

National Racquetball®

Vol. 6 No. 2
February, 1978
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RACQUETBALL!

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On The Cover . . .

Racquetball's first-ever nationally televised program, pictured during the women's finals action, was our sport's initial encounter with the tube. For a full report on how it was done, see page 18.

— Photo by Arthur Shay and Dick Shay

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Terry Fancher... This Is Your Life!



(or how to rise from rags to riches by marrying the boss's daughter)

This is too sweet a story not to tell. That's one reason. Another is the romance in racquetball. Maybe the best reason is the wonderful way God plans to make all things work together for good to them that love Him (*Romans 8-28-30*).

A few years ago at the University of Wisconsin one Thomas Terrance Fancher (no wonder he goes by Terry) was working on his Masters thesis. Oddly enough, he chose the *History of Racquetball* at a time when the game was little known and less appreciated. Actually, he figured, if you write the history of a four year old sport, it minimizes your research, right? That kid is sharp!

His excellent thesis, finished in two days, was sent to *National Racquetball* editor Chuck Leve, who not only took a great liking to him, — he also offered to help him. The USRA bought Terry's paper and published it in five parts.

That was the first time I ever heard of the Arkansas traveler, — reading his thesis on us and our sport. Next time I heard about him was when Chuck told me he had hired Terry. I don't know why. He was so quiet and unassuming, I didn't even know he was on our payroll until an unfamiliar name showed up on the payroll the following week.

It didn't take long, though, to learn that there was a great deal of intelligence, character and devotion on Terry's part, — all of it to racquetball. Of this soft spoken thinker suddenly two things became apparent to me . . . one, this character was alive, — and two, he was a real prize.

I later found out that racquetball was not the only sport in which he excelled, having been a high school track star in Ft. Smith, Ark. (he originally went to Wisconsin on a track scholarship), as well as an accomplished handball, baseball, basketball and yes, — girl player as well.

Terry used to be a consistent semi-finalist in top racquetball circles, that is until he came to Racquetball Resort, my pet name for our institution here where so many people playfully come to work. That's where the roof fell in.

It all started when every gal in our office began calling this new employee "*The Bod*," which I later found out is short for "*body*." Even the married gals were talking about the Ft. Smith Flash who paid absolutely no attention to any girl, — just quietly did a great job organizing all the states.

I guess I deserved it. While all the girls were making a play for our hero, — I brought my youngest daughter to work at the office. Fresh from Ft. Lewis College in Durango, CO, she was in no mood for "*Mr. Braun*" from Ft. Smith. And this becomes the key to our story.

I figured the way to cure her was to start her playing racquetball. Wow! Did I ever figure right. I asked Terry to teach her how to play, and BOY did he teach her!

He taught her how to serve (him), how to receive (him), how to play doubles (him), how to pass (others) and how to kill (others). All of this did not make the

predators in our playpen happy. Every prospect in our place had designs on Terry except Kip and that was her big mistake. Like me, — she underestimated this quiet, unassuming master from Madison.

Pretty soon Kip was asking for lessons on a daily basis, which Terry was happy to give. Shortly thereafter, it became my turn to give, when one day, — the puddy cat came to me and asked for the hand of my daughter. Having no better offers, I accepted. What I never could understand though, was why our monthly bill from a local court club showed Kip and Terry averaging only two lessons per week. What a nice club owner he was, I figured, giving them all that free play.

Terry Fancher did a couple of things for which I admire him. First, he brought a lot of talent to our association. Then he brought a lot of love to our family. He also brought a lot of progress to our state association program.

When you consider the count down, — here is what Terrific Terry did. He picked his subject, — and made it! He picked his place, — and made it! He picked his sweetheart, — and he made it! Good Lord, — he may have picked me next!

I guess I'm just going to have to work harder, — in order to serve racquetball better.

I'll try. ●

Bob Kendler

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Court Conduct: The Big Dilemma



For five years the NRC/USRA has been working to bring the public televised racquetball. And now that our first show is history many unanswered questions remain.

Before addressing those questions, I think it is relevant to point out that we have learned a great deal from our initial television exposure. Experience, they say, is the best learning device, — and believe me, putting together a national T.V. show is an experience.

Now those questions. It seems to me that the eventual success of racquetball as television sport and/or entertainment, depends on how the general public accepts what is aired.

It really doesn't matter at this stage who the players are, for the non-racquetball world will be tuning in just to catch a glimpse of this much-heralded new sport, to see what it's all about.

Racquetball fanatics will enjoy r.b. shows simply because it's a chance to see the best play. For Mr. or Ms. Average American, however, there must be understanding, appreciation and entertainment.

It's not enough to get a lot of people to watch, what is important is to get a lot of people to enjoy what they watch, and want to see more.

I am sure all viewers will enjoy the tremendous skills exhibited by the top players. Heaven knows, that's what we're bringing into America's living rooms.

But the big question still remains, — will the viewers accept the player's behavior as expressed in the first-ever T.V. show? Does the public want to witness adolescent temper tantrums? Do the "*I hate your guts*" glares add to the excitement of the show? Is the best racquetball has to offer simply a back room brawl with racquets?

All sports have their controversial characters, whether Ilie Nastase, Dave Schultz or Reggie Jackson. Many televised sporting events show us atrocious behavior, from Woody Hayes' sideline antics to Jimmy Connors' repulsive gestures.

And we hear people saying how terrible these things are for their sport, — no class, no sportsmanship, no good.

Yet annually Hayes' Ohio State football team is on the tube the maximum number of allowable times, and a Connors-Nastase match will out-draw two white knights every time. The fans, the viewers and the promoters almost demand controversy, as if to say that sport can't stand on its merits alone.

So the dilemma takes shape. As the governing body do we take the righteous stand and promote a clean sport just for the sake of the sport, and possibly to the future detriment of the

game's popularity? Or do we simply close our eyes and let the chips fall where they may, most likely along side roller derby and professional wrestling.

Add to that the third element, that "*evil necessity*," money. We all are aware of what fine revenues good television ratings can bring, — money that if spent wisely can be used to make racquetball an even greater sport, — for all players.

Extremism is not the answer. I would prefer moderation, but to have moderation means the cooperation of players, their sponsors, referees and the tour sponsors.

I know that all the pros want to have racquetball prosper. They must be convinced that the path to success is not childish behavior, nor old fashioned stuffiness, but a common ground between sport and entertainment. If the players will accept that, there can be no stopping racquetball.

If the players can't accept it, well, we gave it a good try. ●

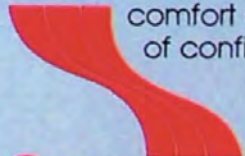


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Protecting Your Eyes For Your Next Racquetball Game

by James R. Gregg, O.D.

Every shot in racquetball from an Ace to a Z-ball takes the finest vision you can get. Few things you do require the precision of hand and eye coordination needed to hit a racquetball off walls and ceiling at almost infinite combinations of speed and angle.

You must have sharp visual acuity on the court. That means you should wear lenses if a correction is necessary to bring your seeing to maximum clarity. Glasses designed primarily for close work can be left in the locker room. So can others designed for special purpose only.

Equally important are some dynamic vision skills. The ability to follow an object at high speed. Lightning quickness judging changes in depth and accurate detection of direction of movement are essential. These are normally not measured when your vision is examined, in fact are difficult to measure at all. Yet these dynamic factors of visual performance have something to do with the difference between the champ and those eliminated in the first round.

Be sure to explain you play racquetball when your vision is examined. Certain eye muscle balance tests might reveal a cause of trouble in following the ball during the stress of a game, even though your vision is perfectly clear. If you have an eye coordination problem and really mean business, it might even be possible that certain specialized vision training could minimize the difficulty and increase your speed of seeing.



This is a sturdy metal eye protective device and something like this should be worn over contact lenses. Try such devices to be sure they don't restrict your field of view and that they are comfortable.

Contacts Just for Racquetball?

But most of all proper glasses need to be designed for use on the court. Actually the best solution is not glasses but contact lenses. The reason is obvious — they can provide good vision without some of the problems of glasses. If you wear contacts anyway, fine, use them to play. Whether to get them for racquetball only is something else.

Ordinarily it wouldn't be worth the time and money to be fitted for contacts for only occasional racquetball play. There are many factors to consider in deciding about contact lenses. If your correction is a mild one and you don't need it all the time, glasses may be more practical than contacts.

People who wanted contacts only for wear a few hours at a time now and then, didn't have much choice until a few years ago. Before that only hard lenses were available and they required constant wear to maintain comfortable adaptation. So the advice was that wearing contact lenses for sports alone would generally not work well.

Today is different. Soft contact lenses can be worn with comfort in many cases without continual wear to maintain adaptation. There are a few drawbacks to the flexible type of lenses, including the fact that they can't correct certain kinds of vision problems. But if seeing on the court

To keep glasses on when playing racquetball, attach an elastic band to hold them in place.



This sports mask gives excellent eye area protection and can be worn over glasses. At the same time there is practically no restriction of the field of view.



without glasses is important enough to you and you don't mind paying the fee to be fitted, a soft lens might be the answer.

But what about eye safety? Contacts won't protect the eyes from injury if they are hit by the ball or another player's racquet. Glasses might do so if they are made properly, otherwise they represent a great hazard.

The number of eye injuries from racquetball has increased dramatically in the past few years. Generally it's the result of an unpredictable shot, a ricochet of a racquet or an

inexperienced player looking the wrong direction. The expert learns when and where to look, but injuries still can occur. In Great Britain and Australia, where squash is played a great deal, the number of eye injuries far exceeds the number that might be expected in relation to the number of players. In Australia injuries to eyes from squash exceed those from auto accidents.

When the Ball Passes the Bony Orbit

Even though the eye rests in a bony orbit and is rather well protected, a ball as small as a racquetball can strike the eye directly. Even a tennis ball can do it, as the author can attest. The result can be retinal detachment, hemorrhage in the eye, paralysis of the iris or less serious consequences. Vision could be completely lost. Or, as was so in my case, there can be complete recovery in ten days.

The only sound advice to give is to wear some kind of eye protective device if you wear contacts or no glasses at all. Otherwise an eye injury is possible. A number of protective devices are available and some are pictured with this article. Some are better than others. You should select the most comfortable that imposes the least restriction on the field of view.

Many players complain of the interference of vision by protective devices. The restriction is more imaginary than real. True the racquetball player needs side vision, but more to evaluate an opponent's location than to follow the ball. By no means is the ball tracked solely with the exact center of vision. But side vision is little used once the ball is located.

A player with an eye protective device is aware of it, especially at first. He can "see" the edges, but most of them actually reduce the useful field very little. They may seem uncomfortable and strange, but it is worth it to prevent serious injury.

If glasses must be worn, the problem is different. One protective device, much



Made of plastic with a layer of sponge behind the bridge, the eye protective device is comfortable and provides a surprisingly large field of view.

like the upper half of a catcher's mask, can be worn over spectacles and actually permits a wide field of view.

Most people will probably choose some method to make the glasses as safe as possible, however, and go without a mask. The safest lens from the impact of a racquetball is one made of plastic. No lens is absolutely safe and even plastic might crack, but it is more likely to pop out of the frame. The result might be a bruise or a scratch, but damage to the eyeball is unlikely. The eye itself would be better protected than if no glasses were worn at all.



James Gregg photos

The Sport-Spec has plastic lenses, wide field of view, is lightweight and held on with sturdy temples.

If you wear spectacles when playing, they should have a large lens size, be made of plastic, even in prescription, and be held on by a head band or elastic band behind the head.

Thick Plastic Ups Safety, Not Weight

Most any kind of lens prescription can be made in plastic. Just to be sure you might want to indicate you'll be using your lenses for playing and they could be made a little thicker increasing their safety but not their weight significantly.

A pair of glasses with plastic lenses is made particularly for squash, handball, racquetball and such sports by a manufacturer in Australia. The lenses are mounted in a large metal frame, provide wide coverage and have temples that will hold them well in place. They are listed with Passport Sunglasses and known as Sport Specs. This device is made purely for protection and could be used with contacts or no correction at all.

What about glass lenses that are made break-resistant? Not enough is known to be sure about their ability to withstand impact from a racquetball. Much would depend upon the kind of frame and the nature of the prescription. If the lens is thicker than the minimum required for all lenses, it might be safe, but of course thickness adds weight in glass, especially in the large size advisable for sport use. It can only be said that a mask device or plastic lenses are probably safer.

The frame is extremely important. Damage to the face and nose can be greater from a blow because of a frame than if none were worn at all. So a heavy bruise or laceration is better than a damaged eye, no doubt of that, but some frames are less likely to cause injury than others.

You Can't Hold Your Glasses On and Play

Metal frames with small pads resting on the bridge of the nose can cut in from force of an impact. If they are large and lay flat, damage is less likely. Results depend upon the direction and velocity of impact.

Plastic frames rest on the bridge over a broad area and provide rather good protection, though it is not impossible for them to break and produce a cut. Any high speed ball hitting the eye region, safety glasses or not, can shake up the head pretty well, but the least damage occurs when a player wears a plastic frame with a special rubber bridge made for contact sports. These frames can be worn playing football or basketball, so they're designed to take it.

A great nuisance factor of wearing glasses on the court is keeping them in place. More are probably damaged from falling off than being hit by the ball. Even if they don't fall off, a player isn't very effective trying to hold his glasses on with one hand and play with the other.

Carefully adjusted glasses are part of the solution. Select a frame with

Where to get the eye protective devices and safe glasses discussed in this article?

Eye protectors without lenses can be obtained at many sporting goods stores and racquet clubs.

If you need help in finding the eyewear pictured here, write:
James R. Gregg, O.D.
412 Rolling Hills Place
Anaheim, CA 92807

Safe glasses and frames and fit and size are matters to discuss when your vision is examined.

temples that will hold it in place when the action is fast. Temples of the so called comfort cable type that wrap around the ears do the best job. Or you can attach an elastic band that goes behind your head to keep any kind of frame in place.

And in place it should be — to carry a lens prescription if you need and don't wear contacts — or to protect your eyes from injury, which though rare can happen and spoil a game that is a lot of fun. ●

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These Do's and Don'ts Can Help You Win a Tournament

The tournament player who wrote this helpful story prefers to remain anonymous.

Tell me, have you ever started worrying about your game strategy for the finals before you've even begun your first round? Or are you just thinking about how you're going to beat "Joe so-and-so" in the second round after your first match is over. It's funny (well actually not so funny) that thinking about the next match often prevents us from ever getting there. I'm sure you've heard this before: *"How could I lose that match? He's never come close to beating me before. I figured I could conserve my energy for the next round. I was so far ahead that I decided to take it easy for a while; but once I let up, I just couldn't get back into it."*

So often players conserve their energy for the next round and they don't end up taking part in one. That is not to say that a person can't pace himself throughout a match, but taking it easy rarely pays off.

When competing the good racquetballer plays his/her matches point for point. Stay in the here-and-now. Don't dwell on past points or look ahead to figure how close you are to 21, which serve you'll use at 20 or begin hoping that within a few more points your opponent will run out of gas or shift into park for you. The odds are that he or she will get stronger while you waste time thinking about what's gone by or what's to come.

So you manage to really concentrate throughout your first match; your attention was focused solely on the ball; you were simply aware of everything that was going on and didn't waste any time criticizing or commending yourself (or your opponent) for past points; you trusted your body to hit the ball the best way it knew how; you were relaxed, yet made

an effort to play every point without consciously forcing and reminding yourself to try hard. It all just came together, and what a feeling!

Touching the Untouchable

Now it's time to head over to COURT SIX to watch the match which will determine your next opponent. Sure enough, one of two situations arises:

As you squeeze into the crowd, you find out the score is 15-1 in the second game. The same person who's leading won the first game 21-6. Automatically you figure you're in trouble: you only beat your first opponent 21-9, 21-13 right? To make matters worse, the guy beside you (not knowing who you are, never having seen you play and probably not much of a competitor himself anyway) turns to his friend and says *"This guy's playing great, no one will touch him in his bracket."* At this point you feel like turning to him and informing him that he's never seen you play, but you don't of course. You stop to think for a minute and realize maybe he's right, or worse yet, maybe he has seen me play and just hasn't noticed that I'm standing beside him. From that point on all you can see is your opponent's strengths. Since he isn't being extended here, he looks terrific and perfectly relaxed. He seems to be able to shoot from anywhere on the court (which would be easy to understand if you would notice the number of setups he's getting from his obviously weaker opponent). You begin to hope he won't be able to sleep all that night because of nerves, aching muscles or nightmares; but you quickly rule out that possibility. Next you hope that maybe he will go out on the town 'till all hours and enter the court terribly hung over the next morning. Luckier still would be if he defaulted or sprained an ankle, right? Then why are you competing in the first place?

The second situation is when you head over to COURT SIX and there's no crowd to squeeze through. The referee is the only person in the balcony. Both players are weaker than yourself (so it seems). You watch for a couple of minutes and leave yawning figuring the next match will be a breeze. Chances are, however, the assumption that you're once again in for an easy time may take you right back to where we started.

Cooperate as You Compete

So maybe it's time to look at competition as a form of true cooperation. As Timothy Gallwey puts it in *The Inner Game of Tennis: Your opponent is a friend to the extent that he does his best to make things difficult for you . . . Only by doing this do you give each other the opportunity to find out to what heights each can rise . . . Each player tries his hardest to defeat the other, but in this use of competition it isn't the other person we are defeating; it is simply a matter of overcoming the obstacles he presents."*

Secondly start scouting your opponents with awareness instead of judgement — just as you should be observing yourself. Note both their strengths and weaknesses as *they actually are*.

Finally enter the court hoping that both you and your opponent will play your very best. Learn all you can as a result of the experience; but above all ENJOY IT. After all, that's probably why you entered the tournament in the first place! ●

Basics For Beginners

by Terry Fancher

Often instructional material is a combination of many words along with just as many pictures and diagrams. Unfortunately for most racquetballers, it is not easy to carry along your copy of *National Racquetball* onto the court for reference during play.

This article will give the beginning racquetballer instruction in basic racquetball areas that he need not be on the court to practice. A friendly at home mirror should serve as your "court."



Slipped Grip (Fig. 1)

Many of the bad shots in racquetball can be traced to the grip. The most common error in this area is letting the hand slip gradually to the right as shown. Hitting the ball with the racquet in this position results in a tightening of the wrist action necessary for a good stroke. The ball, struck with the hand in this poor position, will often hit on the floor, short of the wall, or take an otherwise unintended path.

Fig. 1 If the hand is too far to the right on the racquet handle (extreme Eastern grip), the wrist cannot rotate freely as it strikes the ball, which will often hit the floor before hitting the front wall.



Correction (Fig. 2)

Looking down at your grip, your thumb and forefinger should make a V along the handle when the racquet face is in the up and down (perpendicular to the floor) position.

Hitting the ball with the wrist in this position permits the wrist to rotate freely and impart a degree of "snap" to the ball as you hit it.

If your grip error is compounded by a sudden relaxation of the fingers at the moment you strike the ball, try squeezing the racquet hard just before and during the moment of impact.

This will help keep your grip from slipping or loosening.

Fig. 2 Adjust the "V" formed by the thumb and forefinger to rest on the right edge of the racquet handle. This will allow free rotation of the wrist and cause the ball to go directly to your target.

Fig. 3 When the hand is placed too far to the left on the racquet handle (extreme Western grip), the ball will be undercut and carry too high on the front wall.

Turning Grip (Fig. 3)

When the hand is positioned too far to the left on the racquet handle or, as is more often the case, gradually slips too far to the left, the ball will be undercut and carry too high on the front wall.

Correction (Fig. 4)

Move your gripping hand so that the V of the gripping thumb and forefinger is at the top of the handle shaft, looking down at it. A determined squeeze just before, during, and after hitting the ball will help insure the accuracy of your shot.

Periodically during play relax your grip on the handle and then resume it. This helps keep your grip from freezing into a wrong position or gradually slipping into one.

If you do have a problem of slippage, try using a lightweight glove without fingertips. This offers a little more traction without dulling the important racquet "feel" of the lower three fingers.

Thumbs Up (Fig. 5)

Many players permit their thumb to rest along the shaft of the racquet, and some players who do this develop fairly good hitting techniques by making unorthodox compensations for this mistake.

The thumb is the strongest single element in the grip, and if not used properly, the racquet will wobble at the moment of impact, resulting in inaccurate placement of the ball.

Correction (Fig. 6)

Firmly wrap your thumb around the racquet shaft (watch that V) until that thumb touches your first or second finger. Keeping this slight contact between thumb and fingers will automatically tighten your grip. Adding a slight squeeze at the moment of impact will help some players who have developed a "wobble," as it helps in the other grip errors.

Ideally the racquet at the moment of impact should be at a right angle to the floor — straight up and down.

Your "grip practice" sessions should include straightening your racquet into this position as you hit a series of balls.



Fig. 4 Adjust the "V" formed by the thumb and forefinger to rest on the right edge of the racquet handle causing the ball to be struck squarely by the face of the racquet.

Fig. 5 If the thumb is resting on the throat of the racquet, grip strength will be weak, causing the racquet to slip in the hand as the ball is struck.



Fig. 6 Wrap the thumb around the racquet handle until it touches the first or middle fingers. The handle should now be gripped firmly as the ball is struck and the racquet will not slip upon impact.

Playing Under Too Much "Pressure" (Fig. 7)

Most players who buy a racquet that "feels good" don't pay attention to a seemingly minor detail — string tension.

Manufacturers tend to send their racquets to market rather tightly strung — between 28 and 35 pounds of pressure.

Playing with a racquet that "tight" gives you a good twanging sound but also is often costing you points. That is because a ball will leave a tightly-strung racquet just a little too quickly, and a certain loss of shot control results.

Fig. 7 When the string tension is too tight (28-35 pounds) on the racquet, the ball will not remain on the strings long enough and will result in a loss of control.

Backhand Grip Faults

Backhand mistakes are more common than forehand mistakes because many beginning (and advanced!) players find it difficult to move the gripping hand the necessary quarter- to half-inch on the shaft to compensate for the difference between the backhand and forehand strokes.

If you use the forehand grip for a backhand shot, you will tend to rotate the head of the racquet upward, causing the ball to hit too high on the front wall or, in any case, not precisely where you wanted to place it.

Correction

The idea of slightly shifting the grip is to keep the face of the racquet perpendicular to the floor as you hit the ball. Moving your hand an eighth- to quarter-inch in a slight clockwise motion as you're getting ready to hit a backhand shot will keep your racquet perpendicular to the floor as you hit and give you the accuracy you want.

In effect you are moving the face of the racquet slightly to make up for the difference in wrist position between forehand and backhand stroke.

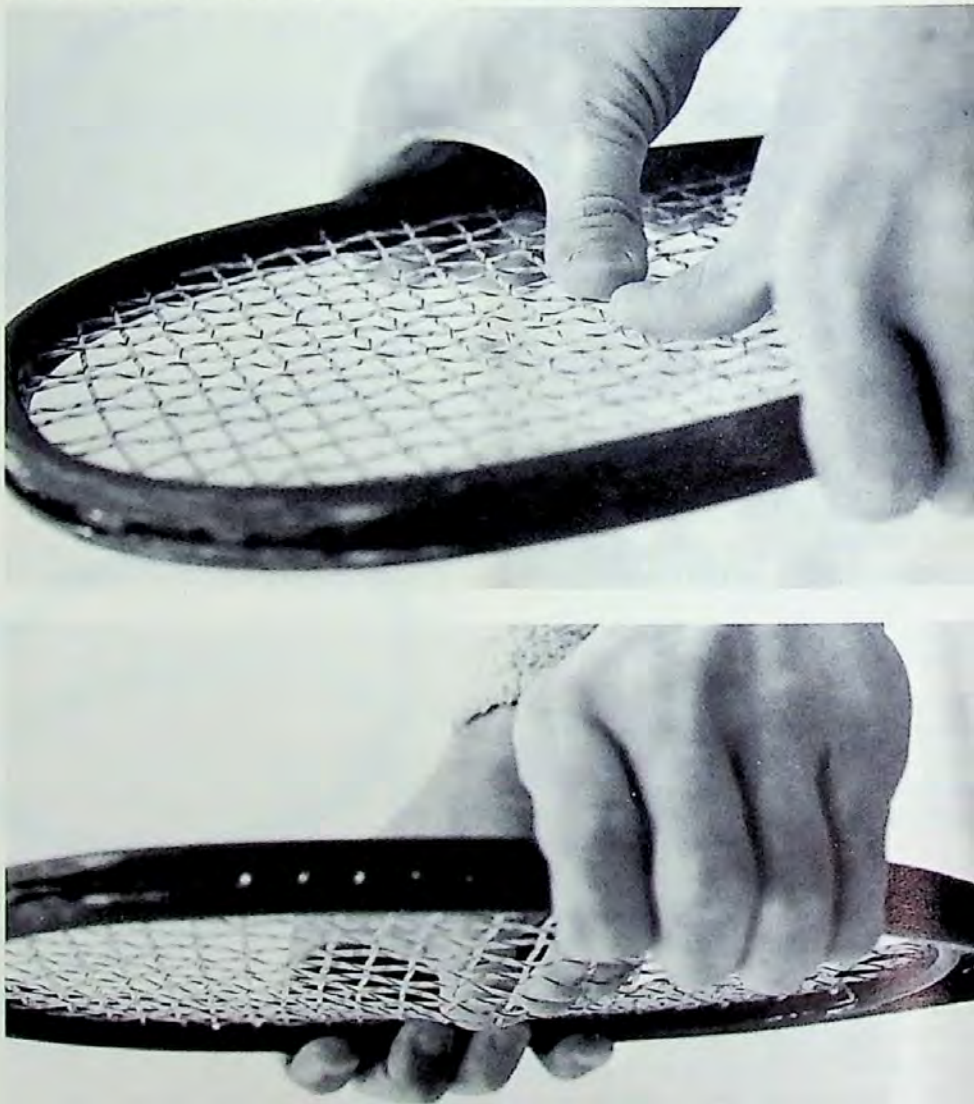


Fig. 8 Have the racquet restrung at a lower tension (18-27 pounds) allowing the ball to remain on the strings longer and provide more control and a slingshot effect on the ball. (NOTE: This is most applicable to fiberglass or flexible frame racquets).

Correction (Fig. 8)

Have your club pro restrung your racquet at a lower tension — 18 to 25 pounds is ideal.

This will permit the ball to remain on the strings a split second longer — just long enough to give the good or improving player a little more control

than is attainable with the "tight" racquet. Racquetball (and tennis and squash) pros often refer to the "sweet spot" on their racquets, the area (when the racquet is strung properly for tension) that imparts the maximum speed and control to their shot. ●

Centurion™ — New carbon filled composite construction. Black heat-welded strings, plush raised-leather grip. 18.5 inches, 250 grams

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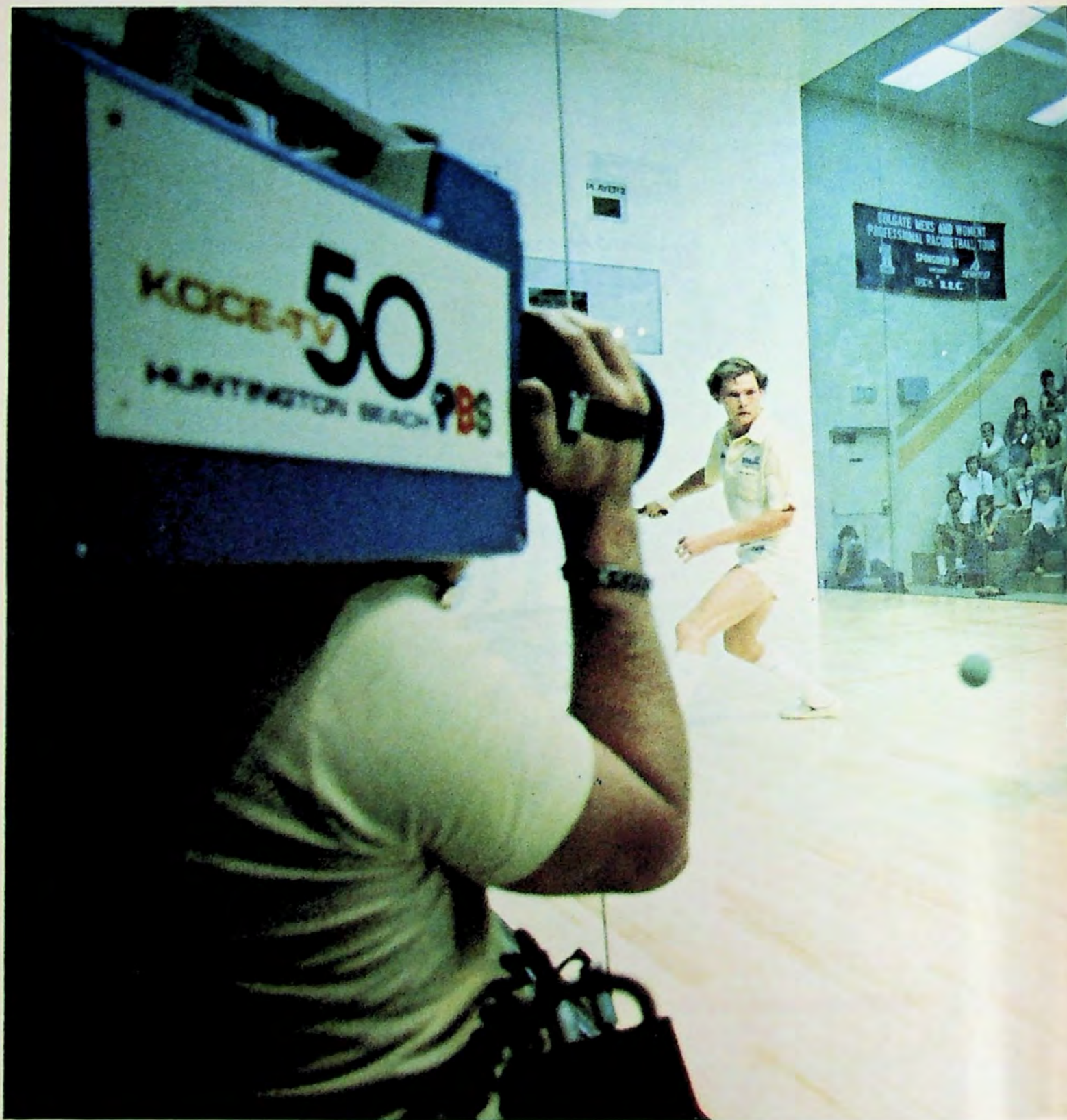
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Rebel™ — New nylon/glass-filled composite, blue twist nylon strings. Raised stitch leather grip. 18.5 inches, 255 grams

SPALDING

Play By Play of T.V. Coverage



Photos by Arthur Shay and Dick Shay



Hogan races to deep court to retrieve a Bledsoe pass in front of one of the KOCE cameras.

by Nick Longhurst

Racquetball's champion television director, Kent Johnson, rubbed away the tiredness from his eyes and growled, "Okay, let's go play ball for an hour."

It was eight o'clock on a misty morning and we had just walked out of the ultra-modern studio facility which houses KOCE-TV in Huntington Beach, CA.

Johnson had just completed an all-night editing session working on racquetball's first-ever nationwide television special.

And we were close to disaster.

Through the long night in the temperature-controlled post-production studio we had been assailed by problems. First there had been a two hour start-up delay when the main recording machine malfunctioned. Then calibration problems on hundreds of yards of video tape—over five hours of racquetball action—drastically slowed down the editing process.

So instead of being almost finished . . . less than one-third of the hour long show was done.

This was the culmination of 75 days hard work putting together the tiny pieces of the jigsaw which we hoped would end in a program not only for confirmed racquetballers, but which would also appeal to all those unconverted souls who tune in to the Public Broadcasting Service national network.

Two and one-half months it had taken, from the day in mid-August when USRA National Director Chuck Leve had visited with Johnson in a Huntington Beach diner to discuss preliminary arrangements. Fifteen days later USRA President Bob Kendler agreed to underwrite the cost of the entire program and a final Chicago-to-west coast conference call tidied up the details.

We faced the editing set-back on Nov. 16, only 11 days before racquetball was due to hit the 270-odd stations in the PBS network. At that point it didn't exactly seem that the crowning

moment we had anticipated was going to materialize, because PBS, from its headquarters in Washington, D.C., had given us a strict deadline for delivery and that deadline was getting uncomfortably close . . . it was beginning to look like racquetball's T.V. baby was going to be stillborn.

The show was important to racquetball's future. The USRA/NRC has always been anxious to get the maximum T.V. coverage of our fledgling game, from news broadcasts all the way on up to Wide World of Sports.

But the television industry is littered with skeptics whose opinions that racquetball just couldn't be successfully televised had to be disproved.

So there was a lot riding on those 58 minutes and 38 seconds of video tape.

Plenty has been written about the four hour outside broadcast of an open tournament at the made-for-T.V. Royal court in Westminster, CA. Kent Johnson, a long time handball player and recent racquetball convert, did a superb job of directing that one.

And it was those tapes, shipped to Washington for viewing, which persuaded the brass that racquetball had something new to offer.

I was along as associate producer and writer, a job which eventually allowed me to do everything from writing the script, working as liaison between the USRA and KOCE, taking a saw to my own tennis racquet, to dousing our host, Jim Franciscus, and Charlie Brumfield with fake sweat.

Johnson and I kept a diary of just how things went and this is how racquetball made it to T.V.:

Sept. 27. This is the day we had all been waiting for. KOCE's proposal to cover the pro-am stop in Westminster is accepted by PBS, who give a commitment to air a one hour special on a tape delay basis to its member stations. We know this is good for us. Individual stations then can record the show as it comes down the PBS telephone lines and reshow it on the air whenever they think they can obtain maximum viewing audience.

PBS also accepts Bob Kendler's generous offer to underwrite the entire cost of production and distribution.

Sept. 28. Final details are ironed out with Chuck Hohl, part owner and manager of the King's Racquetball Courts. We need the Royal court for taping at least one afternoon during tournament week and lots of extra help from Chuck and his friendly staff at the club.

Sept. 29. Producer/Director Kent Johnson maps out a tentative format for the special — following PSB's strict guidelines for coverage of the women's as well as the men's finals and with enough instructional material for non-racquetball playing viewers.

That first plan is for a five minute opening, with an easily recognizable celebrity host, followed by 21 minutes of the women's finals prior to the men's match and the closing sequences.

Oct. 1. We produce a list of 50 top celebrities, have them approved by PBS, then start contacting managers and agents for availability. We know that we are going to have to find someone who is prepared to donate — or almost donate — his time because PBS is definitely the poor country cousin where Hollywood film and T.V. salaries are concerned.

There are some outright no's. But some of the first stars contacted are friendly. O.J. doesn't say no. He doesn't say yes either, but negotiations break down when he checks into a hospital for knee surgery. Actor and club owner, Wayne Rogers, says yes — but he is working, starring in a movie

Leaving the TV truck en route to the courts are (l. to r.) Longhurst, Johnson and Leve.



being shot in Paris and things are running late over there. There isn't exactly enough money in the budget to play Hollywood big time and take a crew to Paris . . . not even a small crew, so Wayne is out.

Other big names contacted include James Garner and Jim Franciscus, the clean-cut sportsman, who keeps his hair blond and his tan tanned tramping the celebrity tennis circuit when he is not acting.

Oct. 10. The first draft of the script comes back, to go through the midnight oil process which will eventually make it the second draft.

Oct. 11. All the personnel who would be on camera come together for a meeting to discuss style and coverage. Charlie Brumfield, San Diego Sports Announcer Fred Lewis and Racquetball Instructor Joy Koppel all agree to help the show.

It is a good mixture. "Caustic" Charlie produces so many one liners he almost gets hired on "Hee Haw," well spoken Fred Lewis calls the plays right and feminine Joy Koppel is there with the women's point of view, even spicing her color commentary with some fighting words about male chauvinism and women's dress codes.

Steve Strandemo, playing the real live author while he signs his new book, is there, too. He becomes technical advisor and also serves as backup announcer should Charlie turn the tables and fight his way successfully to the finals, and from our point of view, the wrong end of the camera lens.



Inside the control truck producer/director Johnson calls the shots.

Oct. 14. Thinking we can do better the station calls in a company of lighting consultants to try and up the lighting in the court. The more light the merrier because it makes the cameras see the ball better, but it has to be done properly so that play is not affected. The lighting team, straight from assignment with the "Donny and Marie" show, comes in to check out Racquetball's T.V. court, but their report is that the improvements would cost an arm and a leg . . . and are not justified.

Oct. 16. Here we go again . . . the second draft of the script comes back covered in unpleasant notations and draft number three is churned through the typewriter. Technical meetings between cameramen, engineers and the station's Director of Production Bob Davies iron out the very strict requirements that have to be followed. And the tapes of the first four hour shows come in handy again as Kent Johnson puts together two promotional inserts — one of 30 and the other of 60 seconds — which are to be sent in advance to Washington for distribution to member stations.

Normally executive producers stay way in the background, but Bob Davies is the opposite. He stays with the project, making necessary split-second decisions which eventually help get the program to home base on time.

Oct. 30. The working script, now in third draft form, receives acceptance and is typed up ready for the host . . . and on.

Nov. 4. Jim Franciscus agrees to do the job. He insists that he be treated as an amateur and asks to be given as much information about racquetball as he can get.

Nov. 6. Franciscus comes to the door of his huge home dressed ready for the part and puffs on his pipe while video tape cassettes of previous matches are pumped through his home video tape machine. Jim signs the necessary contracts, is happy with the script and agrees to expend extra energy — learning how to play.

Nov. 9. Jim proves that being a tennis player is no hindrance. He is an adept learner and after an hour with Instructor Eric Cunningham at the Supreme Court in Van Nuys he's beginning to say "Hm, not a bad game."

Cunningham explains "He is a strong tennis player and once he got the feel of the racquet and ball he started to hit it hard. He picked up the basics amazingly quickly and there's no doubt he could become a B plus player with ease with some practice."

Nov. 9. The Royal court gets transformed into a television studio. The cameras roll as Charlie and Jim play a couple of points before Franciscus slips out of the court and begins his description of the racquetball game. They take the whole afternoon to tape what will eventually be slightly more than four minutes of television time.

Play-by-play announcer Fred Lewis (c.) interviews his color commentators Joy Koppel (l.) and Charlie Brumfield (r.).



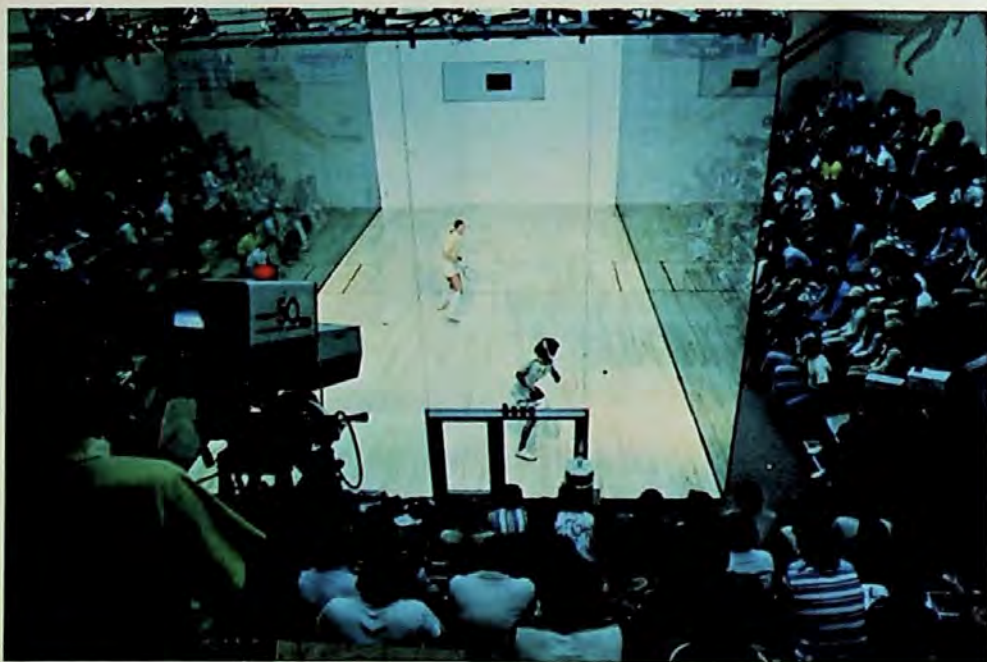
Nov. 10. This is the day the lights go up. Every extra light which is necessary for the program has to be wired in, mounted to a bar and individually safety-wired to the ceiling. In case a pro bounces into the back wall and dislodges a large studio light, we wouldn't want the match to end with him in a coma.

Nov. 12. This is semi-finals day and National Racquetball's top photographers, Art and Dick Shay, have the assignment of shooting slides of all four pro semis — slides to be used in the program to describe just how each finalist got to the championship match.

Nov. 13. The heat is on. Kent Johnson takes up position in his command post in the mobile outside broadcast truck as Referee Chuck Leve goes through the final introductions in the jam packed court.

The "mini cam," which produces the best and most dramatic shots from down on the floor, breaks down and takes a while to get back in operation. As well as taping the finals for our own program, Johnson also is directing a closed circuit show, which is being played back in a small auditorium in the club for the benefit of those who couldn't get or afford seats in the main court.

A tired camera crew swills down some cold beer at the end of the four hours of constant action which ends with check presentations and interviews. The 400 strong crowd files out of the Royal court



Overview of the women's finals, looking from the same view as camera number one.

and soon it is empty . . . except for Johnson and Longhurst, treating the non-existent crowd to a demonstration of slightly lower standard racquetball.

It's 8:30 in the evening, Monday, the day after, and there is not yet time to relax. Johnson and the post production team have been working since eight in the morning screening every inch of tape, picking the sequences which will be incorporated in the final program and selecting the ones which will be played on a slow motion recorder for the slowed down action we all love to watch.

The work is in slow motion, too, and that session doesn't end until the next morning. And there is only time for a few hours of sleep before the rented slow motion equipment and operator arrive at eight. Finished at four, and back to sleep again before Tuesday transforms itself into Black

Wednesday. Twelve midnight we are yawning in the post production studio, rapidly becoming acquainted with the vagaries of video tape editing. Two hours delay, more delay and one break to drive around a sleepy suburban Huntington Beach in search of breakfast, lunch or dinner or whatever it is.

We play racquetball at eight. There is no way to go on editing. The studio has been taken over by other tenants and we don't get to go back in until midnight again. We have eight hours to do twice as much as we did the first time around and then some. Midnight comes and there are no hitches and by two the next afternoon — Thursday — the show is in a rough finished form and the people whose studio time we had borrowed are happy to see us go.

Kent Johnson and I stare sleepily at the silent television screen reviewing the full hour program, noting mistakes and running and rerunning segments to time both the music and voice-over passages which Franciscus will record the next day. Finally Thursday evening — 27 hours later — we call it quits.

The next morning there is a festive air on the campus of Golden West University where KOCE is located. Every employee comes to work clutching some homemade food. It's Friday, Nov. 18, and it's KOCE's fifth birthday. There is a party planned for lunchtime, good food washed down with nothing stronger than Hawaiian punch, due to campus rules.

Franciscus is in an audio booth, watching the flickering monitor in front of him and timing his scripted comments to synchronize with the action in front of him. Now go the sound effects and music, and the finished product is almost ready for Saturday, when the final "sweetening," the last little polish, will be done and two inch tapes sealed into their distinctive cans for transportation to Washington.

We sit and watch the completed version, as final as it's ever going to be, and it looks good. Racquetball's baby is about to be delivered and Saturday afternoon is slipping into evening.

Deadline was Monday, and they didn't ship on Sunday . . . we made it.

All that was left was the hour long drive back up the freeway to my home in Los Angeles, the miles relieved only by the radio playing. There was this pop song and it seemed apt . . . "We've only just begun."

. . . You had better believe it, Howard Cosell and company. We're on our way. ●



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Offer good February 1 through April 15, 1978.

Sports Illustrated Ready For Nationals

The new Sports Illustrated Court Club-Lemontree in suburban Detroit, showplace of the S.I.C.C. chain, will be the setting of the USRA/NRC National Championships June 17-24, 1978.

Featured matches will be played in Lemontree's three glass walled championship court, with tiered seating for 600 around all three sides.

Between 600 and 800 entrants are expected to compete in the 10 amateur and two professional divisions, including men and women.

The brand-new Lemontree facility is located in Belleville, Michigan, just five minutes from Detroit's Metropolitan Airport. The \$1.5 million club has 12 courts plus plenty of other features.

The National Championships is the final stop on the Colgate Men's and Women's Pro/Am Racquetball Tour, which is co-sponsored by Seamco Sporting Goods and Leach Industries. The three firms are donating \$30,000 in prize money, double last year's figure, to the professional brackets.

"All the facilities of Sports Illustrated Court Clubs, racquetball's largest group operation, will be committed to making this tournament the greatest success ever for players, fans and press," said Gil Schmitt, S.I.C.C. director of training and research, and head of the local organization for the tournament.

Amenities of the luxurious Lemontree club include a bar and lounge overlooking the courts, as well as whirlpools, saunas, and lavish exercise areas.

Tournament visitors will also have access to the facilities of the lakeside Lemontree apartment complex which include a golf course, swimming pool, outdoor tennis courts and boating on the lake. There will be lakeside parties as well as a player's banquet during the tournament.

"It seems as though the National

Championships always outdo the year before," said Chuck Leve, USRA National Director. *"Outstanding as the last one was in drama and spectator enjoyment, this year's should surpass it."*

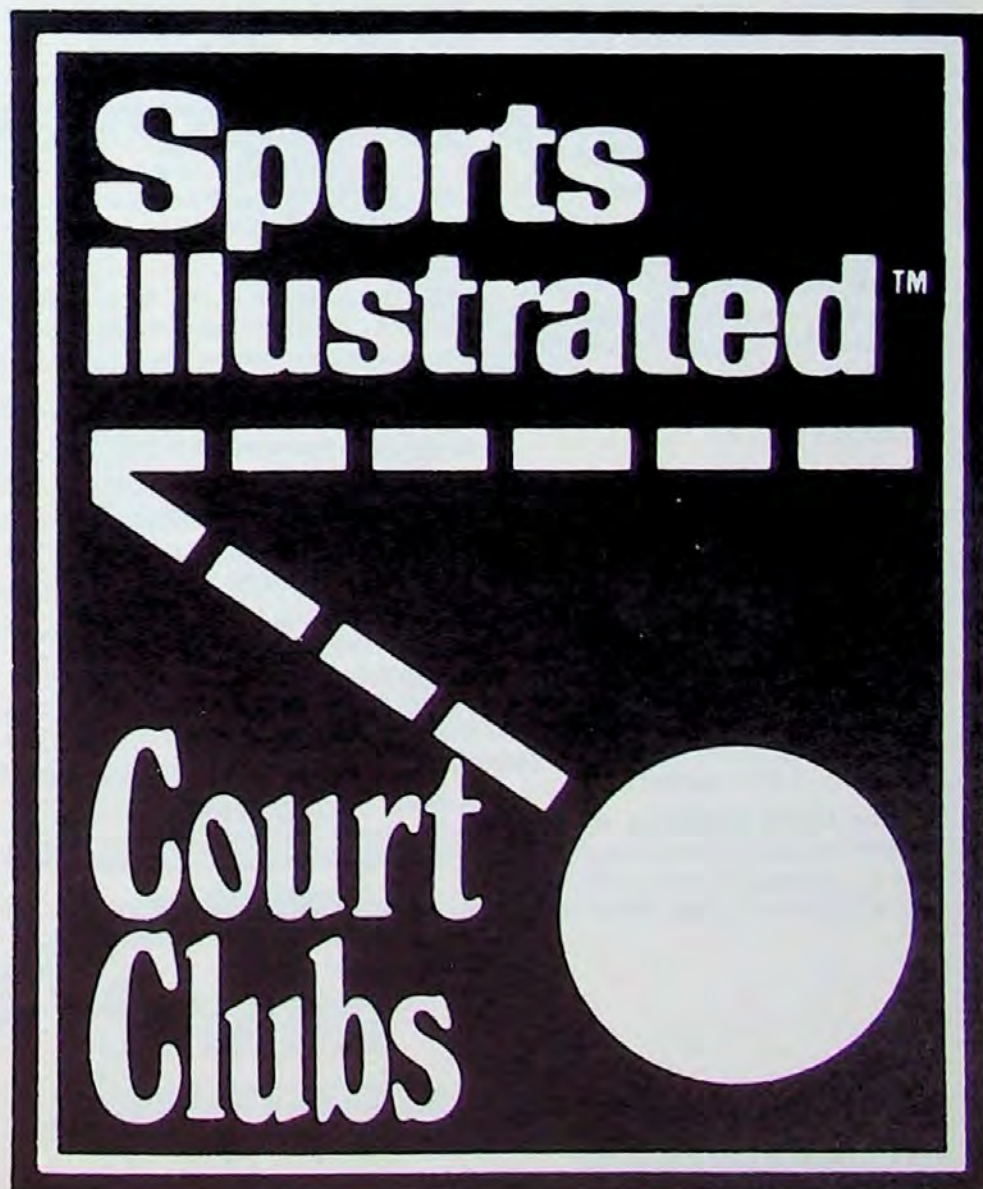
This is the first time the USRA/NRC National Championships have been brought to the eastern half of the United States, after two years in San Diego and one in Las Vegas.

"I think it's important to move the

Nationals around from time to time," said Leve. *"Detroit is the third largest racquetball market in the nation, Sports Illustrated is a perfect host, and we are extremely confident of a superb tournament."*

Further information and entry forms will appear in upcoming issues of *National Racquetball*.

Remember the dates, — June 17-24, 1978. You won't want to miss the Nationals. ●



Seamco, Leach Sponsor USRA National Juniors

The U.S. Racquetball Association is proud to announce that Seamco Sporting Goods and Leach Industries, the two co-sponsors of the NRC's pro tour, will be sponsoring the USRA's National Juniors program for 1978.

The National Juniors, which will be culminated in the annual National Juniors Championship tournament this coming summer, is the most prestigious juniors program in the racquetball world.

"We're extremely happy to have the sponsorship of Seamco and Leach," said USRA National Commissioner Joe Ardito. "The fact that these two companies are spending a portion of their profits to support racquetball's youth gives a good indication of their belief in the sport."

The juniors will have a different format this season, due to the great number of additional junior players. A qualification system has been set up, working through the USRA Regionals, which will allow more kids to become involved in the program.

Prior to this season the only juniors event was the National Championships, a tournament that annually draws over 200 players.

"Under the old format," said Ardito, "the number of participants this season would have become overbearing with only one tournament. Instead we'll have 10 Regional junior events leading up to the Nationals. We expect nearly 1,000 entrants."

Each of the USRA Regionals will hold each of the five juniors brackets of play — Boys 17, 15 and 13-and-under, and Girls 17 and 14-and-under. Winners of

each bracket will receive an all expenses paid trip to the Nationals, including air fare, hotel accommodations and meals.

The total number of players in the National Juniors Championships will be 80 this season, with 50 qualifying from the Regionals (five winners in 10 Regionals), and the remaining 30 players chosen based on tournament credentials and past performance.

The five brackets of play in the Nationals will be limited to 16 players in each bracket.

"The format is one that we feel allows all juniors to play if they so desire," said USRA National Coordinator Terry Fancher. "But it also makes the National Championships a tournament with better competition and easier to work with numbers."

Criteria for selecting the 30 at-large berths in the National Juniors championships will be based on many items, including performances in Regional and State tournaments, in addition to last year's tournament results and other criteria.

It is most important that Junior players realize that they must qualify through the Regional tournaments.

As always a trip to a well known amusement park will be provided for the participants, as well as trophies, prizes and other awards, highlighted by the Bob Kendler scholarship award.

"It's going to be a superb event," said Ardito. "It will be, competitively, the best Juniors in history, and we're sure the players will enjoy themselves."

Exact site and dates will be announced in the March issue of *National Racquetball*. ●

Kendler Announces Juniors Scholarship Awards

U.S. Racquetball Association president Bob Kendler has announced that he will be awarding \$1,500 college scholarships to the winners of the Boys 17-and-under and Girls 17-and-under brackets in the 1978 National Juniors Championships.

The awards, which may be credited toward tuition to the school of the player's choice, will be presented at the championship awards ceremonies at the Nationals.

"It is my pleasure and privilege to be able to contribute toward the education of these fine young people," said Kendler. "I feel it is important that the racquetball public realize that the USRA is concerned about the future of racquetball's youth."

The National Juniors program, co-sponsored by Seamco Sporting Goods and Leach Industries, is expected to draw nearly 1,000 participants between the 10 Regional events and National Championships.

"It's our most gratifying event of the season," said Kendler. "To see these kids actively involved in physical activity that builds their character is something that brings joy to our hearts."

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Racquetball



Terry Fancher

Let's Clarify Things

As I'm sure you've noticed, this is the second issue of *National Racquetball* that brings all amateur racquetball news into one section. Each issue you can turn to these pages for state association information, local tournament results, state chairman lists and upcoming events. In other words all USRA news.

USRA

The United States Racquetball Association, or USRA, is the amateur association for our sport. Our state affiliates and their tournaments — in fact anything we do in amateur racquetball — are under the auspices of the USRA.

All official headings for rule books, draw sheets, score cards, our magazine, the regional championships, the national championships and the national juniors championships all fall under the jurisdiction of the USRA. Sanctioning of amateur tournaments or other related events and all funding sent to state associations is USRA sponsored. The official amateur racquetball for the USRA is the *Seamco 558* which is still provided free for all state sanctioned events.

The USRA was formed as a direct result of our Pro-Am tour, in recent years sponsored by Leach Industries and Seamco Sporting Goods, now with Colgate as the third sponsor. As a result of adding the amateur brackets to the pro tour, the main thrust of the events was provided by the amateur players who participated on the court, worked as referees and paid to see the pros in action.

Through several years of these events people began to request that the then NRC do something at the state level for amateurs. With Bob Kendler's blessing the USRA was directed to do just that. In June of 1976, I began an all-out effort to establish or enforce amateur racquetball at the state level and to begin Regional Championships to feed into the pro-am nationals. This is a constant process that continues on a daily basis.

In essence our amateur programs have grown as a result of the need for promotion of the sport and its players. Prior to this organizational effort it was not getting accomplished in most states, or progress was too slow. We simply tried to speed things up. In no way, shape, or form is the USRA/NRC only for the pros. The NRC was the first of our two organizations formed and is now the professional branch of the USRA.

NRC

The National Racquetball Club was formed in 1973 as a special organization designed to promote professional racquetball. At the time there was no pro tour or even an attempted pro tour. In 1974 the total prize money was \$25,000; the purse for 1977-78 tour is \$160,000. The NRC staff has worked long and hard to increase the winnings which have virtually doubled every year since the inception of the tour.

The NRC is a unique attraction in the world of sport. It is a close-up view of the best men and women pros in the sport playing under glass. The intense competition and skillful displays of coordination, stamina, speed and power give us some dramatic and appealing action in sites all across the country.

Rightfully so, the NRC has been accused of watching out for the pro players. That is precisely what it does! In doing so it has brought racquetball to national television; it has created publicity in such publications as *The New York Times*, *People* magazine and *The Wall Street Journal*, and it has stimulated activity and interest in the sport wherever it stops.

As it should be the NRC and the Colgate, Seamco, and Leach Pro tour is the showcase for racquetball. Some people may have misgivings about pro racquetball and emphasize the negative aspects of professionalism. But let's be objective and candid; we have proven that it works and the small dedicated group of men and women players who have played pro racquetball over the years deserve a great deal of credit for being important contributors to their game. Amateur or professional — at our headquarters they work side by side.



Meet Your State Chairmen

Dr. C. T. Carley - Mississippi

The Mississippi Racquetball Association is an old friend of the USRA and it all began simply with a letter from our present state chairman, Dr. C. T. Carley. As we were beginning our USRA nationwide state association program, Dr. Carley wrote USRA president Bob Kendler and asked what assistance was available to start a state amateur program.

From that point, we provided all available assistance to C. T. who "took things in hand and got it going," as he describes racquetball leadership in Mississippi. The USRA has since run state championships and sanctioned many other open events as well as elections of officers, incorporating and adopting a state charter and generally promoting the game in the area. Dr. Frank Bonner is also credited with doing a yeoman's job on behalf of the MRA as treasurer.

C. T. and wife Shirley have four children — Karen, 21; Mary, 19; Chip, 15, and Holland, 8. They reside in the town of Starkville. Dr. Carley is the head of the department of Mechanical Engineering at Mississippi State University and received his education at Mississippi State, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and at North Carolina State University where he received his Ph.D. in 1965.

The interest generated in racquetball by players in Starkville was the result of a court being built at the Wille Daniel Athletic Club. From that point the MRA was chartered in July of 1976 and held its first state championship in January of 1977.

We at USRA headquarters have had an excellent relationship with the MRA



C. T. Carley

including the publication of an article on Basketball Great Bailey Howell, written by Shirley Carley, in addition to working closely with the development of amateur racquetball in Mississippi. For that we thank all committeemen of the state association and look forward to a fine future.

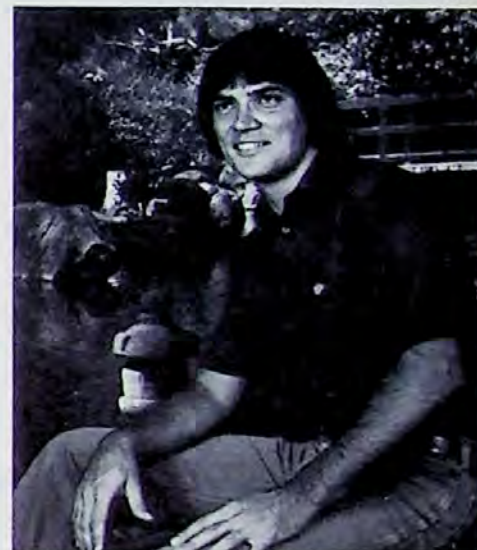
Florida - Rick Stevens

The "Sunshine State" USRA chairman is Rick Stevens, self-employed optometrist from Gainesville. Rick made the transition from handball to racquetball about seven years ago after witnessing the first "Haber-Muehleisen" match pitting hands against the racquet.

Rick is a graduate of Southern College of Optometry and he and his wife Theresa have two children, Ben, age three, and Natalie, age five.

Rick is striving to bring more juniors into the game. "As a parent I would rather see my kids pursue racquetball than any other sport for the development of skills and character, if not for the sheer enjoyment."

Rick's involvement in the leadership of racquetball stems primarily from the sense of fulfillment he receives out of participating in such an actively growing sport in such an early stage of development. This year Rick will be taking over Frank Johnson's position as president of the Florida Association. Let us mention, however, that it was Johnson and Jim Lane who started the USRA affiliation through the South Florida Racquetball Association. Their



Rick Stevens

help and assistance has been and will be greatly appreciated by all.

Florida's USRA association's activities include the sponsorship of separate singles and doubles tournaments, operation of a central clearing house to avoid conflicting tournament dates and organized intra-city team play.

With that type of activity schedule and racquetball promotion in general, it's no wonder that Rick say, "five years from now, we will all be shaking our heads in amazement".



USRA State Affiliates

If your state is not represented in the list of affiliates in this issue, and you wish to become involved, please contact Terry Fancher at U.S.R.A. headquarters.

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Dear Guys—

Always a pleasure to talk with you, Terry. As per our phone conversation yesterday, I am sending you a request for some assistance. Basically, what we have generating is the most efficient tournament package for the state. Whenever an ARA tournament is scheduled (which is happening 2-3 times per month throughout the state) we offer the host facility a complete tourney package. The package includes: 1) entry form (this is a

standard form which is complete except for the club logo, date, time, etc.), 2) mailing (we can provide a lower rate due to our non-profit status plus we have preprinted labels to send out entries to all state members) 3) balls, scorecards, draw sheets which are graciously provided by the USRA 4) pre-tournament seeding and draw which is very efficiently done by our Computer Rating System thus

requiring no time or expense to the club 5) hospitality—we buy case lots of Gatorade and purchase fruit wholesale 6) all funds received are paid directly to us thus alleviating any bookkeeping hassles or inventory reordering as for additional balls, etc. (we take the gross amount and subtract all costs—which as you can see are at the absolute minimum—and aside from trophies and a small fee for our floor time—turn over a check to the club manager.)

Chuck Hallock
Arizona



Tournament Results

Reporters, take note: Help make our typesetter happy by sending us your tournament results typed double or triple (preferred) space with one-inch margins all around. Thank you.

Michigan

Ithaca community Education sponsored the third annual Scottish Open Nov. 5 and 6 at Alma College, Alma, MI, the town that calls itself "Scotland U.S.A." There were 101 entries across seven divisions, and the scheduling was very tight with just four courts available. Competitors came from Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois and Indiana.

The tournament drew an unusually large number of players into the Women's B and Men's Masters divisions. The results follow:

Women's A

(Quarter-finals): Marcia Nelson d. Mindy Bryant 20-10, 21-5; Caprice Behner d. Margie Meyer 21-4, 21-1; JoAnne Furu d. Edy Passariello 21-8, 21-14; Janet Lee d. Kathy Wilson 21-11, 21-3.

(Semi-finals): Behner d. Nelson 21-17, 21-7; Lee d. Furu 21-19, 16-21, 11-8.

(Finals): Behner d. Lee 21-6, 21-5; Nelson d. Furu 21-13, 21-7 for 3rd.

Men's A

(Quarter-finals): Tom Brownlee d. Gary Doty 21-9, 21-2; Jake Baumgartner d. Mike Kristin 21-18, 21-14; Neil Llewellyn d. Bernie Thomas 21-14, 21-20; Tom Carpenter d. Al Montoyo 15-21, 21-4, 21-7.

(Semi-finals): Brownlee d. Baumgartner 21-5, 21-16; Carpenter d. Llewellyn 21-16, 21-17.

(Finals): Brownlee d. Carpenter 21-18, 21-11; Baumgartner d. Llewellyn 16-21, 21-17, 11-10 for 3rd.

Women's B

(Quarter-finals): Pat Folkersma d. Denise Freitag 21-5, 21-5; Linda Sleep d. Rebecca Simmons 21-16, 21-17; Linda Wright d. Theresa Ueberroth 21-7, 21-12; Jill O'Connor d. Diane Madole 21-4, 21-20.

(Semi-finals): Folkersma d. Sleep 21-19, 21-18; Wright d. O'Connor 18-21, 21-12.

(Finals): Folkersma d. Wright 21-8, 21-17; Sleep d. O'Connor 21-19, 21-17 for 3rd place.

Men's B

(Quarter-finals): Jack Raducha d. Donald VanWert 21-5, 21-17; John Smekar d. Dennis Wood 21-14, 21-20; Cleo Melvin d. Tim Hahn 21-7, 21-13; Lynn Hahn d. Ron Tabar 21-7, 21-19.

(Semi-finals): Smekar d. Raducha 11-21, 21-20, 11-10; Melvin d. Hahn 21-19, 21-19.

(Finals): Melvin d. Smekar 21-7, 21-10; Hahn d. Raducha 21-12, 8-21, 11-4 for 3rd place.

Men's C

(Quarter-finals): Vic Beard d. Gary Souders 21-9, 21-2; Jim Sanders d. Randy Learman 21-6, 21-6; Edward Melvin d. Ron Blue 21-7, 21-9; Jim Morgan d. Steve Brown 21-5, 21-9.

(Semi-finals): Beard d. Sanders 21-14, 16-21, 11-9; Melvin d. Morgan 21-12, 21-19.

(Finals): Melvin d. Beard 21-10, 21-14; Sanders d. Morgan 19-21, 21-10, 11-0 for 3rd place.

Men's Seniors Double Elimination

(Quarter-finals): John Raducha d. Robert Koelling 21-3, 21-5; Harold Huff d. George Zaina 21-6, 21-5; Roy Peffley d. Jim Hicks 21-10, 21-17; Walt Schneider d. Alex Fisher 21-17, 20-21, 11-3.

(Semi-finals): Raducha d. Huff 21-19, 21-7; Schneider d. Peffley 21-6, 21-11.

(Finals): Raducha d. Huff 21-13, 21-20; Huff d. Schneider 31-26 for 3rd place.

Men's Masters Double Elimination

(Quarter-finals): Carlton Ludtke d. Del Daines 3-21, 21-6, 11-4; Jim Willette d. Morris Gluckin 21-6, 21-7; Leo Cox d. Pete DelFavero 21-6, 15-21, 11-2.

(Semi-finals): Lynn Hahn d. Ludtke 21-5, 21-5; Cox d. Willette 21-13, 21-19.

(Finals): Hahn d. Cox, 21-11, 21-18; Cox d. DelFavero 31-14 for 3rd place.

Nevada

The Seamco-Las Vegas Racquetball Association Fall Classic saw number one seed Rob Baruck of Reno ease into the finals against number two seed Bobby Bolan of Tempe, AZ, in the Men's Open. Bolan, the number three finisher in the National Juniors, turned out to be too tough for the less experienced Baruck.

The first game started fast with Bolan taking charge of a lightning quick serve and shoot game. It was 10-2 before Baruck got untracked, but it was too little, too late, as Bolan regained the serve and moved out to a 16-4 lead. After trading serves, Bobby easily glided to a 21-6 victory.

In game two, Bolan, apparently resting on his laurels, saw Baruck move quickly to a 6-0, then a 10-4 advantage. Bolan then regained his composure and chipped away at Rob's lead 6-10, 9-10 and 10-10.

After trading serves Bolan moved to a 14-10 spread, then to match point. Baruck was able to stave off the inevitable twice, only to fall the next time the irrepressible Bobby Bolan entered the server's box.

Rich Handley of Reno stopped Don Norquist of Las Vegas in the tie-breaker to walk off with third place honors.

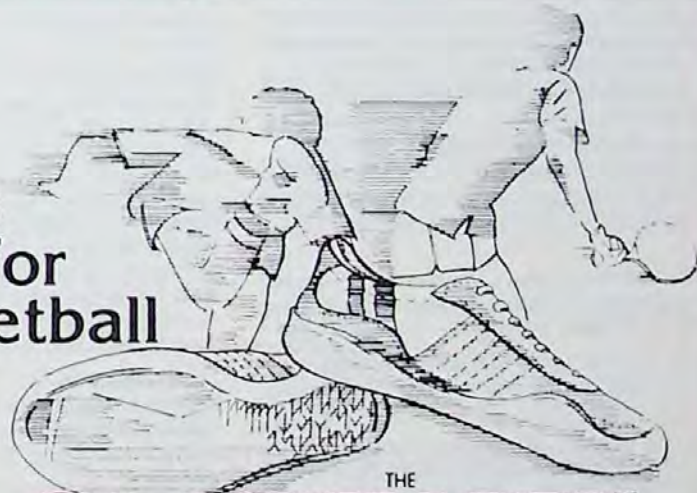
In the always-competitive Seniors division Dan Harnett continued his winning ways, coming up with his third straight Senior's title. He was pushed to three games in the finals by another highly regarded 35 and over, Tom Bishop 21-9, 12-21, 11-4.

Third place went to Ohio transplant, Ted Schacker on an injury forfeit by Phil Waldman. Phil, by the way, did an outstanding job as tournament director.

Two of the top National Masters players, Bill Armstrong of Palos Verdes, CA, and Bill Prescott of Las Vegas, met in the finals, with Armstrong prevailing in two straight, 21-10, 21-13.

Seamco, who cosponsored the tournament with the Las Vegas Racquetball Club, provided each first place winner with beautiful Sony portable AM-FM radios. The players, many of whom came from California, Utah and Arizona as well as Nevada, were also given shirts and continuous hospitality during the four day tournament.

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Illinois



Five members of the Dahm family picked up trophies at the Morton Grove, IL, park district house tournament Oct. 7, 8 and 9. In back row are Jim, who took second in the Men's A division, and Judy, first place Women's A winner. In front are, left to right, Mike, 12, second place in Men's C; Jack, 10, third in Men's C and Kay, 14, third in Women's C.

New Mexico

Keith Wagner ousted defending champion Charlie Jurva in the finals to capture the Men's division crown and Gloria Anaya of Roswell won the Women's division title in the second annual Cavern City Racquetball Singles Tournament.

Wagner went through the Men's division undefeated, knocking Jurva into the losers' bracket in a fifth-round match and then stopping him again in the championship round, 21-8, 19-21, 11-7.

Behind runnerup Jurva Caveman football player, Peter Grundy, finished third and Bobby Bailey fourth in the Men's division.

Anaya downed another Roswell contestant, Diane Taylor, in the Women's championship finals, 21-11, 21-11.

Carlsbad women, who discovered racquetball only this fall, were paced by Mary Donaldson's 21-1, 21-8 victory over sister-in-law Susan Forni in the Women's consolation finals. There were seven woman entries, while 18 men participated.

Missouri

Two hundred competitors took part in the first annual Missouri State (closed) Amateur Racquetball Single and Doubles Championship Aug. 4-7 at the Town and Country Racquet Club in St. Louis, MO. The event, sanctioned by the USRA and Mid-America Racquetball Association, had 13 divisions. Contributors to the tournament were USRA, Seamco, Leach, Sunset Racquetsports, Omega Sports and the Town and Country Racquet Club.

Top seed Ken Wong of St. Louis won a relatively easy Men's Open Singles victory over Al Ferrari, also of St. Louis, to capture the open crown. Ferrari's excellent racquetball in the Open and Seniors (second in both) was proof of the results of good conditioning combined with a super desire to win. To reach the finals the tireless Ferrari, seeded seventh, topped third seed Bo Champagne of Kansas City 20-21, 21-13, 11-6. Al then went on to weather cramps in a grueling match with Phil Stepp of Kansas City, winning the tie breaker 11-10, truly the most exciting contest of the tournament.

Wong gained a final berth by downing Jerry Fondren of St. Louis 21-14, 21-6 in the quarters and defeating Ron York of Kansas City in the semi's 21-15, 21-10.

Third place went to Ron York over phil Stepp. The consolation division championship was won by the energetic Denny Frye of St. Louis over Danny Cohon, St. Louis, 21-12, 21-19.

Number one seed, Rita Hoff of St. Louis, won the Women's Open Singles title over fourth seed Goldie Hogan of St. Louis in an interesting three-gamer, 21-6, 16-21, 11-0. Apparently on her way to an easy victory after a lopsided first game Hoff found herself on the other end of the score at 16-21. After a well-executed game by Goldie, Hoff regained her composure in the tie-breaker, a devastating 11-0 finale and the title. Goldie gained a final position by defeating number two seed Mary Herling of St. Louis in a superb semi-final match 21-20, 8-21, 11-10.

Third place was won by Chrysandra Cox of Kansas City over Mary Herling 21-6, 21-3. The consolation event went to Town and Country's Kathy Symons over Karen Shippy 21-17, 21-15.

The Men's Seniors field went true to form as the two top seeds, Al Ferrari and Herb Orf had relatively easy trips to the final. Both playing a similar style of control racquetball Orf, second seed, emerged the victor over a tired first seed, Ferrari. The championship was determined in the tie-breaker by a margin of 11-9. Third place was captured by Larry Fairchild of St. Louis over Chet Wittwer of Kansas City. John D. Mattingly won the consolation event over Joe Simon 21-8, 21-8.

The always exuberant and talented Artie Albert, St. Louis, who was seeded first, was never challenged en route to his victory in the Masters division. Playing a steady control style, Artie dominated the field as exemplified by his semifinal win 21-4, 21-12 over Charles Sarne of St. Louis and final routing of third seed Larry Carlisle 21-5, 21-8. Third place was taken by Charles Sarne over Luigi Tucci 21-7, 21-8. Consolation was won by Bob Allen of Kansas City over Jack Ross of St. Louis 21-18, 18-21, 11-3.

In a very competitive field Bill McKeen, second seed, topped Bob Rubin, number four seed of St. Louis 21-18, 21-12 in the final for the B division title. Throughout the various rounds very close tie-breaker matches were seen. Number one seed Scott Guberman of St. Louis lost to unseeded Mike Yocum of St. Louis in the quarters. Rubin then gained a final berth by topping Yocum in the semi-final 21-16, 21-20. In the bottom bracket eighth seeded Bill Donnelly of St. Louis entered the semi-final round by topping Bill Sanders of St. Louis 21-19, 21-18. Sanders had earlier defeated third seed Ron Leopker of St. Louis 21-5, 15-21, 11-7. McKeen, on his way to the final, had a tough one with Gary Woods, (11-8) then defeated Mark VanFossen, who was seeded fifth. He then went three games with Donnelly in the quarters, emerging victorious.

Third place was claimed by Mike Yocum over Bill Donnelly in a heated contest 21-15, 21-14. The consolation final between Gary Woods and Larry Ashford went the distance as Woods pulled it out 21-19, 20-21, 11-10.

Linda Hogan, second seed, rode to a very definitive victory as she defeated Marilyn Sylvia, number one seed, 21-3, 21-7 in the Women's B final.

Third place was won by Pam Polster over Marianne Valli. Consolation was won by Gina Dodson over Carolyn Smith 21-17, 21-19.

Tim Beck of Warrensburg, MO was victorious over Steve Weinstock of St. Louis 21-5, 21-8 to capture the Men's C division title. Beck had a relatively easy trip to the final, whereas Weinstock met a tough Don Ware in the quarters winning 11-10 in the tie-breaker to advance to the semi-finals. For third place it was Steve Miller of St. Louis over Jack Laramie 21-4, 21-10. Marty Dreyer won consolation over Ray Symons 21-15, 21-19.

Linda Phebus, Kansas City, playing a steady game of racquetball, defeated Barbi Allen, also of K.C., in a fine match in the Women's C division. The final went three games with Phebus winning 11-7 in the tie-breaker. Linda advanced to the final by ousting Kathy Barr of St. Louis 20-21, 21-4, 11-6. Barbi Allen gained a final berth by topping Ruth Urana of St. Louis 21-9, 21-17.

Ruth Urana took third place 21-20, 21-16 over Kathy Barr and Jane Gilhooly won the consolation division 21-10, 7-21, 11-9.



Cliff Dawson, center, whose wedding took place the third day of the Missouri State tournament, finds a conflict of interests between his bride and Phil Stepp. Read the story to learn whose interests prevailed.

The number one seeded team of Fondren/Champagne became the first USRA Missouri State doubles champions as they downed the third seeded pair of Frye/York 21-20, 21-12 in the final of the Men's Open Doubles. The winners advanced to the final in easy fashion as they topped the combo of Rita Hoff and Jeff Gitt 21-11, 21-11 in the semis. The excellent team of Joe Zelson/Manlowe Phillips, second seed, was upset by the team of Clark/Dawson in the early round. Clark/Dawson then were defeated by Frye/York in a physically close contest 14-21, 21-9, 11-1. Undoubtedly Dawson's prenuptial psychological state (see accompanying photo) had a significant effect on his usually superb nonchalant racquetball play.

Third place went to Clark/Dawson over Gitt/Hoff 21-18, 21-20 in an excellent match. The winner of consolation was Liebe/Knobloch over the young team of Dan and Doug Cohen 14-21, 21-13, 11-0.

Eighteen teams competed in the Men's B Doubles with the number two seeded father-son team of Jerry and Doug Weisman being victorious over second seed Yocum/Livingston 21-19, 21-12. The number one seeds Fairchild/Arky were eliminated in the quarterfinal round by Yocum/Livingston. The champions played flawlessly as they did not lose a game throughout the tournament. The team of Bates/Maple placed third over Nava/Jezewak. Gligros/Mattingly won the consolation over Andrews/Noonan 21-8, 12-21, 11-6.

The Women's Doubles was played in the format of a round robin with five teams competing. The team of Herling/Sylvia of St. Louis outpointed Symons/Shippy in the final match 21-15, 21-20 for first place. Third place was won by Garland/Burns of St. Louis and the consolation trophy was won by Dodson/Smith, also of St. Louis.

The Juniors drew five participants. Mike Bodker of St. Louis, a fine shooter, won the event over John Klearman, the National USRA thirteen and under champion, in three games 21-18, 9-21, 11-4. Brad Fink of St. Louis took the third spot and Jay Buffington was awarded the consolation.

Thanks goes to Town and Country Racquet Club and its staff for providing the facility for the first USRA State championships. Another special thanks to three individuals who devoted a considerable amount of time refereeing and keeping things going—Chuck Richardson, Ron Sherman and Larry Flagg. Also a very special thank you to Denny Frye of St. Louis for his superlative effort in the organization and running of the tournament. And thanks to all racquetballers for their enthusiasm and help. The future of racquetball in Missouri is sure to flourish.

—Mid-America Racquetball Association

Men's Open

(Quarter-finals): Ken Wong d. Jerry Fondren 21-18; 21-6; Ron York d. Denny Koltkamp 21-12; 21-16; Al Ferrari d. Bo Champagne 20-21; 21-13; 11-6; Phil Stepp d. Doug Weisman 21-13; 21-5.

(Semi-finals): Ken Wong d. Ron York 21-15; 21-10; Al Ferrari d. Phil Stepp 21-16; 11-21; 11-10.

(Championship): Ken Wong d. Al Ferrari 21-4; 21-12.

(Third Place): Ron York d. Phil Stepp (forfeit).

(Consolation): Denny Frye d. Danny Cohen 21-12; 21-19.

Men's B

(Quarter-finals):

Mike Yocum d. Scott Guberman 21-16; 21-20; Bob Rubin d. Jim Roberts 21-13; 21-10; Bill Donnelly d. Bill Sanders 21-19; 21-18; Bill MacKeen d. Mark Van Fossen 21-10; 21-15.

(Semi-finals): Bob Rubin d. Mike Yocum 21-14; 21-16; Bill MacKeen d. Bill Donnelly 21-13; 18-21; 11-0.

(Championship): Bill MacKeen d. Bob Rubin 21-18; 21-12.

(Third Place): Mike Yocum d. Bill Donnelly 21-15; 21-14.

(Consolation): Gary Woods d. Larry Ashford 21-19; 20-21; 11-10.

Men's C

(Quarter-finals): Steve Miller d. Bob Vandas 21-5; 21-17; Tim Beck d. Paul Powers 21-11; 21-8; Steve Weinstock d. Don Ware 21-16; 15-21; 11-10; Jack Laramie d. Pat Britt 21-14; 20-21; 11-0.

(Semi-finals): Tim Beck d. Steve Miller 21-12; 13-21; 11-2; Steve Weinstock d. Jack Laramie 21-13; 18-21; 11-3.

(Championship): Tim Beck d. Steve Weinstock 21-5; 21-8.

(Third Place): Jack Laramie d. Steve Miller 21-4; 21-10.

(Consolation): Marty Dreyer d. Ray Symons 21-15; 21-19.

Seniors

(Quarter-finals): Al Ferrari d. John Marringly 21-6; 21-4; Chet Wittwer d. Kay Kramer (forfeit); Larry Fairchild d. Ron Maggord (forfeit); Herb Orf d. Joe Simon 21-10; 21-10.

(Semi-finals): Al Ferrari d. Chet Wittwer 21-14; 21-9; Herb Orf d. Larry Fairchild 21-7; 21-13.

(Championship): Herb Orf d. Al Ferrari 21-18; 16-21; 11-7.

(Third Place): Larry Fairchild d. Chet Wittwer 21-10; 21-13.

(Consolation): John Mattingly d. Joe Simon 21-8; 21-8.

Masters

(Quarter-finals): Art Albert d. Jack Ross (forfeit); Charles Sarne d. Martin Millner 21-15; 21-15; Larry Carlisle d. Bob Allen 21-4; 21-9; Luigi Tucci d. Marlowe Phillips (forfeit).

(Semi-finals): Art Albert d. Charles Sarne 21-4; 21-12; Larry Carlisle d. Luigi Tucci 21-2; 21-9.

(Championship): Art Albert d. Larry Carlisle 21-5; 21-8.

(Third Place): Charles Sarne d. Luigi Tucci 21-7; 21-8.

(Consolation): Bob Allen d. Jack Ross 21-18; 18-21; 11-3.

Women's Open

(Quarter-finals): Rita Hoff d. Karen Shippy 21-2; 21-5; Chrys Cox d. Kathy Symons 21-18; 21-14; Goldie Hogan d. Alica Boldt 21-9; 21-13; Mary Herling d. Joni Lund (forfeit).

(Semi-finals): Rita Hoff d. Chrys Cox 21-5; 21-11; Goldie Hogan d. Mary Herling 21-20; 8-21; 11-10.

(Championship): Rita Hoff d. Goldie Hogan 21-6; 16-21; 11-0.

(Third Place): Mary Herling d. Chrysandra Cox 21-6; 21-3.

(Consolation): Kathy Symons, d. Karen Shippy.

Women's B

(Quarter-finals): Marilyn Sylvia d. Linda Phebus 21-13; 21-18; Pam Polster d. Gina Dodson 21-7; 21-11; Marianne Velli d. Joni Lind (forfeit); Linda Hogan d. Carolyn Smith 21-19; 21-16.

(Semi-finals): Marilyn Sylvia d. Pam Polster 21-14; 21-15; Linda Hogan d. Marianne Velli 14-21; 21-14; 11-5.

(Championship): Linda Hogan d. Marilyn Sylvia 21-3; 21-7.

(Third Place): Pam Polster d. Marianne Velli (forfeit).

(Consolation): Gina Dodson d. Carolyn Smith 21-17; 21-19.

Women's C

(Quarter-finals): Linda Phebus d. Jane Gilhooly 21-13; 21-18; Kathy Barr d. Donna Harvey 21-12; 21-6; Ruth Urma d. Ann Morrissey 18-21; 21-9; 11-3; Barbi Allen d. Sue Collins 21-10; 21-15.

(Semi-finals): Linda Phebus d. Kathy Barr 20-21; 21-4; 11-6; Barbi Allen d. Ruth Urma 21-9; 21-17.

(Championship): Linda Phebus d. Barbi Allen 21-10; 20-21; 11-7.

(Third Place): Ruth Urma d. Kathy Barr 21-20; 21-16.

(Consolation): Jane Gilhooly d. Debbie Case 21-10; 7-21; 11-9.

Men's Open Doubles

(Quarter-finals): Fondren/Champagne d. Cohen/Cohen 21-12; 21-19; Gitt/Hoff d. Liebe/Knobloch 21-8; 9-21; 11-5; Frye/York d. Skillman/Loedker 21-6; 21-13; Clark/Dawson d. Zelson/Phillips 15-21; 21-20; 11-6.

(Semi-finals): Fondren/Champagne d. Gitt/Hoff 21-11; 21-11; Frye/York d. Clark/Dawson 14-21; 21-9; 11-1.

(Championship): Fondren/Champagne d. Frye/York 21-20; 21-12.

(Third Place): Clark/Dawson d. Gitt/Hoff 21-18; 21-20.

(Consolation): Liebe/Knobloch d. Cohen/Cohen 14-21; 21-13; 11-0.

Men's B Doubles

(Quarter-finals): Yocum/Livingston d. Fairchild/Arkay 21-15; 21-8; Nava/Jezewak d. Carenza/Yanazer 21-10; 21-14; Bates/Maple d. Connors/Snopek 21-16; 21-9.

Weisman/Weisman d. Goodman/Molter 21-15; 21-9.

(Semi-finals): Yocum/Livingston d. Nava/Jezewak 17-21; 21-10; 11-10; Weisman/Weisman d. Bates/Maple 21-16; 21-14.

(Championship): Weisman/Weisman d. Yocum/Livingston 21-19; 21-12.

(Third Place): Bates/Maple d. Nava/Jezewak (forfeit).

(Consolation): Gligros/Mattingly d. Andrews/Noonan 21-8; 12-21; 11-6.

Women's Doubles

(Round Robin Format): First - M. Herling/M. Sylvia, Second - K. Symons/K. Shippy, Third - D. Garland/D. Burns, Consolation - G. Dodson/C. Smith.

Junior Boys

(Round Robin Format): First - Mike Bodker, Second - John Klearman, Third - Brad Fink, Consolation - Jay Buffington.



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The Complete Book of Racquetball

by Steve Keeley



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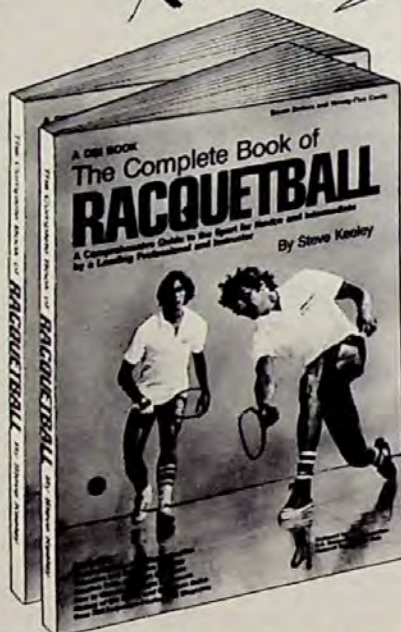
"Keeley, a three-time national singles paddleball champion and 1973 and '74 national singles racquetball runner-up, has written the compleat guide for racqueteers. More than 550 photographs and 288 pages, covering the game from history and equipment to playing tips and terminology. The jargon of the court jousters. Racquetball repartee. It's a winner, whether you're a greenhorn or a seasoned pro." (Chicago Tribune)

"Keeley has combined his court talents and writing skills in a long-awaited instructional book. He inserts humor and brief personal glimpses into his own past to emphasize certain points. Nevertheless, this 'wetting down' of dry reading material is delightfully doctored without sacrificing logic or clarity." (National Racquetball)

"The photographs alone, many of them shot sequence photos, make the book a splendid pictorial record of proper racquet swing-work. There is a plentiful sprinkling of tournament action shots which provide real-to-life portrayals of the various shots and strategies being highlighted." (Charlie Brumfield)

"This book will not only define the terminology being slammed around the courts, but more importantly it will broaden your appreciation and knowledge of the sport. Keeley guides the reader through every facet of the game, every angle of the court. His writing skills are almost as sharp as his racquetball prowess. He not only composes a thorough and comprehensive guide to understanding and playing the sport, but he succeeds in adding a dimension of humor. The book provides intelligent reading for those of you who are striving to become proficient players." (Pickwick Newspapers)

"The Complete Book of Racquetball is billed by tour pros as THE text for enthusiasts of the sport." (Suburban Trib)



"Heavily laced with photos of Keeley demonstrating the technique of the sport, the book may soon become the standard instructional instrument of racquetball." (The Sunday Journal)

"Loaded with diagrams, illustrations and stop-motion stroboscopic photography. The book may be 'picture-perfect', a description often applied to the author's playing technique. True to the nature of the author—a teacher—the book is conveniently organized into sections for beginners and intermediates, with each chapter preceded by an outline of important points which are to follow." (Tennis Everyone)

OKAY, KILLER. If you think you know racquetball, try this quiz.

1. After serving, you should move to what position on the court?
2. How many kinds of hinder are there?
3. What's a "Gravity Ball"?
4. You enter the service box and nervously bounce the ball 3 times. One more bounce for your serve means a "side-out". What do you do?
5. In a contest between Amoeba Man and Mobey Benedict, which would you bet on?
6. True or false: Donuts are good for you.
7. Which of these are dirty words: (a) anterior; (b) crotch serve; (c) butt.
8. What's the meaning of (a) R.A.W.? (b) A.W.B.? (c) S.D.?

Answers

1. Server should back two or three steps out of the service box toward the rear corner at nonal Paddleball Champ (This book is a treasure of historical player, Benedict was 1965 National Paddleball Champ.)
2. Two: avoidable and unavoidable. (Keeley explains all the causes of each.)
3. Intended kill shot struck softly to cause ball to skip into the front wall. (b) is a serve that the front wall "means" toward the back wall.
4. Call a time out. Bounces won't count when play resumes. (Keeley's book is loaded with smart strategy.)
5. Amoeba Man is any slugshting? (Don't you know anything?)
6. Bad for you. Donut means the same as shroud. (Keeley tells how to play for pos-background.)
7. None. (a) means "toward the front wall" (b) is a serve that strikes the wall-floor or wall-ceiling juncture (c) is the terminal bump on the racquet handle. (Keeley helps you learn the lingo.)
8. (a) Run-Along-the-Wall (b) Around-the-Wall (c) South Wall (Don't you know anything?)

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Women In Racquetball



Carol Brusslan

Putting Action into Women's Rights

Racquetball players, be proud you're athletes.

For it was women like you who put excitement and unity into the National Conference of Women, that meeting in Houston the federal government sponsored a few months ago as the culmination of the U.S. role in International Women's Year.

More than 2,000 athletes carried the women's rights torch from Seneca

Falls, NY, where the campaign for the women's vote began in 1848, through 14 states and on to Houston for the Nov. 18 opening of the four-day conference.

Once the sessions started, so did the strife. Between feminists and anti-feminists. Protectors of women's rights as individuals and pro-family advocates. Conservatives and liberationists. Though the majority of the 2,000 delegates approved a 25-point *Plan of Action* for the President and Congress, many left Houston charging their minority views hadn't been heard.

But harmony prevailed among the grandmothers, mothers, teenagers and college students who ran each leg of the 51-day relay dreamed up by the sports committee of the International Women's Year Commission. The all-volunteer effort was sparked by Colgate-Palmolive Co., one of racquetball's biggest boosters and co-sponsor of our pro tour. Colgate supplied relay runners with blue T-shirts announcing "Women on the Move."

What happens to the Plan of Action now is uncertain. Only a small number of those 25 points may ever become law. But the relay won't be forgotten by the people who cheered the runners along 2,600 miles. Typically the athletes supplied the drama that said more about where women are going today than millions of words spoken in the Sam Houston Coliseum.



— Photo by Pat Field

What's Good for Kill Shots Helps with Parallel Turns

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What's Good for Kill Shots Helps with Parallel Turns

by Mary Jane Bezark

There's a hint of astonishment in Gay Dagg's voice when she tells you that she skis and plays racquetball.

Gay, who never did anything athletic in her life until she came to Aspen, Colorado, 11 years ago now skis two days a week and plays racquetball four or five times a week. She thinks her skiing benefits from her workouts on the court, and pros she's talked with agree that the two sports complement each other.

Gay hails from Texas. *"I was raised to be a good little southern girl and learned to sew and all the ladylike things, but nobody ever mentioned me and a sport in the same breath until I married Jim and moved to Aspen,"* she says.

"Coming here as a bride was a real social shock. Everyone in this town is into sports like mad. You have to do what they do at least part of the time or they think you're a little strange."

Gay took up skiing in her first Aspen winter. *"I got dizzy, and the instructor had to climb back up the hill to help me when I'd lose a ski. But I got the hang of it, and even though I'm no Olympic type I can get down anything in Aspen."*

Racquetball came into her life in the summer of '76 when husband Jim who's an attorney, two other professional men and a dentist for whom she works as hygienist decided to build the Aspen Athletic Club in the building where they have their offices.

"They'd been looking out their windows and seeing people headed for the slopes every day, and they'd been jealous of the great shape these daily skiers were in."

"My boss had played racquetball when he was in the army in Germany and knew how great it is for keeping in condition. He told the other guys about it; that's how the club got going."

Racquetball and skiing have turned Gay Dagg into an "exercise junkie."



— Robert Brandes photo

While the club was under construction Gay went to a racquetball clinic taught by pro Steve Strandemo at Steamboat Springs. *"I'd never done anything before that called for hand-eye coordination. I didn't know what to do with my feet or anything else, but even though everyone else in the group knew the basics, they'd all applaud when I managed to hit the ball."*

Gay, who says she's become *"an exercise junkie,"* finds that she's not only happy with the workout racquetball gives her but that the game also helps her skiing.

"Racquetball is good for my legs in general and my knees in particular. If you're going to play racquetball you have to keep your knees bent. You need that same bend in the knees for downhill runs."

Gay's friend, Racquetball Pro Janell Marriott, is a topflight skier and often joins the Dags in Aspen. She

agrees that racquetball strengthens her legs for skiing and vice versa. *"Both these sports put stress on thighs, knees and calves,"* she says.

Gay thinks racquetball also helps her on the slopes by improving her coordination. Pro basketball manager Carl Scheer of the Denver Nuggets backed up that opinion when he came to Aspen for the athletic club's opening. *"He told us all the Nuggets are playing racquetball because their trainer researched it and thinks it's the best there is for coordination,"* she reports.

"Racquetball also builds my wind which certainly helps my skiing; when we're taking a long run with Dave Glander (the Aspen club's manager), there's no stopping for a breather."

Another Aspen resident, ski pro Eve Pruden who's playing racquetball regularly this year, notes that



"racquetball is very strenuous, and so is a run through the moguls. Both these sports call for fast reaction time." The ski instructor says she plays racquetball for pleasure — "particularly for the fun of competing."

Weight control is one benefit from playing racquetball that many skiers appreciate but that Gay doesn't need. "I've never had a weight problem; my method is called 'picking the right genes.' But my body's gotten a lot tighter since I'm playing — hips, waist, thighs — everything's firmer."

One final way that Gay Daggs finds racquetball helps skiers is to give them an alternate activity when the snow doesn't show up. "Last year while the slopes were in sad condition the club had to run a lot of challenge courts just to give people a chance to play. The place was jammed to the walls night and day."

For a concentrated combination of calorie-burning activities try cross country skiing and racquetball. Physical fitness experts rank the two sports among the highest in number of calories used per hour.

All you need are a pair of cross country skis and a racquetball center with snow covered land around it. But if you want to glide through some of the most beautiful cross country ski areas in the United States, travel to White River Junction VT, or Milford, NH. In White River you can play racquetball at the Fountain of Youth Court Club and Health Spa in the Howard Johnson Complex, White River Junction, 05001 (802) 862-6428 and ski in the town's five miles of trails that lead up into Hurricane Hill. In New Hampshire you can combine racquetball at Hampshire Hills Racquet Club, Emerson Rd., Milford, 03005 (603) 673-7123 with cross country skiing on the club's own trails.

Where to Play Racquetball on Your Ski Trip

Having a line on the local racquetball courts is a bonus for skiers. But it's even more important if there are racquetball-playing non-skiers in your group. A few hours of racquetball (even if you pay a guest fee) are cheaper than a day spent scouting the apres ski gift shops.

We've put together a partial list of racquetball centers in ski towns or close enough (within an hour's drive) to ski areas to make it worth your while to pack your racquet along with your skis. These clubs welcome out-of-town players.

Colorado

Aspen Athletic Club
720 E. Hyman
Aspen 81611
(303) 925-2531

Stapleton Plaza Hotel and Athletic Center
333 Quebec
Denver 80207
(303) 321-3500

Hotel guests, including those in the Athletic Center's Shape-up-for-the-Slopes program, can reserve court time when they make room reservations. Walk-on courts often are available to the public. Denver is an hour from the Loveland ski area and is the gateway to Colorado's major ski areas.

Montbello Sporting House
4780 Oakland St.
Denver 80239
(303) 373-4550

Guests at the nearby Hilton Hotel and Stouffer's Inn can reserve courts through their hotels. The public is welcome when courts are available.

Storm Meadows Athletic Club
P.O. Box AAA
Steamboat Springs 80477
(303) 879-1036
Vail Athletic Club
Box 573
Vail

Due to open in March

Idaho

The Club House
First and Fourth Streets
Ketchum 83340
208-726-8847

Minutes from the Sun Valley ski complex this club is very busy, but you can buy court time whenever it's available.

Michigan

Little Traverse Racquetball Club
P.O. Box 170
Petosky 49770
(616) 347-5450

Little Traverse, 15 minutes from Boyne and Nub's Nob, will take guest players in groups only. They ask that you write them for advance arrangements.

New Hampshire

Hampshire Hills Racquet and Health Club
Emerson Rd.
Milford 03055
(603) 673-7123

Hampshire Hills is a half hour away from Pat's Peak and Crotched Mt.

Utah

Deseret Gymnasium
First North and Main
Salt Lake City 84104
The Towne House Athletic Club
158 S. 3rd East
Salt Lake City 84111

Salt Lake City is 30 minutes from Alta and Snowbird and 45 minutes from Park City.

Vermont

The Court Club
70 Farrell Rd.
South Burlington 05401
(802) 862-6428

The Court Club is 45 minutes from Stowe, Smuggler's Notch, Glen Ellen, Sugarbush and Mad River Glen.

Wyoming

Jackson Hole Racquetball Club
P.O. Box 2214
Jackson 83001
(307) 733-3990

Canada

Mirabel Racquet Club
Point Claire, Quebec
(514) 697-5610
Mirabel is 40 minutes from the Laurentians.

Racquetball Pros Janell Marriott, upper left, and Kathy Williams, both shown at the Westminster, CA, tournament, skied together in Colorado after a 1977 pro tour stop in Denver.



- Arthur Shay photos



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Cozy Competitors Match Up

St. Valentine would applaud those touches of red in honor of the day of romance. The friends at court are playing their Feb. 14 match in clothes by Ultrasport.



Her dove grey sleeveless shirt is made of polyester and cotton rib with a side button pocket, comes in sizes P, S, M and L and sells for \$14. His shirt, of the same fabric, has short sleeves and a four-button placket. It costs \$18 in sizes S, M, L and XL. Both men's and women's pull-on boxer shorts of polyester twill come with piped legs and sides, zipper front money pockets and back patch pockets. Her shorts are available in P, S, M and L, his in S, M, L and XL; both cost \$24. To order these shorts and shirts call Sportpages at their toll-free number: (800) 527-3166. (Numbers of the clothes are #457 women's shirt, #458 women's shorts, #460 men's shirt, #461 men's shorts.)

What Makes Racquetball Romantic?

As you read in Bob Kendler's editorial (page 4) racquetball helped kindle the romance between USRA National Coordinator Terry Francher and the former Kip Kendler.

Since stories of love on the courts often come our way (see January's

issue for news and photos of a racquetball club wedding), we suspect that there's something inherent in the game that inspires romance. Terry Francher's theories run from "It's an informal game and you can be yourself as opposed to going out on a formal date" to "The

close proximity encourages you to get to know the other player fast."

We've included on this page a record of the Francher-Kendler love story from racquetball lesson to the formal wedding portrait and the toast from the father of the bride.



Bob Kendler gives the bridal Toast at his daughter's wedding.



Wedding Toast To Kip And Terry

Terry, we're proud you're now part of our clan . . .

That Kip, at long last, came home with a man!

Our only regret is you don't "have it all"

The remedy's easy, just learn handball.

Team up, if you can, with another great sport . . .

Our Roger's a pro in any old court! And don't forget the Big Champ at home

Who has brought in some trophies (and many a poem).

Our other three sons find athletics a chore;

The best they can do is get real sore, So they can use the excuse that they got beat

By their tricky old Dad . . . an expert cheat!

Never stop loving and you'll have all the fun

That brightened our home when we were made one.

Let each passing year prove you still belong,

So all of your life is a honeymoon song.

The world is so small when it comes to love,

Because marriage is made in Heaven above.

And nothing can keep the right couple apart

When the need-to-be-one comes right from the heart.

Now Terry and Kip, your life starts anew

With a thrill of love that blesses but few.

Yours is a oneness that's hammered in gold

And cannot be tarnished as the years unfold.

We nurtured you, Kip, through year twenty-two . . .

And now, dear Terry, we give her to you.

She's as dear to us as our love for each other;

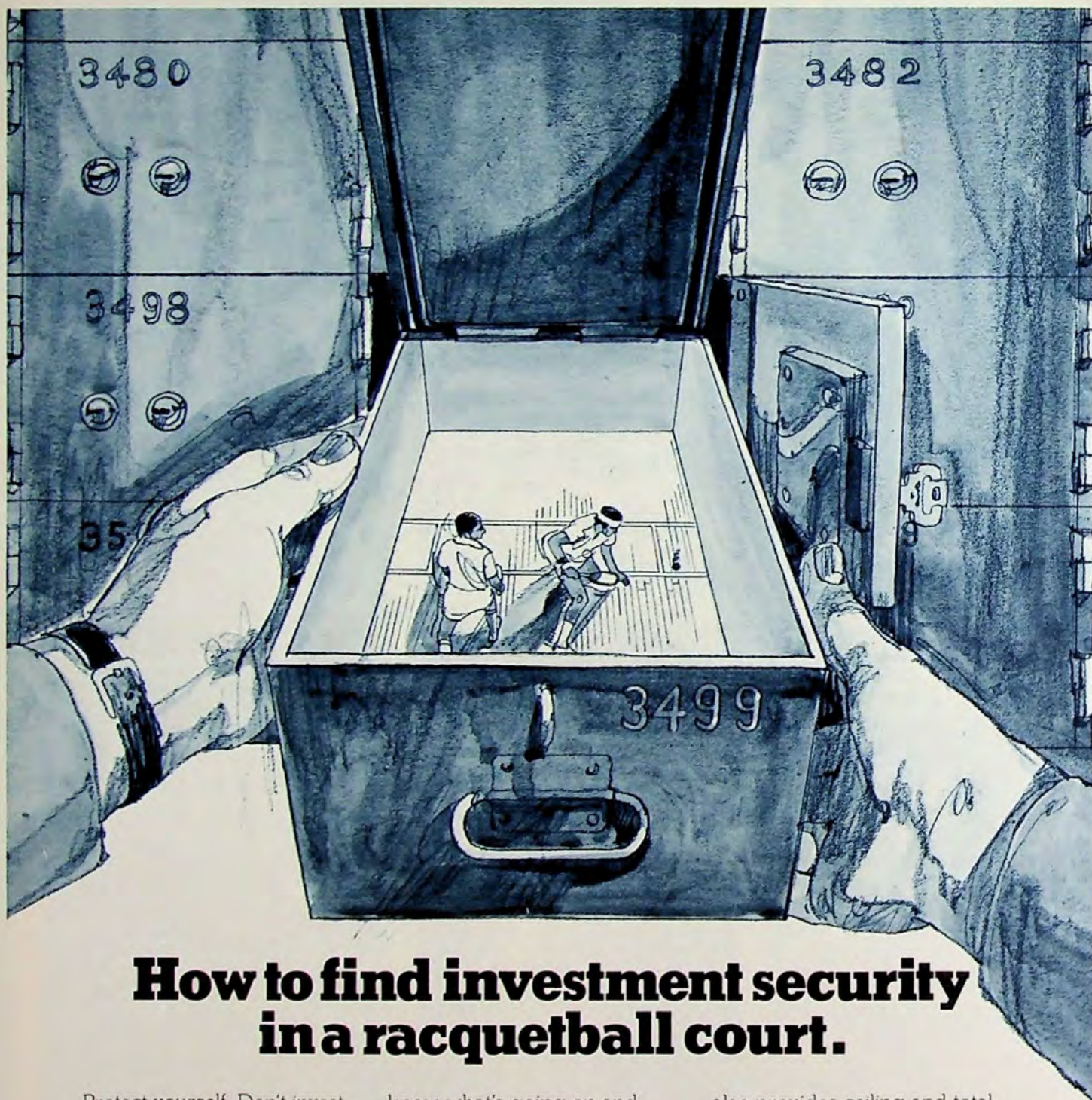
She's the ultimate gift from her Father and Mother.

God bless you both . . . forever.

Mom and Dad 11/25/77



This is what racquetball can lead to. Left to right, Bob Kendler, Kip and Terry Francher, Evie Kendler.



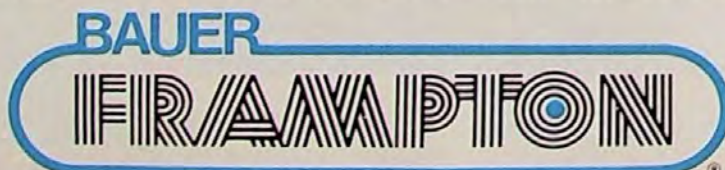
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Playing Tip #6

If you seem to be scooping the ball — especially in back wall play — you may be making the mistake that Jean Sauser demonstrates in the upper photo of this excerpt from *Inside Racquetball for Women*.

Sauser, one of the country's best professional players, is head pro at SkyHarbor Court Club in Northbrook and Highland Park, IL. She wrote *Inside Racquetball for Women* with Arthur Shay, *National Racquetball's* official photographer, who has over 15,000 published pictures and 35 books to his credit. Shay is a former *Life* and *Time* photographer and bureau chief.

Sauser and Shay's collection of corrections and mistakes, published by Contemporary Books, is on sale at most court clubs and at many bookstores.

Mistake — Being Ahead of the Ball

When your body position is ahead of the ball instead of behind it, you are contacting the ball off balance off the back foot. This problem becomes magnified in back wall play. There you are setting up for a shot off the back wall. You're waiting for the ball to come forward toward you. Suddenly, in one of those exasperating moments of racquetball, the ball dies or slows as it comes off the back wall. Since you have not moved your entire body back far enough, you flail away off balance, reaching back and hitting the ball off your back foot. A scooping motion results and your shot — not having the advantage of your body weight behind it — barely gets to the front wall, if it does indeed do that. Most likely it will skip to the floor after hitting a side wall.



Correction

As in correcting other body mistakes you have to position yourself behind the ball as you hit it. In getting back for a back wall shot you must get back behind the ball. If the ball slows down as it comes off the back wall, you will be behind it for a good return. If the ball comes off the back wall with a little more speed than expected, it's easier to race forward than backward. When this timing becomes part of your game you'll have the same kind of coordination that permits a 120-pound golfer to drive a ball 275 yards.

Machines that Give You More Time to Play

For years the French have been seducing Americans with savoir-faire, fine wines and truffles. But four years ago they surpassed their past achievements. In 1973 Robot Coupe, a French manufacturer of restaurant equipment, exported to this country the Cuisinart Food Processor — a labor saving home kitchen appliance which has revolutionized the American cooking scene. Sometimes referred to as the "eighth wonder of the world" this powerful kitchen helpmate chops, slices, grates, kneads, minces, purees and performs innumerable other culinary tasks at an unbelievable speed. It takes up about as much counterspace as a blender and has inspired at least seven U.S. manufacturers of small appliances to design and market similar type machines. Prices of the machines range from \$49.95 for the American Food Processor to \$225 for Cuisinarts Inc. deluxe model.

In a *Newsweek* article which appeared in early 1977 Julia Child was quoted as saying "the food processor is the most important invention since the first electric mixer . . . It makes cooking the old cuisine, which takes hours and hours, a matter of seconds."

For racquetball players food processors are ideal. The machines provide enough time for playing racquetball and also for the preparation of formerly complicated, time-consuming but reasonably low-calorie gourmet recipes.

Abby Mandel, the creator of Machine Cuisine* cooking classes, has developed recipes that specify which processor parts to use and how to use them. Here are four of Abby's recipes that will convince your guests you spent all day in the kitchen — not on the courts.

—Judith Neisser

*registered trademark

Mushrooms Pissaladiere

6-8 servings

24 medium mushroom caps, wiped clean, stems removed
2/3 cup parsley leaves (1/3 cup minced)
5 jumbo black olives, pitted, ends cut flat
1 clove garlic, peeled
1 medium onion (4 ounces), peeled, and quartered
2 medium tomatoes (12 ozs.), peeled, seeded & juiced
1 tablespoon tomato paste
1/2 teaspoon basil or oregano
Pinch sugar
Salt, freshly ground black pepper to taste
1 can flat anchovies, rinsed in cold water, patted dry

Pam or lightly butter a 9" round baking dish. Place mushroom caps rounded side down. *Steel Knife:* Mince parsley — on/off turns until finely minced; set aside. *Medium Slicer:* Place olives on slicing disc, replace cover — slice, using light pressure; set aside. *Steel Knife:* With machine running, drop garlic clove through feed tube. Place onion in work bowl — on/off turns until finely minced. Place onion mixture in skillet. Chop tomatoes coarsely — one at a time — on/off turns. Add tomatoes to skillet — cook mixture until most of liquid is reduced. Remove from heat. Add tomato paste, seasoning, sugar, salt, pepper, reserved parsley, except 2 tablespoons. Combine well — adjust seasoning. Spoon mixture into mushroom caps. Split anchovies down center. Also cut in half crosswise. Garnish mushrooms with crosses of anchovy and/or olive slice. Bake in preheated 400° oven 5-8 minutes, only until heated through — do not overcook. Sprinkle remaining parsley on mushrooms.

Baked Red Snapper with Vegetables and Herbs

6-8 servings

2-3 lb. red snapper or white fish
1/8 cup lemon juice
1/2 cup parsley leaves (1/4 cup minced)
8 scallions, cut in 2" lengths
1 large carrot, peeled, cut in 2" lengths
1 lemon, scored, ends cut flat
1 orange, scored, ends cut flat
Salt, freshly ground black pepper
1/2 teaspoon each, thyme, coriander
4 cloves
1/4 cup each, dry vermouth, clam juice
2 tablespoons unsalted margarine
Parsley sprigs for garnish

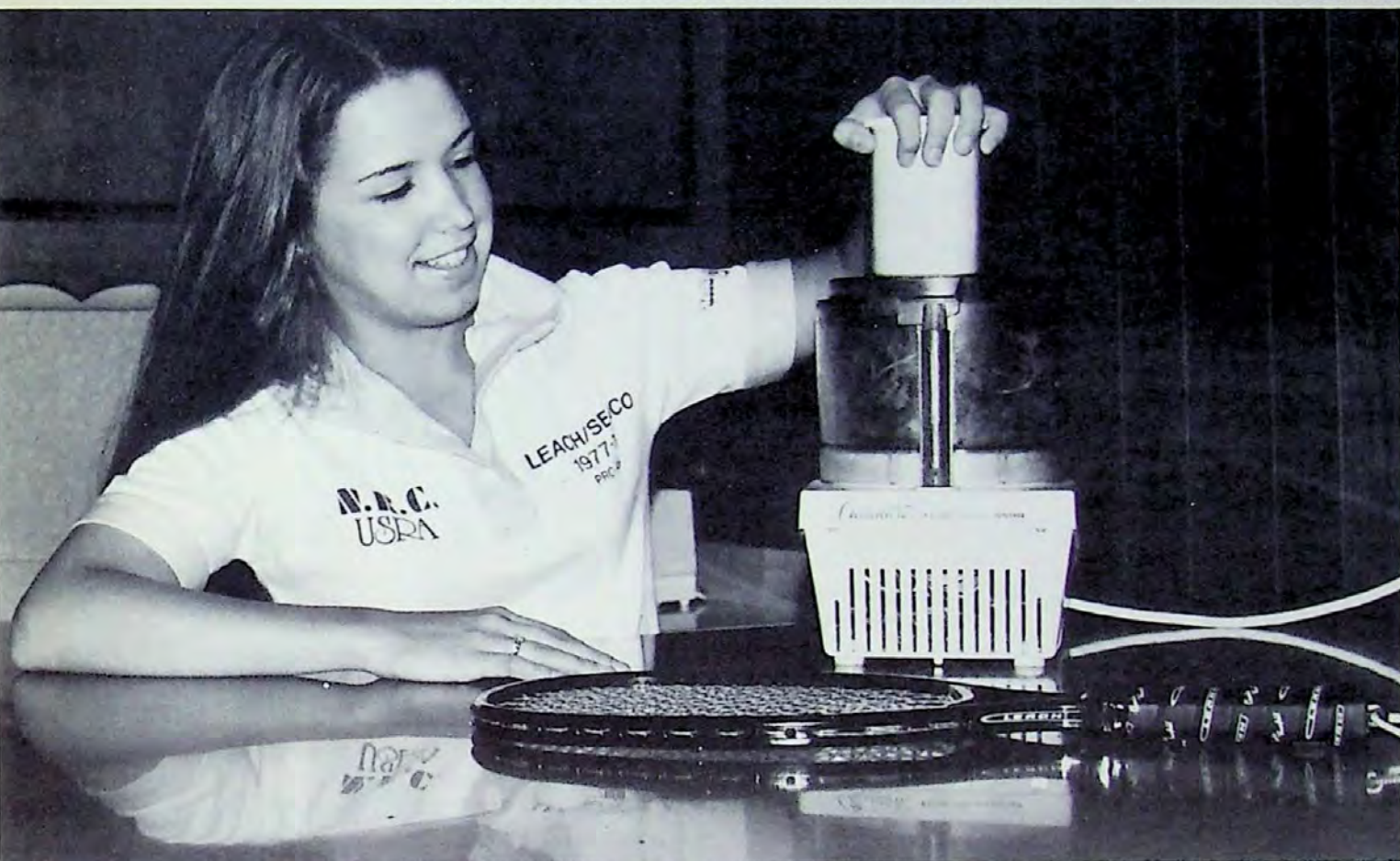
Lemon Herb Stuffing

1 clove garlic, peeled
1 cup parsley leaves (1/2 cup minced)
1 tablespoon each, basil, dill
2 tablespoons lemon juice
4 tablespoons unsalted margarine, softened
1 teaspoon salt
Freshly ground black pepper, to taste

Keep the head and tail of the fish intact; fish should be boned and prepared for stuffing. Wash fish, dry with paper towel. Sprinkle inside and out with lemon juice. *Medium slicer:* Place green onions horizontally in feed tube; sliver, using light pressure. Place carrot pieces vertically in feed tube; slice using medium pressure. Slice lemon and orange, using firm pressure. Reserve slices for garnish. Season inside and outside of fish with salt, pepper, thyme, coriander. Prepare herb stuffing. *Steel knife:* Mince garlic by dropping clove through feed tube with machine running. Add parsley: mince, using on/off turns. Add remaining ingredients. Let machine run 10 seconds until blended. Spread mixture inside fish; seal with skewers if necessary.

Place fish in oiled baking pan, dot with margarine, cover with 1/3

Kip Kendler Fancher, bride and racquetball player, minces a half cup of parsley with a twist of the Cuisinart.



scallions and carrots; add cloves to vermouth, clam juice, bring to boil on top of stove. Cover fish with parchment paper, buttered side down; bake in preheated 400° oven for 18 minutes. Add remaining vegetables, cover airtight, cook 8 minutes longer, until fish feels firm to the touch.

Yogurt Hollandaise

1 1/4 cups

2 large egg yolks

1 cup plain Dannon Yogurt

1/2 teaspoon Dijon mustard

Salt, freshly ground white pepper, to taste

Thicken egg yolks, yogurt, mustard in top of double boiler, until mixture coats a spoon. Season. This can be reheated slowly in a double boiler.

Oriental Spinach Salad

8 servings

Salad:

1 lb. spinach, washed, stems

removed, torn into pieces

8 oz. fresh bean sprouts, washed

and drained

1/2 cup parsley leaves (1/4 cup

minced)

8 ozs. red cabbage, cut in wedges to

fit feed tube (1 3/4 cups chopped)

1 egg, hard boiled

Dressing:

1/3 cup cider vinegar

1/4 cup each, safflower oil, water

1 teaspoon Twin sugar substitute

2 teaspoons each, light & dark soy

sauce

1/2 teaspoon ginger

Freshly ground black pepper, to

taste

Place spinach greens in bowl.

Arrange bean sprouts over the

greens. *Steel Knife:* Mince parsley

— on/off turns. Set aside. *Slicer:*

Slice cabbage, using firm pressure.

Remove slicer, insert *Steel Knife:*

On/off turns until cabbage is

coarsely chopped. Arrange on bean

sprouts. Remove steel knife, and

wipe work bowl with paper towel.

Plastic Knife: Chop egg — 4 on/off

turns. Garnish center of salad,

sprinkle with reserved parsley. Mix

ingredients for dressing. Pour on

salad when ready to serve. Toss.

Who's Playing Racquetball?

Camille Blachowicz: Reading Professor

One advantage being a college professor, Camille Blachowicz says, is the availability of racquetball courts. Thanks to an irregular schedule she is often able to play on weekday mornings. She spends four days a week at Evanston, IL's National College of Education (NCE), where she teaches teachers how to teach — reading, and most of her classes there are in late afternoon and evenings. This enables her to take a regular Monday class with Evanston YMCA teacher Sheryl Weiss, tour around the Chicago area for competitive "fun" with the Women's Metro League on Wednesdays, and play frequently with her husband, Jim. "If we're both playing well he beats me," she comments. "But it's a good match."

By playing competitively the 33-year-old teacher believes she has learned a lot about mental control. "I'm overcoming getting psyched out. I am realizing your mind has a lot to do with your body. But more than that, I'm not as tired — feel more energetic, more confident because I've mastered something."

Camille and Jim, an associate professor of philosophy at Chicago's Loyola University, spend a great deal of time buried in their

books; Camille, in fact, has already outlined one of her own (on how parents can teach their children to read). So they are especially pleased to meet people outside the academic community.

Camille, who received her Ph.D from Northwestern University's Department of Reading in 1976, teaches three courses in the Master's program at NCE. She writes a reading column for *Career World*, a monthly magazine, and she does in-service workshops and consulting for school districts.

The three courses are technical and time consuming. They range from how to identify specific reading problems in adults and children, to what studying a language can tell about teaching reading, to a practicum for reading specialists which includes work at the NCE reading Center of which Camille is Associate Director. At this clinic she supervises her students who are tutoring their students.

Particularly concerned that parents as the major role models do not encourage children to read, she cites the fact that only 20 percent of college graduates ever again read a book. In many problem cases it is not that the child cannot read, but that he does not read.

In her excitement for her new found sport Camille has forgotten her initial pleasure at the escape it provided for the academic world. For somehow now she has managed to make racquetball players out of her co-director at the Reading Center and the secretary as well.

— Jennifer Alter

Camille switches roles, from teacher behind the lectern and demonstrating a reading lesson to racquetball student with pro Sheryl Weiss.



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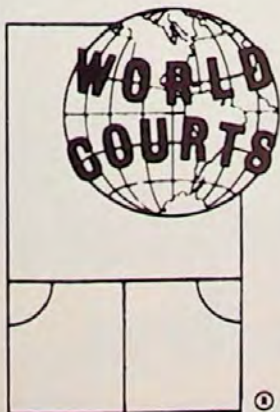


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Cooking up an Inexpensive Campaign

by Jaci Sisson

Racquetball club owners and managers don't usually have an excess of funds to invest in advertising. In fact a great many clubs survive without any at all, being carried as they are by word of mouth among aficionados. But the task of assembling a diverse and varied racquetball membership is one of the most important for a club manager. If all hours of operation can be effectively filled with eager players, then the club operates at peak efficiency and maximum profit.

Requisites for a perfect membership will vary from club to club. In some areas, it may be difficult to attract the lunchtime business men's participation. In others younger men may find high dues are a slight turn-off to frequent play. Many more clubs find that daytime participation by women, married or not, may make or break the club. Whatever the market problem it is highly probable that advertising has the solution to it. Here are a few, simple, cheap ideas to start the discussion going.

Perhaps the most obvious and easiest way to increase membership is a Yellow Pages Listing in your local phone directory. I know from personal experience that there is no way to find a racquetball court from the Los Angeles phone book. This is a situation that has caused me much consternation. Under Athletic Organizations I found nothing. Under Clubs nothing again. Under Youth Organizations all I found was the local YMCA. There was no listing for racquetball. There was, however, a listing for Squash, so I looked there. You can't fault me for trying. What I finally had to do was locate a sporting goods store that sold racquets and I asked one of the clerks where people in Los Angeles played. From there it was all downhill. It took a lot of trouble for me to find a court. Imagine how hard it would be for someone who has never even played the game to locate your particular court. If it is too hard, they will

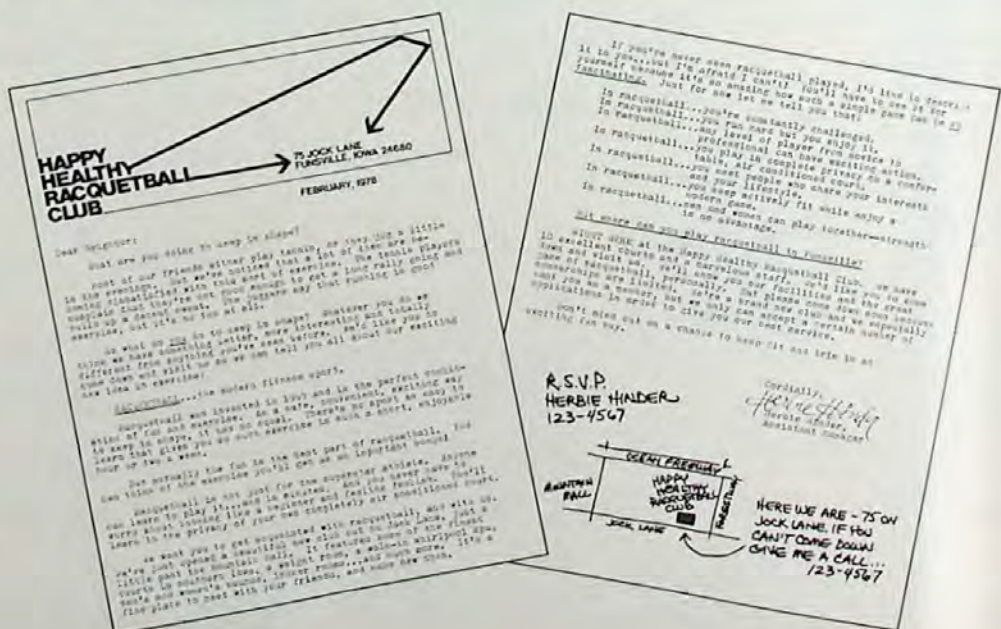
certainly give up — and you'll both lose. All it takes is a phone book listing, and I'm sure the cost is minimal. The Yellow Pages, not the White Pages.

If you want to dig up new members more actively, then you might consider the door-to-door handbill method. It's cheap, there's no doubt about it. Just print up some promotional material at one of those local printing plants that specialize in inexpensive, moderate quality off-set printing. You could have photographs or not as you see fit. With photos the cost is always a little higher. This sort of material doesn't even have to be typeset — often an IBM Selectric with a carbon film ribbon will be good enough for clear reproduction. But even the most elaborate single-page handbill will be many dollars cheaper than most other methods.

The handbill method is very effective because it is by necessity localized. Get neighborhood kids to distribute them and pay them whatever you can afford or give them some free court time. In areas around the club (if those areas happen to be residential) you should get plenty of inquiries about membership. People will be curious as to just what racquetball is, and if the club isn't far away sooner or later they'll

probably show up. And distance also means convenience which will help pull in the women players in the daytime hours. The handbill is the best of the simple methods to choose your audience. Judging by the survey taken by *National Racquetball* a lot of racquetball players are exceptionally affluent. To reach that audience just choose a well-to-do section of town. You can even choose the well-to-do sections within a radius of a certain distance from your club. This narrowing of audience is exceptionally tough to do with any other medium. Only magazine subscription zip code selection could come close, and believe me, it's a lot more expensive. With handbills your only problem is distribution, but it can be solved with imagination.

Posters can be very effective when placed in stores that share your potential audience. Some good examples are sporting goods stores, which I've already mentioned, and stores that specialize in athletic footwear. An exciting poster would do a lot of good there. Half the battle is won because the audience is athletic or sports-minded to begin with.



The last method I'd like to discuss is direct mail promotion geared to an audience which has never played racquetball, but that is devoted to the idea of exercise and fun. I've written a letter that makes readers curious about racquetball and tries to motivate them to come down to your club, where you can introduce them to the game. In racquetball if they don't see it, they really can't understand. Therefore all you can do in a solicitation letter is tell them enough to get them interested and then invite them down to the club for a friendly visit.

The cost for a direct mail solicitation is much more than the other methods, but

a personal-looking letter has a lot more appeal than a handbill placed under the door or in the mailbox. The particular promotion I'm suggesting includes a two (separate) page letter, an envelope (with a simulated handwritten line "—RSVP Feb. 15") and a coded mailing list with labels preprinted. I estimate the cost for a distribution of about 5,000 two-color letters at \$850, but you'll have to do your own investigation of costs for your particular needs. You could cut costs by going to one color, or one page or by using a postcard. Probably the biggest expense will be the list, which you can

buy from a reputable list broker at a cost of so many dollars per thousand names.

The point of all of this is that experimentation is everything. Advertising doesn't just mean expensive radio, TV and print ads. In many cases these media are not as effective as what you can cook up yourself. Racquetball clubs are often a local affair and the mass media are not exactly what you need. Imagination will often provide you with ways to create a higher profile for your club and solve membership problems. Let them know that your club is there and they'll beat a path to your door.



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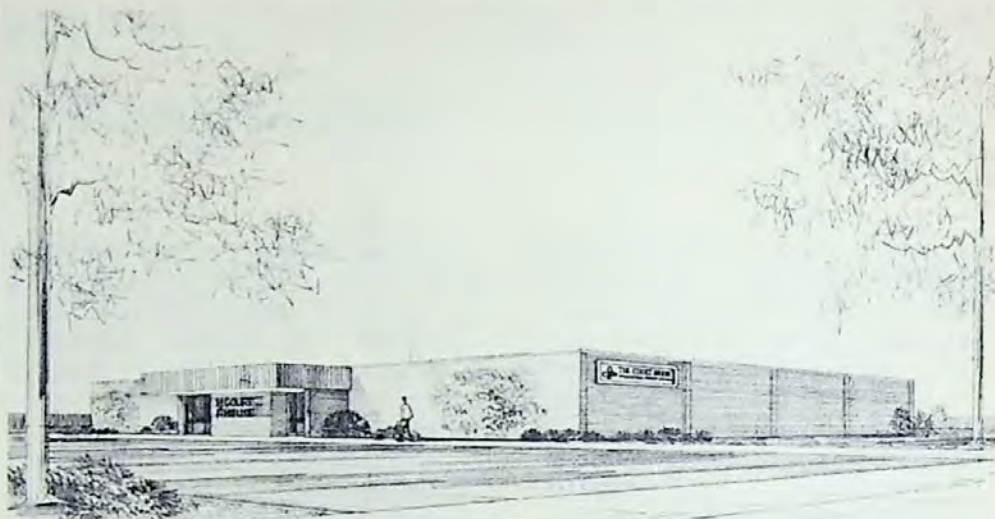
We welcome court club news that you send us typed double or triple (preferred) spaced with one-inch margins all around.

Skokie, IL

Fair Lanes, Inc. has announced that eight new racquetball courts have been added to its existing five-court tennis facility in Skokie, IL, a suburb of Chicago. The racquetball courts at the Skokie Racquet Club, 9444 Skokie Blvd., were ready for play in January.

In addition to the construction of the racquetball courts, the existing tennis club was expanded to include a spacious, luxuriously appointed central lounge, redecorated locker rooms and an all new "kiddie korner."

The eight racquetball court addition to the Skokie Racquet Club is the company's first investment in the racquetball field. Fair Lanes, Inc. presently operates four indoor tennis clubs in the Chicagoland area and 67 bowling centers in eight states.



The Court House

Chicago, IL

The seventh Court House racquetball club, Edens Court House, 5130 N. Cicero Ave., Chicago, officially opened Saturday, Dec. 17, at 7 a.m.

The Edens Court House is the first racquetball club to be built on Chicago's northwest side. Construction of the facility was started this summer. The mid-December opening, says Robert W. Fitzgerald, president of The Court House Sports Club, Inc., the parent organization, "was right on target."

The Edens Court House has eight climate controlled courts lighted by noiseless mercury vapor lamps. Each carpeted locker room has a customized Scandinavian sauna. The club also has a spacious lounge and an automated refreshment center. Monday through Friday mornings, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., the Edens Court

house offers free attended nursery service for mothers with pre-school children.

Wendt, Cedarholm and Tippens, Northfield, were the architects. The club's interior was designed by Arlene Semel Design Group, Ltd., Highland Park. An Oak Park firm, Westgate Graphic Design, Inc., developed all the architectural graphics incorporated into the exterior and interior of the club.

In addition to the Edens club, there are six Court House racquetball clubs in Chicagoland. One—Mid-Town—is at 1235 N. LaSalle St. The others are located in the suburbs of Arlington Heights, Northbrook, Oak Park, Schaumburg and Skokie.

For further information concerning racquetball play at the Edens Court House, telephone (312) 286-6700 or (312) 441-6700.

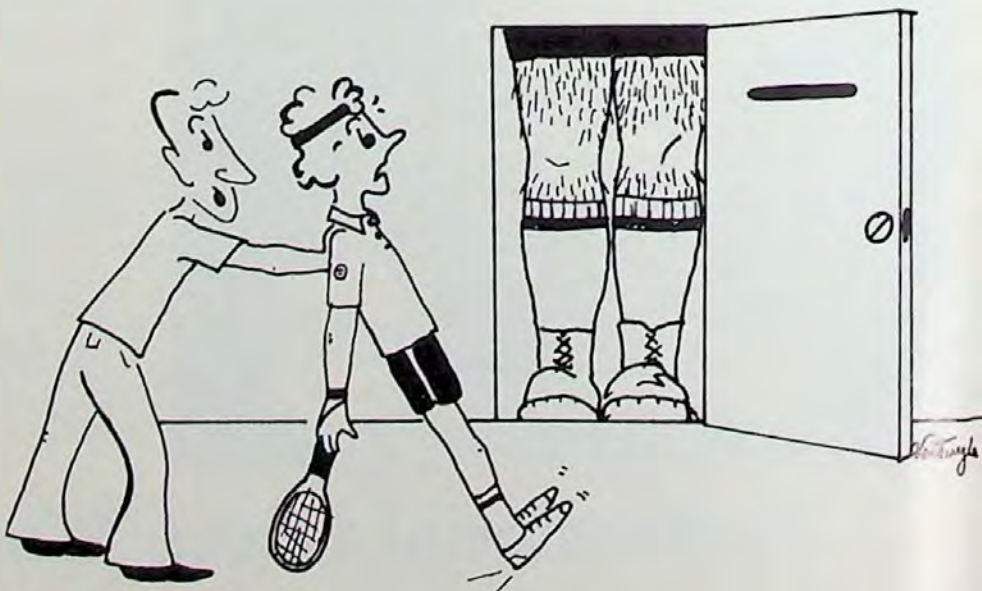
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Massapequa, NY

A group of former Long Island athletes, mostly wrestling champions, have opened up a 13 court facility on Sunrise Highway in Massapequa.

The president and major stockholder is Bill Farrell, the coach of the 1972 Olympic wrestling team which won six medals in the Munich Games. Farrell, a former wrestler and captain of the New York Athletic Club, was the U.S.A. National Coach 1969-1973, and is a member of the Hall of Fame. He is also president of Universal Resilite, the nation's largest distributor of wrestling and physical fitness equipment.

Other wrestling notables include Sonny Greenhalgh (Syracuse) and NYAC chairman; Jerry Seckler former Penn State Star; and Vince Zuaro, Olympic Games official. The general manager and vice-president is Jim Farrell, a former Hofstra University wrestler.

The Universal Racquetball Club is the second largest facility to open on Long Island. It is located on Long Island's busiest highway, directly across from the Sunrise Mall, the largest mall in the East.

In addition to 12 racquetball courts and one for squash the club will have a complete Universal Gym fitness center which will include a large chrome multiple station machine for the women plus 15 single station machines for the men. Separate saunas for men and women plus a private women's slenderizing area complete the existing facility. Whirlpool, platform tennis, and an outside running track are scheduled for the near future.



Bill Farrell



Jefferson Valley, NY

Jefferson Valley Racquet Club, on Route 6 off the Taconic State Parkway north of New York City, is the first indoor tennis club in the New York area to convert tennis courts to racquetball.

The Club is installing four racquetball courts in the first phase of a program to develop eight courts. Each court has gallery viewing and two courts have glass walls for exhibition play.

David Swope, a partner in the club, feels that with racquetball given the same importance as tennis, the club will become a center in the area for both games. Jefferson Valley is the only racquetball club between Albany and White Plains which should be good news for all the racquetball players who have been travelling long distances to Y's in the area.

Jefferson Valley's courts are being constructed by J. Bauer and designed by Maxwell Glantz.

Call Club Manager Karen Corburn for further information at (914) 245-4040.

Poughkeepsie, NY

Racquetball will be introduced to the Mid-Hudson Valley in March with the opening of the All Sport Fitness and Racquetball Club at 240 Washington St., Poughkeepsie, Dutchess County, NY.

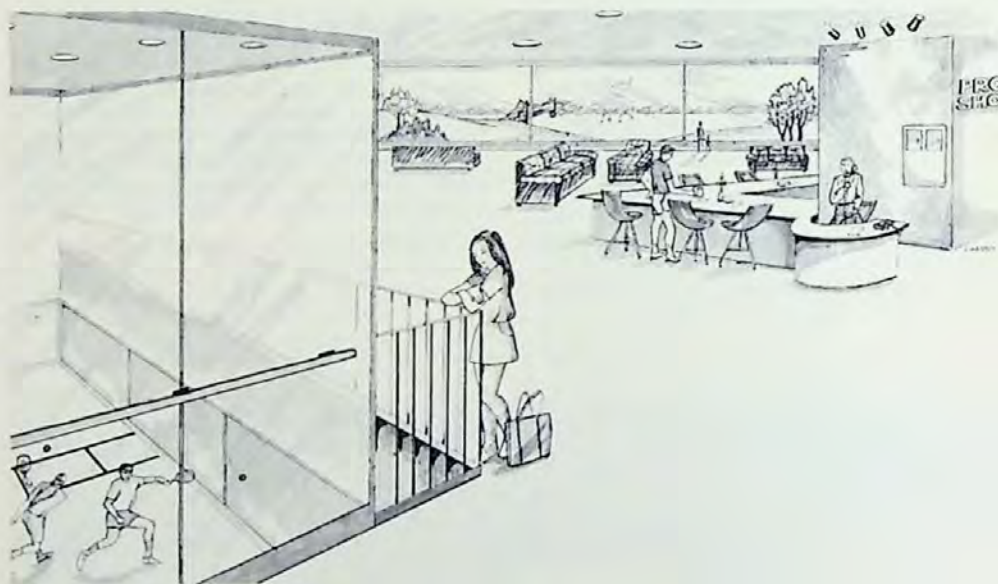
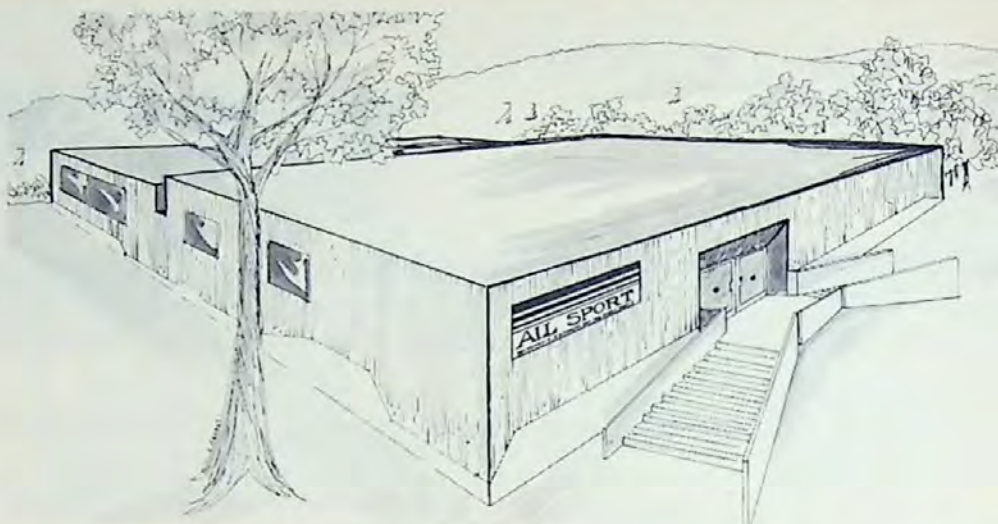
The 20,000 square foot club is unique in both design and concept. The split face block building is a stepped tri-level structure which has been adapted to a hillside building lot. The design allows for maximum court exposure and also takes advantage of a beautiful Hudson River overlook. Al Mauri of Poughkeepsie, NY, is the architect and the general contractor is John DeGroot of Pleasant Valley, NY.

The club will provide the usual racquetball activities but will also incorporate a 2,800 square foot health and fitness center. The nearby All Sport Conditioning Center, presently owned by one of the partners, will be moved into the club and will continue to offer fully supervised and personalized fitness programs on the Nautilus training equipment. Separate Nautilus exercise areas for men and women will be included with an aerobic warmup area, exercise, dance and yoga classes also available to members. The combination of a professionally run health and fitness center with the racquetball facilities will offer members a tool for total fitness.

Nine racquetball courts are being built, including a tournament court with a full side and back wall of glass. Luxurious locker rooms will be fully carpeted and include sun rooms, whirlpools and saunas. The spacious main lounge will overlook the tournament court on one side and look west over the Hudson River on the other. Lunches, light dinners and snacks will be served in the main lounge to accommodate the members. A child care area and a well stocked pro shop will also be included.

The club is located just north of the City of Poughkeepsie within four minutes of IBM's largest U.S. installation and within 10 minutes of four colleges.

For information call (914) 452-5051.



Gathered in front of The Court House are, left to right, Brad Victor, manager; John Caughell, owner; Tom Cummings, owner; Norma Paulus, member and Oregon's Secretary of State; Dave Lantz, owner, and Jerry Whipper, owner.



Salem, OR

Salem, OR, now has its first complete Handball/racquetball facility, a two-story structure at 2975 River Road South.

The Court House interior, done in tones of red, orange and brown, features life size graphics. The club has ten championship courts, one with a side glass wall for easy viewing from the lobby or upstairs lounge area. The Court House also offers a large spa room surrounded by a sun deck, men's and women's sauna and exercise rooms, brightly decorated locker rooms, pro shop, therapy room, nursery and a soundproof lounge. Located one-half mile away are the Browns Island Trails which offer jogging members miles of trails that wind through the rich farm land of the Willamette River flood plain.

The Court House will offer its members varied fitness programs ranging from the court sports to diversified exercise classes. For information on memberships for individuals, couples, families and companies call (503) 364-8463 or write The Court House, 2975 River Road South, Salem, OR 97302.

Beaverton, OR

The Beaverton Racquetball Club, anticipating completion in late February, will feature 13 championship racquetball/handball courts with two glass spectator courts, making the club the largest of its kind in Oregon. The courts utilize the Hollman Court System of interlocking panels developed by Owner Joe Hollman, who built the nearby Milwaukie Racquetball Club.

The Beaverton Club offers locker rooms with saunas and whirlpools, a complete pro shop, an adult lounge, a snack bar and an attended nursery. Jennifer Harding, currently second ranked women's professional player, will give instruction. Programs will include tournaments, challenge ladders, mixers, leagues and a social activities.

Members, who join at \$75 an individual, \$100 a couple or \$125 for a family, can buy hourly court time or unlimited play cards. The club is at the intersection of Hwy. 217 and Beaverton-Hillsdale Hwy.

At the groundbreaking for the Beaverton Racquetball Club are, left to right, Bruce Kelly, charter member; Jennifer Harding, manager/pro; Dr. Larry Bernard, charter member; Joseph Hollman, owner/contractor; Gay Brenton, promotional coordinator; Ken Harding, manager, and Deborah LeBer, fitness coordinator.



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Las Vegas, NE

Las Vegas' first court club devoted exclusively to racquetball, the Las Vegas Racquet Ball Club, opened its doors for play in January.

Dan Seaton, one of the club's owners said "response to our pre-opening sales was phenomenal. Three months before opening, more than 350 enthusiastic Las Vegas became Charter Members."

Much of the club's success can be attributed to the fact that Seaton has been the president of the

highly active Las Vegas Racquetball Association for the past three years, and has been responsible for countless tournaments, clinics and the teaching of many new racquetball players.

"We plan to carry these activities right into our club," added Seaton, "as well as beginning many leagues, ladders and other activities." The club also places high emphasis on racquetball programs for women.

The Las Vegas Racquet Ball Club has been designed to provide everyone from the beginner to the professional superior playing courts, comfortable surroundings and professional, courteous service at attractive rates.

Located on the main level is the supervised nursery where the future racquetball champions will be cared for while the moms get their exercise.

Also located on the main level of the club is the pro shop, which will carry a full line of racquetball equipment, apparel and accessories.

Members relax in the club's large, comfortable fireplace lounge, where they can enjoy a snack, watch television or view games in progress on any one of the 12 courts.

The lower level of the facility houses the men's and women's fully carpeted locker and shower areas. Also available are steam and sauna rooms, a fully equipped exercise room, towel service and free use of toiletries, hair dryers, etc.

One of the club's special features is a large co-ed jacuzzi with three solid glass walls surrounded by a forest of relaxing greenery.

A complete lesson program directed toward players of all ages and abilities, plus a full schedule of leagues and challenge ladders, also is available.

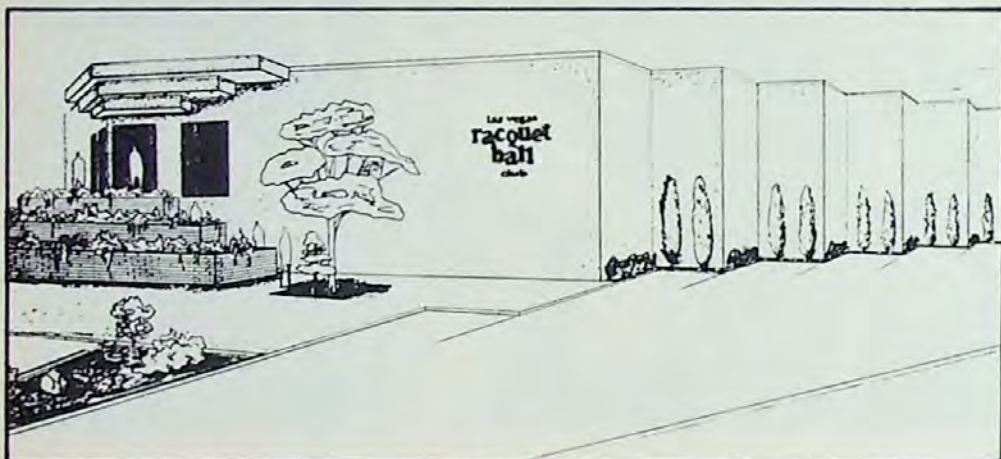
The decor of the facility features wood, leather, plants and warm earth colors.

The Club is also owned by Tom Wiesner and Mike Corrigan, and is located at 1100 E. Sahara Ave.

Although the emphasis is on providing the local players with a full activity schedule, special Traveler's Memberships are available for out-of-towners who visit Las Vegas.

The facility is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week in order to accommodate the numerous Las Vegas who work the night shifts.

For further information regarding the Las Vegas Racquet Ball Club, please call (702) 733-1919.



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Club, 145 State Pier Road,
New London, CT 05320

Pictured from left to right are Ray Barrett, Dan Samek, Virginia Beach Councilman Dr. Henry McCoy, Joe Mulkerren, Ralph Rothstein.



Virginia Beach, VA

Virginia Beach's first racquetball and handball club for men, women and families is open at 4444 Expressway Drive. This plush court facility — the Cardinal Court Club — will feature eight tournament courts, all with spectator viewing galleries on the upper level and four with additional viewing areas through glass back walls on the lower level.

Designed for both the serious tournament and novice players and their families Cardinal Court Club features separate saunas and jacuzzi whirlpool baths in both men's and women's fully carpeted locker rooms, a completely stocked pro shop and a warm up/exercise room with Universal Gym, ballet bar and weight lifting equipment. In addition a spacious clubroom, with Norwegian wood burning stove, T.V. viewing area, wet bar and food preparation facilities, is available for party use or for patron relaxation after a strenuous racquetball or handball match. The club provides a spacious and fully supervised child care center.

Cardinal Court Club, a 15,500 foot facility, offers individual (\$50 per year), family (\$70) and student (\$25) memberships, as well as those for corporations and groups. Court rental rates range from \$5 to \$7.50 per hour. Hours of operation are from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday through Saturday and from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday.

Visitors to the Virginia Beach area can use the Cardinal Court Club during vacations and business trips, and the club will arrange matches with tournament level or novice handball and racquetball players. Group and individual

lessons are available and house, statewide and regional racquetball and handball tournaments are planned for 1978.

The Cardinal Court Club is accessible from Virginia Beach Expressway and Interstates 64 and 464. The Cardinal Court Club was established because of the rapidly growing popularity of racquetball and handball in the Tidewater area and the demand for the limited number of courts at the local JCC, YMCA and military bases. Cardinal is within short driving distance for residents of the Tidewater cities of Norfolk, Virginia Beach, Chesapeake, Suffolk, Hampton and Newport News.

Cardinal Court Club was formed as a limited partnership by a group of avid Tidewater racquetball and handball players interested in promoting the two sports and providing additional court facilities. General partners, Ray Barrett — Virginia Beach general contractor and builder — and Ralph Rothstein — retired U.S. Air Force officer, manage the new facility. Limited partners include Dan Samek, racquetball commissioner for the U.S. Navy, and Glenn Allen, former Navy racquetball commissioner and current Senior Interstate Racquetball champion and number two seniors player in the 1977 Mid-Atlantic and Southeastern Regional tournaments. There are 13 other limited partners from the Tidewater area.

For more information call (804) 499-9667, or write the Cardinal Court Club, 4444 Expressway Dr., Virginia Beach, VA 23462.



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How to Put Women In Your Courts

Sandy Coffman Offers Her Third Clinic March 18

Sandy Coffman, who has developed successful racquetball programs at the Racquet Ball Club outside of Milwaukee, WI, will lead her third seminar for owners, managers and pros who want to learn how to bring women into their clubs as members and players.

Her first two clinics — in August and November of 1977 — attracted men and women from six states who work both in new racquetball facilities and established centers.

Agenda

8:30 a.m.

Opening, introduction and tour of the club —

Distribution of course materials —

How to create that "initial" interest —

- How to use your established players.
- How to interest the new players hesitant to get involved.

Several ways to set up a league —

- Various round robins
- Team play

How to set up a team —

- Division of classes.
- Number of players.
- Scoring procedures.
- Rules.
- Schedules.

Common pitfalls and how to avoid them —

How to handle complaints gracefully —

How to get sponsors and how to use the sponsor's fee —

How to get the non-participating player to play —

Special events — ideas and how to run them —

12:00 noon

Lunch — a light buffet will be provided and an opportunity for social hour and discussion will be available —

Beginning lessons for women —

- How to recruit pupils.
- Group lessons vs. private lessons.
- Complete lesson plans.
- Demonstration.
- How to set up a tournament for beginners —

Effective follow up procedures —

- How to arrange games.
- How to get the "dropouts" back into playing.
- How to get the beginners involved in organized activities.

How to use your best players —

How to improve your good players —

How to rejuvenate your discouraged players —

4:00 p.m.

Question and answer period —

Adjourn

Reservation Request

"How To Successfully Develop a Women's Racquetball Program"

Seminar by Sandra Coffman
The Racquet Ball Club
1939 South 108th St.
West Allis, Wis. 53227
Tel. - 414-321-2500

Please accept my reservation at The Racquet Ball Club for seminar Saturday, March 18, 1978., 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____ Club _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home phone _____ Business phone _____

Make checks for \$150 payable to The Racquet Ball Club (or \$275 for two from same club).

Reservations must be in by March 11. No refunds after that date. You will receive a reservation confirmation and directions for getting to the club.

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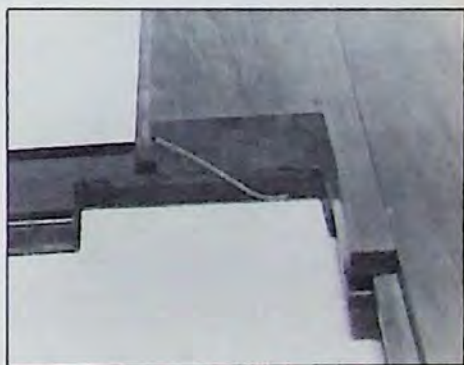
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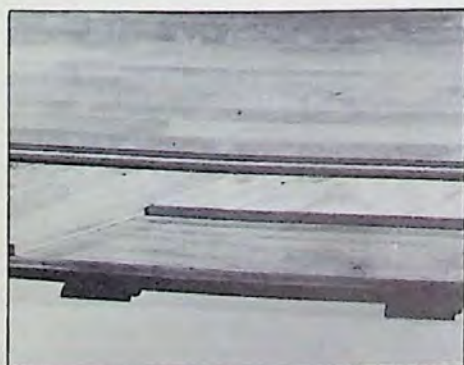
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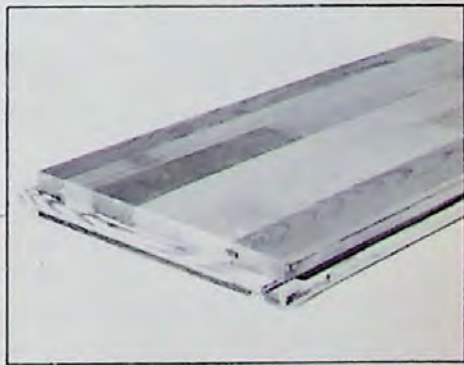
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Hogan blasts his vicious forehand against runner-up Bledsoe in the televised finals at Westminster, California

Tournament Results

Photos of the Westminster pro tournament #3
by Arthur Shay and Dick Shay

One For The Nation

With national television cameras rolling Marty Hogan put on another awesome display of power racquetball en route to his third consecutive win on the 1977-78 Colgate Pro/Am Racquetball Tour co-sponsored by Seamco/Leach.

The exciting 20-year-old slugger topped speedy Davey Bledsoe in the first re-match for the two finalists in last year's National Championships 21-18, 21-12.

The final match in both the men's and women's divisions was televised via the national Public Broadcasting System (PBS) thanks to a grant from USRA president Bob Kendler.

Southpaw Jennifer Harding picked the perfect time to capture her first pro tour victory ever, when she stopped Janell Marriott in the ladies final 21-14, 21-14.

The men's championship match figured to be a highly emotional battle and it was. Hogan, still smarting months after his defeat at Bledsoe's hands in the Nationals, felt he had something to prove and his intensity on the court made that apparent.

Bledsoe, the only player who can come close to matching power with Hogan,

played a brilliant first game, only to have two key errors late in the game open the doors for the opportunistic Hogan.

Fighting an even battle throughout Davey finally captured the lead at 16-15, and the full house gallery at King's Racquetball Court's Royal Court voiced their approval of another hoped-for Bledsoe upset.

But at 16-all Davey skipped two consecutive shots with his backhand, one down-the-line attempt and then a left corner pinch, to give Hogan the slight edge he needed. Never one to turn down a free meal Hogan promptly hit his best shot of the match, a perfect ace down the right wall for 19-16, and followed that with a driving forehand cross court kill to put it away 20-16.

Although Bledsoe was able to regain the serve once, Marty had too much and quickly put the side out. Game winner was next, a backhand, left corner kill for the 21-16 Hogan victory.

Hogan's greatness became obvious in game two. A combination of serving, shooting, blasting and rolling found him running 13 straight points to take an insurmountable 13-1 advantage.

As the television viewers noted, Hogan then took time to rest and let Davey back into the match until it became too narrow a margin to live with, 16-10. Marty added three more next time in, primarily on his usual barrage of power strokes to make it 19-10.

When Bledsoe closed to within 19-12, fate added the crowning blow, as a mis-hit Hogan v-pass got lost in the glass, and struck Davey before he could turn and take the sure plum off the back wall. The point, 20, went to Hogan, who shortly thereafter put the match away on a near-ace around the walls that Bledsoe couldn't handle, 21-12.

Former champ Charlie Brumfield, who performed outstandingly as T.V. color commentator, performed poorly as semi-final foe for Hogan.

Perhaps Brum was thinking up his lines for the next day's broadcast, for his head certainly didn't seem to be in the match. Hogan took a 4-3 first game lead and built it to 11-3 with a flurry of kills and aces that left Brumfield in his wake.

When Charlie tried to get going, he managed to get as close as 13-8 before Hogan extended the lead to 15-8 and

Hogan's complete game also includes retrieving ability. Note this all-out effort against Brumfield in the semi's.



then 20-9. A token ace by Brumfield got him to double figures before Hogan lowered the final boom on a backhand kill 21-10.

Those who hoped for a close and thrilling second game got half of one, which, considering Hogan's fantastic play, is as much as could be expected.

The two players traded points for what seemed like forever with neither man

able to score more than two in any inning until they reached 10-11 Hogan's lead, Brumfield's serve.

Playing Hogan is like trying to contain Walter Payton, — you know he can break loose at any minute. At 11-10 in game two of the semi-finals against Brumfield, he did.

A pass right got him the serve, an ace on a drive to the left was point 12, another pass right made it 13 and a Brumfield avoidable hinder tallied 14.

Another ace on a drive to the left made it 15 and after a time out one more ace on a drive to the left made it 16 and that was the match.

When Brum came back to 12-16, Hogan took things in hand after one serve exchange and ran out the last five 21-12.

Bledsoe's game en route to the championship match was overpowering. Here he utilizes center court position against Hilecher in the semi's.

Bledsoe and Jerry Hilecher met in the bottom bracket semi-final for the 700th time in their careers and the first game was a typical encounter of the first kind for both streak players.

With Bledsoe playing like the national champion, he started fast building a 5-0 lead to a 14-2 advantage. In a compliment to Hilecher's fortitude he did not give the game away, in fact he almost pulled it out.

Scoring two and three almost every time in and holding Davey most of the time when on defense, Jerry gradually closed the gap 5-14, 6-15, and 9-15. But Bledsoe seemed to put it out of reach with three kills and a pass to make it 19-9.

Again Hilecher made a run, this one almost taking him to a stunning win. Down 11-19 he tallied seven straight on four kills and three errors to make it 18-19 before being put out. After regaining service once again at 18-19 Jerry couldn't score as Davey hit the crack on a v-pass left.

A Bledsoe ace followed on a drive to the left corner and game point was a freebie, on a Hilecher backhand ceiling error, 21-18.

Hilecher's late first game run took most of the gusto out of his second game effort as Bledsoe broke a 7-all tie to a 12-9 lead. The back breaker followed, a five point Bledsoe inning that put the match out of reach.

Most top players can only make a big run from behind once a match and that was the case with Hilecher, who just didn't have the effort left as Bledsoe ran out 21-9.

Only one quarter-final match went to the tie-breaker, Hilecher's win over Steve Serot in the best match of the tournament 20-21, 21-13, 11-7. Three times each man served at 20-20 before Serot finally captured the game.

Hilecher rebounded to take a relatively easy 21-13 second game win and the tie-breaker which followed was superb in entertainment and skill.

Serot, playing his dynamic court coverage game, rallied from a 4-7 deficit to tie it at 7-all, but Hilecher, smelling a trip to the semi's, stopped Steve there and ran out.



Hogan defeated his running buddy, Ben Koltun, in a top bracket semi-final 10 and 12, as both games found Hogan with big leads since Koltun couldn't come close to handling Hogan's power.

Young Mike Yellen, who upset fifth ranked Craig McCoy in the round of 16, couldn't follow up against Brumfield, as the old master showed the kid how the game is played when you reach the quarters.

Brumfield, with ease, reached the semi's 21-17, 21-3.

Jay Jones, who stopped newly-bald Steve Keeley in the 16's, gave Bledsoe a good battle in the last quarter-final match 21-14, 21-18. Jones, who continues to impress nobody, still manages to consistently show up in the quarters with his conservative, percentage style of play.

Other good matches along the way: Koltun besting Mark Morrow in the 16's 21-3, 20-21, 11-3; Hilecher slipping by Richard Wagner in the same round 3-21, 21-12, 11-6; Morrow's 21-6, 16-21, 11-4 win over Charlie Rish in the 32's, and Serot's squeaker over Mike Zeitman in the 32's 6-21, 21-16, 11-8.

Men's Pro (Qualifiers): Hildebrand, Mondry, Lujan, T. Sayes, Trent, M. Sayes, Austin, Berberet.

(First Round): Hogan d. Hildebrand 21-19, 21-16; Chase d. Wright 21-9, 19-21, 11-3; Koltun d. Mondry 21-8, 21-7; Morrow d. Rish 21-6, 16-21, 11-4; McCoy d. Lujan 21-12, 21-6; Yellen d. T. Sayes 21-18, 21-13; Zuckerman d. Trent 21-10, 21-4; Brumfield d. Thurman 3-5, injury default; Hilecher d. Strom 21-15, 21-19; Wagner d. Kelly 21-7, 21-5; Zeitman d. Fleetwood 21-17, 21-12; Serot d. M. Sayes 21-14, 21-14; Keeley d. Hemphill 21-11, 21-19; Jones d. Austin 21-10, 21-12; Stafford d. Berberet 21-10, 21-6; Bledsoe d. Stephens 21-8, 21-13.

(Second Round): Hogan d. Chase 21-15, 21-18; Koltun d. Morrow 21-3, 20-21, 11-3; Yellen d. McCoy 21-17, 21-12; Brumfield d. Zuckerman 21-13, 21-13; Hilecher d. Wagner 3-21, 21-12, 11-6; Serot d. Zeitman 6-21, 21-16, 11-8; Jones d. Keeley 21-14, 21-16; Bledsoe d. Stafford 21-19, 21-8.

(Quarter-finals): Hogan d. Koltun 21-11, 21-8; Brumfield d. Yellen 21-17, 21-3; Hilecher d. Serot 20-21, 21-13, 11-7; Bledsoe d. Jones 21-14, 21-18.

(Semi-finals): Hogan d. Brumfield 21-10, 21-12; Bledsoe d. Hilecher 21-18, 21-9.

(Finals): Hogan d. Bledsoe 21-18, 21-12.



Marriott steps into a backhand as Harding moves in to cover in their championship match.

Jenny Harding did it the hard way in Westminster, struggling in almost every round, barely reaching the finals, and then putting her best match of the season all in one to capture the women's professional title of the Colgate-Seamco-Leach tour stop.

Her opponent, and bridesmaid again, was Janell Marriott, whose game was red-hot en route to the finals, but who seemed to leave her momentum elsewhere once the gun sounded.

In probably the toughest lady's event ever Harding lost once and won two come-from-behind 21-20 games just to get a shot at the title. Marriott meanwhile never allowed an opponent more than 14 en route to her spot in the finals on national television.

Harding's left handed style and reputation as a streak player was true to form as she grabbed the early lead 6-0 and 10-3 before Marriott shook off the early match jitters to come back to 8-10.

Jenny re-grouped and the two played evenly for 18 serves until Harding was

able to score twice to give a 13-11 advantage some breathing room at 15-11. Janell got one more, but Harding hit a streak late in the game to put it out of reach.

Jenny's patented forehand left corner kill made it 16-12, a cross court pass right made it 17, another corner kill was 18 and a beautiful backhand cross court pass was 19-12.

Marriott made a belated run to close to 19-14, but Jenny's v-pass at 20 and a Marriott forehand error was the game 21-14.

Although the second game final score was identical, the game was actually more exciting as Marriott attempted a huge comeback and did put on some pressure.

Playing virtually error-proof racquetball, Harding scored nine unanswered points mid-way through the game to take a 17-7 advantage, which she held to 20-10. Marriott,

You Couldn't Pick A Better Time



(Far left photo) Harding prepares to answer a Marriott overhead drive with superior court position, — a familiar situation in the finals. (Left photo) Harding out the loot in front of the cameras (l. to r.) Chuck Hohl, Joe Ardito, Harding, Marriott, Seamco's Bob Coate, Leach's Charlie Drake.

Harding Scrambles for a pass left as Williams tries to get out of the way in their semi-final encounter.

whose serve and shoot style was producing few aces and fewer kills, finally got rolling.

After a rare Harding error made it 11-20, Marriott ripped three straight kills to make it 14-20 and the intensity seemed to grow in anticipation of a Marriott run at 21.

But at that point, after a superb rally, Marriott was unable to pick up a Harding kill, and she actually made the call on herself, a double bounce pick up for side out.

Only seconds later Harding took the match with a forehand re-kill cross court right 21-14.

One of the best matches of the women's tournament, and there were many, was Harding's unbelievable semi-final victory over luckless Kathy Williams, upset winner over Peggy Steding in the quarter-finals.

In the first of two identical games, initial jockeying left Harding with a 15-9 lead, but Williams, using her potent backhand as an offensive weapon, quickly closed the game at 15-all.

An amazing 23 serves later it was 19-all, Williams serving and on the brink of victory. A v-pass to the right made it 20-19, but a Harding back wall kill stalled Kathy. A pass right regained serve for Williams, but a forehand skip on a superb retrieve again put the side out. Kathy never got another shot.

Jennifer reached 20 on a Williams back wall error, an absolute plum that she skipped, and seconds later Jenny scored 21 on a 37 foot backhand kill, a soft shot that she barely reached.



Marriott drives down the left line against Hoff in the other semi. It was Rita's first-ever trip to the semi's.

If the freak winning shot in game one looked like an omen, it was. The second game found ties at 2, 11, 13, 14 and 17 as each player fought to maintain control of the game.

Finally Williams broke on top with a three point run to take a 20-17 lead and convince most that a tie-breaker was coming. Too bad. It wasn't.

Instead Harding passed down the left line for 18, and killed with her forehand in the left corner for 19, before Williams gained the serve with a forehand back wall kill.

But Williams made another mistake, leaving a backhand set-up too high on a kill attempt and Harding re-killed with her forehand to serve again. But Williams held, killing a backhand in the left corner to try for game point number three.

Again she left an offensive shot up and Harding re-killed with her backhand, sensing victory.

Now serving at 19-20, Harding tied the game with an ace, a Z to the left, and match point came one swing later, another ace, a drive down the left line, 21-20.

Rita Hoff, who shocked the tournament with a first round win over national champ Shannon Wright, was Marriott's semi-final foe. In this, Hoff's first ever trip to the semi's with a shot at the finals and national T.V., the pressure was too much.

Playing a shadow of her ability Hoff was no match for the powerful Marriott, who played as if she owned the court, 21-13, 21-13.

The big match of the quarters was Williams' upset of Steding, the tournament's and nation's number one ranked player. The scores were 21-17, 21-20 and give a good indication of the suspense and tightness of the match.

The loss was a terrible disappointment for Steding, who has ruled the roost for many a year, only to be defeated when she finally had a chance at national television exposure.

Harding and Sarah Green had a super battle in the quarters, as the tour's two most improved players went to the tie-breaker with Harding coming out on top 10-21, 21-13, 11-3.

Hoff stopped qualifier Jan Campbell in her quarter 21-13, 21-9 and Marriott buried Karin Walton 21-8, 21-9 in the round's final match.

The ladies division continues to move to a near-parity situation as five of the eight first round match went three games. Williams got by Martha Byrd 21-11, 18-21, 11-9; Green barely beat a rejuvenated Jan Pasternak 11-21, 21-8, 11-10; Hoff struggled over Wright 21-20, 1-21, 11-8; Walton slipped by qualifier Diane Heims 21-18, 16-21, 11-3, and Campbell snuck by Jean Sauser 21-4, 16-21, 11-10. What a round!

Women's Pro (Qualifiers): Campbell, Moore, Heims, Greer.

(First Round): Steding d. Moore 21-7, 21-11; Williams d. Byrd 21-11, 18-21, 11-9; Green d. Pasternak 11-21, 21-8, 11-10; Harding d. Carow 21-3, 21-14; Hoff d. Wright 21-20, 1-21, 11-8; Campbell d. Sauser 21-4, 16-21, 11-10; Walton d. Heims 21-18, 16-21, 11-3; Marriott d. Greer 21-14, 21-1.

(Quarter-finals): Williams d. Steding 21-17, 21-20; Harding d. Green 10-21, 21-13, 11-3; Hoff d. Campbell 21-13, 21-9; Marriott d. Walton 21-8, 21-9.

(Semi-finals): Harding d. Williams 21-20, 21-20; Marriott d. Hoff 21-13, 21-13.

(Finals): Harding d. Marriott 21-14, 21-14.

NOTES OF THE TOURNAMENT . . .

The tourney hosts, King's Racquetball Courts of Westminster, CA, should be congratulated for building a superb spectator court. The television coverage was made possible by E.O. Rodeffer and Chuck Hohl of King's, whose foresight in building the Royal court was brilliant . . . Thanks to the many volunteers who aided the event including Ron Cathro and the entire staff at King's . . . Amateur winners included Harold Lujan in the Men's Open; Sally Murphy in the Women's Open; Roger Ehren in the Men's Seniors; Bill Armstrong in the Masters; and Burt Morrow in the Golden Masters. ●

Thank You

Generally the host facility merits a line or two in notes of the tournament buried someplace among the kills, passes, aces and gets describing the on the court action. However the staff of Courthouse I, the first racquetball facility in the greater Atlanta area, was so superb, did such a fine job and was so hospitable, the USRA/NRC feels you should know about it.

Richard Boggs, Norm and Mary Cates, Ray Irwin and Fred Streck led the contingent of able, willing and excellent ownership. Add Wayne and Ruth Vincent and Marshall Chamberlain from the Georgia-USRA affiliate and you have the ingredients for full-fledged success.

"I wish we were treated like this every place we go," said a nameless top ranking pro. *"The people here are genuinely friendly, they care, and they treat us with respect."*

Court number 3, just outside the gallery, was full for four days with free food — fruit, cold cuts, salad dishes, desserts, beer and soft drinks, plus donuts and coffee in the a.m. A player could not possibly go hungry in Marietta.

"We felt the tournament was a huge success," said Boggs, the man most responsible for the organization of the event. *"We wanted the pros, we prepared for the pros and we feel the pros were worth it. We want them back as soon as we can have them."*

To name all who helped would be impossible, but at the risk of omitting a few, the following did one heckuva job, from running shuttles to and from the hotels, to sweeping out the courts: Vickie Duncan, John Plummer, John Barnett, Tim Shelton, Wayne Hammond, Kathy Vigliante, Larry and Debbie Ingram, Bev Payne, Ron Scallion, Dory Dunkerley, Debbie Duncan, Melanie Malone, Karen Dubrol, Leslie Rosenberg, Patty Wentzel, Stephanie Budenbender and David Gillam.

Thank you all — we had a ball!

Hogan's rampage continued in Marietta. Here he readies a back wall photon as Bledsoe peers in to cover during their championship match.



Hospitality, Hogan Highlight Marietta



Marty Hogan stormed off the court. Trailing Davey Bledsoe 13-6 in the first game of the finals the brash youngster called time out, left the scene, and tried to regroup. Bledsoe had been keeping his cool, taking what Hogan would give him and doing nothing to rile the emotional number one ranked racquetballer.

If Hogan was to come back, it would have to be of his own doing.

"Play ball," announced referee Chuck Leve, whereupon Hogan blasted a forehand, three shots into the rally, and three feet short of the front wall, 14-6 for Bledsoe.

Courthouse I was the site, Marietta, GA, the Colgate Pro-Am Tour the occasion, on this the fourth stop of the tour co-sponsored by Seamco and Leach. The gallery was packed for the fourth straight day.

And Marty Hogan was losing. How did he get into this mess? Hadn't he been devastating prior to the finals? Would the scoreboard again prove that Bledsoe is Hogan's equal? We'll find out a bit later.

* * *

Photos of the Marietta pro tournament #4
by Wayne Stockamer

Hinder! That's the call as Bledsoe tries to retrieve a down the line pass, but Hogan has nowhere to go.

McCoy puts in a 39 footer against Hilecher in the quarters. Enough of these and you need little else.



There are other pros besides Hogan, you know, some of them having the potential to knock off r.b.'s numero uno if they'd let themselves believe it. This is how they fared.

In the round of 16, number seven ranked Jay Jones held off former National Junior Champ Ben Koltun to move into the quarters, in the only three game match of the 16's. After splitting 21-16 games Jones raced to an 8-3 lead in the tie-breaker, only to have Koltun erase it all and take back a 9-8 add.

There both players stiffened and the match went to the limit with Jones finally taking an 11-10 decision.

"I had my chances," said Koltun. "I had the shots but wasn't able to put them away."

In another 16's match of streaks Richard Wagner took out some revenge on Steve Keeley by stopping the now crew cutted Michigan native 21-19, 21-14. Keeley, who had defeated Wagner in the New York stop, couldn't hold a 17-10 lead in game one, nor a 7-0 advantage in the second.

Jerry Zuckerman, after a shaky start in the 32's, gave Bledsoe a good battle in the 16's just missing game one 21-20, and finally faltering to the Bledsoe pressure 21-10 in number two.

Hogan, in front of national news cameras, did in Steve Mondry, who

was making his first trip of the season to the 16's, 21-8, 21-15.

"For some reason, my shots weren't as effective against Hogan as they are normally," said Mondry.

Craig McCoy had an easy time with Mark Morrow, who had the toughest of 32 draws, being forced to three by Mike Zeitman, 21-16, 16-21, 11-8. The win took too much from Mark, and McCoy eased his smooth strokes to a 16's victory 21-10, 21-9.

Equally disappointing was Steve Chase's margin of defeat to Jerry Hilecher in the 16's, never really forcing pressure on Jerry 21-14, 21-8.

"I hit some nice shots," said Chase, "but Jerry's serve and shoot was too tough for me today."

Two better matches occurred in the same bracket, the one which gave the quarters a Brumfield-Serot match. Brumfield had to hustle to keep young David Fleetwood from sneaking an upset 21-16, 21-17. Fleetwood is probably the most improved pro from a year ago, and bears watching.

Serot's win in the 16's was over Mike Yellen, who despite appearing a bit out of shape, continues to perform well, forcing Steve in both games before losing 21-18, 21-19.

The good and the bad in the 32's included Morrow's win over Zeitman; Zuckerman barely besting newcomer Scott Hemphill of Chicago 21-5, 20-21, 11-10; Serot with his hands full against Johnny Hennon 19-21, 21-19, 11-4, and Mondry's surprise over Randy Stafford 21-17, 21-16.

As the tourney moved to Friday night's quarter-finals the big match-up was number five McCoy testing number four Hilecher for a trip to the semi-finals. McCoy, through a series of unlucky draws had continually met Hogan in the quarters and Marietta proved to be his first big opportunity against any other top four regular.

The expected barnburner came true. Southpaw McCoy, showing his power forehand and steady backhand, dominated early first game play by taking a 13-4 lead. But McCoy soon hit a hold pattern at 14 and Hilecher, whose mental concentration is one of his biggest allies, began a comeback move to 16-12.

McCoy withstood the momentum and nearly put the game out of reach shortly thereafter by hitting three straight and a 19-14 advantage. Hilecher's answer was a glove change time out.

Apparently a dry glove makes all the difference in the world because Hilecher promptly ran six points to take a 20-19 lead and turn near disaster into eminent victory — or so it seemed.

Jerry served game point, trying a Z to the forehand side, and McCoy coolly buried it in the front left corner to regain the serve.

Another corner killer tied the game at 20-20 and Hilecher again stopped play, this time with a time out. It mattered not, however, as McCoy grabbed the game with a forehand kill, straight into the front wall after some rugged action in center court.

Game two was more of the same with the only exception being this game was close throughout. Hilecher's big serve was counteracted by McCoy's forehand corner pinches and backhand drives. Each player hit the shots he had, and as the wire approached no clear edge was apparent.

Finally McCoy managed a 20-17 lead, Hilecher came back to 19-20, and McCoy, perhaps in a fitting zenith to a

super match, tallied match point on an ace serve to the backhand of the Z variety, for the 21-20, 21-19, win.

"It's nice not to have to meet Hogan in the quarters," said McCoy, who knew a night later he'd be playing racquetball's number one in the semi's. *"At least I've got some momentum built up to playing him."*

The most disappointing match of the quarters was Brumfield's 21-11, 21-16 blowout of Serot, whose comment to himself during play, *"You're moving like you've got feet of cement,"* was an accurate reflection on the match.

Still having monumental problems against the former champ, a jinx that dates back five years, Serot never really was close. A bruised elbow stunted his diving style of play, and being forced to trade shots with the Brum standing up was too much to ask.

Brumfield carried a 7-4 lead to 13-8, held on at 15-11 and put on the expected string to 19-11 and out in game one. Three aces helped along the way, especially one at 19 on a Z serve to the right. Two Serot errors at 20 and 21 made Christmas a few days early for Brumfield.

Serot held firm in game two, playing even with Brumfield and even taking a short-lived 14-12 lead as the two veterans neared the stretch. Brumfield followed with a run of four in the 16th inning to regain the lead 16-14, and the best Serot could do was 15-16. Despite saving points three times at that juncture, Steve was unable to add to his count.

When Brumfield zeroed in on the match, a key Serot error with his forehand was point 19, and Brumfield followed with two kills for the match, one forehand into the right corner and the other a forehand reverse pinch left to right. Final scores 21-11, 21-16, a far cry from some of the classic confrontations between the two.

"I wasn't able to generate any momentum," said Serot. *"I managed one here, two there, but never was able to put together the big string I needed."*

Bledsoe and Jones were next up and as has happened in the past, Davey's power was too much for Jay to overcome. Big serves were Bledsoe's

best friend and accounted for eight aces in game one including a run of four straight and five of six points from 15 through 21.

Jones never got into the first game, as his 17-9 deficit was too much to make up. Davey's drive serves were red hot, and most of the aces, including game point came on blistering drives.

Jay gave it a good effort in the second, slowing down the pace of play and holding his own 7-9, 13-15, 14-15. But in the crucial game ending rallies Jay's shots just weren't there.

Bledsoe's 18th point was a Jones backhand error, the 19th came on a forehand error and 20 was another backhand skip. Davey did earn match point, though, hitting a forehand kill off the back wall straight in along the left 21-13, 21-15.

The fans enjoyed Wagner's effort against Hogan in the round's last match, which pitted Wagner's speed,

reflexes and retrieving prowess against Hogan's blasting. Wagner forced himself to stay in the match mentally and despite lacking a consistent kill shot, actually held a good sized 17-10 lead in the first game.

But Hogan has that fantastic ability to play at a higher level of intensity than any other player, and he did it against Wagner, cranking up his booming serve and shoot game to come back and take control of the game. A couple of aces, big shots and Wagner's failure to put the ball away late made the first game a 21-17 Hogan win.

Wagner, to his credit, didn't take the easy way out in the second, i.e., fold up and go home. Instead he battled all the way, forcing Hogan to play hard late, which is probably the biggest compliment a Hogan opponent can have.

Again Richard had a shot, as any pro does when he hits the upper teens in



Hogan tracks down a pass from Wagner in the quarters. Rich gave Marty his toughest match of the tourney.

point total, but again, in a crunch, Hogan had the shots.

In a display of unparalleled sportsmanship, Hogan reversed a call by referee Terry Fancher that would have been match point, only to take the match cleanly two serves later on a backhand cross court drive/kill, so hard hit it could have been either.

So Brumfield and Bledsoe met Saturday night for the right to play in the finals for the hefty \$4,000 first place check. Playing to a full house gallery for the second night in a row, each man looked confident going in.

Before most observers got nestled into the seats, however, game one was over, 21-5 for Bledsoe. Driving his serves well both ways and picking up weak returns as a result Davey scored six times in his second inning to set the pace.

After Brumfield closed to 5-7 Bledsoe ran a string of 13 consecutive points scoring in all ways, including three aces, and a multitude of kills, passes and Brumfield errors. It appeared to most that Brumfield gave up the game at 12-5 deciding that he'd rather go for 1½ wins (second game and 11 point tie-breaker) than try and get back into the first game.

The second game was a far different story. Brumfield began with the intensity for which he is known, only to have Davey counter with fine shooting to take a 5-1 quick lead. Charlie managed to stay in, and gradually picked up a point here and there to tie the game at 11-all.

But Brumfield was never able to get over the hump. Bledsoe scored the next three making it 14-11 and Brum came right back to tie again. There the two men stayed for five serves each as

it became apparent that whoever broke the deadlock would be able to ride the momentum for a slight edge.

It was Bledsoe who did so, scoring 15 on a backhand cross court pass after a superb rally, then adding 16 on Brumfield's skip of a Z serve to the forehand. Seventeen was next, another Brum error with his forehand, this time off the back wall.

Charlie stopped the string there, added one of his own, but never got closer. A hinder call by referee Chuck Leve at 20-17 saved the serve for Bledsoe, who, after another hinder, scored match point on an ace serve, a perfect drive to the left, inches over the short line.

"I'm still not moving well," said Brumfield. "I've got to improve my court coverage. The shots are there, but I've still got to reach them."

In what had to be the most disappointing match of the tournament Hogan blasted McCoy in the final semi-final match of the night 21-5, 21-5. It was a real shocker because the 20-year-old McCoy had been steadily improving his one-on-one efforts against Hogan.

But Craig never was able to generate anything offensively, as Marty buried him in eight innings in each game.

"Oh well, time to start over again, I guess," was McCoy's only statement. "When he's playing well, he can do this."

* * *



Brumfield in the classic ready position as he off the back wall plum head his way against Bledsoe in the semi's.

Hogan regained the serve at 6-14 and scored three times, an ace on a drive to the left, a Bledsoe error and a booming kill into the right corner. Davey regained service, but was unable to dent the scoreboard and Hogan came roaring back.

Point 10 came on a pass left, 11 on an identical cross court pass left, and before any more were rung up Davey called a time out.

There's something devastating about aces, which at key times during a match can be even more so. The first point after a time out is one of those times, and Hogan was the man. A perfect ace on a drive to the left was Marty's answer to Davey's time out and the momentum continued.

A kill made 13, a pass right was 14-all, and Bledsoe's emotion was drained. A drive serve to the backhand forced a Bledsoe skip for a 15-14 Hogan lead, before Davey regained the serve on a right corner kill.

But the handwriting was clearly visible. Hogan killed Davey's serve, and like the wind of a hurricane Marty was unstoppable. His next two serves, both Z's to the backhand, resulted in Bledsoe skips, and a forehand cross court kill to the left made it 18-14 Hogan, forcing another Bledsoe time out.

The game had been taken from his grasp, it was time to do anything possible to force the play — but nothing was there.

Another error on a serve made it 19, which was followed by a Hogan left corner backhand kill for 20-14.

"I want all you people to know and realize," said Hogan to the crowd as he backed away from the service zone, *"that he had me 14-6 and now it's 20-14 my lead."*

Bledsoe, obviously peeved, gave it a gallant effort in the ensuing rally, only to have Hogan roll out a cross court fly kill for the game 21-14.

All concentration was gone from Bledsoe's game as they began the second. Hogan took a 6-0 lead, built it to 11-1, soon was up 15-2 and went out 21-3, scoring match point characteristically, on an ace, a drive down the right wall.

The win was Hogan's fourth straight this season (four of four) and was his second win in a row over Bledsoe, who defeated him for the national title last June.

Men's Pro (Qualifiers): Campbell, McKie, Chamberlain, Saperstein, Johnson, Hendricks, Hennon, Fatolitas.

(First Round): Hogan d. Campbell 21-10, 21-12; Mondry d. Stafford 21-17, 21-16; Wagner d. Stephens 21-9, 21-18; Keeley d. McKie 21-15, 21-8; McCoy d. Chamberlain 21-17, 21-13; Morrow d. Zeitman 21-16, 16-21, 11-8; Chase d. Saperstein 21-16, 21-12; Hilecher d. Dern, forfeit; Brumfield d. Johnson 21-3, 21-7; Fleetwood d. Hendricks 21-9, 18-21, 11-6; Yellen d. Rish 21-13, 21-14; Serot d. Hennon 19-21, 21-19, 11-4; Jones d. Fatolitas 21-6, 21-11; Koltun d. Bertolucci 21-12, 21-11; Zuckerman d. Hemphill 21-5, 20-21, 11-10; Bledsoe d. Lujan 21-7, 21-18.

(Second Round): Hogan d. Mondry 21-8, 21-15; Wagner d. Keeley 21-19, 21-14; McCoy d. Morrow 21-10, 21-9; Hilecher d. Chase 21-14, 21-8; Brumfield d. Fleetwood 21-16, 21-17; Serot d. Yellen 21-18, 21-19; Jones d. Koltun 16-21, 21-16, 11-10; Bledsoe d. Zuckerman 21-20, 21-10.

(Quarter-finals): Hogan d. Wagner 21-17, 21-16; McCoy d. Hilecher 21-20, 21-19; Brumfield d. Serot 21-11, 21-16; Bledsoe d. Jones 21-13, 21-15.

(Semi-finals): Hogan d. McCoy 21-5, 21-5; Bledsoe d. Brumfield 21-5, 21-18.

(Finals): Hogan d. Bledsoe 21-14, 21-3.

Men's notes . . .

Hats off to Rich Boggs, Norm Cates and Ray Irwin who did nothing but work hard and well on the tournament. . . it is a pleasure to run a pro stop when the club owners and management go all out to put on a successful affair. . . Racquetball is new to the greater Atlanta area, but coverage was excellent with daily and nightly reports on television, as well as newspaper coverage highlighted by interviews with Hogan and Brumfield. . . Brum, Williams and Marriott put on a good playing/seminar type clinic Wednesday night of the tourney, making for some good instruction for club members. . . The Courthouse I will shortly be adding Courthouses II, III and IV in the Atlanta area, as the ball gets rolling in the mid-South. . . Hospitality at the tourney was excellent, with the Courthouse setting up a buffet each day in one of the unused courts, plus donuts and coffee daily — the kind of reception the players and administrators appreciate. . . Seamco Sporting Goods hosting a gala affair Thursday night of the tourney, with players and staff attending — good cheer to all. . . the health/protein/fruit drinks at Courthouse I will match any in the nation — just super.

If Only It Was On TV

With no television cameras rolling or in the offing Peggy Steding returned to her winning ways in Marietta, besting racquetball's famous TV personality, Jennifer Harding, in the championship match 21-13, 21-16.

"I guess I just wasn't meant to be on TV," said Steding, who nevertheless scored her third tour win in four stops this season. *"At least I played better in the finals than I did in the early rounds."*

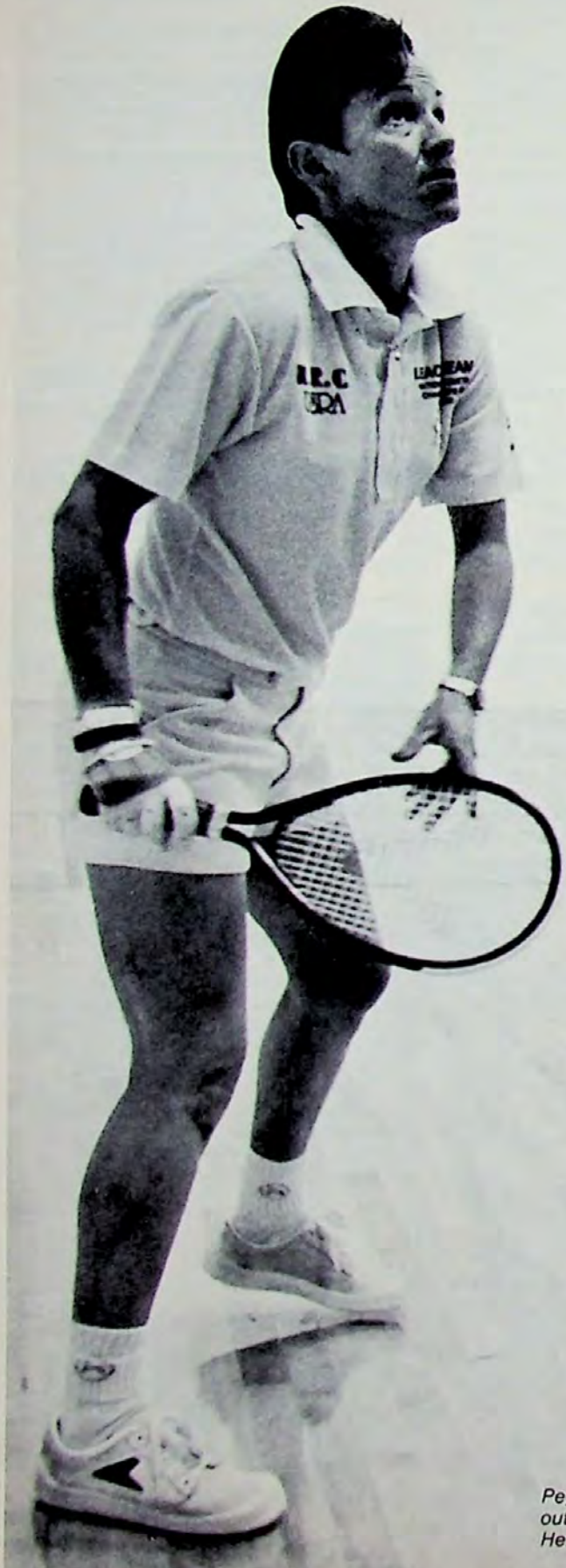
Those early rounds, which began with the round of 16, were tough only for Steding, as there were few close matches. Only Harding, surprisingly enough, was forced to go three games and that was partially due to an ankle injury.

That's not to take anything away from Pat Schmidt, Jenny's opponent, who succumbed with a battle 21-19, 19-21, 11-3.

Chicago's Jean Sauser gave Steding a run for her money 21-20, 21-14, a good enough showing to have Steding concerned going into her quarter-final match with Karin Walton.

The only other match of the round that was even nearly close was Dena Rassenti's 12 and 16 loss to Marriott, which was never really in doubt.

Walton, playing like she did in the opening tour stop in Milwaukee, destroyed Martha Byrd McDonald, who



Peggy the champ, made it three out of four on tour this season. Here she sets up for a back wall shot in the finals.

Marriott, on the run, tries the desperation into the back wall shot against Steding in the semi's.



Harding blasts an overhead in her losing effort in the finals.



was not able to celebrate her recent marriage with a win. In fact Martha took it on the chin 21-10, 21-7.

The other newlywed among the ladies is Jan Campbell Matthews, who had nothing but trouble against Rita Hoff, who's playing stronger and stronger as each month goes by. Hoff was on her game in a 21-8, 21-11 victory.

Other 16's scores were Shannon Wright's 21-3, 21-5 win over Jan Pasternak, as Wright let all the gals know that she's ready to play again; Williams having no problem with qualifier Nancy Hornack 21-9, 21-5, and Sarah Green's win over Sue Carow, due to injury forfeit, as Sue severely sprained an ankle practicing the day prior to the event.

The quarter-finals were next and it was a blockbuster of a round with Steding, Marriott, Green and Harding all advancing to the semi's, but not without trouble.

In fact only Marriott wasn't severely pressured, and her's was expected to be the toughest assignment, drawing national champ Wright. But as hot as Shannon was hours earlier against Pasternak, she was much cooler against Marriott.

Shooting well and forcing the play Marriott took the match to the champ and was able to manage two victories 21-12, 21-16 in rather routine fashion.

"I was playing aggressive racquetball," said Marriott. "If you don't shoot against Shannon, she'll shoot you right down."

Steding must have left her kill shot in Odessa when she played Walton, who gave her a battle royal in the upper bracket 21-17, 21-20.

Karin, who plays the steady, don't-make-an-error style, was only a precious few points behind throughout, and could easily have forced the match to the tie-breaker.

The one three-gamer of the round was luckless Kathy Williams, going against Green. In a barnburner of a match Green, one of racquetball's streakiest players, managed to forever hold on and come back to a 16-21, 21-20, 11-7 win.

And Rita Hoff, playing as well as the scores indicate, almost made it two trips in a row to the semi's but barely bowed to Harding 21-20, 21-14.

The first women's semi-final match was as big a contrast as one might expect as Green and Harding fought for a trip to the finals.

Game one was all Harding, who started hot, remained hot and finished hot for a 21-4 victory.

Game two began the same, as Jennifer bolted to a 10-0 lead, causing discomfort and consternation among the Green backers. But Sarah fought back, tied the game at 13 and from there it was anybody's.

Harding managed to squeeze ahead 17-15, but a run of four by Green made it her lead 19-17 and forced Harding to stop play with a time out. Once back in a V-pass to the right by Harding made it 18-19 and Green called a time out of her own to think things over.

No help from the delay, however, as Harding hit two straight winners, both passes cross court one to the right, the next to the left for a 20-19 advantage.

But Sarah had more opportunities coming. A Harding backhand skip gave her the serve, but a backhand pass

gave it back to Harding, who promptly gave it back again, this time with a forehand back wall error.

Green tied the game at 20 with a backhand back wall kill, safely going cross court, but her own backhand back wall error returned the serve to Jenny.

Harding appeared in control of play, as virtually every rally ending play was initiated by her shots. Such was the case when she served at 20-all, got the set up and skipped in a forehand back wall shot.

Green tried a garbage serve to the backhand which Harding passed her on cross court to regain the serve for the last time. The final rally found Harding hitting a good cross court, backhand pass to the left which elicited a weak return, and this time she buried the plum into the left corner with her forehand for the 21-20 result.

After Steding breezed by Marriott in game one of their semi-final encounter 21-10, Janell turned the table on Peg 21-13 to force a tie-breaker.

Steding grabbed a quick 3-0 lead, including an ace on a drive to the left, but was stopped at three for three more serves, while Janell closed to 3-2.

A down the line pass left for Steding made it 4-2, and a forehand back wall kill off a weak serve return was 5-2. A V-pass left lost the serve for Steding, but she regained it with a pass of her own.

A forehand rekill into the front right corner added number six to her total, and Marriott countered with a time out. But Peggy kept coming, forcing the seventh tally with a forehand reverse pinch into the left corner before Marriott finally took away the serve with a pass left.



Green goes to the ceiling with her backhand against Harding in their semi-final battle.

The ladies switched sides twice without scoring and it was Marriott who finally made a run tallying point three on a near ace on a Z serve to the left, which was followed by a Steding error with her forehand for four. Point five came on a forehand kill off a weak serve return, and Janell seemed to be back into the game.

But Peggy regained the serve and hit the best shot of the match next time in, an overhead, hypotenuse right corner kill, just the kind that breaks backs. A back wall dump kill straight in was 9-5 and again Marriott was forced to use the time out as a momentum breaker.

It mattered little by now, as two innings later after Marriott was unable to score Steding reached 10 with an ace, a drive to the right that caught the crack behind the short line. Match point was next, another overhead hypotenuse, this time about half speed into the right corner. The shot caught Janell totally off balance with no chance to retrieve, 11-5 Steding and a trip to the finals.

So Steding, racquetball's all time female money winner, was matched against Harding, a first time winner a month earlier in front of national television audiences.

The first game was close to 10-all when an ace by Steding on a Z serve to the forehand side gave her a lead she never relinquished. A forehand fly kill, cutting off a cross court pass, made it 12-10 and Peg began to steadily extend the lead.

At 14-11 a forehand kill straight into the front wall made it 15, and a perfect down-the-line pass right counted 16 and forced a Harding time out. But Peg tallied once more after the delay, on a V-pass to the left before a Harding pass left earned her the serve.

The closest Jenny got was 13-17 and Peggy then went to work running the score out and notching 21 on a near ace to the backhand of the Z variety, which Harding barely reached and skipped for the game 21-13.

Steding's Z serves in the first game were far superior to Harding's drive serves, and the difference was apparent as the rallies progressed. Gone was Harding's domination of the exchanges that marked her earlier matches, as Steding continually forced weak service returns.

Game two found absolute parity again to about the 10th point, with ties at 2, 3, 4, 7, and 9. Finally Steding broke on top with three points, extended her lead to 15-9 and then watched as Harding came back to tie it at 16-all.

But today was not Harding's day. Her pet shot, the forehand left corner kill, was not sharp, with a multitude of skips and many others left up. Steding's variety of shotmaking and crisp serves continued to spell the difference.

Another down-the-line pass along the right wall gave Peggy her 17th point, and shortly thereafter a forehand left corner kill made 18. After two exchanges in which Harding failed to score Peggy made for the last time.

A pass right with her backhand was 19-16, a forehand kill into the right corner was 20-16 and a forehand cross court kill right to left was the match 21-16.

"I've been keeping my concentration much better," said Steding, who refuses to slow down. "You'd think when you get to be my age (42) you'd know all about concentration out there."

Women's Pro (Qualifiers): Pasternak, Rassenti, Hornack, Schmidt.

(First Round): Steding d. Sauser 21-20, 21-14; Walton d. McDonald 21-10, 21-7; Wright d. Pasternak 21-3, 21-5; Marriott d. Rassenti 21-12, 21-16; Green d. Carow, injury default; Williams d. Hornack 21-9, 21-5; Hoff d. Matthews 21-8, 21-11; Harding d. Schmidt 21-19, 19-21, 11-3.

(Quarter-finals): Steding d. Walton 21-17, 21-20; Marriott d. Wright 21-12, 21-16; Green d. Williams 16-21, 21-20, 11-7; Harding d. Hoff 21-20, 21-14.

(Semi-finals): Steding d. Marriott 21-10, 13-21, 11-5; Harding d. Green 21-4, 21-20.

(Finals): Steding d. Harding 21-13, 21-16.

Notes . . .

USRA prez Bob Kendler gave the gals a \$1,000 Christmas present by adding the grand to the prize money, awarding \$100 to the round of 16 losers, the first time the 16's were able to collect, and an additional \$50 to quarter-final losers . . . all the ladies looking forward to the women's only stop in Omaha. . . . *Winners in the amateur events, which totalled over 200 entrants were Gary Stephens in the Men's Open; Camille McCarthy in the Women's open; and Bill Koenig in the Men's Seniors.* ●

When a Transplant Patient Beats His Surgeon

It's Two-Winner Singles

by James D. Campbell

It was back in 1970 when I was introduced to a "new" game called paddleball while teaching at a small private college in Cedar Rapids, IA. Before this time I had been an avid handball player, so I did not readily convert to paddleball (racquetball). In fact two years passed from the time of my introduction to this new game until I began playing racquetball on a regular basis.

During that time I was diagnosed as having a hereditary kidney disease that had previously caused the deaths of five males in my family before the age of 28. Since I was 26 at the time, I was not really looking forward to my 27th birthday. Thus, in June of 1973, a few months after my 27th birthday, the inevitable had occurred; my kidneys failed. I had to live by means of an artificial kidney machine which my wife and I trained to use at home. Three times a week for six hours at a time I had to use the machine to remain alive. Although the machine was certainly an intrusion into my life, I was still able to teach full time and to continue playing racquetball, which I had come to really enjoy. However, as a result of my kidney failure, my energy level was cut in half and I no longer could run after every shot as I once did. I had to learn to make every shot count, a kill if possible. This, of course, was no easy task to perform, but it was necessary.

After a year of being on the machine my old kidneys were removed, which resulted in my energy level being further reduced by severe anemia. The time came when I could barely climb a flight of stairs let alone play a strenuous game of racquetball. I became very discouraged to say the least. My only hope of being able to play racquetball and do other things I enjoyed lay in receiving a non-living kidney transplant (from a deceased donor).



The transplant patient's back at his favorite game.

On August 15, 1974, at 6:30 a.m. I received the long-awaited phone call from my transplant surgeon, Dr. Robert Corry, at the University of Iowa Hospital telling me that he had a non-living kidney available that matched my tissue type and asking me if I would be willing to undergo the transplantation procedure. Of course my answer was yes, but the subsequent transplantation was no bed of roses. As a result of the transplant I underwent a severe rejection where my body literally attacked this foreign intruder trying to destroy it. For several weeks after the

surgery no one knew if the rejection could be subdued enough so that the new kidney could function. At the time I used to dream and hope for a brighter future in the midst of despair. I especially thought of being able to play racquetball again, but that seemed too much to hope for.

Fortunately the rejection came under control so that I was able to leave the hospital, and slowly I began to rebuild my strength. As my new kidney started to function better, I was no longer dependent upon the machine, and I could begin to resume a somewhat normal life again. Six months after the transplant I decided to enter the court

again. I played timidly at first because when I attempted to run, I would fall down. I kept working at it slowly, trying to increase my running and my stamina until I had the energy level to play a fairly strenuous game.

It was during this time that I mentioned my resumption of racquetball to my surgeon while at the clinic one day. He said he enjoyed the game, too, and then in passing suggested that perhaps we could get together for a game. I thought it would be a novel experience so I agreed, and a time and place for us to play was set up. That game, so casually arranged, was to be one of the most memorable racquetball games of my life.

It began with the two of us dressing out — Dr. Corry in his Harvard Crimson sweat suit, me in my old yellow T-shirt. He said that he usually beat most of the other physicians so I was fairly sure that I was going to get clobbered. But after all, I reasoned, it would be a novel experience, a transplant patient playing against the surgeon who had helped to restore his life. What happened was indeed novel, but not in the way either of us had predicted. To the amazement and disbelief of both of us I won the first game 21-3. After the game, in his by then sweat-soaked suit, he said, "It takes me a while to warm up," so we agreed on a second game. As the second game began I could tell he wanted to regain his composure and win very badly. Since I was down 10-0, I thought to myself that the first game perhaps had been a fluke. However I regained my concentration and won the second game 21-14. Afterwards he mentioned to me that I played an entirely different game than he was used to. I was not exactly sure what he meant, but I do know that the time spent having to learn to make every shot count while being so ill had certainly paid off!

I couldn't wait to rush home and tell my wife, Anne, the unbelievably good news, and upon hearing what had happened she excitedly took me out for a steak and lobster dinner that night, a meal I could never have had while on the strict diet before my transplant.

Since that time I have been able to go back to school to finish my Ph.D. in sociology at the University of Missouri. I still return to Iowa to see Dr. Corry every three months for a checkup, and we always joke about a rematch.

Last year I also played the transplant surgeon, Dr. Gil Ross, from the University of Missouri Medical Center. After the game he told me to give his condolences to Dr. Corry the next time I saw him. This past July I played in a

racquetball tournament sponsored by the Kidney Foundation in St. Louis in Class B, and although youth got the best of me, I still tried to hang in there through several games.

Overall perhaps it may not be the wisest thing for a transplant patient to beat his surgeon, but I do feel that it is symbolic of the meaning that the gift of life has had for me. I can only imagine that my doctor must have had a mixture of feelings after that racquetball game, too, for despite his loss, he must have felt great pride in having contributed his skill and knowledge toward both saving a life and improving the quality of that life to the point where such a racquetball match could occur. ●



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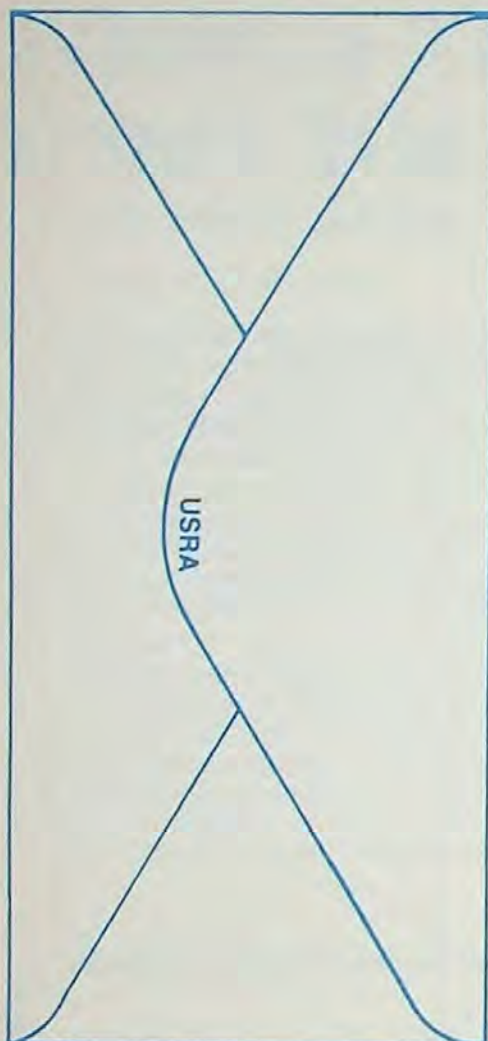
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King's Says Thanks

Dear Mr. Kendler:

I would like to take the time to thank you for the contribution that you and NRC extended to King's. The hard work and experience from your staff enabled this Pro-Am tournament to run on time and smoothly.

Chuck Leve and Joe Ardito handled the pro's excellently, which I am sure is not an easy job.

Thank you for finding a way to put racquetball on T.V. Channel 50 is a very professional organization. They and Nick Longhurst did an excellent job. In the future I hope King's, the NRC, and Ch. 50 can be involved in more events. It seems we make a great team.

Charles L. Hohl,
Westminster, CA

T.V. Tournament Pleases Viewers . . .

Dear Bob:

I just finished watching the National Racquetball TV program. You are to be congratulated for a great job. Thanks to you I am now an avid racquetball player and, in fact, have just built a court in my home. Needless to say I was most excited and interested to see your production. I hope there will be many more to come and that you won't have to be the one to pay for them.

I would also like to congratulate you on your many recent honors, as well as the marriage of your daughter. It sounds like you have had a busy year!

Richard Marriott
Washington, DC

Dear Bob:

First of all, I want to congratulate you on the finest job of public relations that a recreational sport has enjoyed in the last decade. Your promotion of racquetball via the national television exposure was truly outstanding.

There is only one man who could take handball where it is and racquetball where it is going — and he is Bob Kendler.

I am very proud to say that I always have been and always will be a Kendler man.

Jack W. Gillespie, CLU
Denver, CO

Dear Mr. Kendler,

I speak for many when I say THANK YOU for making possible the PBS coverage of the Colgate Seamco/Leach Pro-Am.

The coverage by Art and Dick Shay along with commentary by Joy Koppel, Fred Lewis and Charlie Brumfield was outstanding.

Few of us who are relatively new to the game have ever had the opportunity to see racquetball played at this level of competition and will certainly benefit.

Thanks again to you, Mr. Kendler, and to all others involved in this venture. We hope to see many more.

Ralph W. Richards
Biloxi, MS

Dear Mr. Kendler:

Just a short note of congratulations, and thanks. The hour-long racquetball special on PBS was extremely well-done. I hope that it was as interesting and enjoyable for the non-players that may have watched as it was for all of us who play and love the game.

Your contribution, both financially and in terms of personal commitment, has done so much to promote the sport—you should know it is appreciated. I'm sure you were pleased and very proud, in a nice way, to have achieved a very important objective in presenting this hour of televised racquetball.

Richard Peck
Wauwatosa, WI

Dear Mr. Kendler:

Handball and racquetball on TV is a great idea.

Keep up the great work! Handball and racquetball need you and Joe Ardito.

God bless you, your family and your staff.

John T. Szalinski
Mt. Lebanon, PA

Dear Chuck:

Congratulations! Your television presentation of "National Pro-Am Racquetball" was a 24 gold carat lode. It possessed real "class" and was done in a first rate manner — blue ribbon style. The preliminary introduction by James Franciscus was conservative and in excellent taste. The match play of the pro finals — women and men — was typical of the "play for pay." The antics of Hogan and Bledsoe were congruent with their court personalities and you could visualize the adrenalin flowing on the court. If I possessed their athletic prowess, I also would be egotistical. They are truly superb athletes.

The commentary by Fred Lewis and Charlie Brumfield was particularly effective. Mr. Lewis had poise and gave credibility to the match play. Brumfield is in a class by himself — a tremendous asset to commentary on any phase of racquetball. His open countenance and enthusiasm led me to believe that he is our "Dandy" of racquetball.

I thoroughly enjoyed the program and wish you continued success in your endeavor to promote "our" game.

Irv Zeitman
Louisville, KY

. . . But Hogan Doesn't

Dear Mr. Kendler,

I would first like to express my sincere thanks to you for sponsoring the November 27 telecast of the finals of the Colgate/Seamco/Leach Pro-Am Racquetball tournament. I really enjoyed watching the professionals play on T.V. for the first time and I hope that other tournaments will be broadcast in the future.

There was, however, one damper on my viewing pleasure. I really think that the conduct of Marty Hogan did not enhance the image of racquetball in the slightest. His juvenile behavior made me wonder if he was even 19 years of age. I hope that the referees will be encouraged to quickly award penalty points to deter such actions as racquetball does not need to encourage its own "Nastase's", especially on national television.

Debra Shenk
Ames, IA

Dear Mr. Kendler:

Thanks for the Hogan/Bledsoe match. I thoroughly enjoyed it. However, to fully promote the game on national television, a little court etiquette and sportsmanship will be required. I didn't notice any "crying" or temper tantrums in the Marriott/Harding match. Thank goodness.

James E. Key, Jr.
Papillion, NE

Dear Editor:

Congratulations to you on a most successful television broadcast on November 27th.

I think, and many agree, that Marty Hogan's antics spoiled your program. His attitude and childish behavior is not what the NRC needs in their effort to promote interest in racquetball. I tired of his senseless showing off, and turned the program off.

Interest in racquetball certainly cannot be expanded if the sport is promoted via the utilization of his leadership or lack of it.

Outside of this it seemed great to see racquetball on television. A difficult task well done.

Jim Bell
Newport Beach, CA

Dear Editor:

A few comments on today's hour-long racquetball telecast, the first I've seen, though from reading your November issue, I see, to my surprise, it's not the first telecast ever. At any rate, it has to have been one of racquetball's first opportunities to reach a national audience, a world you racquetballers have just been dying to convert.

My first impression was that the television coverage of the game was pretty good, able to catch most of the action. My second was that there was too little action. Why? Seems to me the ball has gotten too fast. It favors the power hitters and makes for short points. (In contrast to the new official balls in squash — I am primarily a squash enthusiast — although I enjoy racquetball too).

Racquetballers seem to be saying faster means better. It doesn't necessarily. Technology may come up with a ball two or three times as fast in the future. Is racquetball going to adopt it? Even Marty Hogan's reflexes won't be able to cope.

Speaking of Hogan, the overriding impression I received from the special was of his obnoxiousness. What a disservice Marty Hogan has done to racquetball! Couldn't he have saved his phony-baloney macho for a typical racquetball tourney, when millions aren't watching? Who knows how much the successful promotion of racquetball has been set back by his actions?

R. Merrill
York, PA

Senior Woman Looking for Tournament

Dear USRA:

I am a 35-year-old women who has been playing racquetball one year. I have never entered a tournament. I had hoped to enter your tournament at Gresham, OR, Jan. 11-15, but there was only one category for women singles players. Why?

Are there any tournaments for senior beginning women's players?

Bonnie Olpin,
Bow, Washington

Terry Fancher, our USRA national coordinator, says that state and local tournaments are the best places to find various brackets of play. Regional tournaments like the one in Gresham are just a step below the national championships and are designed — in most cases — to attract the best amateur players. USRA is experimenting with the women's senior bracket, in Illinois. Local tournament directors are beginning to offer the category and don't know yet what the response will be. You might ask your state chairman, Reed Fitkin (2510 Oakmont Way, Eugene 97401) about opportunities for women's seniors competition in Oregon. ED.

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Marty Hogan: Another View

To some Marty Hogan epitomizes today's controversial athlete — huge ego, belligerent attitude, cockiness bordering on the savage and total disdain for authority.

And even though the above is probably true, the fact remains that Marty Hogan is the best player in the world, and when he wants to be, is the best player by far.

He possesses every weapon necessary for excellence. His power is legend, being clocked at 142 miles per hour and often exceeding that. His backhand is devastating, probably his biggest advantage. His forehand lacks nothing. He has control if he needs it, and in Hogan's most overlooked asset, he's smart.

He serves like nobody else, right and left, can and does save his arm by mixing change of pace serves with power. He's deadly off the back wall, pinches superbly, uses the passing lanes as well as anybody, and he can retrieve.

What few people notice about Hogan, and fewer will admit, his style of play is as honest or more so than any other top player. That's not to say Marty won't try and take a close skip now and then, but often his good shots are almost indistinguishable from his bad.

After refereeing more of Hogan's matches than any referee in the country, I will go on record as saying that his court etiquette during a match is in a class with the so-called honest players, Craig McCoy, Richard Wagner, Steve Keeley and others.

Before anybody misinterprets the above I might add that I speak only of

movement during the rally. Hogan is famous for allowing opponents not only enough room to hit, but also more than enough.

His foes have crowded him, pushed him, hit him deliberately with the ball, and done everything possible to force him to lose his concentration on playing and think more of what they are doing to him. They cross into the gray area of hinders, partial hinders and quasihinders, even avoidable hinders if need be.

Despite what you may have seen, heard, or read, Marty Hogan is probably the fairest player on tour, fair in the sense of playing within the rules during the flow of the rally.

I have seen him take himself totally out of a play, rather than get in a player's way. I have seen him purposely hit around or over a player rather than chance striking him with the ball, even though his opponents often block or semi-block him intentionally.

It would be nice if all players competed in this way, if they could depend on their skills rather than their devious plots to upset opponents.

But Hogan does battle back, in other ways, ways with which you are familiar. He does keep his concentration, despite the efforts of opponents, and he does it by enlarging the playing surface to include not only his opponent, but also the gallery, the referee, the linesmen and anybody or anything else he chooses to add to the list.



Like the millions of boxing fans who hoped that Ali would get his each time he stepped into the ring — so do racquetball fans live and die by the prospects of Hogan losing. On those rare occasions when he does, they go wild. But when the more predictable occurs, when he wins, Hogan's pleasure is multiplied many times over, knowing he has defeated the world.

Marty Hogan is a proud, aggressive and sensitive young man who has much growing up to do. But the problem of court conduct does not begin with Hogan, although he multiplies it many times over in his own way. The problem begins with his opponents, who continue to force Hogan to play the bad guy role.

If Hogan ever succumbed to the enticement for retaliation in the manner of his opponents, the situation would surely become unbearable.

Instead Hogan transmits this retaliation with emotional outbursts, antics and gestures, which he feels are harmless and entertaining. They aren't harmless to a sport just getting its feet on the ground, and their entertainment value is questionable at best.

But the real problem surrounding Marty Hogan is not even a problem. He's too damn good and his opponents know it. ●

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