

National Racquetball®

Vol. 6 No. 6
June, 1978
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FORMER
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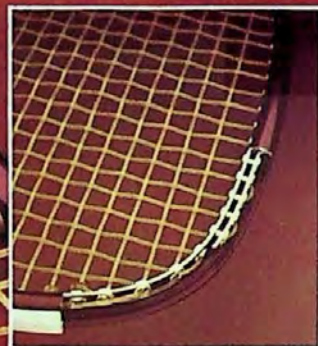
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Vol. 6 No. 6
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National Racquetball Magazine is the official publication of the United States Racquetball Association and is published monthly by the National Racquetball Club, Inc.
4101 Dempster Street, Skokie, Illinois 60076, (312) 673-4000.
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Advertising information requests should be addressed to Joseph Ardito, Business Manager, *National Racquetball Magazine*, 4101 Dempster Street, Skokie, Illinois 60076. Copy subject to approval of the publisher.

All editorial communications should be addressed to The Editor, *National Racquetball Magazine*, 4101 Dempster Street, Skokie, Illinois 60076. Manuscripts must be typewritten and double spaced. Color and black and white photographs are welcomed. Please enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope for return of manuscripts and photos.

Subscriptions are \$9.00 of one (1) year. Rates are for U.S., possessions, military and Canada. Foreign subscriptions add \$5.00 per year for postage. Second class postage paid at Skokie, Illinois and at additional mailing office. Postmaster send form 3579 to *National Racquetball Magazine*, 4101 Dempster Street, Skokie, Illinois 60076. (Please allow 8 to 10 weeks between the time subscription form is mailed and receipt of first issue.)

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On The Cover . . .

Beautiful Lindsay Bloom, former Miss USA, has fallen in love with racquetball. Lindsay's comments on racquetball can be found on page 80. —Photo by Peter C. Borsari

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The Official Publication Of The U.S. Racquetball Association

Examining The Record . . .

Usually the best way to achieve leadership is with performance. At least that's the way we think it should be done. And that's the way we have been doing it — giving you the best tournaments, the finest magazine and the most skillful direction.

The phenomenal success of racquetball can be traced directly and entirely to the good management and the constructive thinking that is the hallmark of the United States Racquetball Association and the National Racquetball Club. Now at the end of another remarkable year, maybe we should count our blessings and give credit where it is due.

Not all people like to acknowledge the innovative strategy with which we brought racquetball to its present high level of acceptance. But our record speaks for itself.

That record includes over 500 tournaments, with nearly 200,000 entrants and equally as many spectators, not to mention the millions who saw our two television productions. Our *National Racquetball* magazine is still the only monthly publication in the sport, it was the first to make the newsstands, and our circulation is over 40,000, still a record.

We do things first and we do things best. I would certainly hate to have to try and keep up with us.

Naturally the Johnny-come-latelys crop up. They always do after somebody else has done the hard, preparatory work. Promoters trying to imitate our tournaments, other firms imitating our sponsors.

Budding magazines visit our tournaments for their stories; they re-print our articles for their stories; they call us for their quotes for their stories.

A recent press release announced a series of tournaments that would be "*Racquetball's first national tournament.*" It seems the first liar hasn't a chance.

You might think all this concerns us, but it doesn't. The penalty of success, they say, is to be followed by imitators.

I have been promoting racquetball from day one, back in 1968 — and for the benefit of the new born in our sport, everything that has ever happened came alive in our staff meetings, where every experience, every idea and every complaint (those one or two) is carefully considered.

Make no mistake. We intend to continue to govern the sport. We planted the seed, and we're going to be right here to cultivate the mature flower. Not everyone is going to be happy with our philosophy, but whatever we do will be in the best interests of the players, not the promoters.

For example we don't plan to stage any fancy tournaments, or sex challenges or television specials that lack dignity and meaning. We stand for solid, professional shows that will do the most good for the most players. We uphold the rules and treat all players fairly. The players know it and trust us implicitly.



Fortunately we are not in this business for personal or financial gain. That makes us tough competition.

The almighty buck hasn't a word to say in this sports sanctuary. Nearly 50 years of association with handball and 10 with racquetball is a performance that is hard to follow.

So please forgive us for blowing our horn just a little. We are to blame for everything that went wrong along with everything that went right. If you find something wrong, we welcome your input.

You might be surprised at how conscientious we are with everyone and everything.

That's how we got to be the leader. ●

Bob Kendler

*"And they asked us how we did it.
And we gave them the Scripture Text —
'You keep your light so shining
A little in front o' the next!'*

*They copied all they could follow,
But they couldn't copy our mind,
And we left 'em sweating and stealing,
A year and a half behind."*

—Rudyard Kipling

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including future Sports Illustrated Court Clubs in Lansing, and Saginaw, Michigan, and Fort Wayne, Indiana.



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Ready For The Nationals . . .

The National Championships means different things to different people. Racquetball's premier event of the season is justifiably the most important of the year, yet we should never forget that what the Nationals means to each participant depends on his or her point of view.

The hundreds of amateur players view the Nationals as a vacation — a time to visit a new city, make and renew old racquetball friendships, be a part of the camaraderie of this great sport.

The top amateur players and the professionals view the Nationals as the ultimate test of competitive skills — the most prestigious title in all of racquetball, to be crowned the best in your division — the National Champion.

The hundreds of spectators view the Nationals as willing and eager racquetball aficionados, hoping to learn from the best; paying to be entertained, supporting the sport in their own way.

Manufacturers and sponsors view the Nationals as a chance to see new talent, the wave of the future, and to promote their involvement in racquetball. Without their support our job would be most difficult.

The host facility, perhaps more than any other segment of those involved in the Nationals, has the most at stake because the host club is truly on display.

Few racquetball facilities have had the honor of hosting the National Championships. This season the Sports Illustrated Court Club, Lemontree, in Belleville, MI, has the enviable and unenviable task.

Enviably because this facility will be the hub of nationwide attention. Television cameras will catch the moments of truth at this single club, on this exhibition court. The Nationals is a tournament that every club would want to host.

But it is no easy task. Preparation and hard work are necessary and demanded — the unenviable. Securing hotel accommodations for over 1,000, regulating court hours for over 600 entrants, providing hospitality for the throngs and registration becomes a nightmare.

Sports Illustrated Court Club has put together an excellent staff which, together with the Michigan Racquetball Association and USRA/NRC personnel, will not run into a problem that they cannot handle.

The USRA and NRC view the Nationals with pride. As our showcase event for the season we strive only to make the tournament as enjoyable as possible for all involved, be they pros, ams, spectators, manufacturers, sponsors or staffers.



We are honored that so many people from so many faraway places think enough of the Nationals to travel thousands of miles in some cases, just to be a part of the event. We want to make that trip worthwhile.

So does Craig Hall, president and chairman of the board of Sports Illustrated Court Clubs. Craig and his organization have been working diligently for many, many months to ensure the success of the Nationals.

The hospitality and amenities at this tournament will surpass anything done previously. The competition will be better, the matches more thrilling than ever before.

The Nationals will be a lot of hard work for a lot of people. Besides everybody already mentioned you'll have referees, line judges, floor managers, volunteers, committeepersons and so many other workers.

It's going to be an event to be remembered. We hope you're there. ●

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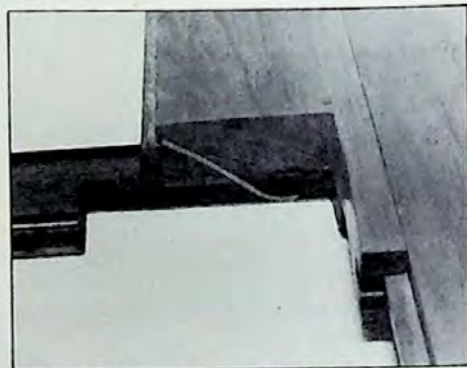
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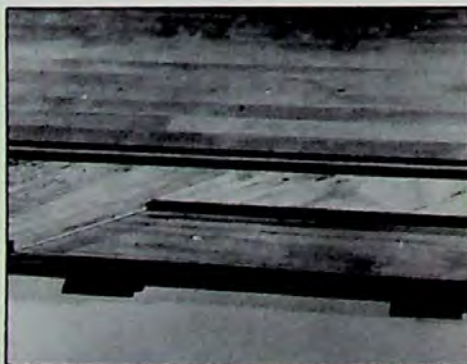
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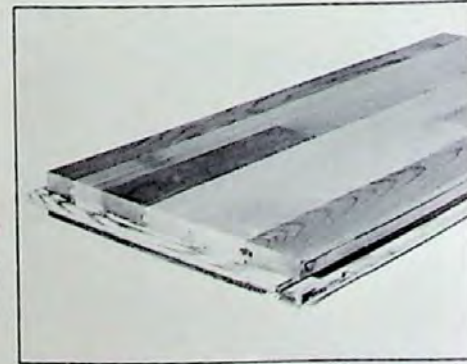
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ASPEN ATHLETIC CLUB

SEAMCO®

The Forehand, Part II

by Steve Strandemo

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The Open-Stance Swing

When you get into close-quarters rallies with your opponent, 20 to 27 feet from the front wall, the ball will come too fast for you to set up properly and take a full-body swing. To hold your own, and to win matches, you need to know how to swing effectively from an open stance (where you are facing the front wall or slightly toward the side wall with both feet pointed in the same direction). Your stroke will have a shorter backswing and follow-through than your regular swing, and you won't be able to step into the ball; otherwise the basics are quite similar.

Here are the key elements to keep in mind:

- In good racquetball a lot of action is going to occur in the front part of center court, and the winner is going to be the one who has the best reactions and the most efficient shortened stroke.
- Direction is the key, since all the power you need is being supplied by your opponent's shot — providing you make solid contact. If you stroke the ball properly this close to the front wall, it will go for a kill, or zip by your opponent for a passing shot winner.
- Hitting from an open stance limits your leg power, but you can compensate and still generate good power by using the proper wrist-snapping motion, shoulder power, and slight hip rotation. This velocity on the ball is crucial for when you are forced to use the open swing from farther back in center court, such as when you play a hard-hitter who keeps pounding that ball straight into the front wall.



- When you're flailing away near the front court, you'll establish a better base of support by planting your feet wider than shoulder width apart. With a little knee bend, you can stretch out for the ball in either direction and maintain good balance. Conversely if you're waiting for the ball in a high position with your feet close together, you'll lack the power to thrust out quickly for a ball that's going by you. And you'll tend to lose your balance when you do.

- Not only is it more effective to have a shortened swing when you're maneuvering for position in center court, it's a common courtesy. You and your opponent should be able to hit your shots freely and reposition properly in close quarters without the fear of getting hit in the face with the racquet.



3



Practicing The Forehand

One of the nice things about racquetball is that you can improve your skills noticeably, all by yourself on an empty court. The following two practice drills can help you groove a reliable forehand stroke:

1. Stand at various distances from the front wall, drop the ball and let it bounce once, and then practice hitting kill shots, down-the-wall passing shots, cross-court passes, and front-wall pinches, shots that strike the front wall and one side wall, in either sequence, as low and tight in the corner as possible. Place tape 3 feet high on the front wall and strive to hit every shot between the tape and the floor — but keep moving the tape down as you improve.
2. Hit the ball off the front wall so that it comes to you in center court on one

easy bounce. Then get your racquet set, step into the ball and go for a front-wall winner. Keep repeating this sequence so that you can work on your timing and a smooth stroke. Then you might want to go a step further by trying to re-drive or re-kill the kill attempts you leave too high. This is excellent practice for your open-stance "reflex" shot up near the front court. It sharpens your reaction time, helps you develop quick racquet action and forces you to follow through on balance so you're ready for the next shot.

You may think you need to know a lot more "sophisticated" drills on the forehand, but these two drills will enable you to practice every forehand you could realistically want to use during a match.

Four Common Errors

5



The Open-Stance Swing

This is the short, powerful stroke you need when the action is fast and furious and you don't have time to step into the ball and take a full-body swing. Notice in this sequence how the hitter has his feet wide apart and pointed in the same direction, toward the right front corner. This enables him to pull through quickly with his hips and his left arm.

The racquet is not taken back as high as in a regular swing, and the follow-through is shortened. Otherwise everything else is similar: the racquet is cocked in its set position near the head; the left arm is thrown out of the way to give the racquet complete clearance; the hitting arm makes the same tucking motion; the knees are bent through the swing (though not as severely); the head remains down until the follow-through is completed.

1



The left hand is on the racquet just before the racquet is pulled back. This keeps you from getting your racquet back quick enough or far enough.

The left arm is too close to the body, and this will constrict the freedom of your swing.



Here there is a lack of knee bend during the swing and an improper followthrough, with the racquet pointed toward the floor.



A Forehand Checklist

1. Have your body in a good ready position: feet about shoulder-width apart, back fairly straight, legs comfortably bent so they can be used in the total body swing.
2. Have the racquet set quickly and wrist cocked.
3. Take a good stride into the ball.
4. Drive forward with your front thigh into the ball as you dip your hitting shoulder.
5. Rotate your hips into the ball.
6. Throw your left arm out of the way so it doesn't limit your swing.
7. Bend your back knee to get low. This will help to get your racquet on a lower plane.
8. Keep a strong, tucking motion with your hitting arm bent at the elbow and tucked in close to the right side of your body as you come into the ball.
9. Have your wrist laid back and cocked until just before impact.
10. Snap your wrist forcibly at impact; don't punch at the ball.
11. Contact the ball with a racquet face that is vertical at impact and traveling on a horizontal plane.
12. Keep your eyes on the ball and stay down with your body.
13. Complete your swing with a natural followthrough. ●



The racquet arm is much too straight, and this robs you of the forceful power of the tucking motion.

The Ajay Racqueteteers

***They drive opponents
right up the wall.***

From our **Spoiler**, the largest legal racquetball racquet, down to the **Vendetta**, the lightest around, Ajays are murder on the court, but not on your pocketbook.

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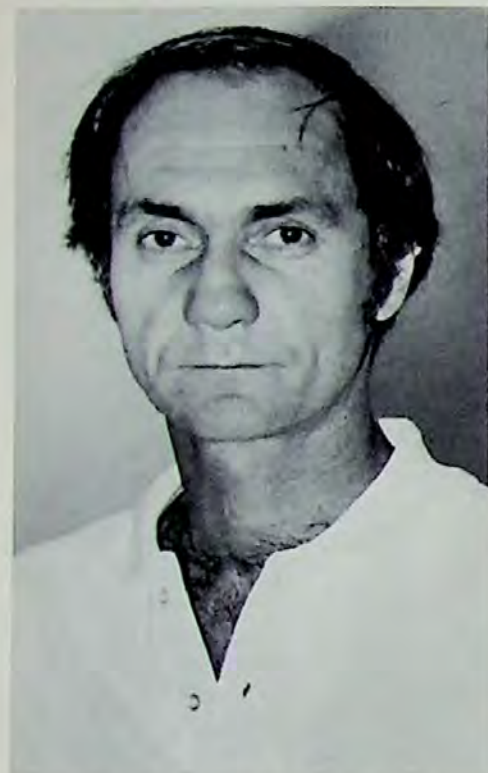
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Move Your Feet!

by Patricia Froeba



Bob Morgan's drills lead to fast footwork.

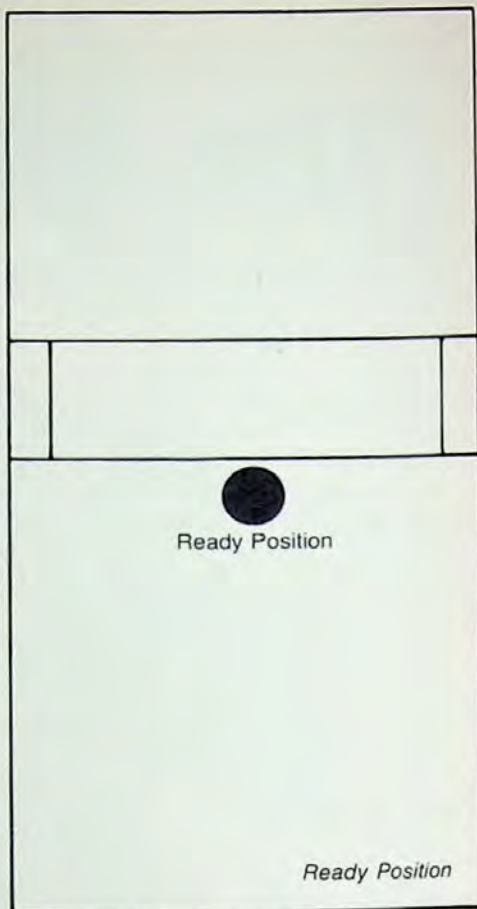
It is becoming a truism in racquetball that a player must constantly move his feet to hit the ball with authority. If a shoe company were to paint the bottoms of a racquetballer's shoes, the resulting prints should cover every area of the room.

Most racquetballers are aware that sound technique does not consist of thanking God that the ball is near enough to hit and then taking a frantic swing as it sails on past. Unfortunately being aware that the feet must move and being aware of where to move the feet and being able to move the feet swiftly and surely are distinctly different things. Inexperienced players are often frustrated by the peculiar bounces of the ball; they often run frantically toward a ball that is moving frantically away, only to have the ball bounce off the wall into their faces. Beginners who have little or no athletic background may find side and back movements awkward; they literally trip over their own feet.

More experienced players are caught trying to hit balls that seem to suddenly materialize in their stomachs or faces. Finally players at any level who do not play for a time find their "rustiness" interferes most with quick movement — they are a half-step behind on every shot, and they replace powerful offensive shots with prayerful defensive blocks.

Players at all levels need to spend time on drills that stress explosive motion toward corners and sides, and drills that stress properly established position at the moment the ball is contacted. While jogging helps develop conditioning, there is also a need for drills designed specifically for the movements of racquetball. If a player begins with the three drills described here, he or she should be rewarded with nimble and speedy feet.

These drills were developed by Bob Morgan, owner and director of Morgan's Athletic Club in Lafayette, LA. Bob, a former YMCA physical director and a top area player, has taught racquetball at all levels.

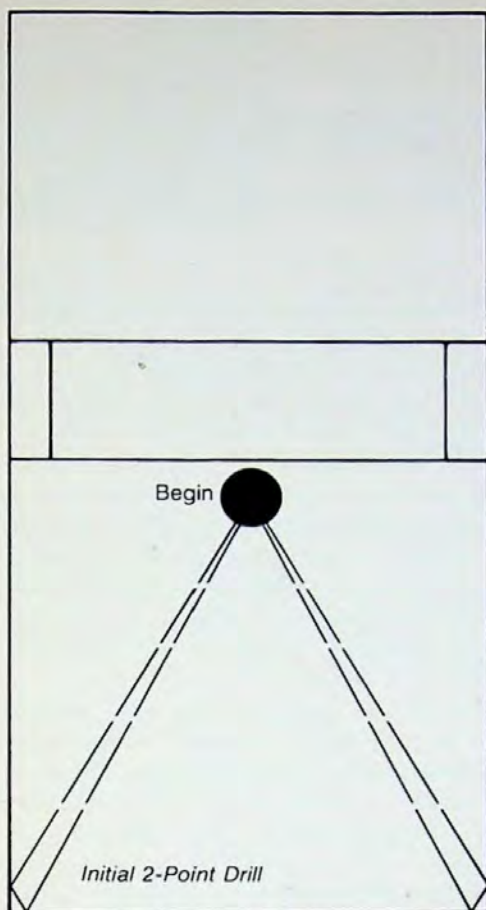


Drill One: Racquetball Wind-Sprints

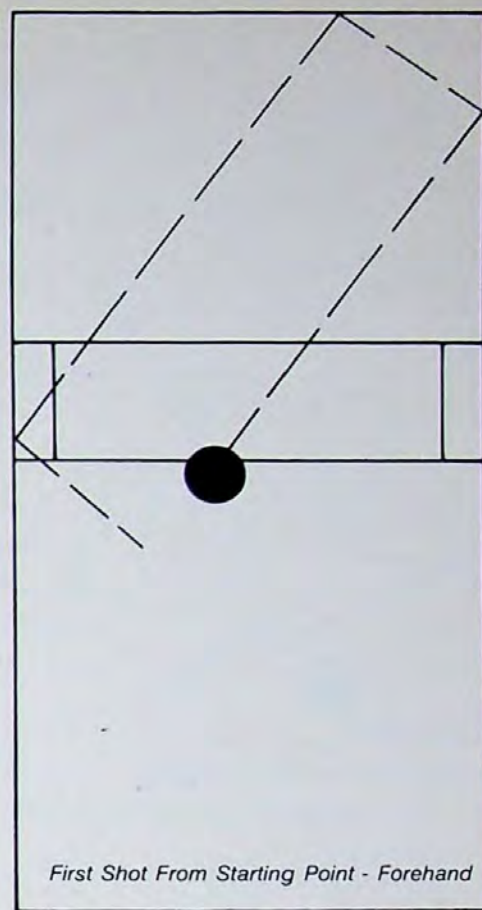
Step One: Begin in ready position. Turn and run to the deep back and corner, then quickly return to the starting point. Stopping only to untangle your feet, run to the deep forehand corner and then return to center. Then run to the deep back hand corner. Repeat until exhausted. Start with two to four drills.

Step Two: Once you're moving smoothly to the back court corners add the front corners to his drill. Run to each corner, returning always to center. The corners may be approached in any order; the order may vary with each drill (ie, right front — center — right back — center — left front — center — left back — center). The set of four should be repeated two or three times at first; add repeats as you build endurance.

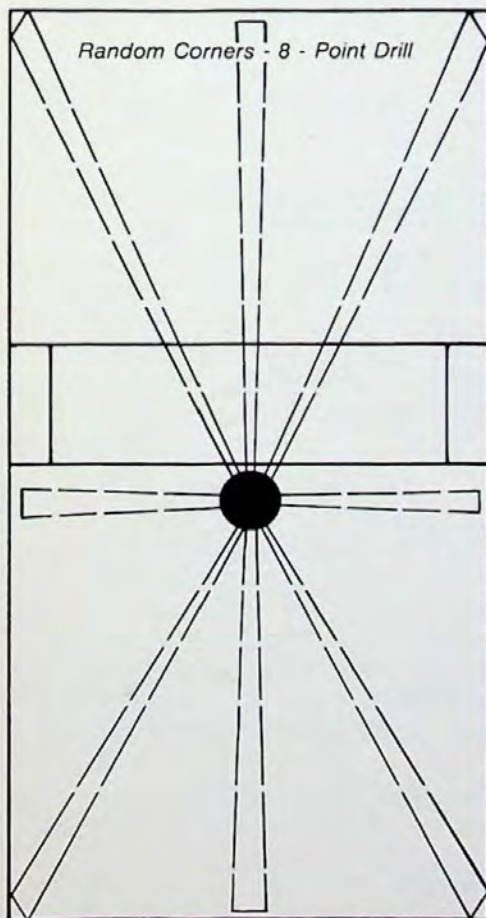
Step Three: Adds quick runs to the left and right walls for a six-point drill, and to the front and back walls at center for an eight-point drill. If you can run three consecutive eight-point drills, you should have little trouble with stamina during a long rally; you will also have conditioned your reflexes for quick movements followed always by a return to the ready position.



Drill One



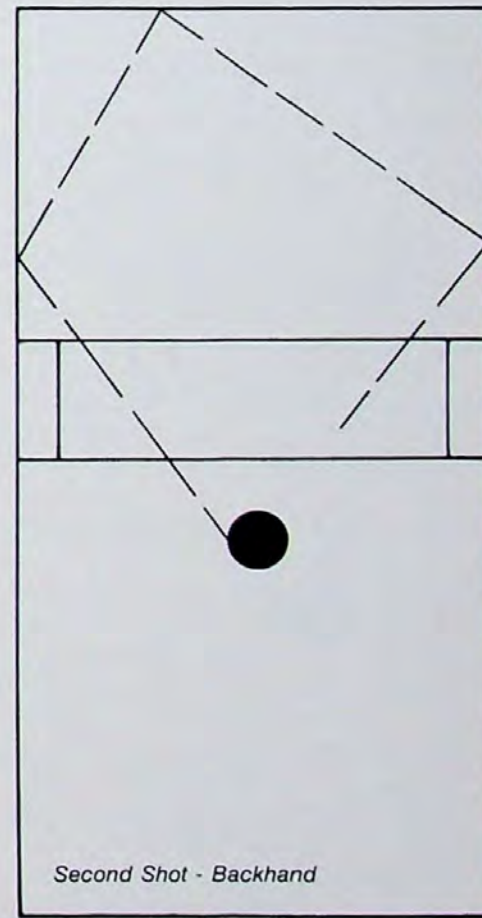
Drill Two



Drill Two: Fancy Footwork

Begin at the center of the service short line. Drop and hit a ball with your forehand into the right side wall (if right-handed, to the left wall if left-handed) so that it rebounds into the front and right walls. Then strike it with your backhand into the left wall so that it rebounds into the front and right walls. Repeat your forehand shot, then backhand, continuing on each shot to move into position and strike the ball with authority. Initially try to keep the ball in play, alternating backhand and forehand shots, reacting quickly to play the ball off the first bounce if possible.

The drill can be repeated with variations in speed and height of the ball; as you become nimble, plan to kill the ball on the fifth shot or hit every third backhand down the line. This drill not only develops agility, co-ordination and footwork, it also helps you get the feel of the court and the bounces of a frantic rubber ball.



Second Shot - Backhand

Drill Three

Key:

- Player
- Partner
- Path of Player
- Set-Up Shot
- Resulting Shot

Drill Three: The Unbelievably Good Set-Up

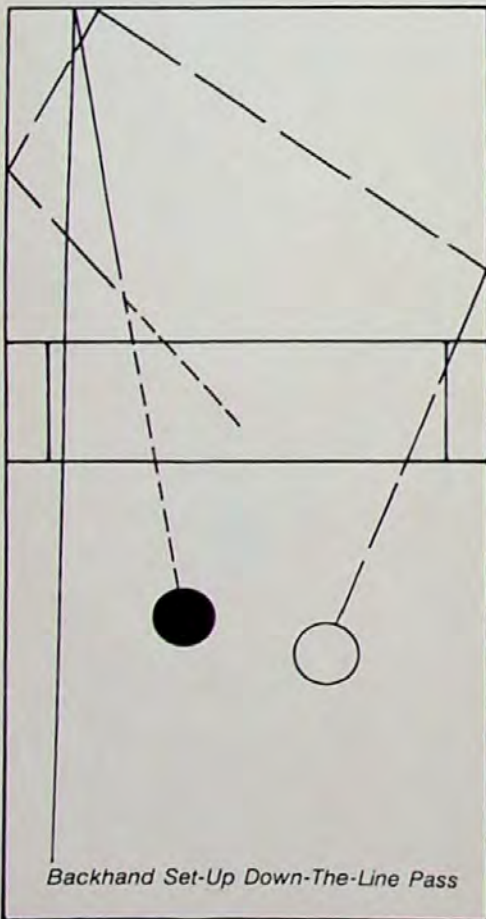
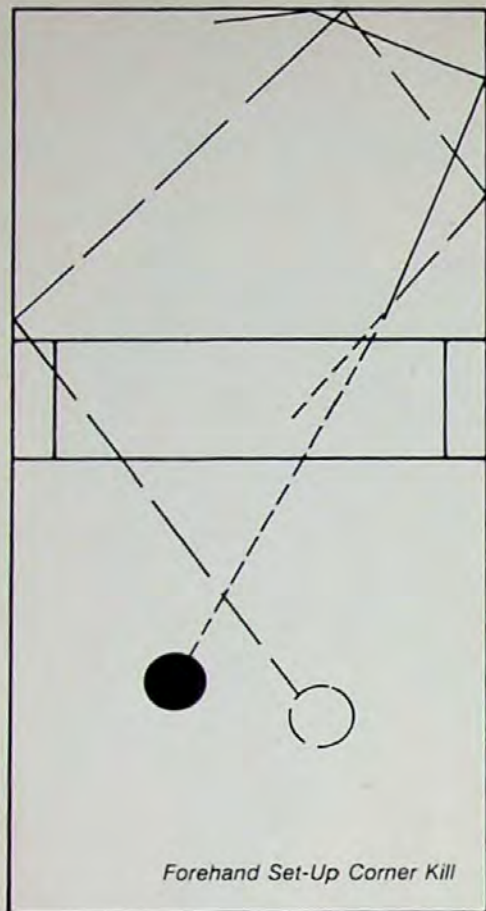
The set-up drill works best with a partner, but you can also do it alone. The first ball is struck from three-quarter court into a sidewall. It should bounce off the front wall and the other side wall, falling into the "plum" area for a kill or pass. Begin with a forehand set-up, then move from three-quarter court into position to finish the "rally." Move quickly back to ready position to anticipate a return.

The set-up shots should fall to the forehand and the backhand, and include shots that fall high and soft as well as hard, low bullets. Soft, short ceiling balls make excellent set-ups for practice. Concentrate on watching the ball and moving into a strong hitting position. Stand back far enough to force good movement and an evaluation of the movement of the ball.

Practice a variety of shots from the set-up, including corner kills and down-the-line shots as well as cross-court passes, Z balls and occasional ceiling shots if caught off-balance.

A partner is useful in analyzing the movement and shot selection. The partner can quickly point out crowded swings and poorly executed passes, as well as question the choices made and the initial shot more closely imitates the action of an actual game.

The set-up drill develops eye contact and anticipation as well as movement; it also encourages judgment in shot selection and is nearer to actual play than are most drills. The ability to move quickly into position, then finish a rally when a set-up occurs is directly related to your success in matches. ●



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APRO teaches...Serves

Here's a tip from the American Professional Racquetball Organization

The serve is one of racquetball's most offensive and important shots. But unfortunately teachers do not emphasize it enough in their lesson programs. Most teachers inform their pupils about only the basic types of serves. However many other serves can be created from these primary serves.

The basic serves are the drive serve, lob serve and Z serve. From these three primary serves other placement and speed serves — such as the high lob serve, soft Z serve, garbage serve, change of pace serve, etc. — can be taught. Ingenuity must be used in teaching the serve so that the pupil realizes that from the mere three basic serves dozens more evolve.

The following sequence of steps should be followed when teaching any serve. First emphasize that the serve should not come off the backwall. This should be stressed throughout your lesson program with players of all ability levels. Secondly teach your pupils to direct the serve to different places on the court. Your students must visualize boxes or spots on the front wall to aim serves at. (see figure 1) An expert recently pointed out that a ball which misses the target by a foot on the front wall will be off six feet in the back court.

Where should a student go after an effective serve? All teachers should tell their pupils to drop back three to five feet behind the short line (see figure 2).

This means you should stress two major elements for the serve. The serve must go to the right place, and then the player must go to the right place. All players are developing their serves to become a primary offensive weapon in their game. In the past years the serve was only a stroke to put the ball in play, whereas nowadays it is a much more important shot.

—Dennis Wood

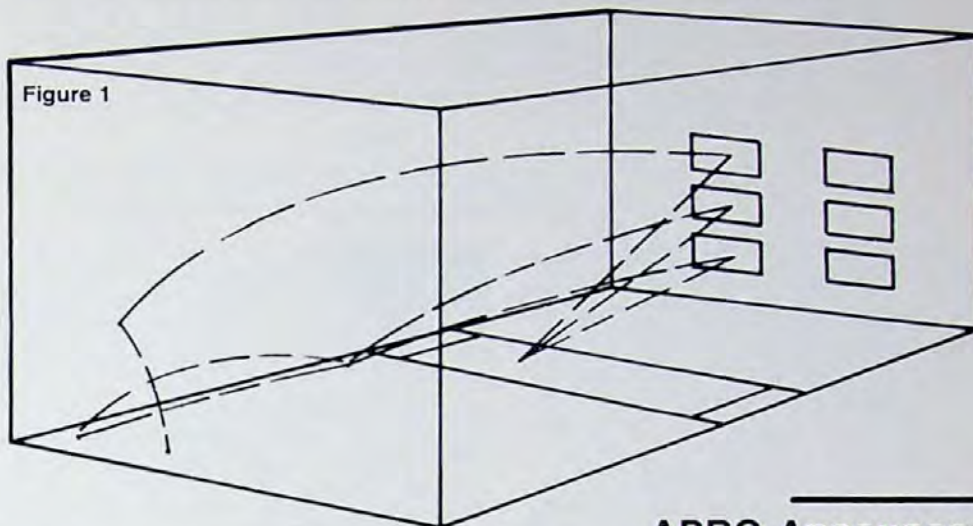


Figure 1

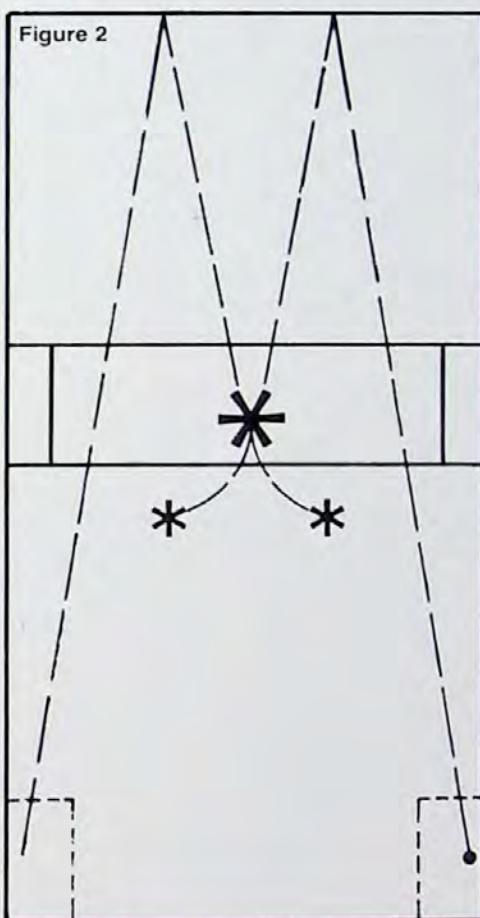


Figure 2

APRO Announces Certification Tests

Teachers have responded so well to the APRO certification tests that exams are being held in many parts of the United States. Since January certification tests were given in Illinois (Forest Grove and SkyHarbor clubs), New York (Four Walls Court), Wisconsin (The Court Club), Michigan (Sports Illustrated), Florida (The Courtrooms), Indiana (Omni 41) and Iowa (Decathlon).

Racquetball teachers can try for APRO certification July 1 in Louisville, KY (Downtown Athletic Club); July 8 in San Diego, CA (Site to be announced); July 8 in King of Prussia, PA (King of Prussia Racquetball Club); July 8 in Manchester, NH (Manchester Court Club); July 8 in Houston, TX (Court Sports).

APRO is also happy to announce that the USRA State Associations of Idaho, New Hampshire, Illinois and Iowa have become associate members.

Once APRO's initial membership drive is completed APRO will provide other services including a national newsletter, insurance programs and local teaching seminars. Already in operation is APRO's job bureau and plans are in the works for an August national convention and racquetball teachers' tournament.

For more information write to APRO, 730 Pine Street, Deerfield, IL 60015. ●

Using Your Wrist

by Terry Fancher

Editor's Note: This article is excerpted from *40 Common Errors In Racquetball, and how to correct them*, by Terry Fancher and Arthur Shay. It's available for \$5.95 plus handling, from Contemporary Books, 180 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Illinois 60601. Attn: Karen Stein

The wrist often is overlooked as a source of errors in racquetball. It is often the culprit in a bad shot.

When the wrist is kept too rigid during the stroke, the ball is pushed rather than stroked to the front wall. Much loss of power results from stiff-wrist shooting. (See Figure 1.)

You can correct this problem by thinking of your wrist as your personal cobra, ready to strike. It should be held cocked well back at the start of a stroke, and at the moment of contact "*snapped*" or "*rolled over*." You're after that feeling of sudden achievement and power you get after making a good shot or good connection with the ball. It's a surge of coordinated power that starts at the shoulders, courses through the waist and flows to the ball via that cobra wrist. (See Figure 2.)

Whether you think of it as a cobra, a sudden "*snap*" or an uncocking of a lethal weapon the idea is to keep hitting in practice until you get that perfect feeling, that perfect placement, that sense of imparting a little more power and accuracy to the ball than you thought yourself capable of doing.

Then practice recapturing that wonderful feeling. ●

Figure 1. Mistake – Stiff-wrist shooting

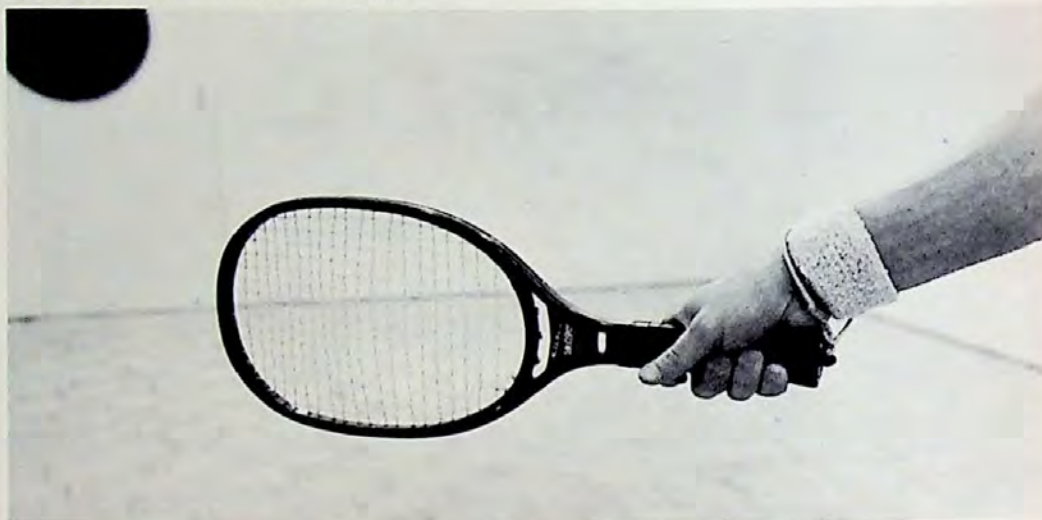


Figure 2. Correction – Cobra wrist

Figure 3-5. Notice in Figures 3-5 that John Lynch is doing everything related to the forehand stroke correctly except utilizing his wrist. The hips and shoulders are rotating to allow a forceful swing, but a loss of power will ultimately result because of the locked wrist. Note in Figure 4 that the head of the racquet has dipped too low to the floor.



Figures 6-8. Correcting the situation involves cocking the wrist and almost pointing the tip of the racquet straight toward the ceiling. (See Figures 6-8). Note that the racquet head is still close to this position as the player strides into the ball in Figure 7. Avoid pushing the ball and attempt to drive it to the front wall with a forceful snap of the wrist.

Tournament Results

The Beat



Winner Hogan reaches for a backhand kick attempt in the finals against Wagner.

Goes On

Unstoppable Marty Hogan won his second straight tour stop in San Antonio, making it six out of seven on the season.

When they write the history of racquetball, undoubtedly the chapters dealing with the late '70's will emerge as the years of Marty Hogan. Nobody has ever dominated a sport like Hogan currently is dominating racquetball.

The 20-year-old St. Louisian continued his destruction of all comers by capturing the San Antonio stop on the Colgate/Seamco/Leach pro tour March 15-19.

Pressed only once during the tournament (a quarter-final with Craig McCoy) Hogan's championship win was again over the surprising Richard Wagner, who was making his second consecutive trip to the finals.

One of the stories of the weekend was the emergence of youth as the four semi-finalists averaged 21 years of age. Those four were Hogan, Steve Serot (22), Wagner (22) and Ben Koltun (20). And McCoy, who came close to the big upset, is just 21.

Their youth does not hinder their play, probably the understatement of the year. But how did the kids manage to eliminate the likes of Brumfield, Bledsoe, Hilecher, et. al?

Indications were that it was to be that kind of tournament when the two top seeds in the qualifying round didn't make it through to the main draw. One qualifier, Don Thomas from Mesa, AZ, managed to top Steve Mondry in the first round and reach the 16's, a feat accomplished only twice previously this season.

Those first two rounds were Thursday, and gone by that evening were Bledsoe (10 and 18 to Steve Keeley) and Jay Jones (14 and 8 to Wagner). Hilecher struggled but managed to top David Fleetwood 21-11, 13-21, 11-2 to move to the quarter-finals.

Koltun drives a forehand down the line as Wagner moves left to cover the shot in their semi-final battle.



Friday night's matches found Serot vs. Hilecher, in a renewal of an old St. Louis rivalry; Kelley vs. Wagner, as the old pro took on the red-hot shooter; Koltun vs. Brumfield, a classic confrontation of veteran against youngster, and McCoy vs. Hogan, a battle of two power players.

First up was Serot and Hilecher, and the two played a typical all out, intense match. Among the best retrievers in the game both players needed to shoot well to overcome the other's strong points.

In game one it proved to be Serot, who came back after an early deficit of 8-4, to tie at 11. When he grabbed the lead 13-12 on a right corner backhand kill, Hilecher's verbal abuse cost him a point due to a technical foul, making the score 13-11. Jerry never recovered.

Serot ran five more points in the inning on a forehand error, three kills and a backhand error on the serve by Hilecher to make it 18-11. The final was a routine 21-15.

The second game was all Hilecher, who took a quick 6-2 lead and never looked back. Serving well and forcing errors Jerry had total command of a rather boring game. He upped the lead to 10-5 then 19-8 and finally 21-9.

After three scoreless innings it was Hilecher who finally dented the board first in the tie-breaker, as Serot whiffed a ceiling ball he apparently lost in the glass. A forehand kill by Hilecher into the left corner made two, a lead Jerry built to 4-1.

But Serot caught the crack on a drive serve to the left for his second point and

Hilecher shows perfect form as he goes for bottom board with his forehand against Serot in the quarters.



the ace seemed to pump him up. He re-killed cross court for point three, killed with his backhand for the tie at four, and when Hilecher hit a 39 footer into the dirt, Steve had the 5-4 lead.

Another kill into the right corner with his backhand made it 6-4 and a forehand kill into the left corner made it 7-4, before Hilecher could get the side out.

Jerry got back one, albeit a freak ball, when his racquet hit glass and ball simultaneously, rebounding weirdly to the front corner for a winner.

Serot regained the serve, tallied number eight on a backhand pass left, nine on a diving kill pinched left to right and 10 on a backhand kill into the right corner.

When Hilecher held there, Serot gave a freebie away on an error shooting the right corner, but that was all. Moments

later it was over in an amazing finish as Serot, diving to his left in deep court, returned a Hilecher pass attempt, and while on the floor watched his win as Hilecher skipped in a forehand kill attempt 11-6.

Next came Keeley and Wagner, and if anybody doubted how well Wagner was hitting prior to the match, they all knew that the answer was very good, once the match began.

Serving first in game one, Wagner immediately took a 6-2 lead, built it to 9-3 and then 14-5. When Wagner plays well two things usually happen, he shoots superbly off the back wall and he covers the court like socks cover feet. Both occurred against Keeley, who never got into the first game.

At 19-11 Wagner called a time out, apparently to keep his cool and not let Keeley off the hook. He didn't as he came back in to score 20 on a forehand dump kill into the right corner, and then two innings later at 20-12 the game winner, a forehand pass right down the line 21-12.

Game two was rather a bore. Keeley slowed the pace down, hitting a multitude of ceiling shots, and Wagner played defensively himself resulting in little movement and excitement.

The game (and match) seemed to hinge on a series of rallies at 13-9 Wagner lead, as three times the serve changed with no points scored. Finally it was Wagner who emerged with a run, five straight, all on his own offensive shots, two passes and three kills to take a commanding 18-9 lead.

The best Keeley could do was answer with two, but the match was out of reach now. Two innings later two consecutive forehand re-kills into the right corner resulted in the 21-11 match winner.

The third quarter of the night was super exciting, with Brumfield hosting rapidly improving Ben Koltun. Both games were tight battles with the match result in limbo right to the very end.

Neither player was able to dominate the rallies at the match's outset, a situation that never changed. It took 12 innings for either player (it was Koltun) to break 10 points, and the first key tie came at 11-all.

When Koltun managed to eke ahead 15-13, most viewers thought it would be Brumfield to make a move. But it was the youngster Koltun who moved, tallying three key points, on three super shots. Point 16 was a forehand kill straight in to the right; 17 was a dead kill into the right corner, forehand, and 18 was a pass right that caught the crack.



Keeley dives for a retrieve in his quarter-final loss to Wagner.



Brumfield is forced into poor position by Koltun who follows through with a forehand attempt.

When Brumfield added two to make it 18-15, both players held for three service changes until Koltun added 19 on a Brumfield forehand skip. One change of serve later Ben did him in with a pass left and the winner was an amazing ace, which caught the crack on a drive to the right.

Game two was even tighter. Ties occurred at 3, 11, and 12 until Koltun again managed to score first from a crucial situation adding three points for a short-lived 15-12 lead.

Oh but how Brumfield can still play. Four times he held Koltun without a point, but three of those times he, too, was unable to score. Finally Brumfield put a streak together — a forehand kill into the right corner for 13, a backhand Koltun error on the serve made 14, and ace on a crack left was 15 and a tie, a forehand right corner kill followed for 16, and before being put out Brum managed another forehand kill to take a 17-12 lead.

That should have put the kid away, but it didn't. Koltun traded a point to 16-18, then scored twice to tie on a forehand kill and V-pass right which caught the crack.

When Brumfield couldn't tally, Koltun took advantage, knocking on the door with two more in unbelievable fashion — two straight aces! The first was a drive to the left, the second almost identical, but slightly deeper making the score 20-18.

There Brumfield held and he answered Koltun with his own ace, a drive left in the crack to make it 19-20. When Koltun hit a backhand into the dirt it was 20-20 and Brumfield looked good.

But Charlie was unable to score, and Koltun — after calling a time out to re-examine his good fortune — tallied

the final point, the match winner on a forehand kill into the right corner, re-killing a Brumfield attempt left up — 21-20!

Such a thriller could only be matched by the great finale of the night, Hogan's win over McCoy in three games.

Marty played in streaks this night, and McCoy did his utmost to prohibit them. Craig took a 14-7 first game lead only to have Marty come back to tie it at 14-all before you could blink. But the effort wasn't enough as McCoy, shooting his backhand well and waiting out Hogan's blasts, was able to take the first game 21-16.

The second was a different story. Marty was able to take a fast 8-3 lead and, sensing a tie-breaker, relaxed enough to begin smashing the green ball at will. The result was soon 12-3, 14-5 and 20-9 with a backhand kill ending it 21-9.

A dynamite tie-breaker sent everybody home. The three point difference in the final score was the biggest lead either player was able to manage. After six innings the scoreboard read 2-1 and the progress was slow. Hogan, however, did manage to always stay a point or two in front 5-3, 6-4, 9-7.

There it became tight and when Hogan rolled off a backhand, back wall kill, it looked glum 10-7. But Marty skipped in a perfect set up at match point and McCoy rolled out a back wall shot to close to within 8-10, the closest he got.

A pass right regained Marty the serve, and a short time later it was over a forehand, back wall kill into the left corner 11-8.

Wagner and Koltun had a good match in the semi-finals, the first meeting ever between these two. Actually it was like playing yourself, because their styles are so much alike, as are their sizes.

"Like salt playing against pepper," said someone in the gallery. *"You can tell them apart because the hair color is different."*

The dark-haired Koltun drew first blood by taking a nice come-from-behind first game win 21-19. The game was tight most of the way with ties at 5, 6 and 9. Wagner took a small advantage at 14-11, only to have Koltun come roaring back with seven straight over four innings for an 18-14 lead. When Rich fought back with two kills and a pass, the score narrowed to 17-18 and Koltun tried to stop the momentum switch with a time out.

He accomplished that goal with a cross court pass right, but was unable to score. However Wagner was never able to get any closer as Koltun tallied point 19 on a forehand kill off the back wall into the right corner and a forehand pass down the line left for a 20-17 lead.

A forehand Koltun error made 18 for Wagner and an ace on a drive to the left was 19, but Koltun regained the serve on a crucial backhand error by Wagner, then put the game away with an amazing overhead, 39 foot kill into the left corner 21-19.

It was Koltun who took the initial advantage in game two rushing to a 10-5 lead, only to lose it as Wagner, killing well in the right corner, came back to tie at 11. From there they played even to 16.

Koltun had first shot at scoring at 16-all and a skipped cross court attempt put him out. Wagner seized the opportunity and scored first on a super rally, finally re-killing into the right corner 17-16. Koltun then gave up an easy one, skipping the next serve with his forehand 18-16. Wagner then added a forehand kill for 19 and a forehand pass down the line for 20. An inning later Koltun couldn't handle a V-pass to his forehand side and it was 21-16 Wagner, forcing the tie-breaker.

Tie-breakers are funny things — you really don't know what to expect. The

pressure is great and the urge to make things happen too fast sometimes gets the best of players.

For some, however, the tie-breaker brings out the superiority of the mentally tougher player. In this case it was Wagner.

Breaking a 2-2 tie with a forehand pass left, Rich rolled to four more points and a rapid 7-2 lead, stopped finally by a Koltun time out. When Ben regained service he couldn't score, in fact he didn't score again.

At 10-2 Wagner served the winner an ace on a Z serve to the backhand for the match 11-2.

The second semi-final was much different, highlighted by streaks of Marty Hogan at his best. Hogan's opponent — Serot, who each tournament seems to get a little stronger and his kill shots a little lower, just couldn't generate the necessary offense.

Marty jumped out to a 12-0 lead with a fury of kills and forced Serot errors.

As is customary Hogan eased off at that point, and the score fluctuated between a 10 and 14 point differential 13-4, 17-5, 18-7. Finally at 19-11 Hogan decided to end the game, and his two straight backhand kills down the line left made the 21-11 win.

There are more exciting ways to win 21-11 games.

In game two Serot stayed close most of the way, at least within a hot streak of making the game really close. Unfortunately that hot streak never came.

Marty broke a 6-all tie with five points in two minutes, a pass left, backhand pass cross court right, backhand left corner kill, backhand kill down the line left and a forehand kill from left field 11-6.

When Serot was unable to get back more than one over the next four

Owner Bruce Hendin makes a point during a discussion with Brumfield.

innings, Hogan struck again. Serving at 11-7 Marty blasted an ace on a Z serve to the right. Serot then gave comfort to the enemy with a backhand skip, and a forehand pinch kill right to left made it 14-7. Serot skipped the next serve for 15-7, and a forehand re-kill by Hogan suddenly put the match out of reach.

Serot got back to 16-12, but two times at 12-16 and once at 12-17 he was unable to come up with any ammunition. The second time Hogan went in at 17-12 he came out with the match.

A forehand kill into the right corner from center court was 18, and ace on a Z serve to the left made 19, a forehand soft kill into the right corner was 20 and a perfect V-pass left from center court was the match 21-12.

So for the second consecutive tour stop it was a Wagner/Hogan final. Would Wagner be able to cope any better the second time around, especially after the disaster in Tempe (21-6, 21-11)?

Wagner did substantially better, but then he had much room for improvement. What he did manage to do was make it an interesting match, with enough good play to make enjoyable viewing. What he didn't do was truly threaten Hogan.

The amazing thing about Hogan is that you can play him even for the longest of time, but at any second he can burst a string on you that suddenly puts you five or six down. It takes a tremendous mental effort to keep your concentration at all times, in the supreme effort of not allowing Hogan a big run.

Wagner waged a good battle in the early going of game one, although Hogan held command, boosting a 5-all tie to a 9-5 lead. But Rich came back to 8-10 and when Hogan moved to 12-8, Wagner answered with two of his own to 10-12.



But the pressure was mounting. It was starting to get late to trade points, and the viewers sensed that sometime soon Wagner would buck the percentages and gamble on hitting a long distance shot or two.

Hogan cracked a pass attempt right for 13-10 and Wagner went for the kill of Marty's next serve, taking a forehand back wall kill attempt, only to hit it into the floor for 14-10. A glove change stoppage of play by Wagner was next.

Rich regained the serve, but another key error on a forehand kill attempt

made him the receiver again. This time Hogan made the error cost, adding a forehand back wall kill and a forehand V-pass right for 16-10, and daylight was creeping brighter between the two scores.

Wagner was able to get one back on his own kill in the right corner, 11-16, but Hogan rolled out the next serve with his forehand and took over.

The fatal mistake came next. Wagner, perhaps trying to duplicate Hogan's flashy kill of his serve, proceeded to skip

two straight serves and the score mounted to 18-11. On the third try Rich did finally kill the serve, this one to his forehand.

Rich was able to close to within three at 16-19, but Hogan hit a forehand pass right for 20 and one inning later ripped a backhand pass for the game.

I'd love to tell you how exciting and dramatic the second game was, but in truth the same thing happened as in the first game, only a bit earlier.

Fighting back all the way, always those three or four points behind, Wagner was just unable to mount the offensive effort against Hogan. Yet Rich showed plenty of guts.

Down 10-5 he came back to 11-10, avoiding the blow out. When Hogan made it 14-10, Wagner held on to 16-12. Three times Rich served at 12-16 and three times he came up empty. As stated many times on these pages, you must score when you've got the opportunity, especially against Hogan. The chances are just not that plentiful.

The remainder is history repeated. Marty tallied 17, 18, and 19 inside of 50 seconds. Wagner held there twice, but was still unable to dent the scoreboard on his own behalf, so the inevitable finally came.

Marty first rolled a kill with his backhand into the left corner for 20-12; and then, as if a last flair for the crowd, the game's number one hit the match winner a backhand kill from at least 39.5 feet away, cross court. And the ball rolled out, 21-12. ●

NOTES OF THE TOURNAMENT . . .

Hats off to Bruce Hendin, the owner of two racquetball facilities in San Antonio, who needed them both to host the huge South Central Regional tournament that accompanied the pro tour . . . Nice to see Bruce and his lovely family after a few years. The Hendins put many years in St. Louis, with Bruce a key figure at the famous St. Louis Jewish Community Centers Association (JCCA), spawning ground for so many top pros — Hogan, Serot, Hilecher, Koltun and Zuckerman among others . . . A super-competitive Regionals found Jeff Kwartler capturing the Men's Open title and Susie Dugan taking the Women's Open championship and the first place prize of air fare to the Nationals . . . Good buddy Neil Asprea made his way over from Phoenix and treated many of the players to a riverboat excursion through downtown San Antonio. . . . The weather was outstanding with sun and 70's all week, leaving many of the palefaced northerners a bit pink in the cheeks . . . Ernesto Ancira Chevrolet co-sponsored the amateur events . . . Seamco's Bob Coate and Art Orloski were on hand, as was Leach's Dave Armstrong . . . Good round of 16 efforts came from David Fleetwood who went three before losing to Hilecher . . . Keeley's win over Bledsoe in the 16's was surprisingly easy, as the champ has yet to get it going.

Pro Results

(Qualifiers): Dern, Kwartler, Thomas, Peck, Walker, Deuster, Carr and Wright.

(First Round): Hogan d. Campbell 21-10, 21-11; Morrow d. Dern 21-15, 21-7; Yellen d. Kwartler 21-15, 17-21, 11-8; McCoy d. Stafford 21-0, 21-13; Serot d. Rish 21-12, 21-13; Thomas d. Mondry 21-13, 9-21, 11-9; Fleetwood d. Owen 21-3, 20-21, 11-9; Hilecher d. Peck 21-14, 21-14; Bledsoe d. Walker 21-7, 21-17; Keeley d. Stephens 21-15, 21-10; Jones d. Schmidtke 21-13, 21-8; Wagner d. Deuster 21-10, 21-10; Koltun d. Carr 21-11, 21-15; Zuckerman d. Bolan 21-15, 21-14; Chase d. Austin 15-21, 21-13, 11-7; Brumfield d. Wright 21-8, 21-12.

(Second Round): Hogan d. Morrow 21-9, 21-16; McCoy d. Yellen 21-17, 21-8; Serot d. Thomas 21-13, 21-9; Hilecher d. Fleetwood 21-11, 13-21, 11-2; Keeley d. Bledsoe 21-10, 21-18; Wagner d. Jones 21-14, 21-8; Koltun d. Zuckerman 21-15, 21-12; Brumfield d. Chase 21-7, 21-7.

(Quarter-finals): Hogan d. McCoy 16-21, 21-9, 11-8; Serot d. Hilecher 21-15, 9-21, 11-6; Wagner d. Keeley 21-12, 21-11; Koltun d. Brumfield 21-15, 21-20.

(Semi-finals): Hogan d. Serot 21-11, 21-12; Wagner d. Koltun 19-21, 21-16, 11-2.

(Finals): Hogan d. Wagner 21-16, 21-12.



The final point: Wright extends her winning hand to Steding after the ladies finals.

(Qualifiers): Greer, Schmidt, Oeschger, Moore.

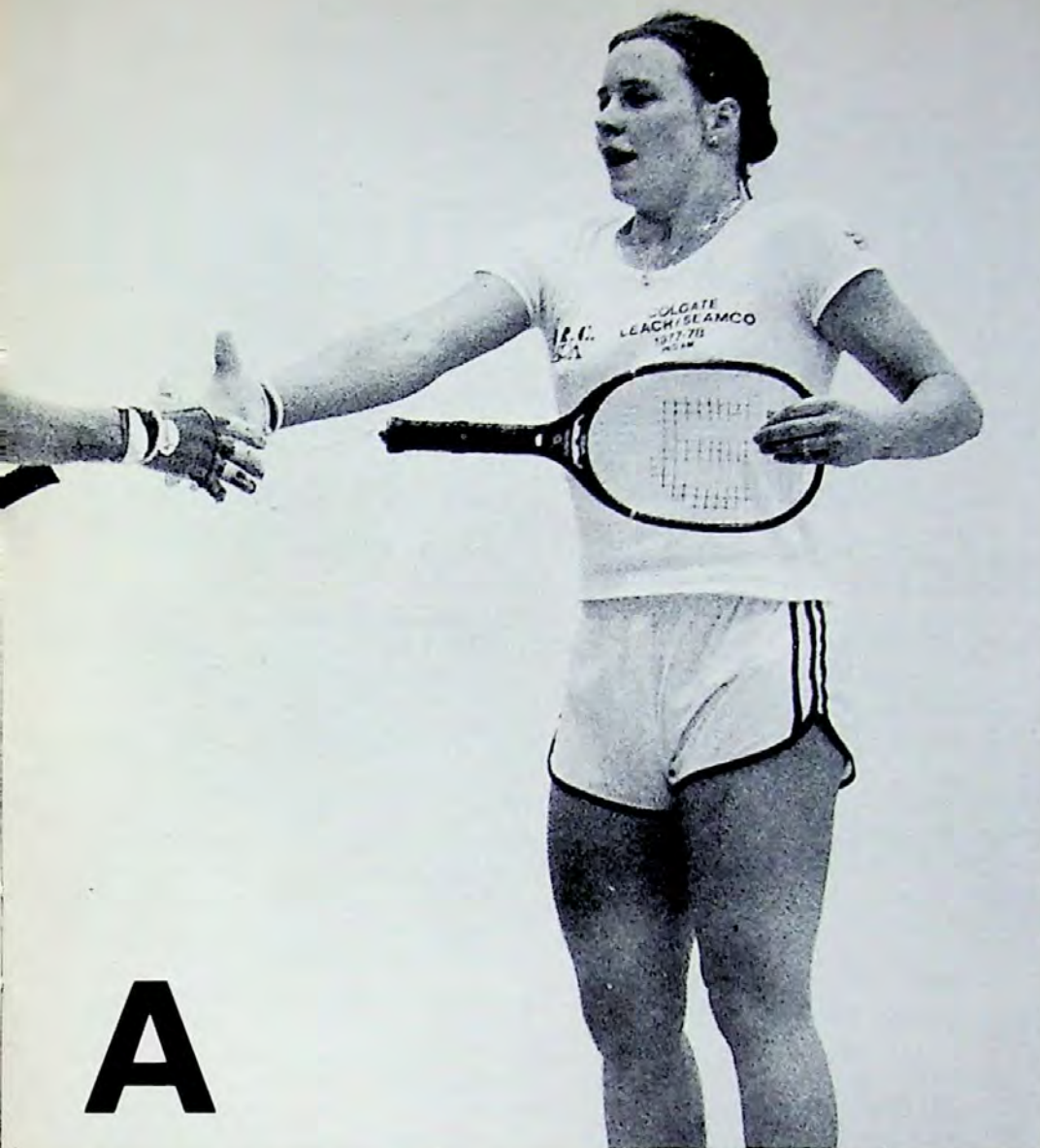
(First Round): Steding d. Greer 21-5, 21-8; Williams d. Sauser 21-18, 21-12; Walton d. McDonald 21-14, 21-17; Marriott d. Schmidt 21-15, 21-19; Wright d. Oeschger 21-15, 21-4; Hoff d. Pasternak 21-7, 21-11; Carow d. Green 21-13, 12-21, 11-10; Harding d. Moore 21-17, 21-2.

(Quarter-finals): Steding d. Williams 21-10, 21-19; Marriott d. Walton 21-11, 21-19; Wright d. Hoff 21-6, 21-8; Harding d. Carow 21-8, 21-12.

(Semi-finals): Steding d. Marriott 13-21, 21-18, 11-8; Wright d. Harding 21-13, 21-8.

(Finals): Wright d. Steding 21-10, 21-16.

All photos of San Antonio pro tour stop by John Jameson



A

Lone Star

Shannon Wright blasted her way to her third consecutive win as no opponent came close.

If there was any doubt as to who the best woman racquetball player was March 15-19, the doubts were dispelled by Shannon Wright, who blasted her way to her third consecutive tour win, at the San Antonio (TX) RB/HB Club.

Wright bested ageless Peggy Steding in the finals, and it wasn't even close 21-10, 21-16, as she put Peggy and all the other women on notice that she's ready for the Nationals.

Shannon's game was so good this weekend that Steding was the only player able to score more than 21 points against her in both games combined.

Keyed up for this one in her former home state the vociferous Wright began the finals with a furious barrage of excellent play.

She took an early 3-1 lead and parlayed it into a 7-3 advantage before breaking loose with a seven point inning to take a commanding lead 14-3. The string included three kills, two passes, an error and an ace.

An inning later Shannon added another one on a forehand pass down the left line for a 15-3 advantage. The rest was routine, as Steding managed to get to double figures for the draw sheet.

Game two was far more competitive, in fact it almost looked like a three gamer was in the offing. It was Steding who came out shooting in this game, bolting to an impressive 11-2 advantage, which eventually got as steep as 13-4.

But Peggy's point pace slowed and Wright began that long trip back into the match. At 4-13 a pass left, pass right, backhand kill, and another pass right made the score 8-13 and forced a Steding time out.

Back in the service box Peggy was able to add two more on two Wright errors, both forehand deep court skips to extend the lead to 15-8.

But Shannon got those two back, a kill and a re-kill to get the deficit back to five

points. She then held Peggy on a right corner kill to regain the serve.

A backhand skip off the first serve made it 11-5; a backhand cross court pass by Wright made it 12-15, and a Z serve to the forehand surprised Steding, forcing a skip and closing the gap to 13-15.

Peggy stopped the momentum momentarily, but couldn't score and the Wright comeback came back, with a V-pass to the right 14-15. Peggy held there and added one more on a forehand kill into the left corner for a 16-14 lead.

Steding never saw the service box again.

In an amazing string to run out the match Shannon played superior racquetball. A forehand pass right was 15, a near perfect Z ball forced a forehand Steding error for the 16-all tie, a diving kill straight in was 17, a forehand kill ending a superb rally was 18 and a forehand re-kill into the left corner was 19 and forced a Steding time out.

When play resumed, Peggy hit a backhand into the dirt for 20-16 and after a hinder Wright closed the door on a forehand front wall-side wall kill and it was over 21-16.

Wright was even more dominant in the semi-finals, where she topped southpaw Jennifer Harding 21-13, 21-8 to reach the final round.

Game one was closer than the eventual score might indicate. Wright took early leads of 11-6 and 13-6 only to have the stubborn Harding fight back with four points in the eighth inning to close to 10-13. Two side outs later Jennifer added two more, one aided by a glare error off the glass, the other a backhand right corner kill from deep court, making the score a tight 12-13.

But just as she did to Steding in the finals Shannon turned it on late in the game. After a point and a service change Shannon added three straight unanswered notches, two forehand kills and a backhand pass and suddenly it was 17-12. The two players stuck on 18-12 for three innings until Harding nabbed point 13 on a forehand left corner kill.

But that was it. Wright, showing excellent control, kept the ball down the lines, scoring on a forehand pass down the left line and a forehand kill down the right line for the 20-13 lead. A moment later it was an ace that made 21, a drive to the right.

In the second Shannon broke a 4-all tie and put the match out of reach with a 9 point inning and a 13-4 advantage. Aces, kills, passes and an error were the ingredients, as they always are.

The closest Harding could get was 8-14, and Shannon ran out again scoring the final seven points without losing the serve, match point coming on an off the back wall cross court kill with her backhand.

The good match of the semi-finals turned out to be the Marriott-Steding battle, as, after the 21-13 first game Marriott win, neither woman could place herself substantially above the other. The result was an interesting and well played last game and a half.

Marriott jumped to the initial 6-2 lead, only to have Steding come back and tie 6-all. Marriott held and extended to an 11-7 lead, only to have Steding come come back to 11-all, and then take the lead 13-11.

A Marriott time out seemed to help, because a few minutes later it was Marriott tying the score at 14, then again going strong and on the strength of a V-pass right, a backhand error and a re-kill in front court took an 18-15 lead, forcing a Steding time out.

And again Peggy came back. A cross court kill was 16, a forehand kill 17 and three hinders later Marriott skipped in the serve for the 18-18 deadlock. This time Peggy kept right on going.

An overhead hypotenuse kill shot from 39 feet away made it 19-18 and a forehand kill into the right corner was 20. A Marriott time out was no help and a forehand pass right cross court forced the tie-breaker.

It was a burner. After a quick 4-0 lead by Steding, which held to 6-2, Marriott came back to tie at 7-all after grudging rallies, with plenty of empty innings.

From 7-7 it went to 8-8 and finally the key rally, an error on Marriott's part, as she hit a backhand off the back wall set up into the floor. Upset with missing the easy on, Janell called a time out to regroup. But Peggy was too pumped up by her good fortune and scored on an overhead pass down the left line for 10-8. When her drive in the next rally found the glass right side wall, Janell couldn't get a good swing at it, forcing the error and an 11-8 win.

The quarter-final round was one of the most un-interesting of the season, with none of the matches going three games.

In the upper bracket two 21-19 battles were the best any of the losers could do, and it was Kathy Williams reaching 10 and 19 against Steding.

Karin Walton could do no better against Marriott with Janell taking their quarter-final match 21-11, 21-19.

In both of the above matches the favorite just had too much firepower and confidence down the crucial second game stretch, resulting in two gamers instead of three.

The lower bracket was non-competitive as both Rita Hoff and Sue Carow were no match for their respective foes in the lower bracket of the quarters. Carow, who was coming off a stunning 21-13, 12-21, 11-10 upset of Sarah Green in the 16's, couldn't mount the pressure two days running and was gunned down by Harding 21-8, 21-12.

Hoff, who ripped Jan Pasternak in the 16's, didn't have the necessary zip against Wright who blasted her way to the 21-6, 21-8 win.

Only the Carow-Green battle went three in the 16's, with Pat Schmidt making Marriott work and Martha McDonald forcing Walton to go all out in the only other relatively close round of 16'ers.

Next stop for the women was the women-only pro tour stop in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania. Complete details will be in the July issue. ●



Racquetball

Regional Championships Attract 3,000 Players

The greatest number of participants in the history of amateur racquetball entered the 10 separate USRA Regionals in 1978. An average of 300 entrants per tournament made a grand total of 3,000 for the tournaments which started as early as January in Portland and concluded with Colorado Springs and King of Prussia, PA, in late March and early April.

A big attraction this year was our first-time inclusion of the five boys and girls juniors categories in our regionals. We took this step to qualify a large percentage of the younger players for our National Juniors this August and to accustom the kids to playing annually in the regionals. We felt one qualification tournament a year wasn't too much to ask in the way of travel. We should all tip our hats to Leach and Seamco for providing the 3,000 plus shirts free and to Seamco again for giving a total of 240 dozen "558" racquetballs to our host sites. One hundred trips were also awarded to the various age categories ensuring some great amateur match-ups at the National Championships this month.

State Championships Gain in Size and Stature

The scope of USRA state championships has expanded dramatically since last season. To illustrate this our state affiliate championships together with all state sanctioned events used a grand total of 1,500 dozen free "558" racquetballs in a six-month period from September to February, 1978. According to our Seamco factory coordinator, John Cone, *"there's a tremendous amount of USRA activity in the states this season."*

Tournaments are in great demand all across the country and with the inclusion of brackets other than the open categories, the total numbers involved in competitive racquetball are astronomical. In Wisconsin the USRA state championships is the most prestigious tournament of each season. According to our state chairman, Bob Keenan, *"I'm constantly bombarded with questions about upcoming tournaments; the response is amazing."*



Terry Fancher

Juniors Show Great Interest

Judging by the numerous calls and letters I have received interest in competitive juniors racquetball is progressing well. For those who are curious to know selection for the National Juniors for the remaining 30 open slots (50 players qualified thru regional championships) is decided according to merit.

Since there will be a bracket of 16 players in each of the five age categories, the USRA will select six additional boys and girls in each age bracket in addition to those who have won trips already. A high finish in the regionals, recent tournament competition and last year's National Juniors results will all be considered in judging who gets invitations.

The quality of this competition appears to be very high based on our observation at this year's regional tournaments. Many of these kids have been blessed with good instruction, state association promotion of juniors events and the proximity of good pros or amateurs to observe and learn from. Instructional camps and even television have also provided the impetus for youngsters to compete.

Many juniors players or former juniors are now talented professionals on the tour or are top ranked amateur competitors — Mike Yellen, Ben Koltun, Rich Wagner, Marty Hogan, Larry Meyers, Jeff Larson and Lindsay Meyers, just to name a few.



USRA Maine Racquetball Raises Dollars for TV Racquetball

Maine was one of the states where the PBS station had other programming the day pro racquetball was aired. Kevin York, the state chairman, decided to try and get the program aired at a later date. "All of our state members were really looking forward to that program and we felt that the USRA/Maine Racquetball Assoc. had the obligation to provide it for them." The station was recontacted and Kevin was told that an underwriter had to be found to pay the airing cost. "We got right on the phone and started looking for an underwriter. We were fortunate in the fact that our banker, Ed McBride of Maine National Bank, felt that the programming was worthwhile and decided to underwrite it."

"The Maine PBS station with the money in hand gave the program a fine slot Saturday, Feb. 4 at 4 p.m. We've done quite a bit of fund raising for our state association's program but it still amazes me how easily money can be raised. In most cases, all you have to do is take the time to ask. If you approach a possible sponsor with the attitude that you have a good product to sell and that he is sure to benefit by your product, he can't help but say yes. Do your homework, make sure your programs are good, then come through with everything you promised and that sponsor will be willing to listen again."

The USRA and the players in Maine would like to thank Maine National Bank for their contribution to America's fastest growing sport.



Meet Your State Chairman

Arizona — Chuck Hallock

The Arizona Racquetball Association proved to be a strong affiliate at the recent Tempe pro stop and southwest regional championships.

Under the chairmanship of Chuck Hallock the ARA undertook the ambitious task of coordinating what was, in the opinion of many, one of the finest tournaments in the last four years.

Chuck is a locksmith, enjoying the Arizona sunshine with his wife, Susan, and their two children — Jana, age nine, and Scott, six. Continuing his education Chuck is enrolled at Arizona State University majoring in recreation and physical education.

Essentially Chuck's interest in racquetball stems from handball. "I played handball through the sixties, but retired my calloused hands before doing a four year stint in the Marines. I couldn't stay away from the courts, though, and after a few years I decided to try the new game of racquetball. It has since become an obsession."

Chuck's optimism about the future of the game is attributed to the relative ease with which people learn to play and the health/fitness trend that's rampant in America.

Chuck himself is involved in racquetball for a number of reasons. "First I love the sport — not just for the competition and fitness, but even more for the people who play racquetball. It is not a cliquey, status-oriented group of people. I've traveled in many states and have yet to find a state where I haven't enjoyed a game with a new found friend."

"Secondly I feel that the only significant way I can assist the sport and show my genuine appreciation is through involvement. We've had a good state organization in the past and now it's getting better. This is not to be attributed to my involvement, but



rather to the many others who are active participants. The key is ACTION." And active they are, especially since their recent affiliation with the USRA.

"The ARA is fast becoming a well developed organization. Naturally a large portion of activities revolve around tournaments, since our funding comes mostly from memberships acquired through these sanctioned events. But we are extending our community services to include (1) a computerized rating/seeding system for all members described in last month's National Racquetball, (2) ARA sanctioned leagues, (3) clinics in racquetball and refereeing and (4) a monthly newsletter/magazine that provides local and state racquetball information."

Chuck, who says "there are many responsible for the success of the state organization," gives special mention to Past ARA President Ron Stulik and Interim President Bob Hurckes.



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Upcoming Events

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216-837-9602, and Racquetball
Emporium, North Canton,
216-494-7736. Entry deadline end of
May, but spectators welcome.

June 9-11

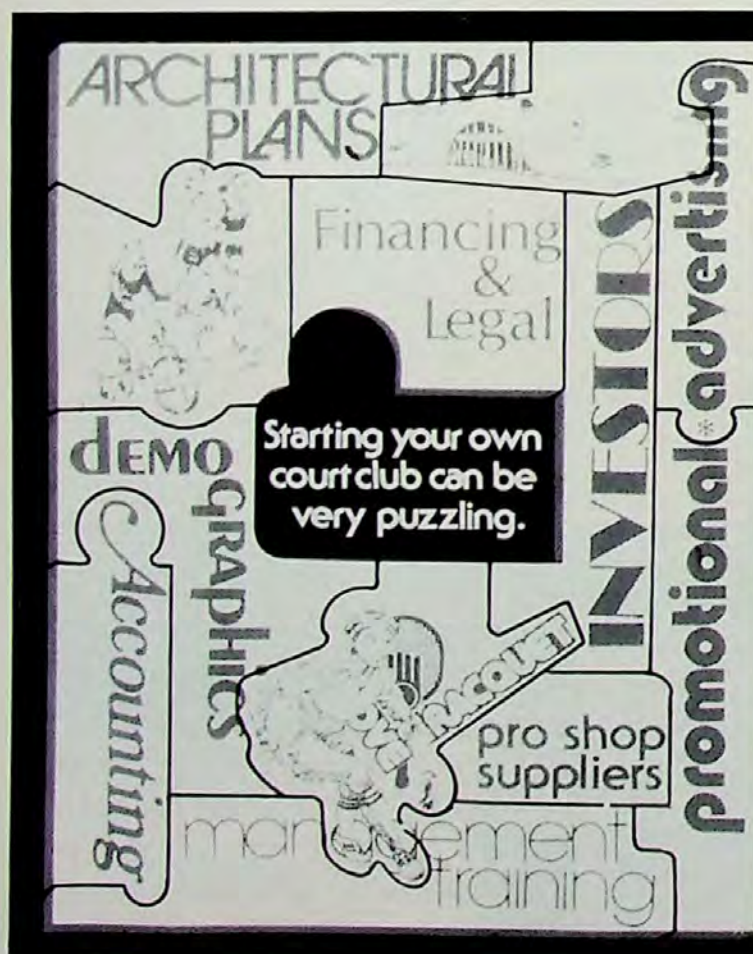
Rochester (NY) Open Round Robin
Doubles, Midtown YMCA, 100 Gibbs
St. Entry deadline early June, but
spectators welcome.

June 30-July 2

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Tournament Results

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

North Dakota

Three individual and one doubles championships were successfully defended March 19 in the North Dakota racquetball tournament held at the Fargo-Moorhead YMCA.

Alex Cooley defended his Men's Open Singles crown by defeating Chip Lien 21-9, 21-13. Denis Olson retained his title in the Men's Senior Singles by upending Dorwin Marquart 21-2, 21-15.

Geraldine Smesrud repeated as the Women's Open Singles champion by topping Marsha Dahl 21-6, 21-9, and Lien and Jay McGurran won the Men's Open Doubles over Roger Mazurek and Jim Wentz 21-11, 21-14.

Other winners were John Roche and A. J. Helgersen (Men's Senior Doubles); Mike Howell (Men's B Singles); Dot Sutton (Women's B Singles) and Marsha Dahl and Judy Brandt (Women's Open Doubles).

Men's Open Singles (Championship): Alex Cooley d. Chip Lien 21-9, 21-13. Third—Roger Mazurek d. Terry Fowler 21-17, 21-14.

(Consolation): Mike Johnson d. Rick Poppen 19-21, 21-6, 11-4.

Men's Open Doubles

(Championship): Lien/Jay McGurran d. Mazurek/Jim Wentz 21-11, 21-14. Third—Denis Olson/Mike Johnson d. Cooley/Doug Christensen 21-16, 10-21, 11-5.

(Consolation): Gary Cavett/Tom Elliott d. Rick Poppen/Tom Toussaint 21-13, 21-18.

Men's Senior Singles

Championship: Olson d. Darwin Marquart 21-2, 21-15. Third—Pat Patrick d. Tom Zimmerman 21-12, 21-15.

(Consolation): Glenn Melvey d. Earl Lee 20-21, 21-17, 11-0.

Men's Senior Doubles

Championship: John Roche/A.J. Helgersen d. Marquart/Mike Howell 21-14, 21-16. Third—Bob Metz/Pat Patrick d. Sonny Lange/Harry Halverson 21-17, 21-19.

(Consolation): Tom Zimmerman/Howard Harmon d. Bob MacLeod/Don Richardson 21-5, 21-17.

Men's B Singles

Championship: Mike Howell d. Doug Christensen 21-14, 21-10. Third—David Opperman d. Rodger Wyman 21-17, 21-15.

(Consolation): Ardeen Langness d. Bob Bakkum 21-15, 21-16.

Women's B Singles

Championship: Dot Sutton d. Teresa Day 16-21, 21-18, 11-7. Third—Donita Naylor d. Laura Collins 14-21, 21-12, 11-6.

(Consolation): Gayle Steen d. Cheryl Litton 21-12, 21-14.

Women's Open Singles

Championship: Geraldine Smesrud d. Marsha Dahl 21-6, 21-9. Third—Donna Sponberg d. Kay McDonald 21-20, 21-7.

(Consolation): Kathy Conlin d. Kristi Carriere 20-21, 21-9, 11-9.

Women's Open Doubles

Championship: Dahl/Judy Brandt d. McDonald/Bernadette Holes 21-20, 21-8. Third—Kristi Carriere/Lori Anseth d. Dot Sutton/Donita Naylor 21-9, 21-10.

(Consolation): Donna Sponberg/Robyne Williams d. Kathy Conlin/Roberta Erickson 21-12, 21-10.

Nebraska

The results from the Midwestern Regionals held March 10-12 at Sports Courts in Omaha, NE, are as follows:

Men's Open: Phil Stepp d. Mark Hegg 21-13, 21-16 for 1st place. Ron York d. Gary Davidson 21-15, 21-13 for 3rd place.

Women's Open: Barb Tennessen d. Judy Thompson 21-4, 21-10 for 1st place. Marci Greer d. Ev Dillion 21-18, 16-21, 11-3 for 3rd place.

Senior Singles: Obed Oas d. Lee Lantry 21-19, 21-5 for 1st place. Lee Humphrey d. Bernie Nielson 21-8, injury forfeit for 3rd place.

Masters Singles: Tom Harrington d. Glen Stover 21-12, 21-11 for 1st place. Ken Kennedy d. Ron Siemers 21-12, 21-2 for 3rd place.

Golden Masters: Dr. George Place will represent the Midwest Region.

Junior Boys 17 & under: Doug Cohen d. Scott Shaffer 21-19, 21-12 for 1st place. Bob Kahn d. Tim Wesley 21-9, 21-4 for 3rd place.

Junior Boys 15 & under: Doug Weisman d. Brett James 21-8, 21-15 for 1st place. Bill Parodi d. Gordon Larsen 21-16, 21-12 for 3rd place.

Junior Boys 13 & under: John Klearman d. Greg Young 21-1, 21-6 for 1st place. Dave Keitges d. Roger Lindwall 21-10, 21-13 for 3rd place.

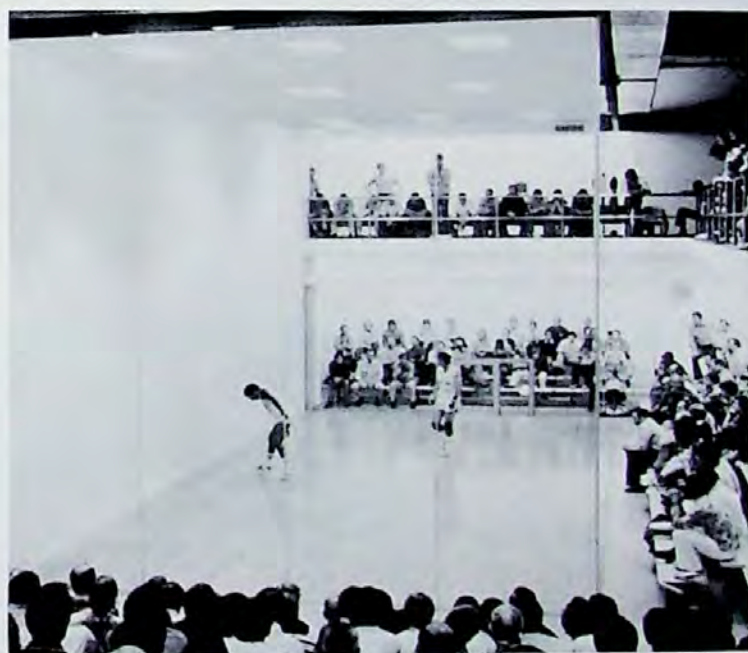
Junior Girls 17 & under: Barbie Allen d. Wendy Greig 21-14, 21-7 for 1st place (only two entries).

Junior Girls 14 & under: Chris Lantry d. Gina Danner 21-9, 21-20 for 1st place. Jill Mally d. Michelle Humphrey 16-21, 21-10, 11-7 for 3rd place.

Open Doubles-Men: Rod Bechman/Craig Olson d. Monte McCuniff/Bob Shelton 15-1, 15-12 for 1st place. Rod Orduna/Mark Domangue d. Dave Kramer/Bob Downey 15-4, 15-8 for 3rd place.

Senior Doubles: Monte McCuniff/Bob Shelton won 1st place. Gary Chunka/Rich Harley d. Lee Lantry/Jay Lemer 15-8, 14-15, 11-8.

Open Doubles Women: Barb Tennessen/Ev Dillion won 1st place. Anne Winick/Carol Garvin won 2nd place.



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Massachusetts

The new and lavish 10 court facility of Racquetball International in Burlington housed the largest racquetball tournament in New England history March 10-12. Over 360 participants and spectators were part of the weekend's events ranging from Junior Girls to Golden Masters divisions.

In the Mens Open division Mike Luciw claimed the honors via a 21-10, 21-18 margin over Mike McDonough. Luciw, even though he didn't lose a game throughout the tournament, was tested several times in the quarter-finals and semi-finals. Twice Mike had to come from behind against John Alfieri in the quarters to gain a hard earned 21-19, 21-17 victory. In the semis his match was even tougher as he faced Mike Romano and edged out a 21-20, 21-18 victory. The upset of the tournament occurred in the quarter-final round as Ron Mirek of Connecticut surprised perennial king Charlie Garfinkel of New York in a tie breaker.

In the Women's Open action, Monique Parente of Canada defeated Mary Dee of Vermont 21-12, 21-11 to gain the top spot. Bonnie Stoll of Connecticut was third, followed by Donna Meger of New York.

In other singles events action Jim Reuschel of Vermont edged out a determined Leo Fonseca of Massachusetts for first place in the Senior division. The Masters division was won by Sam Garafalo of Massachusetts via a strong showing over Leo Woodcome. The Golden Masters top

spot went to Myron Friedman of Maine over Elio Chapuano of Connecticut. Youngsters from Montreal swept both the boys and girls Junior divisions. In the Boys 17 and under Ross Harvey defeated Bruce Christensen. In the Boys 15 and under Charles Horton of New York edged out Andre Turcot. Boys 13 and under Mark Stupp defeated Todd O'Neil. In the Girls 17 and under Renee Chaula finished on top. Girls 14 and under found Heather Stupp the champion. In Men's C Arthur Wood of Massachusetts edged Andy Statires of New Hampshire. In the Men's B action George Summers of Massachusetts defeated Phil Belanger in a tie breaker for the championship. The Women's B and C divisions were respectively won by Ilene Kozell of Massachusetts and Claudia Russel of New York.

In Doubles action, the awesome tandem of Mike Romano and Mike Luciw was crowned Men's Open Doubles Champion. The Women's Doubles went to Donna Meger and Bonnie Stoll. Seniors Doubles Champions were Tom Waltz and Ed Castillo.

Results

Men's Open

(Quarter-finals): Ron Mirek d. Charlie Garfinkel 15-21, 21-11, 11-8. Mike McDonough d. Paul Lazure 21-8, 21-16. Mike Luciw d. John Alfieri 21-19, 21-17. Mike Romano d. Bruce Christensen 21-13, 21-9.

(Semi-finals): McDonough d. Mirek 21-17, 21-9. Luciw d. Romano 21-20, 21-18.

(Finals): Luciw d. McDonough 21-10, 21-18.

(Third Place): Romano d. Ron (forfeit)

(Consolation): Steve Dubord.

Men's Open Doubles

(Quarter-finals): Ed Castillo/S. Dubord d. Bob Pattison/Paul Lazure 21-19, 21-11. Mirek/Brian Dehm d. Dave Brown/Fred Miller 21-8, 21-16. Dick Moore/Bill Dubord d. Howard Alpert/Dan Baines 21-10, 21-10. Luciw/Romano d. Kevin Corrigan/Gerald Duggan 21-7, 21-10.

(Semi-finals): Castillo/S. Dubord d. Mirek/Brian Dehm 21-5, 21-5. Luciw/Romano d. Moore/B. Dubord 9-21, 21-9, 11-5.

(Finals): Luciw/Romano d. Castillo/S. Dubord 21-12, 13-21, 11-5.

(Third Place): Moore/B. Dubord

(Consolation): Bob Pattison/Barry Russell d. Greg Maloley/John Mason 21-19.

Women's Open

(Quarter-finals): Donna Meger d. Karen Bednarski 21-13, 21-8. Monique Parente d. Margo Chase 21-13, 21-12. Bonnie Stoll d. Kathy Slingerland 21-1, 21-0. Mary Dee d. Cindy Callahan 21-15, 21-13.

(Semi-finals): Parente d. Meger (forfeit). Dee d. Stoll.

(Finals): Parente d. Dee 21-12, 21-11

(Third Place): Stoll.

(Consolation): Callahan d. Carole Camovale 21-10.

Women's Open Doubles

(Quarter-finals): Meger/Stoll d. Janet Simon/Chris Terranova 21-8. Bednarski/Dee d. Ilene Kozell/Mimi Kelly 21-10, 21-17. Nora Davis/JoAnn Blood d. Bee Lufkin/Peggy Whittemore 21-17. Martha Callahan/Jackie Boyer d. Lisa Packer/Carole Calo (forfeit).

(Semi-finals): Meger/Stoll d. Bednarski/Dee 21-7, 21-12. Callahan/Boyer d. Davis/Blood 21-16, 21-4.

(Finals): Meger/Stoll d. M. Callahan/Boyer 21-15, 21-4.

(Third Place): Bednarski/Dee.

(Consolation): Ilene Kozell/Mimi Kelly d. Lufkin/Whittemore 21-11.

Men's B: 1st - George Summers, 2nd - Phil Belanger, 3rd - Art Thomas, 4th - Kevin Quarantelli, Consolation - Dave Botwinik.

Men's C: 1st - Arthur Wood, 2nd - Andrew Statires, 3rd - John Miller, 4th - Darrel Miller.

Women's B: 1st - Ilene Kozell, 2nd - Carol Conneen, 3rd - Linda Sue Estrada, 4th - Bee Lufkin, Consolation - Donna Thompson.

Women's C: 1st - Claudia Russel, 2nd - Sarah Lowell, 3rd - Martha Ladue, 4th - Kathy Strachan, Consolation - Linda Emerick.

Seniors: 1st - Jim Reuschel, 2nd - Leo Fonseca, 3rd - Herman Newmeier, Consolation - Ken Calvagne.

Senior Doubles: 1st - Tom Waltz/Ed Castillo, 2nd - Leo Fonseca/Jim Reuschel, 3rd - J. Daley/Ken Calvagne, 4th - Leo Woodcome/Mike Sullivan, Consolation - Dan Rodriguez/Sam Garafalo.

Masters: 1st - Sam Garafalo, 2nd - Leo Woodcome, 3rd - Joseph Goldman, 4th - King Carter, Consolation - Russ Kelley.

Golden Masters: 1st - Myron Friedman, 2nd - Elio Chapuano, 3rd - John Dobrutski, 4th - Larry Hornstein.

Junior Boys (17 & under): 1st - Ross Harvey, 2nd - Bruce Christensen, 3rd - Steve Larrabee, 4th - Phil Panarella, Consolation - Don Rogers.

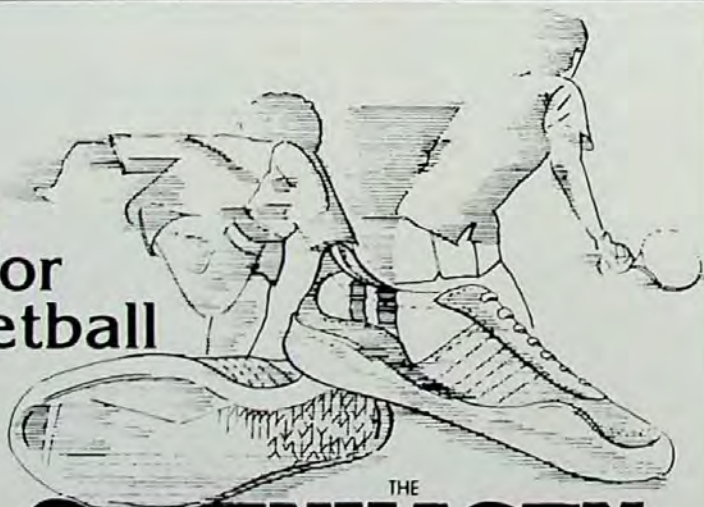
Juniors Boys (15 & under): 1st - Charles Horton, 2nd - Andre Turcot, 3rd - Tom Poulin, Consolation - Paul Giguere.

Junior Boys (13 & under): 1st - Mark Stupp, 2nd - Tod O'Neil, 3rd - Baron Wordsworth, Consolation - Shawn Brown.

Junior Girls (17 & under): 1st - Reena Chaula, Consolation - Victoria Martin.

Junior Girls (14 & under): 1st - Heather Stupp.

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Florida

The Racquet Ball, in Orlando, Central Florida's first racquetball club, opening last December with over 400 members, has reached the 750 level and is already into big time tournaments sanctioned by the United States Racquetball Association.

The First Annual Central Florida Open, sponsored by the Barnett Banks and Wilson Sporting Goods, drew 280 entrants March 17-19.

Winners were:

Men's Open Singles: 1st - Rick Stevens, 2nd - Frank Johnson, 3rd - Matt Mathews.

Men's B: 1st - Walter Massey, 2nd - Randy Watkins, 3rd - Vince Ganley.

Men's C: 1st - Cecil McManus, 2nd - Bob Florá, 3rd - Kevin Brennan.

Women's Open Singles: 1st - Barbara Faulkenberry, 2nd - Cile O'Connell, 3rd - Debby Drury.

Women's B Singles: 1st - Betsy Leedy, 2nd - Jan Jernigan, 3rd - Chris Maggera.

Women's Open Doubles: 1st - Cile O'Connell/Kerry Young.

Men's Open Doubles: 1st - Rick Stevens/Van Dubolsky, 2nd - Kenny Hendricks/Gary Zetover.

An interesting side light in the weekend games was Betsy Leedy winning the Women's B Singles. Betsy, a PE teacher at Edgewater High School, only took up the game last June and has rocketed to championship caliber in record time. The experts believe she has just begun to show her skills and has the makings of a national tournament player in the not too distant future. Betsy, we are going to keep our eyes on you!

—Danny Miller

Ohio

Rollouts were plenty as the Glove & Racquet of Massillon hosted the Second Annual T. Meldrum's Open Racquetball Tournament. There were a total of 331 entries in 12 divisions, including nine state champions from as far away as Florida. Over the three day period the participants downed 150 pounds of sloppy joes, 900 pieces of chicken, 240 quarts of Gatorade, 47 pounds of potato chips, 65 gallons of punch and nine kegs of beer.

The field was strong in every event, and in the Women's Open Dana Cornblath, current reigning state champion from Columbus, was pressed in three games by Jeanine Farrell from Pennsylvania. Jeanie had won the first game 15-13 and was winning the second game in the early rounds 14-10, lost the second game and ended up losing the tie breaker to Dana 11-8.

In the Men's Masters Jimmy Herron upset Gene Grapes 21-19 and 21-16 in their early rounds.

The winners of the 12 divisions of the T. Meldrum's Open were as follows:

Men's Open — Clark Pittman d. Mark Fried 21-11, 17-21, 11-6.

Women's Open — Dana Cornblath d. Marilyn Tebbs 21-15, 21-17.

Women's B — Sherry Armstrong d. Kathy Schultz 21-19, 21-13.

Men's B — Nick Claudy d. Bill Yates 21-13, 21-10.

Women's Doubles — Jeanine Farrell/Marilyn Tebbs d. Cookie Wachtel/Elaine Robinson 21-3, 21-11.

Jr's 14 & over — Greg Panis d. Bill Linhorst 19-21, 21-20, 11-6.

Men's Seniors — Jerry Davis d. Jack Soble 21-18, 21-19.

Men's Open Doubles — Jack Soble/Jerry Davis d. Mike Stern/Joe Agoglia 14-21, 21-15, 11-10.

Men's Masters — Ken Mitchell d. Jimmy Herron 21-15, 21-12.

Jr's 13 & under — Tim Deigham d. Mike Cowen 21-10, 21-7.

Men's Novice — Dave Kratoch d. Stan Leibel 21-17, 21-9.

Women's Novice — Kathy Beamer d. Pat Riefenstahl 21-18, 21-11.

—Jerry D. Anderson

Ohio

The Fifth Annual Mitchell Piping Tri-County Tournament held at the Racquetball Emporium in North Canton March 10-12 drew some 140 entrants. The tournament has expanded this year from Men's Open to include Men's and Women's singles and doubles in Open, B and C classes.

In the Men's Open Bo Perkowski successfully defended his title by defeating Gaylon Finch 21-19, 15-21, 11-6.

One of the most exciting matches of the tournament was the final Women's Open Doubles match with Joan Dorkoff and Barb Bordner winning over Cookie Wachtel and Elaine Robinson 11-21, 21-11, 11-5 in a match that was closer than indicated by the scores.

The results were as follows:

Men's Open — Bo Perkowski d. Gaylon Finch 21-9, 15-21, 11-6.

Women's Open — Cookie Wachtel d. Elaine Robinson 21-0, 21-4.

Men's B — Howard Roth d. Al Neago 21-17, 21-11.

Women's B — Sue Willhite d. Jennifer Pottier 18-2, 21-17, 11-0.

Men's C — Bob Connell d. John Wolfe 21-6, 21-14.

Women's C — Jeanne Grace d. Micki Lavis 21-6, 21-12.

Men's Open Doubles — Don Dorkoff/Duff Beamer d. Ron Adkins/Bo Perkowski 21-19, 21-3.

Women's Open Doubles — Joan Dorkoff/Barb Bordner d. Cookie Wachtel/Elaine Robinson 11-21, 21-11, 11-5.

Men's B Doubles — Lane Willhite/Dave Mazarelli d. Al Green/Hendershot 21-16, 21-14.

Women's B Doubles — Sue Willhite/Sue Allshouse d. Jean Clark/Jean Seitz 21-0, 21-5.

Men's C Doubles — Mark Hastler/Greg Mathes d. Bob Connell/Courtney 21-16, 21-14.

Women's C Doubles — Micki Lavis/Linda Allen d. Yvonne McVann/Doris Jones 21-15, 21-11.

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New York

The Dollinger brothers both won first place in their divisions at the sixth annual New York State Open Racquetball Championships on Feb. 26 in Niagara Falls.

Unseeded Jim Dollinger won the singles title in Class A by defeating top seed Charlie Garfinkel 15-12, 6-15, 15-11. Jack Dollinger took the Class B crown by defeating Canadian Mike Cora 15-8, 15-11.

Jim Dollinger made it to the finals by upsetting Manny Gregorio of Canada by scores of 13-15, 15-5, 15-13 on Feb. 25. "This is my first win against Gregorio in four attempts. I got my confidence back in the second game and stayed with it in the third," Dollinger said. Gregorio, who was second in the 1977 Toronto Open, was seeded second in this tournament.

The score of the Dollinger-Garfinkel match was tied three times in the first game, but Dollinger managed to win by using accurate kills and ceiling balls to get out of trouble. Garfinkel put on one of his classic second game onslaughts, and used a multitude of pinches to defeat a flat-footed Dollinger.

Most of the spectators expected Garfinkel to win the third game, since he already won the Boston Invitational and the Connecticut Open earlier this season. Dollinger took the first three points, but Garfinkel quickly tied the score and went ahead

7-4. The score was tied at 8, 9 and 10. When Dollinger went ahead 12-10, Garfinkel began using a ceiling ball defense and Dollinger moved to a 13-10 lead with a right hand corner kill. Garfinkel got one more point but lost his serve twice with two dead ceiling balls. "I should have been shooting the ball at 12-10; my ceiling game was too tentative," Charlie later said. Dollinger moved to 14-11 with a forehand kill. Both players now pulled out any semblance of caution and one of the best rallies of the match ensued in which Dollinger won the final point with a left side wall kill. Jim said "This was a super weekend - I played very well and got the key points in the third game."

John Moshides from Niagara Falls scored third with a 15-4, 15-14 win over Gregorio.

It was truly a day for the Dollingers as Jim's younger brother, Jack, won the B's defeating Gora in the finals 15-8, 15-11. Dollinger beat Stu Gellman 15-11, 15-7 in one semi and Gora beat Ralph DeFazio 15-12, 15-11 in the other. Gellman scored third with a 13-15, 15-11, 15-12 win over DeFazio.

Don King from the Falls won the A consolation by defeating Walt Moxham 15-5, 15-14. The B consolation was won by Bill Rich who defeated David Calamita 15-10, 6-15, 15-0.

—Roger Ohnsorg

New York

The first state tournament was held at the Midtown Rochester YMCA March 3-5. Mark Evans of the YMCA hosted over 100 contestants in Women's Novice, Women's Open, Men's C through Masters, Juniors and Open Doubles. The level of competition was keen in all classes with many new tournament entrants challenging the experienced tour players.

Elaine Cook's introduction to tournament play was sweet as she won the Women's Novice defeating Fran Goldberg in a close final match 21-14, 21-18.

Carol Malikow upset Barb Cornwall 21-4, 11-21, 11-4 to meet Donna Meger in the Women's Open final. Donna recognized new competition in the person of Jean Schuler, who Donna beat in the semi's 21-6, 21-9. Donna went on to win against Carol in the finals 21-7, 21-4 for the State Champion honors. Sally Driscoll won the consolation.

The Junior finals pitted Mike Levine against Jack Dollinger. Mike broke Jack 21-14 and took the second game 21-3. Third place went to Peter Bluestone who beat Chris Dailey in one 23-point game, 23-13.

Herman Neumeier definitely established himself as the New York State Seniors Champion. Rodger Ohnsorg and Herman went undefeated in their round robin brackets before meeting in the finals. Herman established early leads and controlled both games to wins of 21-13, 21-16. Frank Milligan beat Joe LoTempio in a 23-point game 23-19.

The national Masters players met for the state title. Sam Poletta and George Litsky displayed excellent skills in the finals with Sam winning 21-8, 21-12. Ken Ruther, who did some fine officiating in the tournament, took third.

Stanley Urbanski, entering his first tournament, made the semi-finals in the B's and went all the way in the C's beating Jack Flora in the finals 21-17, 21-19. Jack had to come from behind victory in the semi's 18-21, 21-19, 11-4 against Mark Stanko. Bill Lotterhos won the consolations.

Geoff Feary won the tie breaker after Stanley Urbanski had the serve at 10-10 to win the semi-final B match 14-21, 21-15, 11-10. The finals was another battle against Bill Rich with George edging Bill 21-18, 21-20. Joe LoTempio won the consolation.

John Moshides talked Joe Tyree out of "retirement" to play doubles. They upset Jim Winterton and Dan Waingarten 14-21, 21-20, 11-9. Jim and Dan had full service at 20 in the second game but could not win match point. The official's scorecard was soaking wet when turned in. In the finals John and Joe met Leo Marsocci and Sam Poletta. Sam and Leo's team experience dominated the finals with their match becoming a shooting gallery in a 21-14, 21-13 win.

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"The Gar" wanted the win in the Open and his matches tested his desire. First Charles Garfinkel, "The Gar," had to get past the tough quarters against Laverne Dickinson 21-14, 21-12. Leo Marsocci had a scare from Dan Waingarten in their quarters when Dan had Leo 20-12. But Leo pulled it out and won 21-13, 21-10. Jim Dollinger, who beat "The Gar" the week prior, was upset by Mark McCarthy 21-13, 21-14. John Moshides in an intense match took Jim Winterton 21-14, 21-13. While Leo breezed by Mark in his semi 21-3, 21-12, "The Gar" battled John in their semi 21-19, 21-15. Mutual respect showed in the finals as a surprisingly quick Leo Marsocci took the first game and "The Gar" had to come back to win his first USRA State Open crown 18-21, 21-11, 11-8. Jim Winterton came back impressively in the consolation and beat Laverne Dickinson 21-10, 21-7.

Sue Winterton earned the sportmanship award for her behind the scenes work in organizing the tourney. Doug Reighley, Tournament Director, looks forward to March 2-4, 1979 for State Tourney II in Rochester.

New York

The finals of the 1978 Syracuse Jewish Community Center Open Racquetball Tournament were held Tuesday evening, March 14, at the JCC. Preston Prue of the Syracuse Police Department defeated last year's third place winner Len Gerber of the Syracuse JCC, in two straight 21-20, 21-12.

The consolations saw Bruce Clark, head pro at the Dewitt (NY) Clubhouse Racquetball Club, defeat last year's runnerup, Victor Katz of the Syracuse JCC 21-8, 21-20. The tournament drew 35 entrees from all over the Central New York area.

Results:

(Quarter-finals): Len Gerber d. Ray Stein 21-15, 16-21, 15-11; Bruce Clark d. Steve Share 21-4, 21-18, Preston Prue d. Ron Crawford 21-5, 21-15; Victor Katz d. Bob Galvin 21-15, 6-21, 15-8.

(Semi-finals): Gerber d. Clark 8-21, 21-20, 15-13; Prue d. Katz 21-13, 21-10.

(Consolation): Clark defeated Katz 21-8, 21-20.

(Finals): Prue d. Gerber 21-20, 21-12

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Illinois

The First Annual Junior Invitational for Racquetball was held March 4, and 5, at the Forest Grove Swim and Racquet Club of Palatine with American Professional Racquetball Organization (APRO) professional Steven Boren as tournament director.

The Invitational Tournament, the first invite for juniors only in the state, drew 37 competitors in three division.

In the Boys 17 & Under division number one seed Andy Witt, defeated number 2 seed, Boris Carvalho, 21-8, 21-14 to capture the crown.

Andy's toughest match of the tournament was in the semi-finals with Gordon Gallagher pushing him to the tie-breaker and finally surrendering 21-20, 19-21, 11-7. The other semi-final match saw Boris come from behind to capture a thrilling 18-21, 21-19, 11-4 win over Richard Samson. The consolation round was captured by Dave Negrete 21-14, 21-17 over Chris Warning.

The only major upset came in the Boy's 15 & Under division when John Amatulli, with calm play and excellent racquet control, defeated John Slazas 18-21, 21-11, 11-9 to take first place in the division. John Amatulli advanced to the finals by defeating Sean Maskwa, 21-13 & 21-2 in the semi's. John Slazas moved to the finals by defeating Jack Newman, 21-13, 21-4. The consolation round was won by Marc Baum 21-5, 21-12.

The Girl's 17 & Under saw 13 year old Karen Paice yielding nothing more than 6 points in her sweep to first place. She defeated Debbie Loiacano 21-5, 21-6 in the finals. The semi's saw Karen defeat Fran Kenck 21-6, 21-6 and Debbie defeat Jean Carow, 21-17, 21-9. The consolation round was won by Betsy Koza when Diane Darmofol, in her first tournament, withdrew due to a sprained ankle.

—Steve Boren

Illinois

Thanks to the tireless efforts of Vern Roberts the Central Regional Championship tournament was an unqualified success. Two-hundred-and-fifty players from Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois and Indiana took part in the tournament at the Evergreen Bath & Tennis Club in Suburban Chicago. Ten trips to the National Championships and Juniors National Championships were awarded.

Several hundred spectators filled the glass court for the final matches and witnessed some excellent racquetball. In the Men's Open division two veteran tournament players matched strokes in a grueling display, with number five seed Dennis McDowell of Illinois topping number one seeded Paul Ikier of Wisconsin 21-19, 10-21, 11-6. It was the biggest win for McDowell since winning the NRC Detroit Pro-Am a year ago.



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In the Women's Open Pat Schmidt of Wisconsin easily defeated Sue Carow of Illinois in the championship match. The Men's Seniors was virtually the same story as Jim Clemens of Illinois had an easy time with Illinois' Jordan "Dr. J." Tilden 21-7, 21-9.

The Master's Singles division was won by Marshall Stern over Mark Schuberth, 21-20, 21-13, and in the Golden Masters former National Champion Jim Di Vito outdistanced Ben Wirkus of Wisconsin 21-13, 21-10.

The Boys 17 and under Juniors division championship match was played to a enthusiastic gallery in the most exciting match on Sunday when Steve Peck of Wisconsin defeated Andy Witt of Illinois 21-20, 11-21, 11-7 in a thriller. In the Girls 17 and under Lorie Munzenberger of Wisconsin held off Ellen Kurland of Minnesota in three games.

In the Boys 15 and under favored Hart Johnson was beaten by another young Minnesota player, Paul Bakken, 21-3, 21-19. In the Girls 14 and under, top seeded Linda Hogan of Missouri proved the class of the field, but was pushed in one game of the finals by runner-up Karen Paice 21-6, 21-18. Linda, Marty's sister, won this division at the National Juniors last July. The Boys 13 and under division was won by a young Indiana player, John Amatulli, over favored Dave Gross of Missouri, 21-20, 21-8.

Men's Open Doubles play matched a tired Paul Ikier and Steve Singer of Minnesota against two other veterans, John Lynch and Terry Fancher, both of Illinois. Ikier-Singer played well while their opponents struggled, and finished strong to win in three games 21-7, 17-21, 11-1. Women's Open Doubles was a fairly even battle but Connie Peterson and Karen Finkelburg of Wisconsin held off a strong finish by Sheryl Weiss and Judy Ripp of Illinois 21-14, 21-20.

Central Regionals Results

Men's Open Singles

(Quarter-finals): Paul Ikier d. Steve Sulli 21-3, 21-14; Jim Wirkus d. Gari Tate 21-8, 21-6; Dennis McDowell d. Steve Singer 21-10, 21-12; Bob Deuster d. Don Canstable 21-2, 9-21, 11-1.

(Semi-finals): Ikier d. Wirkus 21-12, 19-21, 11-1; McDowell d. Deuster 16-21, 21-20, 11-6.

(Championship): McDowell d. Ikier 21-19, 10-21, 11-6.

Women's Open Singles

(Quarter-finals): Pat Schmidt d. Linda Hogan 21-13, 21-12; Glenda Pommerich d. Judy Sawicki 21-10, 21-10; Bev Franks d. Connie Peterson 21-20, 12-21, 11-7; Sue Carow d. Nancy Kronenfeld default.

(Semi-finals): Schmidt d. Pommerich 21-10, 21-7; Carow d. Franks 21-10, 21-7.

(Championship): Schmidt d. Carow 21-11, 21-4.

Seniors Singles

(Quarter-finals): Jim Clemens d. Shelly Clar 21-16, 21-4; Rick Donati d. Bob Stoy 6-21, 21-15, 11-9; Scott Berry d. Marshall Waldo 21-13, 12-21, 11-4; Jordan Tilden d. Sonny Padula 21-14, 21-5.

(Semi-finals): Clemens d. Donati 21-5, 21-9; Tilden d. Berry 21-8, 21-19.

(Championship): Clemens d. Tilden 21-7, 21-9.

Masters Singles

(Quarter-finals): Jack Schuberth d. Bob Solon 21-8, 21-10; Dan Day d. Tony Lang forfeit; Marshall Stern d. Chuck Matarano 21-9, 17-21, 11-6; Tony Yucevicious d. Dorsy Boul 21-12, 18-21, 11-4.

(Semi-finals): Schuberth d. Dan Day 21-20, 20-21, 11-6; Stern d. Tony Yucevicious 21-10, 21-10.

(Championship): Stern d. Schuberth 21-20, 21-13.

Golden Masters

(Quarter-finals): Jim DiVito d. Courtney Gerrish 21-11, 21-13; Dr. David Mathews d. Ralph Shively 21-12, 21-4; Ben Wirkus d. Ted Kurland 21-12, 21-13; Joe Plestina d. Les Lundstrom 21-6, 21-4.

(Semi-finals): DiVito d. Mathews 19-21, 21-15, 11-3; Wirkus d. Plestina 21-2, 21-3.

(Championship): DiVito d. Wirkus 21-13, 21-10.

Girls 17 & Under

(Quarter-finals): Ellen Kurland bye; Gina Waldron d. Fran Kenck 21-12, 21-8; Sherri Gross d. Jeannie Carow 20-21, 21-7, 11-0; Lori Munzenberger d. Chris Warning.

(Semi-finals): Kurland d. Waldron 21-12, 12-21, 11-3; Munzenberger d. Gross 21-7, 21-14.

(Championship): Munzenberger d. Kurland 16-21, 21-11, 11-3.

Girls 14 & Under

(Quarter-finals): Linda Hogan bye; Betsy Koza d. Kay Dahm; Kindra Stirtz d. Krista Fox; Karen Paice d. Jane Citanek.

(Semi-finals): Hogan d. Koza 21-8, 21-10; Paice d. Stirtz default.

(Championship): Hogan d. Paice 21-6, 21-18.

Boys 17 & Under

(Quarter-finals): Andy Witt d. Ron Roberts 21-6, 21-10; Gordon Gallagher d. Mike Kelleher 21-11, 21-10; Boris Carvello d. Bob Clar 21-14, 21-18; Steve Peck d. Boris Carvello 21-10, 21-2.

(Semi-finals): Witt d. Gallagher 20-21, 21-11, 11-4; Peck d. Carvello 21-10, 21-2.

(Championship): Peck d. Witt 21-20, 11-21, 11-7.

Boys 15 & Under

(Quarter-finals): Hart Johnson d. Robert Kohl 16-21, 21-9, 11-8; Jack Newman d. Sean Moskwa 21-18, 21-17; Paul Bakken d. Dan Murray 21-14, 21-14; Mike Manning d. Dave Trautman 19-21, 21-15, 11-3.

(Semi-finals): Johnson d. Newman 21-13, 21-8; Bakken d. Manning 21-12, 21-9.

(Championship): Bakken d. Johnson 21-3, 21-19.

Boys 13 & Under

(Quarter-finals): Dave Gross d. John Carow 21-0, 21-0; Scott Brechon d. Mike Dahm 21-14, 21-5; Andy Cross d. George Brumis II 21-2, 21-12; John Amatulli d. Jeff Plazak 21-5, 21-4.

(Semi-finals): Gross d. Brechon 21-3, 21-5; Amatulli d. Gross 21-10, 21-9.

(Championship): Amatulli d. Gross 21-20, 21-8.

Open Doubles

(Quarter-finals): Clyde Senters Sulli d. Greg Mandell; Dan Bertolucci 14-21, 21-5, 11-3; John Lynch Terry Fancher d. Dennis McDowell Steve Butler 21-9, 20-21, 11-2; Dan Ferris Don Constable d. Ric Dern Deuster 21-16, 7-21, 11-4; Singer Ikier d. Bob VanTuyle Jim Scheyer 21-20, 21-10.

(Semi-finals): Lynch Fancher d. Senters Sulli 21-6, 21-10; Singer Ikier d. Ferris Constable 21-7, 21-15.

(Championship): Singer Ikier d. Lynch Fancher 21-7, 17-21, 11-1.

Women's Doubles

(Quarter-finals): Elice Hertz Claudia Loizzo d. Cathy Nemeth Pommerich 21-13, 21-6; Karen Finkelburg Peterson d. Gloriana Fredin Lynn Farmer 21-12, 21-15; Sheryl Weiss Judy Ripp d. Colleen Shields Debby Darlington default; Mary Paluche Ellen Tobin d. Barb Edelstein Nancy Kronenfeld 15-21, 21-20, 11-3.

(Semi-finals): Finkelburg Peterson d. Hertz Loizzo 21-7, 21-12; Weiss Ripp d. Paluche Tobin 21-12, 21-11.

(Championship): Finkelburg Peterson d. Weiss Ripp 21-14, 21-20.

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Women In Racquetball



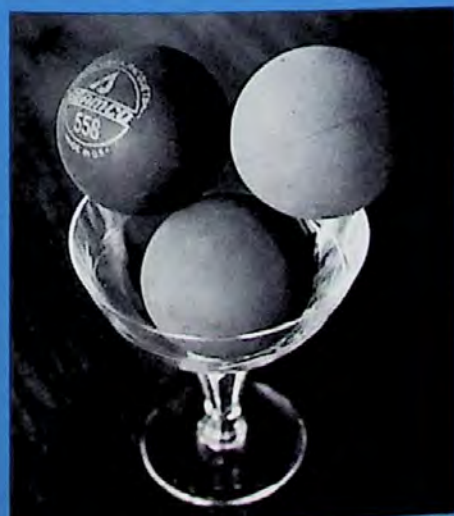
Carol Brusslan

The Three Game Lunch: Charge It to Good Health

Among adversaries on the American scene we have the brown baggers pitted against the people who linger with customers over a midday restaurant meal.

Some of the men and women who slap together last night's leftovers into a sandwich that they eat at a long cafeteria table don't think it's fair that executive types break up their work days with three hour, three martini lunches, and then take the cost of the lunch off their income taxes. The argument is "Why should people get paid to eat and drink?" versus "Why isn't it a business expense when the meal is eaten for the purpose of making a business deal?"

The controversy is dear to the hearts of restaurant owners and of politicians. Our president chose the issue to draw attention to tax loopholes he says are tipped to the advantage of the affluent.



We at *National Racquetball* offer a solution that will eliminate the controversy and make both sides happier and healthier. The answer is to play racquetball instead of either (A) drinking martinis or (B) sitting in a cafeteria with a cold chicken sandwich.

For the business executive the place to arrange a game is at an in-town club, where a fast match followed by a slow sauna sets the stage for a relaxed business discussion over a light lunch. Both parties leave their meeting feeling good about themselves and each other. They're ready for the rest of the day, free of post-martini droop.

And the cafeteria luncher? Where does he or she get the noontime racquetball game? Either in a closeby racquetball center, after convincing the boss how productive an employee is who's returning to work after an hour of exhilarating exercise, or by persuading management to install a racquetball court within the office or plant. More and more businesses are making room for those in-office courts.

The best thing about the 12 o'clock switch is that while it settles a national dispute, it fills the national need to stay fit and get thin.

So let's drink a toast (not at noon) to the three game racquetball lunch. Long may it bring harmony to America.

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Jumping into Better Racquetball

Follow the Lead of the Pros

Pros giving jump roping a whirl are, left to right, Jean Sauser, Janell Marriott, Jan Pasternak, Kathy Williams, Sarah Green and Jennifer Harding.



— Arthur Shay photo

Sarah Green says jumping rope helps her move in all directions on the racquetball court. "I tend to be slow moving to the right," she explains, "Since I've been jumping rope regularly (1,000 jumps four times a week), I've been aced fewer times to my forehand."

Marci Greer, among the top 14 pros, agrees that jumping rope is good for movement "because you use both sides." Greer learned in high school P.E. courses that rope jumping aids balance, coordination, endurance and eye hand coordination, so she's been conditioning with her jump rope for eight years "on and off — varying it with running, weights and swimming."

Third ranked Janell Marriott is another pro who puts a jump rope in her bag when she packs for a tournament. Janell jumps three times a week, 100 jumps a minute, in three three-minute intervals, two two-minute intervals and two or three one-minute intervals jumping on both feet as long as she can, and then alternating feet.

Men also are jumping rope for racquetball conditioning. But leaping over a loop of heavy cord — whether it's plastic, leather or a

piece of clothesline — is a natural training routine for women who were jumping rope as little girls.

Like everything else, there's a difference between jumping rope for fun and jumping rope with a purpose.

Assuming that you're going back to your jump rope to improve your racquetball game — and assuming that you play regularly and are in good general physical condition — how should you begin your new jump rope routine?

Two of the country's leading jump rope experts — Sidney Filson, who's consultant to AMF Whitely ropes, and Bobby Hinds, designer and producer of the Lifeline jump rope — concur that you should start your routine without the rope. Hinds recommends the following startup pattern:

1. Without the rope, and with your feet together, weight centered on the balls of your feet, legs relaxed but firm, arms relaxed at your side, begin jumping up and down pushing off your toes, making sure your feet rise no more than $\frac{3}{4}$ to one inch off the floor. Practice step 1 until the movement feels easy.

2. After two or three jumps on both feet, begin to raise one foot slightly, making sure the raised foot is in front, not behind. Practice this step until it feels comfortable.

Cross over leg jump aids coordination, agility and vertical lift. Jumping on one leg cross the other back and forth, touching the floor lightly at points to the right and left of the jumping leg.



High stepping strengthens leg and abdominal muscles. Jump twice on one foot and then the other, lifting the alternate foot as high as the model does in this photo. For super leg strength build up to 30 or 40 jumps on one leg, then the other.



-Bruce Fritz photos courtesy Lifetime



The matador helps you change directions quickly. When you take the rope outside your body (top photo), you switch to a different type of rhythm than other jumps require. Begin with the normal running step, then pass the rope outside your body as it passes over your head, crossing the farthest arm over the other as you bring it back to a regular crossover (bottom photo) ending up in a normal running step. Practice this advanced jump without a rope before you try it full gait.

3. Start with steps 1 and 2 and then do a jogging step, alternating each as in a normal run, but making sure that the foot and leg are in front of the body, not behind.

4. This step develops the correct method of swinging the rope and helps eliminate common faults like jumping too high or double jumping (touching the ground twice while the rope revolves once). Tuck the arms and wrists fairly close to your body at approximately a 45 degree angle. Stand still with the rope handles in one hand while you rotate the rope forward. When the rope is swirling about two times a second, push off on your toes as you did in step 1. You should begin to feel that the up and down body motion is causing the rope to go around.

5. Only when you're proficient at steps 1 through 4 should you add the rope — taking the rope handle in both hands, swirling at the same time as you push off with your toes, then alternating legs and then jogging.

Once you've mastered the basics, you can swing into the jumps that Hinds says are particularly valuable for racquetball players. (We've pictured some of these racquetball specials.)

Outdoor Supper Follows Indoor Match

"Summertime and the livin' is easy." At least that's the way it should be. Broiling hot days often send even the most energetic person indoors and into a state of lethargy. However physical fitness buffs need not be the victims of soaring temperatures. Since most racquetball courts are housed in air conditioned buildings, the active sportsperson can enjoy a vigorous workout while avoiding the gruelling heat.

We at *National Racquetball* are certainly not advocating spending the entire summer indoors. For when day is done, and the air cools off, what could be more pleasant than a return to the out-of-doors and the tantalizing odors of supper cooking on the barbeque grill?

On this page we are offering a quick-and-easy menu for an outdoor gourmet supper consisting of raw vegetables with a mustard curry dip, grilled butterflied leg of lamb, mideastern bulgar wheat salad and biscuit tortoni.

Keep cool and bon appetit!

—Judith Neisser

Crudites (Raw Vegetables) With a Mustard Curry Dip

Serves 6 to 8

Iced cucumber strips
Iced green pepper rings
Cauliflower florets
Carrot sticks
Radishes
Celery sticks
Iced Zucchini sticks, etc.

Dip

Combine:

2 cups sour cream
2 teaspoons prepared mustard
 $\frac{3}{4}$ teaspoon curry powdered
 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon Lawry's seasoning salt

Arrange vegetables attractively on a large platter. Spoon mustard-curry mixture into a bowl and serve separately with the raw vegetables as a dip.

Grilled Butterflied Leg of Lamb

Serves 6 to 8

1 6 to 8 pound leg of lamb, boned and butterflied
2 cloves fresh garlic cut in slivers
olive or vegetable oil
1 teaspoon salt
 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon freshly ground pepper

Stud the meat with slivers of garlic and rub well with salt and pepper. Broil over medium coals, brushing occasionally with a little oil, for 40-50 minutes (rare) or longer depending on the desired degree of doneness. The meat is especially tender and juicy when served rare. Carve by slicing across the meat.

Tabbouleh (Mideastern Bulgar Wheat Salad)

Serves 6 to 8

1 cup cracked wheat (bulgar wheat)
 $\frac{3}{4}$ cup onion, finely chopped
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup scallions, finely chopped
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups finely chopped Italian parsley
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup finely chopped mint leaves
2 tomatoes, coarsely chopped
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup lemon juice
 $\frac{3}{4}$ cup olive or vegetable oil
1 teaspoon salt
 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon freshly ground pepper

Cover the bulgar with 2 cups of boiling water and let stand for at least an hour until it absorbs all the liquid. Drain well, pressing out excess water. In a large bowl, combine bulgar and remaining ingredients except for tomatoes. Cover and chill. Just before serving, add the tomatoes.

Biscuit Tortoni (Macaroon Bombe) With Fresh Strawberries

A Variation of a recipe by Abby Mandel

Serves 8

12 macaroons (1 cup fine crumbs)
1 pint strawberries sliced and sprinkled with 2 tablespoons sugar or to taste
1 pint whipping cream
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup confectioner's sugar
4 teaspoons sherry
2 USDA "large" egg whites

Chop or crush macaroons until reduced into fine crumbs. Whip cream until thickened but not stiff. Add confectioner's sugar, sherry and $\frac{1}{2}$ cup macaroon crumbs. Beat egg whites until stiff but not dry. Fold gently into the cream mixture.

In a 5 cup bowl, layer in $\frac{1}{2}$ cup crumbs and $\frac{1}{2}$ of the cream mixture. Next layer in all of the strawberries and then add the remaining cream. Smooth with a spatula and sprinkle the remaining crumbs on top. Cover airtight and freeze. Let soften slightly, about 10 minutes at normal room temperature, before serving.

Playing Tip #9

Nothing can make you feel more foolish on a racquetball court than to have the racquet slip out of your hand in the middle of rally. If you're losing your racquet more than occasionally, you might pay special attention to this mistake-correction tip from *Inside Racquetball for Women*.

The *Inside* book is by SkyHarbor Pro and Tournament Player Jean Sauser and Photographer Arthur Shay.

Mistake: Losing Your Grip

The protective string that tethers the racquet to the player's wrist is especially helpful to the beginner who is first learning to grip and swing the racquet properly. That string keeps your racquet from flying off and possibly striking your innocent opponent. If you lose your grip excessively, this is racquetball's way of telling you that something is wrong.



Correction: Clenching Before You Hit

Even before taking to the courts practice clenching and unclenching your hand around your racquet handle. Many advanced players and pros find it useful to exert a slight clenching pressure just before the moment of impact with the ball. This will tend to overcome your possible reluctance to hit the ball hard.

If you find that your racquet hand sweats, wear a glove. Some players with this problem use a special "grip powder"; others use a "gripping tape." Pros whose racquet hand sweats tuck a small wiping towel into their shorts.

Miyo Designs for the Game She Plays

by Raeann Berman



Miyo Obata chats with partner Tamae Yokayama before her weekly game at the private racquetball courts at Chicago's Harbor Point lakefront condominium. They both wear Miyo racquetball clothing designs — Tamae in white terry cloth T-shirt, long pants and jacket with dark blue stripes and Miyo in blue terry cloth T-shirt, shorts and jacket with coordinated racket covers.

When you find yourself wearing your racquetball warm-up jacket and pants around the house in preference to jeans and a favorite shirt — that says something special about the sportswear. Clothes by Miyo Obata, designer of active sportswear and leisure wear, are like that. They're just too comfortable, well-constructed and smart-looking to confine to the racquetball court. A racquetball player herself, Miyo emphasizes quality construction and wearability. Yet her designs have a haute couture distinction.

For a fan of attractive active sportswear a visit to Miyo's workroom in the garment district of downtown Chicago is akin to a "chocoholic" let loose in a candy factory. Your first reaction is "I'll take two of everything." A mandarin orange stretch terry shorts and shirt set with striking rows of white piping (see sketch), a full-length brilliant aqua lounge/cover-up for a high fashion trip from club locker to sauna, a stretch terry hooded warm-up jacket with well-cut leisure pants, scoop neck polyester/cotton tops and matching shorts cut for comfort, yet with a crisp sporty look.

Each piece in the line is designed for long wearing comfort. Materials are absorbent, yet with enough body to hold their shape through many washings. The colors are bright, clear, happy: mandarin orange, aqua, bright navy, sunshine gold, sparkling white, kelly green, scarlet.

It's hard to separate the designs from the designer — so closely is Miyo identified with her work. A relative newcomer to this country (she settled here from her native Japan 10 years ago), Miyo has managed to make a distinctive mark in the field. After only three years in her own business, in a highly competitive field, she has built nation wide distribution. Her clothes are in nearly 500 pro shops and





retail outlets throughout the country, with heaviest concentration in the Midwest. Along the way she has received invaluable help with marketing from her friend and business advisor Bob Renardy.

When Miyo can work it in, she plays racquetball at the Harbor Point Condominium court near her apartment. Adding new designs to the line and overseeing a staff of six in the workroom often runs much longer than a 9 to 5 day for Miyo. But she makes an effort to get on the court a few times during the week.

Working hard and striving for perfection are an integral part of her background. The daughter of a prominent lawyer she attended Girls University in Tokyo where she learned the rudiments of design and clothing construction. Later she wrote a design and sewing column for the Japanese newspaper "Yomiuri". Eventually Miyo opened her own boutique in Fuchu, the headquarters of the American army bases in Tokyo. She made clothes for officers' wives and the wife of the American ambassador. It was there that she saw more of American sportswear and developed her strong interest in it. "American sportswear is the best in the world," she says emphatically.

Miyo's father was active in Rotary International and became a friend of an American Rotarian, the former governor of Nebraska, Frank Morrison. Miyo began designing clothes for Maxine Morrison. The governor's wife was so impressed with her extraordinary talent that she encouraged Miyo to move to this country.

Changing cultures and languages in adult life is not easy. Like many Japanese she had studied English in school but admits "English is still difficult. I still have to translate into Japanese first and then put it back into English before I can answer."

She began her career, under the Morrisons' sponsorship, teaching design and home economics at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. From there she came to Chicago as a designer for the I. Doctor Dress Company, making quality garments for "b-i-g ladies", says Miyo, holding her arms outward.

When she went into business for herself, she knew she was entering a competitive market where a few major name brands tend to dominate. But she understands sportswear's special requirements and "Designs by Miyo" are catching on. If you watch the Northwestern University women's tennis team matches, you'll notice the girls wearing perky purple (Northwestern colors are purple and white) hooded warm up jackets and matching pants between matches — Designs by Miyo. Her work is especially appreciated by pro shop managers who get quick feedback from players on the clothes carried in the shops.

One pro at a large racquetball club recently wrote to Miyo: "Care of design and pride in workmanship are evident in each item. A letter of appreciation is due the creator."

Since Designs by Miyo are widely distributed, check your local pro shop first. If they're not available and you'd like to order any designs pictured here or find out where you can see her complete line, write to:

Miyo Obata
Specialty Custom Creations
323 South Franklin Street
Suite 1217
Chicago, IL 60606

Who's Playing Racquetball

Irene Mead: Engineering Peoples' Moves

It takes stamina and dedication to maintain a schedule like Irene Mead's.

On top of a full time job as a civil engineer with the Michigan State Highway Department, Irene's law studies at Cooley Law School, Lansing, and the resulting homework, bite off another 30 hours a week.

Her racquetball time at Sports Illustrated Court Clubs-East Lansing must be squeezed in on weekends or after law classes which aren't over until 10 p.m.

Most of us think of a civil engineer as someone who hunches over a drawing board or tramps about construction projects under a hard hat and we think of a highway department as an agency concerned with roads and bridges.

Irene's job doesn't fit either of those stereotypes. Since joining the state department three years ago after graduation from Michigan State University, her assignment has been to a team developing a public transit program for Southeastern Michigan and her work involves dealing with people.

She represents the state at citizen involvement meetings, where public officials and ordinary taxpayers

present their ideas on their area's transit needs. The meetings deal with the transit needs of the various types of areas, from rural to urban, in the seven county region. She monitors environmental impact reports and preliminary engineering studies from the project's consultants.

Irene, 25, regards her law studies — she's in the second year of a three year course — as an extension of her present work. The law degree will broaden her ability to serve the public, either in her present job or another one.

Irene has been playing racquetball seriously, at the East Lansing Sports Illustrated Court Club, for about seven months.

"I fooled around with it when I was in school and really enjoyed it then. Then when a nice facility became available I really took it up."

"No matter how wound up I am at the time I get on the court, I work it off. I always have a good time at it."

As a racquetball player Irene ranks herself *"at the low end of intermediate."* Dropping in to the Sports Illustrated club after law classes, she plays with male classmates.

"They mostly beat me but I give them a good game."

Irene took a few pro lessons when she joined the club last fall but she hasn't time to continue them on a regular basis.

"I work on the things I know I ought to work on and when I have those down, I'll make time for more lessons."

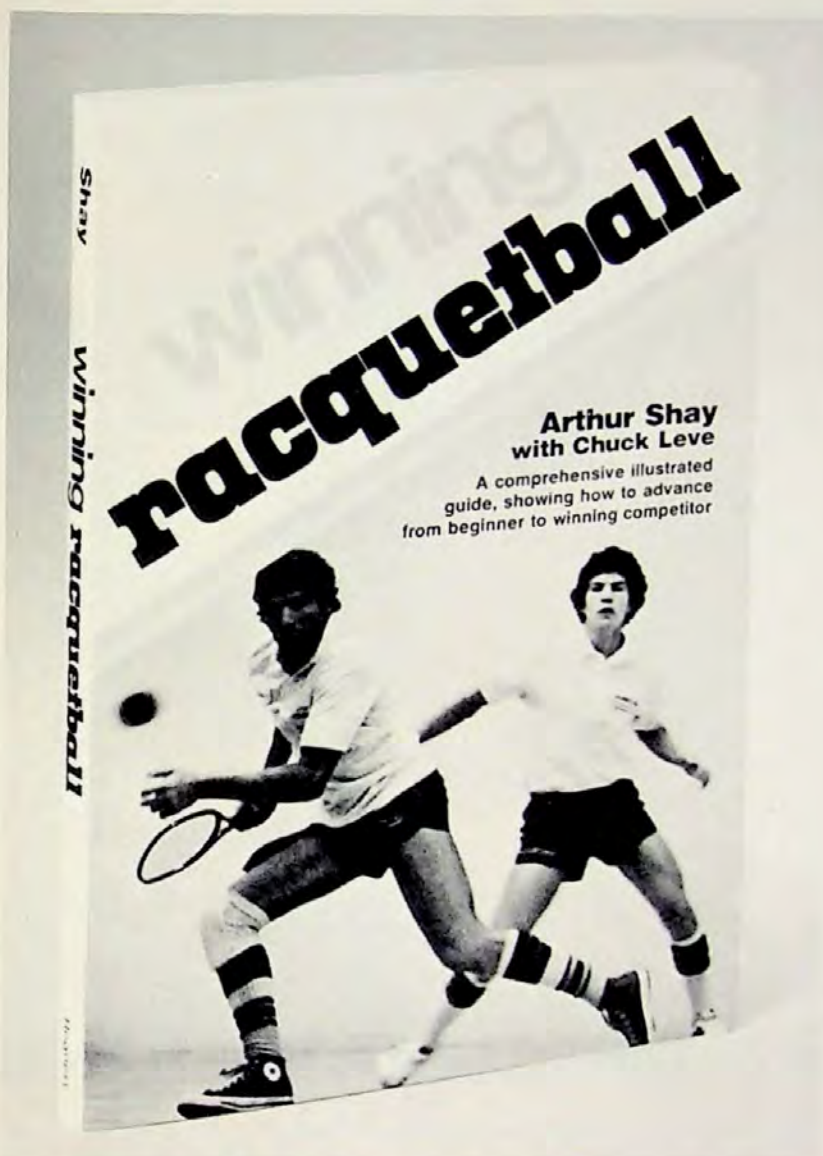


Irene Mead, who spends her work hours planning for the future (she's shown, examining an environmental report and meeting with local government officials), likes the here and now challenge of racquetball.



Roger P. Hill photos

winning racquetball



Foreword by Robert W. Kendler, President, United States Racquetball Association

Arthur Shay with Chuck Leve

Winning Racquetball is intended for beginning players seeking shortcuts to racquetball competence as well as those who have achieved the competence required to enter local club tournaments and last at least a round or two.

Building on the basics, Shay and Leve cover such areas as the mental attitudes required to win tournaments; how to get into supershape for racquetball; how to use your limitations (fatigue, for example) as advantages; and how to play against someone who is trying to out-psych you. There are winning suggestions for every department of play.

Proven racquetball winners, such as Steve Keeley, Steve Serot, Sue Carow, Kathy Williams, Charlie Brumfield, Bill Schmidtke, Ron Rubenstein, and racquetball's 19-year-old superstar Marty Hogan, are photographed in action and quoted throughout to illustrate the points made in the text.

Winning Racquetball will lead the racquetball enthusiast to the level of competence and beyond into tournament excellence.

Arthur Shay is a former *Life* and *Time* writer and *Sports Illustrated* photographer. He is the author-photographer of thirty-one books. Chuck Leve is the author of *Inside Racquetball* and the National Director and editor of *National Racquetball* magazine, the official publication of the United States Racquetball Association and the National Racquetball Club, Inc.

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Racquetball? . . . or the Story of a Whole New Ball Game . . .

by Bill Kennedy

This story from Sport and Recreation Newsletter, the quarterly journal of the New South Wales Department of Sport and Recreation, reports on racquetball in Australia and is part of our series on how the world's press views racquetball. Send along racquetball articles that you'd like to share with other players.

Very few people in Australia have even heard of racquetball, yet this amazing game in only a few years has become the fastest-growing sport in the world today.

In less than ten years it has become the most popular indoor "court" game. With an estimated 6½ million devotees in the U.S.A., Canada, Mexico and the Philippines, its expansion during 1976 alone equalled the total of squash players in the world. Now the game is being introduced commercially into Japan, Ireland and Western Europe.

So what is racquetball, and what is its terrific appeal? The best way to describe it to Australians is to compare it to the more familiar game of squash. Squash is played in a 9.75 m by 6.40 m court. Racquetball courts are 12 m by 6 m, so you must cover a lot more ground to chase that elusive little ball. To make this even tougher, the racquet is much shorter, resembling a small tennis racquet with a short handle. But, in compensation, the ball is larger; 62.5 mm diameter; and much faster and bouncier. Racquetball also adds a new dimension — the 6 m high ceiling. Squash players must avoid hitting above the red boundary lines, so this game can be said to be played mostly on a horizontal plane. In racquetball overhead shots to the ceiling in a vertical plane allow rallies to be played in three dimensions.

In squash, spectators will notice how contestants play mostly from the centre court "T", shouldering each other aside on alternate shots, reaching sideways with those long racquets to cover most of the court. In racquetball's 12 m length, with only 457 mm racquets, the play ranges up and down the court as well as sideways. Hog the centre front

and your opponent will ricochet a ball from the ceiling into the back court, stay in the back court a second too long and his next shot will be on the front wall only 25 mm from the floor — requiring a 12 m sprint to save the point because racquetball's front wall is not limited by a "tell-tale". The natural high bounce of the racquet ball allows the game to be played right down to the floor crack of the front wall as in handball. In further simplification of the indoor court game, there is no division into left and right service courts. The only markings are a service area the full width of the court midway from front to back walls, and the only limitation on service is that you stand in this area and serve to the front wall hard enough to bounce the ball behind the service area so that your opponent can return it with all the ferocity he can muster. Thus the game begins.

After that the rules resemble all other court games in that the ball must reach the front wall before striking the floor, and must be returned by the second player before bouncing twice on the floor. Points are scored only on service; points won on opponent's service result only in change of server.

History

Squash, handball, batball, paddleball and deck tennis were all in some degree of vogue across North America in 1969, when a conference of YMCA, YMHA, Community Centre and University Athletic Directors was held in St. Louis, MO, to attempt to standardize a popular game with rules and equipment so that truly national competition might result. Presented to the conference was a proposed new game with a new type of racquet and ball that so electrified these

professional athletic educators that at that conference a new name was chosen, and within one year national competition had begun.

The terrific popularity the new game earned has been explained by University of Michigan sport researchers in these terms: squash, for example, is a hard sport to learn, often taking months for a beginner to gain satisfaction for his efforts. They attribute this mostly to squash's low-bouncing ball. The researchers rated squash as a high-frustration-quotient sport. A racquetball, however, has a natural bounce similar to children's balls or tennis balls. So, usually within ten minutes or so the budding racquetballer can manage to hit several consecutive shots to constitute a rally. Also, since his target area, the front wall, is not limited by "tell-tale" or "out" lines, the beginner is spared — at the time most crucial to his psychological acceptance of a new experience — most of the frustration encountered early in other games. While racquetball is as difficult as any other game to master, it is the easiest of games to learn. So while in fact still a terrible duffer the beginner gets an early impression that he or she is doing rather well. The researchers rated this new sport as having the highest "satisfaction-quotient" of all the sports they tested on beginners.

Racquetball rated second-highest with 810 calories per hour energy expenditure of nearly 100 sports and games tested. This means that the game's high speed and constant motion rate it as a top exercising and weight-reducing sport.



Ken Rosewall, of tennis fame, faces Swimmer and All-Around Sportsman Neil Rogers, in Australia's new game of racquetball.

The ease of learning and lack of early frustration gives the game a high appeal for women; and of all unisex sports, this one has perhaps the highest female participation ratio. In commercial terms this has resulted in women utilizing available racquetball courts heavily during the daylight hours that are usually a complete loss to squash court operators. While squash court bookings average seven hours per court per day, American racquetball courts earn fees an average of 16 hours per day. When a sport is highly profitable, it induces speculators to erect more and more facilities. A popular and profitable game's membership increases geometrically, not mathematically.

Especially at the professional level racquetball is a spectacular game to watch. The larger ball, and the gymnastics required to cover the larger court make racquetball a most "visual" sport. Squash has always suffered from a lack of spectator interest, mostly because its small-sized ball is often invisible to movie or TV viewers. The American national racquetball tournament in June was televised "live" to about 10 million viewers. The researchers pointed out that when people enjoy watching a sport, they become probable recruits to play the game!

There are now professional tournaments similar to golf and tennis. By 1988 it is predicted that the sport will have over 50 million players, pushing it past tennis in popularity. Many of these will be dual tennis/racquetball players, as the similar strokes, ball bounce, and techniques of the two sports make them compatible.

Racquetball is just beginning in Australia. As yet there are no full sized courts, but even played in a truncated version on converted squash courts it is gaining favour at a few commercial courts such as Clovelly Squash Centre and the University of N.S.W. at Kensington. Operating on the principle that if "you can't beat them - join them" it is understood that a move has begun by the squash court operators of Australia to introduce a version of the game on their courts. To fill those empty afternoon hours Australian ladies will soon be playing en masse, and their men won't be far behind.

Among the few early devotees of the game in Australia competitions have been held for the past three years. Winner of the 1976 Australian Open was a wiry young tennis player named Ken Rosewall who battled for nearly two hours to defeat a former handball champion, Ron Rogers, by a score of 21/19, 20/21 and 11/6. His overseas form since then indicates that racquetball did his tennis no harm. ●

Where are America's 17,000 Courts?

by Mort Leve

Every day we learn of new facilities opened, in construction or on the drawing boards. What would be an approximate number of courts in the United States through 1978?

We have outlined here 15 different categories of facilities. The fastest growing number would be in the Court Club market, and these could vary from what is termed "The Pure Court Club," essentially the in-and-out play as in bowling lanes — the courts, separate locker rooms, check-in point with lounge, pro shop, nursery, and offices; to the full concept facility that could include, in addition to the courts, tennis; swimming; squash; jogging; sophisticated, supervised exercise programming; juice/cocktail bars, snack shops/restaurants and other amenities. From all courts there will be more than 650 such facilities as we close out the year.

Starting from the top. At last count there were 472 YMCAs with courts, averaging four courts per Y. The Jewish Community Centers number about 80 facilities with some ambitious blue print planning going on. Latest multimillion dollar facility was opened in suburban Detroit. The St. Louis suburban showcase on some 110 acres has eight indoor courts with a battery of three three-wall, three four-wall and availability of eight one-wall outdoor courts. The average of the 80 would be similar to the Ys — about four each.

We could lump city and suburbia municipal facilities, starting with more than 1,200 outdoor one-wall courts

sprinkled around the five New York City boroughs of Staten Island, Bronx, Manhattan, Brooklyn and Queens. They can be found in parks, playgrounds and on the beaches. There are even several "fronton" courts (one side wall, front and back wall with one side open). With the growing awareness of the racquetball popularity park districts and city recreation boards have seriously looked into the potential and we find, for example, three such complexes built in Chicagoland within the past several years — Elmhurst Courts, combine of four tennis and four racquetball; Morton Grove with 10 racquetball courts, and Highland Park with the four and four combination. There are many outdoor three-wall courts in various parts of the country, city operated . . . and even some outdoor four wall as can be found (four of them) at the well-known Flamingo Park in Miami Beach.

In fire houses there are more than 50 single courts included at Los Angeles stations; six or seven in Chicago and one in Suburban Evanston; Portland has some . . . there are a few police stations with courts.

Western Elks clubs include two or more courts. The list includes Tacoma, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Albuquerque and Helena, MT.

Old Line Athletic Clubs are the predominantly well-established in-town social/athletic clubs. At the onset racquetball was more or less taboo but the walls were broken down, as was accessibility for the women.

The Los Angeles Athletic Club is one of the most famed, along with the Portland Multnomah Club, San Francisco Olympic Club, Washington Athletic Club in Seattle; New York Athletic Club, Downtown Athletic Club in New York and about 30 others.

Court Clubs include an amazingly accelerated growth of pure court clubs and full concept facilities with in between amenities. We would average them out at about seven courts per facility.

There would be a high of 30 courts at Racquetime of Southfield and 22 courts at Farmington, both Detroit suburbs. Tucson Athletic Club now is adding six courts to an existing eight; Arizona Athletic Club in Tempe — 14; Sporting Houses — Newport Beach, CA. — 15 and the Denver Club — 15.

One or two courts are being built in high rise apartments, condominiums and office buildings. More and more resort areas are adding courts including Colorado ski centers in Steamboat Springs — Storm Meadows Athletic Club (four), Aspen (two), Vail (six) and two with a restored historic hotel in Telluride, CO. Other courts are in Sheraton suburban motels of Columbus, OH; Valley Forge and Altoona, PA; The Airport Marina in Dallas/Ft. Worth, which is adding 600 rooms with 10 courts; Tropicana Hotel in Las Vegas with five; Sporting House in Las Vegas with 23 courts adjacent to Stardust Hotel, Caesar's Palace, also in Las Vegas, with one racquetball and one squash court. Stapleton Plaza complex at the airport area in Denver has three courts with plans for additional courts.

More and more we get inquiries from persons wanting to put in a court at their home, as is done with tennis. There will be more of these. Gainesville, FL. dentist, Steve Schnell, for some years had the only four-wall court in town at his home and conducted a unique annual tournament in handball.

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How Many Handball/Racquetball Courts in the United States

Categories:	No. of Courts
YMCAs	2,000
Community Centers — Jewish Welfare Board, Jewish Community Centers Association	400
Municipality Facilities — City, park district. Indoor and outdoor courts.	2,200
Fire Houses	150
Elks Clubs	50
What we term "Old Line Athletic Clubs"	150
Court Clubs	7,400
High rise apartment buildings, condominiums	300
High rise and other type office buildings	250
Resort facilities with condominiums, motels, hotels, separate.	300
Private homes	25
Armed Services	125
Schools — High schools/colleges	3,500
Country clubs	50
Places of business, in combination with industrial plants, restaurants, corporative structures.	100
Total	17,000

The Pentagon in Washington, D.C. has been an oasis for military players; there are courts at many of the Navy, Marine, Air Force and Army bases, both in the United States and abroad. We even have teakwood courts in Taiwan. And I well remember the late astronaut, Col. Ed White, calling from Cape Canaveral about putting in two government-specified wood courts there.

The market is just opening up for high schools due to the racquetball explosion. After World War II many colleges built large physical education buildings and student union buildings with courts, many with outdoor courts. Largest of the court facilities is at the University of Illinois, Champaign (22). The University of Texas has 13 at its Gregory Gymnasium and another eight at the football stadium. There's a liberal use of glass at the 10 courts at the University of Colorado's student union building and the Air Force Academy, University of Tennessee and West Point Academy also provide racquetball play.

Courts in country clubs include Silver Lakes Country Club in suburban Orland Park outside of Chicago, which has 45 holes of golf open to the public and added nine open-to-the-public racquetball courts as a winter supplement. The Los Angeles Athletic Club ownership put in 13 courts at its plush Riviera Country Club in Pacific Palisades.

We would describe some of the "Modern Versions of Athletic Clubs" as country clubs without golf. The Fairlane Club, built on Henry Ford estate property in Dearborn, MI, has 25 acres with four courts included; Racquetball World in Fountain Valley, CA, has 25 courts in a 3 million dollar plus facility, with a near future plan for 35 courts in a 6 million dollar operation in the Tustin (Santa Ana) area.

Two courts with a Shakey's Pizza franchise operation in Bellingham, WA, proved so successful that additional

Metro Chicago Area Leads Nation in Number of Courts/Facilities

Within the 35 mile scope of Chicagoland there are now courts in more than 40 Court Clubs, some in combination with tennis; YMCA's, Jewish Community Centers, colleges, high schools, park districts, municipality facilities, high rise condominiums, office buildings, a Naval armory, Fire Houses and probably the oldest in the area — a modified three-wall court on the grounds of the Techny Catholic Missionary School on Waukegan Road, between Northbrook and Glenview. Total number — more than 500 courts!

franchise operations will follow in the Pacific Northwest. Herman's Sporting Goods in Buffalo, NY, includes 10 courts and three courts at Sports Mall in suburban Salt Lake City shopping center.

Then let's give a ball park total figure on number of courts: Approximately 17,000 courts as of today! ●

New Court Clubs

Court-Sports I

150 Clearbrook Road
Elmsford, NY 10523

Courtworks I

Route 1
Mercer Mall
Lawrence Township, NJ 08648

Iowa City Racquet Club

I-80 and N. Dodge Street
Iowa City, IA 52240

Marin Racquetball/Handball Club

384 Bel Marin Keys Blvd.
Novato, CA 94947

Spaulding Racquetball Club

900 Bernadett
Columbus, MO 65201

Watertown Racquetball Club

100 Votek Drive
Watertown, WI 53094

Racquetball Rescues Two Work Addicts

Everything written about racquetball is true. You do not need extra skills to start, but you do need a sensible approach to it, because you're starting a sport that takes good lungs, a healthy heart and a great desire to have an absolutely fun time.

Any woman over 40 should have a physical checkup first, but at this age, women should be having annual checkups anyway. I know of what I write because I am close to 46 and started playing racquetball three years ago.

My husband, Bob, and I own and manage two busy drug stores. Our work hours are long and we build up tension and pressures during the day. We were always tired in the evenings and our exercise consisted of weekend walks in the woods and ping pong games in the basement. We were becoming work addicts.

We had already done our thing — raising two children to adulthood, civic clubs, Scouts, etc. We frequently spoke of our youth when we would swim, play baseball and so on. Then we followed that with *"Too bad we don't have more time for physical activities. Some day . . . some day."*

That some day came three years ago in February. We had celebrated our 23rd anniversary by taking a three day trip to a state lodge in Indiana, and on our way home — on an impulse — my husband wanted to stop in a new health club called Omni 41 in Schererville, IN. I didn't care one way or another. So we took the tour that Len Sporman, the manager of the club, conducted. We were impressed with the exercise equipment, sauna, whirlpool, steamroom, huge swimming pool and the friendly atmosphere. We had finally found the place for us, and we joined then and there.

My husband was 30 pounds overweight, and I was 20 pounds underweight and smoked a pack of cigarettes a day. We hadn't slept soundly all night for a long time and didn't have much of a social life because of being tired at night.

A few weeks after joining and exercising and swimming we decided to try playing racquetball. It was love at



— Joe Kus photo

first bruise, and I mean love. We have exercised and practiced and played for three years three times a week and feel like new people with new bodies. We just started taking lessons to improve our game, even though we have been playing quite a while. The game has become more of a challenge and Len Sporman has been giving us lessons.

I quit smoking, put on 20 pounds, and play a decent enough game to have a certain amount of confidence in myself. My husband lost 30 pounds, looks and

feels 20 years younger than his 49 years and plays a wicked game with abandonment.

The joy I feel when playing this fast and intriguing game knows no bounds. My stamina has increased, my heart doesn't beat a fast march anymore and I feel some day I may even beat my husband.

Maybe he will give that win as a 30th wedding anniversary gift! ●

— Carole Hotz

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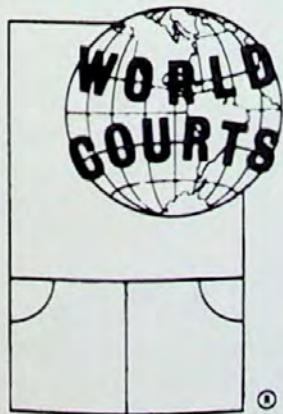
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Racquetball fans who want to see an action packed one hour special of highlights from the men's and women's finals of the Tempe, AZ, stop

on the professional racquetball tour will get a chance when the PBS system airs it on Sunday, June 11, at 3 p.m. Eastern standard time.

The 200-odd individual stations around America — 165 of which carried the last Bledsoe-Hogan televised final — can show the new

program "live" or store it for a future time slot. So even if you make your call after the June 11 deadline, your voice will still be heard in the station's program planning department. If you are a contributor to the PBS station, so much the better.

Make that call and get your friends ringing in, too — it's worth it to your game.

The program, partly sponsored by USRA/NRC President Robert W. Kendler, also features racquetball tips by the top professionals in the game. Let's hear those phones ring.

Sports Illustrated Biggest RB Chain

Sports Illustrated Court Clubs vaulted into the number one ranking in size among racquetball organizations with the opening of five new clubs in May.

SICC now operates 10 clubs totaling 122 courts. Its total membership as of June 1 is over 20,000.

And six more SICC clubs are under construction with opening scheduled before the chain's second anniversary in October.

The clubs already opened or under construction represent a total investment of approximately \$19 million. However they mark only the beginning of Sports Illustrated Court Clubs' growth plan.

Chairman Craig Hall says he expects to have at least 10 more clubs under construction, and some completed, before the end of 1978.

Almost every state in the union is under consideration in SICC's long-term plan which envisions at least 125 clubs open by 1981.

Of the facilities now open two are in Indiana, in Fort Wayne and South Bend; and eight are in Michigan — two each in Kalamazoo and Lansing, and one apiece in Flint, Saginaw, Van Buren Township (Lemontree) and Ypsilanti.

The clubs in progress are in Birmingham, AL; Atlanta, GA; Flint, MI; Charlotte, NC

and Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, PA.

Such rapid growth creates an extraordinary demand for capable managers and teaching pros and SICC has found the answer to that, too: its unique Off-the-Wall U, which provides intensive professional training to potential managers and other club staff.

Time, Inc., the publishing giant whose magazines include *Sports Illustrated* as well as *Time*, *People*, *Fortune* and *Money*, is a stockholder in Sports Illustrated Court Clubs.

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It's Nationals Time

A year ago everybody picked Marty Hogan to win the National Championships hands down. And everybody was wrong as Davey Bledsoe emerged the victor in a stunning upset.

This year everybody again will pick Hogan as the odds on winner. And most likely everybody will be right this time, because this is not just another tournament for Marty Hogan. This year he has to win.

The National Championship is the only major title the power hitting St. Louisian has not captured in the pro ranks. Yet the National title is the only title that truly means anything more than the numbers written on the winner's prize money check.

"The Nationals is what the year is all about," said Hogan. "To prove you are worthy of being called the best, you have to win the most important tournament."

As a pro rookie during the season of 1975-76 Hogan finished second to five time National Champ Charlie Brumfield. Last season, which Hogan

dominated with nine wins in 11 events, Marty was again unable to come up with all the marbles, dropping the exciting final against Bledsoe.

This year Hogan again dominated, capturing every stop victory save one, an extenuating circumstances loss to Brumfield in January. Mighty Marty was within three points of winning every pro stop of the season!

No player has ever dominated a pro sport like Marty Hogan. He stated a year ago after losing the National finals that he had something to prove and his performance in the current 77-78 season would reflect it. Obviously Marty has proven to all his superb ability.

He and Bledsoe each labored all year under the most unusual of emotional strains. Hogan, universally acknowledged as the greatest player in the game's history and top ranked, had no title. Bledsoe, widely recognized as a fine top four player, was acclaimed as National Champion, a title he knew was hollow.

But a true champion wins the big ones, and that is why Marty Hogan will win the Nationals. He has to win.

Gone will be Marty's generous but dangerous habit of allowing opponents respectable scores. No longer will he get the big lead and ease up; for if he does, he'll end up short again. Hogan must go into the Nationals like a man possessed. At age 20 the stakes are too high for what is still the beginning of a magnificent sporting career.

For if Marty Hogan does not win the Nationals, I don't think he'll be able to shake the stigma of three straight losses in the biggest tournament of the season.

If Marty Hogan does not win the Nationals, it will be because of one of two reasons. Either he will be injured, or he will have choked.

Here, for the record, are the top 15 or so players and how I rate their chances in the Nationals. Next to their names are the approximate odds for a victory, in my opinion. As always I consider each person a personal friend and offer these critiques as an objective appraisal of each player's current ability. A warning, however — I've been wrong before.

Men

by Chuck Leve

WHO Will Win?

Marty Hogan, St. Louis . . . 1-1

It's got to be even money on Hogan, winner of all but one of the tour events this season and possessor of every skill imaginable. To bet against Hogan would be like betting against Secretariat, i.e., to see who will come in second.

Hogan's famed 142 m.p.h. power serve (most insiders feel he hits even harder during the rally) is only the beginning of the mammoth arsenal of this dominating 20-year-old.

A fluid and sometimes awesome backhand, a forehand that is locked on "kill" and a back wall shot that can't be touched are but the basic elements in his power game. But Hogan has much more.

He can go to the ceiling, finesse in front court and dump into the corners. He's quick, can cover the court and has superb anticipation. But it always comes back to Hogan's power.

He has the luxury of being able to mis-hit shots into winners. Freak things happen when Hogan plays, only because of the power. Opponents can't get set, lose their rhythm, then their confidence.

His season long domination is fact, not fantasy. He didn't win all but one stop because he was lucky. He is the dominant force in racquetball.

If there is one weakness it is that Marty often gives his opponents a fair share of good shots, shots that he leaves up high enough for capable players to hit offensively. Yet they are few and miles between, and to beat Hogan somebody would have to play flawless racquetball.

The draw will make no difference at all to Hogan, who has beaten everybody en route to and maintaining his number one ranking. Marty would probably prefer to play someone other than McCoy or Koltun, the two pros who have consistently played him tough.

Look for Hogan to dominate the draw with big scores. If he has learned from past mistakes and matured enough, this will be his tournament — all his.

Marty Hogan



Charlie Brumfield



Charlie Brumfield, San Diego . . . 4-1

Can the old master pull one more trick out of his bag? Is it possible for Charlie Brumfield, the People's Champ, holder of more titles than any other player, five time National Champion, to pull out one more rabbit?

There are many who would like nothing better than for Brumfield to regain the throne. Charlie's many supporters, who still listen for hours as the master holds court on the ins, outs, whys, and whatfors about racquetball, still dream of that one more National Championship.

It would be a marvel to see, an experience worthy of attendance. But I don't think it will happen. There are too many equally as good players these days, and Brumfield knows it.

I think Charlie's true goal is to reach the semi-finals, and his hoped-for goal is to compete in the finals. But not against Hogan. I truly believe that Brumfield would rather go out with a thrilling, close semi-final loss, than risk being blown out by Hogan in the finals.

Charlie Brumfield today is as fine a player as he was during his era of dominance (1973-76). But the game has passed him by, along with a number of players. Brumfield has been beaten by Wagner, Koltun and even McCoy for the first time. For Charlie to reverse this trend and make a run for the National title will take a substantial reversal of form.

The two month lay off between the last tour stop (Aurora, IL, April 5-9) and the Nationals (June 17-24) could help Brumfield as he regroups for one final shot.

Maybe he can, but probably he won't.

Craig McCoy, Riverside, CA . . . 4-1

Although southpaw Craig McCoy's tournament finishes and current ranking may have him a bit farther down the list, he rates higher than his counterparts and I believe has equal chance as second favorite with Brumfield.

Why? It takes a close look at the losses McCoy has suffered to show that of all the top players, Craig has had the most difficult season, drawwise of any top eighter.

In the eight events prior to the Nationals five of McCoy's losses have come at the hands of Hogan. Four times the loss was in the quarters, which effectively stifled any chance for Craig to reach another round and improve his ranking. Yet of the five losses to Hogan four went three games. Nobody plays Hogan better.

Of the other three losses one was to Brumfield (11-8 in the tie-breaker), but McCoy since beat Brum (11-10 in the tie-breaker) in Aurora. His other two losses were to Yellen early in the season and Keeley in January.

Craig's season has just been one of unlucky draws. In seven of the eight tournaments he has played into the first or second seed by the quarters.

The big lefty, if he gets a draw in the bottom bracket, will be a sure quarter-finalist, a likely semi-finalist and a good bet to go to the championship match.

He can cope with power, that's been proven. He can generate a great deal of power himself. He can be devastating if allowed to gain his confidence. He can finesse into the corners and is able to run. Many a foe cannot find a weakness.

Craig McCoy, age 21, is the closest threat to Hogan. When he figures out how good he truly is, he will become a real threat to Hogan.

Craig McCoy



Ben Koltun, St. Louis . . . 5-1

Ben Koltun is probably the most improved player on tour. I'm not sure that he knows it yet, but there isn't anybody he can't beat. Ben rates a good chance to reach the finals for a variety of reasons.

He plays power hitter extremely well. His ability to neutralize power players, due primarily to his quickness of feet and hands, means that he can cope with McCoy, Hilecher and even Hogan to a degree.

Koltun and McCoy are the two players who give Hogan the most difficult time. If Ben played them all like he plays against Marty, he'd be in the finals more often.

Koltun's improvement this season differs from others, like Wagner, because it was not sporadic. Ben's overall level of skill gradually has increased. Perhaps it's experience, in this, only his second full year on tour.

Whatever the reason he is recognizing situations faster, his shot selection is on a par with the best and his execution is superb.

The knock against Koltun is that he can't go three, but I don't buy it. I've seen him go three and play tough all the way.

Koltun will be a factor in the Nationals. I see him in the semi's and if something should happen to Hogan along the way, watch out for Koltun.

Ben Koltun



Jerry Hilecher, St. Louis . . . 6-1

It's been a disappointing season for Hilecher, who was bumped out of the top four for the first time in many a month. Most of the season found his big serve lacking and his streak shooting picking up splinters.

An emotional player Hilecher spent much of the season worrying about which side of the draw he was in, but rarely reached the player he was worried about.

Yet his game is not that far from on track. In Aurora he showed signs of coming alive, as his serve was blistering in the quarters.

Jerry's forehand is still his most potent weapon, but he's seeing very few balls hit that way. His backhand is still too defensive — he needs to shoot the backhand and hit it.

But Hilecher's game always boils down to his serve. When it's on he can be extremely difficult to beat. When the aces are short, he becomes another good player, no better.

Hilecher is a veteran of racquetball wars, nearly 10 years of tournaments, yet still tender at age 23. His retrieving is one of the best, he can move laterally as well as anyone and when he hits his groove, look out.

So where has he been? Concentration has been Hilecher's greatest enemy this season. He's spent too much time complaining with referees and linesmen, and not enough time concentrating on the play.

If he'd worry less about how everybody's out to get him, and concentrate more on what's going on in the court, he'd be right back in the top four.

Jerry Hilecher



Steve Sero



**Davey Bledsoe,
Kingsport, TN . . . 8-1**

Nobody envied Davey Bledsoe's predicament this season. The pressure of living up to the title of National Champion was immense, and with the knowledge that he was not top ranked making the pressure even greater, Bledsoe folded.

Additionally the grueling promotional schedule he kept during the season cost Davey valuable court time, making an impossible situation of both physical and mental problems with his game.

After a promising beginning to the season Davey's game lost its crisp edge and his intensity drained. His timing seemed to be lacking and his power diminished.

The result has been a steady deterioration of the champ's game. For Davey Bledsoe to regain the form that brought him the coveted title a year ago a number of changes must occur in the weeks prior to the tournament.

First he must clear his head. Bledsoe has to mentally train for the Nationals as well as physically prepare. He knows he has the ability to beat anybody, but whether or not he can recapture that ability on the court, is more an emotional dilemma than a physical one.

Secondly Davey must get on the court and practice. He's got to regain the timing and confidence in his shots that he had a year ago. Few remember that Bledsoe was riding a true hot streak going in to the finals a year ago. His game was tops.

This season the situation is vastly different. Davey's down. His game is down. And it's a long way to come back.

If Bledsoe repeats as National Champ it will be a bigger upset than his win last year. I just don't see it.

Steve Serot, St. Louis . . . 6-1

For years Steve Serot was regarded as the most exciting player on tour, a title he richly deserved based on his playing style of diving retrieves. This season Steve enters the Nationals with a number four ranking, and he's been almost missed as a factor.

"For someone who hasn't done anything, Serot always seems to be around the semi's," said another touring pro.

The problem for Serot hasn't been the truth of the above statement (it's true, all right), but rather the fact that Serot has not been able to get past the semi-finals all season. In fact he's yet to stretch his semi-final battles to three games.

But Steve Serot is by far a better player than last year's round of 32 loser in the Nationals. He still hasn't regained that perfect touch of fly shooting he had three years ago, but it's likely that nobody will be able to fly shoot with consistency due to the increased power of the better players.

Foes still play his backhand and he still beats them with it. Serot still lacks the drive serve, but his combination of hard Z's and garbage serves is adequate.

For Serot to win he must make things happen. He has to force the action. He must create situations that he is used to and that opponent's have difficulty with.

Nobody will try harder to win. Nobody will put on a better retrieving display. But somewhere along the way Steve will have to do some hard, crisp bottom boarding. There will be an abundance of kill shots in the Nationals, and if enough of them are not from the racquet of Serot, he will not make the semi's.

That's because he'll be too tired from chasing everybody else's shots.

Davey Bledsoe



Richard Wagner, San Diego . . . 10-1

Two things keep Wagner from being rated any higher. The first is that he has yet to prove that he can give Marty Hogan a game, and unless you can beat Hogan, you don't stand much of a chance of winning the Nationals.

The second problem Wagner has is inconsistency. His concentration is not to the point where he can clear his mind of off the court problems and play to the best of his ability.

The result is that sometimes he reaches the finals and sometimes he goes out in the 16's. That averages out to about a 10-1 shot.

Wagner has topped virtually everybody above him this season, with the exception of Hogan. Brumfield, Hilecher, Koltun all have succumbed to the quickness and back wall shooting of this likeable 20-year-old.

But Rich has lost as well. To Morrow, Fleetwood and Keeley. So who can tell? He reached the semi's in the Nationals a year ago, so the ability is there. But that puts Wagner no better off than any of the others. It's the player who executes the ability who will win.

Mark Wagner for the quarters, semi's at best.

Steve Keeley, Haslett, MI . . . 20-1

A quarter-final finish will be Keeley's tops this year and even that will be difficult. Steve's game just hasn't improved sufficiently to make him a serious threat for the National title.

Although Keeley has been giving it his best all season, the efforts have not been enough. He has trouble coping with the hard hitters, and he lacks the speed and quickness to cover the court.

Like Brumfield I think Keeley's time has passed. Today's pro game is for the kids and the power hitters, and Keeley falls into neither category.

His form is still beauty. His knowledge among the best. But his game won't get him past the quarters.



Steve Strandemo, San Diego . . . 20-1

This has been a season Steve Strandemo would prefer to forget.

Nobody worked harder during the off-season summer a year ago to prepare for the 77-78 tour. And then a serious illness not only put him out for a long five months, it almost ended his career.

The truth is that Strandemo's career is struggling. An attempted comeback around the first of 1978 was disappointing. He missed valuable tournaments in March and April for unknown reasons. If points were awarded for desire, Strandy's stock would move up considerably.

Gone are the days when you could count on Strandemo reaching the semi-finals. Like his counter-parts at 20-1, the quarters will be his best, but unlikely.

Steve Strandemo



Jay Jones, Los Angeles . . . 20-1

Jones, who at 34 is the oldest serious tour player, is another who will find the quarters his zenith, if he reaches that. Jay just hasn't proved that he can accomplish more based on his performances this season.

His age actually is of little importance, for there are few other pros in as fine physical condition. Jones' problem is that he doesn't quite possess the skills of the players above him.

Never in his career has Jay shown an ability to consistently top the so called name players. On occasion he has had flashes of brilliance, with wins over many excellent players.

But for the top four brilliance is normal. For the top eight brilliance is usual. Occasional brilliance is for the rest.

Jay Jones



Mark Morrow, Los Angeles . . . 25-1

I'd say Mark Morrow would be disappointed with his season. After a promising rookie year in 76-77 Mark has been able to crack the quarters only twice since Labor Day 77, not the record of a serious contender for the title.

Mark's game lacks two necessary ingredients for further improvement — first a more consistent and offensive backhand, and second a greater ability to cover the court.

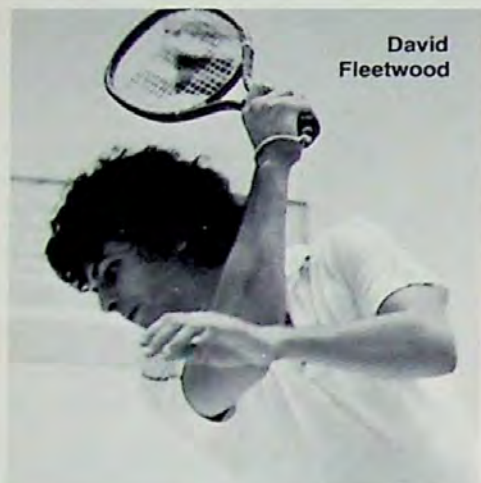
He's entertaining to watch, and his intensity is as good as anybody's. But his shots just aren't quite there.

Figure the quarters at best.

Mark Morrow



Official Men's Professional Rankings (as of June 1, 1978)



David
Fleetwood



Jerry
Zuckerman



Mike Yellen



Mike Zeitman

David Fleetwood
Jerry Zuckerman
Mike Yellen
Mike Zeitman
... all 50-1

Of the four above named players, three are on the upswing and one, Zeitman, is going nowhere. Admittedly I don't believe Zeitman cares all that much, since he has decided that his off the court profession is more important than his on the court career.

The other three care very much, and they all have shown great promise during the season. Fleetwood has gone three games all season with the best, but just can't get over the hump. Zuckerman has one quarter-final finish to his credit, yet lacks the consistency. Yellen, perhaps the best of the three, can't seem to gain the needed confidence.

Of them all Zeitman is most dangerous, as a former top eighter, and a good power player. If he works for the Nationals he could provide some excitement. The others are a year away.

1. Marty Hogan, St. Louis
2. Charlie Brumfield, San Diego
3. Steve Serot, St. Louis
4. Craig McCoy, Riverside, CA
5. Richard Wagner, San Diego
6. Davey Bledsoe, Kingsport, TN
7. Jerry Hilecher, St. Louis
8. Ben Koltun, St. Louis
9. Jay Jones, Los Angeles
10. Steve Keeley, Haslett, MI
11. Mark Morrow, Los Angeles
12. Mike Yellen, Southfield, MI
13. (Tie) David Fleetwood, Memphis
Jerry Zuckerman, St. Louis
15. Steve Strandemo, San Diego
16. Steve Chase, Phoenix
17. Steve Mondry, San Diego
18. Mike Zeitman, Memphis
19. Jim Owen, Denver
20. Charlie Rish, Chicago
21. Don Thomas, Phoenix
22. Bill Schmidtke, Minneapolis
23. (Tie) Randy Stafford, Memphis
Rick Dern, Chicago
25. Gary Stephens, Memphis

Official Women's Professional Rankings (as of June 1, 1978)

1. Shannon Wright,
Las Vegas
2. Peggy Steding,
Odessa, TX
3. Janell Marriott,
Salt Lake City
4. Jennifer Harding,
Portland, OR
5. Sarah Green,
Memphis
6. Kathy Williams,
Denver
7. Martha McDonald,
Gainesville, FL
8. Karin Walton,
San Clemente, Cal.
9. Rita Hoff,
St. Louis
10. Jean Sauser,
Northbrook, IL
11. Sue Carow,
Glenview, IL
12. Jan Pasternak,
Houston
13. Pat Schmidt,
Milwaukee
14. Marci Greer,
Wichita, KS
15. Jan Matthews,
La Jolla, CA
16. Alicia Moore,
Soquel, CA

Picking the winner for the National championship in the Women's Professional division is a much more difficult task than it is in the Men's bracket.

One reason is that no woman has dominated the tour like Marty Hogan has in the male sector. Peggy Steding and Jennifer Harding both started fast, but both have lost some momentum during the mid and late stages of the season.

Defending champ Shannon Wright looked impressively strong for a while, but was disappointing in the last tour stop in King of Prussia, PA. Janell Marriott won that one with Martha McDonald surprising everybody coming in second.

So it's a wide open field for the women's title. That means that the winner will most likely be the player who handles the pressure best, and that usually spells experience.

Additionally the gals will be playing for a purse of \$10,000, the largest in the history of women's racquetball. Based on the current rankings it appears that a victory by any of the top four would give them not only the National title, but the number one ranking as well.

When it is this close, you have to go with the proven track record, which leads to my prediction that the winner

will be Shannon Wright. I think Shannon will make it two in a row, but it's a shaky bet, with Steding, Marriott and Harding close behind.

The impressive improvement of the skill level on the women's tour this season makes for many interesting and unexpected upsets and this could be the case in the Nationals. No player is immune to upsetitis.

I think Shannon Wright will probably win because she wants to win more than the others. Shannon has put her goal as supreme female racquetball player ahead of all other goals, both professional and personal. Winning the title is her life.

Along the way, however, she has left a path of bruised toes and smoldering bridges, just the kind of things that catch up to you exactly when you don't want them to.

Therein lies Shannon's danger. Every other woman pro hopes that Shannon will lose. They don't care whom she loses to, just that she loses. Shannon calls it jealousy. Others call it justice.

If Shannon Wright can overcome the hatred of her opponents and the dislike of the gallery, she should be a shoo-in. Because when all the personalities are taken away from the situation, Shannon Wright is the best player.

Women

by Chuck Leve

WHO Will Win?

Shannon Wright, Las Vegas . . . 2-1

It will be a long week for Shannon Wright, whether she wins or not. Her personality has cracked open the woman's tour to the point that no bridge is big enough to ever cover it. Her acidic nature has left her no friends among her peers.

It is difficult, indeed, to perform to the best of your ability when you know in your heart that it would cause fits of ecstasy to hundreds if you lose.

Her power is tops. Forehand and backhand are equally effective. She has control when necessary; in fact for years she survived on her ceiling game and little else. But shooting is her style now and she plays it devastatingly well.

I think Shannon Wright would like to be labeled awesome like Hogan. But instead of fearing Wright like the men fear Hogan, the ladies actually look forward to playing her. They rise to the occasion, giving it everything they have.

Where Hogan can make you concede, Wright makes you try harder. That's her risk. When each opponent is riding sky high, you'd better not take anybody lightly.

If Shannon Wright does, indeed, take the title again, it will be because she won with her racquet. If she loses, she'll lose with her mouth.



Shannon Wright

Peggy Steding



Janell Marriott, Salt Lake City . . . 4-1

Janell Marriott could win the Nationals as easily as any other player. She has the shots, there's no question about that.

The knock on Marriott down through the years has been that she never can win the big ones. Coupled with a tendency to let leads get away, Marriott would always seem to have semi-final and final round problems.

But she should be cured of that syndrome with her victory in the tour's final stop in King of Prussia. There's no remedy better than a victory.

Janell is another shooter who has to hit off the back wall with her forehand, and into the left front corner with her backhand. She must control the play, because her only physical weakness is court coverage, which is just average.

She has proven she can beat every player on tour, but that just puts her in a category with the others in the top five or so. Janell Marriott's been on the verge for a long time. This could be her year.

Peggy Steding, Odessa, TX . . . 7-2

At 42-years-old, how long can Peggy Steding go on? Giving away 10 and 15 years every time out and sometimes as many as 20 (to Wright) it's a marvel Peg can still be considered a serious threat.

But she is. Still refusing to concede that the legs are going, she blames defeats on concentration lapses. When she can't quite cover that surprise drive to the right, it's age catching up with her.

Yet Peggy has been through too many battles not to know what the score is. She knows that this may be her last year to give it a truly good shot, and Lord knows, she wants it badly.

I pick Steding as the second choice for a number of reasons. First she's won her share this year; nobody has proven they can consistently knock her out, although a variety of players have. Secondly the week long schedule will give her an abundance of rest, with no two-match days.

Three glass walls may bother her, but her desire may carry her a lot farther than most think. She's too dangerous to ever count out.



Jennifer Harding, Portland, OR . . . 5-1

Jennifer's quick start this year, including her impressive win over Marriott on national television, led many to believe that this was going to be her big year. But somewhere along mid-season, her game just didn't keep its steadiness.

Perhaps she came into the season better prepared, in better shape than the others, or perhaps she's fallen into one of those unexplainable slumps. Whatever the reason her game has not been nearly as sharp of late.

For Harding to take the title she needs two ingredients. First she must be able to shoot the left corner with her forehand, consistently. Second she cannot allow opponents to get back into matches after she has a big lead.

Harding is one of those players who plays best while four or five points down. The come-from-behind, last blast. Yet she gets so pumped up that she usually plays extremely well at the outset of her matches. Then the mid-game doldrums set in and she can't regain the touch.

The Nationals will be the supreme test of her concentration. If she's able to play enough control to get her shots, she'll be as tough as anybody.



**Martha McDonald,
Gainesville, FL . . . 8-1**

Just who is Martha McDonald? A fair question to those who have heard only of the Wright - Steding - and - the - rest - of - them women's pro tour cliché.

Martha McDonald just happens to be the most rapidly improving and singly dangerous player on tour. She's fast, probably the fastest. She's got a whiplash forehand that strikes fear in the hearts of opponents.

Additionally she's got an unorthodox style that still puzzles some of the tour's clones, who are stuck in the ceiling, ceiling go for the kill habit. Martha will shoot out of the air, in fact Martha will do anything out of the air, and she's comfortable doing it.

She grew up on outdoor three wall courts, you see, and in that game you don't let anything get by you.

Her second place in King of Prussia was the best of her career by far, and whether or not she can repeat in the Nationals is of some doubt. She has the ability to go all the way, or she may not get past the second round.

One thing's for sure. None of the others want to play her.

Martha McDonald



Kathy Williams, Denver. . . 10-1

I liken Kathy Williams to Steve Keeley. A veteran who goes back to the birth of racquetball Kathy has always had tremendous ability and potential, but never managed to emerge above the field.

Her season has been the usual routine of quarter-final finish after quarter-final finish. She's better than the rest, but not as good as the ones above her.

Yet nobody knows why. Her form is picture-perfect. She has a good backhand to go with a fine forehand. She has power and can play control. Her speed isn't blinding, but she's not a sloth either.

You can't expect Williams to turn it around. She hasn't proven she can do better than the quarters, and as the competition continues to improve, her rank may continue to slip.

For those looking for an amiable longshot — it's Kathy Williams.

Kathy Williams



Sarah Green, Memphis . . . 10-1

Another competent player whose stock has gone the way of the value of the dollar is Sarah Green. Playing very well early in the season Sarah's winter semi-final finishes turned into spring's round of 16 losses.

She's still very young and possesses a great deal of skill. Her shots are as good as most, but her shot selection and confidence still cause her trouble.

She works very closely with coach Mike Zeitman, but Mike has not been able to help more than as an occasional cheerleader.

Inconsistency is still Sarah's major problem, and if history's pattern is the rule, the Nationals is not the place where inconsistency turns around.

Look for Green to have her problems.

Sarah Green



Rita Hoff, St. Louis . . . 15-1

I suppose Rita should be a bit farther out in the odds because I don't think she actually stands a real chance at winning the Nationals. On the other hand she's has some impressive outings this season, and could cause trouble for higher ranked players along the way.

Hoff's best finish was a semi-final back in November, and I don't think she'll be able to do any better — in fact reaching that zenith might be tough.

Rita's a power player who relies on strength and shooting. The pressure of the Nationals could hamper both assets, and she doesn't have the court coverage to make up for it.

She'll give it her all on the court, a big plus that allows her the outside shot at a good finish. But guts can usually get you only one round farther than shots and it won't be enough for Rita.



Rita Hoff

**Karin Walton,
San Clemente, CA . . . 15-1**

The reigning National Amateur champ just finishing her rookie season on the pro tour, Walton, like Hoff, does not rate serious consideration for the title. But like Rita she could make life miserable for some of the other gals along the way.

Inconsistency is Karin's primary enemy, and if experience eliminates that problem, her career will skyrocket. The problem, though, is that Karin's time is still a year or two away.

In the here and now Karin cannot quite handle the big hitters ranked above her. That her execution percentages bob and weave like NBA basketball teams makes her both dangerous and not dangerous at the same time.

A quarter-final finish for Karin will be satisfactory and anything higher would be upset material.



Karin Walton

Marci Greer, Wichita, KS . . . 20-1

Although Marci will have to come through the qualification system, her game has improved sufficiently over the last few months to warrant an outside chance at the quarters.

If her chronic knee problems allow her the luxury of an uninjured tournament, her aggressive court nature and confidence should get her to the 16's.

From there it's anybody's guess, but Greer's offensive game style keeps continual pressure on opponents. She's capable of a big upset, although anything better than quarters would be a huge surprise.



Marci Greer

Jean Sauser



Jan Pasternak



Sue Carow



Pat Schmidt



**Jean Sauser, Northbrook, IL
Jan Pasternak, Houston, TX
Sue Carow, Glenview, IL
Pat Schmidt, Milwaukee, WI
all . . . 25-1**

The promising scents of fall turned into the disappointing realities of spring for these four gals, all of whom could have had better years.

Of the four Schmidt is the one truly on her way up, although Pat was unable to get out of the 16's this season. The reason for optimism is that it was Pat's rookie season, and if what she's learned is transferred to shotmaking, she stands only to improve. But there's no reason to believe she can do any better in the Nationals.

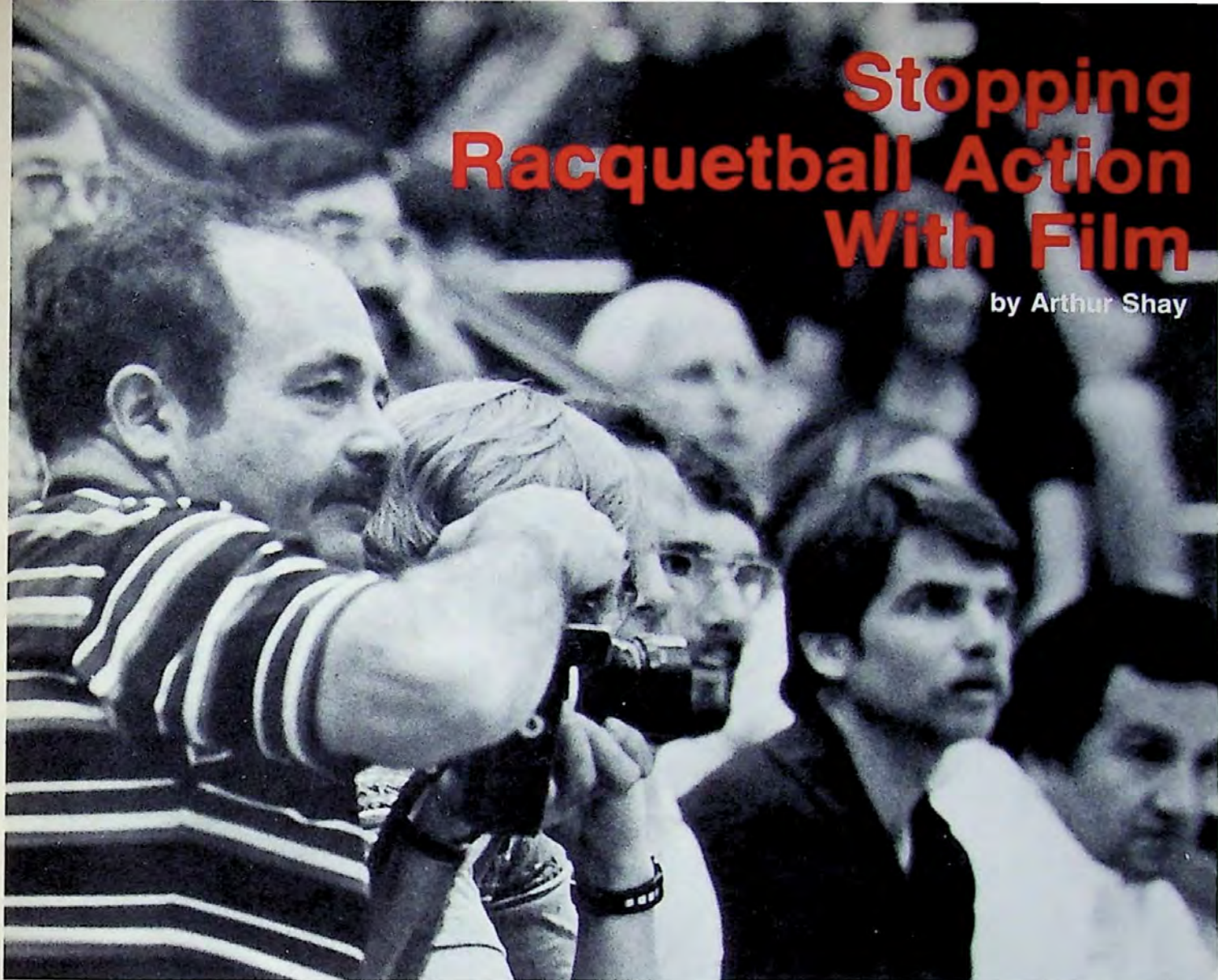
Pasternak, after some impressive losses early in the season, was hampered by unlucky draws and never was able to make it over the hump that would put her in the top eight. The former National champ of '71 and '72 hasn't been able to come all the way back.

Carow, like Steding, is from the other side of 40, and just when everybody counts her out, she comes up with a big upset that upsets the rankings. Still a real tiger on the court Carow will give her all but it won't be enough to get her past the quarters, if she makes it that far.

Jean Sauser's game got wrapped up in lack of preparation between tournaments, and all the potential in the world will never be transferred to kill shots unless the time is put in on the court. Like the others at 25-1 it will be a short tournament.

Stopping Racquetball Action With Film

by Arthur Shay



Art Shay, *National Racquetball's* official photographer, was a wartime flier who holds five Air Medals and the Distinguished Flying Cross. As a *Life* reporter he worked on some 200 *Life* stories before becoming a photographer. He has had 1,000 pictures in *Life*, 1,000 in *Time*, 600 in *Sports Illustrated* (15 covers), 600 in *Fortune*. He has written and photographed 50 books, the last 10 being sports books, including five on racquetball. He has photographed annual reports and books for such companies as Motorola and Quaker Oats, Zenith and National Can. He was ABC-TV's still photographer at the Montreal Olympics and will travel to Paris this fall to cover an international gymnastic meet.

Art has been handball champ of SkyHarbor and the Court House in Northbrook, IL, and the past year has become an A racquetball player, thanks to a little coaching by Charlie Brumfield, Marty Hogan and Jean Sauser while working on books with them. He is entering the Golden Masters Nationals June 17-24, and will have a problem if he gets to the finals and has to photograph himself in action. For a man who did 50 of *Life's* Mafia stories this shouldn't be too hard.

Tips From One Of The Country's Top Sports Photographers

Part II

Houselights Give You a Sickening Green

OK, you now know the technique of good black and white photography. How about color?

Gosh I was afraid the question would come up. I can't think of any sport tougher to shoot by houselight in color. We are right at the threshold of our current film materials. That means if we do everything right, we can just about get a printable picture.

The best slide (transparency) film for racquetball's arc lamps is the new Kodak E-6 process 200 ASA daylight color, amateur or professional kind. (Reliable rumors say that Kodak will

have a 400 ASA transparency film by Labor Day. This should soon become a favorite of all sports photographers. Pushing film one stop to 800 ASA gives finer grain than pushing two stops to 800 ASA.)

The key to good color balance is to realize that if you shot a racquetball picture with this film at any correct lens opening and shutter setting, the overall character of the picture would be a sickening green. If you shot the picture through a glass side, back or front wall, the green would be just a little more sickly.

So order the following filter from your friendly camera store. (They almost never have them in stock.): a CC (for color correcting) 30M (for Magenta). Depending on the screw-in size of your lens it should cost about \$11. If you have a poverty problem, you can buy a two inch 30M gelatin square, and carefully cut it to fit your lens. Lay it on the lens and replace your regular protection filter (either a 1. A or UV — both are clear glass and you should have one on your expensive lens anyway.) But you must be very neat and careful each time you use a gelatin filter; otherwise fingerprints tend to soften pictures shot through them. Come to think of it Mike Zeitman is the only racquetball player neat enough to reuse a gelatin filter more than three or four times.

With filter in place your basic action exposure on most courts should be made at 800 ASA — that is you must instruct your lab to "Push two stops". Shooting through glass that has a tint your exposure should be 1/250 at F:2.5. If you're shooting on the court, you can use 1/250 at F:2.8 as your basic exposure. If you're going to be



Speedlights used in this photo don't leave players with after images.

Art Shay took his favorite racquetball shot with a normal 50 mm lens.



shooting at your local court, my suggestion is that you shoot a test roll — starting at 1/250 at F:2, then working up to 1/250 at F:4, with that 30M filter in place.

I'm afraid that I have more bad news for you. Some arc lamps have a nasty characteristic. They flicker invisibly. Thus some of your pictures will seem to have a shadowy area on one part of a wall or another, as if a light were out overhead. (Arc lights resemble the TV screen scanning phenomenon. If you shoot an image off the screen at anything faster than 1/30th of a second, you will get a blank over part of the screen. For those who want to shoot racquetball action off the screen — or any color TV program — use Ektachrome 64 E-6 process. (Don't let anyone sell you the old Ektachrome X or High Speed Ektachrome 160.) Average exposure is 1/30th at F:2.8. Keep the room lights out.

Getting around the arc lamp problem involves shooting several frames of a given situation. It's really by guess and by gosh in this area.

If you don't care about transparencies and merely want prints in color, try some of Kodak's new 400 ASA Kodacolor. Ask your friendly local lab to push the film ONE STOP. This gives you 800 ASA again. I've had only fair results with negative film for racquetball. That picture of Davey Bledsoe with his clenched victorious fist aloft after he beat Hogan in last year's National (July NR cover) is an example of Kodacolor pushed one stop. The CC30M filter helps a little, although Kodak says no filter is needed. Experiment. Without a filter, on court, your exposure should be 1/250 at F:3.5. Through greenish glass 1/250 at F:2.8.

In the past NR magazine often went to press with yuchie yellow-green pictures. Now when confronted with greenish slides we send them to Gamma Photo Labs, attention Ben Lavitt, 314 W. Superior St. Chicago, IL 60610, or to Pallas Photo Lab, 319 W. Erie, Chicago, 60619. They actually recopy the greenish slide through the proper magenta filter. The copy slide,

now corrected, is then used for reproduction in the magazine. Cost: around \$1 a corrected slide. Tell them I sent you.

A former printer would periodically promise to correct these slides with his own magenta overlay. He royally goofed the first pro program by forgetting or neglecting to do this. That is why he is the former printer.



Here's what a photo lab can do to remove the yuchie green from a transparency.



The Shay shield cuts out reflections from the top and behind.

Using an Art Shay Shield

Now that you all know the technical secrets of the craft of racquetball photography, what about lenses and aesthetics?

From the back wall the best lens, I've found, is the medium wide angle 35 mm. You focus it at about seven feet with your lens against the glass, shielded with the famous Art Shay bent cardboard — a one foot by two foot cardboard L taped to the glass — to shut out reflections from the top and from behind you. You should practice zipping the lens forward and back. Once Jerry Hilecher made a wild charge for a back wall shot and hit his head right where my camera was. Getting up groggily he asked, "Did you get that, Art?" Alas he was too close. However during the same tournament, knowing that he is a "flier" like Steve Serot, I switched to the normal lens (50 mm) and got my favorite racquetball shot — Hilecher making a kill while two feet aloft, with poor Ben Koltun looking on.

From that right hand corner of the front wall, an 85 mm medium telephoto is a good lens to catch action in and around the short line, say the serving grimaces of Hogan or of Peggy Steding — one of the gentlest and kindest of people off the court, whose face mirrors the power of her stroke almost every time. Hogan's expression, all tiger, mirrors his personality on and off the court, so when you get to see him at a tournament or exhibition, bring your telephoto, and get your own version of the fiercest picture in racquetball.

"What do you watch for from the back glass wall?" is a common question. Watch for the passes — shots that go by the player in midcourt and make it to the backwall high enough and with enough time for an alert player to charge back and make the shot. If you set your camera for seven feet that 35 mm wide angle — or even a 28 mm — will give you a great "charging" shot. I like racquetball shots that have the ball in them. If you're alert, you can get the player hitting the shot back at the back wall, hoping it will reach the front.

From the side positions on either side, shooting through glass, you will only be able to cover the far vector, an angle of a little more than half the court. So get set, focusing on center court position, about two feet back of the short line. From this spot to within five feet of the wall is where you have the best chance of getting two players in the picture at the same time.

Those of you with a little more equipment and film, who have a 105 or 135 telephoto, can do some good closeups of the players. But they race in and out of focus quite quickly and you'll get a few blurs for every sharp one. Even I had a blurry picture in the Omaha tournament take, if you can imagine an old *Life* and *SI* photographer getting an out-of-focus shot. (That's a joke, fans!)

I like to shoot with the 105 and 135 mm lenses from those neat front court windows. (The pro cover shot of Hogan and Brumfield — also the cover for our new book *Power Racquetball* — was shot with the 105 mm this way.)

Bring a Hairdryer and Towel

When you have total control of the racquetball situation and can flash electronic speedlight any time you want to, the way you can at pro basketball games, racquetball is a joy to shoot.

To do the Leach Industries color posters of the pros and their catalogue pictures I used a 1,200 watt second unit with two heads. These I mounted on the balcony. Then I used the best film in the world, the kind that *National Geographic* uses as the mainstay of their photographers — Kodachrome 25. This film is grainless, can blow up to wall size, and the color is perfect.

I had the players use the front wall as their rear wall and I lay on the floor with an 85 mm lens near the back wall. I used a Hawk radio control (from Tekno in Chicago) so that I could fire the lights without using a wire between me and the lights. The designer then decided he didn't want full lengths, so he merely cropped off the feet. Each big poster represents only a fourth of each frame!

At the recent woman's tournament in Omaha, with the ladies' permission, I shot speedlight action pictures the first five points of the first matches starting with the semi-finals. Shannon Wright, Peggy Steding, Janell Marriott, Jennifer Harding, Kathy Williams and the other women didn't mind the lights at all. At 1/2000th of a second speedlights don't leave the after image in the eye that Instamatic flashes do.

So there I sat, outside the club, in 10 degree Omaha cold, looking through the little window right at the action, with my radio control shooting off the lights as I hit the trigger. First day the window was fogging up, so I used a hairdryer on it and cracked the window — making one of the owners -er-unhappy. Also I blew several of the

exposures, and to top it off, I learned the hard way that my radio control was programmed for 1/30th or 1/60th of a second — not 1/125th.

I mention the above to show you that even the superstars of racquetball photography sometimes miss one — like the superstars of racquetball. (Is there anything more encouraging to a beginner than to watch a pro serve and hit himself in the chest?)

The normal lens, or medium telephoto, can do a good job from the average grandstand seat looking into an exhibition court. Hold your fire until you can get both players into the same frame. Move around if you can to get different angles. When all else fails you can sometimes shoot through the tiny peep hole windows in some

racquetball doors. These windows are usually dirty. So carry a towel. It's also a good idea to have the referee or someone towel down the inside of the glass area you'll be shooting through.

So get yourself a 30 Magenta filter if you plan to do color. Shoot some tests if you have the time or will be working your local club. Don't be afraid to experiment. If you're forced to shoot that greatest of all sports cliches, the presentation of the trophy and check, use 1/125 at F:4. You won't have to say "Grin like idiots" because the winners will anyway.

Oh yes those clubs with fluorescent lights: use that 30 Magenta for color, but ask your processor to push two and one-half stops; and if you can't shoot a test — pray. You'll be on your knees most of the time anyway. ●



An 85 mm telephoto catches racquetball drama like the serving grimace of Marty Hogan.

Lindsay Bloom

by Nick Longhurst



Former Miss U.S.A. Falls for Racquetball

She has the seductive curves of a top beauty contest winner which she was.

The long, shapely legs of a dancer which she is.

Coupled with the sultry smile of a Harlow type sex goddess which she will be when the new movie in which she stars — *"Hughes and Harlow"* — is released shortly.

And she plays racquetball.

Blonde Lindsay Bloom — actress, dancer and model — discovered racquetball from the pages of this magazine in the hot steamy atmosphere of her local car wash.

"It was love at first sight," she breathed. *"Racquetball is the game for me."*

For Lindsay has joined the ever growing ranks of racquetball's Hollywood groupies.

And, according to Lindsay, this is no cheap Hollywood romance cooked up by a jaded publicity artist riding out a roller coaster hangover, but the real thing. A relationship which allows her to keep the right curves in her silhouette with just four visits a week to her club, the Center Courts new facility in Van Nuys, CA.

"I really did just get bitten by the racquetball bug, exactly like my friends said I would," explained Lindsay after a hard workout at the Center Courts with instructor Bruce Radford.

"Before I always managed to keep in shape by playing lots of tennis and by dancing. But the trouble is, I just don't have that much time to devote to them anymore. I'm too busy to be able to spend more than four or five hours a week exercising."

It was a *National Racquetball* feature article on actress Adrienne Barbeau which recruited Lindsay to the ranks.

When she read the article, the former Miss U.S.A. who placed fourth in a





world wide "Miss International" contest, decided to find out more.

"I had no idea Adrienne was into the game. I knew she loved to dance and I do too, but dancing takes up lots of time. I had a busy schedule of work lined up so racquetball is ideal."

It was Lindsay's good looks which got her on the road to Hollywood, a journey

which began in her home town of Omaha, NE, when a school counselor asked her into his office.

"I was worried, because counselors never called unless you had done something wrong. But he asked me to think about representing the school in the Miss Omaha contest."

She placed first in that contest and she followed that with a second place in her

state contest. Then a family move to Phoenix saw her in the ranks of hopefuls in the Miss Arizona contest, which she won along with a place in the Miss U.S.A. finals. A win in that and she was on her way to Tokyo for a Miss International contest.

Jobs doing television commercials followed as well as modelling assignments.

She decided to move to California and then she entered another kind of contest, this time competing against two hundred other hopefuls for a special spot.

"That was the toughest one I ever was in. There were so many girls all trying out for one job in the Ding-a-Ling sisters, the four girl group which sang, danced and worked in comedy sketches with Dean Martin."

From TV studio to Las Vegas Lindsay got to know the life of a high speed celebrity.

"I didn't have to worry about my figure then - we kept really busy." When the show ended, Lindsay decided to take acting lessons and after battling the Hollywood system, she started working, appearing with Jackie Gleason and co-starring with Robert Wagner in "Switch".

Now she has more movie work lined up.

"And this is where racquetball is important to me. I like the competitive atmosphere of the game, just the way my career grew out of the beauty competitions, and it does keep me in shape. That's all important for an actress."

"I think it is important to take lessons. Racquetball was certainly easier to learn than tennis, but even so the time I spent with Bruce Radford certainly got me started a lot quicker."

"Even now, I find that an hour of play is about all I can handle, then I have to head for the jacuzzi to ease some of the soreness out of my muscles."

"It's not hard to sum up how I feel. Racquetball keeps me where I want to be both mentally and physically - on top." ●

Racquetball Travels to Europe with Pre-fab Courts and Round the Clock Tournaments

by John Parry

"Racquetball is the ideal family sport and I'm certain that once Europeans are exposed to it, it will be as big here as it is in the States."

The speaker is Hal Leffler, a U.S. insurance executive who lives in Frankfurt, Germany, and is president of the fledgling European Racquetball Association. Leffler, 58, is a former handball player. He came across racquetball when "some people came over from the States in '68 and '69 with some of the comparatively rudimentary equipment we had then, and started playing in the Air Force court at Frankfurt. I was hooked right away, and have played racquetball ever since."

With missionary zeal Leffler sees the spread of the game in the next decade to the point where international tournaments are staged.

"In Germany they're very gung-ho on squash, but squash is not a game you can play with your family," he told National Racquetball. "Why not channel some of that enthusiasm into racquetball?"

"In other countries leisure activities are becoming more and more important now that people have more free time. What we need to do is to show people our game — they won't need convincing after they've seen it — and to convince sports authorities in the various countries of the need for courts."

Racquetball has been played in Europe for nine years and the ERA is just three years old. So far its activity has been confined to U.S. military bases, where the only courts are located, and virtually all the players are Americans. But Leffler is working hard to change all that.

Hal Leffler, second from left, was one of the players who won Teutonic-style racquetball trophies — handsome beer steins — at a recent tournament in Germany.



"Some Germans who have seen the game in the States have indicated to me they'd like to build a court in a north German city for the use of German nationals," he says. "And in France I'm in contact with the Ministry of Sport, which allocates government funds for new projects and stadia. I'm hoping to persuade them this year that they ought to have at least one racquetball court in Paris — that would already be a start."

Getting in SHAPE

Up in Belgium at Casteau, where SHAPE (Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe) is located, a start has already been made in getting non-Americans interested in racquetball. Personnel from 13 nations are stationed at the headquarters and the Americans — naturally — included a racquetball court in the sports facilities which were erected six years ago.

"We started out just playing among ourselves but those people from other countries started dropping by to watch," says Jack Rashleigh, an American civilian working at the base. Rashleigh is the treasurer of the ERA.

"Now we've got Germans, Danes, Britons and Belgians playing with us. Without trying we've created an international sports event — and they all love racquetball."

Created three years ago by Leffler and Rashleigh "to try to bring some organization to what was essentially an amorphous group of people," according to Rashleigh, the ERA has so far signed up 350 playing members. Some of these have naturally rotated back to the States when their military tour of duty was over, and Rashleigh says current active membership is in the neighborhood of 200 persons.

The ERA has the support, both moral and financial, of U.S. Armed Forces Headquarters in Europe. All courts — there are 75 by the latest count — are located on military bases in Germany (mostly), Britain, Belgium and some Mediterranean countries.

"That's another problem in trying to get Europeans interested in the game," Leffler told *National Racquetball*. "If the courts are on military bases to which non-American civilians don't have access, how are they going to be able to play?"

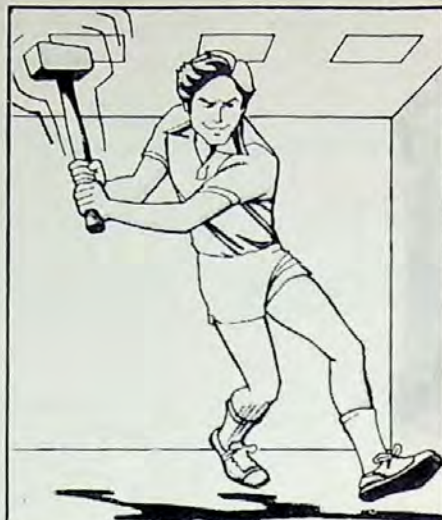
Short on Tourney Space

Even the Americans have a hard time getting on court. Enthusiasm is so great that the 75 existing courts are always jammed to capacity, and since in many cases only one court exists in each location, the problem of staging tournaments is a major one.

"We had a tournament down in Augsburg, Germany, a couple of weeks ago, with 91 entries," Leffler says. "We only had two courts available so we had to play day and night, round the clock, for 48 hours to finish the tournament play. And that was only singles! The idea of having a doubles championship too had to be scrapped — we'd have been there all week, 24 hours a day!"

At the moment the Armed Forces Sports Organization is buying prefabricated courts in the States for around \$15,000 per court and shipping them to the various bases, where they're erected in odd corners of the sports complex, disused hangars — anywhere, in fact, where there's room.

Custom-built courts are for the future, Leffler feels, but will have to come if the game is going to spread to non-Americans. "Once we get racquetball out from under the wraps and have a chance to show it to people, I'm certain it's going to sweep Europe," he says. "It's just a question of information." ●



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Let the Hilecher Mile Tax Your Oxygen Debt

Racquetball Conditioning for the Not So Energetic

By Jerry Hilecher

Jerry Hilecher is currently ranked number seventh on the pro tour.

I like to train about as much as I like to lose. But I also hate training less than I hate losing. So I do what I have to do and try to make it interesting in the way of keeping in shape to win.

Some guys on the professional racquetball tour think nothing of running miles and miles to keep in shape. They do all kinds of drills at home, and they even lift weights.

Hoo boy. I haven't lifted anything heavier than a double milkshake since high school.

My friend Steve Strandemo, who is a very good racquetball player, has a reputation as a conditioning nut. I'll vouch for it. He asked me to go down to the beach not long ago and run through a few of his exercises with him, just for picture taking purposes, some real easy stuff.

So I said okay.

I couldn't straighten up completely for a week afterwards. My stomach muscles seemed locked forever in the "Gasp" position. In the middle of this session I was seized with an urge to roughhouse, to tackle old gung-ho Strandemo and wrestle a little FUN into his head.

Well, of course, he was having fun, slogging through the sand. People who religiously follow strenuous conditioning programs vow they really love it. They must. My bones still ache at the mention of that afternoon in the sand with Strandemo. Camels, not man, were meant to run in that stuff.

My idea of a hard workout leans more to finding room for a second piece of pie. I like to joke that I'm a great believer in isometrics: as I lean nearer

the dinner table, a great deal of static strain is placed on my legs. They are, however, never sore later. I like that.

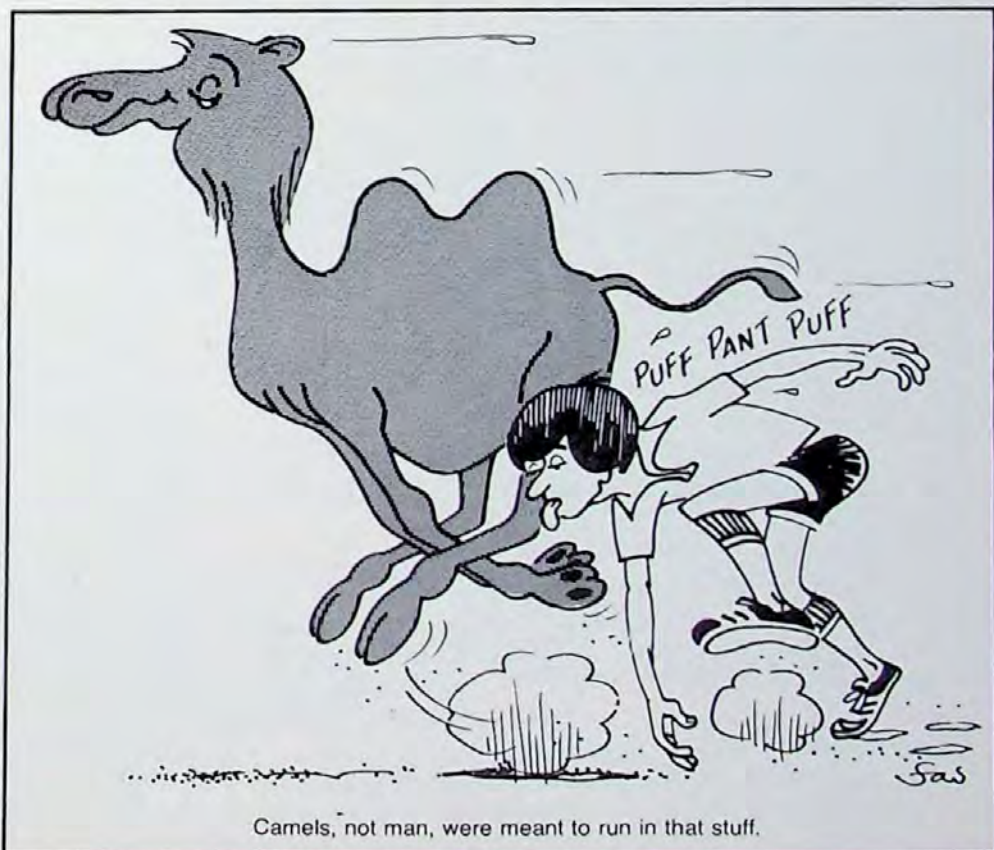
But man cannot play racquetball by bread alone, so I do take some training now and again. My wife, in fact, has told me that I tend to play better when I run regularly. I kid her that it is because running makes me so mad that I need to take it out on somebody.

She believes it is a matter of confidence, as well as stamina, and I agree with her. Running does give me confidence. I don't run that far, to be sure, but it's far enough to give me a definite sense of accomplishment,

particularly when I can sprint the last 200 yards.

Part of it is relaxing. I seem to relax because running, in small doses, is automatically very soothing. It is such a repetitive thing — one foot after the other — that it can impart an almost hypnotic effect, and the mind is thus encouraged to glide.

Sometimes, immediately before a match, even when the other guy is on the court warming up, I'll sneak outside and jog for a little distance. Well you can't run too far when you've got a match in 10 minutes. But I do it because it does tend to get me into a



Camels, not man, were meant to run in that stuff.

proper frame of mind — clear headed, and ready to concentrate.

It's become a bit of a habit, in fact, to stop, when I'm about to turn around and run back, and just go through the motions of my forehand and backhand. My senses seem so receptive just then. I run back feeling very confident about my strokes.

Tired but Talking

My "serious" running, between tournaments, also tends to clear my thinking. This is the running to which my wife referred.

I don't come back to the apartment so hot and tired that I can't talk. I come back tired, but still loose and relaxed, with the good feeling that something positive in the way of training has been accomplished.

I never run over a mile at a time. And I take it fairly easy for the first 1,560 yards. The last 200 I sprint, almost flat out.

That way, at the end of the mile, I'm breathing good and hard, but I'm not tuckered out. And it's over and done with quickly, mercifully: I run the mile in about five and a half minutes this way.

That is a little quick for most people, I guess. But I'm still just 23 years old, and in pretty good shape to begin with. I still am lucky enough, like many young athletes, to worry about keeping my weight UP.

Most anybody, though, can emulate the "Hilecher mile." Just run steadily, at the pace you like, until the last 200 yards. Then speed it up.

The general time target for a good mile, one that will improve your condition, is about eight or nine minutes. So, if you

run the first 1,560 yards in 7½ minutes, and the last 200 yards in a minute or less, you'll feel the same sensation I do.

The idea is to tax your "oxygen debt."

According to the "aerobics" (which literally means "with oxygen") theory made popular by Dr. Ken Cooper, sustained exercise will use up the surplus oxygen in the body, and an oxygen debt will be created in the musculature. Thus is the cardiovascular system — lungs, heart and circulatory system — obliged to meet the increased demand. In time cardiovascular efficiency is improved.

Many joggers go for miles, at a steady pace according to their age and strength. The eight minute mile is the target.

But it seems to me that, after 1,560 yards, an oxygen debt exists, and that the closing 200 yard sprint will induce a training effect equivalent to running a longer distance at a slower, unchanging rate.

I prefer to have it done with quickly. The hardest step, I think, is the first. If I know that a three or four mile stretch awaits me, I am not going to be so inclined to pull on my running clothes and get going. But if I've only got a mile to go, that first step passes much more easily.

It certainly needs to be pointed out that a person who is just beginning to get in shape, particularly if he or she is over 30, should not go out cold turkey and try to run an eight minute mile, even if most of it is at a "slow" pace.

The conditioning experts, who are presiding over the "jogging explosion," agree that people who are out of condition should get into a

training program very slowly. Some will not even be allowed to run a step until they have walked a mile a day for three or four weeks.

And then they won't be asked to negotiate the distance any more quickly than 13½ minutes for another week or so. Nothing to be ashamed of there, I say. Shoot, that's a right proper pace. Nice and sociable.

50 Hard Yards

I enjoy another variation of the mile. Once I'm started and stretched out (after 300 yards or so), I'll run hard for 50 yards and then gear down, just jogging slowly and easily, for the next 50 yards. I'll alternate back and forth that way, finishing with the hard sprint.

This routine tends to strengthen the lungs, while giving you a regular breather. I think it condenses the effort of several miles into one mile: you emphasize the oxygen debt with the sprints, and you keep moving in between, to sustain the debt. It's a good way to take it "easy" for a good part of a mile.

I like to do push-ups and sit-ups every day, about 40 of each. Actually I think that's all the exercise I need, but the lady believes the running helps, and she knows me pretty well.

I don't have any other off-court drills designed to help me strengthen a specific part of my game. I am mindful, however, of the ways one might preserve his muscle tone, just in his daily motions. I never take an elevator, unless we've just arrived at a hotel and I'm weighted down with baggage. I always take the stairs, two at a time.

Otherwise, I've got more interesting things to do with the rest of my time.

Like eating. I guess, at 6' 1" and 155, I could be called a stringbean. And playing racquetball every day and tournaments every three weeks or so tends to keep me that way.

Recently — when I hadn't been eating well enough — I went into a tournament weighing about 150. I was tired. And I got beaten in the second round.

It was a deflating experience.

After that I decided to go into the next tournament a little stronger. So, to keep my strength up, I picked up a large shake at every hamburger emporium I passed.



I weighed 157 by the time the next tournament began and I made the

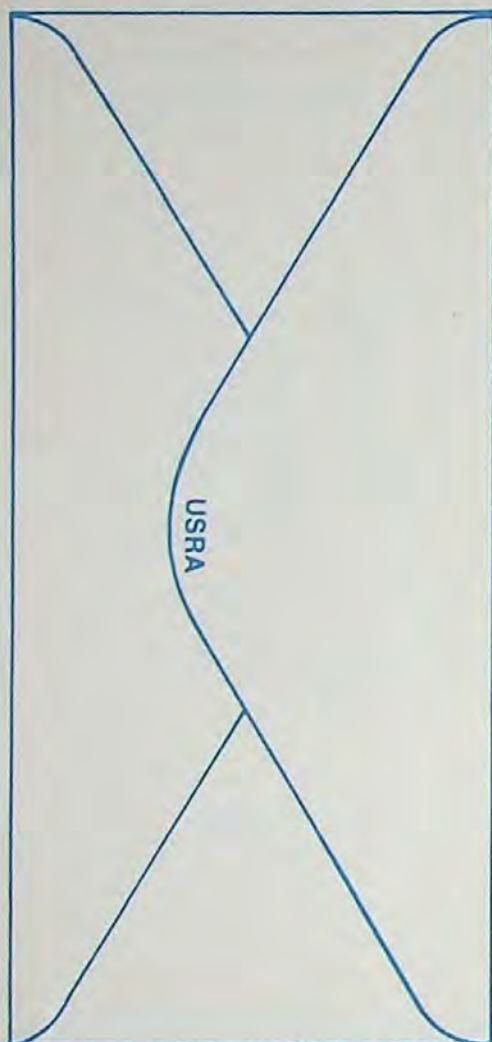
semi-finals. Now that, I believe, is progress. ●

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Dennis Makes Things Happen

Dear Editor:

I was interested and pleased in reading Joe Ardito's comment in the March issue of *National Racquetball* about the Michigan Racquetball Association receiving a healthy check from USRA. MRA is well organized and has been very insistent on promoting quality tournaments throughout the state. You well know that if positive growth is to take place, quality leadership and organization is a must. We are lucky to have Dennis Wood as MRA General Chairperson. He does not sit on his duff and wait for things to happen, and I feel it is because of his efforts that MRA has become a viable racquetball leader in Michigan.

John Raducha
Ithaca, MI

Racquetball Fights Crime

Dear Terry:

Thank you for your kind recognition and words of praise for the Louis Zahn Data Service Corp. in your column in the March issue of *National Racquetball*.

My father-in-law, Louis Zahn, had the pleasure of knowing Bob Kendler for a long time, and regarded him as a very fine man — a man who believes in what he does and does what he believes in. It is apparent to everyone at the Louis Zahn Data Service Corp. that you are also that kind of man. You couldn't have picked a finer industry in which to do your thing. The late Mr. Zahn also admired the clean, wholesome, American sports of racquetball and handball.

Without your father-in-law, racquetball would not be the prevalent sport, the fastest growing sport, one of the best publicized sports that it has become.

When I personally, many years ago, became involved with the Union League Boys Club of America, I found another very important reason why racquetball and handball should and must continue to exist and grow. Terry, in our society today with the high crime rate and abuse of drugs which the younger folks are involved in, racquetball and handball has been a strong answer to helping combat some of our social ills.

Imagine the increase, which you and I both know exist, in youngsters in their teens taking up the sports of handball and racquetball. Imagine also, Terry, that when these teenagers and younger adults are involved in handball and racquetball, they have little extra time to be involved in drugs and crime. I think that your involvement in racquetball, and what Bob Kendler has done, has helped America to provide a wholesome, healthy and satisfying sport to keep our youngsters productive.

The sports have taught people how to live together, how to work together, how to respect one another; and, last but not least, they have taught people the basics of good sportmanship.

So, Terry, the Louis Zahn Data Service Corp. and I want you to know that there is nothing that we would not do for Bob Kendler, for you or anyone else in the USRA to help further your growth and assist you in any way possible.

Allen Gunther
Chicago, IL

A Willing, Able Trio

Dear Mr. Kendler,

For many years, I have worked with the USHA, the IRA the NRC and the USRA, and have been involved with tournaments at the JCCA in St. Louis and others that have been coordinated through your office, but none have run so smoothly with such fine support and willing enthusiasm as was displayed this past weekend by Joe Ardito, Chuck Leve and Dan Bertolucci. The three of them could not have been more cooperative, more supportive or more professional in coordinating our stop of your pro tour.

Thank you for allowing us to be a host and provide us with your great support.

Bruce Hendin
San Antonio, TX

Pro's a Success, Wants to Join APRO

Dear Carol:

I have been teaching racquetball at the Jewish Community Center in Louisville, KY, for the last three years. Your "Women in Racquetball" articles are very enjoyable and informative.

I have had full classes of women since September and still have a waiting list wanting lessons. The gals had a great time in a round robin (A, B and Novice) tournament, and I have a good turnout for the house tournament. And I'm pooped!

I would appreciate information on the American Professional Racquetball Organization (APRO). I believe the certification of professional teachers is important to the future of the sport.

Evelyn Simon
Louisville, KY

You can write APRO at 730 Pine, Deerfield, IL 60015.—ED

The Family that Plays Together

Dear Ms. Brusslan:

I would like to commend you and your staff on your *Beyond the Open* article appearing in the March issue of *National Racquetball*.

In my opinion it projected a dimension of family competition and participation that others should be aware of. As modern society activities and diversions have managed to send family members in different interest areas, it should be recognized that family racquetball is one answer to having an opportunity of enjoying a sport participation activity together.

Phillip Siegel
Chicago, IL

He Liked Hospitality

Dear Bob,

I wish to thank you for the time and hospitality you and your staff extended to us on our visit to Skokie.

Our visit to your office was most entertaining, and your comments on our new club and management center were very beneficial to us.

I'll keep you informed of our progress and hope to see you again in the near future.

Rick Schliebe
Denver, CO

Women's Section Has Betrayed Her

The "highly acclaimed" women's section of *National Racquetball* has awakened me to the sad truth that women athletes will never be taken seriously for the saddest of all reasons: we do not take ourselves seriously as athletes. When a section of such a prestigious and influential publication seem devoted to depicting women racquetballers as fluffy bits of femininity who are interested in fashion and food, I feel discouraged and resentful. Am I against fashion and food? Hardly. But when I want to look at clothes, I turn to *Vogue*. When I want recipes, I have *Good Housekeeping*. But where do I turn for a serious consideration of the problems faced by women racquetballers?

"Women in Racquetball" offers a predominately stereotyped and distorted view of women players. The initial section depicted a man-woman match where the focus was on the male player's thoughts — how gorgeous the woman was, how his ego was suffering, how he could get her to go out with him. Very funny. But the entire story was a not-so-subtle putdown of a serious woman player. The woman was supposed to be a good player. But no one was concerned with her skill.

Let there be no misunderstanding: the women's section has contained some solid work. A recent issue contained an informative article on the need for better breast supports for athletes. In addition the section has offered some excellent instructional articles and has introduced some fascinating women to the rest of us. The essay on assertive and aggressive behavior was well done. But I think the time has come to seriously examine the purpose of such a section.

I sincerely believe that at the heart of the problem lies the attitude that women cannot be serious athletes. We are too often regarded as invaders on the court, too often tolerated because we look "cute" when bend over in a glass walled court. Serious women players at our court club are offended when the male observers of a match don't remember who played, only that "one of them wasn't wearing underwear." If women are acceptable on the courts only as sex objects, something is wrong. And the wrong is being perpetuated by the very magazine that could do so much to change the stereotype.

Yes, women face problems in racquetball. Mothers are concerned with baby-sitters, homemakers have to juggle responsibilities, wives have to juggle schedules with husbands. But none of these problems disqualify us as serious athletes. Women are capable, as more and more of them are proving, of playing intensely competitive, highly skillful racquetball. We are working very hard to gain acceptance and recognition from the established athletic power structures. We have a chance, as racquetball develops, to create within a new sport a new image of the woman athlete. But before any progress can be made, we must take ourselves seriously. It is immeasurably sad and disheartening when we find within ourselves the same doubts and stereotypes we have been fighting in men for so many years.

Patricia Froeba
Lafayette, LA

Without a Big Hoorah

Dear Bob:

Your editorial in *National Racquetball's* March issue is one of the best you've ever published. I congratulate you and naturally urge you to keep on for several more generations.

It's amazing what you've accomplished without a big hoorah and what a wonderful organization you have built around yourself. Congratulations again, and continued good health is all you need. I'm sure handball will see to that.

Best regards to you and the lovely young lady who spends her time keeping you happy.

D. B. Frampton
Columbus, OH

Marine Is Four-Time Reader

Dear Mr. Leve:

This is the first time I've seen your magazine, and I've just read it four times from cover to cover.

I am in the Marine Corps stationed in Hawaii, where racquetball has just started being a big thing. I want to thank you for putting out such an outstanding magazine.

D.G. Paige, Sgt. USMC
Hawaii

In Marty's Defense

Dear Sir:

I was glad to see Chuck Leve's editorial on Marty Hogan in February's *National Racquetball*. I feel it necessary to write and address myself to all those who have so many critical things to say about Marty. It's unfortunate they do not have the opportunity to know him personally. So many adjectives have been used such as "immature", "arrogant" and "childish." Is he really all these things? Self assured would be a better word than arrogant, and honest emotion is better than childish or immature. The racquetball fans would have concern if he were a cheater, a poor sport, a sore loser, etc. He is not. He plays the game fairly.

Being from St. Louis I see Marty from a different side. I can't thank him enough for being so good to the young St. Louis players. The expression I constantly hear is "promote the sport." Marty Hogan is doing just that. He is instructive, encouraging and helps the kids here in many ways. He is also the best example I can think of as to what can be achieved in this sport. My personal thanks and appreciation goes to Marty Hogan.

Lois Kleirman
St. Louis



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Without Them. . .

This month marks my eighth full year in racquetball, an amazing (to me) record of longevity in a field where eight seasons makes you an old-timer.

To reflect once in a while can be enjoyable. To think that when I was working on my first National Championship tournament, Marty Hogan couldn't get 10 points off his mother!

Remembering the days when I used to "edit" the four or eight pages devoted to racquetball in *Handball* magazine brings a soft chuckle inside. I chuckle not necessarily because of the great forward strides we've made since then, but to refeel those never-to-be-lost days of working side-by-side with my father, who encouraged me to get into this sport.

Incredible things have happened in those eight years. Racquetball has gone from a racquet-what? to big business with competition not only on the court but in corporate headquarters.

The number of participants has grown at a rate so meteoric, that many question the validity of the figures, but be sure — they are correct.

The nature of the game itself has changed — the strategy better, the shotmaking much better, the ability astoundingly better.

And the court clubs — from where did they come? To build a racquetball club eight years ago was the thought of a four-walled fool. Ha! Who was foolish, with over 800 million dollars invested in the club business and equally as much projected over the next few years?

Tournaments? From one a year to five a year to 50, to 500 to virtually countless.

And *National Racquetball*, once just a dream, from the four and eight pages to 16, 32, then bi-monthly and now monthly. From a few thousand members to 10,000 plus clubs to over 40,000 and growing — that's the circulation.

Around here I get claustrophobia running into all our staff members. I remember when Terry Fancher joined our staff I thought, "We can do anything now, another full timer." Terry's done a superb job — but his success created more work.

Each time somebody new joins the group, I think the same thing, that we can handle it now. But as the sport expands, so does the responsibility. Enter Dan Bertolucci, whose help on the pro tour was immediately felt.

Besides that Dan's advance work has allowed us married men to shorten our travel days leaving more time at home with our loved ones.

And who would have thought eight years ago that we'd have a full-time publication designer in-house, to give instant creativity to the many promotional items we have. Milt Presler's the guy and I think you should know.

About the same time came Carol Brusslan, first with the *Women In Racquetball* section of *National Racquetball*, then as managing editor, where she's turned out to be my right hand person for magazine affairs.

I guess eight years can be a long time, but not for me. Best buddy Joe Ardito has helped me keep my sanity, and allowed me to expand myself along with the sport. Seems like I walked in here only yesterday.

That day eight years ago will never leave me, for I was fired that first day on the job — for reporting to work in an appearance unbefitting an executive. My good fortune was that the man who fired me took me back an hour later (after I neatened up).

That man, of course, is Bob Kendler, president of the USRA/NRC. What can a person say, when he's had only one job in his life, working for a man who says, "Don't work for me, work for racquetball."

"Thank you," "And here's to the next eight!" ●



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