



OFFICIAL VOICE OF PRO-AM

RACQUETBALL

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 2, SPRING 1974

50c

We're Going To Vegas
Page 10

*(Below)—Serot (shooting) against
Brunfield—the pros roll on.*

Instructionals
Pages 34-42



WILLIAM SCHULTZ
2418 Chamberlin Ave.
Madison, WI 53701

Put a little Irish on your shot.



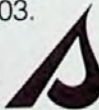
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NATIONAL RACQUETBALL



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FROM THE EDITOR . . .

The National Racquetball Club celebrated its first birthday this past April and much to the surprise of many people, the N.R.C. is still alive and kicking. In fact, it is stronger and healthier now than at any time in its short life.

We had bold, aggressive plans and ideas with the beginnings of the National Racquetball Club. Many of the things we wished to do, we did, and some others we couldn't.

We found out early that two tournaments per month were too many, that it was tough for the players and even tougher on the organizers. We found out that it is difficult, if not impossible, to run a tournament in a distant city from Skokie, Illinois. We found out that the average racquetball players throughout the nation, needed and wanted a good, durable racquetball.

But most of all, we found out that the pro-am concept in racquetball was well-received, and we now know that it works.

The N.R.C. has created many things this past year. The green ball, finally on the market where people can get it, has at least given the racquetball community a choice. **National Racquetball** magazine has enabled the rank-and-file to stay abreast of the happenings in the pro-am area of the game. Over \$17,000 has been won by pro players in four tournaments. And a National Three-Wall tournament is soon to be run.

But what we have done is only important as a stepping stone to what more we can accomplish for the game. Next year the biggest and grandest racquetball event ever staged will be at the Tropicana Hotel in Las Vegas, - the Pro-Am National Championships. April 20-25, 1975.

The tournament will feature amateur as well as pro play, no qualification tournaments necessary. Anybody and everybody who wants to participate can do so. There will be prize money, trophies, hospitality, parties, fun and excitement, never before witnessed at a racquetball tourney. And you can be part of it.

Prior to the Las Vegas Classic the N.R.C. is aiming at one Pro-Am tournament per month from September to and including Vegas. That would be the maximum number during our "season" that the N.R.C. staff could handle.

Aside from the Pro-Am events during this time, any number of strictly amateur tournaments can and will be run, either physically or through N.R.C. sanctioning.

One of the major goals of the National Racquetball Club in the next year is to continue to work untiringly on improvements of equipment within the game, especially the ball. Development and marketing of the Seamco green 559 has been a monumental task and we are finally reaching a point to which we can be happy. But no matter what the product, when striving for perfection, it

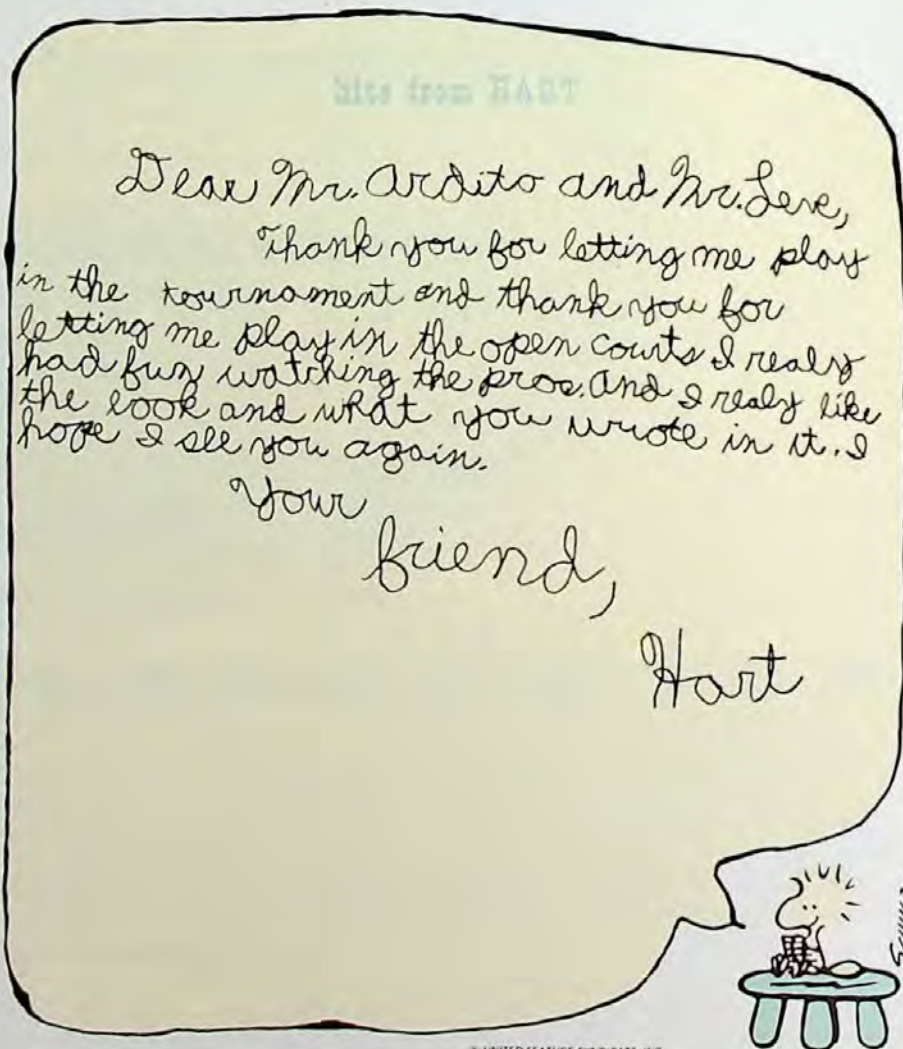
can always be improved. And that is true of all racquetballs.

Of all the racquetballs currently on the market, we honestly feel the green ball is the best. But our telling you that cannot convince you. You must play with the ball and be satisfied that it performs well enough for you. We are confident you will and you will be satisfied.

* * *

Court clubs continue to be the major news item within the racquetball/handball world, as so many of these private complexes are going up it is difficult to keep track.

The National Court Clubs Association, headquartered here in Skokie, is keeping tabs on the new clubs, those under construction and those planned. For any information you might need on feasibility, costs, rates, or construction, contact Mort Leve, N.C.C.A., 4101 Dempster St., Skokie, IL 60076



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Milwaukee Pro-Am: The Best We've Had

By Joe Ardito

Nothing can describe the third N.R.C. pro-am tournament, except "complete success." And that it was from record number of entries, standing room gallery sellouts daily, great publicity in all media, and most importantly thrilling play on the courts that excited everyone.

It is with sincere satisfaction and deep gratitude that I take this opportunity to thank all of the people who made this possible, the host Milwaukee Handball/Racquetball Club with all of its hard-working committees; the sponsors in the souvenir program booklet; the spectators who made playing a pleasure for the pros; and everyone of the participants in all events of the tournament.

the winner, Charlie Brumfield. In my book Charlie rates as a true champion on and off the courts, and once again he proved it in the Milwaukee Pro-Am professional bracket.

In the Men's Open it was Galen Johnson from Green Bay, Wisconsin who captured top prize, but not without a three game struggle in the final match from 16-year old Martie Hogan from St. Louis. Take notice pros: these boys will be looking forward to meeting you.

Steve Butler, Champaign, Illinois won the Men's Open consolation title. There are some well played and very interesting matches in the consolation event, and too often we all tend to forget these players who are playing their hearts out.

I wonder how many people realize the important contribution these "losers" make to any tournament. Why, if the only people who entered tournaments were people

who thought they could win, our draw sheets would be small, indeed. None of the 138 entries lost. In fact it was because of these people as spectators, referees, participants and friends that the tournament was such a success.

A big orchid to 10-year-old Hart Johnson from St. Paul, who played in the Open Men's division. He stole the headlines from the pros in the first day's press releases, in the print and on television.

In the Women's Open it was Kathy Williams, Hazel Park, Michigan, who again dominated the Midwest female players. It was great to see 24 women participants in the event and we are looking forward to an even more rapid increase in gals participation.

A special thanks and appreciation to Art Patch our host and builder of the beautiful Milwaukee Handball/Racquetball Club. He personally put in full time and great effort to ensure us of a successful tourney.

Art's right hand man and club manager, Hal Raether, was another key man who gave that 100-plus percent so unselfishly. Bob Keenan, his ever working self, aided in refereeing and Terry Schaetzke rates a job well done and thank you for a terrific job in seating and controlling the standing room only crowds.

Good job also to Rod Lanzer who did a super job in handling publicity, arranging interviews, t.v. coverage, and calling in scores.

The National Racquetball Club is certainly fortunate to have hosts and personnel in local areas like this, who will put in the time and effort required to put on a successful tour.



ARDITO

We are very enthusiastically encouraged and are looking optimistically to the future growth of our sport, and the pro-am tournament concept. We're going good now, and getting better with each step. We thank everybody for their support.

Iowa

The Clinton YMCA duo of Ray Horner and John Hulten were crowned champions of Clinton Iowa's Doubles Tournament. Horner and Hulten advanced to the finals with victories over Albert Lea, Minnesota's Rev. Milton Ost and Dr. Mike Christian by scores of 21-8 and 21-10. Horner-Hulten also beat a home town team of Steve Speck and Lee Sullens 21-7 and 21-5 to gain the finals. Another Clinton team of Karl Boegel and Bill Rothermel entered the finals with victories over the Marshalltown team of Gary Icenogle and Preston Brown 21-16 and 21-15, and Albert Lea 21-5 and 21-13. Horner and Hulten defeated the Clinton team easily in two games by scores of 21-8 and 21-14.

For the Consolation title Marshalltown's Icenogle and Brown defeated Clinton's Speck and Sullens 21-10 and 21-7.

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Green Balls! All You Want!

The Seamco Sporting Goods Company has processed all inquiries regarding the purchasing of the balls, and sales representatives have been making it a point to contact these people. And production is being maintained so that clubs, Y's and other facilities will be able to stock up for the fall rush.

Reception of the green ball has been very good, and for that the N.R.C. would like to thank all the thousands of racquetballers who have given the green ball a try. For the first time in the history of the game, racquetball players can now have a choice as to what ball they wish to use.

There have been three major points of discussion throughout the racquetball community regarding the green ball; liveliness, breakage and visibility.

The green ball plays exceptionally well. The bounce is live, but not too fast. Ceiling balls can be hit to deep court, but they too won't come off the back wall unless hit unusually hard.

"The speed of the green ball is just right," says top ranking pro Steve Serot. **"When you play with the green ball you're playing at the speed that the game is best at."**

Thus, eliminated has been the days when all your strength was needed to hit a ball into deep court, or else watch helplessly as your opponent killed a shot that normally would have been your good defensive return.

The breakage problem has also been greatly alleviated, due to some hard work by the Seamco chemists and a tremendous amount of pressure applied by the N.R.C.

"There's no question that the initial green ball had breakage problems," said N.R.C. National Director Chuck Leve. **"But those are all behind us now. We can't**

If you still are having trouble obtaining green racquetballs, the following companies have substantial inventories and can give you immediate delivery:

Leach Industries
5567 Kearny Villa Rd.
San Diego, CA 92123

Champion Glove Company
2200 E. Ovid
Des Moines, Iowa 50313

Saranac Glove Company
P.O. Box 786
Green Bay, WI 54305

Sports Awards
4351 N. Milwaukee Ave.
Chicago, Illinois 60641

Seamco
253 Hallock Ave.
New Haven, CT 06503

Any and all of them will be happy to supply you with as many balls as you might need.

say that a green ball will last you forever, but we can say that you will be able to get a workout without constant breakage."

If breakage should occur, however, with the Seamco label still showing on the ball, please return such balls to Seamco, 253 Hallock Ave., New Haven, CT 06503. They will immediately replace the balls or issue you a credit.

"The green balls have been super," said pro Bill Schmidtke. **"In the last two tournaments there have been very few that broke. I think only one in all my matches. You can't ask for much more than that."**

Visibility is probably the most controversial topic regarding the green racquetball. Some people have intimated, or even stated that the green ball is hard to see. The N.R.C. contends that this is strictly politics, and is based on textbook technicalities that are not applicable to racquetball courts.

We might add that Dr. William Sellars, author of a letter admonishing the N.R.C. for using green, has himself competed in an N.R.C. tournament (Houston) and used the green ball.

It seems that only after the green ball sales figures increased substantially did Dr. Sellars (an I.R.A. Board of Directors member) decide that the green ball was hard to see.

Well, the green ball has been used in four N.R.C. pro-am tournaments and countless other amateur events for months now. **And we**

have not had one single complaint regarding visibility of the ball. In fact, we have had people write to tell us that the ball is easier to see than black.

Sure, the N.R.C. receives a royalty on green ball sales. But we feel that if the green ball was hard to see, the professional players competing for N.R.C. prize money, would be the first ones to tell us about the problem. And these players love the color of the ball. Anyone with common sense must realize that no player or organization would use a ball that cannot be seen.

The N.R.C. challenges anyone who has seen its Pro-Am tournaments to question the fact that they have been shown the most outstanding racquetball play in the history of the game. And it has been done with the green ball.

Seems to us that green is the color of envy.

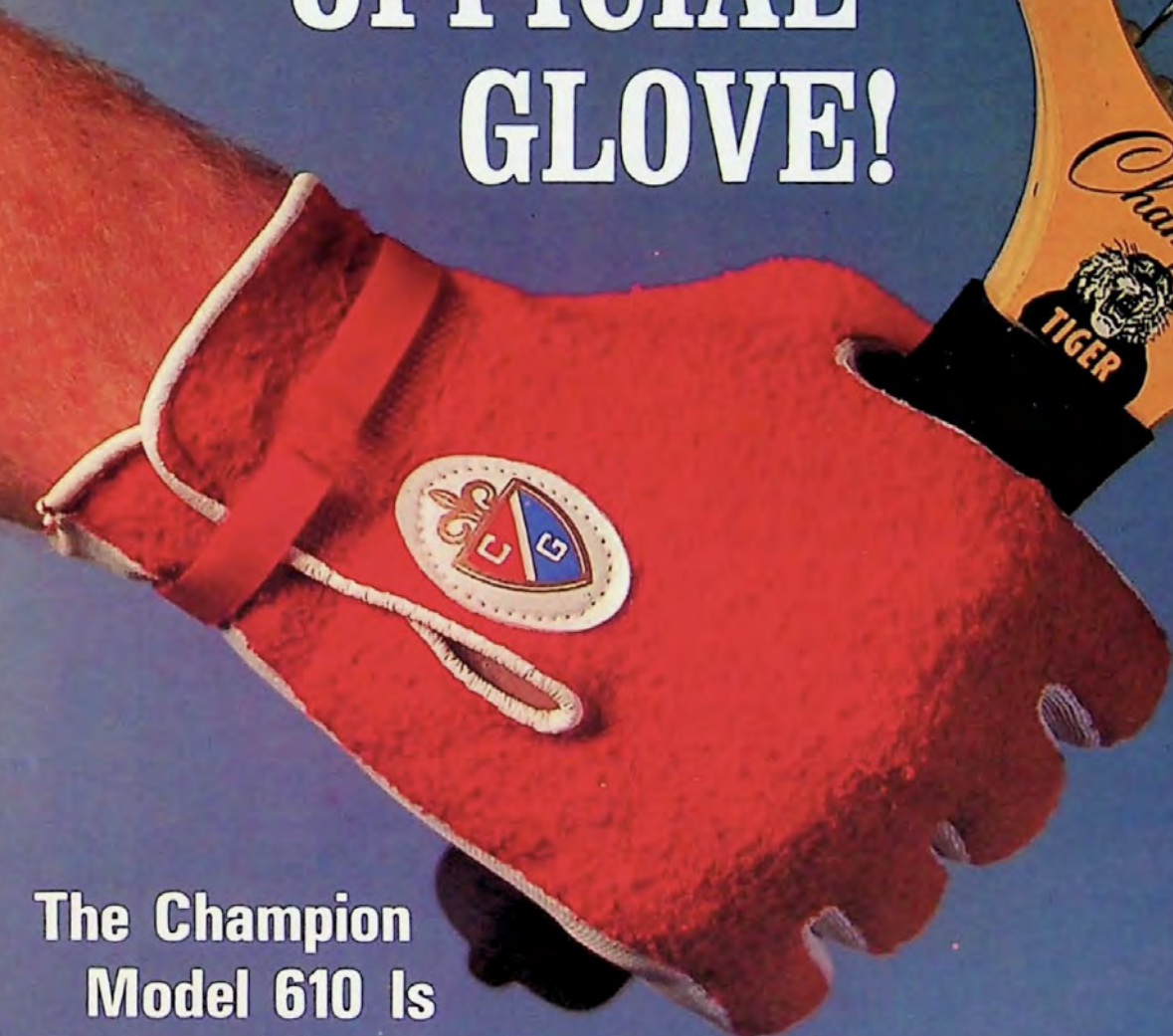
Carpet-Faire

The 1974 Carpet-Faire Fourth of July Doubles tournament will be held at the Jewish Community Center in Milwaukee, Wisconsin Saturday, June 29, 1974.

The event is a one-day elimination tournament with all matches of one game to 31 points.

For further information contact the Tommy Guariniere, Carpet Faire, 1451 South 108 St., Milwaukee, WI 53214

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April 20-25, 1975

1975 Pro-Am Nationals Signed for Las Vegas!!

Las Vegas, here we come!

The National Racquetball Club will hold its 1974-75 National Pro-Am Championships in America's most glamorous city, Las Vegas, Nevada, April 20-25, 1975.

The dates and details have been officially confirmed by the N.R.C. through president Bob Kendler and the Tropicana Hotel, through Robert J. Laurion, Executive Director of Marketing.

The tournament will be managed entirely by the National Racquetball Club and their designated representatives. Competition will be held in professional singles and doubles, open singles and doubles, women singles and doubles, seniors (35 and over) singles and doubles, Masters (45 and over) singles and doubles, and Golden Masters (55 and over) singles and doubles.

Over 500 rooms have been set aside at various hotels to accommodate the biggest and best racquetball event ever staged. The tourney headquarters will be the Tropicana Hotel which has set aside 250 rooms for the week of the tournament. The five courts at the Tropicana, all with glass back walls, will be the main arena of play. An additional 100 rooms are available at the Tropicana Country Club, located across the street from the Tropicana, along with 200 more rooms at the nearby Dunes Hotel.

Room rates at the Tropicana will be \$30.07 per day, double occupancy. With the large entry expected, plus the usual tight scheduling in Las Vegas, we urge all racquetballers to make their arrangements well in advance. (See reservation form in this issue).

Additional courts that have been made available are the eight new courts at the University of Nevada and three courts at the Cambridge East apartments. Shuttle service to and from the Tropicana to the additional facilities will be provided.

For your further information:

Professionalism . . . Anybody can compete in the pro divisions.

Contract professional players will not be able to enter the open events. A player need not accept prize money won, if he so chooses.

Entry fees . . . \$25.00 per person per amateur event; \$50 per person per pro event of which \$25 goes directly into the prize money fund. A player can compete in two amateur events for \$40. Players may not play in both a professional division and an amateur division.

Tickets . . . There will be approximately 300 seats behind the designated championship court at the Tropicana. Price will be \$30 per seat on a reserved basis for all matches. There will also be daily admission charges to the other four courts, plus general admission to the championship court if seats are available. Many of these seats will be sold in an advertising/sponsorship package, so they will be at a

premium.

Hospitality . . . Facing the courts are a number of tennis courts in the Tropicana's facility. The bleachers for viewing will be placed on one of these tennis courts and a hospitality area set up on another, within easy reach of the courts.

Product display booths . . . Ringing the bleachers will be 12 or more racquetball display booths, including a special N.R.C. pro shop, where purchases can be made of souvenir uniforms, gloves, racquets, shoes, etc.

All in all it promises to be a spectacular week for racquetball and the N.R.C. And we hope that you will spend it with us. The next issue of NATIONAL RACQUETBALL will carry an entry form. If you want further immediate details contact N.R.C., 4101 Dempster St., Skokie, IL 60076.

Current Player Rankings

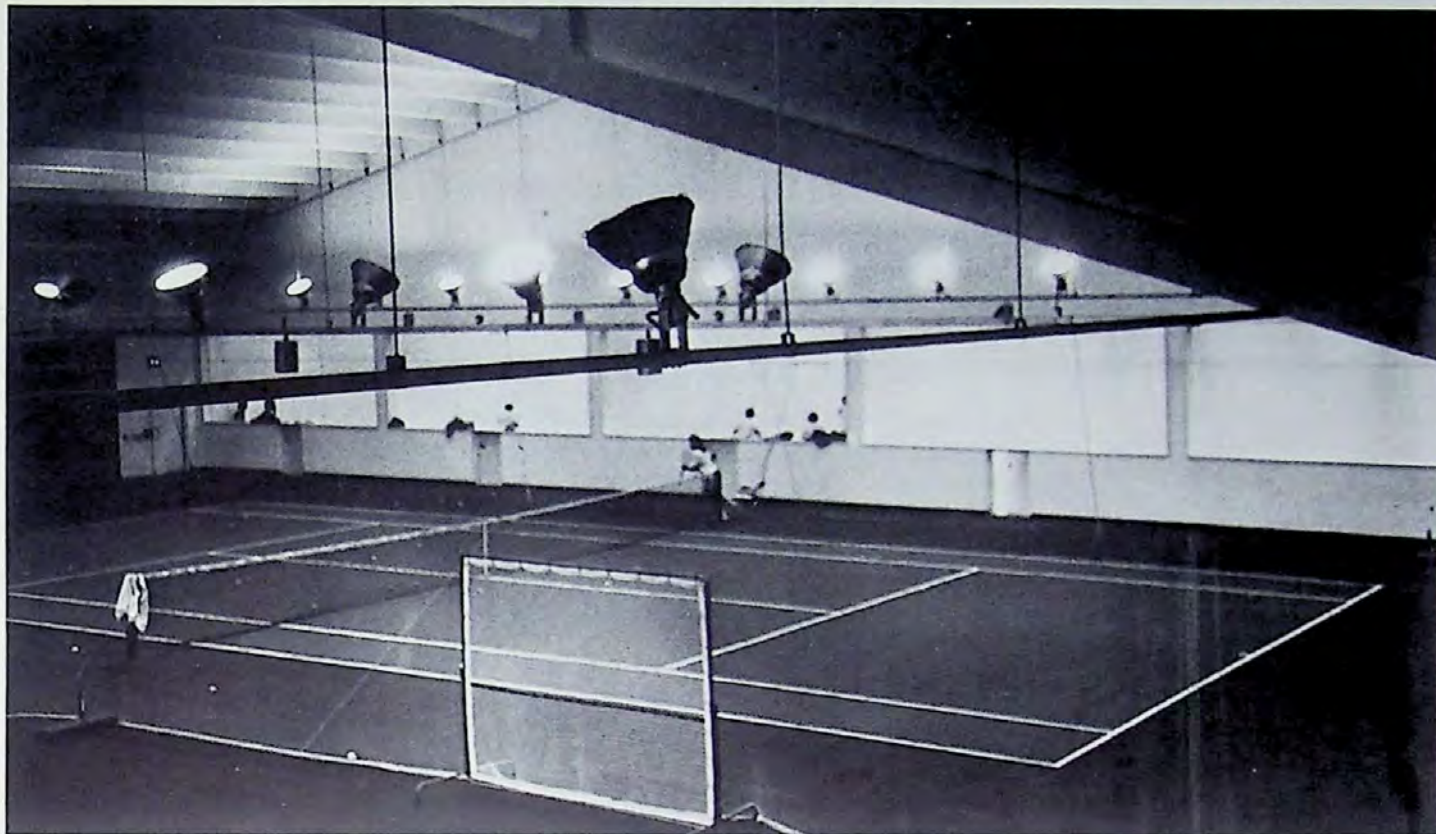
After four N.R.C. tournaments, 18-year-old Steve Serot still leads the money rankings, with Charlie Brumfield moving into second place. Complete statistics are below.

Rank	Player	Points	Prize Money
1	Steve Serot	32	\$4,000
2	Charlie Brumfield	27	3,300
3	Steve Keeley	23	2,660
4	Bill Schmidtke	18	1,935
5	Steve Strandemo	18	1,760
6	Jerry Hilecher	12	985
7	Ron Rubenstein	12	735
8	Mike Zeitman	10	585
9 (Tie)	Bill Dunn	4	250
	Dan Alder	4	250
11 (Tie)	Charlie Garfinkel	4	180
	Paul Lawrence	4	180
13	Charlie Drake	3	150
14	Bill Thurman	3	130
15 (tie)	Ken Wong	2	100
	Jim Austin	2	100
17	George Rudysz	2	80

The following players have reached the round of 16 once, earning \$50: Tom McKie, Craig McCoy, Trey Sayes, Gordon Kelly; the following have reached the round of 16 once earning \$30: Ron Starkman, Paul Ikier, Joe Ycaza, and Paul Nigro.

5-Court Facility — Tropicana, Las Vegas

All Courts Have Glass in Back Walls; Bleachers Will Be Set Up On Adjoining Indoor Tennis Court to Provide Excellent Viewing



OFFICIAL TROPICANA ROOM RESERVATION

There are 250 rooms available for the April 20-25 25th Anniversary Classic at the Tropicana Hotel in Las Vegas. They will be reserved on a first come, first serve basis. We urge you to get your reservations in as soon as possible. All rates are at \$28 plus tax (total—\$30.07), double occupancy. In other words, two in a room would be approximately \$15 each day. Three in a room—\$6 additional, or approximately \$12 per day each.

At least \$50 deposit will be necessary to confirm these rooms. \$25 will be refundable if you cancel this reservation at least 90 days prior to the start of the tournament; \$25 non-refundable. This \$50 deposit will be applied toward your six day-five night stay.

25TH ANNIVERSARY CLASSIC
c/o N.R.C.
4101 Dempster St., Skokie, IL 60076

Please reserve, and confirm by return mail, () room(s) at the Tropicana Hotel, Las Vegas, for five nights, six days, April 20-25, 1975. The rates are understood to be \$30.07 per day, doubles occupancy, with \$25 of my \$50 refundable if reservation is cancelled at least 90 days before the April 20, 1975, start of tournament. Three in a room at \$6 additional per day.

Enclosed is \$50 deposit. _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Make check or money order payable to: LAS VEGAS RACQUETBALL CLASSIC; Mail to: N.R.C., 4101 Dempster St., Skokie, IL 60076.

Name(s) PLEASE PRINT _____

Tropicana

Country Club and Racquet Club

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Author

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The United States Handball Association
Knoxville, Tennessee

RE: The International Classic
Handball / Racquetball Championship, 1975

The Tropicana Hotel, Country Club and Racquet Club of Las Vegas, Nevada would be proud to be the host of the 1975 International Classic Handball / Racquetball Championship as sanctioned by the following associations:

The United States Handball Association
The National Handball Club (pro)
The National Racquetball Club (pro)

The Tropicana Hotel, Country Club and Racquet Club cordially invites the above associations to present the above as a proposal to the selection committee to consider the Tropicana Hotel as the host and headquarter hotel.

The Tropicana Hotel will be proud to host the above Classic and this is to advise that we have tentatively blocked 250 rooms at the Tropicana Hotel and 100 rooms at the Tropicana Golf Club Hotel directly adjacent to the Tropicana. We have further been advised that other major hotels in Las Vegas will participate and upon availability of rooms over that period of time will commit to additional rooms needed to accommodate the expected attendance for the classic.

We formally request consideration that if the Tropicana Hotel is elected headquarter hotel, that the finals be played on our new glass-enclosed handball / racquetball courts. The Tropicana Hotel also requests consideration to host all participant stand-up cocktail parties to be held in our multi-million indoor Tropicana Racquet Club Pavilion. The Tropicana Hotel further agrees to negotiate and provide, where facilities are available, the specific requests as outlined in a recent memorandum from the United States Handball Association that outlines the format for the International Classic Handball / Racquetball Championships.

We have asked and agreed with the United States Handball Association that Mr. Dave Pearl of Las Vegas be our spokesman during your convention in Knoxville, Tennessee.

We look forward to your decision.

Cordially yours,

Robt. J. Laurion
Executive Director of Marketing

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No. Courts Planned _____ Bid Date _____ Installation date _____

Name & Title _____

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Telephone _____

National Outdoor 3-Wall Set For June



The National Racquetball Club is proud to announce that it has signed a sanctioning agreement with Orange Coast College of Costa Mesa, California to host the National 3-Wall Championships June 28-30, 1974. The tourney will be held on the 13 outdoor courts of Orange Coast College.

The event will hold competition in the following divisions: Open singles, open doubles, B singles, B doubles, Seniors (35 and over) singles, seniors doubles, women's singles, and masters (45 and over) singles. Draws in the open doubles and seniors doubles will be limited to 16 teams. The draw in B doubles will be limited to 32 entries.

The entry fee is \$10.00 per player in singles and per team in doubles with the deadline being June 20, 1974.

"It is with great pleasure that I submit the acceptance of the National Racquetball Club to sponsor the First National Outdoor Three-Wall Racquetball Championships," said tournament director Barry Wallace in a letter to the N.R.C. *"I am looking forward to a fantastic tournament."*

The college is located on the California coast, 39 miles southeast of the Los Angeles Civic Center and 89 miles northwest of San Diego.

Orange Coast sponsored a California singles tourney last November and a state doubles

event in January. Both were overwhelming successes.

"Racquetball on the West Coast has grown tremendously in the past year," said Wallace, an Orange Coast College physical education instructor and director of the National Tournament.

"Due to the great year-round climate here in Southern California, outdoor racquetball has become a thriving sport. Our two state tourneys were big successes and we're looking for a large nationwide turnout for the national championships."

The N.R.C., which has been planning to enter the three-wall arena with a full tournament schedule has applied full sanction to the Orange Coast event and it should become an annual affair.

"We think outdoor three-wall is the game of the future," said N.R.C. National Director Chuck Leve. *"It's fun, exciting and the tourney should be wide open."*

Expected to compete are a multitude of the N.R.C.'s contract pro players, although the tournament is not expected to be a prize money event. The players themselves are truly looking forward to the tourney.

"It's hard to say how well some of the guys will do," said Charlie Drake, one of the San Diego pros. *"None of us has ever really concentrated on three-wall and it will be very interesting."*

"It's not hard to imagine someone other than the contract pros winning this event. It's just a matter of who goes out and practices the most. It certainly will be different than indoor four-wall."

Doubles competition will be in three divisions: men's open doubles, seniors doubles and B doubles. Entries will be limited in doubles to 16 teams in the open, 32 in the B and 16 in the seniors.

Wallace says Orange Coast has the best outdoor racquetball facility in California.

"We have 13 oversized handball-racquetball courts that measure 23 by 46 feet with 20-foot high walls. They are ideal for racquetball," Wallace said. *"Six beautiful indoor courts will be constructed in September, making this the best indoor-outdoor facility in the nation."*

The college has complete locker room and shower facilities located adjacent to the racquetball courts.

Wallace says that anyone wishing to enter the National Tournament should fill out the entry form below and mail it with the \$10 entry fee. Entries deadline is June 20.

For information about the tournament or hotel accommodations, call Wallace at (714) 556-5890 during the days or (714) 556-0515 in the evenings after 6 p.m. (Pacific Daylight Time).

OFFICIAL ENTRY

1st ANNUAL 3-WALL OUTDOOR NATIONAL RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

SITE: Orange Coast College, Costa Mesa, Calif.
FACILITIES: 13 outdoor 3-wall courts.
DATES: June 28-30, 1974.
ENTRY FEE: \$10 per person singles; \$10 per team doubles.
SANCTION: By The National Racquetball Club (N.R.C.)
OFFICIAL BALL: N.R.C. Outdoor.
RULES: N.R.C. rules and regulations apply. If two events entered, players may have back to back matches.
TROPHIES: To first three places in each event.
ENTRY DEADLINE: In our possession by midnight June 20. Prescribed fee must accompany signed entry form. Entries received after the deadline or unsigned, or without the fee will not be accepted.
MAIL ENTRIES: Barry Wallace
Orange Coast College
2701 Fairview Rd.
Costa Mesa, Calif. 92626
Check must accompany signed entry form.

Please enter me in:

OPEN SINGLES	()	OPEN DOUBLES	()
B — SINGLES	()	SENIOR SINGLES	()
MASTER SINGLES	()	SENIOR DOUBLES	()
LADIES SINGLES	()	B — DOUBLES	()

We reserve the right to up-grade any entrants who do not enter the classification best suited to their calibre of play.

NAME _____ AGE _____ CLUB _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

NAME OF DOUBLES PARTNER _____ AGE _____ CLUB _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

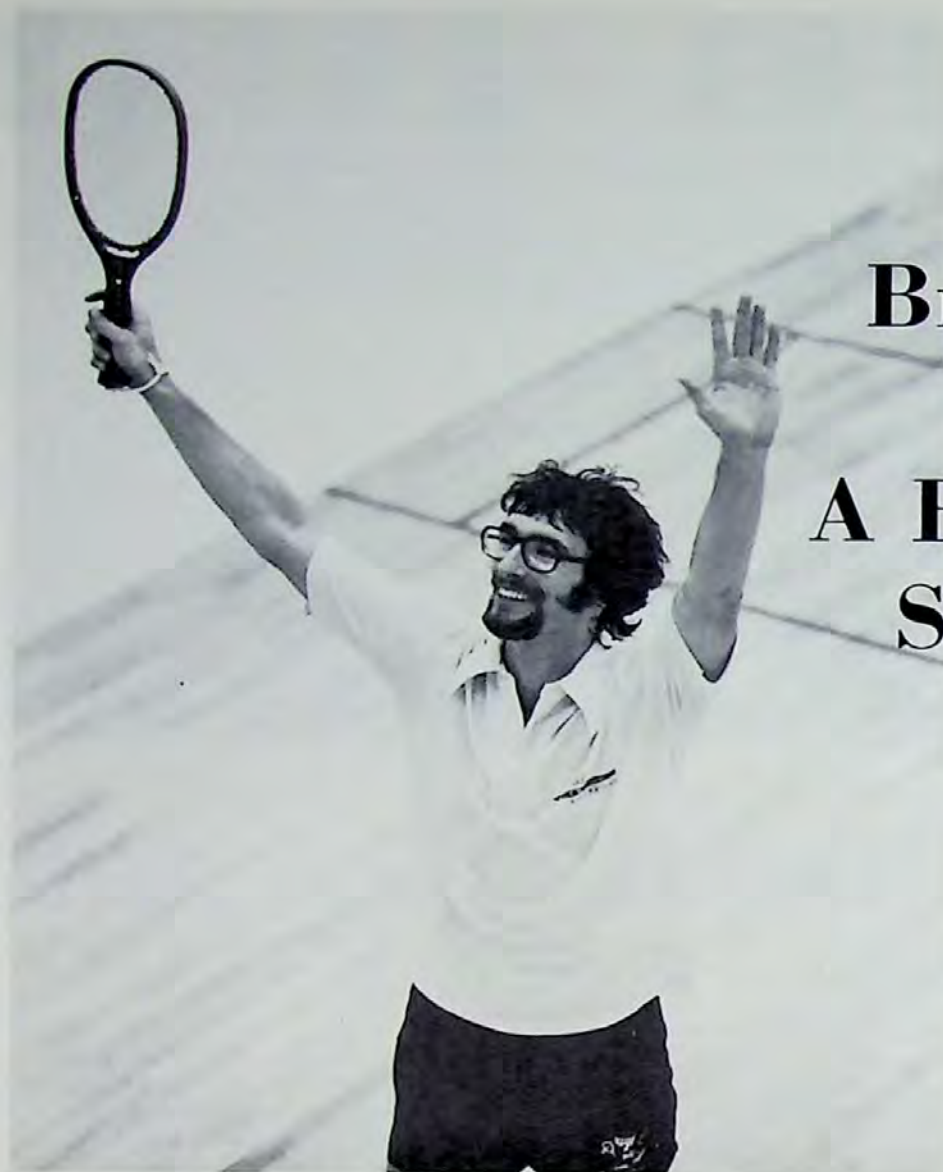
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Brumfield's Ninth: A Racquetball Symphony

Charlie Brumfield's ninth consecutive tournament win over Steve Serot was music to his ears, and the \$1,500 first prize was nice too. Brumfield (left) played to the fans as well as his opponents.

It had to happen sooner or later and it finally did,—Charlie Brumfield entered the winner's circle on the N.R.C. pro tour. He did it in the Milwaukee Open March 28-31 and to say he did it convincingly would not be quite fair, but he did do it impressively.

The bespectacled San Diegan, a quarter-final loser in Houston, then a finals loser in Long Beach, topped ace adversary Steve Serot in the championship match, a three game thriller, 21-8, 7-21, 21-15.

The tournament was played at the Milwaukee Handball/Racquetball Club, one of the most beautiful court clubs in the country. Sporting six courts, bar and restaurant, the M.H.R.C. was as fine a host as anyone could imagine.

And did the fans ever turn out; with full houses on the 200-plus gallery court for three consecutive

days. They got their money's worth too, and the players were happy to give it to them.

"It's great to see such fan support," said Brumfield. *"As a player it makes me feel good that the fans appreciate the effort I'm giving."*

He did give a great effort, too. Playing the perfect Brumfield control racquetball in the first game, explosive Serot couldn't pull the trigger. First rate passes to both sides kept Steve in abeyance, while Charlie picked his spots for kills.

The first 10 points were split 5-5, and then Brumfield went to work. Drawing Serot in after a few early kills, he continually passed the 18-year-old St. Louisian, running up a 12-5 advantage, and never entering serious trouble thereafter, as he coasted to a 21-8 victory.

That Charlie was on his control

game was obvious with one look at the statistics,—showing 13 passes for winners, compared to only two for Serot, generally considered to have the toughest passing game on the tour, and conversely to be the toughest player to pass. A tremendous game by Brumfield.

As the capacity crowd squirmed a bit, for they were hoping for a close, exciting match, game two got under way. And what a reversal! Now Serot was the dominant factor.

Again splitting the first 10 points 5-5, this time it was Serot who leaped to a 12-5 upper hand, unleashing his devastating power game, of kills and passes. Out shot 17-9, out-passed 10-6, and erring more 8-4, Charlie was never in the game, which ended 21-7.

Game three promised to be a barnburner and it was. Brumfield came out of the starting block in the

FINALS

GAME 1

Serot 00220100010100001 — 8
 Brumfield 30002023211011311 — 21

Kills — Brumfield 14, Serot 13; Passes — Brumfield 13, Serot 2;
 Errors — Brumfield 9, Serot 11; Aces — None; Hinders — 10; Time Outs
 — Brumfield 1.

GAME 2

Brumfield 13010000020000 — 7
 Serot 22101500110251 — 21

Kills — Brumfield 9, Serot 17, Passes — Brumfield 6, Serot 10; Errors
 — Brumfield 8, Serot 4; Aces — Serot 1; Hinders — 6; Time Outs —
 Brumfield 1.

GAME 3

Serot 00000200120101000110001401 — 15
 Brumfield 10000001000013011011020405 — 21

Kills — Brumfield 29, Serot 18; Passes — Brumfield 8, Serot 16;
 Errors — Brumfield 6, Serot 10; Aces — None; Hinders — 21; Time Outs
 — Brumfield 3.

Bottom left—N.R.C. National Commissioner Joe Ardito gives 10-year-old Hart Johnson a few pointers about floor managing. Little Hart won the hearts of players and fans alike; when not watching the pros he was sneaking in and out of open courts to practice.

Below—His face tells the story of that shot, as Jerry Hilecher grimaces after missing a set-up in his semi-final match against Steve Serot. It was Jerry's first visit to the semi's on the N.R.C. tour.





"Brumfield rage", a psychological ploy aimed at intimidating his opponent with shouting, berating and vocal warfare. The hope is to upset young Serot into early errors. But Steve, although young in years, is a tournament veteran, and he stoically faced up to the rage, nine innings worth.

After nine innings the score was Brumfield 3, Serot 2. The rage was over.

Neither player could establish much of an advantage as the game methodically wore on, with ties at seven, eight and nine before Brumfield put together three unanswered points for a 12-9 lead. When Serot came back with one point, Brumfield called a time-out, but Steve scored three more, forcing Charlie to use his third and last official time out of the game. A single point after the rest gave Steve a 14-12 lead and potential momentum in his favor.

But Brumfield is the master at stopping momentum. And he did it by using the deliberate long serves, initially for rest, as he was out of time outs, but continuously thereafter as the psychological weapon which was working. With it he scored four consecutive points in the bottom of the 24th inning to erase the four Serot has won, giving Charlie a 16-14 lead.

Serot follows his ceiling ball (right) as Brumfield goes back to retrieve the shot in front of the full house at the Milwaukee Handball/Racquetball Club.

Brumfield's rage (left) included mock-violence by hitting the ball near Serot, whose dive came up short. This time Steve was not intimidated.

Serot tallied once more to 15-16, but Charlie never lost the serve thereafter, running out in the amazing 26th inning for a 21-15 win.

"I really hated to slow the game down," apologized Brumfield after the match. "But there were three important factors. First, I was tired. Second, he had momentum going,

and third, I wanted to win. I hope the fans didn't mind too much."

On the contrary, the fans enjoyed every second, applauding nearly five minutes after the winning point was made.

In the Amateur Open division, Galen Johnson, Green Bay, defeated 16-year-old Martie Hogan, St. Louis for the title, 15-21, 21-12, 21-11. Johnson is slowly coming back after knee problems, and looked good. Hogan, unknown in the upper Midwest, but showing an impressive game is a name to watch for the future.

Johnson topped Wausau's Jerry Hoff in the semi's 21-8, 21-13, while Hogan was eliminating Rudi Losche, Chesterfield, Missouri,



20-21, 21-11, 21-8. Hoff took third place on Sunday 18-21, 21-14, 21-15.

Twenty-four women made up one of the toughest Midwest gals draws in some time, but as usual, it was Kathy Williams capturing top prize. In a re-match of their Regional finals, she bested Sue Carow, Glenview, Illinois 21-12, 21-8. Kathy, from Hazel Park, Michigan was at her best game, while Sue didn't have the fine control that enabled her to take Williams to three games in the Regional.

Williams toughest match came in the semi's as she squeezed by Teri Davis, Plymouth, Michigan 21-17, 21-20. Carow eased by her semi-final opponent Jo Ellen Wis-

Steve Strandemo, although eventual loser to Brumfield in the semi-finals, did not take the intimidation from Charlie. Here (right) he gives the Brum some of his own medicine.

chnewski, Madison 21-6, 21-5. It was then Davis for third 21-11, 9-21, 21-9.

Back to the professionals, where Brumfield found himself in the semi-finals against Strandemo, the man who topped him in Houston. This was their first meeting since then and the Brum was ready. He



never trailed after the third inning, building a slight edge, and then sensing the moment to go in for the kill. It came at 15-10 when Charlie put together five points in the 13th inning and another in the 14th for the 21-10 win.

Game two was not as close as the 21-15 score indicated. Brumfield jumped out to a tremendous lead, first 5-1, then 11-3, and up to 15-4 by the 10th inning. He then coasted until Strandemo came back to 14-18 with five points in the 18th, but Charlie answered him with two in the bottom of the 18th and the 21st a few innings later.

In the upper half Serot was matched against fellow-St. Louisian Jerry Hilecher, making his first trip to the semi-finals on the N.R.C. tour. But Jerry was no match for his long-time friend, as Serot was red-hot, as hot as can be imagined.

In 12 minutes the first game was over, 21-4 as Serot's game was unbelievable. He shot with devastating accuracy; his passes were pinpoint, and his control was amazing. Serot's first and only error of the game came at 19-3! It wasn't that Hilecher played poorly, he was just overwhelmed.

The second game was a different story, for a while, anyway. Jerry played very well, hitting some shots he missed in the first game, and Serot cooled off somewhat. But the fans could sense Steve was like a caged lion, soon to be let loose, and then watch out.

At 11-10 he broke loose, tallying four times in the seventh frame and six more in the eighth for a 21-12 victory.

The quarter-finals had two upsets, and no three-game matches,





Top left—Art Patch, M.H.R.C. owner, presents Galen Johnson with first place amateur open trophy, while Hal Raether (r.) gives 2nd place to Martie Hogan; Above—Kathy Williams follows through against Sue Carow.

which has become unusual for the N.R.C. tour.

Serot topped Bill Dunn, Union City, California, 21-12, 21-12, after Dunn had upset Mike Zeitman in the round of 16. Hilecher stopped Bill Schmidtke 21-15, 21-17 in a match that was not especially well played. Brumfield defeated Ron Rubenstein, who gave a good account of himself in one game but couldn't keep up the pace 21-16, 21-7. Strandemo pulled the biggest upset of the round by eliminating Steve Keeley 21-10, 21-19.

NOTES OF THE MATCHES . . . Some great first round matches, including Zeitman's 21-20, 21-20 victory over Ron Strom, St. Cloud, Minnesota. Strom had the serve for game in both games, but couldn't muster the big 21. In the second his

serve at 20-all hit the side wall, forcing the side out and allowing Zeitman a chance for the win . . . Gordon Kelly, Grand Rapids, Michigan, topped pro Jim Austin 21-14, 21-7 for a nice \$50 win, and went on to give a good match to Hilecher . . . Charlie Garfinkel had to hustle to top Cincinnati's Rob Abrams, 20-21, 21-17, 21-4 . . . while George Rudysz barely eliminated a three game match with Tom Wirkus, Fond du lac, 21-20, 21-11 . . . Charlie Drake, forced to three games against Milwaukee's Dan Trost 21-7, 10-21, 21-13.

NOTES OF THE TOURNAMENT . . . Intense fog Thursday night and Friday morning made air travel into Milwaukee difficult. Forced pros Austin and Rudysz to travel 15 hours Friday and then step right onto the court . . . Owner Art Patch and Club manager Hal Raether, did their usual outstanding job in hosting. Local participation and support was fantastic . . . Thanks to Bob Keenan and Terry Schatzke for their help . . . Hart Johnson, 10-year-old from St. Paul, became the youngest entry in an N.R.C. tournament. Hart gave it his best, but lost in the first round . . .

Below—Bill Dunn, a surprise quarter-finalist gets set to serve. Bill paid his own way from San Francisco.



(Opposite page) Steve Keeley gives an intense stare to Strandemo as the mustachioed San Diegan prepares to hit a ceiling shot in their quarter-final match.



Tainted Revenge For Serot

"I can't do it, Joe. The calf is torn, there's no way I can play."

That's the way Charlie Brumfield put the situation to N.R.C. National Commissioner Joe Ardito minutes before his scheduled championship match with Steve Serot. Charlie did not play and a disappointed gallery was informed that the first place prize money had been awarded to Serot, by the injury default.

Despite lack of a final match, the Chicago Open was marked by outstanding play, and for the first time in four N.R.C. tournaments, the top eight seeds all reached the quarter final round.

Brumfield's injury came in the third game of a brutal semi-final match against fellow San Diegan Steve Keeley. It was the second match of a hot, humid Windy City day and both players were physically fatigued by the third game of the semi's.

Keeley captured the first game, an exciting 21-20 victory, only to succumb to the heat and Brumfield's powerful game, 21-7 in the second. The third found both players bordering of dehydration, in spite of gallons of water, salt pills and other high energy foods.

The score proceeded methodically early in the game until a tremendously long rally at 6-5 Brumfield serving. Both players were racing around the court, a few dives and extended muscles increased



Diving was in order at the Chicago Pro-Am as Brumfield (bottom right) does his thing in making a fantastic get. (Top right) Now it's Schmidtke's turn to body surf. (Opposite page) Serot takes off to retrieve a perfect pass shot. He didn't get this one.

the rapid action until Keeley finally ended the rally with a pass down the right wall.

As the rally ended, both players appeared to sustain cramps. Keeley hobbled with a tight left thigh, and Brumfield, on the floor in deep right court also emerged limping. Charlie requested an injury time out from referee Bill Schmidtke, and was denied one on the basis that cramps do not constitute an injury. Failing to convince the referee Brumfield took his plight to the highest authority, Commissioner Ardito, who overruled Schmidtke and allowed Brumfield five minutes for the injury. Keeley, too, loosened up during the interval and play resumed.

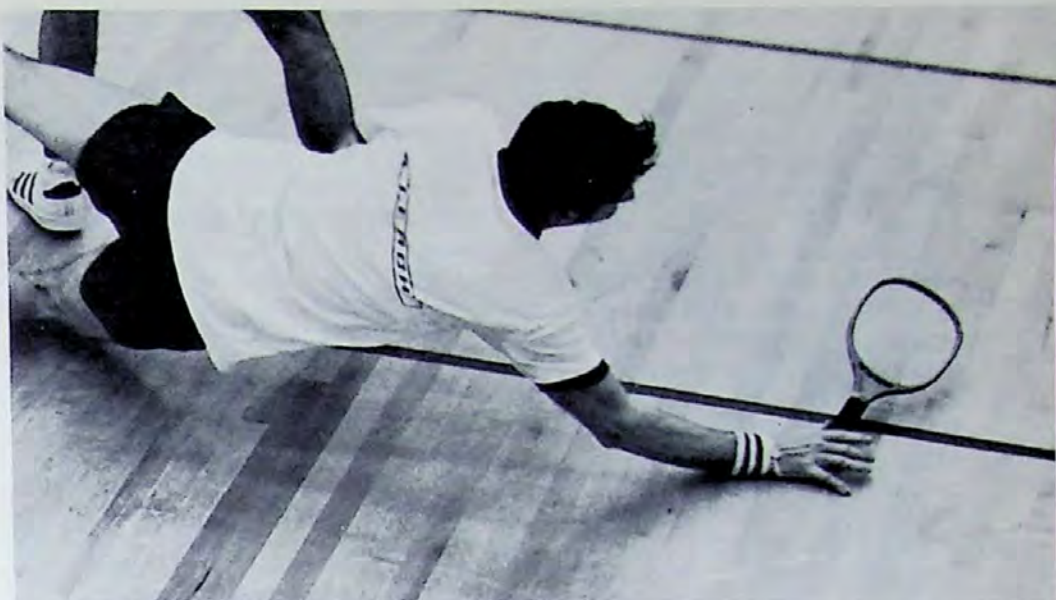
Few points separated the players the entire third game, and Charlie, limping badly at the end came out with a 21-17 win.

"I suppose I really should have forfeited to Steve, once I realized I tore the calf muscle," said Charlie. "But Steve and I go at it often, and we're both from San Diego, and frankly, I was going to use my last gasp of breath to beat him."

Serot, the 18-year-old wonder, had no such problems.

"It's a shame to win this way," he said, "because I was really ready for Brumfield. But I wouldn't want him to aggravate the injury. I know I wouldn't if I were him." Steve topped Steve Strandemo in his semi-final match 21-12, 21-15, jumping to big leads in both games. Strandemo had defeated Bill Schmidtke in the quarters to reach the semi's for the second time in four N.R.C. tourneys.

"I just couldn't cope with his game," said Strandemo. "He was fresh and I was pretty tired after the Schmidtke match. "Serot is tough enough as it is, but when you can't



cover against him, there's no way."

The quarter-final round had the usual outstanding matches, two of which went three games. The highlight was Strademo's win over Schmidtke, a match expected to be tight, and which lived up to all expectations.

Game one was a thrilling win for Schmidtke, using beautiful forehand kills and doing as little retrieving as possible. Bill was suffering from slight sprains on both ankles, while Steve had been complaining at times during the week of upset stomach. But the game was well played and Bill eeked out a 21-19 victory.

Steve came back in game two, took a commanding lead, and held off a mild Schmidtke threat to win rather convincingly 21-14. With the court temperature rising rapidly due to the unusually balmy Chicago day, both players welcomed the 10 mi-

nute break between games two and three.

In the third Strandemo again took the lead, but Schmidtke came back and at 20-18 put Steve out once. But Bill couldn't manage any points when he went in, and Steve captured match point on his next service.

Serot "routined" Chicago's Ron Rubenstein in another of the quarter-final matches, 21-11, 21-9. It was a disappointing loss for Ruby who was playing before his home town crowd.

But Serot's game, in it's best form ever, was not to be denied. Capturing center court early and never leaving it, Steve forced the play to Ron, never allowing him to set up for shots, constantly retrieving.

"I couldn't get the ball by him," moaned Ruby after the match. "I don't see how anybody can. He anticipates. He dives. He takes balls



out of the air. He's just too good. I don't see how anybody beats him."

Brumfield and Jerry Hilecher had an exciting three games in another quarter final match, with Jerry's inconsistency still the major factor in determining the outcome.

Charlie blitzed through the young St. Louisian in game one 21-5. Nothing Hilecher hit would go in, and the Brum had complete control, forcing errors, hitting great passing shots, and mixing in an occasional kill.

But the second game was different. Hilecher did not lose his confidence, but rather became more determined. This time he began making his shots, kept his cool when it got tight late in the game, and survived with a 21-17 win to even the match.

In the third Brumfield regained his domination, taking an early advantage and building the game on his terms. Hilecher couldn't hit the needed high percentage of his shots, and Charlie eased in to a 21-12 match win.

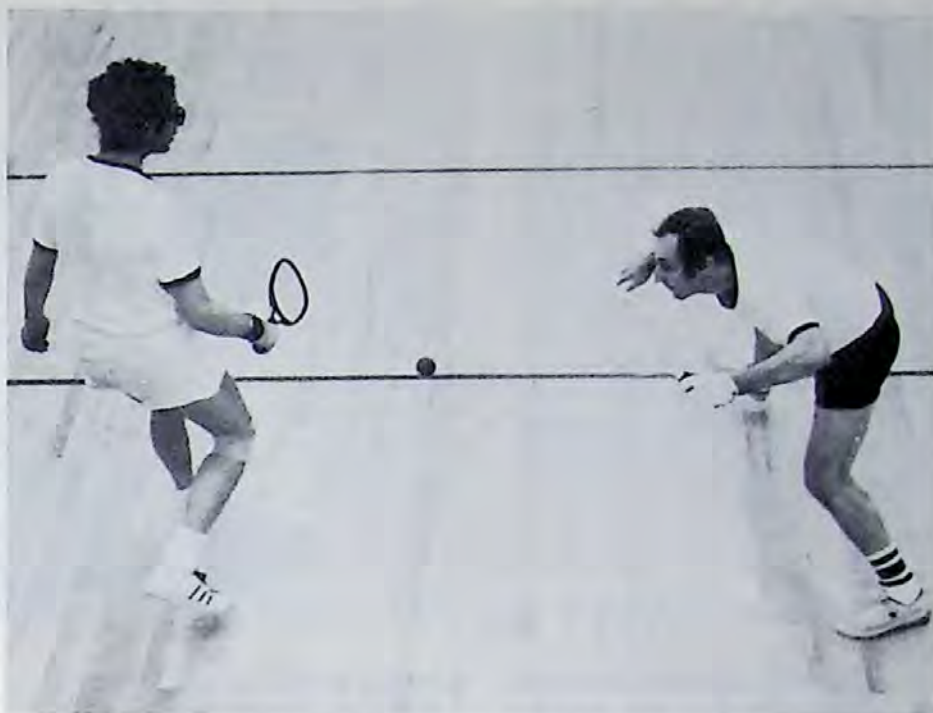


(Above) Ron Rubenstein tries to hold back the expletives as he contemplates his previous shot. (left) The Schmidtke extension of the ceiling ball.

The fourth quarter-final match pitted Mike Zeitman against Steve Keeley, in one that should have gone three games, but did not. Mike was playing very well and was able to keep Steve off balance and retrieving in most of the first game. Zeitman moved to a 20-14 lead and most people completely wrote off Keeley. But someone forgot to tell Steve, as he methodically rolled his way to a 20-20 tie and finally stole the game from Mike 21-20.

Game two saw the situation reversed, as Keeley captured a 20-14 lead, but Zeitman could not make the necessary comeback, and Keeley came away with the game and match 21-14.

NOTES OF THE PROS . . . Biggest upset in the first round saw Paul Ikier, Minneapolis top San Diego's Charlie Drake with devastating ease, 21-10, 21-11. Ikier has been going to the Schmidtke school of racquetball while doing part-time work at The Court House in the Twin Cities. Paul was stopped in his next match by Zeitman 21-7, 21-16. . . Another upset, at least an occasion when one player with fewer tournament credentials ousts another with more. This was Joe Ycaza, Atlanta, and coming fast, topping Gordon Kelly, Grand Rapids, Michigan. Scores were 21-10, 21-14, a big win for Joe. He couldn't duplicate in the next round, however, as he ran into Brumfield 21-4, 21-12. . . Other pros going three games, Bill Thurman over Tom Wirkus 21-12 in the third, and George Rudysz over Jim Santino, 21-16 in the third. . . Unable to attend due to business or illness were Jim Austin and Ken Wong, thus making room for five non-contract pros to take home some of the round of 16 cash. . . St. Louis' Jerry Zuckerman, playing well, went to 21-18, 21-17 with Strandemo in the first round.



Shelly Clar (r.) prepares to shoot a kill in his finals match with John Hart. Hart won the match in three games.

Amateur Open

Chicago's John Hart didn't exactly do it the easy way, but he did survive many pitfalls, some self made, some made by others, to win the amateur open division of the Chicago Pro-Am open.

Hart, the second ranked player in Illinois, defeated Northbrook's Shelly Clar 16-21, 21-18, 21-3 in the finals to top the 64-man field. It was John's third three game match of the tourney, indicative of the close competition among the amateurs.

Clar had ousted top-seeded, Martie Hogan, the 16-year-old St. Louis youngster in the quarter finals 21-14, 21-17. Hogan had finished second in the Milwaukee Pro-Am open division.

The Hart-Clar match turned out to be the top match of the final day, due

to the injury default in the pro finals. Shelly had defeated Fred Blaess, Illinois number four in the semi's in a long and exhausting ordeal 21-19, 9-21, 21-8, and came into the finals playing the best racquetball of his tournament career.

Hart meanwhile, didn't seem to be on his normally sharp game, committing a number of mental and physical errors, despite being able to win in the early rounds. He defeated Dennis Kemble, newly crowned Illinois State B champ 21-18, 19-21, 21-2, odd scores to say the least. Next round he again needed three to top Gil Schmitt, playing a greatly improved game, 11-21, 21-10, 21-13.

It wasn't until the semi-finals that Hart really put his game together, and it was enough to bury Joe Bechard, Champaign, 21-8, 21-6. Shooting both forehand and backhand, and driving well, Hart completely dominated master Bechard.

Joe turned around and captured third place from Blaess 18-21, 21-4, 21-11.

In other quarter-final action Blaess topped Champaign's Ron Johnson 15-21, 21-13, 21-13. It was Johnson's first action since returning from an extended business trip that forced him to give up playing for some three months.

Bechard topped Champaign's



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Steve Bulter in the other quarter-final match, 21-3, 19-21, 21-14. Bulter had recently taken second in the Illinois state B tournament.

OTHER INTERESTING matches... Clar's exciting three game win over close friend Paul Franks, also of Northbrook, 21-6, 16-21, 21-19... Hogan topping three of Chicago's best, Dan Little 21-9 in the third, Graham Moore 21-12 in the third, and Al Levine 14 and 17... Bulter over Howie Carl in the 16's, 21-7 in the third... Entries from as far away as Brooklyn, New York, Cincinnati, St. Louis, Detroit, Indianapolis, La Crosse, Wisconsin.

Women's Open

She's the greatest, that's all there is to it. On whom else can such an accolade be bestowed than Peggy Steding, the women's national champion? And she proved to be the best in the Midwest too, as Peggy crushed all opponents en route to the championship of the women's division of the Chicago Pro-Am Open.

Central Regional winner Kathy Williams was there, as was Regional runner-up Sue Carow. Top St. Louis gals like Chris Ackerman and Barb Halpern tried their luck along with Camille McCarthy, tops in Indiana. But none of them could withstand the pressure from Steding, who never allowed an opponent to reach double figures in any game the entire tournament.

In the finals it was Steding versus Williams, the match of numbers one and two seeds. And although many of the observers felt Williams could take a game, or even the match, it was all Steding from the outset.

After initial jockeying in the beginning of game one, a mid-game run put Peggy in the drivers seat. Using her powerful drive serves, primarily the scotch to Kathy's backhand, she forced weak service returns and many easy points.

When involved in an extended rally, Peggy's brilliant ceiling game, kept Kathy flailing in the deep left corner, worrying about just retrieving the ball, not even considering a decent defensive return. The scores were 21-9, 21-8.

"She's just too good," said Williams after the match. "She just

wore me down."

Williams shouldn't feel so bad. She scored more points against Peggy than any other contestant.

In the semi-finals Steding raced through Carow, number two ranked in Illinois, by the scores of 21-8, 21-1. Sue's game retrieving style was not enough to cope with the Steding power game.

Unable to keep up the rugged ceiling pace demanded by Peggy's style, Sue soon wilted under the constant barrage. As Peg's ceiling and drives became more and more powerful, Carow's returns became less and less effective.

Sue's hustle and determination accounted for the eight points in game one, but tired and unable to kill the ball, there was nothing left in the second.

In the bottom bracket the semi-final found Williams against Chris Ackerman in what turned out to be a good match. Kathy eventually came out on top 21-14, 21-15, but not without knowing she was in a dog-fight the whole way.

As in the Steding—Carow match, the Williams—Ackerman contest saw power win out over finesse. Kathy being much stronger than Chris, and wielding a much more fluid and accurate backhand, kept control of the game. Chris' retrieving was excellent and she made the shots when they came her way, but unfortunately she was chasing them most of the time.

The quarters had some great matches, including two 21-20 games. That was not the case in the



(Above) Peggy Steding is all smiles as she accepts her first place award from tournament chairman Jim DiVito. (Below) Sue Carow lets everybody know how she feels about the outcome of her matches. She didn't hate it until she met Steding.



top match as Steding destroyed Northbrook's Bev Franks 21-5, 21-5. Franks has stopped Halpern in the second round 13 and 20, but just couldn't cope with the Steding game.

The best match of the quarters was Carow's win over Teri Davis, Hazel Park, Michigan. Davis, untested to the quarters proved an equal opponent to Susie, winning game one 21-16. But the tough little Glenview, Illinois ace came back and squeezed out the second game 21-20. The tough loss seemed to take some of the spark out of Teri's game, and the third game went to Carow 21-7.

Ackerman hound herself in a real tussle in another quarter-final match against one of Illinois' better players, Lois Dowd, Winnetka. The match potentially hinged on the first game and it was Chris in a nail-biter, 21-20. Lois gave it a game effort in the second, but Ackerman had the shots when they counted 21-14.

Williams played one of Illinois' bright young stars, Jean Sauser, Morton Grove in the fourth quarter-final. Although lacking sorely in tournament experience, Sauser still was able to prove a creditable opponent for Kathy. Key errors by Jean in crucial early situations led to Kathy's 21-12, 21-14 win.

NOTES OF THE WOMEN . . .

Carow was awarded third place on a default by Ackerman . . . The tournament was disappointed by the no-show of Indianapolis' Pat Foltz, second placer in the Illini Open last December . . . the Illinois Racquetball Association was proud that four Illinois gals reach the quarters, and one, Carow, took third . . . Another disappointment was not seeing state champ Shirley Lind. Don't know why Shirley took a bye on this one . . . Steding in an exhibition match after her quarter-final, topped tourney director Jim DiVito. No scores were available.

Notes of the Tourney

DiVito, Park District Work Hard

The Chicago Park District, through the efforts of Jim DiVito, tournament chairman and his fine staff and committee, did an outstanding job of organizing and running of the Chicago Pro-Am.

In that regard we'd like to thank Jim, his wife Dr. Angela DiVito, Dorothy Abbinanti, Carrie Porter, Connie Banasiak, George Macuga, Baldo Savorino, Tom Warren and Pete Perraffo for their unselfish help. As always, you miss a few when the thank you's are given out, so to all who aided, thanks much.

The Park District hosted a hospitality party Friday night at the Holiday Inn, tourney headquarters. Ideal time for most of the players

and staff to relax and shoot the breeze about racquetball.

A Saturday night get-together hosted by the N.R.C. highlighted by drinks, dinner and the performance of Sarian, exotic belly dancer, proved to be entertaining for the 40 or so people who attended . . .

Same night found many of the Chicago personnel attending performance of Frank Sinatra, at the Chicago Stadium . . .

The strangely warm weather caused slight playing problems, mainly Friday and Saturday afternoon . . . the hot air, humidity from the nearby Olympic size swimming pool, and small packed galleries, initiated wall and floor sweating . . . but

the players adjusted admirably . . .

Our thanks to the University of Illinois Chicago Circle Campus for the use of their facility. Some improvements have been made on the courts, eliminating court hinders. And not to be critical, but if they could renovate the doubles squash court into a handball/racquetball gallery court, the entire facility would be better off . . .

Nice to see some old St. Louis friends . . . Mr. and Mrs. Rudy Serot, happy over son Steve's win in the pro bracket, but rather seeing him winning in action . . . Nancy Zelson . . . in as spectator only, but could have done a good job had she elected to compete .



The Chicago Committee (l. to r.) Baldo Savorino, Bud Patti, Carrie Porter, Jim DiVito, Dorothy Abbinanti, Connie Banasiak, Tom Warren and George Macuga.



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It's Fun To Get A Double Play



Steve Keeley, the golden-haired San Diegan, made it two national titles in a row when he captured the open singles championship of the National Paddleball Association last month. He then teamed with Len Baldori, East Lansing and won the open doubles to successfully accomplish the paddleball double play.

Keeley bested Troy, Michigan's Dan McLaughlin in the finals for the second consecutive year and strangely enough by the identical scores of 21-16, 21-17. And it was the usual story of McLaughlin not being quite able to come up with the needed winning shot when he had Steve on the ropes.

The tournament was held at the University of Michigan and many thanks must go to Rod Grambeau Sr., Dick Pitcher and the entire Flint contingent for making U.M. available to host the tournament, on relatively short notice.

A crucial tactical error, possibly cost McLaughlin and partner Ray Bayer a shot at the open doubles title, and definitely cost Bayer a chance in the open singles.

Having elected to enter both singles and doubles, both players had to play four matches on Saturday, the tourney's next to last day. After each had won their quarter-final singles and teamed for a quarter-final doubles win, McLaughlin and Bayer decided to play doubles preceding singles in the late afternoon. By the luck of the draw they had to play each other in singles and they both felt they would be a stronger team

So it was with Steve Keeley (upper left) as he stopped Dan McLaughlin (upper right) for the paddleball singles title. Keeley then went on to win the doubles with Len Baldori.

fresh against Keeley and Baldori.

But luck has a funny way of doing things to people and Bayer's luck ran out. At one game apiece in the doubles semi Ray was hit with extreme leg cramps that negated his mobility. Seeing their opponent in trouble, Keeley and Baldori took advantage of the situation, and although Bayer hung in gamely, there was no way he could cover or hit effective shots. The match went to Keeley-Baldori, 12-21, 21-16, 21-13.

Thus Bayer was through. He now had to go in against McLaughlin, the tournament's second seed in a singles semi-final, and the outcome was known before they started. Ray

gave in a courageous effort, but was nowhere near his usual game as partner Dan eliminated him 21-4, 21-10.

A long-missed hairy face showed up in Ann Arbor this year, and it belonged to former National Paddleball champ Craig Finger, whose entry and surprisingly sharp game created great interest. Finger, however, found himself on the same side of the draw as Keeley, and their meeting in the semi-s was unfortunate, for Craig anyhow, as he went down 21-13, 21-7.

On Craig's behalf, he won an exhausting morning match in the quarters against tournament darkhorse Dick Jury, reigning Michigan State champ who all but obliterated the field in that tournament. But tourney veteran Finger was not impressed and he captured a good win 21-18, 16-21, 21-11.

In doubles there was some question as to how well little (5'5, 140 pounds) Baldori would stand up, not only physically but pressure-wise as well.

"Watch this," said Keeley prior to their semi-final match. "They'll hit Len 20 shots to every one they hit to me."

This is not an unusual tactic, in fact it was expected by both teams. The surprise was that Baldori responded tremendously well to the pressure and played probably the best paddleball of his life as the tourney went on.

"The little guy got better every round," said partner Keeley. "It was truly amazing."



SPORTSMAN BAYER

Women's singles was played for the first time in N.P.A. history and the not-unexpected winner was Kathy Williams, Hazel Park, Michigan. Kathy defeated usual Michigan finals foe Teri Davis in an exciting match, 21-20, 21-14 for the title. It was the only match in which either gal's opponent scored in double figures.

Thirteen women entered and it looks like the female participation in paddleball is here to stay.

In the semi-finals Kathy topped Pat Krise, Ypsilanti 21-5, 21-4, while Teri defeated Mary Wells, Ann Arbor 21-8, 21-9.

Harold Branster, of Flint, won the Masters singles competition, besting Hank Walker, Ann Arbor 21-11, 21-12 in the finals. Branster actually had a tougher time in the semi's as he needed three games to top C. Gene McElroy, Jackson, by the scores of 21-9, 18-21, 21-11. Walker had eliminated the tourney's top seed Paul Teets, Allen Park in the semi's 21-15, 21-18.



(L. to R.) Top—Gumptow, Williams, Davis, Ackerman; Bottom—Ureel, Stewart. Williams-Davis were women's doubles champs; Ureel-Stewart took 2nd; Ackerman-Gumptow won 3rd.

In Masters doubles the steady team of Rod Grambeau, Sr., and Steve Galletti, rebounded from a second place finish a year ago to

capture their second title in three years, breezing through the tourney.

In the championship match, Lou Hekhuis and Mordechia Kreinin, East Lansing, couldn't stand up to the lefty-righty duo and succumbed 21-14, 21-8. Rod and Steve topped Branstner and Lou Reid in their semi-final match 21-10, 21-12 while in the bottom bracket Hekhuis—Kreinin stopped Lou Giampetroni and Tom Ballantyne, Flint, 21-11, 21-19.

Women's doubles was won by Davis and Williams 21-15, 21-14 over Carol Stewart and Gail Ureel, Ann Arbor.

There was consolation in all brackets as the 135 total entries got plenty of action. Rich Sanborn defeated Ger Fennell in the open 16

N.P.A. Re-organizes

One of the highlights of the National Paddleball Association Championships was the re-organization of the structure of the Association, and election of members to the newly created Board of Managers.

In a Friday evening convention meeting of paddleball players, the new by-laws were instituted and elections held. The following persons were named to the Board: Robert W. Kendler and Charles Leve, permanent members; Tom Ballantyne, Dick Jury, Dick Pitcher, Teri Davis, Ray Bayer, Dan McLaughlin, Lou Hekhuis and Gene McElroy members.

In the first meeting of the Board of Managers on April 19, 1974, the following discussions took place, with Board members Ballantyne, Leve, Bayer, Jury, McLaughlin, Pitcher and Davis (through proxy) present.

Any member of the National Paddleball Association can have, free of charge, a copy of the new by-laws of N.P.A. The by-laws will be sent upon verification of membership. If you would like a

copy simply send your name and address to N.P.A., 4101 Dempster St., Skokie, IL 60076.

Revolving terms of office were organized for the various positions of managers on the Board. President, Bob Kendler, and treasurer, Chuck Leve were elected permanent members. Three year terms for the 1st Vice President and General Manager and second Vice President; two year terms for the present tournament manager, future tournaments manager, and publicity manager; one year terms for rules manager, secretary and one at-large position.

Elected were:

Ballantyne — Vice President and General Manager

Hekhuis — 2nd Vice President

Jury — Tournament manager

Pitcher — Future tournament manager

McElroy — Publicity Manager

Davis — Rules Manager

Bayer — Secretary

McLaughlin — At-Large

For further details contact the N.P.A., 4101 Dempster St., Skokie, IL 60076.



FINGER



Top—(L. to R.) Keeley, Baldori, Terry, Connin. Middle—Walker, Branstner, Teets. Bottom—Action in the Masters doubles finals with (l. to r.) Hekhuis, Grambeau, Galetti.



and 18; Teets won the Masters by default; Chris Ackerman topped the women's 5 and 3 over Ester Kirshenbaum, Ann Arbor; Giampe-troni—Ballantyne beat Branstner and Reid 12 and 16 in Master doubles; and Sanborn and Mike Cheney topped Ron Glosser and Tom Borden 13 and nine in the open doubles.

NOTES OF THE TOURNAMENT.

. . . Other quarter-finalists in the open were Chip Curtis who lost to Keeley nine and 10; . . . two good ones went by the wayside in their quarter-final open singles matches, Cliff Dawson to Bayer in three 16-21, 21-17, 21-12 and Glosser to McLaughlin 10 and 17 . . . Finger won third place over an exhausted Bayer Sunday 21-20, 21-4 . . . Players were hosted to a Friday night party with food and drink and "heavy" discussion regarding the N.P.A. and the future of paddleball. All agreed that the game does have a bright future, but those involved must promote to keep the ball rolling. No question that the game is alive and well in Michigan and the Michiganders are resolved to spread the word . . . Bayer, elected to the new Board of Managers, was also recipient of the coveted Sportsmanship Award, and cheerfully accepted the revolving trophy from last year's winner Galetti. Couldn't have gone to a more deserving person . . . Jim Phillips, former Board member, from Flint, was down to take in the action and help in organization of the new Board. Bad shoulder kept Jimmy on the sidelines, but he probably did more work there than many did on the court . . . Missed old stand-bys Dale Riker, John Bauman and the McNamaras, along with the Eau Claire group . . . Check upcoming issues of this magazine for reports on future paddleball tournaments.

Jury Is Out For Michigan Paddlers

BY Lou Giampetrone:

FLINT, Mich. — *"Despite reports to the contrary, paddleball is not dead."*

That's how the entry blanks were headed for the 1974 State of Michigan Paddleball Championships March 1, 2 and 3 at the Flint YMCA.

And judging by what has been described as the largest turnout ever for any paddleball event, the sport definitely is far from the grave.

A total of 104 players entered and only three failed to show.

With balls almost completely disappearing from the market, paddleballers were forced to use racquetballs and anything else they could get their hands on the pursue the game.

But fortunately, official paddleballs were obtained at the end of the year.

"We knew that many players had not had an opportunity to play much because of the ball problem and there was a fear that many just lost interest," said Tom Ballantyne, tournament director. *"But despite that, and the possibility of gasoline shortages, we decided to go ahead with the tournament anyway."*

The response was fantastic. It was as if paddleballers were just waiting for something like this. Entries kept pouring in.

"It was so overwhelming that we had to schedule matches only 45 minutes apart," said Jim Phillips, of Flint, a former member of the board of directors of the National Paddleball Association and co-chairman of the tournament.

"That didn't seem realistic. But we did pick up some time on some matches so we never were very far behind. We received a lot of compliments about how well the tournament was run."

Dick Jury, a National Manufacturers Association representative from Lansing, won the open singles title, defeating Ray Bayer, of Okemos.

Third-seeded Jury, potentially one of the best paddleballers for years, reached the peak of his career in defeating top-seeded Dan

McLaughlin, Troy, the 1972 champion, and then disposing of Bayer, the No. 2 seed, 21-4, 21-7.

Some observers felt that Jury probably could handle the 1973 National Paddleball champ, Steve Keeley, and hoped that Keeley would defend his title at the nationals this year in Ann Arbor.

In open doubles of the state tourney, Tom Connin and Bill Terry two Michigan State University students, defeated Rod Grambeau, head of the intramural program at the University of Michigan, and McLaughlin, 16-21, 21-13, 21-11, for the title.

Their victory was surprising because Connin had not played for about nine months, switching his interests to archery, and Terry had played about a half-dozen times dur-

ing that period.

In masters singles, where players must be at least 40, Al Hosner, Vicksburg, defeated Max Hale, Grand Junction, 21-19, 21-4, for the title.

In masters doubles, Erv Saultman and Lou Giampetrone, of Flint, won the championship over Lee Middleton, of Flint, and John Harris, Port Huron, 19-21, 21-3, 21-19.

One player must be at least 40 and the other at least 45 in masters doubles.

So judging by this year's State of Michigan tourney, paddleball definitely is not dead and in no danger of expiring.

"Now we're looking forward to the National Paddleball Championships in Ann Arbor April 18-21," said Phillips.



Dick Jury, left, won the 1974 State of Michigan Paddleball Championships open singles title over Ray Bayer (right). With them is Tom Ballantyne, tournament director.

Rubenstein Cops Fourth Illinois Title

For the fourth year in a row, it was no contest in the Illinois State Singles Championships. For the fourth year in a row, Highland Park's Ron Rubenstein captured the title, this time 21-8, 21-6 over protege, John Hart, from Chicago.

Rubenstein, showing his great game that ranks him seventh in the nation, easily disposed of all competition en route to his finals win. Ruby downed Champaign's Don Webb 21-2, 21-6 in the semi-finals and Bob Traul, Northbrook in the quarters 21-1, 21-4.

Hart on the other side of the bracket, topped Fred Blaess, Hoffman Estates 21-9, 21-5 in his semi-final match and topped Shelly Clar, Northbrook 21-15, 21-9 in the quarters.

The Class B tournament was won by Dennis Kemble, formerly of San Diego now residing in LaGrange. He captured first place with a 21-5, 21-16 victory over Steve Butler, Champaign.

Kemble, who was extended to three games only once in the tourney, topped Kent Cronberg, Evanston in the semi's, 21-3, 21-15. Butler needed three to best University of Illinois teammate Charlie Rish in his semi-final match 21-13, 14-21, 21-17.

The women's bracket was won by Northbrook's Shirley Lind, the top seed, over Sue Carow, Glenview in an exciting 21-10, 21-20 match.



RUBENSTEIN



Illinois B champs (l. to r.) Benn Eilert, Kent Cronberg, Charlie Rish, Steve Butler, Dennis Kemble and Jim Stotz. Eilert and Stotz were tournament directors.

Lind reached the finals by disposing of Jan Davenport, Bloomington 21-14, 21-4, while Carow topped Des Plaines' Fran Deuster 21-16, 21-10.

Third places were won by Deuster 21-8, 8-21, 21-20 in the women's; by Webb 21-20, 21-6 in the Men's A; and by Rish 15-21, 21-20, 21-19 in the Men's B.

The tournament was held at the Aurora, Y.M.C.A. and hosted jointly by the Aurora Y and Illinois Racquetball Association. The 102 total entries in all three brackets was a record in Illinois, the third consecutive year, that entries have broken the previous mark.

Jim Stotz, physical director of the Aurora Y, served as tournament chairman along with Fred Blaess, president of the Illinois Racquetball Association. Benn Eilert, Hugh Davidson, Tim Rusch, Chuck Leve and Lynn Crull also did outstanding jobs in making the tourney a success.

With eight courts, including one glass spectator court, the Aurora Y proved that it could handle virtually any racquetball event.

Rubenstein was his devastating self, as always in Illinois tournaments. He has been the only state

champ the Land of Lincoln has every known and he proved why once again. Totally dominating all opponents with perfect control and pin point shooting, Ruby coasted to the title.

For everyone else, however, it was a scramble. Hart, who has been under Rubenstein's tutelage for the past year responded by defeating the best of the bottom bracket without needing three games. His easy semi-final win over Blaess was somewhat of a surprise, although Fred was hampered by a bruised heel.

Some very good players went out early in the tourney. Bill Barnes, Lake Forest, who finished fourth in the 1973 regional tourney, was knocked off for the second year in a row by Webb in the quarters. Lee Duda, Chicago, gave Hart his best match to the finals, before succumbing 21-16, 21-15. Jeff Bowman, University of Illinois, was eliminated in the first round by Clar 21-13, 21-17.

In the B's, always the most exciting of brackets in the Illinois tourney, the story was all Kemble. An unknown for the most part, he proved too good for the rest of the competi-

Adrian Wins First Kansas State Open

Wichita hosted the first Kansas State Singles Racquetball Championships tournament this past week-end at the Central Branch Y.M.C.A. The Wichita Racquetball Club sponsored the event. There were three divisions of play: the Open, B, and Masters.

In the Open division Phil Adrian of Wichita captured the singles state title by defeating Gary Steele of Wichita, 21-5, 21-14 in the finals. For third place John Casson of Topeka defeated Wayne Campbell of Wichita, 5-21, 21-17, 21-18. Consolation trophy was won by Glenn Ferguson of Wichita.

In the Class "B" division John Paulin of Wichita defeated Ernie Ruelas of Hutchinson 21-13, 21-14 to capture the singles state title. For third place Fred McMillen of Wichita defeated Tom Wilkens of Topeka,



21-5, 21-2. Consolation trophy was won by Marvin Wilson of Topeka.

In the Masters division Dean Lemmon of Topeka won the singles state title with Jim Gist of Wichita finishing in second place in the round-robin event.

A total of thirty-seven entries participated in the three division state tournament. Cities represented were Overland Park, Kansas City, Topeka, Hutchinson, Salina, Buhler, Dodge City, and Wichita.

(L. to r.) Top—Ferguson, Gist, Wilson, McMillan; Bottom—Steele, Adrian, Paulin, Ruelas.

Tournament officials were Kent Taylor, Wayne Campbell, Gary Steele, Vic Schimming, and Rich Holden all of the Wichita Racquetball Club, Central Branch Y.M.C.A.

Rubenstein Tops Illinois

From page 32

tion, being pressured only in the third round by Chicago's Tony Lisanti. Kemble eeked out a 14-21, 21-6, 21-19 victory and he was on his way.

Butler, on the other hand, struggled throughout the tournament. After the second round he went three games in every match, besting Stan Wakmundski, Wimbledon, and Jim Whitaker, Peoria, before topping Rish in the semi's.

The obvious gallery favorite in the B bracket was Cronberg, whose game is outstanding, especially when one considers that he is totally deaf. Playing without the advantage of hearing the ball or his opponent, Kent was the darling of the fans.

The surprise of the women's event was Davenport, completely unknown in Illinois tournaments. She knocked off highly-regarded Jean Sauser, Northbrook in the first round and then topped fourth seed

Lois Dowd in the quarters 20-21, 21-9, 21-13.

The finals between Lind and Carow was an interesting match, marked by a great second game comeback by Sue. Down 20-15 with Lind serving match point, the side was called out on Lind due to an avoidable hinder. Carow came in and benefiting by a controversial "skip" call on Lind tied the game at 20-all. But Shirley regained her composure and came in for 21.

The entire tournament was a rousing success, with the Aurora personnel blending very well with Illinois Racquetball Association people. And the players were great as usual, helping out with refereeing, floor managing and just about anything asked of them. Many made their matches despite a blinding ice storm on the tourney's second day, making the 40 mile trip from Chicago hazardous to say the least. But in true racquetball die-hard fashion, the show did go on.



Marilyn Lowe, who was encouraged to play racquetball by her enthusiast husband Bill, is now taking a rest from the game. She was tuning her husband for the state tourney at Indiana University.

As she started to run for the ball, she suddenly went down in a heap. It was the metatarsal in her right foot.

She took her new addition along to the state to support Bill, who last year was runner-up in the Masters.

Center Court Position: The Key To Victory

By Steve Strandemo

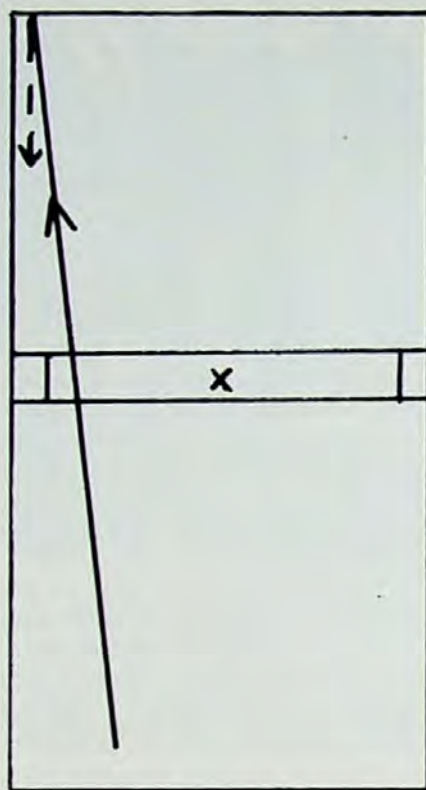
To win consistently in racquetball, center court position must be attained and maintained throughout the match. There is no more important strategic skill in racquetball than center court position. From it you are able to control the play, choose from a wide selection of shots, and cover your opponent's shots, all with a greater amount of ease than from any other location on the court.

It stands to reason: when you are in the center court position (approximately one step behind the short line (you are virtually equal-distant from any point on the court, thus you have an increased ability to "get" you opponent's ball. Also, you can kill into the corners, "fly" kill, pass cross court or down the line, hit ceiling or Z-balls. Every shot in racquetball, except the backwall shots, can be executed from center court. The smart player will utilize as many of these as possible, in order to keep his opponent off balance and retrieving.

The Serve

Assuming our goal, then, is to maintain center court position, we must face the problem of how to attain it. The easiest method of taking control of center court is to win the previous point. By gaining the serve, you have automatically put yourself in control of the center court at the outset of the next rally. The best way not to lose it is a strong, effective serve, causing a weak return by your opponent.

Therefore, the astute player will vary his serve, keeping his opponent guessing, and taking advantage of any weakness (usually the backhand) he might have. Probe your opponent with various serves. See how he reacts to a hard drive to his backhand, change the speeds, try a cross court (Scotch), or maybe a lob. Do not fall into the habit of serving the same serve every time, or maintaining the same pattern of



Kill Return (top view)

serves. This will enable your opponent to anticipate your serve and hit an effective return, allowing him to gain center court position.

The serve is all-important. Concentrate when in the server's box. The rules allow you 10 seconds in which to serve. If you need them, use them. The smart player will use the serve as more than merely the method in which the ball is put into play. He will use it to control the center, and thus the game.

The Serve Return

Okay, but what if you're not serving? The problem now is to regain the center court. As receiver all percentages are against you. First, the server, as alluded to above, can hit a multitude of shots and only he (not you) knows where he is going to hit it. Secondly, even if the server should hit you a poor serve, you still have to return it effectively just to regain the serve. But if you should

hit a poor shot, chances are you will lose a point.

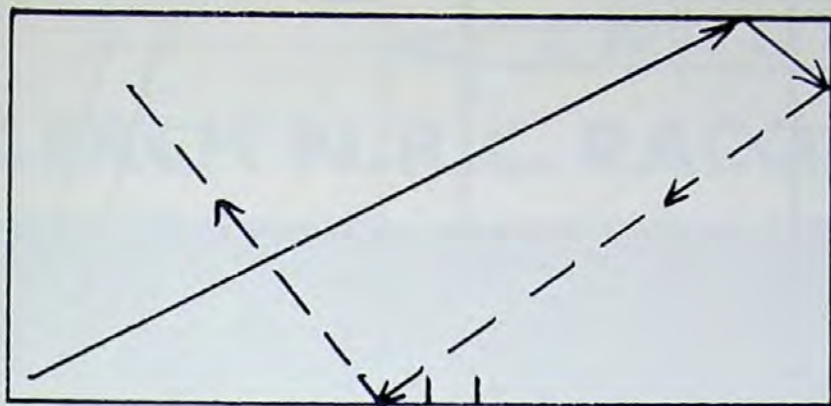
So what do you do? There are four primary serve returns which will enable you to gain center court position. The first does even better than that, - it enables you to immediately re-gain the serve. This is the kill shot return.

Since a high percentage of serves (as much as 95 percent) will come to your backhand, the best place to shoot the serve is into the front left corner (assuming you are right handed). This shot should be attempted only when you have a complete set up off your opponent's serve. Thus, if your foe is worth his salt, you will not get this shot often. Remember, however, that the kill return is the most dangerous of returns for if your shot is too low, it will hit the floor resulting in a point for



Kill Return (side view)

your opponent. And if you leave the shot "up" it will be easy prey for a re-kill by your opponent.



The Ceiling Ball (side view)

The second return, and that used most often by good players is the ceiling ball return. This shot allows you some margin of error, and when executed properly will not only drive your opponent out of center court, but will not allow him to hit an offensive shot, except against all percentages. About the only thing he can do is return another ceiling ball.

You should keep the ceiling return along the left side wall, striking the ceiling first about two to three feet before the front wall. It will then bounce and rebound into deep left court, along the wall. Have patience, and prolong the ceiling rally until your opponent makes a mistake. Then capitalize on it.

The third option on serve return, and probably the easiest to hit, is the cross-court drive. In this case hit the ball to slightly right of center on the front wall, with enough force to drive the ball past the server. It is a good change of pace return, for most servers tend to lean toward the left side of the court.

There are hazards, though, to the cross court drive return. First, if your opponent is quick and anticipates the shot it is easy for him to step into the cross court lane and kill the ball into the right corner. And since he is probably right-handed, this will be a forehand shot for him, making it that much easier. Secondly, if you hit the drive too hard, it will come off the back wall, making for another set up. Thirdly, if you hit it too soft, it will rebound off the side wall for another forehand plum ball.

The fourth serve return would be a pass down the line on the left. This is a difficult shot to control, but very effective when hit properly. It is especially good when the server is creeping up toward that left corner. If you can "blow it by him" down the left wall he will have to give up that center court.

Coverage

Now let's turn these situations around as you take the serve. Assuming that your opponent will read this article, too, you must be ready to return the above shots as well as hit them. This we term court coverage, which is one of the keys to maintaining center court position.

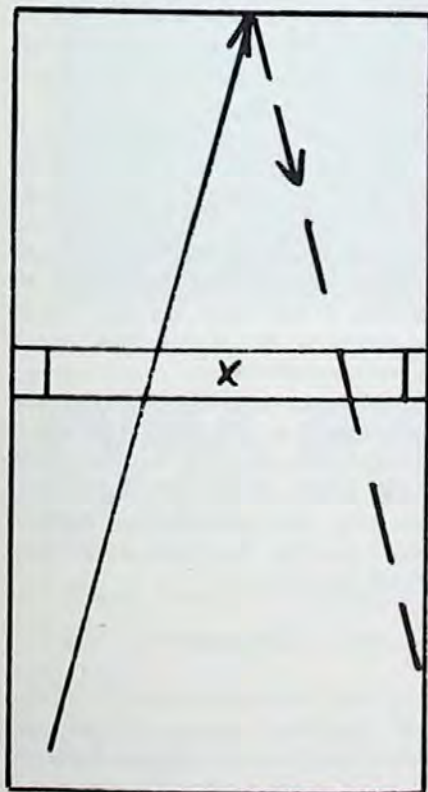
A mandatory rule on all court coverage is **KEEP YOUR EYE ON THE BALL AT ALL TIMES**. You should also anticipate your opponent's shot as much as possi-

ble. Remember, he has been running, hitting, changing directions and most likely has reached some level of fatigue. And the more tired your opponent gets, the more likely he is to fall into patterns.

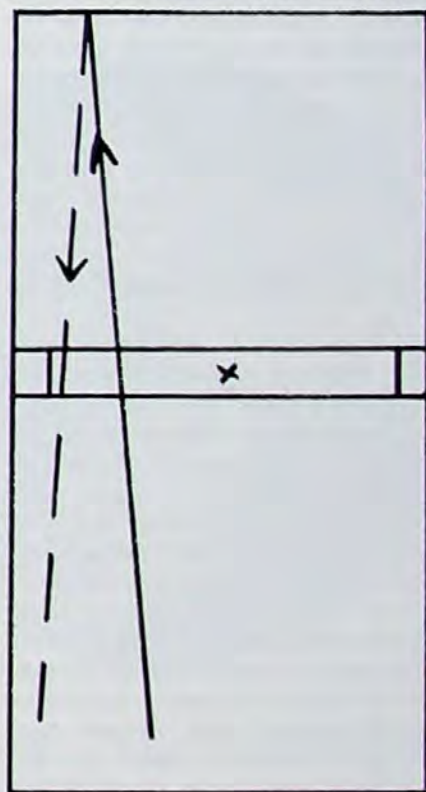
When you serve, do not drop back more than one or two (at the most) steps behind the short line. Peek over your left shoulder to get an indication of what type of return your opponent will hit. You should have a pretty good idea judging by the type of serve you hit and the accuracy of that serve. As you see him lean over for the kill attempt begin to anticipate the shot.

If he kills the ball flat, he'll win the rally, no matter if you're standing in that left corner with your racquet on the ground. So don't worry about the roll off. But if he fails to solidly kill the ball (most of the time) all you have to do is step up and over and re-kill his ball in the left corner. Use a quick short stroke for speed and accuracy. But by all means sacrifice power for accuracy in this situation.

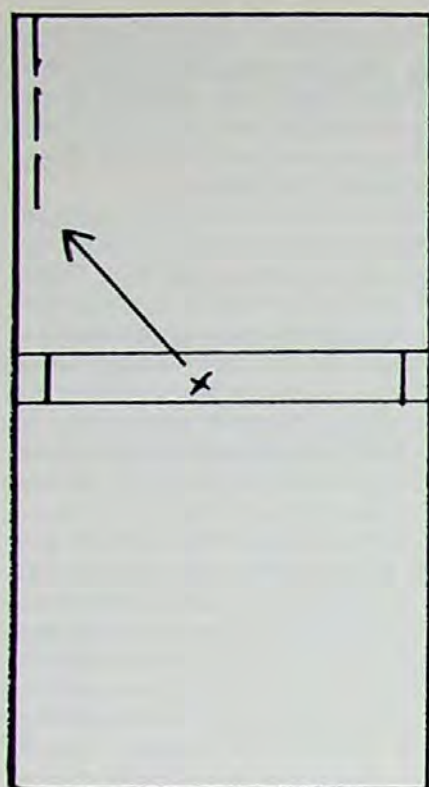
As you can tell, your subsequent re-kill will have a greater margin of error than his attempted kill return off your serve, simply because he has to travel all the way from deep court to cover your shot, while you began at center court position. If you



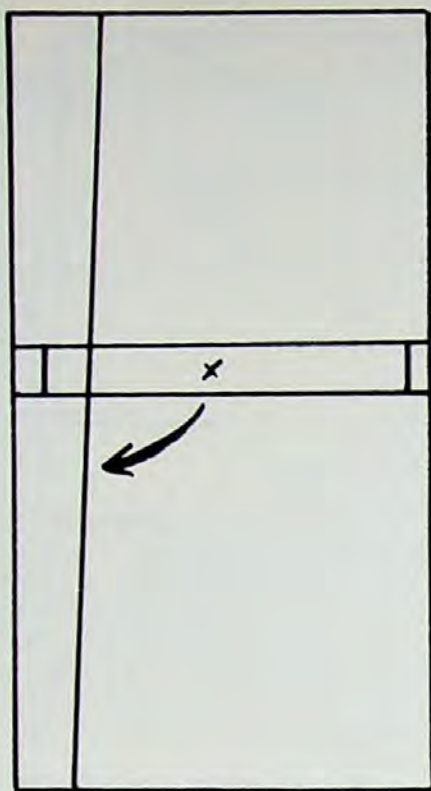
Cross Court Pass



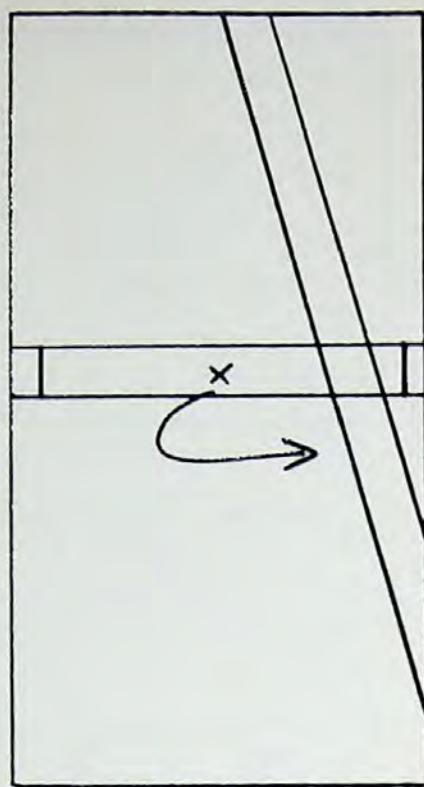
Down The Line Pass



Covering the Kill



Covering The Left Lane



Covering The Right Lane

are quick and anticipate well, and your opponent has a tendency to attempt kill returns give him serves that he will shoot. The percentages are with you.

If you opponent drives you out of center court with a ceiling ball return there is very little you can do to regain the center court other than hitting another ceiling ball. He is in control. A kill attempt by you is a terrible percentage shot; a Z-ball from deep left corner takes Hercules to execute; and a pass will not have enough steam on it, especially if you are along the left wall. Hit another ceiling ball, and let him worry about it.

To defense against the cross drive, anticipate the angle your opponent will use. This is not as difficult as it may sound, for there is really only one path your opponent's shot can take (if he executes correctly). That patch we call the passing "lane." Since you are already in center court this imaginary lane opponent's choice of a cross court pass having immediately eliminated the left side of the court. The extension of your arm and racquet, plus one step which you would take for any shot cuts down another five feet. And if his shot hits the side wall before reaching deep court it will carom into center court where you

already are, thus saving you another three feet against the wall. So without moving you can see that this lane is now only two feet in width. You should be able to cover it.

When you get there use a short firm stroke and kill the ball in the front right corner. This may mean "fly" killing the ball, so be sure your wrist does not break prior to contact. If you "hear footsteps" and feel your foe is racing in to cover this shot instead of attempting a right corner kill, drive the ball past him cross court left.

If your opponent chooses to drive the ball down the left wall, again you must fill the lane. In this instance the lane will be comprised of that area from the wall into the court about three feet. Your advantage here is that most returns will be aimed at your backhand and you should be anticipating in that direction. Move into this left lane and either kill the ball into the left corner with the same short, quick stroke, or drive it back cross court to the right.

During the Rally

A bigger problem than gaining center court position on serve returns, is regaining it during a rally, especially one in which you find yourself on the move retrieving passing shots. During these times it is

essential to hit an effective defensive shot to move our opponent out of the front court. You have two alternatives.

Try and hit a ceiling ball at the very first opportunity. Even if you have to hit it down the forehand wall or even in the middle of the court, it will at least make your opponent move out of center court position, and allow you time to re-gain it and set-up.

An alternative to that would be to hit a Z-ball. Again, the theory is to allow yourself enough time to regain the center court by making your opponent relinquish that spot. It will probably be more difficult to hit an effective Z-ball than ceiling ball in this instance, but if possible, the Z will be very effective.

All other possibilities involve too much risk of a miscue. Don't even consider a kill attempt. Forget trying to pass when you're off balance and retrieving. And with the live balls in today's games, the lob is extremely difficult to control.

Conclusion

Center court position is one of the most important factors to playing winning racquetball. No good player can win consistently without controlling the center court. As your rac-

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LEACH N.R.C. RACQUETBALL SHIRT



by
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Hurdling That First Plateau

By Bill Dunn

You have been playing racquetball two or three times a week for about a year. You have been noticing rapid improvement in all areas of your game. You have entered several tournaments, and you are beginning to make a good showing. Suddenly you become erratic. You play well one day, and then you play terrible the next. When you need to hit a certain shot, you aren't able to.

You try to kill the ball, and it is always skipping in. And worst of all, an opponent that you are used to beating suddenly begins to beat you consistently. You have reached the crossroads. Your performance curve has flattened out.

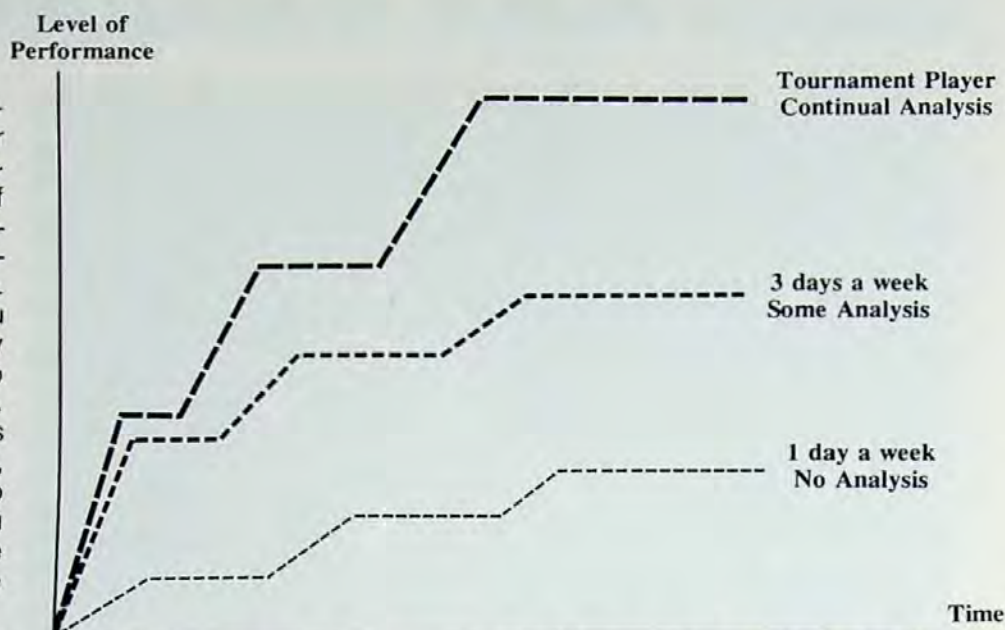
To coin a phrase, "you have reached the first plateau." You must now decide whether to become serious about racquetball, or to enjoy playing at your present level of achievement with very slow improvement.

But if you can't understand what is wrong, and it is frustrating you enough to want to dedicate some time and energy towards improving your game, then continue reading this article. I hope that I will be able to give you some ideas towards getting over this first, big hurdle.

To start playing more racquetball is not going to remedy your problem. You have to change how you play racquetball. Playing a game merely reinforces old habits, and you don't have enough time to determine what you are doing wrong.

You must get on the court by yourself. I know that you have heard this before, and it is not much fun. But to raise your level of performance above the plateau, it is absolutely necessary. I believe that I can safely say that most, if not all, of your top ranking players have gone through this stage in the development of their game. For instance, Charlie Brumfield played at racquetball for four years before he took the time to analyze how he was hitting the ball. He rapidly overcame his inconsistency and won the International singles title the next year.

The key is CONSISTENCY. You have to hit the ball the same way



The increases in level of performance and the lengths of the plateaus are a function of how often a person plays and how much he analyzes. Notice that as time progresses the jumps in level of performance decrease and the plateaus last longer.

every time. How do you obtain consistency? By self analysis. I am not going to tell you how to swing the racquet or hit the ball. YOU have to determine that. We can't all develop the same form as Brumfield or Steve Serot. They both hit the ball quite differently, but they are consistent in the way they hit the ball. They have each developed a style that fits their physical requirements. That is what you must determine; find the best way for you to swing the racquet and hit the ball.

Basically the swing is broken into three parts: the backswing, the point of contact, and the follow through. I personally believe that the point of contact is the most crucial of the three. The point of contact can be defined as that area in space where the ball makes contact with the racquet in relationship to the body. Brumfield calls this the zone.

If a player makes contact with the ball when it is in his zone, then he should have the consistency and control of the shot that he expects. The problem involves locating the zone. It will vary from forehand to backhand, ceiling ball to kill shot. This is where individual analysis comes in. Your stance might dictate where your zone should be, or your grip has much to do with it.

Generally speaking the point of contact for the forehand should be just behind the front foot, and the backhand is usually just forward of the front foot. Vary this a few inches forward or backward and see what a difference it can make in the consistency of your shot. If you contact the ball outside of your zone, then you will probably not hit the shot exactly where you expect.

Let me relate the steps that I went through in analyzing my backhand. I have a flat backswing and follow through. Since I don't change my grip from forehand to backhand, the racquet face is slightly open when I make contact with the ball on the backhand. I found out that to compensate for this I was hitting the ball with a slight backspin. After trying several different points of contact, I discovered that my best shots occurred when I made contact with the ball just behind the lead foot instead of in front of it.

My backhand has now become one of my strengths, and I have devoted many hours of practice in developing it; but I am sure that this practice would not have been nearly as effective if I had not been able to locate the proper zone of contact. If you find that you are having trouble with a particular shot, then break

down, step by step, how you hit the ball with respect to backswing, point of contact, and follow through. Change your zone or adjust your backswing and follow through. See what works for you, then try to groove it.

Of course, this is not the only plateau that you will reach. Continued improvement in racquetball means overcoming a series of plateaus. The analysis becomes more difficult, the changes more subtle, and the habits harder to break. Your better players are constantly analyzing their game, trying different things, discarding changes that don't work.

Brumfield worked for two months in developing a "flail" backhand, and then dropped it when he decided that it wasn't improving his

game. I recently tried something new with my forehand, and I feel that it has improved my game by several points because I have gained more consistency in my shots. But I was on that plateau for a long time before I determined what I needed to change. The point is, don't become discouraged. Keep working at it, keep trying new ideas.

Get someone to watch you hit the ball. Listen to and interpret their comments in terms of your own style. There is a young player in our area who has been playing racquetball for about a year. He has learned more about the game and improved faster in one year than I did in two. Why? Because he has better players watching him play. They are helping him overcome problems that they have already faced.

Have someone take movies of you hitting the ball or even photographs taken in sequence. I keep a notebook in order to write down anything new that I might discover about my game, and I am sure that you will develop your own techniques for obtaining more consistency.

In review, when you decide that you have reached a plateau, get on the court by yourself and work on the shots that are giving you trouble. Try something new with your swing, especially the point of contact. Find out what works best. We want consistency. We want to hit the ball the same way every time. And above all, keep working at it. Remember, continued improvement is a result of constant analysis and change.

Columbia River Open Results

A Singles

FIRST ROUND: Smith def. McCarty; Weinstein def. Marcus

SECOND ROUND: Dunn def. Brown 21-7, 21-9; Lubisich def. Smith 21-11, 21-18; Gause def. Weinstein 21-10, 21-2; Lund def. Sanders 15-21, 21-19, 21-19.

SEMI-FINALS: Dunn def. Lubisich 21-9, 20-21, 21-9; Gause def. Lund 21-20, 21-19.

FINALS: Dunn def. Gause 21-11, 21-13.

THIRD PLACE: Lund def. Lubisich 4-21, 21-7, 21-17.

CONSOLATION: Sanders def. Smith 31-16.

B Singles

FIRST ROUND: Bennink def. M. Sharp 21-5, 21-6; Dougan def. Weiser 21-20, 21-19; Goff def. B. Sharp 21-19, 21-16; Herman def. Bell 21-16, 11-21, 21-20; Lewis def. Kartchner 21-7, 21-7; Walp def. Nelson; Warn def. Koski 21-4, 21-17; McCourt def. Bowen 21-13, 21-1.

SECOND ROUND: Bennink def. Dougan 21-8, 21-13; Goff def. Herman 12-21, 21-9, 21-13; Lewis def. Walp 21-5, 18-21, 21-11; McCourt def. Warn 21-11, 21-16.

SEMI-FINALS: Bennink def. Goff; McCourt def. Lewis 21-20, 6-21, 21-16.

FINALS: Bennink def. McCourt 21-16, 21-4.

THIRD PLACE: Lewis def. Goff 16-21, 21-17, 21-18.

CONSOLATION: Nelson def. S. Bell 21-5, 21-11.

C Singles

FIRST ROUND: Marshall def. Tennant 21-5, 21-8; Beedle def. S. Marcus 21-6, 21-15; Weinstein def. Rutkowski; Sax def. Starey 21-15, 21-20; Drake def. Cohen 17-21, 21-6, 21-10; Schulte def. Matthews 21-15, 21-11; Harding def. Smart 21-4, 21-4; Miller def. Hauck.

SECOND ROUND: Marshall def. Beedle 21-7, 21-4; Sax def. Weinstein 21-15, 21-14; Drake def. Schulte 21-18, 21-7; Miller def. Harding 21-13, 21-4.

SEMI-FINALS: Marshall def. Sax 21-18, 21-11; Miller def. Drake 21-20, 15-21, 21-18.

FINALS: Marshall def. Miller 18-21, 21-16, 21-12.

THIRD PLACE: Drake def. Sax 21-15, 21-14.

CONSOLATION: J. Stary def. J. Cohen.

Women's A Singles

FIRST ROUND: Fujita def. Hawkey; Edwards def. Melton.

SECOND ROUND: Harding def. Vanderpool 21-1, 21-2; Hart def. Fujita; Edwards def. Hughes 21-16, 21-10; LaLonde def. Schalk 21-19, 21-19.

SEMI-FINALS: Harding def. Hart 21-7, 21-2; LaLonde def. Edwards 21-10, 18-21, 21-4.

FINALS: Harding def. LaLonde 21-4, 21-12.

THIRD PLACE: Edwards def. Hart 21-14, 21-17.

CONSOLATION: Hughes def. Vanderpool 31-30.

Women's B Singles

FIRST ROUND: Williams def. Hewitt 21-15, 21-15.

SECOND ROUND: Sharp def. Bolam 21-2, 21-5; C. Miller def. Ostergard 21-4, 21-6; Freedman def. Williams 21-4, 21-12; L. Miller def. Allen 21-19, 21-8.

SEMI-FINALS: Sharp def. C. Miller 21-2, 21-6; Freedman def. L. Miller 21-6, 21-12.

FINALS: Freedman def. Sharp 21-15, 21-11.

CONSOLATION: Hewitt def. Bolan 21-7, 21-4.

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Exercise For the Beginning Player

By KATHY WILLIAMS

Beginners join the groves of avid racquetball players daily and all too often after six months of practice, they're not much better than when they started. Unfortunately, this phenomena is not just common to beginners. In fact, I have seen tournament racquetballers that make the same basic skill mistakes from one year to the next.

It is not my intention to analyze the basic racquetball skills, but to focus on some of the common errors that plague the beginning racquetball player. I have included several drills that have been helpful to me as both a beginner and tournament player. Practice alone does not lead to perfect performance. Errors may be practiced and perpetuated to the extent that little or no improvement occurs.

There are two important principles that beginners should keep in mind while they are learning the basic skills. First, set a goal and constantly work toward it. Before trying to perform a skill, learn all you can about how to do it properly. When first learning the game, I was fortunate enough to frequently observe one of the finest players in the country. Upon entering a court for the first time, I knew how the basic skills should be executed. By comparing this player to mediocre players, I saw differences in footwork, strokes, and other fundamentals. From experience, I can guarantee that it is much easier to learn a skill the right way from the beginning than to try and correct mistakes later.

Secondly, try to acquire some type of feedback about your performance. Some of the most helpful information and criticism can come from an observer. An example that comes to mind concerns a girl that I have played racquetball with for two years. She never acquired a consistent kill shot because she didn't let the ball drop low to the floor before hitting it. Instead, she would hit her kill shots at waist height. It did little good to remind her to wait until the ball dropped lower.

Finally I asked her at what height she thought she was hitting the ball.



KATHY WILLIAMS

The reply was, "below knee level". This phenomenon of not being aware of exactly what your body is doing during performance represents a lack of "kinesthetic awareness". It might feel like we are snapping the wrist at contact when we are actually using a rigid wrist. When teaching beginners I have them practice in pairs so they can offer feedback to one another. Don't be afraid to ask some questions: "Am I keeping my elbow close to my body during the swing?" "How low to the floor is the ball when I hit it?" "Am I shifting my weight to the front foot at contact?" Even someone who has never seen the game can answer questions of this nature, hence giving the necessary feedback for improvement.

The following drills have been very helpful to me and will hopefully benefit the reader.

1. **DROP AND KILL:** For the beginner, more positive results come about from this drill than any other. Standing at mid-court and facing the side wall, drop the ball in front of the body at arms length and stroke the ball to the front wall. Some important points to keep in mind while performing this drill include:
ing this drill include:

A. Let the ball drop low to the floor before hitting it.

- B. Keep the elbow of the racquet arm close to the body.
- C. Step into the ball with the leg closest to the front wall, transferring the weight from the rear to the forward foot.
- D. Snap the wrist at moment of contact.
- E. Rotate the hips and upper body toward the front wall.

2. **BACK CORNER PICK UP:** This is designed for players with little wrist snap who have trouble getting little digs out of the back corner. Stand facing either back corner. "Gently" toss the ball into the corner so that it hits the back wall, side wall, and floor in that sequence. Start with a four foot high toss and work down to one foot. At the one foot level the only way the ball will get to the front wall is with a strong wrist snap alone. This motion is similar to that of hitting a nail with a hammer.

3. **CONTINUOUS KILL AND LOB:** Start with a soft short lob to the front wall. Ideally, the ball should bounce in the front part of the court. After it bounces kill the ball to the front wall. As it comes back after the kill, get under the ball and gently lob it back again. Continue to keep the ball in play as long as possible by alternating lobs and kills. The continuous play gives practice in kill shots from all areas of the court, lots of foot movement, and a relatively good workout in a short period of time. I personally find this type of practice more enjoyable than stopping the ball after every kill.

As you are learning to play racquetball, try to keep these points in mind: Ask your opponent what your weak points were, take the time to discipline your swing so that it becomes instinctive, and above all, practice with a purpose!

Steding Wins Salina Kansas

A Singles

SEMI-FINALS: Peggy Steding, Odessa, Tx. def. Gary Steele, Wichita, Ks. 21-9, 21-11; Kent Taylor, Wichita, Ks. def. Wayne Campbell, Wichita, Ks. 21-9, 21-20.

FINALS: Steding def. Taylor 21-15, 21-17.

THIRD: Campbell def. Steele 21-8, 13-21, 21-19.

CONSOLATION: Les Ciesielski, Overland Park def. Dean Lemmon, Topeka, Ks. 21-17, 21-14.

B Singles

QUARTERFINALS: Rod Kitts, Garden City def. Bob Barnett, Topeka 21-10, 21-10; Larry Swank, Hutchinson, Ks. def. Bob Brundage, Garden City, Ks. 21-16, 21-16; Vic Dyck, Topeka def. Dick Henkle, Garden City 21-6, 21-7; Dennis Clark, Garden City def. Marvin Wilson, Topeka, Ks. 21-20, 21-18.

SEMI-FINALS: Clark def. Kitts 21-15, 21-14; Dyck def. Swank 21-14, 21-11.

THIRD PLACE Swank def. Kitts 21-13, 21-10.

FINALS: Dyck def. Clark 21-17, 21-12.

CONSOLATION: Ernie Ruelas def. Bob Brundage 14-21, 21-19, 21-8.

Women's Singles

QUARTERFINALS: Peggy Steding, Odessa, Tx. def. Pat Alpers, Garden City, Ks. 21-1, 21-1; Sharon Brundage, Garden City, Ks. def. Mary Gay Wenger, Salina, Ks. 21-5, 21-1; Linda Schulte, Wichita, Ks. def. Barbara Parr, Salina, Ks. 21-8, 21-15; Dixie Wilson, Topeka, Ks. def. Cindy Flores, Hutchinson, Ks. 21-8, 21-2.

SEMI-FINALS: Schulte def. Wilson 14-21, 21-8, 21-16; Steding def. Brundage 21-0, 21-1.

THIRD PLACE: Brundage def. Wilson 21-14, 21-6.

FINALS: Steding def. Schulte 21-1, 21-2.

WOMEN'S CONSOLATION: Joyce Bell, Salina, Ks. def. Janice Brown, Topeka, Ks. 21-16, 12-21, 21-17.

Masters Singles

FINALS: Jim Gist, Wichita, def. Don Dirks, Buhler 21-18, 21-14.



Two of the happy onlookers at the Milwaukee Pro-Am are N.R.C. president Bob Kendler (standing) and seated in front of him, his bride, Evie. One the floor to their right is Mrs. Ellen Rubenstein.

Reed Takes Texas Y Tourney

A Singles

FIRST ROUND: Blackwell def. Gill 21-15, 15-21, 21-14.

SECOND ROUND: Reed def. Richter 21-18, 21-6; Walker def. Wilson 21-14, 21-16; Carter def. Blackwell 21-3, 21-10; Bauer def. Snowden 21-5, 21-12.

SEMI-FINALS: Reed def. Walker 21-10, 21-11; Bauer def. Carter 21-9, 21-12.

FINALS: Reed def. Bauer 18-21, 21-11, 21-8.

THIRD PLACE: Carter def. Walker 21-12, 21-13.

B Singles

FIRST ROUND: H. Levy def.

Gill 21-11, 21-11; Robles def. Ramirez 21-10, 21-6; Rangel def. Riedesel 21-17, 21-6; S. Levy def. Villareal 21-6, 21-1; Quartarro def. Barker 21-6, 21-15.

SECOND ROUND: Summerlin def. H. Levy 21-11, 21-14; Robles def. Almon 21-10, 21-6; S. Levy def. Rangel 21-11, 21-14; Quartarro def. Lauderdale 21-18, 21-12.

SEMI-FINALS: Summerlin def. Robles 21-13, 8-21, 21-15; S. Levy def. Quartarro 21-3, 21-3.

FINALS: H. Levy def. Summerlin 21-12, 21-5.

THIRD PLACE: Quartarro def. Robles 21-12, 21-9.

The All-Time Match: Makit vs. Strate

By STEVE KEELEY

Ever pursued a story in a foreign language? If you are at all like me (after two years of elementary Spanish) you partially comprehended the few simple common phrases and guessed at the remainder of large words and strange looking idioms in order to get some smattering of what the author was trying to get across. On the other hand it is routine if one truly knows the language. By the same token, given a super-pinch off a donkey-kick for a tweak roll-off is routine if one practices it enough.

If you have kept up and practiced diligently the racquetball vocabulary presented from time to time in NATIONAL RACQUETBALL, the following court yarn will not be difficult to unwind. If you have not done this thing that you ought to have done, you do not possess a complete comprehension of the game of racquetball and your next five kill shot attempts are likely to pick up floor splinters en route to the front wall.

Mind you, this is a true tale told in the racquetball lingo; and perhaps it is the greatest court happenstance to have ever transpired. I was fortunate to have witnessed it personally.

Sam Strate took a dump in the right front corner, which slightly raised the ire of his opponent, Willie Makit.

"Sir, veteran hinder or no veteran hinder, if you block my attempt to retrieve your shot again, you may expect a waffle face," exclaimed Willie. (This was atypically powerful from such a mild mannered individual as Makit).

"Aw give yourself a self-waffle, kid," Sam retorted heatedly. He continued, "The ref will call all hinders."

Sam smiled and nodded innocently to the referee. This official deserves the white cane award, Willie thought to himself.

And so the game progressed; seasoned veteran taking advantage of innocent rookie time and time again. There was good reason for the storm down on court seven at



Illustrations by Jan Campbell

Boaram's Sport Center. This was the finals of the 1973 Seagull Invitational tournament. Veteran Sam Strate had been Seagull champ annually for as far back as the oldest of the oldtimers could recall. Physically, Strate was a very unimpressive. To look at him one might think he was practicing for the next famine. However this gaunt, experienced, old soldier roamed the 20'x20'x40' box area with an uncomparable era of confidence and familiarity. His patience was that of a chameleon stalking a fly. It also could not be denied that Sam knew and frequently utilized all the tricks and psych factors. He knew just when to use the veteran hinder, option play, veteran injury and even the famed Chabot time-out.

Strate's competition was greenhorn Willie Makit, a completely unknown player of obscure origin who had just moved into the area. Some said that quiet Willie learned the game in the Michigan backwoods where he practiced for six hours every morning hitting his mongrel dog's favorite rubber ball with a sawed-off badminton racquet his grandfather had given him as a child, against the back side of a log cabin. Despite his total lack of credentials and big tourney wins, this

muscular hayseed kid was a fierce competitor with greyhound endurance fox-like savvy, and who went to church every Sunday without fail.

The pre-game bets were on Strate. Makit had as much chance as flatulence in a whirlwind, they said.

And true to the oddsmakers, the lanky left-hander had taken the first game of the best two-out-of-three match with apparent ease, 21-13. However, an attentive observer of the first game might have noted that Sam had been on the touree end of a tour of the court during the entire time. He had pursued many a carrot ball, participated in frequent exhausting windshield wiper rallies, and body surfed about more than once. His sinewy legs had undergone terrific toil. On the other hand, the fatigue factor had left underdog Willie unaffected. He continued to unerringly put away the plums (although he had blown one great pumpkin when Strate stepped on the shoe lace of his black high top wheels during Willie's swing). Makit's photons had not slowed an iota since the opening and his R.A.W. serves clung for wallpaper balls again and again. Indeed, though down by one game the contest was far from over for Willie.

The second game differed little from the first with the exception of the final score. Leaping, stretching, diving, dumping and jumping, Willie managed to squeak by in the second game 21-19. Therefore it was one game apiece as the players resumed their positions on the court for the rubber game. Sam Strate had spent the 10 minute rest period donning fresh gym strip, changing racquets, downing Gatorade, and thinking up new psych factors and assorted insults. Meanwhile Makit had jogged down the block and run a mile of wind sprints in the soft sand at the beach to ensure he was totally warmed up.

It promised to be a truly exciting finish to this prestigious Seagull tournament.

On the first serve of the third game the scene erupted violently. Even the fans in the stands quivered with shame at the conduct of their former hometown hero. The kid had hit a bumblebee ball off Strate's Garfinkel serve. The ball took a freak bounce and crossed near Makit's toned body as the sly Strate took careful bead on the ball. He also took a piece of Willie's backside hide with his stroke.

"It was either that or hold my swing," gestured Sam innocently to the ref, who agreed, on what should have been a routine mercy ball. A disputed first point in game three to Strate.

The next two dozen or so points consumed over an hour of playing time with each performer desperately pursuing every shot. Strate, with his vast repertoire of pinches, around-the-wall shots, Z's, P's (and S's too) and even occasional

around-the-wall Z's, kept his youthful opponent scrambling from front to back wall, from right to left side wall. But the determined Michigander was far from in the tank, as sheer courage, grim resolution and years of clean living and eating yogurt in the backwoods drove him on, relentlessly.

At 18-18 in this, the final game of the finals, Strate was obviously weakening. Such was his deteriorated state that years later one witness claimed that Sam's weary stroke was so slowed that a fly once landed on the tip of his custom-made, jewel studded racquet causing his next swing to falter due to the additional weight. They said he resembled a three-toed sloth in his tortoise speed movements. Had the all-time veteran run out of both steam and tricks?

"Injury time out," Strate muttered feebly to the ref as he collapsed miserably to the sweat soaked plywood playing surface.

"What for?" intoned the referee.

Came the reply, "A medial luxation of the lateral most toenail of my left lower appendage."

"My God," shouted the official. "Someone help the poor man!"

Curiously Strate's ingrown toenail injury was not touched during the 20 minute official's timeout. However, Sam's trainer quickly administered a total body massage and gave his exhausted underling salt tablets and Gatorade intravenously. This fake veteran's injury time out was a poorly disguised ruse on Strate's part to regain wind and strength. Even the crowd could see through Strate's trickery.

"I can see through his trickery,"



one voice cried. And thus the gallery responded by angrily bombarding Strate from above with cigarette butts and empty beer cans. At the repeated pleas of gallant Willie Makit the people ceased their rubbish rebellion. The court floor was cleaned up, and play resumed at 18-18 for the championship.

Refreshed, Sam Strate took command of the game. He hit a wide V to regain the serve and then rolled off an extended hypotenuse shot for another winner. At 19-18 Strate powdered a proverbial plum ball into the right hand corner and the ref called "point." The gallery stormed to their feet in protest.

"That ball skipped!" bellowed a local "C" player.

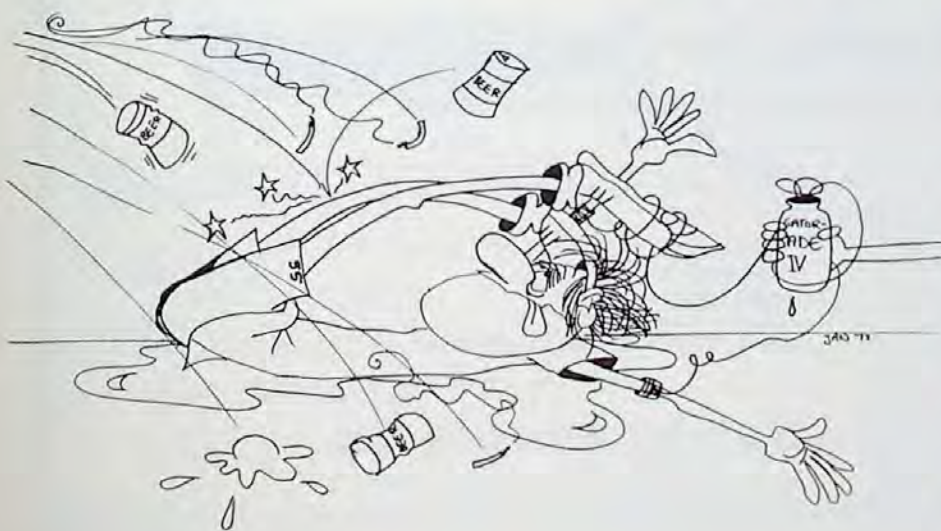
"Oil well ball!" said another.

"Peanut butter shot, you rookie!!" piped a 72-year-old grandmother. Sam only shrugged his shoulders in a gesture of ignorance. Still the ref ruled point, 20-18.

Willie returned the next match point service for a lucky tweak ball rolloff. The next rally he terminated with a reverse head-high, backhand crosscourt kill off a ceiling ball from 39 feet. Strate shook his head in disbelief.

"Whatsamatter, ain't you never seen a freak ball?" the grandmother squeaked. Now it was 20-20, another game and match point.

The following serve, rally and point should go on record as another great moment in sports history along with the Battle of the Alamo and Custer's Last Stand. Willie Makit took a chance and served a low hard reverse to southpaw Strate's booming forehand. (Un-



Willie Makit

From page 43

heard of!) Like a cannon the stealthy Sam photoned the return cross-court. Like a scared rabbit, Willie faked left, scurried right and dove for the ball, flipping it toward the front wall. Another drive to the right side by Strate initiated another frantic body surf by Makit. Another to the right. (The crowd questioned aloud, "Will he make it?"). And another. Then unexpectedly, Sam drove the ball left with Makit still stationed right.

Willie sprang and sprinted and scrambled and just as he reached the ball he slipped on one of the cigarette butts which had been overlooked in the injury time-out clean up. On elbows and knees he still struggled frenziously. With one final effort Makit lunged and hit the ball in the crotch of his racquet. The ball floated gracefully toward the court heavens, hit the right side wall, softly struck the ceiling, rebounded leisurely off the left side wall and floated in a downward trajectory toward its final destination: the left

front crotch, where it trickled lazily off the front wall for a Loveday's crack winner, - 21-20! Game and match!

The crowd, initially hypnotized by the ball's aerial acrobatics, was silent, the calm before the storm. And then what a deluge of shouts and screams! So intense was the din that to this very day, no one but myself (peaking through the glass windows of the court door) heard Willie Makit nonchalantly inform Sam Strate, "I believe it was God's will, sir."

And so justice was served and a legend was spawned. No one ever saw Willie Makit after he exited from the court. (He didn't even wait around to pick up the beautiful first place trophy, a gold plated seagull). That is, none but myself observed him walk calmly through the court door, past me, outside and down the block. I watched him jog away in the soft sand at the beach, warming down after the grueling match no doubt. He was almost to the horizon before it occurred to me that he was headed in the general direction of Michigan. As I said, to this day people around here don't know what happened to him. But I reckon he's

gone back home, disillusioned, to better things. And his mongrel probably doesn't have its favorite rubber ball to chew on for six hours every morning as Willie practices in solitude.

Strandemo

From page 36

quetball game progresses you should be drawn to that area like a magnet, and your selection of shots should be geared to enable you to achieve that goal. Too many of us are so impressed with top players skillfully executing kill shots that we forget that many of these same kill shots were the result good center court positioning.

It makes good racquetball sense that you will be more effective from the center court at 20 feet from the front wall, no matter what shot you choose to take, than you will be from 39 feet in deep court.

It is said that football games are won in the "pit," the interior line. Center court is the "pit" of racquetball. It is where the games are won, or lost.

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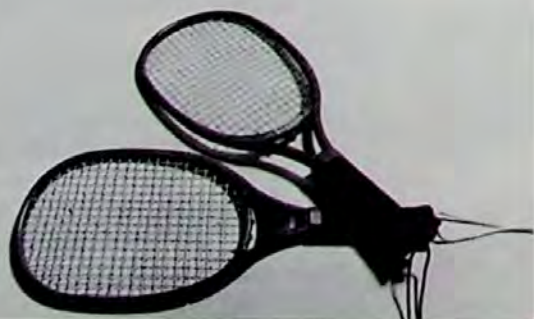
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Garfinkel Triumphs in New York State

By Paul G. Traver

Charlie Garfinkel, of Buffalo, N.Y., won the 2nd Annual New York State Open Singles Racquetball Tournament the first weekend of February. The Gar was not pressured until the semi-finals and finals when he opposed Michael Romano, 4th seed, of Fitchburg, Mass., and Joe "The Snake" Tarantino, of Niagara Falls, N.Y., respectively. Michael had the pressure on right from the beginning as he jumped out into an 8-1 lead; then the Gar took time-out, talked to himself in the corner and turned the game around to win 21-14. Michael was not able to return the favor to the Gar and dropped the second game 21-6. In the other semi-final, Tarantino came on very strong to down 3rd seed Ivan Velan, of Montreal, Canada, 21-20, 21-20. In both games Ivan led 20-16 before Joe turned the tables.

In a quarter-finals match Saturday night Tarantino dominated play as he worked his way through

Chuck Wurzer, Buffalo, who was seeded second, 21-14, 21-15. Other quarter-finals saw Velan stop Sonny Hill, Buffalo, 21-10, 21-13; Romano over John Spencer, Montreal, 21-8, 13-21, 21-9; and the Gar over Bill McLaughlin, also of Buffalo, 21-7, 21-5. Bill, the only grandfather in the Tournament, had a lot of his sting taken out of him by Joe Tyree as the two played close to three hours earlier in the day with Bill winning 16-21, 21-16, 21-18.

The finals were every bit as exciting as could be expected. The spectators were split down the middle as the home-town boy went against the best in the East. After the match, which the Gar won 21-8, 21-11, he commented that he knew he could not take Joe lightly, that the scores were no indication of how hard he had to play and that racquetball could be hearing a lot more from Joe.

In the Consolation Tournament for first round losers, Pat Colombo, of Scarsdale, N.Y., defeated Tony

Palermo, of Fairport, N.Y., 21-11, 13-21, 21-10 for first place.

The tournament itself began with 32 players on Friday evening. Saturday evening there was a beef-dinner banquet, hosted at Howard Johnson's Restaurant, for the players and their wives. Various door prizes were handed out during the course of the evening as everyone relaxed, drank the free beer, Ivan put in a big pitch for his upcoming tournament and the Gar told some new stories.

I would like to extend a very big THANK YOU to each and every player, committee member, referee, score keeper and anyone else who helped make the tournament the success it was. Also thanks go to the wives for their patience and understanding, whether you were in attendance or home holding the fort.

Oh, yes, one last parting comment. The 3rd Annual New York State Open Singles Racquetball Tournament will be held January 31, February 1 and 2, 1975. Hope to see everyone then!



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Racquetball and Domestic Tranquility

by
Sandy Cramer

I remember the first time I ever saw Dick; I knew that he was a hustler. What I soon discovered was that he spent most of his time hustling a small green ball in a handball court. Of course I quickly learned the terms of the game and with a little patience, court position, strategy and technique, I had him "hooked" within a year.

Shortly after we moved to San Antonio, Dick decided that I should learn to play racquetball. "After all," he said, "we should have at least one thing in common."

We found four outside, three-wall courts at a Catholic Parish Retreat. I think I spent most of the summer chasing after the ball. It hid everywhere: in the grass, the bushes, behind rocks, and occasionally it remained lost.

We seldom saw anyone at these courts until one day we were informed that this was a private area and like Adam and Eve we were cast from God's Paradise.

Fortunately we soon moved to Turtle Creek Country Club where they had four beautiful handball courts. Thus, began my actual training which was to change my life. Thank goodness Dick only won when we played. Naturally, I took the losses lightly, crying only after the game was over, and cursing as softly as my anger permitted while playing.

"Dick, will you please stop yelling at me?" I'd scream.

"Turn to the side. Step into the ball. You're not moving!" was his acid reply. Well, it didn't take long to see that our marriage was heading for the rocks. So we stopped the lessons—but that didn't stop me. I worked out at least three times a week and played with any warm body that could hold a racquet. Gradually I improved. At least now I could hit the ball off the back wall (at waist level).

Then one day Dick said, "I think you should enter a tournament."

"I think you're crazy, too." I replied. But nonetheless, we drove to

Houston for my first tournament.

My nerves were so shattered that I shook when I even thought about my competition, but Dick encouraged me at every step of the way.

"You'll have to play in the men's 'B' bracket because only one girl showed up. Are you going to play or not?"

"Play? Against men?" My heart fell to the floor and there was a lump in my throat as big as an orange but I answered, "Why not?"

As you can imagine, I quickly lost the first match. I reconciled and justified as much as possible. After all, it could have been 21-0 instead of the nine or ten points I won each game.

Then came consolation. We went three games. You know I think I might have won if Dick hadn't been giving me instructions from the gallery. But one thing I'm sure of; I wouldn't have lost Dick if I hadn't yelled, "Would you please be quiet and let me play the game!" You could hardly blame him for going home without me.

"So what?" I said to myself. "Isn't adventure the spice of life?"

Suddenly I had second thoughts, "Perhaps I've over-seasoned the

whole affair!" I decided to quit. And did—for two miserable months. Then, a terrific thing happened. Eight girls at the Club began meeting on Monday and Wednesday nights. What luck!

Now we share our blisters, aches, pains and the whirlpool.

We don't push Women's lib but we do encourage as many girls as we can to join us.

Now I want you to know that we are not preparing for the "Nationals" but we do have fun, exercise and compete to win at the same time. We're all trying to improve our game. Why, sometimes I work on my backhand until I begin to see visions of Jim Austin. Actually, the ceiling shot is the toughest for us all—and patience. But we all agree that racquetball is the greatest!

I've even begun to teach my seven-year old Travis. Dick and both believe that he should start his training earlier than I did.

You know, racquetball may not be the answer to household drudgery, babysitting blues or spats with the spouse, but for me it really helps. So why not pick up a racquet just for fun and sprinkle a little spice in your life.

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Portland Inaugurates Racquetball League

Racquetball is the fastest growing sport in the United States and Portland is on the ground floor with an active enthusiastic league of its own. The league consists of teams from various athletic clubs in the Portland area. Originated and organized by Milt Sharp of the Olympic Athletic Club, the teams participating the first night were as follows:

*Oxford Athletic Club, Vancouver, WA
Young Men's Christian Assn.
Downtown Elks
Milt Sharp's Olympia Athletic Club*

Games are played each Thursday night at the host club facility designated by schedule. Each club has seven players on the team with three as alternates. Players must be alternated so each player will play

once each month. With each team playing two games per night, all members of each team have an opportunity to participate.

Some outstanding racquetball players have been uncovered and the competition is getting stiffer each week. Visitors are welcome to watch the matches. Schedule of games and host clubs is enclosed, as well as the standing of the clubs.

Milt Sharp



Klondike Open Scheduled For July 17-20

The fourth annual Klondike Open Racquetball Championships will be held at the University of Alberta, in Edmonton Alberta, Canada July 17-20, 1974.

Events will be Open singles and doubles, Senior singles and doubles, B Singles, C Singles, Ladies Open and Ladies Novice. Entry fee is \$16.00 for one event and \$8.00 for second event. Limited to two events per person.

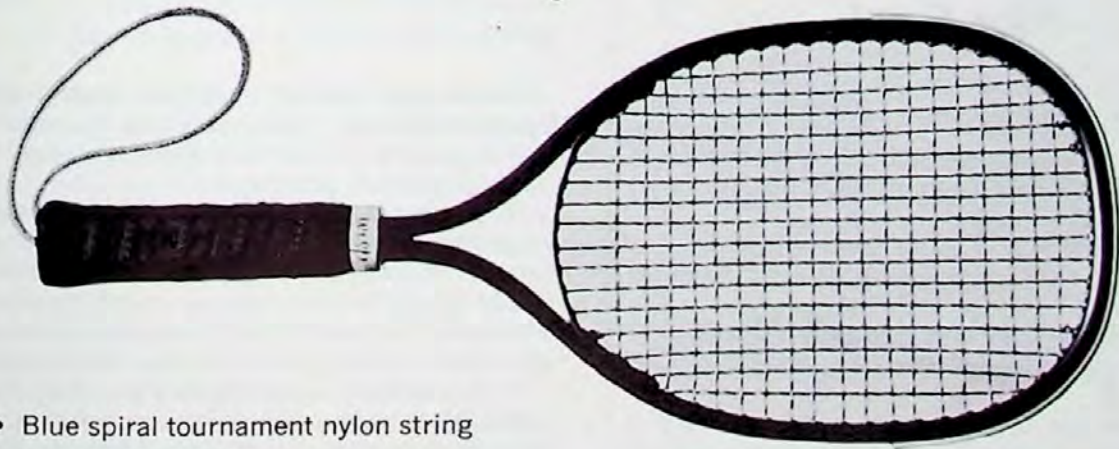
There will be consolation in all events excluding the seniors. The entry deadline is July 5, 1974. Entries must be in the possession of the Klondike tourney by that date.

For further information and entry forms write: Edmonton Racquetball Association, 10325-114 St., #22, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5K 1S2.

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DEAR EDITOR:

....now that I have your attention....

He Likes Olympic

Dear Mr. Kendler:

Your recent issue of the NATIONAL RACQUETBALL magazine had some articles in it that were interesting to many O.A.C. members; however, the article on page 41 about Kelly disturbs me somewhat because Bob Lewis, Bill Flowers and Milt Sharp are listed as representing the M.A.C. All three men represented the Olympic Athletic Club—and as you will notice from the letterhead, Milt Sharp owns the Olympic Athletic Club; and although the M.A.C. is a great club, we like ours better.

Enclosed are the results and a brief article we thought you might like since it was our first Columbia River Open Racquetball Tournament.

Sincerely,
Milton G. Sharp
Portland, Ore.

Nice Guy!

Dear Bob:

I just wanted to express my thanks and let you know you're doing an outstanding job in the promotion of racquetball. We all appreciate it. Keep up the good work.

By the way, that was a great speech you gave in Cleveland. I hope you soon have an opportunity to come to Detroit.

Your magazine in itself has improved the image of racquetball. As a devoted player I find it very exciting and informative.

I enjoyed the first issue so much I shared it with a fellow player and he lost it. Could you please send me an extra copy — I'll appreciate it.

I, like you, will be happy when this fantastic game (sport) gets the proper recognition it truly has deserved for years from the news media. I feel it is coming very soon.

Again, many thanks for your untiring efforts.

ALAN T. MARSHALL
Detroit

Eau Claire Gals

Dear Sir:

The women at the Eau Claire YMCA wish to inform you that they have scheduled the Eau Claire YMCA's First Women's OPEN Racquetball Tournament for October 11, 12, and 13, 1974. Both singles and doubles will be played. Further information can be obtained by contacting Eileen Joslin, Women's Director, Eau Claire YMCA, 700 Graham Avenue, Eau Claire, Wisconsin 54701.

Please include this on your calendar listed in "National Racquetball." Thanking you in advance.

Eileen Joslin
Women's Director

Our Wrists Slapped

Editor:

I have read both of your new issues of **National Racquetball** and in general, enjoy the articles. I must say "in general," because they might appeal to anyone turned on to this great sport.

However, I think my enjoyment was a fluke. From the following facts about your magazine, I conclude that you intend your readers to come not only from a select sports group, but also from a select "gender" group:

1. Only one person on your editorial staff, out of 10, is a woman (and I found no story written by her).

2. Your list of Current Players Rankings includes 12 males; no females are listed, nor is there a corresponding "Women's" ranking. Your Midwest Results list added "Women's Singles" almost as an afterthought.

3. In your Letters-to-the Editor column, you have not published one letter written by a woman (out of nine).

4. And last but not least, your article, "Women: Does Playing Against Men Really Improve Your Game," fully indicates that it was written from a male point of view and reflects the stereotyped thinking of males who feel unnecessarily threatened by females on the court. Because of this fact, the article really wasn't about women

players — your real thesis was that it hurt *men* to play against women.

I write this letter to point out that there are thousands of women, in all areas of the country, interested as I am, in making racquetball a *serious* sport (as I believe you said was your goal too, in your editorial "apology.") I have played for over 2½ years, 3 or 4 times a week, while living in the Midwest and now in upstate New York, and find, everywhere, women who are energetic, proficient, *serious*, and exciting to watch at their game.

Therefore, I ask that in your efforts to turn racquetball into Big Sport, you don't turn it into Big Man's Sport. We have enough exclusionist sports in this country already.

P.S. Enclosed is my check for subscription.

BETSY KLAMEKI
Potsdam, NY

St. Louis J.C.C.A.

Dear Chuck:

Enclosed please find the results of our 1974 House Racquetball Tournament.

The 1974 JCCA House Racquetball Tournament comes to a successful end. Steve Serot, the nation's number two racquetball player, won the championship over Ken Wong in the Men's A Singles 21-15, 21-10 while Chris Ackerman, a young college student, comes to the top of the Women's Division beating Goldie Hogan 21-2, 21-10.

In other divisions: Men's Novice Singles, Dick Marshall beat Bruce Samuels 21-20, 21-19. Men's B-1 Singles, Marty Hogan beat Scott Guberman 21-12, 16-21, 21-13. Men's B-2 Singles, Steve Cohen triumphed over Earl Kessler 21-12, 21-7. Men's Masters Singles saw Joe Zelson beating Arthur Albert 21-14, 21-12. In the Golden Masters Singles Sam Goldman, JCCA Racquetball Chairman, lost out 31-17 to Herman Beitch.

In the Women's B Singles young Nancy Shayer defeated Marsha Funk 21-16, 21-11, while in the Women's Novice Division Sandy Brown defeated Cheryl Berliner 21-9, 21-2.

Following Singles we moved into our Doubles Tournament which saw Rick Grosz and Jim Myers defeat Bruce Samuels and Mark Raisher 21-19, 6-21, 21-6. Chuck Eichler, who finished third in the Men's B Singles, teamed with Paul Katcher for an upset victory over Bob "Bonzo" Weinstein and his partner Frank Miskit 21-18, 11-21, 21-19. In the Men's A Division eighth ranked Ken Wong and recently crowned Junior National Champion Jerry Zuckerman defeated Steve Serot and Masters Champion Joe Zelson 21-12 and 21-15. In the Men's Masters Doubles Joe Zelson picked the right partner Fred Kreis to defeat Len Marks and Marlowe Phillips 21-5, 21-5. In the Golden Masters Doubles Dick Silversstein and Jack Sofian teamed to beat Larry Ginsberg and Gus Goesalow.

All in all approximately 250 people, participating in all categories, enjoyed the 1974 JCCA House Tournament.

BRUCE HENDIN, Director
Health and Physical Education

Yes, Sir!

Dear Bob:

Thank you for your generous letter. All of us at the Park District are happy to have met the requirements of your participants, associates, and friends.

More important, I'm pleased that this event gave us a good reason to again communicate best wishes and to congratulate you on the tremendously dedicated leadership you have consistently provided this fine organization.

My best to you and your bride.

PAT O'MALLEY
President
Chicago Park District

We Had Fun

Hi Mr. Kendler:

Thank you very much for inviting Mardi and myself to your Saturday night dinner at the Chicago tournament. We enjoyed it very much and look forward to another visit to Chicago.

I'd also like to say thanks for including me in your racquetball program this past year. I feel very fortunate and hope I can be in it again next year.

Have a good day and a pleasant summer.

Steve Strandemo
Minneapolis

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• Our insert is now appearing in Sweet's 1974 Catalog. If you wish more complete information on the "62-P" Panel Court, send for our individual brochure with more facts and figures.



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Let us all give thanks to the glorious accomplishments in racquetball and rejoice in its golden future. Please join with us on this exciting and happy occasion