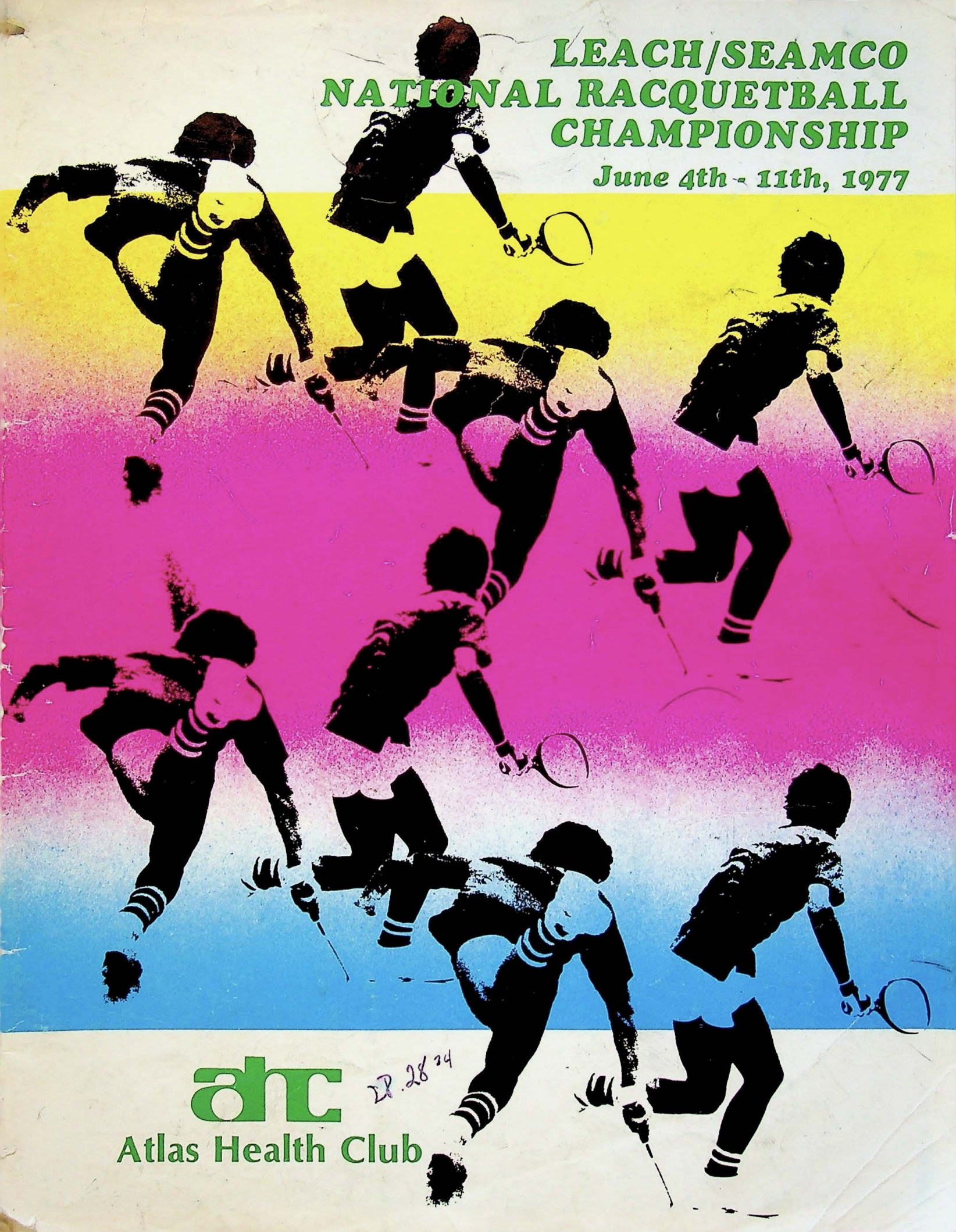


LEACH/SEAMCO NATIONAL RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

June 4th - 11th, 1977



atc

Atlas Health Club

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NOT ALL RACQUETBALLS ARE CREATED EQUAL.



Some are rounder than others. At Seamco, we inject superheated rubber into our molds. This gives us a uniform wall inside. And a roundness outside that nobody in the industry can match.

Technically, our racquetballs are within

seventeen one-thousandths of perfect roundness. Our next closest competitor is "out of round" more than twice that figure.

Calibrations aside, we give you a truer bounce where it counts.

Off the wall.

SEAMCO RACQUETBALLS
The official ball since the game began.

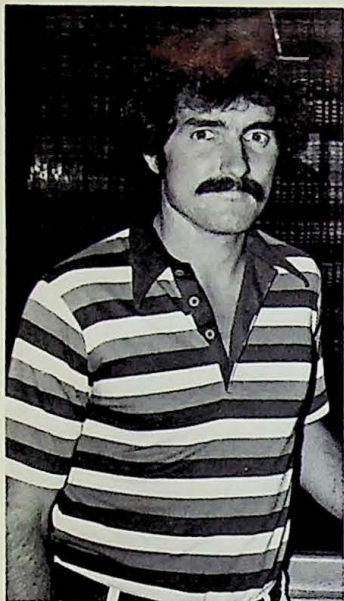
LEACH/SEAMCO NATIONAL RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP June 4th-11th, 1977

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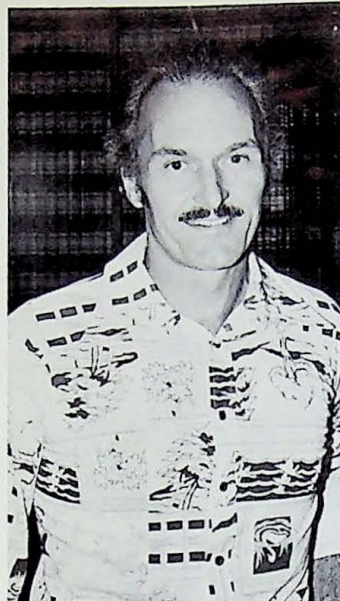
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WELCOME!



Ken Davidson, Tournament Director, General Manager



Lee Hinrichs, Assistant Tournament Director

Welcome to the National Racquetball Championships — the greatest tournament in the history of the game and the culmination of the U.S.R.A.'s professional racquetball circuit for 1976-77. The highlight of the tournament, naturally, is the professional draw with the country's top male and female players competing for a total purse of \$15,000. Approximately 300 amateur participants will vie for acknowledgement as the top amateur player in the country for their respective age group or classification. You will meet players and spectators from all parts of the country including Canada and Hawaii.

The Atlas Health Club is proud to host the Leach/Seamco Championships for the second consecutive year. For your enjoyment the club will provide daily hospitality to include cheese and crackers on most afternoons and a light buffet at 6:00 p.m. Sunday through Friday. The players banquet (guests welcome) will be held at the club this year on Saturday June 11 from noon until 2:00 p.m. The informal steak BBQ will be highlighted by announcements and speeches by our guests of honor at 1:30 p.m. The professional championship matches will follow the banquet on Saturday afternoon.

We would like to thank the sponsors of the tournament Leach Industries and Seamco Sporting Goods for their contribution not only to this tournament but for their continued support for the fastest growing sport in America. And, of course, our thanks to the United States Racquetball Association for the fine work that Chuck Leve, Terry Fancher and gang have done in conjunction with this tournament.

I would like to extend a special thanks to the Atlas Health Club personnel and tournament staff for the countless hours they have contributed toward the tournaments organization. In conclusion I would like to thank Mr. Lee Hinrichs whose knowledge and expertise has been the single most important factor contributing to the success of the 1977 Leach/Seamco Racquetball Championships.

Ken Davidson

Prize Money/Rankings 1976-77

Men

1	Marty Hogan (St. Louis)	\$19,000	21,000
2	Davey Bledsoe (San Diego)	6,175	10,175
3	Charlie Brumfield (San Diego)	6,225	6,725
4	Craig McCoy (Riverside)	4,625	5,125
5	Richard Wagner (San Diego)	3,975	4,975
6	Jerry Hilecher (St. Louis)	5,800	6,800
7	Steve Serot (San Diego)	2,300	2,300
8	Jay Jones (Los Angeles)	1,725	1,925
9	Steve Strandemo (San Diego)	4,125	4,025
10	Steve Keeley (San Diego)	2,375	2,875
11	Ben Koltun (St. Louis)	1,925	2,125
12	Mark Morrow (Los Angeles)	1,250	
13	John Lynch (Chicago)	1,225	
14	Charlie Rish (Champaign, Ill.)	500	

Women

1	Shannon Wright (San Diego)	\$6,500
2	Peggy Steding (Odessa, Tex.)	6,450
3	Janell Marriott (Salt Lake City)	2,850
4	Kathy Williams (Hazel Park, Mich.)	2,100
5	Jennifer Harding (Portland)	925
6	Jean Sauser (Northbrook, Ill.)	1,050

SOUVENIR TOURNAMENT SHIRTS

available in the Pro Shop

SEAMCO/LEACH SPONSOR PRO TOUR



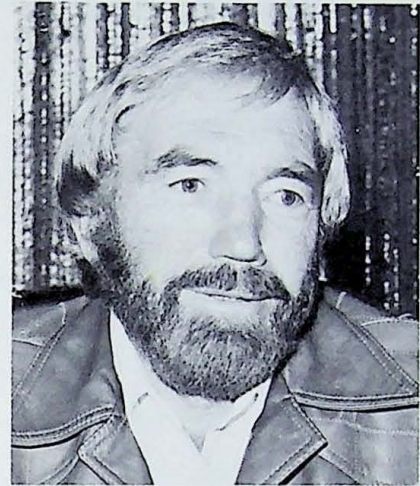
AL MACKIE

Seamco Sporting Goods Company

The tremendous racquetball season culminating with these National Championships could not have been possible without the tremendous aid given the N.R.C. and U.S.R.A. by the Seamco Sporting Goods Company and Leach Industries.

These two firms, led by Al Mackie, at Seamco and Bud Leach at Leach, unselfishly donated \$50,000 each this season toward the N.R.C.'s prize money fund. With this help, the pro-am tour was made a reality and has grown in stature to become the most exciting series of racquetball events annually.

The \$15,000 prize money here in San Diego is part of that \$100,000 sponsorship, which has enabled the N.R.C. to continue to promote racquetball in a first class manner.



BUD LEACH

Leach Industries

The National Racquetball Club is honored, indeed, to have such close working relationships with the nation's largest racquet and ball manufacturers in our sport. The fact that these firms have been willing to invest in racquetball part of the profits they derive from racquetball, is indicative of the fine people and businessmen that our sport represents.

Next season the N.R.C. looks forward to continuation of this fine working arrangement, with additional prize money, more tour stops, and finer competition for all players.

When you stop in their hospitality booth how about a thank you to Al Mackie and Bob Coate at Seamco, and Bud Leach and Charlie Drake at Leach for their great support. Without them we couldn't do it.

MEET THE N.R.C. AND U.S.R.A.



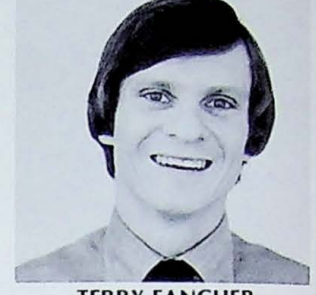
ROBERT W. (BOB) KENDLER



JOE ARDITO



CHUCK LEVE



TERRY FANCHER

Bob Kendler, at age 72 still a dynamo on the court, is the father of all the court sports. Before racquetball was ever imagined, this Milwaukee born real estate giant was wowing the spectators on the handball court. And if you've been following handball or racquetball for a few years, then you know the story of court sport success that has followed Bob.

In 1951, at the urging of his fellow players, and in an attempt to right what were then and still are inconsistencies in the amateur code, Bob formed the U.S. Handball Association. At that time the Amateur Athletic Union (A.A.U.) had total jurisdiction over the sport of handball, but not for long. Within two years, virtually every player of stature had joined the U.S.H.A.

Under Kendler's leadership, the U.S.H.A. grew to a strong and healthy body, the true voice of handball. Its publication **ACE** magazine (since changed to **HANDBALL**) has become the recognized Bible of the sport.

After forming the first racquetball association in 1968, Kendler formed the N.R.C. to promote pro racquetball and the U.S.R.A. to further promote amateur racquetball in 1973. From the beginning both of these organizations have shown tremendous growth, paralleling the growth of racquetball.

By publishing **National Racquetball** magazine, the U.S.R.A./N.R.C. group has by all guidelines, the most professional, timely and interesting racquetball publication there is.

The official rule book, development of court clubs, relations with manufacturers and all aspects of racquetball's promotion go through Mr. Kendler's office.

As president of the N.R.C. and U.S.R.A., and like all N.R.C. personnel, Mr. Kendler welcomes your comments. If you have any questions regarding racquetball or the N.R.C./U.S.R.A., feel free to drop him a line.

The business manager and national commissioner of both the U.S.R.A. and N.R.C. is likeable Joe Ardito. Known by pro players as "Papa Joe," and the man who hands out the checks, Ardito is thoroughly comfortable in his important racquetball role. He has rapidly become the liaison between major manufacturers and the N.R.C./U.S.R.A.

His responsibilities include negotiations of contracts, advertising in **National Racquetball** magazine, and generally handling the business end of running our Associations.

As National Commissioner he has earned the respect of

all pro players as a fair, but firm enforcer of N.R.C. policies. If ever a problem arises before, during or after a tournament, you can be sure Joe Ardito will be able to handle it.

Ardito's latest project is the huge National Juniors program to give an even bigger boost to racquetball's promotion.

The one man who has ridden herd on the rise of racquetball is Chuck Leve. Tabbed by Bob Kendler to run his racquetball organization in 1970, Leve quickly assimilated his talents to this babe of a sport.

Racquetball and Leve became synonymous. Anxious to utilize his journalism degree, Leve became editor of the first racquetball publication 1972 and is now editor of **National Racquetball**.

His duties include general promotion of racquetball, from sending out news releases, keeping tabs on membership, coordinating sales of **National Racquetball** to court clubs, to making up the draw at all professional events and refereeing all semi-final and final round professional play.

As editor of **National Racquetball** it is his chore to make sure the proper balance of interview, instruction, tournament results and other features makes this magazine the best possible publication for U.S.R.A. members.

Creator of new ideas, it was Leve who proposed that racquetball do away with the three-bounce rule, and try playing all third games to 11 point tie-breakers. It has proved a tremendous success every place it has been used.

The newest member of the N.R.C./U.S.R.A. staff is 29 year-old Terry Fancher, former teaching pro and Madison, Wisconsin native. Fancher, who earned his masters degree in physical education from the University of Wisconsin, also wrote his masters thesis on the history of racquetball.

Although his primary duties involve the organization, coordination and aiding of state and local racquetball associations, Terry's other attributes are already showing. A top-notch player, Terry has an understanding of the players needs and desires, he is an outstanding referee and will be contributing instructional and feature articles to **National Racquetball** magazine.

Another of Bob Kendler's young promoters, Terry Fancher is a solid addition to the N.R.C./U.S.R.A. staff. If you need any information or help concerning racquetball in your area, seek him out this week. He'll be glad to help.

MEN'S PRO LOG

MARTY HOGAN, St. Louis, \$19,000



Rank: 1

Age: 19

Outside Interests: Student

Racquet: Leach

Tour victories this season: Edmonton (September), Burlington (October), Ft. Lauderdale (December), Las Vegas (January), Houston (February), Denver (March), Chattanooga (March), Southfield (April), Lombard (April), DNP (Newport Beach).

Tour losses this season: Hilecher (Sacramento).

General game style: Serve and shoot, power.

Strengths: Massive power, ability to make mistakes and still win due to strength; superb serves; can kill anything from anywhere; knows he can beat anybody.

Weaknesses: Tends to ease up with big lead.

Things to look for: If Hogan is on his game he could go through the tournament holding opponents to single figures. If he's off his game, he'll still win. Watch the big serve, the shoulder high backhand kills, and the 142 m.p.h. bullets. Only injury can beat him.

DAVEY BLEDSOE, San Diego, \$6,175



Rank: 2

Age: 25

Outside Interests: Clinics

Racquet: Leach

Tour victories this season: Newport Beach (May)

Tour losses this season: Brumfield (Sacramento), Hogan (Edmonton), Hogan (Burlington), Hogan (Ft. Lauderdale), Hilecher (Las Vegas), DNP—(Houston), Hogan (Denver), Serot (Chattanooga), Hogan (Southfield), Hilecher (Lombard).

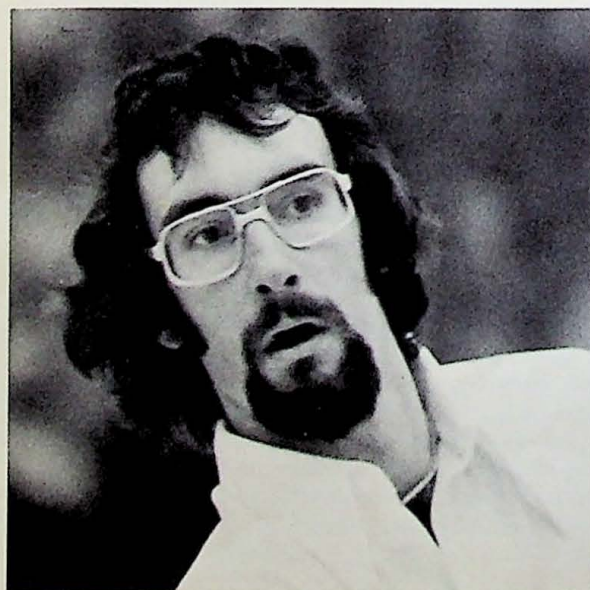
General game style: Serve and shoot

Strengths: Power serves, quickness and court coverage, consistent front court kill shots.

Weaknesses: Shot selection still questionable; emotions can get in way of shots.

Things to look for: Plenty of overhead drives, super retrieving, excellent intensity, ability to play with anybody.

CHARLIE BRUMFIELD, San Diego, \$6,225



Rank: 3

Age: 28

Outside Interests: Racquetball promotion, clinics

Racquet: Leach

Tour victories this season: None

Best finish: 2nd—Burlington, Las Vegas, Chattanooga, Lombard.

Tour losses this season: Hilecher (Sacramento), Strandemo (Edmonton), Hogan (Burlington), Wagner (Ft. Lauderdale), Hogan (Las Vegas), DNP (Houston), Jones (Denver), Hogan (Chattanooga), Wagner (Southfield), Hogan (Lombard) DNP—(Newport Beach).

General game style: Control

Strengths: Over all control, anticipation, cerebral game, ability to win any match.

Weaknesses: Lack of aggressiveness since mid-season, inconsistency in shot selection, loss of aura of invincibility.

Things to look for: Don't count him out, — it's the Nationals; will take major renovation of game and attitude; could have controversial tournament. Will be entertaining; health will be a factor.

MEN'S PRO LOG

CRAIG MCCOY, Riverside, Cal., \$4,625



Rank: 4

Age: 19

Outside Interests: Court Club employee

Racquet: Leach

Tour victories this season: None

Best finish: 2nd—Denver and Newport Beach.

Tour losses this season: Wagner (Sacramento), Schmidtke (Edmonton), DNP—(Burlington), DNP—(Ft. Lauderdale), Brumfield (Las Vegas), Hogan (Houston), Hogan (Denver), Koltun (Chattanooga), Bob Deuster-am (Lombard), Bledsoe (NB)

General game style: Undetermined

Strengths: Fine forehand kills, left corner, can shoot from deep court, excellent tie-breaker player.

Weaknesses: Inconsistency, failure to play with intensity, sometimes plays like Brunfield, sometimes like Hogan, never like McCoy.

Things to look for: Unpredictable. Could go to the finals or lose in first round, probably will fall somewhere in between. Smooth, effortless strokes. If he's not "up" he'll be out by Wednesday.

RICHARD WAGER, San Diego, \$3,975

Rank: 5

Age: 21

Outside Interests: Family, school

Racquet: Leach

Tour victories this season: None

Best finish: 2nd—Southfield

Tour losses this season: Hogan (Sacramento), Wayne Bowes-am (Edmonton), Brumfield (Burlington), Bledsoe (Ft. Lauderdale), Wes Hadikin-am (Las Vegas), McCoy (Houston), Jones (Denver), Hogan (Chattanooga), Hogan (Southfield), Jones (Lombard). Bledsoe (NB).

General game style: Serve and shoot.

Strengths: Retrieving, speed and quickness, shooting ability off back wall.

Weaknesses: Inconsistency. Serves rarely pass short line on first try; needs to be "up" or forget it.

Things to look for: If he decides he wants to play, he could be a factor; if not, he'll watch some great r-ball this week.



JERRY HILECHER, St. Louis, \$5,800

Rank: 6

Age: 22

Outside Interests: Clinics, promotion

Racquet: Ektelon

Tour victories this season: Sacramento (September)

Tour losses this season: Bledsoe (Edmonton), Wagner (Burlington), Bledsoe (Ft. Lauderdale), Hogan (Las Vegas), Keeley (Houston), Bledsoe (Denver), Koltun (Chattanooga), Bledsoe (Southfield), Hogan (Lombard), McCoy (Newport Beach).

General game style: Serve and shoot.

Strengths: Booming serve, probably best in the game; superb forehand kill ability, moves and dives well.

Weaknesses: Backhand suspect; has problems when serve is not going well; concentration wavers.

Things to look for: Could go to the finals if his serve is on, — may still do well anyhow. Drive to the left and Z serves can render opponent helpless. If you get the ball in play you stand an even chance of beating him.



MEN'S PRO LOG



STEVE SEROT, San Diego, \$2,300

Rank: 7

Age: 20

Outside Interests: School

Racquet: Leach

Tour victories this season: None

Best finish: Semi's—Chattanooga

Tour losses this season: Strandemo (Sacramento), Zeitman (Edmonton), Bledsoe (Burlington), Wagner (Ft. Lauderdale), Brumfield (Las Vegas), Keeley (Houston), Keeley (Denver), Brumfield (Chattanooga), Hogan (Southfield), Brumfield (Lombard), Bledsoe (Newport Beach).

General game style: Shooter

Strengths: Can kill the ball extremely well from deep court; best diver in the game; can retrieve anything in the air.

Weaknesses: Still lacks offensive serve; front court kills have been inconsistent.

Things to look for: Like Keeley, could do damage in the Nationals, as he's on the verge of big things; should give his all, which means spending plenty of time on the floor.



JAY JONES, Los Angeles, \$1,725

Rank: 8

Age: 33

Outside Interests: Professional stunt man

Racquet: Leach

Tour victories this season: None

Best finish: Semi's—Denver

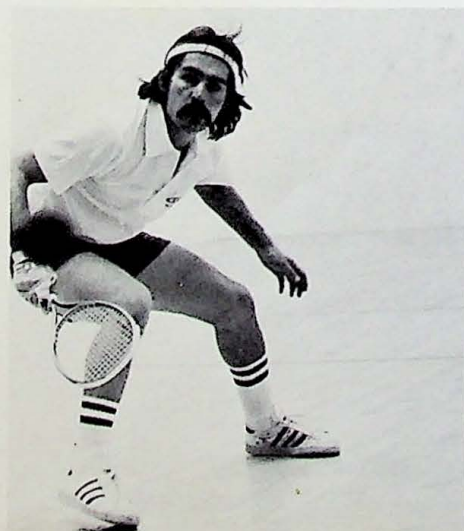
Tour losses this season: Strandemo (Sacramento), DNP—(Edmonton), DNP—Burlington, DNP—(Ft. Lauderdale), Strandemo (Las Vegas), DNP—Houston, McCoy (Denver), Keeley (Chattanooga), Wagner (Southfield), Morrow (Lombard), McCoy (Newport Beach).

General game style: Control

Strengths: Concentration exceptional; plays the percentages; fine cerebral game; will shoot his forehand.

Weaknesses: Backhand inconsistent; lacks ability to string three or four good efforts together.

Things to look for: Likes to slow the pace down; will be patient; only player who wears earphone which plays mind-soothing static. Could reach semi's.



STEVE STRANDEMO, San Diego, \$4,125

Rank: 9

Age: 31

Outside Interests: Promotion, clinics

Racquet: Ektelon

Tour victories this season: None

Best finish: 2nd—Edmonton

Tour losses this season: Hogan (Sacramento), Hogan (Edmonton), Hogan (Burlington), Hogan (Ft. Lauderdale), McCoy (Las Vegas—injury), Keeley (Houston), McCoy (Denver), Serot (Chattanooga), DNP—(Southfield), Hogan (Lombard), Wagner (NB).

General game style: Control

Strengths: Best serve returned in game; goes well to ceiling; excellent thinker; good intensity.

Weaknesses: Can be overpowered; too cautious in shot selection; long season taking its toll.

Things to look for: Will control pace of match; has top Z serve; likes to go to ceiling; might tire.

MEN'S PRO LOG

STEVE KEELEY, San Diego, \$2,375



Rank: 10
Age: 28
Outside Interests: Varied
Racquet: Leach
Tour victories this season: None
Best finish: 2nd—Houston
Tour losses this season: Jones (Sacramento), DNP—(Edmonton), Koltun (Burlington), Koltun (Ft. Lauderdale), Chase (Las Vegas), Hogan (Houston), Hogan (Denver), Brumfield (Chattanooga), Serot (Southfield), Strandemo (Lombard), Hilecher (Newport Beach).
General game style: Control
Strengths: Excellent physical condition; corner kills; good concentration; re-vitalized concentration, superb ceiling game.
Weaknesses: Lack of power, shot selection not aggressive enough; questionable speed; no offensive serve.
Things to look for: Tournament darkhorse, — is on the verge of regaining old form; unusual dress habits, stoic on the court nature.

BEN KOLTUN, St. Louis, \$1,925



Rank: 11
Age: 19
Outside Interests: School
Racquet: Leach
Tour victories this season: None
Best finish: Semi's—Chattanooga
Tour losses this season: DNP—(Sacramento), Strandemo (Edmonton), Strandemo (Burlington), Strandemo (Ft. Lauderdale), Morrow (Las Vegas), Chase (Houston), Wagner (Denver), Hogan (Chattanooga), McCoy (Southfield), Serot (Lombard), Jones (Newport Beach).
General game style: Control
Strengths: Speed; ability to shoot on the run; tough from either side; desire good.
Weaknesses: Stamina still questionable; tends to make rookie mistakes; he'll stop shooting when he gets down.
Things to look for: Has the ability to beat anybody, but must convince himself; he'll give his all; watch smooth, picture book strokes.

MARK MORROW, Los Angeles, \$1,250



Rank: 12
Age: 24
Outside Interests: Business
Racquet: Leach
Tour victories this season: None
Best finish: Semi's—Lombard
Tour losses this season: DNP—(Sacramento, Edmonton, Burlington, Ft. Lauderdale), Hogan (Las Vegas), DNP—(Houston), Bledsoe (Denver), Bledsoe (Chattanooga), DNP—(Southfield), Brumfield (Lombard), Serot (Newport Beach).
General game style: Serve and shoot
Strengths: Great desire; shoots well with forehand; power serves.
Weaknesses: Backhand needs work; speed not up to par; lacks total concentration.
Things to look for: One of the more vocal players, colorful; has reputation for upsets; dangerous.

MEN'S PRO LOG



JOHN LYNCH, Chicago, \$1,225

Rank: 13

Age: 22

Outside Interests: Court club employee

Racquet: Leach

Tour victories this season: None

Best finish: Quarters—Houston

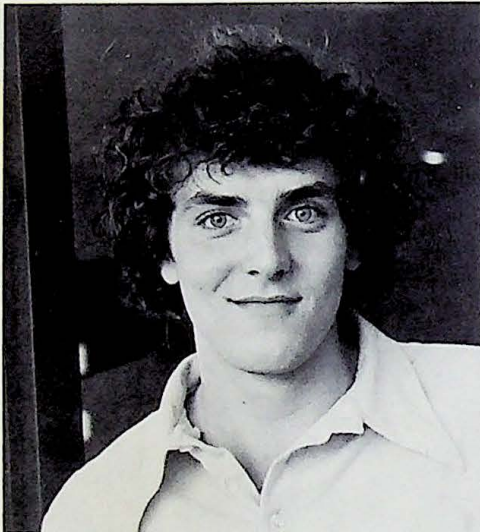
Tour losses this season: Hilecher (Sacramento), Bledsoe (Edmonton), Wagner (Burlington), Hilecher (Ft. Lauderdale), Bledsoe (Las Vegas), Hogan (Houston), McCoy (Denver), McCoy (Chattanooga), Bledsoe (Southfield), Hilecher (Lombard), DNP (Newport Beach).

General game style: Serve and shoot.

Strengths: Backhand outshines forehand; power serves; can get hot.

Weaknesses: Lacks consistency; stamina doubtful; tends to leave forehand up.

Things to look for: Will have to struggle, especially if backhand isn't rolling; might upset early if playing well.



CHARLIE RISH, Champaign, Ill., \$500

Rank: 14

Age: 21

Outside Interests: School

Racquet: Vittert

Tour victories this season: None

Best finish: 16's (3 times)

Tour losses this season: DNP—(Sacramento, Edmonton), Bledsoe (Burlington), Mondry (Ft. Lauderdale), Schmidtke (Las Vegas), DNP—(Houston), Hogan (Denver), Brumfield (Chattanooga), DNP—(Southfield), Bledsoe (Lombard), DNP (NB).

General game style: Serve and shoot.

Strengths: Power serves both ways; can kill the ball.

Weaknesses: Backhand needs work; ailing knees; tends to get down on self.

Things to look for: His first trip to the top 16 and he'll find the company rough; can pull upset if his serve is working, — otherwise forget it.

Prize Money Breakdown for the National Championships

MEN

1	\$4,000
2	2,000
3-4	1,000
5-8	500
9-16	250

WOMEN

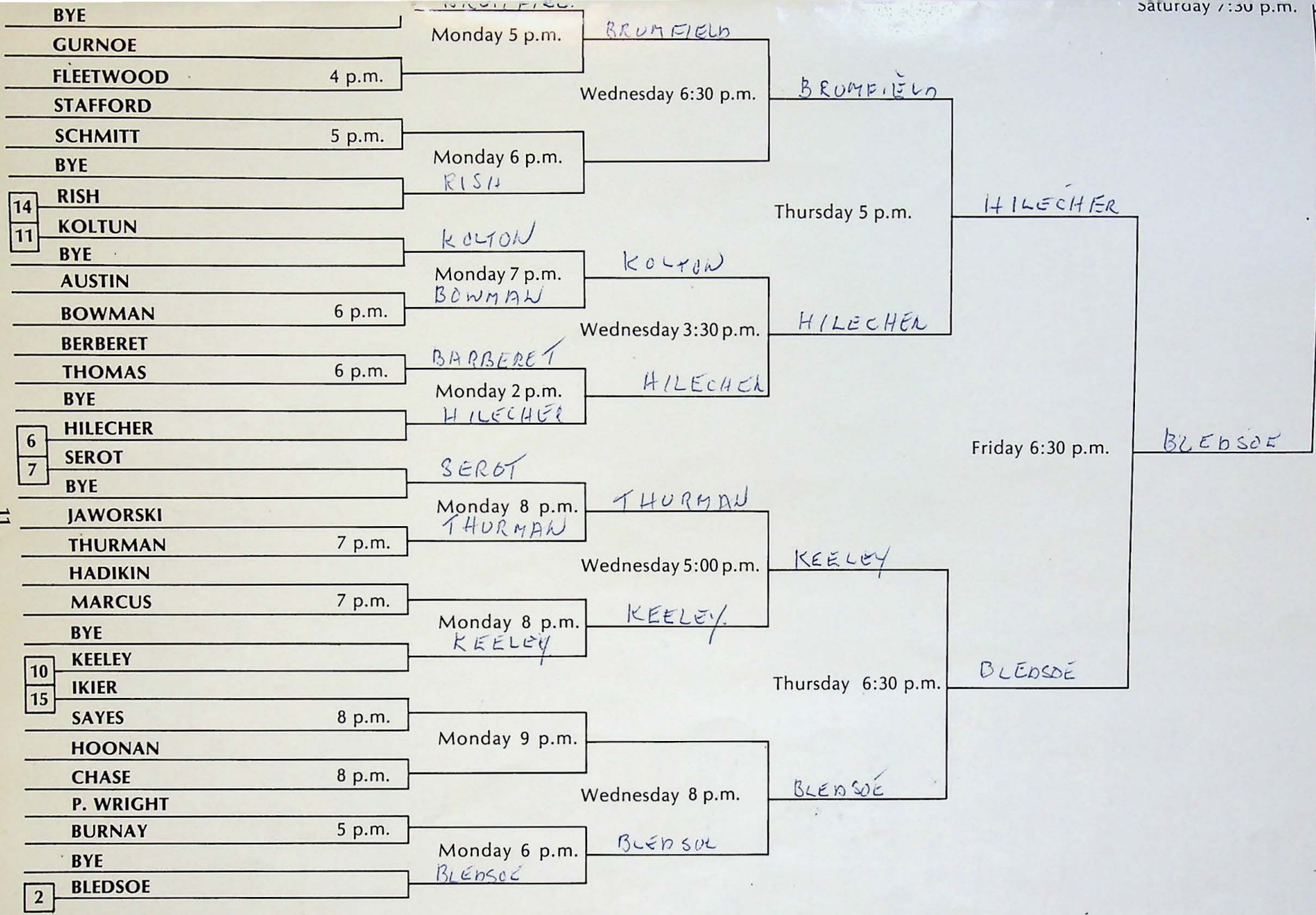
1	\$1,200
2	600
3-4	300
5-8	150

MEN'S RACQUETBALL LADDER

PRO SINGLES

	BYE	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
1	HOGAN	HOGAN						
	BYE							
	KASAY	Monday 7 p.m.	HOGAN					
	S. WRIGHT	12 Noon						
	SCHMIDTKE		Tuesday 8 p.m.	HOGAN				
	SIEWIENOWSKI	12 Noon	SCHMIDTKE					
	GLADNER	Monday 2 p.m.						
16	FANCHER	1 p.m.			Thursday 8 p.m.	HOGAN		
9	STRANDEMO							
	BYE	STRANDAMU						
	CAPITANELLI	Monday 3 p.m.	STRANDAMU					
	LUSK	1 p.m.						
	ROMANO		Tuesday 3:30 p.m.	STRANDAMU				
	DRAKE	2 p.m.	ROHANA					
	BYE	Monday 4 p.m.	JONES					
8	JONES	JONES						
5	WAGNER					Friday 8 p.m.	HOGAN	
	BYE	WAGNER						
	MONDRY	Monday 3 p.m.	WAGNER					
	KELLY	2 p.m.	WIRKUS					
	WIRKUS		Tuesday 5:30 p.m.	WAGNER				
	BOLIN	3 p.m.	BOLIN					
	BYE	Monday 5 p.m.	MORROW					
12	MORROW							
13	LYNCH				Thursday 3:30 p.m.	WAGNER		
	BYE	LYNCH						
	ALDERSON	Monday 7 p.m.						
	STROM	3 p.m.						
	KENT		Tuesday 6:30 p.m.	Mc COY				
	HEMPHILL	4 p.m.						
	BYE	Monday 4 p.m.	Mc COY					
4	MCCOY	Mc COY						

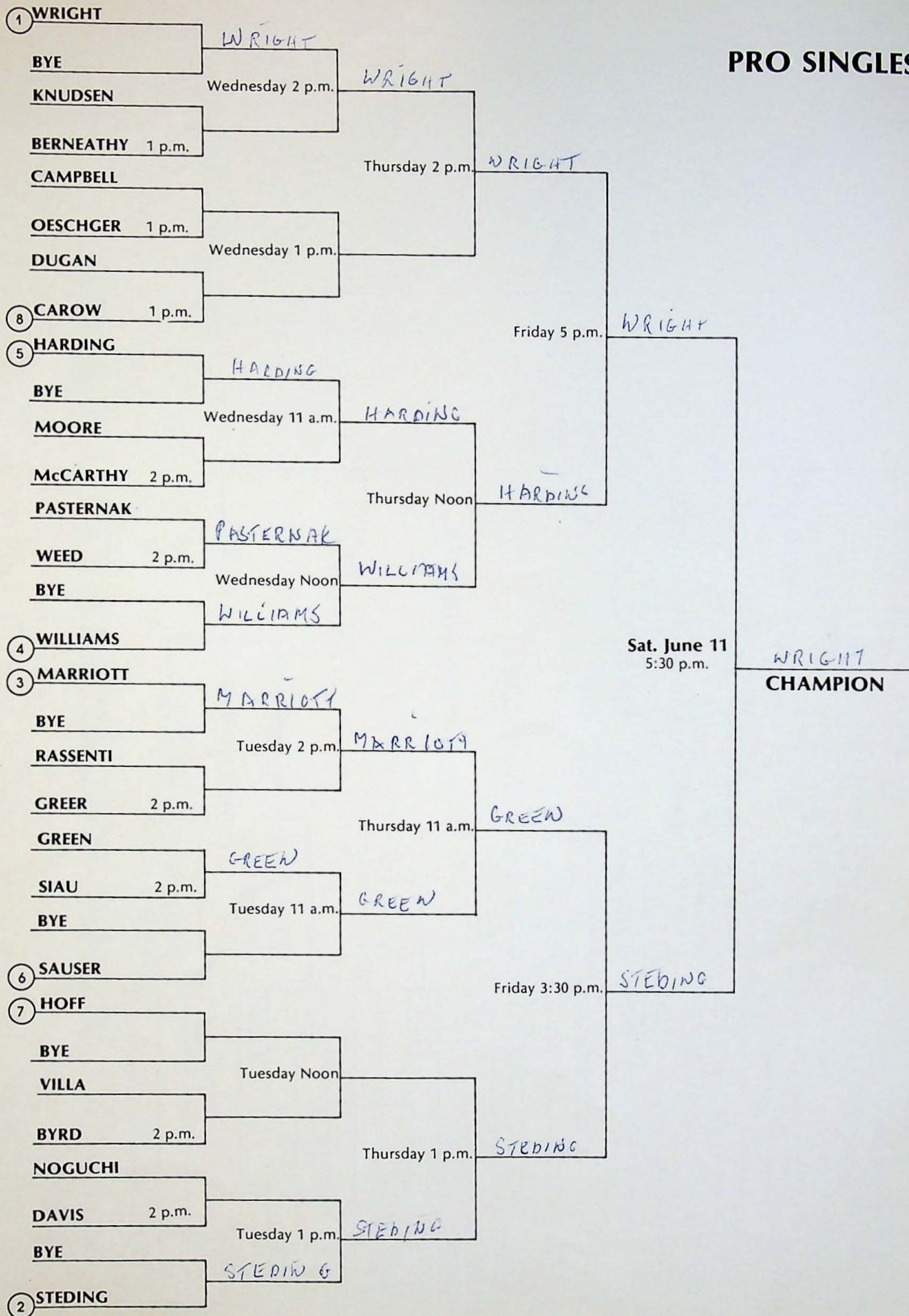
BLEDSOE



WOMEN'S RACQUETBALL LADDER

Mon. June 6

PRO SINGLES



WOMEN'S PRO LOG



SHANNON WRIGHT, San Diego, \$6,500

Rank: 1

Age: 21

Outside Interests: Clinics

Racquet: Leach

Tour victories this season: Ft. Lauderdale (December), Houston (February), Chattanooga (March), Southfield (April), Lombard (April), Newport Beach (May).

Tour losses this season: Steding (Sacramento), DNP-Edmonton, Marriott (Burlington), Steding (Las Vegas), Steding (Denver).

General game style: Serve and shoot.

Strengths: Deep court kills; ceiling game; determination to win; power.

Weaknesses: None glaring.

Things to look for: Playing best ball on tour, should be strong favorite; superb intensity; most vocal female player.



PEGGY STEDING, Odessa, Texas \$6,450

Rank: 2

Age: 41

Outside Interests: Varied

Racquet: Vittert

Tour victories this season: Sacramento (September), Edmonton (September), Burlington (October), Las Vegas (January), Denver (March).

Tour losses this season: Wright (Ft. Lauderdale), Wright (Houston), Wright (Chattanooga), Wright (Southfield), Marriott (Lombard), Wright (Newport Beach).

General game style: Serve and shoot

Strengths: Good serves, fly kills, power, reputation.

Weaknesses: Questionable speed, concentration problems, loss of aura of invincibility.

Things to look for: It will take major effort for Peg to defend her title; game has not been on for last few months; most likely time to step aside.



JANELL MARRIOTT, Salt Lake City, \$2,850

Rank: 3

Age: 24

Outside Interests: Instructor

Racquet: Ektelon

Tour victories this season: None

Best finish: 2nd-Edmonton, Burlington, Lombard

Tour losses this season: Wright (Sacramento), Steding (Edmonton), Steding (Burlington), Wright (Ft. Lauderdale), Steding (Las Vegas), Wright (Houston), Wright (Denver), Steding (Chattanooga), Wright (Southfield), Wright (Lombard), Harding (Newport Beach).

General game style: Serve and shoot.

Strengths: Drives serves, power player; goes well to ceiling, has all the tools

Weaknesses: Tends to play poorly late in tight matches; shot selection sometimes questionable.

Things to look for: She doesn't realize how good she is or can be; would be consistent finalist if she'd think less and let her body play more. Could do well here unless pressure gets to her.

WOMEN'S PRO LOG

KATHY WILLIAMS, Hazel Park, Mich., \$2,100



Rank: 4

Age: 29

Outside Interests: Promotion, clinics

Racquet: Seamco

Tour victories this season: None

Best finish: Semi's Every tournament

Tour losses this season: Steding (Sacramento), Marriott (Edmonton), Steding (Burlington), Steding (Ft. Lauderdale), Wright (Las Vegas), Steding (Houston), Steding (Denver), Wright (Chattanooga), Steding (Southfield), Wright (Lombard).

General game style: Serve and shoot. Sauser (Newport Beach).

Strengths: Kill ability; power serves; strength.

Weaknesses: Inconsistency in shooting; butterflies; lack of confidence.

Things to look for: Must be red hot to beat anyone above her; has to relax and shoot at first opportunity. Potential upset victim.

JENNIFER HARDING, Portland, \$925



Rank: 5

Age: 23

Outside Interests: Varied

Racquet: Ektelon

Tour victories this season: None

Best finish: Semi's-Edmonton

Tour losses this season: Marriott (Sacramento), Steding (Edmonton), DNP-(Burlington, Ft. Lauderdale), Wright (Las Vegas), Williams (Houston), Williams (Denver), DNP-(Chattanooga), Steding (Southfield), DNP-(Lombard), Steding (Newport Beach).

General game style: Control

Strengths: Excellent left-handed forehand; quickness; fine serves.

Weaknesses: Lacks power; not mean enough; needs more daily competition.

Things to look for: Has ability to reach higher, but won't make it past quarters.

JEAN SAUSER, Northbrook, Ill., \$1,050



Rank: 6

Age: 26

Outside Interests: Instructor

Racquet: Ektelon

Tour victories this season: None

Best finish: Quarters (last 8 stops)

Tour losses this season: DNP-(Sacramento, Edmonton), Williams (Burlington), Wright (Ft. Lauderdale), Williams (Las Vegas), Marriott (Houston), Marriott (Denver), Williams (Chattanooga), Marriott (Southfield), Williams (Lombard), Wright (Newport Beach).

General game style: Control

Strengths: Tough forehand kills; can go to ceiling, moves well.

Weaknesses: Questionable backhand; can be overpowered; needs offensive serve.

Things to look for: Tries hard and wants to play; not ready yet, — will go out in quarters.

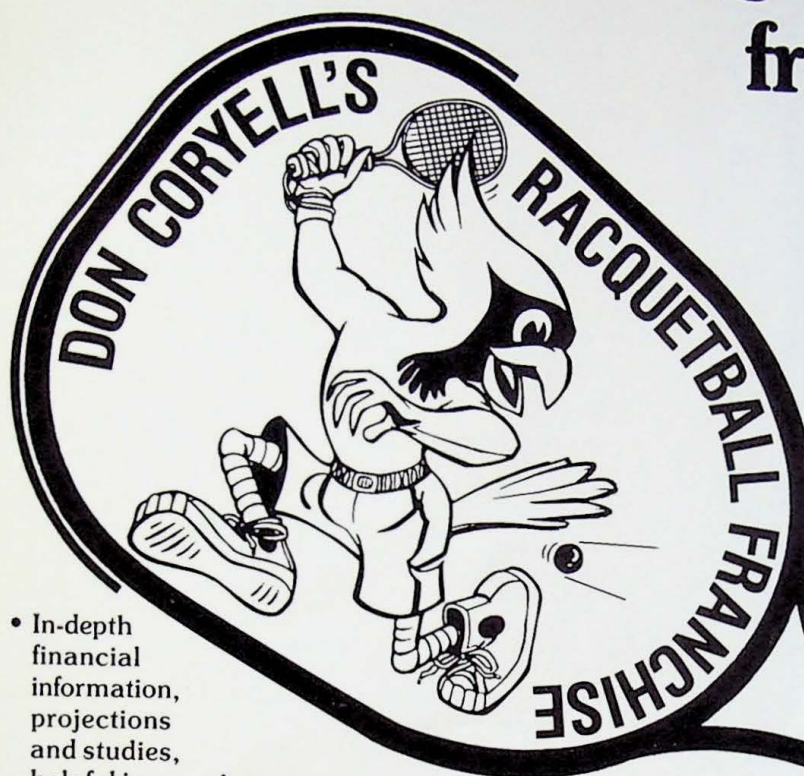
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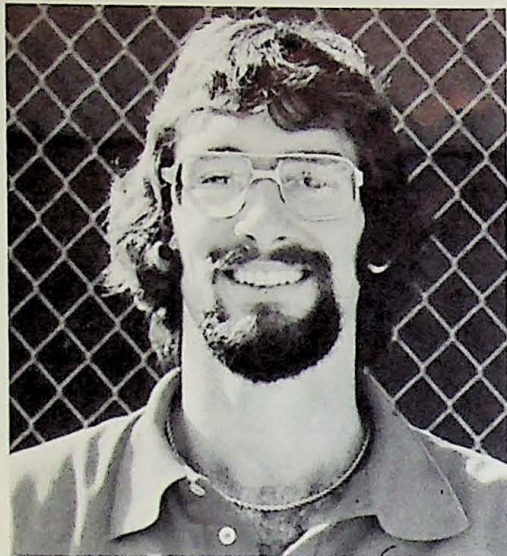
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PROFESSIONAL OBSERVANCES BY THE "OLD PRO"



It's playoff time at the nationals once again. It's a time where the quality and intensity of play is greatly increased. During the playoff week, you will notice that some players will perform better than others during this heightened competition. Just turn on the television and notice that some talent-laden teams don't always perform to their expectations. This is evident in teams like the Minnesota Vikings or Oakland Raiders in football. They play well all season, yet when the pressure of the championship is there, they mysteriously fall apart. Such is the case of the National Championships. The one week tournament represents a whole new season with all the slates wiped clean. Here in summary, are strengths and weaknesses of the top players who will battle for the right to be called the National Champion.

Marty Hogan: Marty is unquestionably the greatest shotmaker, both forehand and backhand, in the history of racquetball. His technique is like that of the first jump shot in basketball while everyone else was shooting set shots. Marty has the physical attributes that allows him to hit any shot, anywhere on the court, harder and more consistently than anyone. His booming serve and shoot style of play is well adapted to the fast ball.

His only weakness is his failure to control his emotions as he relaxes against his opponent and has to play catch-up sometimes causing his temper to flare. Also, his timid court position often finds him too deep in the court to recover any high kill shots.

Regardless, he is definitely the dominant factor and choice in the Nationals. He has won 9 straight NRC pro stops and is rated at better than even odds to win against the field.

Davey Bledsoe: Davey's strong points include his blinding court coverage going right. His forehand pinch (splat) is deadly. He is a proven tour veteran backed by his tournament consistency. His position as "best of the rest" was demonstrated by his recent NRC pro win in Newport Beach.

However, Davey overrates his own ability and underrates his opponents, causing him to lack concentration during early matches. His backhand is unsound fundamentally, causing it to run hot and cold. His Nationals history has always stopped at the round of 16. History tends to repeat itself.

Charlie Brumfield: Five time National Champion and defending champion are factors on his side. His strong points include percentage shot making ability, concen-

tration during the one week play, magical quality of being able to perform under pressure and a wealth of experience. Weaknesses include the mental barrier concerning pace of the fast ball and the lack of dominant offensive game. His diminished desire due to many successes over a long period of time may be overcome by his innate ability to concentrate and play pressure racquetball the entire week.

Craig McCoy: Craig is the smoothest stroking player on the tour. Both forehand and backhand are fundamentally sound and stylish. His size and strength combined with his fluid movement has proven to be very effective on this year's NRC tour. His greatest weakness is that sometimes he lacks concentration and his play is lackadaisical. This will hurt him if it happens at the Nationals. He'd make a great tight end in football, but can he kill the ball? The only one who can beat Craig is himself.

Rich Wagner: Rich definitely has the best body control on tour today. He has excellent graceful technique, both forehand and backhand. He's extremely quick laterally and forward, covering both pinch and kill attempts. His primary weakness is his inability to consistently generate an offensive first serve. Wagner's performance depends on his mental state. He can play with any pro in the country.

Steve Serot: For over 5 years, Steve has been one of the greatest players and attractions at any tournament. Steve plays with reckless physical abandon with his size, strength, and retrievability, marking him a consistent quarter and semi finalist. His stamina and devastating backhand kill from anywhere on the court are his biggest attributes. However, his confidence level has it's ups and downs, and he has no bomb on his first serve.

Steve Keeley: The control game has consistently done well in recent tournaments, as evidenced by Steve's recent successes. He has excellent endurance and great physical strength. If he sets his mind to generate more offense in addition to his control, he has a good chance to reach the semis. Mother Hubbard has a better serve.

Ben Koltun: Benny, the young stylist, has very impressive speed and on-court composure. A student of the St. Louis serve and shoot method of play, he is the first NRC tour rookie to meet with some success. His lack of stamina and physical strength stand in his way of a week long tournament in the pros.

Jerry Hilecher: Jerry has the best deception and most varieties of serves in the history of racquetball. He has the best forehand in any tournament that Bill Schmidtke doesn't enter. His backhand would look weak on the Atlas house champion, however, he protects it well with body position and his tremendously offensive style.

Steve Strandemo: Steve's game is still one of the best control games around. Age and injuries seem to be knocking on the door a little more often late in the '77 season. If Steve's kill is going in, he will be impressive; if not, there's always the clinic.

Jay Jones: Jay has been the surprise of the 76-77 tour. Playing in his first competitive racquetball at 33, he has exploded the myth that this is a young man's game. Jones holds a win over virtually every top pro in the country this season. His excellent percentage game is highlighted by a superb serve, all out hustle, and backwall kills. Has problems with early round players. Only other problem is if static from ear plug gets so loud it causes terminal skip-shotitis. 10-4 Eleanor.

Mike Zeitman: Mike has a strong, flail, blast type game. Remember last year, Steve. Zit has the qualities, physically and mentally, to blow anyone off the court. It's been said if Zit is hot, he's okay; if he's cold, he's in Antarctica. Mike is a very good athlete who has the ability to go the distance in the big one, as he has been a consistently good Nationals player.

THE PRO TOUR THIS SEASON

SACRAMENTO, SEPTEMBER 3-6, 1976

SACRAMENTO, SEPTEMBER 3-6, 1976
Pro Results Men (Quarter-finals): Brumfield def. Bledsoe 21-9, 21-3; Hilecher def. Zeitman 21-10, 21-19; Strandemo def. Jones 19-21, 21-6, 11-6; Hogan def. Wagner 21-20, 21-13. **(Semi-finals):** Hilecher def. Brumfield 20-21, 21-12, 11-4; Hogan def. Strandemo 18-21, 21-11, 11-1. **(Championship):** Hilecher def. Hogan 21-10, 7-21, 11-4.
Pro Results Women

Pro Results Women (Quarter-finals): Peggy Steding def. Weed 21-6, 21-7; Williams def. Carow 21-14, 21-8; Marriott def. Harding 21-20, 21-11; Wright def. Campbell 19-21, 21-12, 11-3. **(Semi-finals):** Steding def. Williams 21-8, 21-15; Wright def. Marriott 21-15, 17-21, 11-0. **(Championships):** Steding def. Wright 21-9, 21-9.

EDMONTON, ALBERTA, SEPTEMBER 23-26, 1976

Pro Results Men (Quarter-finals): Brumfield def. Zeitman 21-14, 17-21, 11-1; Strandemo def. Bowes 21-8, 21-6; Bledsoe def. Hilecher 21-18, 21-19; Hogan def. Schmidtke 21-9, 21-17. **(Semi-finals):** Strandemo def. Brumfield 21-18, 7-21, 11-3; Hogan def. Bledsoe 21-5, 21-9. **(Championship):** Hogan def. Strandemo 21-17, 21-14.

Pro Results Women (Quarter-finals): Jennifer Harding def. Bette Weed 13-21, 21-6, 11-3; Kathy Williams def. Susan Khan 21-6, 21-9; Janell Marriott def. Linda Forcade 21-8, 21-5. **(Semi-finals):** Peggy Steding def. Harding 21-4, 21-4; Marriott def. Williams 21-5, 11-21, 11-3. **(Championship):** Steding def. Marriott 13-21, 21-1, 11-8.

BURLINGTON, OCTOBER 14-17, 1976

Pro Results Men (Quarter-finals): Brumfield def. Zeitman 6-21, 21-9, 11-0; Wagner def. Hilecher 21-13, 21-11; Strandemo def. Koltun 21-13, 21-8; Hogan def. Bledsoe 21-7, 21-13. **(Semi-finals):** Brumfield def. Wagner 21-13, 21-13; Hogan def. Strandemo 21-10, 20-21, 11-4. **(Championship):** Hogan def. Brumfield 21-8, 21-18.

Pro Results Women (Quarter-finals) Steding def. McCarthy 21-1, 21-4; Williams def. Sausser 19-21, 21-17, 11-3; Marriott def. Green 7-21, 21-0, 11-7; Wright def. Carow 21-12, 21-3. **(Semi-finals):** Steding def. Williams 21-10, 21-7; Marriott def. Wright 21-18, 21-16. **(Championship):** Steding def. Marriott 21-7, 15-21, 11-1.

FT. LAUDERDALE, DECEMBER 4-7, 1976

Pro Results Men ((Quarter-finals): Wagner def. Brumfield 21-14, 21-16; Bledsoe def. Hilecher 21-9, 20-21, 11-9; Strandemo def. Koltun 21-20; 13-21, 11-3; Hogan def. Zeitman 21-12, 21-14. **(Semi-finals):** Bledsoe def. Wagner 21-14, 21-7; Hogan def. Strandemo 18-21, 21-16, 11-6. **(Championship):** Hogan def. Bledsoe 12-21, 21-18, 11-4.

Pro Results Women (Quarter-finals): Peggy Steding def. McKie 21-4, 21-3; Williams def. Carow 21-11, 13-21, 11-4; Wright def. Sauter 21-4, 21-5; Marriott def. Green 21-9, 21-16. **(Semi-finals):** Steding def. Williams 12-21, 21-7, 11-5; Wright def. Marriott 21-19, 21-9. **(Championship):** Wright def. Steding 21-18, 21-19.

LAS VEGAS, JANUARY 13-16, 1977

Pro Results Men (Quarter-finals): Hogan def. Morrow 16-21, 21-5, 11-7; Hilecher def. Bledsoe 21-16, 21-19; McCoy def. Strandemo 21-7, injury default; Brumfield def. Serot 21-6, 21-5. **(Semi-finals):** Hogan def. Hilecher 21-10, 21-6; Brumfield def. McCoy 21-12, 21-9. **(Championship):** Hogan def. Brumfield 21-16, 21-16.

Pro Results Women (Quarter-finals): Steding def. Campbell 21-11, 21-3; Marriott def. Carow 20-21, 21-3, 11-4; Williams def. Sauser 21-6, 21-18; Wright def. Harding 21-15, 21-8. **(Semi-finals):** Steding def. Marriott 21-16, 21-13; Wright def. Williams 21-7, 21-6. **(Championship):** Steding def. Wright 21-4, 15-21, 11-6.

HOUSTON, FEBRUARY 10-13, 1977

Pro Results Men (Quarter-finals): Hogan def. Lynch 21-12, 21-19; McCoy def. Wagner 21-12, 21-16; Hilecher def. Chase 21-20, 21-4; Keeley def. Strandemo 9-21, 21-19, 11-6. **(Semi-finals):** Hogan def. McCoy 21-9, 21-17; Keeley def. Hilecher 21-

13, 2-21, 11-9. (**Championship**): Hogan def. Keeley, injury default.

Pro Results Women (Quarter-finals): Peggy Steding def. Bryd 21-4, 21-14; Kathy Williams def. Jennifer Harding 21-10, 21-13; Janell Marriott def. Sausar 21-19, 21-10; Shannon Wright def. Paster-nak 21-6, 21-6. **(Semi-finals):** Steding def. Williams 21-19, 21-11. Wright def. Marriott 21-12, 21-14. **(Championship):** Wright def. Steding 21-17, 21-13.

DENVER, MARCH 3-6, 1977

Pro Results Men (Quarter-finals): Hogan def. Keeley 21-18, 21-13; Bledsoe def. Hilecher 9-21, 21-19, 11-8; McCoy def. Strandemo 9-21, 21-6, 11-6; Jones def. Wagner 21-13, 15-21, 11-7. **(Semi-finals):** Hogan def. Bledsoe 21-11, 21-17; McCoy def. Jones 5-21, 21-10, 11-5. **(Championship):** Hogan def. McCoy 21-10, 21-4.

Pro Results Women (Quarter-finals): Steding def. McCarthy 21-3, 21-6; Williams def. Harding 21-11, 21-10; Marriott def. Sauter 21-7, 21-12; Wright def. Carow 21-10, 21-7. **(Semi-finals):** Steding def. Williams 21-14, 21-8; Wright def. Marriott 21-12, 21-11. **(Championship):** Steding def. Wright 5-21, 21-18, 11-6.

CHATTANOOGA, MARCH 24-27, 1977

Pro Results Men (Quarter-finals) Hogan def. Wagner 21-3, 15-21, 11-4; Koltun def. McCoy 21-8, 21-7; Serot def. Bledsoe 21-19, 21-17; Brumfield def. Keeley 21-11, 17-21, 11-6. **(Semi-finals):** Hogan def. Koltun 21-16, 21-10; Brumfield def. Serot 21-8, 21-6. **(Championship):** Hogan def. Brumfield 19-21, 21-17, 11-9.

Pro Results Women (Quarter-finals): Steding def. Green 21-8, 21-6; Marriott def. Carow 17-21, 21-7, 11-3; Williams def. Sauser 21-11, 21-12; Wright def. Hoff 21-8, 21-12. **(Semi-finals):** Steding def. Marriott 21-11, 21-10; Wright def. Williams 21-7, 21-8. **(Championship):** Wright def. Steding 21-12, 21-15.

SOUTHFIELD, APRIL 16-19, 1977

Pro Results Men (Quarter-finals): Hogan def. Serot 21-11, 21-16; Bledsoe def. Hilecher 21-14, 21-18; McCoy def. Kiltun 21-11, 9-21, 11-1; Wagner def. Brumfield 21-20, 21-18. **(Semi-finals):** Hogan def. Bledsoe 21-15, 21-19; Wagner def. McCoy 21-13, 16-21, 11-8. **(Championship):** Hogan def. Wagner 21-10, 21-16.

Pro Results Women (Quarter-finals): Shannon Wright def. Green 21-9, 21-3; Janell Marriott def. Jean Sausser 21-11, 21-3; Kathy Williams def. Carow 21-13, 18-21, 11-3; Peggy Steding def. Harding 21-11, 21-6. **(Semi-finals):** Wright def. Marriott 21-4, 21-16; Steding def. Williams 21-9, 21-12. **(Championship):** Wright def. Steding 21-5, 21-13.

LOMBARD, APRIL 28-May 1, 1977

Pro Results Men: (Quarter finals): Hogan def. Strandemo 21-20, 21-10; Hilecher def. Bledsoe 21-14, 21-11; Morrow def. Jones 21-20, 21-15; Brumfield def. Serot 20-21, 21-19, 11-9. **(Semi-finals):** Hogan def. Hilecher 21-16, 21-14; Brumfield def. Morrow 21-7, 21-8. **(Championship):** Hogan def. Brumfield 21-14, 21-16.

Pro Results Women (Quarter-finals): Wright def. Byrd 21-4, 21-9; Williams def. Sauser 4-21, 21-18, 11-7; Marriott def. Schmidt 21-19, 21-7; Steding def. Hoff 21-9, 21-14. **(Semi-finals):** Wright def. Williams 15-21, 21-4, 11-6; Marriott def. Steding 19-21, 21-2, 11-1. **(Championship):** Wright def. Marriott 21-13, 20-21, 11-10.

NEWPORT BEACH, MAY 12-15, 1977

Pro Results Men (Quarter-finals): McCoy def. Jones 21-7, 17-21, 11-5; Hilecher def. Keeley 21-13, 21-5; Wagner def. Strandemo 21-19, 21-5; Bledsoe def. Jerut 21-8, 21-20. **(Semi-finals):** McCoy def. Hilecher 5-21, 21-13, 11-5; Bledsoe def. Wagner 21-16, 18-21, 11-4. **(Championship):** Bledsoe def. McCoy 21-16, 21-14.

Pro Results Women (Quarter-finals): Wright def. Pasternak 21-11, 21-14; Sausser def. Williams 12-21, 21-20, 11-0; Harding def. Marriott 21-19, 7-21, 11-5; Steding def. Campbell 21-3, 15-21, 11-10. **(Semi-finals):** Wright def. Sausser 21-7, 21-7; Steding def. Harding 21-14, 20-21, 11-8. **(Championship):** Wright def. Steding 21-4, 21-13.



Shannon Wright

I want to thank the gals involved with the Women's Pro Tour because they have made for the most successful Racquetball season to date. The Nationals are here again, and all you racquetball fans are really why I think Women's Racquetball has come a long way this season.

One year ago, women's prize money was one-half what it is today. Due to increasing incentives, many of the gals have begun to take the game seriously. They are training harder, playing more, and becoming more knowledgeable on the theories and strategies of Racquetball. The caliber of play has improved immensely.

Since the gals have become better players, many of the fans find it easy to identify with their style of play. Longer rallies, marked with well executed ceiling balls, passes, and kill shots, have made for greater crowd appeal. While it is exciting to watch Marty Hogan blast the ball, most people prefer to watch a style of play that they can relate to. Keep your eye on the women's early rounds, as they will probably be as exciting as the semis and the finals.

Another aspect of the game that you will notice in the women's play during the Nationals, is the good sportsmanship and on-court conduct. Throughout the NRC Tour, we have made a conscious effort to demonstrate what we feel racquetball is all about; namely sportsmanship first, and competition second.

With all the women working and playing together, we are going to make this the most successful Women's Nationals in the history of Racquetball.

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Tie Breaker

Tie breaker, the 11 point third game, is now official in all U.S.R.A. and N.R.C. tournaments.

"Based on dozens of professional tournaments and countless amateur events, we have concluded that the tie-breaker is a positive and workable solution to a majority of tournaments problems," said N.R.C. National Director Chuck Leve.

The official U.S.R.A.-N.R.C. rules will be amended to show the change to tie-breaker for all tournament play. As those who have tried it know, there are just a few additional rules governing the tie-breaker.

A five minute rest period will now become standard between the second game and the tie-breaker, making both rest periods uniform. Players will be allowed two time outs each during the tie-breaker and there will be no deuce games—an 11-10 score will be a victory.

Also, the first serve in the tie-breaker will go to the player who scores the most points in the first two games combined.

"Tie-breaker is the best new rule in racquetball in a long time," said Tom Street, who ran the Illinois State Singles tournament. "We had over 400 entries and actually ran ahead of schedule."

Tie-breaker has proven to be a God-send in many areas of competitive action. Here are some of them:

1. Matches in tournament play are kept on schedule making shorter tournament hours for players, fans, and tourney directors.

2. Everyday players will now have a better chance to finish a match within the allotted court time at their club instead of splitting and not being able to determine a winner.

3. The excitement of the matches is actually enhanced, not dampened, and the pressure is even greater.

4. Referees don't mind refereeing as much, when they know the third game is only to 11.

5. Underdog players have a better shot at an upset, which provides even better competition.

6. Players are less apt to "concede" either the first or second game, knowing the third game is only 11 points and anything can happen.

7. Players will be fresher for the next round, thereby testing racquetball skills, rather than conditioning.

8. Fans will be able to calculate the time of the match they want to watch, and for those watching more than one match, the night won't drag on.

"Tie-breaker has been a huge success everywhere we've tried it," said Leve. "We've tested with all sorts of rules changes in the past, but this one's a rule that has really helped the game."

All U.S.R.A.-N.R.C. tournaments will use tie-breaker, as will all sanctioned tournaments on every level, including the National Championships.

Tie-breaker is definitely here to stay.



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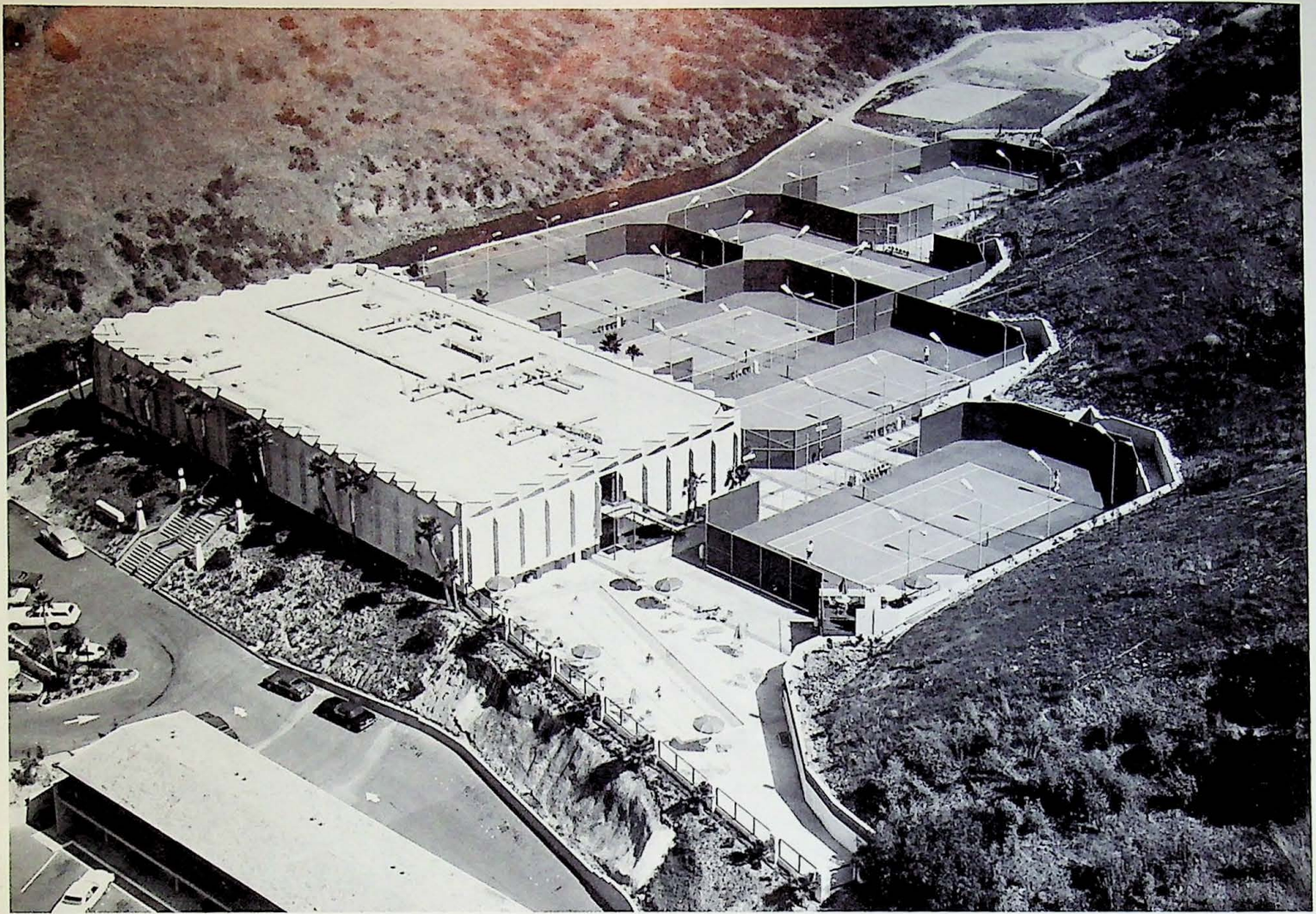
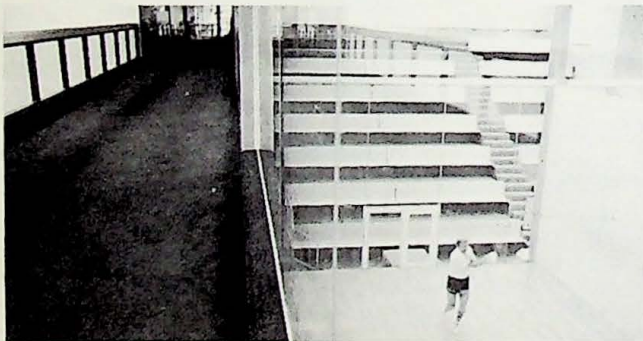
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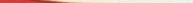
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