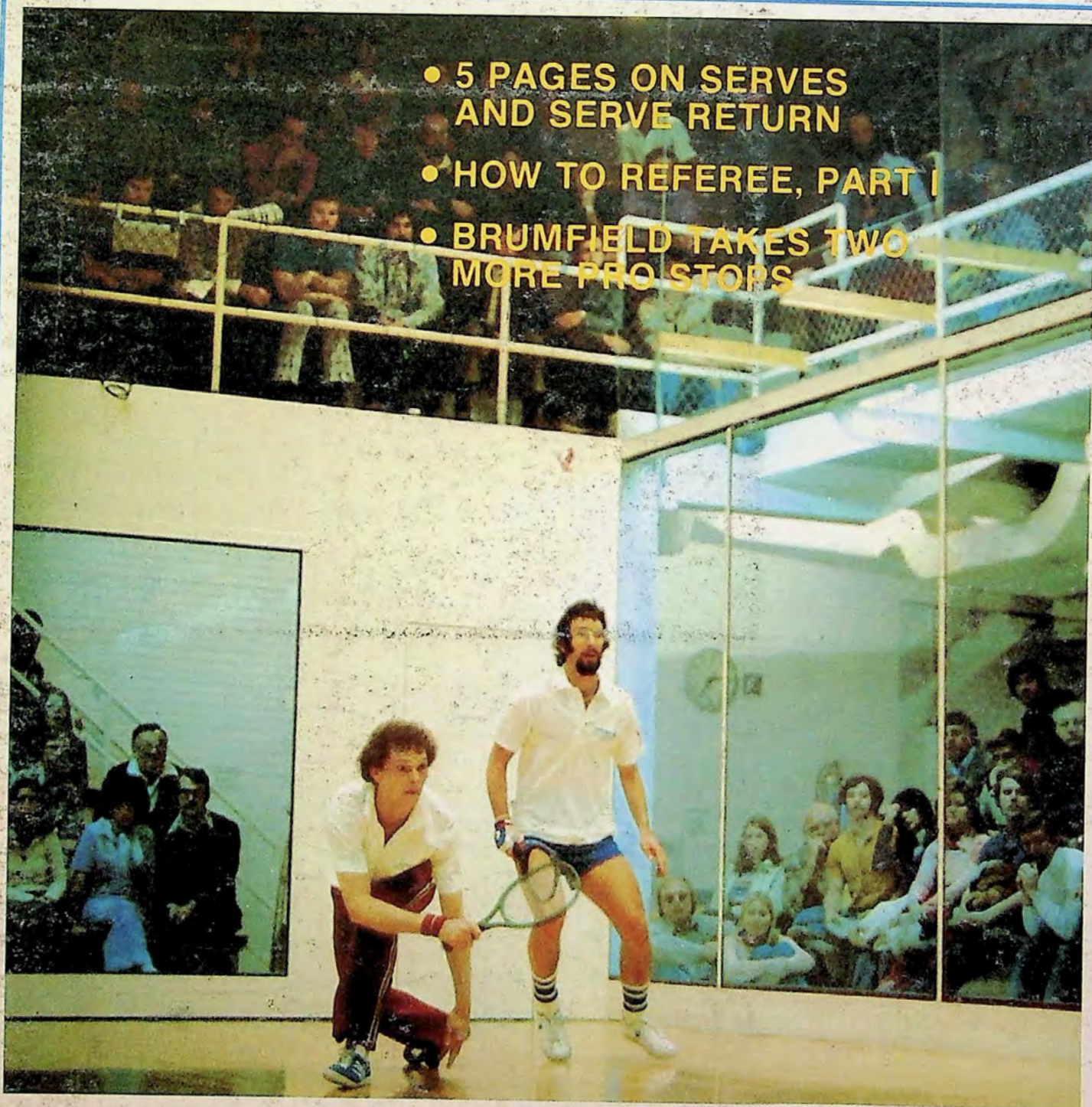


# National Racquetball

VOLUME 4 NUMBER 2 • \$1.00 • MARCH, 1976

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE U.S. RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION

- 5 PAGES ON SERVES AND SERVE RETURN
- HOW TO REFEREE, PART I
- BRUMFIELD TAKES TWO MORE PRO STOPS





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VOLUME 4 NUMBER 2 • \$1.00 • MARCH, 1976

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### On the Cover:

Huge galleries and action a-plenty was the story of the Aurora Pro-Am, the fourth stop of the '75-76 Seamco-Leach Pro Tour. Here runner-up Dave Bledsoe goes for a winner against tournament champ, Charlie Brumfield.

-photo by Arthur Shay

**Correction:** The photo sequence of Marty Hogan's win over Charlie Brumfield in the January issue of *National Racquetball* was taken by Dick Shay, not his father Arthur. We apologize to Dick for our error.

National Racquetball magazine will pay \$25 to the author, upon publication, of any instructional, feature, or first person racquetball article submitted. All articles must conform to the specifications outlined in the table of contents and are subject to revision, alteration or rejection by the editor. Photographs of high quality in color or black and white are welcomed.

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# New Places... New Faces



We have set some goals for ourselves for the new year. More than all else, we want to reach out into virgin areas around the country and introduce racquetball. And the most fertile territory of all is the eastern seaboard.

Racquetball has long been the pride and joy of southern California and there is no reason why everyone, everywhere in this fair land of ours, should not be blessed by racquetball's amenities. To that end, we journeyed to Burlington, Vermont where our first eastern pro tournament met with overwhelming acceptance. It's hard to believe that on the shores of Lake Champlain a new fashioned sport could meet such old fashioned enthusiasm.

We liked it. It made us wonder how many more hot spots are incubating in the cradle of America where it really all began. The people are there,—the support is there,—for every other sport,—why not racquetball?

And why should our vision be limited to the northeastern segment of America? What about Florida? Miami? Atlanta?

There is absolutely no reason why racquetball shouldn't prosper in southern Florida as well as in southern California. Or lower New York as well as in upper New York. Both of those places certainly have enough retired money and more than enough retired athletes. This is the nucleus of a court club.

So don't be surprised when you see next season's tour schedule,—there will be plenty of new places,—and many new faces. Our ultimate goal is two major tournaments per month, all through the year. That's not going to be easy and it may take a year or two, but we feel it can and should be done.

You know what this means? New faces. gottlieb This emphasis on our investment program in the future should further That's going to cost money. And if our pro tour continues to grow, that's where the money will come from.

The time has come for the pro tour to return something to the game, the game whose support has been the very heart of the pro tour's existence. In the long run it will be in the best interests of the pros to support the juniors for it is here that

the future of racquetball lies. New faces can only stimulate the pro tour, and who knows,—somewhere in the juniors there may be another Brumfield.

Our National Juniors Tournament in Orlando was twice as big and three times more expensive than any pro tournament. Ben Koltun, the 18-and-under winner and Larry Fox, the 15-and-under champ have already been signed by Leach Industries. This holds great promise for them but we feel that many others should also share the growth of the sport. To this end we are going to accelerate our junior program and we expect that by next year some of that burden will rest upon the shoulders of the professionals. Our sport is only as strong as our juniors program.

*Bob Kendler*

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# The New Pros



This issue, which devotes a number of pages to the brilliance of Charlie Brumfield, also points out another fact about racquetball's pro tour, other than The Brum is number one. In order to properly analyze this fact, we will now eliminate Mr. Brumfield from all further consideration in this article.

Brumfield-less racquetball is in transition. It is a beautiful yet sometimes awkward thing to see. By transition I mean a general turnover in the top echelon of professional players. Not six months ago there were THE top four: you-know-who, and the three Steves,—Keeley, Strandemo and Serot in no particular order. So where are they now?

They are struggling, all of them. They are being pressed, pressured, hassled and beaten by other players. Add to the Steves players like Bill Schmidtko, Mike Zeitman, Ron Strom and Jerry Hilecher, all certain top eighters in the past and you have a lot of excellent names, with great credentials, who no longer seem capable of breaking into that invisible championship barrier.

The reason is the explosion of racquetball. New faces, younger legs, and increased desire mark the new racquetball pros, the eager kids who live and die on the court. Marty Hogan, Richard Wagner, Davey Bledsoe and Craig McCoy are the four primary youngsters. Only Bledsoe has put 20-years behind him yet, but he is fast erasing his late start on the pro tour.

This added competition is exciting when tournament time comes around, and makes interesting locker room chit-chat. New people breed more new people and more. The resounding entry and competition in the first National Juniors tournament (page 62) proves that.

But as a romanticist it is a bit sad to see these players, those whose names were gold in our limited sphere when I entered the racquetball world six years ago, just fade away. Sure, they are good, quality pros, but in three years pro racquetball has passed them by.

When Marty Hogan boasted in the November issue of *National Racquetball* that there would be a re-cycling of the top eight I refused to believe him. I've seen Schmidtko at his best rolling every ball out of the right corner, cranking up that explicit forehand that gave mercy to no player. I have seen Mike Zeitman spill his guts out on the court, almost knock down the walls to make that one last retrieve, to save that last one point to save that one game, to save that match.

Keeley going to the deep left corner, taking the ball an inch off the floor and rolling out of the left corner with his backhand,—all at 20-20,—the scene repeated many a time over the past five years that will be missed. Serot's power, the all-time hardest hitter, is only one of five or six who hit equally as hard.

The sight of Strandemo, scurrying around the court, retrieving everything, keeping the ball in play, and outlasting his opponent. Ah, but they're all in shape now. And so it goes.

We are entering a new age. Gone are the days when the few top players got together a few times a year to play a couple of big tournaments. Gone is the awe of Serot, the perplexity of Strandemo, the finesse of Keeley and the fear of Schmidtko.

Here, and here to stay is professional racquetball. Here are the teen-agers, with all the skills, the stamina, the legs, and the shots. They are professional racquetball, those who dare the legends to stand up and take them, one-on-one. And the legends are failing. They have had their glory in the sun, and as their sun sets, it is only dawn for the Hogan's, McCoy's, Wagner's and Bledsoe's.

When pro tennis grew up, people forgot those champions who struggled for years on a ragged tour, for few dollars, to much abuse.

As pro racquetball grows up, perhaps we won't forget these players, who missed racquetball's bonanza by a few years. But we should recognize the fact that it was they who helped light the kindling that has sparked the fire of racquetball.

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# We're Coming to You



The response from my editorial in the January issue of *National Racquetball* has been so overwhelming that it has been difficult to process all of the inquiries and offers of help. We at the United States Racquetball Association have felt for some time that there is a need for further organization by the U.S.R.A. for the benefit of all racquetball on the local level.

We feel that it is necessary to organize state and local chapters of the U.S.R.A. so that we, the national organization, can better serve and promote the sport.

I really had no idea, however, how widespread the interest and desire for such a program was. Letters are coming into our office, still, from all areas of the nation,—Hawaii to Maine to Florida and all areas in between. These people are crying out for help in racquetball. They are volunteers, who wish to remain volunteers. All they want to do is to become involved to help our sport.

These people share our feeling that racquetball is on the verge of becoming a big, successful, fun and dynamic national sport. These friends of racquetball want to become involved now to make the success of racquetball that much greater. We, of course, are dedicated to that goal, and want to make a place for all such people within our sport.

We have begun to contact these people and have set up state chapters in various states to perform the functions that the national organization cannot

perform efficiently throughout the nation. Each state chapter will be our local voice to you to aid the promotion of racquetball.

When a major event comes into your area, we will work closely with your state representatives, for they are more knowledgeable regarding state needs than is the national organization. It is only through your help and direction that we can provide you the best service and aid for the growth and improvement of racquetball in your area.

Each state will accept the responsibility of carrying out the general policies of the U.S.R.A., including use of endorsed equipment, emphasis on women's and juniors play, and encouragement of additional building of court facilities. Of course, we don't stop there, but there will be guidelines and goals for each state to achieve. For if we do not have these goals, each chapter will be an autonomous unit, striking out in every which way, without the cohesiveness necessary for peak efficiency. If we're going to do the job in racquetball then we're going to do it together.

For those of you who have offered your services and have not yet been contacted,—we will get to you. For those of you who are still interested in how you can become an integral part of the U.S. Racquetball

Association, feel free to drop us a line. We would like to hear more about what the racquetball needs are in your area and how we at the U.S.R.A. can serve those needs.

The highlight of the 1975-76 racquetball season, without question, will be the National Championships in San Diego. The beautiful Atlas Health Club, located adjacent to the Mission Valley Inn on San Diego's Hotel Circle, is our convenient and superb host for the year's biggest racquetball event.

We are proud to be associated with the Atlas, and in our constant communications with them, assure you that the package they have put together will make the Nationals of '76 the greatest tournament of all time.

We have been receiving requests for ticket information for the Nationals and judging by the increased interest in the pro tour, plus the promotional job being done by the Atlas, it appears that tickets for the National Championships will be very hard to come by.

All seats on the championship glass back-walled court for the professional bracket will be \$100

*Continued on page 19*

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# Ken Konkol

Ken Konkol, 53, is vice president and co-owner of the Champion Glove Company, the largest manufacturer of racquetball and handball gloves in the United States. Champion is also one of the nation's leading distributors of racquetballs and racquetball racquets.

Originally part of the Lindfelt Glove and Manufacturing Company, Champion began to come into its own in the court sports in 1956 when Konkol and partner Lee Nylen substantially upgraded and developed their handball glove line. Lindfelt, whose primary business was ladies dress gloves, sold the firm to Nylen and Konkol in 1959.

Ken is well known around racquetball/handball circles, making his first racquetball appearance in Salt Lake City in 1971 to give away gloves to all the participants in the National Championships that year.

From there Ken steered Champion increasingly into the racquetball market, with a more elaborate line of racquets, supplemented by ball and racquet sales. All of this, he says, to offset the decline in handball glove sales, caused by racquetball's meteoric growth.

Describing his duties as "*top management to janitor*," Konkol is actually involved in virtually every step in the manufacturing of a racquetball glove, —from the hunter to the final stitch.

A graduate of Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa, Konkol never made it back to his native Ashland, Wisconsin after joining Lindfelt (Champion) at their Des Moines headquarters in 1953.

A veteran of World War II, where he served in the Navy's Amphibious forces, Konkol saw a great deal of action in the South Seas. Among the battles he participated in were the invasion of Kwajalein, Guam, New Guinea and the Philippines.

It was after the war that Ken used his G.I. bill to further his education,—two years at Northland College in Ashland and his final two years at Drake, where he graduated with a degree in Accounting in 1949.

For an interesting and candid report on the racquetball glove business, a step-by-step description of how a glove is made, and some remarkable comments on the sport,—read on. The interview was conducted by *National Racquetball* editor Chuck Leve.

---



*Outside view of the Champion Glove Company, Des Moines, Iowa.*

**Leve:** *Had you ever played handball prior to taking your position with Lindfelt?*

**Konkol:** Well, I became exposed to handball at Drake University, which was the first time I had ever heard of the game. I remember very well my first day on the court. There were a bunch of fellas who wanted to go over to the field house to get some exercise and they said, "let's go over to play some handball," and I said, "what's handball?" I had never heard of it, never seen a court, nothing. That first exposure was quite an experience.

**Leve:** *Did you ever leave the company?*

**Konkol:** No. I started in 1953 and haven't left it since.

**Leve:** *How did you make the jump from accountant to vice president and part owner?*

**Konkol:** In 1956 the Lindfelt people wanted me to take a larger role in the business than just being an accountant, so they put me into the buying and selling of raw materials and sent me out on the road to get my lumps.

In 1956 I went to my first handball tournament. This is probably the point where I first became addicted to the court games. I didn't become addicted in the playing sense, but in the sense of a commitment of improving our products to what the players wanted, as well as better service.

I can remember talking with Vic Hershkowitz and Jimmy Jacobs and other top players and realizing

there that we were not giving the handball players the gloves that they needed. We were making what we thought a handball glove should be, but they had a lot of other ideas.

**Leve:** *Were the top handballers like Vic and Jimmy wearing Champion Gloves at this time.*

**Konkol:** No, they were not. They were wearing a glove out of the east coast, called Texier. It was a work glove, but a thinner work glove and it had a good feel to it. This was the first time I became aware that you need a thin glove you can "feel" the ball or racquet with.

Our line today is nothing more than innovations and suggestions from the handball and racquetball players that I have accumulated over the years by going to the tournaments, talking to the players, and finding out what they need.

**Leve:** *Did you ever think that when you got out of the service you would be making a career out of gloves?*

**Konkol:** No, I never did. As a matter of fact, my father is a tailor. When I graduated from school he wouldn't teach me any of the tailoring trade, or needle trade. He told me it was a dying business and not to consider ever doing anything with the needle trade. I can remember those words.

But my father's scope of business was very limited. It was a very small town of 11,000 people and there wasn't any way of getting around. I remember going from Ashland, Wisconsin to Wausau, Wisconsin,

which is about 180 miles, and considering it a major trip. Today, it's nothing.

I really didn't realize the scope of business, either, until I came to Des Moines and saw a University in operation and things moving the way they do.

**Leve:** *I would guess, then, that you do quite a bit of traveling.*

**Konkol:** Yes. I do an awful lot of traveling. I have my own airplane now, simply because I do so much traveling. It makes it more convenient for me to finish what I have to do and leave when I want to leave and get it done.

**Leve:** *How do you like your position?*

**Konkol:** I have eaten and lived and slept this job. It was something I really could latch on to. It was such a challenge. The handball people I was meeting at these tournaments were some of the most fantastic people I had ever met in my life. I've never been in an association, a fraternity or any group of individuals that has the camaraderie that handball players have. I'm sure it will come about in racquetball, although I wish it would come sooner. The racquetball players still don't have that camaraderie the handballers have, but I'm sure it will come about soon. I can see it coming. But racquetball's a new game and it takes a while for it to develop.

**Leve:** *What is involved in running Champion Glove Company?*

**Konkol:** You have to know something about everything. For example, I never considered myself a writer of any kind. I never took any journalism in school except business report writing. It was probably one of the most beneficial subjects I could ever have taken, because I've been called upon to write advertising copy, catalogue copy for gloves and I'm not a writer. But you have to do these things. If you run a business, you just have to be available. You have to know a little bit about everything. It really is true.

It's ironic isn't it? Here I am in the needle trade and my father told me to stay out of it.

**Leve:** *What was Champion (Lindfelt) Glove Company like when you started there?*

**Konkol:** They were primarily concerned with the ladies glove business. Our ladies glove business was fantastic. As a matter of fact the sales of the dress gloves was at least 10 times more than all of the handball, golf and hunting gloves combined.

**Leve:** *Is that still the case?*

**Konkol:** No.

**Leve:** *Do you still make any ladies dress gloves?*

**Konkol:** The ladies glove business has gone into time memorial. It's a has-been, with society and with our company. The casual living that

came about in the late 50's and early 60's changed the whole picture. Slowly but surely ladies dress gloves faded into the past. We just had to fade with it. Finally, about four years ago, we quit the ladies dress glove business completely.

**Leve:** *This trend must have been of a very serious nature for your company.*

**Konkol:** Well, it would have been, had it not been for me attending all these tournaments, developing Champion handball gloves into a very fine line of handball gloves. Plus the fact that we started to exploit Champion. Lee Nylen and myself recognized the fact that we had a tiger by the tail and we weren't really giving it its just place in the world.

So we became aggressive in trying to find some very fine reps and to make the line desirable and one that good reps would want to rep. And with this trend we began to surpass the Lindfelt dress glove sales. Of course, it's a good thing because if we had hung on to the dress glove business we probably both would be doing something different today.

**Leve:** *Who was your competition at the time?*

**Konkol:** Well, we really were the first to emphasize handball. Up to that time, about 1956, most everyone was wearing a work glove. Champion had one that we put in a handball box and now it became a

handball glove. No one had made an effort to bring about a handball glove that handball players wanted to wear. That started changing in 1956.

**Leve:** *When did you get into racquetball?*

**Konkol:** Our first exposure to racquetball came when we were beginning to get some demand for a tennis glove. This tennis glove was lightweight with a terry fabric on the back, to absorb the perspiration. We were getting some calls for this.

**Leve:** *Can you pinpoint a year for me?*

**Konkol:** No, I can't. It was about five or six years ago, about a year before the big tournament in Salt Lake City, 1971 I think. Anyway, we had this tennis glove and since I was hearing so much about this game of racquetball, being so involved with handball, I decided to find out for myself, and went to Salt Lake City.

I took a bunch of gloves along with me, gave them away to every player who was there, and at that time you didn't have too many players so it wasn't too much of a giveaway. I don't remember exactly how many gloves I did give away, but I tried to give one to everybody. All I asked of them was 1) would you tell me before I leave here what you think of these gloves for racquetball or 2) please write me with your comments.

**Leve:** *Was anybody using a glove at the time?*

*Piles and piles of various grades of leather make up the leather room at Champion.*



**Konkol:** I didn't see any. I did have a lot of demand for that glove while I was there, though and I had a lot of conversation with a lot of people.

One of the players I distinctly remember conversing with was Smitty Schippers, who finished third that year in Masters Doubles. He and I became friends and he confided to me that he felt the reason he was doing so well in Salt Lake was because of my glove.

Well, I didn't stay for the end of the tournament because I had the answers I needed.

**Leve:** *What were these answers?*

**Konkol:** I felt that Champion needed to develop a racquetball glove program. I didn't think racquetball would explode and become as popular as it did, but I did think there was a good market for racquetball gloves,—especially for women. There were some women playing out there and I thought, oh boy, with their tender hands, they need something that would help. I felt the glove was the answer.

**Leve:** *Many say that racquetball's gain has been handball's loss. True or false?*

**Konkol:** Very true.

**Leve:** *Is this proved out by your sales?*

**Konkol:** Very much so. Our sales in handball gloves have dropped off 50 per cent. We're manufacturing one-half what we made two years ago.

**Leve:** *Has there been a corresponding rise in racquetball glove sales?*

**Konkol:** The rise in racquetball glove sales has been a very disappointing trend. I thought it would come a lot faster, but it hasn't. It's a slow, slow moving thing.

**Leve:** *Do you have a reason for this?*

**Konkol:** I'm not sure. Perhaps because younger people play racquetball, and maybe they don't think they need it. Or maybe its us. Maybe we don't have the glove racquetball people want. If that's the case it won't be much longer. Our 1976 line has six different style racquetball gloves. Up to this time we've only had three tennis gloves of various styles and one racquetball glove.

It's very possible we're just not giving the racquetball player what he or she wants.

**Leve:** *Would you say that part of the problem is at least getting racquetball players to try a glove?*

**Konkol:** No, I don't think so. They'll try it, but for some reason they wear it awhile and then don't use it. I think that once a player gets used to the feel of a glove on a handle or racquet grip he will find that his game improves tremendously. The only comparison I can use in this area is golf. If a glove did not improve a golf pros game, would he wear it? No way. The glove has got to improve the racquetball players

play. If he will just adjust his thinking to that, I'm convinced he will find his game will improve significantly. He'll put the glove on his hand and leave it there.

**Leve:** *Do you plan to promote your gloves by using any of the game's top professionals?*

**Konkol:** Yes we do. For one, by going to the top players we can find out what improvements can be made on our product and what new items the best players want. We also plan to use some top players and their names in our promotion.

Our '76 line will include an endorsed model by Charlie Brumfield and another glove endorsed by Steve Serot. These two players are now wearing the glove that they want, and we're now making the glove that they want. I feel very strongly that part of our problem has been that we have been trying to give them a glove that they don't want.

**Leve:** *Why has Champion gone into other lines of racquetball equipment, like racquets and ball distribution?*

**Konkol:** It is a two-fold answer. Number one, the decrease in handball glove sales were alarming. Because it is a major portion of our business, when something happens that alarms you, you take a serious look at what's happening, and take steps to put out the fire. Racquetball was exploding, but racquetball gloves were not in demand. In order to make our line complete, we had to offer our customers a complete package. So we had to branch out into balls and racquets.

The second reason is pure economics. Even with the decrease in handball sales, our overhead goes on. So we had to find some method of increasing income. The adoption of racquetball equipment into our line has been more than enough to pick up the lost percentage in handball gloves.

**Leve:** *How are your racquet sales going?*

**Konkol:** We're very encouraged now. There again, we didn't recognize the significance of

racquetball,—we kind of pooh-poohed it. The development of our racquet line, therefore, has been a slow, tedious process.

**Leve:** *Did you misread what was going on, or, as a handball player, did you really not want to believe what was going on?*

**Konkol:** I misread it and I didn't want to believe it, both. I think the fact that I didn't want to believe it was stronger than my misreading the situation. This was true of both my partner Lee Nylen and myself.

I had worked hard in handball to put Champion where it was. It was a small thing when Lee and I took it over, and we worked awfully hard to bring it to the stature that it has today. I guess I didn't want anybody tampering with it.

**Leve:** *Do you manufacture your own racquets?*

**Konkol:** No, we purchase most of our racquets from Leach Industries, and we import a few models from Taiwan.

**Leve:** *Had you ever considered manufacturing racquets and/or balls?*

**Konkol:** Yes we looked at it very carefully,—racquetballs, handballs and racquets. We spent about five years of a lot of leg work, a lot of foot work, and a lot of frustration and we finally came to the conclusion of, brother, we just couldn't do it.

First of all, getting into racquetball molding equipment is a very expensive process. That equipment is not cheap. Secondly, after all the frustrations I encountered over the years trying to get a handball manufactured, it didn't look like I'd fare any better with racquetballs.

**Leve:** *Would you show me, step-by-step, how a racquetball glove is manufactured?*

**Konkol:** It starts with the hunter getting his hunting license to go deer hunting. All of the racquetball and tennis gloves that are of any quality today, are being made of deerskin. Our business, and those that are in this business, depend so much on the harvest. If we get a good kill, we get a good supply of hides. If we get a poor kill, the price becomes a factor.

**Leve:** *Are these domestic hunters?*

*Employees labor over the crucial job,—cutting, in Champion's cutting room.*



*The most tedious chore of all is sewing. Here, scores of sewers work on all types of gloves, from racquetball to work.*



*The turning room, where gloves sewn inside out, are made right side in.*

**Konkol:** Yes. Most of our skins that we use for racquetball gloves come from Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and upper New York. These are the skins that we want.

**Leve:** *How does the skin eventually end up in your factory?*

**Konkol:** It's an involved process. The hunter gets out there and gets his deer and skins it out. In many areas, there are barrels put out by the boy scouts, asking the hunters to drop their skins there.

Otherwise, the hunter takes his deer to the locker and the locker man will skin it out for him and take the skin as a part of the operation.

**Leve:** *You mean the hunter just throws the skin away?*

**Konkol:** Yes, many just want the meat. It's a crying shame the number of skins that lay out in the woods that are never brought to market to make into leather. If they were, our supply of deerskin would be so handsomely enriched that we could reduce the price of gloves significantly.

**Leve:** *I think, too, it would be profitable for the hunter.*

**Konkol:** Well, there's not that much in it. They only get a dollar or dollar-fifty for the skin. And they've got to fool with it, and there's a little mess involved.

After you get it shucked out, you've got to salt it down. That's what the boy scouts do. The hunter throws them in these barrels because he

doesn't want to fool with the salting of them and so forth, so they throw them in the barrels and let the boy scouts do it, or they let the locker man do it.

After they get an accumulation, the boy scouts will sell the skins to a rawhide dealer, and the locker man does likewise. The rawhide dealer then accumulates them until he gets a carload, or truck-load and he offers them for sale to a tanner or a broker.

**Leve:** *In an average year, how long would it take a rawhide dealer to accumulate the necessary amount of skins?*

**Konkol:** It would take him the whole season. They don't usually offer any deerskin for sale until late December or early January. The hides then are up for sale and the leather tanners are bartering with the dealers to buy these hides for the next year. You see, we have to get all of our hides at one time, during the hunting season. They have to be all gathered and there have to be enough skins to provide the needs for everybody through this process.

**Leve:** *Does Champion then purchase from the rawhide dealer?*

**Konkol:** No, that's another ball game. I remember one statement my boss told me when I first started to buy leather. He said, "Ken, you're now buying skins, and you've just entered the biggest skin game there is." That's true. Unless you have an

outlet for all kinds of different grades of skins, you're just kidding yourself to go into the rawhide market.

You see, when you buy raw hides, you get everything,—from a good skin to a poor skin. You've got to have a market for the poor skins. Most of these end up being work gloves. We don't do anything for that grade at all.

**Leve:** *What, then, is the next step in the process?*

**Konkol:** After its offered up for sale, the tanners will bid on it. They bid so much per hide. And then the bartering begins. The tanner buys them by the carload, so much per skin.

Once bought, they're taken down to the tannery where they have to be pickled, usually before June first.

**Leve:** *What does pickling do?*

**Konkol:** Pickling means they've taken the hair off the hide, and put certain chemicals into it that will retard any deterioration. From July on they can tan the skins into whatever leather you want,—boot leather, work glove leather, racquetball gloves, and many other things come from deer skin. Each one requires a little different process in the tanning.

It's a very fascinating process to see raw skin turned into leather. If you ever have the opportunity, do so. Be sure you stay away from breakfast or dinner, though, before you go. You might get sick. The process smells to high heaven. But it is beautiful to watch a raw skin turn into a piece of leather.

**Leve:** *I'll bet. What's next?*

**Konkol:** Well, now I get into the act, and sit down with the tanner. I contract with him. I need so many feet of leather. You sell leather by the square foot. I have to project and buy enough leather for the next 11 or 12 months. Then we start our negotiations. He wants so much per tanned skin,—and I want a certain price so that my retail prices are in line. When we come to a meeting of the minds, and we always do because I have to have the leather and he has to sell it, I contract for it over the next 10 or 11 months.

**Leve:** *It seems to me that there wouldn't be much of a variance in*

price unless it was a really meager season. I mean, handball and racquetball gloves certainly haven't increased in price like so many other items. Is this accurate?

**Konkol:** They sure haven't. And you know, it's disappointing to have players say, "ghee whiz, these gloves are so expensive." If they only knew what a bargain they were getting. I would love to have every handball and racquetball player see a glove made. I have yet to have any one individual come into our factory and see it made and not say, "my goodness, how do you make it for this price?" Even though we mass produce them, there isn't any one machine we can turn on that will produce a glove. It's a step-by-step process. It has to be handled individually, piece-by-piece.

Getting back to our contract for leather,—we have it come in so many feet per month,—to our factory.

**Leve:** Do you barter with more than one source? Do you ever really see what you're getting before it comes to you?

**Konkol:** I look at a representative sample. I use several sources.

**Leve:** Are there many sources?

**Konkol:** It's getting more limited, but there are a number you can still go to. There are not too many tanners, unfortunately, but there are enough around. Ecology has

limited the tanning industry as well as the lousy nature of the job itself. Its really a miserable, smelly job.

**Leve:** Okay. You've seen your sample, agreed on price, and finally the leather arrives at your factory. Then?

**Konkol:** We examine the skins, and determine what type of glove each skin will make,—handball, racquetball, golf and so on. We have to re-sort and re-inspect every skin, and separate them all.

We then issue the leather to our cutter. He takes each skin, examines it for the better parts and poorer parts. He works it over a block, a table about 20 by 40 inches. The cutter works the skin over this block until it has good plyability. When you close your hand, your fist is larger than when it's open, over the knuckle area. If you don't have any "give" in the leather you're going to feel like you've got your hand in a Chinese puzzle. So the cutter adds the stretch, then cuts.

**Leve:** Does he cut in any particular shape?

**Konkol:** Yes,—every shape of your hand,—the palm, thumb, fingers and so on. The two middle fingers are cut separately because the gloves are sewn together at the bottom of the middle finger. They have to be cut separately unless you want the seam of your glove to be on your palm.

In other words, you can put the glove together in two ways. One, you can put the seams on the back of the glove. But in order to do so you'll have to have a seam tucked away right at the base of your two little fingers or number two, you can have the seams on the palm of the glove.

That's the only two ways you can put it together. There isn't any other way to put a glove together. It's been that way ever since they've made gloves.

**Leve:** The idea would be to get that seam, right where your fingers meet your palm?

**Konkol:** Right. So when you cup your hand, the seam tucks away. It becomes no factor at all. This was one of the original questions put to me by handball players 20 years ago, "why couldn't we tuck the seam away?" That's why we started to make our gloves the way we make them today.

After these pieces are cut, the leather goes to the next operator, who will put the various parts that will make that glove with it,—things like fabric, buckles, straps and so on. Then it moves into the sewing room.

One of the first operations is to put the thumb on it. Then the joining of any fabric is done. From there it goes to an operator who will close it, joining the back with front, making it a glove.

Need a racquetball glove? Sure bet to find one is in Champion's stock room in Des Moines.



From there it moves to what we call the "turner." Since gloves are sewed inside-out, the turner will turn the glove so the grain of the leather is on the outside.

From the turner it moves over to the finishing department, and here the finishers, using hot electric forms, press the gloves over these hot forms, like you'd press a shirt or trousers.

Then it goes to the inspection department, where the threads are clipped and the glove determined ready for sale or not. If it isn't and can be repaired, it will be returned to the operator who made the mistake. If it's no good at all, the inspector throws it into the "seconds" or into the garbage.

From there it goes to the packaging department where the operator places it into a box, or package or whatever the glove calls for, and out to the stock room. We get the order in, we find the gloves and the order is processed.

**Leve:** *How many people would you say, are involved in the making of a racquetball glove?*

**Konkol:** No less than 12, probably 15.

**Leve:** *How much waste, on a percentage basis, is there?*

**Konkol:** Our waste runs quite high. Because deerskin is from a wild animal, where you can't control his habitat, what it does often mars the

skin. We get a lot of skins with scratch marks, drag marks, antler marks, bullet holes and more. The waste is very high. I would say it runs about 20 per cent.

**Leve:** *How do you view racquetball in general?*

**Konkol:** It's definitely for real. Racquetball is here to stay. You're going to find it becoming one of the greatest participation sports for husband and wife, girl friend and boy friend, son and daughter and so on. It's ideal. Racquetball is made for this era that we're in. People are thinking in terms of longevity of life, being in good physical shape, and trying to do things other than smoking cigarettes and drinking alcohol.

Racquetball is the outlet people can get for their frustrations. Women could never get this from handball, but they can do it with a racquet.

I think handball, sure, it did fall off. I think it has reached its plateau. We'll always have the challenge of people wanting to play handball, and for that reason handball will never die.

But racquetball is for the masses.

## National Commissioner

*Continued from page 8*

apiece for the entire tournament. Sixty per cent of all seats are already sold on this basis.

We have here at U.S.R.A. headquarters, a few choice seats that are being held for Midwest and East coast players and fans who will be traveling to San Diego for the Nationals and will want to watch the matches.

Ladies and gentlemen of racquetball,—as you well know,—gone are the days when our sport was a group of avid racquetballers getting together to play against and watch other racquetballers. We are still getting together to play, but increasingly, the spectators are not tournament players, but rather tournament spectators, willing to pay the going rate for the privilege of watching the best racquetball in the world.

No longer can we as players expect free seats at major racquetball events, where substantial sums of money are put up by the host club in order to bring you the finest in tournament conditions.

If you are planning on attending the National Championships,—and if you want to watch the professional matches,—you should plan now on purchasing a ticket. The tournament will be sold out.

You may send your check or money order in the amount of \$100 to Joe Ardito, Business Manager, National Racquetball Club, 4101 Dempster St., Skokie, Ill. 60076. If you have any questions please call me at area 312, 673-4000.



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We would also like to particularly thank those of you who continue to join the many thousands now playing handball, racquetball or squash, because it is you who really make the demand for our courts. Thanks for your interest and the pleasure of being associated with such great sports.

**D. B. FRAMPTON**

# The Serve and Service Return

Few players realize the importance or the limitations of a racquetball serve. Unlike tennis, the serve usually does not produce a large number of aces. But on each point, the serve does set the tone of the rally. With a good serve, a player can virtually determine whether a rally will be a long ceiling ball rally, or a short series of shots. Rather than describe every possible serve, this article concentrates on four basic serves, a simple service strategy, and a service return.

The serve is the only shot during a match when you are in complete control of the game. Even though very few aces are hit by the pros, the importance of the serve can not be over emphasized. The most important fact about serving is that you can only win a point when you are serving; this means that you should take some risks and think 100% in terms of offense when serving, not just getting the ball into play; the amount of offense you can generate will depend on what abilities you have. Your main thought should be to apply as much pressure on your opponent as possible; this usually means attempting a kill shot at the first reasonable moment. You do not have to wait for a perfect setup before trying a kill shot: so long as your shot can keep you on the offense and your opponent on the defense, a kill shot or pass shot should be attempted. Which shots you should try to kill can only be determined by examining your offensive abilities and your opponents defensive abilities.

One rule of thumb is if your feet can be set at least one second, the ball is below your waist, and your opponent is not already running up

to the front wall to cover your kill shot, go ahead and take a shot. So long as you move to cover that shot, the results should be favorable for you. Your chances of getting offensive chances will increase if you follow these hints:

1. When you get into the service box, relax for a few seconds before serving.
2. Next, analyze your opponent's physical and mental condition to determine what type of serve will give you the weakest return. Also determine which side, how fast, and how high to serve the ball.
3. Before serving the ball, picture in your mind what the serve and the resulting rally will look like.
4. After hitting the serve, move as fast as you can to *center court position* and wait for the possible weak return. *Figure 1* shows the proper center court position. Note that the position is slightly toward the side of the serve; this position allows you to cover almost any shot except a perfect kill or pass shot: any returns down the wall are setups and any cross court returns must be perfect or else they will come straight through the center of the court or off the side wall into the center for a setup (see *figure 2*).
5. If you get a setup, shoot the ball and move back near center court to cover the possible return. Movement back to center court is as important as hitting a good kill shot; you can't expect to roll out every ball, but if you cover every attempted kill, you will probably get the point on the following shots if your opponent returns the ball.

Thus the keywords for an effective serve are relax, think, picture,

move, shoot, cover. These hints will help you develop a better offensive game.

There are four basic serves: 1) the *lob* serve, 2) the *garbage* or junk serve, 3) the *drive* serve, and 4) the *Z* or two wall serve. Other serves are just variations of these four serves. These four serves when coupled with the three variables of ball speed, direction, and height will give you a full range of offensive serves. If possible, all serves should be hit from near the center of the service area so that it will be easier to obtain your center court position; however, the *Z* serve to the left, rear corner for a right hander may be more easily hit from the left side of the court if you are right handed. If you find trouble controlling your serves, take a step away from the side that you intend to serve towards to give yourself a greater angle.

*Figure 3* shows the path of a good lob serve. Ideally, the serve should be hit as high as possible; then the ball should hit the side wall about shoulder or head high about 10 feet from the back wall and die near the back wall. The advantage of the lob is that it requires very little energy to hit and gives you plenty of time to get into position for the next shot; also the lob serve is good for slowing down the pace of a game. However, the disadvantages are that it requires some finesse to keep the ball either from coming off the back wall or into the center of the court when you are using a very live ball.

The best way to hit a lob serve is to find a spot on the front wall which the ball should hit to give you the desired results; then try to aim for this spot every time you hit a lob serve. When hitting the lob, stand

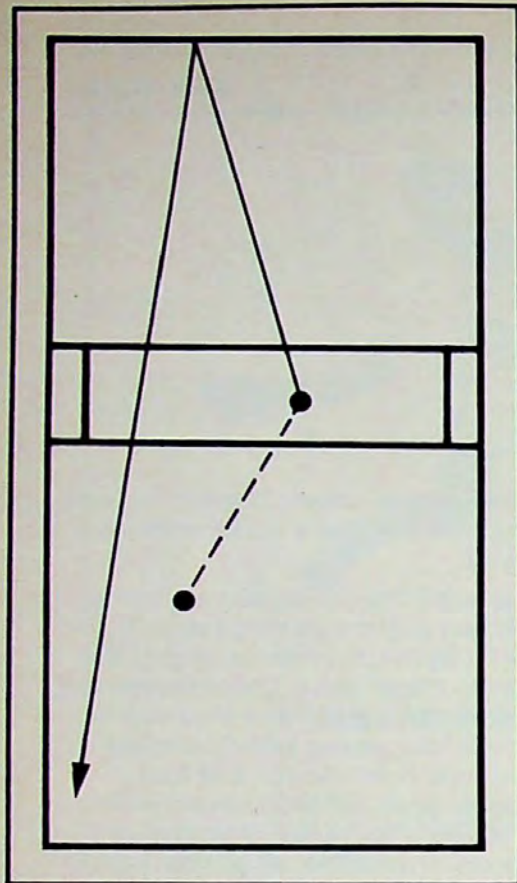


Fig. 1

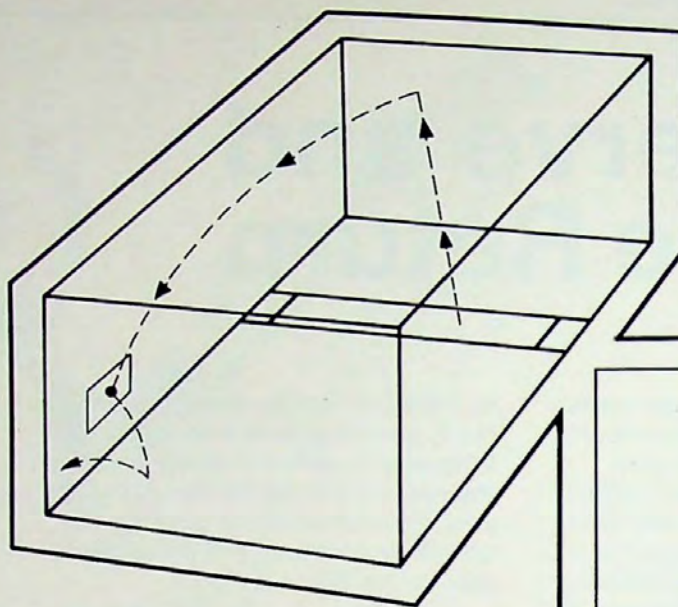


Fig. 3

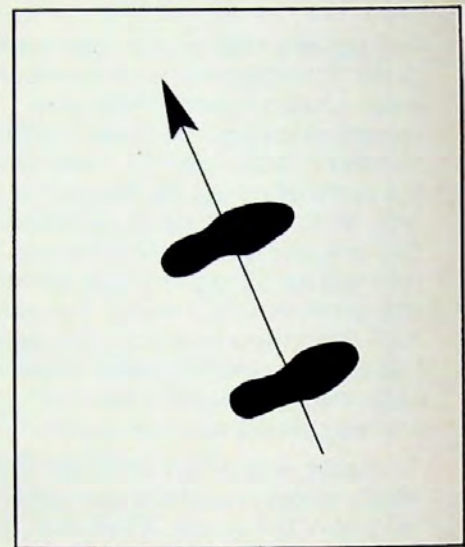


Fig. 4

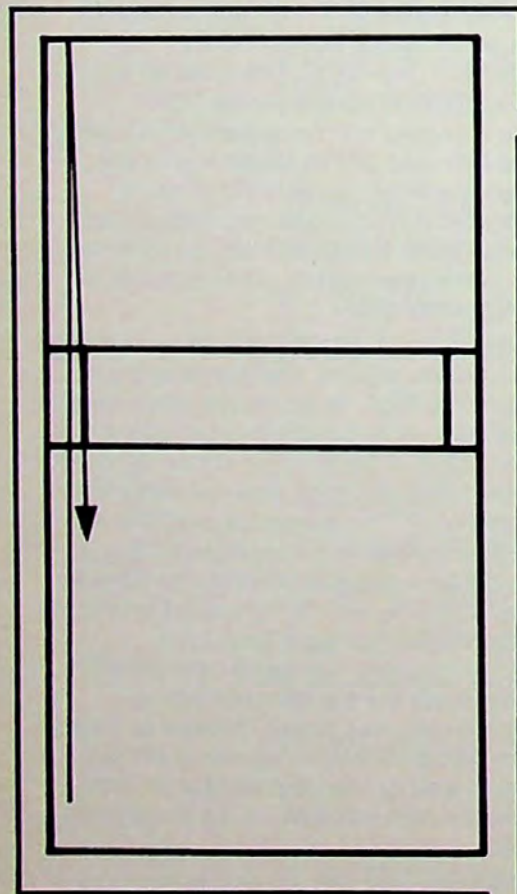


Fig. 2A

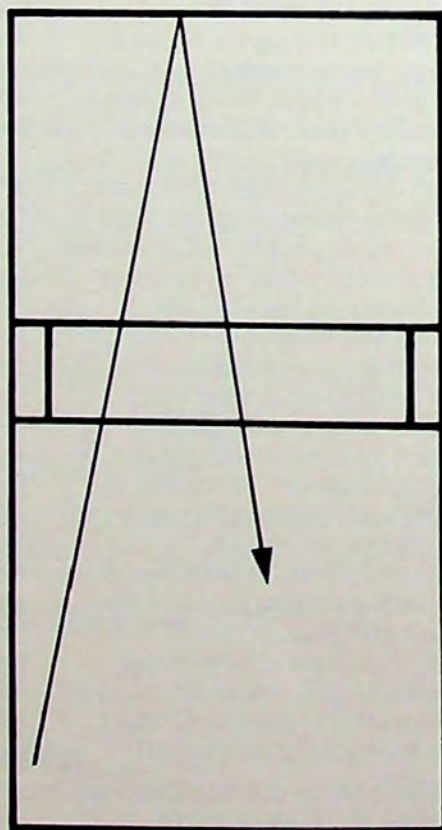


Fig. 2B

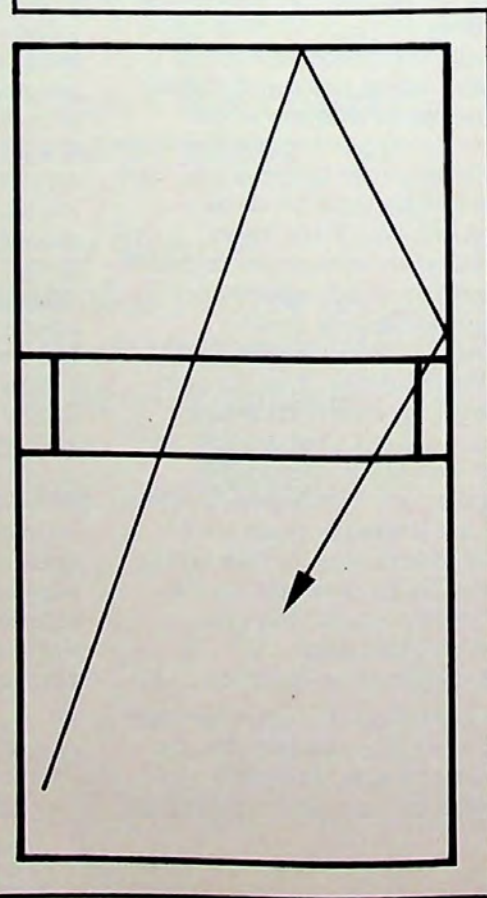


Fig. 2C

Fig. 5B

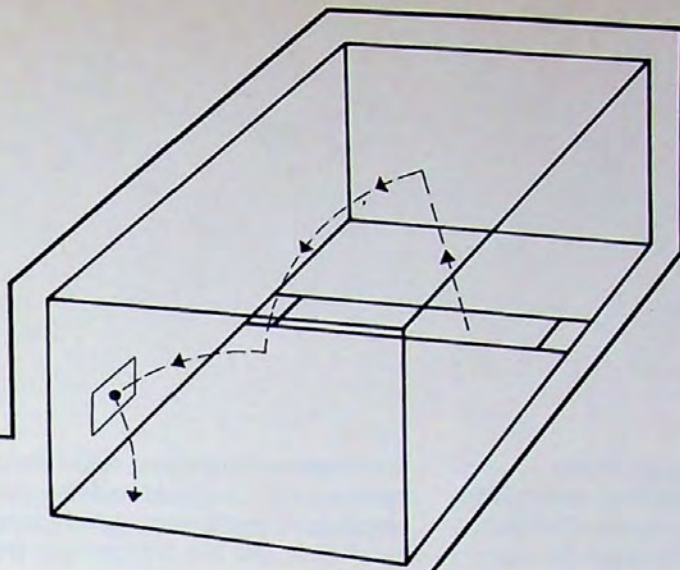


Fig. 6B

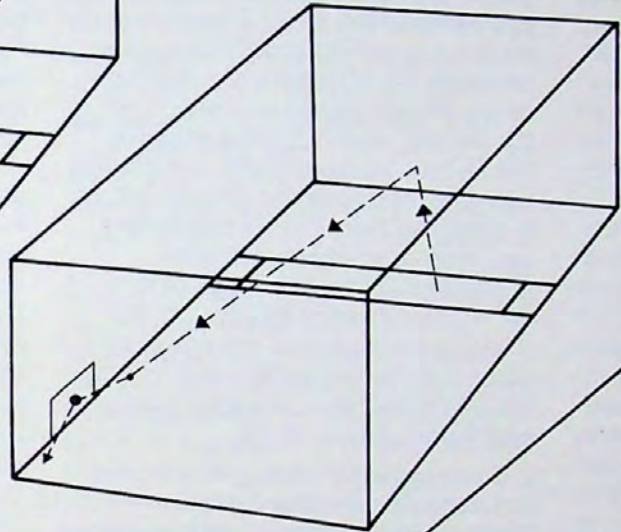


Fig. 7

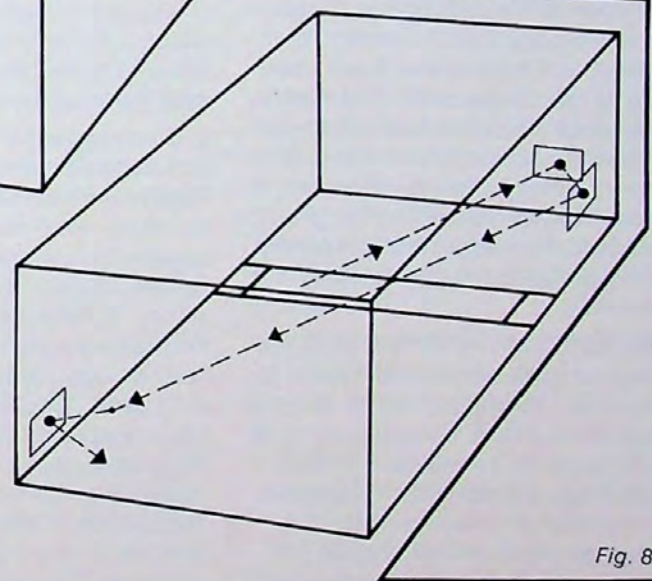


Fig. 8

Fig. 5A

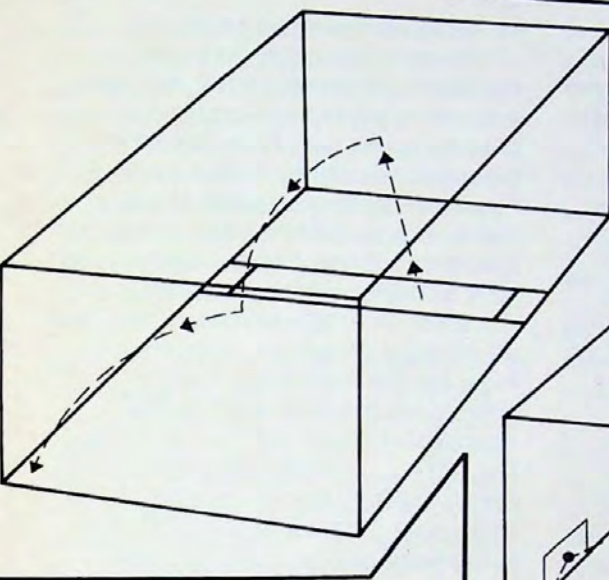
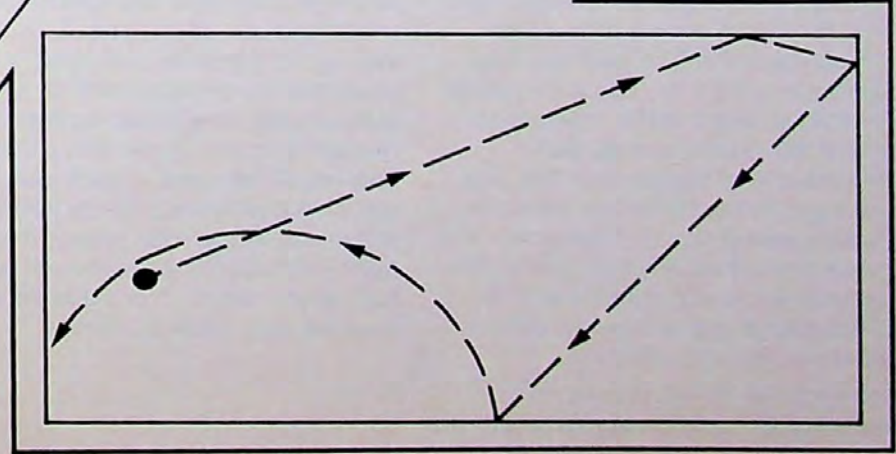
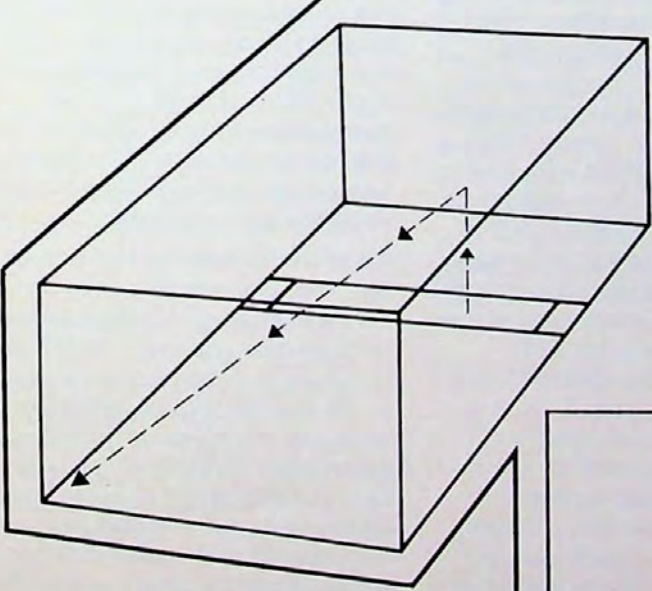


Fig. 6A



with your feet lined up in the direction of the intended serve (see *figure 4*) and swing upward with a rigid wrist; follow through by pointing the racquet in the direction of the spot on the front wall. Since the ball should be struck in front of the instep of the leading foot, the wrist should be in a full cocked position so that the racquet will strike the ball either flat or with a slight underspin; but again, the wrist should remain rigid when you hit the lob serve. The ball should be contacted softly about waist or chest high. You will be able to control the ball much better if you bend the knees, shift the weight from the back foot to the front foot, and try to get underneath the ball. The serve can be an effective weapon if hit properly; however it's harder to hit well than it looks. In the past, I used this serve extensively; however, lately, I rarely use it because there are better alternatives.

An alternative to the lob serve is the garbage or junk serve. It is easier to hit than the lob and achieves almost the same results. A garbage serve is a lob serve with a lower arc which hits the floor before hitting the side wall. *Figure 5* shows the path of a garbage serve. The ball should hit the front wall about six to eight feet high, hit the floor about four feet behind the short line, and bounce into the rear corner. The ball may be directed straight at the rear corner or into the rear side wall, but remember that serves into the side wall need to be hit harder because the side wall tends to slow down the speed of the ball. If hit properly, the garbage serve should be medium speed and give the receiver only a chest high ball to return.

The garbage serve, unless hit perfectly, is usually easy to return if

the receiver is patient and hits a ceiling ball return. However, most beginners and intermediate players can not stand the temptation that a garbage serve offers and will elect to attempt a kill shot. This is the return you would most like to see because kill attempts of a garbage serve usually result in a set up for the server. Against good players, the serve usually results in a ceiling ball rally because the proper return is a ceiling ball. This is the serve I use most frequently but with variations. The advantage of this serve is its ease of execution; its disadvantage is that a quick player can sometimes run up, take the ball out of the air, and drive the ball past you if you are not alert.

A good serve to combine with the garbage serve is the drive serve. *Figure 6* shows two variations of the drive serve. A large variety of drive serves can be hit by varying the speed, direction, and height of the serve. The serve is hit with the same motion as a hard, low pass shot to a rear corner. Ideally, if hit very low and hard, the ball will bounce twice before your opponent will react to the serve or if hit into the side wall, the ball will die near the rear corner. Hopefully, if your opponent is either tired or undisciplined, he will attempt a hurried return which will result in a set up for you. This is a very good serve to use against players who move slowly or are overweight. The disadvantage of the serve is that if mis-hit, the ball can easily become a back wall set up; also the serve affords you very little time to get into position for the next shot. Usually a series of quick, fast shots results from this serve, and the rally ends quickly.

The Z or two-wall serve is just another serve to add to your repertoire of serves, but it may get you many points against most players because of the different bounces which the ball may take. *Figure 7* shows the path of a Z serve. For a right hander, it may be easier to hit the Z serve from the left side of the court because you can get a better angle on the serve. The serve is hit about six to eight feet high on the front wall; then it should hit the side wall, come across the court, hit the floor near the left rear corner, hit the side wall and hopefully travel parallel to the back wall. The serve should be hit fairly hard or else your opponent may move up on the ball and catch you off guard. The disadvantage of the serve is that it comes through the center of the court so that you are momentarily out of position; also, it is very easy to mis-hit the serve so that you hit the side wall first which will result in an automatic side out. If hit properly, this serve can earn you many points against opponents who have never seen the serve before.

All of the examples have been to the left, rear corner, but they can also be hit to the right, rear corner as well. In most cases you will want to serve to your opponent's backhand side. But try to vary the types of serves and the direction of the serves to keep your opponent off balance. I recommend that you pick two serves and use these two serves exclusively for about a month; in fact try using one serve for an entire game just to practice that particular serve. As you become proficient in each serve, try a new serve or a variation of an old serve.

Now that you are armed with a service arsenal, what do you do if

your opponent has the same service arsenal? This brings us to the service return. Most writers will spend pages describing various service returns. To me the answer is just two words: ceiling ball. *Figure 8* shows the path of a perfect ceiling ball return from the left rear corner. You should aim at a spot on the ceiling about two to four feet in front of the front wall.

Why use a ceiling ball? When you are receiving serve, you are totally on the defensive. In order to hit a winner, you have to almost roll the ball out. By returning the serve with a ceiling ball, you get yourself out of a defensive position and neutralize your opponent's chances to take the offensive. The ceiling ball return does not have to hug the side wall to be effective: the only real requirement is to get the ball to the rear part of the court. Women can use a lob in place of a ceiling ball if it is too difficult to hit because the lob requires less strength. The lob is just a soft high shot preferably hit to one of the rear corners. The lob is fairly easy to hit; the ceiling ball on the backhand side is not as easy. The ceiling ball will be covered in detail in a later article.

Does this mean that every serve, even a set up should be returned with a ceiling ball? The answer is almost every serve should be returned with a ceiling ball. For a service return, you should attempt to hit a kill shot for one of the following reasons:

1. You are so much better than your opponent that it doesn't make any difference what kind of return you hit, or
2. You get an easy set up and you want to keep your opponent honest.

You should be conditioned to return all serves to the ceiling because when you are tired, you can't afford to spend time deciding what type of return to hit. If you normally go for a kill shot, you will try a kill when you are tired; when you are tired, your kill shots will be higher than usual and therefore you may find yourself losing a lot of points in the end game on service returns. For practice, try returning every serve with a ceiling ball; you will find that you will begin to think that you will never make an error on a service return and therefore put pressure on your opponent to score by hitting winners.

How can you develop an effective serve? If you are a beginner, concentrate on the keywords relax, think, picture, move, shoot, and cover, but only one at a time starting with the first word. After learning to relax between each point, try thinking before serving; then slowly add the other keywords

to your service game. If you are not a beginner, perhaps analyzing your serve with respect to these keywords may tell you something about the effectiveness of your serve. Work on one serve at a time. For instance start by hitting a medium speed drive serve to the backhand. Then after three or four weeks, add a garbage serve to your game. Once you have these two serves, start experimenting with other serves, ball speeds, directions, and ball heights. For service returns either lob the ball or hit for the ceiling. The serve looks easy, but an effective serve takes longer to develop than it looks; however, the time spent practicing serves and service returns is very valuable because every rally begins with a serve and service return.

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*In the next issue, I will discuss elementary strategy, center court position, anticipation, and the ready position.*

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# How To Referee

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## Part I

As racquetball grows, refereeing becomes an increasingly sticky problem. Knowledge and interpretation of the rules and ability to correctly make calls relating to them is the essence of refereeing. This series of articles will deal with refereeing, and the information, it is hoped, will serve to help standardize refereeing on a national scale.

This installment deals with an overview and theories of refereeing, as well as the first step to refing a match, the pre-match duties.

### What is a referee's function?

Without referees there would be no tournaments. In highly competitive athletics the need is obvious to have a controlling element to coordinate and interpret the rules of play. In some sports, i.e., baseball, football, tennis, a group of officials perform this function. In other sports, the ultimate authority rests on one person, i.e., boxing, hockey, and of course, racquetball and handball.

One of the difficulties of refereeing in the second category is the fact that a sole official finds himself in a situation of high pressure. The need for an immediate and correct call, in sometimes highly explosive circumstances, is what usually scares away most potential refs.

A racquetball referee is not a person who just calls and keeps the score. He is an arbitrator, interpreter and enforcer, as well. Yet the best referees are those who seem invisible, whose calls are crisp and clear, and delivered with authority.

Since most racquetball referees are also players, a built-in awareness of rules and situations should be used as an aid to making calls. Players must realize the intense pressure a referee is under and referee must

also be aware of the high degree of competitive spirit that the player has. It is only through this mutual understanding that order rather than chaos will emerge on the court.

**Rule I—Control the match.** Above all else, the referee must control the match. By control we do not mean an iron handed dictatorship, of *"what I say, goes, and don't you dare give me any lip."* This is one method, although if I were a tournament director and found one of my referee's administering law and order on the court in this manner, he would not be long for my refereeing staff.

There are many other, more subtle ways of controlling a match. Most of these will be described in detail in the next installment of this series. However, a few of the highlights should be pointed out.

First of all, the referee can control the match, by controlling the pace. And he controls the pace by his method of calling the score. A haphazard, *"8-6, let's go,"* won't do it. A rather slow, loud and standard phrase should be used, *"Side out (pause), eight serving six."*

When and when not to talk with players, use of technical fouls, and developing the rhythm of the match are other means of maintaining control of the game.

**Pre-match Duties.** Most of these control methods can be better understood if we start at the beginning. A good referee is an organized referee. Nothing should be left for chance. Players are entitled to, and will need, towels. They should be there. If a ball breaks, additional balls should be on hand. These are small items, but in the long run they help gain respect for the referee.

For a player to have run off the court, looking for a towel or wait around extra minutes for the referee to find a new ball, disrupts the play, could alter momentum, and generally breaks the rhythm of the match. The less time unavoidable delays take, the better off the referee is.

The referee should have a minimum of two game balls on hand prior to the match. As the players begin warming up, the referee should give each player one of the balls so that they both have a chance to hit with the ball(s) that eventually will be used. When the actual game ball is decided, the second ball should be handed to the referee and used as a replacement if the first ball breaks.

After the players have warmed-up to the point of almost being ready, the referee should enter the court. This point in time is crucial. In face-to-face confrontation with the players, the referee should deliver a pre-game speech, of sorts. A well-done and authoritative presentation will get the referee off to a good start.

The primary reason for this tactic is to be sure that you and the players are in agreement on all situations as they may arise. This would include court hinders, hinders, avoidable hinders, technical fouls, the 10 second rule, appeals and so forth. Any racquetball player competing in a tournament is expected to know the rules. It is not the duty of the referee to explain them to him. However, it is the duty of the referee to be sure that both players feel comfortable with his knowledge of the rules and interpretation of them. If a player believes that you, as referee, do know the rules as well as he does, then you will gain his respect.

As you begin your dissertation, make sure you have the complete attention of both players. Instruct



Photo by Ron Lindner

"Gentlemen, can I have your attention please. You'll have plenty of time to complete your warm-up after we're through.

"I'd like to introduce you both to the linesmen. Mr. Feigen this is Mr. Brumfield and Mr. Bledsoe. Mr. Keenan, this is Mr. Brumfield and Mr. Bledsoe. (They should shake hands).

"Mr. Feigen will be the linesman on your left, and Mr.

Keenan on your right. At no time should you talk to or request a ruling from either of the linesmen. All appeals must be made directly to the referee, who will then request a ruling from the linesmen.

"If a call is appealed, I will announce the appeal and request each linesman for a ruling. If either linesman agrees with my call he will indicate this with a "thumbs up" motion. If either linesman disagrees with my call, he will

signal "thumbs down." If either linesman was blocked out, or for whatever reason cannot make a call, he will indicate this by signaling "palms down."

"A two out of three vote carries the play. If either linesman agrees with me, my call stands and I will announce this. If both linesmen disagree with me, my call will be overruled and I will announce this, too. If the votes are split 1-1 and one linesman cannot

*make a call, the rally will be re-played.*

*"There are no automatic court hinders. The only potential court hinder is where this piece of plexiglass meets the plate glass. You can see that it is not flush, and if in my opinion it takes an erratic bounce, I will call the hinder.*

*"As always, I request and expect your help on double bounce pickups and skip balls. This is a professional sport and professional athletes must conduct themselves in such a manner. This includes calling your own skips and double bounces.*

*"I do not want you to serve until I call the score. Once I call the score you have 10 seconds either to serve or be ready to receive. If you are the receiver and wish to take your allotted 10 seconds, just hold your racquet over your head. I will be watching and will make sure you receive your allotted time. If you are serving and feel your opponent is taking too much time, you can serve the ball. If you are correct, it will be a legal serve. If not, I will ask you to re-serve.*

*"I call avoidable hinders and technical fouls. I never give warnings on avoidables, and generally don't on technicals, so do not expect one.*

*"The only hinder you can call is contact on your backswing. This is an automatic hinder and must be called immediately. I will not give you an option. All other hinders will be my call and they are not appealable.*

*"Do you have any questions? Okay, then. Good luck to you both." (Shake each player's hand)*

them to cease warming up and that they will have additional time to complete their warm-up after you're done talking.

If you have linesmen, they should be present with you at this time, although they should remain silent. Linesmen are for the benefit and use of the referee and at no time during a match should it be necessary for a linesman to speak.

What follows is a recommended pre-match speech, similar to the one I gave to Charlie Brumfield and Dave Bledsoe prior to their championship match in the recent Aurora Pro-Am. After reading the discussion, we will analyze it.

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Although seemingly elaborate, this speech takes but a few short minutes. But these are the most important minutes of the match, I believe, for the referee. You have succeeded in putting the players at ease and informing them that you have control of the match. Let's analyze the speech.

All players should be addressed as "Mr. or Ms." This not only shows respect for the player, it also adds some class to the proceedings. A call of "Time out, Mr. Brumfield," is a lot better than, "Time out, Charlie." Also, by addressing the players on a non-personal level, you have succeeded in placing yourself above the players in a sense, as a figure of authority. As we have noted, this must be maintained at all times.

By introducing the players to the linesmen, you have made them more comfortable with the linesmen situation. Again, a formal introduction maintains authority.

The reasons for an elaborate discussion of the linesmen procedure are many. First, it is a

relatively new rule, and needs constant repetition before it becomes second nature to all players. Secondly, everybody concerned, players, referee and linesmen will be more comfortable with the knowledge that all the others are on the same wave length,—that there is no misunderstanding as to what message the linesman was attempting to convey. Third, by ruling that discussion with linesmen is off-limits to players, you have re-inforced your own authority over the match.

It is important that you stress the fact that you will call avoidable hinders and technical fouls, for these are the referee's two most potent weapons for keeping a match under control. However, you do not want to appear as a tyrannical dictator dishing out technicals every other rally. Therefore, alert the players that you may be lenient. IMPORTANT: Never give warnings on avoidable hinders. As for technical fouls, you must use your best judgment, and I feel, show some restraint.

I will allow a player to question my call, especially if 1) I blew it or 2) he does so in calm and respectful terms. Any player who goes wild on the court, acts disrespectful to the referee or racquetball in general will be hit with a technical foul and resulting loss of one point.

The reason I allow a bit of bantering between player and referee is twofold. First, I never will reverse a call unless over-ruled by my linesmen, so discussion ends there on appealable calls. On other situations, since I won't reverse my call and the player knows it, he usually is just releasing some steam in the heat of battle. Secondly, the power to erase a point from a player's score is the most powerful weapon in racquetball, and must



*The referee: all concentration along with scorekeeper (l.), microphone and towels.*

not be abused by power-crazed referees. A calm, sane, professional approach to refereeing must be maintained at all times.

However, the very first obscenity uttered in my direction, will find a technical foul sent right back. The very first attempt to undermine my respect or authority will also result in a technical. But I don't mind allowing a player to let off a little steam, as long as it's done right.

Backswing hinders are tough to call because they're tough to see. But at no time can a player be allowed to take his shot, and if it's good ignore the hinder, and if it's bad, expect the hinder. No way.

And that's the way it is. Authority, respect, restraint, common sense, and hopefully, a bit of class. Try it. See if your refereeing doesn't improve.

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*Next issue: Controlling the match,—in detail.*

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# The History of Racquetball

## SERIES/Part 4

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This is the fourth of a series in *National Racquetball* magazine on the history of racquetball. The work of Mr. Fancher is from his thesis "A History of Racquetball," written in partial fulfillment for a Master of Science degree in physical education at the University of Wisconsin. Any comments, additions or opinions regarding this paper should be addressed to Mr. Terry Fancher, Skokie Court House, 3710 Touhy Ave. Skokie, Illinois 60076, where he recently accepted the club's teaching pro position.

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### Rules

The first draft of rules for the International Paddle Racket Association were presented in *ACE* for the purpose of acquiring constructive criticism from the IPRA membership. This criticism made a refined record draft possible and an official set of rules published in 1969. The first draft emphasized the safety factor. The first national convention which convened during the April, 1969, National Championships was to vote on the adoption of the revised official rules. Members were asked to send in any comments on rules.

The first set of rules to be used during the International Championships of 1969 were those presented in final draft form in the December, 1968 issue of *ACE*. To prepare this outline for the conduct of the game, the headquarters had sifted through a large nationwide response of suggestions and constructive criticism of the first draft of the rules published in the October, 1968 issue of *ACE*. Telephone conversations and personal meetings were also held and the result was adopted before the tournament with recommendations open for discussion at the organizational

meeting in St. Louis. A national rules committee headed by Charles Hazama of Rochester, Minnesota, was to report at the convention meeting also.

Several IRA members in attendance at the convention during rules hearings were in favor of scoring on both offense and defense due to time period limitations at many clubs. However, the majority voted that the IRA would retain the same scoring system as stated in the rules, points could only be scored by the player or team in service and twenty-one points constituted a game. Also, the proposal of

adopting alternate serving was not approved.

Only a few major changes in the rules were recommended by the Rules Committee in St. Louis and were related to the designation of the racquet dimensions:

#### *Racquet.*

The official racquet will have a maximum length head of 11 inches and width of 9 inches. The handle will not exceed 7 inches. The total length and width may not exceed a total of 27 inches.

Other changes were made in the Masters' age limit. Forty was designated as the minimum age for all competition in singles. In doubles, one participant had to be a minimum of forty-five years of age, the other could be a minimum of forty. Injury allowances were made also. An injured player could be awarded 15 minutes for an injury during play. An additional five minutes for a second related injury would be awarded to the player. Injury times were not to exceed a total of twenty minutes. These times were not to be charged to a player's timeouts during the game. On any further injury to that player, the commissioner or committee, after considering available medical opinion, was to determine whether the injured player should be allowed to continue.

Discussion of rules took up a great deal of the convention time at the

national tournament in 1970. Hazama, IRA National Rules Chairman, had canvassed his committee during the year and had gathered useful, constructive ideas. Dr. Bud Muehleisen was especially cooperative and proposed many suggestions. Overall, the thinking of the racquetball officials was to keep the rules very closely related to those of handball in order to avoid confusion and to make it simple for players to play both games. One player pointed out that possibly some of the handball rules needed revision. As usual, the "avoidable hinder" crept into the discussion, and as always, the simple standard for the referee was noted—a player was entitled to a fair and unobstructed chance at the ball. If, in the judgment of the referee, the opponent could have given this clear shot and does not, the avoidable hinder should be ruled. In racquetball, more so than in handball, the doubles play can be very close-quartered. This is especially true in front court where all four men are positioning themselves up front for a volley ending shot. To prevent accidents, it was stressed that referees be alert and quick with hinder calls.

#### **Women In Racquetball**

The interest and participation of women in the game of racquetball helped the sport to succeed according to Association president Robert W. Kendler, who was happy and enthusiastic about women's involvement. It was

Kendler's opinion that any one of the major sports could not have succeeded without women in the audience or gallery or women actually participating; women had just as much right to be in any sport as any man. Kendler felt women should be allowed to participate in any form they chose.

Marlowe Phillips, a former handball player, had been a strong supporter behind the promotion of the paddle rackets game at the St. Louis JCC. Phillips was an excellent player who had done a remarkable job of introducing the game to men, women, and young people. In conjunction with the JCC meeting to approve the 1969 National Tournament, Phillips was engaged in a mixed doubles playoff match on the glass court there, which turned out to have real spectator appeal. A good crowd materialized, mainly to watch the ladies exhibit their skills on the court. Women insisted on colorful uniforms, which was a new innovation in handball and paddle rackets. Women's and junior divisions were expected to be developed even at this early stage of the game.

Kendler invented the glass-walled court as a result of seeking a comfortable way for his wife to view handball at his Town Club in Chicago. The courts were remodeled, glass was installed along with air-conditioning for comfort and an elevator lobby so that other wives could be spectators. The previously

unsportsmanlike game of handball became more sportsmanlike when the players' wives and children sat in the gallery and watched the men play.

Phillips, the IRA Masters singles and doubles champion in 1969, was probably the first person to support a women's bracket for the 1970 National Tournament. Phillips was a key promoter in the St. Louis area where women had played the game for years at the JCC and believed that the female players should not be denied their fair share of tournament honors. With the lightness of the racquet they could easily adapt to the game, as well as make the game more attractive for spectators. Some JCC mixed doubles tournaments were tried and met with success.

A small group of young athletically inclined women, who were not satisfied with jogging and exercising, were inspired by a few leaders like Frances Cohen, Goldie Hogan, and Joan Zuckerman and began to develop interest in the game. Phillip Smith, St. Louis JCC Health Club Director, was convinced that women had discovered a sport made to order for them and that it provided a physically challenging and emotionally relieving activity needed by women as much as men.

In 1970 a survey of several women players provided some insight into the appeal of the game for them. Women seemed to be delighted

with playing racquetball because it made them a part of their family scene and had given them a sport they could play with their sons, and their daughters too, although they were just beginners. They found that playing racquetball was a good exercise and they preferred the game to other forms of activity. One thought echoed by most players was that when they were on the court, everything else was forgotten; it was a tension reliever.

Women players represented varying ages and backgrounds. Some played the game only occasionally, others daily. Some were working, career girls who played whenever they could find time; others were housewives, who often began each day playing racquetball. They generally agreed that the activity on the court helped them to get through the day with more vitality than they had without it.

In this same report, men were polled as to their feelings on women playing the game. Some of them replied that when they could not get a court reservation because of women playing they became aggravated for the moment; however, they felt that the women had as much right to the courts as they did. Other male players felt that they did not find any difference between men and women playing racquetball and by participating, the women were then more able to see how a man felt about a sport

when they were involved in the same activity.

An opposite view was stated emphatically by one man who felt that the courts should be free during prime hours for the working man. The writer thought that women should confine their play to certain hours during the day and that the majority should rule with respect to court time. One last opinion was that a housewife should get an hour's worth of exercise if it was desired. Women paid their dues and had every right to use the courts.

In the 1970 era, though opinions were being strongly aired on both sides, the controversy had by no means been settled. The future status of women in racquetball was viewed as possibly a very volatile issue. However, a very important decision was that the ladies were to have their own division in the IRA International Tournament in April, 1970.

### **Growth of The Business Aspects of Racquetball**

Once sports attain organized status, the problem of finances often becomes important; the early financing of racquetball, however, was minimal. The main concern of the USHA in 1969 was still the well-being of handball, but racquetball was allowed a small budget. It appeared that Kendler wanted to make racquetball as self-supporting as possible with the main source of operational revenues for

administration of the IRA to come from royalties on endorsed products such as balls and racquets. This apparently proved to be the right approach, since funds became more plentiful as a result. With information and news concerning the IRA printed in a section enclosed in *ACE*, financing a separate publication for racquetball was avoided. Expenses were largely confined to operational requirements.

The first budget sheet for the International Racquetball Association covered the period November 15, 1968, to December 31, 1969. In the infant stages of the organization a loan even had to be taken out from the United States Handball Association in the amount of \$500 to help with finances. Separate books were kept between the IRA and the USHA, although the administrative offices were set up with the handball office. Total cash assets amounted to a mere \$458.14 after total disbursements of \$1,682.86 were paid. However, Kendler's opinion that no organization could proceed without profit and income was to be evidenced in future years.

As the game of racquetball developed, it was evident that a business manager and a public relations staff member were needed. Charles Leve, who was a recent graduate of the University of Miami with a B.A. degree in journalism, was added to the USHA-IRA headquarters office in June of

1970. Leve, the son of Mort Leve, was hired to concentrate his efforts mainly on the promotion of the game of racquetball and paddleball, giving those games the full necessary attention for continued growth and development.

Association President Kendler felt that the expanding racquet game, along with paddleball, could be given full-time attention; a concentrated attempt at a membership drive was also forecast. Kendler thought that *ACE* had provided an ideal communication link for handball and only with a corresponding response in racquetball and paddleball memberships could the newer game move forward.

The appointment of an executive secretary for the IRA resulted in a staff member of the IRA who could be a direct contact between the association and its members throughout the country. Suggestions, complaints, and information could be passed freely, which helped to stabilize relations between the association and its membership. Anything less than a full-time coordinator in this position would have been inadequate for the rapid growth and accompanying problems associated with the new sport.

*Next issue: Organization and leadership; changes in the game and equipment.*

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# Brumfield Signs With Leach

Charlie Brumfield, who swept all major pro tournament titles during 1974-75 and throughout his racquetball career has won more than two-dozen national events, has joined the playing staff of Leach Industries, the largest manufacturer of racquetball racquets.

The announcement was made jointly by Brumfield and Charles Drake, sales and marketing director for Leach.

*"I believe that Leach's position in the sport has been developed by the type of progressive and energetic management that will provide me with the opportunity to develop and promote racquetball on behalf of both amateur and professional players,"* said Brumfield, formerly vice-president of Brum-Star Corp. Brumfield said he is no longer actively associated with Brum-Star and would divest himself of all (stock) interests in the company "as soon as possible."

Leach already had an impressive lineup of players on its staff, including Steve Serot, Steve Keeley, Jan Campbell, Mike Zeitman, David Bledsoe and Richard Wagner.

*"Based on his tournament credentials Brumfield probably is the greatest player in the history of racquetball,"* Drake said. *"He certainly is the best known to the public."*

Drake said that Leach will develop and sponsor nation-wide public appearances by Brumfield that will be designed to promote greater awareness of the sport nationally.

*"Charlie will be involved in many clinics throughout the country where he will have the opportunity to develop greater interest in*

*racquetball, provide instruction and be available directly to the consumer,"* Drake explained. Serot and Keeley will join Brumfield on those tours.

*"Brumfield also will be very much evident as a player,"* Drake said. *"Charlie will concentrate his competitive efforts around the major pro events and will energetically promote the pro tour."*

Leach is co-sponsor of the \$50,000 NRC pro tour and is heavily involved in arranging necessary details for the national championships to be held in San Diego this June.

Brumfield previously had been associated with Leach Industries from 1971 to 1973.

*"Charlie not only is a great player but also provides valuable technical impact that assists our company to continue to produce the most playable equipment along with the finest construction possible,"* Drake said.

Leach soon will introduce two new "Brumfield model" racquets, both designed by Charlie himself. One is a bumper aluminum racquet and the other is glass-filled nylon.

*"The latter is similar to our original Brumfield model with modifications to Charlie's specifications and also incorporates the latest in new materials in its construction,"* Drake said.

In addition to winning the NRC national title, The National Outdoors and The Canadian Open, Brumfield during 1974-75 tournament play captured 20 straight singles championships in the tournaments he entered.



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11th and Curtis  
Denver, CO 80203  
Montebello Sporting HS.  
4780 Oakland St.  
Denver, CO 80239  
Stapleton Plaza A.C.  
3333 Quebec St.  
Denver, CO 80207  
Writers Office Bldg.  
7605 Trenton Dr.  
Denver, CO 80220

Grand Junction Club  
2205 Arrowhead Lane  
Grand Junction, CO 81501  
Longmont Health Spa  
660 Delaware  
Longmont, CO 80501  
West Hills Racquet Club  
453 Van Gordon St.  
Lakewood, CO 80228  
Storm Meadows A.C.  
P.O. Box AAA  
Steamboat Springs, CO 80477

## Florida

Brandon Swim & Tennis Club  
Pro Shop  
Brandon, FL 33512

## Georgia

Atlanta Athletic Club  
Box 1018  
Atlanta, GA

Willow Creek A.C.  
Box 566  
Columbia, GA 31907

## Hawaii

Center Health Club  
P.O. Box 657  
Honolulu, HI 96813

## Idaho

Idaho Falls Racquet Club  
1705 E. 17th St.  
Idaho Falls, ID 83401

## Illinois

Court House  
106 E. College Dr.  
Arlington Hts., IL 60004  
Harbor Point Club  
155 N. Harbor Dr.  
Chicago, IL 60601  
Ill. Center R & H Club  
111 E. Wacker Dr.  
Chicago, IL 60601  
McClurg Court Sports Cen.  
333 E. Ontario  
Chicago, IL 60611  
Mid-Town Court House  
1235 N. LaSalle St.  
Chicago, IL 60610  
The Riviera Club  
400 E. Randolph St.  
Chicago, IL 60601  
Southwest A.C.  
10436 Southwest Hwy  
Chicago Ridge, IL 60415  
The Deerfield Courts  
Lake Cook Shopping Plaza  
Deerfield, IL 60022  
NW O'Hare Office Club  
2454 Dempster St.  
Des Plaines, IL 60016  
The Courts  
186 S. West Ave.  
Elmhurst, IL 60126

Evanston Court Club  
1101 Dodge Ave.  
Evanston, IL 60202

Evergreen Bath & Tennis  
2700 W. 91st St.  
Evergreen Park, IL 60642

Treborshire Tennis Club  
195th & Glenwood Rd.  
Glenwood, IL 60425

Poplar Creek Racquet Club  
2350 Hassell Rd.  
Hoffman Estates, IL 60172

Four Lakes Racquet Club  
1401 Four Lakes Ave.  
Lisle, IL 60532

Cove Courts  
22nd & Finley Rd.  
Lombard, IL 60148

Four Flaggs Court Club  
8245 Golf Rd.  
Niles, IL 60648

Tam Tennis Center  
7686 Caldwell  
Niles, IL 60648

Sky Harbor Court Club  
3175 Commercial Ave.  
Northbrook, IL 60062

The Court House  
1901 Raymond Dr.  
Northbrook, IL 60062

Burk's Sportsmen Club  
4358 W. 103rd St.  
Oak Lawn, IL 60453

Oak Park-RF Racquet Club  
301 Lake St.  
Oak Park, IL 60302

Riviera Country Club  
8800 West 143rd St.  
Orland Park, IL 60462

Arlington Indoor Tennis Club  
545 Consumer Dr.  
Palatine, IL 60067

Forest Grove Swim & Rac.  
1760 N. Hicks Rd.  
Palatine, IL 60067

Courts In Session  
P.O. Box 470  
Palos Park, IL 60464

Courtside  
2121 Altorfer Drive  
Peoria, IL 61614

Suburban Club  
Pioneer Park  
Peoria, IL 61604

Chicago H & Ten Club  
1020 Meacham Rd.  
Schaumburg, IL 60172

Court House  
1450 Payne Rd.  
Schaumburg, IL 60172

The Right Racquet Club  
2330 Hammond Dr.  
Schaumburg, IL 60172

Woodfield Racquet Club  
1415 N. Payne St.  
Schaumburg, IL 60172

Skokie Court House  
3710 Touhy Ave.  
Skokie, IL 60076

Courtside  
2811 W. Lawrence  
Springfield, IL 62703

Westwood Tennis Club  
P.O. Box 457  
Sterling, IL 61081

Oakwood Racquet Club  
351 Oakwood St.  
Waukegan, IL 60085

Oak Brook HB/R Club  
424 Plaza Drive  
Westmont, IL 60559

#### Indiana

Carmel Racquet Club  
225 E. Carmel Drive  
Carmel, IN 46032

Indianapolis A.C.  
350 N. Meridian St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Racquets Four  
4002 E. Southport Rd.  
Indianapolis, IN 46227

Racquet Clubs of America  
911 E. 86th St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46240

#### Kentucky

Doctor's Club  
4001 Dutchman Lane  
Louisville, KY 40207

Louisville A.C.  
200 Kentucky Towers  
Louisville, KY 40202

#### Louisiana

Baton Rouge A.C.  
7639 Airline Hwy.  
Baton Rouge, LA 70815

Red Lerille's Health Club  
117 Doucet Rd.  
Lafayette, LA 70501

Jefferson Court Clubs  
2720 Metairie Lawn Dr.  
Metairie, LA 70002

New Orleans A.C.  
222 N. Rampart St.  
New Orleans, LA 70112

#### Maine

Down East Court Club  
Rt. 1  
Falmouth, ME 04105

#### Maryland

Ritzenberg's Tennis Courts  
Rear 5161 River Rd.  
Bethesda, MD 20014

Columbia A.C.  
5435 Beaverkill Rd.  
Columbia, MD 21043

The Players Club  
17043 Downing St.  
Gaithersburg, MD 20760

#### Massachusetts

The Busy Bee  
75 Cheshire Rd.  
Pittsfield, MA 01201

Shrewsbury Club  
Tennis Drive  
Shrewsbury, MA 01545

#### Michigan

Detroit A.C.  
241 Madison Ave.  
Detroit, MI 48226

Eastpointe Racquet Club  
19001 Nine Mile Rd.  
E. Detroit, MI 48021

Charlevoix Club  
3030 Charlevoix Dr., S.E.  
Grand Rapids, MI 49506

The Athletic Club  
1 Vandenberg Center  
Grand Rapids, MI 49502

Peninsular Club  
120 Ottawa N.W.  
Grand Rapids, MI 49502

Woodland Sport Center  
28th St., SE, W. of Breton  
Grand Rapids, MI 49508

Racquettime  
12840 Farmington Road  
Livonia, MI 48150

Crescent Lake Racquet Club  
1585 Crescent Lake Rd.  
Pontiac, MI 48054

Downriver Racquet Club  
13800 Williamsburg  
Riverview, MI 48192

Southfield Athletic Club  
26555 Evergreen  
Southfield, MI 48076

The Fairlane Club  
5000 Woodview Lane  
Dearborn, MI 48126

Warren Tennis Club  
24727 Gibson Drive  
Warren, MI 48089

Waterford Hill Handball  
6110 Dixie Highway  
Waterford, MI 48095

#### Minnesota

Decathlon A.C.  
7800 Cedar Ave. S.  
Bloomington, MN 55420

King's Court  
7001 Cahill Rd.  
Edina, MN 55435

King's Court  
2560 N. Fry St.  
Roseville, MN 55112

Court One  
5810 Hackmann Ave., N.E.  
Fridley, MN 55432

Minneapolis A.C.  
615 Second Ave., S.  
Minneapolis, MN 55402

Penthouse Courts Inc.  
6120 Earl Brown Dr.  
Minneapolis, MN 55430

The Court House  
1155 Ford Rd.  
St. Louis Park, MN 55426

Lilydale Tennis Club  
945 Sibley Mem. Hwy.  
St. Paul, MN 55118

St. Paul A.C.  
340 Cedar St.  
St. Paul, MN 55101

The Court House  
138 E. Plato Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55107

#### Missouri

Castle Oaks  
Swingley Ridge Rd.  
Chesterfield, MO 63017

The Court House  
11628 Old Ballas Rd.  
Creve Coeur, MO 63141

Spaulding Racquetball Cl.  
200 E. Enchanted Parkway  
Manchester, MO 63011

Airway Racquet Club  
10 Richards Rd.  
Kansas City, MO 64116

The Match Box  
206 Hwy. 67 S.  
Poplar Bluff, MO 63901

Missouri A.C.  
405 Washington Ave.  
St. Louis, MO 63102

Spaulding Racquetball Cl.  
8701 Dunn Rd.  
St. Louis, MO 63136

Town & Country Club  
Des Peres Rd.  
St. Louis, MO 63141

University Club  
1034 S. Brentwood Blvd.  
St. Louis, MO 63117

West James Court Club  
1330 Harvestown Indus.  
St. Louis, MO 63132

West Port Racquetball Club  
2388 Chafee  
St. Louis, MO 63141

Columbia RB/HB Club  
5257 Southwest Ave.  
St. Louis, MO 63139

#### Montana

Yellowstone Racquet Club  
3440 Rimrock Road  
Billings, MT 59102

#### Nevada

Cambridge Towers & Raq. Club  
3890 S. Swenson  
Las Vegas, NV 89109

Tropicana Racquet Club  
3801 Las Vegas Blvd., S.  
Las Vegas, NV 89109

#### **New Hampshire**

Hampshire Hills Racquet &  
Health Club—Emerson Road  
Milford, NH 03055

#### **New Jersey**

The Sportsmans Club  
Tierney Rd.  
Lake Hopatcong, NJ 07849

#### **New Mexico**

Four Seasons Club  
6400 Uptown Blvd., N.E.  
Albuquerque, NM 87110

#### **New York**

Four Wall Courts  
580 Cayuga Rd.  
Buffalo, NY 14225  
Geneva A.C.  
80 Castle St.  
Geneva, NY 14456  
Downtown A.C.  
19 West St.  
New York, NY 10004  
New York A.C.  
180 Central Park S.  
New York, NY 10019  
Mid-Town Tennis Club  
55 Gould St.  
Rochester, NY 14610  
Plaza A.C.  
50 Chestnut Plaza  
Rochester, NY 14604

#### **Ohio**

The Back Wall  
3600 Park East  
Beachwood, OH 44122  
The Court Yard  
3917 Virginia Ave.  
Cincinnati, OH 45227  
Ball N' Racquet  
3121 Euclid Ave.  
Cleveland, OH 44115  
Chagrin Court Club  
27629 Chagrin Blvd.  
Cleveland, OH 44122  
Cleveland A.C.  
1118 Euclid Ave.  
Cleveland, OH 44115  
The Cincinnati Club  
30 Garfield Place  
Cleveland, OH 45202  
Athletic Club  
136 E. Broad St.  
Columbus, OH 43215  
Viking Forum  
888 Granville Rd.  
Columbus, OH 43203  
Mentor-Heisley Club  
6000 Heisley Rd.  
Mentor, OH 44060

Moundbuilders Racquet  
Club—1891 S. 40th St.  
Newark, OH 43055

Executive Club West  
21330 Center Ridge Rd.  
Rocky River, OH 44116  
Boca Racquet Club  
860 Boardman-Canfield Rd.  
Youngstown, OH 44512

#### **Oklahoma**

Meuhleisen Courts  
6701 Wilshire Blvd.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73132

#### **Oregon**

Mountain Park Raq. Club  
3 S.W. Botticelli  
Lake Oswego, OR 97020  
Multnomah A.C.  
1849 S.W. Salmon St.  
Portland, OR 97205

#### **Pennsylvania**

Huff N' Puff Gym Inc.  
4990 State Rd.  
Drexel Hill, PA 19026  
Worcester Racquet Club  
Fairview Village  
PA 19409  
Northeast Racquet Club &  
Spa—Krewstown Rd. & Grant  
Philadelphia, PA 19115  
Pittsburgh A.A.  
4215 Fifth Ave.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213  
Scranton A.C.  
Lomma Bldg.  
Scranton, PA 18503  
F. H. Buhl Club  
28 N. Pine Ave.  
Sharon, PA 16146

#### **South Carolina**

Charleston Court Clubs  
1642 Highway 7  
Charleston, SC 29407

#### **Texas**

Royal Courts  
P.O. Box 14845  
Austin, TX 78761  
Dallas A.C.  
Elm, Pacific, & St. Paul Sts.  
Dallas, TX 75201  
Inwood Racquet Club  
P.O. Box 20545  
Dallas, TX 75220  
Ray & Clare Health Club  
5919 Forest Lane  
Dallas, TX 75230  
Athletic Club of Houston  
Two Shell Plaza  
Houston, TX 77002

Court Sports Inc.  
2620 Tanglewilde  
Houston, TX 77042  
University Club  
455 Post Oak Tower  
Houston, TX 77027  
Centre Tennis Club  
900 St. Paul  
Richardson, TX 75080  
R & HB Center of S.A.  
121 NW Loop 410  
San Antonio, TX 78216  
Turtle Creek C.C.  
8400 Data Point  
San Antonio, TX 78229.

#### **Utah**

The Towne House  
158 S. 3rd, E.  
Salt Lake City, UT 84111

#### **Virginia**

Loulin Indoor Tennis Club  
371 Fort Evans Rd.  
Lessburg, VA 22075  
Courts Royal  
2733 Merrilee Dr.  
Merrifield, VA 22116  
The Tennis Center  
403 Brookside Blvd.  
Richmond, VA 22227

#### **Vermont**

The Court Club  
70 Farrell Rd.  
S. Burlington, VT 05401

#### **Washington**

Bellingham A.C.  
Samish Way  
Bellingham, WA 98225  
Bellingham Racquet Club  
8th & McKenzie  
Bellingham, WA 98225  
Bellevue A.C.  
2100-112th N.E.  
Bellevue, WA 98004  
Straight Arrow A.C.  
Kent, WA  
Tri City A.C.  
P.O. Box 6639  
Kennewick, WA 99336  
Athletic Club  
1066 S. Division  
Moses Lake, WA 98837  
Gallery  
11616 Aurora Ave.  
Seattle, WA 98110  
Washington A.C.  
6th & Union Sts.  
Seattle, WA 98001  
Central Park Racquet Club  
5900 E. 4th Ave.  
Spokane, WA 99206

The Spokane Club  
W. 1002 Riverside Ave.  
Spokane, WA 99201  
Tumwater Valley R Club  
4833 Tumwater Valley Dr.  
Tumwater, WA 98501  
Center Court Sports  
16044 16th, S.W.  
Seattle, WA 98166

#### **Wisconsin**

Burlington A.C.  
217 N. Pine St.  
Burlington, WI 53105  
Highlander Racquet Club  
13825 Burleigh St.  
Brookfield, WI 53005  
Abbey Springs  
South Shore Dr. Box 322  
Fontana-on-Lake Geneva, WI  
Western Racquet Club  
2500 S. Ashland  
Green Bay, WI 54303  
The Court Club  
6514 Schroeder Rd.  
Madison, WI 53711  
Milwaukee A.C.  
758 N. Broadway  
Milwaukee, WI 53202  
Wisconsin A.C.  
2930 N. 117th St.  
Wauwatosa, WI 53222  
South Shore Indoor Racquet Club  
4801 52nd St.  
Milwaukee, WI 53207

#### **Wyoming**

Jackson Hole Racquet Club  
P.O. Box 2214  
Jackson, WY 83001

#### **Canada**

Royal Glenora Club  
11160 River Valley Rd.  
Edmonton, Alberta  
Richmond Sq. & Raq. Center  
968 Berry Road  
Richmond, British Columbia  
M.A.R.C.  
595 Hornby St.  
Vancouver, British Columbia  
Cote De Liesse  
Racquet Club, Inc.  
8305 Cote De Liesse  
St. Laurent, Quebec

*Directory of Court Clubs*  
*We would appreciate hearing*  
*about any active*  
*handball/racquetball clubs not*  
*included in these listings.*

# Racquetball Increases Cardiovascular Fitness

Dr. P. E. Allsen is a professor of physical education at Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah.

One of the greatest killers of mankind is that of cardiovascular disease. Heart attacks are estimated to annually cost industry 132,000,000 workdays. This figures out to be approximately four percent of the Gross National Product each year. Heart attacks cause deaths of about one each minute, with more than 100,000 men, most of whom are still productive, dying each year.

Any activity that might be useful in preventing this physical degeneration of the cardiovascular system would certainly be worthwhile.

Activities that are designed to attain good physical fitness of the cardiovascular system must be vigorous enough to develop the musculature and increase the efficiency of the heart and the lungs. Research indicates that in order to develop cardiovascular endurance that the heart rate must be increased and maintained at a fairly high level for at least ten minutes.

According to Dr. Kenneth Cooper, the author of *Aerobics*, exercise that will produce a sustained heart rate of 150 beats per minute or more for at least five minutes will initiate the "training effect" stimulus for cardiovascular endurance. Some researchers even indicate that the heart rate doesn't even have to be this high, especially in older people, if the activity is carried on for a longer period of time and is continuous.

Little information has been available in the literature concerning the contribution of racquetball toward physical fitness. One of the reasons for this is the difficulty in obtaining oxygen consumption data during actual

sports participation. The normal procedure is to collect expired gases during performance of a given activity and then analyze the gases for their oxygen and carbon dioxide content. This method is quite suitable for laboratory experiments but the physical restricting factors of the collecting equipment makes this next to impossible in an actual sports activity such as racquetball.

Heart rate has been shown by numerous investigators to be closely related to metabolic rate and is a good indicator of the severity of a given activity. It is reasonable to assume that if heart rate could be continuously monitored during exercise that a valid indication of the worth of the activity could be obtained.

Modern FM radiotelemetry has made it possible to collect data concerning the instantaneous recording of heart rate patterns during sports participation. Telemetry removes the obstacle of cumbersome equipment as only two electrodes and a small transmitter, the size of a fifty-cent piece, are needed to collect the subject's heart rate. This equipment does not hinder the player while he participates. The electronic signal is then picked up by a telemetry receiver which can be utilized to transfer the heart rate to a tape recorder or onto a visual recorder known as a physiograph.

By using this equipment, William Marchant of the Human Performance Lab at Brigham Young University conducted an experiment to investigate the effect of thirty minutes of racquetball upon the heart rates of racquetball players. He used ten players that ranged in age from twenty-six to fifty years. The subjects were

evaluated as being fairly competent in racquetball, but would not be classified any better than the average club player who participates in racquetball two or three times a week. Each of the subjects was tested to determine his resting and maximum heart rate, and was considered to be in adequate physical condition.

Using telemetry equipment, a continuous tracing of the heart rates for the subjects was made while they participated in thirty minutes of singles racquetball play. The contests were structured to the extent that a competitive atmosphere was induced by giving a reward of a milkshake to the winner of each match. Also there was an attempt to limit all unnecessary rest periods. Each of the ten subjects performed twice with Marchant serving as the opponent in each match. All of the contests were played in the same court and at specified hours of the day to prevent unnecessary influences on the heart rates due to meals and temperature.

Marchant found when he analyzed the data, that the average heart rate for the subjects when they were playing racquetball for thirty minutes was 156 beats per minute. He concluded that singles participation between singles players of like ability results in a sustained heart rate that will bring about increases in cardiovascular endurance if played on a regular basis.

As a result of this experiment, one can utilize racquetball as a means of improving his endurance level as well as engaging in an activity that provides fun and enjoyment. In our society there is a need for an activity to allow the sedentary person to relieve his stress and tension and improve his bodily functions, and racquetball certainly meets these requirements.

# Steve Strandemo



## Racquetball Ranch at Steamboat

**Dates** Four one-week sessions

- (1) July 18-24
- (2) July 25-Aug. 2
- (3) Aug. 3-9
- (4) Aug. 10-14

### Rates

All sessions include six nights lodging, two cocktail parties, outdoor barbeque party, free conditioning classes, and enrollment in handball and/or racquetball program.

- \$305/person, single occupancy
- \$245/person, double occupancy
- \$225/person, triple occupancy
- \$345/family rate (6 maximum)—(one person in program)

If you are a single party and wish to share accommodations, please make special note.

Accommodations—You will stay in fully equipped condominiums that will include complete cooking facilities, fireplace, and panoramic view.

### Family Activities

Tennis programs—adults and children

Swim Instruction—adults and children  
private • semi-private • 5-day clinics

River rafting, trout fishing, horseback riding, 18-hole championship golf course, gondola ride, bike rental, camping, barbeque party, village shopping, night life and fine restaurants, nursery and day care camp.

### The Programs

Competition—tournament play • 15 hours instruction and play • Video tape analysis • Lectures • Films • Practice time • Court time with the pros

FREE! In addition, each student will receive, as part of his tuition, a special designed uniform including shirt & trunks as well as a Camp photograph.



**Steve Strandemo**—1973 Canadian National Racquetball Champion; 4th in 1973-1974 NRC Pro-Tour; 1974 U.S. National Doubles Champion; 1974 Canadian National Doubles Champion; 2nd ranked player on 1974-1975 NRC Pro-Tours.

**\*\*We reserve the right to substitute pros if necessary.**

## For More Information Please Contact:

**Steve Strandemo Racquetball Ranch • Storm Meadows Athletic Club • Box 1566 • Steamboat Springs, Colorado 80477 • Phone: (303) 879-1036**

# Prize Money . . .

## All Time Men's N.R.C. Prize Money Earnings

| Rank | Player                            | Prize Money |
|------|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| 1.   | Charlie Brumfield, San Diego      | \$13,200    |
| 2.   | Steve Serot, San Diego            | 12,875      |
| 3.   | Steve Keeley, San Diego           | 10,985      |
| 4.   | Steve Strandemo, San Diego        | 8,010       |
| 5.   | Bill Schmidtke, Minneapolis       | 3,615       |
| 6.   | Marty Hogan, St. Louis            | 2,890       |
| 7.   | Ron Rubenstein, Chicago           | 2,610       |
| 8.   | Jerry Hilecher, St. Louis         | 2,520       |
| 9.   | Mike Zeitman, Memphis             | 2,425       |
| 10.  | Richard Wagner, San Diego         | 2,240       |
| 11.  | Ron Strom, Minneapolis            | 2,030       |
| 12.  | Davey Bledsoe, Memphis            | 2,000       |
| 13.  | Dan Alder, Milwaukee              | 1,530       |
| 14.  | Craig McCoy, Riverside, Cal.      | 1,480       |
| 15.  | Charlie Drake, San Diego          | 1,195       |
| 16.  | Bill Thurman, San Francisco       | 415         |
| 17.  | Paul Ikier, Minneapolis           | 360         |
| 18.  | Ken Wong, St. Louis               | 350         |
| 19.  | Joe Ycaza, Atlanta                | 330         |
| 20.  | Jeff Bowman, Chicago              | 300         |
| 21.  | Bill Dunn, San Francisco          | 285         |
| 22.  | Dave Charlson, San Diego          | 285         |
| 23.  | Victor Niederhoffer, New York     | 250         |
| 24.  | Randy Stafford, Memphis           | 200         |
| 25.  | Gordon Kelly, Grand Rapids, Mich. | 185         |

## 1975-76 Men's N.R.C. Prize Money Earnings

| Rank      | Player                       | Prize Money |
|-----------|------------------------------|-------------|
| 1.        | Charlie Brumfield, San Diego | \$4,500     |
| 2.        | Marty Hogan, St. Louis       | 2,375       |
| 3.        | Steve Strandemo, San Diego   | 2,050       |
| 4.        | Steve Keeley, San Diego      | 1,925       |
| 5.        | Steve Serot, San Diego       | 1,875       |
| 6.        | Dave Bledsoe, Memphis        | 1,750       |
| 7.        | Craig McCoy, Riverside, Cal. | 1,000       |
| 8.        | Richard Wagner, San Diego    | 800         |
| 9.        | Jerry Hilecher, St. Louis    | 500         |
| 10.       | Bill Schmidtke, Minneapolis  | 475         |
| 11.       | Mike Zeitman, Memphis        | 425         |
| 12.       | Jeff Bowman, Urbana, Ill.    | 200         |
| 13.       | Ron Rubenstein, Chicago      | 175         |
| 14. (tie) | Ron Strom, Minneapolis       | 100         |
|           | Charlie Drake, San Diego     | 100         |
|           | Paul Ikier, Minneapolis      | 100         |
|           | Jay Jones, Los Angeles       | 100         |

## All Time Women's N.R.C. Prize Money Earnings

| Rank | Player                            | Prize Money |
|------|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| 1.   | Kathy Williams, Hazel Park, Mich. | \$1,375     |
| 2.   | Peggy Steding, Odessa, Tex.       | 850         |
| 3.   | Sue Carow, Glenview, Ill.         | 650         |
| 4.   | Jan Campbell, San Diego           | 400         |
| 5.   | Shannon Wright, Dallas            | 350         |
| 6.   | Jan Pasternak, Houston            | 300         |
| 7.   | Janell Marriott, Salt Lake City   | 250         |
| 8.   | Jennifer Harding, Portland        | 125         |
| 9.   | Betty Johnson, San Diego          | 100         |

## 1975-76 Women's N.R.C. Prize Money Earnings

| Rank     | Player                            | Prize Money |
|----------|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| 1.       | Jan Campbell, San Diego           | \$400       |
| 2. (tie) | Peggy Steding, Odessa, Tex.       | 350         |
|          | Shannon Wright, Dallas            | 350         |
| 4.       | Kathy Williams, Hazel Park, Mich. | 300         |
| 5.       | Janell Marriott, Salt Lake City   | 150         |
| 6. (tie) | Sue Carow, Glenview, Ill.         | 50          |
|          | Jan Pasternak, St. Louis          | 50          |

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### TOUR SITES AND DATES

As the season's schedule gains full momentum, we race toward the final flurry of major tournaments. Each event holds more pressure and more intensity as every player attempts to peak his or her game for state, regional and finally, National Championship form.

The pro tour by this reading will have reeled off Denver, Burlington, Tucson, Aurora and Milwaukee. Buffalo, the end of this month will soon be over, leaving only Peoria, Illinois for the Tournament of Champions and the Nationals in San Diego.

On the amateur scene, the U.S.R.A. Regionals are ready to go in April (25-28) at our three locations, San Francisco, San Antonio and Burlington, Vermont. Fourth location, Arlington Heights, Illinois, will host the central regional May 6-9. Many states have already completed their state championships, and

most others are in that process currently. As hard to believe as it may seem, we are actually heading down the home stretch.

What a year it's already been! More excitement, more publicity, fuller galleries, greater public acceptance, tremendous promotion. By far the '75-76 season has been the best ever, with hundreds of thousands of new people being turned on to racquetball. This season will undoubtedly be the one that we look back upon years hence and recall, "in that season we turned the corner."

But it's not over yet. The Tournament of Champions, April 29-May 2 is perhaps the most thrilling event of the season. In the professional brackets only the top 12 men and top eight women will be eligible to compete. N.R.C. prize money earnings will be the only criteria toward the player rankings.

The suspense and competition for

the last few spots is fantastic and as of this writing only the top few spots are sewed up. Those players on the fringes of the top 12 or eight are putting everything they have into that one upset that will qualify them. And those just this side of the 12 or eight are beginning to look over their shoulder. It all makes for intriguing tournament play.

The Tournament of Champions will also host a substantial amateur tournament, with competition in Men's A and B, and Women's A and B. All this will take place at Courtside, a beautiful nine-court court club in Peoria, Illinois.

"We've just about sold out already," said Courtside owner Mike Hart. "Our club members are going wild with anticipation."

The Regionals will follow and each host is readying for the big event. For those players who will not make the Nationals, the Regionals are their Nationals. And remember, the U.S.R.A. Regionals are open to Amateurs only,—those players who have accepted \$200 or more in prize money over the last 12 calendar months are not eligible.

For further information and entry forms, players should write or call the following clubs: **West (Hawaii, Alaska, Oregon, Washington, California, Montana, Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, Idaho, Nevada, British Columbia, Alberta)** Scheober's Handball/Racquetball Health Spa, 425 Eccles Ave., South San Francisco, California 94080, (415) 873-8500

**South (Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, Georgia, Florida, Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee):** Racquetball and Handball Club of San Antonio, P.O. Box 32145, 121 N.W. Loop 410, San Antonio, Texas 78216, (512) 349-2781.

**Central (North Dakota, South Dakota, Kansas, Nebraska, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Iowa, Indiana, Michigan, Kentucky, Missouri, Ohio):**

Arlington Heights Court House  
106 E. College Dr., Arlington Heights, Illinois, 60004, (312) 398-4656.

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# COURTSIDE TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS

## N.R.C. PRO-AM TOUR

### PEORIA, ILLINOIS

APRIL 29-MAY 2, 1976

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**Site:** Courtside, Peoria, Illinois.

**Facilities:** 9 regulation, indoor, 4-wall courts.

**Dates:** April 29—May 2, 1976

**Entry Fee:** \$15 per person in amateur events; \$20 per person in pro event.

**Sanction:** By the U.S. Racquetball Association and National Racquetball Club.

**Official Ball:** In all amateur events: Seamco 558 (black). In all professional events: Seamco 559 (green).

**Rules:** U.S.R.A. and N.R.C. rules and regulations apply. No player having accepted \$200 or more in prize money within the past 12 months may enter amateur events.

**Awards:** To first four places in amateur events. \$8,000 prize money in Men's Pro Singles. \$2,000 in Women's Pro.

**Entry Deadline:** In our possession by midnight, Thursday, April 15, 1976. Prescribed fee must accompany entry form. Entries received after the deadline or without fee will not be accepted.

**Mail Entries:** Gary Whitaker, Courtside, 2121 Altorfer, Peoria, Ill. 61614. Phone: 309-692-3344.

**Make Checks Payable To:** Courtside

Please enter me in:  
(one event only)

☐ Men Pro Singles  
☐ Women Pro Singles

☐ Men Amateur A  
☐ Men Amateur B

☐ Women Amateur A  
☐ Women Amateur B

BOTH PROFESSIONAL EVENTS OPEN BY INVITATION ONLY.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**East (North Carolina, Maine, South Carolina, New Hampshire, Virginia, Vermont, Delaware, New York, District of Columbia, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Jersey, Maryland, Connecticut.):** The Court Club, 70 Farrell Rd., South Burlington, Vermont 05401, (802) 862-4770.

After the Regionals the only thing remaining will be the superb National Championships, hosted this year by the sensational Atlas Health Club in San Diego. Unbelievable play, fantastic hospitality, great courts, and the ultimate in court club features will attract the largest and best gathering ever for a National Racquetball tournament.

As of this writing, tickets are going

fast for the Nationals, which will have competition in virtually all events except juniors. All seats for the two glass back-walled showcase courts (where all the pro matches will be played) are \$100 per seat. Over 60 per cent of the seats were sold as of this writing, so if you're planning to play or attend, be sure to claim your ticket.

For those of you who might get stuck, the N.R.C. is holding the last 26 seats for the tournament and they are available from N.R.C. headquarters. For reservations or further information, contact Joe Ardito at the N.R.C.

And no matter which of the tournaments you decide to visit, whether as player, worker or spectator, we hope that your tourney experience is as enjoyable as it's been for us to sponsor them. Good luck and thank you.

### Miami Out Buffalo In

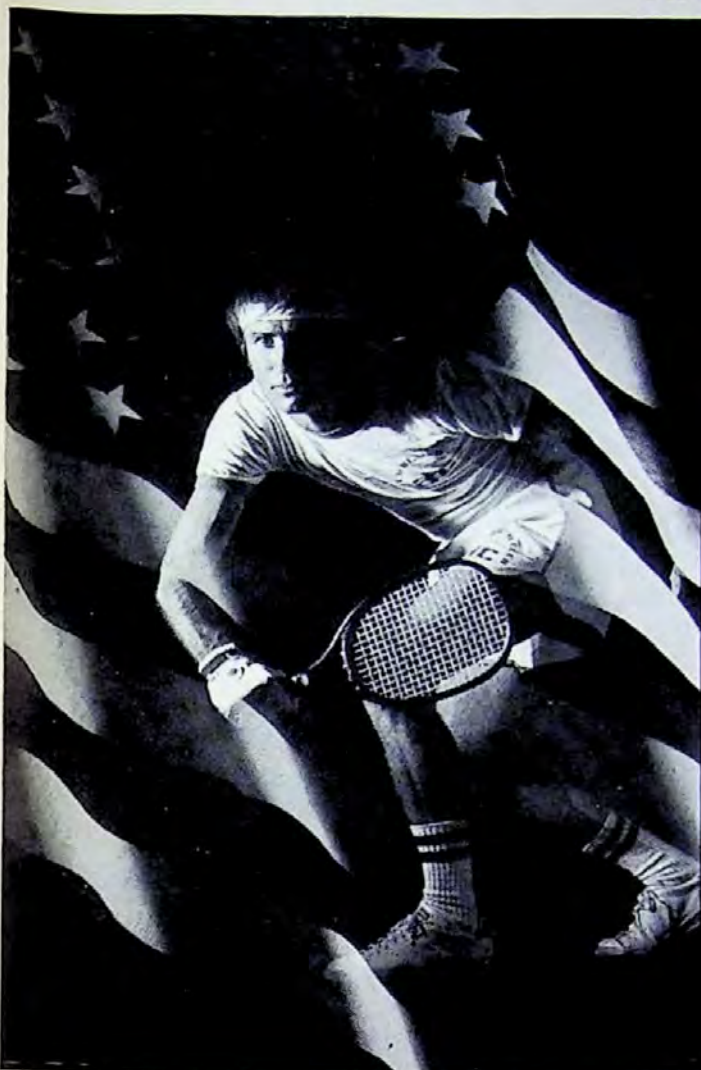
Due to circumstances beyond our control, the Miami Pro-Am Tournament, originally scheduled for Miami, Florida, has been changed to Buffalo, New York. It was absolutely impossible for our host Miami club, which is under construction, to be ready for the tournament.

We regret any inconvenience that the site change (dates remain the same) may have caused any player. We are thankful for the courtesy and co-operation shown us by 4 Wall Courts, Inc., our new host in Buffalo. Chuck Wurzer, the club's manager was ready and able to step right in and fill the void.

For further information and last minute entry forms contact Chuck Wurzer, 4 Wall Courts, Inc., 580 Cayuga Rd., Buffalo, NY 14225, (716) 632-1894.

### 1975-76 N.R.C.—U.S.R.A. Major Tournament Schedule

| Date           | Event                       | Site                                          | City                        |
|----------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| March 25-28    | Buffalo Pro-Am              | 4 Wall Courts, Inc.                           | Buffalo, New York           |
| April 22-25    | U.S.R.A. West Regional      | Shoeber's Handball/<br>Racquetball Health Spa | San Francisco, California   |
|                | U.S.R.A. Southwest Regional | HB/RB Club                                    | San Antonio, Texas          |
|                | U.S.R.A. East Regional      | The Court Club                                | S. Burlington, Vermont      |
| May 6-9        | U.S.R.A. Mid-west Regional  | The Court Club                                | Arlington Heights, Illinois |
| April 29-May 2 | Tournament of Champions     | Courtside                                     | Peoria, Illinois            |
| June 13-18     | National Championships      | Atlas Health Club                             | San Diego, California       |



## Bicentennial NATIONAL RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

- LOCATION:** ATLAS HEALTH CLUB, San Diego, California  
**DATE:** June 13-18, 1976  
**SANCTION:** By the National Racquetball Club (N.R.C.) and the U.S. Racquetball Assn. (U.S.R.A.)
- OFFICIAL BALL:** Seamco 558 (black) in all amateur events; Seamco 559 (green) in all professional events.
- RULES:** U.S.R.A.-N.R.C. rules and regulations apply. If two events entered, players may have back to back matches.
- TROPHIES:** To first four places in amateur events.  
**ENTRY FEE:** \$25 per person for first event. If player enters second event, that event is \$15. Men or women's pro singles — \$50.00
- ENTRY DEADLINE:** In our possession by 6 p.m. May 30, 1976. Prescribed fee must accompany entry form. Entries received after the deadline or unsigned, or without fee will not be accepted.
- PRIZE MONEY:** \$12,000 Men's Pro Singles;  
 \$ 3,000 Women's Pro Singles.

### OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM AND/OR ATLAS HOTEL ROOM RESERVATION

|                         |      |           |
|-------------------------|------|-----------|
| NAME                    | AGE  | CLUB      |
| ADDRESS                 | CITY | STATE ZIP |
| NAME OF DOUBLES PARTNER | AGE  | CLUB      |

Please enter me in:

- |                                                     |                                                           |                                                            |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Amateur Open Singles       | <input type="checkbox"/> Women's Amateur Singles          | <input type="checkbox"/> Golden Master Doubles (55 & over) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pro Men's Singles          | <input type="checkbox"/> Open Doubles                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Women's Doubles                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Singles (35 & over) | <input type="checkbox"/> Men's Senior Doubles (35 & over) | <input type="checkbox"/> Women's Pro Singles               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Master Singles (45 & over) | <input type="checkbox"/> Men's Master Doubles (45 & over) |                                                            |

Each of the following Atlas Hotels have set aside a block of 150 rooms for participants and guests during the tournament

#### Mission Valley Inn Room Rates (per day)

|        |         |
|--------|---------|
| Single | \$17.00 |
| Double | \$22.00 |

#### Town & Country Hotel Room Rates (per day)

|        |         |          |
|--------|---------|----------|
|        | Garden  | Highrise |
| Single | \$22.00 | \$24.00  |
| Double | \$27.00 | \$29.00  |

Add \$4.00 for each additional person in the same room.  
 A 6% city room tax will be added as applicable to the above net rates.

Please reserve, and confirm by return mail, ( ) room(s) at The Mission Valley Inn \_\_\_\_\_, Town & Country Hotel \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed one nights deposit \_\_\_\_\_ Arrival Date \_\_\_\_\_ Departure Date \_\_\_\_\_

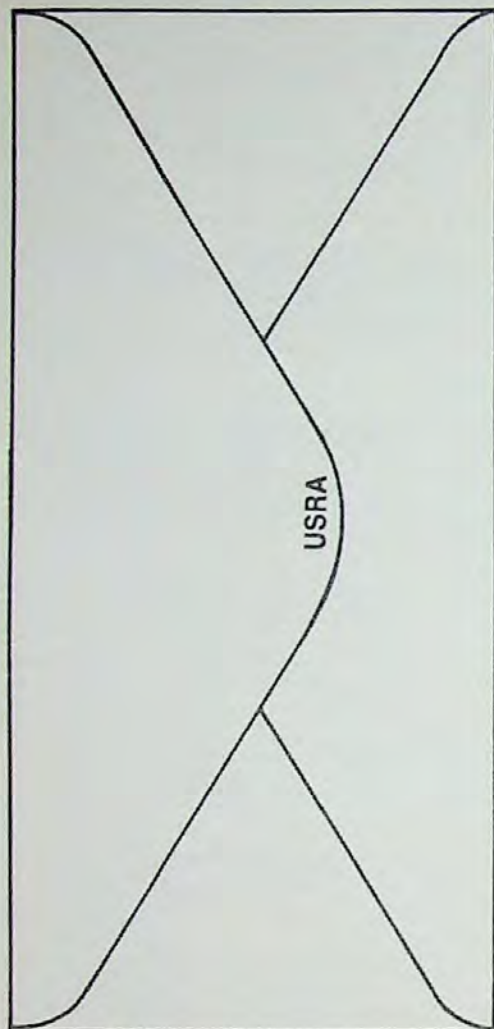
**If you cancel reservations at least 15 days prior to start of the tournament your deposit will be refunded.**

**WAIVER:** I hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors, and administrators, waive and release any and all rights and claims for damages I may have against the Atlas Health Club, the U.S. Racquetball Assn. or National Racquetball Club, their respective agents, or any facility used for this tournament, for any and all injuries which may be suffered by me in connection with my competition in said tournament.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Ph. \_\_\_\_\_ Partner's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Ph. \_\_\_\_\_

Please make room reservation or entry check (money order) payable to: **Atlas Health Club.**  
**Mail Entry Form and/or Room Reservation to:** Atlas Health Club, 901 Hotel Circle San Diego, CA 92138

## LETTERS



Dear Mr. Leve,

I want to take this time to thank you and congratulate you and the U.S.R.A. for providing one of the greatest experiences my son, Roger Donner has had in his lifetime. Roger (age 13) was a participant in the 1st Annual Junior Racquetball Tournament in Orlando, Florida. This was his first time in a Tournament after taking up the game of racquetball for his first year. As parents, who sent their young son over 3000 miles on his own for five days from California to Florida, we can't thank you and U.S.R.A. enough for the care and attention he received in Orlando... and besides that, he had a great time and met some good friends in the process.

He is already back into practicing for next year and is more enthusiastic than ever about participating again.

Please convey my appreciation also to the sponsors of this Junior Tournament for their unselfish contribution of time and money.

Thanks, once again from us and my son, Roger.

Jerome L. Donner  
Lomita, California 90717

PS... enclosed is my renewal form for membership/subscription for 1976-78.

Dear Chuck and Joe:

Thank you very much for running the National Juniors tournament. It was so fun and run so well. I hope to be at the next U.S.R.A. National Juniors.

This tournament gave so much for so little. Disney World was so fun and it gave everyone a good chance to get to know everyone else. I met so many nice, young players and had a great time.

It couldn't have been better. Thanks so much.

Hart Johnson  
Age 11  
St. Paul, MN

Dear Sirs:

I would like to sincerely thank the U.S.R.A. for sponsoring the National Juniors Tournament in Orlando, Florida.

I would especially like to thank Chuck Leve for his hard work and interest in making the National Juniors a success.

I really liked meeting all the other kids from around the country. They all were very friendly.

I'd also like to thank the U.S.R.A., Frampton and Champion for the travel allowance. It really helped all the kids who probably wouldn't have been able to go. The allowance for breakfast was really nice, too.

The tournament itself was a very well run tournament. They stayed ahead of schedule most of the time and the people at the Y.M.C.A. were all nice and helpful. The facilities at the Howard Johnson's Motel were excellent.

Thanks again for your help with the tournament, and I hope you do it again.

Larry Meyers  
Age 16  
Oceanside, CA

Dear Mr. Leve:

I would like to thank you for the great tournament in Orlando. I had a lot of fun and learned some good racquetball at the same time. The financial aid also helped me to be able to come down to the tourney.

I hope we can have another National Juniors tournament in the future. Thanks again.

Brian Murray  
Age 17  
Janesville, WI

Dear Chuck:

I want to congratulate you and Mr. Ardito for a superb job you did during the National Juniors Tournament. I couldn't believe how smooth it went, especially since it

---

was held where there were only two courts.

I know I enjoyed myself, and I'm sure everyone else did also. There was no way anybody could have had a bad time with all that was afforded to us. Once again, thanks for holding a super tournament.

Give a special thanks, too, to Bill Dunsworth.

Jerry Kriegshauser  
Age 18  
St. Louis, MO

*Story and Police Woman.* One thing does lead to the other.

Throughout the country Racquet Clubs contain both tennis and racquetball courts. We have already established ourselves within the tennis psyche. The transition has been made easy for tennis buffs. No one wants or needs to watch King vs. Evert simultaneously on two or three networks. Variety creates interest while familiarity breeds boredom. Save us from this season's King vs. Evert matches, promote racquetball.

Kenneth Cess

—racquetball is a game played by men and women of all ages and abilities, and is enjoyed by more and more people every year. It is my understanding that the U.S. Racquetball Association has professional filmed highlights of last year's national finals in Las Vegas, and I know that amateur racquetballers everywhere would really enjoy seeing the best in the country. Please consider adding this growing sport to your diversified sports programming.

Michael P. Bramlet

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Dear Editor:

It looks like you've done "it" again in calling for a new tie-breaker rule. Why can't you leave well enough alone?

Probably because you're committed to making racquetball the most exciting, fun game on earth!! I've had mixed emotions about other proposed rule changes you have made, but I really feel this one is the best.

I heartily applaud your idea of tie-breaker and recommend the necessary rules change to put it into effect.

Jim Pruitt  
Allentown, PA

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NBC-TV Sports:

After reading about the plight of the United States Racquetball Association in attempting to negotiate with your network for TV time, I find it imperative to voice my opinion.

Racquetball is an excitingly fast and a highly competitive sport. The pros in the Las Vegas Tournament have displayed "undescribable" skill during these matches. After viewing some of the "garbage" including re-runs on your network, watching a skillfully executed racquetball match between pros would be a "refreshing" change.

Lastly, the skills and stamina displayed in this fast game could well be compared to or even exceed the excitement stimulated from tennis, pro football, hockey, or any other sport presently being shown on TV.

Give it a chance—you may be more than surprised at the results.

Patrick F. Iwick  
Morton Grove, IL

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CBS-TV Sports:

I was disappointed to learn that CBS has decided against airing a 30 minute tape of Racquetball's National Championships. Your decision is undoubtedly based upon potential audience appeal. An audience of two or three million racquetball players will evidently not justify a 30 minute segment. Believe with us for a moment that your marketing department has erred.

We must consider the potential tennis audience that will be attracted to yet another racquet sport. After all, the similarity between tennis and racquetball is much the same as the relationship between *Bonanza* and *Gunsmoke* or *All in the Family* and *The Jeffersons* or how about *Police*

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ABC-TV Sports:

In keeping with the ABC sports tradition of televising all phases of the sports world as evidenced by your *WIDE WORLD OF SPORTS* program, I feel you should consider the explosive sport of racquetball. Much like tennis, golf and bowling

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Dear Chuck:

An unusual circumstance has come to my attention worthy of note for yourself. It has to do with "avoidance."

I am delighted with the fact that the aspect of avoidance has been duly noted in national tournaments, and referees have been encouraged to put aside their biases and their fears and boldly move in and call avoidance hinders where they exist. This action as we all know will help move the games of racquetball and handball forward out of the dark ages where the wrestlers dominated, and now perhaps the players will have their chance. There may be a possible exception. Let us call it "the backlash" if you will. We must be careful that we do not allow avoidance happy referees miscall avoidance and be lured to avoidance calls by players who craftily move so that their opponents have difficulty getting out of the way. I'll explain.

If a ball hits the front wall and is traveling directly to the back wall by my opponent and I take my first step to one side before moving into position, I am causing my opponent to move in a direction that is not in a direct line out of my way. By doing this I can easily force an avoidance call because I have forced my opponent into a position where he cannot move out of the way. Avoidance calls have to be watched very closely, and if the person who is playing the next shot does not move in a direct line for the shot, then an avoidance cannot be called

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because that person is forcing the issue. It is much like the "suck in" penalty that offensive football linemen cause to defensive linemen and we have to be careful of this aspect of our refereeing so that we do not allow sharp shooters, as it were, to suck other players into unreal avoidance calls. Please let me hear from you on this, Chuck; it's a very very important aspect of the game and I think it affects racquetball and handball as well.

Philip Smith  
St. Louis, MO

(Much progress has been made in the interpretation and implementation of the avoidable hinder rule in professional and top level amateur play. We agree that referees should not go overboard in this situation, however we also feel that it is better that a few too many avoidable hinders be called than not enough,—ed.)

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Dear Editor:

Recently I watched the Granite City Racquetball Tournament which was held in St. Cloud, Minnesota. In this tourney I saw the way in which the tie-breaker (third game) was used. I really thought going to 11 instead of 21 had many advantages. It kept the tournament on schedule, for one and it helped the players for another. Having to play as many games as some had to, they didn't tire as fast, only having to play to 11.

Even though the players didn't have to go to 21, the spectator's interest was still captured.

Ted Johnson  
St. Cloud, Minn.

Dear Chuck

This letter is a combination query and comment letter. First the query. I'd like to submit to you, if possible, an article on racquetball from my perspective as a military man. I've done nineteen years in the Navy. In the last year or so, I've been transformed into a bonafide racquetball freak. We have a local Navy sponsored tournament coming up soon. It occurred to me it might be interesting to your readers to get a look at racquetball Navy style as well as get some grass roots input. Assuming that I place in the local tournament, I'll then go to Cherry Point, N.C. for the Atlantic Fleet tournament.

I'd also like to comment on your proposal to limit the third game of a match to 11 points. The idea is good, but bass ackwards in my very humble opinion. Let's look at it this way; two games to eleven have been played, each person winning one. Looming ahead, game #3. Each person is still fresh, and if I know raquetball players, each confident that he has his man figured out for the third game. With a 21 point game to anticipate, each man can afford to be bold and let out all the stops. The tournaments will be much faster, and all the drama of a full 21 point game for the match with each man at his best will ensure superior raquetball for the spectators. I really think the other way would be anti-climatic. Other than that, I don't think the rules should be changed. Everything is great, especially the second serve.

Finally, how about some info on getting raquets re-strung. I like Leach Swingers but I've broken the strings in two raquets. Can it be done at home? If so, how?

Let me close by saying that I really love the game and will always be a ardent supporter.

Louis E. Haskins  
Green Cove Springs, Fla.

Dear Chuck,

This past weekend we conducted our Sixth Annual Woodson YMCA Open Tournament, due to efforts of a lot of members it was very successful again. However, the reason I am writing is to inform you and your readers of one of the highlights of our tournament.

On the Thursday evening prior to the tournament Bill Schmidtke gave a racquetball clinic for our membership. Bill and his partner, Mike Weum, did an outstanding job, showing a slide film and explaining many various aspects of racquetball.

Our members, many of which are at the beginners level, came away with new enthusiasm and knowledge of the game.

With the sincerity, enthusiasm and knowledge that Bill and Mike conduct the clinic it can do nothing but increase our number of members and do much for the image of racquetball.

I sincerely believe your membership can benefit with the knowledge that this clinic is available to them.

Jerry Hoff  
Wausau, WI

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## TOURNAMENT RESULTS



Badger State Doubles finalists (l. to r.) Tom and Joe Wirkus, 2nd, Jack Strommen and Ron Strom, 1st.

## Wisconsin

You may think you're prepared to arrange most tournament bracketing, but the Third Annual Badger State Open Singles field would put most veteran bracketers to shame.

There were no less than 40 Class A participants in a very formidable field of Mid-Western enthusiasts led by the likes of Bill Schmidtke, Dan Alder, Ron Strom, Joe Wirkus and many other fine players, too numerous to mention. The big trick

was arranging this fine field with only eight byes. That should provide some food for thought for most anyone.

Strom, of St. Cloud, Minn. was the eventual champ taking the final match in three exciting games with Wirkus, the Wisconsin champion, 14-21, 21-17, and 21-13. Schmidtke was defeated in the semi-finals by Strom and Alder was defeated in the semi's by Wirkus. Ken Frank took the

consolation finals defeating Tom Duke 15-21, 21-16, and 21-8.

In the open doubles, 20 teams took to the competition with the same familiar names popping out on top, as Strom and Jack Strommen defeated Wirkus and brother Tom 10-21, 21-11 and 21-11. Craig Corah and Tom Keyes snuck away with the consolation championship.

The masters bracketing was less involved (15 entrants), but the competition was by no means less fierce with Jerry Hoff, Wausau, ultimately defeating Frank Low, Decorah, Iowa 21-11 and 21-14. Marlin Greenberg, Minneapolis took the Masters consolation trophy.

The dust finally settled late Sunday afternoon, November 16, 1975, with happy hours, good food, good prizes, excellent competition and newly made friends still fresh in the memory of all participants of the Third Annual Badger State Open Racquetball Tournament, Eau Claire, Wisconsin.

## L.A.

### West L.A. Open

The Center Courts, Los Angeles' newest racquetball club, sponsored the 1975 West L.A. Open, drawing some 200 players.

The feature attraction during the four day tournament was the Special Pro Round Robin bracket. Over 100 spectators watched through the glass-backed tournament courts or on the mezzanine level as Charlie Brumfield, Jay Jones, Richard Wagner and Craig McCoy squared off against each other. Rumor circulated that Brumfield "lets up" in local Southern California tournaments and, therefore, is quite "susceptible" to the upset. Charlie dispatched this rumor and his fellow rivals with obvious relish and a perfect game record of 6-0. Wagner was 3-3, Jones was 3-3, and McCoy was 2-4.

A special Womens Open Round Robin was held with Kathy Schrillo defeating Kathy Gardner, Donna Noguchi and Pat Spencer for the top honors.

In the A Division, Al Portune defeated Richard Carson 21-18, 21-5 in the semi-finals, while Mark Morrow defeated Roger Ehren 21-15, 21-16. Portune went on to win 21-6, 16-21, 21-13 in one of the better matches in the tournament.

The B Division was won by Dr. Joel Scheinbaum over Mike Lindholm 19-21, 21-8, 21-14. Joel defeated Stuart Bloom 21-6, 21-16 in the

semi-finals and Mike defeated Pete Maccarrone 21-20, 17-21, 21-6.

In the C Division, 13-year-old Beaver Wickam lost in the semi-finals to James Kaswick 21-19, 21-19. Jim Schanhals won this class by beating Jerry Ledbetos in the semi-finals 21-11, 21-7 and Kaswick 21-20, 21-19 in the finals.

Sue Strommer ran away with the women's novice class defeating Denise Eller 21-14, 21-4 in the semi-finals, and Sharon Flegal 21-12, 21-13 in the finals.

In the men's novice, it was Pete Cook making a strong showing over Jeff Coyle 21-17, 21-7 in the semi-finals, and 21-5, 21-14 over Rob Boriskin in the finals.

Doubles were played only in the Men's C Class. Sixteen teams competed for top honors in this event. The finals saw Bruce Radford and his uncle, Allan Radford, lose the first game 19-21 to John Morris and Mike Sargent. From then on the outcome was never in doubt as the Radfords swept through the remaining games 21-15, 21-2.

## California

### Manhattan Beach

The 2nd annual "Turkey Shoot" racquetball tournament, held at the Manhattan Beach Athletic Club, Cal., November 20th thru the 23rd, exemplified that racquetball is ever growing in popularity, with nearly 300 entrants in the 12 categories, including a special prize money award for open singles.

Tournament coordinator Al Gracio kept the tourney moving right on time, and possibly recording the biggest upset in the history of racquetball. Number one seed Charlie Brumfield, after getting a bye his first match, was matched up with first-time open player Roger Ehren, from La Mirada, Cal. It only took two games for Roger to defeat Charlie, 21-12, 21-14.

"Roger played lucky, he's not that caliber of player," Charlie said. "It's the biggest upset I've ever seen".

Ehren went on to lose to Bill Dunn in the semi-finals, 21-14, 21-18.

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Your check will include sales tax & postage

We have special prices for "Y's, schools, clubs, & colleges.

Steve Keeley defeated Craig McCoy to meet Dunn in the finals. The first game was bouncing back and forth for 15 minutes, till Keeley started rolling them out. Dunn's game slowly dissolved while Keeley was killing everything he could get his racquet on.

*"I had no danger the first game."* Keeley said. *"I had good concentration."*

The second game Dunn started out strong and Keeley's concentration seemed to slack. With Dunn leading, Keeley changed his game plan. *"I started shooting drives instead of kills."* The strategy worked, and Keeley came back to win 21-18. McCoy beat Ehren for third. With check in hand and a grin on his face, Keeley commented, *"It was an excellent tournament. I had a good time"*.

In the A doubles Brumfield came back, teamed with Dunn, to capture the 1st place trophy, defeating Jones and McCoy. Rich Wagner and Scott Gayner placed third.

In the A singles, Jim Pool conceded to Mike Alderson after pulling a ligament in his left leg. It was a hard fought match, and a tough one for Jim to lose.

Don Gray nipped Wally Burgess for the B singles title in a three game, rough and tumble match that took nearly two hours to complete. Gray won the match in the last game 21-20. Randy Stafford defeated Bobby Bible for third. Keeley felt Bible should have an award for making it to the semi's in four events, and still finding time to preach the word of God.

An upset in the B doubles found Bobby Ramirez and Fred Luera

trouncing first seed Stewart Bloom and Al Shelby 21-7, 21-13. Rick Desaracho and Jerry Dozal turned on to defeat the team of Poole and Lantry for third.

Jerry Northwood trounced Ron Botcham for the Seniors title, with Jim Moore placing third.

A hard fought match ended with Bill Gibson and Bill Armstrong on the winning side as Joe Corso and Herb Wong took second in the Masters doubles.

The Master singles went to Harvey Clair by just nipping Earle Castle, in a long, grueling match.

An excellent match in C single ended with Kevin Monroe over Will Jordan. Bennet Rogers pulled up third.

The team of Carl Crown and Vince White just edged Mike Leiber and Don Epstein in the C doubles play. It was a long match with the last game ending 21-20. Wally Rosall and Sanford captured third.

There were two women's divisions, with the ladies playing hard and well, putting on a great show of competitive spirit and athletic ability. In the Womens Open, Linda Siam met with Donna Noguchi in a hard hitting three game match that went to Siam, 21-7, 4-21, 21-16. Caroline Morris placed third.

The Women's Novice displayed many up and coming racquetball players. Debbie Radford handily defeated Alison Hill for the title.

Tournament directors Gio Costronovo and Earle Castle did a fine job of keeping with the tradition of Manhattan Beach Athletic Club by running a flawless, enjoyable tournament. Earle felt *"It was a very good tournament. The club is dedicated to racquetball of today and the future"*. This is well exemplified by the plans for the construction to two championship glass courts, and a complete women's facility. They hope to have it completed by their next tournament to be held the last week of June. Should be an excellent tournament. See you there.

- JACUZZI WHIRLPOOL
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# Minnesota

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## Class C Women

C. Fredrickson def. V. McLane; M. Render def. A. Russell; A. Stock def. J. Carver; S. McGlauchlin def. J. Latterall; P. Varner def. M. Landy; N. Schatzle def. M. Spitzmueller. **Quarter Finals**—M. Render def. Fredrickson; Stock def. Cummings; McGlauchlin def. Martin; Schatzle def. Varner; **Semi-Finals**—Render def. Stock; McGlauchlin def. Schatzle; **Finals**—McGlauchlin def. Render; **Consolation Winner**—Spitzmueller.

## Class B Women

J. Schultdt def. B. Kauffman; C. McBeath def. L. Grossman; L. Jacobson def. M. Bohn; S. Walling def. A. Grosch; **Semi's**—McBeath def. Schultdt; Jacobson def. Walling; **Finals**—Jacobson def. McBeath; **Consolation Winner**—Bohn.

## Class A Women

K. Fraser def. J. Wilson; J. McNee def. K. Fraser; N. Smylie def. M. Adam; J. Mahoney def. M. Wendorf; N. Harrer def. J. Moore; **Semi's**—McNee def. Smylie; Mahoney def. Harrer; **Finals**—Mahoney def. McNee; **Consolation Winner**—Adam.

## Class C Men

G. Bohn def. R. Camp; T. Halpern def. D. Mulnix; J. Berger def. A. Rubens; M. Goodman def. B. Weiss; D. Withers def. B. Matson; D. Cummings def. M. Feiler; G. Camp def. P. Lund; G. Martin def. P. McMorrow; B. Varner def. T. Halpern; M. Goodman def. J. Berger; D. Withers def. J.

Ford; D. Cummings def. S. Erdal; D. Hoff def. G. Camp; **Quarters**—Martin def. Bohn; Varner def. Cunliffe; Goodman def. Withers; Hoff def. Cummings; **Semi's**—Varner def. Martin; Goodman def. Hoff; **Finals**—Varner def. Goodman; **Consolation Winner**—Feiler def. Mulnix.

## Class B Men

C. Armstrong def. D. Endy; J. Taylor def. G. Walling; S. Stinski def. B. Farrell; L. Vercombe def. B. Heidbrink; T. Jacobson def. P. Siebert; D. Duff def. B. Stone; P. Page def. N. Greengard; M. Robertson def. H. Willegalle; L. Gold def. G. Greer; G. Kalberer def. B. Grossman; D. Zabinski def. J. Smylie; B. Heeb def. P. Wendorf; D. Carver def. F. Bjork; D. Williamson def. R. Render; **Second Round**—D. Miller def. Armstrong; J. Taylor def. Stinski; Jacobson def. LaVercombe; Page def. Duff; Robertson def. Gold; Zabinski def. Kalberer; Heeb def. Carver; Williamson def. D. Bartos; **Quarters**—Taylor def. Miller; Page def. Jacobson; Robertson def. Zabinski; Heeb def. Williamson; **Semi's**—Page def. Taylor; Robertson def. Heeb; **Finals**—Page def. Robertson; **Consolation Winner**—Grossman def. Heidbrink.

## Class A Men

B. Adam Jr. def. G. Jorgenson; J. Spitzmueller def. G. Dunston; D. Herstad def. J. Mahoney; M. Synder def. G. Sladky; B. Adam def. J. Williams; J. Peckham def. R. VanDoeren; T. Keyes def. P. Glanville; **Quarters**—Adam Jr. def. Spitzmueller; Snyder def. Herstad; Adam def. D. Johnson; T. Keyes def. J. Peckham; **Semi's**—Adam Jr. def. Synder; Adam def. Keyes; **Finals**—Adam Jr. def. Adam; **Consolation Winner**—G. Sladky def. R. VanDoeren.

# Illinois

Ill. Novice

**Men Quarter-finals:** Dern def. Halperin 21-7, 21-6; Spicklemire def. Miller 19-21, 21-18, 21-10; Friedlander def. Hewardine 21-0, 21-3; Hobday def. Thomas 21-4, 21-5. **Semi-finals:** Dern def. Spicklemire 21-13, 21-8; Hobday def. Friedlander 21-15, 21-12. **Finals:** Dern def. Hobday 21-16, 21-7. **Third Place:** Friedlander def. Spicklemire 21-14, 21-11.

**Women Quarter-finals:** Dick def. Skouaner; Anderson def. Gudbrandsen 21-18, 21-17; Biggs def. Albrecht 21-8, 21-15; Edelstein def. Sulli 9-21, 21-13, 21-15. **Semi-finals:** Dick def. Anderson 21-15, 13-21, 21-18; Biggs def. Edelstein 21-5, 21-17. **Finals:** Biggs def. Dick 21-11, 21-1. **Third Place:** Anderson def. Edelstein (forfeit).

**Juniors Quarter-finals:** French def. P. Factor 21-5, 21-11; Weiner def. Smith 21-4, 21-7; Breckenridge def. Borst 21-2, 21-2; Falbo def. B. Factor 21-20, 21-19. **Semi-finals:** Weiner def. French 21-2, 21-7; Breckenridge def. Falbo 21-2, 21-12. **Finals:** Weiner def. Breckenridge 21-10, 21-8. **Third Place:** French def. Falbo 21-20, 15-21, 21-15.

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## TOURNAMENT RESULTS

# Tucson 3

Pro-Am Tour

Surprise finalist McCoy unleashes his powerful backhand against Brumfield in the championship match.



Charlie Brumfield, proving that lightning does not strike twice, came from the tough number five seed to regain the top spot among racquetball's professionals with a convincing victory in the Tucson Pro-Am.

En route to his win, the outspoken San Diegan topped two old nemeses, Steve Strandemo in the quarter-finals and Marty Hogan in the semi's. It was the 17-year-old Hogan who had stunned the racquetball world by defeating Brumfield in the New England Pro-Am earlier this season.

The championship round win came over Brumfield's protege and doubles partner, Craig McCoy, an 18-year-old youngster from Riverside, California. McCoy accumulated some impressive credentials during the week, ousting such notables as Bill Schmidtke (11 and six), Steve Keeley (12 and 18) and finally Davey Bledsoe in the semi-finals 17-21, 21-18, 21-16.

But in all honesty there was only one match of this tournament, one match that everybody was waiting for. The re-battle of Hogan and Brumfield. Amid taunting, boasting, and other psychological warfare,

plus publicity like "Grudge Match Set in Semi's", both Hogan, the tournament's top seed and Brumfield, "the peoples champion", knew it would be a real tussle.

In a great match, including a resounding first game, Brumfield eliminated the cocky Hogan 21-20, 21-12.

*There's no way I'll ever lose to Hogan again,*" said Brumfield after his win. *"He's too slow and can't go the distance."*

The second story of the tournament was McCoy, who could turn into a serious factor on the N.R.C.-Seamco-Leach pro tour. Shooting incredibly well both forehand and backhand, McCoy tore apart all opponents until the semifinals. His 21-11, 21-6 victory over Schmidtke was pure poetry and his convincing win over Keeley extremely impressive.

The finals, however, was all Brumfield. Flashing signs of his tremendous ability, he coasted through the entire match, running up an amazing 15-1 first game advantage against McCoy before waltzing in with a 21-9 win.

Game two was like watching game one, as Brumfield grabbed an early

lead, held the edge and then bolted to a 19-11 margin. As McCoy crept back, Brumfield began struggling to find the touch again, and did just in time for a 21-19 win.

*"I wasn't mean enough,"* he said later.

The semi-finals of the bottom bracket matched Bledsoe, another fast-rising shooter, against the red-hot McCoy. In a match that was all blood and guts, McCoy finally outlasted Davey, who was not able to shake off the effects of a collision with the back wall.

In his quarter-final match against Steve Serot, Bledsoe again had to gut it out, although Serot was hobbled by torn ligaments in his foot. But when the match was on the line it was the lithe Memphian 21-20 in the third.

The fourth quarter-final match was also marred somewhat by injury as Strandemo, playing his best ball in some time, captured the first game against Brumfield 21-10. But a pulled back muscle in the second game severely hampered Steve's mobility and Charlie had little trouble subduing the gutsy Strandemo 21-16, 21-13 in the next two games.



Hogan (l.) and Brumfield have differing viewpoints with the referee's call in their semi-final match.

Tough quarter-final round match finds Strandemo about to kill the ball in the right corner against Brumfield.



**Pro Results, Men (First Round):** Jay Jones, Los Angeles def. Dennis Olson, Tucson 21-7, 21-17; Jeff Bowman, Chicago def. Lloyd Smith, Tucson 21-14, 21-12; Howard Diamond, Tucson def. Charlie Drake, San Diego 6-4, injury default; Dave Bledsoe, Memphis def. David Matthews, San Diego 21-6, 21-5; Craig McCoy, Riverside, Cal. def. Eddie Southard, Tucson 21-6, 21-6; Steve Chase, Mesa def. Fred Lewerenz, Detroit 21-11, 21-18.

**(Second Round):** Marty Hogan, St. Louis def. Jones 21-11, 21-11; Mike Zeitman, Memphis def. Richard Wagner, San Diego 8-21, 21-18, 21-11; Charles Brumfield, San Diego def. Bill Hildebrand, Phoenix 21-5, 21-6; Steve Strandemo, San Diego def. Bowman 21-8, 21-8; Steve Serot, San Diego def. Diamond 21-4, 21-4; Bledsoe def. Jerry Hilecher, St. Louis 21-20, 21-11; McCoy def. Bill Schmidtke, Minneapolis 21-11, 21-6; Steve Keeley, San Diego def. Chase 21-17, 21-5.

**(Quarter-finals):** Hogan def. Zeitman 21-20, 21-12; Brumfield def. Strandemo 10-21, 21-16, 21-13; Bledsoe def. Serot 21-6, 13-21, 21-20; McCoy def. Keeley 21-12, 21-18.

**(Semi-Finals):** Brumfield def. Hogan 21-20, 21-12; McCoy def. Bledsoe 17-21, 21-18, 21-16.

**(Championship):** Brumfield def. McCoy 21-9, 21-19.



Off to the races: Bledsoe tracking down a pass shot in the semi-finals.



Bearded Steve Chase goes to the ceiling in the men's Amateur finals. In the forecourt is eventual winner, Bill Hildebrand.

WOMEN'S PRO

JANELL MARRIOTT  
MARRIOTT  
21-6 21-5

NOGUCHI  
21-5 21-10

ORVA LEWIS

SUE CAROW  
CAMPBELL  
21-4 20-3 21-9

CAMPBELL  
21-21 21-17  
21-11

STEDING  
21-15 21-9

WILLIAMS  
21-21 21-12 21-12

STEDING  
21-10 21-8

STEDING  
21-1 21-13

AMATEUR

NOGUCHI  
21-4

NOGUCHI  
21-17 21-5

ENTI

**Pro Results, Women (First Round):** Donna Noguchi, Huntington Beach, Cal. def. Orva Lewis, Tucson 21-5, 21-10; Jean Sauser, Northbrook, Ill. def. Dena Rassenti, Tucson 21-8, 21-10.

**(Quarter-finals):** Janell Marriott, Salt Lake City def. Noguchi 21-6, 21-8; Jan Campbell, San Diego def. Sue Carow, Glenview, Ill. 21-14, 20-21, 21-9; Kathy Williams, Hazel Park, Mich. def. Ruth Knudsen, Salt Lake City 8-21, 21-12, 21-12; Peggy Steding, Odessa, Tex. def. Sauser 21-1, 21-13.

**(Semi-finals):** Campbell def. Marriott 12-21, 21-18, 21-11; Steding def. Williams 21-10, 21-8.

**(Championship):** Steding def. Campbell 21-15, 21-9.



*Good ladies semi-final action finds Williams properly taking a ball off the back wall against Steding.*

Campbell, who had knocked off top seed Marriott in the upper bracket semi-final, never got her game going against Steding. Peggy kept her constantly off balance, constantly retrieving and constantly losing rallies.

Peggy was even tougher on Kathy Williams who couldn't get 21 points in two games in the bottom bracket semi-final, 21-10, 21-8.

*"She's just too tough," said Kathy. "It's like being in another world playing Peggy."*

Two good matches in the quarter-final round found Campbell needing three to top Sue Carow 21-14, 20-21, 21-9, proving to Carow that she can play with the top gals; and Williams' 8-21, 21-12, 21-12 victory over Salt Lake's Ruth Knudsen.

Phoenix' Bill Hildebrand captured the men's amateur title, topping Mesa's Steve Chase 14-21, 21-17, 21-5 for the victory. Each had an

easy semi-final win, Chase nine and 12 over San Diego's Len Baldori and Hildebrand a seven and 12 win over Tucson's Dennis Olson. Baldori took third 21-20, 15-21, 21-17.

Donna Noguchi won the women's amateur event defeating Orva Lewis, Tucson in the finals 21-17, 21-9, while Dena Rassenti captured third place 18-21, 21-9, 21-18.

Great thanks to the Tucson Athletic Club and host Carl Porter for so graciously hosting the event. Woody Woodman, Gene Decker, Jan Thiessan and all the many others who did so much, we thank you. . . No thanks to the weatherman who provided cold and/or rainy weather much of the week. . . . Dr. Fred Lewerenz should be commended for the concern and help he gave Dave Bledsoe after his injury, which proved not to be serious.

All photos of the Tucson Pro-Am  
by Jan Thiessan.

## TOURNAMENT RESULTS

*Typical action from a typical Brumfield-Serot semi finds the quarters tight in center court. This time it's Serot putting "el blocko" on Brum.*



# Aurora

# 4

Pro-Am Tour



The Brum has done it all.

As of this date there is no better racquetball player in the world,—the main man is Charlie Brumfield. "The People's Champion," as he likes to be called, will tell you the same thing,—he is number one. But every month he has to prove it again, in one-on-one combat against his fellow professionals. At the Aurora Pro-Am, make no mistake about it,—Charlie Brumfield was number one.

Reaching a plateau where his two closest pursuers together can't match his prize money (see page ), Brumfield has once again outclassed the rest of the racquetball field.

In Aurora he did it with grace, flamboyance, controversy, good will, public relations, and even a few kill shots.

And through it all, nothing came easy for Brumfield. He worked in the quarters, taking Bill Schmidtke 18 and 18. He worked in the semi's besting Steve Serot 17-21, 21-1, 21-16. And he worked in the finals topping Dave Bledsoe 19 and 11.

*"If it (the finals) would have gone three, Bledsoe would have won the match,"* he said matter-of-factly. *"So I had to push to win the first game."*

The victory, was a surprise of sorts to Brumfield, who said he feared playing on Aurora's three walls of glass. But if the transparent walls bothered Brum, it didn't make an impression on the scorecard.

*"My game relies on control and the ability to outmaneuver my opponent,"* he explained. *"If I can't see the ball, I certainly can't hit it where I want. I don't have the power to just blast away like some of the other players."*

But Brumfield beat two power players in Bledsoe and Serot, proving for the umpteenth time that

*Wagner, despite this kill shot, was not able to top Bledsoe in the semi-finals. Dave's shooting and over-all experience was too much for the San Diego youngster.*

physical ability plus mental ability beats just physical ability almost every time.

Charlie's most exciting match was his semi-final encounter with Serot. The 19-year-old southpaw came out smoking, connecting on virtually every shot. When the score reached 16-3 in favor of the stalking ex-St. Louisian, Brumfield knew it was time to change the momentum and pace of the game. He did it by challenging referee Chuck Leve, the N.R.C.'s National Director.

Claiming he would have injured Serot had he taken a certain shot, Brumfield held his swing and requested a hinder. Leve refused to honor the hinder and amid threats of "I refuse to play under these conditions," Charlie kept the argument going. When informed by the referee that he didn't have to play if he didn't want to, Brumfield called a time out.

The ruckus was enough to accomplish its goal,—that of breaking Serot's concentration. And although Charlie was not able to quite take the first game, he came back to 17-20, and rode that momentum to a stunning 21-1 second game win. A big third game lead followed by a stunted comeback attempt by Serot sewed up the match for Brumfield.

There were many surprises in the Aurora tournament, but none could have been bigger than Richard Wagner, the likeable 19-year-old from San Diego, reaching the semi-finals. The late withdrawal by second seed Craig McCoy, afforded Wagner a slightly improved draw, enough to help his cause.

"I need some luck," Wagner said prior to the tournament. "I'm playing well, but I still need a break." It came on the new pairings.

Although still playing with some youthful inconsistency, Wagner showed more good than bad in topping Jerry Hilecher 21-10, 16-21, 21-7 in the round of 16, and then shocking Marty Hogan, the underdog of the gallery 21-20, 21-12 in a terrifically exciting match. An especially thrilling comeback by Wagner from 18-20 to take game one, was thoroughly enjoyed by the fans.

Ancient Ron Rubenstein, competing for the first time this season, took the wind out of the middle of the bottom bracket by defeating popular Steve Keeley 12-21, 21-8, 21-15.

"I thought he couldn't go three games," said Keeley.

But the game Rubenstein couldn't make it two upsets in a row, a feat that would have bordered on the incredible since both matches were in one day. As it was, Ruby gave a stellar performance before bowing to Bledsoe in the quarters 21-8, 20-21, 21-14.

Serot's quarter-final match was against Steve Strandemo, and after giving each other one of the first two games (21-7 to Serot, then 21-8 to Strandemo) the two San Diegans got down to some top notch racquetball. In a game that was far closer than the score indicated, Serot prevailed 21-14 in the third.

The Men's Amateur A bracket drew a round of 64 and top seed Bill Gottlieb, the original Radiation Man, took his third U.S.R.A. Amateur title in a year. His championship match win was over U.S.R.A. National Juniors champ Ben Koltun, the flashy 17-year-old from St. Louis. Scores were 21-13, 21-15 in a well-played match. Terry Fancher, now a teaching pro with the Court House Court Club in Skokie, Illinois, captured third place from another court club teaching pro, Gil Schmitt of Sky Harbor Court Club in Northbrook, Illinois.

The Men's B championship was captured by Schaumburg, Illinois' Clyde Senters, who topped another Schaumburger Don Shepson 21-19, 21-15.

Photo by Ron Lindner



Schmidtke (r.) showing a vastly improved game, complete with kill shots, here makes a fine get against Brumfield in the quarters. Former national champ succumbed in two tough ones, 21-18, 21-18.

## NOTES OF THE TOURNAMENT . . .

We can't sign off without a special note of thanks to Jim Stotz, the physical director of the Aurora Y.M.C.A., whose organization, hard work, exceptional staff, and general co-operation made this tournament the most successful to date . . . Tim Rusch, executive director of the Y, logged many an hour refereeing and performing other needed duties . . . Bill Feigen, Bob Keenan, Benn Eilert and John Gothard rate special mention for all of their help in flooring and refereeing . . . excellent attendance for three straight days, including full houses for Saturday's semi's, meaning 350 or more spectators . . . Brumfield gave it the good p.r. with a live television appearance at the local CBS outlet, WBBM-TV in Chicago, barbing with sportscaster Johnny Morris, former Chicago Bears standout . . . first tournament of the year for Vic Niederhoffer was a rough one as he succumbed to St. Louis's Rudi Losche in the first round. Vic, gracious as ever, simply commented, "he was too good, today, very good . . ." good press from Len Ziehm and Bob Langer of the Chicago *Sun-Times* . . . Steve Keeley, although disappointing on the court put together a deal with DBI Books, Inc., a Chicago area publishing house, for Steve's forthcoming book.



Bledsoe reverses direction to cover a right side pass by surprise quarter-finalist Rubenstein. In his first pro start of the season, Chicagoan Ruby upset Steve Keeley in 16's.



Wagner, the big surprise of the tournament, here follows through with a backhand drive in his dramatic win over Hogan. Concentration and desire did it.



Big crowds for the quarters watched four excellent matches including Serot (foreground) eliminating Strandemo. This match was the highlight of the round.

**Pro Results, Men (First Round):** Charles Brumfield, San Diego def. Don Webb, Urbana, Ill. 21-2, 21-3; Joe Wirkus, Milwaukee def. Charles Drake, San Diego 21-14, 21-6; Bill Schmidtke, Wayzata, Minn. def. John Lynch, Champaign, Ill. 21-17, 21-15; Mike Zeitman, Memphis def. Mark Hiudt, Cincinnati 18-21, 21-6, 21-16; Steve Serot, San Diego def. Charlie Rish, Urbana, Ill. 21-2, 21-7; Ron Strom, Minneapolis def. Charlie Garfinkel, Buffalo 21-8, 15-21, 21-4; Paul Ikier, Minneapolis def. Ken Wong, St. Louis (default); Steve Strandemo, San Diego def. John Kruger, Burlington, Vt. 21-7, 21-13; Dave Bledsoe, Memphis def. Tom Carpenter, Warren, Mich. 21-11, 21-17; Rudi Losche, St. Louis def. Victor Niederhoffer, New York 21-14, 21-5; Ron Rubenstein, Chicago def. Rob Abrams, Cincinnati 21-1, 21-5; Steve Keeley, San Diego def. Gil Schmitt, Northbrook, Ill. 21-3, 21-9; Jerry Hilecher, St. Louis def. Mike Weum, Minneapolis 21-5, 21-12; Richard Wagner, San Diego def. Jerry Zuckerman, St. Louis 21-5, 17-21, 21-18; Jeff Bowman, Urbana, Ill. def. Dan Alder, Milwaukee 21-12, 21-18; Marty Hogan, St. Louis def. Fred Lewerenz, Detroit 21-6, 21-18.

**(Second Round):** Brumfield def. Wirkus 21-9, 21-13; Schmidtke def. Zeitman 21-10, 21-19; Serot def. Strom, 21-12, 21-8; Strandemo def. Ikier 21-5, 21-9; Bledsoe def. Losche 21-17, 16-21, 21-5; Rubenstein def. Keeley 12-21, 21-8, 21-15; Wagner def. Hilecher 21-10, 16-21, 21-7; Hogan def. Bowman 21-8, 21-8.

**(Quarter-finals):** Brumfield def. Schmidtke 21-18, 21-18; Serot def. Strandemo 21-7, 8-21, 21-14; Bledsoe def. Rubenstein 21-8, 20-21, 21-14; Wagner def. Hogan 21-20, 21-12.

**(Semi-finals):** Brumfield def. Serot 17-21, 21-1, 21-16; Bledsoe def. Wagner 21-16, 21-10.

**(Championship):** Brumfield def. Bledsoe 21-19, 21-11.



*Special tournament guest Al Mackie (2nd from left), president of Seamco Sporting Goods, presents winner's check to Brumfield, as N.R.C. president Bob Kendler awards runner-up amount to Bledsoe.*

Tournament director Jim Stotz (c.) presents the first place trophy in the Men's Amateur A bracket to Bill Gottlieb. Others pictured are (l. to r.) Terry Fancher, 3rd, Ben Koltun, 2nd, and Gil Schmitt, 4th.



Outstanding television coverage was a highlight of Aurora. Here N.R.C. National Director Chuck Leve (r.) goes over final details with (r. to l.) Keeley, Brumfield, Joe Ardito and two CBS cameramen.

The ladies pro bracket featured number two seed Kathy Williams against top seed Jan Campbell in the finals. Williams, who had been playing devastating racquetball the entire tournament just kept right on hitting her shots, despite a nagging and weakening case of the flu.

*"I don't know what I've got," she said, "but I wish I had it every tournament."* Poor Kathy was so sick she requested a bucket be placed outside the court door, *"in case I have to make a quick exit."*

There were some quick exits, but only by her opponents, as Camille McCarthy exited with four and six, Sue Carow exited with a disappointing nine and two, and finally Campbell took her turn, exiting with 18 and seven.

*"I'd feel bad if I didn't play well," said Campbell, "but Kathy was just super. She didn't miss a shot all day."*

Campbell's toughest win en route to the finals was her semi-final victory over St. Louis' Jan Pasternak 21-19, 21-18. Both wins were comebacks, from 18-9 in game one and 16-8 in the second.

*"I still need more work," said Pasternak. "My shots are coming around, but I need work on my stamina."*



Action from the women's finals finds Jan Campbell following through on a forehand kill attempt as eventual winner Kathy Williams moves in to cover.

**Pro Results Women (First Round):** Donna Rombauer, Columbus, OH def. Sarah Houle, Chicago 31-10; Vickie Kimber, Champaign, Ill. def. Philyus Firlus, Rock Island, Ill. 31-9; Cindy Lear, Keokuk, Ia. def. Lera Chitwood, Oak Park, Ill. 31-7; Susan Kleinman, Chicago def. Ade Crabtree (default); Lois Dowd, Winnetka, Ill. def. Cameron Dick, River Forest, Ill. 31-19; Lynn Johnson, Rock Island, Ill. def. Susan Halsey, Troy, Mich. 31-23; Irene Ackerman, Southfield, Mich. def. Noreen Voncky, Mt. Prospect, Ill. 31-5; Holly Parker, Chicago def. Denise Daun, Schaumburg, Ill. 31-3.

**(Second round):** Jan Campbell, San Diego def. Margot Miller, Calumet City, Ill. 21-0, 21-4; Rombauer def. Judy Huhta, Mt. Clemens, Mich. 21-8, 21-11; Bev Franks, Northbrook, Ill. def. Kimber 21-5, 21-1; Barb Tenneson, Elk River, Minn. def. Mary Plauche, Evanston, Ill. 21-5, 21-16; Jean Sauser, Northbrook, Ill. def. Patti Pattyn, Mt. Clemens, Mich. 21-1, 21-2; Pat Schmidt, Milwaukee def. Lear 21-11, 21-2; Ellie Karlin, Glenview, Ill. def. Teresa Gnewuch, Oregon, Wis. 21-2, 21-18; Jan Pasternak, St. Louis def. Kleinman 21-5, 21-6; Sue Carow, Glenview, Ill. def. Barb Baker, Quincy, Ill. 21-0, 21-2; Pat Krise, Ypsilanti,

Mich. def. Dowd 21-6, 21-3; Gerri Stoffregen, Cincinnati def. Carol Stewart, Ypsilanti, Mich. 21-11, 21-6; Ev Dillin, Elk River, Minn. def. Pat Kornguth, Columbus, OH 21-3, 21-7; Camille McCarthy, Indianapolis def. Johnson 21-3, 21-1; Judy Thompson, Davenport, Ia. def. Ackerman 21-4, 21-7; Goldie Hogan, St. Louis def. Parker 21-18, 21-1; Kathy Williams, Hazel Park, Mich. def. Kris Biggs, Rockford, Ill. 21-11, 21-12.

**(Third Round):** Campbell def. Rombauer 21-2, 21-3; Tenneson def. Franks 21-19, 21-13; Sauser def. Schmidt 21-10, 21-14; Pasternak def. Karlin 21-4, 21-9; Carow def. Krise 21-3, 21-11; Stoffregen def. Dillin 21-13, 21-9; McCarthy def. Thompson 13-21, 21-8, 21-4; Williams def. Hogan 21-4, 21-6.

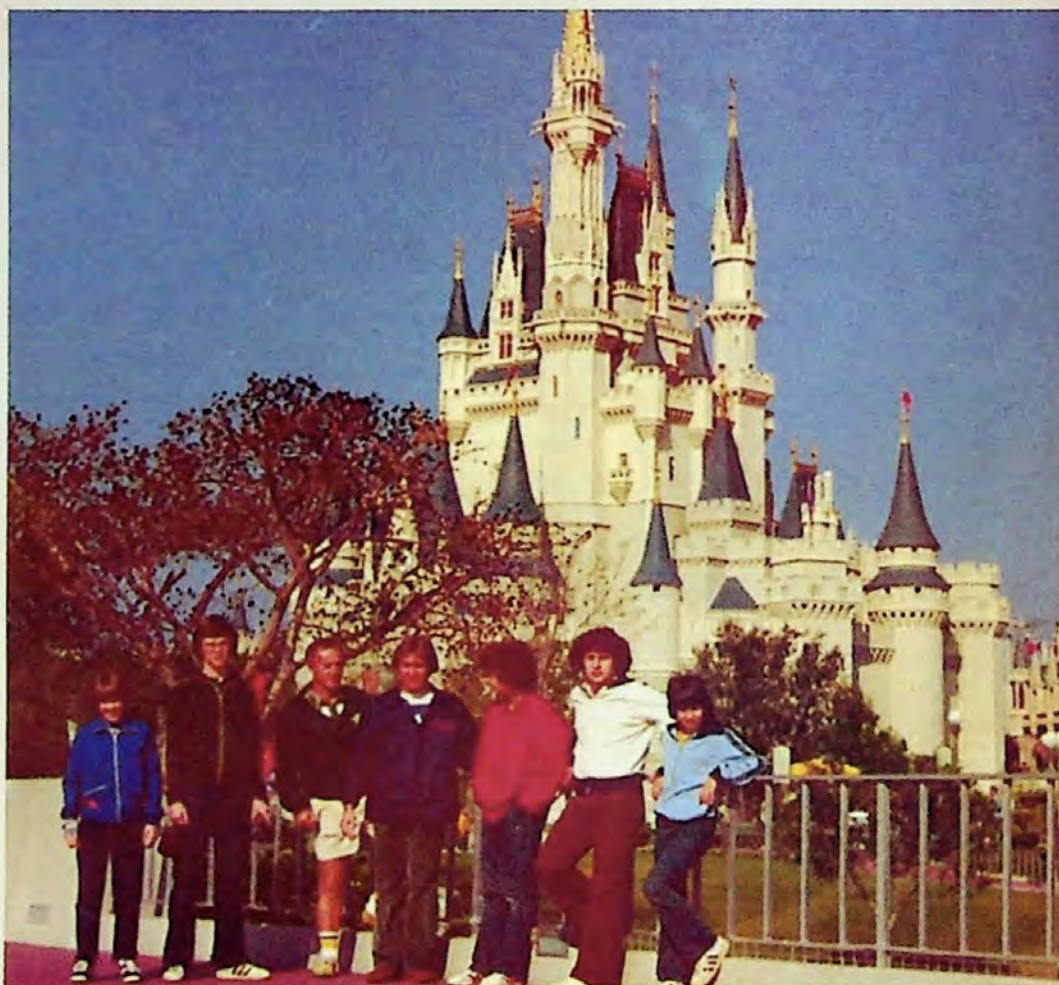
**(Quarter-finals):** Campbell def. Tenneson 21-6, 21-10; Pasternak def. Sauser 17-21, 21-9, 21-17; Carow def. Stoffregen 21-8, 21-6; Williams def. McCarthy 21-4, 21-6.

**(Semi-finals):** Campbell def. Pasternak 21-19, 21-8; Williams def. Carow 21-9, 21-2.

**(Championship):** Williams def. Campbell 21-18, 21-7.

## TOURNAMENT RESULTS

All photos of the National Juniors tournament are by Scott Davidson age 15, Oceanside, California.



*The overwhelming beauty of Disney World, coupled with the excitement of the National Juniors Championships, made the week of December 26-30 a most thrilling event.*

# Everybody Wins National Juniors

Sunny Orlando, Florida in the middle of winter. A fun-filled and exciting trip to Disney World for a group of 75 boys and girls ages 10-18. Hotel rooms, all breakfasts and dinners,—paid for. Transportation allowances averaged one-third of the round trip fare. New friendships emerged as player met player from as far north and west as Vancouver, British Columbia and San Diego, to as far South and east as Miami, Florida and Laurel, Maryland.

This was the National Juniors. Racquetball at its finest,—perhaps not on the court, but certainly in the camaraderie and lessons that five days provided for the wide-eyed

entrants. And the skills exhibited were tremendous.

But the Juniors was so much more. It was D. B. Frampton and his court building firm getting the ball rolling with an initial donation. That followed with Champion Glove, through Ken Konkol and Lee Nylen matching the Frampton amount, when the entries turned out to be triple what was anticipated.

It was Bob Kendler, U.S.R.A. president deciding to use 100 per cent these funds for the juniors, and add a couple of thousand of his own dollars, when the sponsorship fell a bit short.

It was the Orlando Y.M.C.A. with Bill Dunsworth, physical director supreme, and his great staff, who did everything possible to make the stay for all 75 a real treat. Bill gave up his time, money and a vacation to do everything including driving the bus to Disney World and mixing the Gatorade.

Joe Ardito, U.S.R.A. National Commissioner and Chuck Leve, the National Director found themselves floor managing, refereeing, bed-checking and chaperoning.

*"I have been to every major racquetball tournament possible in the last five years," said Leve. "And I never enjoyed a tournament more*

Bob Adam gets ready to shoot a set-up against Ben Koltun during the finals of the 18 and Under bracket. It was a dramatic, well-played championship match.



than this one. The atmosphere was friendship and fun first, and racquetball second."

Oh, and by the way. Ben Koltun, 17, won the 18-and-under bracket of play, topping Bob Adam, Jr., 18. Koltun, another up-and-coming St. Louisian, dropped game one 21-20, but then came back to take the lanky Minneapolis native in games two and three 21-19, 21-19.

In the 15-and-under group it was Larry Fox, 15-years-old from Cincinnati, besting another 15-year-old, St. Louis' David Kinberg 21-10, 14-21, 21-20.

Beaver Wickham, 14, took third place over Larry Nitishin, 15 in the 15-and-under 13-21, 21-18, 21-16, while Lindsay Myers, 16, captured third in the 18-and-under over John Moshides, 18, 21-7, 21-8.

"Within a year or two the National Juniors is going to be the biggest tournament of the year," said Ardito. "There is no limit to what can be done. And it will be a pleasure doing it."



Action in the third place 18-and-under match finds Lindsay Myers moving in to cover John Moshides' backhand kill attempt.

### Juniors Sign After Wins

Eighteen-and-under National Juniors Champ Ben Koltun, 17, signed a letter of intent to play professional racquetball as a member of the Leach Industries team, less than a month after his victory in the U.S.R.A.'s National Juniors.

The contract offer was made by Steve Serot, director of Leach Industries Junior program.

"We feel that Ben Koltun will be a great asset to Leach," said Serot, who like Koltun, hails from St. Louis. "Any player who could survive the rigors of competition as tough as the National Juniors, certainly deserves our consideration."

Serot also announced the signing of 15-and-under champion Larry Fox to a future contract.



The 15 and Under hardware winners pose with Bill Dunsworth (2nd from l.) and Chuck Leve (far r.). They are (l. to r.) Beaver Wickham, Larry Fox, David Kinberg.

**18 & Under Results: (First Round)** Murray, Janesville, WI def. Becker, Wheeling, WV 13-21, 21-17, 21-13; Meyers, Oceanside, CA def. Broderson, Louisville 15-21, 21-12, 21-16; Fox, Cincinnati def. Cadwallader, St. Louis (forfeit); Foley, Columbia, MD def. Raby, Tucson, AZ 21-1, 21-12; Gregory, Omaha def. Smith, Sterling, IL (forfeit); Zuckerman, St. Louis def. Essa, Greensboro, NC 21-9, 21-6.

**(Second Round):** Koltun, St. Louis def. Bolan, Tempe, AZ 21-3, 21-20; Stone, Highland Park, IL def. Sher, Southfield, MI 21-17, 21-17; Richardson, Livonia, MI def. Murray 21-16, 21-21, 21-15; Meyers def. Sanders Peoria, IL 21-3, 21-7; Fox def. M. Buckley, Orland Park, IL 21-13, 21-7; Karp, Houston def. Johnson, Laurel, MD 18-21, 21-19, 21-8; Hodges, Shreveport, LA def. Scheyer, Chicago 21-15, 21-14; Moshides, Niagara Falls, NY def. Nord, Jacksonville, FL 21-1, 21-1; Myers, Vancouver, B.C. def. Kreighauser, St. Louis 21-1, 21-1; Sulli, Elmhurst, IL def. Outlan, Memphis 21-2, 21-3; Wirkus, Fond du Lac, WI def. Yellen, Southfield, MI 18-21, 21-19, 21-11; Foley def. P. Buckley, Orland Park, IL 16-21, 21-19, 21-9; Kwartler, Houston def. Gregory 21-11, 21-18; Zuckerman def. St. Clair, San Diego 21-4, 21-6; Van Trease, Findlay, OH def. Garcia, Barstow, CA 21-12, 21-3; Adam, Edina, MN def. Lunn, Great Falls, MT 21-5, 21-8.

**(Third Round):** Koltun def. Stone 21-1, 21-18; Meyers def. Richardson 19-21, 21-12, 21-15; Fox def. Karp 21-12, 21-16; Moshides def. Hodges 21-13, 21-16; Myers def. Sulli 21-12, 21-6; Wirkus def. Foley 20-21, 21-8, 21-20; Kwartler def. Zuckerman 21-14, 21-13; Adam def. Van Trease 21-9, 21-2.

**(Quarter-finals):** Koltun def. Meyers 21-18, 21-18; Moshides def. Fox 21-8, 21-10; Myers def. Wirkus 21-13, 21-5; Adam def. Kwartler 21-3, 21-19.

**(Semi-finals):** Koltun def. Moshides 21-19, 21-12; Adam def. Myers 21-8, 21-18.

**(Third Place):** Myers def. Moshides 21-7, 21-8.

**(Championship):** Koltun def. Adam 20-21, 21-19, 21-19.

**(15 & Under Results' (First Round)** Weisman, St. Louis def. Morris, Miami Lakes, FL 21-13,

21-11; Schaeffer, Winona, MN def. Croft, Shreveport, LA 21-13, 21-11; Davidson, Oceanside, CA def. C. LeBlanc, Lafayette, LA 21-1, 21-0; Nitishin, Houston def. Clar, Northbrook, IL 21-3, 21-7; Nolan, Tempe, AZ def. Klerman, St. Louis 21-10, 21-4.

**(Second round):** Malowitz, Houston def. Ettinger, Jacksonville, FL 21-3, 21-2; Comeaux, Lafayette, LA def. E. Clar, Northbrook, IL 21-6, 21-3; Almerico, Norco, LA def. Weisman 21-4, 21-7; Fox, Cincinnati def. Schaeffer 21-6, 21-6; Davidson def. Cohen, St. Louis 21-3, 21-4; Abbott, Great Falls, MT def. Johnson, St. Paul 21-11, 21-15; Nitishin def. Brasington, Gainesville, FL 21-5, 21-12;

Yellen, Southfield, MI def. Allen, Lafayette, LA 21-4, 21-7; Wickham, Oceanside, CA def. Peck, Milwaukee 21-3, 21-2; W. LeBlanc, Lafayette, LA def. Marcus, Miami 21-5, 21-8; Schorr, Columbia MD def. B. Clar, Northbrook, IL 21-1, 21-0; Nolan def. Richardson, Livonia, MI 21-12, 13-21, 21-11; Phillippy, Clearwater, FL def. Davies, Cupertino, CA 21-4, 21-14; Doebr, Livonia, MI def. Lerille, Lafayette, LA 21-4, 21-10; Weiser, Houston def. Howe, Sarasota, FL 21-19, 21-13; Kinberg, St. Louis, def. Donner, Lomita, CA 21-2, 21-1.

**(Third Round):** Malowitz def. Comeaux 21-3, 21-10; Fox def. Almerico 21-10, 21-10; Davidson def. Abbott 21-10, 21-19; Nitishin def. Yellen 21-21, 21-17, 21-14; Wickham def. W. LeBlanc 21-0, 21-2; Nolan def. Schorr 21-6, 21-9; Phillippy def. Doebr 21-13, 21-6; Kinberg def. Weiser 21-2, 21-0.

**(Quarter-finals):** Fox def. Malowitz 21-19, 21-9; Nitishin def. Davidson 21-4, 21-19; Wickham def. Nolan 21-5, 21-5; Kinberg def. Phillippy 21-10, 21-7.

**(Semi-finals):** Fox def. Nitishin 21-12, 21-12; Kinberg def. Wickham 15-21, 21-6, 21-5.

**(Third Place):** Wickham def. Nitishin 13-21, 21-16, 21-16.

**(Championship):** Fox def. Kinberg 21-10, 14-21, 21-20.

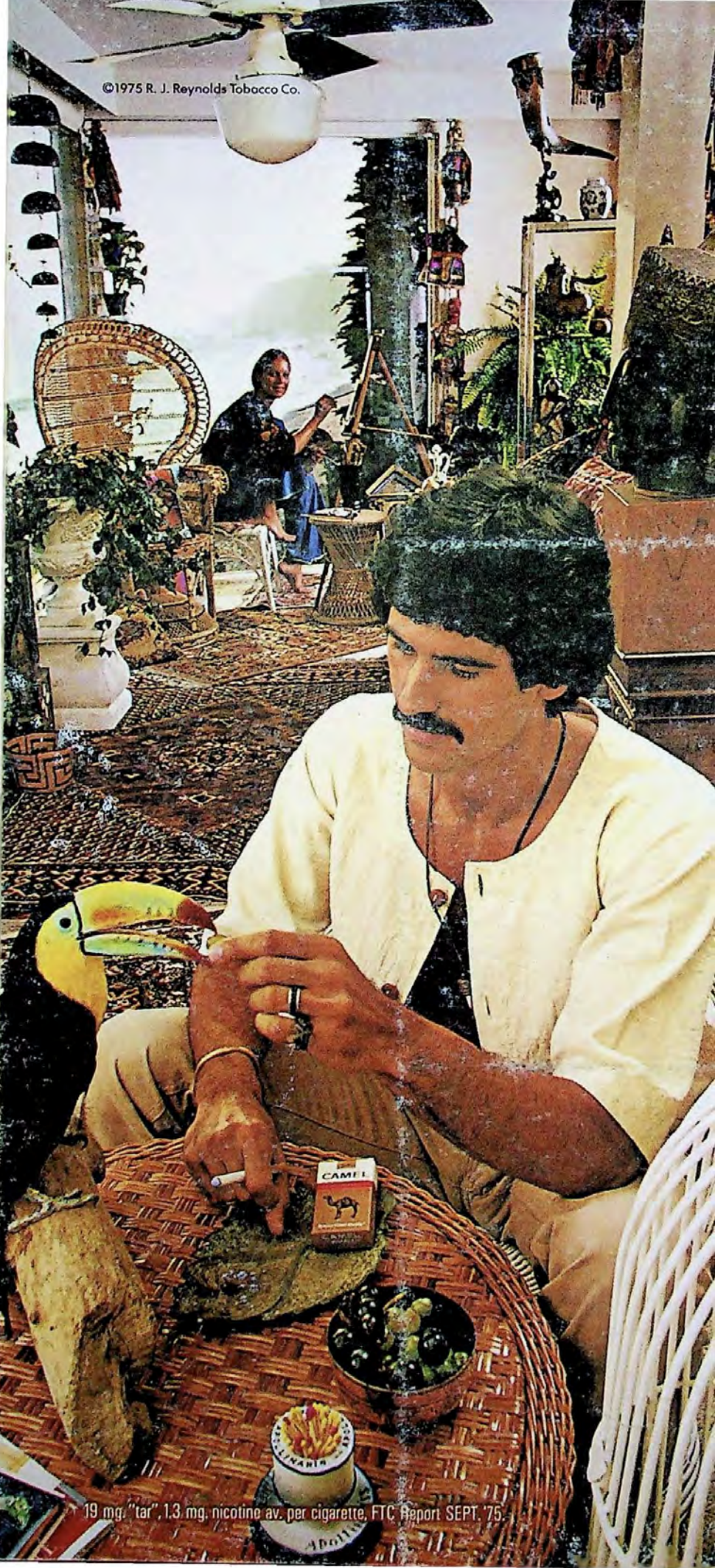
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