Singles (40 +) |
| ☐ Men Veteran Senior Singles (40 +) | ☐ Women Masters Singles (45 +) |
| ☐ Men Masters Singles (45 +) | ☐ Women Veteran Masters Singles (50 +) |
| ☐ Men Veteran Masters Singles (50 +) | ☐ Women Amateur Doubles Open |
| ☐ Men Golden Masters Singles (55 +) | ☐ Women Veteran Doubles (30 +) |
| ☐ Men Veteran Golden Masters Singles (60 +) | ☐ Women Senior Doubles (35 +) |
| ☐ Men Amateur Doubles Open | ☐ Women Masters Doubles (45 +) |
| ☐ Men Veteran Doubles (30 +) | ☐ Women Veteran Masters Singles (55 +) |
| ☐ Men Senior Doubles (35 +) | ☐ Women Veteran Golden Master Singles (60 +) |
| ☐ Men Masters Doubles (45 +) | |
| ☐ Men Golden Masters Doubles (55 +) | |



WAIVER: I understand it is your intention to have my participation hereunder recorded on video-tape for presentation on television and elsewhere, and I expressly agree that you shall have the unlimited right and authority to use and exploit your coverage of the series, the video-tape and any and all forms of reproduction thereof coverage of the series, the video-tape and any and all forms of reproduction thereof in any and all media in perpetuity in whatever manner and by whatever means and wherever you may desire without any obligation to pay any monies to me except as hereinabove expressly provided. Such recordings shall without limitations be the sole property of NRC/USRA to deal with, broadcast, sell, license, rent, exhibit and otherwise use or reuse in whole or in part as the NRC/USRA see fit.

I hereby for myself and my agents waive and release any and all rights and claims for damages I might have against the Arizona Athletic Club, The U.S. Racquetball Association, the National Racquetball Club, Diversified Products, Leach Industries, Seamco, Inc. and any of their agents, for any and all injuries received by me in connection with this tournament.

Signature: _____

Parent (If Under 18) _____

Date _____

Name _____ Birth Date _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone () Area Code _____ Work Phone _____

Signature _____

Doubles Partner's Name _____ Birth Date _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Amount Enclosed:

\$ _____ First Event

\$ _____ Second Event

\$ _____ Special USRA Membership (\$8)

\$ _____ Total Amount Enclosed



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Canada's Best

Concentration Is Heather McKay's Key

by Laurence Shames



Copyright, 1980,
Printed in the December issue of *Quest/80*

What would you expect the world's most accomplished athlete to look like? Well he should probably be about six feet two, with a pair of shoulders like Muhammad Ali's, legs like Bjorn Borg's, and a neck like an NFL linebacker's. His muscles should ripple and the earth should tremble when he walks. He should be about 25 years old, and he should have an expense paid college career and a vast number of training table steaks under his belt. He should weigh in at about 210.

That's what you'd expect. But now try on this description of the world's most accomplished athlete. She's five feet six, weighs 135 pounds, has slender arms and legs no thicker than a shot putter's biceps. She's 39 years old, largely self-taught and—off the court—looks about as fierce as Julie Andrews.

Her name is Heather McKay, and she is the undisputed queen of racquet sports. Until very recently her game was squash—the most physically and mentally demanding of all racquet games—and she almost literally owned it for the astonishing tenure of 20 years, during which time she amassed a record that, according to *Sports Illustrated*, "is unmatched by any woman in any sport." McKay dropped two matches in two decades. Both losses came in the very early stages of her career, and after 1962 she never lost at all.

On several occasions she went through entire seasons without even dropping a game—matches are three out of five—

—Tony Leighton photo



and opponents measured their performances in terms of how many points they scored. McKay's dominion was so unquestioned as to give new meaning to the old cliché about being in a class by oneself: for 20 years women's squash was a scramble for second place. McKay, meanwhile, was chalking up an awesome 16 straight British championships and 14 Australian titles, the only two women's world tournaments ever played, and every major competition held in North America. In 1967 she was voted Australian sports-person of the year, and in 1969 was made a Member of the British Empire "for services to sports." Not to be outdone her native land conferred upon her the Order of Australia a decade later.

McKay, then, is something of a legend—but, owing to the (finally changing) fringe status of squash, and of women's athletics overall, she has remained largely unknown to the general public. While certain male athletes with less impressive won-lost percentages—Ali, Borg and Ron Guidry, to name a few—have become household idols around the world, Heather McKay has remained essentially a cult figure among racquet wielders. A bit of background about her and her sport is therefore in order.

The game of squash has long had certain aristocratic connotations, which is rather strange, since it was invented in an English prison in the middle of the last century. Since prisoners couldn't go beyond the walls, it made sense to play a game *against* the walls, and thus squash was born. By mysterious and unknown means the game spread from the jail to

the prestigious Harrow School, from which it spread to the English universities, and later to the American Ivy League and, of course, Australia. In transit the game underwent various changes, and slightly different versions of it exist around the world. The International game—which is the version McKay most thoroughly dominated—is played on a court 21 feet wide and 32 feet long. It's only slightly larger than a suburban living room, but it's the site of some of the most concentrated action in the whole world of sport. The game basically consists of a small, squishy ball's being swatted around with racquets that most closely resemble somewhat overfed badminton rackets. They have long throats and small round heads, and hitting anything with them—let alone a small projectile traveling at 100 m.p.h. is a considerable challenge.

Since shots may be played off all four walls (but not the ceiling), the number of possible angles is mind boggling; squash geometry is a science unto itself. But the thing that truly sets squash apart from all other racquet sports is that there's essentially no such thing as a sure winner. You can't be sure of winning on a passing shot, as in tennis, because the back wall gives the opponent a chance to catch up with it on the rebound; and you can't hit "rollouts," as in racquetball, because there's a diabolical invention known as the "telltale," or "tin," 19 inches off the floor on the front wall—if you hit it, you lose that point; if you hit above it, your opponent has a chance, at least, of getting to the ball. Thus squash is a waiting game,

a game of position, patience, stamina and concentration. It requires restraint, determination and boundless energy. It's a sort of physical chess, in which intelligence matters as much as strength, in which character figures as strongly as speed. These are the elements that make it such a fine sport, and these are the qualities that have made Heather McKay perhaps its finest practitioner.

The eighth of 11 children . . . Heather Blundell began showing signs of being the outstanding performer in a family of athletes.

McKay (pronounced McEYE) was born on July 31, 1941 in a small Australian town called Queanbeyan, outside Canberra. She was the eighth of 11 children born to Frank and Dulcie Blundell, and even before reaching adolescence she began showing signs of being the outstanding performer in a family of athletes. Her father, a baker, had formerly been one of New South Wales's most fearsome Rugby League fullbacks. Her sister, Kay, was a local tennis star, and her brother, Kenny, was accomplished at both tennis and cricket. Heather was raised in an atmosphere where the girls were never discouraged from playing every bit as hard as the boys, and her talent and drive were thus allowed to develop from childhood on.



Heather McKay is a two time All-Australia field hockey player.

"There was nothing left for me to accomplish in squash—except to do it all over again."

But squash was not the first or even the second sport at which young Heather Blundell excelled. At the age of 10 she took up tennis, by 16 she was Queanbeyan's women's champ. People in her hometown began touting her as the next Margaret Court, though McKay, who refuses to take credit for things she *might* have done, denies that she was really all that good. At 13 she learned field hockey, and soon became proficient enough to earn a regular place on the town team. (McKay kept playing hockey even during the height of her squash career, and was twice voted All-Australia, in 1967 and again in 1971.)

She came to squash quite by chance. In the late 1950s squash began to boom in Australia—as it has boomed in this country in just the past five years—and Queanbeyan's first courts were built. Needless to say McKay could not let the strange new sport go untried, though she initially regarded the game as nothing more than a diverting means of keeping her legs in shape for hockey. She learned the game by knocking around with her teammates, and when she had run out of competition among them, she started playing the local men. Where she began clobbering them, it started dawning on people that the kid might have something. Just by luck a man named Vin Napier, then head of the Australian Squash Racquets Association, saw her play in a small local tournament, and convinced her to compete in the New South Wales championships. The rest, as they say, is history.

McKay didn't win that first tournament, but she did well enough to earn a spot in the 1960 Australian nationals. At the time of that tournament she had been playing less than a year, and by her own admission knew very little about the game. All she did was run and hit, playing safe shots and making no mistakes. It was a strategy based on sheer determination, and it won her the national crown. Years later Jean Walker, a teammate of McKay's, commented that "*winning that tournament was the best thing she ever did. To be unknown and win a national tournament is unheard of.*" But of course almost everything that McKay went on to do was unheard of.

In 1962 she left Australia for the first time, to compete in the British nationals. Back then the English dominated the squash world, and the British crown was the de facto world championship. So prestigious was the British event that a series of other tournaments led up to it. The first of these was the Scottish Open, and it was here that McKay suffered her second—and last—defeat, losing, in five games, to Fran Marshall, the top English player. No one was terribly surprised at the outcome of that match—Marshall, after all, was internationally known, while McKay was only a 20-year-old scrapper, "*the girl from the bush*," as she was dubbed. What was surprising, however, was what happened the next time the two met, in the North of England finals: that one ended up 3-1 in favor of McKay. And when the two met again, in the finals of the main event, McKay took Marshall in straight games. The Australian was quite literally getting better every day.

The first British victory established McKay as the best woman player in the world, but she continued to improve, and her advantage over the rest of the field only broadened from year to year. It became axiomatic that she would win; the only question was how quickly, how easily, with what displays of mastery. In 1965 she won the finals of the British nationals in a crushingly brief 14 minutes. (Squash matches generally last upwards of an hour.) In 1976, at the first World Championship in Brisbane, McKay dropped 15 points in the entire tournament; in the finals she lost four (winning 27). Her domination of the game had become so total that Frank Satterthwaite, a top ranked amateur in the United States, called her "*the best woman player who ever lived.*" In 1979 when she virtually retired from competitive squash—but not from professional sports—her explanation was characteristically direct: "*There was nothing left for me to accomplish in squash.*" she said, "*except to do it all over again.*"

McKay was 37 at the time. To put it mildly she had already scored enough victories for a lifetime. She'd more than earned the right to relax, to allow herself a bit of laziness. No one could have blamed her if she decided to hang up her sneakers and sit in front of the TV for a few years. But McKay decided to take up a new sport instead.

The new sport was racquetball and this past June McKay won the first Women's Professional Racquetball Association nationals. Which is to say she is now the best woman racquetball player in the world. This turn of events is so staggering that it somehow comes as no surprise. It simply had to happen that way. No matter that McKay was nearly 39 at the time the tournament was held, or that she'd been working on the sport for a mere year and a half, while many contestants had played for more than a decade. She knew the court as if she had been born there. She read the angles and the creases as if the walls were talking to her. No matter that her victim in the finals was 15 years her junior. That opponent, Shannon Wright, had almost completely dominated women's racquetball for the past four years, and it is not too farfetched to say she might have become the Heather McKay of that sport—except that McKay has done that herself. Lynn Adams, who got thumped by McKay in the semi-finals

and went on to capture third place in the tournament, marveled: "There are a lot of good racquetball players around, but there aren't many true athletes in the game. And that's what Heather is—a true athlete." Tom Jones, publisher of *Squash News*, had this to say when he heard of McKay's victory at the racquetball nationals: "It's only slightly less impressive than if Reggie Jackson suddenly became an NFL quarterback. The sports really aren't that similar. She's an incredible champion."

Being a true champion, of course consists of more than just copping titles, and McKay's phenomenal record is just the skeleton of her achievement. The real substance of it is the person she is, the way she has disciplined herself and maximized her abilities by an unflagging regimen of training and self-scrutiny. McKay is the first to demystify her excellence, to dispel the notion that her success can be ascribed to some mysterious and unearned superiority. "I do well," she says, "because I work harder than just about anybody else. I do what has to be done. There is always something to work on."

McKay's schedule reflects this drive always to be working on something. Most mornings she is up by 7:30 and runs two or three miles before breakfast. After her run she rewards herself with breakfast, and by 10 a.m. she's at the Toronto Squash Club, where she and her husband, Brian, have been teaching pros since 1975. From 10 till one she stays on the court, batting balls around with students whose levels range from beginner to serious amateur. After lunch it's back to teaching squash. Sometimes in the evening, to unwind, she plays racquetball.

Her eyes track the ball with hawklike acuity . . . She can be neither intimidated nor distracted.

If all this sounds grueling, keep in mind that it's merely McKay's maintenance routine; when a big tournament is at hand, she boosts the intensity of the training for three months beforehand. Her morning runs include wind sprints interspersed with "rest periods" of trotting. And before lunch she puts herself through a series of calisthenics and a stint of weight lifting—exercises designed to strengthen the shoulders and back, which are areas of high stress in the power oriented game of racquetball. It's no wonder that the 23- and 24-year-olds at the racquetball nationals found themselves panting and disheveled, while McKay never once seemed winded.



In the latter stages of the tournament when many competitors were limping and aching from the cumulative strain of several days' play, McKay was just hitting stride, her strokes crisper than ever and her court mobility undiminished.

Ultimately, however, it is the mind that wins in sports; the value of fitness is that it allows the body to run so smoothly that it can be forgotten about. Concentration is the final goal of fitness—and concentration, more than anything else, is what distinguishes McKay as a champion. Her court presence is almost frighteningly strong. Her eyes track the ball with hawk-like acuity. Her weight is always forward, ready to spring. There is a consensus among the other pros that no one can match her anticipation. She can be neither intimidated nor distracted. Toward opponents she is cordial, but no more; for as long as the match lasts, McKay is all business. "Concentration," she says, "means never relaxing," and she will never drop that deadpan stare or that stoic posture until she has scored the final point.

The moment she has scored it, though, a refreshing change comes over Heather McKay. She smiles, and she looks suddenly girlish, full of the joy of having done well. At those moments McKay abdicates the weighty role of nonpareil athlete and becomes simply a happy person.

McKay's happiness has much to do with the relationship she has with Brian, to whom she has been married since 1965. An accomplished athlete in his own right Brian seems the perfect foil for her.

Affable but soft spoken, gracious but self-effacing, he is secure enough to share in his wife's victories, and in fact to be her biggest fan. Heather responds to his regard by staunchly refusing to let her athletic career interfere with her domestic pleasures and responsibilities. "I enjoy doing things around the house," she says. "And then we've got certain traditions that we've brought with us from Australia. A roast every Sunday—that sort of thing. I'm not about to give those things up just because I'm busy with tournaments."

And so for all the superlatives that attach to her Heather McKay manages to reserve for herself the prerogatives of a sedate and private life. An evening with a book, going to a Maple Leafs game with friends—these are the activities that round out a life full of so much striving, so much effort. If her court achievements are the stuff of legend, her noncompeting hours seem the stuff of quiet satisfaction—in all it seems an enviable and well deserved combination. ●

See page 54 for the story on Heather McKay's latest win in Chicago Feb. 15.

Turn the page for a full story on racquetball in Canada.

Tailor Made Sports Passion

Racquetball Explodes North of the Border

by Tony Leighton

Canada shares a border of several thousand miles with the United States and the American influence in our country is enormous. You could ask most Canadian high school students to name 20 U.S. presidents or 40 states of the union and probably get the correct reply.

On the other hand we Canadians have an uncomfortable feeling that Americans know little or nothing about Canada. We often hear stories of tourists from the United States crossing the border in mid-July with fur coats in the trunk, never too sure whether nine feet of snow will fall on them or if they might spot a polar bear loping through the great north woods.

Allow me to clear the air. It's true. Canada is in reality one huge meat locker, Canadians all have cold blood and pale skin, we eat whale blubber and we never see the sun. That's precisely why racquetball is thriving here and might eventually enjoy greater popular appeal than it does in the United States.

One-Tenth of Edmonton

Take the city of Edmonton, Alberta, for example. Edmonton has come to be known as the racquetball capital of Canada with its almost 40 clubs and roughly 50,000 players (one tenth of the city's population). Edmonton is also the most northerly of Canadian provincial capitals, the temperature dipping below 60 degrees for eight months of the year, sometimes way below. It's rumored that the people of Edmonton simply don't like going outside, or at least spending any time there.

Racquetball, as you can imagine, was a godsend when it was imported to Edmonton from the United States back in 1970. Two Edmontonian handball players understood well that curling and television-watching were not enough, so they built the first real racquetball club the city had ever seen. Clubs have sprouted like mung beans thanks to the people's love for the game and the inordinate amount of investment capital in Edmonton (Alberta sits on as much oil as Kuwait).

Vancouver's Nelson Skalbania christened the Y.M.C.A.'s rooftop courts with a \$20,000 winner-take-all match.



—Vancouver Sun photo

Being a western prairie city Edmonton also has a bit of a cowboy history which is celebrated each summer during a week known as Klondike Days. Naturally racquetball figures in the celebration. The Klondike Canadian Racquetball Championship is, next to the nationals, the largest tournament in the country. In terms of sheer unbridled revelry and sociability, it's like no other racquetball tournament in the world.

Ten years ago when the Klondike Championship was first started Americans Charlie Brumfield, Steve Keeley and Peggy Steding were among its guest competitors. Invariably one of them would take the title over Canadian players who had yet to master the game. But the Canadians would later get their revenge by stuffing the champs with mountains of food, wine and beer, and forcing them to endure the master of ceremonies during an awards presentation. The party still takes place every year in the backyard of Edmonton lawyer John Kempo, who has whole sides of beef, garbage pails of salad and ice filled troughs of beer on hand for the occasion.

Squash Champ Sharif Khan's brother, Charlie, is said to be one of Quebec's best racquetball players.



—Melinda Phillips photo

South of Edmonton by about 200 miles is the city of Calgary, richer in oil money and larger in population, but for some reason not as crazy about racquetball. If climate really does have anything to do with the game's growth, Calgary's relative lack of clubs can be attributed to the warm Chinook winds that blow east across the Rocky Mountains. Calgarians don't mind the outdoors.

Skiing is as much a religion in Calgary as racquetball is in Edmonton since some of Canada's best high mountain skiing is only a short drive from the city.

Inroads in Toronto

Toronto, Canada's largest city with over two million people, is the only major center where racquetball has yet to have great impact. The reason could be Toronto's love for squash. The city has been called "the Squash Capital of the World" and it holds more squash courts than any city anywhere.

Just how all those squash courts affect the growth of racquetball is unclear. Some would suggest that investors are unwilling to compete with the squash tradition in Toronto. But all racquetball clubs built in the city during the past three or four years are booming. If anything the popularity of squash has only slowed racquetball's eventual proliferation. It's even conceivable that squash has contributed indirectly to the racquetball growth that's occurred so far.

"We find that some people are introduced to racquetball while playing squash in a facility with both types of courts," observes John Hamilton, executive director of the Canadian Racquetball Association. *"Or often beginners will get frustrated with squash because it's more difficult at the novice level. Many will turn to racquetball."*

One famous Toronto resident—Heather McKay—turned to racquetball for other reasons. Her story is well known (and this issue of *National Racquetball* reviews it in detail): after remaining absolutely undefeated in women's squash for 20 years, Heather won both the U.S. pro and Canadian National titles at the age of 37. From her home base at the Toronto Squash Club, where she and husband Brian teach squash through the week, Heather travels throughout Canada and the United States, now favoring a strict diet of racquetball over competitive squash.

Toronto is also the home of North American Squash Champ Sharif Khan, who has been rumored to be considering pro racquetball. Khan himself denies such talk. However his cousin, Gulmast Khan, a squash pro in Boston, recently won a Massachusetts state championship, and his younger brother, Charlie Khan of Montreal, is purported to be one of Quebec's best racquetball players.

Charlie, a teacher of both squash and racquetball at Montreal's Cote de Liess Racquet Club, also shows no serious inclination to follow Heather McKay's example. *"Right now I'm really only hacking around with racquetball,"* he concedes. *"It would take a great commitment if I were to compete at the top level. My squash would suffer."*

Charlie is presently ranked, along with brothers Sharif and Aziz, in North American squash's top 10. *"We're too conditioned to finesse the ball,"* he continues. *"Racquetball is so often brute power."*



Lindsay Myers returns to Canada at least twice a year—once for his country's nationals and once for Edmonton's Klondike Championship.

Kitimat Club

From Alberta racquetball migrated toward the Pacific across several mountain ranges into British Columbia, as did the first European settlers of the region back in the early 1800s. Along with almost 100 courts in Vancouver, B.C.'s largest city, there are a surprising number of clubs in smaller cities and towns throughout the province's mountainous interior and northern coastal inlets. By way of example the mining town of Kitimat (population 12,000) and the fishing town of Prince Rupert (population 15,000) both support fairly large racquetball clubs.

It's in Vancouver, though, where Canada's two most unusual racquetball courts were built a couple of years ago on the roof of the downtown Y.M.C.A. What make these courts so special is their cost—over \$200,000.

To its great fortune the Vancouver Y happens to be a pet charity of flamboyant Vancouver millionaire, Nelson Skalbania, an entrepreneur who deals in everything from real estate to sports franchises (he currently owns or has interest in five teams). Skalbania is also a closet jock who runs daily and plays enough racquetball to know what he likes in a court.

Guaranteed Roof Time

When informed that the two donated courts would have to go on the roof of the Y and be fortified with structural steel and about nine layers of expensive materials, Skalbania was unperturbed. He gladly paid the cost of hauling everything up the side of the building and erecting the two bunker like courts in the middle of a running track. According to Y.M.C.A. director Luis Vulliez, Skalbania's only stipulations were that he *"would have to have a racquetball and a squash court everyday at a prescribed time for his own use as well as a reserved parking space. He also insisted we get some of what he calls 'civilized toilet paper' in the washrooms."*

To christen the new structure in his own incomparable style Skalbania played a \$20,000 winner-take-all match with fellow Vancouver millionaire, Herb Capozzi. Skalbania won.

Vancouver's next-best-known racquetball player is Lindsay Myers, who hasn't lived in the city for four years. Sponsored by Leach Myers lives and plays in San Diego where he's managed to break pro racquetball's top 10 for the past two years. He's also Canada's perennial national champion, coming home twice annually to win the Klondike and Canadian National championships.

Generally speaking racquetball coexists comfortably in Vancouver with both tennis and squash, two sports that have always been popular there. It's likely that Vancouver's very British roots were the catalyst for that popularity at first. But in the case of racquetball, the push came partly from Alberta and largely from Washington state, Oregon and of course, California. Vancouver lies close to the American border along the spine of the Pacific coast and as Vulliez notes, *"it's often easier for us to go to the States than it is to other parts of Canada."*

Montreal is also home to 21-year-old Ross Harvey, Canada's second-ranked male player. Like Lindsay Myers Harvey has been spending time in California (and lately in Colorado) to build his game up against strong American competition. *"Nobody in Canada can touch Ross,"* says Montreal racquetball consultant Hy Kanner, *"except Lindsay Myers."*

This past spring Myers reasserted his Canadian domination after Harvey had been seeded number one in the Canadian Nationals. Myers downed him in a fast and furious two sets. Harvey's best win came two seasons prior to that when he eliminated Mike Yellen in a Montreal pro-am event. He has yet to duplicate that effort.

Linda Forcade, Canada's number two woman pro, right, lost to Karin Walton-Trent at the 1980 Canadian Broadcasting Corporation Classic.



Tony Leighton photos

Montreal's Two Hundred

Kanner figures there are almost 200 courts in Montreal, a city of two million people where squash and tennis also reigned until three or four years ago. Judging from the rush on club memberships racquetball could double in popularity over the next three or four years. One facility, Club du Racquetball Quebec D'Anjou, sold almost all its 2,500 available memberships before the doors even opened for business two years ago.

North and east of Montreal about 150 miles along the broad St. Lawrence River is Quebec City, the capital of the province of Quebec. Whereas Montreal is divided roughly in half by French and English speaking populations, Quebec City is overwhelmingly French. It is the seat of the provincial government and Canada's oldest and most charming city. The inner core or "old city" has cobbled streets hemmed in by small French shops and restaurants. In many places it is still surrounded by a wall built in the 1700s.

Again you might blame the temperature, which is virtually sub-arctic in Quebec during the winter—but whatever the reason "Quebec City is bonkers about racquetball," according to Kanner and almost anyone else who's seen the game blossom there. It's the Edmonton of the east.

Kanner's theory is that "the French Canadian is aggressive and loves the action of racquetball. It's the same competitive urge that makes Frenchmen good hockey players."

You could probably trace the roots of racquetball in Quebec to the large cathedrals of the city and its outlying villages. There years ago, behind the massive spired churches, priests played handball outdoor in wooden courts. But roots aside there are some obvious reasons why Quebec has latched onto racquetball with unusual intensity.

To begin with squash never had a chance. It is perceived of as an Englishman's game and there is suspicion of all things British in Quebec. So while Toronto and Ottawa (another squash town) were busy building squash courts in the seventies, a recreational vacuum formed in Quebec.

When the first racquetball club of any size, Club du Vallon, was built in 1976, it started a small flood. Today there are 11 large clubs throughout Quebec City, a number that defies most statistics on financial feasibility. Yet every one of those clubs is busy during the day and some, incredibly, are busy though the night.



Heather Stupp is one of Montreal's top junior players.

Quebec French Knit

Such a remarkable trade is possible in a city of only 180,000 people because of the second reason: racquetball in Quebec is a family game. And, traditionally, French Canadians come in large families that handily swell club memberships. There's even a colloquialism for their renowned familial togetherness—"The French Canadian Knit."

Grateful club owners in Quebec have a strong association that promotes the game relentlessly. In addition a large Canadian brewery has sponsored a club pro circuit in the city and the local media cover racquetball like no other sport (with the exception of hockey perhaps.) Each week the newspapers of Quebec feature full page tournament results and the final rounds of most larger events are inevitably televised in French.

Television, in fact, has provided racquetball with substantial exposure across Canada. In 1979 the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's Winnipeg office taped the country's first NRC pro stop, a \$10,000 event known as the Leach/CBC Racquetball Classic. Predictably Marty Hogan won. But when the 13 match television series was aired at various dates throughout Canada, it was the first time Canadians had ever seen Hogan or professional racquetball played. For many viewers it was the first time they had seen racquetball played period.

That kind of exposure is what racquetball needs if it's to reach its potential in Canada, or so says CRA director John Hamilton. "The goal of the CRA," Hamilton states, "is to promote the game as much as possible. Canada is about four years behind the States in terms of development with some areas, like the Maritime provinces, even a bit further back. Theoretically we could go beyond the U.S. as far as our relative saturation level is concerned. Our climate should insure that."

You see. Even the top dogs propagate that business about Canada being a frozen wasteland. But there's really very little difference between Canadian and American players when you get right down to it. As far as raw talent goes we're pretty close.

Of course you'd recognize a Canadian racquetball player if you saw one. He's the guy with the whale blubber stains on his warmups. ●

EXTRA!

Racquetball 444 Days Later

Paul Lewis, recently discharged Marine Corps sergeant from Homer, IL, substituted pushups for racquetball to stay in shape for 444 days while the Iranians held him captive along with 51 other Americans.

Lewis described his conditioning routine while he toured the National Sporting Goods Association show in Chicago Feb. 9 with Illinois Governor Jim Thompson and NRC/USRA President Bob Kendler.

The 21-year-old former hostage had played racquetball in his hometown and in nearby Champaign-Urbana before he left for Iran. He had been in Tehran only three days before the embassy takeover. "I did calisthenics every day to help me feel good physically and to help me stay alert mentally," he explained.

After receiving equipment from Diversified Products (Leach racquets), Seamco and Wilson Lewis made plans for a match with Thompson, the nation's most famous racquetball playing governor.

Illinois Governor Jim Thompson looks on as Bob Kendler presents Paul Lewis with a lifetime membership in the United States Racquetball Association.



Among celebrities and dignitaries who gathered at the Diversified Products space at the NSGA show were, left to right, Diversified Products President Cal James, All American from Georgia Tech and Former Philadelphia Eagle Maxie Baughn, Governor Thompson, Three Time National Racquetball Champ Marty Hogan, Diversified Products Vice President for Sales Jim Thompson and Bob Kendler.



Court Clubs

Leading Boy to Girl

Social Activities Draw Members to Clubs

by Mort Leve

The USRA's marketing/promotion director is a veteran court club consultant.

Real estate people espouse "location, location, location" . . . We are finding out, more and more, that the success story of court clubs is through "promotion, promotion, promotion". And, most importantly, the social aspect of the club operation is emerging as an essential. Membership is seeking a club atmosphere, a comfortable surrounding where girl can meet boy without the embarrassment and natural reticence that often prevail at a bistro gathering.

Therefore it makes sense to have an active social director connected with the facility, putting the loose ends together, scheduling no end of novel events.

Years ago when USRA/NRC President Bob Kendler operated his Town Club in Chicago social activity was the order of the day. There was a monthly dinner dance; there were weekly dance lessons, weekend summer resort trips, Saturday special children's programs with movies, entertainment, swim, basketball and box lunch. There were even ethnic dinners catered by nearby restaurants that were glad to cooperate. The publicity the restaurants gained in presenting their own particular menus gained them business.

Club operation is primarily an idea business. Many of the promotions may fall flat but those that do work can be repeated.

We present the cause for the social director because it is necessary to facilitate members meeting and getting to know one another.

One Western area club sponsored a New Year's Eve buffet-entertainment package arrangement. Couples were charged \$15 to use the club from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. However there was no effort to meet and greet the incoming people. They would arrive and sit down at a table. There was no coordinator and no name tags. No one was dancing to the combo made available. The social director could have started some "Tom Jones" type group dances, started a Western hoedown . . . anything to mix the assemblage.



Social events such as fashion shows and an open house anniversary party come under the direction of Assistant Manager Cindy Cordes at the Englewood (OH) Circuit Courts.



Most clubs could find a volunteer to head up the social promotions of the club. Or someone could arrange events on a part time or project basis. Then the club manager, assistant, or program director could work with the social director on a schedule that compliments other club events.

As we look around the current court clubs, we find a trend away from the in-and-out bowling lane approach to racquetball. Exercise, supervised programming and social promotions are the order of the day. Nothing is actually new; you can take a clue from Community Centers, who have been doing a solid job for years and years. ●

New Court Club Listings

Ace of Clubs Racquetball/Handball
2100 Old Greenbrier Rd.
Chesapeake, VA 23320

Arkansas Health World
8324 Hwy. 107
North Little Rock, AR 72116

Burns Park Tennis Center
Burns Park
North Little Rock, AR

Carolina Racquetball Club
Myrtle Beach, SC 29577

Chicago Health and Racquet Club
30 Phillip Road at Route 60
Vernon Hills, IL 60060

Courts Plus
2911 Brunswick Ave.
New Bern, NC 28560

Deercreek Courts
1377 Clavey Rd.
Highland Park, IL 60035

Don Kessinger Court Club
1428 Merrill Dr.
Little Rock, AR

The Forum Spa and Racquet Club
650 12th St.
Vero Beach, FL 32960

Olympia Resort and Spa
Oconomowoc, WI 53066

Running Racquetball & Recreation
656 Sixth St.
Dawson, MN 56232

Tenn Courts
610 Emory Valley Rd.
Oak Ridge, TN 37830

Texas Fitness Center and Racquet Club
7045 Village Center Dr.
Austin, TX 78731

Charter Memberships Open For Teen Summer Leagues

Racquetball Courts in Europe

Few weeks go by without a phone call to USRA headquarters from a student, businessman or vacation planner who wants to know where to play racquetball in Europe. This month we're printing the latest list of clubs that appeared recently in *Racquetball Germany*, edited by TSGT Bob Ellis.

Tennis & Racquetball Zentrum Aesch/Birmansdorf Switzerland

This club is in a small town—almost a suburb—near Zurich.

Racquetball Jenfeld Barsbütteler Str. 43 2000 Hamburg 70 West Germany

This 12-court facility is the only all-racquetball club in Europe.

Racket Center Westvliet Westvlietweg Tweg 55 2267 AC/Leidschendam Netherlands

This club is near the Hague. The owner, Hans van den Heijden, is building another tennis/racquetball club on the other side of town.

Tennis & Racquetball Centrum Tennis EN Racquetball centrum Zwijndrecht Bakesteinsezoom 2 3335 KA Zwijndrecht Netherlands

This club is near Rotterdam.

Court clubs that want to stimulate summer play have an opportunity to form leagues now in the 1981 USRA sanctioned National Teens Summer Racquetball program that will run for approximately one month starting in mid-June.

Patterned after Little League baseball programs the racquetball competition for teenagers will organize players in separate boys and girls four member teams competing within one club or with several clubs in the area. At the end of the local

season All-Star teams of boys and girls will take part in area, state, regional and national tournaments.

Clubs will solicit adult volunteers to coach, referee and administer the National Teens Summer Racquetball program in the same way as adults participate in Little League baseball events. Clubs also can solicit local sponsors for the leagues. A similar program is available for handball, using the Bob Kendler Family Ball.

Call Mort Leve at 602-991-0253

for more information, or write to him at USRA, 4101 Dempster, Skokie, IL 60076.

Charter Membership Application USRA Teens Summer Racquetball Program

Please enter our league for charter membership in the USRA National Teens Summer Racquetball Program for boys and girls 14 years old and younger.* I understand that when you receive our application, along with the charter membership fee, you will send rules, operating procedures and scheduling details of the program to run from mid-June to mid-July, as well as information on the All-Star playoffs in late July.

Name of League _____

Name of Court Facility at Which League Will Play _____

Address of Court Facility _____
(Street)

(City) _____ (State) _____ (Zip) _____

Name of Person in Charge of League _____

Amount of check _____ (\$10 per each team in the league)

Send application and check (covering administrative costs) to: USRA,
4101 Dempster St., Skokie, IL 60076

*In local league play each team of either four girls or four boys must have at least two of four players under 14 years of age.

The authorized officers of the _____ league agree that, in
(Name)
consideration of the granting of a charter, we shall abide by the rules of the USRA
National Teens Summer Racquetball program, including the mandatory eyeguard
regulation.

(signature of officer or officers)

Master of Own Fate Theory Helps You

Think "Win"

by Joan A. Finn, D.P.E.

Joan Finn, a member of the American College of Sports Medicine, is assistant professor at Southern Connecticut State College, New Haven.

Six pros who took the "External or Internal?" test for National Racquetball all came out as Internals, the kind of people Sports Psychologist Joan Finn says believe they're in charge of their own destinies. Keep reading even if you test out "external". Finn says Externals also can learn to be winners.

Racquetball demands endurance, speed and power. Hours of practice, diet control, strength training and wind sprints produce that sought after physical state. The problem is that many athletes strive only for physical excellence, ignoring the importance of the mind.

The chronic tendency of athletes to separate mind and body occurred to me, a sport scientist trained in psychology, when I observed an inter-club racquetball match. The contest was keen and intense. The two five man rival club teams, each sporting its own sense of pride, had previously met. Vendetta seemed to be the characteristic of one group, while continuity of supremacy was the primary mood of the other. After the first four matches the score was deadlocked at two all. The number one singles encounter would, therefore, determine the team winner.

"Let's play for the club," joked our tall, linear, blond director who was our club's top player. (Many of us fondly refer to him as "The King.")

"Might not be such a bad idea," sneered the younger, muscular, Atlas-like opponent who also happened to own his club. Our club won the first game 21-15, and it was closer than the score indicated. At one point it was tied at 14 all. Both players attacked every ball and combined power with soft, touch angles that seemed to ask "Can you top this?"

In the second game "Atlas" scrambled after every shot and annexed the game 21-18. Our man—flushed, winded and appearing quite spent—requested a time out. As he trudged down the long corridor to the drinking fountain, the woman companion with "Atlas" began coaching him.



Marty Hogan

"Put the ball deep to his backhand," she advised. "Use your corner dink more often when he is in the back court. He is older and much more tired than you."

Sweating healthfully, with scrambled locks and a sauntering gait, the "King" made his way back into the court after the rest period. I overheard "Atlas" remark to his intense and now thoroughly distressed female coach. "Wanna' know something? I can't beat him. He's too tough and experienced."

He was right! The "King" whipped his negative thinking adversary 11-4 in the tie-breaker, and our club claimed a hard-fought three to two team victory.

In the Mind

The defeatist attitude portrayed by the stronger, better conditioned "Atlas" is one of the subjects intriguing a group of scientists called sport psychologists.



Mike Yellen

These professionals describe, analyze, explain and predict sport behavior. As a sports psychologist I could see that it was the difference in the mental outlook between "Atlas" and the "King" that decided the outcome of the match. I propose that any athlete can mentally condition for success if he or she applies certain psychological theories to training for competition.

Awareness is the first step in mental training for athletics. In preparing for an integrated mental/physical training program you need to understand your "locus of control" that affects every phase of your behavior, including sport performance. Locus of control, often called "internal-external (I-E) orientation," refers to the way in which people perceive their control over what happens to them.

The test following will help you pinpoint your locus of control.

External or Internal

DIRECTIONS: Select the one statement of each pair which you more strongly believe to be the case as far as *you* are concerned. Be honest! Personal belief obviously has no right or wrong answers.

Scale For I-E Estimation

- 1.a. Many of the unhappy things in people's lives are partly due to bad luck.
b. People's misfortunes result from the mistakes they make.
- 2.a. One of the major reasons why we have wars is because people don't take enough interest in politics.
b. There will always be wars, no matter how hard people try to prevent them.
- 3.a. In the long run people get the respect they deserve in this world.
b. Unfortunately an individual's worth often passes unrecognized no matter how hard he tries.
- 4.a. The idea that teachers are unfair to students is nonsense.
b. Most students don't realize the extent to which their grades are influenced by accidental happenings.
- 5.a. Without the right breaks one cannot be an effective leader.
b. Capable people who fail to become leaders have not taken advantage of their opportunities.
- 6.a. No matter how hard you try, some people don't like you.
b. People who can't get others to like them don't understand how to get along with others.
- 7.a. I have often found that what is going to happen will happen.
b. Trusting to fate has never turned out as well for me as making a decision to take a definite course of action.
- 8.a. In a case of the well prepared student there is rarely if ever such a thing as an unfair grade.
b. Many times exam questions tend to be so unrelated to course work that studying is really useless.
- 9.a. Becoming a success is a matter of hard work; luck has little or nothing to do with it.
b. Getting a good job depends mainly on being in the right place at the right time.
- 10.a. The average citizen can have an influence in government decisions.
b. This world is run by the few people in power, and there is not much the little guy can do about it.
- 11.a. When I make plans, I am almost certain that I can make them work.
b. It is not always wise to plan too far ahead because many things turn out to be a matter of good or bad fortune anyhow.
- 12.a. In my case getting what I want has little or nothing to do with luck.
b. Many times we might just as well decide what to do by flipping a coin.
- 13.a. Who gets to be the boss often depends on who was lucky enough to be in the right place first.
b. Getting people to do the right thing depends upon ability; luck has little or nothing to do with it.
- 14.a. As far as world affairs are concerned most of us are the victims of forces we neither understand, nor control.
b. By taking an active part in political and social affairs the people can control world events.
- 15.a. Most people don't realize the extent to which their lives are controlled by accidental happenings.
b. There really is no such thing as "luck".
- 16.a. It is hard to know whether or not a person really likes you.
b. How many friends you have depends upon how nice a person you are.
- 17.a. In the long run the bad things that happen to us are balanced by the good ones.
b. Most misfortunes are the result of lack of ability, ignorance, laziness or all three.
- 18.a. With enough effort we can wipe out political corruption.
b. It is difficult for people to have much control over the things politicians do in office.
- 19.a. Sometimes I can't understand how teachers arrive at the grades they give.
b. There is a direct connection between how hard I study and the grades I get.
- 20.a. Many times I feel that I have little influence over the things that happen to me.
b. It is impossible for me to believe that chance or luck plays an important role in my life.
- 21.a. People are lonely because they don't try to be friendly.
b. There's not much use in trying too hard to please people; if they like you, they like you.
- 22.a. What happens to me is my own doing.
b. Sometimes I feel that I don't have enough control over the direction my life is taking.
- 23.a. Most of the time I can't understand why politicians behave the way they do.
b. In the long run the people are responsible for bad government on a national as well as on a local level.



Marci Greer

As you might expect, there are advantages and disadvantages for each I-E type. For serious racquetball, though, you're better off being an internal. Since you—the internal—view a direct cause-effect relationship between your own actions and the rewards of punishments, you are (1) motivated to practice strenuously, (2) self-directed in your training regime, (3) willing to sustain intense effort, (4) personally disciplined for excellence and (5) dedicated to attaining goals. In fact your only problem would be that defeat gets you down because you view your loss as your fault.

If the test shows that you're an external, you tend to (1) become bored easily, (2) lack the ability to concentrate and focus attention on goals, (3) be casual and

Please turn the page to learn where your answers put you on the Internal-External scale.

ANSWERS: The following items are most likely to be chosen by externally oriented people

- | | | | | | | | |
|------|------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. a | 4. b | 7. a | 10. b | 13. a | 16. a | 19. a | 22. b |
| 2. b | 5. a | 8. b | 11. b | 14. a | 17. a | 20. a | 23. a |
| 3. b | 6. a | 9. b | 12. b | 15. a | 18. b | 21. b | |

SCORING: One point should be scored for each of the items agreeing with the above answers to this quiz, a modified version of Rotter's Internal-External Locus of Control test.



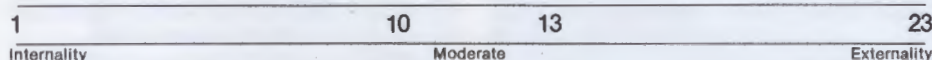
Don Thomas



Lindsay Myers

The I-E Estimation Scale is based on 23 points representing the internal-external locus of control continuum. Low scores (1-10) indicate internality (a classification of individuals who believe that they control their own destiny). High scores (13-23) reflect externality (those people who believe their lives are controlled by fate, chance or powerful others.)

Locus of Control Continuum



inconsistent in training practices and unpredictable in workout sessions. On the plus side you explain away defeat in terms of bad luck, so losses aren't painful.

If your score showed you an external, is there anything you can do to acquire the orientation that will serve you better in racquetball?

Locus Change

Well I believe that nearly all human behavior is learned. Furthermore I believe that practice can even alter an athlete's locus of control in a sport specific setting. I think you can learn to focus your mental attention on controlling your situation. I believe you can learn to see your behavior as directly responsible for the outcome of your shots, games and matches.

I recommend a four point training program which you'll implement in one of two different ways, depending on whether you start out as an internal or an external.

Mental Training Program for Racquetball Success

1. Evaluate your current physical ability. The club pro, a skillful friend or videotape replay help you determine playing skill, fitness level and muscular power. The main point in this phase is to be able to discriminate between "what I am doing well?" and "what am I doing wrong?"

2. Set specific goals in progressive order. Set goals for improvement based on step one. Deciding how your training can lead to systematic gains in skill, fitness and power gives specific meaning to practice. The mental process of planning is the significant factor in phase two.

3. Judge your progress of skill execution. Combine the evaluation of phase one and the goal setting of phase two to determine tangible improvement of playing ability.

4. Use encouraging words. Congratulate yourself when you do well both during practice and during matches. Training the mind to think positively is the point of phase four.

Internal's Program

As an internal use the program as follows:

Items one, two and three serve two purposes for you—the internal. First they allow you to exercise the self-control and direction that come naturally to you. If you have a coach, he or she helps most by criticizing constructively and providing specific techniques for correcting errors in skill execution. The coach also can set up problem solving situations to encourage you to recognize and correct your own errors. The program also offers a continuous realistic appraisal of your progress, encouraging you to view defeat as only a temporary condition to be remedied through increased experience and intensity in training.

Be careful about competing above your skill level. Depression, self-guilt and a feeling of worthlessness could follow consecutive defeats.

As for point four frequently give yourself credit for your accomplishments. Say to yourself "Good shot! Now you are using your head," or "Ace! Do it again" or "Forget the score. Just get the service back." This kind of internal dialogue will help you concentrate on performing well. It will prevent the self criticism that defeated the Atlas I described earlier. Comments like "Okay, Dummy, give him another point," or "Go ahead—Beat yourself, you idiot!" only upset you. They hurt your performance.



Ben Koltun

Externals Program

If you're an external, you should apply different strategies as you implement the four point program. Since you blame forces outside your control for wins and losses, you'll be able to deal with defeat more casually than the internal. On the other hand you may become bored more easily. As an external you do best working with a coach or teacher. Your coach should follow each step of the program with you, attempting to make it clear that reward and punishment depend on your own performance. Start with a series of attainable goals, then take a hard look at your achievements.

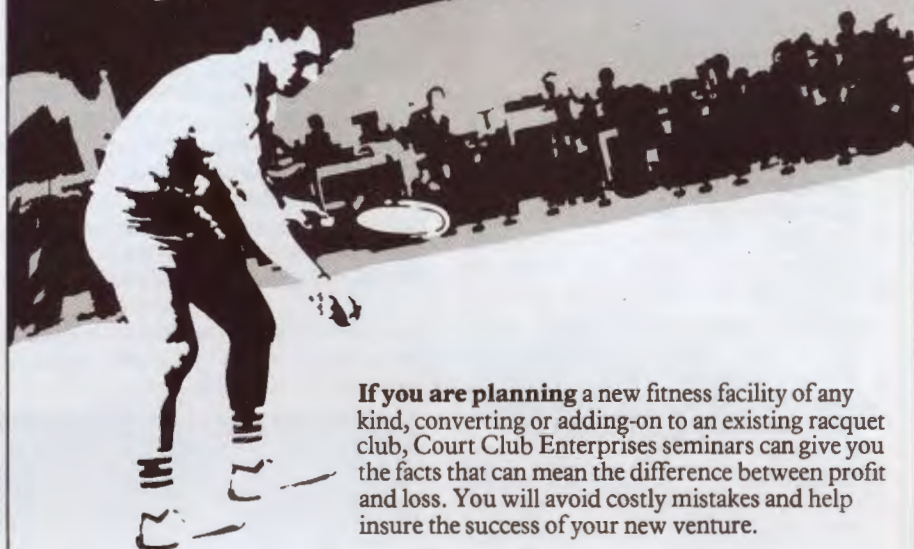
Try predicting the outcome of your actions on court. Before you realize it, you will be in charge. ●

ATTENTION:

RACQUETBALL, FITNESS CENTERS, & TENNIS CLUBS

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT SEMINARS

For Current or Future Owners & Managers



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Beyond the Open

Joe Finn Update

He's a 74-Year-Old Teaching Pro

Joe Finn, featured in this *National Racquetball* series after he competed in the 1978 Nationals, is turning out new tournament players at the Maple Courts in Troy, MI, outside of Detroit.

They are women who take part in his five-mornings-a-week "*Ladies Racquetball Party*," including instruction, competition, exercise and free coffee. Between 20 and 30 women turn out for the program that Maple Courts management believes has made the club one of the most successful in the Detroit area. Women now make up 40 percent of the Maple Courts membership.

Finn also created a "*Men's Noon Party*" to liven up a previously quiet time slot. Any player coming in from 12:30 to 2 p.m. pays a half-court fee to be matched up with an opponent — often Joe Finn. The 74-year-old plays every noon hour during the week, beating fellows half his age and drawing sizable noontime crowds.

Joe Finn, 74-year-old teaching pro, takes a coffee break with students at his Ladies Racquetball Party.

Joe Finn instructs Tuula Anderson.



— Alan Marshall photos



Finn's other specialty is families. He enjoys teaching individual members and watching competition develop on the court. One woman recently told him "You

gave my husband a lesson last week, and he beat me for the first time." ●

— Alan Marshall

Ask the Champ

by Marty Hogan

Three Time and Current Champion Marty Hogan, a Leach player who won the \$30,000 first prize in the June Nationals in Las Vegas, answers questions about improving your game in this exclusive *National Racquetball* series. Send your questions to Marty Hogan, c/o Ask the Champ, Managing Editor, *National Racquetball*, 4101 Dempster, Skokie, IL 60076.

Condition for Racquetball with Racquetball

Question: I have been playing racquetball for about a year and couple of months. I am 16 and want to play in the USRA Junior Nationals next year. I know juniors are tough and I want to get tough myself. I'm currently a high C player. I feel that I can't get any better. I practice all the time. Many people tell me my strokes are fantastic. It seems, though, that I've reached a peak. I can't seem to move up into higher levels of play. Whenever I join a B level, I get killed. I sometimes even get killed in C. So what I'd like to know is how do you get better when you feel you can't.

Mark Mathy • Mesa, AZ

Hogan: In the learning stages racquetball is a game of peaks and plateaus. Solo practicing is the fastest way of improving and moving beyond your current plateau. But what you may want to try is playing people better than you. How many times have you been in a match and found yourself playing at the level of your competition? Everyone does it. You naturally play better against advanced players. You may lose to these better players, but afterwards sit down and analyze the game situation and see how well you might have performed. Those shots that you could not execute will be the ones that you practice hitting alone. After mastering those shots play an advanced player again to see how you've improved. If you've plateaued for a long time and still cannot seem to improve, instead of killing yourself with games, training and practice—take some time off. You will see when you come back, you will have a newfound enthusiasm toward the game and this will help you play better.

Editor's Note: check Charlie Brumfield's story on practice starting on the next page.

Question: What do you do to condition yourself?

Bill Simon • Ft. Lauderdale, FL

Hogan: When I was participating in the World's Racquets Championships (for badminton, tennis, squash, table tennis and racquetball) last year, I asked John McEnroe the same question. With some of the tennis matches lasting four and five hours I wanted to know what tennis players did to train for their sport. He told me that all he did was play and practice tennis. I do believe that the best way to condition myself for racquetball is to play the game. Occasionally I may run, but that is mostly just to build up my endurance base. I would hate to lose a tie-breaker due to lack of conditioning. Also I will occasionally lift weights—nothing heavy, just do a lot of repetitions with light weights. This does not make me tight. But mostly I just play between two and four hours a day.

Question: I'm quite thin and don't have strong wrists. At a clinic I went to recently the instructor kept telling me to snap my wrists. All I got from that was a sore elbow. Do you think that it's always "all in the wrist", or should some people take a different approach?

Martha Roberson • Ft. Smith, AR

Hogan: Power in racquetball comes from five sources: timing, the snap of the wrist, the extension of the arm, the rotation of the shoulders and the thrust of the hips and the legs. It is not difficult for a tall, thin person to generate plenty of power. There are different swings that work best for different body types. A tall, thin person should develop what I call a "buggy whip" swing, using the long arm follow through that—with proper timing—can generate great power. Concentrate on hitting the

ball with your arm almost at full extension and notice the power that will result. Don't worry about your weak wrist—use your shoulders and the rest of your body.

Question: When I play, I don't get enough power on the off-the-back-wall shot. What can I do to hit it harder?

Dick Hiller • Rancho Bernardo, CA

Hogan: The back wall shot is the most misplayed shot in the game. Players practice their forehands and backhands but never seem to practice the back wall shot. I have a rule of thumb for players who want to become professional. That is—once the ball goes to the back wall the rally should be over. That means that in order to become a pro your racquetball game should be at the level that you end the rally the instant you get a back wall setup.

When hitting the ball off the back wall remember to position yourself behind the ball. Don't set up so that the ball lands near your back foot. Hit this shot out on your front foot.

The power in the back wall shot comes through the rotation of the hips and legs as the ball is coming from the back wall to the point of impact. Get down low, let the ball drop to subknee height, then—as you prepare to strike the ball—throw your hips through the ball while pushing off with your back legs for extra power. The timing of your hips and legs and the extension brought about by the ball being out in front of you will give you all the power you need for a good back wall game. ●

Inside the Master's Mind

by Charlie Brumfield

Practice Tools that Improve Your Game

The four time National Champion, one of the game's most articulate veterans, writes this exclusive series for *National Racquetball Magazine*.

In part one of this series I concentrated on how you should practice off the court—choosing a model, visualizing the strokes and then rehearsing in front of a mirror until you can duplicate the strokes of your model, plus or minus a few individual modifications.

I also talked about the art/science approaches to practicing, as exemplified by Marty Hogan on one extreme and Steve Mondry on the other. (On the women's tour Marci Greer is a good example of the artistic player who knows how it should "feel," while Heather McKay represents the analytical approach which she developed over a period of 20 years as a successful player and coach in squash.)

I also described the analytical player's charting system to record progress and calculate percentage of success on varying shots. Now that you've digested that theoretical material, you should be ready to go down on the court and start practicing by yourself.

When to practice depends on your own individual schedule. Most people have to do it when they get off work or out of school or work it around their family schedules. As a professional player I like to practice a little bit before I play and a little bit more after I play. I do this at least four times a week. Most of the racquetball pros do not have a systematic practice system. They think they can get by by just playing, but this is not the case in any other professional sport. Actually pros should practice much more than they play. I believe that's what will happen with the next generation of players, if the money continues to build.

But the majority of you are amateurs and plan to stay that way. This is not your profession, so I think maybe only 20 percent of your time on the court should be spent practicing. Any more time than that would only take away from the cardiovascular and recreational aspects of the game, the reasons most people play.

The biggest thing to avoid when practicing is thinking about too many things at once. This is especially dangerous if you are the over analytical type who has the swing broken down into 37 different elements, tries to work on all 37 at once and ends up with paralysis by analysis.



One at a time

Instead you want to concentrate on only one thing at a time. You can still work on the 37 different elements of the swing, but just tackle them one at a time. One day I might work on arm extension. The next day I might work on eye contact. The challenge of the game is that you can never run out of fundamentals to work on. Just review all the words of wisdom in the Master's Mind series or go to your local pro who can point out new things to concentrate on.

Another important thing to keep in mind is to always aim for a target. Just like having a goal having a target focuses on your effort during your practice sessions. You can use cans, tape on the walls or tape on the floor as Strandemo does in his instructional stories for *National Racquetball*. Some courts even come equipped with targets for various serves painted on the front wall. The target helps you determine how successful each shot was.

I'd do the same thing practicing golf. I'd be out on the driving range hitting 300 yard drives by the bucketsful. Every shot you hit in golf has a purpose. You're supposed to aim for a certain area because that most closely resembles a game situation.

That's what you should do in racquetball, too. I find that racquetball cans are especially helpful as targets for practicing

Once you've mastered a certain angle or a certain stroking technique, you should still brush it up once in a while to keep it warm, but you don't need to grind it into the ground. You know what they say about beating a dead horse. It's the same thing here. Once you've gained confidence through repetition on a certain area of your game, it's time to move on to something else. This also keeps you interested because there's no challenge in doing something over and over once you're to the point you can do it in your sleep. It's like learning to tie your shoes. If you're learning to tie your shoes a different way, at first it's going to feel very awkward. Once you learn to do it and it feels natural to you, you don't need to practice it. You just need to do it often enough so you don't fumble with it. Then you can go on to something else—like pulling up your socks.

Use a target, such as a ball can or wall tape, to practice your down-the-line kills. Move the target about a foot in from the corner so you don't make the cardinal sin of hitting too close to the side wall, causing the ball to rebound into center court.

down-the-line kills. Most players have a tendency to hit across court too much, so I'd suggest practicing down-the-line backhands and forehands, aiming for cans, which makes it really obvious when you hit the target because the can goes flying. Here I'd like to caution you: set the can in from the side wall a foot or two just to be sure you don't commit the cardinal sin of hitting the side wall on the rebound from the front wall, thus bringing the ball into center court and giving your opponent an easy setup.

By aiming for a target I don't mean to look at the target while you're hitting the ball, which would bring your head up too soon and make you mis-hit. The number one rule is to look at the ball. But in practice you should be sure you know where your target is, visualize that spot in your mind and then concentrate on the ball. Hearing the ball hit the can tells you you've hit the target. So use your mind to visualize the target and use your eyes to watch the ball.

If you can consistently hit a target, the ball will consistently go where you want. It's elementary geometry, my dear Watson. If you stand in the same position near the service line and hit the same spot on the front wall, your drive serve will angle perfectly into the back left corner every time. So stop talking and start chalking (you pool sharks will know what I mean about the angles).

Practice Partner for the Serve

There are some things that you're going to have to practice with a partner, but I'm still not up to a game situation yet. That comes later. I'm talking about finding someone of approximately your same skill level who is also interested in spending a half hour or so on the court, trying to improve. Having a partner to practice with is especially important for the two most important shots of the game. What are they again? Right—serve and serve return.

We all know that the serve and serve return are the most important shots, yet how many people ever practice them? How many tournament players do you see having someone serve to them before a match? Hardly anybody. They may have completely warmed up the forehand and backhand and maybe hit a serve or two, but they don't warm up their serve return until the match begins and the opponent aces them five times in a row on the first time up to bat.

During a match is not the time to practice your serve return or your serve. Do this beforehand with your partner, limiting your

—Carole C. George photos



On the serves you should also have a target. Here Ernie Charfauros angles his lob serve toward a target on the front wall of the court.



pinches, hit 20 or 25 and so on. The whole process should take only 10 or 15 minutes, depending on how long you're given before a tournament match.

In regular day to day play you shouldn't neglect this warm-up system, but it's not always possible, especially if you have an antsy opponent who's worrying about the five dollars you each had to pay for that one hour of court time. In that case you might show up 20 minutes early and try to sneak on an open court. As a last resort warm up your swings in front of the locker room mirror. The idea is to be physically and mentally prepared for any situation which might arise during the game.

Practice Games

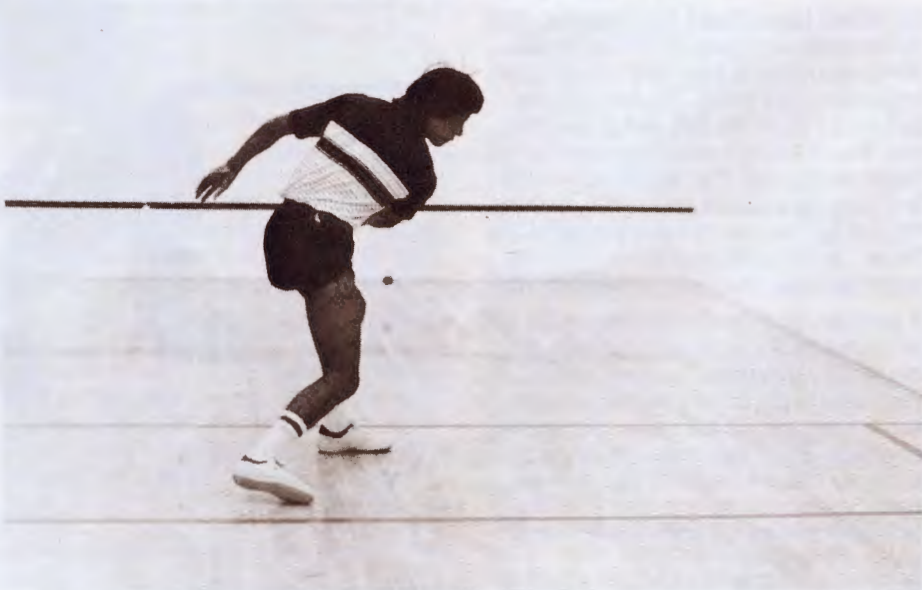
Now you're finally ready to apply your practicing during an actual game situation—in which you're playing to win. (Which you should always do in a game. Even in a practice game you should never play haphazardly.) How do you make that leap from the relaxed practice session to the more intense practice game?

Betting

Sometimes it helps to put a bet on the game. Of course some players require higher stakes to get fired up. Paul Haber, the greatest handball player of all times, would play games where he would only be



This is a favorite practice exercise of Marty Hogan's. He positions himself in approximate center court and then rapidly fires his forehand pinch into the right corner, followed by a back pinch into the left corner (lefties reverse corners). The ball should keep returning to the center.



rallies to three shots. You serve, your partner hits a good return and you try to end the rally on the third shot. But even if you don't, stop the rally anyway and start over with another serve. Then switch roles so that you can practice your serve returns and your partner can practice serves.

I find it helpful to have a mini-practice session to warm you up before any game you play. It's like a golfer who starts out grooving his or her swing. Right before I tee off in golf I practice whatever stroke I'm going to use on the first hole. I do the same thing in racquetball. If I've already decided that the first serve I'm going to hit is a hard Z serve to the left against this particular opponent, I'll hit five or six of those before the game so that I have that mental image. This is how you develop confidence, which can be the fine line between the winners and losers, especially when everything else is equal between two opponents.

A good way to know what to hit during your mini-practice session is by condensing your normal program that I suggested for you in part one of this series on practicing. If you usually hit 100 backhand ceiling balls, hit 10 in your miniature session. If you hit 250 forehand

allowed two swings once the ball was served. If he didn't win the rally by that time, the other player was awarded the point. And they would be playing for \$100 a point. That's one way to improve your intensity and concentration. Of course unless you're as awesome as Haber was, it might not do much to improve your economic situation.

Pressure is something that affects different people differently. Haber loved it. Other players might become paralyzed by pressure during a crucial match. I found that when I was first getting ready to play in national paddleball competition at the age of 19 I used the pain method to get over the pressure. In a practice match if I missed an easy setup, I felt I was just being lackadaisical. So I instructed the other player to hit me in the back with the ball after the point was over. After you develop a number of welts on your back you don't want to miss any more, and you stop being lackadaisical. Then when I got to the tournament I found out that the pressure of the threat of excruciating pain which I'd practiced under was more than the pressure of the national tournament. So I had successfully practiced to get over the butterflies and jitters.

Now I realize not everyone will want to go to such an extreme. But you might bet yourself something else that you don't like to do. For instance if you don't like to do pushups, bet yourself that for each shot you miss during your match you're going to have to do five pushups. Now this only works if you don't like to do it. A guy like Steve Mondry who is semi-masochistic wants to do the five pushups. So when I play Steve I bet him that he doesn't get to do the five pushups if he misses the shot.

One of the things, besides intensity, which is difficult to practice except under game situations is the pass shot. The height and angle of the pass shot always varies depending on where your opponent is. A killshot, on the other hand, is going to be a winner no matter where your opponent is, so it's just as effective to practice a killshot by yourself. But I'll rarely practice pass shots by myself. I might try beating a practice opponent using only wide angle and pure V passes, without ever killing the ball. That way I learn which passes are effective and which are returnable.

It is true that one way to improve is by playing people better than yourself. This is invaluable on your way up the racquetball ladder. But just try to imagine the impossibility if everyone insisted on only playing people better than themselves. So in the name of fairness, and possibly

because of necessity, if you're the best player in your area, you will have to play people below you in ability.



Once you've perfected hitting series of ceiling balls to yourself on both sides of the court, you can advance to overhead practice. You can hit ceiling balls until one falls short and then bring it down. Or you might copy Ernie in these photos, as he tosses the ball up to himself and then hits the ceiling ball. On the forehand side this resembles a tennis serve.



Learning from Lesser Players

When this happens, don't think that you're only doing it as a favor to the less experienced player. Think of it as doing a favor to yourself. Playing someone below you in ability can actually improve your game if you know what to practice. You do this by intentionally restricting your game to force more pressure on one of your weaknesses so that it won't remain a weakness.

I usually work on my backhand killshot by telling myself that I can only score with my backhand, even though my natural game is to score with my forehand and play defensively with my backhand. I'll say to myself "*Charlie, today no forehand kills. You can only pass, hit soft stuff and ceiling balls with your forehand and you can only go for a winner with your backhand.*" So that puts additional pressure on my weaker stroke and evens out the competition.

Or I might only allow myself to run one point at a time. If I have the serve and I score a point, it's sideout regardless. But my opponent gets to keep serving (and scoring) as long as he wins the rally. This puts added pressure on my serve returning. It also makes it unlikely that I can gather momentum, so I have to establish my own momentum on each shot. Or I may limit myself to one serve, instead of the customary two attempts. This puts added pressure on me to get my first serve in, since I don't get a second chance. Anybody can score when things are going their way. But if you practice in situations which are adverse, you not only even out the score with a weaker player, but you make your own game stronger.

This method only works if the weaker player is willing to hustle down every shot I hit. The last thing I want a C player to do against me is to practice his backhand kill, for instance. He skips in 42 balls in a row and I never get to hit the ball. So when you play a better player, do that person a favor and give 100 percent and retrieve every ball that you possibly can. Otherwise you're just wasting that person's time and you probably will get a brushoff the next time you try to get a game.

Mixing Styles

During game situations you might also practice different game styles. Sometimes for the first 10 points of game number one I'll hit nothing but ceiling balls, just to warm up and see if I can get that opponent to make the mistakes. The second half of game number one might be devoted to giving my opponent a tour of the court, hitting nothing but wide angle passes and soft pinches. For the second

game I might start off with a maintain-center-court-at-all-costs attitude by attacking everything and cutting off any passes before they get past me. Then to finish up the second game I might let every ball drop, wait patiently and use the back wall as much as possible.

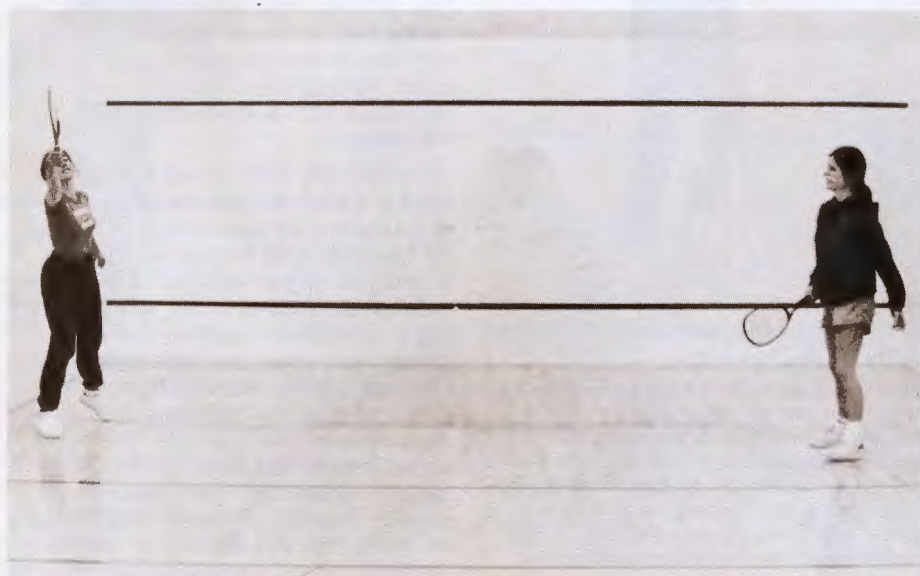
If you'd follow the program of a match like the one I've just hypothesized, you'd hit numerous variations of shots and styles, and you'd confuse your opponent because you don't fit nicely into any specific "type" of player category. That leaves you in a position where you now have more arsenal to choose from and therefore more variety for stunning your opponent.

Post Play Practice

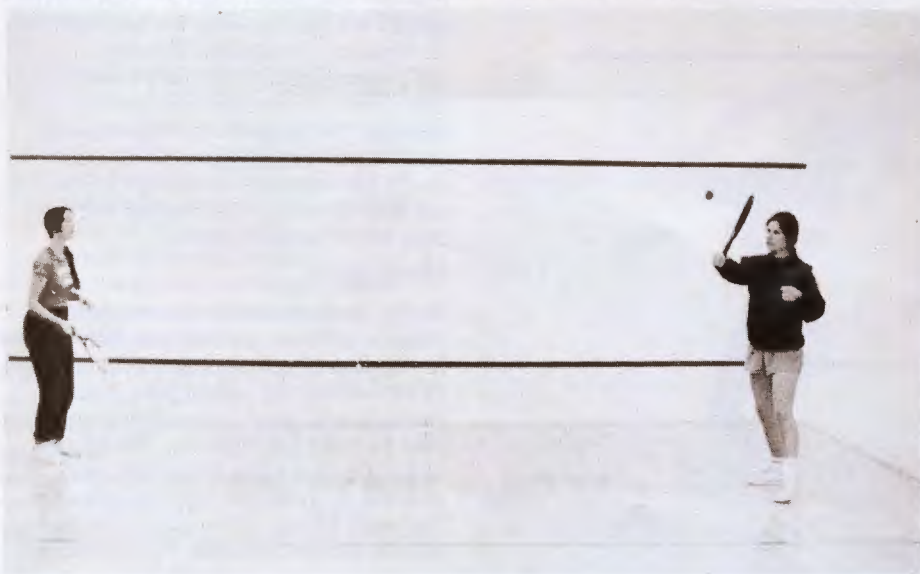
So what do you do after you've played? Jump in the shower and then drive home? Not yet. For the last time let me relate racquetball to golf, a sport with which I have limited experience but immense knowledge. A golfer never leaves the golf course without returning to the driving range to practice the shots that didn't work that particular day. If he or she has hit two balls and sliced them out with the drive, the first thing the golfer does right from the 18th tee is proceed to the driving range and hit 50 drives until it feels right. This habit helps the player leave the golf course (or racquetball court) with a

positive frame of mind, feeling that progress has been made. So take a tip from an amateur golfer: warm up before a match with your miniaturized practice system and cool down with an inner correction system.

Now just a couple more bonus pointers and I'll let you rush down to the court to begin practicing. Ever since I was 15 years old, I've found that the most enjoyable way for me to practice for singles competition has been to play competitive doubles. In doubles you see all of those plays that you see in pro matches—critical situations such as the jam ball, fly kill, double reverse splat kill—you name it and it'll come up in doubles. So from a shot making standpoint it adds to your creativity. You also have the added pressure of two people covering your shots, so that killshot had better roll or someone's going to pick it up. Doubles adds to your quickness as you blast away in front court, short hopping the ball, hitting front court overheads. And the



University of California at Santa Cruz racquetball team members practice a hand-to-eye coordination drill, similar to the net drill that tennis players use. Jan Palia, in warmups, volleys a high forehand to JoAnne Mohr, who returns the shot in midair with a backhand volley. The object is to control the ball so that both partners keep the ball going, and—if it's done right—the practice teaches you to react to a shot coming in close and to control your return to a target.



To get in the habit of returning to center court during a ceiling rally JoAnne hits a backhand ceiling ball to Jan's backhand. Then JoAnne moves to center court and touches the service line with her racquet. Then Jan and JoAnne switch positions. Practice hint: don't look at the line as you're touching it. Keep your eye on the ball and your opponent.

intensity to put the ball away in doubles is so much higher, when I get into a singles match I feel I have all the time and all the room in the world. Therefore in every aspect—creativity, intensity, quickness—doubles is ideal as an aid to better singles, as well as being a lot of fun.

The last hint is one validated by Karin Walton-Trent in her article in the January, 1981 issue of *National Racquetball*. This is to use other sports to help your racquetball. They all help you concentrate on the ball (or birdie); they help loosen you up or keep you from getting too burned out on racquetball. Tennis, platform tennis and three wall racquetball can get you out into the sun during summer. My own particular favorite is badminton because it's such an up and back type of sport. It helps me learn to move forward quickly in racquetball, much more so than playing racquetball does. So if I find that I'm getting rusty on my forward motion, I break out the birdies and head down to the gym. ●

The challenge of the game is that you can never run out of fundamentals to work on.



JoAnne and Jan practice the kill rekill by standing no farther back than the short line and hitting the ball low to each other.



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—Carol C. George photos

A Grip for the "Slap"

by Clarence Stoner

The author is assistant physical education professor at Pennsylvania State University in Erie.

Many beginner and even some veteran racquetball players have trouble with the grip. Some players never learned the proper grip in the beginning, and have been compensating for an unnecessary handicap. Others were taught, but unconsciously gravitated to a poor grip.

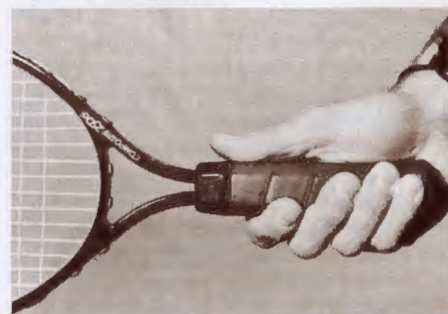
I can best explain the proper grip by revealing some of the more common flaws that players have developed. Some of these are as follows:

1. *Hand Twisted Too Far Forward* (Figure one) or *Too Far to the Back* (Figure two) *on the Racquet Handle*: Hold the racquet in a forehand position so that the strings are pointing directly toward the intended path of flight (front wall), i.e. edges of the

frame vertical, with the top edge pointing toward the ceiling and the bottom edge toward the floor. Grasp the handle so that the V formed by the thumb and index finger is on the top of the handle (hand-shake grip) and the fingers on the bottom. If the face of the racquet is not vertical when the hand is in this position, your shots will be consistently angled up or down from your desired target. I do not recommend shifting your grip on the backhand shots, as it results in driving the ball to the floor. The game is much too fast to do it consistently.

2. *Thumb on Top of Racquet*: The thumb should be wrapped around the handle on the forehand side of the racquet and be placed between the index and the middle

Figure 3: Thumb on top.



fingers. Putting the thumb on top (Figure three) results in an insecure grip overall, considerable slippage and excessive hand-forearm tension in holding onto the racquet particularly for the backhand shots.

3. *Index Finger Pointing Toward Tip of Racquet*: This results in a weaker grip overall, with decreased range of wrist action of the forehand shots (Figure four).

Figure 4: Finger pointing toward tip of racquet.



The index finger should be wrapped around the racquet handle, with the handle clearly resting between the first and second joint of this finger. It should also be displaced slightly from the other three fingers. To check this part of the grip you should be able to hold the racquet (forehand position) with only the index



Figure 1: Hand twisted too far forward.



Figure 2: Hand twisted too far to the back.

Figure 5:



finger and the heel of the hand touching the racquet handle (Figure five).

4. Choking Up Too Much on Handle: Less powerful players tend to develop this habit. It makes them feel as if they can swing the racquet easier, when it actually causes a decrease in leverage, thus decreasing the velocity of the racquet head. My recommendation would be to learn the proper grip and strengthen the forearm muscles.

5. Too Vertical and Too Deep in Palm: The handle should fit diagonally across the palm from the base of the index finger to the heel of the hand. Hold the racquet more with the fingers, and not the base of the thumb or meat part of the hand. Do not hold the handle like you would grip a ski pole (Figure six). To check it you should be able to point the tip of the racquet like a pistol, with the index finger acting as a trigger finger.



Figure 6: Ski pole grip.



Figure 7:



Figure 8: Proper grip.

If you experience a lot of tension in the forearm muscles, then the racquet is too vertical. You should also be able to lift the thumb off the handle and have enough space between the handle and the thumb to insert another finger (Figure seven). Good hitting action in the wrist and hand will be emphasized by a simultaneous push with the index finger and a pull with the last three fingers. Deviation from these principles results in forearm tension and decreased range of motion in the wrist; since the forearm controls the wrist snapping action, this would not be desirable.

6. Two Hands: Using two hands,

particularly on the backhand, is a carry-over from tennis in some cases, and physical weakness in others. Although you may experience early success using this method, in the long run it will slow your progress. A more advanced level of play requires the ball to be hit with greater velocity, which can be achieved more easily with one hand than two.

The right grip (Figure eight) allows maximum flexibility and range of motion in the wrist, elbow and shoulder joints, which permit you to "slap" the ball with the racquet rather than "stroke" it as in tennis. Check your grip. Improving your foundation is sure to help your game. ●

What's the Call?

by Dan Bertolucci

Back wall Strike Gives Other Player the Point

One morning Bob Thomas of Long Beach, CA was working behind the counter at Circle Racquetball in Long Beach, when he observed the following:

Player A swings at the ball, but misses it entirely so that it (the ball) carries to the back wall. Player A makes no attempt to turn around and try to retrieve the ball a second time. In the process of coming off of the back wall the ball strikes player B, who is running behind player A to achieve better court positioning.

Thomas' question is "Which player wins the rally?"

This particular situation falls under Rule 4.9 Rallies (d) which states "Each legal return after the serve is called a rally. Play during rallies shall be according to the following rules: (d) Touching Ball. Except as provided in Rule 4.10 (a) (2), any touching of a ball before it touches the floor the second time by a player other than the one making a return is a point or out against the offending player." Therefore above player A would be awarded the point. However in the above situation it should be noted that the assumption is being made that player A did not commit an avoidable hinder, thereby obstructing player B's opportunity to achieve better court positioning. Had player A committed the avoidable hinder, then the awarding of a point or side out would have gone to player B, depending on who was serving to initiate the rally.

Mary Dickerson writes from Ft. Stewart, GA describing two incidents that recently occurred when her opponent was serving. He served the ball and then indicated that it was not a good ball (serve). Apparently the ball had struck his racquet twice, both times on the strings. Since it looked like one racquet motion there was a problem in determining what to do. The server thought it should be automatic "out serve" and Mary thought it was either a fault or a ball to be played over. Who was right?

With the rally being initiated by the serve this particular area of concern is governed by Rule 4.9 Rallies (a) Legal Hits, which reads "Only the head of the racquet may be used at any time to return the ball. The ball must be hit with the racquet in one or both hands. Switching hands to hit a ball is an out. The use of any portion of the body to hit the ball and 'carrying' the ball on the face of the racquet are illegal hits and result in the loss of the rally." In this case a side out.

The second incident Mary describes has to do with the start of the service motion. She says her opponent has a tremendous wind-up for the serve. It was so great that he started his service motion about three feet out of the service box! Mary tried calling a foot fault on him, but he said that since he was in the service box by the time the ball bounced and was hit, it was not a foot fault.

Well nice try anyway. The correct interpretation of the above situation comes under Rule 4.5-Fault Serves. "The following serves are faults and any two in succession result in a hand out or side out. (a) Foot Fault. A foot fault results when (1) The server does not begin his service motion with both feet in the service zone, and he remains within the service zone until the ball passes the short line. Standing on, but not over the lines, is permitted. Violations are called foot faults." ●

Dan Bertolucci is director of the NRC, governing body for professional racquetball, and is a longtime racquetball referee. Send him your questions about rules c/o National Racquetball, 4101 Dempster, Skokie 60076.





Terry Bradshaw's 1981 El Paso Cancer Treatment Center Benefit Racquetball Pro/Am and Celebrity Classic

\$15,000 in Prize Money

Featuring El Paso's Dave and Gregg Peck and Celebrity Players

May 13-17, 1981 • Sponsored by Supreme Court Racquet Club and Fitness Centers

SITE: Supreme Court Racquet Club and Fitness Center East, 1440 Miracle Way, El Paso, TX 79925, Phone: 915-593-2160. 9 regulation courts including two exhibition courts with permanent seating for 150. Fitness center includes Nautilus weight training room, outdoor tennis courts, running track, outdoor swimming pool, whirlpool and sauna for men and women.

ELIGIBILITY: All participants must be USRA members in good standing. Membership applications and renewals should accompany entry fee at time of mailing. Membership fee is \$12. Proof of membership will be required at registration desk or may be purchased at tournament.

ENTRY FEES: \$30 in professional event, \$20 in amateur event. Entry fee is tax deductible, since proceeds benefit the El Paso Cancer Treatment Center. Limit two amateur events per player. Players may enter one pro event and one amateur event.

ENTRY DEADLINE: Friday, April 24. Entry fee must accompany entry form. Entries postmarked later will be returned. No entries accepted without payment or by phone.

SANCTION: By United States Racquetball Association and National Racquetball Club as part of the NRC Pro/Am Tour co-sponsored by Leach/Seamco.

OFFICIAL BALL: Seamco 600 (blue) in all amateur events and Seamco 559 (green) in professional event.

AWARDS: \$15,000 in prize money in professional events. Awards to first two places in amateur events. Souvenir shirt (late entries will not be guaranteed shirts) and hospitality throughout tournament. Consolation rounds in novice, C and junior events.

STARTING TIMES: Players should check in 1 hour before scheduled match play. Winners must referee next match or risk forfeiture. For starting times call 915-593-2160 no earlier than Sunday, May 10.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Supreme Courts Racquet Clubs, Attn: Cindy Mortimer

TOURNAMENT HEADQUARTERS: Supreme Courts Racquet Club East, 1440 Miracle Way. Check with Cindy Mortimer on accommodations.

GENERAL INFORMATION: USRA/NRC rules on bracket eligibility apply. Tournament Director reserves the right to change players' brackets in accordance with these rules. All players should be prepared to play Wednesday, May 13, and Thursday, May 14, in amateur events. Eight players are necessary to complete a bracket. In the event of an incomplete bracket the Tournament Director reserves the right to move players into next applicable bracket. The NRC in conjunction with the PRA (Professional Racquetball Association) reserves the right to implement alternate game format in professional event and/or amateur events at the Terry Bradshaw's 1981 El Paso Cancer Treatment Center Benefit Racquetball Pro/Am and Celebrity Classic. Notification of such will be made if necessary.

PLEASE ENTER ME IN THE FOLLOWING EVENT/S:

\$30 for pro event — \$20 for each amateur event — \$12 USRA membership

MEN

- ☐ Pro Singles
☐ Open
☐ B
☐ C
☐ Novice
- ☐ Seniors 35 +
☐ Veteran Seniors 40 +
☐ Masters 45 +
☐ Open Doubles

WOMEN

- ☐ Open
☐ B
☐ C
☐ Novice
☐ Open Doubles

JUNIORS

- Age _____
☐ Boy
☐ Girl

SHIRT SIZE

- ☐ Small
☐ Medium
☐ Large
☐ Extra Large

Name (PRINT) _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (WORK) _____ (HOME) _____ USRA Card # _____

Name of Doubles Partner _____

Amount enclosed _____

WAIVER: I understand that it is your intention to have my participation hereunder recorded on videotape for presentation on television and elsewhere, and I expressly agree that you shall have the unlimited right and authority to use and exploit your coverage of the series, the videotape and any and all forms of reproduction thereof in any and all media in perpetuity in whatever manner and by whatever means and wherever you may desire without any obligation to pay any monies to me except as hereinabove expressly provided. Such recordings shall without limitation be the sole property of NRC/USRA to deal with, broadcast, sell, exhibit and otherwise use or reuse in whole or in part as the NRC/USRA sees fit.

I also hereby for myself and my agents waive and release any and all rights and claims for damages I may have against the U.S. Racquetball Association, the National Racquetball Club, Supreme Court Racquet Club and Fitness Centers, Seamco Inc., Leach Industries and any of their agents, for any and all injuries received by me in connection with this tournament.

Signature _____ Date _____

Parent if under 18 _____



Good to Be Back



It is a pleasure to be back involved in racquetball at a national level. Many things have happened in amateur racquetball over the past two years and the one thing that is for certain is that things are never dull. New groups are entering the scene, many associated with organized tournaments. Independent club owner and player associations are among those groups.

All this effort in the promotion of amateur events is a plus for the sport. The USRA will continue its involvement in competitive play and will seek to enrich the quality of championship tournaments throughout the country. A network of prestigious events preceeding the finest tournament in the racquetball world, the USRA/NRC National Championships, will continue to highlight each season.

Our state chairmen like Oregon's Mollie Mankertz, who is featured in this month's amateur section, are the capable volunteers who are the USRA ambassadors out in racquetball communities around the country.

Our efforts will continue for these chairmen and we will be more efficient than ever before. The USRA is not trying to be all things to all players. We will continue to concentrate on major quality events. We welcome those who wish to help us to build the type of association, magazine and pro tour that the game needs. We have been working with many people, including Luke St. Onge and the AARA (American Amateur Racquetball Association). We hope the time has come when all members of the racquetball community will join together for the good of the sport.

I'm glad to be back with the USRA— still one of the most positive, solid and enduring forces behind racquetball.

—Terry Fancher

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Meet Your State Chairman

Mollie Mankertz, Oregon

What the head of Oregon's state association likes best about her USRA volunteer job is "being a resource person."

"I'm always giving out information and phone numbers about racquetball in our state or on a national level. I like to direct new people into the sport."

Among those 27-year-old Mankertz has led to racquetball are her parents, who both play three times a week at Lloyd Center Courts in Portland, which their daughter has managed since the club opened two years ago.

USRA's Oregon director seldom slips more than a once a week game into her tight work schedule. But when she plays, she can pick and choose her competitors. *"I usually play with men—it's more fun socially. I play with members of Portland's two professional teams—the Timbers (soccer) and the Trailblazers (basketball)."*

Lionel Hollins, a former Trailblazer, was one of the regulars in the exercise classes Mankertz leads as a way of "staying in touch with the members." Since Lloyd Center is in the heart of Portland's east side business district, the club is busiest over the lunch hour and before and after work, so Mankertz starts her day at 6:30 a.m., exercising with 25 men and women who condition for racquetball, skiing or just to stay in shape.

Exercise has been part of Mankertz' daily routine since she performed on Portland's Madison High School gymnastics team. She was practicing gymnastics at an athletic facility when she wandered into one of the center's two racquetball courts. She kept up with the game at the University of Oregon in Eugene, "riding my bike down and going into a court to play or practice by myself." Her unscheduled visits would be impossible today, she reports, because the close to 20 courts get constant use from students and faculty.

That popularity is typical of the whole state's participation in racquetball.

"Oregon State at Corvallis built a center with 10 or 12 courts, there are some private clubs in that small town, we have 14 clubs in the Portland area and two in Eugene. Oregon is the hotbed of racquetball in the Pacific northwest. There's a tournament almost every weekend."

One tournament Mankertz directed for the second year running was her area's April USRA Regional, hosted by Lloyd Center Courts. "I'm pleased with the tie-in," she says.



Mollie Mankertz leads an early morning exercise class before she takes over the manager's desk at her club.



But then Mollie Mankertz is happy with all of her racquetball centered life.

"Before I started college I knew I wanted to be in this business where people are because they want to be. I majored in recreation and physical education. Now I run into people I went to school with—they're all out of their original fields—and here I am doing what I set out to do. I feel lucky achieving my career goal so early in life."



Tournament Results

Please send tournament results and clear black and white action photos to Renee Coplan, USRA, 4101 Dempster, Skokie, IL 60076. Type your results double spaced, including name of tournament, dates and place with scores listed in style you see on these pages. Use first and last names the first time you mention a player (in doubles matches, too) and last names only after that.

Allow two months or more for your tournament writeup to appear here.

Holland

The Dutch Racquetball Championships took place Dec. 6 and 7 at the Tennis and Racquetball Centrum at Zwijndrecht (near Rotterdam).

Results

Men's Open

Semis: Ton Luycks d. John Harteloh 21-18, 21-18; Ric Zandvliet d. Theo Truys 21-14, 21-17

Finals: Ton Luycks d. Ric Zandvliet 21-18, 21-19

Women's Open

Semis: Mirjam Wielheesen d. Dieneke Kool 21-3, 21-8; Winnie Groenendijk d. Ria Brouwer 21-6, 21-8

Finals: Mirjam Wielheesen d. Winnie Groenendijk 21-13, 21-6

Boys 17 and Under

Semis: Frits Groenendijk d. Rob v.d. Kamp, Dennis Harteloh d. Arno Mooyman

Finals: Frits Groenendijk d. Dennis Harteloh 21-16, 21-12

Girls 17 and Under

Finals: Sandra Groenendijk d. Bianca Dolman

Ladies 35 +

Finals: Winnie Groenendijk d. Yvonne Govaert

Men 35 +

Finals: Ben de Jel d. Frits Groenendijk Sr.

Boys 15 and Under

Finals: Neville Harteloh d. Harm Geurt de Man

Girls 15 and Under

Finals: Sandra Groenendijk d. Marina Totte

Boys 10 and Under

Finals: Oetsze de Man d. Jeroen Blad

Girls 10 and Under

Finals: Philomine v. Pelt d. Polline v. Pelt

California

Raintree Athletic Club in Fresno held a tournament Dec. 12-14

Results

Men's Open Singles: T. Haskell d. B. Whitehead 21-9, 21-2

Men's B Singles: L. Olmos d. B. Whitehead 21-9, 21-13

Men's C Singles: F. Vargas d. D. Colson 11-21, 21-14, 11-10

Men's Novice Singles: R. Fujioka d. L. Perez 21-19, 21-19

Men's Beg. Novice Singles: M. Jensen-Akula d. J. Webster 21-12, 21-4

Seniors: M. Antonino d. R. Stauffer 21-9, 21-15

Juniors 17 and Under: S. Husted d. K. Watson 21-14, 15-21, 11-10

Juniors 11 and Under: G. Smith d. J. Runnels 8-21, 21-12, 11-10

Women's Open Singles: C. Moore d. S. MacInnis 21-7, 21-3

Women's C Singles: S. Adams d. L. Oliver 21-18, 13-21, 11-6

Women's Novice Singles: D. Mourett d. S. Koller 11-21, 21-18, 11-7

Men's Open Doubles: Algra/Portune d. Quinn/Green 21-10, 21-17

Men's B Doubles: Oliver/Marasco d. Ballard/Johnson 21-13, 21-18

Men's C Doubles: Smith/Farnum d. Oliver/Husted 21-13, 21-14

Mixed Open Doubles: Williams/Moore d. Ratekin/Williamson 21-13, 21-20

Mixed Doubles: Mahnke/Knoll d. Williams/Gong 21-11, 21-15

New York

The Grand Prix Series 1980 final tournament took place at Racquetball Fifth Avenue Dec. 13 and 14.

Results

Men's Open: 1st-Gary Valinoti, 2nd-Ray Gonzalez

Men's B: 1st-Edward Thomas, 2nd-Neil Duggan

Men's C: 1st-Joe Nastasi, 2nd-Michael Herzlin

New Jersey

Racquetball 23 and Spa in Pompton Plains held its All Junior Open Dec. 29-31.

Results

Boys 14-17: 1st-Jack Rooney, 2nd-Rich Vazzano, 3rd-Eric Gabriele, 4th-Tom Masterson, Cons-Rich Donato

Boys 10-13: 1st-Rich Vazzano, 2nd-Christian Fautz, 3rd-Albee Hernandez, Cons-Mike Fays

Girls 10-13: 1st-Bethann DeBree, 2nd-Cindy Johnson

Connecticut



Jim Cascio, foreground, defeats top seed Mike McDonough in the quarter finals of a Jan. 9-11 tournament at the Downtown Court Club in New Haven.

Hawaii

The 1981 Hawaii Army Racquetball Tournament took place Jan. 5-9.

Results:

Semis: Kevin Dorr d. Hector Rameriz
John Crampton d. Mike Frye

Finals: Dorr d. Crampton

Nebraska

The Coors Light Open took place Jan. 9-11 at Sports Courts of Omaha.

Results

Men's Open-1st: Tony Upkes, 2nd-Mark Domangue

Men's BA-1st: Maury Damkroger, 2nd-Eric Runge

Men's BB-1st: Jerry Coughlin, 2nd-Wes Gradin

Men's CB-1st: John Steffel, 2nd-Randy Wenz

Men's CC Blue-1st: Dick French, 2nd-Gene Ryan

Men's CC Red-1st: Mark King, 2nd-Ray Warren

Men's D White-1st: Paul Baumann, 2nd-Brad Jerome

Men's D Green-1st: Al Streeter, 2nd-Dave Stewart

Men's Seniors-1st: Craig Olsen, 2nd-Wayne Nelson

Men's Senior's B-1st: Jerry Coughlin, 2nd-Frank Quinn

Women's B-1st: Kathy Edwards, 2nd-Nancy Lee

Women's CB-1st: Susan Sealy, 2nd-Sandy Gross

Women's CC-1st: Cindy Clayman, 2nd-Andy Steenburg

Women's D-1st: Karen Lux, 2nd-Terri Cook

Illinois

The First Annual Playboy Pro Invitational Racquetball Tournament took place Jan. 9-11 at the Lake Geneva Fitness and Racquet Centre in Lake Geneva.

Results

Quarters: Don Constable d. Sean Moskwa 21-15, 21-8; John Lynch d. Harvey Miller 21-6, 21-7; Paul Ikier d. Paul Bakken 21-20, 21-15, 11-8; Dan Ferris d. Jack Newman 21-16, 21-12

Semis: Constable d. Lynch 21-17, 21-14, 11-9; Ferris d. Ikier 21-12, 21-6

Finals: Lynch d. Ferris 21-16, 21-18, 11-10

New York

McKinley Park Racquet and Health Club in Blasdeli hosted the New York State Open Tournament Jan. 9-11.

Results

Men's

Open: John Moshides d. Manny Gregorio 5-21, 21-10, 11-8

Novice: Ken Habicht d. Doug Stein 21-9, 21-0

B: Bob Oliver d. Mike Levy 14-21, 21-14, 11-8

C: Garr Thompson d. Duke Summerson 17-21, 21-18, 11-4

Masters: Don King d. Frank Young 21-11, 21-10

Seniors: Charlie Garfinkel d. Herm Neumier 21-8, 21-18

Doubles: Joe LoTempio/Don DeStefano d. Manny Gregorio/Gus Komerehus, default

Women's

Open: Cathy Nichols d. Donna Allan 20-21, 21-15, 11-5

Novice: Vicky Scull d. Lois Hooper 21-4, 21-8

C: Carri Holl d. Elba Gonzalez 21-16, 21-16

B: Shirley Saarits d. Laura King 21-18, 21-18

Juniors

Girls 13: Lorie Miller d. Christine Upson 21-19, 21-2

Boys 13: Tim Collins d. Tim Doyle 21-6, 21-15

Boys 15: Jeff Lattimer d. Garr Thompson 12-21, 21-16, 11-7

Boys 17: Jacob Solomon d. Mike Levy, Round Robin

New Jersey

A Doubles Winter Classic was held Jan. 10 and 11 at Court Jester Racquetball and Health Club in Lakewood.

Results

Men's Open Doubles: 1st-Greg Levine/Doug Bloxom, 2nd-Jim Pruitt/Mike Kitchens, 3rd-Lonnie Allgood/Bobby Nix, Cons-Michael Vanore/Sam Munson

Women's Open Doubles: 1st-Lia Marchini/Lynn Kennedy, 2nd-Cira Nickerson/Jennifer Aromanda, 3rd-Karen Borge/Mary Ann Cluess, Cons-JoBeth Desrosiers/Denise McKenzie

Men's Intermediate Doubles: 1st-Bill Venet/Pat O'Connor, 2nd-Michael Vanore/Sam Munson, 3rd-Tod Dean/Chet Young, Cons-Gerard Schaffner/Rooney

Mixed Doubles Open: 1st-Cira Nickerson/Jim Turner, 2nd-Lia Marchini/Mark Berwick, 3rd-Jennifer Aromanda/Don Nickerson, Cons-Lonnie Allgood/Lynn Kennedy

Intermediate Mixed Doubles: 1st-Jim Thalheimer/Kathy Yard, 2nd-Louise Delcollo/Cary Appel, 3rd-Denise McKenzie/Tod Dean, Cons-Faye Borman/Chet Young

New Jersey

The 1981 N.J.R.T. Mid-Season Invitational Tournament took place Jan. 10 and 11 at Racquetball 23 and Spa in Pompton Plains.

Results

Men's Open

Quarters: Greg Forte d. Joe Fryvogel 17-21, 21-5, 11-8; Paul DeLuca d. Tony LaSala 21-6, 21-19; Bob Moran d. Mel Fine 21-12, 21-11; Rich Greenberg d. Rich Peck 21-5, 21-18

Semis: DeLuca d. Forte 21-18, 21-12; Greenberg d. Moran 21-18, 21-14

Finals: Greenberg d. DeLuca 21-15, 17-21, 11-5

Women's Open

Quarters: Mandie Sudol d. Joan Salvas 21-19, 17-21, 11-8; Madaline Moore, default; Ellen Costanza d. Pam Vrabel 21-4, 21-16; Lisa Gitkin d. Irene Zander 21-3, 21-5

Semis: Sudol d. Moore 21-15, 21-19; Gitkin d. Costanza 13-21, 21-17, 11-5

Finals: Gitkin d. Sudol 21-11, 6-21, 11-1

Mixed Doubles

Semis: Fryvogel/Moore d. Salvas/Tironi 21-20, 21-10; DeLuca/Vrabel d. Costanza/Costanza 21-20, 16-21, 11-8

Finals: Fryvogel/Moore d. DeLuca/Vrabel 21-16, 9-21, 11-5

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(401) 826-1800



Texas

The Chancellor Racquet Club in Houston was the site of the Chancellor Pro/Am Racquetball Classic Feb. 18-22.

Results

Men's Open

Quarters: T. Gautreau d. S. Ginsberg 21-18, 21-19; M. Matthews d. J. Sacco 21-12, 21-5; J. Slazas d. G. Price 9-21, 21-18, 11-7; J. Newman d. M. Auerbach 21-3, 21-18;

—Lauren Shay photos



On the way to his Men's Open win Tampa, FL's Matt Matthews, right, beats Jack Newman of Chicago in the semis.

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D. Constable d. M. Malowitz 21-11, 21-16; S. Schaffer d. G. Mazaroff 21-15, 21-17; J. Kwartler d. D. Doeher 19-21, 21-12, 11-10; M. Ray d. M. Anderson 21-8, 21-8

Semis: Matthews d. Gautreau 21-6, 21-12; Newman d. Slazas 18-21, 21-16, 11-10; Schaffer d. Constable 18-21, 21-19, 11-8; Ray d. Kwartler 19-21, 21-15, 11-6

Finals: Ray d. Matthews 21-17, 13-21, 11-2

Men's A

Quarters: Simonette d. Pokrajac 16-21, 21-13, 11-2; Barziza d. Jameson 21-6, 15-21, 11-9; Davis d. Roberts 21-14, 19-21, 11-8; Meyer d. Watson 21-20, 21-6

Ed Barziza tells Gina Knox, "It never feels bad to lose to a better player—and that's what I did."



The player who beat Barziza in the semi-finals is 12-year-old David Simonette, who traveled on his own from his home in Baltimore, MD to win the Men's A title at the Chancellor club tournament.

Semis: Simonette d. Barziza 20-21, 21-9, 11-2; Meyer d. Davis 21-7, 21-11

Finals: Simonette d. Meyer 21-15, 7-21, 11-9

Men's B

Quarters: D. McCarty d. D. Shapiro 21-16, 21-8; J. Cowell d. Gooch 10-21, 21-15, 11-0; D. Phillips d. A. Gross 21-18, 21-19; K. Woodfin d. E. Usen 21-14, 21-15

Semis: Cowell d. McCarty 21-18, 20-21, 11-9; Phillips d. Woodfin 21-8, 21-16

Finals: Phillips d. Cowell 21-13, 21-9

Men's C

Quarters: M. Martinez d. R. Piper 21-18, 21-20; M. Rebellido d. S. Havens 21-15, 21-20; G. Jones d. K. McVicker 18-21, 21-10 11-7; R. Arceneaux 21-4, 21-9

Semis: Martinez d. Rebellido 21-13, 20-21, 11-6; Arceneaux d. Jones 21-13, 21-16

Finals: Arceneaux d. Martinez 21-5, 21-7

Men's D

Quarters: B. Lapsley d. M. Fallas 21-15, 21-19; J. R. LaViolette d. W. George 21-10, 21-7; M. Werbin d. S. Morgan 21-15, 21-18; C. Bernard d. S. Sherrell 21-16, 21-18

Semis: LaViolette d. Lapsley 10-21, 21-20, 11-8; Werbin d. Bernard

Finals: LaViolette d. Werbin 17-21, 21-14, 11-6

Men's Seniors 35+

Quarters: T. McKie d. J. Fazio 21-9, 21-3; Myers d. Martinez, forfeit; Gepner d. Dorsett 21-19, 21-4; Hill d. Childs 21-11, 21-16

Semis: McKie d. Myers 21-1, 21-14; Hill d. Gepner 21-17, 21-16

Finals: McKie d. Hill 21-2, 21-12

Men's Masters 45+

Quarters: D. Boulton d. R. Rodriguez 21-11, 21-19; A. Kinghorn d. M. Henchy 21-3, 21-6; R. Maggard d. J. Dale 21-1, 21-13; J. McGuire d. W.M. Billingsley, forfeit

Semis: Boulton d. Kinghorn 11-21, 21-14, 11-4; Maggard d. McGuire 11-21, 21-9, 11-2

Finals: Maggard d. Boulton 21-7, 21-3

Women's Open

Quarters: S. Fanning d. L. Hall 21-19, 21-20; J. LaPointe d. P. Clark 21-8, 21-12; D. Bohling d. S. Smith 21-10, 21-11; Ferguson d. M. Lucas 21-18, 21-7

Semis: Fanning d. LaPointe 21-13, 21-14; Bohling d. Ferguson 21-16, 21-5

Finals: Bohling d. Fanning 21-7, 21-15

Sharon Fanning, left, of the Memphis State racquetball team, bows to Diane Bohling of El Paso in the Women's Open final.



Women's B

Quarters: M. Cordrey d. R. Tremel 21-14, 21-17; C. Hitt d. J. Carow 21-14, 21-5; S. Garza d. B. Morris 21-19, 21-16; N. Blassingame d. L. Lavene 21-13, 21-13

Semis: Cordrey d. Hill; Blassingame d. Garza

Finals: Cordrey d. Blassingame 18-21, 21-5, 11-1

Women's C

Quarters: R. Rodriguez d. T. Drury 14-21, 21-9, 11-10; C. Coyne d. T. Pressler 21-6, 21-5; A. Walker d. J. Williams 21-14, 21-5; L. Faquin d. L. Holland 21-2, 21-10

Semis: Rodriguez d. Coyne 21-9, 18-21, 11-9; Walker d. Faquin 21-13, 21-14

Finals: Walker d. Rodriguez 21-14, 12-21, 11-9

Women's D

Quarters: M. Lopez d. L. Taul 21-16, 21-20; P. Quartrip d. J. Foster 21-15, 21-8; C. Greiner d. L. Brown 5-21, 21-11, 11-9; C. Williams d. S. Penshorn 21-20, 17-21, 11-6

Semis: Quartrip d. Lopez 21-6, 21-9; Greiner d. Williams

Finals: Greiner d. Quartrip 21-11, 9-21, 11-5



Texas racquetball fans wait for the doors to open on the Chancellors Racquetball Classic.

Upcoming Events

Netherlands Racquetball Calendar, Spring 1981

April 18-20

Open Amateur Championships of Racketcenter Westvliet at Leidschendam

May 9

Club team competition at Leidschendam

May 22-24

Open Amateur Championships of Racketballclub Zwijndrecht at Zwijndrecht

April 24-26



Wallyball^R tournament to benefit the American Athletic Association for the Deaf; Del Amo All-Pro Athletic Club, Torrance, CA; For information contact the World Wallyball Association, 4112 Oak Hollow Rd., Calabasas, CA 91302, 231-992-5972.

May 1-3

National Y.M.C.A. Open Racquetball Championships, Downtown Y.M.C.A., 1600 Louisiana, Houston, TX

May 23-25

King's Island Open, Countryside Y.M.C.A., King's Island, OH, Tournament Director Jim Ballinger, 513-932-1424



1981 Most Improved Player Contest

Save your scorecards, newspaper clippings and other evidence of your progress, so you can enter *National Racquetball's* third annual Most Improved Player contest, competing with others in your state.

The 1981 contest recognizes improvement players make between June, 1980 and June, 1981. Those whose progress is most outstanding among players in their states receive lifetime subscriptions to *National Racquetball* (with built in lifetime memberships in the USRA), plus a variety of other gifts ranging from books to equipment. Watch for an entry blank and contest details in May.



National Racquetball's Court Club Opinion Survey

Do Yourself a Favor

Here is a rare opportunity to make a painless contribution to the sport you enjoy.

Please find the time to fill out the short, but comprehensive, questionnaire. If you do, I'll consider it a real favor. I really mean it. You will get my personal thanks and a gift besides.

The gift will be a three month subscription or extension of your subscription to *National Racquetball*. Your gift to racquetball will be the time and thought you put into sharing your views on court clubs. That's information only you—a player—can supply.

This survey can be valuable if you fill it out with your frank opinions. Results will appear in a future issue of *National Racquetball*, and will be available for everyone, including the people who run our court clubs.

Please complete the answers, mail the survey to us and then witness the results of your good deed and ours. We owe it to racquetball for all the fun and friends it gives us.

—Bob Kendler

Mail in this questionnaire and receive a three month subscription or extension to *National Racquetball*.

1. Do you belong to a court club? ☐ yes ☐ no
2. If "yes" how long have you been a member?
☐ Less than a year ☐ 1-3 years ☐ 4-6 years ☐ More than 6 years
3. How long have you played racquetball?
☐ Less than a year ☐ 1-3 years ☐ 4-6 years ☐ More than 6 years
4. Do you ever have difficulty lining up a game? ☐ yes ☐ no
- 4a. Does your club help you arrange games ☐ yes ☐ no
5. How often do you play?
☐ 3-5 times a week ☐ 1-2 times a week ☐ several times a month ☐ less often
6. Do you take part in tournaments? ☐ yes ☐ no
7. Do you play in leagues? ☐ yes ☐ no
8. Have you ever taken lessons at your club? ☐ yes ☐ no
9. If so, how would you rate your lessons?
Excellent • Good • Fair • Poor (circle one)
10. How much (approximately) do you spend yearly to play racquetball?
☐ \$100-200 ☐ \$200-300 ☐ \$300-400 ☐ \$400-500 ☐ over \$500
11. Do you think your club fees are reasonable? ☐ yes ☐ no
12. What time of the day do you usually play?
☐ before 8 a.m. ☐ 8 a.m.-noon ☐ lunch hour ☐ 2-5 p.m. ☐ 5-10 p.m. ☐ after 10 p.m.
13. Would you call the staff of your club "accommodating"? ☐ yes ☐ no
- 13a. If "no" why not?

14. Do you find a warm, inviting atmosphere at your club? ☐ yes ☐ no
15. Does your club sponsor social events? ☐ yes ☐ no
- 15a. Do you attend? ☐ often ☐ sometimes ☐ rarely ☐ never
16. Do you find the club a good place to make new friends? ☐ yes ☐ no
17. Is there a good day care center at your club? ☐ yes ☐ no
- 17a. Do you make use of it? ☐ yes ☐ no
18. Do you recommend your club to your friends? ☐ yes ☐ no
19. If you have schoolage children, do they play racquetball at your club? ☐ yes ☐ no
20. a. Check which facilities your club has in addition to racquetball courts:
☐ swimming pool ☐ sauna ☐ whirlpool ☐ fitness equipment room ☐ jogging track
☐ basketball court ☐ tennis court ☐ restaurant ☐ cocktail lounge ☐ squash court
☐ nursery ☐ dance studio
- b. Please circle which of these facilities you have used in the past year.
21. How important to you would each of the following be in selecting a club?



To receive a *National Racquetball* extension you MUST:

(1) Give us your membership number _____

(2) Give us your expiration date

Month _____ Year _____

(3) Include a filled out subscription card torn from this magazine.

Send your classified ad to Joe Ardito,
National Racquetball,
4101 Dempster, Skokie, IL 60076.
Deadline for classifieds,
at \$2.50 a word, is 45 days
before the month of publication.

10

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Honolulu, Hawaii 96813.

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Claremont, NH 03743

	Very important	Quite important	Slightly important	Not important
Cleanliness				
Variety of programs				
Quality of instruction				
Child care available				
Location of club				
Staff courtesy				
Convenience of parking				
Condition of locker room (including towels, soap, etc.)				
Club restaurant				
Club lounge				
Club swim pool				
Club sauna				
Club whirlpool				
Availability of court time				

22. What do you especially like about your club? _____

23. What improvements, if any, in facilities, service or programs would you recommend? _____

Your name and address for the *National Racquetball* three month subscription or three month extension (must be postmarked before May 31 to qualify)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Club name (optional) _____

Official Entry

COORS \$25,000 GRAND PRIX FINAL

Featuring Top Coors Grand Prix Point Contestants

May 6-10, 1981 • Co-Sponsored by Leach/Seamco



SITE: Town & Country Racquet Club, 1777 Des Peres Drive, Town & Country, MO 63131. Phone: 314-965-7783.

FACILITIES: 13 regulation courts including three wall glass championship court, complete spa facilities for men and women.

ELIGIBILITY: All participants must be USRA members in good standing. Proof of membership will be required at registration desk or may be purchased at tournament.

ENTRY FEES: \$30 in professional event, \$20 in amateur event. No refunds after April 20, 1981. Limit one event per player.

ENTRY DEADLINE: Monday, April 20, 1981. Entry fee must accompany entry form. No entries accepted without payment or by phone.

SANCTION: By United States Racquetball Association and National Racquetball Club as part of the NRC PRO/AM Tour Co-sponsored by Leach/Seamco.

OFFICIAL BALL: Seamco 600 (blue) in all amateur events and Seamco 559 (green) in professional event.

AWARDS: \$25,000 in prize money in professional event. Amateur awards to 1st, 2nd, semi-finalist. Consolation awards. Hospitality and souvenir item to all players. Late entries not guaranteed souvenir item.

STARTING TIMES: Player should check in 1 hour before scheduled match play. Amateur events may start as early as 12:00 noon on Thursday, May 7, 1981. For starting times call 314-965-7783 Wednesday, May 6, 1981.

ACCOMMODATIONS: Ramada Inn Westport, 12301 Lackland, St. Louis, MO 63141 (I-270 at Page Ave. Exit). Flat Room Rate—\$36 per room/per day (limit 4 persons per room) contact: Mary Schaeffer 314-878-1400. Free Limo to & from airport.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Town & Country Racquet Club

GENERAL INFORMATION: USRA rules on bracket eligibility apply. Tournament Director reserves the right to reclassify or deny any amateur entrant. Participants will be expected to observe good sportsmanlike conduct. Eight players are necessary to complete a bracket and each bracket is limited to the first 64 entrants. In the event of an incomplete bracket the Tournament Director reserves the right to move players into next youngest applicable bracket. In all amateur events winner must referee the next match or provide a substitute, or be subject to disqualification. Tournament Director: Kathy Symonds

PLEASE ENTER ME IN THE FOLLOWING EVENT/S: \$30 for pro event — \$20 for amateur

MENS: ☐ Pro Singles (by invitation only)
☐ Mens Open
☐ Mens B
☐ Mens C

☐ Mens Novice
☐ Mens Seniors (35 +)
☐ Mens Masters (45 +)

WOMEN: ☐ Women Open
☐ Women B
☐ Women C
☐ Women Novice

SHIRT SIZE: S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____

NAME _____ **ADDRESS** _____ **BIRTH DATE** _____

CITY _____ **STATE** _____ **ZIP** _____

PHONE (Work) _____ **(Home)** _____ **USRA Exp.** _____

WAIVER: I understand that it is your intention to have my participation hereunder recorded on videotape for presentation on television and elsewhere, and I expressly agree that you shall have the unlimited right and authority to use and exploit your coverage of the series, the videotape and any and all forms of reproduction thereof in any and all media in perpetuity in whatever manner and by whatever means and wherever you may desire without any obligation to pay any monies to me except as hereinabove expressly provided. Such recordings shall without limitation be the sole property of the NRC/USRA to deal with, broadcast, sell, exhibit and otherwise use or reuse in whole or in part as the NRC/USRA sees fit.

I also hereby for myself and my agents waive and release any and all rights and claims for damages I may have against the U.S. Racquetball Association, the National Racquetball Club, the Town & Country Racquet Club, Adolph Coors Brewing Company, Leach Industries, Seamco, Inc. and any of their agents, for any and all injuries received by me in connection with this tournament.

Signature _____ **Date** _____
(Parent, if under 18)

TICKET INFORMATION

SECTION A: \$50 _____ **RESERVED SEATING — ALL SESSIONS** (Back wall — Four Days)

SECTION B: \$25 _____ **NON-RESERVED SEATING — ALL SESSIONS** (Side Wall — Four Days)

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Town & Country Racquet Club

SEND CHECKS AND ORDER FORM TO: Ms. Kathy Symonds, Town & Country Racquet Club
1777 Des Peres Drive, Town & Country, MO 63131

Sirs: Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$ _____ to cover the cost of _____ seat(s) in section(s) _____

All tournament participants can obtain all session seating along walls (Section B) for \$15.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Phone (Work) _____ **(Home)** _____ **NATIONAL RACQUETBALL 51**

Racquet Basics

Help in Choosing the Weapon for Your Game

by Randy Floyd

Randy Floyd, who has played racquetball competitively since 1973, worked for a major racquetball manufacturer for two and a half years.

Those of you who sit behind a desk from 9 to 5 with your mind filled with the racquetball game you have scheduled when you leave the office might have a hard time realizing that the sport that's so much a part of your life is still a very new game. It's only been 12 years since racquetball held its first National Championships.

In those short 12 years our game has changed, and so has the equipment. If you wanted to play racquetball in the late 1960s, you'd go into the court with a heavy wooden racquet—not too different from the tennis racket Joe Sobek sawed the handle off of back in Connecticut in 1949, when he invented the forerunner of racquetball.

Those old wooden racquets of the 60s with the thick wood frames were impossible to find in less than 300 gram weights. The game back then was control only, so the racquets worked just fine.

In 1969 Ektelon started making the first metal racquets—crude and heavy at first—but a great improvement over their wooden predecessors. Soon metal racquets were improving and—at the same time—the game of racquetball was changing. For the first time players began to use the ceiling as a defense in rallies. The ceiling shots brought about long rallies, requiring more strokes. No player could hit one shot after another with a heavy racquet and so metal racquets got lighter.

By the early 70s Leach Industries, which had used fiberglass in space equipment and boats, adapted that material to racquetball racquets. The first glass racquets were up to around 300 grams, but they had less head weight than the metal or wooden racquets and were more flexible.

Then in the mid 70s the ball became livelier, rallies became shorter and power started taking over the existing control game. The birth of the power game created a need for a still lighter racquet that a player could flick into the ball to send it flying across the court at speeds up to 140 miles an hour. By this time there were both glass and metal racquets to suit different game styles.

Power is still the name of the game. But during the last three years racquetball's researchers and designers have produced an array of spectacular racquets. The problem today is that there's so much to choose from, it's hard to know what to buy. With racquets zooming over the hundred dollar mark, you want to know you're making the right investment. So let's review what's available now, taking into account that wooden racquets died a natural death when court owners found the wood edge marked and bit into the walls.

Mike Yellen uses a metal racquet.



Don Thomas plays with a fiberglass racquet.



Metal. This is a good racquet for a beginner because it is sturdy and because it generates power, even at those times when the ball misses the center of the strings on impact. Metal also is good for the tournament player looking for power because the ball leaves the strings so fast. The foam core grip you'll find in most of today's metal racquets eliminates the arm and elbow problems that the vibration of the early metal racquets gave some players.

Fiberglass. People usually think of this as the racquet for the control player. As much as that statement is true, it is also false. Yes the ball does stay on the strings of a fiberglass racquet longer. Yes this does add control. But no this does not mean you can't hit the ball hard with a fiberglass racquet. Let me explain: when you hit a racquetball, most of your power is coming from the timing of your wrist snap. As your wrist snaps through the ball, a fiberglass racquet bends back, thus keeping the ball on the strings longer. However as you swing through the ball and the racquet snaps back to its original position, the racquet shoots the ball off the strings at a fast pace. The only drawback of fiberglass is that your hit should be right in the center of the strings for you to get the best feel for the ball. So fiberglass is for intermediates or better.

Graphite. Graphite allows manufacturers to make their racquets both light and stiff, eliminating any vibration. Graphite racquets are the perfect tool for power racquetball. A graphite racquet that is head-light permits the player to generate more head swing.

The problem with graphite, though, is that it is stiff and does not allow for error. This reason, plus the high cost, puts graphite out of the beginner category. Control players also may have a hard time with graphite because the ball leaves the strings so quickly. Graphite is an advanced player's racquet. Remember—we can't all be Marty Hogan. ●

Heather McKay plays with a graphite racquet.

National Racquetball's Racquet Guide

	Fiberglass	Metal	Graphite
Level:			
Beginner		X	
Intermediate	X	X	
Advanced	X	X	X
Style:			
Power		X	X
Control	X		

Drawn Tube New Kind of Metal Racquet

Among the latest racquets players can consider are the "Hogan Steel" and the "7100" aluminum alloy by Leach Industries with frames by True Temper Sports.

Retailers saw the racquets for the first time in February at the National Sporting Goods Association show in Chicago.

Memphis based True Temper, the world's largest manufacturer of golf club shafts, has produced the first racquetball racquet by the "drawn tube" process. "Drawn tube frames," True Temper's Vice President of Marketing and Sales Mark Burke explains, mean "a higher strength material can be used and wall thicknesses and diameters can be varied within the frame."

Both the aluminum alloy and the chrome moly steel frames are highly resistant to bending and both are built for speed and accuracy. The racquets were in the hands of Leach dealers, distributors and professionals on March 1.



Three Time National Champion Marty Hogan, front, demonstrates the "Hogan Steel" and Barry Allan, club pro at Chicago's Downtown Metro Court Club, tries the "7100," two new Leach racquets with True Temper frames.

Learn to Hit with Mike Yellen

The pro player known for his analytical approach to racquetball can take your game apart and help you put it back together to win at Terry Fancher's Racquetball Camps.

Each weekly session (Monday thru Friday) will include video tape instruction, individual stroke analysis, 4 to 1 student-to-teacher ratio, drills and strategy sessions.

For players of any age, camp is open to the following ability groups: beginners, advanced players, intermediates, and tournament players.

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Session I July 5-10
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Session IV August 9-14
Session V August 16-21

My game could stand some improvement. Please send me information on your summer racquetball camps.

Name _____

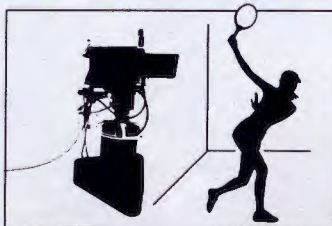
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enclosed is my \$100 deposit
Tuition for All Sessions \$325.00.
Discount for USRA members.



TERRY FANCHER'S RACQUETBALL CAMPS

4101 Dempster St.,
Skokie, IL 60076

Tournament Results

—Lauren Shay photos

Heather McKay



Cools Lynn Adams' Hot Streak

While Laura Martino Provides Biggest Upset of W.P.R.A. Stop

by Nicholas J. Schmitz

The 1980-81 Women's Professional Racquetball Association pro tour's \$10,000 Chicago stop at Killshot, Ltd. in west suburban Bloomingdale Feb. 12-15 featured a blend of the old and the new and reflected both things past and to come.

To begin with it was won by Heather McKay, the gracious Australian-born Canadian who you see on the cover of this month's issue. And it marked the emergence of 21-year-old Laura Martino, an unseeded rookie from Los Angeles, who reached the semis of a W.P.R.A. pro tournament for the first time.

McKay's victory, her third in a row, was nothing new. After all McKay had defeated three time former national champion, Shannon Wright, in the same club last June for the first W.P.R.A. National Championship title. And less than a month earlier she defeated second ranked United States Handball Association touring pro, Vern Roberts, Jr. in a special \$1,000 winner-takes-all, man-against-woman, hands-against-racquet exhibition match.

What was new about McKay's latest victory was that it was not particularly easy. In fact McKay's opponent in the finals, Lynn Adams, of Costa Mesa, CA, actually won the first set 3-2 under the W.P.R.A.'s experimental scoring system. And taking that first set from McKay was something new and exciting for Adams.

"It was an unbelievable breakthrough match for me," she said after it was over. "It was the first time I was totally clear and calm against Heather. I played up to my capabilities and was not intimidated."

Laura Martino's grin announces her pleasure at sharing a court with McKay in the semis.

"I tend to put pressure on myself, but I had a lot of fun through the whole tournament, knew what I was doing at all times, and really was playing my game."

A quick glance at the tournament's pro draw sheet confirms Adams' belief that she "really was playing racquetball." She knocked off her first three opponents—Brenda Poe, of Miami, FL, Jean Sauser, of Milwaukie, OR and Peggy Garner, of Los Angeles, by identical 3-0, 3-0 scores.

McKay also played well during the entire tournament. She breezed past Pro-qualifier Lynn Farmer, of Chicago, IL, 3-0, 3-0 in the 32s, Unseeded Melanie Taylor, of Montclair, NJ, 3-1, 3-0 in the 16s and 11th-ranked Elaine Lee, of Boise, ID, 3-1, 3-0 in the quarter-finals.

It was Laura Martino, however, who provided the tournament's biggest upset. She ousted Fourth-seeded Bonnie Stoll, of Stamford, CT, in the 16s. That 3-2, 3-0 victory was followed by a 1-3, 3-0, 2-0 quarter-final win over Former National Champion Karin Walton-Trent.

Martino's rising star was knocked off course and out of contention for the tournament's \$2,500 top prize money when she was soundly beaten by McKay in the semis 3-0, 3-0. However Martino had a big, knowing grin on her face throughout the match because she was pleased with her performance in the tournament and knew that McKay really was taking her to school.

McKay went into the championship match with the strategy of not playing Adams' backhand or ceiling game and trying to pinch when ahead. Adams, on the other hand, tried to deny McKay the ball off the back wall and not go cross court. She also tried to go down the lines and use her pinch shot.



The strategy worked well for both players in the close first set. Neither won games by more than three points and the set went to its five game maximum.

Adams, however, got the upper hand in the set on an incredible series of McKay errors. Six of Adams' 11 points in the decisive fifth game of the first set were made on five McKay skips and one really bad ceiling shot. Adams won the set on what she described as "a great splat pinch."

Lynn Adams hustles through a close finals game, but Heather McKay, left, takes charge at the Bloomingdale, IL tournament.



Marci Greer's quick court action fails to defeat Adams in the semis.

"Lynn was on a hot streak and I hoped she would miss a few," McKay said about her strategy review between sets. "I decided just to hang in and try not to make errors."

McKay did, in fact, pull her game together. Only two of the 11 points with which Adams won the first game of the second set were made on McKay errors.

McKay also thought she was not taking enough pinch shots. She started taking more. Adams, on the other hand, tried more cross court shots because she thought McKay was anticipating her line play too much.

The turning point in the match was reached early in the second game of the second set. The ball broke under the pressure of continuous power play and was replaced with a faster, more lively one.

McKay took better advantage of the change of pace, began moving Adams around the court more, and won the next five games, taking the second set, 3-1, and winning the match-ending tie-breaker 2-0.

Adams lost some of her intensity in the second game of the second set, which McKay took 11-6. After losing the set's third game to McKay 11-5 Adams regained some of her concentration, but not enough to stop McKay from decisively taking the set's last game 11-6.

"I started serving better towards the end of the match," was McKay's simple explanation for the change of momentum in the match.

In the match tie-breaker McKay built up an early 7-0 lead in the first game. Adams, however, was able to close to 9-5 and 10-7, but could not return a ceiling shot near the right wall that gave the game to McKay 11-7.

The second and decisive game of the tie-breaker also began with McKay jumping out to a big lead. She was ahead 6-0, but could not prevent the hustling Adams from evening up the game at seven. McKay, however, then quickly put the game away with a passing serve and three killshots.

Without offering excuses Adams admitted after the match that physical fatigue set in towards the end of the match. "I was having trouble staying on my toes," she said. (See the cover story on how McKay conditions for matches.)

Second-seeded Marci Greer, of San Diego, CA took third with an easy defeat over Martino 3-0, 3-0. Greer also eliminated Linda Prefontaine, of Eugene, OR, 3-1, 3-0, in the quarter-finals before falling to Adams 3-2, 3-0, in the semis.

The W.P.R.A. will return to the Chicago area in May, when Gary Danno and his Prime Time Promotions again organize and promote the W.P.R.A.'s Women's Nationals. This will be the next opportunity for Heather McKay to keep her Chicago win streak going and directly defend her W.P.R.A. National Championship.

Round of 32: Heather McKay d. Lynne Farmer; Melanie Taylor d. Mary Dee; Elaine Lee d. Pam Prina; Fran Davis d. Peggy Steding; Karin Walton-Trent d. Terri Gilbreath; Jennifer Harding d. Joyce Jackson; Laura Martino d. Susie Dugan, forfeit; Bonnie Stoll d. Becky Callahan; Lynn Adams d. Brenda Poe; Jean Sauser d. Sheryl Ambler, forfeit; Peggy Gardner d. Judy Thompson; Janell Marriott d. Connie Peterson; Linda Prefontaine d. Sue Carow; Vicki Panzeri d. Linda Forcade; Rita Hoff d. Betsy Koza; Marci Greer d. Kippie Boatright

Round of 16: McKay d. Taylor; Lee d. Davis; Walton-Trent d. Harding; Martino d. Stoll; Adams d. Sauser; Gardner d. Marriott; Prefontaine d. Panzeri; Greer d. Hoff

Quarters: McKay d. Lee; Martino d. Walton-Trent; Adams d. Gardner; Greer d. Prefontaine

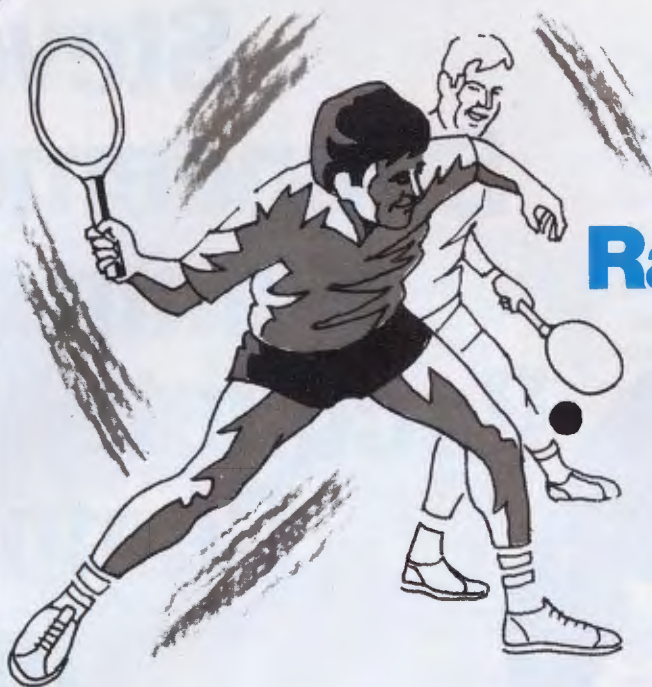
Semis: McKay d. Martino; Adams d. Greer

Finals: McKay d. Adams

The 1981 W.P.R.A. Women's Nationals will provide an opportunity for McKay to face Three Time Former National Champion Shannon Wright, who did not compete at the Killshot tournament because she was taping ABC-TV's "Superstar" competition. Wright hopes to unseat McKay to regain the queen of professional racquetball title.

W.P.R.A. Rankings as of Feb. 15, 1981

1. Heather McKay	660
2. Shannon Wright	470
3. Lynn Adams	390
4. Marci Greer	340
5. Karin Walton-Trent	170
6. Linda Prefontaine	160
7. Laura Martino	150
8. Peggy Gardner	140
9. Fran Davis	130
10. Bonnie Stoll	120
Janell Marriott	120
Elaine Lee	120
13. Martha McDonald	110
14. Rita Hoff	100
15. Jennifer Harding	90
16. Vicki Panzeri	80
Kippie Bishop-Boatright	80
Mary Dee	80
Sarah Green	80
20. Jean Sauser	70
Sheryl Ambler	70
22. Hope Weisbach	50
Joyce Jackson	50
Peggy Steding	50
Melanie Taylor	50



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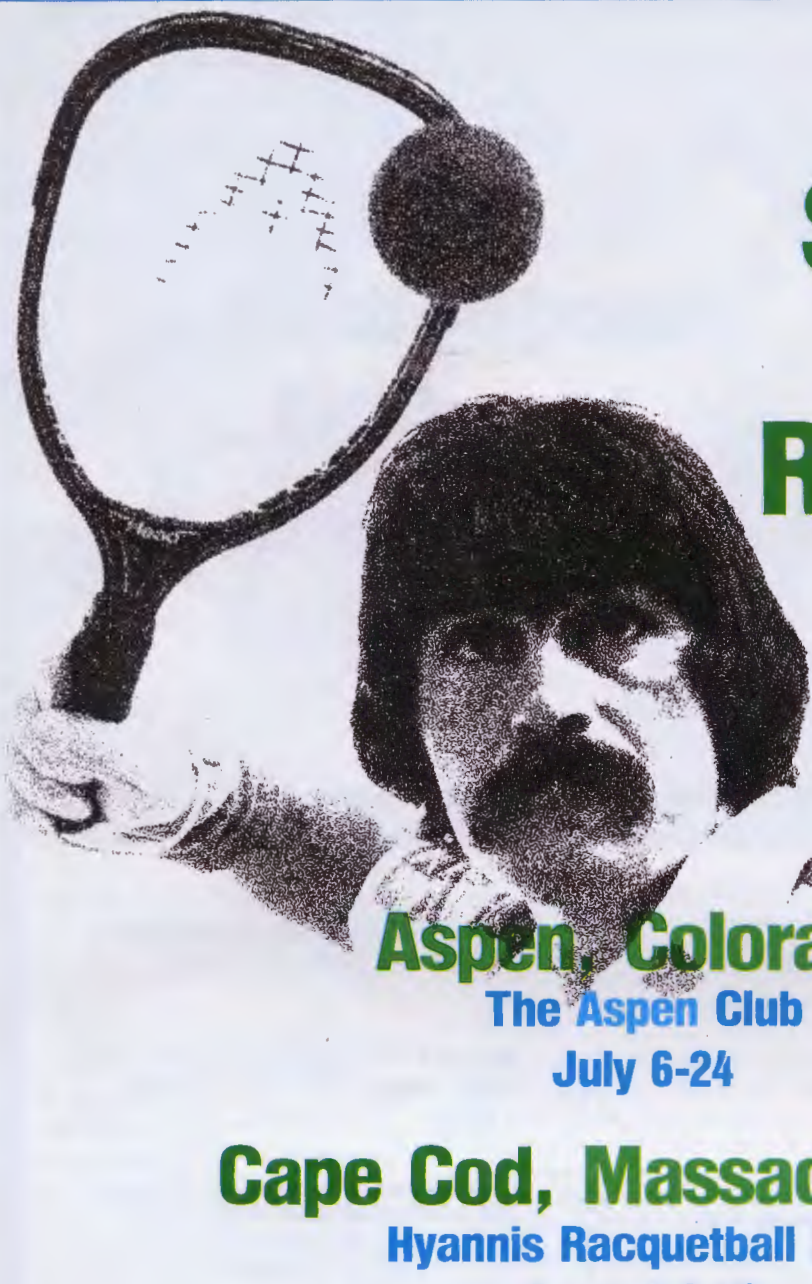
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Marty's Well Oiled

by Thomas J. Morrow

—Lauren Shay photos



Victory Machine

Hogan Amazes Houston Fans with Impossible Winners against Mike Yellen

If they didn't know it before, fans in Houston are now aware that Marty Hogan handles racquetball players the way J.R. Ewing wheels n' deals in oil. The sixth stop on the 1980-81 National Racquetball Club tour co-sponsored by Leach and Seamco was dominated by Hogan's fine play as he won his third straight tournament of the season, defeating Mike Yellen 21-14, 21-17 in the finals.

It was the first time since the National finals last summer that Yellen and Hogan had met. Though the intensity of the tournament was lessened somewhat by the absence of Dave Peck, Yellen took the place of Hogan's top tour rival and turned in his best tournament performance of the year.

Peck dislocated his right index finger on Monday prior to the start of the Feb. 18-22 Chancellors Classic and was unable to grip the racquet. Though he considered using medication to enable him to play, Peck took the advice of two physicians and sat the tournament out for fear of doing further damage to his hand.

"I had worked harder to prepare for this stop than I have any other event this year," El Paso's Peck said in a dejected voice. *"This is the first time the NRC has come to Texas since I've been a pro and I certainly wanted to win this one."*

Though there was gloom in the Peck camp, the lower seeds were happy to step onto the path that opened up when the hard hitting fourth seed player dropped out.

In the Chancellors Classic finals Marty Hogan waits to take an easy setup off the back wall while Mike Yellen scrambles back to center court to await the inevitable consequences of a weak shot hit to a three time national champion.

Morrow, one of the physically strongest players on the tour, was a fierce competitor throughout the tournament, ousting eighth seeded Steve Strandemo and 17th ranked Dave Fleetwood. His quarter-final match against Wagner was his furthest advancement in this season's pro tour.

Younger brother Gregg, 17, seeded 10th going into the Chancellors Club tournament, also lost some of his usual spark, and the opening round to a surprisingly tough Scott Hawkins. Hawkins saw his chance and not only rolled over young Peck, but nipped sixth-ranked Lindsay Myers before meeting Jerry Hilecher in the quarter-finals.

Hilecher was certainly not playing his usually aggressive brand of racquetball and though Hawkins was hitting his shots and showing signs of future promise, the 1978 National 17 and Under Junior Boys champ was playing a 26-year-old opponent who appeared to have a hard time concentrating.

"That's the closest he's ever played me," Hilecher said after the match. *"I really felt flat out there . . . I couldn't get into it. I wasn't mentally into it. I don't know what happened."*

Hawkins took Hilecher into a tie-breaker after splitting the first two games 18-21, 21-7. Hilecher rallied himself to pull ahead and win the quarters 11-9.

The only other eventful match during the quarters was between 23rd seeded Mark Morrow and fifth ranked Rich Wagner. What should have been a fairly easy match for Wagner turned out to be the record marathon of the tour to date. A three hour battle ensued with Morrow edging Wagner to advance to the semi-finals against Hogan.

During the tie-breaker two very tired professionals were playing their hearts out when Wagner got too close and caught Morrow's racquet directly in the nose from a backhand follow through. The final stanza had to be halted for about 20 minutes to give time for Wagner to recover. Wagner was leading 7-4 at the time of the accident and some fans observed that Wagner lost the edge, while others maintained that he had not. In any event Morrow inched closer and closer to take the match 11-10 after losing the first game by two points (21-19) and winning the other by one point (21-20).

In other quarter-final action John Egerman lost to Mike Yellen 10-21, 21-20, 11-9, after ousting Ross Harvey and seventh ranked Don Thomas. Craig McCoy played dead while Hogan used him for pinch and kill practice 21-11, 21-8.

During the first semi-final game against Hilecher Yellen jumped to an 8-1 lead, mostly courtesy of Hilecher's four skips. Hilecher would skip 15 points to Yellen during the two game match, something he rarely does.

In that first game Hilecher pulled within two before Yellen began another scoring spree from 8-6 to 12-6. Then, at 13-9, Yellen hit three kills and a pinch and grabbed a Hilecher skip to make the score 18-9. Several times when he seemed down and out, Hilecher responded with a spark of his usual outstanding play and flipped in a pinch or a kill to add points and short lived suspense.

But it was a matter of too little, too late. With the score 18-11 Yellen took the first game with three more quick points on a pinch, a skip and a backhand pass-kill shot.

Hilecher seemed to leave the court and go elsewhere in the second game. As in the first Yellen jumped to an early, substantial lead, 8-3. Three points is all Hilecher

* Dave Peck will have his chance to play in a Texas pro stop at a special NRC El Paso Cancer Treatment Center benefit tournament May 13-17. See page 43 for the entry.



His best show on this season's NRC tour puts Mark Morrow in the semis against Hogan, with both players displaying the concentration needed to carry a pro into the final rounds of play.

Morrow played excellent racquetball against the champ, but it wasn't enough—great and fantastic were needed and the player from Hawthorne, CA just didn't have it.

With the score 8-2 in the first game Morrow came crashing back, running six unanswered points against Hogan to tie it up 8-8 and give a new game and new life to the challenger. But, alas, Hogan answered the challenge with three more points. No worry—Morrow got two more quick shots on a backhand kill and a left corner pinch.

Hogan must have been thinking to himself "*seems like this has happened to me before,*" and began to bear down with two more points, 13-10. Morrow scored once more on a beautiful backhand, front wall drop shot, and then it was a Hogan scoring drive. With the score at 17-11 and Morrow desperately trying to stay in the game he made a cross court dive for a shot and was still off balance and down on the floor with Hogan having an easy scoring shot.

Instead of taking advantage of his opponent Hogan drew cheers and applause from the crowd by flipping the ball high to the ceiling in order to give Morrow a chance to recover—it was an excellent display of good sportsmanship and the champ's way of recognizing Morrow's quality of play.

In the second game Hogan continued to remain in charge though Morrow jumped to an early 3-0 lead before the champ ran five points, making it 5-3. The two players exchanged points and then it was Hogan 12-5. Morrow replied with three more points and a chance at catching the champ—only a chance, albeit ever so slight. At 13-8 Hogan ran another four points making it 17-8. Morrow kept the match alive by taking advantage of two Hogan skips and adding two kills to make it 17-12.

Morrow would score no more, however, and Hogan went on to take the match and advance to the finals against Yellen.

Before Sunday's match it was a confident Yellen who told Michael Hurd of the *Houston Post* "*I'm pleased with my play. It's at a much higher level than it has been. I think I'll give him (Hogan) a fair match. I'll be able to stay in it with him.*"

would score. The remainder of the match was simply a display of Yellen placing his shots, seemingly at will, in exhibition-like fashion.

Yellen was definitely back—the iceman hath returneth and Yellen's vocal and excited fans in the audience were delighted.

In the second match of the afternoon Hogan was pitted against the aggressive Morrow and the gallery was jammed with spectators, news reporters and television crews to record the event that some were predicting would go in Morrow's favor.

Unlike the previous night against McCoy Hogan was up against a determined player who wasn't about to hand him the match.

Unfortunately for Morrow and the other players who faced Hogan in Houston the three time defending national champion and professional racquetball's most dominant player was hitting shots as never before on the 1980-81 tour—impossible shots that only Hogan makes to appear routine and ho-hum.



Jerry Hilecher tries to stay in the semis against Yellen by saving the point with a shot to the back wall.

Confident that he'd "stay in it with him" was the sharp departure Yellen took from what a confident Dave Peck would have said prior to any match with Hogan. "I'll beat him" would have been a Peck prediction.

Yellen was correct. He did stay in it with Hogan and was hitting most of his shots, but the problem was that Hogan was hitting all of his shots, some of them seemingly impossible, like a behind-the-back right corner pinch or two and two wall reverse pinch shots.

Dave Bledsoe, who had been eliminated early in the tournament by Houston's Gary Merritt, sat in the audience and commented that "Mike's playing great ball, hitting his shots, but Hogan is just simply fantastic out there, hitting shots no one else could."

In game one it was Yellen who drew the first blood and a 5-0 lead before Hogan began to make his move. Then Hogan ran five unanswered points and it was a new ballgame at 5-5.

The two players stayed within three points of each other until the score was 10-8, Yellen's favor. Yellen ran another four points, before Hogan caught up making it 14-14. Yellen couldn't score any more the first game and Hogan finished it off with six killshots, including an ace and two back court forehand drives into the front wall.

In the second game Hogan jumped to an early 5-0 lead before Yellen answered with four points of his own. Hogan quickly made it 8-4, then it was 8-6 and Hogan repeated his double reverse pinch for the side out to temporarily halt the Yellen drive.

Scott Hawkins, 1978 17 and Under Juniors winner, makes a surprise entry into the quarters, where he loses to Hilecher. Other quarterfinal matches (left to right) pit Rich Wagner against Morrow, John Eggerman against Yellen and Craig McCoy against Hogan. Capacity crowds viewed the quarters, as well as later rounds.



Yellen came right back to continue his scoring to tie it up 8-8. It was back and forth between the two professionals until the game was 17-15, Yellen's advantage. Hogan hit two pass shots to tie it up and that seemed to be the point at which Yellen appeared to give up as he skipped Hogan his 18th point.

Hogan got his final three points on an ace, a backhand, back court kill and a skip, courtesy of Mr. Yellen, to take the match 21-17.

It was when Hogan tied the first game at 14-14 that he thought Yellen had actually given up.

"I sensed a letdown on his part at that point," said Hogan afterwards.

"He hit some incredible shots in some desperate situations," said Yellen after the finals. *"I stayed on top as best I could, but when he's playing like he did, it's tough to stick in there."*

"When I play the way I can, no one can stand in my way," Hogan went on. *"A lot of players are working harder to catch me. No doubt the guys are playing better."* ●

\$10,000 Chancellors Classic Houston, TX Feb. 18-22

Round of 32: Marty Hogan d. Jerry Brian 21-13, 21-9; Keith Dunlap d. Dennis McDowell 21-6, 21-8; Doug Cohen d. Mike Levine 21-8, 21-18; Craig McCoy d. Matt Mathews 21-13, 21-11; Mark Morrow d. Steve Strandemo 21-7, 14-21, 11-4; Dave Fleetwood d. Brad Krueger 21-14, 16-21, 11-6; Ken Kailhlanen d. Ben Koltun 21-11, 21-16; Rich Wagner d. Steve Serot 21-16, 21-13; Mike Yellen d. Beaver Wickham 21-19, 21-5; Gary Merritt d. Dave Bledsoe 21-15, 18-21, 11-9; John Eggerman d. Ross Harvey 18-21, 21-13, 11-5; Don Thomas d. Jeff Kwartler 14-21, 21-12, 11-5; Lindsay Myers d. Brett Harnett 21-16, 21-16; Scott Hawkins d. Gregg Peck 21-18, 21-10; Larry Meyers d. Dan Factor 20-21, 21-12, 11-8; Jerry Hilecher d. Kyle Kamalu 21-19, 21-5

Round of 16: Hogan d. Dunlap 21-8, 21-7; McCoy d. Cohen 20-21, 21-19, 11-6; Morrow d. Fleetwood 21-12, 13-21, 11-0; Wagner d. Kailhlanen 21-8, 21-10; Yellen d. Merritt 21-4, 21-5; Eggerman d. Thomas 10-21, 21-20, 11-9; Hilecher d. Meyers 21-2, 21-4; Hawkins d. Myers 21-16, 11-21, 11-5

Quarters: Hogan d. McCoy 21-11, 21-8; Morrow d. Wagner 19-21, 21-20, 11-10; Yellen d. Eggerman 21-10, 21-13; Hilecher d. Hawkins 18-21, 21-7, 11-9

Semis: Hogan d. Morrow 21-11, 21-12; Yellen d. Hilecher 21-11, 21-3

Finals: Hogan d. Yellen 21-14, 21-7

Gilley's, cowboy boots and hats were prevalent in Houston as were enthusiastic SRO crowds at Chancellors Racquetball Classic. It had been several years since the NRC and professional racquetball made their way back to the Oil Well capital, so no one really knew what to expect, since this wasn't a football game. But you would have guessed it to be a scrimmage between the Oilers and Cowboys, judging from the turnout. Yes even Charlie Joiner, wide receiver for the San Diego



Chargers, was there to witness the pros in action. Among those who made the tournament the success that it was were Tim Heckler, general manager of Chancellors; Omar Malacara, maintenance supervisor; Bev Branch and Mary Bean, who floor managed the 425 player participants in this second largest event of the NRC pro tour, and other staff members and volunteers including Paul Guilett, Sara Abowlafia and Kelly Robinson.

Again providing their services in the area of officiating were NRC/USRA staff assistants Bill Schmidtke, Dave Negrete, Gary Merritt, Dennis McDowell, Larry Lee, Pat Braunstein, Bob Kohl, Jim Brown, Bob Blackshear, Joe Sacco, Dan Factor, John Moshides, Sean Moskwa and our California USRA State Chairman Scotty Deeds. A hearty welcome back to



the pro tour was extended to co-worker Terry Fancher, USRA national coordinator, as he again proved invaluable as an official.

The giant killer among the pro qualifiers, who captured the Men's A division was current 1980 USRA Boys 12 and under National Champion David Simonette of Baltimore, MD. ●

National Racquetball Club Rankings as of Feb. 22, 1981

- | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Marty Hogan | 9. Craig McCoy | 18. Scott Hawkins |
| 2. Mike Yellen | 10. John Eggerman | 19. Keith Dunlap |
| 3. Jerry Hilecher | 11. Gregg Peck | 20. Mark Morrow |
| 4. Dave Peck | 12. Larry Meyers | 21. Mike Levine |
| 5. Rich Wagner | 13. Dave Bledsoe | Gary Merritt |
| 6. Don Thomas | 14. Doug Cohen | 23. Charlie Brumfield |
| 7. Lindsay Myers | 15. Dave Fleetwood | 24. Gary Berberet |
| 8. Steve Strandemo | 16. Ben Koltun | |
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Town & Country Racquet Club, St. Louis, MO
Open

Leach Pro-Am National Racquetball Championships

June 6-13

Arizona Athletic Club, Tempe
Open for Amateurs
Top 32 Pros

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USRA Junior Nationals

Aug. 10-15

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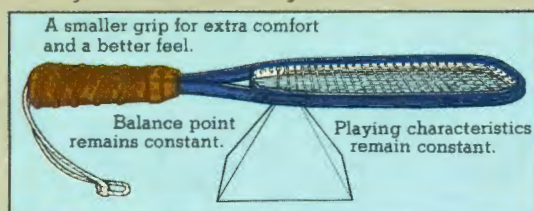


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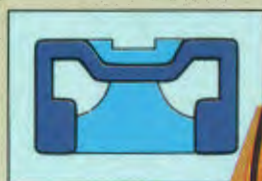
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Unusually trim, the whole racquet

Hence, Patent Number 4066260, the Lady AC-250. With a design as unique as its patent reflects.

It begins with a solid core of shock-absorbing ABS plastic, wrapped with a special thin-wall aluminum extrusion. Plastic for control, aluminum for power.



Special ABS plastic core reinforces the Lady AC-250's unique frame.

It continues with a modified tapered throat and elongated head for one of the biggest sweet spots in the game.

And it finishes with a radically tapered handle and striking leather grip, for extra comfort and a better feel for smaller hands.

All in all, a slender little package weighing in at a tidy 250 grams.

Our Lady Swinger took last year's Women's National Championship.

weighs in at under 250 grams.

So there you have it. An old favorite, a new favorite.

Both giving evidence, once again, to the fact that pleasing the ladies really isn't tough at all.

When you're **Number One By Design.**

