

RACQUETBALL



All Roads Lead to the Internationals *See Page Three*

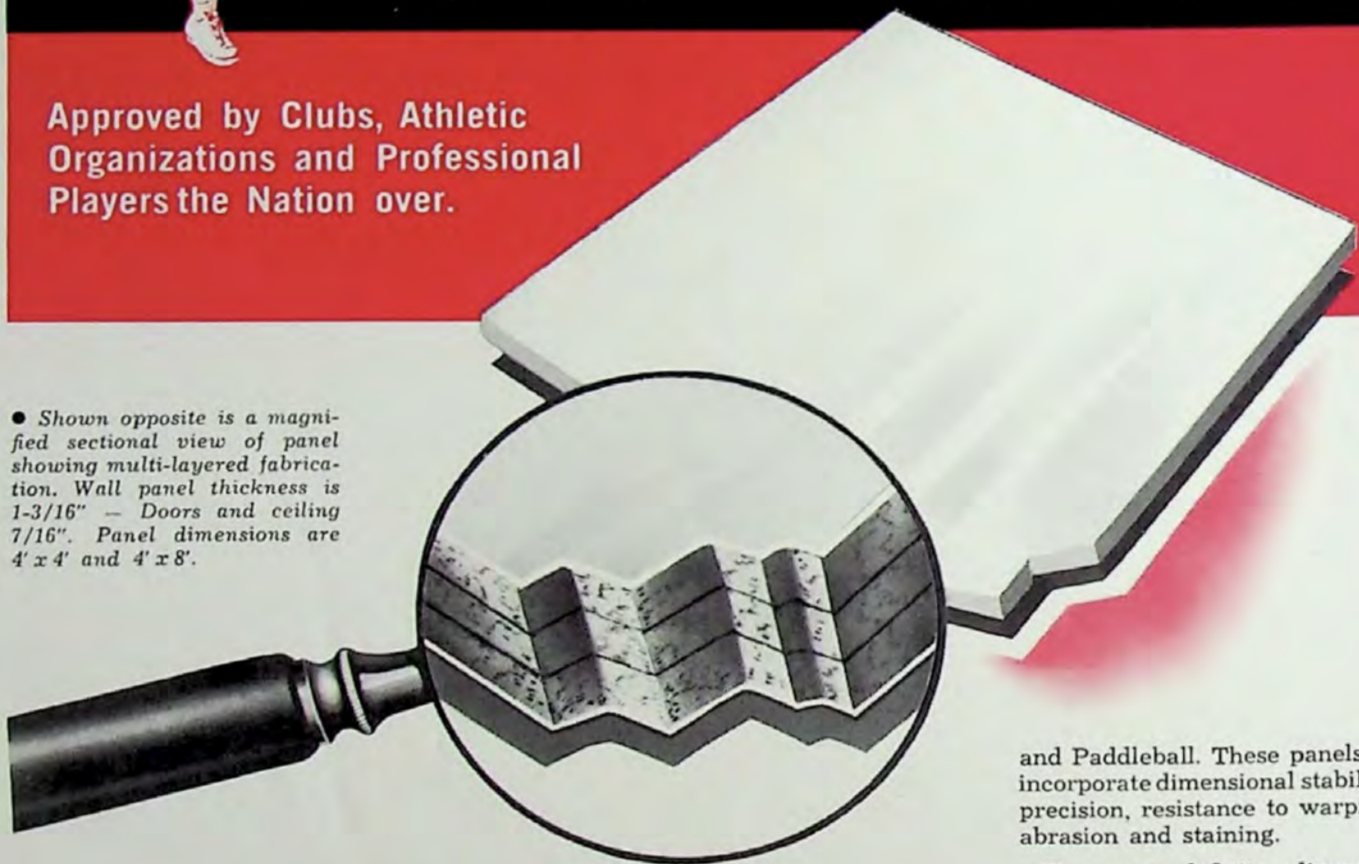


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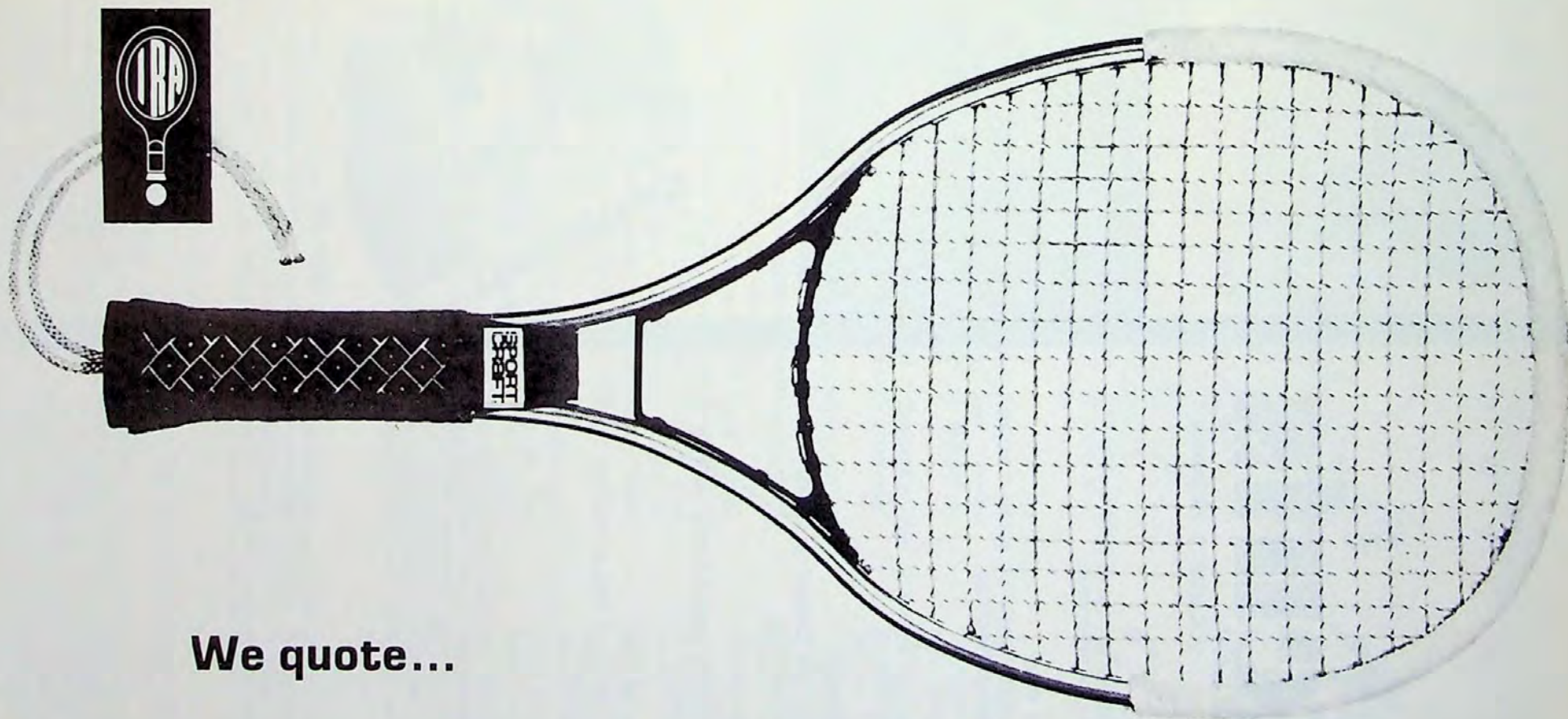


• Our insert is now appearing in Sweet's 1974 Catalog. If you wish more complete information on the "62-P" Panel Court, send for our individual brochure with more facts and figures.



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RACQUETBALL

Volume 3, Number 1, January 1974

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IT'S YOUR MAGAZINE

Let the world of Racquetball know of your activities by sending state reports, tournament dates and particulars, tournament reports and pictures and features of general interest to RACQUETBALL, PO Box 1016, Stillwater, Okla. 74074. Don't delay, send information now for the next issue.

Start With the Regionals, Then...



All Roads Lead to the Internationals

In Caesar's empire, all roads led to Rome.

In movieland, you usually could find Crosby and Hope on the Road to Mandalay, or Morocco, or somewhere.

In the fictional Land of Oz, we followed the Yellow Brick Road to the enchanted Emerald City.

But in the very real Land of Racquetball 1974, all roads lead to San Diego, Calif., for the sixth annual International Singles Championships of the IRA, the last weekend in May.

The Road to the Internationals has seven branches, starting with regional qualifying tournaments all across the United States and Canada. Many changes have been made in regional planning to assure the biggest and best International Championships ever held.

Here are some of them:

—Open Singles players must qualify through their regional tournament for a place in the bracket at San Diego. Each region has been assigned a specific number of qualifying positions. An Open qualifier cannot change to another division for the Internationals.

—Regional champions in Open Singles will be awarded full air fare from their residences to San Diego.

—Last year's top four place-winners (Charlie Brumfield, Steve Keeley, Steve Serot and Bill Schmidtke) are exempt from qualifying and will receive travel and per diem expenses at the Internationals.

—Regional champions in all other divisions—Juniors, Women's, Seniors, Masters and Golden Masters—will be awarded 50 per cent air fare from their residences to San Diego. Because of these awards, champions may not change divisions after the regionals.

—Juniors (18-under), Seniors (35-44) and Golden Masters (55-over) are new brackets in the International Singles Championships, and

the age group for Masters has been changed to 45-54. Ages are determined as of March 1, 1974, the opening date of regional competition. Over-age players may compete in Open, Seniors or Masters.

—Except for the Women's division, there will be no doubles at San Diego. The International Doubles Championships for the other five groups will be held later in the year at another site.

—A player may compete only in the region where his residence is located. Players living in Manitoba may enter either Canadian regional.

—A player may enter only one singles division at his regional tournament. Doubles competition is optional with the regional director, but some doubles play is planned in the regionals.

—Qualifying for the Internationals is required only in Open Singles. All players other than Open qualifiers and regional champions receiving paid fare may compete in any other division at San Diego for which they are eligible.

—Regional qualifiers and divisional champions will have until May 1, 1974, to confirm their entry in the International Championships. An additional qualifying round in Open Singles, for eight or more places, will be held in San Diego the day before the Internationals.

—Dates for the International Singles Championships are May 24-27, 1974, with play ending on Memorial Day.

—The Internationals will be played at Brown's Racquetball Club, a 10-court facility. Brackets will be straight single elimination, with consolations for all first round losers. Trophies will be awarded for four places and the consolation championship.

Accompanying articles list detailed information on each regional tournament. Follow the Road to the Internationals and join us in San Diego for the greatest tournament in the history of Racquetball.

Regional Data Sheet

East

Penn State University
State College, Pa.
March 1-3

Director: Tom Sweeney
341 Toffrees Ave. No. 316
State College, Pa. 16801

Open to residents of Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont and West Virginia.

10 qualify for Internationals in Open Singles.

Entry deadline: February 20; late charge \$5 per player.

Entry fee: \$12 per player singles, \$6 per player doubles.

Housing: Closest and least expensive is the Nittany Lion Inn, one block from the courts. Also available, Hall's Motel, Sheraton, Holiday Inn and many others. Reserve early.

Transportation: Via car, we are 30 minutes from I-80. By air, about 35 minutes from Mid-State airport, Philipsburg, but the weather frequently causes cancellations; we will try our best to drive you in from the airport or arrange limousine service.

Tournament director will receive phone calls the week prior to the tournament only until 10 p.m. EDT. Call 814-237-3639.

March 1-3 dates could be altered to Thursday-Saturday if gasoline shortage becomes more acute.

Consolation singles will be held for open and women's divisions. Doubles, in open, women's, masters divisions.

Central

The Court House
Minneapolis, Minn.
March 1-3

Director: Malin Greenberg
1155 Ford Road
Minneapolis, Minn. 55426

Open to residents of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin.

10 qualify for Internationals in Open Singles.

Entry deadline: February 22.
Entry fee: \$13 per player, one event; \$10 per player, second event.

Facilities: Eight air-conditioned courts, 200-seat spectator court, lockers, sauna, walk-in whirlpool, sun lamp, lounge.

Trophies first four places Open Singles, Open Doubles; first three places other events; first place consolation events.

Doubles offered in open division, others inquire of tournament director.

South

Birmingham YMCA
Birmingham, Ala.
March 1-3

Director: Barry Cox
Birmingham Racquetball Assn.
PO Box 803
Birmingham, Ala. 35201

Open to residents of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia.

10 qualify for Internationals in Open Singles.

Entry deadline: February 18. No entries accepted after this date.

Entry fee: \$15 per player, one event; \$25 per player, two events.

Housing: Holiday Inn—Civic Center, 2230 Tenth Ave. North, Birmingham, Ala. 35203, telephone 205-328-6320.

Doubles offered in open, women's, seniors, masters, golden masters.

Trophies first three places, each event.

Assistant tournament directors: Jim Jordan, 205-251-2061; Jerry O'Neal, 205-324-3431; Andy Smith, 205-325-2298.

West Canada

The Marc
Vancouver, B. C.
April 11-13

Director: Ian McKenzie
910-777 Hornby
Vancouver, B. C. V6Z 1S7

Open to residents of Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, Saskatchewan.

2 qualify for Internationals in Open Singles.

For further information, inquire of tournament director.

Southwest

Texas Christian University
Fort Worth, Texas
March 1-3

Director: Pete Wright
Rickell Athletic Center Gym
Texas Christian University
Fort Worth, Texas 76129

Open to residents of Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota and Texas.

10 qualify for Internationals in Open Singles.

For further information, inquire of tournament director, 817-338-4075.

West

Deseret Gym
Salt Lake City, Utah
March 7-9

Director: Wayne Player
Deseret Gym
161 North Main
Salt Lake City, Utah 84110

Open to residents of Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.

12 qualify for Internationals in Open Singles.

Entry fee: \$15 per player, one event; \$5 per player, additional event. Fee includes admission to all matches, T-shirt, ball for each match, hospitality room, champions' banquet Saturday night.

Housing: Single, \$7, \$8 or \$11; double, \$11 or \$14; triple, \$15 or \$18.

Doubles offered in open, women's divisions.

East Canada

Cote de Liesse Racquet Club
Montreal, Que.
March 15-17

Director: Ivan C. Velan
8305 Cote de Liesse Road
Montreal, Que. H4T 1G5

Open to residents of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec.

2 qualify for Internationals in Open Singles.

Facilities: Four brand new courts, sauna, whirlpool, lounge, bar and restaurant.

Housing: Skyline Hotel, Holiday Inn Seignurie, Holiday Inn Chateaubriand, Airport Hilton, Fort de Liesse (all close to club).

Trophies: First three places, each event.

Doubles, inquire of tournament director.

1974 REGIONAL ENTRY BLANK

You are in the EAST REGION

If your residence is in Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont or West Virginia.

Send your entry to:
Tom Sweeney
341 Toftrees Ave. No. 316
State College, Pa. 16801

You are in the SOUTH REGION

If your residence is in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee or Virginia.

Send your entry to:
Barry Cox
Birmingham Racquetball Assn.
PO Box 803
Birmingham, Ala. 35201

You are in the CENTRAL REGION

If your residence is in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota or Wisconsin.

Send your entry to:
Malin Greenberg
1155 Ford Road
Minneapolis, Minn. 55428

You are in the SOUTHWEST REGION

If your residence is in Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota or Texas.

Send your entry to:
Pete Wright
Rickell Athletic Center Gym
Texas Christian University
Fort Worth, Texas 76129

You are in the WEST REGION

If your residence is in Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington or Wyoming.

Send your entry to:
Wayne Player
Deseret Gymnasium
161 North Main St.
Salt Lake City, Utah 84103

You are in the EAST CANADA REGION

If your residence is in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Ontario or Quebec. You may play in this region if your residence is in Manitoba.

Send your entry to:
Ivan Velan
Cote de Liesse Racquet Club
8305 Cote de Liesse Rd.
Montreal, Quebec H4T 1G5

You are in the WEST CANADA REGION

If your residence is in Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba or Saskatchewan.

Send your entry to:
Ian McKenzie
910-777 Hornby
Vancouver, B. C. V6Z 1S7

Please enter me in the event checked:

- ☐ Open Singles
- ☐ Women's Singles
- ☐ Junior Singles
18-Under
- ☐ Senior Singles
35-44
- ☐ Masters Singles
45-54
- ☐ Golden Masters
Singles
55-Over

Contestants entered in age group event must be eligible on March 1, 1974.

☐ Doubles (_____)

Partner _____

Name (Please Print) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ IRA Card No. _____

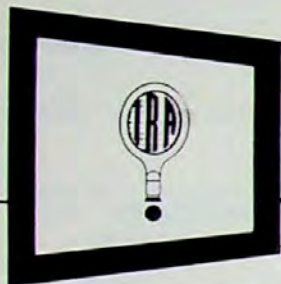
I hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors and administrators, waive and release any and all rights and claims for damages I may have against the International Racquetball Association, its affiliated clubs and their respective agents, representatives, successors and assigns for any and all injuries which may be suffered by me in connection with my participation in Regional or International tournaments.

Date _____

Signature _____

The Director Says:

KEEP THOSE REPORTS COMING



INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION

P. O. Box 1016 • Stillwater, Oklahoma 74074 • (405) 377-2676

Dear Racquetball Friends:

It hardly seems possible that it's time for another magazine, but here it is. Time does go by so fast because the whole world of Racquetball has been so busy.

I can guarantee you, because of the amount of correspondence we get each day, that Racquetball's future is bright. We have had great results in obtaining new memberships and we want to thank each of you that has helped. Keep up the good work so we can continue to grow and thrive in the coming year.

I know everybody is looking forward to the regional tournaments and then the International Singles Championships in San Diego the last weekend in May.

As you read about the regional plans in this issue, you will see what the IRA will be doing to help all the regional champions reach the Internationals. The Board of Directors, as part of a continuing plan to keep Racquetball money working for the good of the sport, is going to assist the winners of all classes, and I feel this will be a big help to the International Championships.

There is one area where we need help from you, the members. That is in sending in reports of activities and tournaments, with pictures when possible, and everything else you feel should be in the magazine.

The reason the magazine keeps running two or three weeks late is that we have to wait to get enough information to make it a good publication. So send in your articles as soon as you can. We're getting into our busy season as far as Racquetball activity is concerned, especially tournaments, and the only way we can let everyone know what's happening in your area is for you to let us know.

One point about memberships as we head into a brand new year: As you will see on your card, all memberships expire on December 31. So the earlier you sign up, the more magazines you'll get and the more tournaments you'll be eligible to enter. If your membership has expired, this January issue is the last magazine you'll get until you renew.

We know there have been some errors on our membership list, but we think we have most of them corrected. But if we don't have your records right, let us know now. Membership has increased nearly a thousand in the last six months and we want everybody to get our magazines and newsletters.

With the regionals coming up and then the Internationals, I am looking forward to seeing a great many of you in person. If I can be of any help to your program, or if the office can, don't hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely,

Myron Roderick
Executive Director





Guess Who's No. 1 Now?

By Myron Roderick

It wasn't ever easy, but when it was all over there was one thing that hadn't changed: Charlie Brumfield is No. 1.

When almost all of the top racquetball players in the world converged on Memphis the first weekend in January, the IRA National Invitation Singles just might have been the toughest racquetball tournament ever held.

There were 38 matches played and 15 of them went the full three games, including the semifinals and finals.

Brumfield had to go the distance three times in four appearances, but when the last kill shot had rolled out, several hundred spectators knew why Charlie is a two-time defending International champion.

I only wish every one of you could have been there to see the finals of this great tournament. Brumfield vs. Steve Serot. I don't know of any place or any time that I have watched a more interesting or talented match than that one. I was fortunate enough to see it first hand, because I was the referee.

Brumfield won the first game, 21-16, and the lead went back and forth six or seven times between the two. Brumfield, of course, was using his usual technique game of lobs, Z-balls, ceiling balls and

pass shots. Serot used mostly the kill-ball off the back wall, or he would go to the ceiling ball to Brumfield's backhand.

In the second game, Serot started using more kill shots and he won this one by the same score, 21-16. In fact, Brumfield was using more kill shots than I had seen him

use in a long time. Both games were very exhausting for both players.

Brumfield jumped off to a quick lead in the third and Steve never did get his game back to make it a contest. Serot was leaving his kill shots high and, of course, anything you leave high



Charlie Brumfield (top) warms up while Steve Serot takes a breather.



Mike Zeitman Third Place

Brumfield is going to kill or pass you with.

Serot pulled a muscle in his arm at 16-2. He tried to go ahead and continue, but did not have any strength and defaulted when the score was 18-2. It was a fantastic championship and I can say they both played beautiful racquetball.

Let me tell you a little about the tournament, which was unusual in several aspects.

Best of all was the quality of the field, even though three of the top players were unable to attend—Steve Strandemo, Ron Rubenstein and Bud Muehleisen. We missed them, but I am sure they will be with us at the Internationals. Just about everybody else was there.

The brackets were especially created for this tournament so everybody would play at least four matches, some of them five, and so the final standings would be set up all the way from first to 18th. One of my wrestling people, who is a real expert on brackets and scheduling, set it up.

The championship bracket was straight single elimination, so the champion had to win four times. All the quarterfinal losers and semifinal losers dropped into a special consolation bracket and played for third through eighth places.

All the other losers were placed in consolations and played for ninth through 18th places.

When we arrived at Memphis, everybody was ranked from No. 1 through No. 18 by a special seeding committee. These rankings turned out to be very close to the actual finish all the way down the line.

Then, when we met Friday night, we drew for positions. The top four names—Brumfield, Serot, Steve Keeley and Bill Schmidtke—were put in a hat and drew for the top four seeds. Actually, Schmidtke drew No. 1 and Brumfield No. 4, so the draw didn't really change the pairings any.

The next four then drew for positions 5 through 8—Mike Zeitman, Ken Porco, Jerry Hilecher and Paul Lawrence. Zeitman actually drew No. 8, so he was in the same quarter with Schmidtke, just as they would have been if we hadn't had a draw at all. Then we drew for 9 through 12, and then 13 through 18.

Play started at 9 o'clock in the morning and with everybody going at least four times and sometimes five, I can assure you we all got to play all the racquetball we wanted in the two days.

One of the best parts of the tournament was the consolation bracket, because some players had four matches against men they never had met before in a tournament. That's awfully good experience.

I think the most improved player in the tournament, at least playing the best I had ever seen him, was Zeitman. He took Brumfield to three games and beat Keeley, Schmidtke, Hilecher and Jim Austin and wound up in third place.

Mike played, I thought, some of the most perfect racquetball I had seen. His ceiling shots were tremendous, his forehand side-to-front kill shot was on target and I think the thing that really made his game complete was his ability to shoot the backhand kill shot from side wall to front wall.

Zeitman started off by beating Austin, 21-13, 21-15, then took out Schmidtke, 21-12, 21-15. He really looked as though he might upset Brumfield, losing the first game at 20-21, then coming back to take the second at 21-5. But Brumfield poured it on in the third game and came out, 21-10, to reach the finals. Mike then trimmed Hilecher, 21-20, 21-9, and Keeley, 21-4, 21-17, to take third place.

Another outstanding young performer was Randy Stafford of Knoxville. I think he's going to be another one of our better players in the future and he showed that by extending Brumfield to three games in the first round, winning 21-13 in the opener before Brum rallied, 21-15, 21-1.

The only match Brumfield took in two games was in the quarterfinals, 21-17, 21-8 over Bill Thurman of California. Then Charlie had to go three with Zeitman in the semis and three with Serot in the finals.

Serot started off by beating me in his first match, 21-9, 21-18, and then Hilecher, 21-13, 21-4. His match with Keeley was a tough one, 21-10, 15-21, 21-12, in the semifinals.

There were some great matches in the tournament, as I said 15 of 38 going three games. One of the best was Schmidtke against Bill Dunn in the first round. Bill won the first game, 21-12, and had the second, 20-15. But Schmidtke pulled his usual come-from-behind tactics with tremendous shooting and won the second game, 21-20, even with Dunn in the box five times, and then the third, 21-11.

I guess you could say one of the best rallies came in a consolation match, although I'd kinda like to forget it myself. Roderick had Porco down, 21-10, 20-17,



Steve Keeley Fourth Place



Jerry Hilecher Fifth Place



Bill Schmidtke Sixth Place

lost the middle game, 20-21, and then had a 19-16 lead in the third and lost 19-21. Guess that's why we play to 21 points instead of 20.

I could not go through the whole tournament without mentioning Charlie Garfinkel. First of all, he's bigger than I am. He's bigger than anybody is. Secondly, he'd write all kinds of letters if I didn't point out that he won the consolation championship. He writes all kinds of letters anyway. We might even print one of them.

Gar lost his first match to Hilecher, 21-18, 21-13, but he came back and dominated the consolation bracket. He had a tough time with Gordon Kelly, 17-21, 21-12, 21-6, but he beat Porco, 21-8, 21-7 (after I had worn Porky out, of course), and then defeated Paul Lawrence, 21-9,

21-14, in the consolation finals.

Garfinkel played extremely well. Of course, when you are 6-feet-11, or maybe it's 11-feet-6, you do not have to move from one spot but just swing your racquet. A 5-foot-4 person ought to be able to beat a 6-foot-11, because for my kill shots I do not have to bend over at all, just stroke naturally. Of course, my kill shots are not very low. I think everybody enjoyed the tournament very much, and if anybody is interested in holding it next year, we would like to get it lined up in the next two months. One thing for sure, you will see the best players in racquetball.

Special recognition should go to DeWitt Shy, who handled all the arrangements, and Smitty Schippers, the tournament chairman, who did the detail work with a

fine crew of Ronnie Leon, Judd Williford and Graham Fulton.

As usual, we got splendid cooperation from Memphis State University's Lige Turman and his assistants, Lee Peoples and Charles Mazzone. Eddie and Debbie Hill were very helpful on transportation and in the motel hospitality room.

The main hospitality room was a big deal, because Memphis had its worst ice storm in 20 years. Sol Kirschner arranged to get the lunch meats from Nat Buring Packing Co. Gene Boyte and her daughter, Patty Stringer, were in charge along with Susan Crumby and Vicki Rush.

Friday night's pre-tournament dinner featured a whole platter of Southern style chicken per person and Bill & Jim's Restaurant.



Ken Wong Seventh Place



Bill Thurman Eighth Place

Big Bird Takes Off on a Flight of Fancy

By Charlie Garfinkel

I had a fantastic time at the National Invitation Singles in Memphis and I would like to give credit where credit is due. For that reason, I would like to thank the following people:

Bill Schmidtke: I'd like to thank Bill for his thoughtfulness. Bill has given me another nickname besides "The Gar." It's "The Big Bird." Unfortunately, it is catching on fast. It is due, I suppose, to my resemblance to the Big Bird on Sesame Street. Also, I was given a yellow uniform in Minneapolis at the National Invitation last year. I wore it a few times. That added to the Big Bird image.

In fact, I stayed at Bill's house with two other players. I thought he carried the Big Bird theme too far. While the other two players slept in a warm house in minus-12-degree weather, Bill had set up a large 10x12 foot cage in his back

yard, with a three-day supply of bird seed and a large female ostrich for me.

When I left Schmidtke's house, I flew home immediately. I will admit, though, my arms were tired. Thanks again, Bill, for your thoughtfulness.

I'd like to show you how modest Bill is. Even though he is a former International champion, his success has never gone to his clothes.

Steve Keeley: I want to thank Steve for giving me his ideas on physical fitness. Steve said I should follow his routine of running 6½ miles a day, and to also play three hours a day. An interesting sidelight is that Keeley never wears a coat—even if the temperature is below 20 degrees.

In fact, Steve told me that he recently ran 12 miles in 10-degree weather back in Michigan. All he had on was a



Charlie Garfinkel . . . Consolation Champion

sweatshirt and his shorts. He was frostbitten while running, in a very vulnerable spot, and was in excruciating pain for a few days. Steve was worried, but the doctor said it was no big thing.

Joe Zelson: Thanks to Joe for moving to another table during dinner.

Jerry Hilecher: I'd like to thank Jerry for teaching me how to lose gracefully. After losing to Jerry in Memphis I told him that I didn't feel badly about losing. However, he overheard me on the phone talking long distance to my wife. He got the impression that I was upset.

All I told my wife was, "Honey, put the house up for sale, give the Board of Education notice that I'm leaving my job, burn all my rackets, and tear out any articles in old racquetball magazines with Jerry's picture or name in it."

Gordon Kelly: I want to thank Gordon for showing me how to "psyche out my opponent." Gordon is a pilot for one of the major airlines. In fact, he was the pilot on my flight from Buffalo. He told me there would be no way that I would win even a point in the Invitational. I know I've hit some low peaks, but I was sure I could score a point.

However, I knew what Gordon was talking about, as he waved to me outside my window as he was parachuting down to earth.

Paul Lawrence: I'd like to thank Paul for getting me a Hollywood screen test. Paul told me that I was a double for a famous Hollywood star. He said he could get me a screen test without any trouble, and I wouldn't even need any makeup. However, I was a little hurt when I found out that he was

referring to my playing the role of Pinocchio's double.

Also, Paul was enthusiastic about my coat with "THE GAR" on the back in bright blue lettering. He's sending me three neon lights to put on the collar.

I also got a letter from Paul saying that Amtrak was ready to bring me out to Hollywood for my screen test. It was an unusual note. It said, "Charlie, there is a train leaving for Hollywood. Make sure you're under it." I owe Paul a lot.

Steve Serot: My thanks to Steve for showing me how to be a sportsman on the court. When ahead of me by 12 to zero in Long Beach, Steve tripped and immediately screamed, "Avoidable hinder".

Tom Kutas: Thanks to Tom for being my roommate in Memphis. (Don't take that the wrong way). It was between Tom and Steve Keeley to see who would room with me. Kutas lost the flip of the coin and immediately screamed "4 out of 7, 4 out of 7".

Also, most people know that I like to talk, and how quiet Tom is. In fact, even though I was with Tom quite a bit, I had a tape recorder that would say yes or no to everything that I said.

Charlie Brumfield: Thanks to Charlie for thinking so much of my ability. When Kutas was in San Diego recently, he inquired about getting into the Invitational as they were trying to decide who to invite. Brum asked Kutas whom he had beaten or done well against. Tom said quickly, "I did real well against the Gar." Brum replied, "No, no! What good players have you beaten?"

Another quickie by the Brum, who has the knack of making you feel great, was after my loss to Serot in Long Beach. Brum said, quote, "I have never seen a top player look so pathetic." Thanks again Brum. I appreciate the ego boost.

Bill Thurman: Thanks to Bill for providing the shock of the tourney. Bill has a job!

Mike Zeitman: Mike is famous for his "Super Jew" T-shirts. He offered me three of them. I figured they said the same thing. I was wrong. It said "To the Biggest Kosher Hot Dog of Them All." Thanks for the T-shirts, Mike.

Ken Porco: Thanks to Ken for offering me housing whenever I'm in Louisville. He said, "Remember Gar, whenever you're in Louisville, you've got a place to stay." With that, Ken gave me the phone number and address of the Downtown YMCA.

DeWitt Shy: Thanks to DeWitt for picking me up at the airport. I'd like to thank him also for having automobile insurance. When you're traveling at 80 miles an hour on slippery, icy roads, it is slightly dangerous. I don't want to say that DeWitt is a rough driver, but he has the only glove compartment that I know of that has five Bibles instead of a driver's manual.

Bill Dunn: Thanks to Bill for giving me an idea for leaving school early on Friday. (We are both teachers.) When asking Bill how he gets out early, he replied, "Out the back door."

Jim Austin: Thanks to Jim for practicing with me when I first arrived in Memphis. I was hitting so well that Jim turned to me leading 14-3 and said "I'll try and help you with your forehand, backhand, ceiling balls, pinch shots, and drop shots, after my first match."

Myron Roderick: Thanks for telling me to keep my eye on the ball. I'm glad we didn't meet in the tournament. Myron is 5 feet, 4 inches tall and 170 pounds pounds of solid muscle. I'm 6 feet, 6 inches tall and solid bone.

Myron said if we played and the ball happened to go through my legs, he'd have to return it; no matter what. Can you picture Myron running through my legs at top speed to return the ball? Ouch!

Ken Wong: I want to thank Ken for showing me how to increase my speed. The only thing I want to know is, can I ride a Honda on the court?

In closing, this was all done in fun, and I want to thank everyone in Memphis again for their hospitality and great tournament.

National Invitational Singles Bracket

**Paul
Lawrence
10th**



Jim Austin
11th



**Ken
Porco
12th**



**Myron
Roderick
13th**



**Gordon
Kelly
14th**



**Randy
Stafford
15th**



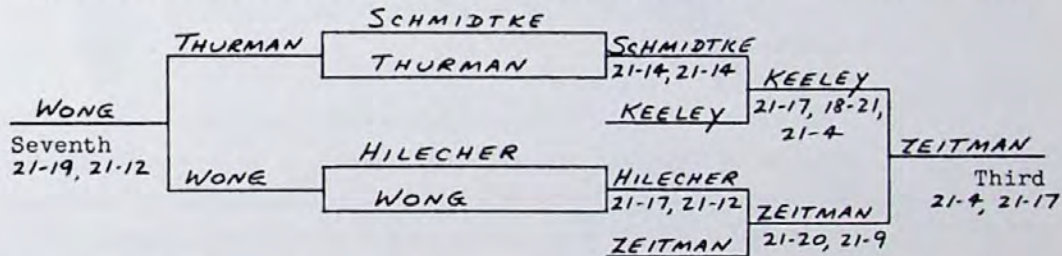
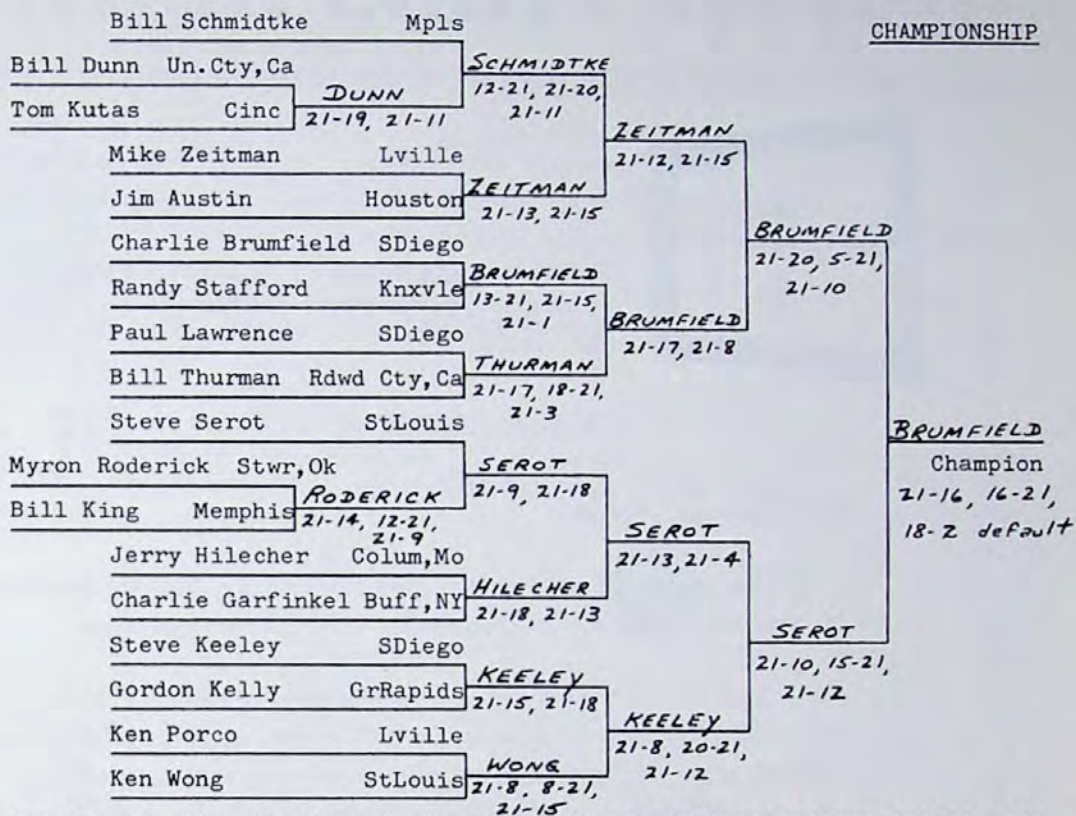
**Bill
Dunn
16th**



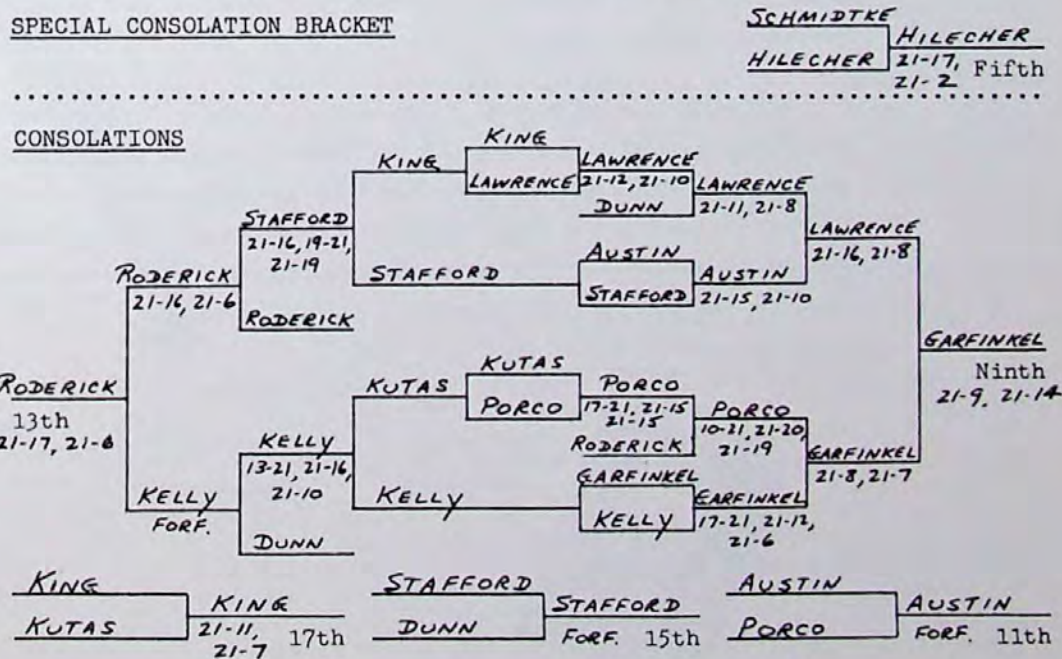
**Bill
King
17th**



Tom
Kutas
18th



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Dear Racquetball Friends:

One problem of major interest to all racquetball players has been the quality of our ball. To be more specific, the primary gripe has been the high breakage factor.

Ironically, at the very time you IRA members were pleading for improvement in the ball, the ball actually got worse. The reason for this, as was found out later, resulted from the basic raw materials not being "up-to-snuff." The energy crisis I'm told, forced the ball manufacturer, among other things, to use a different type of rubber. Though the finished ball looked good enough, once it got into the field it did not perform as well as even the old ball, which we agree left something to be desired.

Surprisingly, the IRA was not completely without fault through all of this. We compounded the problem by changing the ball's specifications to create a higher bounce to permit effective use of the ceiling ball. The situation finally became so aggravated the ball manufacturer, Seamco, shut down their production and called in all their chemists and engineers to review and revamp their entire production procedures. This shutdown, which lasted for over two months, has even created a temporary shortage in the ball.

So much for the bad news . . . now for the good news. The new ball is now in full production and is being shipped at a record rate. Even the cement was improved (you will notice the change in the color of the cement line from black to a faint pink). Very shortly brighter but smaller identification lettering will appear on the ball. We've tested it here in Memphis and in Louisville, and we are pleased with what we see. We feel confident you will be happy with it, but in the meantime let's keep our fingers crossed . . . it's been a long road.

Sincerely,

DeWitt Shy
President



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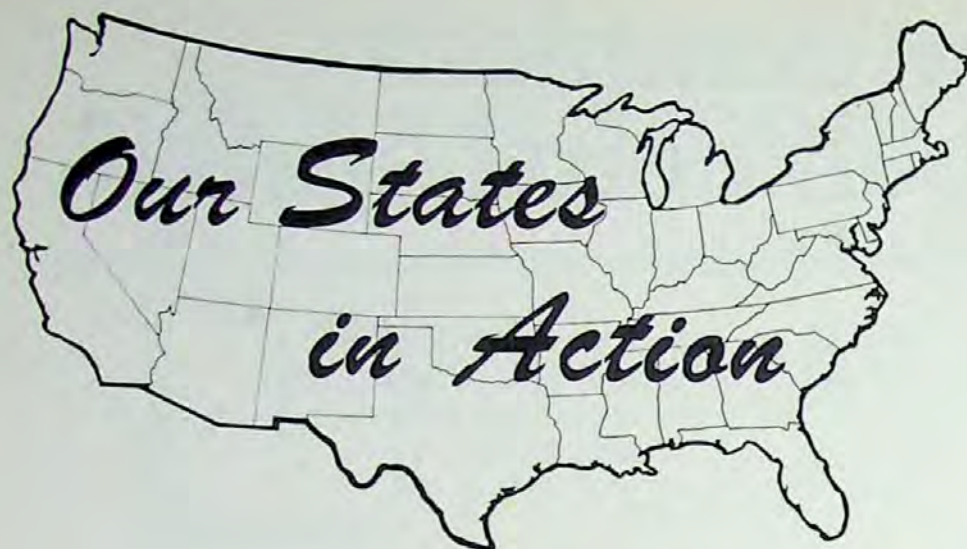
Project Name _____

No. Courts Planned _____ Bid Date _____ Installation date _____

Name & Title _____

Address _____

Telephone _____



Texas

About 40 members were present when Texas held its first state racquetball meeting in Dallas. Richard Walker, who had been serving as acting chairman, was elected president, Peggy Steding of Odessa vice president and Tom McKie of Dallas secretary-treasurer.

One of the principal decisions reached at the meeting was to divide the state into regional areas, each with its own commissioner coordinating activities with the state president. A series of tournaments is planned for the coming year.

Louisiana

The New Orleans citywide tournament was a substantial success, with a draw of 16 players in Class A and more than 30 in Class B. Unfortunately, the enthusiasm for racquetball in the New Orleans area comes in waves and it has been difficult to have a representative meeting of members.

State co-chairman Jerry Winsberg is organizing a citywide round-robin tournament for Class A players. When the Racquetball Club courts on Causeway and I-10 are completed, state co-chairman Peter Michell foresees a new wave of enthusiasm. Efforts to include the Shreveport area in statewide representation are under way.

South Dakota

Membership continues to grow under the direction of state co-chairmen Vince Cutshall and John Rude. A five-state turnout for a recent open tournament was encouraging.

A 16-ounce pewter cup was used as a trophy for the tournament and was well received by the players.

Kentucky

Election of a board of directors will be the principal order of business at the annual meeting during the state tournament February 2 at Louisville. The election was scheduled after an extensive membership drive to give more players a voice.

There are at least 16 locations in Kentucky where racquetball is being played and they have a total of 57 courts, making a state membership goal of 100 within reason.

Iowa

Burdette P. Hansen of Iowa City has been elected state chairman, with Bernard Neilson of Marshalltown vice chairman and Cesar Farell of Iowa City secretary-treasurer. A constitution has

Court Clubs Seminar Set

The second annual seminar-meeting of the National Court Clubs Association will be held May 24-26, 1974, at the Storm Meadows Athletic Club in Steamboat Springs, Colo.

A combination business and recreation weekend is planned for court club owners, managers, prospective builders and suppliers. The Storm Meadows AC offers two fine standard courts, plus tennis, golf, cycling, fishing, hiking and swimming.

A charter flight is planned from Denver Friday afternoon, May 24, to Steamboat Springs at a cost of \$26 per person.

Reservations and further information may be obtained from Mort Leve, NCCA,

been adopted and an extensive tournament schedule is developing.

There has been considerable discussion of eye guards and suggestions that the wearing of eye protectors be made mandatory at the state tournament. This idea has evoked protests and will be aired at length during the next state meeting.

Quebec

The Cote de Liesse Racquet Club, now open, features four brand new racquetball-handball courts, four squash courts, whirlpool and sauna in both men's and women's locker rooms, a fully equipped pro shop and nursery, luxurious lounge and a licensed pub.

The club is open to all comers and visitors to Montreal may call John Spencer (935-1186) or Ivan Velan (748-7743) to arrange a game. The club will be the site of an open tournament in mid-February and the East Canada regionals March 15-17.

Washington

One of the most active organizations in the Northwest is the Women's Racquetball Club, formed from members of the Oxford AC in Vancouver, Wash.

The group already has nearly two dozen members, has played host to a major tournament drawing players from a wide area, has had exchange matches with clubs in Portland, Ore., and other nearby areas and plans clinics and expanded activities.

Anyone interested in forming similar groups or in joining WRC activities may write Kathy Rohrer, secretary, at 3419 NW 124 Street, Vancouver, Wash. 98665.

4101 Dempster St., Skokie, Ill. 60076, telephone 312-673-4000. There will be a \$15 registration fee and accommodations will run from \$24 to \$60.

Storm Meadows AC also is planning its first summer instruction racquetball-handball camp, running six weeks from mid-June to late July.

The camp will feature nationally ranked racquetball and handball instructors, plus all the recreation facilities of the club. Fee will be \$150 per person, including condominium accommodations, food and personalized instruction.

For details, write Tim Schliebe, athletic director, Storm Meadows AC, PO Box AAA, Steamboat Springs, Colo. 80477, telephone 303-879-1035.



Bud Muehleisen and Myron Roderick . . . Champions

Bud, Myron Show Seniors How It's Done

Bud Muehleisen of San Diego and Myron Roderick of Stillwater, Okla., swept through six round-robin matches without a loss to capture the first annual IRA National Invitation Senior Doubles championship at Stillwater.

Muehleisen's control of the left side, with deft drop shots and side-front wall kills and Roderick's consistent play and passes were the key factors as the winners allowed no more than 23 points in any of the 31-point games.

Muehleisen is a former International Open Singles champion (1969) and two-time Masters king (1972-73). The Senior Doubles crown was the first national racquetball title for Roderick, who was runner-up in the National Invitation Senior Singles earlier in the season.

The six victories produced a winning total of 55.2 points, based on a system of .2 for every point scored and a three point bonus for every game won.

Finishing second with a 5-1 record and 50.6 points were Bill Sellars and Richard

Walker of Dallas, whose only loss was to Muehleisen and Roderick, 31-23, in the fourth round. Sellars had just won the National Invitation Masters Doubles in Pennsylvania, with Joe Zelson of St. Louis.

Sellars and Walker downed Senior Singles champ Ken Porco of Louisville and Bill King of Memphis, 31-19. Porco and King were third with 44.4 points, followed by: 4—John Raducha and Dick Hamlin, Omaha, Neb., 33.8; 5—John Mooney and Bill Riggle, Colorado Springs, 33.8; 6—John Jobe and Doug Aichele, Stillwater, 30.6; and 7—V.Z. Lawton, Norman, Okla., and Ken Denny, Midwest City, Okla., 16.0.

The tournament was hosted by the Stillwater Racquetball Club with players quartered at the Student Union Hotel on the Oklahoma State University campus. They were guests at a Friday night dinner at the home of Myron and JoAnn Roderick, with music provided by Sellars on guitar and Lawton on ukelele.



Bill Sellars and Richard Walker

FIRST ROUND

Roderick-Muehleisen def. Porco-King, 31-19; Mooney-Riggle def. Raducha-Hamlin, 31-30; Sellars-Walker def. Jobe-Aichele, 31-14.

SECOND ROUND

Roderick-Muehleisen def. Lawton-Denny, 31-9; Porco-King def. Raducha-Hamlin, 31-10; Sellars-Walker def. Mooney-Riggle, 31-15.

THIRD ROUND

Jobe-Aichele def. Lawton-Denny, 31-15; Roderick-Muehleisen def. Raducha-Hamlin, 31-21; Porco-King def. Mooney-Riggle, 31-16.

FOURTH ROUND

Raducha-Hamlin def. Lawton-Denny, 31-18; Roderick-Muehleisen def. Sellars-Walker, 31-23; Porco-King def. Jobe-Aichele, 31-17.

FIFTH ROUND

Roderick-Muehleisen def. Jobe-Aichele, 31-14; Sellars-Walker def. Porco-King, 31-19; Mooney-Riggle def. Lawton-Denny, 31-18.

SIXTH ROUND

Roderick-Muehleisen def. Mooney-Riggle, 31-13; Raducha-Hamlin def. Jobe-Aichele, 31-16; Sellars-Walker def. Lawton-Denny, 31-16.

SEVENTH ROUND

Sellars-Walker def. Raducha-Hamlin, 31-16; Jobe-Aichele def. Raducha-Hamlin, 31-29; Porco-King def. Lawton-Denny, 31-3.



Senior Doubles entries, from left, front row: Bill Sellars-Richard Walker, Bud Muehleisen-Myron Roderick, Ken Porco-Bill King; back row: Doug Aichele-John Jobe, John Mooney-Bill Riggle, V. Z. Lawton-Ken Denny, Dick Hamlin-John Raducha.

Calendar

FEBRUARY

1-3: Kentucky State Championships, Louisville AC, Louisville. (OS, OD, BS, BD, MS, MD, WS, WD.) Ken Porco, 3924 Layside Drive, Louisville, Ky. 40220.

1-3: Niagara Falls Singles Open, Niagara Falls YMCA, Niagara Falls, N. Y. 14302.

1-3: Quebec Closed A Singles, Laval University, Quebec City, Que., Andre Belanger.

8-9: Iowa State IRA Singles, Burlington YMCA, Burlington, Iowa. Burdette P. Hansen, PO Box 30, Iowa City, Iowa 52240.

8-10: IRA National Invitation Masters (45-over) Singles, St. Louis. (By invitation.) Joseph A. Zelson, 111 S. Bemiston, Suite 512, Clayton, Mo. 63105.

11-23: British Columbia Closed, Vancouver.

15-17: Golden Bear Open, Canadians only, Edmonton.

15-16: Iowa State Open Masters, Keokuk, Iowa. Jerry G. Lucas, 526 Eicher Street, Keokuk, Iowa 52632.

15-17: Tennessee State Championships, Nashville, Tenn.

15-17: Montreal Open, Cote de Liesse Racquet Club, Montreal. (S&D) Ivan Velan, Cote de Liesse Racquet Club, 8305 Cote de Liesse rd., Montreal, Que., Canada H4T 1G5.

21-24: Columbia River Open, Portland, Ore. (OS, BS, CS, WS, Women's B, NovS.) Milt Sharp's Olympic AC, 8333 NE Russell, Portland, Ore. 97220.

MARCH

1-2: Iowa State Singles, Marshalltown, Iowa. Bernard Nielsen, 1211 W Main, Marshalltown, Iowa 50158.

IRA Regional Championships, five sites in U. S., two in Canada (required open singles qualifying for International IRA Championships).

East—Penn State University, Tom Sweeney, 341 Toftrees Ave. No. 316, State College, Pa. 16801, March 1-3.

South—Birmingham YMCA, Barry Cox, Alabama Metal Industries Corp., PO Box 3928, Birmingham, Ala. 35208, March 1-3.

Central—The Court House, Minneapolis, Minn., Malin Greenberg, 2009 Westwood Hills Drive, Minneapolis, Minn. 55426, March 1-3.

Southwest—Texas Christian University, Pete Wright, Rickell Athletic Center Gym, Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, Texas 76129, March 1-3.

West—Deseret Gym, Salt Lake City, Wayne Player, Deseret Gym, 161 N Main, Salt Lake City, Utah 84110, March 7-9.

East Canada—Cote de Liesse Racquet Club, Montreal, Ivan Velan, Cote de Liesse Racquet Club, 8305 Cote de Liesse Rd., Montreal, Que., Canada H4T 1G5, March 15-17.

West Canada—Vancouver, B. C., Ian McKenzie, 910-777 Hornby, Vancouver, B. C., Canada, April 12-14. For additional information, write Canadian Racquetball Association, 10325-114 Street, No. 22, Edmonton, Alb., Canada T5K 1S2.

4: Buffalo A Doubles Open, Downtown YMCA, Buffalo, N.Y.

11-16: Buffalo A Singles Open, East YMCA, Buffalo, N. Y., dates tentative.

14-16: Saskatchewan Open, Canadians only, Saskatoon.

15-16: Iowa State Doubles, Davenport, Iowa.

22-24: New York State Doubles Open, Downtown YMCA, Buffalo, N. Y.

28-31: IRA National Intercollegiate, University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Limited to matriculated students at an accredited university or college. (AS, BS, D, team scoring on four-man teams.) Dr. Ben Plotnicki, School of Health, PE & Recreation, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tenn. 37916.

APRIL

10: Buffalo B Singles Open, Downtown YMCA, Buffalo, N. Y.

19-21: Second Annual Minnesota State closed, Rochester YMCA, Fred Banfield, YMCA, Rochester, Minn. 55901.

19-21: Alberta Open, Canadians only, Calgary.

22-27: Buffalo Masters Open, Athletic Club, Buffalo, N. Y.

25-27: Second annual Idaho State Championships, Boise, Robert J. Petersen, 1475 West Hays St., Boise, Idaho 83702.

MAY

9-11: Edmonton City Closed, Edmonton, Alb.

24-27: IRA International Singles Championships, San Diego. (Open, 18-under Junior, 35-44 Senior, 45-54 Masters, 55-over Golden Masters, Women's, also Women's Doubles.) Open Singles qualifying required through IRA regionals. No qualifying required for other brackets. Preliminary tournament May 23 to complete 64 bracket in Open Singles. Dr. Bud Muehleisen, 7860 Mission Center Court, Suite 103, San Diego, Calif. 92110.

JULY

17-20: Canadian Klondike, Edmonton, Alberta. For full information write Canadian Racquetball Association, 10325-114 Street, No. 22, Edmonton, Alb., Canada T5K 1S2.

OCTOBER

10-13: IRA International Doubles Championships, site to be determined. No qualifying required. (Open, 18-under Junior, 35-44 Senior, 45-54 Masters, 55-over Golden Masters).

NOVEMBER

7-10: Canadian National Championships, Cote de Liesse Racquet Club, Montreal. Ivan Velan, Cote de Liesse Racquet Club, 8305 Cote de Liesse Rd., Montreal, Que., Canada H4T 1G5. For full information on any Canadian tournament, write CRA, 10325-114 Street, No. 22, Edmonton, Alb., Canada T5K 1S2.

A Report to the Members

Minutes of the IRA Board of Directors telephone conference, Dec. 11, 1973:

The meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order by DeWitt Shy, president, at 11 a.m. CST. Those on the call were Shy, Ken Porco, Bud Muehleisen, Gerry Lapierre, Robert A. Challenger, Charles Brumfield, William A. Sellars, Robert McInerney, Larry Lederman, Smith Schippers and Myron Roderick, executive director.

Professionalism vs. amateurism was discussed and a motion was made that, beginning Jan. 1, 1974, any players who enter a tournament with the qualifications of playing for prize money should be banned for one year from playing in IRA sanctioned tournaments. The motion was seconded, but was defeated by a vote of 6 to 3.

A motion was made that a percentage of travel expense for regional champions in various divisions to attend the International Championships be paid. Motion was seconded, but was tabled for further study and decision by the executive committee.

(The executive committee later adopted the following schedule: Full fare and per diem expense for the previous year's top four place-winners in Open Singles; fare for regional champions in Open Singles the current year; half-fare for each regional champion the current year in Junior, Women's Senior, Masters and Golden Masters Singles.)

After it was pointed out that Ohio is in the East Region, rather than Central as listed on a preliminary chart, qualifying places were assigned to the seven IRA regional tournaments as follows:

Qualifying is required only for Open Singles. The top four place-winners from

the previous year (Brumfield, Keeley, Serot and Schmidtke from 1973) would be exempt from qualifying.

East was assigned 10 places, South 10, Central 10, Southwest 10, West 12, East Canada 2 and West Canada 2. Eight places and any other vacancies left by no-shows would be filled by a one-day tournament the day before the Internationals. The motion passed unanimously, 10-0.

A report on the ball was given by Shy, who said the necessary adjustments had been made to improve the ball and that it was back in production. Further improvement is expected when Seamco receives a new supply of rubber in February.

Advertising was discussed and the general consensus of the board was to leave adjustment of advertising rates to the national office to make the magazine a paying proposition.

Dress code, Rule 2.5 Uniforms, was discussed and there was unanimous agreement that it be enforced as written.

A motion was made and carried that a doubles team should wear the same or nearly the same color shirts, different from that of the opponents. Size limitations for club emblems on the front of the shirt were discussed but a decision was deferred to a later meeting.

It was unanimously agreed that in all IRA-sanctioned tournaments, each player must show or obtain a current membership card.

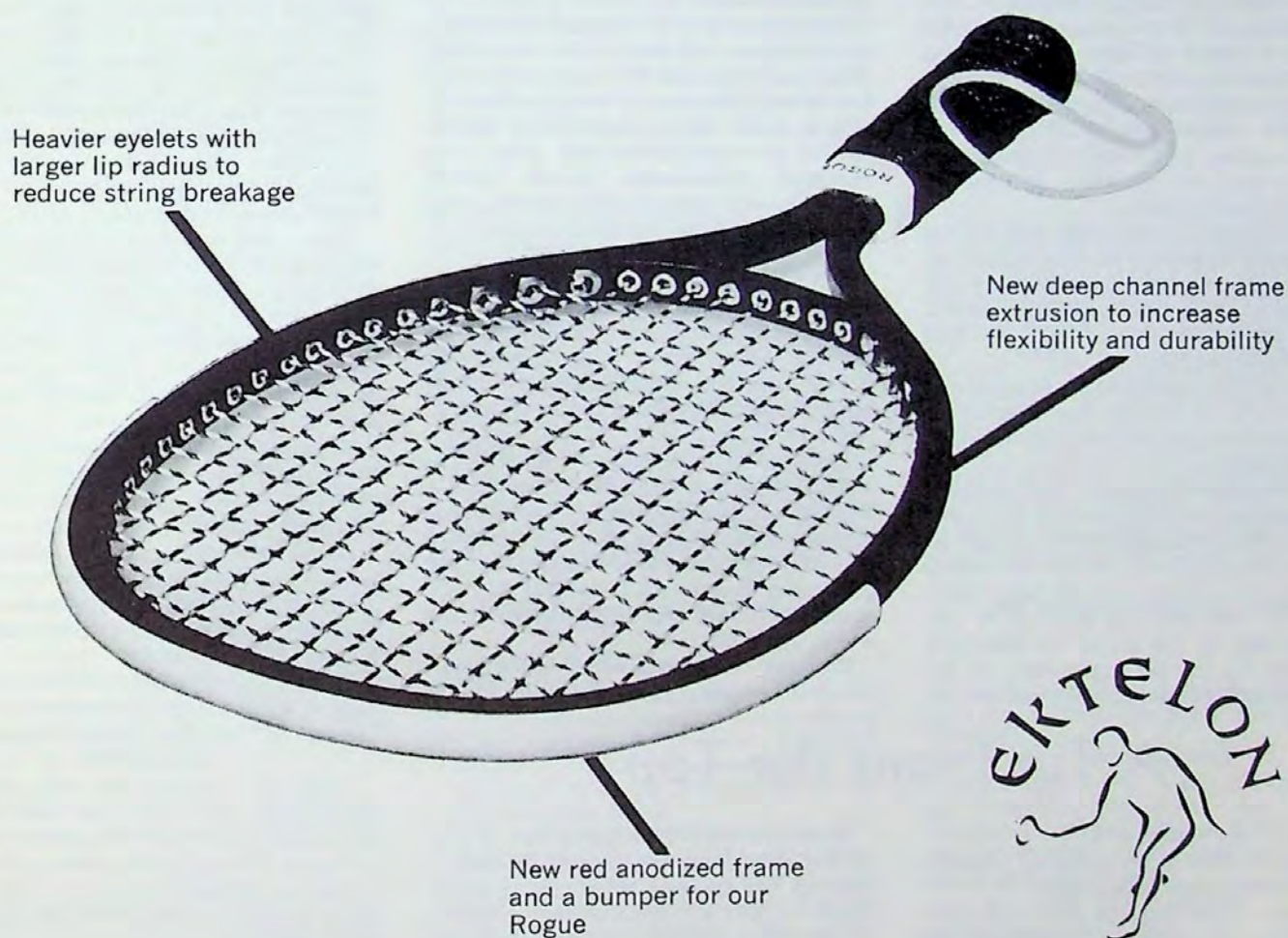
The annual meeting of the Board of Directors will be May 22, 1974, the day preceding the International Singles Championships in San Diego. The annual membership meeting will be Sunday morning, May 26, at 9:30 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned.

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Tournament Bracketing

Three Ways to Go

Tournament play in the International Racquetball Association falls into three basic bracketing patterns, each with advantages and disadvantages. They are single elimination, round-robin and double elimination.

Of course, too, there are special types of brackets to meet special situations, such as the 1974 National Invitation Open Singles tournament covered elsewhere in this magazine.

If you are planning a tournament, you might want to consider the various aspects of bracketing to meet your needs.

SINGLE ELIMINATION

Advantages: The pressure of performance exists in each match, each player must win or he's out.

If the tournament is properly seeded, and this is a highly important factor, the match caliber improves progressively until the final match, which determines first and second places.

The number of necessary matches is small, one less match than the number of entries. This enables a 16-man bracket to be run easily in two days, round of 16 and quarterfinals one day, semifinals and finals the second day.

This is the traditional format for tournaments in almost every sport, a system well understood by the athletes and spectators.

Disadvantages: Proper seeding and placement in the brackets is very important. The bracket always must be drawn to pair the No. 1 and No. 4 seeds in one half, Nos. 2 and 3 in the other half. Thus, the two top challengers to the favorite play (in the semis) for the right to contest for the championship. In the quarterfinals, the pairings should be 1-8,

4-5, 2-7, 3-6. No 5 has the best chance to upset No. 4, in the judgment of the seedings committee, so should be the one to play him. If this pairing is not followed, the second best man may not be in the finals.

Unless extra matches are played, single elimination determines only the first two places. It is traditional, however, to match the semifinal losers for third and fourth places.

Quarterfinal losers can be paired in a separate tournament to determine fifth through eighth places, but this adds to the match total.

Unless there is a consolation bracket, some players will have only one match. This is unforgivable if the players have to travel any distance to the tournament. Where travel is involved, every player should be guaranteed at least two matches. Consolation should include everyone who loses his first match, even if he advanced one round with a bye.

THE ROUND-ROBIN

Advantages: Every player (or team) meets every other contestant in the tournament, particularly valuable when players travel from widely divergent areas. Thus, they have the opportunity to meet players they have not encountered before.

Places can be determined all the way from first to last. The IRA National Invitation scoring system, where round-robin is used, awards .2 for every point scored, plus a three-point bonus for every game won. Based on a 31-point game, this makes a victory worth 9.2 points, a loss worth up to 6.0.

There is continuing effort throughout the tournament, since every place is

determined and a loss can be overcome by a good victory.

Seeding is not important. Everybody meets everybody. For the crowd's sake, if there are two outstanding players, they could be drawn to meet in the last round, or at a convenient time for spectators.

Disadvantages: The main drawback is the volume of matches. Such a tournament almost has to span three days, unless there are only half a dozen entries.

If there are eight players, each goes seven matches; if 10 entries, each plays nine; if a dozen players, each goes 11 times. There's no advantage to having a large number of courts, because only a few can be in use at a time, and rest periods must be scheduled.

DOUBLE ELIMINATION

Advantages: Combines some of the favorable aspects of straight-line bracketing and round-robin. At least two matches are guaranteed and one-time losers still can finish as high as third.

Two players can meet a second time, although if the bracket is properly prepared, there are few rematches and those only in medal competition near the end. First round losers should be bracketed from top to bottom, second round losers from bottom to top.

More places can be determined accurately. All the early losers can be in the running for third and fourth places. In most double elimination tournaments, the winners bracket finals are for first and second places (which makes the championship play actually single elimination).

Consolation matches can be played to 31 points while winners bracket matches go best-of-three games, without detracting from championship play.

Disadvantages: A huge number of matches, many of them waiting on the outcome of TWO prior matches instead of one. Smooth scheduling is difficult and easily develops errors.

This is a particularly difficult style of play if the players are involved in both singles and doubles. Almost impossible.

SUMMATION

Study the alternatives and pick the style which best suits your tournament. But make it clear to the players what's going on. When possible, draw up a court and time schedule for every match of the meet. Do your paperwork before the first ball is hit.

If you have a large field, single elimination with consolations may be your best bet.

For a small, quality field, the 31-point round-robin has proved highly successful.

If lots of experience is what your players want, dip into the double elimination plan.

The IRA office has various sample bracketing plans available and will provide them for anyone who writes to the IRA, PO Box 1016, Stillwater, Okla. 74074.

A Tip From the Top

By Bud Muehleisen

The wrist cock is an essential element in producing a powerful swing. To prove this point, try hitting the ball with your arm alone, not cocking or breaking the wrist. Pfft!

Many times during a fast exchange, you will not have time to fully cock the wrist. In that situation, the wrist situation, the wrist should be firmed up and rotated through as contact is made with the ball.

Whenever possible, however, you should use a full wrist cock.

To illustrate the proper wrist cock, assume the forearm grip and take the racquet to the top of the backswing on the forehand side. The arm should be bent about 90 degrees at the elbow.

When the wrist is fully cocked in the proper direction, the top—or leading—edge of the racquet should be pointing down the arm and to the same shoulder. At this point, without moving your arm, wrist or racquet, turn your body to the backhand side. You will have assumed the proper full wrist cock for the backhand, except for the minor grip change which is made for the backhand grip.

In other words, the full wrist cock is the same for both the forehand and backhand, except for the minor grip adjustment.

If you have ever played golf or baseball, it should help you to learn the proper full wrist cock for racquetball. All are the same at the top of the swing.



Bill Sellars and Joe Zelson . . . Champions

The Masters Touch Shown By Bill, Joe

Joe Zelson of St. Louis and Bill Sellars of Dallas won the second annual IRA National Invitation Masters Doubles championship at New Castle, Pa., by sweeping unbeaten through three days of round-robin competition.

Zelson is a two-time former International Masters Doubles champion (in 1970 and 1972, with Marlowe Phillips), while Sellars was runner-up in the 1973 Masters Singles.

The eight victories for Zelson-Sellars amassed a winning total of 73.6 points, based on a system of .2 for every point scored and a three-point bonus for every game won.

Finishing second with a 7-1 record and 68.6 points were Sam Caiazza of New Castle and Gene Grapes of Irwin, Pa., the reigning International Golden Masters Doubles champions. Their only defeat was at the hands of the eventual champions, 31-21, in the second round.

Completing the standings were: 3—Carl Loveday and John Halverson, 61.8; 4—Vince Cutshall and Don Erickson, 55.4; 5—Earl Dixon and Phil Dziuk, 53.8; 6—Bob Troyer and Al Hanke, 52.2; 7—John Doyle and Smith Schippers, 46.4; 8—Ivan Bruner and Chet Howard, 36.4; and 9—Pat Deighan and John Leech, 28.8.

The tournament was sponsored by the New Castle Racquetball Association,

whose president is James Scarazzao. Tournament chairman was Bill Fray.

Others who played major roles in the success of the tournament were Carl A. Cialella and Tony Cialella, transportation; Art Haas, executive director of the host YMCA; John Kline, public relations; Bob Phillips, scheduling;

Donna McNicols, hostess; Len Perretti and Dan DeVitto, floor managers; and Tina Cialella and Bev Beck, scorers.

Luke St. Ald and Tom Sweeney of State College, Pa., did a great job as referees all three days. Mr. and Mrs. Bob Dray were hosts to all the players and committees at their home.



Gene Grapes and Sam Caiazza



John Halverson and Carl Loveday

FIRST ROUND

Cutshall-Erickson def. Doyle-Schippers, 31-25; Sellars-Zelson def. Loveday-Halverson, 31-29; Grapes-Caiazza def. Troyer-Hanke, 31-16; Bruner-Howard def. Leech-Deighan, 31-23.

SECOND ROUND

Doyle-Schippers def. Leech-Deighan, 31-9; Troyer-Hanke def. Bruner-Howard, 31-22; Sellars-Zelson def. Grapes-Caiazza, 31-21; Loveday-Halverson def. Dziuk-Dixon, 31-13.

THIRD ROUND

Troyer-Hanke def. Doyle-Schippers, 31-25; Cutshall-Erickson def. Leech-Deighan, 31-16; Sellars-Zelson def. Bruner-Howard, 31-19; Grapes-Caiazza def. Dziuk-Dixon, 31-21.

FOURTH ROUND

Dziuk-Dixon def. Bruner-Howard, 31-10; Grapes-Caiazza def. Loveday-Halverson, 31-24; Cutshall-Erickson def. Troyer-Hanke, 31-22; Sellars-Zelson def. Doyle-Schippers, 31-25.

FIFTH ROUND

Troyer-Hanke def. Leech-Deighan, 31-20; Dziuk-Dixon def. Doyle-Schippers, 31-

21; Sellars-Zelson def. Cutshall-Erickson, 31-11; Loveday-Halverson def. Bruner-Howard, 31-15.

SIXTH ROUND

Sellars-Zelson def. Leech-Deighan, 31-23; Loveday-Halverson def. Doyle-Schippers, 31-22; Grapes-Caiazza def. Bruner-Howard, 31-25; Cutshall-Erickson def. Dziuk-Dixon, 31-28.

SEVENTH ROUND

Loveday-Halverson def. Cutshall-Erickson, 31-9; Dziuk-Dixon def. Leech-Deighan, 31-11; Grapes-Caiazza def. Doyle-Schippers, 31-24; Sellars-Zelson def. Troyer-Hanke, 31-27.

EIGHTH ROUND

Loveday-Halverson def. Leech-Deighan, 31-18; Dziuk-Dixon def. Troyer-Hanke, 31-12; Doyle-Schippers def. Bruner-Howard, 31-27; Grapes-Caiazza def. Cutshall-Erickson, 31-26.

NINTH ROUND

Grapes-Caiazza def. Leech-Deighan, 31-24; Troyer-Hanke def. Loveday-Halverson, 31-26; Cutshall-Erickson def. Bruner-Howard, 31-17; Sellars-Zelson def. Dziuk-Dixon, 31-23.



Don Erickson and Vince Cutshall

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Official IRA
Intercollegiate Rules

RULE ONE—MATRICULATION

No one shall participate in any intercollegiate racquetball contest unless he is a bona fide matriculated student at an accredited university or college (not business college, trade school, etc.) and is regularly enrolled and doing full work as defined by the regulations of the institution at which he is enrolled.

RULE TWO—PARTICIPATION

1. Participation in intercollegiate racquetball shall be limited to four varsity years over a period of five consecutive college years counting from the date of matriculation.

2. In the event of a student's regular attendance being interrupted by military service in any of the armed forces, his period of eligibility shall be five years exclusive of his period of military service, except for the years in which, during his military service, he may have represented an educational institution.

3. Freshmen are eligible for varsity competition in racquetball. Women are eligible.

4. Transfer students or graduates from a junior college may continue their racquetball competition without complying with the one-year residence rule. Total years of competition shall not exceed four years.

5. No professional racquetball player shall be permitted to compete in any intercollegiate tournament. However, in accord with intercollegiate legislation of 1974, professionalism in any other sport shall not preclude competition in racquetball as long as the player maintains amateur standing in the sport of racquetball.

RULE THREE—TOURNAMENTS

1. Eligibility of participants shall be verified prior to the tournament by letter from the Office of the Dean of Admissions or Registrar to the tournament director, with the school seal affixed.

2. Teams shall consist of four players from the same institution; teams cannot comprise players from different schools in the same system (example, University of Texas-Austin, Arlington and El Paso campuses). Members of a doubles team must be from the same institution.

3. A team of four shall consist of one player in Class A Singles, one player in Class B Singles and one doubles team. No player may compete in more than one event.

4. Scoring shall be as follows:

Placement—The champion of each event shall receive 10 points, runner-up 7 points, third place 4 points, fourth place 2 points.

Advancement—A player shall receive two points for each match won, except that no advancement points shall be awarded to the winner of the championship finals, or the third place match. A forfeit or an injury default shall be considered a match won. One point shall be awarded to a player receiving a bye, if he wins his next match.

IRA Intercollegiate Championships--1974

MARCH 28-31

University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tenn.

ELIGIBILITY: See accompanying Official IRA Intercollegiate Rules. Each player also must be an amateur member of IRA—can sign up now or at tournament site.

ENTRY FEE: \$10 per player, singles; \$10 per team doubles; limit one event.

DEADLINE: March 15, 1974.

OFFICIAL BALL: Seamco 558 (black).

RULES: Official IRA rules as published in the 1973 Handbook.

TROPHIES: First three places in each event. First two places, team scoring. First place consolations.

HOUSING AND FOOD: Information may be obtained from Randy Stafford, School of Health, PE & Recreation, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tenn. 37916

—ENTRY BLANK—

Enter me in ☐ A Singles, ☐ B Singles, ☐ Doubles

Name _____ College _____
Please print

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Partner's Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Check ☐ if members of college's four-player team. ☐ No

Send all entries to:

Dr. Ben Plotnicki

School of Health, PE & Recreation

University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tenn. 37916

Canadian Reports

WEST CANADA

By Marilyn Rankin

We're in the planning stages again for our fourth annual Klondike Championships, July 17-20 in Edmonton.

Because of the great response for our 1973 event, we would like to make suggestions to those who are planning to enter for '74. Last year we had 168 entries and because of all our categories we managed to play over 235 matches.

We are more than pleased to make billeting arrangements, but please give us lots of time, as last year we were a bit rushed. The University of Alberta has twin-bedded double rooms on campus, across the street from the courts, but again we need to know in good time.

Hotel reservations must be booked early, as all hotels were booked solid during our city's Klondike Days. We set aside a block of 20 rooms on a first-come, first-served basis.

This year's Klondike is not the national tournament. The Canadian Nationals will be hosted by Montreal in November.

We would like to thank all those who have visited us in the past and we look forward to seeing you again this year. For those who have not entered our Klondike, you don't know what you've missed . . . come and see our city, our country and play a little racquetball, too. Bring the family . . . this event is for everyone—veterans, beginners and non-players. More about the Klondike in the next magazine report.

EAST CANADA

By Ivan Velan

I am pleased to accept the position as western Quebec commissioner of the CRA. The only hesitation I had was due to the poor facilities for play from which to build up the game.

However, John Spencer and I were able to convince Lou Green to add four courts to his complex at the Cote de Liesse Club and now we have an excellent base from which to promote. We are both quite excited about it.

We will have the Montreal Open, singles and doubles, at the club February 15-17, followed by the East Canada IRA Regionals March 15-17. Also, the Canadian National Championships now

are scheduled at the club in November.

There are two snags we hope to get cleared up in May.

First, the four courts are 22 feet high, rather than 20 feet, due to an error in construction. In every other respect—walls, floor, ceiling, lighting, ventilation, door, markings—the courts are second to none and superior to most John and I have played on.

We have found that it takes only a minor adjustment to play a ceiling game and in fact makes the game more effective as fewer balls tend to come off the back wall.

Either the courts will be left as-is, or the ceilings will be lowered next summer—decision to be made in May, dependent on membership, etc.

Secondly, in May we will reach a crossroads on the question of membership, which will determine if more courts will be added (the land is bought and available), including a glass-wall

exhibition court, if we will remain status quo, or possibly even if two of our existing courts will be converted to English squash. Demand and membership will decide.

At the moment we have about 45 members and rapidly growing interest, but the rate of increase in members currently points to a status quo situation. By the way, the four courts are located in a row, side by side, with ample gallery room to erect scaffolding for additional seats.

We need the support of the CRA and IRA to sanction tournaments so what we are building up—the best and so far, unfortunately, the only major racquetball facility in eastern Canada—doesn't fizzle.

On the positive side, we needn't sell Montreal as a good city to visit and a new one for many racquetballers. Most of us are willing to play on almost anything, leave alone top-notch courts that are just 10 per cent high.

We just hosted a Montreal regional handball tournament during which the players stated they had no trouble with the ceiling and we added a half-dozen new members.

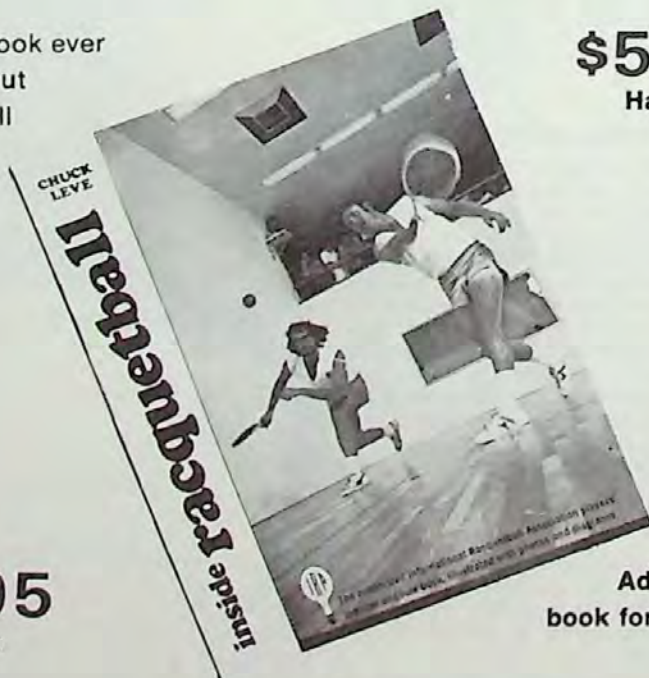
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chapter 2 FUNDAMENTALS

Reprinted from
INSIDE RACQUETBALL
A Publication of the
International Racquetball Association

People of all ages and even entire families play racquetball. The exercise afforded by racquetball keeps a person healthy, and the competition of the game satisfies the aggressive tendencies of all individuals. Above all, racquetball is fun, which accounts for its increasing popularity.

This chapter on fundamentals will help you increase your enjoyment of the game by helping you improve your skills. Mastery of the basic skills described here will help you move on to more advanced skills and help you use your court time more efficiently. In addition, you will learn the importance of coordinating your feet and arm motion, maintaining your balance, and keeping constant eye contact with the ball.

Many of the tips that are included in this chapter have been provided by Charlie Brumfield, 1972-73 International Singles Champion. Charlie is a champion by virtue of his ability to avoid playing errors and errors in game strategy. He controls each exchange, making his opponent do most of the moving about on the court.

GRIP AND STROKE

Proper grip of the racquet and the correct stroke are essential for playing good racquetball. Yet because many players don't take enough time to learn the proper grip, they end up not being able to manipulate the racquet and hit the ball where they want it to go.

There are three basic racquetball grips and strokes: forehand, backhand, and overhand. Descriptions of the strokes given here are for a right-handed player. Left-handed players should substitute "left" for "right" in most instances.

Forehand Grip: To begin the forehand grip, pick up the racquet with your right or left hand, depending on whether you are right-handed or left-handed. Turn the racquet so that the strings are perpendicular, not parallel, to the floor. Now grip the racquet handle as though you were shaking hands with it. You should be able to draw an imaginary line from the racquet frame to the base of the "V" formed by the juncture of your index finger and thumb. Keep your index finger slightly in front of and above your thumb as though you were going to pull the trigger of a gun. Pronounced extension of your index, or "trigger," finger will give you slightly more control in your swing. Curve your fingers around the racquet handle and grip the racquet securely, making sure the end of the handle is set deep into the palm of your hand.

The proper forehand grip allows the player to hit the ball squarely and to send it in a straight line in the desired direction. If you grip the racquet so the racquet face is closed (turned slightly toward the floor) or opened (turned slightly toward the ceiling) as it makes contact with the ball, your shot will come off the racquet at an up or down angle rather than in a straight line.

Forehand Stroke: To get into the proper position for the forehand stroke, stand facing the right side wall if you are

right-handed, the left side wall if you are left-handed. Grip your racquet in the proper forehand manner; bend your racquet arm slightly at the elbow, and cock your wrist upward. Hold your forearm at a 90 degree angle to your upper arm and keep your elbow away from your body. Let your free arm hang in a natural manner, straight and relaxed. As you execute the forehand stroke, your free hand will follow the movement of your body naturally. You are now in the backswing, or ready, position for the forehand stroke.

In game play you should face the front wall with your weight balanced equally on both feet and your eyes on the ball as it comes off the front wall. To execute the forehand stroke, you must pivot your upper body toward the right side wall, lower your right shoulder, and bend your right leg slightly at the knee. Your weight now shifts more onto your right foot, the foot closest to the back wall.

Then you begin to move your lower body toward the front wall and the ball as it comes toward you. At this point, your racquet arm is still bent at the elbow, with your wrist cocked. Your weight now shifts gradually off your right foot as you bring your body and arm around simultaneously until you are putting almost all your weight on your left foot. You should time your swing in such a way that the ball is just off the instep of your left foot, the foot closest to the front wall, when the racquet strikes it.

Don't stop the flowing motion of your lower body as you make contact with the ball. Hit the ball squarely and firmly,



Follow-through is important to forehand stroke.



Balance, shifting weight forward, body pivot and follow-through are all keys to the backhand stroke.

with a fully extended arm and an uncocked, not stiff, wrist. As you hit the ball, your arm, wrist, and racquet should form a straight line of power to propel the ball toward the front wall.

Don't stop your arm motion after you hit the ball. Let your arm follow through by bending it at the elbow and moving it across your chest and slightly above your left shoulder.

Eventually, with practice, you will be able to calculate mentally the possible returns your opponent may make of your forehand shot. Knowing this, you can immediately move in the direction of his shot before he makes it. Your body should be in constant motion, not relaxing even after the hit and follow through. If you stop and start your body, the ball will be returned before you can react, and it will be impossible for you to hit it before it bounces twice on the floor.

A rule of thumb in racquetball is to keep your eyes on the ball at all times, especially as the ball moves into the hitting area and makes contact with your racquet.

Charlie Brumfield watches the ball move into the hitting area and then looks at his racquet, maintaining that this technique helps him to judge the ball's distance from the point of contact. As Charlie says, "Once the ball is in the hitting area, you'd better be ready to strike it without hesitating. Otherwise, the ball will get past you, and then you're not going to be able to hit it anywhere."

Backhand Grip: Most players adjust their grip slightly for backhand shots. If you don't, your racquet face will be open (angled upward) when you make contact with the ball. Your shot will then float; that is, the ball will come off your racquet face with less force, traveling with less speed and greater height toward the front wall. Your opponent thus will gain additional time to get into position to return the shot.

For the proper backhand grip, grasp the racquet in your right hand in the handshake grip you learned for the forehand, with the racquet face perpendicular to the floor. Looking down at the edge of the racquet frame, angle the head of the racquet 2 inches to the right (or left, for left-handers) by turning your wrist. As the racquet head is turned to the right, your hand will slide naturally to the left in order to maintain your grip on the racquet. This slight adjustment of your grip for the backhand stroke allows your racquet to

hit the ball squarely, with the face perpendicular to the floor.

The backhand grip may feel a bit unnatural at first. Yet, combined with the proper backhand stroke, this grip will help you make backhand shots efficiently and with maximum power.

Backhand Stroke: To assume the backhand ready position, stand facing the left side wall if you are right-handed, the right side wall if you are left-handed. Your arm should be bent at a 90 degree angle at the elbow and should be across your midsection toward the left side of your body (right side if left-handed). Your wrist should be cocked upward, and the top of the racquet frame should be pointed at the back wall. Keep your racquet arm out, away from your body, with your elbow in line with the center of your midsection.

Your feet should be 4-6 inches apart, with your left foot slightly in back of your right foot and parallel with the back wall. Your weight will be on your left foot in the backhand ready position, with your left leg bent slightly at the knee.

As the ball approaches, your weight should shift gradually to your right foot. Some players twist their upper body to the left, toward the back wall, as the ball approaches. However, there is not always time for this added body motion, even though some players find that it gives them more power in their backhand stroke.

Your lower body must turn toward the front wall as you bring your bent arm and cocked wrist into the hitting area. Many players like to bend forward from the waist slightly as they turn toward the front wall. Strike the ball when it passes the instep of your right foot. Straighten your right leg as you shift your weight forward to face the front wall. As in the forehand, make sure you hit the ball squarely, with the racquet face perpendicular to the floor, straightening your arm and wrist after you strike the ball. If your racquet face is not perpendicular to the floor when your racquet crosses your right foot to hit the ball, check to see if you are using the proper backhand grip.

The follow through shouldn't be elaborate or wide-swinging. Just let your backhand arm come around naturally as you pivot your body toward the front wall. Wide "sweeps" of your racquet on the follow through will create a safety hazard for you and your opponent, so they should be avoided.

Ideally, your backhand should be as strong as your forehand, thereby challenging your opponent to play anywhere in the court. Yet there are few, if any, players who have equally strong forehand and backhand strokes. Most players find that the backhand requires considerably more time to master and perfect than the forehand. Playing often against more skilled opponents will help develop your backhand because better players will notice if you have a weak backhand and will force you to play it.

Overhand Grip: The overhand grip is the same as the forehand grip except that the player faces the front, not the side, wall to execute an overhand shot. The overhand often is used to retrieve shoulder-or head-high ceiling balls or to execute overhand kill or drive shots. If you can take the ball knee high, however, don't use the overhand stroke; use the backhand or forehand strokes instead.

Overhand Stroke: The overhand ready position is similar to the position you assume to throw a ball. Using the proper grip, stand facing the front wall, with your feet slightly apart and your weight evenly balanced on both feet. Your right arm should be brought back slightly behind your body over your right shoulder. Make sure your forearm is bent at the elbow, forming a 90 degree angle with the upper arm. Your wrist should be cocked back slightly.

As the ball approaches, shift your weight back slightly, moving your right foot toward the back wall and bending your knees a little. As the ball comes into the hitting area, about one foot in front of your body, swing your arm while shifting your weight forward to your left foot. Make contact with the ball by bringing your racquet face straight down, in line with your right foot. Hit the ball with the racquet face almost parallel to the front wall, uncocking your wrist at the moment of contact to put full power behind the ball as you let your weight flow forward naturally. Follow through by letting your arm straighten and come down across your body toward your left knee.

When completed, the overhand shot leaves the player in a somewhat awkward position, with his racquet arm extended across his body and his weight on his left foot. A really forceful overhand shot may turn the player's body toward the side wall, leaving him all tied up and out of position to watch the ball as it is returned to him.

The overhand shot (below) is an effective change of pace weapon in racquetball, but it is the least controllable of the three strokes. For this reason, it is best to use the overhand only to hit or retrieve ceiling shots or when you can't take the ball knee high.

FOOTWORK

An effective forehand, backhand, or overhand shot requires that the player constantly concentrate on the position and movement of his feet. Many tournament players who hit the ball with great skill and coordinate their hands and eyes effectively often use sloppy footwork. Despite the fact that they are off-balance, these players somehow manage to return their opponents' shots with skill and power.



Because some tournament players consistently win games despite poor footwork, proper form is forgotten altogether. Yet these players would be even better if they used proper footwork.

No matter what shot you are executing—forehand, backhand, or overhand—your feet never should be separated more than the width of your shoulders when you are in the ready position. Ideally your feet will be 4-6 inches apart. A good player keeps his body weight moving—toward the ball as it approaches and toward the front wall as the ball is hit. Thus, the foot that is closest to the front wall receives most of the player's weight at the completion of a shot.

When your opponent hits the ball, you should try to determine where it is likely to land. If you don't move fast enough to the position on the court where the ball is likely to land as it comes off the wall, you will be rushed to get into the backswing for the return. The ball will be past you before you can hit it squarely with the full power of your arm and wrist. By getting into position before the ball comes into the hitting area, you will be able to hit the ball squarely with the full face of your racquet. If you are not in position, you probably will hit the ball with the racquet face angled upward; this will cause the shot to go high on the front wall, an easy ball for your opponent to retrieve.

BACK WALL TECHNIQUE

Most beginning racquetball players hesitate to use the back wall of the court. Many of them hit the ball while it is still in the air with an overhand shot before it reaches the back wall. As you improve your skills in racquetball, you will learn to use the back wall to your advantage.

A good rule to remember is never to take a ball out of the air when you can play it off the back wall. Once you see that the ball is going to strike the back wall, check to see where your opponent is standing on the court. If he is off to one side of the court, it may be best to pick the ball out of the air and drive it overhand to his opposite side. If your opponent is dominating center court, position yourself facing the side, not back, wall at the place on the court where you think the ball will rebound when it comes off the back wall. Get behind the ball, letting it drop to knee level before you attempt to return it with a forehand or backhand stroke. Don't rush your shot, even if the ball bounces once before it hits the back wall and looks as though it might be very close to the floor on its rebound from the back wall. Let the ball come into the proper hitting area before you strike it.

When you take a ball off the back wall, keep an eye on your opponent's court position, and make your return a shot that he will find difficult to retrieve. If your opponent is standing in back court behind the receiving line, hit the ball toward the lower right or left corner of front court. If your opponent is in front court, hit the ball with enough force so that it rebounds off the front wall and goes behind your opponent before he can react. But don't strike the ball so hard that it rebounds off the front wall and hits the back wall again or your opponent will be able to recover and set up for the return, and you will have lost your advantage.

If you are truly determined to learn racquetball, you must practice the fundamentals of the forehand, backhand, and overhand strokes and the technique of taking the ball off the back wall. You must practice constantly if you hope to play the game with a satisfactory degree of proficiency. Charlie Brumfield learned racquetball when he was 18 years old. He practiced five hours a day, every day, hitting hundreds of shots. It's no wonder that he has turned out to be an international champion.

If you play racquetball mainly for fun and exercise, you probably won't want to practice five hours a day. The point is that the amount of practice, both alone and during competition, is directly related to the rate of improvement of your playing skills. The saying, "Practice makes perfect," certainly applies to racquetball.

They're the Only Ones You've Got

Protect Your Eyes

By Dr. Ben Milder

Washington University, St. Louis

What ever happened to Harry? Harry who? You know, Harry—the tall south-paw in the finals of last year's tournament.

Oh, THAT Harry. His best friend hit him in the eye with a racquetball!

The doctor who operated on his eye for a retinal detachment told him he couldn't touch a racquet for at least six months, more probably a whole year.

This really isn't a very funny opening for an article, but there isn't anything funny about an eye injury. Harry exploded many of the myths about eye injuries. Unfortunately, he did it the hard way.

What are some of the myths he exploded?

Every handball, racquetball and squash player recognizes that these sports have a considerable potential for injury about the face and eyes, because they are high-speed games in a small, enclosed area. Human nature being what it is, we all assume such injuries always will happen to the other guy.

Don't you believe it!

At the St. Louis JCC, which has hosted three IRA tournaments, there are approximately three such injuries a week—150 per year! Any industrial plant would be out of business with such an accident record.

It is commonly assumed that the possibility of injury is greater with the inexperienced player. Again, don't you believe it!

There is no credible data to support this notion. Within the past month, Aaron Fenster, one of St. Louis' ranking handball players, suffered an eye injury. And more recently, Kenny Wong, one of the nation's top 10 racquetball stars, was hospitalized with an internal eye hemorrhage suffered in a match with a player of the same caliber.

It is scarcely necessary to add that these athletes now wear protective eye gear in competition.

Harry said he figured all he had was a "shiner" and since a "shiner" is only a bruise, it would clear up with out any problem. Don't you believe it!

It is true that a "shiner" or black eye results from bleeding into the soft tissues of the eye socket and under the skin and that this blood, together with the associated swelling of the lids, will clear with time. However, the swelling and discoloration of the lids may mask a

fracture of bones of the eye socket, or damage to the eye muscles, or serious injury to the eye itself.

Every such injury should be evaluated promptly by an ophthalmologist (a physician specializing in eye care). Eye socket fractures are not rare. Early recognition and treatment may avoid later problems with the muscles which control eye movements.

"If it doesn't hurt, the eye is OK." Don't you believe it!

True, an abrasion of the cornea will be quite painful. However, blunt injury of the eye may produce hemorrhage, iritis (internal inflammation of the eye) or even retinal detachment, without the symptom of pain.

Besides, thought Harry, there couldn't be anything seriously wrong with the injured eye, since he could see pretty well. Don't you believe it!

Hemorrhage within the eye may appear immediately, or slowly over a period of hours. Inflammation resulting from contusion (blunt injury) to the eye may not become apparent for hours, or even until the next day, so that absence of immediate blurring of vision doesn't preclude the possibility of internal injury to the eye.

"If the eye clears up in a few days, there is no need to worry about it any further." Don't you believe it! That is where Harry "blew it".

The three most important late complications of forceful blunt eye injury are cataract, glaucoma and retinal detachment. While none of these is extremely common, it only has to happen to you once and you've become a statistic!

"Cataract" is the term used to describe any opacification (loss of Transparency) of the crystalline lens inside the eye. This lens functions just like a lens in a camera to focus images clearly on the retina (which plays the same role in the eye that photographic film does in a camera). Loss of clarity in the lens would, of course, reduce the vision. While such loss of clarity is, to some degree, usual with senescence, it may be brought about by blunt injury to

Dr. Benjamin Milder is associate professor of clinical ophthalmology at the Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, Mo., and consulting ophthalmologist to the St. Louis Cardinals baseball team. He is an avid racquetball enthusiast.

the eye, and is called a "traumatic cataract".

"Glaucoma" is the medical term describing increased pressure within the eye. Just as an automobile tire can be over-inflated with air, the fluid pressure within an eye, if it becomes high, may bring about gradual, but permanent, loss of vision. Certain blunt injuries to the eye can lead to the condition of glaucoma, which may not appear until many years after the injury!

Where Harry "blew it" was in assuming that his eye was well because three days after his accident, he was free of symptoms and his vision was "20-20". Actually, here was a hole in the peripheral area on his retina. The retina is a cellophane-thin layer which records the images (like photographic film) and is the most important structure in the eye. The retina is attached to the inside surface of the eyeball, held in place partly by the normal fluid pressure within the eye. A small tear in this thin layer may result in the entire retina coming loose—"detaching". When this happened to Harry, after two weeks, he then noted loss of his vision. Fortunately, prompt surgery by a skilled eye surgeon resulted in successful reattachment of the retina, with only a small loss of vision—but he'll be off the courts for about a year.

Could Harry's accident have been prevented? You'd better believe it! If he had been wearing protective glasses or a protective eye guard, the ball would not have been driven straight into his eye.

But Harry always said, like many others, "Those things will hamper my game". Don't You Believe it! Almost 100 per cent of the players who have adopted protective eye gear for racquetball or handball have found that they can rapidly accustom themselves to the use of these devices. These include top ranking national players as well as beginners. Harry already has his pair, even though he won't be using it until next summer!

Okay, Harry, we get the message—what can we do about it? That's easy!

1. Wear protective eye gear.
2. Convene a representative group to establish national standards; to research the availability, cost and quality of such protective eye wear.
3. Make their use mandatory in tournaments.
4. Make them required in your club, university or YMCA.
5. Buy them for your friends—for Christmas, birthday, or as a "get well gift" when they are recovering from an eye injury.
6. If you really can't manage to safeguard your eyesight while playing handball, racquetball or squash, switch to table tennis.

Don't leave your brains in your locker when you walk on the courts!

Serot Sweeps

Steve Serot swept three straight matches, without giving up more than nine points to any opponent, to win the Chanukah Festival of Eights in St. Louis. Serot downed Ken Wong, 21-4, 21-5, in the finals of Class A men's singles.

Jon Fuhrer won men's open, 13-21, 21-20, 21-20, over Jeff Gitt. Other champions were Bob Hardcastle in men's B, Larry Samuels in men's B-1, Ben Koltun in men's B-2, Ron Gerstein in men's B-3, Oren Conway in men's B-4, Fred Kreis in masters, Herman Beitch in M-1, Sam Goldman in golden masters, Nancy Zelson in women's A, Barbara Halpern in women's B, Nancy Lockwood in women's novice, Bruce Sabin in men's novice, Sam Mezines in men's N-1, Jerry Spitzer in men's N-2 and Ward Leber in Boys' 14-under.

Wright Wrallies

Pete Wright of Fort Worth rallied after losing the first game and defeated Myron Roderick of Stillwater, Okla., 12-21, 21-16, 21-14, to win the fifth annual Dallas Open tournament.

Luther Bernstein of Dallas downed his doubles partner, Tom McKie, 21-20, 21-20,

for third place, with Jerry Linton of Altus, Okla., winning consolations.

Bernstein and McKie handled Wright and Roderick, 21-15, 21-8, in the doubles finals.

Peggy Steding, International women's champion from Odessa, Texas, captured Class B singles, 21-20, 21-16, over Chuck Johnson of Dallas, with Armando Cortez of Houston placing third, 21-11, 21-20, over Jim Conlin of Odessa. Steve Montoya of Dallas won B consolations.

Peggy and Conlin defeated Cortez and Kevin Meyer, 6-21, 21-9, 21-17, in B doubles. B. J. Knott of Dallas won Masters singles over Bruce Alger of Dallas, 21-7, 21-9.



It's Chemistry

Columbus Central YMCA and Ashland Chemical Co. of Dublin, Ohio, matched up their best six players in an interesting dual meet, with Ashland posting a six-point victory.

The tournament was played in two phases. First, a head-to-head meeting of No. 1 vs. No. 1, No. 2 vs. No. 2, etc., similar to a tennis meet. Each game scored five points and Ashland led by 10.

Then followed a single elimination tournament, with opposing players matched throughout the first round. Each game victory was two points and

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Central won that phase, 14-10, to close the final gap to six.

Playing for the YMCA were Don Schiefer, John Norton, Art Payne, Phil White, Larry Shell and Bill White. Ashland had John Tedlie, Rob West, Charlie Webb, John Loyd, Rod Naro and Jim Leggett. Schiefer, was undefeated throughout the day.

The tournament pointed up the advantage of having companies install racquetball courts for their employees. Ashland Chemical also has held similar dual meets with Ashland Oil of Kentucky and more are planned.

Did You Say...?

Perhaps setting a record for the oddest name of the year, Tacoma held its first one-day tournament, the Quickie Outhouse Open, under sponsorship of Art Redford's septic tank service. Match play was one 31-point game, consolations a 21-point game.

Doug Moore of Aberdeen, Wash., beat Jeff Smith of Vancouver, Wash., 31-29, to win open singles. Moore, who stands 5-5, never quits moving and will call time out to practice kill shots. He makes the average player tired just watching him. Smith is a very improved player who bears watching.

Bob Lund of Portland defeated Tom Graham of Olympia, 21-19, for singles consolation. Phil Swartz of Vancouver, B. C., swept through Class B, beating Corky Hathaway of Aberdeen, 31-14, in the finals. Joe Bernhardt of Olympia won consolation.

Novice singles was a battle of the Swartz brothers, Allan winning over Brian, 31-27. Enthusiasm ran very high, particularly in the novice division, where the future of racquetball lies. Special thanks to Art Redford, Steve Murata, Fred Brown and Judy Williams.

Carini Careens

Joe Carini captured the Milwaukee open singles city championship by defeating Jim White in the finals, with Bill Jukich taking third place.

The city doubles title went to Mike Mullins and Dan Trost for the fifth straight year, with White and John Fazio second, Al Sterner and Bob Keenan third and Claud Manning and Fred Vetter taking consolations.



Trophy winners in the Birmingham Closed area, from left: Bruce Gordon, Larry French, David Johnson, Jim Jordan, Ben Dowdey and Andy Smith.

Loop Films Due

Athletic Institute, the world's largest producer of educational loop films, is planning a series of loop films on racquetball, which will be available for sale to all educational institutions and libraries.

The film will consist of about a dozen 3½-minute loops and will be a highly professional project requiring three or four days of shooting and about \$25,000 investment.

"This film series will be a great asset to the promotion and development of racquetball," said IRA Executive Director Myron Roderick in announcing the project.



Dan Trost and Mike Mullins rule Milwaukee doubles for fifth year.

Birmingham

Jim Jordan captured the A Flight singles championship in the third annual Birmingham Racquetball Association closed tournament, defeating Ben Dowdey, 21-15, 21-12, in the finals. Joe Bluestein won consolation over Bob Shields.

Jim Rotenstreich won B flight over Bruce Gordon, 21-9, 21-7, with Larry French taking consolation. David Johnson and Dowdey prevailed in doubles, 21-5, 14-21, 21-16, over Jordan and Andy Smith.

Japan, Too

Major Ward A Pfeifle won the Fifth Air Force—Kanto Plains singles tournament open to all air force personnel assigned to the Tachikawa area in Japan, including four installations near Tokyo.

Ward's wife, Sarah, reports that racquetball has caught on in "a rather fantastic manner" in the last three years, even though there are only two courts in the whole area. "Although with a little fast talking and some diagrams, one can purchase a racquet in Tokyo," she adds, "But the sport has not caught on with the Japanese themselves—yet. If it ever does, it can be assumed that in almost no time, thousands of new courts will spring up."

The Pfeifles will be returning to the U. S. shortly, living in Pomona, Calif.

Cactus Country

The first Fort Huachuca Invitational tournament, with players invited from Tucson, Davis-Monthan AFB and Fort Huachuca, was a complete success. The seven players competed on a round-robin basis with 15-point games.

After six hours of play, the final standings were 1—Major Peter F. Crummey, 6-1, Fort Huachuca; 2—Ken Kurtz, 5-2, Tucson; 3—Capt. Ray Huot, 4-2, Davis-Monthan.

Later, a Pot-Luck Draw doubles tournament was held over a three-day span. Crummey and David Shinn went through unbeaten, with Robert Stevens and Alan Biskey placing second. Similar singles and doubles tournaments are scheduled each month.



Fort Huachuca winners, from left: Capt. Ray Huot, third; Major Peter Crummey, champion; Ken Kurtz, second.

Cowgirl Steals Cowboy Show

The third annual Cowboy Open at Oklahoma State University drew a field of 93 entries in eight divisions—open, B, masters, novice and intercollegiate singles and open, B and masters doubles.

The Class B, novice and intercollegiate singles were tremendously successful, emphasizing that more and more tournaments should offer these divisions.

In the open singles finals, Myron Roderick of Stillwater defeated Tom McKie of Dallas, 21-13, 21-11. Roderick and Mike Bartlett of Tulsa won open doubles over Marvin Keener and John Jobe of Stillwater, 21-9, 19-21, 21-14.

But the star of the tournament—particularly with the fans—was International women's champion Peggy Steding of Dallas, who won the Class B singles by defeating Virgil Thurman of Dallas, 16-21, 21-19, 21-20.

While Roderick and McKie were playing for the open title on one court before about 20 spectators, Peggy (and

Virgil) had a gallery of more than 150 on another court. Does that tell you something, fellows?

Other champions were V. Z. Lawton of Norman in masters singles, Lawton and Kenneth Denny of Midwest City in masters doubles, Bob Oldham and Doug Aichele of Stillwater in B doubles, Tim Tripp of Stillwater in novice singles and David Van Zant of Stillwater in intercollegiate singles.

OPEN SINGLES

Finals: Myron Roderick, Stillwater, def. Tom McKie, Dallas, 21-13, 21-11. Third: Marvin Keener, Stillwater, def. Luther Berstein, Dallas, 21-14, 21-17. Consolation: Richard Walker, Dallas, def. Marshall Snipes, Oklahoma City, 21-16, 19-21, 21-4.

OPEN DOUBLES

Finals: Roderick-Mike Bartlett, Tulsa def. Keener-John Jobe, Stillwater, 21-9, 19-21, 21-14. Third: McKie-Bernstein def. Walker-Virgil Thurman, Dallas, 21-10, 21-15.

CLASS B SINGLES

Finals: Peggy Steding, Odessa, Texas, def. Thurman, 16-21, 21-19, 21-20. Third: Mike Crooch, Stillwater, def. Larry Curts, Stillwater, 21-4, 21-7. Consolation: Kevin Meyer, Houston, def. John Smith, Stillwater, 21-11, 21-13.

CLASS B DOUBLES

Finals: Bob Oldham-Doug Aichele, Stillwater, def. Meyer-Scott Reisbord, Houston, 21-18, 20-21, 21-19. Third—Jerry Myers-Jim McPherson, Oklahoma City, def. Larry Curts-Mike Curts, Stillwater, 21-4, 21-9.

MASTERS SINGLES

Finals: V. Z. Lawton, Norman, def. Lorne Dexter, Tulsa, 21-15, 21-16. Third: Jobe def. Dave Hessel, Stillwater, 17-21, 21-8, 21-20. Consolation: Kenneth Denny, Midwest City, def. Ed Gula, Stillwater, 16-21, 21-7, 21-19.

MASTERS DOUBLES

Finals: Lawton-Denny def. John Rutherford-Jay Leib, Tulsa, 21-13, 21-14. Third: Gula-J. J. Crockett, Stillwater, def. Roger Koepp-John Bale, Stillwater, 21-7, 16-21, 21-10.

NOVICE SINGLES

Finals: Tim Tripp, Stillwater, def. Richard Calmus, Tulsa, 10-21, 21-14, 21-10. Third: John Paulin, Wichita, def. Robert Flagler, Norman, 21-18, 21-3. Consolation: Ron McNew, Stillwater, def. Jim Shobe, Wichita, 21-12, 21-18.

INTERCOLLEGIATE SINGLES

Finals: David Van Zant, Stillwater, def. Mike Bowles, Stillwater, 21-13, 21-13. Third: Reisbord def. Larry Barnes, Stillwater, 21-16, 21-19. Consolation: Enos Stover, Stillwater, def. Dan Crane, Stillwater, 21-14, 21-16.



Peggy Steding, Cowboy B singles champ, is flanked by Virgil Thurman, second, and Mike Crooch, third. Novice winners, from left: Rich Calmus, second; Tim Tripp, champion; John Paulin, third.



New Mexico

The first New Mexico Open singles and doubles championships were held at New Mexico State U, Las Cruces, with entries from Texas and Mexico joining the home state. Four regulation courts with a synthetic floor were available.

Bob Geske of El Paso, with steady play



throughout, defeated Mario Navarro of Juarez, Mexico, 21-20, 21-7, to win the singles championship.

To reach the finals, Geske defeated John Hellard, 3-21, 21-19, 21-18, and John Reznik, 21-11, 21-16, while Navarro downed Bob Notley, 21-18, 21-14, and Scott Dial, 21-7, 21-15. Notley defeated Hellard for third and Craig Hairston won consolation.

Notley and Hellard won doubles, 21-13, 21-14, over Geske and Navarro, with Reznik and Tom Hoeksema third. Another open tournament is planned at Las Cruces during the spring.

New Courts

The Northeast YMCA of Buffalo, N.Y., opened two new racquetball courts with an exhibition match between Charlie Garfinkel and Chuck Wurzer. The courts, part of an over-all expansion of the Y, are fully air-conditioned, have glass back walls for viewing and small second floor galleries.

A crowded gallery watched Garfinkel and Wurzer play one hard-fought game. Wurzer jumped out to a 9-3 lead, hitting excellent ceiling shots and keeping Gar off balance, but the long rallies of ceiling balls tired Wurzer and Garfinkel came on strong with passing and kill shots and won, 21-15. Joe Dsida, president of the Western New York Racquetball Association, served as referee.



New Mexico trophy winners, from left, front: John Hellard and Bob Notley; back: John Reznik, Bob Jeske and Mario Navarro.

Arizona Active

One of the first official functions of the newly formed Arizona State Racquetball Association was the conducting of a Class C tournament, which drew 33 entries.

Bob Fijal defeated Jim Speer, 21-17, 21-16, for the championship. The tournament at the Downtown YMCA used a single elimination format and was scheduled over a four-week period. Trophies were furnished by the YMCA racquetball fund.

Indiana's Ready

The Indiana State Singles Championship will be held March 22-24 in Bloomington. All correspondence should be directed to Brian Parrott, tournament chairman, 915 Eigenmann, Indiana University, Bloomington, Ind. 47401.

Competition will be in open, women's and senior (40-over) divisions, with trophies for two places and consolations. It will be the first racquetball tournament in Indiana open to all residents of the state, regardless of club affiliation.

A Grand Slam

Stillwater, long a stronghold for racquetball in the state, captured top honors in the first Oklahoma Racquetball Championships at the Grand Slam Athletic Club in Oklahoma City. Fifty entries competed in Open, Class B and Masters singles and open doubles at the new four-court facility.

Myron Roderick won the state championship using lots of hustle and strong kill shots to defeat Roland Treat in the all-Stillwater open finals, 21-12, 21-9. Roderick earlier defeated Mike Carr and Hal Clifford.

Roderick teamed with Mike Crooch to down Wallace Hardy and Jerry Linton for the doubles championship. Marvin Keener and John Jobe, beaten by Hardy-Linton in the semifinals, came back to take third place over Clifford and Marshall Snipes.

V. Z. Lawton of Norman defeated Dave Hessel of Stillwater for the Masters title, 21-12, 21-3, with Ed Grula third. Gary Hinkle won Class B over Ken Smith, 15-21, 21-19, 21-6, to advance to the A ranks for the future. Frank Stone was third.



Dominating the Winona Holiday tournament were, from left: Tom and Joe Wirkus, second in doubles; and Paul Ikier and Bill Schmidtke, doubles champs. Schmidtke defeated Ikier in the singles finals. At left, Bob Sheldon and Curt Rohrer were 1-2 in seniors.



Oklahoma Masters finals saw V. Z. Lawton (left) defeat Dave Hesser.

Upset for Hegg

Mark Hegg won the championship of the Sioux Falls Open racquetball tournament in South Dakota, upsetting former IRA champion Bill Schmidtko, 21-1, 21-19, in the finals. Hegg and John Rude kept the doubles title in Sioux Falls, too, beating Ron Strom of St. Cloud and Paul Iker of Minneapolis, 21-10, 21-15, in the finals.

Cathy Conlin won women's singles over Kay McDonald, 15-21, 20-11, injury default, and Don Grebin captured 40-over singles over defending champion Bob Schmidt, 21-19, 21-11. Dick Sisler and Lee Stewart beat Schmidt and Ray Ordinahev in doubles, 21-9, 21-15.



Mark Hegg (right) won South Dakota singles and teamed with John Rude in doubles.

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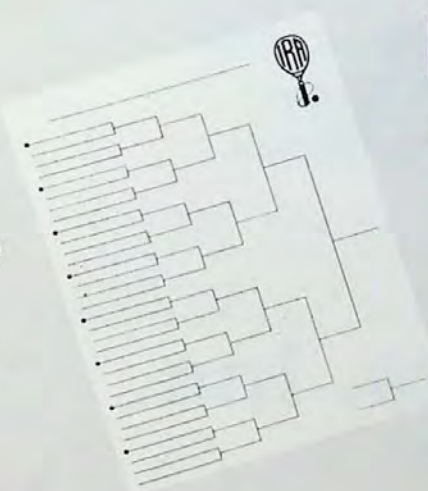
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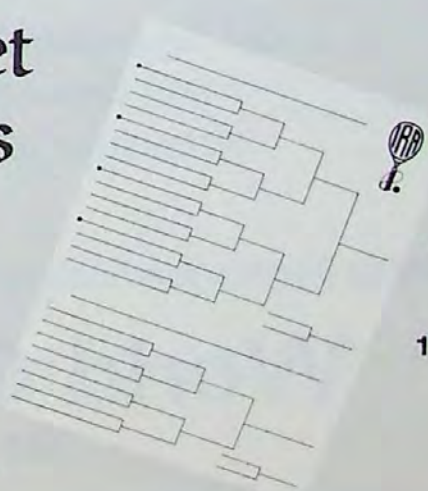
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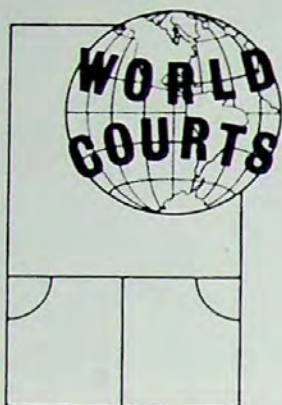


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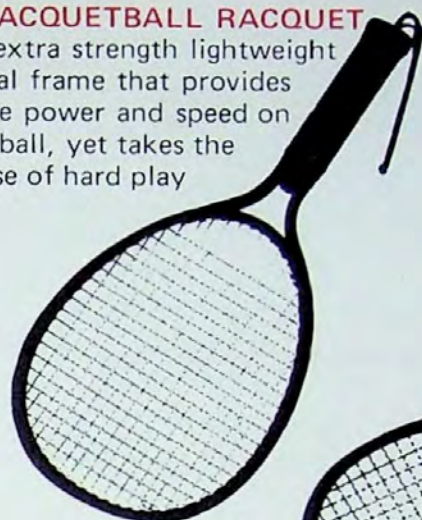
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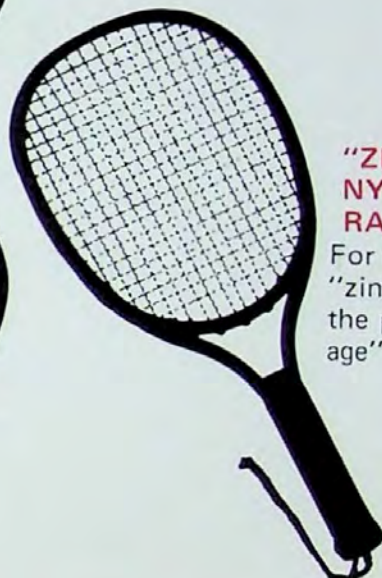
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