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Profile

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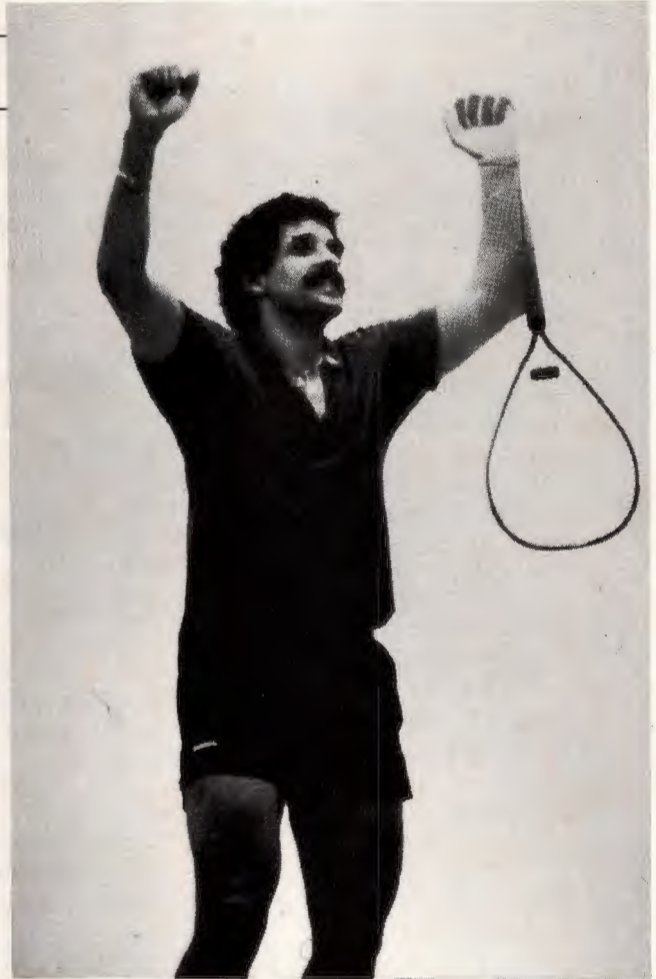
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On the cover: The Peck brothers, Dave and Gregg.

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FROM THE PUBLISHER...

GIVE CREDIT WHERE IT'S DUE

The 1987/88 men's professional racquetball season ended with the CityFed Grand National's in Seattle, WA. It was a great way to end the season and John Delaney of CityFed Mortgage and Cyrus Oskoui, owner of the Columbia Athletic Club were wonderful hosts and, together with the staff of the club, did a superb job.

There is nothing more exciting than pro racquetball. It is in a class by itself and the athletic ability of the players is amazing.

It was incredible to see an unstoppable Ruben Gonzalez blast his way to the finals and win not just the Nationals but also the title of National Champion.

In retrospect, it is amazing that we even had a men's pro tour this year, and had it not been for the tireless efforts of Jim Hiser, the RMA (Racquetball Manufacturers Association) commissioner, there probably wouldn't have been.

It seems that at the end of each season there is an attack of summer fever and this year is no exception. As always the question centers around who is going to run the tour.

Last year the question was answered so late that there almost wasn't a tour and Hiser had to put it together in the matter of a couple of months.

This year the question arises again and once again Marty Hogan features prominently. Marty has not yet made his intentions public other than to say that he and Charlie Drake will be putting together a tour. Of course, Marty said that last year too but nothing happened and it was left to the RMA through Jim Hiser to put things together.

This year's tour, as with every other tour, had its critics, many of them professional players, and in some instances their complaints were legitimate. But, it's easy to criticize and stand back and do nothing, waiting for someone else to make things right. It is also easy to pick a scapegoat and lay everything that goes wrong on him.

The fact of the matter is that Jim Hiser did far more than most people in

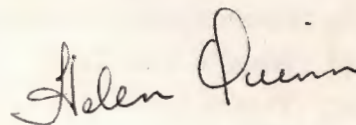
his position would have done to put together a tour at the last minute and it is time that he was given credit for his effort.

Because the problems between Marty Hogan and the RMA were not solved until almost the end of the summer last year, there was very little time to get confirmed events and inevitably, some of the planned stops were changed. But, at least there were stops, and changed dates and cancellations notwithstanding, every pro who qualified was allowed to play.

Few people are aware of the sacrifices Jim Hiser made in order to ensure that the players had a tour. Changes at the RMA resulted in an interruption of expense checks, but Hiser reached into his own pocket and kept going. It would have been easy for him to just forget about it, but his concern for the players and his love of racquetball made him continue.

All those who could have done it better, didn't; all those who say they can do it better, haven't; so let's stop criticizing and get behind those who are at least doing, and give credit where it's due.

Instead of dividing into separate factions, how about everybody working to make next year's tour bigger and better. Without the RMA underwriting the tour as it has in the last three years, it is even more important that everyone pull together. And, that shouldn't be too difficult. After all, everyone has the best interests of racquetball at heart; don't they? ○



Publisher

LOS HERMANOS PECK

The best in Texas

The brothers

—“los hermanos”—Dave and Gregg Peck have a simple code. Win. It is a code with two additional provisos. Between themselves, any battle must be totally devoted to defeating the other; against anyone else, one brother must be totally devoted to supporting the other.

The code resolves any conflicts they might face as professional athletes. In sports, winning is often the only thing that matters. Yet as brothers on the men's professional racquetball tour, they cannot allow the quest for victory at any price to affect their friendship. Their code has served them well for the eight years they have both been racquetball professionals.

The Pecks come from a family with seven children. They grew up in El Paso, TX which is just north of the Mexican border. To grow up there is to become fluent in Spanish as well as English. For that reason, when the brothers travel to Mexico for racquetball clinics and exhibitions, they are welcomed with enthusiasm not only as superb racquetball players, but as “gringos” who fit in well at hospitality functions.

Spanish fluency has other benefits, as Dave points out with a laugh. During their visits to rougher places in El Paso, they answer anyone foolish enough to make wise-cracks in rapid-fire Spanish and in an equally spicy dialect. That, combined with their imposing sizes, makes any part of the city safe for them. Dave is 5'10" and built like an ex-linebacker — which he is. Gregg is 6'3" and 195 pounds.

Despite their imposing looks, both are friendly and out-going. When you see them at tournaments, chances are they will have big Texan grins on their faces. Every aspect of racquetball, from traveling to meeting new people is something they enjoy.

They enjoy it even more because of their support for each other. The brothers are close, because, as Dave says, they have gone

by Sigmund Brouwer

through tough times together.

The tough times began when Dave was an 18-year-old freshman football player at the University of Texas-El Paso. Weightlifting for football had made Dave weigh 215 pounds, and one of his older

sisters introduced him to racquetball as a way to lose weight. It soon served a couple of

other purposes for Dave — first as an emotional outlet, then as a way to make money. The Pecks' parents were separating at the time, and the ensuing divorce was, in Dave's words, traumatic.

Dave went to work to help pay the family bills. For him, racquetball was “my outlet for frustration”. He would play most afternoons and evenings after work, eventually becoming an open player and then turning professional. Gregg on the other hand, was much younger during the family troubles. He hadn't taken up racquetball, but he eventually followed his older brother's lead.

“I never would have played if Dave wasn't involved,” said Gregg. “I'd always go down to the courts with him and wait around to play.”

“I went to all the tournaments with Dave because he had to drive since he wasn't sponsored at the time. I was there to keep him company.”

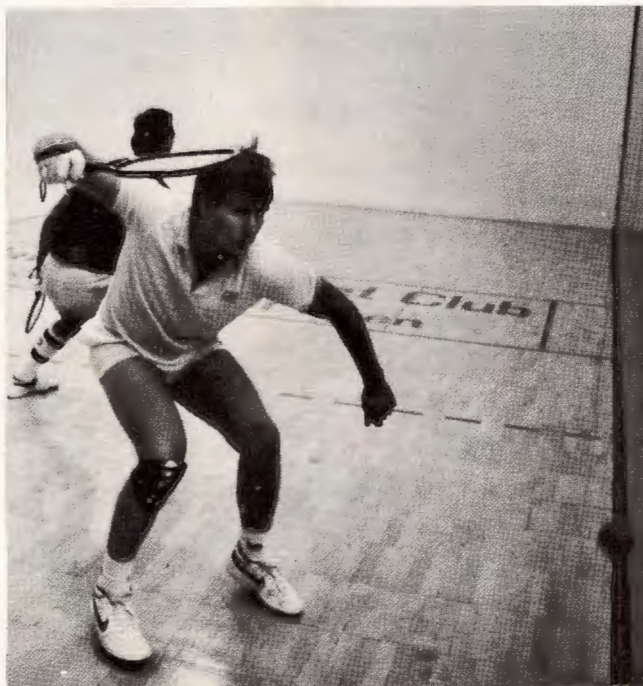
Dave entered the tour first and was named rookie-of-the-year in 1978-79. In 1982, he became the national champion, ending Marty Hogan's four-year reign as champion.

Disaster struck late in the following season. In the semifinals of the DPNationals, he collided slightly with Mike Yellen. Yellen's knee hit Peck's quadricep about four inches above the right knee.

What Dave thought was the worst charley horse he had ever had was actually a rare condition called “compartment syndrome”; the blow to Peck's leg had caused the capillaries to burst, filling small compartments under the muscle with blood. The blood in the compartments put pressure on the capillaries, and caused even more of them to burst. Only emergency surgery stopped the bleeding and relieved the pressure. Mike Yellen went on to win the finals of that tournament to become the new national champion.



Above, Dave Peck and below, Gregg Peck.



It took four operations, a tough rehabilitation period lasting many months, and a great deal of determination before Dave was able to play professional racquetball again. Even now, five years later, he must hopstep to the ball on occasion. As he waits to receive serve, he has one foot against the back wall to push off.

"When you're a professional racquetball player, and you have an injury that could result in losing your leg and never competing again, it's a scary feeling. You think, 'I'm so lucky that I can play this sport for a living! It makes you appreciate being able to walk and being alive and healthy.'"

While Dave never won another national title, he was always a contender. In the last pro stop before the 1987/88 Nationals, he made the semifinals after defeating top seed Bret Harnett in four games.

against your own brother," said Dave after that match. "It would be stupid to psyche your brother out." That attitude has allowed them to remain close friends during each season, something especially satisfying to Dave now that Gregg is the higher ranked star.

Away from the eyes of the public and in practice matches, however, it is all out warfare between the two — part of their simple code of competition. They live ten minutes apart in Austin, TX, and play together regularly, providing each other with the luxury of top-notch competition which few other professionals find in their local areas.

"We use a court in the back of the club," Gregg says. "We want to spare as many people as possible while we play."

Dave, who is not known for his gentle demeanor on the court during tournament play, is not quiet during their prac-

Against anyone else, however, their united attitude is very evident, especially at professional racquetball tournaments. During any match involving Dave Peck, Gregg will watch with the same intensity shown in Dave's play. The same happens as Dave watches Gregg play. Timeouts mean brother-to-brother consultations on strategy, as well as brief and powerful pep talks.

To both Pecks, racquetball is more than a game. Much as they want to win, it is their profession, and they treat it accordingly. To them, the professional player should go beyond playing the game. Professional players should make an effort to spend time with the people who support their game — the spectators. Professional players must spend time promoting the game and teaching the game.

Both brothers are very prominent in the stands at any tournament, discuss-



The Peck Team. Left, today. Below, at the beginning.



When Gregg started playing on the pro tour during his high school years, older brother Dave was already an established star. Gregg had won the USRA Junior Nationals and was ready to challenge the best players in the world. With an upset victory over Marty Hogan early in his career, it looked like he was headed for the top.

Many promoters tried to take advantage of the fact that they were brothers and attempted to publicize a rivalry between the two brothers, but neither Peck would have anything to do with it. In one of their few meetings, as pros, Dave won a very gentlemanly match.

"You shouldn't have a killer instinct

tice matches either. "Sometimes I yell so loud I see dots. I have to ask Gregg for a timeout until I can see straight again."

While both joke about it off the court, they are serious about winning on the court. "Neither of us can stand making mistakes," Dave says. "It infuriates me to lose when I make stupid shots."

Some professionals seek added incentive by putting small stakes on the outcome of their practice matches. Neither of the Peck brothers need that; their pride is enough. "If we played and put cokes on the line, we might just kill each other," says Gregg. "Once we get out of the court, we calm down."

ing the game with spectators; both brothers spend time, especially in Texas, teaching the game through clinics and exhibitions.

Gregg says, "Our sport is as exciting, if not more exciting, than any other professional sport — basketball, baseball, hockey or football. I think sometimes as players we fail to look at ourselves as entertainers."

"In other sports, for example, during breaks in the action, something is always going on. It might be giveaways, or half-time shows or music during timeouts, but something is always going on. The people involved in those sports know it is their job to entertain the spec-



Relaxing together, Gregg, Dave and friend.

tators, to keep them fired up. We should be doing the same in racquetball."

Dave agrees, "Racquetball definitely needs support from the professional players at more than just the level of the game."

Dave has managed to combine his interest and devotion to the game without sacrificing his personal life. On June 11, Dave married Melanie Robberts in El Paso. They met at a racquetball club several years ago, and plan to live in Austin where they both work at the Westwood Country Club. Dave is the club's director of racquetball and squash; Melanie is the director of aerobics.

"She is a wonderful person," Dave says. "She can put up with my schedule and my lifestyle as a professional player, partly because she has somewhat of the same schedule."

"In fact — and I'm real proud of her — since meeting me, some of my competitive spirit has been transferred to her. Last year she won the regional event of the Crystal Lite National Championships in aerobics, and later placed second in the nation. She's training hard for this year's event as well."

When it comes to promoting the game at the junior level, Dave is very interested. Five of his coached players

placed in the top four of their age division at the AARA junior nationals in previous years. He stresses the importance of coaching to the young athletes.

"I would say that any junior who wants to become a professional player should find an instructor with a proven track record, one who can take a player through all aspects of the game. The coach should be able to teach strokes, strategy, serves, service return, and teach that with an understanding of what it takes to become a professional. That is the most important thing for a junior's game."

Gregg has advice for juniors as well. "I think any juniors looking to play professionally need to concentrate on building an all-around game," he says. "There is no room for someone with a great forehand but an okay backhand. Today's players need a strong forehand, a strong backhand. They need to be good with the slow game, and good with the fast game."

At least upcoming players will have one less Peck to worry about as they enter the pro ranks. Dave, at 31, will probably retire from professional racquetball before the end of the 1988/89 season. Gregg, only 24 years old, still has years of play left. How will the ab-

sence of his older brother affect him?

"It's going to be different," he says. "I'm used to traveling together with him. Same flights. Same rooms. It's definitely going to be harder on me because I'm going to be doing it on my own."

Fortunately, as Gregg points out, his older brother will not miss all of the tournament action.

"Dave will probably still play one or two tournaments. It's something that we both enjoy too much. He'll be back to see the faces and enjoy the atmosphere."

Even a full retirement would not mean that Dave Peck is leaving racquetball. Far from it. He has already turned his knowledge to other aspects of the game. He is co-author of one instructional book, *Dave Peck's Championship Racquetball System*, and runs a series of racquetball camps. He is also actively involved in promoting racquetball in Texas.

You can bet the Peck name will continue to have an impact on racquetball in years to come. With Gregg competing on the tour, and Dave putting his efforts into developing the sport, "Los Hermanos Peck" will remain synonymous with Texas strength in racquetball. ○

LYNN ADAMS TAKES THE CROWN

by Andrea Katz

The Cocoa Court Club of Hershey, PA was the site of the Cocoa/Alpha Racquetball Pro-Am, held April 7-10. The players began arriving in rainy Harrisburg on Wednesday evening. "Good weather for racquetball" as some would say. More than 20 people attended the skills and rules clinics, conducted by Lynn Adams and Caryn McKinney, which kicked off the weekend's events. From then on, the women pros, were treated to first class hospitality and service by the entire tournament staff, led by tournament directors, Robin Chilcoate and Tracy Ingram.

The round of 32 kicked off with one particularly tough match between two of Pennsylvania's own. Dot Fischl of Allentown, drew U.S. team member, Toni Bevelock, who is originally from Scranton. Few would guess the winner before it started, but all agreed to expect a

five-game match between the two. It was Fischl who hit the most winners to take the match 11-0, 7-11, 11-2, 5-11, 11-6. Other matches decided by first round tiebreakers included Fran Davis over Lynn Coburn 11-6 and Andrea Katz over Carol Dattisman 11-8.

In the round of 16, three seeded players fell; two of the upsets were repeats of recent tournaments. Number nine seed, Marcy Lynch, lost three straight games to tour newcomer Cindy Doyle. (Doyle defeated Lynch in a December meeting.) Cindy Baxter had beaten Marci Drexler in the first round of the previous tournament (Philadelphia) and

this time won in four games. The final upset of this round occurred as Dot Fischl continued to show her racquetball style by beating Vicki Panzeri 11-9 in the fourth game.

Domination of the WPRA by the top four seeds was clearly shown in the quarter finals. None of their matches lasted more than three games. It was Lynn Adams over Cindy Doyle, Kaye Kuhfeld over Cindy Baxter, Molly O'Brien over Dottie Fischl and Caryn McKinney over Jackie Paraiso. In fact, the losers in this round combined for only 50 points against the top seeds, an average of less than five points per game.

The semifinals cracked however. During the previous rounds, all four players had demonstrated nearly perfect shots, serves and gets. It was hard to imagine that any one of them could be dominated by another, yet it happened.

In the first match of the evening, it was obvious that Molly O'Brien needed to play aggressively against a hot Caryn McKinney. She did — shooting serves instead of returning them with safer ceiling balls and pinching the ball as frequently as possible. It kept McKinney from getting any rhythm. O'Brien's gambles earned her the first game.

McKinney changed tactics and played deeper in the court, taking away the passing game and challenging O'Brien to continue to kill the ball to win. Under the pressure O'Brien began to play too tentatively to be successful. McKinney was able to regain the edge she needed and won the next three games quite decisively.

The Adams/Kuhfeld semifinal showed some of the most impressive shotmaking rallies of the entire tournament. Although the match went three games straight to Adams, each game was heartbreakingly close and had a similar pattern; Adams came out aggressively for half a dozen rallies trying to grab a quick lead, but her lack of training during the previous four months, coupled with Kaye's cold determination, made her game plan impossible. In all three games, Kaye led 9-7, 8-4, and 7-5 respectively and it was at this point in each game that Adams would move her intensity up a level. Shots she had put



The Adams/Kuhfeld semifinal. (Kaye, left; Lynn, right)

high to the ceiling earlier, she began shooting with bottom-board accuracy. It was her reminder to the crowd that she is still the number one woman racquetball player in the world and she proved her point by winning the match 11-9, 11-9, 11-7.

Afterwards Kaye, who was obviously unhappy with the outcome, said she felt she had played poorly, specifically blaming play which was too defensive and a lack of intensity. The preparation she had used to defeat Adams when they met in California was missing, she said.

Adams, on the other hand, was relieved to have played well enough to win. She admitted to tiredness late in the games; playing conservatively to



Lynn Adams (left) and Caryn McKinney.

tempo by taking timeouts at 3-6 and 4-9. Caryn finally took the serve from Lynn at 5-10 with a crosscourt pass and blew to 9-10 with serves into the side wall. Caryn skipped a set up at 9-10 which left Lynn with the serve and then the game, 11-9.

Caryn couldn't keep up the magic of her serves in game two, and Lynn exploited Caryn's forehand and easily took the game 11-2. In the third game, the momentum switched once again as Caryn took the early lead 7-4 by cashing in on Lynn's left-up shots. Lynn immediately pushed back to 9-6 but skipped a set up to give Caryn point 10. Caryn then put it away to win the fourth, 11-6.

Caryn began game four with a 4-1 lead, hitting winners in response to Lynn's backhand passes. A couple of pinches and Caryn was up 5-3. Lynn again came back with flawless killshots to a 10-7 lead. Caryn fought right back to 9-10, but hit a weak serve at this point and Lynn was able to get back into the service box and put the game and match away, 11-9.

In speaking with Lynn about herself and racquetball these days, Lynn said her number one goal is to complete the rest of the season, referring to her problem with inflammation of the spine. She is "just happy to be playing at this point." However, she also has a very strong drive to win the nationals,

and to finish the 1987/88 season as the number one ranked player in women's professional racquetball. ○

Results

Round of 32

Lynn Adams — bye
 Fran Davis d. Lynn Coburn
 Cindy Doyle d. Roxanne Goblish
 Marcy Lynch d. Randi Friedman
 Marci Drexler d. Lisa Hjelm
 Cindy Baxter d. Chris Evon
 Andrea Katz d. Carol Dattisman
 Kaye Kuhfeld — bye
 Molly O'Brien d. Pat Mussleman
 Linda Porter d. Karen McDonough
 Dotti Fischl d. Toni Bevelock
 Vicki Panzeri d. Robin Chilcoat
 Jackie Paraiso d. Lisa Gaertner
 Joy Paraiso d. Kathy Langlotz
 Tina Petracy d. Sandy Robson (forfeit)
 Caryn McKinney — bye

Round of 16

Adams d. Davis
 Doyle d. Lynch
 Baxter d. Drexler
 Kuhfeld d. Katz
 O'Brien d. Porter
 Fischl d. Panzeri
 Jackie Paraiso d. Joy Paraiso
 McKinney d. Petrocy

Quarter Finals

Adams d. Doyle
 Kuhfeld d. Baxter
 O'Brien d. Fischl
 McKinney d. Paraiso

Semifinals

Adams d. Kuhfeld
 McKinney d. O'Brien

Finals

Adams d. McKinney



Lynn Adams being interviewed.

keep the games close until she could put in a final surge to win.

The finals match between the #1 and #2 ranked players in the field, started out under the control of Lynn Adams. Caryn attempted to interrupt Lynn's

Ask The Playing Editors!

If you have a question for the pros, direct it to one of the playing editors listed on our masthead, and address it to: *Playing Editor, National Racquetball Magazine, P.O. Drawer 6126, Clearwater, FL 34618.*



Dan Obremski

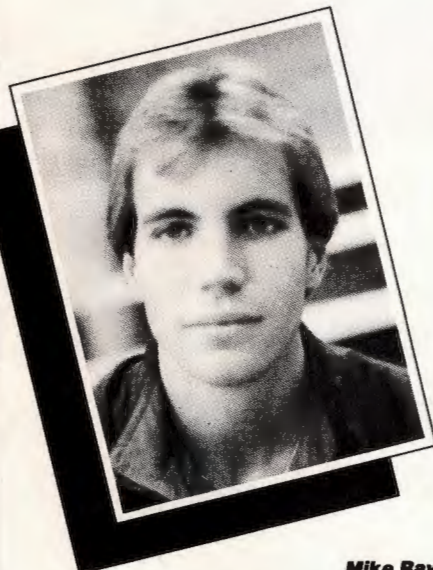
Dan Obremski, I'm a "C" level player. Should I use a metal racquet or one made of composite materials? F. Platz, Seattle, WA

Generally speaking, a metal racquet will be heavier than a composite or graphite racquet. It will also vibrate more. At the "C" level of play, racquetball strokes tend not to be perfect. As a result, players are more susceptible to arm and shoulder injuries.

Because of that, the heavier racquet, especially if it vibrates, will increase the chance of arm and shoulder injuries. For that reason alone, I would suggest using material other than metal.

Metal is sometimes recommended for extra power because of its stiffness; however generally only "A" or "open" level players will be able to take advantage of the stiffer frame. The only benefit you might find in using a metal racquet is that it is less expensive.

Whatever racquet you use, be sure to string it at the manufacturer's suggested tension. The racquet has been designed for that tension, and tested by players of all levels to ensure it will give you the best performance possible. Not only that, the racquet warranty might become void if recommended string tensions are ignored.



Mike Ray

I play squash occasionally, Mike Ray, because our club has both types of courts and I confess I enjoy the sport. Racquetball is and will always remain my first love, though. Will squash hurt my racquetball game? B. Frum, San Diego, CA

I also play squash occasionally and I don't think it will hurt your game. In fact, squash will probably help in two areas of your racquetball. One, it will help you learn strategy. In squash, because it is more difficult to hit outright winning shots, you must spend more effort maneuvering your opponent around the court. You then become more aware of your opponent's position and which shots keep the ball away from your opponent.

It will also help you learn new shots. For example, I find the reverse pinches (called reverse "boasts" in squash) and side wall shots which I am forced to use in squash are handy to have in certain

racquetball situations.

The downside of squash play is that it might lull you into losing the "killer" instinct you need in racquetball. Squash is essentially a conservative game; few smart players go for risky winning shots. In racquetball, you must go for the kill shot when the opportunity is there. Don't start playing it too safely when you go back to racquetball after squash.

If you ever find yourself having to play both sports in one day, you might want to remember that it is much easier to go from racquetball to squash. If you play squash first, then racquetball, you will feel flat because the shorter racquet will seem to give you less power. Also, it is harder to hit the low shots necessary in racquetball after trying to keep everything above a 19-inch tin in squash.

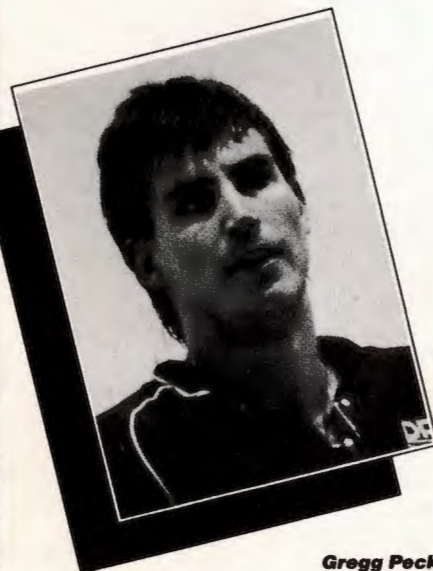
Gregg Peck, I am comfortable hitting backhand shots, yet it seems I have difficulty aiming them down-the-line. It seems like I either hit the side wall or send the shots cross court. Any suggestions? S. Mooney, Minot, ND

The key to hitting good down-the-lines is to make sure your contact is "square". That is, your racquet face should be exactly parallel to the front wall when you hit the ball. You should also have a full extension of your arm during contact.

To do this, it helps if your feet and shoulders squarely face the side wall. Then, if you contact the ball with your extended arm in line with your front foot, your racquet face will be parallel to the front wall automatically.

A common problem is not extending your arm as you swing. If you contact the ball too close to your body, you will probably slice the ball, which affects your accuracy. Make sure you have your arm extended and away from your body as you hit your backhands.

Unfortunately, because the ball is always moving, this is a difficult task. I would suggest practicing down-the-lines as much as possible on the court by yourself. Throw the ball gently to the front wall and as it returns, concentrate on the "square" contact. You will be amazed at how little practice it takes to give you confidence in your aim. ○



Gregg Peck

REFEREE WITHOUT FEAR

12 Ways To Make It Easier

by Sid Williams

More and more tournaments are publishing a requirement on their entry form that reads, "all match winners-losers are expected to referee the next match or find a suitable substitute referee to do so for them." Ever try to find someone to ref a match for you? It's almost impossible, and sometimes the person who subs is not even in the tournament, or has little if any refereeing experience.

Unfortunately professional or A class racquetball players do not necessarily make efficient or good referees. I have seen many matches end in controversy simply because the assigned referee didn't know the rules of the game or how to interpret, enforce or apply them that particular situation.

No one likes to be yelled at or criticized, but if you have ever refereed a racquetball match, chances are it has happened to you. There are steps you can take to help prevent this from ever happening to you.

1. Rules are constantly updated. Find a current copy of the rules of racquetball and become familiar with them. Take your copy of these rules to any tournaments you attend, and use them when called on to referee.

2. Many players believe that as the assigned referee to a match, all their decisions and rulings are final. This is not true! If both players in a singles match disagree with the referee's decision, and are in agreement as to what the call should have been, they can overrule the referee. Also, a protest may be taken to a tournament's chairman or committee for a decision. The referee can be replaced if both players or teams request it.

3. When assigned to referee a match, go into the court with the players as they are warming up. Introduce yourself as their referee. Make them aware of all local court hinders, and instruct them as to what you expect from each of them. Remind them not to serve until you have called the score each time. If refereeing a doubles game, identify who will serve first on each team. Flip a coin to determine service. Eyecheck players equipment to make sure it conforms with the rules of the game.

4. Make sure you have an extra ball available, as well as a court towel to wipe

the floor.

5. Be loud! When you start the match by calling "play ball", let the players know you are there by being loud! Call the score, hinders, and make decisions in a loud authoritative voice. Players should never have to ask what you said because you didn't call loud enough. Never ask a viewer whether they thought the call was good or bad. You are the judge. You make the decision. If you could not see the play and the players cannot agree, ask them to play it again.

6. A referee is responsible for preventing any possible injuries, so if you see a situation developing such as crowding or pushing an opponent out of the way, stop play, warn the participants, and thereafter call a hinder or avoidable hinder according to the severity of the situation.

7. If you make a mistake or error in judgment on a call and you know it, admit that you made a mistake and ask the players to please play the point over. Your honesty will be appreciated.

8. Even if you are using linesmen in the match, all players' appeals must be made directly to the referee, who will in turn explain the appeal to his designated linesman. The linesman will indicate with a "thumbs up" or a "thumbs down" gesture whether he agrees or disagrees with the referee's decision. If the designated number one linesman agrees with the referee, then there is no need or reason to ask the designated number two linesman for a decision. Thumbs up indicates agreement, thumbs down indicates disagreement, and open palms down indicates "no decision" or "couldn't tell". When using linesmen the only calls that may be appealed are kill shots (whether good or bad), short serves, double bounce pickups and encroachment of receiving line fouls. Calls on hinders may not be appealed to linesmen.

9. Dead-ball hinders occur when some of the following situations occur; server's foot extends over the back short line on the serve; serve hits doubles partner while he is still in doubles box; ball hits opponent on fly return; ball hits local court hinders; accidental body contact

with opponent; screen balls; contact on the back

swing; straddle ball with no fair chance to see or play it; or any other unintentional interference that in your judgment prevents a player from playing the ball. In each of the above situations the ball is replayed.

10. Avoidable or intentional hinders occur when players take an opponent's shot away by just barely moving out of the way of the ball to allow the opponent room to swing; blocking an opponent's shot by stepping into the path of the ball; deliberately pushing or shoving an opponent during a rally; screaming or yelling as the opponent is about to shoot his shot; stamping feet to distract the opponent as he is about to shoot the shot. Any of the above situations occurring will result in loss of serve or a point being awarded, depending on whether the offender was serving or receiving the serve.

11. Technical fouls may be called at any time. Usually, players are first warned that their conduct, manner, gestures, or verbal outbursts are unacceptable to racquetball play. Thereafter, technical fouls may be called. A call of three technical fouls on any one player or team during a match, will result in the automatic and immediate forfeiture of that match by the offenders. You need not warn an individual or team that you think that the conduct is offending to opponents or the viewing audience. Call it immediately!

12. If you run into a match where both players or teams are hostile towards each other, call a "referees timeout". Allow them to cool off, and explain what you believe is causing the hostility. Let them know that you will not stand for any unsportsmanlike conduct and that you will respond to any such display with an appropriate penalty.

You as the referee should always be in control of the match. You can control, speed up or slow down a match based strictly on how quickly or slowly you call score. I believe that not enough avoidable or intentional hinders are being called in our sport of racquetball, due solely to misunderstanding or misinterpretation of the rules. I hope this has helped to clarify some of these issues. O

THE CITYFED GRAND NATIONALS

Gonzalez takes the crown in Seattle

Ruben Gonzalez was not magnificent in Seattle, despite his age. He was magnificent. Period. Most of his challengers for the national title were more than a decade younger, yet Gonzalez beat them at their own game — power, hustle and tireless pressure.

The CityFed Grand Nationals could not have been scripted for more excitement and drama. Five players had legitimate chances to become the new national champion, and all five reached the quarter finals. Bret Harnett, seeded number one going into the tournament, a position he had held all year, had the best chance. Cliff Swain, Ed Andrews and Egan Inoue were also close contenders. Yet when Gonzalez rolled the final ball of the tournament, he left no doubt that he deserved the title.

Granted, Gonzalez did have a little help from his friends, Marty Hogan and Mike Yellen. At the start of the tournament, Yellen and Hogan were ranked sixth and seventh on the pro tour. Contenders each season for the previous decade, both were out of this year's race, but played key roles in the Gonzalez championship by knocking out the top two seeds, Harnett and Swain.

For Marty Hogan, each round was a struggle. He faced unseeded Canadian Woody Clouse early in the tournament. In a two and a half-hour match, Hogan squeaked through their tiebreaker, 11-9. During the next round, Hogan was forced to another tiebreaker, this time winning 11-3 against Corey Brysman.

Ed Andrews, seeded fourth, nearly lost his first round also. He faced his San Diego sparring partner and close friend, Dave Johnson. By playing an opponent so familiar with his game

patterns, Andrews had to struggle to win 11-9 in their tiebreaker match.

Bret Harnett's second round match against Dave Peck promised to be difficult, but became surprisingly harmless in very little time. In previous meetings this season, Harnett and Peck had played nine games over two matches; eight games were decided by two points or less. Harnett had won their two-hour battle in the season opener; Peck had taken the other two-hour match at the last regular stop of the season, but Peck's game of determination and hustle failed to ignite in Seattle, and Harnett tore through him in three short games.

The quarter finals then became the key round in determining the new national champion. Seven of the top eight seeds advanced to the quarters and each match went to a tiebreaking game. There the seeding broke down. In only one match — Gonzalez against Gerry Price — did a higher seeded player survive.

The thriller, which proved to be the season's most crucial, was the Harnett/Hogan match. Bret Harnett, for three years close to winning a national title, fell only two points short of clinching it this year. He is 6'3" and with his arm and racquet extended has an upward reach of over 10 feet — half the width of the court. When he dives, his reach added to a sprawling takeoff gives him a cov-

erage zone of 15-17 feet. Only

rollouts escape Harnett and Hogan cranked his game a notch to do exactly that.

To reach the tiebreaker game, Hogan won games one and four. Harnett took the other two games, then fell behind 5-10 in the tiebreaker. From there, he took a gutsy stand which lasted nearly 25 minutes. Seven times Hogan served the ball at match point. Seven times Harnett came back. From impossible positions through the air or stretched on the ground, he found a way to make the ball

"I have been working towards the national championship for ten years. Now that it has finally become a reality, I believe that with tenacity and determination a person can achieve any goal he sets."

— Gonzalez

reach the front wall. Lady Luck helped Harnett too; at 10-7, Hogan won the match once, but broke the ball as he successfully killed it into the front wall.

Winning rallies averaging 10-15 shots per player, Harnett came a little closer to making up the deficit each time back in the service box. Then, after stopping the Hogan attack time and again, and scoring four more points to come within 10-9, Harnett ended the match himself with a suicide shot.

It happened as Hogan served then countered a Harnett pass shot with a harmless ceiling ball. From 39 feet, Harnett arched back and went for an overhead rollout, actually leaving the

(continued on page 14)

THE RUBEN GONZALEZ SEASON

September, 1987

Davison, MI

round of 16

loses to Doug Ganim

October, 1987

Arlington, VA

quarter finals

loses to Corey Brysman

December, 1987

New York, NY

quarter finals

loses to Bret Harnett

February, 1988

Beaverton, OR

wins tournament

defeats Gerry Price in finals

March, 1988

Dallas, TX

semifinals

loses to Cliff Swain

March, 1988

Vancouver, Canada

quarter finals

loses to Mike Yellen

March, 1988

Grand Rapids, MI

finals

loses to Egan Inoue

May, 1988

CityFed Grand Nationals

wins tournament

defeats Egan Inoue in finals



**Congratulations
Ruben Gonzalez
1988 National Pro Champion**

Ruben Gonzalez

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CITYFED NATIONALS

(continued from page 12)

ground to go for glory. He only missed the 140 mph ball by a quarter of an inch, but it was still a miss. The suddenness of his defeat, after holding Hogan back for nearly half an hour, stunned the crowd into silence. He became the first of the contenders to exit.

Cliff Swain, after knocking hard on the door all season, with four victories in Davison and Dallas, could not win the quarter final match he needed to become the national champion. Because of his second ranked position, he only needed the points he would win with a victory over Mike Yellen, an opponent he had edged in the finals of the Dallas pro stop.

Yellen opened with all guns firing. Gone was his usual control with moderate power. Gone was the wide-angled pass-at-leisure game. Yellen staggered Swain with a barrage of power and jumped to a 5-0, then 7-4 lead in game one, winning 11-6.

Swain answered just as hard. Game two barely lasted ten minutes. Each Swain serve — one of the hardest on the tour — forced a weak return. Yellen lost 11-2, and Swain appeared to be well in control, especially as he continued his streak to a 5-1 lead in the next game.

Yellen, who has played profession-

ally for more than a dozen years, made an about-face adjustment, and slowed the game to a crawl. He began serving high lob-Z's to Swain's backhand and scored three in a row. Yellen inched ahead in later rallies to win the game 11-7.

But game four became the wrath of Swain. He charged to a 7-0 lead in only seven rallies. He had a 9-0 lead after 11 rallies. Crippled by the attack, Yellen only managed three points before losing.

A spectator in the front row called the tiebreaker a "cliffhanger", and it was

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From left to right: Jim Hiser, Ruben Gonzalez and John Delaney.

serve across the line in less than a tenth of a second. Andrews can pound the ball back just as quickly. Some of their rallies — serve and return kill — finished within a half second. Intimidation by power would not work for, or against, either player.

Inoue won the first game easily. At the end of the second game, Andrews had managed a 10-7 lead when Inoue blasted an apparent rollout kill to reclaim the serve. Andrews appealed and both linesmen overruled the referee's decision, effectively giving Andrews the game-winning point. Inoue then appealed the rally-initiating serve. Again, the referee was overruled. Inoue, reprieved briefly, brought the score to 10-9 before losing game two.

Game three was all Andrews'. Inoue's concentration faltered, and he skipped a horrendous 12 shots, seven

resulting in points for Andrews. Game four reached 6-6 before Egan could pull away with the help of two ace serves to win 11-6.

In the tiebreaker, Ed Andrews made unusual mistakes. Losing 6-5, Andrews skipped the ball four consecutive times from deep court to put Inoue on the verge of victory, 10-5. Andrews managed one more point, but Inoue reached for his favorite weapon, the drive serve, and aced match point to reach the semifinals. Andrews was out of championship competition.

By then, it appeared that either Ruben Gonzalez or Egan Inoue would be national champion. Of the two, Gonzalez had a much better chance. He only had to reach the finals; Inoue would have to win. Before the next day's semifinals, however, another contender was added to the list — Bret Harnett. Computer results showed that he had enough points, even with his quarter final loss, to win the national title if Mike Yellen defeated Ruben Gonzalez. The pressure was on.

Gonzalez had played Yellen four times during his professional career, losing all four matches. Their last match, in Arlington, VA, had gone to an 11-point tiebreaker where Gonzalez led 9-0, yet the Yellen mystique overwhelmed him and he dropped 11 straight points to



Left: The excited crowd cheers Yellen and Gonzalez. Right: Ruben signing autographs for fans.

lose the match.

To win the national title, Gonzalez would have to play the match of his life, against an opponent with a tremendous psychological advantage.

When Gonzalez began the semifinal match, he blazed with intensity. Each new point pumped him even higher. Yellen's favorite shot, the cross court pass, did not work as Gonzalez stepped over and rekilld each attempt. Ruben did not skip a ball until he was leading 7-0. By playing Yellen's own game style, Gonzalez managed to make it 10-0 before finally yielding a point. Game one was his, 11-3.

Mike Yellen immediately showed why he has won five consecutive national titles: He applies pressure on the court, steadily and relentlessly. Against Gonzalez, he changed his cross court passes to safe ceiling balls, and attacked with only lob serves.

The Harnett/Hogan match, so crucial to Ruben's title, had been an explosive fight between two battering rams. Hogan and Harnett attacked the game with ferocity, paused, then attacked again. The Yellen/Gonzalez match in comparison was a pushing contest between two giants, each with a secure foothold, and a never easing strength.

Gonzalez countered each Yellen ceiling ball with another — 8, 10, 12 ceiling balls at a time — until one player made a fractional mistake and the other attempted a pinch shot or a low hard pass from deep court, rarely resulting in a winner. Each diving get resulted in another ceiling ball, and the grinding struggle began again. Could Gonzalez maintain patience with Yellen? Not in game two.

At 8-8, Gonzalez tried forcing the action, but overreached and hit a disastrous overhead skip almost into his feet. Yellen kept the lead and the game ended as Gonzalez skipped another shot from deep court.

Yellen appeared comfortable again with his safe pass-and-pinch attack, but as he relaxed, Gonzalez reached for the intensity he had used in game one and took the third game. In game four, Yellen made an adjustment, and began hitting pinches into the front right corner, instead of the pass shots which were unsuccessful against Ruben's forehead. Yellen took game four, 11-2.

Did Ruben feel pressure? He was facing the greatest clutch player of all-time. Gonzalez also knew it might be as

(continued on page 17)



Triumphant Ruben Gonzalez 1988 National Champion and Nationals winner.



Left to right: George Platis who donated first prize car, John Delaney of CityFed and Ruben Gonzalez.



Excitement at the Nationals. Above, Egan Inoue and Marty Hogan. Below, Ruben Gonzalez. At right, Ruben Gonzalez and Mike Yellen.



CITYFED NATIONALS

(continued from page 15)

close as he came to a national title. Age was working against him, as well as the fast-improving talent of Harnett, Swain and Inoue. Gonzalez responded to the pressure magnificently. He played what could have been the strongest 11 points of his life.

"Looking back on my climb up the professional ladder, it was worth it every step of the way. The challenge now is to retain the title for as long as Mike Yellen or Marty Hogan."

— Gonzalez

At 0-0 in the fifth game, each player hit 10 ceiling balls along the backhand side wall. Yellen finally left the ball six inches short of the back wall and Gonzalez rocketed a backhand splat into the left corner to take a point. Twice more he hit the identical splat — screaming hard and rolling out flat — from deep court and led 3-0. Yellen's game was perfect, but the Gonzalez attack was one notch better. At 8-1, Gonzalez had flat killed the ball seven times. Yellen managed to score four more points, but Gonzalez scored the crucial remaining three. Final score: 11-5. Final result: the national title to Ruben Gonzalez.

Egan Inoue, in the other semifinal match, tore through Marty Hogan. Hogan had been through three tiebreakers already, each one lasting a minimum of two hours. His fatigue showed in the semifinal match. Inoue's serves forced weak returns, and Hogan did not retrieve with the fire he had shown earlier. Inoue won the match in four, keeping Hogan to a single point in both of the last two games.

The finals match would not affect Ruben's national title. Yet Gonzalez did not want his national title clouded by a loss in the finals. He wanted it all.

All, in this tournament included an Oldsmobile Cutlass Supreme worth \$21,000 to the winner, with a \$3,400 check for the runner-up.

Just one month earlier, Egan Inoue and Ruben Gonzalez faced each other in the finals of the ETV Trucking Pro/Am in Grand Rapids, MI. Inoue had won easily, riding the crest of his devastating drive serves.

This match was very different. Gonzalez out-aced Inoue, out-ran Inoue, and out-killed Inoue. Three short

games proved that the crucial Gonzalez victory in the semifinals was no fluke. In each of those games, he had five-point streaks where Inoue was almost powerless. It was a daunting performance by the best player in the world for the 1987/88 season.

It was an even sweeter accomplishment because at the beginning of the season, Ruben had not been considered a contender for the national championship. At 36 years of age, other pros thought of him as the "elderly statesman" of the game, a "true gentleman". His ranking then was number seven. All year, the younger stars ahead of him drew attention. Yet in Seattle, nine months later, Gonzalez burned brighter and longer than any of those stars. By winning the CityFed Grand Nationals in Seattle, he became racquetball's ultimate champion, and even those who had played against him were proud and happy for him. ○

RESULTS

Round of 32

Bret Harnett d. Andy Gross 4, (9), 0, 7
Dave Peck d. Andy Roberts (8), 8, 2, 4
Corey Brysman d. Drew Katchik 5, 8, 9
Marty Hogan d. Woody Clouse (5), 5, 8, (3), 9
Egan Inoue d. David Gross 8, 2, (9), 2
Mike Ray d. Matt Rudich (2), 5, 1, 5
Jack Newman d. Aaron Katz 6, 5, (5), 10
Ed Andrews d. Dave Johnson 7, (5), (4), 6, 9
Ruben Gonzalez d. F. Snow (10), 5, 7, 3
Mike Cerecia d. R. Harpersad (4), (3), 5, 7, 8
Gerry Price d. Ron DiGiacomo 3, 6, 8
Gregg Peck d. Tim Sweeney 2, 1, 1
Mike Yellen d. Jeff Plazak 3, 10, 4
Dan Obremski d. Ensen Inoue (9), (8), 3, 10, 7
Steve Lerner d. Jeff Evans (7), 7, 7, 2
Cliff Swain d. Tom Montalbano (5), 10, 3, 0

Round of 16

Harnett d. D. Peck 8, 2, 3
Hogan d. Brysman (5), 5, 1, (8), 3
Inoue d. Ray (9), 8, 10, 9
Andrews d. Newman 5, 7, (6), 8
Gonzalez d. Cerecia 4, 2, (8), 0
Price d. G. Peck 7, 7, 10
Yellen d. Obremski (2), 3, 9, 1
Swain d. Lerner 10, 5, 6

Quarter finals

Hogan d. Harnett 5, (5), (4), 2, 9
Inoue d. Andrews 4, (9), (2), 6, 6
Gonzalez d. Price (6), 9, 5, 7
Yellen d. Swain 6, (2), 7, (3), 5

Semifinals

Inoue d. Hogan 6, (6), 1, 1
Gonzalez d. Yellen 6, (2) 7, (3), 5

Finals

Gonzalez d. Inoue 7, 7, 7

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BRAIN POWER IN RACQUETBALL

Using a tendency sheet

by Dave Peck

Would you begin a car trip around the country without a map? How about entering the Amazon jungle without a compass or a guide? No way, right? Well, that's exactly what most players do with their racquetball. By playing without a structured game plan, few have a 'map' or 'compass' to counter their opponent's styles of play.

Before giving a playing lesson, I ask advanced students to define their own game plans. Their response usually contains a hodge-podge of ideas, but they have no structured plan. All players rely on "bread-and-butter" shots which they use frequently. By recognizing their own tendencies and then looking for different tendencies in opponents, smart racquetball players will set up a game plan every time they enter the court.

One of the easiest ways to do this is to use a 'tendency sheet'. Formulate one in your mind to use during a match. If you expect to play that opponent again, put the tendency sheet onto paper, and review or change it when necessary.

Making a tendency sheet is simple. Evaluate your strengths and weaknesses, and your opponent's strengths and weaknesses. For each of your opponent's strengths, decide upon a counterbalancing strategy within your skilled capabilities. For each of your opponent's weaknesses, decide how best to take advantage of the situation.

Following is an example of what goes on in my mind during a match as I evaluate a new opponent. After the match is finished, I will write out a tendency sheet. Each time I play that opponent again, I will check the validity of my analysis, make necessary corrections and file the sheet for future reference.

Name: John Q. Racquetballer

His strokes: His forehand is a vertical stroke. This stroke, as compared to a more sweeping horizontal stroke, means he gets more power and takes less time to swing, but it also means his timing needs to be more precise. He will also tend to skip shots he contacts behind his power zone. He is probably a hot-and-cold type player.

He uses a one-grip method on the backhand. Because of it, his wrist must be 'educated' to make adjustments dur-

ing the stroke so the racquet face will be square to the ball during contact. He will have difficulty making that adjustment on balls which jam him (come into his body).

Resulting strategy: When his forehand gets hot, keep all shots to the backhand side. Don't let a streak of kill shots intimidate me into changing my game plan or skipping the ball. When hitting to the backhand, hit into the side wall so that they jam him as frequently as possible. On the forehand side, try to get the ball slightly behind him.

Serves and returns

His serve: He likes to hit drive serves to my backhand, occasionally throwing in a Z-serve to the same side. His drive serve efforts tend to keep him in front court. When he serves to the forehand, he telegraphs it by standing a foot closer to that side wall. His second serve is almost always a half lob to my backhand.

Resulting strategy: Lean to the backhand side. Neutralize his good drive serves to my backhand with a ceiling ball. When he hits a bad serve, hit the backhand down-the-line or cross court since he is still off balance in front court. Watch for the telegraphing position which indicates a serve to the forehand. This warning will give me time to hit a hard pass shot down-the-line or cross court and catch him off balance.

My serve: My first serve should be a backhand drive serve which hits the side wall deep so that the ball angles in towards his body and forces his one-grip backhand to make difficult adjustments. For the same reason, a hard Z-serve to the backhand will also be effective. I can also hit hard Z-serves to his forehand because I have a service motion that makes this serve difficult to anticipate.

For a second serve, hit half lobs to his backhand. Make sure this serve nicks the side wall to give the ball that angle into his body. Lob Z-serves are effective to the forehand side as well, and will keep him guessing.

Resulting strategy: He likes to hit pinch shots off my drive serves to the backhand, so stay in front court to cover and rekill the ball. He cuts off the half

lob effectively, so I must concentrate on making it nick the side wall. He likes to hit cross court passes from the forehand side, so prepare by getting out of the service box quickly.

Shot Selection

Front court (five-foot line to the front wall): On the forehand, he tends to hit pinch shots. On the backhand, he tends to hit pinch shots.

I tend to hit down-the-line or cross court on my forehand. With my backhand, I tend to hit pinch shots or cross court kill/passes.

Resulting strategy: see 'positioning strategy'.

Back court (five-foot line to the back wall): On the forehand, he likes to pinch or hit splat shots. On the backhand, when he is setup, he will splat. When he is off balance, he tends to hit cross courts.

My forehand is usually down-the-line kill or cross court pass. Cross court passes will pressure his one-grip backhand.

Resulting strategy: see 'positioning strategy'.

Off the back wall: On the forehand, he likes to pinch. On the backhand, he splats when set-up, and he goes cross court when apprehensive.

My forehand is down-the-line or cross court. My backhand is cross court or a pinch kill.

Resulting strategy: see 'positioning strategy'.

Positioning: He tends to move up in the court. On my forehands, he plays center court neutrally and does not lean in any direction. On my backhands, he tends to lean left to cover my down-the-line shots.

Resulting strategy: Play a down-the-line or cross court game, hitting pass shots or attempted kills which follow a pattern into either deep corner. Hit cross court backhands more often than usual. I should be careful not to attempt my pinch kill backhand if he stays in front court.

Because of his shot selection tendencies, I should move up rapidly to cover the pinch shot whenever he is shooting from front court. When he is

(continued on page 45)

15th Annual Southern California Outdoor Racquetball National Championships

For the 15th year in a row, Orange Coast College in Costa Mesa, CA will host the National Outdoor Racquetball Championships during the Independence Day weekend.

This tournament is the largest and most prestigious event in the sport of outdoor racquetball, and in the past has attracted such respected participants as Charlie Brumfield, Dr. Bud Mulheisen, Marty Hogan, Dave Peck, Gregg Peck, Steve Serot, Lindsay Myers and others.

This year's event will feature a Men's Open/Pro draw including defending National Men's Singles Champion Brian Hawkes (seven time title holder), challenged by an outstanding field including Dan Southern (two time title holder, 1986 and 1987 finalist), Ed Andrews (currently #3 on RMA pro tour), and other top players from across the United States. Lynn Adams (currently #1 on the WPRA pro tour) will try to win back the title she held for eight years by defeating a draw which will include defending two time Women's Singles Champion Martha MacDonald of Gainesville, FL.

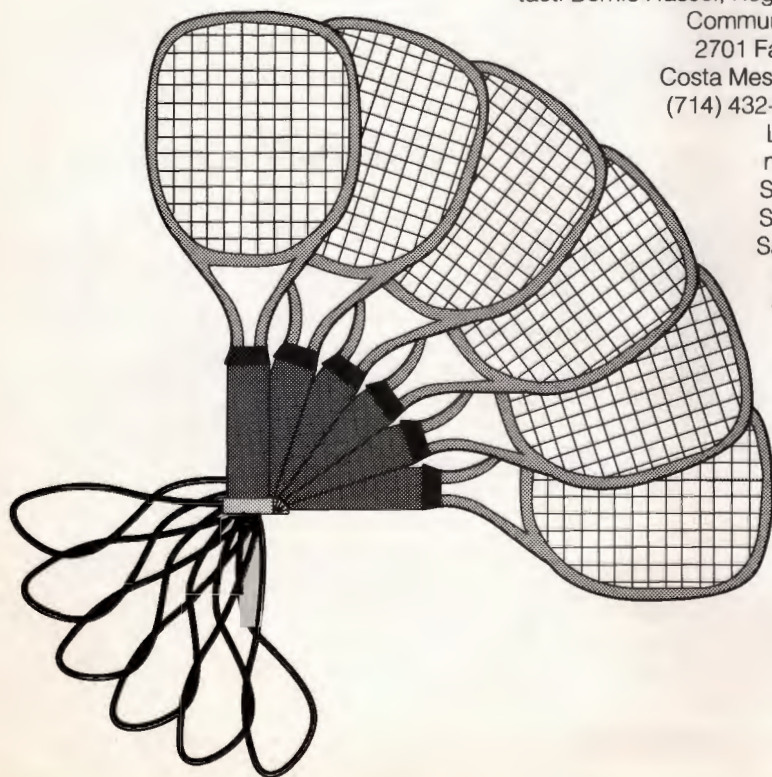
This year's Nationals will offer over \$4,000 in cash awards to Open/Pro divisions, as well as a full complement of amateur skill level and age divisions with many special events for all.

Other interesting features of the 15th Annual SCOR Nationals include a special "legends" division featuring some of the greatest names in outdoor racquetball history in a special exhibition style event; top beach volleyball players from the CBVA pro tour in a grass court tournament at the same site; Miss SCOR Nationals 1988 bikini contest emceed by Lynn Adams, Saturday night luau/beach party, and lots more.

One of the biggest attractions of outdoor racquetball is the atmosphere of the sport. Spectators can easily view competition on several courts at once, and the 13 court open air facility allows for constant interaction between the players and spectators. With everyone enjoying the sunny Southern California weather and top level racquetball, a genuine party feeling is shared by all.

Tournament dates are July 1st-4th, 1988. For entries or information, contact: Bernie Hassel, Registrar, O.C.C.

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HOME WORKOUTS

Part II

by Dan Obremski

Dan is a top-ranked player on the RMA

men's professional racquetball tour. He conducts fitness clinics at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, CO for the National Elite Training Camp.

The steaming coffee burns your lap as you attempt to rub the sleep from your eyes while inching through rush hour traffic on your way to work. A perfect time to ponder the days itinerary that has you hustling all over creation. If you're like every other racquetball player or fitness enthusiast, a major concern when you organize your day is making time for your game or your workout. As important as this may be, there will still be times when you are just too busy to go to the club to lift or workout.

Fortunately, there are many things you can accomplish in your home in less than half an hour a day that can add to your strength, your game, and your appearance. Be careful though, remember that exercise of any sort must be done slowly at first to avoid injury, and consistently to make positive gains.

All of the following exercises can be done with items you have in your home.

During a towel row, sit on the floor facing your partner. Keep your legs

straight and place the bottom of your feet against your partner's. Grab one end of the towel while your partner holds the middle.

Start by leaning forward with your arms extended. As your partner adds resistance, begin pulling back with your elbows. Use your back and shoulders to pull, not your biceps. Finish in an erect sitting position, with your elbows as far back as possible and your back

around it and hold both ends while doing the same exercise. In this case, the only difference is that you should stand with your feet close to the wall, and your body weight and gravity will provide the resistance.

Shoulder circles: Stand with your knees slightly bent and your arms extended, either to the side or in front of you. Begin with small circles and work to big circles until you've done 50 each way. If you can, increase the amount of circles.

Lateral raise: Holding two books of equal weight, stand with your knees slightly bent and your arms at your side.



Above: Towel row (back exercise) with partner. Begin and finish at right. Towel row (arch back, pull elbows back) midpoint at left.

muscles flexed. Pull on a two count, and flex on a four count. Remember, your partner should supply resistance so that you can do 10-12 repetitions of the exercise over two complete sets.

Towel row — alone: Use the

Raise the books, keeping your arms straight and palms facing downward. Raise your arms to ear level on a two count. Lower your arms on a four count. Do two sets of 10-12 repetitions. (This exercise can be varied by raising the arms straight in front of your body.)

Lateral raise — with partner:

This is the same exercise as the lateral raise. Your partner should stand behind you with his palms on top of your hands. Have him provide a downward resistance as you raise your arms.

Biceps pull — with partner: Use



Above: Lateral raise (shoulder) with partner. Begin and finish at right, midpoint shown on left. Left: Shoulder circles (with book).

If these exercises are done properly three days a week, along with the push-ups of last month's article, your strength level should improve. These are also great exercises to use when you can't get to your club.

Towel row — with partner: For a few exercises, you might want to use a partner. This partner doesn't need to be strong; he or she simply needs to control the feel or movement of the towel you will be using.



same motion and same two and four count as in the towel row with partner, but use a different placement of the towel. Find a hook, or strong towel rack or anything which can be used as an anchor for the towel. Wrap the towel

the same position and towel hold as in the seated row, but keep your elbows stationary in front of your body. This time, make your biceps — not your back and shoulders — pull the towel on a two count until your hands reach your face.



Above: Bicep towel pull with partner. Begin and finish at right, mid-point shown at left.

Fully stretch out your biceps on a four count. Do two sets of 10-12 repetitions.

Biceps pull — single: With your towel wrapped around a suitable anchor, stand and lean back while holding the ends of the towel. Pull yourself to the wall with your biceps. Pull on a two count and stretch on a four count doing two sets of 10-12 repetitions.

Triceps dips: Suspend your body with your feet on a bed or table and your hands on a chair behind you. As you lower yourself on a four count, keep your elbows close together. Push your body up on a two count, and flex your triceps at the top. Do two sets of 10-12 repetitions.

Tricep pull — with partner: In a kneeling position, put your bent elbows above your head. Hold both ends of the towel while your partner pulls the middle to provide resistance. Keep your elbows pointing upwards, extend your arms over your head and flex your triceps. Do two sets of 10-12 repetitions.

Forearm rope curl: For this exercise you need a broom handle, a five-foot length of rope and a weight. Tie one end of the rope to the middle of the broom handle and the other end to the weight. Hold the ends of the broom handle and extend your arms in front of you. Roll the object to the top of the rope, then lower it. Do two sets of 10-12 repetitions.

Paper crunch: Take a single page of the newspaper and with arm fully extended ball it up using one hand at a time. ○

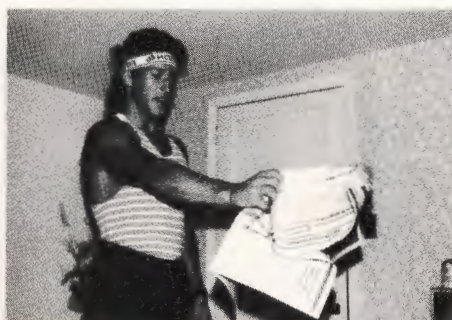
If strength and time allows, don't hesitate to do more sets of each exercise. ○



Above: Tricep towel pull with partner, begin and finish. Below: Tricep towel pull mid-point.



Below: Forearm paper crunch, begin at left and finish at right.



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TREATING YOUR ELBOW RIGHT

by Richard B. Reff, M.D.

Because few other injuries are as closely related to how individuals play the game, elbow injuries should be the type most easily cured and prevented. Yet, elbow pain is a common malady faced by racquetball players of all ages and abilities. In racquetball, high velocity arm movements are part of the game and elbow pain/injuries are directly related to stroke techniques, efficiency of the swing, and the type of racquet used. Other factors such as strength and lack of flexibility also greatly add to the onset of elbow pain, the sometimes chronic nature of elbow pain, and the recurrence of elbow pain.

For this reason, professional players are less prone to elbow overuse injuries; they have learned and constantly practice proper stroke and body mechanics. They are well conditioned athletes who maintain high levels of strength, endurance, and flexibility. In short, when it comes to preventing elbow problems, they represent the ideal model for the rest of us.

To understand the cause, treatment, and prevention of the various forms of elbow pain, it's important to know the biomechanics of the racquet stroke. A racquet stroke is generally initiated from the ground — the foot is planted as you step into the ball. This is the beginning of the stroke's force which is generated through the body's "linked system" — the transfer of force from foot to leg to knees to hips to trunk to upper extremity, and finally to the racquet and to the ball. Each segment of this system adds its force to the force generated from the segment before it. If more segments of the body are involved in the stroke, less force will be demanded from each part along the way. A player facing the front wall and swinging only with the racquet arm has a much less efficient stroke than the player who steps into the ball and rotates the trunk and shoulder as part of the shot. If your lower and upper body are used properly, your arm and elbow will not have to work as hard to produce a given amount of force.

Timing is also important. All body parts in the "linked system" must accelerate in proper sequence for maximum force. If the leg movement is followed by a hip movement, for example, the force builds properly; if hip movement begins the same stroke, force from the legs only hampers the end result.

In sum, elbow problems happen because of the following:

1. Inefficient use of the lower body during the stroke — transferring all force to the upper body (shoulder, arm, elbow, forearm, wrist, and hand).
2. Poor total body conditioning.
3. Weak forearm and shoulder muscles.
4. Lack of flexibility in upper body.
5. Poor timing — timing the body to the ball instead of the stroke to the ball.
6. Making your body do too much in too short a period of time.
7. Using improper equipment — i.e., racquet too heavy, string tension too high or low.

Recognizing the injured elbow

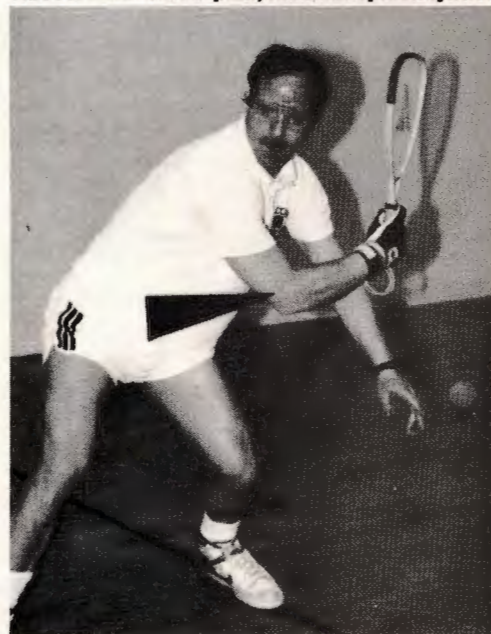
During your game, repeated overloading of the muscle tendon units at the elbow causes small tears and inflammation within these tendon origins.

A problem resulting from overuse generally is painful in one of three areas. Inner elbow pain (*medial epicondylitis*) is on the little finger side of the elbow where the 'funny bone' is located. This problem results mostly from the forehand stroke in racquetball. It occurs frequently from playing too much, and/or from abnormal body positioning during the forehand stroke. When a player frequently hits his forehand with shoulders and trunk parallel to the front wall, an excessive amount of tension or 'stretching' force is applied to the inner elbow, causing inflammation.

Outer elbow pain (*lateral epicondylitis*) on the lateral or thumb side of the elbow, tends to result from an improper backhand stroke. This is the pain known as "classic tennis elbow". Constantly



Above: Inner elbow pain, medical epicondylitis.



Above: Outer elbow pain, medical epicondylitis.



Above: Posterior elbow pain.

hitting the backhand off the back foot, hitting with the trunk of the body parallel to the front wall and "locking" the wrist in an extreme cocked position are all actions which lead to tennis elbow.

Posterior elbow pain (known as the *olecranon process*) results from poor timing of the forehand and backhand stroke. Proper stroke mechanics involve the basics: bend the elbow (preparation), straighten the elbow (at impact), and bend the elbow (follow-through). When the stroke is too fast or too slow, the elbow straightens at the wrong time and a snapping force occurs to the bones in the elbow.

All these types of elbow pain can be graded according to severity. These categories are helpful when deciding upon a treatment plan. Grade one pain occurs only after play. Grade two pain happens during and after play and interferes somewhat with your game. Grade three pain exists throughout daily activity.

Management and Treatment

Successful management and treatment of elbow pain involves two phases: (1) Cure the pain. (2) Prevent the recurrence.

The doctor is equipped to deal with the first and a racquetball professional is best skilled at addressing the second. This points out the futility of medical treatment of elbow pain when poor stroke mechanics persist or are ignored: Therefore, in all cases of successful management, there involves participation (where appropriate) both by a professional and a doctor with the patient/player.

When the elbow is in pain, it is inflamed. The inflammation, depending on its degree, can be reduced by applying ice massage to areas of pain. This is especially helpful after play in mild cases (Grade 1). This can also be combined with anti-inflammatory medication (as long as there are no medical contraindications) such as aspirin or the non-prescription ibuprofen drugs.

(Acetaminophen is not an anti-inflammatory medication). When pain is severe enough, rest is mandatory; that means cessation of playing. Unfortunately, rest alone will not effect a long-term cure unless the causes of the problem are changed.

When pain reduces sufficiently, strengthening and flexibility exercises of forearm and shoulder should begin. Attention must also be applied to proper stroke mechanics to reduce the excessive forces which, when repeated over and over, apply these excessive forces to the body's tissues. Occasionally a counteractive forearm strap ("tennis elbow strap") or a neoprene elbow support is helpful.

When these management measures are not successful, and sometimes they are not, the magnitude of the inflammation is so excessive that stronger methods are required. Physician use of a prescription drug in the family of "non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs" (NSAID) sometimes is necessary. When the pain is so intense and has become refractory to all other methods of treatment, there is a place for local steroid injection and in very rare cases surgery is indicated.

Remember that treating only the pain and inflammation is a "Band-aid" treatment. To prevent recurrence, proper stroke mechanics and efficiency must be areas of concentration. This also involves strength, flexibility, and conditioning training. ○

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ADAMS AGAIN IN ATLANTA

by Andrea Katz

Incredible suspense. That is the only way to describe the situation as Kaye Kuhfeld reached the finals of the WPRA \$18,000 Pizza Hut Challenge held recently in Atlanta.

In her quarter final match Kuhfeld played a hot, rising star named Toni Bevelock and won in a tiebreaker. Then she played Caryn McKinney and managed to win in another tiebreaker. Both tiebreakers proved Kaye carries her name well. The 'Ice Princess' won each tiebreaker by one point; 11-10 match victories definitely excite a crowd. The Marci Drexler-Molly O'Brien quarter final went tiebreaker, and only one point stopped the Vickie Panzeri-Lynn Adams quarter final from doing the same thing.

The 32 woman draw kicked off with two particularly tight first-round matches. Canadians Sue McTaggart and Carol McFetridge went to a tiebreaker as McTaggart lost not only a two-nothing lead in games, but the tiebreaker 11-8. The other first-round tiebreaker involved another Canadian, Cathy Nichols against San Diego native Jackie Paraiso. Paraiso seemed to control most of the match as the hot-and-cold Nichols spent a lot of time talking to herself. The self-help speeches did not work as Paraiso ran away with the tiebreaker, 11-1.

With the exception of one upset, all of the seeds advanced to the second round of competition. Toni Bevelock, now training in Phoenix, surprised Liz Alvarado with a solid, well-placed mix of pass shots. Keeping Alvarado on the defensive and reaching for the ball, Bevelock was able to put away each eventual and earned opportunity. Down 3-9 in the first game of the match, Alvarado managed to tie the game at ten, only to lose to a superb Bevelock backhand pinch.

In the second game, Alvarado again rallied from 0-4 to 9-6 by crunching the ball at a pace which Bevelock could not handle. It wasn't until Bevelock began

to hit perfect wide angle passes that the game turned. Bevelock won 11-9, then 11-5.

In other round of 16 matches, the top seeds were still pushed to the limit. Carol McFetridge showed extraordinary shotmaking to beat Molly O'Brien

Panzeri with two ace serves down the forehand glass wall and took the first two games quickly, 11-5, 11-2. But, this only served to toughen Vicki and she began to reach Lynn's slightly higher shots. In the fourth game, Panzeri had a forehand setup while serving at 10-9 only to skip the shot. Adams won the next two points and the match.

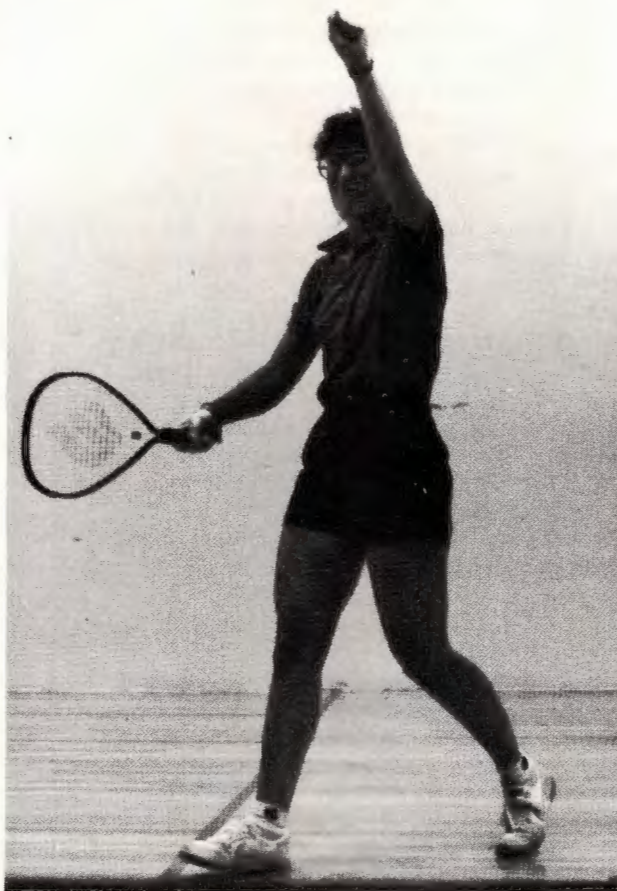
When Marci Drexler faced Molly O'Brien in their quarter final match, the score always reflected Drexler's actions. When Drexler attempted shoulder-high rollouts from 39 feet, O'Brien racked up points, but when Drexler hit a hot streak, she not only killed the ball from every angle, but added so much pace that O'Brien was handcuffed. The lop-sided score reflected Drexler's hot-and-cold approach. She won 11-3, 8-11, 11-3, 0-11, 11-5.

On the other side of the draw, Caryn McKinney — spurred on by her hometown crowd — quickly ended Jackie Paraiso's good luck in three straight games, 11-5, 11-9, 11-1.

Toni Bevelock, continuing to play excellent racquetball, pushed a less-than-perfectly playing Kaye Kuhfeld to the edge of defeat. Points which spectators discussed for hours after occurred during the fifth game tiebreaker. Bevelock returned from a 6-10 deficit by nailing two aces to Kuhfeld's backhand and hitting two more rollouts off weak returns. At 10-10, Kuhfeld hit a plum to Bevelock's forehand in center court and watched in re-

lief as Bevelock hit it five feet up the front wall. Kuhfeld handled that, won back the serve, then on the next opportunity hit a pinch into the front left corner to win the match.

Possibly the best match of the entire Pizza Hut Challenge was the battle between second seed and hometown heroine Caryn McKinney, and the threatening and confident Kaye Kuhfeld. It



A happy Lynn Adams in Atlanta.

11-1. Molly regrouped her concentration and won the next three games. Fran Davis played her game of the tournament against third seed, Kaye Kuhfeld to end one game with an overhead pinch back court. Kaye controlled the rest of the match to win in four games.

In quarter finals Lynn Adams looked unbeatable as she opened against Vicki

seemed to bring out the best in both talented players.

In the beginning, McKinney scored eight points, alternating pass shots with deadly pinch kills. Kuhfeld managed to find some control, and eventually eroded that huge lead to win the first game, 11-8.

The pace intensified in game two as both players reached shots to make incredible gets. When McKinney served two perfect aces down the forehand glass to go up 5-3, Kuhfeld responded with two backhand down-the-line kills, then falling backwards hit a forehand pinch give her the lead. Despite a McKinney timeout, Kuhfeld kept the pressure on to win 11-10.

The packed audience began chanting, "McKinney, McKinney" and she responded, serving aces and hitting with pinpoint accuracy to win game three 11-1. In the fourth game, despite a 4-7 deficit, McKinney took seven straight points to force a tiebreaker.

Near the end of the final game of the nearly two-hour-long match, Kaye led 10-8. McKinney regained the serve, hit an ace, then a perfect pass shot for her chance at match point. Kuhfeld staved off elimination, then powered a pass shot down the right. Kuhfeld did not miss her second opportunity to reach the finals. She served an almost perfect Z-serve which McKinney skipped.

The other semifinal matched rivals Lynn Adams and Marci Drexler. Adams won the first game 11-8, and took advantage of Drexler's double-faults in the second game to win 11-6. At 5-0 for Adams in the third game, it looked over for Drexler.

Instead, she dug in. Along the way, Drexler dove and retrieved and even hit a behind-the-back pinch to score 11 straight points to win game three. In the fourth, she continued her hot streak, managing to reach a 7-2 lead.

Adams changed the pace abruptly, slowing the game down with lob serves, and tied the game at seven, then at nine. At 9-9, they exchanged serves seven times each without scoring, then twice each at 10-10 before Adams scored to win the match.

The victory made it a finals containing Lynn Adams and Kaye Kuhfeld. Both play a high-percentage aggressive style. Their last meeting — in Her-

shey, PA — had been a thriller, with Lynn winning in three close games. In the encounter before that, in Los Angeles, Kuhfeld won. It appeared to be a classic encounter; the surprise was that this finals match only took an hour.

Using a pinch-splat shot, Adams repeatedly caught Kaye leaning back on her heels; Kaye took a timeout when the score reached 6-1. It did not work. Kaye only came as close as 5-8 before losing 11-5.

By scoring with the opening serve of game two, Kaye had a lead for what became her only time during the match. It was a short-lived lead as Lynn scored five points in a row, and only gave up two more points to win 11-3.

Game three was the same as the first two. Lynn dominated from point one, kept the pressure on and jumped to a huge early lead. From there, Kaye could only whittle at the Adams advantage. The final game of the final match went to Adams, 11-7.

For Lynn, it was more than satisfying. To win the tournament, she had to defeat two of her toughest rivals, Marci Drexler and Kaye Kuhfeld. Despite her dominance of this year's WPRA tour [Adams has lost one tournament, missed another and won all the others], each victory is more difficult for her than the previous one. Her determination is still as intense as it was when she won her first national title, but as she admits, her competition is improving tremendously.

If she wins the upcoming Dallas

tournament, Adams will have an awesome six straight national titles. She knows it won't be easy; Caryn McKinney, Kaye Kuhfeld, Marci Drexler and Molly O'Brien have proved throughout this season that they are ready, willing and able to end the Adams dynasty. ○



Kaye Kuhfeld (left) and Caryn McKinney in the tiebreaker.

RESULTS

Round of 32

Adams d. Burton
Evon d. Chilcoate
Lynch d. Petrocy
Panzeri d. Morris
Drexler d. Katz
Porter d. Luque
McFetridge d. MacTaggart
O'Brien d. Healy
Kuhfeld d. McDonald
Davis d. Whitmore
Bevelock d. Lockey
Alvarado d. King
Jackie Paraiso d. Nichols
Doyle d. Goblish
Joy Paraiso d. Longlutz
McKinney d. Treedway

Round of 16

Adams d. Evon
Panzeri d. Lynch
Drexler d. Porter
O'Brien d. McFetridge
Kuhfeld d. Davis
Bevelock d. Alvarado
Jackie Paraiso d. Doyle
McKinney d. Joy Paraiso

Quarter Finals

Adams d. Panzeri
Drexler d. O'Brien
Kufled d. Bevelock
McKinney d. Jackie Paraiso

Semifinals

Adams d. Drexler
Kuhfeld d. McKinney

Finals

Adams d. Kuhfeld

1988

INTERCOLLEGIATE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Sacramento State Wins Third Title

by Jean Chastain

When California State University Sacramento and Memphis State University became the final two teams at the 1988 Intercollegiate National Championships in Sacramento, CA, nobody was surprised. Yet along the way, both powerhouse teams faced threats nobody had foreseen prior to the event.

The MSU men's team, for example, has won the men's championship every year almost since the tournament began. This year, two crucial quarter final matches nearly ended their winning streak.

Because of the complicated scoring structure, points are cumulative during the tournament. The difference between first and second in any event is only one point; most of the points are earned in the earlier rounds. So when Penn State's Rob McKinney served for match point at 10-10 in the tiebreaker against MSU's James Lorello, his victory would have meant an 11-point swing in the team standings. When Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute's Eric Odell and Sean Eckman began their tiebreaker against MSU's James Lorello and David Simonette, it could have meant a 14-point swing in the final

standings.

Crucial? Had MSU lost both these matches, the inconceivable would have happened. They would have finished in third place or lower. After surviving those quarter final scares, the MSU men's team won the entire event by only three points — 102 to 98 over rival team CSUS.

The question of the tournament then became: California State University Sacramento or Memphis State University? For 10 years, MSU has won the intercollegiates. In 1986 and 1987, Sacramento accomplished the impossible and won back-to-back titles. Who would win in 1988?

It hinged upon the women's teams. With the difference in the men's standings negligible, the women's team

standings would decide the national championship. In

the words of the Intercollegiate Commissioner Neil Shapiro, "CSUS was dominant because their women were so impressive."

They were so impressive that the Sacramento State women took first place in each one of their events during the tournament. Not only that, in their



Proud parents: left, Mike Bronfeld and Dad; right, Robin Levine and parents.

six finals matches in singles and doubles, they only lost one game. In games to 15, their opponents barely scored an average of five points per game.

In total, the CSUS women earned 121 points for their team; MSU women placed second with 92 points. That gave CSUS the overall championship.

The individual champions of the 1988 Intercollegiates, Robin Levine and Mike Bronfeld (both members of CSUS) won their respective Division One singles finals. In so doing, they became members of the U.S. National Team.

The rest of the intercollegiate pack moved a notch closer to the CSUS and MSU powerhouses this year. Southwest Missouri State University came virtually from nowhere to challenge strongly and finish third. Two things made a big difference for SMSU — Mark Isley and partner Brian Bliss, and new team funding.

(continued on page 28)



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Southwest MSU team

Just before the tournament, SMSU officials had awarded the 20-member team an all-expense paid trip to the tournament, unusual among intercollegiate teams. SMSU justified that generosity with their strong showing, which was helped largely by their men's team.

Isley and Bliss shocked tournament watchers by upsetting the heavily favored MSU team of Todd O'Neil and Rick Komistek in the Division One doubles event. Isley also won the Division Two singles event, defeating Sacramento State's Mike Lowe in two games.

Another strong finisher — tied for fourth with Washington State University — was Central Michigan University, a team which had never broken into the top 10 before this year.

All told, 350 players representing 42 universities and colleges throughout the United States entered the tournament this year. Rules for racquetball teams are similar to those for other college sports. Many of the universities require their team players to be full-time students and maintain an average of 2.0 to be eligible. Training for most teams begins in the fall, with a few hours per week devoted to conditioning. These sessions build to several hours per week as the season gains momentum in the spring, and ends with hard practice before the nationals. ○

RESULTS

Men's Division One: Mike Bronfeld (California State University Sacramento) d. James Lorello (Memphis State University);

Men's Division Two: Mike Lowe (California State University Sacramento) d. Mark Isley (Southwest Missouri State University);

Men's Division Three: Dave Simonette (Memphis State University) d. Mark Heckman (Central Michigan University);

Men's Division Four: Shawn Fitzpatrick (California State University Sacramento) d. Rick Komistek (Memphis State University);

Men's Division One

Doubles: Brian Bliss/Mark Isley (Southwest Missouri State University) d. Todd O'Neil/Rick Komistek (Memphis State University);

Men's Division Two

Doubles: James Lorello/Dave Simonette (Memphis State University) d. Steve Moody/Shawn Fitzpatrick (California State University Sacramento)

Women's Division One: Robin Levine (California State University Sacramento) d. Joann Slater (Memphis State University);

Women's Division Two: Mona Mook (California State University Sacramento) d. Carrie Healey (Memphis State University);

Women's Division Three: Lisa Anthony (California State University Sacramento) d. Janet Burke (Memphis State University);

Women's Division Four: Kelly Pulis (California State University Sacramento) d. Nikki Anthony (California State University Sacramento);

Women's Division One Doubles:

Mona Mook/Lisa Anthony (California State University Sacramento) d. Joann Slater/Mischen McCrory (Memphis State University);

Women's Division Two Doubles:

Robin Levine/Kelly Pulis (California State University Sacramento) d. Carrie Healey/Janet Burke (Memphis State University)

Overall Team Standings:

1. Calif. State Sacramento — 219
2. Memphis State University — 194
3. Southwest Missouri State — 74
4. Central Michigan University — 57
5. Washington State University — 57
6. Texas A&M — 50
7. Providence College — 47
8. Ferris State University — 38
9. Penn State — 34
10. University of Minnesota — 32

Men's Team Standings:

Memphis State University — 102
California State Sacramento — 98
Southwest Missouri State — 61

Women's Team Standings:

California State Sacramento — 121
Memphis State University — 92
Providence College — 41

LILES AND MARTIN FRIENDS AND RIVALS

by Jean Chastain

Almost from the beginning of intercollegiate racquetball, Memphis State University dominated all teams. Larry Liles began coaching the team in 1975; for the next decade, MSU was unbeatable.

California State University Sacramento, guided by former U.S. National Team coach Ed Martin, entered a women's team at the Intercollegiate Nationals in 1985. They finished second to MSU.

In 1986, CSUS also entered a men's team. That year, a close second by the men's team and a win by the women's team gave CSUS the national championship. MSU placed second. In 1987 and 1988, the same circumstances — second by the men's team and first by the women's team — gave CSUS two more national titles, while MSU again placed second.

Larry Liles now coaches the U.S. National Team, having taken that position upon Ed Martin's retirement. Liles and Martin are close friends, and close rivals. As coaches of the two most powerful intercollegiate teams in racquetball, they provide interesting commentary on their rivalry, the format of competition and the future of college racquetball.

The Rivalry

CSUS's Ed Martin: "We start conditioning in September and then work in earnest toward the Nationals. Our main rivals are Memphis State, so we work to beat them from the first practice on.

"Sometimes [imitating Larry Liles] I'll come to practice wearing a sandy-gray wig. With a southern drawl, I will talk to my team and get them fired up.

"The last two weeks before the nationals — Larry and I are good friends and we trade hats, shirts and stuff — I wear a Memphis State shirt to practice to get my players a little upset and to get them fired up."

Memphis State's Larry Liles:

"We train all year, but simply for the nationals in general. We work out five days a week; nautilus, aerobics, special running, along with drills and practicing. We also travel to tournaments. During the second semester, we start



Dave Grosby of KFBX interviews Ed Martin, CSUS (left) and Larry Liles, MSU.

ranking our players by holding team playoffs to determine player standings on the team for the Nationals.

"These matches against each other are probably the toughest matches they will play, and sometimes it is tough to keep team closeness during this ranking time."

Ed Martin: "We talk a lot about Memphis State and which member each might play. When the guys go out on court, I might put a little sticker on one player's shirt which reads 'Dave Simonette' [MSU player]. Wearing that shirt, he will play the team member who might be playing Simonette in the nationals."

"We do little things like that, the rivalry stuff. MSU are the ones who beat us when we get beat, so we talk a lot about them. We tease each other about them, to get each other fired up for the tournament."

Larry Liles: "As far as how other teams look at us, competition sometimes brings out the worst in people. I try to tell my kids to shake it off because it is tough for others to see a program that has been successful when theirs has not reached that level."

"Everyone is out to be a winner, and that's part of the pressure of the sport, and this sport has more pressure than any other sport. You are on a team, but when you are on the court you are an individual and you have the pressure of trying to fulfill your team's goals."

Ed Martin: "The players on both

teams, despite who wins, get along well together. After the tournament last year, as close and as disappointing as it was (237-236 win for CSUS over MLSU), Larry and I had a beer or two, and talked..."

Larry Liles: "The players partied all night...the last two tournaments, they stayed in the same hotel, on the same floor and partied together. At the Houston Nationals, they were all at the pool together."

Combining Men's And Women's Results For The National Championship

Larry Liles: "I believe the feeling on combining the men's and women's teams for an overall win is a concern all across the country. It is causing a situation where one team puts pressure on the other, where the girls sometimes feel that the guys hold it against them if the team loses. I don't think there is pressure during the year until the collegiates. Then, once into play, it's not necessarily, 'Come on win,' but, 'don't let us down.'"

Ed Martin: "I disagree a little bit with Larry. We have discussed this a hundred times. My problem is just the opposite. My guess is, that when they go into a national championship, our

(continued on page 30)

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women are hoping our men don't let us down."

Larry Liles: "A women's and men's program should be played together, but the emphasis should not be put on the overall."

"The main key to it is that the men outnumber the women four or five to one. A lot of colleges enter this tournament without even having a women's team. Automatically they are without a chance to win."

Ed Martin: "Separating the women from the tournament in terms of not allowing them to be part of the overall championship would take the incentive and motivation from them to be a part of the team and would take the incentive and motivation from the school to go out and recruit women for a team program. I would like to see it stay together for a couple more years. This is where racquetball is unique."

"Softball, basketball and tennis have good strong programs for women at the national level. They don't need to be combined with the men anymore. But, in racquetball, we really do. Women's racquetball is a problem all over the country."

Larry Liles: "I think women's programs have got to grow, which is the point Ed is making, but I think we can make them grow without worrying about combining things. I don't have a problem with it other than one team seems to be so disappointed with the other, and it's just a distasteful thing for both of them."

Ed Martin: "It's not really fair to a university to have a great men's team and have them lose a national title, simply because the women didn't win the national title too. Looking at it from a purist's standpoint, it is unfair, but I also think of what would happen if we did it the other way. I think most of the universities would drop their women's teams. I would like to see them build up the women's team. Ultimately, though, I would like to see it separated."

Larry Liles: "Collegiate racquetball needs to put more emphasis on getting women to play. Three or four years ago, my classes at Memphis State were three-fourths girls. Now, it's the other way. Girls are dropping off at the more advanced level of the sport. They are still experimenting at the beginning levels, but few come back for the intermediate and advanced levels."

"The field is wide open for female

players to step into the top ranks of the amateurs. But, if you watch junior players...I watched the High School Nationals...the men's caliber of play was much higher than the girls. In speaking with them to determine their playing habits, I found a lot of the females were recreational players and were not pushing to make it to the top of the sport."

The Future

Larry Liles: "No one team has the depth and the strength that Ed's team and my team have. I think you will see more depth in other teams in the future, but right now it's that way."

Ed Martin: "Ferris State in Michigan has a scholarship program, and they always bring a full team. They are trying to put one athletic scholarship per year into their program."

"Southwest Missouri State and Purdue bring full teams. Two teams on the west coast, Cal [Cal Poly] and Stanford, are going to surprise everyone. They have tradition, facilities and financial support. Both brought a full women's team and two full men's teams."

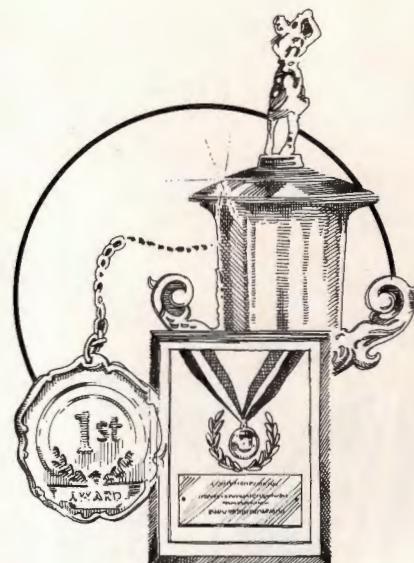
Larry Liles: "A combination of the MSU/CSUS competitive relationship, friendship and sportsmanship has drawn a tremendous interest from other colleges and they want to be a part of it."

"Florida and Texas are putting programs together. Texas A&M and the University of Texas Arlington have strong individual players and are building strong teams."

"This will help our credibility as a collegiate program, having not one, two or three, but a dozen strong schools making the competitive line of play more even."

Ed Martin: "What's unfortunate for other teams is that they don't have the Ed Martins and Larry Liles out there to raise the money, and believe me, every year it's a hair-pulling experience to come up with the \$30,000 to keep the program going. Without the Friends for Sacramento and the Rollouts for Memphis State [both fundraising groups without university ties], we wouldn't have it either. It's tough." O

Coaches Martin and Liles forecast a three or four year period of time before other teams come up with solid players throughout all levels of the men's and women's divisions. Thus, it would appear that Sacramento State and Memphis State will remain rivals for three or four more intercollegiate nationals.



WHO WON THE NATIONAL RACQUETBALL READERS PLAYER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

RESULTS WILL APPEAR IN THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE

INNER CITY RACQUETBALL

This program reaches out

by Sid Williams

The AARA Outreach/Development Program On Racquetball has been designed to do for racquetball what Arthur Ashe did for tennis in the 1960's. He introduced the game to the inner cities of this country, giving the economically disadvantaged a chance to learn.

Inner city racquetball programs are just beginning in various communities across the United States; each consists of on-court activities taught by volunteers. Groups of players who enjoy working with young people run the Outreach/Development program in conjunction with existing programs in schools, YM/YWCA's, private clubs, junior chambers of commerce, military installations or similar places.

At first, the biggest drawback to the program was a lack of equipment. All program activities are taught free to anyone who cares to attend. Equipment is lent to the players to be turned in at the end of each session, for re-use by the participants of the next session.

But where to get that original equipment?

Members of the program sent a plea to players across the country using bulletin boards, personal contact or AARA state and regional newsletters. Equipment boxes were set up at all AARA sanctioned events for donated items (used racquets, eyeguards and balls) which could be used as a tax deduction. The response was good, but more racquets were needed.

Then came the crucial boost to the program. In January, 1988, during an AARA Regional and State Director Seminar in Colorado Springs, CO, representatives of Ektelon agreed to donate cosmetically defective racquets. Used balls were easily acquired from sanctioned tournaments. The program was ready to go.

In Tacoma, WA, for example, Hank Brown, director of the Inner City Boys' Club, was quick to accept this program. A brief survey there indicated that 95 percent of the kids had heard of the game, yet less than three percent had had the opportunity to play. Until now.

For starts, the local school district

agreed to distribute program information throughout all its schools. The local Boys' Club agreed to transport the kids to various sites. Not one local racquetball facility hesitated to donate court-time to the program.

It means that this month, as school ends for a summer break, the "other 92 percent" will be racquetball bound if they choose. It is a story repeated, fortunately, in other major cities across the U.S.

With this kind of response, as the program grows, racquetball will get back what it gives. Program players with sincere interest, dedication and some talent will be given their own equipment and encouraged to develop, and maybe someday will teach as well. As all these players grow into the sport, the sport will grow. ○

Anyone interested in joining the Outreach/Development program may contact Sid Williams at 5227 S. Puget Sound St., Tacoma, WA 98409, (206) 473-2266, or The AARA Outreach/Development Program, 815 North Weber, Suite 203, Colorado Springs, CO 80903, (303) 635-5396.

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- ☐ 70+
- ☐ 75+

MEN

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- ☐ 50+
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- ☐ 60+
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ASSOCIATION ROUNDUP

New Directions

by Luke St. Onge - AARA

In past columns, you have often read about programs which have been adopted by the AARA. Many of these developmental programs were de-



signed to place racquetball on a par with other major sports. In these initial stages, you have been asked to be patient and allow these "seeds" to mature.

This month it is my pleasure to report the significant and timely results of some important efforts. First and foremost, in a landmark decision by the House of Delegates of the United States Olympic Committee at its annual meeting in April, a by-law amendment was passed which has a major impact on racquetball. The USOC constitution now stipulates that Group C Sports (which includes racquetball) are eligible to participate in future Olympic Festivals as demonstration sports. Olympic Festivals occur annually between regular Olympic Game years, and feature all Olympic and Pan Am Sports. The 1989 Festival will be held in Oklahoma City, then move to Minneapolis-St. Paul in 1990 and Los Angeles in 1991. This particular Olympic opportunity is a major breakthrough for Group C Sports, and certainly did not come about overnight.

For the past four years, Group C Sports have been trying to gain entrance into the Olympic Festivals. Under the leadership of AARA's Keith Calkins (who sits on the USOC Executive Board), the necessary legislative change was once again submitted for approval last year, and was again rejected. Keith, with the support of a full roster of Group C Sports, mounted a campaign to have the legislation approved at the House of Delegates Meeting in April. After a long, hard lobbying effort to change sentiment towards the developing sports, he felt strongly enough about our chances to delay major back surgery in order to lead the floor fight at the House meeting. On a hand vote following a voice vote, his hard work and personal sacrifice paid off and the legislation passed. The selection process, plus the actual playing format for "Olympic Festival racquetball" will be formalized and acted upon by the AARA Board of Directors, with final approval by the USOC

Committee Meeting.

In another historic decision, the Junior Olympic Committee voted to allow Group C Sports to participate in Junior Olympic Programs. The USOC Junior Olympic Program is run by the respective national governing bodies (NGBs) of each member sport, enabling the AARA to now use the term "Junior Olympics" in the title, and development, of its program. As yet, we are not completely aware of the positive impact this will have on the AARA, but we will certainly keep you informed.

To re-emphasize the importance of our involvement with the USOC, I'd like to share the following facts and figures that might put things into perspective. Beginning in 1989, the USOC will shift to centralized funding to finance its member organizations. Group A Sports are those which are included in Pan Am or Olympic Games. Currently, the formula for allocating funds from the estimated \$50 million annual USOC budget is: 92% to Group A Sports; 3% to Group B and C Sports; and 5% to Group E (disabled) Sports. Despite the obvious benefits, we still have those critics in our sport who are against the Olympic movement for racquetball. I ask anyone to argue with the results of a minute or two of mathematical calculation with the above figures, which clearly illustrates exactly how racquetball will benefit by becoming a Group A Sport.

These developments, and the good news they represent, can be directly attributed to the continued loyalty and support of AARA members — and to the strength of our combined efforts to see racquetball take its rightful place in the sporting world. ○

V-8 Nationals A Huge Success by Bill Houldsworth, CRA

With a record draw of 530 players, the 1988 V-8 Senior Championships



can only be called a huge success. Considered by many veteran nationals attendees to be the best tournament ever, the Victoria event was a classic from beginning to end.

The local organizing committee lead by Jack McBride covered all the bases to make the event a first class affair.

at its November Executive

From the time the athletes arrived at the Victoria airport to the time they left, they were treated to the beautiful B.C. friendship. The committee was on top of everything you could have asked for.

Off the court at the V-8 Nationals, people will be talking about the friends they made from the shuttle bus drivers, who always seemed to be there when you wanted to go back to the hotel, to the club control desk staff who knew how to get to those places you had missed as you wandered around Victoria.

Although some matches did run late as can be expected at a tournament with 530 participants and using four clubs, not many people seemed to mind as the hospitality supplied by the committee kept the participants satisfied.

On the court the action was first rate with most of the top seeds advancing. In the women's "A" event final, Montreal's Heather Stupp was ready to defend her 1987 title against Charlottetown's Lisa Devine. Devine, as number two seed had worked her way through the draw while playing doubles with Stupp in the women's "A" category. Number one seed Stupp defeated Devine 3-0 in a match which slowly saw Stupp take control. Her pinch shots combined with her strong forehand gave her the edge.

In the men's "A" event Manitoba's Sherman Greenfeld defended his title won last year in Edmonton against number 14th seed Simon Roy from Quebec City. Roy, who is still a junior, finished second in the 1987 World Junior Championships last December in Miami. The number one seed Greenfeld took the match 3-0 against the young Roy who is a very good bet to return to the finals in future years.

A special thanks goes out to all those people who volunteered their time and energy to make the tournament such a huge success. Without their outstanding contribution to the sport of racquetball, events such as the 1988 V-8 Nationals could not operate.

The CRA Annual General Meeting is also held during the tournament each year. Among the many items discussed and voted on in May were rule changes which will be included in next month's report. In addition, two Directors at Large positions were up for re-election and Nova Scotia's Dan Stone and Montreal's Yvan Girardin were acclaimed.

At the Board of Directors meeting which followed the A.G.M., a new Executive Committee was elected. The CRA Executive Committee for 1988-89 is President: Dan Stone, 1st Vice President: Ian McKenzie, 2nd Vice President: Dave Hinton, V.P. Finance: Jean Desautels, Secretary: Barb Jabbour. ○

TONEY TAKES THE DUTCH OPEN

When military commitments kept American Lou Souther, one of Europe's top players, away from the 10th Dutch Open Championships it opened the door for all his rivals. Initially, one of his major rivals and a fellow countryman, Frank Toney, was not on the draw sheet either.

This meant the other two top seeds, Holland's Ronald de Zwijger and Germany's Jörg Hanold, had what appeared to be a clear path to the finals. Then — fortunately for the tournament directors and unfortunately for the players — Toney entered at the last minute to shift the seeding of the draw and ultimately win the tournament.

It was not an easy weekend for Frank Toney, despite his semifinal dominance of Jörg Hanold. In earlier confrontations, their battles had been fierce and long. However, the work involved in his new business and a lack of competition in Germany has taken the edge from Hanold's game, and Toney won two straight, 15-8, 15-10.

The other semifinal pitted the finalists of 1987's Fourth European Championships, Ronald de Zwijger and Richard van Doezum, against each other. Van Doezum easily won the first game, but relaxed to lose the second, as he sometimes does in tournament play, and lost the tiebreaker 15-13.

It sent Ronald de Zwijger into the finals against Frank Toney. In all their four previous confrontations, Toney had defeated de Zwijger, but all four matches had gone to tiebreakers. This final, despite the promising rivalry, became anti-climactic. The first game was close, almost to the end, but Toney's diving retrieves (sometimes four per rally) and safe shot selection gave him game one. Game two was much shorter; Toney said later he hoped the match would help him prepare for an anticipated tournament showdown with Lou Souther at the upcoming USAF Airforce Tournament. (The winner of this tournament wins airfare to the All Airforce Tournament in the United States.)

In the Dutch Open, there was little competition for the home-country women players. At the moment, their strongest European competition is the Irish women, who could not travel to Holland for this tournament. It meant that the semifinals became an all-Dutch

by René Hehemann

event. Brigitte Corsius, seeded first, defeated unseeded Anke Holstein in two games. Dineke Kool, the second seed, won easily in two short games against Philomine van Pelt.

The women's final was exciting; it had all the elements of tournament racquetball, from technically sound play to long rallies to glares at referees. Corsius, who shows better racquet control and court sense, won easily in game one, then became impatient in game two. She stopped waiting for safe shots, and Kool took advantage of those mistakes to win 15-8. The tiebreaker went to 14-14. Despite a 13-11 lead earlier, Corsius could not hang on and Dineke Kool prevailed to win her first Dutch Open.

The tournament drew 86 players from four countries. O

RESULTS

Men's Open

Semifinals

Frank Toney (USA) d. Jörg Hanold (GER)

Ronald de Zwijger (HOL) d. Richard van Doezum (HOL)

Finals

Toney d. de Zwijger

Men's B

Semifinals

Earl Mike (USA) d. Bernd Dröge (GER)

Clive Woods (USA) d. Paul Aguayo (USA)

Finals

Woods d. Mike

Men's C

Semifinals

Edwin Schippers (HOL) d. Ger van der Kleut (HOL)

Ralph Tittel (HOL) d. David Holmes (USA)

Finals

Schippers d. Tittel

Men's Doubles

Semifinals

Toney/Ruth (USA) d. van de Kamp/van der Holst (HOL)

Scheffer/Klinke (GER) d. Mooyman/Bik (HOL)

Finals

Toney/Ruth d. Scheffer/Klinke

Women's Open

Semifinals

Brigitte Corsius (HOL) d. Anke Holstein (HOL)

Dineke Kool (HOL) d. Philomine van Pelt (HOL)

Finals

Kool d. Corsius

Women's B

Semifinals

Marja Koen (HOL) d. Joke Poeliejo (HOL)

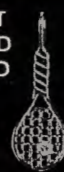
Loes Peters (HOL) d. Doris Knappe (GER)

Finals

Peters d. Koen



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THE ST. LOUIS REVOLUTION, PART II

The Source of Fire

Last month, Ken Wong described his introduction to St. Louis racquetball. It was a style which revolutionized the game. Led by players such as Marty Hogan, Steve Serot and Jerry Hilecher — all players who had at one point reached the highest ranking in racquetball — the St. Louis players dominated the game in points and excitement. Incredibly, these three players, and a half dozen more greats of that era, all came from one club, the Jewish Community Center Association.

Ken Wong, a top professional himself, calls the JCCA the 'source of fire'.

In 1972, the J was the site of the Nationals. Charlie Brumfield defeated Steve Serot for one of his five national titles. Last January, 16 years later, Brumfield and Serot returned to the J during a major tournament to replay that match. Many of the old players returned as well, somehow managing to reach inside for one last glorious burst of adrenalin. For Ken Wong, it brought back a flood of memories.

Last month, Ken described his first exposure to St. Louis racquetball at a national tournament in Memphis, TN.

by Ken Wong

He ended by observing, "I never saw anyone else like these two kids, Jerry Hilecher and Steve Serot. On my way home from the tournament, I tried to grasp what I had seen but everything was too foreign. I was missing too many pieces of the puzzle."

Some of the missing pieces of the puzzle were about to come together

about Joe Zelson and his recovery from a heart attack through racquetball. Since he played at the St. Louis JCCA I headed out to the J after class one day and plunked down my \$60 student membership fee.

I discovered that the tournament players played in the late afternoon between 2:30 and 4:30 on weekdays and all day on Saturday and Sunday. So, I appeared behind Court Five one day and presented my round-of-16 finish in the Nationals as my membership card into this special group of players.

Why Court Five when Court One was the glass court? Court Five is prominently situated at the entrance so that a spectator doesn't have to go very far to see the cream of the crop. Plus, mostly handball players played on Court One. My first hour on this court was an indication of the J's system. I arrived at 4:30, too late to be considered for a match by one of the elite players. But Serot's friend, Freddy Kreis, offered to play me a game. A friendly guy

and a friendly game.

All of a sudden a gallery of about 10 appeared. Then a stream of players wanted a piece of the action. I felt like



Ben Koltun

when I left the Army that summer and went to St. Louis to pursue a doctorate in computer science. I had just read an old article in a racquetball magazine

The Other JCCA Greats

Ben Koltun

Ben Koltun appeared on the scene after Marty Hogan. He started playing as a pudgy 12-year-old, 170-pound kid in 1970. Surprisingly, he would later become known for his quickness and agility on the court. Five or six hours a day of racquetball was not uncommon for Koltun. He loved the game and he loved the fact that he lost weight quickly. He spent a lot of time hitting alone in the early afternoon, then playing one pickup game after another until he had to go home for dinner.

Ben had entered the game at a good time. The pro tour was established, there was an active junior program and he had Serot, Hilecher and

Hogan to watch. He rose fast, winning the Junior Nationals in 1975 and the Nationals in 1976 (against fellow St. Louisan Rudy Loesche). He entered the pros the next season, became rookie of the year in 1977, and reached the top four in 1978. He was on top of the world with Charlie Brumfield, Steve Serot and Marty Hogan.

The spirit of the game drove him to the top. It was an exciting time to be playing the best players in the world. Game styles were wide ranging. Every player was devoted to his own variant of the game — Brumfield's intellectual punch-and-counter punch, Hogan's power game, Serot's dive-and-kill, Hilecher's gun-and-run, Steve Keeley's

artistic paddleball style, and Steve Strandemo's deliberate scurry.

Koltun had some great wins along the way. Hogan in Detroit, Brumfield in the Tournament of Champions to name a few. As it turned out, Benny met Marty again in the January tournament and won. To Benny's credit, he may be playing his best racquetball in 10 years, even though he is no longer on the tour.

His career really ended in 1981, although officially he quit in 1983. It was not a good year for pro racquetball, 1981; the tour was by invitation only, and Benny was frozen out that year at the age of 23. The injustice seemed to take the fight out of him. It was too bad, because he loved the game.

I was surrounded by a school of sharks. Everyone at the J shot the ball, even the lowliest player. I instead chose to drive the ball 10 or 20 times before even attempting anything resembling a kill shot. I'm glad the ball was dead in those days.

Steve Serot was the best player at the J and would soon be ranked second nationally behind Charlie Brumfield. On the court, he was the number one shark. Big, strong, fast, he had one thing on his mind. Points. He put on a great show.

Serot played singles like he played doubles, always on his toes or his stomach, never on his heels. He played a pure form of the game — run down every ball possible and don't stop until the point is clearly over. Pain and oxygen debt were unimportant. Winning each and every rally was.

I saw close up what a St. Louis player looked like. These guys loved to score points. Lots of them in a hurry. If you could win 21-0 you did it. No apologies. On Court Five, it was the other player's responsibility to get his points, not yours. You just played your heart out. If you lost 21-0, you never admitted that he was better. Tomorrow was another day. In those early days, I never heard anyone admit he couldn't beat the next player, not even when Brumfield came into town.

The J bred and cultivated a deep competitive spirit. It bred drive and determination which is part of the very inner soul of a championship player. If

you have some old racquetball magazines, look at the eyes of the players in some of the action photos. They literally burn with fire. The J was a source of energy, one that lit the inner fire which is required to get through those tough times when the body has quit and the spirit must carry on.

If you looked at Jerry Hilecher's backhand in those days it was definitely amateurish. So was Serot's forehand. But they had a raging fire within! The fire spread from Hilecher and Serot to the others — Marty Hogan, then Ben Koltun and the rest.

I remember my match with Benny in the regionals here at the J in 1975. After the second hour we had moved from the battlefield of shots and strategy into an almost spiritual arena. At that time I feared that Benny had the talent and the speed to be the heir to Hogan's throne and I wanted to test his resolve. I used every ploy and tactic which I had accumulated over the years and mercilessly made him tour the court. I also argued for every rule interpretation in my favor. Koltun did not wilt.

In one long rally, he dropped to the floor in pain. I calmly asked him if he was injured or if he had a leg cramp. When he said he was cramping, I went for the jugular and told him that he could not call an

injury time-out for cramps and that he had 10 seconds to prepare for my serve. He hauled himself off the floor and fought for another half hour, hitting surprisingly good shots in obvious pain.

Only after he fell to the floor for the fourth or fifth time and his mother ran onto the court for the second time screaming for mercy, was the match finally stopped. His desire showed it would only be a matter of time before he would also take his place among the greats.

To tell you the truth, racquetball for me has never been as much fun as it was then. It seemed a time of innocence and simplicity. We thrived on the competition and lived for the chance to hone and test our skills against the best. We were warriors in search of our individual versions of truth and beauty. It wasn't the winning or losing that counted, just the struggle.

Although the atmosphere at the J was highly competitive, we all enjoyed it that way. There wasn't a lot of deep friendship between the top players, but there was always respect. There was a large core of players who just loved the

camaraderie. I still remember
(continued on page 36)



The Gross Brothers

Jerry Zuckerman started at the late age of 16 in 1972. He beat Hogan in the semifinals of the 1974 Junior Regionals, won the 1977 IRA Nationals and turned pro in 1978. He consistently reached the top 16 on the tour. He had great foot speed and ran around his backhand to hit his left handed forehand, typically a splat. The lack of adequate prize money and what he felt was a high degree of cheating among the pros soured him to racquetball and he left the tour after only two years.

Doug Cohen started playing racquetball in 1967 at the age of five. He lived near the J and he frequently played doubles with his whole family after school. At age 17 in 1979, he reached

the semifinals of the IRA Amateur Nationals. He immediately entered the pro tour in the fall of 1979 and soon reached the top eight, playing a solid all-around game with few weaknesses. His most memorable match was his win over Hogan in Amarillo in 1983. He left the tour in the fall of 1986 to pursue other opportunities and is now in the real estate and investment property business.

David Gross started playing in 1975 at the age of nine. Like everyone else, he lived near the J and played with friends after school. He won the Junior Nationals for 12- and 13-year-olds and entered the pro tour in 1983. Surprisingly, he beat Mike Yellen in the

Ektelon Nationals in the first round that year. He has consistently been ranked in the top 16 and is known as a power player.

Andy Gross started playing in 1976 after tagging along with his older brother David. Like David, he won two Junior National titles and then quickly moved up to the pros at the age of 15. Of all the players at the J, Andy's game is probably the closest to Hogan's in purity. He has been consistently ranked in the mid teens on the pro tour and is now at the ripe old age of 19. Interestingly, he beat Hilecher in the finals of the St. Louis tournament and recently beat Mike Yellen in Portland.
(continued on page 36)

THE ST. LOUIS REVOLUTION

(continued from page 35)

the annual trips to the Illinois (University of Illinois) Open. One year the players rented a bus. Invariably some of us would end up playing each other. The competition would be fierce and the J players would be split in loyalty.

One year, Hilecher and I battled from 9:00 p.m. until past midnight. It was the third match for both of us that day, and we both had cramps in every muscle, from the neck down to the toes. After each rally (which was never short), Jerry's father would come onto the court and step on Jerry's toes to straighten them out. I would have to get someone to peel my fingers off my racket during time-outs. But the winner could count on the full backing of the J the next day.

Also, the hospitality at the J was next

to none. You know what they say about Jewish mothers. Every player was temporarily adopted by the players' mothers and wives. In those days, families of local players would house the other players. And there was always a big Saturday night party at someone's house during a tournament. You could get scouting reports

(continued on page 38)



A young Hogan (left) and Jerry Hilecher at the J.

JCCA Greats

(continued from page 35)

During the early years **Marty Hogan** played unnoticed on Court One. I thought Marty Hogan and his buddies were very unusual characters. Here was a kid who literally enjoyed the fact that he claimed his title as the player who hit the highest velocity skip balls and could go into the tank even with match point staring him in the face.

While all of the serious players were beating their bodies on Court Five, he and his friends were on Court One hitting skip balls and loving every minute of it. After an hour or two of this, Marty would sit down with his younger friends (they had to be at least eight years old) and proceed to beat the pants off of them in gin rummy. Because his mother was the court attendant, he was there every day. I had never met another personality like his. Outsiders thought he was either obnoxious or missing a few screws. But as you got to know him, you realized that he really enjoyed what he was doing. Little did I know that I was witness to the birth of the modern game.

Somehow Marty managed to find the best elements of everyone else's game and integrate them into a game plan which revolved around power and pure offense. Instead of using the drive to setup the kill shot, he reversed their roles and used the kill to setup the drive. His practice methods were unusual. He mostly liked to blast the ball alone on the court. Even when he spent his first summer in San Diego with the intention of polishing his game, I heard

that he avoided the top players and spent most of his time either hitting alone or beating the brains out of lower level players. But it worked for him.

I still remember the day he had just come back from spending most of the summer in San Diego. It was the summer after his Vermont tournament where he revealed the full potential of his awesome game and proceeded to pummel the best players (Brumfield, Serot, and Keeley) one right after the other. We got together to play a game just for old times sake. He was warming up by tossing the ball straight up in the air about ten feet and then fly killing the ball with his forehand as it dropped to about knee level. Time after time he would flat out roll the ball. So, I said, "Hey, Marty!" As he turned toward me, he grinned and rolled the ball out of the left corner without even looking at the ball. I couldn't believe what I saw.

He won the serve. He cranked and wham, the ball shot off his racquet. My brain slowed the ball down as it bounced from the front wall. First, the ball wobbled like a knuckle ball. Then, it hit the floor about six inches past the short line and suddenly squirted off to my left. My legs never moved, never even shifted weight to the left. I thought it must have been a wet spot. He grinned at me. Second serve. Crank, wham, same serve. I would later find out that I had just witnessed his *vision serve*.

Like Brumfield, I realized then that my quest for perfection was over. Up until that point, I had an axiom that the correct strategy in the long run could counter shot execution. The belief was based on the observation that wild fluc-

tuations in the quality of shot execution occurred much more frequently than in the application of good strategy. But here was the epitome of perfection in execution. At the moment, the fast balls and this gifted athlete seemed to make the pursuit of better strategies a useless goal. I could have the best strategy, but I could not win unless he let me.

I can't say it any better than Brumfield did recently (*National Racquetball*, November 1987). Hogan knew he was better than any other player. When he said he was great, he wasn't trying to convince you he was great. It was just a fact if you cared to know about it. He loved playing racquetball. He loved the creativity it took to roll the ball out from impossible positions and loved letting you see how the game should really be played. You weren't an opponent — just a witness and a partner at an exhibition. Was he thinking about big bucks that summer? No. He just loved the fact that Leach Industries gave him a gym bag and two Brumfield Carbon Swingers.

Now he's 30 years old. Two knee operations later he is mixing squash and tennis with racquetball. He still hits spectacular shots when he wants to, but it's a little tougher to close out the matches. The fire doesn't burn like it use to. He and his wife Ann live in nearby Chesterfield and are expecting their first child. He'll probably retire from active competition in a few years but he has left his mark on the game as one of the greatest players of all time and certainly as the player who revolutionized the game. ○

A black and white photograph of Steve Strandemo, a professional racquetball player, in a ready stance. He is wearing a white polo shirt with "EKTELON" on the chest, dark shorts, white socks, and white sneakers. He is holding a racquetball racket in his right hand, and a ball is visible in the air near his head. The background is a plain wall.

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Milwaukee, WI	Aug. 10-14	Aug. 12-14
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I can't forget the hospitality showered upon me over the years from the first day I walked into the J. I certainly can't forget the Thanksgivings I spent at the Zelson's where I learned Chinese and Jewish customs. My mother always said that an empty plate was one way of honoring the host and hostess. To my surprise, Joe's wife Gloria would fill my plate every time I cleaned it. Only after I stuffed myself with five pounds of food did I have the heart to protest that I really was not hungry any more.

Who at the J now carries the torch so that it can be passed on? Is it Andy Gross? Or will another player with uncommon skills and charisma burst onto the scene? These were some of my questions as I headed for the pro tournament at the J in January.

As I entered the J to catch some of the matches, I peered through the crowd and noticed that I didn't recognize anyone. Then, this young woman ran up to me and called out my name. For a moment, I stared at her, wondering who she was. Suddenly, with embarrassment and warmth, I recognized Ann Hilecher, Jerry's mother, looking 10 years younger instead of 10 years older. All of the memories of those bygone days rushed back.

I worked my way through the crowd and more familiar faces appeared. It began to feel just like old times. Lenny Marks was behind the scorer's table trying to schedule the 400 plus entrants. Danny Hilecher was rounding up referees. Joe Zelson was recounting the details of some match I had long forgotten. I ran into countless other players I had met at the J 15 years ago.

I watched Ben Koltun beat Marty Hogan. It seemed that the magic had left Marty's racquet and the fire had left his soul. But then I watched Hogan and

Koltun play their doubles match against Jerry Hilecher and Doug Cohen and saw the magic return as Marty rolled three backhand fly kills into the right corner. I watched Hilecher beat Koltun, and the intensity of the match looked like a return to the 1970's. Finally, I watched Andy Gross beat Jerry

Hilecher with awesome power in the finals. Was this the beginning of another revolution? Was this what racquetball needed to make it fun again?

The nostalgia match was an exhibition between Brumfield and Serot, commemorating their finals match in the 1972 Nationals. I placed my bet on Serot. This was the first time in my life I had bet against Charlie. I reasoned that Steve was 10 years younger, ran five miles a day, and had been practicing for a month

for this event. Charlie, on the other hand, looked more like he had been doing wine commercials. Even if he had been playing, age would make the difference. I was so convincing that all bets in the gallery started to shift toward Serot, the hometown favorite.

As the game began, you could see that both players had trouble remembering a kill shot. They struggled to suck air into their lungs. Then they both settled into a rhythm; the past began to repeat itself. First, Charlie planted himself in the middle of the court, forcing Steve to run around him, and jammed Steve with his wide angled cross court shots. Then, Charlie complained about the refereeing. Finally, there was a ferocious rally. With both players sprawled on the floor, Charlie got onto his knees, blocked Steve's view of the ball, and lunged to hit a forehand dump into the front corner for a winner.

The crowd erupted, and Charlie glared at Steve lying on the floor. After the match, Charlie burst through the crowd with a reporter in tow, and I overheard these familiar words from him, "You have all the facts you need to write a super story." ○



Jerry Zuckerman

THE "NOSTALGIA" TOURNAMENT WINNER?

Yet another St. Louis native — Andy Gross
by Jack Herman

The "book" on Andy Gross is that he lacks the killer instinct to be one of the country's foremost racquetball players. It's a label that the younger member of a brother act on the tour disproved among the legends here this tournament.

At 19, Andy is one of the youngest stars on the RMA men's professional tour. His brother David, also a touring pro at 23 is no slouch either, but Andy was the man of the hour in the St. Louis Pro-Am Open.

"I've heard that [lack of killer instinct] charge," admitted Gross after he won the title, but his powerful game stunned finalist and veteran pro Jerry Hilecher. Hilecher was never able to slow down Gross's aggressiveness and rhythm.

"It's a fact," conceded Hilecher, "that Andy has one of the best drives serves in the game. He'll be a player to be reckoned with in the future."

Although the match went only four games (11-3, 11-4, 4-11 and 11-6), there was a time in the final game when Hilecher crept within a point of catching Gross.

"I definitely wanted to win in my home town," Gross said, "especially since I've been growing up and idolizing guys like Charlie Brumfield, Marty Hogan, Steve Serot and Jerry Hilecher. I found myself getting too excited and not concentrating on the game."

With most of Gross's heroes in the tournament, there were some surprising results. Former touring pro Ben Koltun surprised Marty Hogan by winning in their quarter final match up, an ironic result since they have been friends — and foes — as far back as their Ladue High School days in the St. Louis area.

Hogan and Koltun then paired to defeat Mike Ray and Jack Newman for the doubles title. In women's singles, Colleen Shields defeated Sue DiPiano for the title, while DiPiano and Lynn Hursters took home the doubles championship. ○

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Mens AARA Official Rankings

April 28, 1988

Mens Open: 1-J. Cascio, PA; 2-D. Ganim, OH; 3-C. Nichols, FL; 4-T. Hansen, FL; 5-A. Roberts, TN; 6-L. Gilliam, TX; 7-T. Anthony, OH; 8-S. Gonzalez, FL; **Mens A:** 1-B. Ferguson, OH; 2-R. Alsop, IN; 3-S. Reiff, FL; 4-J. Minkel, TX; 5-C. Call, FL; 6-D. Kartchner, CO; 7-G. Mavrikis, NY; 8-S. Lerner, OH; **Mens B:** 1-B. Buckalew, GA; 2-R. Kline, SD; 3-N. Rallis, MI; 4-R. Jackson, FL; 5-M. Sturgeon, TX; 6-S. Reiff, FL; 7-B. Charno, MN; 8-R. Miller, WA; **Mens C:** 1-S. Monchik, NY; 2-M. Volterre, FL; 3-J. Clark, FL; 4-T. Krogman, OH; 5-R. Bates, CA; 6-G. Fong, WA; 7-J. McCubbin, Jr., TX; 8-B. Schirmacher, MN; **Mens D:** 1-W. Zapata, WA; 2-B. Lee, TX; 3-K. Martin, CA; 4-J. Martyniak, IN; 5-J. McIntosh, MN; 6-C. Surls, FL; 7-D. Colby, UT; 8-T. Dawson, OH; **Mens Novice:** 1-B. Johnson, MN; 2-J. Cain, TX; 3-D. Delong, WA; 4-K. Vogelsang, MN; 5-M. Albetti, IL; 6-W. Bailey, WA; 7-R. Cadet, NY; 8-L. Caplan, MD; **Mens Wheelchair Open:** 1-G. Baker, WV; 2-C. Parmelly, CA; 3-D. Kiley, CA; 4-B. Marvin, CT; 5-S. Jared, CA; 6-M. Munson, WV; 7-M. Jenkins, WV; 8-D. Hanley, WV; **Mens Wheelchair Intermediate:** 1-M. Golondzinier, CA; 2-R. Jensen, CA; 3-G. Baker, WV; 4-S. Jared, CA; 5-J. Castellanos, CA; 6-B. Marvin, CA; 7-A. Rosenberg, CA; 8-R. Scanlon, CA; **Mens Wheelchair Novice:** 1-D. Gassaway, CA; 2-D. Fouquette, CA; 3-R. Ibarra, CA; 4-J. Chase, CA; **Mens Wheelchair Junior:** 1-A. Lara, CA; 2-E. Swanson, CA; **Mens 8NB:** 1-R. Thompson, AL; 2-B. Hansen, IA; 3-S. Vanderson, OH; 4-J. Conway, FL; 5-J. Hanaway, IN; 6-J. Helgson, WI; 7-S. Huggins, FL; 8-N. Schultz, OH; **Mens 8:** 1-J. Boyett, CA; 2-T. Siggins, CA; 3-S. Huggins, FL; 4-B. Hansen, IA; 5-H. Spangenberg, CA; 6-R. Thompson, AL; 7-M. Saad, CO; 8-T. St. Pierre, FL; **Mens 10:** 1-S. Brown, CA; 2-B. Zimmerman, MI; 3-A. Meyer, CO; 4-W. Miller, TN; 5-M. Hurst, FL; 6-J. Carpenter, IA; 7-S. Wood, MA; 8-E. Storey, IN; **Mens 12:** 1-C. Czyz, FL; 2-S. Monchik, NY; 3-S. Zimmerman, MI; 4-J. Mannino, NY; 5-T. Lepera, IN; 6-A. Thompson, WI; 7-J. Nishimura, WA; 8-S. Smith, WA; **Mens 14:** 1-A. Engel, FL; 2-J. Ellis, CA; 3-J. Ellenberger, WI; 4-C. Czyz, FL; 5-C. O'Connell, CO; 6-R. Davis, IN; 7-T. Sabbatini, NY; 8-A. Bagnal, CA; **Mens 15:** 1-T. Talley, WI; 2-T. Lange, WI; 3-E. Breese, WI; 4-P. Allin, CA; 5-R. Farris, TN; 6-P. Krueger, WI; 7-R. Garcia, TX; 8-T. King, TN; **Mens 16:** 1-R. Walden, FL; 2-J. Paraiso, CA; 3-J. Bonnett, MI; 4-M. Locker, MN; 5-N. Glantz, NY; 6-C. Garrido, TX; 7-J. Hundley, FL; 8-S. Reiff, FL; **Mens 18:** 1-J. Floyd, MI; 2-D. Simonetta, MD; 3-E. Ramm, CA; 4-D. Robinson, WA; 5-J. Lorello, FL; 6-N. Rallis, MI; 7-D. Sibell, MN; 8-T. Doyle, NY; **Mens 19:** 1-M. Bronfeld, CA; 2-C. Winter, FL; 3-B. Rodriguez, CO; 4-A. Kahn, TX; 5-C. Nichols, FL; 6-B. Erickson, MN; 7-D. Gopfert, MA; 8-M. Nagel, NY; **Mens 25:** 1-T. Hansen, FL; 2-B. Huber, FL; 3-D. Levy, FL; 4-J. Scargle, FL; 5-B. Lyman, IL; 6-J. Gillhouse, AL; 7-S. White, AL; 8-D. Negrete, IL; **Mens 30:** 1-D. Kovanda, OH; 2-B. Corcoran, AZ; 3-R. Strout, UT; 4-B. Land, LA; 5-S. Hastings, MI; 6-M. Layton, FL; 7-S. Worthy, MI; 8-K. Arrowsmith, FL; **Mens 35:** 1-C. Kunkel, CA; 2-D. Kovanda, OH; 3-H. Grigg, IL; 4-S. Chapman, FL; 5-G. Owen, FL; 6-P. Redelheim, TN; 7-S. Shapiro, MA; 8-M. Layton, FL; **Mens 40:** 1-S. Heguy, NH; 2-C. Kunkel, CA; 3-J. Hennen, TN; 4-H. Grigg, IL; 5-J. Clift, UT; 6-E. Remen, VA; 7-S. Robles, TX; 8-R. Wehrle, GA; **Mens 45:** 1-R. Wehrle, GA; 2-C. Garfinkel, NY; 3-R. Galbreath, PA; 4-R. Hutcherson, IN; 5-T. Rumsey, FL; 6-R. Lawler, IN; 7-T. Perna, OH; 8-R. Johnson, IL; **Mens 50:** 1-S. Marcus, FL; 2-B. Wetzal, CA; 3-S. Williams, WA; 4-M. Blair, MN; 5-S. Elman, MA; 6-J. Fay, TX; 7-O.

RMA Pro Tour Official Rankings

May 31, 1988

1	R. Gonzalez	12,370
2	B. Harnett	10,900
3	C. Swain	10,725
4	E. Inoue	9,890
5	E. Andrews	9,675
6	M. Hogan	8,740
7	M. Yellen	8,295
8	G. Peck	6,855
9	G. Price	6,525
10	M. Ray	5,805
11	C. Brysman	5,105
12T	D. Obremski	4,405
12T	J. Newman	4,405
12T	D. Peck	4,405
15	S. Lerner	4,230
16	R. Harriersad	3,160
17	A. Katz	2,985
18	D. Johnson	2,635
19	A. Roberts	2,285
20	A. Gross	2,110
21	M. Cerecia	1,972.5
22	J. Evans	1,952.5
23	J. Cascio	1,750
24	D. Gross	1,585
25T	D. Green	1,225
25T	J. Plazak	1,225

WPRA Pro Tour Official Rankings

May 5, 1988

1	L. Adams	178.8
2T	K. Kuhfeld	133.0
2T	C. McKinney	133.0
4	M. O'Brien	100.0
5	M. Drexler	94.0
6	Jackie Paraiso	75.0
7	V. Panzeri	66.0
8	L. Alvarado	65.0
9	C. Doyle	52.5
10	T. Bevelock	44.0
11	M. Lynch	39.0
12T	Joy Paraiso	30.0
12T	L. Porter	30.0
14	D. Fischl	28.8
15T	C. Baxter	26.3
15T	F. Davis	26.3
17	S. MacTaggart	23.8
18	C. Evon	22.0
19	A. Katz	20.0
20T	T. Petrocy	12.5
20T	R. Whitmire	12.5
20T	C. Mcfetridge	12.5
23T	R. Goblish	10.0
23T	S. Robson	10.0
23T	K. Langlotz	10.0

Chapman, OH; 8-C. Harmon, WA; **Mens 55:** 1-O. Chapman, OH; 2-P. Whitehill, WA; 3-H. Clar, CA; 4-L. Hahn, MI; 5-R. Horton, CO; 6-P. Miller, IN; 7-R. Stillman, MN; 8-J. Bailey, CA; **Mens 60:** 1-S. Lesser, NY; 2-V. Sacco, NY; 3-A. Goss, CO; 4-E. Acuff, VA; 5-M. Roberts, FL; 6-R. Caretti, MI; 7-N. Sans, FL; 8-D. Kincaide, CO; **Mens 65:** 1-E. Acuff, VA; 2-L. Wilde, UT; 3-N. Sans, FL; 4-R. Craig, Jr., IN; 5-A. Goss, CO; 6-B. Cloud, IL; 7-V. Cortese, CA; 8-M. Friedman, ME; **Mens 70:** 1-A. Shepherd, MD; 2-J. Pearce, TX; 3-I. Gurner, KY; 4-H. Minor, CO; 5-G. Goldstein, NJ; 6-D. Brown, ME; 7-N. Minor, CO; 8-J. Sawbridge, AZ; **Mens 75:** 1-B. Duckworth, FL.

Womens AARA Official Rankings

April 28, 1988

Womens Open: 1-K. Kuhfeld, IN; 2-S. Morgan, FL; 3-D. Fischl, PA; 4-D. Green, FL; 5-M. Dee, NH; 6-T. Rasmussen, CA; 7-M. Mook, CA; 8-C. Evon, IL; **Womens A:** 1-L. Butler, TX; 2-A. Maldonado, NY; 3-C. Collins, MI; 4-L. Mojer, FL; 5-C. Clark, FL; 6-V. Fisher, CA; 7-L. Pastor, MN; 8-D. Roforth, MN; **Womens B:** 1-L. Butler, TX; 2-D. Hood, UT; 3-B. Tadej, WA; 4-J. Hedler, OH; 5-A. Kinney, WA; 6-S. Rice, NJ; 7-L. Campbell, TX; 8-A. Stoeke, MN; **Womens C:** 1-L. Williams, NJ; 2-D. Leon, FL; 3-K. Locke, MN; 4-C. Seitter, FL; 5-B. Maynard, FL; 6-P. Saad, MI; 7-K. Perry, CA; 8-K. Benkert, TX; **Womens D:** 1-K. Roller, UT; 2-W. Rudov, TX; 3-N. Sloan, IN; 4-M. Bailey, WA; 5-D. Bates, CA; 6-F. Egnazzo, NJ; 7-B. Hendrickson, MA; 8-F. Judkins, TN; **Womens Novice:** 1-R. Brannville, MN; 2-S. Beverly, NY; 3-H. Cohen, NJ; 4-L. Moore, TX; 5-A. Roehler, PA; 6-M. Zak, MA; 7-S. Klein, NY; 8-H. Peterston, MN; **Womens 8NB:** 1-J. Quinlan, FL; 2-J. Degutis, OH; 3-D. Gates, IL; 4-J. Koppel, TX; 5-S. Henning, WI; 6-L. Wooten, FL; 7-B. Knitter, WI; 8-L. Hanson, IA; **Womens 8:** 1-J. Quinlan, FL; 2-D. Gates, IL; 3-L. Patton, FL; 4-B. Knitter, WI; 5-A. Hagenah, MI; 6-J. Degutis,

MI; 7-L. Hansen, IA; 8-C. Licari, CA; **Womens 10:** 1-D. Derr, FL; 2-D. Gates, IL; 3-S. Feaster, DC; 4-J. Quinlan, FL; 5-S. Torst, CA; 6-S. Simmons, FL; 7-B. Barber, GA; 8-T. Jobson, FL; **Womens 12:** 1-E. Icenogle, CA; 2-B. Engel, FL; 3-H. May, CA; 4-A. Roehler, PA; 5-D. Derr, FL; 6-J. Meyer, CO; 7-J. Willems, WI; 8-M. Dellanini, FL; **Womens 14:** 1-J. Lee, PA; 2-T. Alonzi, CO; 3-A. Simonetta, FL; 4-H. Spector, FL; 5-T. Dodson, CA; 6-A. Simmons, FL; 7-M. Gates, IL; 8-T. Hanson, WI; **Womens 16:** 1-D. Sibell, MN; 2-T. Dodson, CA; 3-H. Gray, VA; 4-S. Ali, NY; 5-S. Cox, FL; 6-C. Pellowski, WI; 7-A. Simonetta, FL; 8-S. Pinola, PA; **Womens 18:** 1-L. Coutu, DE; 2-M. Gilman, OR; 3-K. Puls, CA; 4-D. Sibell, MN; 5-S. Ashton, WI; 6-C. Doyle, NY; 7-R. Levine, CA; 8-D. Cumberworth, MI; **Womens 19:** 1-K. Halender, FL; 2-C. Gudinas, IL; 3-R. Olson, MA; 4-D. Richardson, CA; 5-C. Healy, GA; 6-L. Basch, FL; 7-L. Cardwell, MN; 8-T. Selby, AZ; **Womens 25:** 1-C. Evon, IL; 2-K. Mays, MN; 3-R. Whitmire, GA; 4-D. Green, FL; 5-G. Grigsby, KY; 6-C. Haller, CO; 7-M. Lyons, FL; 8-S. Warfield, MN; **Womens 30:** 1-S. Morgan, FL; 2-D. Adams, CO; 3-P. Clark, MN; 4-G. Woods, LA; 5-B. Harrison, OH; 6-L. Mojer, FL; 7-B. Simmons, FL; 8-M. Bickley, PA; **Womens 35:** 1-E. Tuckman, FL; 2-A. Falso, FL; 3-I. Chmura, MI; 4-R. Fish, FL; 5-N. Kronenfeld, IL; 6-J. Smith, FL; 7-P. Nishimura, WA; 8-S. Armstrong, CO; **Womens 40:** 1-A. Falso, FL; 2-J. Schmidt, FL; 3-M. Kelly, MA; 4-T. Dever, UT; 5-M. Weldin, DE; 6-J. Kenyon, FL; 7-G. Touhy, IL; 8-B. Hartz, MI; **Womens 45:** 1-J. Schmidt, FL; 2-J. Kenyon, FL; 3-M. Johnson, TX; 4-M. Gwinn, NC; 5-S. Sawyer, UT; 6-M. McNutt, FL; 7-J. Wriggley, PA; 8-M. Crawford, NY; **Womens 50:** 1-J. Kenyon, FL; 2-K. Mueller, MN; 3-S. Elgaway, FL; 4-M. Walker, CA; 5-M. Acuff, VA; 6-J. Atherley, FL; 7-M. Crawford, NY; 8-H. Dunsnoor, ID; **Womens 55:** 1-C. Gautreau, TX; 2-J. Atherley, FL; 3-M. Acuff, VA; 4-J. Kirker, PA; **Womens 60:** 1-M. Acuff, VA; 2-B. Stone, TX; 3-C. Gautreau, TX; **Womens 65:** 1-M. Acuff, VA.



What's The Call?

by Michael Arnolt



Switching Hands Legally

Q: Because of an injury to my right shoulder, I play racquetball left-handed. Most shots I hit in a conventional manner, but have trouble with certain shots, such as the high lob to my backhand, so I compensate. With my wrist thong still attached, I move my right hand to the racquet and release my left hand. (A slightly longer wrist thong allows me to take this shot.) One of my opponents wonders if this is legal. Is it?

Joe O'Connell,
Upper Mt. Clair, NJ

A: It appears that your inventive stroke is legal, Joe. The rules require that the wrist thong be attached to the wrist at all times during the rally. The length of the thong is not addressed, although conformity is the intent. So as long as the thong is securely attached and isn't substantially longer than the average thong — 19 inches end-to-end — you're okay.

Human Eye Racquetball

Q: Frequently there are appeals during the serve — good or short, and infringement of the receiving line by the opponent. Tennis uses "Cyclops", a machine designed specifically to make those kinds of close calls. Has the AARA or RMA ever considered using that machine?

Greg DeLoach,
Texarkana, TX

A: There is some humor in your question. Referees have, from time to time, had their eyesight, and judgment, questioned.

In a more serious reply, Jim Hiser of the RMA and Luke St. Onge of the AARA both say an electronic device has not been considered. The reason: There isn't the need.

"Tall Folks" Hinder

Q: I am an 11-year-old who doesn't get to play many kids my age, so I play in Men's D. The trouble is that most of the players are so much taller and bigger that I can't see over or around them to see the ball leave the front wall. I think dead-ball hinders, as described in Rule 4.15.c should be called in these cases, but it never is. Am I right?

Todd Criger,
Omaha, NE

A: What you're describing sounds more like a problem of positioning. Whether it is during the serve or rally, you should place yourself in the best center court position which allows you to see and retrieve the ball. Be careful not to place yourself directly behind your opponent — which would surely block your view — regardless of your opponent's size. If you fulfilled your court responsibility, and then are screened, don't stop play, but raise your non-racquet hand to call it to the attention of the referee.

Incidentally, more than one smaller player has cut his bigger opponent to size on the court. Check with the many victims of top junior player, David Simonette. ○

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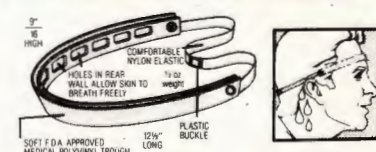
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THROW BALL A Beginning For Juniors

by Fred Acee

I am sure that all club owners, manufacturers and teaching pros will agree that the foundation and the future success of racquetball is at the grass roots level, mainly junior programs. Developing sound junior programs is a very rewarding endeavor for everyone involved, especially when working with youngsters 12 years and younger.

Having been a physical education instructor for the past 21 years, I feel that an understanding of this age group is paramount in developing young racquetball players. Since their attention span is short, drills and fundamentals must be planned and kept at a fun level.

They have unlimited enthusiasm and most importantly, they are great imitators. Keeping this in mind, teaching the fundamental of racquetball to these young people can be accomplished through a lead-up game which I call "throw ball".

This lead-up game will teach court awareness, opponent awareness, ball awareness, how to deal with angles, how to play the ball off the back wall, serving, and the rules governing the serve, hand-eye coordination, footwork and court coverage. It's great fun — even for adults!

How do you play such a great lead-up game? First of all, you use the same rules as you would in racquetball, except that you do not use a racquet. Player A, throws the ball to the front wall and the opponent, player B, catches the ball after one bounce. Player B then must throw the ball to the front wall using any combination of ceiling, side wall, front wall, depending upon how you have progressed in your explanation of the court.

Points are scored on the serve when the opposing player fails to catch the ball. This game can be played after the forehand, backhand, serve and return have been briefly explained. You can use the same teaching progressions as you would when using a racquet; move to no-bounce racquetball or regulation racquetball. This game can be used as a lead-up and conditioner prior to the introduction of the racquet.

I have used this game as part of my junior program in racquetball for the past 12 years. I feel that it is a terrific introduction to racquetball and I have yet to meet a young beginning player who has disliked this game. ○

Newsbriefs

Boy's High School Top Seed Invitational

In St. Louis, a city with one of the country's strongest high school leagues, Bob Horner and Dan Henke of Francis Howell High School took first place in the first and second divisions respectively at the High School Boy's Top Seed Invitational.

Combining for seven wins in the round-robin tournament, Horner and Henke also led Francis Howell High School to



Left to right: Coach Nancy Horner, Tony Miller and Bob Horner savor Francis Howell High School's winning of the Wallace Cup.

first place in the team competition. Horner and Henke are two of three open-level players in the St. Louis high school racquetball league.

The annual Top Seed Invitational concluded the 1988 league season. The St. Louis League has 15 schools

which are members. Team coaches who wish to be on the mailing list for the 1989 Top Seed Invitational should contact Dr. Joe Koestner at St. Louis University High School, 4970 Oakland Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63110. ○

- Article prepared by SLUH "Prep News" feature writer, Beau Roy. Photo by SLUH "Prep News" photographer, Carl Gentile.

First Annual Women's National Masters Invitational

Albuquerque, NM
September 8th-10th

Women 35+ are eligible. Age brackets in five-year increments. Round robin will be AARA sanctioned and points will be given toward national amateur ranking. For further information, contact: Mary Walker, 22346 Hartland St., Canoga Park, CA 91303.

(818) 340-5820

Congratulations!

Marty and Ann Hogan aren't the only racquetball couple about to be parents. Norm and Kathy Blum are expecting their first child in January. Congratulations to the Hogan's and the Blum's. ○

1988 World Championships

If you plan on being in Europe this summer, don't forget the 1988 World Championships will be held in Hamburg, Germany from August 6th to August 13th. Host club is Racquetball Jenfeld and official hotels are the Bille and Panorama. It promises to be a great opportunity to see the U.S. team in action against players from around the world. Call the AARA at (719) 635-5396 for more information. ○

BRAIN POWER IN RACQUETBALL

(continued from page 18)

hitting from deep court on the fore-hand side, I should tighten up my position towards front court to pressure him.

On the backhand side, if he has time to setup before hitting, I should move up front. If he is off balance, I should play deep zone to cover his pass shots.

At first, this might seem like a tremendous amount of information and a difficult process. Work on your mental tendency sheet during practice sessions, even against familiar opponents. Soon you will find it easy to pick out the tendencies of your opponent. It will also help your attention span during matches!

Remember, racquetball is like a game of chess; it's situational and ever changing. In order to win, you must adjust from point to point, game to game and match to match.

Get on the championship track by knowing why you are going to win! Winning in racquetball entails a planned analysis, with mental and physical adjustments occurring constantly! Only the losers depend on luck! ○

JOIN THE AARA

American Amateur Racquetball Association

- Over 800 Tournaments Annually
- Official Amateur Rulebook
- National Ranking With All AARA Players
- Recognized Amateur Governing Body

☐ **Yes!**

Sign me up for an AARA membership kit which includes all the above plus an official membership card that makes me eligible for tournament play and discount coupons for merchandise and services. I am enclosing only \$10.00 for a one year membership.

Name _____

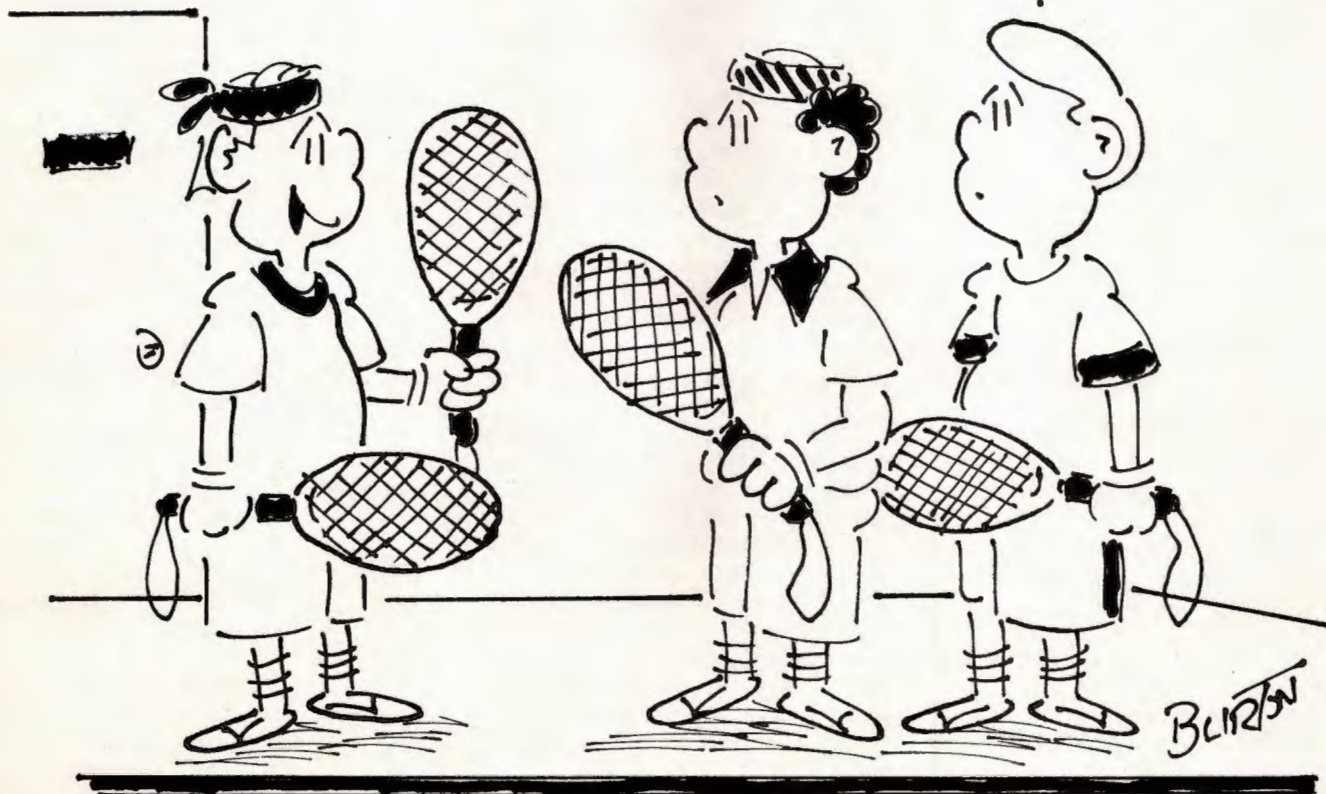
Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Mail This Form To: AARA, 815 North
Weber, Suite 203, Colorado Springs,
CO 80903

**For
information
on American
Amateur
Racquetball
Association
programs,
call AARA
headquarters
at
(719) 653-5396**



"WHO NEEDS A PARTNER?"



Passing Shots

by Norm Blum

DADDY, GO PLAY BALL — Ken Lovett is a true racquetball fanatic — just ask his two-year-old daughter, "Daddy is going to work." His daughter knows he won't be home until late and it isn't because of overtime at the office. In fact, she doesn't believe Daddy works," she says. "Daddy, go play ball."

WHERE ARE THE 16-YEAR-OLDS? — It's been years since a teenage phenom the likes of **Mike Yellen** or **Marty Hogan** has emerged on the pro tour.

In fact, veteran players like **Ruben Gonzalez** and **Ed Andrews** are having their best seasons ever. Why aren't there any 16-year-old superstars?

"I turned pro when I was 16, but I didn't win my first tournament until my late teens," said five-time national champ **Mike Yellen**, 28. "Right now there are ten guys who can win any tournament. I just don't see a 16-year-old stepping in and hitting the ball any harder or more accurately than today's players. It takes a couple of years of seasoning."

Theresa Nunn, head of Ektelon's Player Program, sees the 16-year-olds making a mark. "The junior program is beginning to become well established. Right now there is a lull, but pretty soon you'll see today's 12 to 13-year-olds on the scene."

Others say the stagnant pro tour is responsible. "There's no money out there," one former pro said.

"It's been that way the last several years so you don't see the younger players sticking with it. The veteran players are winning because they can deal with a bad situation better than the others. There will always be a market for racquetball because it's a great workout. But I've been hearing about how the pro game will get better for the last ten years."

lifespan of the average racquet in the marketplace is two to three years... Two biggest expenses for clubs: the light bill and liability insurance. Those two bills have nearly doubled over the last ten years... There's a new energy drink on the market, called "Go", designed to help athletes train hard and recover fast. The drink is the brain child of **Dr. Robert Cade**, the inventor of Gatorade. I asked the public relations person which drink I should use. "Drink Gatorade while you play and Go after your match." Now, there's an answer.

PERSONAL PLUG DEPT. — After playing with Thorlo socks, I wonder how I managed using any other sock. It's like walking on carpet. All my other gym socks are now collecting dust in the drawer... There's nothing harder than playing in a tournament when your opponent has his wife and new-born watching. I could have sworn I heard the infant pounding on the glass and cheering for his father... Some folks have expensive tempers. One player, after losing a match, banged his mid-sized CBK against the wall until it broke. He'll probably try to return it and claim it was a manufacturing defect.

DINK POWER — A lot of advertising is geared to the power hitter. But what about dinkers? What kind of racquet are we supposed to use? Product manager **Greg Ryan**, prefers the phrase "touch players" instead of dinkers. "The ceramic racquets along with fiberglass, give those players an extra sense of touch and feel." ... I'd be willing to bet that there are a lot of women players who could compete on the pro tour but don't have the backing to give it a shot.

When **Lynn Adams** retires from racquetball she'll be a natural to speak to corporations about motivation.

You know you're a choker when you

hyperventilate after receiving your starting time for the tournament... This is the secretive time of the year for all racquetball companies. Within two months the new lines will be coming out.

I don't know how he maintains the program, but **Pat Powers'** Junior Program is still thriving despite the closing of the club. Powers has use of one court in Bradenton and the court is used around the clock. Powers hopes to have a new club in the near future... A tournament player knew he had double faulted and told his opponent: "The ref didn't call it and I wasn't about to call it on myself." His opponent, who went on to win 15-10, 15-6 quipped: "It's only the first round, Friday night. Are you trying to win the Sportsmanship Trophy?" ... One crafty veteran amateur on the impact of oversized racquets: "It enables guys to hit better backhands and they get to more balls. But they know in their heart, whatever racquet they use they can't beat me."

JULY MONEY MAKING SUGGESTION — Clubs should rent advertising space on their courts. You'd be amazed at how many companies would like to target your membership.

THINGS I LIKE — Hot whirlpools, clean clubs and the new line of *National Racquetball* sportswear.

THINGS I DISLIKE — Getting shut-out, cheap tournament shirts and clubs that permit smoking. ○

In the January, 1988, issue of *National Racquetball*, Norm Blum mistakenly reported in his column, 'Passing Shots', that Cliff Swain was not re-signed by Ektelon because of his off-court demeanor. This was incorrect and we apologize for the error.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by Van Dubolsky



In anticipation of upcoming Regional and National Doubles events, I would like to use this month's column to reprint the AARA policy on what is commonly termed "gender crossover" play. Essentially, the national ruling regarding men playing in women's divisions and women playing in men's divisions is that it is not permissible at the regional and national level. The rationale for this AARA policy follows:

The American Amateur Racquetball Association is the National Governing Body of Racquetball as recognized by the United States Olympic Committee with authority from the Legislative Law of Congress known as the Amateur Sports Act of 1978.

One of the major responsibilities of a National Governing Body is to establish rules for the sport in order to have an orderly procedure to determine the outcome of the competition. One of the rules is to determine divisions of play for equal participation based upon skill, ability, age, and sex.

The AARA has maintained, from its inception, divisions for both men and women equal in all respects other than gender. It is an accepted practice in all sports of this nature that women compete in women's divisions and men compete in men's divisions. This tradition is upheld in all competitions directly under the auspices of the AARA (Regional and National events) up to and including the World Games and World Championships which are under the sanctioning body of the International Amateur Racquetball Federation.

In order to clarify the current rule and administer it fairly, the AARA passed the following wording this year: "Men and women are restricted to competing in events for their sex during Regional and National events". In further clarification, the rule goes on to read, "For the purpose of encouraging the develop-

ment of women's racquetball, the governing bodies of numerous states permit women to play in men's divisions". This explanation identifies the AARA's position on states having the right to self-determination and the AARA's position on regional and national championships.

It is extremely important that the AARA preserve the individual integrity of men's and women's competitive divisions. Without such integrity, the sport would eventually limit itself to a single combined division format in which competitive opportunities for both men and women would be substantially reduced. Since it is the AARA's task to promote the growth of racquetball, it clearly follows that continued development depends on expanding opportunity rather than diminishing it.

In regards to regional and national doubles competition, all championship divisions are offered giving equal opportunity for both men and women to compete in separate but equal divisions. The mixed doubles division is offered to accommodate men and women wishing to compete together as a team against other teams comprised of men and women.

The AARA, from its inception, has always been a champion of women's rights and women's competition as evidenced by its continued membership and participation in the Women's Sports Foundation, Women's Professional Racquetball Association, and by supporting the development of women's racquetball worldwide. The AARA sanctions women only competition on the U.S. Team, Intercollegiate Team, and High School Team Competition. The AARA is a champion of women's rights in racquetball. Requiring women to play in women's divisions and men to play in men's divisions is in no way discriminatory. O



REGION NINE: Michigan, Ohio & West Virginia

"Women's Serve"

by Barb Harrison

At the recent tournament held at the Holiday Valley Racquet Club in St. Clairsville, Ohio, the women's open division had enough entries to pay full prize money. In fact this tournament not only paid full prize money but also offered equal money to the men and women.

On behalf of the women players, I would like to thank Mr. Kelly Rine, the club and staff for putting on a terrific tournament. Kelly has worked very hard for the last two years helping in the fight for equality in women's racquetball. Quality racquetball, regardless of gender, is the goal for his tournaments and he also believes that offering equal prize money will help in drawing that quality.

In addition to offering equal prize money, Kelly and assistant director Dee Nazzaro called women in and out of the state to get a good draw. The hard work paid off in this year's tournament, drawing the likes of Chris Evon, Kathy Nichols and Cindy Doyle. When asked why they went to the trouble, Dee replied "If you're not going to give equal prize money, you are placing more importance on one side of the draw on the basis of sex."

While I watched a match at the tournament seated next to Dan Obremski, he made the statement, "I'm playing doubles. Round robin (there were four teams) is too much effort for too little money." My comment to Dan was, "Now you know how the women feel." His answer: "I really do."

Prior to this particular tournament, My Life Sport Centre in Beavercreek, Ohio had offered equal prize money and paid it. In fact, the women's open had 14 entrants and the men's open was cancelled. At the time the draw was being prepared, the men's open had only eight signed up. The club

manager decided he could not give them full prize money, so cut it from \$500 to \$250. He then called the men to inform them of the change (something that has never been a consideration for the women) and the first two men called dropped out, saying \$250 was not enough money for their trouble. Since this lowered the draw to six, the division was cancelled.

At the recent Dayton Coors Light Tournament, the veteran women had to play five rounds, while the men played four. First place for the men went to Dan Clifford, who received \$150 for his efforts. First place for the women went to Peggy Ludwig, who received a total of \$40. Is it a wonder that the division did not draw more women? It cost \$30 to enter.

With women traveling as far as New York and Canada, let's hope that tournament directors will begin to follow Kelly Rine's example and realize the key to getting a full draw is offering equal and sufficient prize money to make it worthwhile for women to come to their tournaments. Thanks again to Kelly and other tournament directors, such as Denny Vincent who ran his recent Honda Classic Tournament without reducing prize money for women. Tournament directors like these have helped women begin to establish equality in racquetball.

REGION FOURTEEN: California, Hawaii & Nevada

Submitted by Clint Koble

One of the primary goals of the newly formed Sierra Racquetball Association is to promote high school racquetball. Well, a valuable equipment sponsorship from Richcraft racquets has moved that goal much closer in 1988. Each high school player in the Regional conference will have the use of an MS Turbo graphite racquet complete with A'me grip. The company will also outfit high school teams with logo T-shirts

and their new Cabretta glove.

This takes a tremendous financial burden off the team players, who are not eligible for school district support in their first year. Ideally, the success of the Richcraft High School Conference will encourage the school district to make racquetball an official high school sport in the very near future.

In the meantime, however, it is up to four participating clubs to organize and support a high school team. The Reno Athletic Club, Capitol Courts, South Tahoe Fitness Center and the Incline Court House will each promote the program by organizing competition, providing instruction and offering court time for practice sessions. Each of the four teams will consist of four male and four female players ranked #1-4, plus several alternates.

REGION FIFTEEN: Alaska, Idaho, Oregon & Washington

Submitted by Sid Williams

1988 has already become a banner year for women in Region 15, with the formation of a Women's Commission on Racquetball comprised of players who want to address and solve the problems of female racquetball competitors. A luncheon and meeting was hosted by Regional Director Sid Williams earlier this year, and the following players were appointed to the Commission: Kristi Flores, Fairbanks, AK; Kathy Wisthoff, Anchorage, AK; Gloria Pierson, Boise, ID; Helen Shields, Missoula, MT; Lynda Myers, Beaverton, OR; Patti Nishimura, Spokane, WA; Melanie Kershner, Spanaway, WA; Susan Showalter, Tacoma, WA; and Mary Ryan, Renton, WA.

The group discussed a number of issues, and set goals for the remainder of the year. For additional information about the Region 15 Women's Commission, contact: Sid Williams, 5227 South Puget Sound Street, Tacoma, WA 98409, (206) 473-2266.

OUT OF THE PAST

by John Mooney

With the recent successful conclusion of the 16th Annual Intercollegiate Championships in Sacramento, CA, we were wondering about past Intercollegiate Champions. In the 1973 summer issue of *Racquetball* (Vol. 2, No. 3) we found a short article recapping the results of the "First IRA National Intercollegiate" and listing 40 entries from 16 universities. Compared to the 350 players from 42 colleges and universities in this year's competition, we see a remarkable indication of the growth of racquetball at the collegiate level. Our appetites whetted by seeing some familiar names in the 1973 listing, we compiled the following list of all the Intercollegiate Champions to date: ○

Past Intercollegiate Champions

YEAR	WINNER	RUNNER-UP
MENS A SINGLES		
1973	Jerry Hilecher, MSU	Pete Wright, TCU
1974	Randy Stafford, TN	Pete Wright, TCU
1975	Steve Smith, MSU	John Lynch, Univ. IL
1976	John Lynch, Univ. of IL	Steve Smith, MSU
1977	John Dunlap, MSU	Brad Walker, Univ. TX
1978	John Dunlap, MSU	Brad Walker, Univ. TX
1979	Keith Dunlap, MSU	Rich Sampson

MENS #1 SINGLES		
1980	Keith Dunlap, MSU	Gary Merritt, Houston
1981	Larry Fox, Univ. of MI	Kenny Kaihanen, Univ. of CA
1982	Jack Newman, MSU	Kenny Kaihanen
1983	Jack Newman, MSU	Paul Bakken, Bethel
1984	Andy Roberts, MSU	Paul Bakken, Bethel
1985	Andy Roberts, MSU	Doug Ganim, Ohio St.
1986	Roger Harripesad, Sac.	Andy Roberts, MSU
1987	Andy Roberts, MSU	Doug Ganim, Ohio St.
1988	Michael Bronfeld, Sac.	James Lorello, MSU

MENS #1 DOUBLES		
1973	Davey Bledsoe, TN	Helmut Braun, Iowa
	Randy Stafford	Chuck McCallion
1974	Jeff Bowman, IL	Emile Catiginani, TN
	John Parks	Mark Thomas
1975	Dean Nichopoulos	Charlie Rich, IL
	Jim Thoni, MSU	Huss
1976	Eric Hinds, IL	Jeff Wood, Iowa State
	Dennis Majher	Bill Cook
1977	David Fleetwood, MSU	Dennis Majher, IL
	Jim Cullin	Tom Tunney
1978	Jerry Bilksy, MSU	Dennis Lutz, IL
	Carey Finn	Roger Show
1979	Pete Tashie, MSU	Roger Show, IL
	Mike Gora	Tom Stanger
1980	Mike Gora, MSU	Dennis Lutz, IL
	Dan Cohen	Glen Lasken
1981	Paul Bakken, Bethel	Mike Gora, MSU
	Dan Constable	Keith Blackmon
1982	Paul Bakken, Bethel	Tim Tracy, MSU
	Dan Constable	Dan Cohen
1983	Tim Hansen, FL	Brian Sheldon, MSU
	Bubba Gautier	Jim Jeffers
1984	Brian Sheldon, MSU	Pete Taunton, St. Cloud State
	Jim Jeffers	Paul Taunton
1985	Andy Roberts, MSU	Pete Taunton
	Rick Komistek	Paul Taunton
1986	Andy Roberts, MSU	Hart Johnson, St. Paul
	Rick Komistek	Todd Stead
	Hart Johnson, St. Paul	Andy Roberts, MSU
1987	Todd Stead	Rick Komistek
	Brian Bliss, SMSU	Todd O'Neil, MSU
1988	Mark Isley	Rick Komistek

WOMENS A SINGLES		
1975	Martha Byrd, FL	Janice Segall, TX
1976	Sarah Green, MSU	Annette Hughes, Lake Forest
1977	Janet Marshall, MSU	Janet Marshall, MSU
1978	Carolyn Ghelardini, IL	Sharon Fanning, MSU
1979	Barbara Faulkenberry	Tricia Tillotson
1980	Barbara Faulkenberry	

1981	Barbara Faulkenberry, AFA	Michelle Bersacca, Univ. of CA
1982	Barbara Faulkenberry, AFA	Tammy Hajjar
1983	Kathy Gluvna, MSU	Mo Nard, Sac. State
1984	Kathy Gluvna, MSU	Toni Bevelock, MSU
1985	Crystal Fried, Sac. St.	Mona Mook, American River

1986	Crystal Fried, Sac. St.	Toni Bevelock, MSU
1987	Toni Bevelock, MSU	Trina Rasmussen, Sac. State
1988	Robin Levine, Sac. St.	JoAnn Slater, MSU

WOMENS A DOUBLES	
1975	Janet Marshall, MSU Laroche, MSU

1976	No competition	
1977	Kay Haynes, MSU	
	Sally Disconza	
1978	Cynthia Wilson, MSU	
	Melanie Mobley	
1979	Meg Hooper, Auburn	Candi Gavin, MSU
	Kirsten Conrad	Renee Trammell

Kristen Corrao		Renee Trammell
WOMENS #1 DOUBLES		
1980	Linda Levene, MSU	Dawn Kell, Univ. of IL
	Candi Gavin	Karen Randich
1981	Dawn Kell, Univ. of IL	Renee Trammell, MSU
	Karen Randich	Lisa Faquin
1982	Renee Trammell, MSU	Kim Draden, SMSU
	Lisa Faquin	Martha Nance
1983	Lisa Faquin, MSU	Vicki Carr, Univ. of IL
	Renee Trammell	Lisa Meister
1984	Theresa Beresford	Mary Bauxin, Univ. IL
	Kim Cooling	Marsha Robin
1985	Crystal Fried, Sac. St.	Kathy Gluvna, MSU
	Tracy Eagleson	Dina Pritchett
1986	Mona Mook, Sac. State	Toni Bevelock, MSU
	Trina Rasmussen	Dina Pritchett
1987	Robin Levine, Sac. St.	Toni Bevelock, MSU
	Kelly Pulis	Kim Cooling
1988	Robin Levine, Sac. St.	Carrie Healey, MSU
	Kelly Pulis	Janet Burke



TEAM RESULTS

1973	University of Illinois
1974	University of Tennessee
1975	Memphis State University
1976	University of Illinois
1977	Memphis State University
1978	Memphis State University
1979	Memphis State University
1980	Memphis State University
1981	Memphis State University
1982	Memphis State University
1983	Memphis State University
1984	Memphis State University
1985	Memphis State University
1986	Sacramento State
1987	Sacramento State
1988	Sacramento State

MORE EYEWEAR OPINION

To Whom It May Concern:

I was reading your article on eye protection becoming mandatory for AARA members and various players. Well, I would like to make a comment if I could. I think it's about time eye protection became mandatory. I'm in the United State Air Force stationed in Wiesbaden, West Germany and it's definitely — without a doubt — mandatory for all racquetball players to wear eye protection. And, I would really wonder how smart, or good, pros claim to be by not wearing glasses and risking eye or other facial injury. Now I can feel more at ease when I read my magazine and see players wearing their eye protection. Good move. Also, may I have a copy of the list of lensed eyewear?

Thanks,

Wendell W. Smoot

In response to the preceding letter, and to make sure all AARA members have an up-to-date, and accurate listing of eyewear manufacturers, National Rules Commissioner Michael Arnolt submitted the following excerpt from the Illinois State Racquetball Association Newsletter:

Regarding the eyewear issue, it

seems that many players have purchased glasses manufactured by Gargoyles Performance Eyewear. In a letter dated February 8, 1988 sent to AARA National Rules Commissioner Mike Arnolt, the National Sales Manager of Gargoyles, Clete Smith certified that Gargoyles are not promoted, designed or intended for any racquet sports and do not meet safety standards for that use. Ditto response comes from Ed Speer of A'me Manufacturing, Inc. That company's Sport Shade is not, repeat not, intended as protective eyewear. For confirmation, we suggest you contact the above firms directly: Gargoyles Performance Eyewear, 19039 2nd Avenue S., Kent, WA 98032, (206) 251-5001. A'me Manufacturing, Inc., 244 Mercury Circle, Pomona, CA 91768, (714) 594-1767.

Here again is the list of manufacturers providing approved, lensed eyewear designed for racquet sports: Allen Enterprises, Action Eyes — Viking Sports, American Optical, AOCO Ltd., Bolle-Yarrow Dist. Co., Diversified Products, Dynex Sport Optics, Ekteon, I-Tech Sport Products, Leader Sport Products, Liberty Optical, Peepers, Unique Sports, Victory Optical Mfg. ○



State Association Profile: THE LONE STAR STATE JOINS THE AARA

Submitted by Joe Koppel

During the 1987 U.S. National Singles Championship, held in Houston, twenty-three AARA members met and organized the Texas Amateur Racquetball Association (TARA). The individuals present at the first meeting became the state's first Board of Directors, and elected Joe Koppel as president, Rudy Jones as vice president, and Kathy Langlotz as secretary/treasurer of the organization.

While Texas has been active in amateur racquetball for many years, the combined efforts of the much larger administrative group will build upon the work of Bruce Hendin and Cliff Dilley, who represent AARA Region Seven and who have directed outstanding tournaments from San Antonio facilities. The two deserve a great deal of credit for their fine efforts in serving racquetball over the past decade, most recently at this year's regional event, which attracted over 500 junior and adult players. The highlight of the weekend was a televised final between Gregg Peck and Lance Gilliam, produced and broadcast by a local cable station.

TARA has already begun to focus on the development of state amateurs at both the junior and adult levels. In December of 1987, TARA supported six juniors by paying their entry fees to the Junior Orange Bowl World Championship in Miami. Mike Guidry was Texas' big winner, taking second in 16 and under singles and second in 16 and under doubles with partner Charlie Garrido. Doug Eagle received a third place award in 14 and under singles. Joel Koppel took third in 12 and under doubles, while sister Julie brought home two second place trophies for 8 and under and no-bounce divisions.

Future TARA activities will focus on a revised state championship calendar and an emphasis on junior and adult instructional development. This year's calendar has the state championship slated for October in Dallas. A format change in 1989 will add four district championship tournaments in January or February, to be followed by the adult

June, with support from Ektelon and TARA. The memorial tournament and camp are a tribute to the late Warren Finn, whose family generously contributed to the Houston Jewish Community Center, enabling further development of the racquetball facilities there. Future plans include offering a camp "scholarship" to state junior winners.

The junior camp and several weekend adult camps will be conducted by former national professional champion, and Texan, Dave Peck. Instructing with Dave will be playing professional, Aaron Katz of the Landmark Club in Dallas. We are most fortunate to have this quality of instruction available for our amateurs. In addition to these camps, Dave is planning a national junior camp at the Dallas Metroplex in late July.

Texas players look forward to improving both junior and adult performances in national championships. With professional and amateur players working together for their mutual benefit, TARA expects to contribute to the growth and development of racquetball in a "big" way.

TARA Board of Directors: Chuck Ablores, Houston; Bobby Brown, Irving; Bo Champagne, Cy-

press; Floyd Chapman, New Braunfels; Cliff Dilley, San Antonio; James Golden, Lubbock; Rick Holdren, Houston; Marion Johnson, San Marcos; Rudolph Jones, Houston [Vice President]; Joe Koppel, Denton [President]; Kathy Langlotz, Bryan [Secretary/Treasurer]; Tina Lankford, Beaumont; Marie Mullarkey, Houston; Jim Neuhaus, San Marcos; John B. Pearce, Waco; Bill Reese, Waxahachie; Freddy Sanches, Nederland; Chris Schall, Richardson; Bill Sessums, Sr., Houston; Glen Sparks, Pasadena; Terry Wells, Tomball; Simon Wiederman, Houston; and Dan Wilcox, Houston. ○



championship in March. Winners in these district championships will earn seeding positions in the March state tournament, which will then lead to regional and national events. State Doubles will be held in September, prior to National Doubles.

Last year's junior championships were held as part of the sanctioned Warren Finn Tournament in Houston, and became a very significant event in the growth of our junior program. Mike Grossman, Simon Wiederman and Barry Schmumer served as tournament directors and will team up again to offer the first Warren Finn Junior Camp in

AARA SCHEDULE OF EVENTS



July 1-3

Sun Coast Fitness Open
Sun Coast Fitness Center
581 Venice By Pass North
Venice, FL 34293
Bill Clark 813-488-7255

July 7-10

Sunshine State Games
Racquet Power
3390 Kori Rd.
Jacksonville, FL 32223
Mary Lyons 904-268-8888

July 8-10

White River Park State Games
Racquetball of Greenbriar
1275 W. 86th St.
Indianapolis, IN 46260
Renee LaBonne 317-255-7730

July 8-10

4th Annual Coors Light/
Hogan Classic #13
Rolling Hills Athletic Club
2600 Airport Dr.
Torrance, CA 90510
Doug Colson 213-530-9820

July 8-10

4th Annual Coors Light/
Hogan Classic #14
Narrows Fitness Center
1736 Shore Parkway
Brooklyn, NY 11214
Russ Mannino 718-996-6900

July 12-16

Tri-City Open
557 E. State
American Fork, UT 84403
Dave Rasmussen 801-756-5224

July 15-17

4th Annual Coors Light/
Hogan Classic #15
Las Vegas Athletic Club West
3315 Spring Mountain Rd.
Las Vegas, NV 89102
Ken Snow 702-362-3720

July 15-17

6th Annual July Jam
The Courthouse Racquet Club
1545 Helton Dr.
Florance, AL 35630
Judy Willingham/Ken Irby 205-764-0034

July 22-24

Dawg Days Tournament
Racquet Plus
4 Oglethorpe Prof. Blvd.

Savannah, GA 31406

July 22-24

Northern Arizona Racquetball
Championships
Flagstaff Athletic Club West
1200 West Highway 66
Flagstaff, AZ 86001
Wendy Nehls 602-526-8652

July 22-24

The Jump Tournament
Olympiad
21069 Military Trail
Boca Raton, FL 33432

July 29-31

Sportplex Cash Classic
Sportplex East
500 Gadsden Highway
Birmingham, AL 35235
Tim Wallace 205-595-1938

July 29-31

4th Annual Coors Light/
Hogan Classic #16
Sports Gallery
2560 E. Katella Ave.
Anaheim, CA 92806
Mike Martinez 714-634-1919

August 5-7

Doubles Warm-Up
YMCA
3620 Cleveland Heights Blvd.
Lakeland, FL 33803
Grace Page 813-644-3528

August 12-14

AARA Washington State Doubles
Tacoma, WA
Sid Williams

August 12-14

Hillsborough Summer Open
Hillsborough Fitness &
Racquetball Club
Box 156 Amwell Rd.
Belle Mead, NJ 08502
Laurie Riley 201-359-3600

August 12-14

Level 2
Jacksonville Athletic Club
6651 Crestline Dr.
Jacksonville, FL 32211
Susan Morgan 904-724-6994

August 12-14

4th Annual Coors Light/
Hogan Final
Las Vegas Athletic Club
3315 Spring Mountain Rd.

Las Vegas, NV 89102
702-362-3720

August 19-21

Georgia State Doubles
Atlanta Health & Racquet Club
1775 Water Place
Atlanta, GA 30339

August 19-21

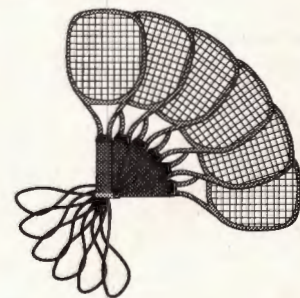
1988 Masters Invitational Doubles
Denver, CO
Dick Kincade

August 21-23

South Carolina State Doubles
Greenville Racquet Club
P.O. Box 6573
Greenville, SC 25606

August 26-28

Florida State Doubles
Sarasota Bath & Racquet Club
2170 Robinhood St.
Sarasota, FL 34231



1988 Major Events

August 4-5

World Congress
Hamburg, Germany

August 6-13

World Championships
Hamburg, Germany

October 27-30

Ektelon/U.S. National
Doubles Championships
Merritt Athletic Club
2076 Lord Baltimore Drive
Baltimore, MD 21207
301-298-8700



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STATE DIRECTORS

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