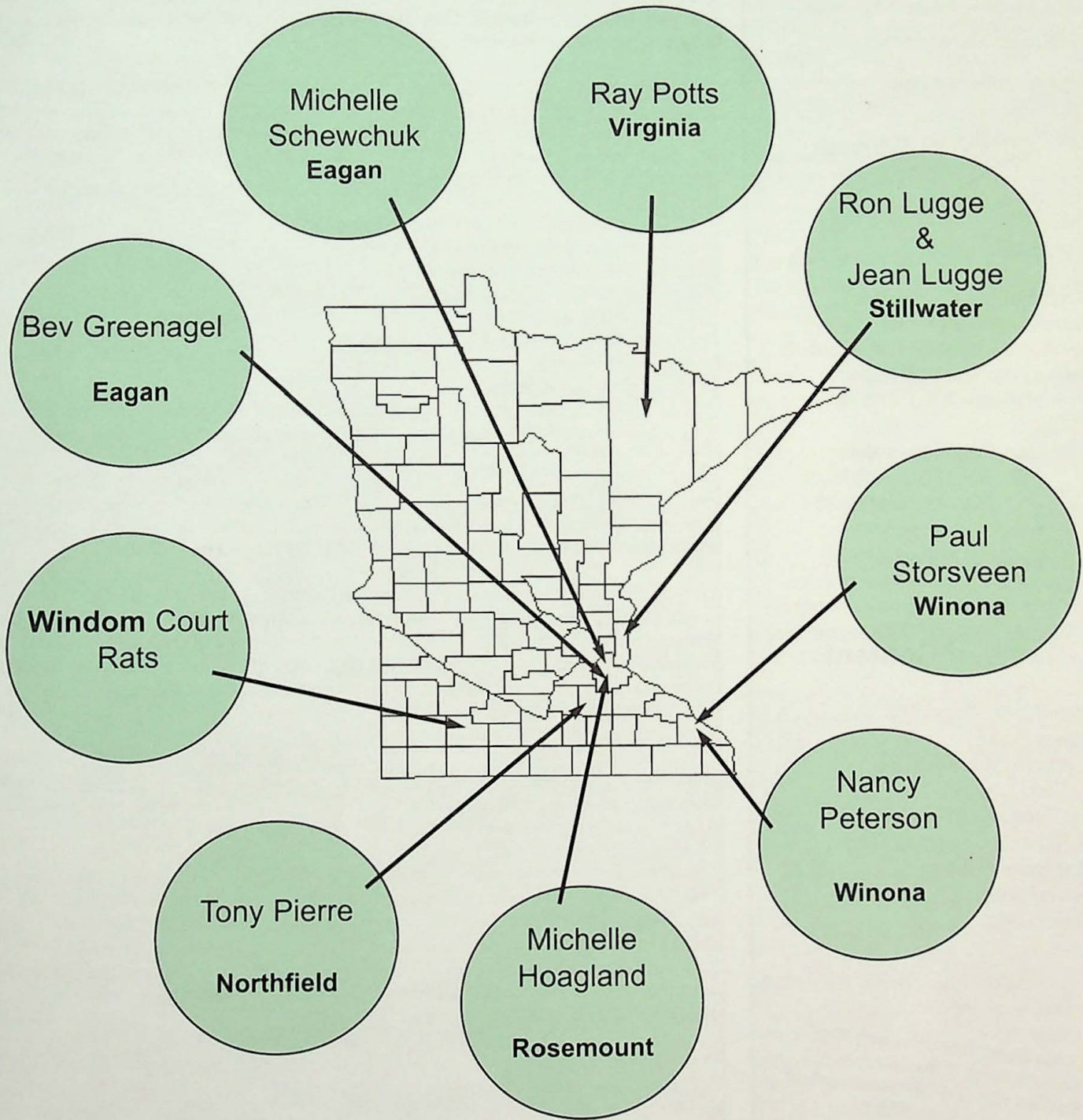


MINNESOTA RACQUETBALL

Season's Off and Running!

SPECIAL ISSUE: PLAYER PROFILE



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Membership Count: 689 (+4)*

* Does not include White Bear, St. Cloud and Winona Tournament

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**Questions concerning the
Sanctioned Tournament
Series should be directed to
612-920-6652**

Board Forum

Dear Members:

The last month has been a whirlwind for me and the other members of the Board of Directors of the Minnesota Racquetball Association. On September 22 I resigned from the MSRA Board of Directors. On September 24, 1998 I incorporated the MRA and contacted the USRA about national affiliation. By letter dated September 25, 1998 the USRA officially recognized the MRA as the USRA affiliate in Minnesota and as the sole governing body for racquetball in the State.

In addition to myself, Nancy Walstrom Aadalen, Gary Hoagland, Don Jewell, Patty Kaiser, and Mike Locker are your present board members. These individuals were selected by me to serve on the initial board of the MRA. However, none of them, with the exception of myself, were involved with the planning or inception of the MRA. Future boards will be elected by the members of the organization. (I would like to add that there were many talented individuals to choose from and it was tough to pick just six members, but by being smaller this allows us the flexibility to respond more quickly to your needs and concerns.)

I would like to take this opportunity to personally welcome each of you to the Minnesota Racquetball Association. You should look forward to many new and exciting programs and the opportunity to participate in the development of racquetball in Minnesota. Your volunteer efforts to revitalize Minnesota racquetball will be greatly appreciated. The following is a list of a few such opportunities:

- * development of High School programs
- * clinics for all ages and skill levels
- * club affiliate programs
- * traveling leagues
- * zone/area liaisons
- * annual meetings
- * fund raising
- * state championships
- * national championships (Minnesota is being considered to host the upcoming Intercollegiate Championship in April 1999 and National Doubles in 1999).

Many members pitched-in to help with State Doubles. Your volunteer efforts were greatly appreciated. Special thanks goes to Millard Neymark (and crew), Dennis Ring, Erin Peters, Fran Ragsdale, and Kelly Kirk for all their help in getting State Doubles off the ground. I trust each of you will enjoy the experience again this year.

We anticipate some changes in future State Championships. One significant change will come at State Singles in April. The first annual meeting of the MRA will be held as required by law and the Bylaws. Please come and participate. The MRA is a member organization. Many important reports will be presented, as well as open discussions regarding future programs for the growth of racquetball. Your participation is welcomed and encouraged.

This is not the MSRA revisited. This is a new and distinct entity with real goals and real effort towards those goals. This is an organization of the members that will have annual meetings, board meetings, summaries of meetings in the Newsletter, volunteer programs and membership participation in issues affecting the organization.

The MRA is intended to be an organization which looks to the future of racquetball. The USRA offers many services to each of the members and the programs of the organization as a whole. The MRA intends to utilize those services beneficial to our members such that the time and resources of the organization can be directed to promote the growth of our sport in Minnesota. The MRA is an organization committed to its members and actively seeking their involvement in the planning and implementation of programs and events.

Thank you for your support. If you have any questions please ask.

Sincerely,
Mark A. Paige
MRA President

Keeping the Courts Full

Playing racquetball in a small community does have some advantages: no matter where in town you are, you're only 3 minutes from the courts, and if you forget something at home you can, really, run home and get it!

But finding ways to bring the players to the courts requires creativity, flexibility, and promotion. Aside from the usual singles and doubles leagues, how does a small town keep their two courts active? Here are some Windom approved ideas:

1. CHURCH LEAGUE – Just like the title implies, this league had players representing a variety of local churches. We played Sunday afternoons, with teams divided into skill levels (including youth divisions). Games of "In-Out" cutthroat were played so 6 players, instead of just 4, could use the two courts each hour. Games were played to 15 and one of the

objectives was to fit 3 games within an hour time limit. A large score card was posted so after each player completed a game, the player would record the score by their name (naturally this was under their church's name). Scoring on the card was done as one point for each game won, and one point to the person who won the most games in that hour. The scores were tabulated weekly and given to the local paper to publish in their sports section. Free press!

2. GROUP LEAGUES – Having only two courts to work with can pose a challenge when attempting to accommodate a variety of activities – and at the same time create more revenue. The group league puts 5 to 8 players, of the same skill, on the two courts. Players were allowed to rotate between the courts, playing their choice of games and players. We also found this manner of play kept the courts active; even if several of the players scheduled for that hour

were unable to attend, the remaining players kept the courts active.

3. AFTER SCHOOL LEAGUE – We found that there was a block of unused time from 3:30 to 5 pm on weekdays, so we used a youth after school league to fill this void. Older elementary and junior high players, put into skill groups, were scheduled to play singles or cutthroat. As in the church league, points were compiled and the top point winner received an award.

4. SOCIAL DOUBLES – In an attempt to intermingle different skill levels, Saturday morning times were reserved for social doubles. A higher skilled player was paired with a lower skilled player, with teams rotating between the courts. Partners changed weekly. It was a popular league, but naturally worked best with skilled players who allowed their partners to be an equal part of the game, thereby assisting them in the development of their skills.

5. CHALLENGE LADDER – I would guess you can find many variations of the ladder. In Windom, anyone interested can easily participate. Players names are hung on a "ladder" (a wooden board with plaques containing the players names). You could challenge the person above you to a match. If you won the match your name moved up the ladder. A win moved you up a slot, a loss dropped you down a slot. Players scheduled their own playing times.

Promoting leagues is a topic for a future article, but here are a couple of ideas and outlets we have used to spread the word about leagues: welcome wagon, community education catalog, fliers given out through the school system, church bulletins and newsletters, Chamber of Commerce, local cable TV roll-up, and of course, print and radio ads. Locally, news articles can be submitted via the sports section, which provides free press. Whatever the opportunity, seize the moment. Keep the courts full!

Submitted by: Page Kern

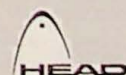
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Player Profiles:

This is a special issue dedicated to skill players. It's not about being the very best, it's about those who come out time after time and support either racquetball in their immediate area or make the commitment to support the sanctioned tournament series.

If this issue is well received, we would like to do it again near the end of 1999. If you have a player you would like profiled in the future, take the time to follow the format and write down just a few paragraphs about the player. Chances are good your player of choice will be featured in 1999.

There were a good number of players worthy of a player profile. Here are just a few ...



Photo by Erin Peters

Joe Luby at Rochester nails another one.

Michelle Schewchuk

Level: B

Club: Southview Athletic Club, West
St. Paul

Racquet: ProKennex 15g Diamond
Reach

Favorite Shot: Right Corner Pinch

Favorite Tournament: State Singles

Michelle's leisure activities may be the "softer" sports of tennis, sand volleyball, and bowling, but don't be misled - she will be a strong competitor in the women's B division this year! Part of her success will be attributed to practicing two to three times per week, but the other part is the immeasurable competitive attitude. Michelle

proclaims, "Racquetball is the type of game where you can step on the court and play as competitive as you want, but the moment you walk off the court, your friendship with your opponent still remains in great

form - racquetball is a great competitive outlet."

Unafraid of high goals, Michelle sees the Women's Open as a level she can reach within three years. So look for Michelle to be hitting the MRA sanctioned tournament series whenever she can - and, win or lose, she would enjoy having the rest of the women's B players try to keep pace with her!

Submitted by: Mike Locker

Photo by Gary Hoagland



Ron and Jean Lugge

Level: Ron -- A, Jean -- A

Club: River Valley Athletic, Stillwater

Racquet: ProKennex 15g (his) and
ProKennex 5g (hers)

Favorite Shot: The Lugge Shot

Ron and Jean Lugge have enjoyed the game of racquetball since 1976 when, as fate would have it, a Spaulding Club was built within three doors of their home in Springfield, Missouri. Ron and Jean have often commented that if the building had become a bowling alley, they probably would have become bowling enthusiasts. Despite job transfers, thanks to the railroad industry, Ron and Jean have

lived close to a club.

Eventually, twelve years ago, Ron and Jean discovered (job transfer, again) Stillwater, Minnesota and joined the River Valley Athletic Club. And ever since then the couple has organized monthly "mixers" for the club. Thanks to Ron and Jean's enthusiasm, and the success of the mixers, they have recruited a good number of novices who eventually went onward and upward into league play.

But what they are perhaps best known and loved for is the "Lugge Shot." If you have played Ron or Jean, you won't go too many rallies without witnessing a Z ceiling shot from

mid-court. And, chances are, the very first time you saw it – you missed it.

At your next tournament, look for Ron to be wearing a T-shirt with the image of man with a ball cap and wearing glasses, leaning back with hands behind his head, and displaying a large grin. That's Ron, and the T-shirts were distributed when River Valley held a "Ron Lugge Tournament."

Ron is now retired from the railroad and has volunteered at the club to help youth get started in the game. As the Lugges always say, "We love the game!"

Submitted by: Patty Kaiser

Paul Storsveen

Level: A

Club: Winona YMCA

Racquet: Wilson T22

Favorite Shot: High Z

Favorite Tournament: Winona Rollout,
Winona Sugar Loaf

Paul's first tournament in men's A was last winter at the Rochester Athletic Pro-Am where he placed second. And with the exception of Regionals, Paul has entered in men's A ever since. This year, at Winona's River Rollout he took his first men's A championship by defeating Jim Baran. Although well known for preferring to choose the pinch over an alley shot, his peers will soon get to know him by his high Z shot during rally play.

Thanks in part to Dave Heise, this shot should be perfected by State!

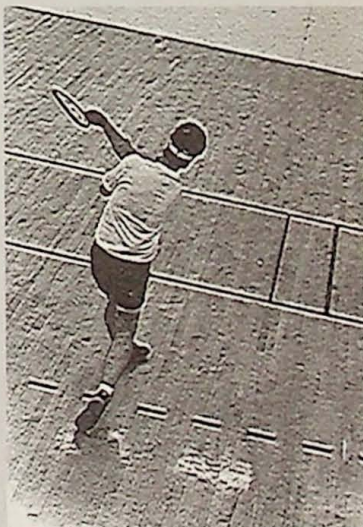


Photo by Erin Peters

Paul is a strong supporter of Winona racquetball and demonstrates this by playing in not one, but both sanctioned tournaments held in Winona. (In addition, he introduces

youth to the sport and encourages others to sign up for leagues.) Tournaments that allow time and space to socialize are among Paul's favorites, these include: the Winona tournaments which hold a pizza get-together at Sammy's Pizza and the Rochester Pro-Am where the backwall glass courts allow spectators to sit back and watch, as well as hold a conversations.

Look for Paul, as well as his doubles partner Joe Luby, to participate in a few metro tournaments as well!

Submitted by: the Editors

Tony Pierre

Level: A

Club: Olympus Athletic Club,
Northfield

Racquet: K-dae ICBM

Favorite Shot: Backhand Splat

Favorite Tournament: ProKennex
Super Sixes at Southview

How many individuals do you know that spend hard-earned money to attend the 1997 Memphis Open but do not play in it themselves? Meet Tony Pierre, one of the more serious students of the game. He may tell you he practices 2-3 times a week, but rumor has it he is on the courts every day.

In three short years, Tony has climbed from a mediocre B

player, to a player who just may start breaking away from the A pack near the end of 1999. As evidenced by Greg Grausnick and Terry Kisling finishing one, two, in the State Championships, the road through men's A is a tough one.

Future racquetball goal? Not afraid to place his bet, Tony would like to test the cold waters of the IRT. It won't happen in 1999, but given Tony's astute observations of the game, the millennium just may be the time to start participating in high profile events. Meanwhile, look for Pierre to compete at many of the MRA events this season.

Submitted by: the Editors



Kyle Snedrud

1000 South Hwy. 3 • P.O. Box 737
Northfield, MN 55057
(507) 645-8007

Crotch Shot:

A drive serve that hits the crotch of the backwall and floor is a good serve.

- A. True
- B. False

A hard Z serve which hits the crotch of the backwall and floor is good serve.

- A. True
- B. False

Answers on page 15.

Nancy Peterson

Level: C

Club: Winona YMCA

Racquet: HEAD 175G

Favorite Shot: High Z Lob Serve

Favorite tournament: Winona River
Rollout

Nancy Peterson has been a stalwart supporter of women's racquetball in Winona. Without her, and Mary Clark, Winona might very well be without representation in the skill levels of B, C, and D not only in the Winona sanctioned tournaments, but at the State level as well. Responsible for introducing many women to the sport, both Nancy and Mary have been behind the scene volunteers.

This year Nancy attempted to

defend her C crown at the Winona River Rollout. Keeping one's championship is never easy and several factors worked against her. First, as an avid golfer, Nancy came into the tournament more than a bit rusty. So rusty, that when asked what her favorite shot is, her reply was, "One which makes it to the front wall." Then, wouldn't you know it, she came down with a cold just prior to the tournament. So although the Rollout is normally her favorite tournament, it wasn't this year!

When the spring of 1999 rolls around, Winona women will once again be strong in the ranks as Nancy will compete in the C and the 45+B.

Submitted by: the Editors

Ray Potts

Level: 40+ B

Club: Supreme Court in Virginia

Racquet: Spalding Enforcer

Favorite Shot: Overhead

Favorite Tournament: Mathisen
Tire

Ray puts in his time on the courts and can usually be found at the Supreme Court three to four times per week. A steadfast league supporter, Ray also plays in all of Virginia's tournaments. As evident by his current state ranking, he travels to other tournaments in the area and has played in the State tournament as well.

Submitted by: Val Weinert

Michelle Hoagland

Tournament Level: B
Club: Northwest Racquet Club - Burnsville
Racquet: Right-handed with a Pro Kennex Ti Diamond 20g Reach
Favorite Shot - Forehand Cross Court Pinch
Favorite Tournament: Rochester Pro-Am

Last year's finale was a strong one for Michelle as she captured a State Championship in the C and then proceeded to take a third in the 25+B.

Searching to improve her game through competition,

Michelle plans on playing in a number of tournaments this year including: the US Open held in Memphis, Minnesota State Doubles with Fran Ragsdale, White Bear's Christmas Crunch, Rochester Pro Am, Decathlon Pro Am, and State Singles.

Michelle is a dedicated player who practices by playing three days per week with her father-in-law, Jerry Hoagland, and her brother-in-law Tim Olund.



Submitted by:
Gary Hoagland

Bev Greenagel

Tournament Level: "50+" & A
Club: Northwest Racquet Club - Burnsville
Racquet: Ektelon Power Ring Ultra Long Body
Favorite Shot - Overhead Kill
Favorite Tournament: State Doubles

Bev plans on playing in State Doubles, State Singles, and the Decathlon.

Taking a loss to a tough Mary Willerscheidt, Bev took 2nd in 50+ in the 1998 State Singles. Bev is known to be a competitor and keeps in tournament shape by playing singles and doubles at the Northwest Clubs.

Submitted by: Gary Hoagland

Opposing View Points from the Food Trough

Chow - It better not be Purina!

The majority of tournament players have learned to put up with a lot over the years: late starting times; delayed matches; lack of air conditioning; slippery courts; no towels; and cold showers. But what players can't be expected to endure is poor food or no food at a tournament!

What do we as players require from a tournament?

For starters, water. And lots of it! Any court hidden in a deep corridor that doesn't have easy access to a water fountain, should at least have a water jug - with cups please. Better yet, chilled sports drink is really well received.

If the club has kitchen facilities readily available, it should not be out of line for players to expect pasta meals, pizza, or vegetarian stew.

And don't forget us early birds or night owls! Just because we are either the first players on or the last players of the evening, doesn't mean we should be deprived of carbohydrates. Whatever the time of day, for the energy needs of the player, you really can't go wrong with basic, simple carbohydrates accented by protein and some fat. We can't get enough rolls or bagels with meats, cheeses, toppers and spreads (cream cheese, mustard, jelly, etc.). Keep on hand lots of cut veggies and fruit which can be eaten out of hand: celery, cherry tomatoes, grapes, bananas, orange sections, pickles, olives, etc. A balanced snack table should also include the sweet and salty: pretzels, snack mixes, raisins, GORP, and plain cookies such as ginger snaps. These are small, but important things which keep players returning to your tournament!

Submitted by: Mary Clark

A Little Bit of Courtesy Would Go A Long Way

Any tournament director pressed to make a profit is faced with the daunting aspect of expecting to provide a player with a souvenir, a possible trophy, and food. Food for Friday night is easy. Feeding a tournament group for the entire weekend is much more difficult. Compare this to road racing where the entrant receives a t-shirt and two bananas! (Not to mention the average road race starts and finishes within an hour.)

First, one turns to the sponsors. If the director is fortunate, the sponsors are generous with bottled water and / or sports drink. Powdered sports drink is the easiest on the budget, but there is this SMALL problem with players being able to drink without spilling. Carpet or tile, the sticky beverage gets all over the place. If you wish to have sports drink, learn to hit your mouth and throw your used container in the waste basket.

After sponsors, a tournament director may be able to rely on local players to furnish the snack table. Usually this works well, but the biggest drawback continues to be unsupervised children who inadvertently trash the table. Who do these children belong to? Usually tournament players. As to adults who linger and eat near the table, pitching your uneaten portions into the proper waste receptacle would do much to encourage tournament directors to keep a good spread available.

So next time you're at a tournament where beverage and food is included, keep your surroundings neat and clean! It makes a difference as to what you are fed next year!

Submitted by: Kelly Kirk



The Windom Court Rats

Jerry Berndt

Level: C
Racquet: Ektelon Power Ring
Favorite Shot: Touch Tip

Page Kern

Level: Open
Racquet: Head 175 Titanium
Favorite Shot: Wallpaper Lob Serve to left side

Kevin Stevens

Level: C
Racquet: Ektelon - something on sale for \$50
Favorite Shot: Reverse Pinch

Mark Stevens

Level: B
Racquet: Ektelon Toron
Favorite Shot: Power Splat

George Welk

Level: C
Racquet: Ektelon Catalyst
Favorite Shot: Anything which works
Club: All 5 players claim Windom as home

Favorite Tournament: Unanimous, the Windom one, of course!

Racquetball provides such a variety of opportunities: exercise (both physically and mentally), travel, fellowship, and food. But we believe the greatest of these opportunities are the friendships that we've created. Special people to us, who share a common interest, enjoy each others company, and look forward to the hours spent together.

"Our Group" consists of Mark Stevens, Kevin Stevens, George Welk, Jerry Berndt and Page Kern. A group of different personalities, skills, occupations, and sexes; but a group which shares the common bond of racquetball.

To provide a group profile you would see that we have the right handers in majority (Page is a lefty), racquet

selection varies between Head and Ektelon, and ball choice includes Penn and Ektelon (actually it is the ball that we pull from our bag from the last tournament).

If asked why we play, the most common answer will include the exercise. But the most important answer would develop around the relationship we have with each other; to talk about our kids, what we did this last weekend, what special things happened this week.

Our biggest playing challenge is to actually make the ball do, what our minds are trying to make our bodies do, whether it is a pinch, splat, ceiling ball or pass. We long for the psychocybernetics to finally pay off! (Some of us have a little extra trouble with this because of the giggling we do. Not laughing at anyone, but with them.)

Tournaments played will vary with the different individuals. We look forward to the local tournaments, where the friendly faces we've grown to know continue to show up: Worthington YMCA, Okoboji, and Windom's Spring tournament. You will see some of us at State Doubles, but travel does take its toll on us.

Our preferred mode of play is doubles, probably because we are old people (ages run from 38 - 52), and our backhands need help. We have enjoyed many games of cutthroat also.

Our group is probably like your group, as different as it is similar. But in the end, no matter what the racquet or ball, we play because we enjoy the game, and because we enjoy each other's company.

Submitted by:
Page Kern



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Crotch Shot:

Player A has just served three screaming drive serves into the left corner for three virtually uncontested points. Now player A hits a serve which comes close to his body and the referee yells, "Screen!" To the referee's surprise the receiver protests and claims he wished to take the ball off the back wall. The receiver points out that the server had "blown the serve" and the referee had robbed him of an opportunity to return serve.

The referee responds by opening the rulebook and reading aloud, "A served ball that first hits the front wall and on the rebound passes so closely to the server, or server's partner in doubles, that it prevents the receiver from having a clear view of the ball."

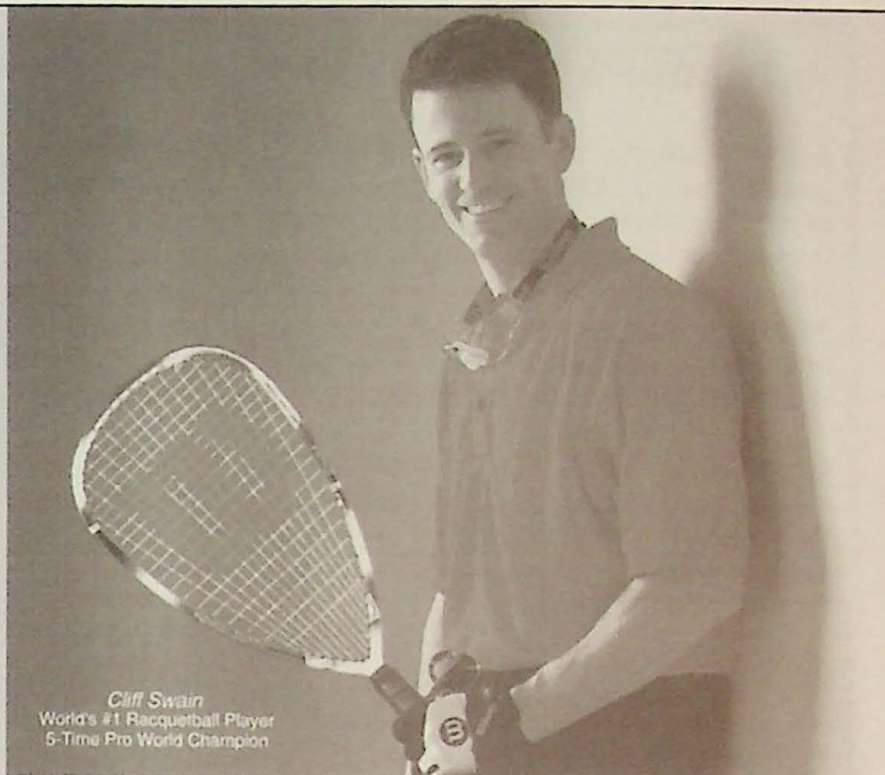
The referee's application of the rule is correct and the receiver should stop whining.

- A. True
- B. False

The answer is on page 15.

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**(UNLESS, OF COURSE,
YOUR LIFE IS RACQUETBALL).**



**THE T22 TITANIUM WITH POWER HOLES.
(CHANGE IS GOOD).**



Do Racquetball Pros Tweak? by Crawford Lindsey

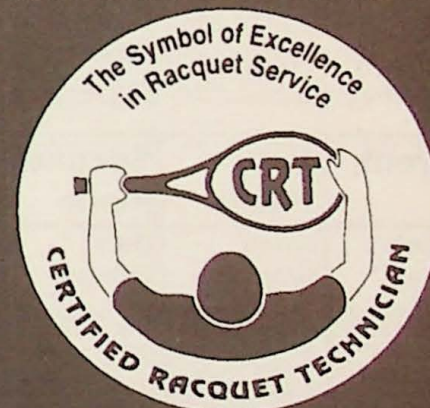
Tennis pros are famous for their racquet quirks. Everyone knows that a pro's racquet is probably not anything like the consumer version. It could have its own customized lay-up, and it certainly will differ in weight, balance, and swingweight. And even if it begins as a stock racquet, it is usually customized beyond recognition with lead tape, handle building, and tension alterations. Each racquet in a tennis player's bag matches every other one in every way. And most of the time, the "recreational" racquets built for the masses with power, size, length, etc., never make their way into a pro's bag.

Not so for racquetball pros. Racquetball racquets are made with one thing in mind - power. There are no tradeoffs. Every racquet is made to maximize power, and if does, it is adopted. A tennis pro does not need more power and is looking for control. A racquetball pro will jump on any advantage for power. That's why you won't see lead tape all over a pro's racquet. They do fiddle with tension, however. Even their backup racquets are just "close enough" matches of each other.

In racquetball, the innovations are for the pros. In tennis, the innovations are for the masses. It's just the nature of the sports.

"Stringer's Assistant" October 1998

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A Tribute to One of Our Own

Early this fall, the racquetball players of Rochester, Minnesota lost a very talented player, sportsman, and friend in the passing away of Mario Capezzuto. Talented in that he could play with the best; sportsman in that win or lose, Mario's demeanor remained both humble in victory and noble in defeat, and friend, because anyone who ever experienced the pleasure of making his acquaintance couldn't help but be struck by the natural warmth and friendly spirit he so willingly shared. I believe that the warmth and sincerity of Mario's spirit will have a long lasting effect on those of us who Mario touched, and racquetball today in Rochester is a better game because of Mario. Although we shall miss him, his presence will be felt in each and every match or tournament where love of the game and true sportsmanship is present. Just like his smile, Mario's handshake was always genuine.

Sincerely and respectfully, just one of Mario's many friends,

Bob Beeman

Pete Peterson Classic X Racquetball Tournament

September 11-12, 1998

"Tournament season already? Despite the beach-like weather, we had a decent turnout for the 10th Annual Pete Peterson Classic. Although entrant numbers were slightly down from last year, enthusiasm for the new racquetball season seemed as high as ever! For those of you who weren't there, you missed the upset match of the season between Hart Johnson and Gary Peterson. Hart's diving was a little rusty due to an obvious idle summer. (Hart wasn't able to play 2 man volleyball this summer.) It didn't take long for the well preserved veteran (Gary) to use this to his advantage. Can you spell pass shot? Gary advanced to the Men's Open final where age and treachery could not prevail over Aaron Granberg's youth and skill. After the tournament (behind closed doors) Hart confessed to me that he threw his match with Gary saying he has too much respect for his elders and that everyone needs a little confidence builder once in awhile. Now you know the rest of the story. Anyway, thanks to all who participated and we look forward to seeing you at the Superstars Tournament December 4th-6th." Bruce Moore, Tournament Director

Event	First Place	Second Place	Third / Semi	Fourth / Semi	Quarter	Quarter	Quarter	Quarter	Cons
Men's Open	Aaron Granberg	Gary Peterson	Hart Johnson	Scott Stevens	David Haines	David Lowe	Paul Giancola	Rory Peltier	Larry Spiczka
Women's Open	Kelly Kirk	Mary Visser	Cindy Tilbury	Terri Straka	Kim Wapola	Kerry Stellmach			Terri Straka
Men's A	Josh Lee	David Tanner	Travis Gray	Dave Buchanan	Terri Straka	Mike Cutter	Art Guetter	Mark Prince	Jon Tonn
Women's A	Karen Thompson	Keri Herber	Carrie Anderson						
Men's B	Matt Everding	Justin Anderson	Dave Dentz	Steve Skinner	Kevin Bakewell	Ed Olszewski	Ita Effiom	Kevin Young	John Voeller
Juniors	Darrin Prince	Casey Anderson	Brent Schulenberg	Matt Everding	Jake Bredenbeck	Brady Prince	Mario Giancola		Jake Bredenbeck
M Dbls Open	Hart Johnson / Gary Peterson	Paul Giancola / Larry Spiczka	Mo Fraenkel / Doug Rau	Aaron Granberg / Travis Gray	Bill Bredenbeck / David Haines	David Tanner / Josh Lee			Aaron Granberg / Travis Gray
W Dbls Open	Kelly Kirk / Mary Visser	Kim Wapola / Kerry Stellmach	Carol Pederson / Nancy Yeelitt	Cindy Tilbury / Karen Bredenbeck	Mary Wiczek / Ann Staton	Rosie Prince / Carrie Anderson			Carol Pederson / Nancy Yeelitt
M Dbls A	Casey Anderson / Darrin Prince	Tom Dominise / Tim Zigmund	Pat Burke / James Fields	Bob Flanders / Max Fallek	Ed Olszewski / Mike Olszewski	Dave Dentz / Al Finlayson	Bill Eiden / Pete Peterson		Bill Eiden / Pete Peterson

Jesse James Shootout Racquetball Tournament

September 18 -19, 1998

"In a move which captivated the crowd (and defied conventional wisdom) Kyle Snersrud picked up Mike Locker as a doubles partner and moved on to win the Men's A Doubles draw of the Jesse James Shootout held at Olympus Athletic Club in Northfield. Snersrud / Locker beat the team of Aaron Granberg and Mary Harray in the semi's and Bruce Vosejka and Mark Mueller-Dahl in the finals.

"In the Women's Open draw Kelly Kirk defeated first Mary Visser and then Mary Harray to win the Open. Mary Harray was forced to withdraw due to an injury during her match with Visser.

"In the Men's A final Travis Gray from the University of Minnesota Racquetball Team won a draw loaded for bear, grip it and rip it field.

"Possibly the most entertaining matches all weekend involved the 65 year old geriatric wonder Dale Snersrud getting chased around the court by all the 20 something year old kids in the B singles draw. Dale advanced to the final where he at last raised the white flag and said, "No Mas," conceding the championship to Gary Hoagland. Most people thought Dale should play because he's not getting any younger, but Dale's thought was he wouldn't get any older if he withdrew." - Kyle Snersrud, Tournament Director

Event	First Place	Second Place	Third / Semi	Fourth / Semi	Quarter	Quarter	Quarter	Quarter	Cons
Women's Open	Kelly Kirk	Mary Visser	Mary Harray						
Men's A	Travis Gray	David Buchanan	Joe Luby	Pete Haugen	Humberto Perez	Paul Storsveen	Kyle Snersrud	Bruce Vosejka	Tony Pierre
Men's B	Gary Hoagland	Dale Snersrud	Dennis O'Keefe	Brant Deppa	Bill Wissman	Kevin Roles	Dave Taylor	Matt Anderson	Scott Suess
Women's B	Marge Hanson	Fran Ragsdale	Mary Boyum	Penny Hietala	Sue Gilbertson				
Men's C	Derek Chambers	Troy Will	Chris Madson	Elliot Snersrud	Tracy Clossen	Cliff Rahman	Todd Kamish	Bill Breckenridge	Bill Breckenridge
M Dbls A	Kyle Snersrud / Mike Locker	Bruce Vosejka / Mark Mueller - Dahl	Loren Snersrud / Bill Welch	Mary Harray / Aaron Granberg	Mark Stowers / Bill Wissman	Tony Pierre / Noel Johnson	Joe Luby / Paul Storsveen	Tim Zigmund / Gary Hoagland	Dave Buchanan / Mark Pelletier
M Dbls B	Dale Snersrud / Griff Wigley	Dave Taylor / Dave Akin	Humerto Perez / Sam Poole	Matt Anderson / Scott Suess	Brant Deppa / Steve Flak	Dennis O'Keefe / Kevin Roles			
M Dbls C	Todd Kamish / Tracy Clossen	Derek Chambers / Bill Breckenridge	Cliff Rahman / Troy Will	Elliot Snersrud / Chris Madson					

Needed:

The MRA is initiating a program to establish racquetball in schools across the State. Equipment is needed for this program. If you have a racquet or eyeguards available to donate to such a program, please contact the MRA. (612-920-6652)

Note:

Angie Roby and Karen Bredenbeck have worked very hard to establish programs in Brainerd and White Bear Lake Schools, respectively. Brainerd has started a racquetball program as part of their physical education curriculum. Dennis Ring was instrumental in locating 40 racquets and 30 pair of eyeguards. (10 additional pairs are still needed.) Please be sure to express your appreciation to them!

4th Annual Winona YMCA River Rollout

October 23-25, 1998

"Thanks to Rochester players, the Hoaglands, and Dale Snesrud bringing a crew from Northfield (Craig Rhyner was a strong addition to the Men's A) there was a strong showing from out of town. As usual, Coon Rapids was represented and we even had an individual from Wausau, Wisconsin who made the trek as well. And yes, we really did have not one, but two Rick Drurys' in the Men's B.

In the mens' divisions, Paul Giancola redeemed himself after last year's first round loss by virtually walking away with first in Men's Open. Of course, that doesn't give much credit to Bob Beeman who played some of the best tournament racquetball I've ever seen him play. Bob played tough to get through Larry Spiczka and Luis Juncos to make his first Men's Open final in the Rollout. This year we also added a 40+ for the money, and managed to have five players in Men's D division (including two, Jeremy Grefe and Tim Olund, who had never previously entered in a tournament).

Although small, Winona had all the women's divisions from Open to Novice. We took a page out of Mary Schulenberg's book at White Bear and combined some divisions for the first round with losers going into one division while winners went to another. Several new faces showed up including Anne Marsh, a strong C player, and a Women's A doubles team from LaCrosse -- Pam Ryan and Julie Tredinnick. Instead of trophies, we opted to give players more bang for their buck in the skill divisions with merchandise such as RAD eyewear and Python grips from Network Marketing. Competition this early in the season wasn't stellar, but it was intense." -- Kelly Kirk, Tournament Director

Event	First Place	Second Place	Third / Semi	Fourth / Semi	Quarter	Quarter	Quarter	Quarter	Cons
Men's Open	Paul Giancola	Bob Beeman	Luis Juncos	Bill Ng	Larry Spiczka	Mark McCoy			Mark McCoy
Women's Open	Mary Visser	Kerry Stellmach	Kim Wapola						
Men's A	Paul Storsveen	Jim Baran	Craig Rhyner	Greg Leibfried	Dave McKee	Joe Luby	Bill Wissman		Dave McKee
Women's A	Gail Evenson	Karen Thompson	Sue Mundahl						
Men's B	Dave McKee	Ed Marino	Dale Snesrud	Bill Wissman	Gary Hoagland	Rick Drury - MN	Rick Drury - WI	Brant Deppa	Gary Hoagland
Women's B	Michelle Hoagland	Fran Ragsdale	Sharon Schmidt						
Men's C									
Women's C	Anne Marsh	Carrie Reuter	Kristi Deppa	Nancy Peterson					
Men's D	Elliot Snesrud	Jerry Hoagland	Chris Madson	Tim Olund	Jeremy Grefe				
Women's D	Lori Luby	Marilyn Hoagland	Melody Hoagland						
Men's 40+	Gary Peterson	Dave Voigt	Larry Spiczka	Dave Heise					
M Dbls Open	Paul Giancola / Larry Spiczka	Mark McCoy / Bob Beeman	Luis Juncos / Dave Voigt	Bill Ng / Dave Heise	(5th) Dave Prodzinski / Bill Hutmacher				
W Dbls / Open	Mary Visser / Rox Voigt	Kerry Stellmach / Kim Wapola							
M Dbls / A	Rox Voigt / Bob Beeman	Gary Hoagland / Jim Baran	Brant Deppa / Rick Drury - MN	Paul Storsveen / Joe Luby	Dale Snesrud / Craig Rhyner	Ed Marino / Rick Drury - WI			Ed Marino / Rick Drury - WI
W Dbls / A	Pam Ryan - WI / Julie Tredinnick - WI	Gail Evenson / Sue Mundahl	Michelle Hoagland / Fran Ragsdale	Carrie Reuter / Sharon Schmitt					



Take a good look - yes, there are not one, not two, but four women playing B doubles at Rochester's RAC Pro-Am Tournament last February. See? There really are women who play! Left to right: Erin Peters, Barb Storsveen, Fran Ragsdale, and Jill Brodd. Photo by unknown racquetball player.

From the Women's Corner:

The Women's Senior/Masters tournament will be held January 29, 30, 31, 1999 at the Lattof YMCA in Des Plaines, Illinois.

The first Women's Senior/ Masters Tournament was held in Madison, Wisconsin ten years ago. After a hiatus from the midwest, the tournament now returns closer to Minnesota's stomping grounds.

If you are 35 years of age or older, and of A or Open ability, this is a tournament (round robin format and age divisions) you should not pass up! This is a level 5 tournament and it brings out some of the very best!

Please call Nancy Kronenfeld: 847-297-5511 for more information.

From the Junior's Corner:

If you want press, someone has to submit it!

Northfield will be starting its Junior Program up again when the snow falls, but aside from Elliot Snersrud, Chris Madson, and Craig Rhyner making the drive to Winona on an early Saturday morning, things have been relatively quiet.

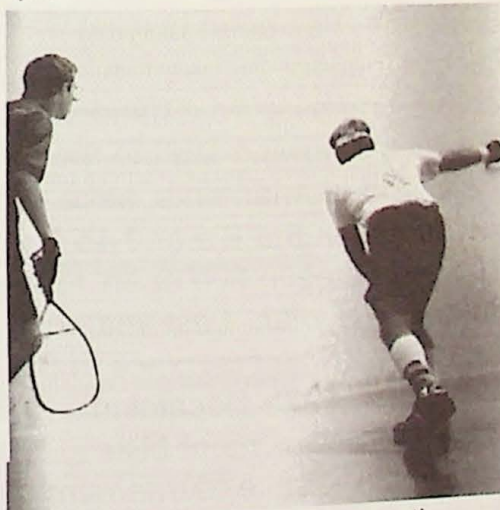


Photo by Erin Peters

Larry Spiczka showing the youth Darrin Prince how to get the job done. Central Courts Pete Peterson Classic

Those Newsletter Expenses:

We promised readers a breakdown on what our first issue cost, and here it is:

Printer -	\$1,080.00
Sales Tax -	70.20
Postage -	207.77
Editors (3) -	500.00
Writers -	0.00
Total -	1,857.97

The above dollar expenditure should come as no surprise. The Newsletter has traditionally been an expensive venture to produce and maintain. The cost of club mailings was not included in the above figures.

Meanwhile, please continue to send your opinions, articles, and photographs in our direction. We also ask your indulgence as we continue to try new formats.

Super Dads – We Play Too!

Lord knows we need more junior racquetball players and we need to keep the ones we have interested and active in racquetball. Thanks to Grant Anderson and a group of very active parents, the Suburban Racquetball Club has been fortunate in keeping a solid junior program. A number of these juniors are regular participants in State, Regional, and National events. Meanwhile, with their kids constantly in the “racquetball limelight,” many of the racquetball playing parents lose their identities. I am sure you have heard the tourney talk before “Yeah, I played that guy in the first round. You know, Darrin Prince’s dad.” Or, “I was watching Jakes’ mom play on court two, what a great match!”

Allow me to introduce you to a few of the racquetballaholic tourney playing parents who would like to re-claim their own identities:

GREG GRUNDMAN: “Wow, I didn’t know you even played,” was a comment he received from an opponent at one of last year’s Central Courts’ tournaments. Greg, who has played for 20 years, has been a racquetball “Super Dad” for his son Cam who sprung onto the racquetball scene in the past two years. Greg is a solid A player plus will typically play in 35 or 40 age events. He is one of those racquetball rarities in that he has a stronger backhand than forehand. Besides

trailing his son around, Greg will play in five or six sanctioned events a year. Last year’s highlight was partnering with Tim Lavoie at State Doubles and finishing second in the 40+.

RON HAUGEN: “Mark is the only reason I play in tournaments,” claims Ron, referring to his son. Ron has played for 20 years and plays three times per week. However, recreational play is all that he would do, if it wasn’t for Mark’s tournament follies. “I do enjoy playing tournaments and like the competition but get plenty of satisfaction with my recreational play,” says Ron. “The hardest part about tournaments is watching Mark..” Last year, Ron played in five sanctioned tournaments, playing B singles in all events. His best finish was winning the B consolation at Regionals. This year, Ron hopes to compete in about the same number of tourneys.

MIKE KLUTTER: “No, my name is not Mr. Everding,” is a common statement he needs to make. Mike, father of Matt Everding, has been playing racquetball for 28 years after converting over from handball. Besides following Matt to the Club and tournaments, Mike competes in the B’s and 45 B’s. He competes in five or six tournaments a year. Last year, his best finish was first place in the B singles of the Decathlon Tournament. One of Mike’s more memorable tournament experiences was the first time that he and Matt attempted doubles together. It was the

1995 Fall Pro-Am Tournament. Matt ended up visiting the emergency room, getting seven stitches to repair a “racquet to the forehead wound” and Mike suffered a detached bicep tendon in his playing arm. Needless to say, that was the last time they played doubles together.

DWIGHT SKILLINGS: Dwight and son D.J. aren’t afraid to put in some miles to play competitive racquetball. They live in Atwater and drive to St. Cloud (100 miles round trip) at least twice a week to play. Dwight began playing thirty years ago, but took ten years off when they first started their family. Dwight will typically play in the B’s or 35 B’s and will partner with D.J. in doubles. Last year, Dwight played in six sanctioned events including State Singles and State Doubles. He and D.J. won the B doubles at last year’s U.C.P. This year, Dwight hopes to play in as many tournaments and, of course, follow his son to all his events.

These Dads, along with other “super parents” (Hi to the Zin’s and Stone’s), have been inspirational in their kids and other Suburban kids involvement in junior racquetball. They deserve to be recognized for not only their promotion of the sport, but for their own playing accomplishments as well.

Submitted by: Greg Hayenga



Advertising Rates

Full Page	\$175
1/2 Page	\$90
1/4 Page	\$50
1/6 Page	\$40
1/8 Page	\$35
Business Card	\$20

Rates are based on camera-ready ads. Must be prepaid with a check made out to the MRA and sent to:

MRA
c/o Peters
RR1 Box 185A
Dakota, MN 55925

Or for more information concerning advertising call:

(507) 643-6045

or e-mail at:

stonesup@means.net

Crotch Shot Answers:

True and true. Both the hard drive serve and the Z serve would be good serves.

Your rulebook regarding these two questions reads, "A serve into the crotch of the back wall and floor is a good serve and in play. A served ball that hits the crotch of the side wall and floor beyond the short line is in play."

The screen call is perhaps one of the most ambiguous calls a referee is forced to make. The trick is did the screen "prevent" the player from having a clear view of the ball? If the referee yelled "Screen!" just as the ball passed the server, he probably called it too soon since he could not have possibly known whether or not the receiver was impaired or "prevented" from seeing the serve. So, in this case, False. The receiver was attempting to inform the referee that off the back wall was an option he wanted. If the serve is close but you see the receiver preparing to shoot, don't take away the offensive shot!

Newsletter Schedule

For articles, flyers and photographs, the following dates are submission deadlines for the newsletter.

January - February Issue
March - April Issue
May - June - July Issue

November 21, 1998
January 22, 1999
April 23, 1999

Application for MRA/USRA Competitive License

Circle One

Date: _____

- New Membership
- Renewal
- Change of Address
- Upgrade

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Home Phone: () _____ Business Phone: () _____

Date of Birth: _____

Indicate Type of Membership: (Circle your choice.)

Membership\$20

RB Magazine Only\$15

Out of State Membership ..\$ 7

Junior Membership\$15

Junior w/o Magazine\$10

(Forms must be completed for every member of a family.)

Club Affiliation: _____

MAIL TO: MRA Membership, c/o Patty Kaiser, 939 Sunrise Ave, Stillwater MN 55082

051999
WILLIAM E. BREDENBECK
1449-15TH TERRACE NW
NEW BRIGHTON MN 55112

Upcoming Tournaments

December 4-6, 1998

SUPERSTARS OF RACQUETBALL XI

Central Courts
Columbia Heights
Bruce Moore, (612) 572-0330

December 19-20, 1998

IRF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

USRA
(719) 635-5396

January 29-31, 1999

CLUB SHELARD PRO-AM

Club Shelard, St. Louis Park
Lisa Lurie, (612) 541-0000

December 4-6, 1998

GRIP IT AND RIP IT TOURNAMENT

Supreme Courts
Virginia
Val Weinert, (218) 749-8318

January 8-10, 1999

ST. CLOUD PRO AM

Suburban Racquet
St. Cloud
Greg Hayenga, (320) 251-3965

January 29-31, 1999

**WOMEN'S SRS/MASTERS
NATIONALS -- 10TH ANNUAL**

Lat tof YMCA,
Des Plaines, IL
Nancy Kronenfeld, (847) 297-5511

December 11-13, 1998

PROKENNEX SUPER SIX

Stop # 3
Southview Athletic Club
W. St. Paul
Mike Locker, (612) 450-1600

January 15-17, 1999

PROKENNEX SUPER SIX

Stop# 4
Southview Athletic Club
W. St. Paul
Mike Locker, (612) 450-1600

February 5-7, 1999

6TH ANNUAL ROCHESTER PRO AM

Rochester Athletic Club
Rochester
Wendy Miller, (507) 282-6000

December 18-20, 1998

CHRISTMAS CRUNCH

White Bear Athletic Club
White Bear Lake
Mary Schulenberg, (612) 426-1308

January 22-24, 1999

HALL OF FAME

Central Courts, Columbia Hgts
Bruce Moore, (612) 572-0330

February 12-14, 1999

DECATHLON PRO AM

Bloomington
Dana Anderson, (612) 854-7171