

National Racquetball

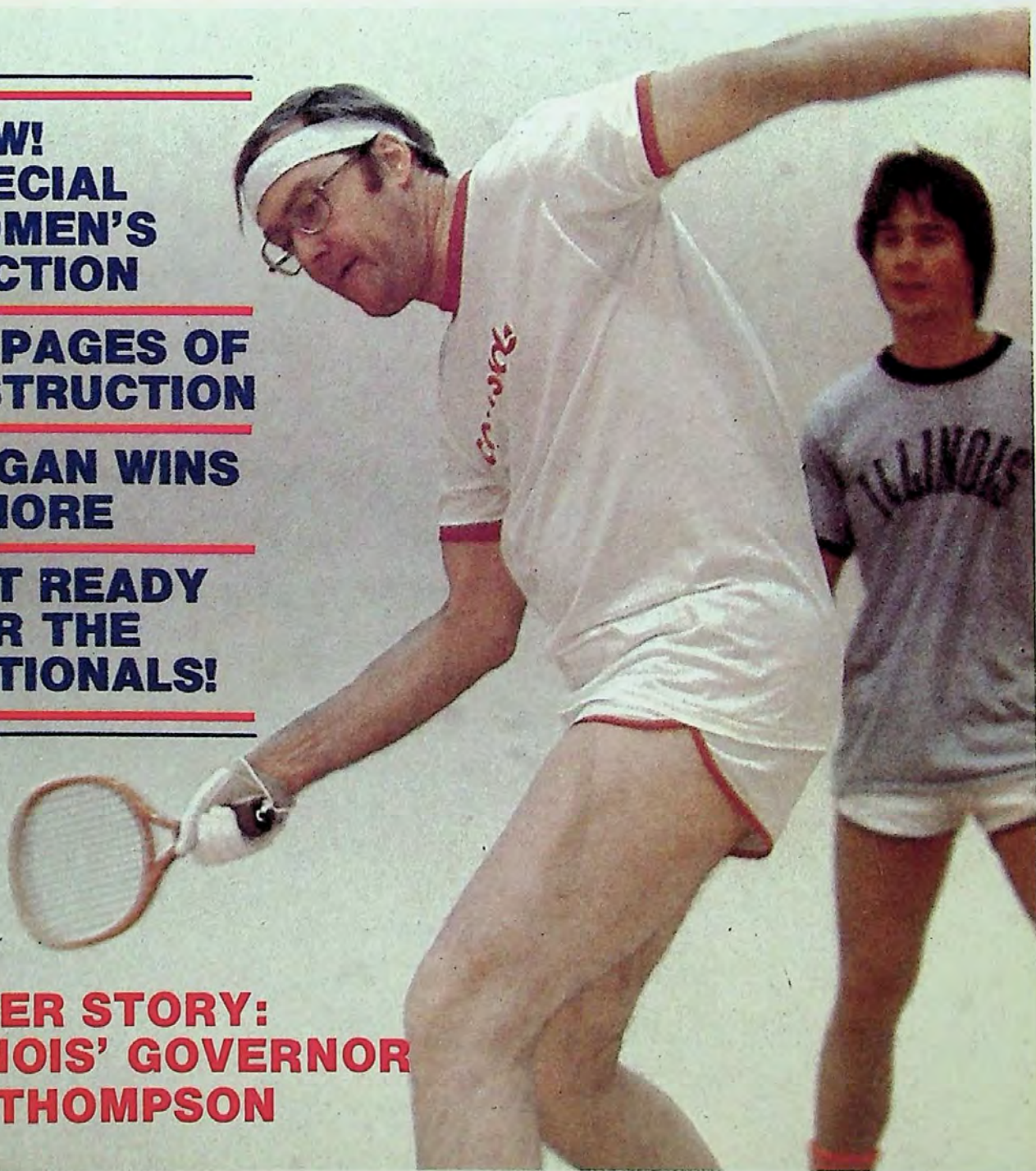
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5 NUMBER 3 • \$1.00 • MAY, 1977

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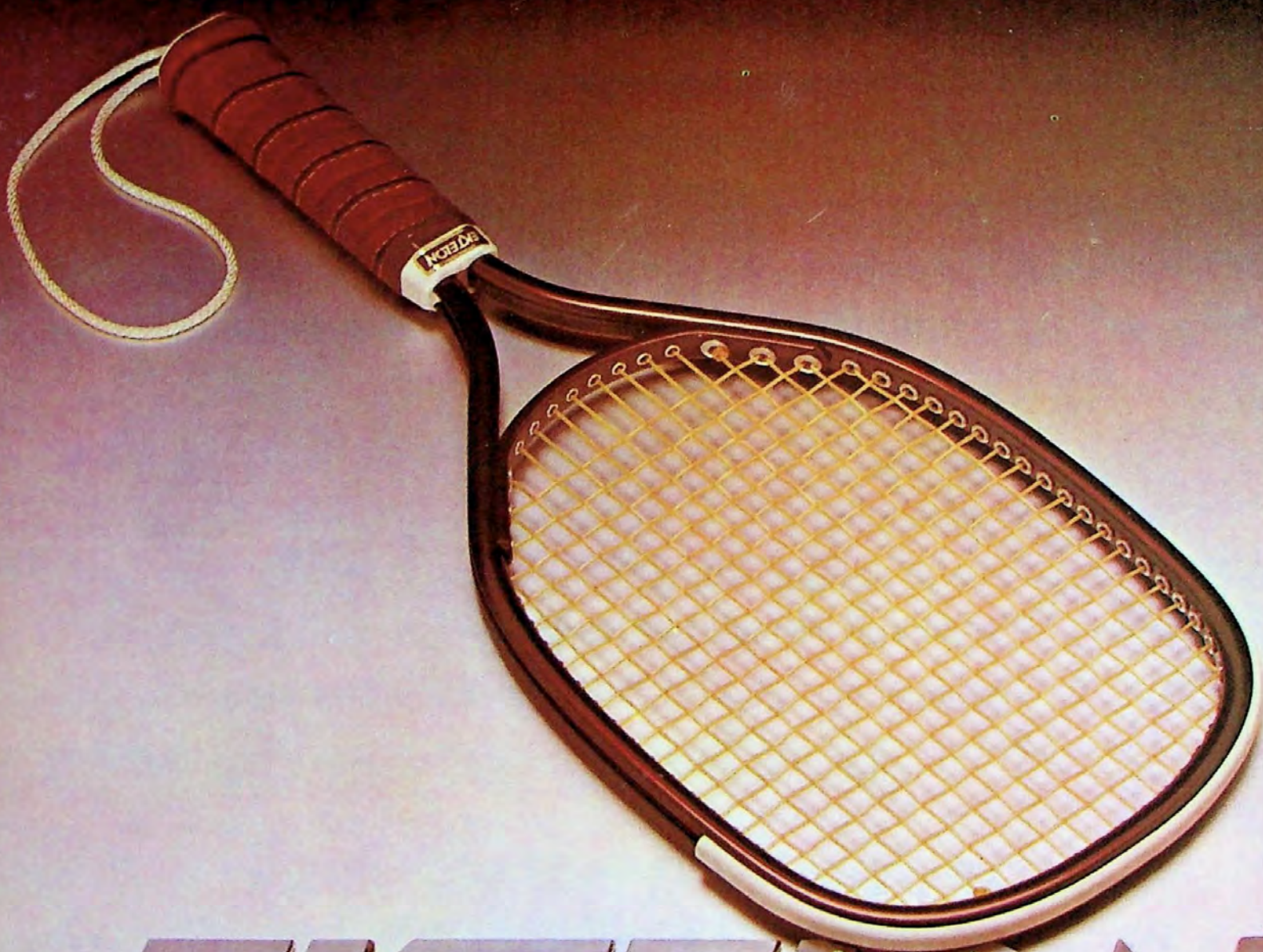
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National Racquetball

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THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE U.S. RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION

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On The Cover . . .

Governor Jim Thompson of Illinois, an avid racquetball player and fan gets set to wallop a forehand. To see why Thompson credits racquetball for his political success, turn to page 12.

—Photo by Arthur Shay

Our Biggest Ever . . .

This issue's 120 pages plus cover reaches a milestone in racquetball journalism—the largest racquetball magazine ever published in our sport. To you, our readers who make it all possible, we at **National Racquetball** thank you.

National Racquetball Magazine is the official publication of the United States Racquetball Association and is published bi-monthly by the National Racquetball Club, Inc., 4101 Dempster Street, Skokie, Illinois 60076, (312) 673-4000.

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FROM BOB KENDLER

The Magic Of Mark

Almost every day another rags to riches story makes the headlines of our sports pages. The genius of player management has become the miracle of today's sports age. Virtually overnight little known athletes become financial tycoons through the magic of their managers.

Take for example, the man who made Arnold Palmer, Bjorn Borg, Ilie Nastase, Evonne Goolagong Cawley, Jackie Stewart and many, many more. His name is Mark McCormack and his firm is the International Management Group, headquartered in Cleveland with branches in principle cities throughout the world. The magic of Mark is now legend as his firm reaches nearly a half billion dollars in income per year from sponsors, players, associations and clubs who engage their talents.

Tennis is a good illustration. Of the approximately 130 hours on network television last year, McCormack's firm produced 100. Largely through his incredible promotion, there are now 42 million tennis players. That's about 10 times the size of racquetball, — but not for long.

We have signed a five year contract with the International Management Group and look very enthusiastically to a growth equal or above tennis. Network television will play a large part, as will films, clinics, tours and a multitude of tournaments for amateur and pro alike.

Don't be surprised when I tell you our main thrust will be in the direction of the amateur, — the 98 per cent of our members. Some people may say that that's not where the money is, — but the amateur sector *is* where the future's at. There is no way we can expect the future greatness of racquetball to become a reality without building a strong, solid base from which to build. And that base is amateur racquetball.

Now, this doesn't mean we're going to overlook the professionals. Hopefully,

they will make more money than ever, and perhaps, we'll be fortunate enough to increase our income as well. If we are so blessed, then that means more funds for promotion, — in schools, colleges, playgrounds and parks. More than anywhere else, we are going to make our mark in the inner city, — the urban areas that have no backers, nor the will to give our less fortunate kids something more than a pool hall to play in.

Through another source that we will soon announce, we hope to package court clubs so conveniently, so inexpensively, — that expandable modules will be within the reach of even the poorest communities. The materials are virtually indestructible and just as practical for outdoor as indoor play. The introduction of this product into the court sports will have a great impact that will be felt wherever people are free to play.

It is being developed collectively by our engineers and one of the largest firms in the world. It is a totally new product, completely unlike anything now available. When the two leaders in their respective fields join in a venture like this, you can be sure something very big is pending. It will certainly be the most important thing that we have ever done.

If you are wondering why I have soft-pedalled money and emphasized purpose, consider the sad state of affairs in some of today's "major" sports, — hockey, baseball and basketball. The pros have become their own worst enemies and are doing their best to kill the golden goose.

Here in our own city, a highly respected owner has been labeled "cheap" because he wouldn't meet the unbelievable demands of a player a few years out of the minor leagues. Notwithstanding the fact that this owner lost about a million dollars last year, and considerably more through previous years. In hockey some owners are unable to meet the payroll and some franchises are almost



worthless. The same holds true for basketball.

Well, it's not going to happen in racquetball.

Bringing in the McCormack team will bring in substantial sponsors and an increase in our prize money. However, before the pros get the idea that our efforts are exclusively for their benefit, I would like to make our position clear.

Every worthy athlete will be rewarded in proportion to his contribution to the growth and well-being of the sport. To assure growth, an investment must be made in the amateur field. Another effort must be made toward the well-being of the sport, something that could move in many directions.

Nothing is more important, however, than our image and that means doing as much civic good as is humanly possible. So if you want to know why the pros won't get it all, — that's why!

We are in the "Foreward" of one of the greatest sports stories ever written. We'll move tennis over in the next five years, — and very likely pick up many paddleball, platform and squash players. We might even stumble on one or two handball "traitors." Just remember, you read it here, first.

We are going to make racquetball the number one sport in America, and soon. The pros are going to help us do it, with Mark McCormack at their side. When that day comes, you can be sure we will have everything well in hand so that the fate of the sport won't rest with a few who are determined to become instant millionaires. We'll all have a round trip ticket on this gravy train! ●

Bob Kendler
Pslams 104 1-2

Bob Kendler

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It's That Time Again



Once a year it happens. One tournament above all others takes on the drama, intensity and excitement like no other racquetball event. The pressure is immense and each player reacts differently to it. Everything is on the line; it is the pinnacle of the season.

I speak, of course of the National Championships. Twelve different brackets of play, 10 amateur and two professional with over 500 players competing for the right to call themselves National Champion.

For the second consecutive year we'll be in sunny San Diego for the culmination of another superb racquetball year. And on June 11, one man and one woman will stand above all others as the best players in the world.

Who will win the professional divisions? It's an annual question with a myriad of answers. One thing is certain as we approach the 1977 Nationals, - neither winner from a year ago is the clear favorite.

Charlie Brumfield and Peggy Steding, overwhelming choices in 1976 cannot be considered the best bet in 1977. Both have been removed during the season from the top spot on the tournament draw sheet. Brumfield replaced by Marty Hogan, Steding giving way to Shannon Wright.

Ah, but who will win the Nationals? This one tournament can erase countless poor performances. One victory here can etch a player's name in the record books, even if it becomes that performer's single victory.

Because it's the Nationals.

The men's professional division has been totally dominated this season by the 19-year-old Hogan, who has shown himself to be head and shoulders above the entire men's field. To bet against Marty in San Diego would be like betting against the old Yankees.

And yet there is the urge to back Brumfield, who has won only \$4,400 this season to date compared to the \$15,500 by Hogan. Brumfield has lost to many players, Richard Wagner, Jay Jones, Jerry Hilecher, Steve Strandemo and of course, Hogan. But only Hilecher has stopped Hogan and that was on front wall glass in the tour's first stop nearly nine months ago.

When he's playing well Hogan can completely dominate an opponent. He has not lost a tour match since Labor Day and many of his victories have been almost effortless.

I'm going to pick Hogan, to nobody's surprise. But I would like to go on record as saying that if Marty should lose somewhere along the way, - the Nationals will be so wide open you'd be able to fit the World Trade Center inside.

If Hogan loses any one of 10 players could win. It will be a test of skill, stamina, guts, and emotional survival. I

like Brumfield and Steve Keeley as next choices, depending on the draw, and Davey Bledsoe, Wagner, Strandemo and Hilecher a bit farther back.

If you're looking for a long shot, watch Steve Serot or Craig McCoy.

In the ladies division I'll go with youth, - Shannon Wright. She's getting better every day and for her to lose it will take a super effort on Steding's part. Peggy is capable of it, - but I think the emotional pressure plus the physical pressure will take its toll on the greatest lady to ever play the game.

Nobody else in the women's division rates a chance. Neither Janell Marriott or Kathy Williams have the game to reach the finals, unless either of the top two have a woeful day or completely choke. And the other gals have less a chance yet.

No, the ladies division will be a two horse field, - in this, 1977 when the new generation takes over. ●

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Placing The Pieces



The racquetball scene today is like a huge jigsaw puzzle, and we at the U.S. Racquetball Association are in the process of putting each piece in its correct place so we can plan the upcoming 1977-78 season.

The biggest happening this year, and one that has a direct bearing on next season, is our new Agreement with Mark McCormack's International Management Group. IMG is in the process of obtaining substantial sponsorship for each segment of our overall program.

The professionals are not the only group who will gain from sponsorship, - in fact the pros will not have nearly the funds channeled into their area as will the amateurs.

Next season will see tremendous gains for the state affiliate programs, the National Juniors, and we intend to begin elaborate efforts in the Seniors, Masters and Golden Masters divisions, to give these long time supporters of racquetball the overdue benefits that they so richly deserve.

In fact, our biggest problem right now is sorting out the many potential sponsors and drawing out those firms whose interest is in a long term investment in racquetball, not just a quick promotional bonanza.

We certainly do not want to offend any past sponsor, all of whom have been instrumental in the promotion of racquetball, and therefore, in the game's meteoric growth.

On the other hand, we have to make our decisions on a sound, business basis, to allocate funds where they will do racquetball in general the most good.

This includes all the players, pros and amateurs, men, women and juniors, of all age categories. This includes all facilities, the Y's, JCC's, schools, and court clubs. And it includes the state and local promotions that are the backbone of our organization.

Organizing and planning the 1977-78 season is our greatest challenge for it beckons to us with plums of television, tournaments and special events. It will be the next major step in our goal of mass approval of racquetball, - by the public and the media.

We are striving for that day when racquetball will be uttered in the same breath as tennis, bowling, and golf, - those individual sports that appeal to the millions, as participatory and spectator entities.

Perhaps it will be 1977-78, - perhaps 1978-79. But it will happen and it will happen soon. We're working virtually every rising hour of every day, to ensure the future health and

recognition of racquetball. We're working on your behalf for our sport.

We hope to see all of you at the upcoming National Championships at the beautiful Atlas Health Club in San Diego June 4-11. It promises to be a sensational tournament, the one time in the season when players from every section of the nation can compete against each other.

Our hosts, Ken Davidson, Jerry Sandstrom and Lee Hinrichs of the Atlas Corporation, along with the California Racquetball Association's Chuck Hanna and Jerry Monell are planning a superb event to top any racquetball tournament anywhere.

The Nationals has an aura all its own, not found anywhere else within racquetball. It's a tournament that should not be missed by any serious player or fan.

We hope you'll be with us next month as the 12 winners are crowned National Champions. ●



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LETTERS

Dear Bob:

I've just read the tearsheet regarding your agreement with the International Management Group and I want to congratulate you on this move.

In my opinion this will certainly be good for racquetball and I'm sure it will be beneficial to your organization.

I wanted to wish you all the luck in this new endeavor and express my hope that it will be very successful.

William B. Tanner
Memphis, TN

Dear Bob,

I sincerely wish to thank you for attending this year's Pro Tour stop in Denver. Your presence made the tournament even more enjoyable.

I also want to compliment you on the fine job Chuck & Terry did of running the tournament and above all compliment the NRC on the fine conduct of its players. They are first class gentlemen and the Sporting House staff and its members thoroughly enjoyed their presence.

Thanks again for your support and friendship.

Rick Schliebe
Denver Sporting House

Dear Mr. Leve:

As Chairman of the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports, I am most appreciative of the fine job you are doing in promoting the Presidential Sports Award for racquetball. Most of the racquetball award applications we are receiving are being submitted on the form you printed in your September 1976 edition, and these now are mounting toward an impressive total.

I have asked David Hart, who operates the Sports Award program for the Council, to send you some samples of the applications we are receiving as a result of your support. Meanwhile, I hope you will convey my greetings and best wishes to all of the staff members who have helped on this project.

Captain James A. Lovell, USN (Ret.)
Consultant to the President
on Physical Fitness and Sports

Dear Bob and Evie:

I just received my March issue of *National Racquetball* and wanted to write and express my appreciation for your comments in your editorial, "Reach Your full Potential."

I think you addressed an increasingly important aspect of the game, but even more importantly, I appreciated your Christian witness. It is gratifying to see that type of commitment among the top levels of the U.S. Racquetball Association.

Steven Ritchy
Woodbridge, VA

Dear Bob:

It is relatively easy to understand why you have succeeded so well and accomplished so much, and why so many people worship the ground you stand on, and also you are still human.

The Good Lord had designs when he approved your birth.

The most recent announcement in connection with Mark McCormack is perhaps the greatest and most significant action that has developed since racquetball entered the picture.

It is easy to visualize what is going to happen, and I will thoroughly enjoy watching a great sport enjoy national acceptance and the leadership of one of the finest groups I have ever been privileged to meet, and I mean you good people at Skokie, You're hard to beat!

D. B. Frampton
Columbus, OH

Dear Chuck:

Thanks for selecting my health article for the March issue, and for the nice by-line.

Victor I. Spear, M.D.
Rockford, IL

P.S. The color coverage adds a lot of class to the magazine.

Dear Bob,

I sincerely wish to thank YOU for attending this year's Pro Tour stop in Denver. Your presence made the tournament even more enjoyable.

I also want to compliment you on the fine job Chuck & Terry did of running the tournament and above all compliment the NRC on the fine conduct of its players. They are first class gentlemen and the sporting House staff and its members thoroughly enjoyed their presence.

Thanks again for your support and friendship.

Rick Schliebe
Denver, CO

Dear Chuck:

We at The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga were really excited at the opportunity which we had this past week-end to host the tournament of the Racquetball Association. This was a great event not only for our campus but also for our entire community. We appreciate all your efforts which resulted in a splendid tournament.

It is our hope that we will be able to host similar tournaments for you in the future; the success of this first tournament indicated the great potential which this community has for such events. I therefore look forward to being with you in the future.

James E. Drinnon, Jr.
Chancellor
University of Tennessee
at Chattanooga

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Illinois' Number One Player

He's the Honorable James R. Thompson, Governor of Illinois and self-taught, enthusiastic Class C racquetballer.



On November 2, 1976, "Big Jim" Thompson was elected Governor of Illinois with the overwhelming margin of nearly 1,500,000 votes, the largest plurality in Illinois gubernatorial history.

What makes Thompson's accomplishment all the more interesting is that he attributes much of the credit for his 63 per cent of the vote to racquetball.

"I was looking for some activity to get me in top physical condition for the campaign," said Thompson in a telephone interview with *National Racquetball* editor Chuck Leve. "I eventually settled on a combination of racquetball and weight lifting."

But of all the sports around to use as conditioning, why did the candidate Thompson begin a brand-new endeavor like racquetball?

"A good friend of mine, Dan Patterson, suggested racquetball," said Thompson. "I wanted a program of stamina and physical activity, - plus a diversion from everyday pressures. It all added up to racquetball."

The results of his physical fitness program were dramatic. Thompson, who stands 6'6" was able to drop 42 pounds prior to and during the campaign. The 40-year-old Republican claims he never felt in better condition than when campaigning.

Thompson admitted that he tried tennis before his racquetball experience but found tennis lacking in challenge, fun, workout and competition.

"Some instructor set me in one place and made me hit balls back to a machine," said Thompson. "That's not what I call a workout."

He first stepped onto a racquetball court in January of 1976 and has reached the point of satisfaction.

"I'm a Class C player," he said, "but I'm improving. My game suffers if I'm distracted, so sometimes it's tough. But I've noticed steady improvement."

Thompson is a former United States Attorney, Assistant Illinois Attorney General, Assistant Cook County State's Attorney and Associate Professor of Law at Northwestern University.

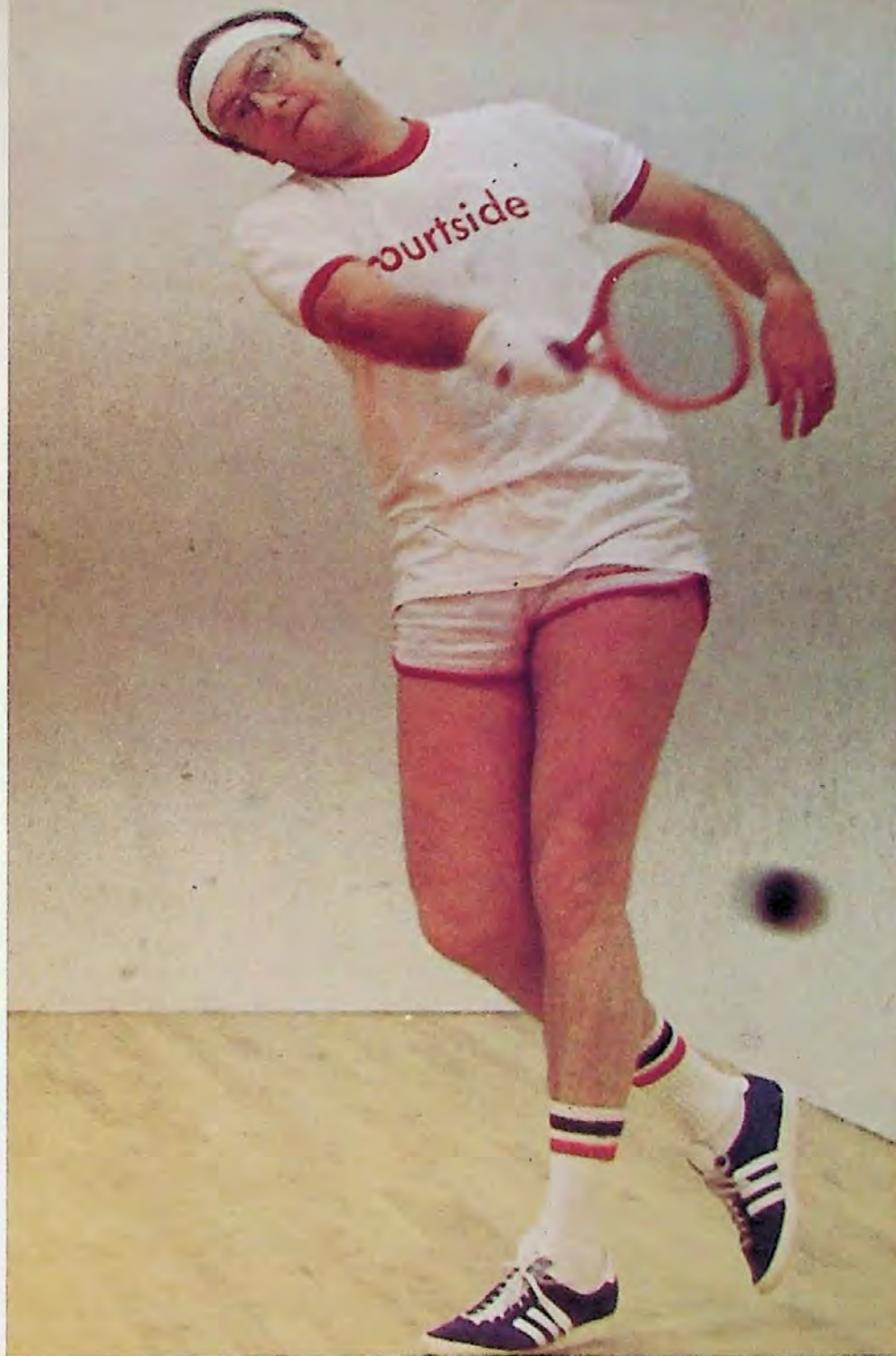
And despite his size racquetball is the first sport he has ever played.

"That is, except some golf," said Thompson. "But golf is not a workout and it takes far too long."

Born and raised on the West Side of Chicago, Thompson's legal and political career have earned him the respect and adulation from many sides. He was named Chicagoan of the Year by the Chicago Press Club in 1973, Israel Bonds Man of the Year in 1974, National Law and Social Justice Leadership Award in 1975, and Humanitarian Award for 1976. These are just highlights of the many awards he has received for public service.

One award Thompson has never received is a racquetball trophy.

"I entered a tournament this year," said the Governor. "It was a Class C tourney at McClurg Court in Chicago. I



—Photo by Arthur Shay

He enjoys racquetball because he is able to release the daily pressures of one of the nation's most pressure filled jobs, — the Governor's office.

"Politics can be a frustrating, tough business," related Thompson. "Trying to initiate programs and organize government can be difficult. So to be able to go out and release those tensions is great. When I get back to the office after a workout I feel tremendous."

Thompson feels so tremendous about racquetball that he's going to do his share to help promote it. He recently announced his plans for the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness, which will have many programs, including racquetball.

As far as his playing habits are concerned, Thompson was quick to point out his weaknesses, while humbly ignoring his strong points.

"I'm so tall I have a hard time getting low enough on my kill shots," he said. "I find myself shooting from shoulder or waist level. But I'm learning to get lower."

"My best shot is my lob serve. When it's falling right I can be tough. I'm also learning to go for the kill when I have the chance."

Like most well known people, Thompson's racquetball workouts usually attract good sized galleries. He finds the crowds usually cheer his infrequent kill shots and tolerate his mis-hits.

"I recently had my biggest thrill in racquetball," he said. "I hit a cross court, deep court backhand kill. It just rolled out. I was so excited I turned to the gallery to bow to the cheers, — and there wasn't a soul watching!"

"I picked up the ball to serve and my opponent said, 'What backhand kill?' Probably the only time all year when nobody was in the gallery."

To put the crowning touches on his belief in racquetball as physical fitness for himself and all of Illinois, Thompson recently issued an Executive Proclamation naming the week of March 21-28 as *Racquetball Week* in Illinois, to coincide with the annual Illinois Racquetball Association's state championship tournament.

Quite a guy. Quite a friend for racquetball,— Governor Jim Thompson of Illinois. ●

lost in the first round, but I loved it. It was the first organized athletic competition of my life. I never thought I'd have the guts to enter."

Thompson explains that he's been unable to keep up his campaign workout pace since taking over the Governor's office.

"The transition period between administrations was difficult," he said, "and I couldn't take as much time as I wanted to play. But I'm gradually working up my physical activity and it should be to the point I want it soon."

When in Springfield Governor Thompson plays with members of the General Assembly or staff members.

"No, they're not condescending," he said. "They really enjoy beating me. I think the frustrations taken out during play are a draw."

Those frustrations and the ability to release and leave them on the racquetball court are some of the primary reasons for the success of racquetball in general and the great enjoyment of the game by Thompson.

The Serve

Jerry Hilecher, currently the fourth ranked racquetball player on the N.R.C. tour, is universally recognized as possessing one of the best drive serves in our game. In this article Jerry breaks down that serve, explaining what it is that gives him the power and control which combine to make his serve a devastating offensive weapon.

As stated in the first article, deception plays a major role in an offensive serve. To have a deceptive serve, a player must be able to groove his serving stroke so that each stroke is identical. Once a strong understanding of the stroke discussed in article one (March, *National Racquetball*) has been met, the player is ready for the next important stage of the serve.

This article will concentrate on the point of impact and the moments immediately following. It will show how to hit the ball at the necessary angles, when to use certain serves, where to hit the ball, and where to move into position after the serve.

Before continuing, a few more definitions of terms is necessary.

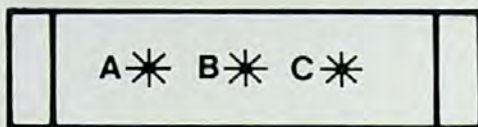
Jamming an opponent—Having the ball move quickly into him, so he can't use a full stroke.

Ace serve—A serve that your opponent can't reach.

Z serve—A serve that hits the front wall, then side wall, bounces, then hits the opposite side wall.

Junk serve—*Or garbage serve*, which means to almost push the ball to the front wall and having it come back softly.

My serves are geared to either getting an ace right away, or having a tough enough serve so my opponent gives a weak return which I can then kill. These offensive serves come from two positions in the service box: Position A and B in the diagram. From position C, I use safe serves, which are just to put the ball in play.



Serves From Position A

Generally speaking, I serve more serves from position A than any other position on the court. As will be seen during this article, most of my ace serves, are to my opponent's forehand. A player shouldn't be afraid to mix serves between the forehand and backhand, due to the deception and indecision it will cause the receiver.

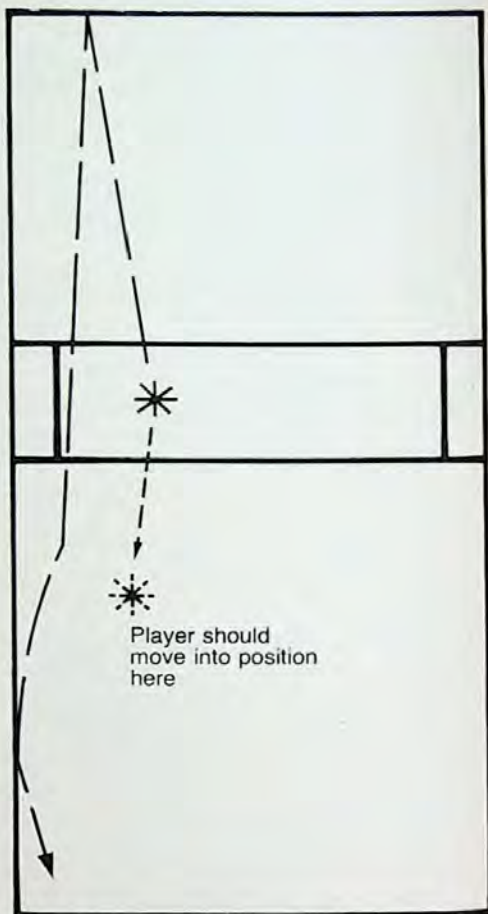
From position A, I have four serves that I mix together. They are mixed so my opponent will go. This indecision added to the deception in my stroke, doesn't give my opponent much time to react to the serve. Mistakes will be the result of my opponent trying to rush his returns.

Low Drive Serve to The Left

When hitting any serve to my left, my wrist is behind the ball at point of contact. The further my wrist is behind the ball, the sharper the ball will move to the left. Since I am hitting the ball at just a slight angle to the left, my wrist should be just a little behind the ball at point of contact.

The ball should strike the front wall about two feet above the ground and three feet from the left side wall. I want to hit the ball at this position so the ball will move off the front wall and hit the floor about one foot past the short line, and six inches from the left side wall. If hit properly my opponent will have to scrape the ball off the left side wall, and won't be able to hit a very strong return.

Righthander—Against a righthander, this serve is extremely effective. It will not result in many aces but should



bring many weak returns which can be put away on the next shot. I use this serve about 70% of the time because it is effective and can set up ace serves to different locations.

Leftlander—Against a lefty I will use this serve only 5% of the time. Used in the right situations it can be an effective ace serve. I may begin my service with this serve when looking to gain some momentum, and in an attempt to catch my opponent off guard. Since it is hit to his forehand, it is a risky serve which can result in an immediate side out if not hit properly. If the opponent expects this serve he can charge the ball, and attempt to pass me on my right.



serve return. That position is on the left portion of center court. From this position I can guard against any of my opponent's serve returns with the least amount of movement. One or two steps forward will return many of his kill attempts to the left corner. If my opponent hits a ceiling ball I just move back about two steps. On pass attempts to my right, generally one good step would enable me to cut the ball off before it passes me.

Position After the Serve: After every serve I want to watch the ball move towards my opponent. To do this, I turn my body to the side the ball is traveling. Without turning completely around, I move only enough to be able to see the ball out of the very corner of my eye. By doing this I can now see when and with what stroke my opponent hits the ball, enabling me to be on my toes and ready to move.

After the serve I want to be in a position where I can best get to my opponent's



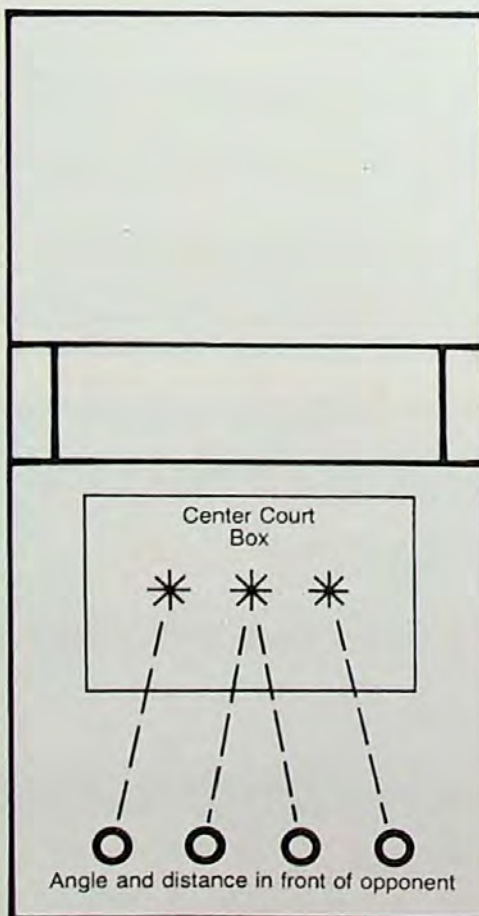
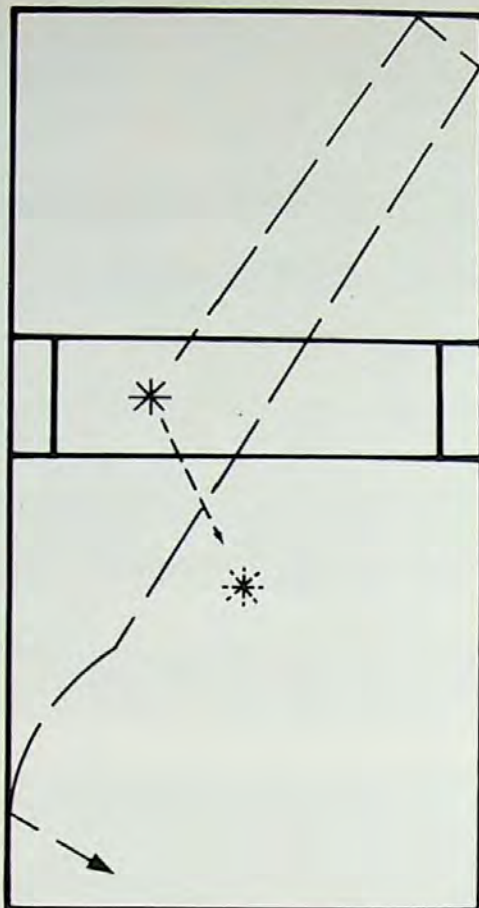
Z-Serve to the Left

When hitting a Z-serve to the back left corner of the court, I aim about three feet high and one foot away from the right side wall. Since I am hitting the ball sharply to the right, my wrist is in front of the ball at point of contact. I want to hit the ball at such an angle so it moves from the front to the side wall, and bounces five feet behind the short line, two feet from the left side wall. If hit correctly it will then move into the left wall and die deep in the back left corner.

Righthander—Against a righty, I use this serve when I'm looking for a weak return. I won't get many aces on this serve, but my opponent is often jammed, forcing a weak return. I will generally hit this serve as a change of pace, after I have already made three or four points during the inning. If the opponent can cut the ball off before it reaches the left side wall, he will probably try to shoot the left corner, or pass down the left wall.

Lefthander—Since the serve is to my opponent's forehand, I will use this serve very sparingly. By hitting this serve maybe 5% of the time, it may catch my opponent sleeping and give me an easy ace. If I hit a poor serve, the ball will come off the back wall for a set up, and my opponent will either shoot the left corner, or pass me on my right.

Position After the Serve: After the serve I want to move into center court, so I can best cover my opponent's shot. Since my serve generally hits the left side wall and comes out a couple of feet, I want to move into a position at center court. Essentially what I am doing is staying the same distance and angle away from my opponent on every serve. If the serve is closer to the left side wall, I want to be in the left portion of center court. If the serve is away from the side wall, I want to be in the center portion of center court. If the serve is close to the right wall, I want to be on the right portion of center court. See illustration.

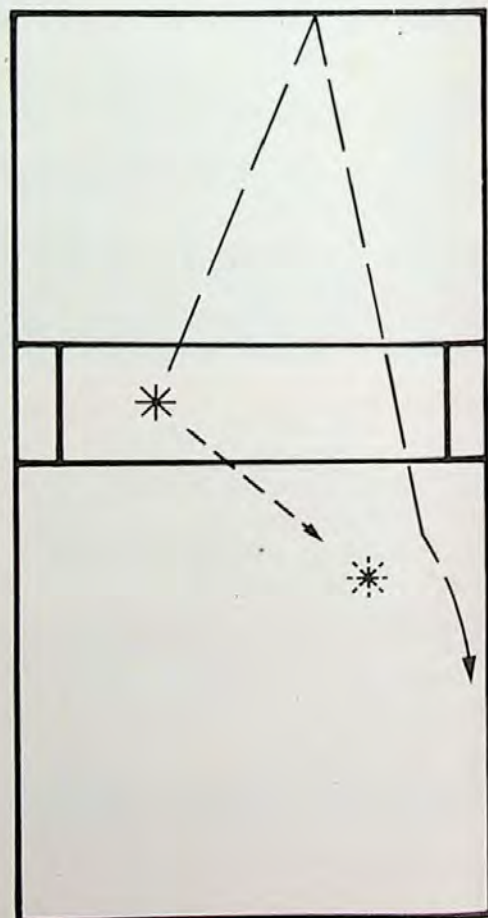


Cross Court Drive Serve to Right

Since this serve is hit slightly to the right, your wrist should be slightly in front of the ball at contact. Aim a little right of the center part of the front wall, two feet above the floor. If hit properly it will bounce around one foot behind the short line, and two feet from the right side wall. The ball will then move towards the back right corner of the court and die before reaching the back wall.

Righthander—Against a righthander this is an excellent serve for an ace attempt. The opponent is partially screened from the ball as it moves towards the front wall, and will usually start to lean to the left. He then is off balance and slow to recover to the right. Against a righthander, this serve is much more effective the lower it is hit, because if it comes off the back wall, it is an easy set-up for his forehand. I would use this serve sparingly and only after hitting a couple of serves to the left. This gets my opponent leaning to the left where the element of surprise makes the serve a point getter.

Lefthander—Most of my games against lefthanders are started using this serve. I won't get many aces, but if hit



properly I should get fairly weak returns. I want to hit this serve deeper because I have a better chance of jamming my opponent if he is caught deep in the right corner. From this position I will hit this serve around 40% of the time because it is a fairly safe and offensive serve.

Position After the Serve: Since the serve is to the right side of the court, I want to move to the right portion of center court. I must move quickly into position due to my standing in the left portion of the service box. The deeper the serve is into the right corner, the harder it will be for him to return it cross-court. So expect either a ceiling ball or an attempt to shoot the right corner. If the ball doesn't travel deep then my opponent often tries to cut the ball off and attempt a pass to my left.

Reverse Z to the Right

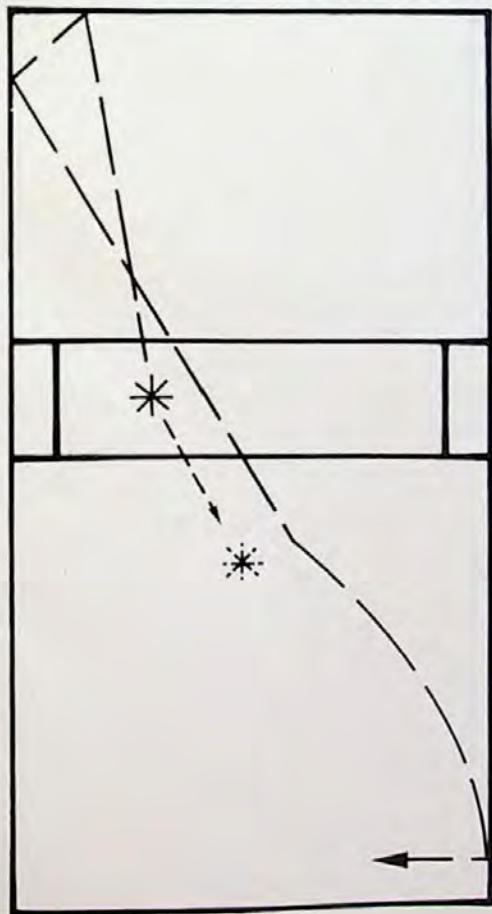
The reverse Z is one of the most difficult to learn yet is one of my most effective serves. Since I am hitting the ball sharply to my left, I want my wrist to be behind the ball at point of contact. The ball should strike the front wall two and a half feet from the floor, and within

a foot from the left side wall. The ball moves very quickly across the service zone and in front of my body. It then should hit the right side wall two feet from the back wall and come straight out, parallel to the back wall.

Righthanders—From this position, the reverse Z is my best ace serve. The opponent sees the ball for a split second moving to the left. Before he can determine the angle of the projectory, he starts to lean to the left, causing him to be off balance and slow to move back to the right. Because it comes fairly close to the back wall, it is difficult for the opponent to get his racquet behind the ball and use a full stroke. The only weakness of this serve would be if the opponent can get a good jump on the ball and cut it off before it reaches the right side wall. He would then have me out of position still in the service box. By mixing this serve up with others and using it 10% of the time, the opponent generally is caught looking.

Lefthander—Against a lefthander this is also a very effective serve. If hit properly, you should be able to get a few aces and weak returns from your opponent. A lefthander will generally wait for it to come off the right side wall and is often jammed by doing so. Since the ball is jamming the opponent, most of his returns will be to the right portion of the court. Since this is an extremely effective serve, I use it in any situation of the match. The only problem may occur if the angle into the front wall is too sharp, causing the ball to move into the right side wall at almost the center of the court. The opponent will then have me out of position and a fairly easy set-up.

Position After the Serve: After I serve I want to move into center court. Since the ball comes off the right side wall towards the middle of the court, I don't want to be caught too far to the right. Most of my opponents shots will be directed to the right.

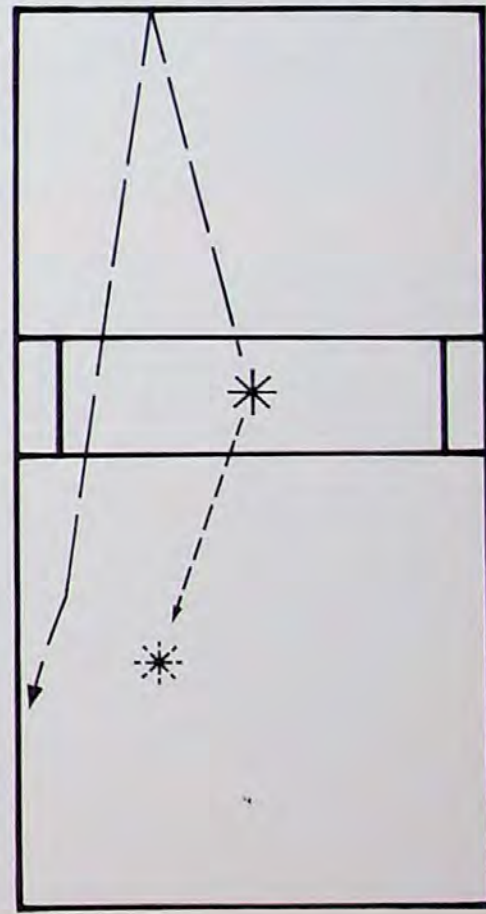


Serves From Position B

Serves from this position are generally used as a safe serve. These serves are the only serves discussed which don't use the offensive stroke described in the last issue of *National Racquetball*. Dropping the ball much higher than before, I come underneath the ball, almost pushing the ball in the direction I wish it to take. These serves are easy to put in play, but difficult for an opponent to hit any offensive return. I usually use serves from this position when my first serve was a fault or if I'm getting tired.

Garbage Serves to the Left and Right

Garbage serve to the left: This is the easiest serve I know to put the ball into play. It has almost zero chance of double faulting, making it a desirable serve for anyone to learn. Standing in the center of the service box, I drop the ball very high. I bring my racquet softly through the ball, aiming for seven feet from the ground and three feet to the left of center. The ball will then take a fairly high arc, bouncing three feet behind the short line and from left side



wall. It will then take a high bounce dropping deep into the back left corner of the court.

Righthanders—If I fault during my first serve, I will come back with this serve about 70% of the time. It has almost no chance for an ace, but its use is almost solely defensive. This serve moves high into an opponent's backhand, forcing him to hit a ceiling ball. If he tries to cut the ball off before it bounces, he will try to shoot the left corner.

Lefthanders—This serve should only be used as a second serve. Used only 10% of the time, it keeps the opponent from trying to cut off serves to his right. Most of his returns will be ceiling balls or pass attempts to my right.

Position After the Serve: Since most of my opponents will hit ceiling ball returns, I don't have to worry much about guarding the front court. I simply move into the deep left portion of center court, after the serve.

Garbage serve to the right: The garbage serve to the right is a perfect mirror image of the garbage serve to the left. The same stroke is used, but now you aim three feet to the right of

where you are standing, instead of three feet of the left. The ball bounces, moving deep into the right corner of the court. The explanations for left and right handers are reversed to compensate for the ball now moving to the right instead of the left. Position after the serve is now at the deep right portion of center court.

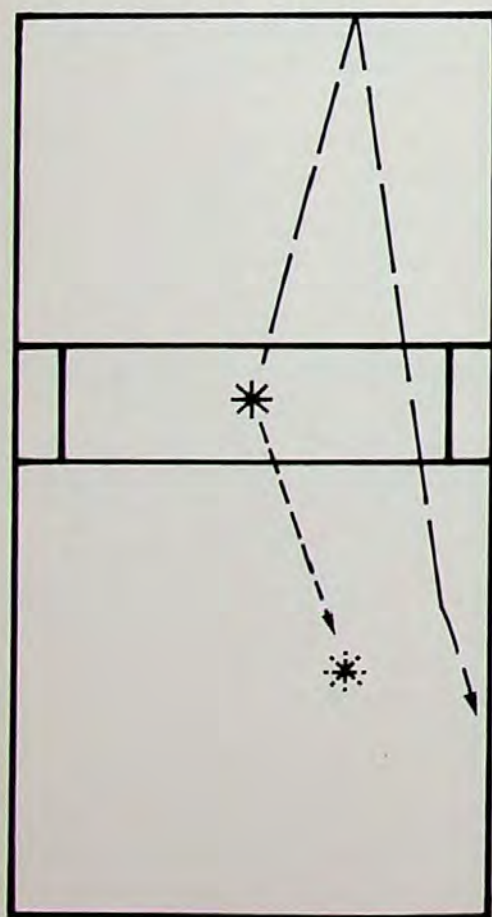
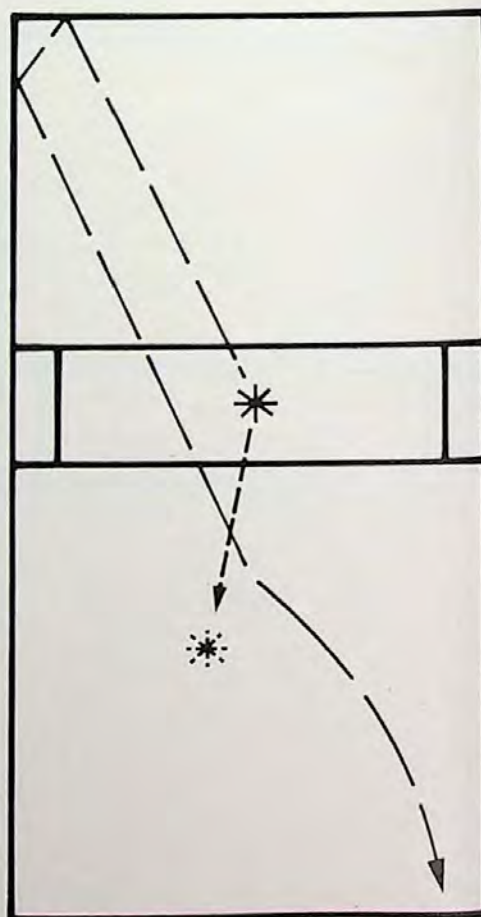
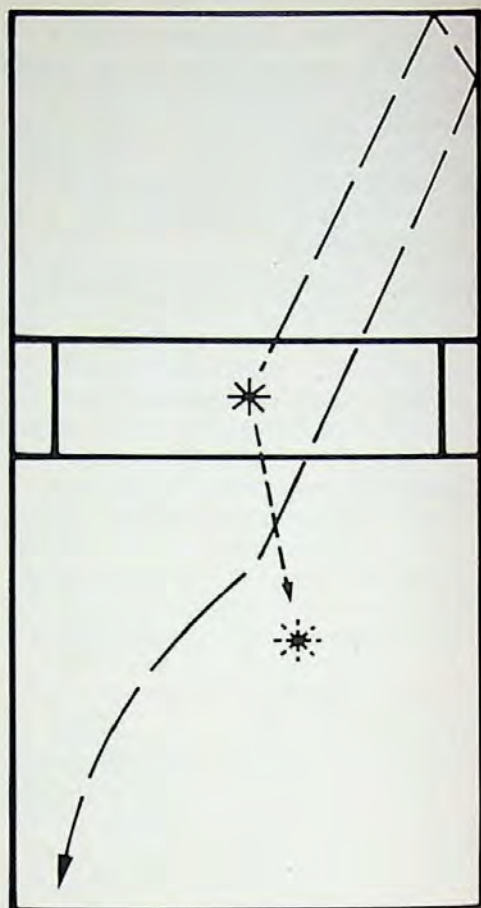
High Z Serves to the left and Right

The high Z serve is another easy serve to hit, with little chance for error. I again bounce the ball fairly high and come underneath it. I want to swing a little harder than I did for the junk serves because now I'm hitting more walls. For a Z serve to the right, I hit the ball eight feet from the floor and two feet from the left side wall. For the Z serve to the left, the height is the same but I now aim two feet from the right side wall. The ball then moves into the side wall, bounces at center court, and moves into either the left or right corners.

Righthander—For righthanders, I use the High Z to the left around 10% of the time. It's not quite as safe as the junk serve, but it is a fairly effective way of forcing the opponent to hit a ceiling ball return. If he rushes the ball and takes it on a short hop, he will probably try to shoot the left corner. I will mix these serves with some high Z's to the right, used also around 10% of the time. This also keeps the opponent guessing, adding just a little more offense to the serve.

Lefthander—Against a lefthander I use the high Z to the right also 10% of the time. It comes in high to his backhand, causing him to return a ceiling ball. To change the pace a little, I throw in some high Z's to the left. If a lefty can cut off either of these serves, most of his returns will be directed to the right portion of the court.

Position After the Serve: For both high lob Z serves, I want to move back a couple of feet and into center court. Since the ball is moving slowly, I have plenty of time to do so. I must stay on guard for the opponent rushing the serve and trying to drive the ball past me. If he can't rush the ball, he will be forced to hit a ceiling ball return.



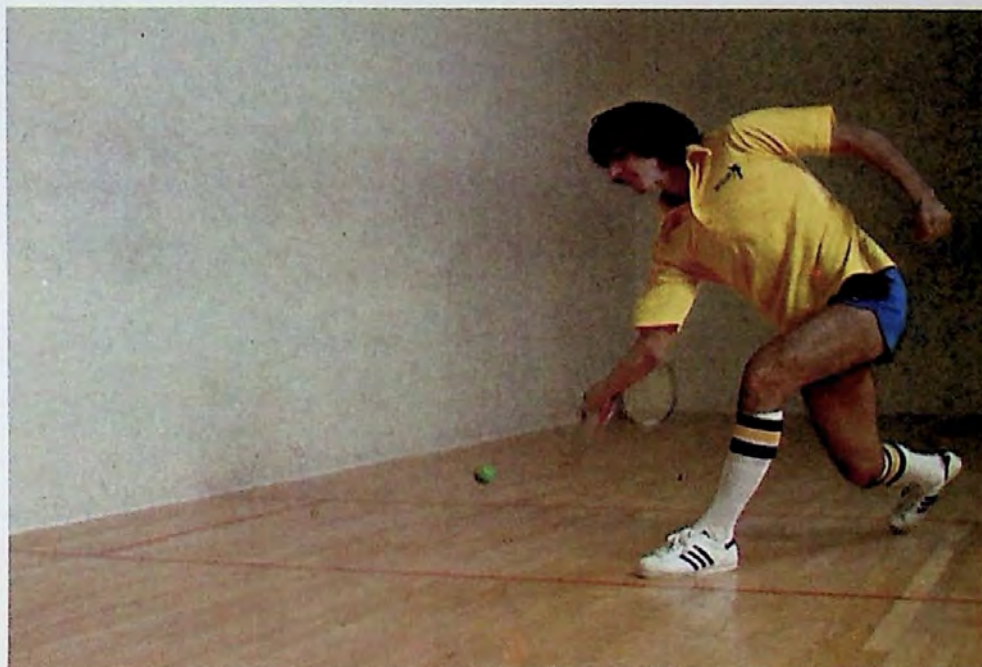
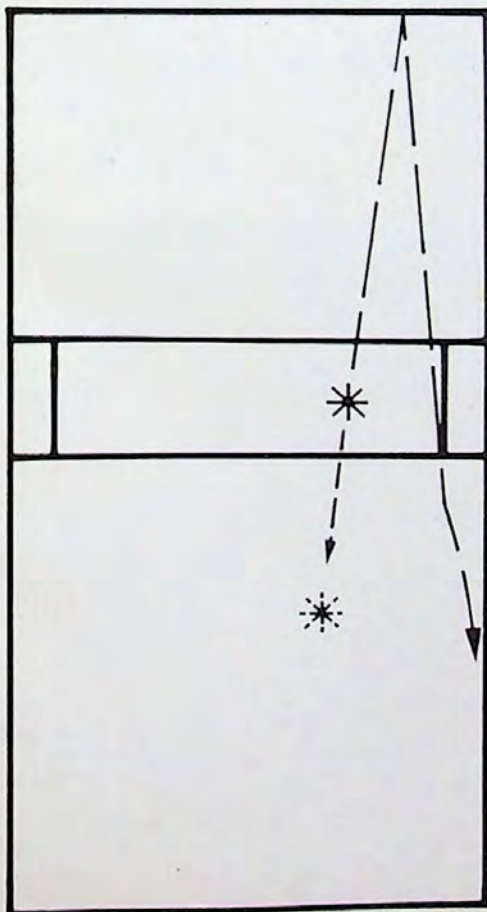
Serves From Position C

Generally speaking I hit less serves from this position than from position A. I feel that this position can bring me more ace serves, and I use it when looking for a hot streak. From position A I'm looking for an occasional ace. From position C, every serve I hit is going for an ace. When you try for an ace, your risk of hitting a bad serve is higher, giving your opponent an easy set up. But when I need a hot streak, I forget about the risk and take my chances. So from this position I'll either make it or break it.

Low Drive Serve to the Right

To execute this serve properly, my wrist is just about even with the ball at point of contact. Aim for a spot two feet above the floor and one and a half feet from the right side wall. The ball should just make it over the short line within a foot of the right side wall. If hit properly the ball should die before reaching the back wall, making it very difficult to return.

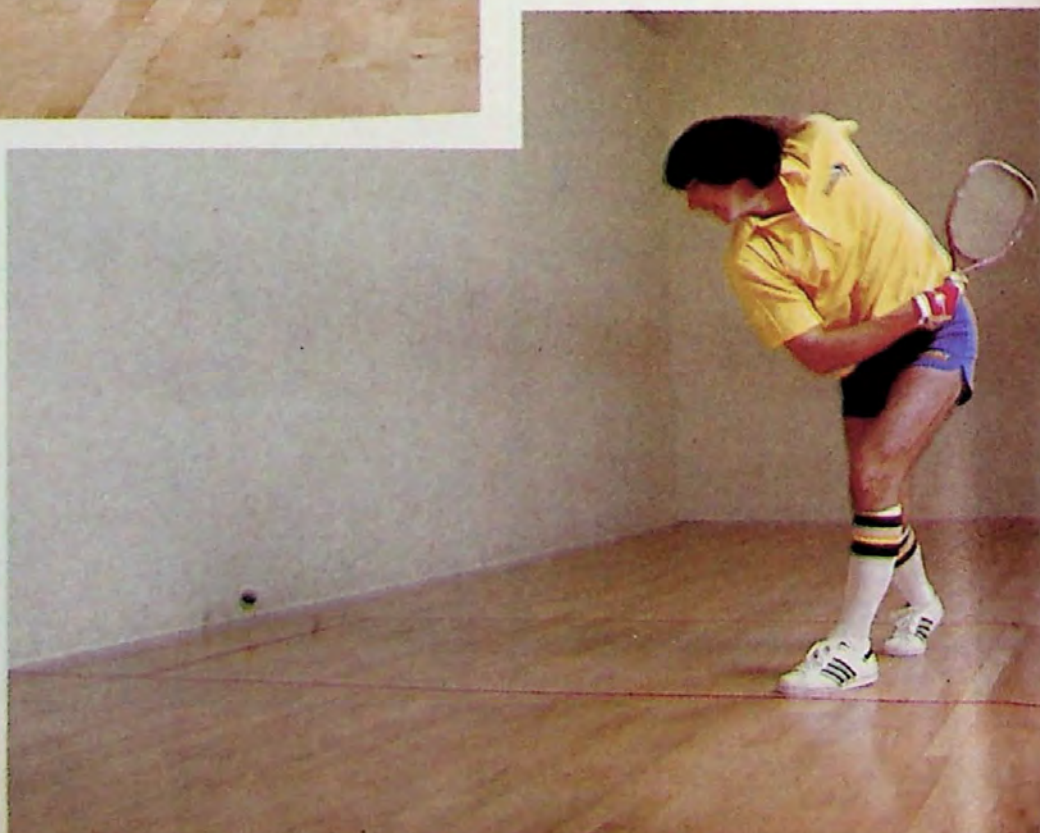
Righthander—When this serve is dropping in just right, it is my best serve for an ace. The great part about this





serve is that I can hit it three or four times straight and still get aces each time. To return this serve a righthander has to run all the way to the right side wall. Since the ball is very close to the wall, it is hard for an opponent to get off a full stroke, and probably take much of the effectiveness out of his return. Even though this serve is to his forehand, I use it 30% of the time from this position.

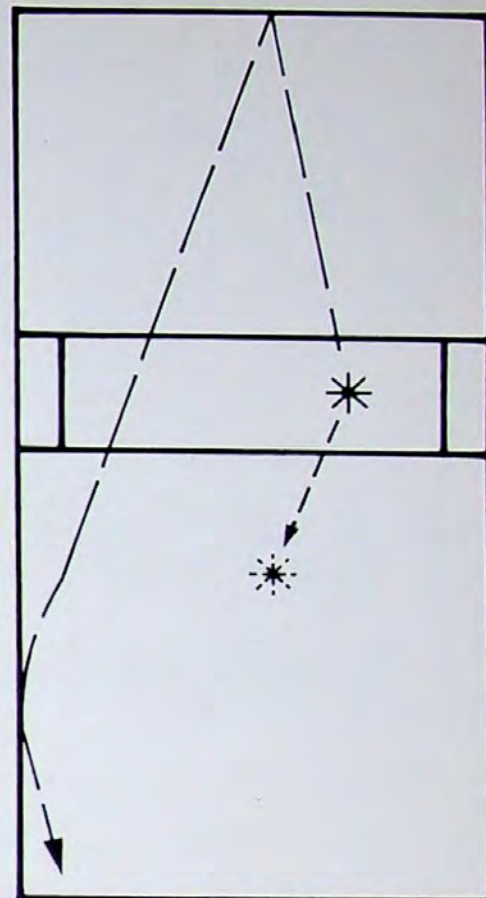
Leftlander—Against a lefty this is also a very effective serve. It will come in very fast to his backhand, causing him to rush his return. Most of my points on this serve will come because my





opponent was jammed and tried to get a weak shot off into the right corner. From this position I use this serve at least 60% of the time. The only possibility of error using this serve, is if the ball moves into the right side wall, and comes out towards center-court. This would result in an easy forehand setup for my opponent.

Position After the Serve: The necessary position is very easy to attain, because after the serve, I back up only one or two steps. Since I'm hitting the ball down the right wall, I want to be in the right portion of center court. Most of my opponents kill attempts will be directed towards the right corner.



Low Drive Serve to the Left

Since this serve moves to the left, my wrist is behind the ball at point of contact. I'm aiming just to the right of the center of the front wall. By hitting the ball two and a half feet from the floor, the ball is able to carry past the short line, and within two feet of the left wall. Problems may occur with this serve if hit too high on the front wall. It would then come off the back wall for a fairly easy set-up.

Righthander—This serve is a fairly strong serve against a righthander. Often I will use this serve a couple of times to set up my main ace serve, (drive serve down the right). The advantage of this serve is that it comes toward the opponent's backhand at many different angles. He then has to make very quick reactions to return it. This serve seems to go in streaks. When you find the groove it is

extremely tough. If you're off, then it is a set-up, and you're opponent will try and shoot the left corner.

Lefthander—Against a lefty, this serve should be used only 10% of the time. When used in the proper situations, it is an extremely potent serve. It gains the most effectiveness after varying your serves and getting your opponent to lean to the right. An ace with this serve can often break your opponent's concentration. The serve looks easy to return yet the opponent underestimates the area he must cover to get to the ball. Often a run of a few points will follow.

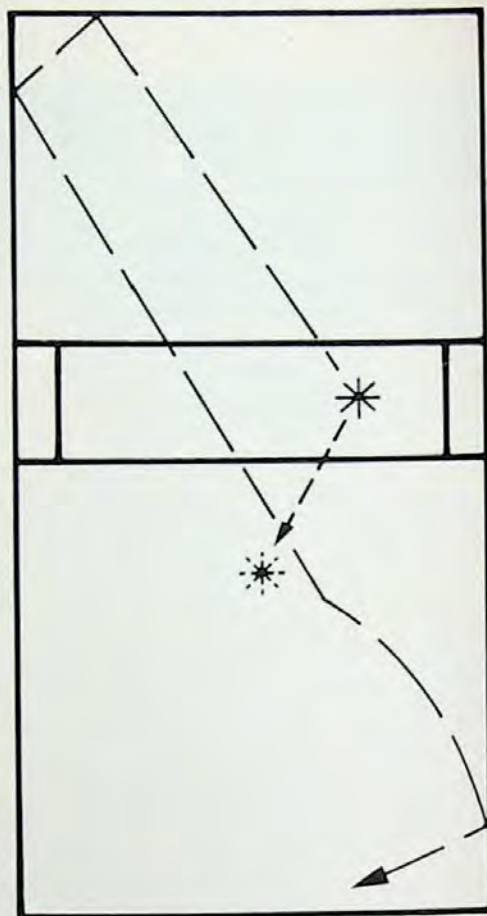
Position After the Serve: I have to move quickly to the left after the serve because I start out so far to the right. Standing on the right, and serving to the left, leaves the entire left side of the court open to attack. So I must do my best to get into defensive position as quickly as possible. Center court position would be adequate enough to protect the left side, and not be off balance against pass shots to the right.

Z Serve to the Right

To properly hit this type of Z serve, I want to hit the ball against the front wall two feet from the left side wall. If hit two and a half to three feet high, the ball will bounce just past the short line and a little to the right of center court. To hit the ball at this sharp an angle, my wrist is far behind the ball at point of contact. The ball will then carry to the right side wall within two feet of the back wall. The sharpness of the angle causes it to come straight out, parallel to the back wall, making any return very difficult.

Righthanders—This serve is an excellent ace serve against a righthander. The opponent often makes the mistake discussed with the reverse Z to the right. His opponent sees the ball moving to the left for a split second, causing him to lean to the left. The ball then hits the left wall forcing the ball to the right, and he is caught off balance. This is a very safe serve to hit, with the only problem resulting when hitting the ball at too sharp of an angle. The ball ends up hitting the right side wall around mid-court for an easy setup. Like many of my serves from this position, this is a fairly streaky serve. When it is falling in, I can generally get a few aces in a row. If my opponent can cut the ball off before it hits the right side wall, he will probably try to pass me on the left.

Lefthander—Lefthanders have a very difficult time with this serve. Since the ball travels deep and parallel to the back wall, the opponent has to try and cut the ball off before it hits the right side wall. If the ball moves into the right side wall, then the ball must be scraped off the back wall. Either way is difficult causing weak returns. From this position I use this serve 30% of the time. Although not the most offensive serve, it is very safe and leaves me in a perfect position for most returns. Since my opponent is fairly jammed by the serve, many of his returns are towards the right portion of the court.



Position After the Serve: After this serve I simply have to take a couple of steps back, and I am in a good position for almost any return. Since the ball is traveling around the walls on the serve, I have plenty of time to move into position at center court.

This concludes the two part article on serves. Although there are many variations, these are the basic serves which should be added to your repertoire. In all serving, consistency is important. The stroke has to be the same, and the ball must react the same for each particular serve you hit. Once mastered, the serve is the most effective part of your offensive game. ●



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A Guide To Doubles For the Thinking Player

Charlie Brumfield certainly needs no introduction to the racquetball public. As holder of every major racquetball title in the game's history at one time or another, Brumfield has earned the respect, awe, and jealousy that usually accompanies success. He is overwhelmingly regarded as the game's all-time best player as well as racquetball's foremost mental analyst. He is also an expert right side doubles player.

In this article, the first of two, Brumfield relates the theories, alignments, shots and secrets that made him such a successful doubles player.

In doubles as well as in singles, center court control is what wins matches, day in and day out. This is for two major reasons, — coverage advantage and accuracy advantage.

The team that controls center court is equa-distant from all potential coverage patterns. As opposed to the team caught in the backcourt, the front court team has a much greater opportunity to cover the kill shots. Keep in mind that in doubles most of the points are scored on kill shots where in singles, many points are scored on well placed passing shots. Passing is not as effective in doubles because you have yourself and your partner to cover the 20 by 40.

An outgrowth of this style of thinking dictates that the desired center court position should be slightly closer than what would be the ideal singles position.

The accuracy advantage is more obvious. The front court team can take greater advantage of those front court plums. The team hitting from 10 or 15 feet from the front wall is going to be more accurate percentage-wise than the team hitting from 35 to 38 feet.

An adjunct to the advantage of front court position is the increased visibility. Vision is extremely important in doubles, because the play is so quick. Keep in mind that the team that occupies the back court position during the course of a rally has to pick the ball up through the four legs and four arms of the opposing team that's occupying preferred front court position.

Serve The Coverer

In plain words, this is a bi-product of our original discussion of the importance of control of the front court. Often times a team will rely to a great extent on the front court coverage ability of only one of the partners. This is especially true for the I formation and the diagonal defense formation (both of which will be discussed later). But it also applies to the straight side by side approach. Normally speaking, one partner just feels more comfortable and operates with more efficiency in the front court.

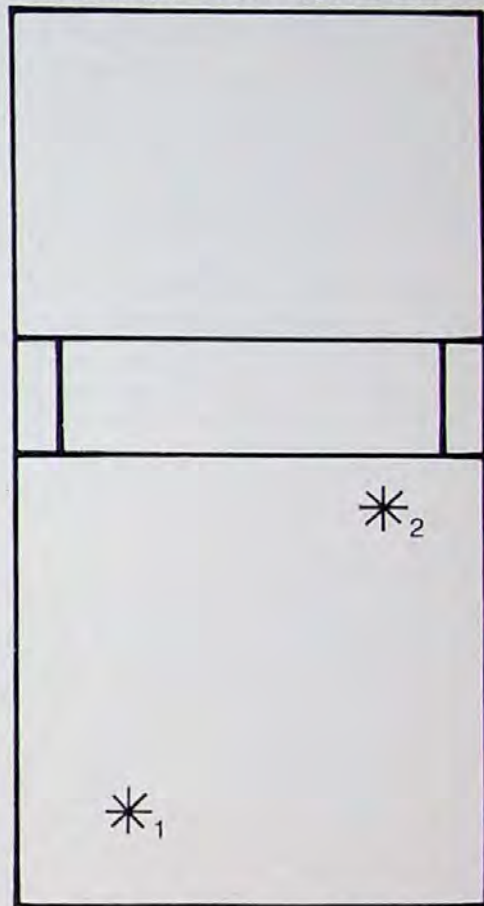
The principle is this: if the team coverer has to return serve, then it is going to make it much more difficult for him to move into his area of greatest efficiency, i.e., the front court. This is especially true if your serve forces him to return from the very deep corner and is doubly effective if the serve is so good that it makes him lose his balance, if only for a moment.

Then, if he makes a weak return, often times there is absolutely no one up in front court to play defense and the serving team can score an easy point.

If your opponent uses this tactic against your team, counter with the following:

- (1) Hit a time consuming serve return, particularly a ceiling ball which will give you, "the coverer," extra time to move to the front court.
- (2) Take an aggressive return position, that is, inch up in the court and try to fly the return of serve. Caution: — make sure you follow in your shot.

Normal playing position of diagonal defense.

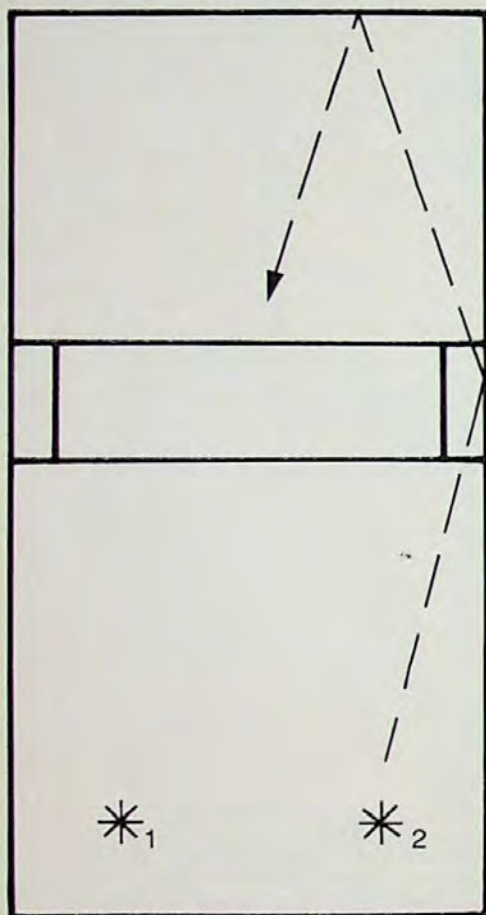


(3) Alert your partner that **he** must be alert to take an extra step into the center to close up the zone and give you that momentary bit of protection necessary to get back your defensive equilibrium.

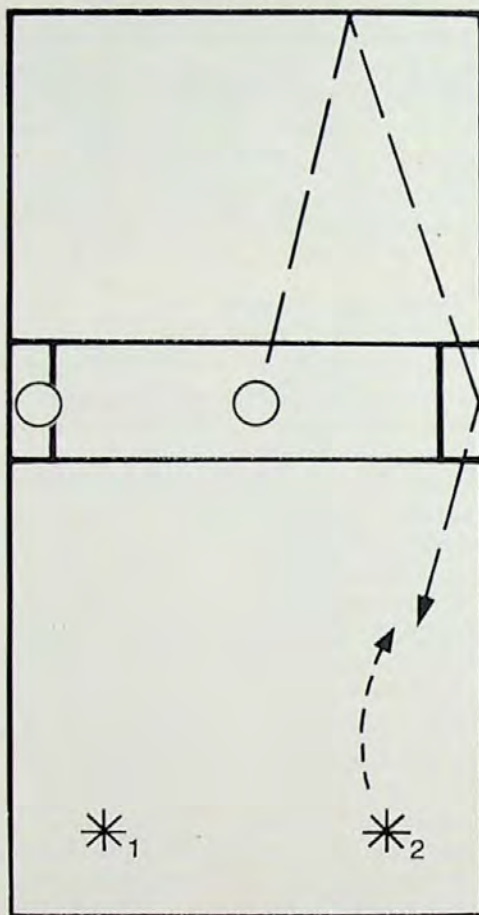
Isolation Theory

The isolation theory is based on several principles. If one of your opponents does not get to hit shots for long periods of time he becomes rusty and cold. His timing is not nearly as sharp when the time does come for him to hit his shot. Everyone wants to be part of the play and there is a distinct tendency to *poach* into your own partner's rightful territory after several minutes have passed and you haven't

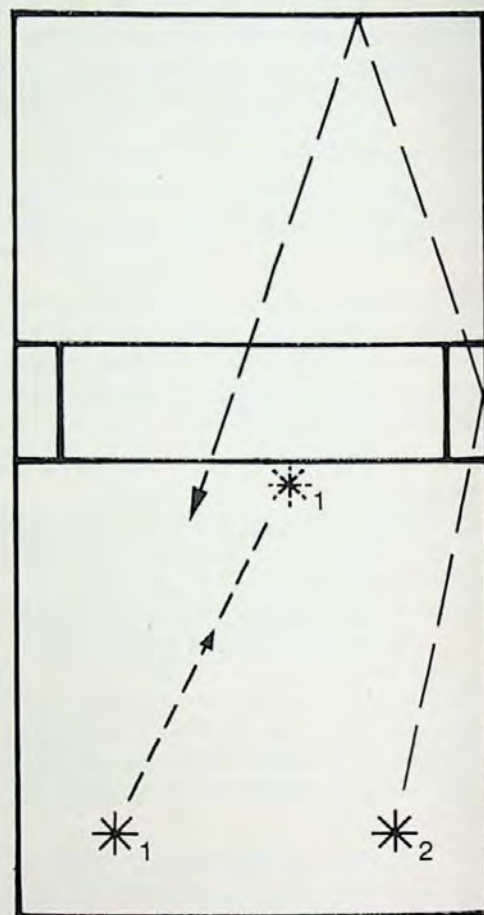
Serve the coverer (*2)



Problem: no front position



Remedy (2)
Charge the Serve and Fly the Return



Remedy (3)
Your partner must cover front court.

hit a ball yet. This causes a breakdown in fluid teamwork because once poaching starts to occur no one really knows who is going to take what. Also, there is often a disintegration of team morale because it gives the impression, and rightly so, that the poaching partner doesn't really have total confidence in his teammate.

Additionally, it is true that when a team "gangs up" and hits every ball to one of the opponents, the single opponent tends to tire midway through the match. It puts tremendous mental strain on the poor guy because he knows he can't really get much help from his teammate.

Often times the guy hitting all the shots starts making his shot selection too aggressive and will give up a number of easy points, thus causing a complete decay of teamwork and morale as his disenchanted teammate jumps over on his side to help out.

The only real defense against this theory is to hit the ball in such a way that it becomes very difficult control-wise to keep the ball in one particular area of the court. Normally this means using a medium speed overhead drive at the earliest reasonable time during the rally rather than sticking completely to the ceiling since a ceiling rally is the easiest way of

all to keep the ball to one person. Conversely, it's really tricky and takes tremendous poise to take a well hit overhead drive coming into your body and do anything more than just hit it.

Morale Maintenance

Nothing is more important to the success of a doubles team than to maintain the proper mental equilibrium between the teammates. A constant good-natured banter during the course of the match has always been healthy for my partners and me. Cheer your partner on. Encourage him to go for his bread and butter shots, and never, never criticize him publically. If you get

down on him, he'll almost certainly get down on himself. Then its "buenos noches".

If he is setting up improperly or is careless in his shot selection, handle this quietly and calmly during a time out communication period. Keep any criticism completely constructive in nature. Remember your partner is just as sensitive and is trying just as hard as you are. Be just as patient with him as you are with yourself!

One other aspect of morale maintenance is the physical protection of your partner. Two cases come to mind immediately. First, occasionally your partner will make a great retrieve in front court and the rally will continue with him quivering at the front wall. At your earliest possible chance, get the ball to the ceiling to give the poor guy an opportunity to move to safety. Nothing is more discouraging than being caught in "no man's land" and having not only your two opponents, but your partner himself, whizzing shots by your head.

Secondly, do not serve hard drive serves directly behind your partner in the service box leaving him open to being repeatedly ripped in the back on the serve return. Not only is this aggravating and painful, it virtually guarantees that your partner won't have time to get out of the box and help you play the next shot as a team.

I make it a point never to second guess my partner by calling what looks to me like his skips and double bounce gets. We could argue the ethics of such a position all day. However, one thing is certain. It is embarrassing for my partner to be staunchly defending his own shot or get and for me to side with the opponents. In this circumstance, I feel a "see no evil" approach is the best for team equilibrium. After all, I'm not the referee or God or his mother. Better I restrict myself to calling my own.

Communication

The old adage that two good singles players do not necessarily make a superior doubles team is time tested. And the problem has proven to be a breakdown in communication.

Communication is probably the single most important building block in constructing a solid doubles team. If communication could ever become complete, the two doubles partners could actually play as one—acting almost as two subdivisions of one organism. This is the ideal.

To approach the ideal, communication is necessary on four fronts.

1) *Pre game communication.* This is the most important of all because this is where most of the major decisions must be made. When I play an important doubles match, my partner and I always have a conference to discuss such things as general coverage patterns, offensive tactics, types of serves that we think will be particularly effective against this certain opponent.

Part of our discussion is really a forecast. We try to anticipate what our opponents are likely to try against us. In addition we discuss what our counter moves will be. This is much easier to do in the relaxed atmosphere of the locker room with a blackboard or scratch pad available than it is inside a closed court 30 seconds before match time.

Once we've discussed all of these possibilities it makes us much more aware and functioning as a unit, plus our major decisions of general strategy are made and we've had a meeting of the minds, so to speak.

2) *Communication during the rally itself.* Part of your pre-game communication session should be to decide on a series of concise verbal and hand signals that can be used during the times in the rally that inevitably occur — when your system breaks down. The signals should be loud and clear leaving no doubt as to what should be done. Normally, it is the responsibility of the player deeper in the court at the particular time to call the signals because he has a better view of the total situation. "Mine," "yours," "switch," and "clear" are the signals my partner and I have found suitable for our system. In addition, we use hand signals and other secret signs similar to those seen in baseball to tell each other the side and type of serve coming up. Your partner should be the first to know what you are going to do — not the last.

3) *Communication during time outs and between games.* One of the worst attitudes I've seen on the doubles court is the team that is too proud to call time out and discuss things if a problem arises that cannot be handled by pre-game discussion.

Since fatigue usually doesn't enter into a double contest, time outs should be used for communication or to stop your opponent's momentum. Hopefully, you can do both simultaneously. These

time outs and between games communications should be used as a quarterback would use the audible — to make counter moves effective against unexpected offensive or defensive maneuvers by your opponent.

These discussions are not a sign of disorientation or panic but are rather the attempt to play your very best—to approach the ideal.

4) Review your performance. Win or lose, after each match you and your partner should take a time to review your performance. Each match should be treated as a learning experience.

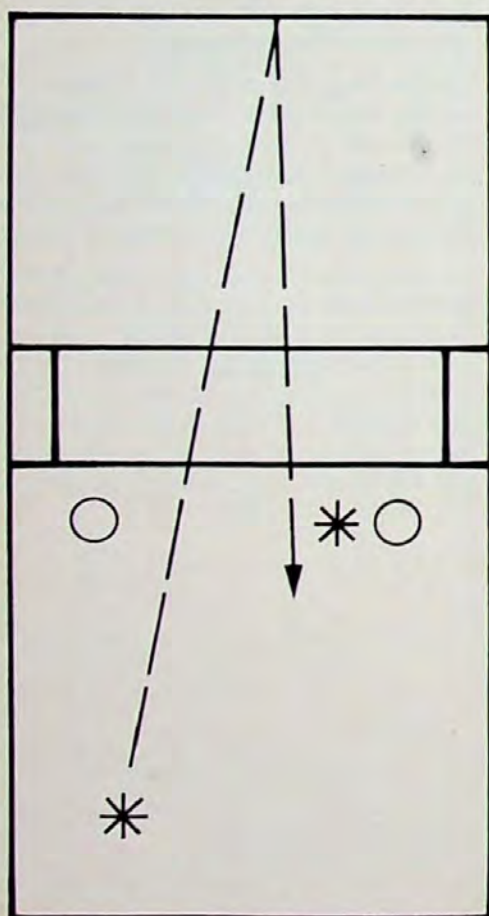
And don't think its corny to keep a notebook on your matches. This practice will help you remember just what was working and what wasn't. This is the same procedure pitchers use to keep track of individual batters in baseball. It can work for you too.

Driving Angle When Your Partner Has Front Court Position

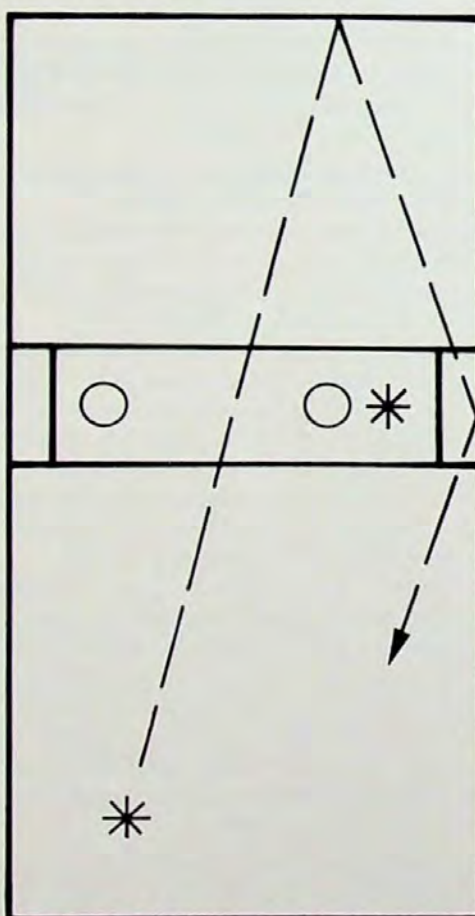
These diagrams show the different angles that should be hit depending on which side of your opponent your teammate is positioned. These angle differentiations take advantage of the visibility problem we alluded to earlier.

To put it simply, your opponent cannot see the ball as well if your teammate positions himself analytically and you take advantage of this situation. By the time he does see the ball its usually too late to take it at midcourt so he must turn and try to retrieve. If the ball is kept low with pace, that ball may well be in the "land of no return."

Shots Should be 3 Feet High or Lower



If Partner Takes "Inside" Position
Drive Low and Hard Down the Center



If Partner Takes "Outside" Position
Drive Low and Hard Wide Angle V

Fly Kill Vs. Off The Back Wall

Consistent with the theory that the maintenance of front court position is all important in doubles, the fly kill or pass should generally be used in preference to the off the back wall shot. This will allow both members of the team to stay in good position. In addition it often allows you a greater margin of error on your shot because it does not allow your opponents to move into good defensive position and thus your shot need not be as low. If you let the ball go through to the back wall and then try to kill it, your shot must be that much lower. Because of the elapsed time, you would now be hitting into the teeth of your opponent's defensive alignment.

As a general yardstick, I try to take every ball at midcourt that comes to my forehand at waist level or below (fly it). If it's any higher, it's generally better to let the ball go off the back wall.

If I get stuck with a backhand option, tend to let the ball go through much more often. You should do the same unless your backhand is as quick and explosive as Steve Serot's.

No matter what theory says should work, some people just can't fly the ball effectively yet have a great back wall game. In such a case, don't outsmart yourself.

Sometimes I'll fake the fly kill and let the ball go through in the hopes of catching my opponent charging for position and unable to avoid the infamous "naval ball." Although this tactic is a little

advanced, its often worth the gamble because of the embarrassment and disconsolation it causes.

I Formation

This is the offensive/defensive alignment that places one team member up front to handle all the kill shot retrieving and re-killing while the other partner floats in the backcourt, his main responsibility being to return pass attempts and ceiling play while also providing the long range offense.

Only two teams in the history of national caliber doubles racquetball have employed this technique with any degree of success. Mike Zeitman and Alan Hyman won the Nationals back in '69 using the I. Steve Serot and Biron Valier used the I during their heyday—1971-72-73.

The advantages of the system are obvious if you've ever seen these teams in operation. It gives the better

athlete (always the backcourt man) the free range and unbridled shot selection he needs to operate at maximum efficiency. This advantage is also the major disadvantage for all of us mere mortals who might consider trying out the I. Your backcourt man has to be big, strong and extremely agile. In addition, the backcourt ceiling game needs to be flawless and the backcourt stud needs to be able to unload rollouts from both sides of the backcourt. Not coincidentally, Zeitman and Serot are probably the only two players that combine these credentials.

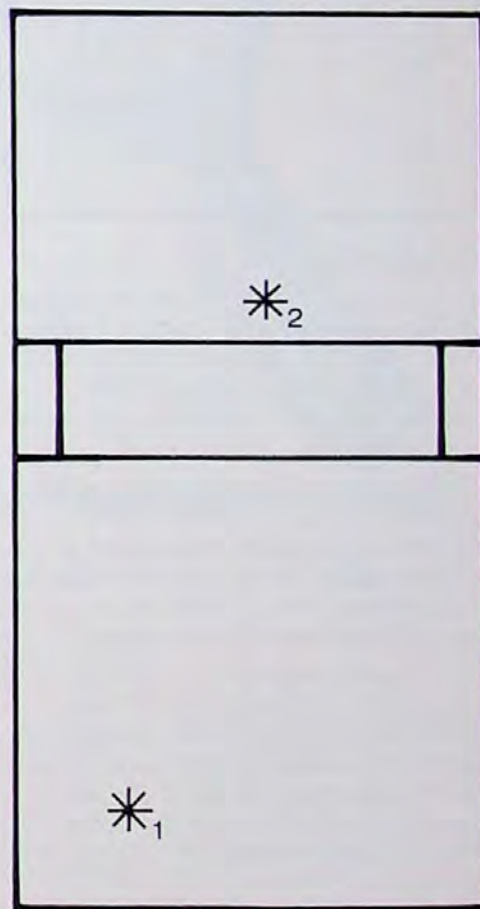
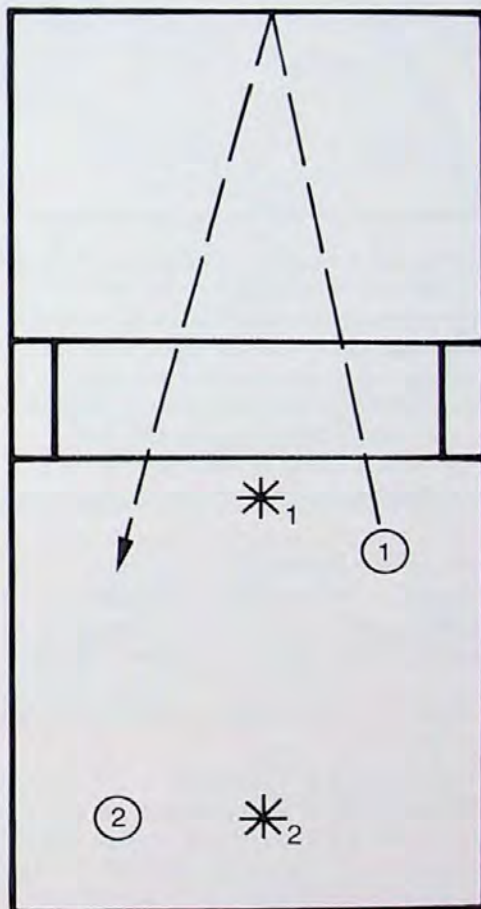
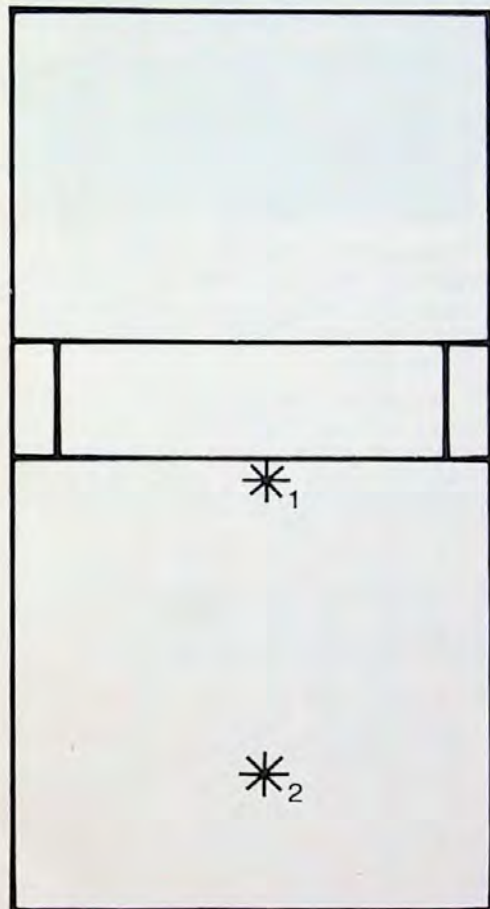
Technically, the I system can be attacked by four methods.

1) Move the backcourt man until he approaches exhaustion and you have taken the edge off his offensive game. This was the only real way to beat Serot in the old days.

2) Serve the coverer and shoot the first ball before he can regain his equilibrium and achieve his preferred position in front court. Valier used to get nine serves for every one that Serot would get.

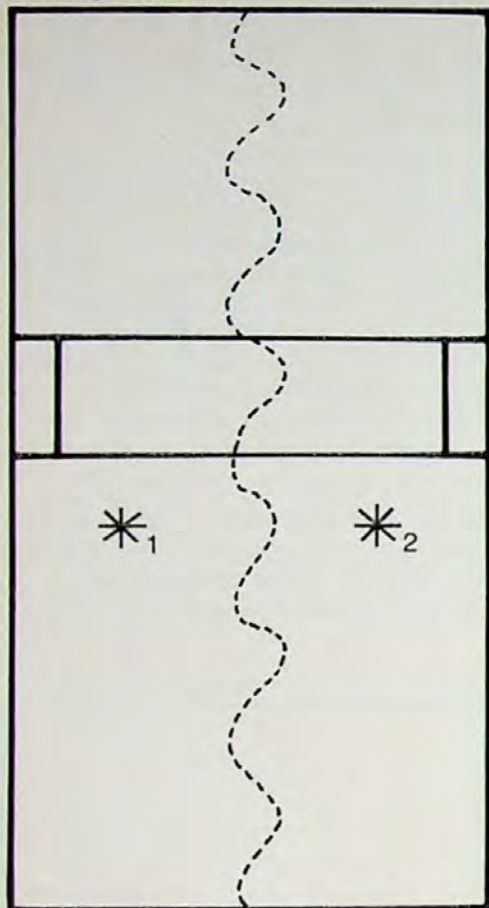
3) Kill the ball right into the middle as hard and low as you can, leaving no chance, really, for either of your opponents to make an effective return. The back man cannot get up in time. And your forecourt opponent probably won't even touch the ball because in this situation he is forced to "anticipate right" to protect the down-the-line shot. Even if he does get to it, in all probability he'll just pop it up for a plum with his off balance backhand.

4) Use ceiling balls to force X into the back left corner until he makes a weak return—then shoot whichever the corner his partner has left uncovered.



Low, Hard Kill Shot O
Kills Ball Cross Court—X1 is caught off balance anticipating the right ally coverage zone

Side by Side
(Coverage Division)



Side-By-Side

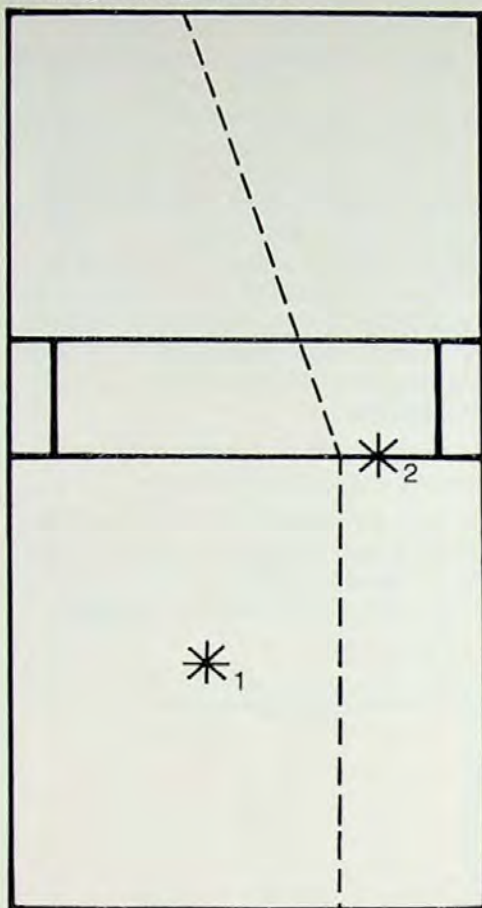
The side-by-side should be the perfect offense/defense alignment. It allows for excellent coverage of the front court and gives both partners simple, unchanging responsibilities, i.e., cover your own side.

Despite the apparent simplicity of such a system, only one team in the history of the game has played a side-by-side—Serot and Brumfield. No righty-righty combo has even approached a true side-by-side.

The reason is simple. It takes two ultra-quick individuals using their forehands to keep power drives from getting by down-the-lines with no one deep to pick up the slack. A player using his backhand up that close would be pounded unmercifully by pure and wide V's.

You might ask why does the left and not the right side player have to play deeper. 90% of the people playing doubles are right handed. When a righthander has to react to a fast shot, which is the norm in doubles, his basic tendency is not to drive down the lane

Modified Diagonal and
Resulting Coverage Patterns



but to go crosscourt. Thus most hard drives in doubles go to the left side (crosscourt for right hander). In addition, no one ever sees a lefty playing right side so there is always a forehand over on the right side to cover the drives that do come that way. Consequently, the right side player can play closer.

To allow for these tendencies most doubles teams play a modified diagonal defense that allows the left side player to protect himself by playing back a little ways yet leaves the right sider up to cover the target for most kill shot attempts—namely the front right corner.

The only other formation is the Paul Haber tactic. Paul plays his partner at the back wall center and takes every shot himself. To me this is contra to the spirit of true doubles and should not be dignified by further discussion. However, in all fairness—it's won many a match. ●

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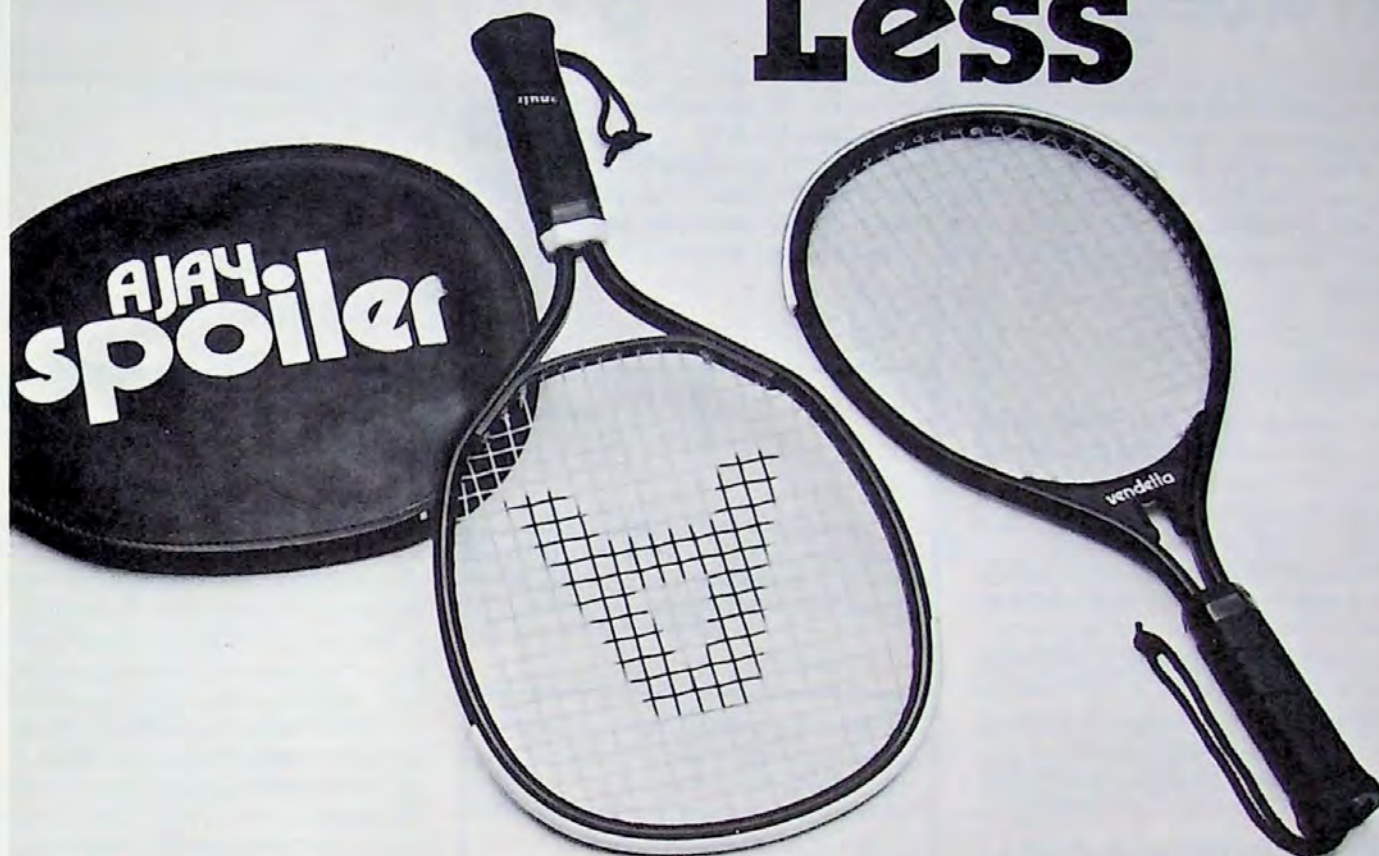
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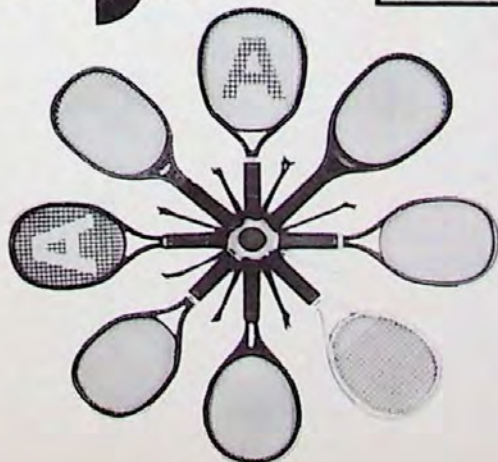
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Basic Doubles Strategy

Editor's Note—The following article, number five in a six part series, is excerpted from Steve Keeley's recent publication, *The Complete Book Of Racquetball*. The book, endorsed by the U.S. Racquetball Association, is published by D.B.I. Books, Inc., 540 Frontage Rd., Northfield, Illinois 60093. *The Complete Book Of Racquetball* sells for \$7.95 and in our opinion is one of the finest instructional manuals on racquetball published to date. This segment is from chapter three: The Game.

Doubles

A word on doubles, in my opinion, that catastrophic mutation of the real game. And a word of advice, again from personal experience: Eschew the madness. A fair amount of past doubles practice and tournament play qualifies me in reporting that no more than two people should occupy one court at one time. Especially if one or more of the participants is a chocolate freak or similarly handicapped biped. It should be posted above every racquetball court entrance, like the fire hazard sign: Capacity Two Persons.

Doubles is a complex game which requires more patience, strategy and racquet control than singles. Watch four good players on the court at the same time. Since successful kill shots must be right on to be winners, the percentage method of play is a waiting game. Typically, there is a drawn out ceiling ball rally interrupted by a mis-hit ceiling shot. One team attempts to administer the coup de grace; if the kill is a roll-off the rally ends, and if the ball comes up it is re-killed.

For those brave souls or those players forced into doubles play due to the common too-many-players-for-too-few-courts syndrome, there are two styles of court coverage most frequently used in doubles. The *half-and-half* method is by far the more widely used. Here, each player of one team is responsible for covering that hardwood acreage to either side of an imaginary line drawn down the center

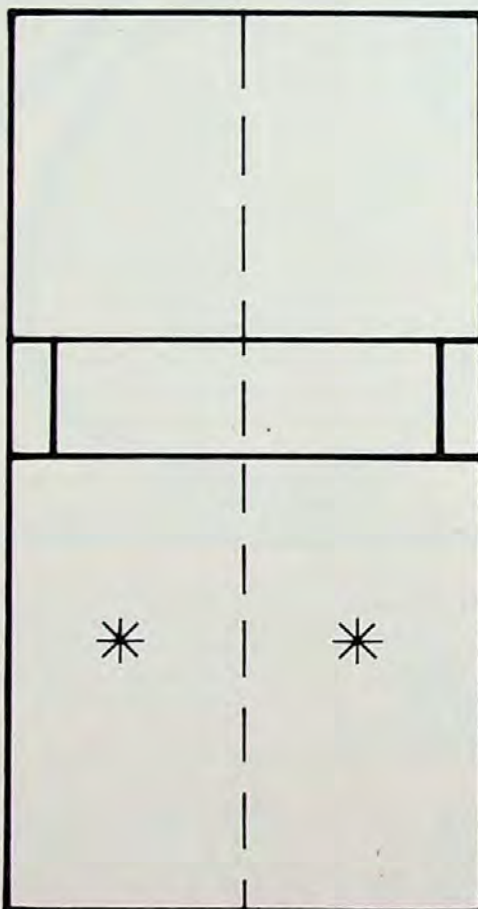


Fig. 1—The doubles half-and-half or side-by-side formation.

of the court. (Figure 1). Realize that this line is only an aid to decrease "waffle faces" and that it may be crossed at any time by either teammate.

Assuming both players are right-handed, the one with the superior backhand usually takes the left side. A shot coming directly down the middle of the court, for example off the backwall, is the left side player's responsibility since this would be a forehand shot for him. With a righty-lefty duo, the half-and-half style is tailor-made because both players are able to employ their stronger forehand strokes the majority of the time. The southpaw plays the left side and the person wielding the better backhand takes shots down the middle.

The other common doubles court coverage method is the *I formation*, also called the front-and-back style. Here, an imaginary line is drawn from side wall to side wall about midcourt, with the front player being responsible for shots in the anterior half of the court and his back court counterpart taking balls in the posterior half. (Figure 2.) Again, that dividing line is only imaginary and teammates will often find themselves crossing it to cover for each other. Those teams choosing this formation are frequently composed of a back player with a good ceiling game and accurate kills, and a front player who is jackrabbit quick and an aggressive court coverer.

Whichever of the above two formations is utilized, the problem in doubles usually revolves around the center

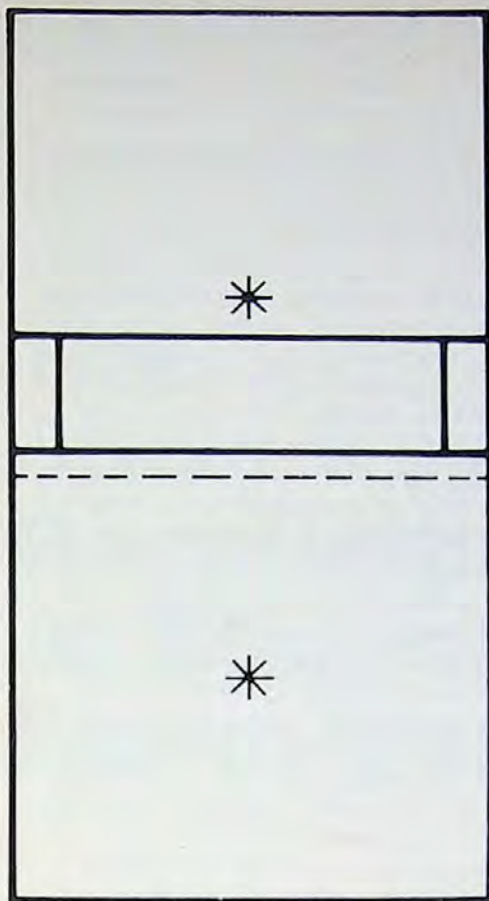


Fig. 2—The doubles front-and-back or I formation.

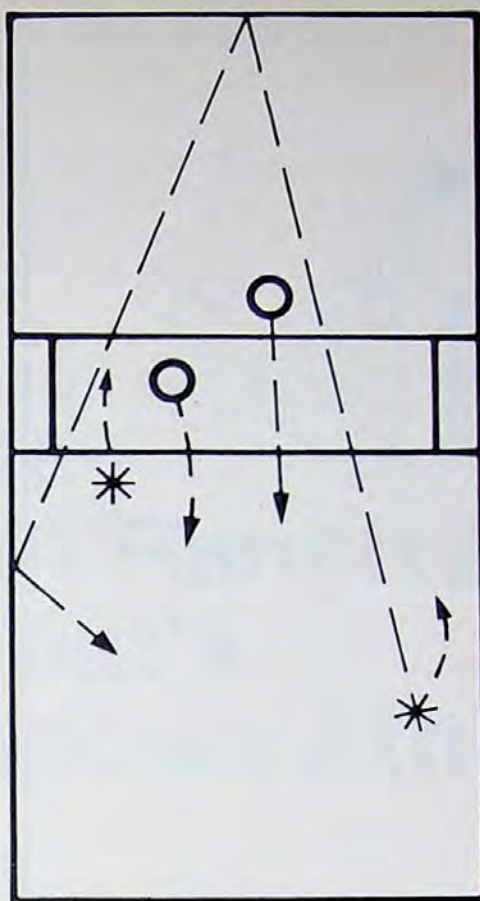


Fig. 3—Beginning of the front court position exchange: Right side offensive player (• right side) takes the shot. The opposing team (○'s) are occupying front court.

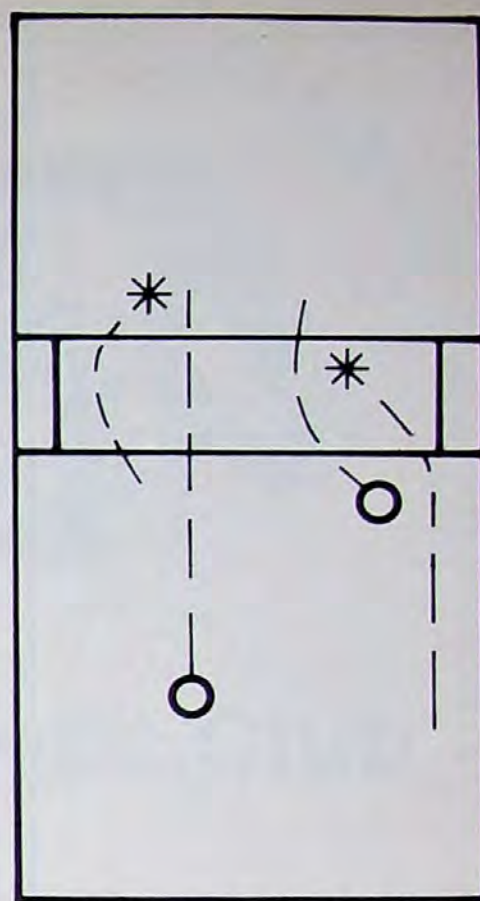


Fig. 4—The exchange is completed: Now the situation is reversed with the left side (○) retrieving the ball and his partner also relinquishing his front court position. The two opposing players (•'s), now awaiting a return shot, have moved into the vacated front court.

court control exchange. Even more so than in singles, control of the mid-court terrain is the key to doubles success. Vying for domination of that important area is sometimes a subtle cat-and-mouse ploy, at other times it is a violent elbowing slugfest. There is a means of maintaining order at that center court epicenter of activity, and though it is logical and straightforward many players have a heck of a time executing the mechanics of this method.

Simply stated, if a player of Team 1 is about to hit the ball then the opposing Team 2 has the unwritten right to occupy the front (center court) position. After Team 1 makes the shot, it is Team 2's turn to do the hitting. Therefore, Team 2 relinquishes the front position to Team 1. The rally continues with this perpetual exchange (on the right and left sides of the court) of the optimal front position by both members of both teams. (See figures 3 and 4.) It was mentioned earlier that a professional doubles contest often consists of drawn out ceiling ball rallies. The

ceiling exchange is simple in itself, but look for a more complex exchange of positions in center court after *each* shot. The smooth give-and-take interaction, or slipping in and slipping out of station with each shot, resembles a four-man ballet when ideally performed.

I am constantly amazed by two things in the realm of racquetball these days. First, I am amazed at the total lack of beautiful young women dressed solely in jill-straps on the courts after midnight. Second, I am amazed at the total lack of strategy employed in doubles matches. The first of these dilemmas I have no control over but the second perhaps I can remedy.

It has been hinted that *center court control* is imperative in doubles. It is admittedly tiresome, but in this event one must remain alert, aggressive and on the move even during the relative "ceasefire" of a chronic ceiling exchange. Too, *patience* is not only a virtue but also a necessity in doubles. A three-quarter set-up in doubles is no longer the 100 percent plum ball that it

is in singles because there are two nerds up there waiting to gobble up and spit back anything but a perfect bottom boarder.

Stay patiently to the *ceiling*, broken up once in a while by an around-the-wall ball. When you do try to smite a kill, it is a percentage maneuver to go for the *side wall-front wall shot*. This "pinch shot" carries the ball low to the center of the front wall where it is less likely to pop up or be covered by either member of the opposing team. (See figure 5.)

Against a team composed of two right handers, the *cross-court pass to the left* (V-ball is a bread-and-butter ploy. (Figure 3.) The right side player remain aware of this percentage V-ball at all times, mixing his returns off set-ups with this shot and kills. Against a righty-lefty combo, the cross-court pass is no longer such a threat because the left side player would be returning such a blast with a farther reaching, stronger forehand stroke. The V-ball is still applicable, but vary its use with a wider angle pass (this will tend to jam the player) or drive down

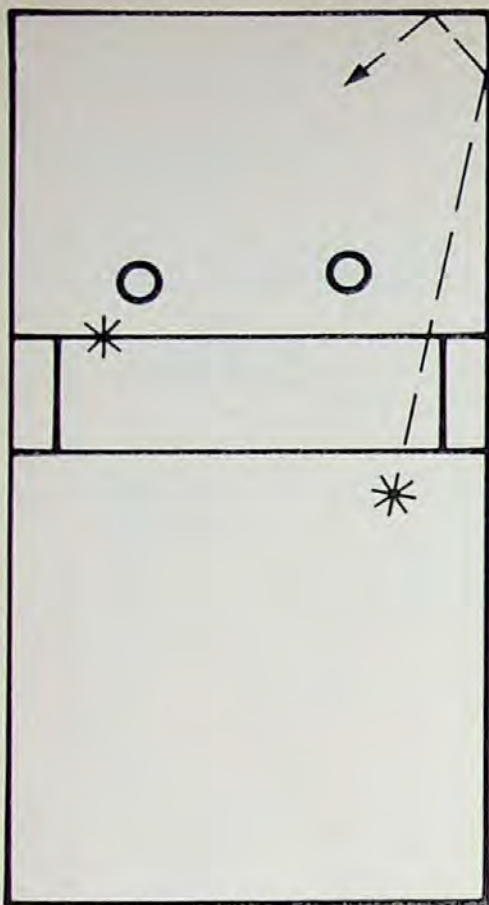


Fig. 5—The pinch kill shot (forehand or backhand side) is often more effective in doubles than a straight in kill. Ball goes to middle court away from both defensive men.

the center of the court (which presents itself to both players' backhands). (Figure 6.)

Strong serves and serve returns are musts if a team wants to enter the big leagues of doubles play. On the service, one may employ any of the serves talked about with one caution: On the high level services (garbage, high-Z, lob) take care that your initial shot is not rushed and pulverized on the fly by the opposing team. If you choose to serve up a garbage, lower the altitude of the serve to prevent the volley return.

On the service return, take the ball *on the fly* on any high level serve. This is more easily done in doubles than singles because each team member has only one half of the receiving area to handle.

In doubles especially, there is an "outer game" and an "inner game." The strategic explanation heretofore has dealt solely with the outer game, or the physical maneuvering and shots. The *inner game* racquetball concerns the mental aspects of play. The inner game pervades doubles. There is a high

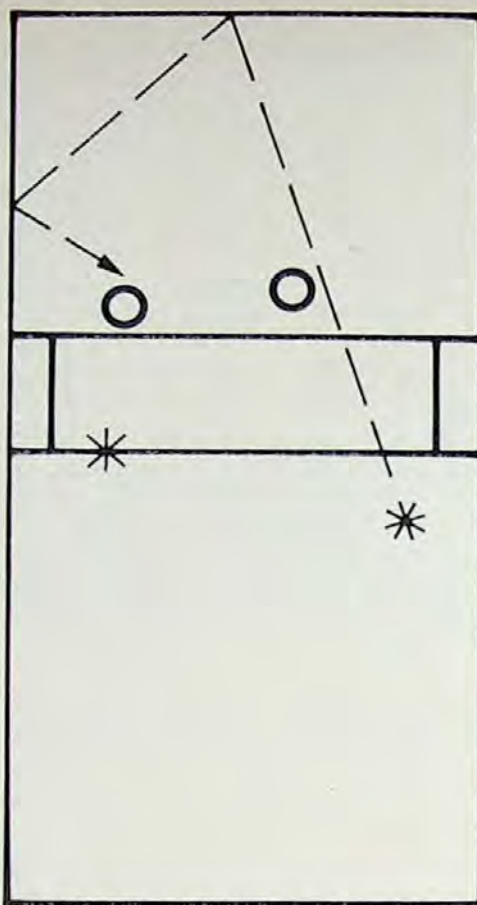


Fig. 6—The wide angle pass shot which jams the left side defensive player.

school locker room adage that "enthusiasm creates momentum," and this is very apparent with a doubles team. It is astonishing what a little hustle and desire by one teammate will do for the other. It is infectious, engendering a double "hot streak" by a team. Often an encouraging word or even a well-timed mild admonishment aimed at a teammate will mark the turning point of a match.

Doubles players sometimes use an *isolation strategy* in their game, whereby one of the opponents is singled out to receive the brunt of the attack. The chosen one is badgered with serve after serve, ceiling ball after ceiling ball, shot after shot, until he wilts to the varnished hardwood, physically and mentally spent. Meanwhile, the team utilizing the isolation factor reaps a fringe benefit. As the chosen player is being worn down, his ignored partner experiences the doldrums of boredom and complete inactivity. The latter player often slips into a haze of disinterest or observation hypnosis. If and when he is finally hit a shot, the inactive player is so "cold" or out of the groove that he blows it. This often

elicits vocal exasperation from his teammate who has been flailing about like a tangled-up puppet. Dissension among the ranks cracks the team.

How to choose which player to isolate? The major prerequisite is in picking the weaker of the team members. Too, often a team will select the left side player to nag with continuous sphere assault, assuming he is a right-hander. At other times it is wise to isolate the opponent who is having a hot streak by directing the majority of balls to his partner. Finally, if you ever come across a doubles duo composed of a chocolate freak and his teammate, do yourself a favor and run the pimples and pot-belly off the freak.

As a parting note on doubles, allow me to re-emphasize my opening sentiments. The two-on-two situation puts me in mind of a small group of dancers jabbing hips and gyrating pelvises on the dance floor to the musical command of an acid rock band's heavy beat. You look at that mass of ducking, dipping bodies and say to yourself, "There *must* be a common denominator of rhythm somewhere within all that movement, but I sure as heck can't pick it out." Most doubles is exactly that: unorganized rhythm grooving to the whims of a high velocity sphere. Instead of hip jabs there are racquet jabs, and when contact is made it isn't a meeting of tender caress but rather the clash of racquet on tender flesh.

Even when the four participants are veteran court virtuosos of multi-years experience, it is often movement and strategy without synchrony: a quartet of autonomously functioning carcasses double teamed in questionable combat. And when the teams are less accomplished than the learned virtuosos of which I speak—for example, club hackers out for a good time—the combat is even more questionable. Too many times I have witnessed knee-ed knees and waffled faces among novices by the time the music is over. Red circular pock marks—welts, as they are termed in the racquetball vernacular—are the most obvious manifestations of the greenhorn doubles disease. These red badges of courage(?) are no fun.

I strongly feel doubles is a fool's tango. Eschew the madness. ●

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Basics For Beginners

If you are a beginner at the game of racquetball, or have played for only a short period of time, this article is written for you. It has been the experience of many teaching professionals that new players, men, women or children, who take either group or private lessons at a club, YMCA or other facility start to acquire needed fundamentals of the game right from the beginning. Conversely, players who participate in the sport for a period of months without instruction have a very difficult time in trying to correct bad habits. In short, it makes sense to start learning correct techniques from the onset of play rather than having to readjust poorly learned techniques later.

Experiment in practice

Many players play entirely too conservatively in practice or playing sessions during the week. Practice games or friendly competition should be spiced with a variety of experimental strategies and strokes.

Most people like to stick with what they do best. In competitive play, this is probably a wise idea, however, regular playing partners can usually be seen to go through the same exact strategy and execution every single time they play. With no variation, it is often more a ritual than a creative experience.

By using some simple experimentation, you may learn that the partner you have played with for six months has great difficulty returning the serve to the forehand when you haven't been able to win a match while serving constantly to the backhand. Discovering a great variety of serves from both sides of the service zone is a useful item. You may find that a serve you have never even tried before fits smoothly and effectively into your pattern of play.

Experiment with overheads from deep court, try hitting more powerful serves, and strokes. Try different grip variations, some long backhand kills, off-speed soft shots in front court, and around-the-wall shots (see Fig. 1). Try cutting the ball off on the fly more, or returning to center court position more quickly than you have been. The possibilities are unlimited.

Have a simple game plan.

This is always a formula for success since game plans are essential to

structuring a winning game. Anyone who plays with a younger player becomes master of devising game plan once he realizes that he tires more quickly than his more youthful partner. That is why the seniors and masters age brackets are composed of such good players.

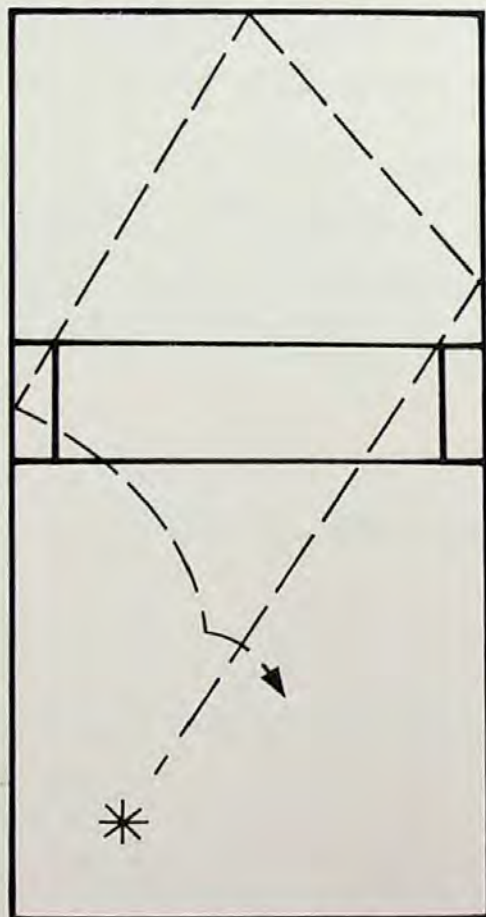


Figure 1. Experiment with some around-the-wall shots for variety.

In my opinion, the seniors age bracket is the smartest and most difficult division to win because that group exploits weaknesses and plans strategy the best of any. Ask any young player who just got a tour of the court by an older player. Once you realize that you cannot win by strength or speed, then it is time to devise a game plan. Top level pros are also experts in this field.

Strategy may be divided into several categories. Some major ones would include finding the best serve which constantly produces weak returns, recognize what shots your opponent likes best and anticipate them before it is too late. Stick with the shots that are winning points for you, — don't change a winning game.

Find out what pace your opponent does not like. If the pace is too fast and you are tiring too soon, use ceiling shots to slow things up. If the pace is too slow, step it up and avoid the ceiling game.

Your service returns are important and it will pay off to be more conservative with them if you fall behind quickly — don't be too stubborn or too proud to play a smart catch up game. It is surprising how a change in strategy will bring the score back even before it is too late.

A brief outline for a game plan should include:

1. Serve — find out what gives your opponent the most trouble
2. Service return — be offensive with weak serves and defensive with good ones
3. Fly shots — use variety and keep the opponent off balance
4. Pace — adjust it to suit **your** game

Be patient but realize that occasionally nothing works. However, a game plan at least will give you a structure to work from and will often turn a losing effort into a winning one, especially if your opponent has no game plan himself.

Vary the serve

Variation of the serve can be as simple as occasionally serving to the forehand side rather than placing all serves to the backhand side. This can be enough to keep your partner guessing, which is exactly what you want. If your opponent already has trouble returning your serve, just vary the type of serve

enough so that he will be kept off balance and then experiment to find other weaknesses. If your opponent returns your serve too well, you are being too predictable or are just using the wrong serve.

Serving in racquetball is becoming a more and more important phase of the game. The better players are now developing powerful drive serves and Z serves to both the backhand and forehand. The server and receiver is analogous to a pitcher and a batter in baseball. The pitcher knows exactly where the ball is intended to go and the batter is guessing. In racquetball, the same hold true — the server has command of the situation.

To vary the serve change the speed of delivery as well as the direction. Changes in speed will give your partner an additional problem to cope with. Consistent placement is always an important factor in effective serving because a foot or two difference in where the serve lands from where you want it to land may determine what your opponent will attempt to do with the return. Accuracy in placement is always a powerful advantage for the server. It forces the receiver to make a good return and reduces the chance of error. Be on the attack when you serve. It is sometimes the only possible way to defeat a stronger opponent.

Try to retrieve every shot

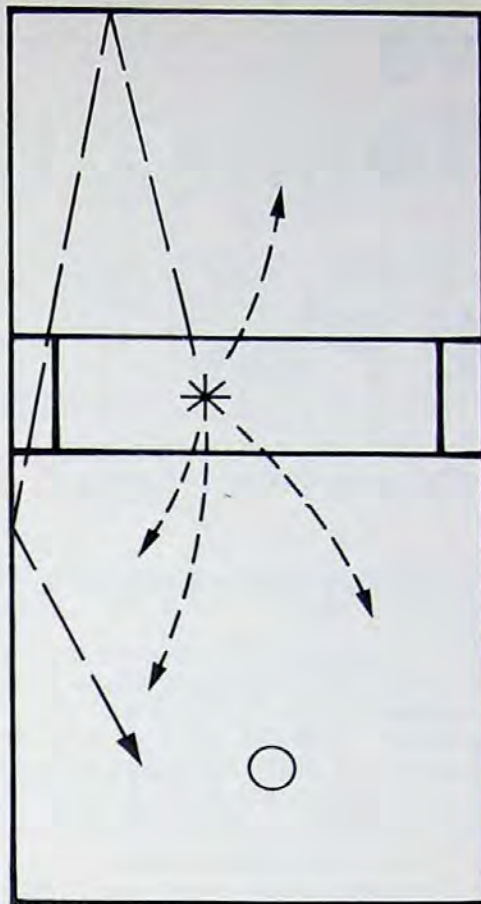
A very common error among beginners is to give up too soon on a ball that gets by them or that seems completely out of reach. If you watch a skillful player, you will notice how many shots he retrieves that seem virtually unreturnable (See Figure 2).

This feat can be accomplished partially due to player anticipation and sound court position, which comes with time. But, a lot can be accomplished by just plain hustle on the court during rallies.

To assist in this effort, you of course must try to return every shot and execute either a basic forehand or backhand stroke. Many beginners take the short cut of hitting the ball into the back wall when it gets past them, when in fact they could return the ball more effectively by playing it on the rebound off the back wall.

Also, do not stand flat-footed when your opponent is hitting the ball. Be

Figure 2. After serving, a smart player flows with the opponent's return to any direction on the court.



poised and ready to react and keep the feet moving. Flow with the opponent's shot and do not be lazy in returning to center court — don't stand idle near a side wall, get back into position for a return. If you do this, you will find yourself digging up shots in the front and back court you never dreamed you could reach.

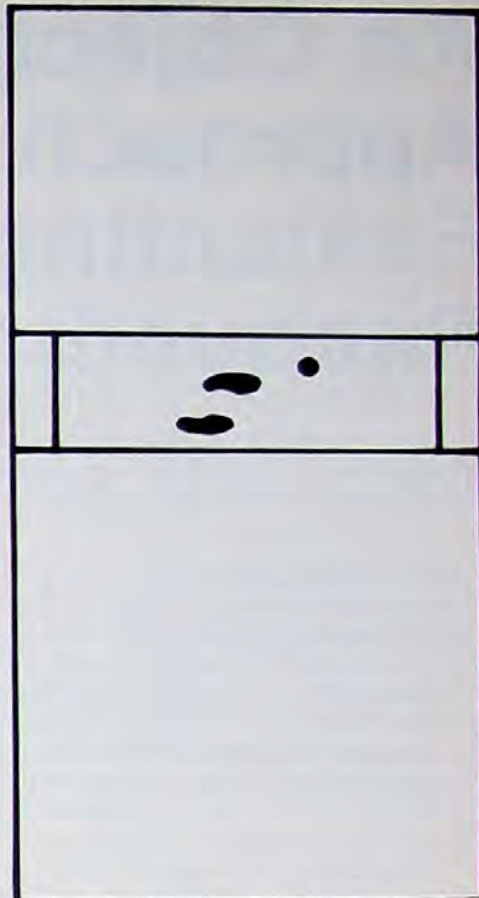
Drop the ball away from your body while serving

A good example of this is the article on serving by Jerry Hilecher in our March issue. Note the arms length distance from his body that the ball is bounced. One of the most noticeable errors for beginners while serving is to drop the ball too close to his body to allow for a proper stroke and service execution.

To ensure a good serve, your body must have room to rotate in the hips and shoulders. Dropping the ball in front of your lead foot well away from the body will allow this basic rotation to take place. (See Figure 3). It is simply

Figure 3. Drop the ball **away** from your body, well in front of your lead foot.

Allow yourself plenty of room to serve.



giving you adequate space to serve the ball effectively.

Allow yourself the complete use of the space in the serving zone. Start with your rear foot on but not beyond the short service line and drop the ball well in front of you. Step into the serve with the other foot and allow the ball to drop to between waist and knee height (for drive and Z serves). The motion resembles a hard side-arm throw in baseball.

Torque generated by the hips and shoulders makes for a powerful stroke and combined with a firm snap of the wrist upon contact with the ball should provide you with a fast serve. In any case, keep the ball away from the body while dropping it to serve and you will be able to hit the ball more firmly and probably more accurately. ●

An Objective Approach To Evaluating Racquetball Play

Dr. Jack Reznik is Associate Director of Recreational Sports at the University of Michigan. He is an avid and accomplished racquetball player and author of *Racquetball For Men and Women*.

What am I doing wrong? How can I improve my performance? How should I play against my next opponent? What are my opponent's strengths and weaknesses? These are some of the questions which express the concerns and needs of racquetball players about their own skills and those of their opponents.

Racquetball Shot Analysis and Scouting Chart

The Racquetball Shot Analysis and Scouting Chart which this article proposes is one method which will attempt to answer these questions. A second method, the Racquetball Score Card, is discussed later in this article. It is an objective approach to evaluating and analyzing a player's shot performance during game play. If the chart is completed by an individual who is knowledgeable about the rules and skills of racquetball, it will provide data pertaining to what has transpired during a contest. More specifically, the information recorded on the chart will enable a player to become aware not only of his own strengths and weaknesses but also those of his future opponent.

As the name implies, the Racquetball Shot Analysis and Scouting Chart serves a dual purpose or function. First, it can be utilized to help you evaluate your own skill performance. It will make you conscious of your strengths and deficiencies. By utilizing the factual data this chart provides, you will then be able to plan your practice sessions accordingly. This will make them more meaningful by utilizing your time efficiently and effectively to further improve your strengths and to eliminate or at least correct as many weaknesses as possible. Also, having factual proof of your weaknesses might even make you more determined to practice harder and longer in these areas to improve them. Once you know what areas need improvement, the rest

will be up to you. It is important to remember that there is no substitute for hard work and practice. Practice diligently. Only through effective and efficient use of practice sessions can progress be made.

The second function or role of this chart is to ascertain information about a future opponent. The specific data you can collect pertaining to his game, coupled with your own knowledge of racquetball and your racquetball play, will provide you with the opportunity to intelligently prepare and design a plan of attack. To assist you in devising a game plan against your opponent, the Racquetball Shot Analysis and Scouting Chart will provide you with factual data about your opponent, such as: (1) the type of offensive shots he relies on most frequently to score points or win the serve; (2) the type of shots he does not use frequently; and (3) the type of shots he regularly executes unsuccessfully. Having this information about your opponent will enable you to more effectively plan both your offensive and defensive strategy so you can capitalize on your own strengths and take advantage of his weaknesses.

It should be noted that this chart is more reliable when information is collected over a period of several games. Remember: ONE GAME IS NOT INCLUSIVE. However, after one match you may be able to see a pattern of play develop.

GAME 1

Contestants	Pass		Kill		Ceiling		Z-Ball		Errors		Serves	
	BH	FH	BH	FH	BH	FH	BH	FH	BH	FH	Aces	DF's
(RH)	.....	..	..	.....	...	..	..	..	.....	..	...	...
PHIL	6	2	1	8	3	1	0	1	7	2	3	0
(LH)	..	.....	.....	..	..	.....	..	..	.....	.....	..	.....
DON	1	4	7	1	1	3	2	0	3	8	2	4

GAME 2

Contestants	Pass		Kill		Ceiling		Z-Ball		Errors		Serves	
	BH	FH	BH	FH	BH	FH	BH	FH	BH	FH	Aces	DF's
(RH)	.....	...	..	.....	..	..	...	..	.....	..	..	...
PHIL	8	3	0	7	2	0	3	0	6	2	2	0
(LH)	..	.....	.....	..	..	.....	..	..	.....	.....	..	.....
DON	2	5	6	2	0	3	1	2	3	7	1	5

BH — BACKHAND RH — RIGHT HANDED DF's — DOUBLE FAULTS
FH — FOREHAND LH — LEFT HANDED

Directions For Completing The Chart

The following suggestions will assist you in completing the Racquetball Shot Analysis and Scouting Chart. After you secure the services of an individual who is knowledgeable or at least familiar with the rules and skills of racquetball, you should instruct this individual as to the proper method of collecting and recording the data. If you are scouting an opponent, then you can do your own recording.

All shots that occur during a game to score points, win or lose a serve or are attempted unsuccessfully (errors) should be recorded by placing a dot in the appropriate box opposite the name. At the completion of the game, total the number of dots in each box. Then add the totals from each box to the totals from the appropriate boxes from the previous games. Once you have completed this procedure for several games, you will then be ready to examine the recorded data.

Directions For Interpreting the Chart

After the data has been recorded, the next step is to analyze and evaluate it. From the information collected, you should be able to determine the strengths and weaknesses of the player being evaluated. The chart will indicate the types of shots that are relied on most often to score points or win the serve. Most of the time the shots will fall into the pass, kill, ceiling or Z-ball categories because these are the predominantly used shots in racquetball. It will also indicate any

strengths or weaknesses in either your forehand or backhand strokes or your serves.

In the diagram, you will see two recorded games. After analyzing each game, you will notice that each player has several areas of weakness. When you combine both charts, these weaknesses become more apparent.

As you analyze the diagram, it becomes evident that Phil has a weak backhand while Don has a weak forehand. The number of errors committed and the type of stroke selected for each shot support this premise. Don also needs to practice his kill shot accuracy judging from the number of errors he has made while executing this shot.

The chart also shows that both players usually play percentage shots with their weaker strokes while being more aggressive and offensive minded with their dominant strokes. On closer analysis, you will also see that both players are falling into a set pattern of play. Once you can determine your opponent's style or pattern of play, it will be easier to devise a plan of attack. The Racquetball Shot Analysis and Scouting Chart will also point out your style of play. If the chart indicates that you are performing in a set pattern or style, you should change it, adjust it, or improve it so you will not become stereotyped.

Briefly, if you were going to play either of these two players, you should be able to intelligently design a plan of attack. First of all, knowing their weaknesses you should concentrate

on hitting the ball to those areas during play. Second, serve the ball to their weak side. Third, since you know their shot preference, you should be able to intelligently position yourself each time you hit them the ball. For example, if you hit the ball to their weak side, you can position yourself deeper in the court because they will most likely hit a defensive shot as opposed to a kill shot. Likewise, when you hit the ball to their dominant side, you can move closer to the front court because you can anticipate that they will be shooting a kill shot rather than a pass, ceiling, or Z-shot.

Finally, from this chart you can see that Don needs to practice his serve. He is making too many double faults and losing his serve for no reason at all.

As you can see, the Racquetball Shot Analysis and Scouting Chart can be a very useful and valuable instrument in either evaluating and analyzing your own game or that of your opponents. The chart that is illustrated in the diagram is a very simple device to prepare and use. As you learn more about racquetball and how to utilize this chart, you will probably make or devise a shot analysis or scouting chart that is more complex. How complex you make it will depend on you and the type of information you want to ascertain. After you compile, examine and analyze the information from the Racquetball Shot Analysis and Scouting Chart, it will be up to you to put the information you acquire to good use.

Safety

Lee Duda is the head pro at the Evanston Court Club, Evanston, Illinois, a top ranked A player in that state and long-time contributor to *National Racquetball* magazine.



Instructing the Instructor

As an instructor, your job demands that you be on the court with people who have little idea of how to direct the ball, little idea of court position, and who move after the ball with little idea of where their opponent is. We all know how it feels to get hit with a ball. Some of us have even been hit with a racquet. Until the inexperienced player learns to be aware of essential safety points, we as instructors must take precautions for our own safety.

The National Safety Council slogan "Drive Defensively" can be turned into the instructors' byword: "Teach Defensively". Make sure that each of your students understands that while the lesson is to be enjoyable, he must follow your instructions, and hit only the shot that he has been instructed to hit.

In order for you to be able to observe wrist, arm and body action during a practice shot, you must get yourself properly positioned on the court. Once you have taken that position you should not, for example, permit your student to take a shot on the fly that was intended to be a back wall shot.

When teaching the forehand, position yourself behind and to the side of your student. In this position you can observe and protect yourself at the same time.

Teaching backhand presents some unique problems. One such problem is the disoriented student who forgets where the front wall is. This same student often has difficulty switching from forehand to backhand. In teaching such a student watch the wrist and arm action carefully. If the wrist moves into the forehand position, stop the swing and remind the student of the backhand swing. Do this first without a ball, and then, when you are confident of your student's ability to duplicate the swing, assume a position behind and to the side of your student, and have him make the backhand shot with the ball.

When teaching backwall shots to the forehand or the backhand, the best position for the instructor is in the service box, center court. In the case of the forehand (and the same positioning but in the reverse applies to the backhand) the instructor hits to the

front wall so that the ball bounces deeply into the back court forehand side, and to the back wall. After the hit the instructor moves quickly to the backhand wall turning his back and shoulder slightly toward the front wall. As the student increases his ability to control his shots, the instructor will be able to modify his position and remain closer to the center of the court. If the instructor's hit is off target, quickly shout: "Don't Hit". Assume, however, that your student may still hit the ball so protect your face with your racquet.

As you are teaching, it will be necessary to retrieve balls. Make certain that your students know what you are going to do, and that they have completely stopped play before you move in front of them to gather balls. Do not assume that your student will see you and stop hitting.

Finally, when volleying with students, keep a safe distance from their armstrokes and try to keep them in front of you where you can observe their movements. Watch the path of the ball. Just as you teach your students to concentrate, you too must concentrate.

Ten Commandments of Instruction

1. Teach defensively.
2. Stay out of the path of the ball.
3. Protect thy face.
4. Concentrate on what is happening in the court, and do not allow your mind to wander.
5. Be prepared for the unexpected.
6. Make sure your student knows what to expect, and does exactly what you have told him to do.
7. Incorporate safety of both the student and his opponent into your lesson.
8. Remember, you can be hit with a ball standing 10 feet behind your student or even in the observation area.
9. Carry insurance.
10. Don't forget that racquetball is fun.

You and your student should both enjoy the lesson. Racquetball needs good instructors, concerned for the development of the game and the safety of all players.

Stay healthy—we need you! ●

Understanding Fatigue

Kenneth Carlson is Assistant Professor of Health, in the School of Health, Physical Education and Recreation at the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

Racquetball has unrecognized potential for improving a player's general health and physical fitness. It is an activity which can provide satisfaction and entertainment to its players. Authorities tend to agree that an enjoyable exercise program, likely to be practiced often over a long period of time, will benefit an individual both physically and mentally. A game with well-established rules helps the player forget that he or she is exercising. When properly played, racquetball enhances strength, endurance, coordination, flexibility, and cardiovascular efficiency.

The challenge of learning new skills, the competitive interaction with other people, and the surroundings in which the sports activity takes place add dimensions to racquetball that are often missing in other physical fitness activities. Racquetball builds confidence because it continually demands accurate hand-eye coordination, concentration, and alertness. The strategy of racquetball and its basic elements are valuable to some people because they are often the only factors that can motivate them to exercise and exert themselves. Continued participation in racquetball will eventually require improvement of the various skills necessary for success as a player; the confidence gained by this mastery of physical skills can be extremely important.

Injury or accidents resulting from poor health should concern all participants in a sport such as racquetball. With the increasing interest in racquetball, courts are becoming crowded with beginning players who may encounter problems with physical impairments or injuries. A medical examination before engaging in the sport is essential for all persons, even those who feel healthy. This is particularly important for anyone over 35 years of age who has generally avoided exercise in the past and especially if there is a current

health problem or a history of health disorders. A physician may recommend that a modified exercise program or a conditioning program precede more active participation in the sport.¹

Analysis of Fatigue

When people engage in a demanding activity, one of the responses they may find most difficult to deal with is fatigue. Many people think of fatigue in terms of "being tired"; more realistically, fatigue is the inability of the body to deliver sufficient energy to the muscles and organs during exercise. Fatigue manifests itself as a buildup of metabolic waste or substances in the blood stream; therefore, a person will fatigue when waste accumulates in the muscles and the organs at a faster rate than the body is capable of disposing of them. Racquetball demands vast amounts of energy from the body during play and as a result there is an excess of waste which accumulates in the muscles. A well-conditioned player is able to deal with fatigue since his muscles have the ability to dissipate waste at a faster rate.

Racquetball also requires increased efficiency of the lungs, conditioning them to process more air with less effort. During an exhausting match a conditioned player may process nearly twice as much air per minute as an unconditioned player, providing the body with the extra oxygen necessary for the energy producing process.² Oxygen is the key to delaying fatigue because it acts as an agent to reduce the buildup of waste in the body tissues. The reasons some players fatigue faster than others are numerous, but with healthy individuals fatigue is usually the result of a limited ability to utilize oxygen.

¹La Place, p. 285.

²Cooper, *Aerobics*, p. 12.

One of the problems with efficiency in a sport that requires a great deal of movement by the body is the amount of energy necessary to meet the continuous demands placed on the various muscles. Unless the individual has developed the capacity to deliver added oxygen to the body tissues he can not effectively expend the energy necessary to accomplish the multitude of mental and physical tasks required. Because running and jogging involve an increase in respiratory efficiency, they can be helpful to the racquetball player.

Muscular Fatigue

Experienced by almost everyone at one time or another, muscular fatigue during exercise is the most common form of physical fatigue. Fatigue produces muscular tenseness during exercise and may affect all the organ systems of the body. Extreme fatigue almost always affects the digestive system so there is usually a loss of appetite after physical exercise. Fatigue may cause the muscles to be weak and sore, but this feeling will usually diminish when exercise is stopped and muscular tensions reduced.

Mental Fatigue

A strenuous activity such as racquetball produces mental and physical fatigue. Mental fatigue is caused by the continued stimulation of the nerve cells, depleting their energy. It then becomes difficult for nerve impulses to be transmitted accurately and efficiently and mental error is more likely to occur.

Regular exercise that develops strength, stamina, and endurance also helps improve mental performance and fitness. One of the most important qualities necessary for high levels of performance by professional and amateur athletes is the ability to perform well at the right moment in critical situations. Fatigue causes

stress and tension during strenuous contests and could make the difference between winning and losing.

Signs of Fatigue Related to Play

(1) As fatigue sets in, movements of the body may become erratic and there is a decrease in speed and quickness. The individual will probably have difficulty making a variety of shots and lack the speed necessary to properly position himself on the court.

(2) The player is likely to make mistakes in judgement which are important to his style of play. Errors are likely to be made in hand-eye coordination or in contemplating strategy during play.

(3) There may be a noticeable lack of strength in either the arms or legs affecting the amount of power a person can generate. Lack of power may be most apparent during the serve or hitting the ball on return.

(4) Fatigue affects endurance and the ability to maintain high levels of performance over a long period of time.

(5) Individuals may also notice a decrease in the performance of skills they normally have no problem executing.

(6) When a player is mentally fatigued he may lose his concentration, desire to compete, or the motivation necessary to win a match.³

Summary

When a person is not well-conditioned, the muscular system will have more difficulty dealing with the concentration of waste in the body tissues. The more intensely one plays, the sooner his muscles will fatigue. Concentrated and demanding activities require a greater use of energy and a player will fatigue more rapidly.

Fatigue acts as a protective mechanism that warns the body when it has reached its physical limits. Extreme cases of fatigue should be regarded as a sign for stopping activity even though this may not be desirable at the time. Anyone who is in good physical health and practices a regular fitness program can develop sufficient levels of physical fitness and should not fatigue or tire easily. ●

³Richardson, Hein, Farnsworth, p. 285.

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The Gold of Goldie

The Many Faces



*The grimace of concern
as Marty falls behind during a match.*



*The pose of relief
as Marty takes his commanding lead.*

People have always been tremendously fascinating to me. They are so different, and all have some special quality that sets them apart from the others, especially in racquetball.

Here, personal traits seem to be more visible than in other sports. Take Charlie Brumfield, for instance. Without any dialogue, Charlie would not be the same. He's wonderful to watch and listen. Then there is Marty Hogan who makes up in "scrap" what he lacks in rhetoric. Even here, he is showing marked improvement. Steve Keeley, of course, is the perfect gentleman. Academic brilliance is very obvious in his demeanor as well as his

play. There is no mistaking Steve Strandemo. He is unbridled fury from Point One. But that's part of his greatness. Steve Serot stirs up a storm without uttering a word. His retrieving skill speaks for itself. Jerry Hilecher has added his share of color to the sport, with his booming serve. There's also Davey Bledsoe, whose unpredictable victories always keep you wondering who will win. And the tour's newest father, Richard Wagner, whose speed is legend.

There is something to be said about many more of the great characters who make up the body and soul of racquetball. Surprising as it may seem, not one of the men has fascinated me

as much as the women. And one woman in particular. No, she is not a seeded player, nor one of the money players. Yet, she probably has contributed more to the "personality" of racquetball than any other woman. How do you describe a woman who patiently guides a 15-year-old boy through several sports, to the most natural use of his abilities, with a number one ranking as the result? How do you describe a mother who, tournament after tournament, suffers through the agony of defeat until that day when the difference of a mother's love and guidance is the difference between victory and defeat? How do you describe a mother who takes in every tournament, attends to her son's

of Goldie Hogan



*The smile of satisfaction,
as she talks of Marty's success.*



*Goldie the player, who once
finished fourth in the Nationals.*

every need, and with the patience of an angel quiets the fears and frustrations of a talent that could become legend?

A father may turn his back on his child; brothers and sisters may become inveterate enemies; husbands may desert their wives, and wives their husbands. But a mother's love endures through all . . . in victory, in defeat, in the face of the world's condemnation. A mother still loves on, always remembering the infant smiles that once filled her with rapture, the merry laughter, the joyful shouts of childhood, the opening promise of youth. And she can never think of her child as anything less than a champion. Like Napoleon once said, *"The future destiny of the child is always the work of the mother."*

I think the destiny of Marty Hogan is the work of his mother. That's why, to me, she is the most fascinating of all the people I have met in racquetball. As I watch her in the gallery, living and breathing every shot, I see the pure gold of Goldie, the priceless ingredient that makes a boy play harder because he wants to justify his mother's love. I think Marty has done this . . . BIG!

So, as I sit in the racquetball gallery, or in my office, or in church, I realize my good fortune to be witness to the wonderful people who make up the world of racquetball, especially a mother like Goldie Hogan. She doesn't have Brumfield's dialogue; she doesn't have Keeley's poise; she doesn't have

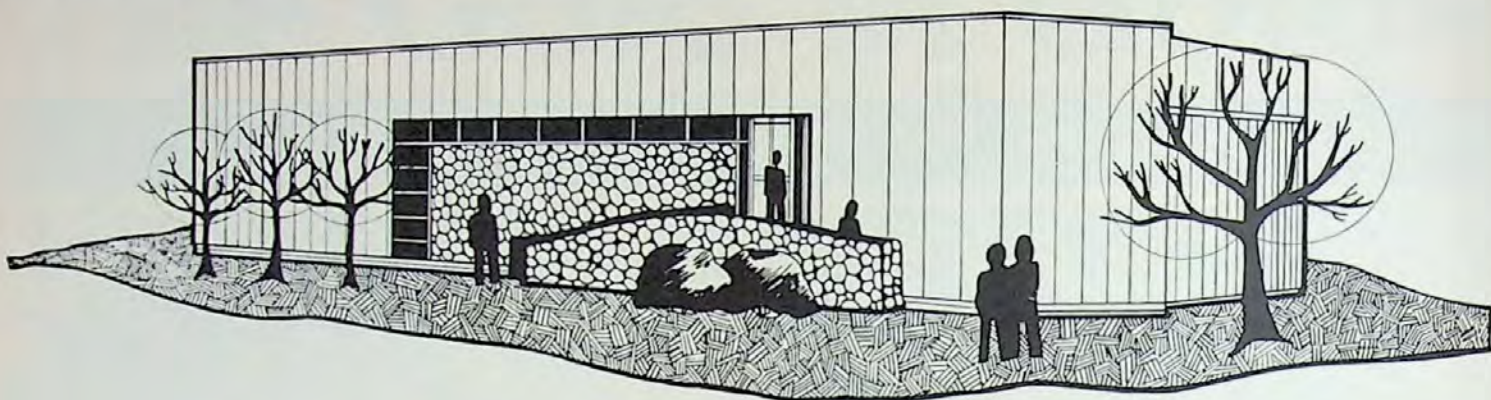
Strandemo's fury; she doesn't have Serot's skill; she doesn't have Hilecher's brilliance; nor Bledsoe's will to win. All she has is a rare capacity to coach, to inspire, and to comfort a super-talent. And who knows? Maybe *she* is the real talent. Certainly, if she has been infused with the will to win, and failed, she has passed it on to a son who is worthy of the challenge.

A great philosopher once said, *"God could not be everywhere, and therefore he made mothers."* We know now what he meant. ●

Keep coaching, Goldie . . . and love,
Evie and Bob Kendler

COURT CLUBS • SPRING MEADOWS, OHIO

Rendering of the new Spring Meadows Court Club.



Construction will begin on April 4, on the Spring Meadows Court Club in Springfield Township. The facility will be located Southwest of Toledo, in the fastest growing area of Northwest Ohio.

Spring Meadows Court Club features a unique design that breaks away from the traditional two rows of courts with amenities in between. The club will open 10 courts, but the design allows for simple expansion to 14 courts, and ultimately to 20 courts.

Another feature will be the extensive use of glass throughout the building, including four courts with full glass back walls. Also included will be mens and womens locker rooms, each with their own sauna and whirlpool. The exercise room and pro shop will both be enclosed with glass.

The managing partner is George Miller, who worked with the architectural firm of The Collaborative Inc., and General Contractor MacKinnon-Parker Inc. in designing the building. He will also

serve as Manager of the Club, assisted by Dave Revenaugh. Dave's responsibilities will include heading the pro shop and teaching handball and racquetball.

Located just minutes from Interstate 475, Spring Meadows is no more than twenty minutes from any point in Metropolitan Toledo. This will be a family facility, and all promotions will feature racquetball as a family sport.



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LOS ALAMITOS, CALIFORNIA

The Los Alamitos Racquet Club, located in Los Alamitos, Calif., is offering an exclusive private club for a health-conscious community. It will be a facility combining a relaxed, friendly environment for men, women and families.

John Wavell, a developer and Don Gibbs, an architect, are the co-owners. Gary Shrigley former, marketing and sales executive, is the general manager.

"We simply got tired of waiting two hours for a court so we decided to build our own," said Wavell. "I'm the developer, Don's the architect. We both own the land, Don did the design, I did the building and Gary will do the managing."

Situated on 40,000 sq. feet of land, this 16,000 sq. foot split level facility features eight regulation racquetball/handball courts, three of which have glass back walls for tournament and exhibition play. The

viewing courts open onto a full floor-to-ceiling lobby that allows 400 spectators to view the action.

The lower level houses a complete indoor/outdoor locker room facility including saunas for men and women. Sliding glass doors lead to a 2000 sq. foot private sunning area and outdoor jacuzzis.

"The light, open feeling of the indoor/outdoor locker rooms and the aesthetically-pleasing building makes this club unique," said Wavell. *"It's a different feeling".*

The 3200 sq. foot mezzanine is enclosed by sliding glass doors and overlooks the landscaped park area in front of the club, highlighting two full size paddle tennis courts. The mezzanine contains a unique 16 step circuit training gym and weight room. A separate free exercise area and also conference and dining room facilities.

The pro shop will be fully stocked carrying only top of the line equipment,

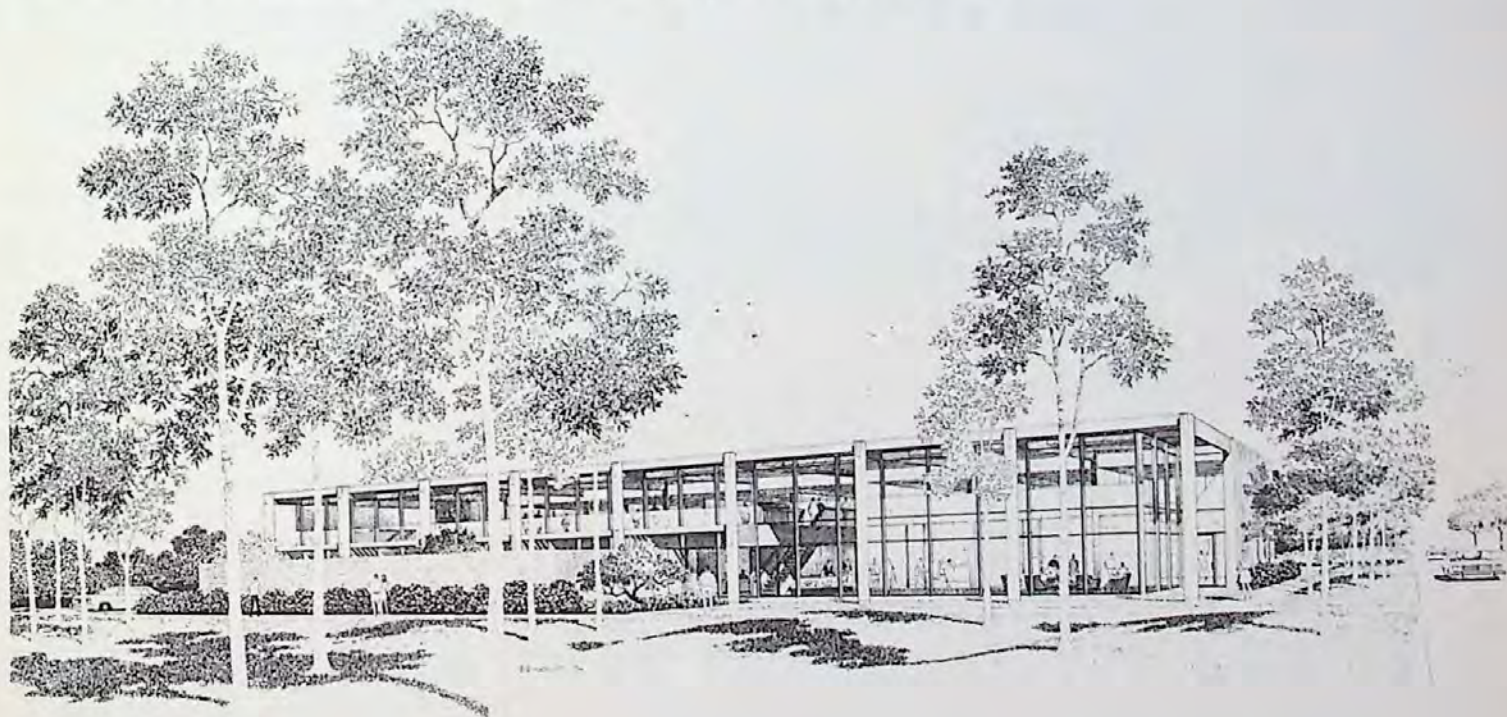
apparel and accessories. It will be located adjacent to the spacious lounge/lobby area.

The Los Alamitos Racquet Club plans to open its doors on June 1 and is centrally located off the 605 freeway east on Katella Ave. and less than one mile west of the Los Alamitos race track.

The bulk of the membership will come from the surrounding communities of Belmont Shore, Park Estates, Bixby Hills, Seal Beach, Cypress, Rossmoor and Los Alamitos. A charter membership offering is scheduled for April 15 with regular memberships to be offered beginning May 1.

For additional club and membership information write Los Alamitos Racquet Club P.O. Box 478 Los Alamitos, CA 90720 or call area code (213) 431-6528.

Mike D. Casey



VAN NUYS, CALIFORNIA

The Center Courts announces its 12-court racquetball/handball club in Van Nuys, California, is now under construction with completion targeted for May-June, 1977. This club, with the existing 11-court facility in West Los Angeles, will increase to 23 the number of courts available to Center Court members.

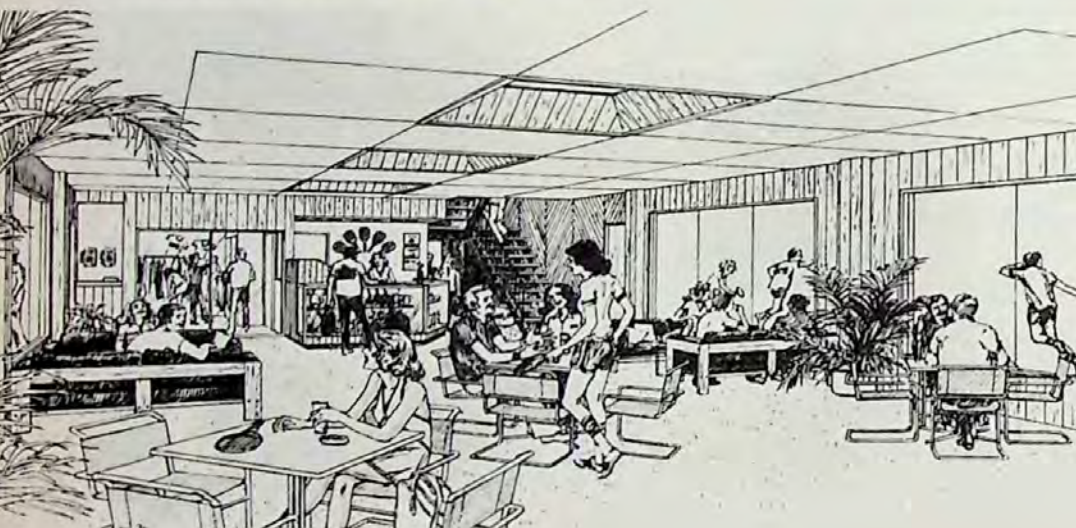
In four of the 12 new courts, players will be viewed from the lobby area through glass-backed windows. A mezzanine will overlook all 12 courts as well as an outdoor co-ed jacuzzi in a garden setting. Fully equipped locker rooms will saunas, a nursery, backgammon tables and color TV will also be available to members. Beer, soft drinks, juices and snacks will be served.

Annual membership fees are \$36 for an individual, \$48 for a family and are

reduced quarterly on a pro rata basis. Members may play at either Center Courts location. Hourly court time ranges from \$1.50 to \$3.00 per person depending upon time of day played and use of discount cards. In addition, a special \$60, three month unlimited play card will be available for non-prime time play. Up to half of the courts may be reserved by members on a permanent time basis.

The Van Nuys location is located one block east of the San Diego Freeway on Orion (one block south of Roscoe exit).

The West Los Angeles facility, which opened in April 1975, is located one block east of the Bundy exit and one block north of Olympic at 11866 La Grange Avenue.



SANIBEL ISLAND, FLORIDA

Sanibel Island,— located off the coast of Ft. Myers, Florida, noted for its wide sandy beach, and some of the worlds most abundant and exotic shells, will have its first racquetball courts effective July 1, 1977.

The two, four wall, air conditioned courts will be part of the SIGNAL INN, a gulf front cottage colony. The SIGNAL INN will consist of twelve one and two bedroom piling cottages, and swimming pool, located on 4½ acres of prime gulf property. The courts will be available to all guests of the resort between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Monday to Sunday. Racquetball and handball equipment will be available at the office.

The SIGNAL INN will also have a private club for island residents with 24 hour playing privileges by use of a key to the courts. The courts will be open to the public on a limited basis at \$6 per court hour.

For more information, write or call the SIGNAL INN, 1811 Gulf Dr., Sanibel Island, Florida, 33957. Phone 813-472-4690.

NOBLESVILLE, INDIANA

Construction of a new Courtside Racquetball-Handball Club at 1635 Dublin-Granville Road, Columbus, is scheduled to begin next week, it was announced today by Phil Trotter, Jr., Marketing and Development Director for Courtside, Ltd.

"Final arrangements for the new club were completed today," Trotter said. "Work begins immediately on what we believe will be one of the finest racquetball-handball facilities in

the country, offering physical exercise and fun to everyone."

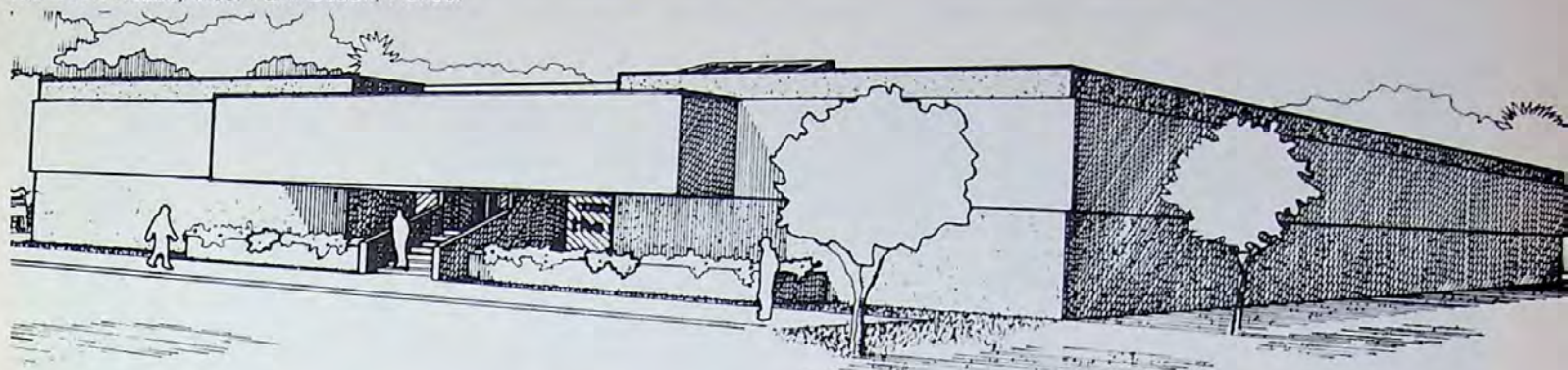
The club design includes 8 championship racquetball-handball courts, an observation lounge, pro shop, kitchenette, childcare area and men and women locker facilities. All courts will have resilient and cushioned floor materials as well as being evenly illuminated by 75 foot candle mercury lighting.

"We haven't overlooked newcomers to the sports," Trotter explained. "Free instruction clinics will be available to all beginners by our professional. Courtside Club offers the individual fun while attaining good exercise."

Dick Greer Builders, Inc. is the general contractor for the Courtside Racquetball-Handball Club. Architectural design is by Don Mussarwir and Associates. Opening date for the Courtside Club is projected for July.

WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

The Court House, West Palm Beach, Florida.



Racquetball, handball and paddleball players of Palm Beach County rejoice! There will be no more looking for a court and no more waiting!

The Court House at 1500 Old Okeechobee Road, West Palm Beach, opens in May. The private club will have a membership ceiling so there will be no waiting for a court any of the seven days a week. The Court House will be open. Reservations may be made for the same date every week. Time once wasted finding a place to

play may now be spent on the court or in the whirlpool, the steam bath, or the bar overlooking the courts.

John Bills and Tom McCloskey, the developers and avid players, took pains to make sure The Court House has everything a racquetball or handball player could ever want. There are eight championship courts, a well-stocked pro shop, a teaching pro, a nursery for the members' children, and carpeted men's and women's locker rooms. The interior design

features large comfortable furniture, lots of wood, and plenty of live greenery.

In a climate where heat is always a factor, the fully air-conditioned Palm Beach club expects to enjoy year round participation. Temporary memberships will be available for winter visitors.

For membership information, contact, The Court House, 1400 Old Dixie Highway, Lake Park, Florida, 844-5233.

KING OF PRUSSIA, PEN.

U.S.R.A. State chairman Jim Pruitt announced the beginning of the King of Prussia Racquetball Club. King of Prussia, Pennsylvania, is a northwestern suburb of Philadelphia.

An 11-court facility is planned with expansion capability to 20 courts during construction if initial membership target quotas are attained. Initial site work began in April, with the official groundbreaking in May. The facility will be ready by December 1, 1977.

The club will feature:

1. 4 glass courts (1 full glass sidewall with balcony, 1 upstairs full length side glass wall, 1 downstairs full length side glass wall, and 1 half-court length glass side wall.
2. Full health club facilities (steam, sauna, whirlpools, and Universal exercise room).
3. Complete Pro Shop.
4. Supervised nursery
5. Private meeting and game room.
6. Refreshment and snack facilities.

All the above (11 courts) will utilize 22,500 sq. ft.

How can you be sure to have a successful racquetball-handball club?



Go with experience. Despite the fact that racquetball is the fastest growing sport in America today, a number of clubs are experiencing problems. Many factors are vital to long range success, including club design, location, management of operation, new programs, maintenance, and so forth.

We, at Spaulding, are what one might term, "pioneers," in racquetball club ownership and management. We currently own and operate 8 clubs, with more on the way.

We believe through our research and development of systems at our own expense at our own clubs, that we are now in a position to help others in club design, construction and management. Before you invest, see what we can do for you. Contact The Spaulding Racquetball Clubs, Inc. at 314-391-6439.

Spaulding Racquetball Clubs, Inc.

200 Enchanted Pkwy. St. Louis, Mo. 63011

WESTMINSTER, CALIFORNIA

On hand at the dedication of the foundation are (front row, L to R) E. O. Rodeffer-Owner, Westminster Mayor Joy Neuegabauer, Chuck Hohl-Owner and General Manager, Joy Koppel-Women's Activity Coordinator, (second row, L to R) Deb Shubin-Sales, Mike Allen and Jim Carson, resident racquetball instructors.



Scheduled for opening in early Summer- '77, King's Racquetball Court promises to be one of the most unique Clubs of its' kind. Chuck Hohl, Owner and General Manager, is a veteran racquetballer who has developed a special player license concept featuring five different playing plans from hourly to yearly.

A "Royal" exhibition court with three glass walls and 400 seat auditorium will provide professional tournaments for players and spectators.

King's Court has 19 air-conditioned courts; three glass walled exhibition courts. Separate spa facilities for both men and women, health juice bar, supervised children's play area and full locker and laundry services. On-site and adjacent parking for 200 cars. The court is located in Westminster, near Westminster Mall at Golden West and Sowell Streets.

Information about King's Racquetball Court's unique playing concept is available by calling 714-898-9841, or by visiting the club site 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. seven days a week.



SOUTH LAKE TAHOE, CA.

Something New Is coming to Tahoe . . . THE SIERRA TAHOE ATHLETIC CLUB! Roy L. Carlson, president, Gene Landrum, vice president, and Mike Davin, developer, extend a hearty welcome to the residents and visitors to Tahoe! This giant 12 court facility is located at the South Shore of Lake Tahoe and is scheduled to open October 1st, 1977. The club will offer racquetball, handball, paddleball, sauna and spa, gymnasium, weight room, juice bar, a budget pro shop with instructors on staff, game room, meeting room and a complete child care center!

Advance Membership Discounts are available now for FOUNDERS MEMBERSHIPS, CHARTER MEMBERSHIPS, PHYSICAL FITNESS, AND CORPORATE MEMBERSHIPS. This unique facility in a beautiful location is something the whole family will enjoy, somewhere to meet with friends, a great place to exercise, play or simply relax in a warm soothing spa!

The SIERRA TAHOE ATHLETIC CLUB will also feature professional and amateur tournaments, special family events, and year-round fun and excitement for all! Plans are currently being made to open other facilities throughout Northern California.

If you are interested in our Advance Membership Discounts, please write for more information and our exciting brochure:

The SIERRA TAHOE ATHLETIC CLUB
P.O. Box 3356
South Lake Tahoe, California 95729



ROCKY HILL, CONNECTICUT

Why would a Southern Californian move himself and his family to New England at the beginning of the coldest winter in a century? Masochism? Pure insanity? Those are possible explanations, though the reason for Jeff Coyle was to become the managing partner in one of Connecticut's first private racquetball facilities.

The Rollout Racquetball Club is located in Rocky Hill, Connecticut, a suburb of Hartford. Though there are no other clubs in the area, Jeff has found an enthusiastic following for the game at the neighboring YMCAs. Although his six-court facility has not yet opened (scheduled for May 1, 1977), it is being so well-received by potential and existing players that Jeff and his partners are already talking about expansion and looking for sites for their next club.

Jeff Coyle, President of Rollout, Inc. is a former salesman from West Los Angeles, where he has been playing racquetball for the last three years. His partners, Pat Gallagher, Mike Law, Chuck Rolles, and Kenny Williams are all associated with Chuck's Steak House, a well-known restaurant chain. We'll be looking for a chair of Rollout Racquetball Clubs from these five, who are bringing the "court club boom" to the East Coast.

For further information about Rollout, contact Jeff Coyle, 2199 Silas Deane Highway, Rocky Hill, Connecticut 06067 or phone (203) 653-7999.

Sorry We Forgot You

Below is a list of racquetball facilities that we unintentionally omitted from the Directory of Court Clubs published in the March issue.

Fiesta Village RB/HBClub
22980 Washington St.
Colton, CA 92324

Jefferson Court Club
2720 Metairie Lawn Dr.
Metairie, LA 70002

Courtsports
2510 Oakmont Way
Eugene, OR 97401

Manhattan Squash Club
1114 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10036

Willie Daniel Athletic Club
107 Eckford Dr.
Starkville, MS 39759

Canyon Terrace Courts
100 N. Tustin
Anaheim, CA 92806

The Courtrooms
940 N.W. 7th Terr.
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33311

If we have omitted your club from our Directory, please drop us a line so we can publish the club's name and address for all the racquetball world to see. That's *National Racquetball*, 4101 Dempster St., Skokie, IL 60076.

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Women In Racquetball



Carol Brusslan

Kicking The Fat Cat Habit

It's spring and our family cat is outdoors again dashing across the yard, stalking through the woods, chasing birds (which I'm happy to report she seldom catches). What a difference between this trim, frisky feline and February's fat cat whose only exercise was slinking to her food dish!

My friend Toby used to act like a fat cat. Even as a little girl, she'd tagged herself "non-athletic." The last one picked for the softball game, the tail end of the fifth grade races. Later, as an adult, she'd made half-hearted attempts at sports, then resigned herself to the status of spectator. Fighting the urge to make food her recreation was a constant battle, a battle she often lost.

One day Toby's husband led her onto a racquetball court. You know what happened. Toby could hit the ball. She could return it. She even discovered she could run around the court. She attended a clinic, met other players and started a twice-a-week game. Racquetball cured Toby of her fat cat complex.

Toby is not alone. Women around the country are finding racquetball controls their weight. Add this benefit to other reasons women play, - to stay fit, to let off steam, to meet the challenge of competition, to have a good time, - and it adds up to thousands of women making racquetball a part of their lives.

The numbers of women playing today may surprise you, as we've logged for you in this inaugural section.

It's to all these women, from novices to pros that *National Racquetball* magazine is dedicating this new section. *Women in Racquetball* is here to entertain ("Man Does Not Live By Racquetball Alone"), to inform ("Off The Court Strategy"), and to help your game ("Playing Tips").

What future issues cover is up to you. Your ideas, comments, articles, photos, drawings and stories can shape our *Women in Racquetball* section. Please drop me a line: Carol Brusslan, Associate Editor, *National Racquetball* Magazine, 4101 Dempster Street, Skokie, Illinois 60076.

So here's a welcome to the pages of *National Racquetball* magazine to all you women racquetball players, - natural athletes and former fat cats included. We'll be waiting to hear from you.

The Fat Cat



A Woman Player? You're One of a Million!

Our national survey shows us how women are taking to racquetball . . . 54

Playing Tips

Learning how to correct mistakes . . . 58

Man Does Not Live by Racquetball Alone

The world's first racquetball love story . . . 64

Off-the-Court Strategy

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Jeanie Meets Jeanie

Women's racquetball makes TV news . . . 67

Who's Playing Racquetball?

Let's start with a nuclear scientist . . . 68

Say Hello To Carol Brusslan

As racquetball expands, so too must *National Racquetball* magazine expand with ideas and people to satisfy the ever-increasing appetite of the racquetball public.

It is with a great deal of pleasure that we at *National Racquetball* welcome Carol Brusslan to our staff as an associate editor. Carol, who says she's "an enthusiastic racquetball beginner," will have as her primary responsibility, our brand-new *Women in Racquetball* section.

She has been a newspaper reporter and photographer, a radio writer and a publicist, winning prizes as editor of newsletters and magazines.

A graduate of Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism, Carol has two daughters and a son, - all of whom play racquetball, and a cat that has never tried the game.

Among her hobbies are skiing, hiking and bicycling. Carol and her husband, an attorney, live in an old, white stucco house in a Chicago suburb.

We're extremely proud to have Carol with us. We at *National Racquetball* feel that her contribution and ability will further enhance our magazine's contribution to racquetball.

A Woman Player? You're One of a Million!

The fair sex is getting a fair share of action on the racquetball courts.

So reported the 20 teaching pros, managers, owners and athletic directors we quizzed to learn how American women are reacting to racquetball. The men and women who answered our questions work in YMCA's, colleges, athletic clubs and racquetball/handball centers from Florida to Minnesota and from California to Vermont.

They agreed that it's the ladies who have changed racquetball from a short-handled novelty into the country's fastest growing sport.

Here's what the racquetball experts report:

How many women are playing racquetball?

33.5 per cent of today's racquetball players are women. Based on the United States Racquetball Association's 1976 estimates of three million players, that would mean well over a million women are racquetball enthusiasts.

Big city and suburban clubs reported the highest percentages of women players, along with colleges and universities. Athletic directors said coeds are flocking to the sport, both as a physical ed option and as an out-of-class diversion.

Said the manager of a two-year-old club in the southwest part of the country: "We thought 25 per cent of our players might be women, but we're already up to 40 per cent. Men join, their wives stop in to watch and before long, the women are filling daytime hours."

Only at one facility—a large midwest Y—were the percentages reversed. There, 65 per cent of the players are women and "the men are catching up to the women," according to the program coordinator. "Five years ago the men were playing handball and the relatively few racquetball players were women. For the last

year and a half the men—especially the younger ones—are turning to racquetball. Of course the number of women is increasing, too."

Men make up the first wave of members in a new facility, most managers said. The longer the courts are there, the more women start to play.

How old is the average woman racquetball player?

The hot spot falls between 25 and 30, with 28 computing out as the average age.

The average is surprisingly consistent in all parts of the country. And, as might be expected, city players are younger than their suburban sisters. The owner of a chain of clubs said his in-city operations attract women seven to 10 years younger than his clubs in the suburbs.

In-house nurseries make the sport available to mothers in their early 30's, and college programs introduce racquetball to 18 and 19-year-old women. But the age range for women racquetball players is even wider.

In one southern city, where you find racquetball courts in almost every church gymnasium, seven-year-old girls are hitting balls against the walls and 10-year-olds are competing with friends.

Older women like racquetball, too. In a southwestern city that's a mecca for retired servicemen a group of 60-and-older women meets at the racquetball club for a regular game. And a midwest suburban woman who's 71 plays racquetball at least once a week.

How often are women playing?

Every club has its daily players, men as well as women. In fact there seem to be about a hundred women scattered throughout the county who play every day for two or three hours. (They call their routine "a woman's racket.")

Her opponent's usually another woman, but Carolyn Kessinger—who learned to play when Don was Chicago Cubs shortstop—also likes to challenge her husband to a game. The current St. Louis Cardinals infielder owns the Don Kessinger Court Club in Memphis.



—Photo by A. P. I. photographers

But the average around the country ranges from one to three weekly sessions, with most women getting in a match two times a week.

Are women playing other women most of the time?

73.1 per cent of the time that a woman plays racquetball her opponent is another woman. Everyone we queried said women

were playing at least half their games with other women. Five managers and pros said *"they hardly ever play against men"* and reported 90 to 95 per cent of the play was with other women.

The sex of a woman's opponent follows the level of her racquetball skill. Typically, women begin playing with husbands or boyfriends as evening or weekend recreation. As

the woman's game improves, and—as one southern manager put it *"she learns how competitive she can be"*—she plays in leagues and challenge ladders against women of similar abilities.

When a woman thinks she's really good, she wants to see if she can beat a man. One manager noted a regular game between a 40-year-old woman and her

Like women everywhere these players at Chicago's Mid-Town Court House use group lessons to sharpen their racquetball skills.



Photo courtesy Court House

20-year-old son ("pretty evenly matched; she's a good athlete.") A teaching pro said he knows one woman "who will only play a man," and added " 'A' players need the competition—we'll go down and play with them." (He conceded that he sometimes loses, but "not often.")

One racquetball club features a nightly challenge court. "We have six to 10 women players who have

the courage to challenge the men," the manager said, "and when they do, they draw the biggest gallery."

How long has the average woman racquetballer been playing?

Racquetball is such a new sport, the average length of time women have been playing is under a year. Fifteen court facilities reported women playing six to 12 months.

The volume of new clubs with new

players lowered the average length of playing experience, but even long-established centers put the average at a year and a half because of the recent influx of new women players. "The number of women has doubled in the past few months," one manager said.

How many women are taking lessons?

64 per cent of the women who play

racquetball take a lesson the first time they step on the court. Most often they receive that instruction in a clinic where rank beginners learn strokes, footwork, rules and safety tips.

"The younger the woman, the less inclined she is to have some instruction before she starts playing," one midwest teaching pro observed. Another trend noted in our sample: many more women than men start out with lessons.

At a club in a midwest state 60 per cent of the women players take lessons. Only 10 per cent of the men get instruction, a fact, according to the owner, that's *"obvious in their style and form."*

Once they're playing regularly as many men as women seek professional help to improve their games. At some centers the demand for lessons at all levels is so great, players have to put their names on a waiting list.

How popular is league play for women?

Well over 2,000 women are competing with other women in the 20 clubs, Y's and colleges we polled.

Except for a west coast club that *"just doesn't have the courts available (but we hope to make room for a women's league),"* almost every facility sponsors intra-club play, either as an organized league, a women's challenge ladder or a regularly scheduled round robin.

How many women are competing in tournaments?

Ten women have been playing regularly this season in National Racquetball Club tournaments. These pros, who were expected to earn close to \$30,000 in the 76-77 season, are joined by another dozen who compete less frequently on the national circuit.

Amateur tournament figures vary

A National Racquetball story (November, 1976) inspired Cathy Beaton to start a woman's league, now a big success at the North Suburban YMCA in Northbrook, Ill.



Photo by Steve Swift

around the country, with state meets attracting an average of 10 to 30 women players.

"Women around here like to compete locally," a midwest manager said, *"but they're not inclined to spend the money for out-of-town tournaments unless they're awfully good."*

A manager whose club is in a western state said, *"most women are playing for the sociability and exercise, but tournament numbers are growing. Women are no different from men. Some play better under pressure."*

A pro—herself a woman—disagreed. *"Women, more than men, are tournament shy. We're always recruiting good players for tournaments. We have to build up their confidence. We advance them from clinics to club competition and hope they'll go on from there."*

To speed up the progress multi-club owners encourage women from one club to play those from other clubs in the chain, with the grand winner

Editor's note:

Is there a woman pro or manager where you play racquetball? Send us her name, the club name and address (along with your own name and address), and we'll mail you a can of Seamco balls.

named the all-club women's champ. Women also ease into tournament play by joining big city metro leagues where members compete for their club's total team points.

How many women are teaching pros?

Still not many, according to our national sample. Teaching pros total an even dozen in the 20 facilities we questioned. (That doesn't include high school, college and university teachers.)

How many women are managers?

We tracked down a smattering of women assistant managers, acting managers, former managers, program coordinators and recreation directors among the racquetball centers we surveyed. But only three centers on our list—the Evanston Court Club in suburban Chicago, Evansville, Indiana's Tri-State Racquet Club and the Spaulding Racquetball Club in Manchester, Mo.—employ women to manage their clubs.

Playing tips

Learning from your own mistakes is admirable, but it's even better to benefit from someone else's errors. Especially when you're learning racquetball — a game that tends to lure all players into the same bad habits.

That's why Arthur Shay and Jean Sauser use a "mistake-correction" method in their *Inside Racquetball for Women*, a book in soft and hard cover editions that Henry Regnery and Company will release late this summer.

Shay, a photographer-writer with well over 15,000 published pictures and 35 books to his credit, is a former *Life* and *Time* staff reporter and bureau chief. More than a thousand of Shay's photos have appeared on magazine covers, most recently the man in the snow-covered hat whose face announced "The Big Freeze" on *Time's* Jan. 31 cover.

Sauser, Shay's co-author, is a top woman's tournament player who perfected her mistake-correction technique as head pro at Northbrook, Ill.'s SkyHarbor Court Club.

Starting with this issue, photos and playing tips from *Inside Racquetball for Women* will be a regular feature of the women's section of *National Racquetball*.

MISTAKE #1 – Serving up the middle

If you find yourself hindering your opponent time and again after you serve, you are probably serving too many balls up the middle of the court. It's great to hold a position near the center of the court for strategic reasons—it is after all so convenient to almost everywhere on the court. But it also involves the risk of hindering your opponent and equally uncool, the risk of giving her an easy shot to return. Besides all that, it's dangerous!



With more than 600 of our courts installed throughout the United States, nobody should have to travel far to visit one.

We invite anybody who is interested in building a handball/racquetball or squash court to visit one of our installations to see for himself why we are so proud of our Frampton courts. Just call us, collect, and we will give you the address of the Frampton court nearest you, and we will arrange with the owner or manager to show you his installation. That's the best way we know of for you to find out for yourself the many advantages of Frampton courts. Seeing is believing. To arrange your personal visit, call collect, (614) 861-5682.



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Only a quality racquet is going to satisfy you in the long run. A racquet that can stand the test of hard play. A racquet that will take smash after smash and really perform. Omega is such a racquet.

Omega, the most playable racquet on the market, is designed to out-perform the other top-of-the-line racquet—yet is more attractively priced. Now that's a pleasant surprise.

Players everywhere are discovering the finer playability of Omega—and the

pride of owning Omega. So if you're not playing with an Omega...you just might not be playing your best game. Try

an Omega racquet...its feel ...its responsiveness. Ask your dealer or club for Omega by name. If it's not in stock, call or write: Omega, a Division of Prandur Corporation, 2366 Schuetz Road, St. Louis, Missouri 63131 (314) 872-9007.



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CORRECTION #1

Serve the ball so that it will end up on a wall drifting toward the deep court corners. This gives you time to get into the center court position for a strategic return, or general control of the rally. You will, in this way, also obviate the hinderance worry, and also the embarrassment of hitting yourself with your own serve – an automatic out.

In your practice sessions you should vary your serves—left, right, high, low, fast and slow. As a tactician, serving gives you your first chance to outsmart your foe. Take advantage of it. Peck away at a weakness, of course, but after scoring two or three points against, say, a backhand weakness, zing a serve over to the opposite corner to shake her up. More about psychology later.



Man Does Not Live By Racquetball Alone

By Robert Wallace - Curiel

Robert Wallace-Curiel is a free lance writer from San Diego, California.

He had once beaten Brumfield. True, it had been years ago, but since then his game had improved.

Now here he was down 4-2. The ball sailed high into the back wall.

"This will be easy," he thought.

Kill was ringing through his body; it would be easy to put it away with his forehand. Then at the last moment, he opened his racquet and he lobbed the ball onto the front wall.

"Damn."

Why couldn't he bring himself to think of this as just another game, and of her as just another lamb to be fleeced? What did it matter; it was too late now. She returned with a rifle-quick pinch shot that he couldn't reach. 5-2.

The gallery that had gathered above to watch the goings-on applauded her effort, typically rooting for the underdog.

He should have known this was bound to happen. The number one male player against the number one female player in the club. Everyone had been waiting for this match, and it was even rumored that the more affluent members were riding high stakes on the outcome. He was, of course, heavily favored and well he should be; he knew that not even on his worst day with one hand tied to his face would she ever stand a chance against his power serves and low corner returns.

And all of a sudden he was down 6-2.

He watched her as she set to serve again. Her legs were long and tanned, her hips just round enough under her expensively embroidered shorts. Tied back as it was, he couldn't tell just how long her hair was, but it was blond and looked soft.

It was well known that besides being beautiful she was also wealthy. Her father was big in local construction, and had his fingers in a few other pies around town. She drove to the club each day in a copper-colored Mercedes sports coupe.

Her serve burned him and it was 7-2. There was no way he could concentrate with her on the same court. Hell, with her in the same state. A classic case of the dread *Blinkus of the Thinkus*.

More applause, and then he remembered that first time he'd seen her. All smiles, looking down on him, watching as he methodically destroyed some amoeba man who'd had the nerve to think that they even belonged within the same four hallowed walls together. Of course he'd let the guy know right off who was boss. Still, he'd been taking it easy on him after beating him half to death in the first game. But when he saw she was watching, well, he was all over the poor turkey like ugly on an ape. The guy he'd trounced for her viewing pleasure had not since been seen in the club. He'd probably moved out of California.

"That's life," he thought later.

Then that same day, after he'd showered and dressed, the manager of the club told him that she'd left word for him to set up a game between them. That is, if he'd go for it. He did and that was his first mistake.

So now, here they were. Glass court and center stage. Everybody watching them. Then she smiled her "I have secrets I could whisper in your ear" smile, and promptly aced him with another serve. 8-2.

Things were starting to get out of hand. The crowd was really enjoying the whole thing. Whistling, clapping, cheering and generally carrying on as if they had just smoked half of Marrakech.

"That's it," he thought. "Okay, no more Mr. Nice Guy. Sorry lady, but your time is up." He said that, but to himself.

He knew his reputation was on the line — here and now. He was, after all, the resident teaching pro of the club. How would it look if he were to lose to her? These days he hardly ever lost and had become

somewhat of a legend. After a time on the National tour his name had become almost a household word. (But back then racquetball wasn't even a household word.)

Then there was the time he took The Brum. No, there was no way she could do this to him. Pretty face, good legs, rich or not, he couldn't let her get to him.

He slammed the serve to her backhand; her return was good, but his was better. He ended the rally with a devastating shot a half-inch off the right front wall that died like a party out of punch and rolled to a stop at her feet. She wasn't smiling.

14-8. He looked back at her as he prepared to serve again. The last 12 points had been tacked up for his side. He'd hit his stride. The crowd was quiet now, intent, watching the master at work. He could see a hint of tears welling in her eyes. So much for the thrill of victory. He felt like a chump. He let her set up on the point and take the serve from him. She smiled again.

15-14. He hadn't meant to let it get this out of control. Of course the crowd was having a field day. What a comeback! He could hear them laughing and slapping each other on the back. The women and younger girls were having all kinds of good times. Then they exchanged serves a few times and the points that were scored came tooth and nail.

She was actually one of the better players he had ever faced. But not as good as the score would indicate. It was her lead, 19-17. The spectators were silent again. They knew it was coming down to the wire now and they could smell upset like a shark smells swimmer.

Each point took their breath away. Rocket rallies, half-minute ceiling exchanges, back walls, front walls, off this side wall and the other. A true racquetballet.

After one particularly grueling rally, a key one in which she regained the serve, she smiled at him and winked as they traded positions. Not only

was she good at the physical game, she was not too shabby on the mental aspects of the walled war. And with that one flick of an eyebrow she had broken him as surely as if she had taken her racquet to his head.

How could he think about the game while trying to figure out what she meant with that damn wink?

At 20-19, game point, her serve was picture perfect, low to his backhand. But his return was fantastic, forcing her to give up center court position. Then instead of returning to the ceiling as he was expecting, she went for the game, firing the ball low to the right front corner with some kind of spin on it. As it bounced off the wall no more than three inches off the floor, it suddenly took a turn toward Butte, Montana.

He made a dive and stretched as far as he could, and with a light flick of the wrist that would have made Serot proud, he turned the ball back in the general direction of Tijuana, where it lazily floated into the front wall.

He rolled quickly to his left, knowing that she, too, would have to dive to have any chance of a return.

And dive she did. And with as beautifully executed a nose slide as he'd seen in years she not only managed a return but took the point, the game and his heart.

They lay on the floor of the court side by side, exhausted. Above them the crowd whistled and clapped. She smiled at him and he smiled back. For some reason it didn't feel like he'd lost.

"Say," he said, as they lay where they had landed facing each other less than a foot apart. "Would you like to get together for some dinner and drinks tonight?"

"My place or yours?" she replied with enough left unsaid to make a beet blush.

"What the hell," he thought. "Man does not live by racquetball alone."

Off-The-Court Strategy

A potpourri for the female racquetteer, this column answers questions and provides information on any subject that interests women racquetball players.

If you have any questions, or answers, that you think are worth printing in this space—just drop us a line!

Aggression, Neurotic Conflict or Competence?

Is the inner satisfaction of playing good racquetball the main reason you enjoy the game?

If so, then your psychological motivation is "Competence," according to Dorcas Susan Butts, a Canadian woman athlete and psychology professor, who wrote *Psychology of Sport*, a recently published paperback.

You'll be happy to know you're fulfilling the same psychological need that most champions satisfy.

"The competence-oriented athlete is someone who is mature and who is involved with sports for intrinsically rewarding reasons," Dr. Butts writes. *"These athletes experience feelings of self-fulfillment in their quest for excellence."*

Not all of us are moved by such wholesome motives, however. Dr. Butts lists "Aggression" and "Neurotic Conflict" as other sports motivators. Are these last two traits ones you've observed in your opponents?

Keeping Track Of Lost Inches

Is figure control your main motivation? In that case, you might want to chart your changing dimensions on The Shape Measure. This 60 inch tape—printed and stitched in blue on heavy white paper—provides spaces to record your weight and dimensions (bust, waist, hips and thighs) each month for a one year period.

For more information, write: The Smith Organization, 7646 West Devon Avenue, Chicago, IL 60631.

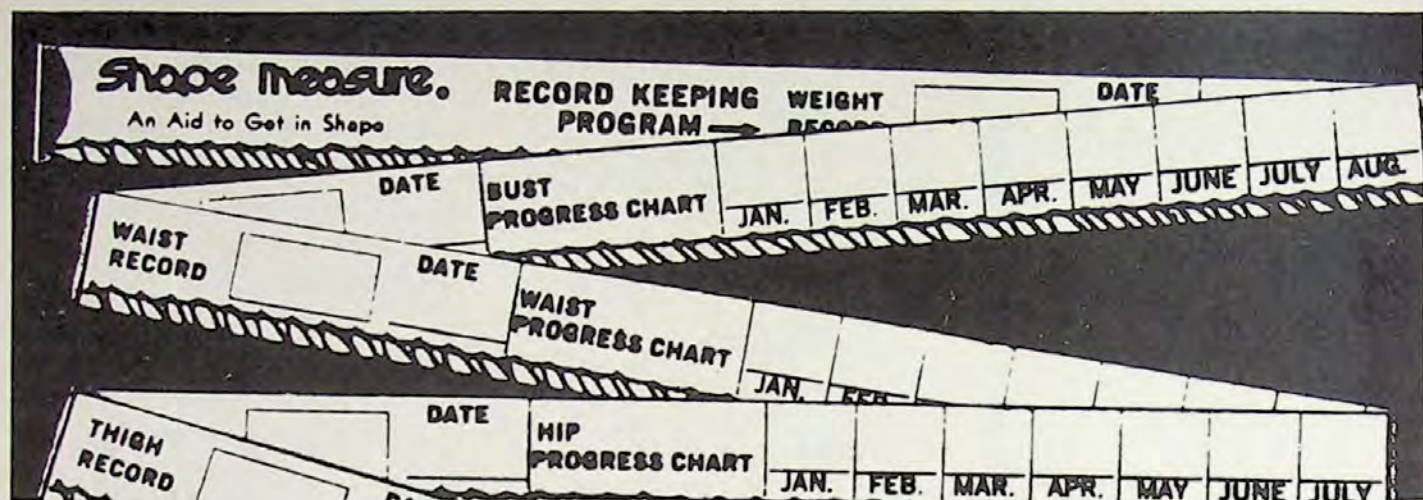
How Long Can A Pregnant Woman Play Racquetball?

"As long as it's comfortable and enjoyable," advises Dr. Allen Charles, a Chicago obstetrician. *"Of course a woman should know her limitations, should use common sense and should play within her physical capacities."*

"A good rule to follow for any sport is not to play to the point of exhaustion. When a woman is out-of-breath, she could be experiencing an oxygen deprivation which is harmful to the baby."



—Photo Courtesy Court House



How To Eat Your Banana Cream Pie And Diet, Too

You say you've had recurring dreams of banana cream pie since you started your diet? Now there's a low-calorie version you can eat when you're awake.

Banana Ginger Cream Pie (Eight servings of 165 calories each; traditional recipe has 285 per serving).

In a sauce pan mix $\frac{1}{2}$ cup sugar, 3T cornstarch and $\frac{1}{4}$ t salt. Gradually stir in 2 cups skimmed milk. Cook over low heat, stirring constantly, until mixture comes to a boil. Continue cooking and stirring for 5 minutes, or until mixture thickens and is smooth.

Remove from heat and stir a small amount of milk mixture into 3 egg yolks, slightly beaten. Return yolks to mixture and cook for 2 minutes longer. Add 1t vanilla and cool.

Cut 6 gingersnaps in halves and stand around inside of 9-inch pie plate. Crumble 9 more gingersnaps and press into bottom of pie plate. Slice 2 bananas and arrange over bottom ginger shell. Pour cooled filling into shell and chill. Just before serving slice 1 banana and arrange over top of pie.

Pleasant indulging!

Pack Up Your Racquet

Dieting is something to avoid on a vacation. If you play an hour of racquetball during the day, you'll

use up enough calories to feast at night without gaining weight.

Hotels in Chicago, Denver, San Diego and Las Vegas have their own courts, or you can call a racquetball facility in any city where you're staying. Tell them you're an out-of-town visitor and chances are they'll let you come in and play—and they'll rent you a racquet if you didn't pack your own.

Make-Up That's Good Enough To Eat

Cucumbers, grapefruit and papaya—not tars, shoe polish and harsh chemicals found in most make-ups—are what natural cosmetics are made from at the i Natural shops, a New York based chain.

i Natural makes lipsticks from honey and beeswax, face scrubs from chopped almonds and even a new Figure Food that's 100 per cent protein, contains only 70 calories and can serve as a meal itself. If you don't find an i Natural shop in your area, you can receive a free catalogue by writing, i Natural Cosmetics, GL3, Box 3562, Grand Central Station, N.Y. 10017.

R. B. Players Aren't Popping Pellets

The little balls of bee food that worker bees put together as they hover over a flower have yet to become a food fad among racquetball players.

But other athletes, including runners and basketball players, think eating pollen pellets improves their performance. The pellets, gathered and packaged in Europe and sold in some U.S. health food stores, are rich sources of protein, according to pellet proponents.

"It sounds like just another ergogenic aid (anything that's supposed to boost athletic ability)," said Terry Fancher, National Coordinator of the U.S.R.A. and National Racquetball's resident expert on the scientific hows and whys of athletics.

"The fact that the pollen is high in protein is no advantage because the body uses protein at a constant rate. What you need during exercise is an extra supply of carbohydrates and fats."

But Are They Popping Their Gum?

Yes, according to former University of Wisconsin basketball player Curt Mueller, a pharmacist who created, manufactured and distributes Quench Gum.

He bills it as "the only energizing sport gum on the market—filled with citric acid to quench thirst, potassium salts to fight fatigue and 100 per cent dextrose for quick energy."

So chomp your way to physical fitness.

Jeanie Meets Jeanie

And Three Quarters of a Million Viewers Meet Racquetball

"Tired, bored, your back ache? Try a new racquet - try racquetball," suggested Channel Two's Jeanie Morris in a late January interview with racquetball pro Jean Sauser on the 6 and 10 p.m. news over Chicago's local CBS television station.

Morris visited Sauser at the SkyHarbor Court Club in Northbrook, where the country's fifth ranking woman's racquetball player is head pro.

Here are some excerpts from the interview:

Morris: What do you think it is that holds people to the sport?

Sauser: The intellectual interest and fitness . . . the game is very mentally captivating and you can get fit while trying to learn a better strategy . . . While people are practicing certain shots and strokes, their bodies are getting stronger.

Morris: Can they see the results?

Sauser: They see the pounds start to come off and the muscles firm up a little bit and then all of a sudden they go on a diet and they even lose more weight.

The segment, which included a woman's class, closed with a game between Sauser and Midwest Woman's Champion Bev Franks, who also teaches at SkyHarbor.

Jeanie Morris Jean Sauser



-Photo courtesy WBBM-TV

-Chicago Tribune photo



Who's Playing Racquetball?

Linda Caldwell: Nuclear Safety Specialist

Linda Caldwell works overtime seven days a week, 20 weeks out of the year. She's a health physicist at a nuclear generating plant where, when the reactors are refueled twice yearly, she works up to 12 hours a day.

During those weeks while the pressure is on and leisure is hard to come by, she's particularly glad she's a racquetball player.

"If I get up tight - which happens when we're working under the gun - it's great to get out on the court and beat that little ball around. Besides an hour of play gives me exercise I need in a hurry and a really good work out."

Linda's chief responsibility at Commonwealth Edison's Zion, Ill., nuclear generating station is personnel dosimetry. Translation: she makes sure employees aren't exposed to unsafe amounts of radiation. To do that she checks the

radiation-sensitive badges workers wear, keeps track of the frequent blood tests they take and calculates how much radiation a worker will get on a job before he starts it.

She also sees to it that workers use the right kind of safety equipment - special gloves, gas masks or respirators - when they're going to be working in hot spots.

One of the first highly trained women scientists hired by Com. Ed. in Illinois, Linda got her masters degree from Georgia Tech in August of 1975, came to the Zion area a month later. She signed up for an evening racquetball class at a local high school last fall simply because she wanted to meet people, but she was pleasantly surprised to discover that not only were there a lot of nice people in her class but also that the instruction was high quality and she could master racquetball basics in 10 weeks.

Linda Caldwell is a highly trained scientist who works in a nuclear generating station.



Photo by Walter Sopata



Workers count on Linda to keep them protected from radiation.

Currently she plays twice a week at a racquetball club with partners she met in her night school class, and she's signed up for a tournament. Cheerfully admitting that she thrives on competition, she says the combat she finds on the racquetball court is "terrific, because the person you're competing with is right there next to you, and you're fighting it out eyeball to eyeball."

Mary Jane Bezark

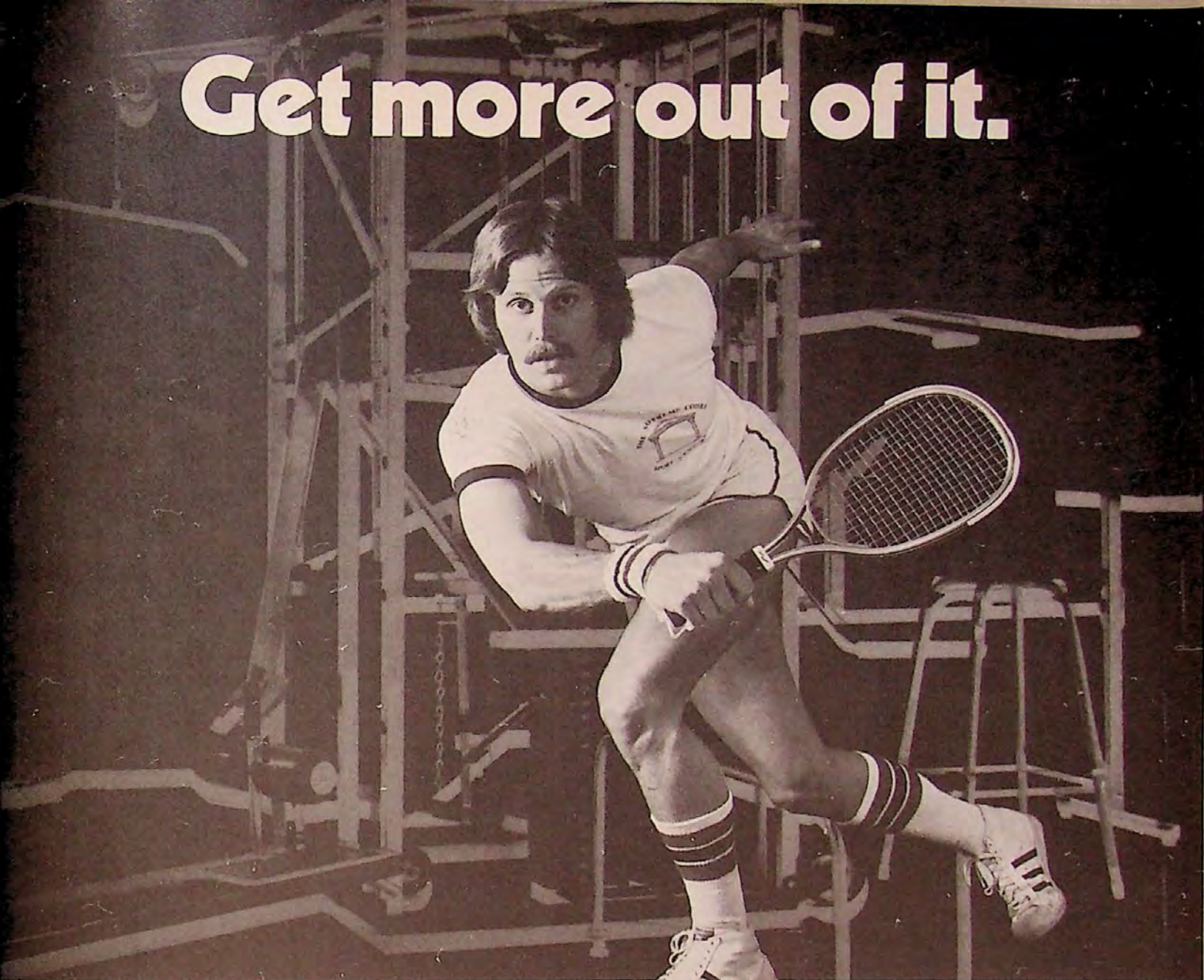
Who's Playing Racquetball? We're looking for women racquetball players who have unusual careers or interests. We want to feature them in future issues of *National Racquetball*. Send your suggestions to Carol Brusslan, Woman's Editor, National Racquetball, 4101 Dempster, Skokie, IL 60076.



Photo by Arthur Shay

Linda says she usually can rely on her serve in a pinch, "but my backhand out of the left corner is really weak, and I'm working on it."

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Steve Lubarsky, Supreme Court Sports Center, Van Nuys, California

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STATE Racquetball



Terry Fancher

Around The Nation

California Sunshine

It's coming soon to Southern California. The finest National Championships in the history of racquetball will be held again in beautiful San Diego at the luxurious Atlas Health Club. For those of us who have survived the bitter winter in the Midwest, some California sunshine will certainly be a change of pace.

What else could a racquetball fan ask for? The top amateurs and professionals will be playing for eight days side by side. The best amateur players of all age brackets will be striving for the ultimate in their sport — first place in their division. The competition is the best there is in racquetball.

I arrived at the 1976 U.S.R.A./N.R.C. National Championships a day late last year, — everyone had already arrived and the action was continuous. All of the facilities, rooms, swimming pools and restaurants were within 150 yards of each other. The tournament coordinators were keeping in touch by two-way radios, 500 people were actively participating, and the pros were just starting the first preliminary rounds. The quality of the competition in the women's divisions and the level of their skill was amazing.

Everyone connected with the tournament in San Diego was extremely friendly and courteous and the relaxed California atmosphere had a positive effect on all participants.

What could be better than last year's tournament? The answer is — this year's. The biggest problem for most of us was overcoming the desire to stay in San Diego forever.

Leach Announces shirts for U.S.R.A. Tournaments

To further assist our state amateur associations, Leach Industries is providing tournament shirts for U.S.R.A. sanctioned events. Needs are being met on an individual state basis, depending upon the desires of the tournament hosts and the quality of shirts desired. A variety of packages are offered and attractive tournament kits and accessories are also available plus screening for the shirts.

Our thanks goes out to Charles Drake at Leach Industries for realizing the need to assist our chairmen and amateur tournament players at the state level. Davey Bledsoe, Patty Reid, and the Leach staff will be handling orders directly and will require six weeks advance notice to ensure delivery.

Seamco Provides Thousands of Free Balls

Seamco is filling free racquetball orders for the sanctioned tournaments at an astounding rate. You can always tell when its state tournament time. Over one recent two week period, Art Orloski of Seamco placed U.S.R.A. orders for 500 dozen free balls to our affiliates at great savings to our

tournament hosts. Seamco's President, Al Mackie, is directly responsible for the continuance of this program.

Racquetballs, shirts, score cards, draw sheets, rule books, magazines, referee guidelines, seeding guidelines, publishing tournament results, a State Racquetball section for news, direct funding to the state associations, 16 men and women regional champions sent transportation free to the National Championships, and that's not all. We are working closely with David Armstrong of the International Management Group to secure a national sponsor to further fund our programs and provide even more amenities. We've been busy since last June and the amateur player's response has been truly remarkable.

State Chairperson's Workshop

In conjunction with the National Championships, we are planning a workshop to discuss plans for the upcoming year of racquetball among our state associations. A half-day workshop is currently in the planning stages and we have future plans to make the Nationals an annual convention site.

Please introduce yourself to our staff if you can attend the National Championships. We are interested in learning of your events and the growth of the game in all areas of the country. We look forward to sharing ideas with you.

U.S.R.A. Affiliate Organizations

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

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Trials & Tribulations Of A State Chairman

One of the nice things about being the California State Racquetball Association president is that it gets me out of the office on a trip once in awhile.

I had a very nice letter from Mr. Richard Beguelin of Ventura who invited me up to see and play in his new facility there. Seems Rick had found a way to arrange for city officials and court builders to work together within a lease arrangement that gives a city open play and a builder the chance to build without having to buy expensive land within a city.

I happened to discuss this with one of the most traveled and experienced aviators around, Mr. Bud Leach. He had purchased a beautiful twin engine Shrike Commander and he suddenly lit up.

"How about my flying you and our newest pro, Shannon Wright, up to Ventura where you can put on a little exhibition for them up there?"

He also said Shannon was tough and might whip me. Well, I told Bud, old super macho/ego Chuck would never have a female beat him on the court. He smiled and two days later we were ready to go.

Arrangements for a court at Ventura had been made, and it was Wednesday, my day off (*never get sick on Wednesdays they say - ha*).

Weather was great and I anticipated the flight from San Diego up the coast. I had about 900 hours as a Navy flight surgeon and was anxious to hit the right seat and let Bud give me the old check out. Well, that's where my days first surprise hit me.

Shannon Wright is really a charmer. Using her Southern most Dallas drawl, she said *"Chuckie honey, I'm takin' some flyin' lessons and would just consider it the greatest pleasure to fly in the front next to Mr. Leach. You'd all wouldn't mind me doin' that, would y'all?"* With that cute grin and eyelashes fluttering up and down, I knew I was back seat Charlie.

We had a great flight up. Rick met us and after touring the facility, Rick and I

had a chat while Shannon and Bud had a snack.

Soon it was time to play in the glass exhibition court. Bud told me Shannon was tired. She played three games with Keeley that morning at 7 a.m. and also that she ate a hamburger, fries, milkshake and apple turnover 15 minutes ago. Shannon had her own green pro 558 ball and we soon started. I couldn't help but notice the crowd gathering as well as Shannon's practice kill shots rolling out.

I thought *"she hits pretty good for a girl."* (Ha). The first game was see-saw until 18-all. I hit a deep backhand ceiling ball and on her way back Shannon ran into me. The mild collision, holding on, etc. was kinda nice, so I lost my head somewhat and tried to arrange another happening or two like that, when she said *"nice game, chuckie-honey."* *"Its over?"* I asked, and unbelievably, 21-18, I lost.

Well, it was a fluke—my concentration was lost, etc.—and I told Shannon I was really going to bear down on her, try my bestest, etc.—and show her what its like to play a real man. She said to me ever so sweetly—*"I jus' knew you'd want it that way. Chuckie-honey. So why don't we all play for the right front seat on the plane goin' back-cuz you know how much I enjoy flyin' and all."* Well, I gave it my A game. Busting my tail, using all my tricks, my best shots, and you guessed it—back seat Charlie again, 21-10.

All because of that lively green ball!!! Ha—not really! She's a great player and a great sport. She's going to do a lot of good for racquetball and for Leach Industries also, her sponsor. I'd sure be ungrateful if I didn't thank Rick Beguelin and the best pilot you could fly with, Bud Leach, for an unusually beautiful day.

From a business standpoint, I learned a great deal from Rick. He's a very pleasant, dynamic man in his thirties whose primary interest and background is in investment banking. He formed a partnership with a young attorney, Dennis Kuttler, and an outgoing stockbroker named Bill Burke.

Land is quite expensive in California anywhere and especially in a seaside community like Ventura, located between Los Angeles and Santa Barbara.

This trio noted a prime parcel of land that seemed an ideal location for a racquetball facility—the only catch being that it was city owned. It was not producing any revenue for the city and there were no plans to use it in city hall. So Rick and his partners conceived a tremendous plan, which the city fathers pondered and finally accepted.

In essence, the city leases the land to the principle owners for a monthly sum and a certain small percentage of the gross monthly figure should it be reached. These payments are infinitely smaller than the average land payments made on any real estate purchase. The city cleared the land, paid half the utility hook-up fee and paved half the parking lot. The city was promised a public play facility versus a private facility for only the affluent with built in restrictions on court rental fees. The city will own the facility after 50 years at which time they will have a serviceable building and choice land together.

One of the surprising elements in all the early plan formulation was how amenable so called "city hall" was to deal with. Rick said the Ventura fathers were extremely far sighted, open to suggestions at all times, and couldn't have been more pleasant to deal with.

The club decor is extremely clever with super graphics adorning the club throughout. Each singular court of the Ventura courthouse is named after a specific type judicial court such as: Traffic Court/Divorce Court/Supreme Court/Appellate Court/Small Claims Court, etc.

At the present time this partnership has two clubs under construction in Canoga Park and Bakersfield (13 courts in each facility) plus bidding underway in the following cities: Lompoc (9 courts), Camarillo (9 courts), San Luis Obispo (9 courts), Westlake (11 courts) plus under negotiation with the city of Santa Monica for 13 courts. With these facilities completed, this could very well be the largest number of facilities owned in the entire U.S. You'll be hearing more about this talented group I'm sure. They deserve the best, and I want to publicly thank them for their hospitality on behalf of the California State Racquetball Association. Hope to visit your facility soon.

Meet Your State Chairmen

New Mexico - Gary Mazaroff



The U.S.R.A. has drawn its state chairmen from all walks of life and New Mexico's Gary Mazaroff is one of those representing the University community.

A physical education instructor and Director of Intramurals and Recreational Sports at the University of Albuquerque, Mazaroff, 25, is a veteran in athletics and racquetball.

"It was suggested that I instruct a college level course in racquetball a few years ago," said Mazaroff, "so I switched from squash to racquetball for that reason. I'd never switch back."

A 1973 graduate of the University of California at Berkeley, Mazaroff went on to receive his Masters degree from the University of New Mexico two years later.

Gary is as optimistic as anyone on the future of racquetball. *"The game is nowhere near peaking,"* he says. *"You can still see for miles."*

It was a big jump for Gary from instructor/player to the head of one of the U.S.R.A.'s most efficient affiliates.

"I got involved because I felt an obligation to turn on the people in our state to racquetball," he explained. *"I wanted to share the numerous*

benefits of our sport with everyone else. At the time we were lagging behind other areas of the country and I wanted to do something about it."

He has with his work with the New Mexico Court Association, headed by his good friend Carl Brand.

"Carl has been most instrumental in developing racquetball in New Mexico," Mazaroff said. *"He does a super job and helps me immensely."*

The New Mexico affiliate has initiated ongoing tournaments for all levels of play as one of its first programs, in addition to an annual state championship tournament.

Mazaroff does most of his playing at Tom Young's Spa and Health Club and sees many more court clubs on the horizon in his area.

"We hope to continue to increase our promotion as the sport continues to grow," he said. *"It's truly a labor of love for us."*

Massachusetts - Jim McConchie



"Even though there aren't any court clubs here yet, Massachusetts has a large racquetball following," says James H. McConchie, U.S.R.A. state chairman and organizer of the Massachusetts Racquetball Association. *"We're expecting our state to be one of the next areas to really boom in the racquetball world."*

A non-practicing attorney, McConchie, 35, is president of two racquetball related corporations, Racquetball International, Inc., of Massachusetts and Racquetball International, Inc. of New Jersey.

Jim learned to play racquetball in the fall of 1974 at a local one-court health club in Boston. It was then he started thinking of racquetball's future, which led him to where he is now, - on the brink of opening Massachusetts's first racquetball court club.

A graduate of Colby College in Waterville, Maine, McConchie received his MBA from Dartmouth in 1965 and his law degree from Boston College Law School in 1968.

"Racquetball should become one of the country's largest participant sports by the early 1980's," McConchie said. *"Once our club opens we feel the game will really pick up here."*

McConchie and his wife Linda live in Lincoln, Massachusetts with their six month old daughter Lindsay, who Jim feels has a real shot at the 1997 ladies title.

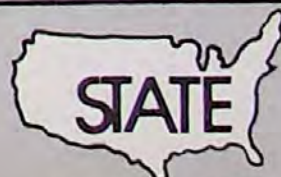
As far as his involvement with the U.S.R.A. affiliate M.R.A. is concerned, McConchie felt it was necessary for somebody to step up and promote racquetball in his state.

"I became involved originally just to meet other people in the sport," he said. *"I realized that the game couldn't be developed without a system, and the U.S.R.A. seemed the ideal organization to set up with."*

From his few months work with the M.R.A. McConchie already realizes he'll need a great deal of help from his fellow racquetballers.

"I'm drawing help from all over," he said, *"but my main guy will be Stan Dubitsky of Fall River. Stan will be our club manager when it opens (September planned) and will be actively involved in setting up tournaments."*

The Massachusetts Racquetball Association is off to a very good start, with Jim McConchie at the helm.



PLAYER RANKINGS

Prize Money

And Official Player Ranking

Official Women's Professional Ranking (As of April 1, 1977)

1. Shannon Wright, Dallas
2. Peggy Steding, Odessa, Tex.
3. (tie) Janell Marriott, Salt Lake City
Kathy Williams, Hazel Park, Mich.
5. Jean Sauser, Northbrook, Ill.
6. Sue Carow, Glenview, Ill.
7. Jennifer Harding, Portland, Ore.
8. Jan Campbell, San Diego
9. (tie) Sarah Green, Memphis
Lyn McKie, Dallas
11. Camille McCarthy, Indianapolis
12. Martha Byrd, Gainesville, Fla.

Official Professional Men's Rankings (As of April 1, 1977)

1. Marty Hogan, St. Louis
2. Charles Brumfield, San Diego
3. Craig McCoy, Riverside, Cal.
4. Davey Bledsoe, San Diego
5. Jerry Hilecher, St. Louis
6. Steve Strandemo, San Diego
7. Richard Wagner, San Diego
8. Steve Keeley, San Diego
9. Steve Serot, San Diego
10. Jay Jones, Los Angeles
11. Ben Koltun, St. Louis
12. Mark Morrow, Los Angeles
13. Steve Chase, Phoenix
14. John Lynch, Chicago
15. Mike Zeitman, Memphis
16. Ken Wong, St. Louis

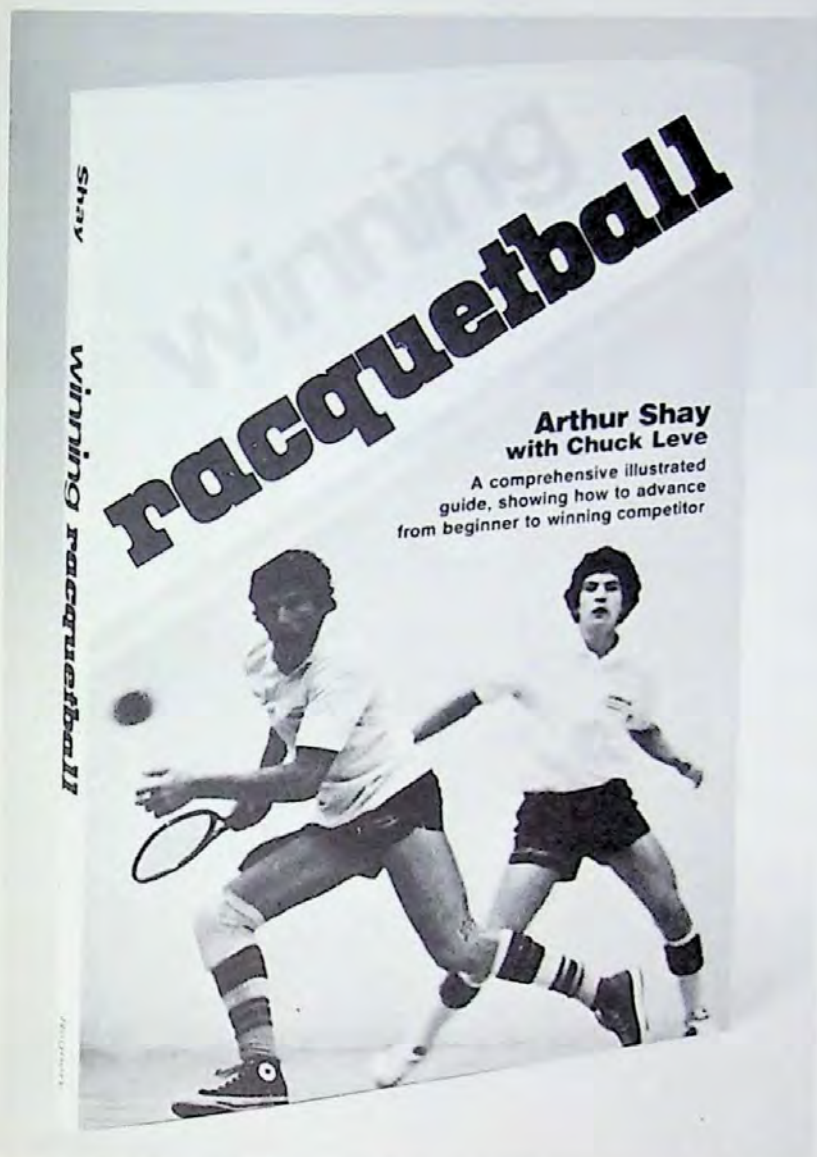
1976-77 N.R.C. Women's Prize Money Earnings (As of April 1, 1977)

Rank	Player	Prize Money
1.	Peggy Steding, Odessa, Tex.	\$5,400
2.	Shannon Wright, Dallas	3,900
3.	Janell Marriott, Salt Lake City	2,050
4.	Kathy Williams, Hazel Pk., Mi.	1,650
5. (tie)	Jennifer Harding, Portland	625
	Jean Sauser, Northbrook, Ill.	625
	Sue Carow, Glenview, Ill.	625
8.	Camille McCarthy, Indianapolis	225
9. (tie)	Jan Campbell, San Diego	200
	Sarah Green, Memphis	200

1976-77 N.R.C. Men's Prize Money Earnings (As of April 1, 1977)

Rank	Player	Prize Money
1.	Marty Hogan, St. Louis	\$15,500
2.	Charlie Brumfield, San Diego	4,450
3.	Jerry Hilecher, St. Louis	4,325
4.	Steve Strandemo, San Diego	3,550
5.	Davey Bledsoe, San Diego	3,325
6.	Craig McCoy, Riverside, Cal.	3,075
7.	Richard Wagner, San Diego	2,300
8.	Steve Keeley, San Diego	1,875
9.	Steve Serot, San Diego	1,450
10.	Ben Koltun, St. Louis	1,425
11.	Mike Zeitman, Memphis	1,175
12.	John Lynch, Chicago	1,000
13.	Jay Jones, Los Angeles	800
14.	Bill Schmidtke, Minneapolis	700
15.	Steve Chase, Phoenix	600
16.	Mark Morrow, Los Angeles	500

winning racquetball



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.

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

Please send me _____copy(ies) of WINNING RACQUETBALL at \$4.95 each plus 50¢ postage and handling for each book ordered. Illinois residents kindly add 5% sales tax; California residents please add 6% sales tax. NO CASH OR C.O.D.'s accepted—please send check.

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National Racquetball

EXTRA!

General News

New Handicap System: No Aces

What racquetball is intended to do in club play is to provide a rewarding and enjoyable experience for players at all levels. With the intention of improving the over-all quality of play, we have devised a unique system of handicapping.

Through exhaustive research, testing and observation, we find that our method re-emphasizes some of the basic appeals of racquetball that have been lost as the game relies more on power and less on the other components of the game.

Our system stresses the need for conditioning, physical and mental alertness, position, shot selection and execution, strategy and awareness of the opposition. Players who have tested our system endorse it as an invaluable teaching tool, which not only aids instruction but lets the learner have fun while learning. It has been used effectively in play between men and women and between the A, B, and C level players in each division. The results in our area have

been so encouraging that we want to share our system with players everywhere.

A typical racquetball club is composed of members with varying degrees of ability. At the club level, the single aspect of the game that most readily separates players into A, B, and C categories is the power serve. Very often an A player defeats and frustrates his opponent with a steady barrage of unreturnable serves. His opponent may be thoroughly disgusted and the A player may be vaguely unsatisfied, though unable to explain why. He knows that he consistently defeats opponents at his club very easily, yet he may find himself a consistent loser at other levels of competition.

The serve, a deadly weapon at a local club, loses much of its importance in tournament level play. Most other A players will return the serve, creating a situation that the club champ may be unprepared for. He needs, on his home court, the kind of competition that will push him physically and mentally

to play his best at all times. As long as he can ace his club opponents consistently, he need not play a total game to be a winner.

At the other end of the club spectrum is the beginning player. For him, one of the most appealing features of the game is that most novices have some initial success with the game, a beginner can, in a very short time, hit a ball around the room and feel that he is playing the game competitively with players at his level.

Inevitably the desire to improve creeps in and the novice seeks better and better opponents. At this stage, he is likely to find that he is losing badly without getting much of a workout, while he feels more and more frustrated. The novice may stick with the sport long enough to improve his game, but the sheer frustration of continually losing may drive him back to other novice players for opponents, or it may drive him from racquetball entirely.

It doesn't have to be this way. The player who is trying to pull his game up to another level expects to lose for a time, so the score itself does not cause the frustration. The single aspect of the game that is probably the chief difference between levels—between A and B, between women's A and men's B—is the serve. The most frustrating part of the game, for a person who has been competing successfully at a lower level, is trying to return a serve that is suddenly lower and harder than anything he has ever seen. Instead of working on his strokes and improving his position and placement, the player finds himself swinging futilely at a serve he can barely see. Disheartened and disgusted, he may wonder why he ever thought he liked the sport.

In turn, the stronger player may feel that he is wasting his time. He needs only to serve a strong serve—not even a particularly well-placed serve—and he will score on an ace. There are few if any rallies, and the stronger

player may feel (and rightly so) that he would get as much out of practicing by himself.

For the sake of both players in this not uncommon situation, a means must be found to equalize the serving advantage. Then the stronger player would have to play, and play well, to defeat a player who is determined to improve. The weaker player would have a chance to rally and improve his entire game. The frustration and annoyance for both players would be greatly reduced.

Traditionally, a handicap system based on giving points has been used as an equalizer. The idea is good, but limited. A stronger player can still win a disproportionate number of points on serve alone. He has no reason to play all-out for the entire session. In addition, the novice must face the fact that, *"he gave me 18 points and serve, and still beat me."*

Other systems of handicapping might force a stronger player to eliminate one type of stroke—i.e., no ceiling balls allowed, or no back-wall kills—thus forcing him to concentrate on other phases of his game. He might allow his weaker opponent two bounces to reach the ball, or he might concede a point or side out on any poorly hit ball that falls into a designated "kill area."

All of these handicapping systems have one severe limitation: the stronger player can earn points quickly and almost effortlessly by serving. Secure in the knowledge that his serve can save the game for him, he is never pushed to perform at his best, — therefore a different handicapping system must be used.

We have devised an alternate system of handicapping to overcome this limitation in our area. Under this system a strong player agrees that his

serve is good only if it is returned to the front wall. Should the weaker player fail to return the serve, no point is scored and the server still has two serves to begin play. The weaker player in turn agrees to make a sincere effort to return every serve.

In addition, the weaker player is allowed service aces, and he may be given points if the two players feel it necessary.

Under such a system, the weaker player has a chance to win without being given 15 or 18 or even 20 points. He also has a chance to try to return many different serves, without the double frustration of losing games quickly because he cannot handle a serve.

Even more important than his having a chance to win the game, the player has a chance to hit the ball. He will be involved in more and longer rallies. He will see and use a variety of shots. In short, he will have the chance to improve what he hoped for when he decided to play a stronger opponent.

The stronger player should find that he is working to win the game. Without a deadly serve, he must use other shots in his repertoire. He must work for position. He must select his shots carefully and execute them well. Under such conditions, his own game will improve as he too sees and uses a variety of shots. His serve can be an effective weapon if, rather than trying to serve aces, he tries to hit a consistent, well-placed ball that results in a weak return.

One immediately visible result of the system is that games last longer. Every point is played and every rally requires an effort from each player. Conditioning again becomes an important factor. A player who has not been really pushed by any

opponent may find himself out of condition when he can no longer win half his points on serve alone. Physical stamina, de-emphasized by service aces, is again an integral part of the game.

The advantages of an equalized serve are these: a weaker player has a chance to see a strong serve, but he also is involved in rallies where he can use various strokes and strategies; a stronger player must also select and execute shots carefully, thereby improving his own game; and both players are pushed physically as well as technically.

There are certain cautions in using this system. It is important that the weaker player try for every serve. Letting a strong serve go, knowing that it will be re-served, should result in a point for the server. Without this stipulation, players might become lazy and much of the learning experience is lost.

Another potential problem is that many players do not want to risk losing to a weaker opponent under any circumstances. A great deal of ego seems to be involved, particularly when a man plays a woman. To smooth over such feelings, it should be clearly established that the session is a learning situation designed to help both players improve. In competitive matches, such as tournaments or ladder challenges, handicapping systems are of limited value. Instead, the system should help players improve their total game, thus improving the quality of competition in other situations.

Players taking formal lessons or requesting aid from better players could make effective use of this system. Short games as part of a lesson give players a chance to incorporate new skills and, with the no-ace rule in effect, teachers

and stronger players need not play a condescending game. Use of a no-ace game would emphasize conditioning, as well as make racquetball an enjoyable and rewarding game.

Two players of equal ability can also benefit from the no-ace rule. Each player maintains his regular serving pattern, but cannot rely on aces to score easy points. Each must play a total game. Even more than with a novice, each must concentrate on his strategy. With such a practice session, players will inevitably improve.

A doubles or mixed-doubles game involving one or more for the novice players who are weak in service return can be made more competitive if all serves must be returned. Also, a woman with a strong ground game becomes a more interesting opponent for a man whose sizzling serve had previously made games quick and dull. In addition, a children's league utilizing the no-ace rule would provide more play opportunities for participants.

Aside from increasing the emphasis on conditioning, the no-ace handicap reduces the frustration a learner feels thus encouraging him to play stronger players and continue to improve. The A players at the club are given a chance to work on their total game, rather than serving point after point in a successful but unsatisfying effort. The over-all quality of play at a given club, as well as the tournament performances of the better players, should then rise accordingly.

Bob Morgan
Kathleen Morgan
Pat Froeba
Lafayette, La.

Big Brothers Benefit Tourney

In February, a U.S.R.A. sanctioned racquetball tournament benefiting the Big Brothers of Lehigh County, Pa., was held. The tourney was co-sponsored by Vantage Point Racquet Club and the Whitehall Mall Merchants Association. What was unusual about the event was that the one-wall court was located inside an enclosed 60 foot store mall!

The six-day event netted crowds numbering upwards

of 65,000 according to tournament director Mike Haines. "We turned a lot of people on to racquetball," said Haines enthusiastically. "We did more for the sport in one week than has been done in years in this area."

Twenty top local players competed for the championship title in nightly matches at the mall. U.S.R.A. Pennsylvania State Chairman Jim Pruitt downed Rob Carelli 21-16, 21-19 in the best of

three championship finals.

Tournament play was augmented by a women's round robin event, mens', women's, and childrens' clinics and celebrity matches between radio and TV personalities and the mall's advertising and promotion team, Nancy Rothdeutsch and Francee Fuller. The tournament and promotional events received extensive media coverage.

The court was constructed under the direction of Haines, general manager of Vantage Point, a club near Allentown, Pa. The 16'x20' regulation-size wall was built of plywood by Big Brother Volunteers. The tile floor of the mall proved to be an interesting but adequate playing surface for the one-wall court which measured 20'x40'. The court was netted to provide safety and visibility for the many spectators.

Sparked by the overwhelming success of the first tournament, bigger plans for next year's event are already underway. It is felt that with proper planning, several thousand dollars can be raised to support the worthwhile Big Brothers program.



The Marquis at the Whitehall Mall, Allentown, Pa., boldly announces the Big Brothers Tournament.

—Photo by F. Fuller

Shape Up, Chicago

"Shape Up, Chicago!" That's the Challenge WIND Radio listeners have heard from morning personality Dave Baum on WIND Radio 560. Shape Up Chicago is an entertaining and educational on-air effort promoting good nutrition, proper exercise and healthful dieting.

Shown here (from right to left) are WIND's General Manager Phil Nolan, General Sales Manager Jon Klein and Chuck Sheftel, Director of



Racquetball for the Court House Clubs in Chicago.

The Court House is participating in Shape Up by providing WIND listeners with discounts to its five Chicago locations—with the promise of losing 800 calories per hour on the racquetball court.

POSITION WANTED:

Man seeks position as share holding manager of racquetball/multi-media rec. facility. 5 yrs. exp. as weight training & conditioning inst., 4 years R-Ball teaching Pro, B.A. degree Phy Ed minor, 8 years own business, professional promoter of theater, music and sports events, TV, advertising and broadcasting background. For complete resume write:

Racquetball Management
P O Box 2245
Madison, Wisconsin 53701

MANAGER/PROS

Michigan chain looking for manager/pros for 10 new racquetball clubs. Send professional resume and picture to: Gil Schmitt, Court Players Club, 2111 Golfside, Ypsilanti, MI 48197 or call 313-434-2111.

MANAGER/PROS WANTED

Michigan chain looking for manager/pros for 10 new clubs in greater Midwest area. Send professional resume and picture to: Gil Schmitt, Court Players Club Corporation, 11550 Beckley Rd., Suite 103, Belleville, Michigan 48111 or phone 313-697-6600.

POSITION WANTED:

Recent Southern Illinois University grad with BA in Recreation available immediately for court club position. Experience in planning activities, tournaments. Married, veteran, age 26. For further information contact Clifford Dilley, 3413 Gilham, Alton, IL 62002 or call 618-465-7246.

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Those Jubilant Juniors

Schafer and Ferris, they're not too bad, they play very good and scarcely get mad.

Schafer plays the left side with Ferris on the right, many people watch cuz' they're one hell of a sight.

It would be a disadvantage both being right handed, but it's in the service box they

always seem stranded.

For just starting together they shoot very good, they hit the wall low, very close to the wood.

Ferris possesses a forehand you wouldn't believe, hitting them low and hard, unable to retrieve.

Schafer and his backhand are often feared, and after each rollout the smoke has to be cleared.

These jubilant juniors possess quite alot, and when they're playing good they don't miss a shot.

When the junior nationals roll around next year, two

bright faces will probably appear.

Scott from Winona and Dan from St. Cloud, these two guys always draw a crowd.

And when it comes time for the junior doubles, watch out for the Minnesotans cuz' boy are they trouble.

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

Distributors Needed For Floor System

'Court-Flor' a seamless and cushioned floor, is finding acceptance from players and owners of Racquet & Handball Courts. It is approved by U.S.R.A. for tournament play.

According to Giulio Biagini, Sales Manager of Architectural Floor Products Co., National Distributor of 'Court-Flor', it feels better to play on 'Court-Flor' than on wood

floors. This can be attributed to its even and predictable ball bounce characteristics. This is coupled with its cushioned resilience results in less leg fatigue for the player over a conventional wood floor, its quieter too!

The owners like the part that 'Court-Flor' is dimensionally stable. This has been a source of serious trouble with wood floors systems because

humidity levels in courts are difficult to control. This has resulted in buckeling or separation in the wood planks. This creates looseness, vibration areas and dead spots in the flooring system.

William Morgan Jr. President said "When we show the owner the savings in maintenance and installation cost ratios, we are getting the kind of response which causes us

to say that you will be seeing many more new courts specifying the 'Court-Flor system'."

Distributors are wanted in the East, West and Southern area of the United States. Inquiries should be sent to the attention of Giulio Biagini, Sales Manager, Architectural Floor Products Co., Inc., 875 N. Lively Blvd., Wood Dale, IL 60191. 312/595-4110.

Hogan Endorses Patrick Shoe

Patrick Athletic Shoe Company, a division of Action & Leisure, Inc., is proud to announce the endorsement of the "Copenhagen" athletic shoe by Marty Hogan as recommended for use in the sport of Racquetball.

At the same time as Mr. Hogan endorsed the "Copenhagen" this fine shoe has also been endorsed and recommended by the NRCI (National Racquetball Clinic Inc.).

In announcing these endorsements, Mr. Eric Baudinet, President of Patrick Athletic Shoe Company stated, "We are pleased to receive these endorsements. We were convinced that when we introduced the "Copenhagen" to this country that it would be accepted as the superior athletic shoe

that it is. Our belief in this has been vindicated by the quick endorsement of Marty Hogan, the NRCI, and by the many pros and top amateurs who are already wearing this fine shoe. We are proud to become a part of the Official Racquetball Family."

For further information on the "Copenhagen" and all other Patrick athletic shoes contact: Patrick Athletic Shoe Company, 45 East 30th Street, New York, N.Y. 10016 (212) 686-8052.



The "Copenhagen"

Hilecher, Schmidtke Sign With Ektelon

Jerry Hilecher, the fifth ranked pro in the nation, has signed a new contract to continue representing Ektelon as touring professional and member of the firm's advisory staff.

Hilecher, 22, is credited with having one of the most intimidating serves in the game. He is in great demand as an instructor by clinic organizers who realize the widespread desire of their clients to emulate his low, hard, flat serve.

"When Jerry is on, he'll beat absolutely anybody in the game," said Ron Grimes, Ektelon's marketing director. "His ability to shoot the ball is like no one else's."

Grimes said he valued Hilecher's teaching capa-

bilities. "He reaches out to people," said Grimes. "He is eager to explain what racquetball is all about."

Hilecher is a St. Louis native who recently moved to San Diego. His original reputation was as an excellent streak player, but as he has gained maturity, his game has developed consistency. He can still overpower an opponent, but he has added other strategies to his game.

He won the first stop in the '76-'77 National Racquetball Club tour, the Sacramento Open in October.

Bill Schmidtke, the old pro from Wayzata, Minnesota, has signed a new contract to represent Ektelon on the N.R.C. professional racquetball tour.



Bill Schmidtke



Jerry Hilecher

Racquetball Lessons Made Easy:

Professional Instructions by Steve Keeley

Audio Cassette/Booklet Course, Russell Productions, San Diego, Calif., 1976.

Schmidtke, a two-time national singles champion (1971 and 1974), also will serve Ektelon in instructor and public relations capacities.

"Everybody around Minneapolis, and all through Minnesota, tries to emulate Bill," said Ron Grimes, Ektelon's marketing director. "And many of them also use his signature-model racquet."

"Bill is old enough (35) to play in the seniors," added Grimes. "He is the oldest active professional by four or five years, but he still actually has an excellent chance of placing well in any professional event he enters."

"He has an extremely positive competitive attitude."

Schmidtke's last national title came less than three years ago, at the 1974 amateur championships at San Diego. He always is a threat when nationals time rolls around, because of his consistency and great determination. He is a money player.

Schmidtke owns and operates his own complex of courts in Apple Valley, Minnesota. He is one of the better instructors in the game.

One must admit that at first glance a cassette/booklet with racquetball as the subject invites skepticism. How can one possibly attain professional instruction by a tape recorded voice and pictures? The answer is, it is possible, although not perfect. However, after listening to the tape and following the instruction booklet through to its conclusion it is clear that learning can be attained through this course by players at virtually any level.

This booklet and cassette is part of a more complete program in racquetball instruction made possible by Leach Industries and National Racquetball Clinics, Inc. The N.R.C.I. provides clinics in San Diego and nationwide, with pros in attendance, an instructional film, and complete instructional book available in conjunction with the program.

Steve Keeley, a touring pro and racquetball instructor with a great deal of experience in both fields authors this course. He is currently ranked eighth on the N.R.C. tour. The unique Keeley style of expression makes all of the verbiage in this type of in-

struction bearable if not interesting.

The course is composed of two cassettes totaling two hours in duration and a well illustrated action/sequence and diagram booklet. The booklet breaks down the course into six lessons including equipment selection, strokes, service, offensive and defensive shots and lastly, strategy. It also includes a rules section and a course outline which is very complete and detailed providing any player with enough practice routines and drills to last throughout a career.

One of the strengths of any audio-visual course is good action photographs depicting the strokes and movements necessary to play effectively. In this course booklet, the cinematography is excellent and is transferred to sequence pictures indicating all basic and advanced shots.

Many instructional books leave much to be desired in picture description and the reader is left guessing as to what pictures should go between the start and finish of a particular sequence. Keeley's booklet uses a series of six to 12 pictures for each drill or stroke.

Another strength of the course is the mention of training techniques to enhance and augment the suggested drills and theories of racquetball. Keeley approaches these supplements in a practical manner, not from the standpoint of making everyone a fanatic and spending all of their spare time playing the game. A main point that is stressed is the axiom that the level of skill in the game will only drastically improve as a result of individual practice; a point that many players seem to overlook. It is often monotonous and also difficult to get the court time. Nevertheless, it must be done to really progress rapidly in a skill game.

type of instruction is actually the fact that there is no teacher to make corrections or suggestions for poor form or misunderstandings of the course guidelines. Ideally, it is helpful to have an experienced teacher or friend present while basics are being learned. Without this guidance, improvement will be limited. As Steve Keeley states on the tape, "do not expect instant success, but do expect eventual gains."

Bailey and Willie Still Play Like Pros

Shirley Carley

STARKVILLE, MISS.—Bailey Howell, former forward with the Boston Celtics National Basketball Association team, and Willie Daniel, former defensive back with the Pittsburgh Steelers and the Los Angeles Rams, have been friends since the mid-1950s when they roomed across the hall from each other at Mississippi State University in Starkville.

The fierce competitiveness born in great athletes is apparent when they meet on the racquetball court where they are admittedly "out to annihilate" each other.

The two ex-pros continuously rank in the top five on the racquetball ladder at the Willie Daniel Athletic Club here, where both have lived since retiring from the professional ranks. Their position in relation to each other seesaws as they meet in challenge matches.

"We're so evenly matched, sometimes we rally a full five minutes," Daniel laughs.

Willie Daniel was introduced to racquetball on an outdoor handball court at Mississippi State a couple of years ago. He became so enthusiastic about the sport, he decided to build an indoor court behind his club. Using an official rule book as a guide for the proper dimensions, Willie did much of the work himself. Currently there are some 54 regulars who work out and play on the court, the only regulation court in the area.

"Installing the racquetball court has at least tripled business at the club," Willie declares. He plans to construct two more courts adjacent to each other

Willie Daniel



Bailey Howell

with a glass-walled lounge between for spectators.

Bailey Howell played basketball at MSU under the respected and successful Babe McCarthy who led the team to the Southeastern Conference title in Bailey's senior year.

The 6'6½" center was named All-American two years and All-SEC three years during his college career. After graduation in 1959, he was drafted by the Detroit Pistons where he played for five years. Then followed two years with the Baltimore Bullets and four with the Celtics, helping them become the World Champions. Bailey played in the NBA All-Star Game six times, and twice his fellow players voted him one of the top 10 players in the league.

"If I'd known about racquetball back then, I'd have played it to stay in shape during the off season," Howell said. "I like the sport because it allows me to stay in condition. It's a great all-around exercise, giving you a tremendous workout in a short time," he added.

During his years with the pros, Bailey and his family spent summers in Starkville where he sold insurance. They decided to make it their permanent home and headquarters for Bailey who travels Mississippi and Louisiana as sales and promotional representative with the Converse Rubber Company.

By virtue of his work, Willie is able to play more racquetball than Bailey. His philosophy is "you learn the most when you play the best." To prove this, he pitted himself against Sarah Green, one of the top-ranked female pros in



BAILEY HOWELL TAKES dead aim on the ball as Willie Daniel stands poised for the return during one of their frequent confrontations on the racquetball court.

the nation, in a match in Memphis, Tenn. in February. She beat him.

"It killed me," Willie grinned, "but it improved my game ten-fold just playing her."

The year after finishing at Mississippi State in 1960, Willie coached track at Cleveland (Miss.) High School and his team won the A-AA championship. By a lucky coincidence, he was put in contact with a representative of the Steelers who offered him a contract. The 5'10" back played in Pittsburgh for five years before moving to the Rams "because George Allen liked players over 30 with experience." The two years with the Rams were Willie's best. He was awarded game balls five times as a special team player. Once, Coach Allen picked him as "Player of the Week."

In 1969, knee trouble forced Willie to give up football and he moved his family to Starkville where they too had

spent summers and where he owned an insurance company. He built the athletic club in 1972 more or less as a hobby. "But, it has turned into practically a full-time job," he says.

Both Bailey and Willie competed in the first Mississippi Racquetball Association tournament held in Starkville in January. Howell came in third and Daniel fourth. Willie serves as vice-president of the state association which was organized last Fall by a group of enthusiasts at his club.

Willie also participated in the Jackson, Miss. YMCA Invitational Tourney in March, winning his first round but losing the second by a close score to

former pro baseballer Al Bullock. Both Bailey and Willie hope to be able to take part in more tournament play in the future.

Willie describes racquetball as "the best sport for exercise and weight control." Another benefit, he says, is that it is a game all ages can play. "I enjoy playing my 11-year-old son as much as playing Bailey," he laughs.

"What I'd really like to be is a racquetball bum and do nothing but play all the time!", he admitted. ●

TOURNAMENT RESULTS

Wisconsin

The weather was extremely cold in Milwaukee the weekend of January 28 but Joe Wirkus was definitely on the "hot" side of winning his fourth Wisconsin singles title and the first U.S.R.A. state title. Wirkus did not lose a game to any opponent in the field of 32 in the Men's Open and went on to defeat his annual adversary, Galen Johnson of Green Bay, in two straight in the finals 21-11, 21-15.

The host site was The Racquetball Club of West Allis, a beautiful 12 court facility featuring spacious lounge areas, wet bar, and a 200 seat glass back wall tournament court. The Racquetball Club members showed their tremendous enthusiasm for racquetball by filling the gallery for each and every final match from 11 a.m. Sunday til the last match finished at 6 p.m.

In the quarters of the top bracket, Wirkus handled Al Sterner 21-10, 21-10 while in the bottom bracket Galen Johnson defeated John Neville by identical scores. In the semi's Wirkus completely dominated Bob Schultz of Madison 21-4, 21-3. Johnson's semi match was a bit more difficult as John Derksen of Appleton pushed Galen to the tiebreaker 21-6, 14-21, 11-5.

The Womens Open left no surprises as Pat Schmidt of Milwaukee topped the field of 16 to capture her third straight state title. In fact, no opponent reached doubles figures against Miss Schmidt as she defeated Linda Waldren in the quarters 21-1, 21-4, Julie Jacobsen in the semi's 21-3, 21-3, and in the finals Glenda Pommerich fell 21-4, 21-9. Third place went to Linda Franks over Julie Jacobsen 21-19, 21-6.

The Men's B attracted 86 entries with 18-year-old Brian Murray of Janesville topping the field with an exciting 21-9, 20-21, 11-8 win over Dan Mohr in the finals. Murray's trip to the finals was not as easy as he was pushed to tiebreakers in the quarters and the semi's. In the quarters Murray defeated Kevin Semenas 18-21, 21-11, 11-3. Tim Geary pushed Murray in the semi's 21-12, 19-21, 11-3. All in all the B class took a super human effort to play six matches in three days. Third place went to Geary over Al Karter.

A filled gallery awaits the Masters finals at The Racquetball Club in West Allis, Wisconsin for the state singles tourney.

-Photo by Gary Schlein



Smiling faces all around (l to r) Bruce MacQuarrie, tournament director; Open Champ Joe Wirkus; Runner-up Galen Johnson; State Women's Director, Sandy Coffman.

-Photo by Gary Schlein

The Women's B event had 28 entries with Nancy Lawrence of Milwaukee besting Jan Resnich in a real nail-biter 17-21, 21-16, 11-10. In the semi's Lawrence defeated Barb Strain 21-19, 21-10. Resnich defeated Marge Hoffman by identical scores she lost by in the finals 17-21, 21-16, 11-10. Third place went to Marge Hoffman over Barb Strain.

The Juniors field had 16 entries with another Wirkus taking the coveted first place. Seventeen-year-old Jim Wirkus, like his brother Joe, did not lose a game enroute to his crown. He defeated Steve Peck of Milwaukee 21-7, 21-17 in a well played match. This will be the young Wirkus' last victory as a Junior in a U.S.R.A. tourney as he turns eighteen in early February. In the semi's Wirkus defeated Steve Salamone 21-6, 21-14 and Peck defeated Pete Kerswill 21-14, 21-6. Salamone defeated Kerswill for third 21-20, 21-17.

The Masters event found two nationally ranked players meeting each other in the finals. Jim White and Joe Bechard, both of Milwaukee, met again as they did a year ago in the Regionals with the same results — White on top 21-14, 21-19. In the semi's White handled Paul Nelson of Madison 21-6, 21-5 while Bechard had a little more difficulty with Dick Kalal 21-13, 21-12. For third, Nelson defeated Kalal 21-16, 21-20.

The Seniors had a full 32 draw and was without a doubt the toughest overall division of the tourney. When the smoke settled it was Scott Wallace topping Brad Armstrong, both of Madison, 21-8, 5-21, 11-5. In the quarters Wallace barely got by Mike MacKedon 21-12, 19-21, 11-8 and again squeaked by in the semi's over number one seed Roger Siegrist by the narrowest of margins 21-20, 21-20. Siegrist served twice at 20 in game one and three times at 20 in game two but Wallace would not be denied the trip to the finals. Siegrist defeated Dave Hulst of Madison for third place.

A five man Round Robin was played in the Golden Masters with past National Champ Fred Vetter defeating yet another Wirkus, Ben, in the finals 21-19, 21-18.

Tourney notes: It was the first U.S.R.A. state tourney ever held and the largest in Wisconsin history. Total entries exceeded 225. With a field this large much planning and preparation was essential to its success — and a huge success it was. Much of this must be credited to Bruce MacQuarrie, manager of the Racquetball Club and Tournament Director for the event. Bruce didn't sleep much during the three day event while hustling players in and out of the courts in addition to taking care of his normal managerial duties of the club. Well done and thank you Bruce. Sandy Coffman and her husband Bud also deserve a big part of the thanks with both taking on officiating duties match after match in addition to preparing the hospitality for all players Saturday afternoon. John Gardner acted as floor manager and had the thankless task of hustling referees for three days. This is the toughest job of all in any tourney but

Y'all did a superb job Mr. Gardner. A special thanks to Jim Gager for his time and efforts. Last but not least we extend a special thanks to The Racquetball Club's staff and members for being such gracious hosts. We also extend thanks to both Seamco and Ektelon for their aid with racquetballs and shirts.

A Special Note: Racquetball is definitely a lifetime sport!! The Womens B had one special entry — 71-year-old Dora Mitchell from Madison. Thank you Dora for being a part of Wisconsin's first USRA State Tournament.

To further prove that racquetball is indeed a family sport. In the tourney there four Wirkus', three Vetter's, four Bechards', two Murrays' and two Coffmans.

Bob Keenan

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Montana

Western Montana College crowned three new champions in the second annual Open Singles Racquetball tournament.

In the Class A division, nine entries played a round robin with a won-lost record determining the champ. Tie records were broken by one game between them.

Results:

1. Jim Farrell, Helena W7 L1; 2. Ted Bell, Pocatello W7 L1; 3. Dennis Doherty, Butte W6 L2; 4. Danny Green, Pocatello W6 L2; 5. John McCarvel, Helena W3 L5; 6. Ted Hoff, Bozeman W3 L5; 7. Kelly Flynn, Dillon W2 L6; 8. Steve Dahlstrom, Missoula W2 L6; 9. Dirk Burgard, Idaho Falls W0 L8.

In the Class B tournament Ron Shipley, Pocatello defeated Joe Chandler, Pocatello 21-20, 21-14 for the title. Leonard Bell, Pocatello topped Gary Hagler, Pocatello for third place 21-9, 21-18. Jerry Burns, Missoula won consolation honors.

In the Class C event Melinda Douglas topped her male opponents and captured the title 21-6, 21-16 over Steve Bull. Douglas is from Butte, while Bull hails from Missoula. Mark Davis, Pocatello took third place over Clint Rouse on an injury default. Sonny Hoskins, Butte won the consolation.

Mississippi

The University of Southern Mississippi sponsored its Fourth Annual Open Racquetball Tournament. The final matches were March 9, 10, and 11.

The tournament was a two phase tournament with 30 players entered. The first phase was a ladder tourney used to determine the top eight players. The second part of the tournament was most interesting because all the finalist were made up of faculty rather than students. Throughout the tournament the older players seemed to dominate their matches.

Mike Giles, swimming coach at USM, won the singles title defeating Dr. Frank O'Hare who proved to be the surprise of the tournament. O'Hare, a former professional soccer player from Scotland, entered the tournament in position number 28 and made the finals.

In first round action, Ken Carlson defeated Lou Marciani and Mike Giles defeated Dr. Billy Larson; Frank O'Hare defeated Dr. Peter Durkee, number two seed, and Rusty McKinley defeated Leigh Brown, the tournament's number one seed. So upsets highlighted the first few matches. In semi-final action Giles defeated Carlson in a tough match and O'Hare beat McKinley in three very interesting games. Rusty was the only student, "a graduate student", to make the finals.

Keen competition was the highlight of the finals match between O'Hare and Giles for the championship. Giles won the first game 21-14, however, he lost the second game 21-8. The third game was a real battle with Giles winning 21-17.

Ken Carlson



Some of the winners at the Western Montana College Open (l. to r.): Front Row: Melinda Douglas, Steve Bull, Mark Davis, Sonny Hoskins; Middle Row: Ron Shipley, Joe Chandler, Leonard Bell, Jerry Burns; Top Row: George Marinkovich, Jim Farrell, Ted Bell.

Florida

Mike Fatolitis of Clearwater, won the City of Palms Racquetball Classic with an easy 21-8, 21-11 win over Bob Owens of Winter Park at the Fort Myers-Lee County YMCA.

Third place in the championship bracket went to Terry Eydt of Clearwater, who downed Bob Driscoll of Stuart 21-17, 15-21, 21-20. The consolation champ was Bill Webb of Fort Myers, with a 15-9, 7-15, 15-5 victory over Dave Downing of Cape Coral.

Barbara Faulkenberry was declared the women's champion after Nancee Hamrick was forced to default with a minor injury. Pam Harrison was second and Sue Wilcox third in the round-robin tourney. All four women are from Clearwater.

Virginia

The first U.S.R.A.-Virginia Racquetball Association state tournament went off with great success. Over 170 matches were played and everyone had a good time.

Championship match results:

Open Singles: Tom Kutas def. Ed Remen 21-7, 21-17.

Open Doubles: Ed Remen/Jack Blystone def. Tom Kutas/Bill King 21-13, 21-7.

Senior Singles: Bill King def. Bill Buckman 21-14, 21-10.

Ladies Singles: Carol Frenck def. Barbara Leavitt 21-11, 21-5.

B Singles: Leroy Pringle def. Carol Frenck 21-16, 7-21, 11-10.

Kentucky

it was home cookin' at the Louisville Athletic Club the weekend of February 18-20, as LAC members swept the first three spots in the Open Division of the 4th annual River City Open. Over 130 participants from a four state area played into the wee hours. The top seed in the Open, Ron Johnson, Indianapolis, was toppled in the quarters by David Fleischaker 21-20, 21-15. Fleischaker's euphoria quickly fizzled as the eventual winner, Dave Brown, handled him easily in the semi's 21-11, 21-19.

Brown had defeated long-time nemesis Billy Evans 19-21, 21-11, 11-7 in his quarter-final. Second seeded Bob Dabney crushed Kirtley Amos, Lexington, 21-7, 21-10 and Mike Sipes, Cincinnati routined Fred Michels 21-14, 21-19 in the other quarters. Dabney defeated Sipes after a rocky beginning 8-21, 21-14, 11-2 to set the stage for two players who normally play each other once a week on the same glass side wall court this match was to be held.

Dave spent most of the first game talking to himself and lost 21-13. However, at 13-8 Brown in the second game, a controversial double bounce call went against Dabney which seemed to destroy his concentration. From that point on, he scored only one more point. Final score: 13-21, 21-8, 11-1. Brown's serves were devastating. He scored at least 10 aces during the match.

Ageless Ike Gumer won another title in the Masters, defeating Don Detjen,

Ashland in the finals 15-21, 21-18, 11-10. Don is really coming on strong.

The women's division was an Indiana story, as Nancy Messerschmidt, Ft. Wayne and Jane Pritchett, Anderson, stormed through the field to meet in the finals. Pritchett won handily, but was perhaps fortunate even reaching the final round as the top seed, Bernice Friedberg, Cincinnati had to default because of knee cartilage damage in her quarter-final match. Bobbi Brennan, Frankfort, defeated Judy Shirrell, a University of Kentucky student, for third 21-5, 21-5.

The Seniors Division came down to Dr. Chuck Soloman, Indianapolis and Bill Emmett, Lexington. Bill, after having read that many successful racquetball players are non-practicing doctors, has just entered dental school. It naturally follows that his racquetball has improved. He defeated the first seeded Soloman in a hammer and tong affair 18-21, 21-17, 11-5. Leigh Jones, Berea, was defeated by the Ubiquitous Mr. Detjen for third place.

The B Division was wild and woolie. As usual, none of the top seeds got very far. Unseeded Lee Swanson, displaying a beautiful control game, swept into the finals and defeated power swinger Alan Cohen 18-21, 21-7, 11-5. There were 51 entrants in this, the largest division and Swanson, a soldier from Ft. Campbell, played six matches in 50 hours to win. Nobody knows what he was doing in his spare time.

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Kentucky

The fickle finger of fate is finished flirting with 18-year-old Eric Gilbert. After five years of pure promise, sound and fury, and countless cruel endings, Eric put it all together the weekend of March 18-20 at the Louisville Tennis club and walked off with Kentucky's big prize, the State Open Singles Championships. Eric won with composure and consistency as much as his vaunted shot making ability, which had deserted him in the first round of several other tournaments held just prior to the State.

Gilbert defeated Bob Dabney in the finals, 21-15, 10-21, 11-9, after having defeated Ray Sabbatine in the semis 15-21, 21-10, 11-10, top seed Chuck Cooper in the quarters 14-21, 21-15, 11-10, and Fred Michels in the 16s, 8-21, 21-17, 11-8. As is obvious each opponent had his chance. Michels was

up 13-2 in the second after having won the first, Cooper and Gilbert each had three serves for the match at 10-10 in the 3rd before Eric finally won it; Ray served twice for the match in the semi's, and Bob was ahead 5-0 in the tiebreaker. Was it meant to be?

Over 160 players competed in seven divisions in the tournament, by far the largest we've ever had. Men's and Women's C-Novice Division were held for the first time with a turnout of 16 in the women's group and 42 in the men's. Surprisingly, neither was a sandbaggers' open, and we will definitely hold both divisions again.

Holly Rentz won the Women's crown for the second straight year, as she toppled Kay Evans in the final (again for the second straight year) in easily the most exciting match of the

tournament, 21-20, 20-21, 11-9. Kay had been ahead 7-0 in the tie-breaker. Lynn Simon defeated 12-year-old Bobbi Brennan for third, 16-21, 21-17, 11-8.

First seeded Len Wilson rolled through the Seniors pretty well unmolested until the last match, when first time finalist Russell Travis gave him a good match 21-5, 9-21, 11-1.

Dean Sorg Finally won a B tournament, after years of effort to avoid the open bracket. He defeated Tex Boggs 21-18, 21-18 in the finals. Tex is not long for the B class either.

In the Masters, Don Detjen finally defeated Ike Gumer 21-10, 21-16.

Rhode Island

The first event to be held by the newly-formed Rhode Island Racquetball Association was considered an unquestionable success by all involved. Tournament director and R.I.R.A. co-chairman Jerry Melaragno believes the "Get Acquainted Tournament" met its two primary goals: 1) introducing players from various parts of the state to one another and 2) giving players at all levels of expertise a taste of tournament-brand competition. It was especially gratifying to see the caliber of play improve dramatically (particularly among the beginners) during the course of the two-day event.

The novice and B divisions drew 16 entries each and were held at the Providence Central YMCA February 18 and 19. Tom Healy won the novice division beating Bill McMullen in the finals. Consolation honors went to Ken Cronan on the strength of his three-game victory over Dr. Guy Calise.

Competition in the B division was particularly spirited with both semi-finals and half the quarter-final matches going to the tie-breaker. Eventual champion "Curly" Fontaine was sternly tested by Dick Zotti in a

semi-final match that proved to be the closest match of the entire tournament. The other finalist, Tom Ferro, survived tie-breakers in both the quarter-finals (over Paul Gebhart in the most acrobatic match of the tournament) and semi-finals (over Rick Haynes who had already survived two tie-breakers himself in earlier rounds). The B division consolation winner was Carl Picerno.

The A division was held on March 4 and 5. In what was easily the finest racquetball yet played on the one-year-old YMCA courts, Fred Miller won the A division crown edging Dave Brown 11-10 in a tie-breaker. Brown made it to the finals by beating Joe Fenster and Miller got there after handling Melaragno in the semi's. Dennis Culberson beat John Rosato for the consolation title.

Thanks go to Rosato, Howie Hawkins and Charlie Batcher for their help in organizing and running the tournament. The cooperation of Cal Steere of the Providence Central YMCA is also greatly appreciated. Now that members of the R.I.R.A. have become acquainted, we are all anxious to work together for the betterment of racquetball in Rhode Island.

Illinois

The fifth Illini Open Singles Tournament held at the University of Illinois again reached a record entry with 175 racquetballers from five central states competing January 7-9. There were six divisions of play in this annual tourney.

Men's Open

Quarter-Finals

Deuster d. Johnson, 21-19, 21-5; Stepp d. Van Tuyle, 21-6, 21-17; McDowell d. Travaglio, 21-15, 21-15; York d. Sulli, 14-21, 21-8, 11-5.

Semi-Finals

Deuster d. Stepp, 21-12, 21-17; York d. McDowell, 5-21, 21-10, 11-6.

Finals: Deuster d. York, 21-9, 21-20. **Third:** Stepp d. McDowell, 21-17, 21-16.

Women's Open

Quarter-Finals

McCarthy d. Prina, 21-17, 21-7; Schmidt d. Biggs, 21-10, 21-3; Thompson d. Holder, 21-4, 21-8; Kelleher d. Beal, 21-8, 21-6.

Semi-Finals

Schmidt d. McCarthy, 21-3, 12-21, 11-4; Thompson d. Kelleher, 21-11, 21-10.

Finals: Schmidt d. Thompson, 21-12, 21-13. **Third:** McCarthy d. Kelleher, forfeit.

West Virginia

Women's B

Quarter-Finals

Kernan d. Seibert, 21-10, 21-3; Weisbach d. Wilson, 21-6, 21-6; Simon d. Larrain, 21-19, 21-11; Weiss d. Farmer, 21-3, 21-6.

Semi-Finals: Weisbach d. Kernan, 21-3, 18-21, 11-10; Weiss d. Simon, 21-7, 17-21, 11-4.

Finals: Weisbach d. Weiss, 21-18, 21-15. **Third:** Simon d. Kernan, 17-21, 21-14, 11-4.

Men's B

Quarter-Finals: Halpern d. Huiskamp, 21-15, 21-10; Gordon d. Mulvaney, 21-9, 17-21, 11-2; Shepson d. Mohr, 21-5, 21-18; Broderson d. Kabala, 21-9, 21-3.

Semi-Finals: Gordon d. Halpern, 21-16, 13-21, 11-7; Broderson d. Shepson, 21-14, 10-21, 11-9.

Finals: Gordon d. Broderson 21-14, 21-20. **Third:** Shepson d. Halpern, forfeit.

Senior's

Quarter-Finals: Sweeney d. Stoy, 13-21, 21-15, 11-4; Eichner d. Lawler, 21-11, 4-21, 11-8; Huff d. Glanzer, 21-19, 21-16; Clar d. Berry, 21-6, 21-12.

Semi-finals: Sweeney d. Eichinger 16-11, 11-17, 11-10; Huff d. Clar, 21-12, 14-21, 11-7.

Finals: Sweeney d. Huff, 21-12, 21-19. **Third:** Eichinger d. Clar, 21-19, 21-14.

Master's

Quarter-Finals: Dziuk d. Martarano, 21-6, 21-3; Gallogly d. Yucevicius, 21-10, 20-21, 11-6; Schuberth d. Tresslar, 21-4, 21-11; Vetter d. Hinds, 18-21, 21-6, 11-9.

Semi-finals: Dziuk d. Gallogly, 21-3, 21-12; Schuberth d. Vetter, 21-18, 21-7.

Finals: Dziuk d. Schuberth, 21-20, 21-11. **Third:** Vetter d. Gallogly, 17-21, 21-12, 11-9.

A total of 78 entries participated in the third annual West Virginia State Racquetball Tournament held March 19 and 20, 1977 at the Coliseum in Morgantown, West Virginia.

Competition was conducted in five divisions: Open Singles, B Singles, Women's Singles, Senior's Singles, and Open Doubles.

Open Singles

Quarter-finals: Dave Johnsen def. Dave Furda; Gib Krovocheck def. Arnie Margolin; Rich Yobbagy def. Jay Besson; Dave Taylor def. Kevin Becker.

Semi-finals: Gib Krovocheck def. Dave Johnsen; Dave Taylor def. Rich Yobbagy.

Finals: Dave Taylor def. Gib Krovocheck.

Third Place: Dave Johnsen def. Rich Yobbagy.

Consolation Winner: Bill Casto def. Dennis Lewis.

B Singles

Quarter-finals: Bob Anderson def. Ed Cromley; Virgil Smaltz def. Peter Halsey; Raymond Young def. Melvin Fuller; Reuben Fernandez def. Daniel Otto.

Semi-finals: Bob Anderson def. Virgil Smaltz; Raymond Young def. Daniel Otto.

Finals: Bob Anderson def. Raymond Young.

Finals: Gib Krovocheck def. Rich Yobbagy.

Consolation Winner: Dave Furda def. Joe Currey.

Open Doubles

Quarter-finals: Dave Johnsen & Dave Taylor def. Dan Coram & Chuck Dunaway; George Klebez & Charles Emery def. Ed Ehler & Alex Wilson; Kevin Becker & Bill Casto def. Joe Pendry & Bill Lanham; Dennis Lewis & Jay Besson def. Jeff Massey & Bill Fish.

Semi-finals: Dave Johnsen & Dave Taylor def. George Klebez & Charles Emery; Kevin Becker & Bill Casto def. Dennis Lewis & Jay Besson.

Finals: Dave Johnsen & Dave Taylor def. Kevin Becker & Bill Casto.

Third Place: Daniel Otto def. Virgil Smaltz.

Consolation Winner: James Craig def. Sameh Mity.

Women's Singles

Quarter-finals: Carol Wojcik def. Kris King; Donna Cayton def. Cori Jordan; Connie Muldoon def. Kathy Van Dyke; Julie Dougherty def. Michelle Burke.

Semi-finals: Carol Wojcik def. Donna Cayton; Connie Muldoon def. Julie Dougherty.

Finals: Carol Wojcik def. Connie Muldoon.

Consolation Winner: Linda Jursa def. Kathy Van Dyke.

Senior's Singles

Quarter-finals: Rich Yobbagy def. Tom Staley; John Loth def. Joe Currey; Chuck North def. Dave Furda; Gib Krovocheck def. Charles Emery.

Semi-finals: Rich Yobbagy def. John Loth; Gib Krovocheck def. Chuck North.

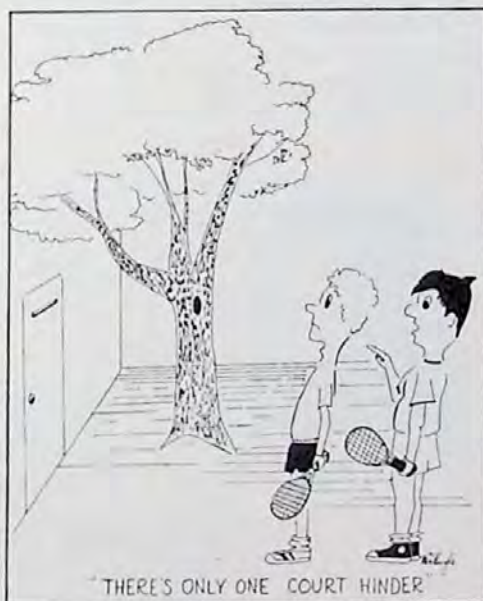
New York

The results of the 1977 Syracuse Jewish Community Center Open Singles Racquetball Tournament are as follows:

(Quarter-finals): Katz def. Galvin, default; Gerber def. Ashley 21-16, 21-13; Prue def. Volinsky 21-6, 21-4; Waingarten def. Stimpson 21-3, 21-4.

(Semi-finals): Katz def. Gerber 21-8, 9-21, 21-20; Waingarten def. Prue 21-1, 21-4.

(Championship): Waingarten def. Katz 21-9, 21-14; **(Third):** Gerber def. Prue 21-14, 21-15.



Kansas

The U.S.R.A.-Kansas state racquetball tournament was held March 11-13 at Dale's Courts in Overland Park.

Championship match results:

Men's A: Dean Gorman, Lawrence def. Ernie Ruelas, Hutchinson 21-8, 21-11.

Men's B: Lee Humphrey, Olathe def. Mike Severin, Topeka 21-6, 21-1.

Women's A: Marci Greer, Emporia def. Dee Massaglia, Overland Park 21-6, 21-9.

Women's B: Julie Haller, Overland Park def. Mardi Burckes, Pittsburg 21-20, 21-5.

Seniors: Vic Dyke, Topeka def. Bill Parodi, Topeka 21-12, 21-18.

Open Doubles: Swank/Ruelas, Hutchinson def. Glick/Ciesielski, Overland Park 21-17, 21-17.

Tournament directors were Steve Ray and Roger Glick with the tourney being sponsored by Adidas.

Arizona

Results of the 1977 Arizona Racquetball Singles Championships are as follows:

Men's Open (Quarter-finals): Chase def. Grisz 21-6, 21-20; Darnell def. Aubrey 12-21, 21-8, 11-4; Hildebrand def. Smith 21-3, 21-3; Thomas def. Garrigus 21-20, 21-9.

(Semi-finals): Chase def. Darnell 21-7, 21-7; Hildebrand def. Thomas 21-19, 13-21, 11-4.

(Championship): Chase def. Hildebrand 21-14, 9-21, 11-6.

Women's Open (double elimination - Third place): Roark def. Wojcik 21-13, 21-11.

(Championship): Murphy def. Roark 21-15, 17-21, 11-2.

Juniors 18-and-under (double elimination - Third Place): Nolan def. Raby 21-5, 21-18.

(Championship): Nolan def. Colbert 21-16, 21-5. **(Playoff):** Nolan def. Colbert 21-19, 21-7.

Juniors 15-and-under (Double elimination - Third Place): Colbert def. Hucul.

(Championship): McAvin def. Colbert 21-3, 21-3.

Seniors (Semi-finals): Haisting def. Griffin; Aubrey def. Grace.

(Championship): Aubrey def. Haisting 21-13, 21-19; **(Third Place):** Griffin def. Grace 21-12, 13-21, 11-8.

Masters (Double elimination - Third Place): Statini def. Stulik.

(Championship): Price def. Statini 21-12, 21-8.

Men's B: (Quarter-finals): Young def. Ortiz; Mackey def. Beal; Johnson def. Devaul; Marsh def. Krugman.

(Semi-finals): Mackey def. Young 19-21, 21-10, 11-4; Johnson def. Marsh 21-17, 21-18.

(Championship): Johnson def. Mackey 21-16, 19-21, 11-1.

Women's B (Quarter-finals): Brown def. Leigh; McNulty def. Bauer; Priestley def. Curit; Johnson def. Jamack.

(Semi-finals): McNulty def. Brown 21-11, 21-6; Johnson def. Priestley 21-20, 21-4.

(Championship): Johnson def. McNulty 21-15, 21-15.

Ohio

The Seventh Annual Columbus, Ohio City Racquetball Tournament was completed Thursday, March 17, 1977, at the Columbus Central YMCA. Forty-five players were entered in the Men's Open and Masters Singles Division and 10 women in the first Women's Singles Championship.

Last year's Men's Open Champion Don Schiefer of Columbus, Ohio, was eliminated in a 3-game semi-final match by Ron Fox of Ohio State University. Fox went on to defeat Dr. John Norton of Columbus in three close games to become the new Men's Open Champion.

Col. Tom Soberick of Columbus defeated the current three-time Masters Champion, Art Payne of Columbus, in three games. Soberick entered the finals defeating 1972 champion John Tedlie of Ashland Chemical, Dublin, Ohio.

The first Women's Open singles Championship was won by Dana Cornblath when she defeated Sandra Drabik, both of Ohio State University. The event attracted 10 women and was added to the City Tournament at the last moment because of the interest by the women players in Columbus.

Illinois

Last year's finalist in the Mercy Mission racquetball tournament tenaciously refused to relinquish his title in the 1977 Class A Championship matches at Mercy Mission.

After losing the first game 21-7, the Rev. James Roache of Holy Name Cathedral parish came on strong against the Rev. Charles Cronin of St. Thaddeus parish in the second game.

For the first five minutes the serve alternated 14 times while the score was deadlocked at one apiece. finally Father Cronin broke the ice with a

corner kill shot and went on to win the second game of the match 21-11.

Awards were presented after the contests by the Rev. James J. Close, Superintendent of Mercy Mission, a home for homeless boys, at 1140 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago.

The finals culminated a two and one-half month tournament sponsored by Mercy Mission/Mission Press for priests in the Archdiocese of Chicago. The tournament was directed by John P. Connolly, Administrative Assistant to Father Close.



The Rev. James J. Close, Superintendent of Mercy Mission, a home for homeless boys in Chicago presents the Class A awards in the recent Diocesan Clergy Racquetball Tournament finals at Mercy Mission court.

On the left is the Rev. James Roache of Holy Name Cathedral, who placed second and on the right the Rev. Charles Cronin of St. Thaddeus parish who won first place.

Kwajalein Islands

Over 5,000 miles southwest of San Francisco, a U.S.R.A. - sanctioned outdoor three wall tournament was held on the Kwajalein Islands. The Special Services Racquetball Double Elimination tournament results are as follows:

Open Singles: Joe Redhor def. Ted Brees 21-15, 21-15.

Intermediate Singles: Charlie Valdez def. Rick Edwards 14-21, 21-8, 11-1.

Novice Singles: Diane Lull def. Rick Liston 21-16, 21-5.

A total of 25 players participated in the grueling tournament and displayed outstanding sportsmanship throughout the tourney. Special thanks to Harold Smith and Don McLearn for a job well done in officiating the tournament.



Diane Lull (r.) topped Rick Liston for the novice singles title at the Special Services tournament on Kwajalein Island.

- Photo by Robert M. Lampson

Japan

The new Yokota AB, Japan Fieldhouse was the site of the First Annual Fifth Air Force Racquetball Tournament. Participants from Korea, Misawa AB, Kadena AB, and host Yokota AB treated standing room only crowds to some exciting racquetball action highlighted by excellent sportsmanship. The only drawback was failure of any bases to provide women players. At the pre-tournament banquet, Col. Sharm Stevenson, Yokota wing commander and tournament participant, admonished all in attendance to "spread the racquetball gospel to the women so we will have a better tournament next time."

In the men's play, open and over 40 singles and doubles competition were held. All matches were two out of three games; 21 points the first two games with an 11 point tie-breaker, if necessary. Excitement prevailed throughout the tournament.

Capt. Steve Ludick stole the show in the men's open play. Left-handed, quick, smart and stylish, Steve opened the tournament with a 21-3, 21-8 trouncing of Yokota champion and pre-tourney favorite Capt. Steve Mihalko. Ludick continued his singles mastery to the end where his shot selection and stamina carried him to the championship in an exciting 21-13; 21-10 match over Korea teammate 1st Lt. Leon Booker.

In the men's doubles, the Ludick-Booker tandem was temporarily derailed in the semi-finals when an 11-stitch cut on Ludick's chin caused them to forfeit to Capt. Dave Billings and A1C Ruben Lopez of Kadena AB. The next day in the loser's bracket Ludick and Booker zapped Mihalko and Capt. Mickey McDade in the morning 21-18; 21-15; avenged the forfeit to Billings/Lopez in the afternoon 21-6; 21-10; forcing the tournament into the "if necessary" match; and, with a one-hour rest, won the first game 21-7.

While some spectators left at this point expecting to see a repeat of the earlier match, the hangers-on saw a complete reversal of form. Obviously worn out from the earlier matches,

Ludick/Booker began to lose their edge while Billings/Lopez, complementing each other with sound play and growing more confident with each point, roared to the championship with 21-14 and 11-7 victories.

The men's over 40 matches were equal to the open matches in excitement. The singles championship was perhaps the best match from the standpoint of good hard play. SMSgt. Norm Mash of Yokota and MSgt. Bob Wise of Kadena went at it for an hour and a half. Long rallies, super saves, and plain hustle highlighted the match. They traded 21-18 victories before Mash prevailed in the third game 11-6. In doubles play, Wise and his partner, Lt. Col. Rod Howes of Kadena defeated Col. Jerry Collins and Lt. Col. Harry Davis of Yokota in the title game 21-19; 21-13.

At the conclusion of the tournament, Col. Glenn Nordin, Fifth Air Force vice commander, presented first and second place awards to winners and participation certificates to everyone. Everyone left with the same thought: "That was fun. We've got to do it again!"

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UPCOMING EVENTS

National Juniors

July 27-31, 1977, — remember that date! It's the long-awaited National Juniors Championship Tournament, the second annual U.S.R.A. sanctioned event.

The site is the Evergreen Park Bath and Tennis Club, in south suburban Chicago. Evergreen Park has eight racquetball courts, one with a glass side wall and glass back wall, to make the playing and spectating more exciting than ever.

But so much more will be going on at the Juniors.

For openers, the U.S.R.A. will again help out as many players as possible with a travel allowance. The first 200 entrants will receive 10¢ per mile for every mile he or she travels over 500 miles. The maximum allowance is \$100 for any one participant.

"The thing that makes the National Juniors such a great event," said the U.S.R.A.'s National Director Chuck Leve, "is that it gives as many kids as possible a chance to get to the tournament. We don't want money to be an obstacle for any youngster who wants to play."

In addition to the travel help, all players will be fed three meals a day, and all hotel lodging costs (except individual charges) will be paid for.

"Once we get them here," said Leve, "we know we have to feed them. Last year we were only able to give them breakfast and dinner, but this time, they'll get their lunches as well."

Another big bonanza of the tournament will be a trip for all players to the world-famous Marriott's Great America Theme Park, about an hour's drive from the Evergreen Park Club.

"I think the kids will like Great America more than they liked Walt Disney World last time," said Leve. "Great America has more rides and games than DisneyWorld and the lines are a lot shorter. They'll have a ball."

The Evergreen Park club is managed by pro handballer Vern Roberts, Jr.,

himself a veteran of handball's National Junior program. He and his staff are looking forward to doing everything possible to ensure the good time for all.

"I first met Joe Ardito (U.S.R.A. National Commissioner) at the Juniors," said Vern. "Joe told me recently what a fine tourney it was last year, but I promised Joe that this one will top that one by far."

Players will also receive the attractive Hang-ten souvenir shirts that have been used so successfully this season on the Seamco-Leach professional tour.

The most important thing for prospective players to do is make their travel arrangements early. The entry form in this issue includes a space for them to alert the U.S.R.A. as to their plans.

"This is most important," said Leve. "The great majority of the players will be flying into O'Hare International Airport, and that can be a traumatic experience for a young person who's never done it before. We want each entrant to let us know how and where he's arriving so we can meet his plane."

The logistics of the tournament will be co-ordinated between the U.S.R.A. National headquarters, the Evergreen Park Club and the Illinois Racquetball Association, U.S.R.A. affiliate.

"We're expecting over 300 players," said Leve. "And all players will be able to watch all matches for free."

Age categories are as follows; Boys 17-and-under, 15-and-under, and 13-and-under; Girls 17-and-under, and 14-and-under.

The entry fee is \$12 per player. All entries should be sent to U.S.R.A. National Juniors, 4101 Dempster St., Skokie, IL 60076.



national juniors

OFFICIAL ENTRY

U.S.R.A. National Juniors National Championships

Site: Evergreen Park Bath & Tennis Club, 2700 W. 91st St., Evergreen Park, IL 60642. Phone: 312-425-7200.

Dates: July 27-31, 1977.

Entry Fee: \$12 per player.

Entry Deadline: July 1, 1977. No entries can be accepted late or without entry fee.

Sanction: By U.S. Racquetball Association

Official Ball: Seamco 558 (black).

Rules: U.S.R.A. rules and regulations apply.

Trophies: To first four places in each event.

Mail Entries To: U.S.R.A. National Juniors, 4101 Dempster St., Skokie, IL 60076. Make checks payable to: U.S.R.A.

Please enter me in: ☐ Boys 17-and-under ☐ Boys 15-and-under ☐ Boys 13-and-under

☐ Girls 17-and-under ☐ Girls 14-and-under

Shirt Size: ☐ XS ☐ S ☐ M ☐ L

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____ Area Code _____

I will be arriving by: ☐ Air ☐ Train ☐ Bus

My flight/train/bus number is: _____

My time of arrival is; _____

My place of arrival is: _____

I hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors and administrators, waive and release any and all rights and claims for damages I may have against the U.S. Racquetball Association, Illinois Racquetball Association, or Evergreen Park Bath & Tennis Club, their respective agents, or any facility used for this tournament, for any and all injuries which may be suffered by my son or daughter in connection with my son's or daughter's competition in said tournament.

SIGNATURE (Parent) _____

Nationals Again Slated For San Diego

The Atlas Health Club, San Diego, California will again host the U.S.R.A.-N.R.C. National Racquetball Championships, June 4-11, 1977.

Twelve brackets of play for men and women, both professional and amateur will highlight the National Tournament week. Additionally, a players banquet, hospitality and closed circuit television will again make the Nationals the zenith of the 1976-77 season.

Who will win the coveted men's professional singles title and the alluring \$4,000 first place prize? Who will be able to survive the grueling pace of the Men's Amateur Open draw, and will he then move straight into the pros as did last year's champ Ben Koltun?

Will Charlie Brumfield be out of his slump in time to regain his number one position? Can Peggy Steding make it three in a row in the women's professional division? Will upsets abound in the seniors division again this year?

All these questions and more will be answered during the National Tournament, sponsored by Leach Industries and Seamco Sporting Goods.

"We're looking forward to the greatest tournament in the history of racquetball," said Chuck Leve, the U.S.R.A.'s National Director. "We thought last season was excellent, but we've made some improvements from a year ago that will make 1977's event even more enjoyable."

Organizationally, nothing could top 1976's version, and the U.S.R.A. will

again call upon the top floor managers in the nation to help run the multitude of matches that the Nationals call for.

In case you missed last year's Nationals, the Atlas Health Club is one of the most amenity-rich clubs in the world. The 1.7 million dollar facility sports whirlpools, saunas, lavish exercise areas, an outdoor swimming pool, jogging track and even outdoor tennis courts.

And the location couldn't be better, — a scant 50 yards from the Mission Valley Inn, a beautiful Atlas Hotel, the tournament headquarters. Mission Valley Inn, with its excellent dining facilities, three outdoor swimming pools, outdoor jacuzzi, and strategic location on San Diego's world-famous Hotel Circle, make the tournament headquarters, the place to be in San Diego.

The Atlas Health Club also has two beautiful glass back walled courts for all key matches. Tickets are now on sale and players or fans interested should contact the Atlas Health Club (see entry form for address and phone).

"The ticket situation will be handled much differently than last year," said Jerry Sandstrom, executive vice president of the Atlas Hotel Corporation, and the man responsible for all the local organization.

"We will be selling tickets at a more reasonable price on a per round basis this time," said Sandstrom. "We will still offer reserved seating for the entire tournament, but it won't be the only choice."

One thing Sandstrom did maintain would be the same as a year ago is the tight security around the championship court. But with the new ticket policy, there will be full stands ensured from the quarters on.

"Since so many more people will be able to afford seeing a few matches," he said, "we expect to fill up the stands virtually every night."

The competitive highlight will be the professional divisions, into which Leach and Seamco have put \$15,000 in prize money.

"This is the one for all the marbles," said Charlie Drake, Leach's racquetball division manager. "Everybody will be going all out for the National title."

Attractive display booths for national manufacturers will also be an integral part of the tournament, for the browsing convenience of players and fans.

All this, plus the crowning of the national champions in 10 amateur events as well as the pros, makes the National Championships truly the most outstanding event of the year.

"It's the highlight, no doubt of that," said Leve. "The Nationals is truly where it's at."

We look forward to seeing you all, in San Diego, June 4-11, 1977.

1976-77 Seamco-Leach Pro Tour

Date	Facility	City
May 12-15, 1977	Newport Sporting House	Newport Beach, California
June 4-11, 1977	Atlas Health Club	San Diego, California

Coming Soon

July 1-4, U.S.R.A. - New York Invitational, Rochester YMCA, 100 Gibb St., Rochester, NY 14605. Contact the Y or Jim Winterton 716-235-4609.

August 19-21, Racquetball of Omaha Singles Invitational, Pro-Am, Open, B Women, Women B, Juniors. Write Mark Hegg, Racquetball of Omaha, 3415 S. 67th St., Omaha, Neb. 68106, or call 402-393-3311.

1977 Leach/Seamco Pro/Am Racquetball Championships TICKET INFORMATION

ADVANCE SALES

Reserved Seat Ticket Package: \$75.00

Good for all pro matches and amateur matches played on Court #1. Also includes General Admission starting June 4.

General Admission Ticket Package: \$25.00

Good for General Admission to the entire Pro/Am Tournament. General Admission will allow viewing from the second level including Court #1 where all the Pro matches will be played.

DAILY SALES

Available at the door on a first come first serve basis

Reserved Seat Tickets

Finals (June 11) — \$25.00 Men and Women
Semi Finals (June 10) — \$15.00 Men and Women
Quarter Finals (June 9) — \$15.00 Men and Women
Round of 16 (June 8) — \$10.00 Men and Women
Round of 16 (June 7) — \$10.00 Men and Women
Ticket prices include general admission for that day.

General Admission Tickets

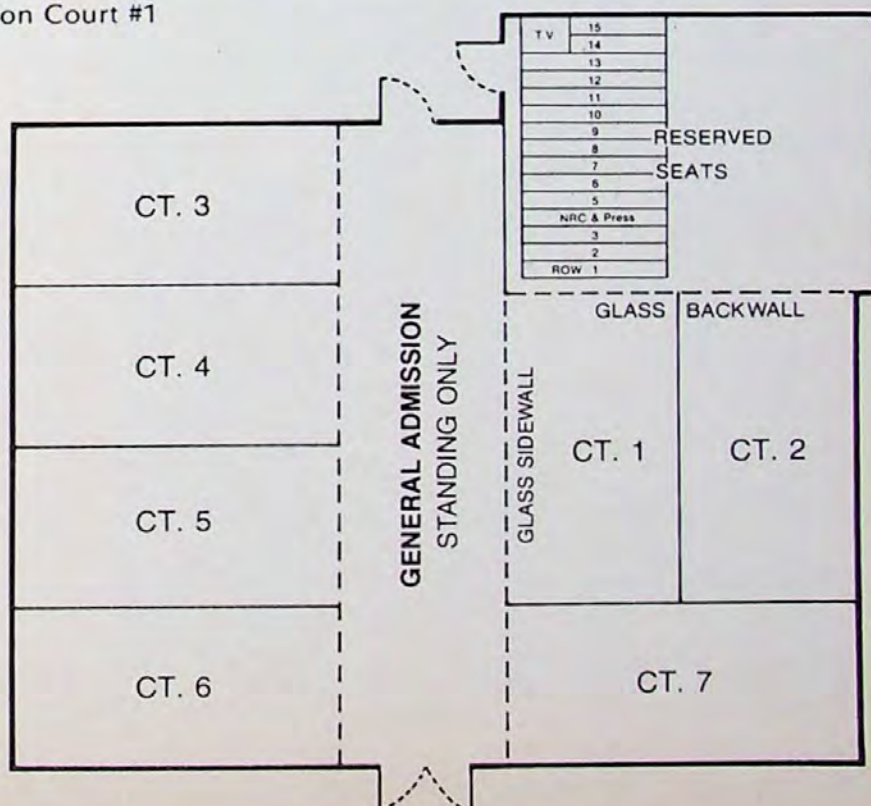
\$5.00 each day starting June 4th
Final matches June 11 \$10.00

- Tournament players will be admitted free June 4, 5 and 6.
- Tickets include the use of the hospitality room and closed circuit T.V. of the pro matches.

Note: Pro matches will be televised in all rooms of the Town and Country Hotel and Mission Valley Inn.

Pro Matches and Amateur Finals will be played on Court #1

Send Remittance To:
Leach/Seamco Pro/Am Tourney
c/o Atlas Health Club
901 Hotel Circle
San Diego, CA 92138



USRA-NRC

ahc

1977 LEACH-SEAMCO PRO-AM RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS



PLAYERS ARE LIMITED TO 2 EVENTS MAXIMUM.

LOCATION: ATLAS HEALTH CLUB, San Diego, Ca.
DATE: June 4-11, 1977
SANCTION: By the National Racquetball Club (N.R.C.)
 U.S. Racquetball Assn. (U.S.R.A.)
OFFICIAL BALL: SEAMCO 558 (black) in all amateur events
 SEAMCO 559 (green) in all professional events.
RULES: U.S.R.A.-N.R.C. rules and regulations apply if two events entered, players may have back to back matches. Eleven point tie breaker rule in effect.
TROPHIES: Trophies: To first 4 places in each amateur event.

ENTRY FEE:

\$25 per person for first event. If player enters second event, that event is \$15. Men or women's pro singles \$50.00.

ENTRY DEADLINE:

In our possession by 6 pm May 25, 1977. Prescribed fee must accompany entry form. Entries received after the deadline or unsigned, or without fee will not be accepted.

STARTING TIME:

Please call (714) 298-1616 June 1st after 12 Noon.

PRIZE MONEY:

\$12,000 Men's Pro Singles; minimum \$3,000 Women's Pro Singles. minimum

OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM AND/OR ATLAS HOTEL ROOM RESERVATION**ENTRY DEADLINE. . . BY 6 P.M. MAY 25, 1977**

NAME	AGE	CLUB
ADDRESS	CITY	ZIP
NAME OF DOUBLES PARTNER	AGE	CLUB

Please enter me in:

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| ☐ Amateur Open Singles | ☐ Golden Master Singles (55 & over) | ☐ Men's Master Doubles (45 & over) |
| ☐ Pro Men's Singles | ☐ Women's Amateur Singles | ☐ Golden Master Doubles (55 & over) |
| ☐ Senior Singles (35 & over) | ☐ Amateur Open Doubles | ☐ Women's Amateur Doubles |
| ☐ Master Singles (45 & over) | ☐ Men's Senior Doubles (35 & over) | ☐ Women's Pro Singles |

Each of the following Atlas Hotels have set aside a block of 100 rooms for participants and guests during the tournament

Mission Valley Inn Room Rates (per day)

Single \$19.00
Double \$24.00

Town & Country Hotel Room Rates (per day)

	Garden	Highrise
Single	\$23.00	\$26.00
Double	\$28.00	\$31.00

Add \$4.00 for each additional person in the same room

A 6% city room tax will be added as applicable to the above net rates.

Please reserve, and confirm by return mail, () room(s) at The Mission Valley Inn _____, Town & Country Hotel _____

Enclosed one nights deposit _____ Arrival Date _____ Departure Date _____

If you cancel reservations at least 15 days prior to start of the tournament your deposit will be refunded.

WAIVER: I hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors, and administrators, waive and release any and all rights and claims for damages I may have against the Atlas Health Club, the U.S. Racquetball Assn. or National Racquetball Club, their respective agents, or any facility used for this tournament, for any and all injuries which may be suffered by me in connection with my competition in said tournament.

Signature _____ Ph. _____ Partner's Signature _____ Ph. _____

Please make room reservation or entry check (money order) payable to: **Atlas Health Club.**
Mail Entry Form and/or Room Reservation to: Atlas Health Club, 901 Hotel Circle San Diego, CA 92138

TWO OF THE TOP SEEDED IN SAN DIEGO

WHETHER YOU'RE A PLAYER OR SPECTATOR AT THE LEACH-SEAMCO PRO-AM RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS YOU'LL ENJOY SAN DIEGO'S MISSION VALLEY AND THE ATLAS HOTELS.



MISSION VALLEY INN

The Mission Valley Inn is literally within a passing shot of the Atlas Health Club, home of the 1977 Leach-Seamco Pro-Am Racquetball Championships. With three swimming pools (four if you count the 25-yard lap pool at the Health Club), therapy pool, plenty of patio space and lawn, the Mission Valley Inn is the ideal place for outdoor living and physical recreation enthusiasts.

Spread about its 10-acres, the Inn has 210 deluxe air-conditioned rooms and suites and is known for its casual luxury.

The colorful and exciting Red Candle Steak House is famous for the finest charcoal broiled steaks in town. The adjoining show lounge is a center for fun and top name entertainment. There is a 24-hour coffee shop and just next door is the Bottle Shop with a complete selection of beverages and delicatessen items.

The Hotel Circle location makes it easy for visitors to get around to the many popular San Diego attractions. But tours to many points around the county and to Tijuana can easily be arranged.

TOWN AND COUNTRY HOTEL

The Town and Country has all the amenities of a fine uptown hotel with the easy living charm of the country . . . and its within an easy walk of the Atlas Health Club. The Town and Country has 1,000 air-conditioned rooms in two highrises and many one and two-story garden style buildings.

Dining and entertainment are yours just about anyway you like them. Le Pavillon, San Diego's newest and most elegant restaurant and lounge, features French-Continental cuisine and sits atop the East Highrise offering an excellent view of Mission Valley. Additionally, there is the Gourmet Room Restaurant and Gold Coast Lounge and two coffee shops, the Lanai and the 24-hour Coffee House. . . plus Crystal T's Emporium; an elegant but funky restaurant/disco.

And more. . . beauty, barber and gift shops, airline ticket and car rental services, four swimming pools, sauna, whirlpool and a shuffleboard court.



ATLAS **ah** HOTELS

WHERE THE DIFFERENCE IS THE SERVICE

TOURNAMENT RESULTS

SEAMCO
LEACH

N.R.C. PRO TOUR

6

Houston

Welcome Back,



Steve Keeley, the man of the hour in Houston, redeeming himself as still a force to be reckoned with on the tour.

Photos of the Houston pro tournament
by Mike Robinson and Jerry Hilecher.



Jerry Hilecher is all concentration as he gets ready to powder a ball off the back wall in his semi-final loss to Keeley.

Steve!

Make no mistake about it, - Marty Hogan won the Houston stop on the N.R.C. - Seamco/Leach pro tour February 10-13, the youngster's fifth straight tour win. But this was one tournament in which Hogan was not the dominant figure. The main man in Houston was Steve Keeley.

Out of nowhere, it seems, Keeley's game transformed itself from lackadaisical to aggressive. His attitude changed from not caring to caring a great deal. His shots were crisp, - almost sharp. He tried. And he won every match he played.

He never did play Hogan as a knee injury suffered in a tough semi-final win over Jerry Hilecher forced Keeley to default the championship match. Yet the second place finish was his best effort in over a year. So, what happened to cause this remarkable turnabout in the fortunes of one of our game's most well known combatants?

"I really can't explain it," said Steve. "I began practicing more, and then one night I just got my stroke back. I began hitting my shots where I wanted them, and as they went in, my confidence grew."

With each round his game improved, as Keeley, ranked a lowly 16th prior to the tournament, played out of the difficult number 10 seeded slot.

He drew another struggling veteran, Steve Serot in the round of 16 and the scores indicate the true flow of the match 21-17, 16-21, 11-8. None of the games were dominated by either player, with Keeley hanging in until the tough points came, and unlike recent tour stops, Steve got tougher instead of letting the games go.

In the quarters it was number two seed Steve Strandemo who was unable to contain the newly released tiger in Keeley, 9-21, 21-19, 11-6. In this one Strandemo held a 17-12 lead after winning the first, and again it was Keeley who reached back for that something extra and pulled out the game. In the tie-breaker Keeley held the advantage all the way after bolting to an 8-3 lead.

In the semi-finals Keeley's new-found inner toughness again paved the way to victory. Playing solid, well-calculated racquetball, Keeley carved out a 21-13 first game win. But Hilecher, on the strength of strong serves and brilliant front court play raced to a 10-0 lead and after it reached 14-0, Keeley saved himself for the tie-breaker.

In the tie-breaker, all sorts of strange things happened. With Hilecher serving, 3-5, an exceptional rally ensued, and finally ended on an avoidable hinder call against Keeley, who had dived for a shot, and was unable to move in time to allow Jerry his next return.

But the dogged Keeley kept coming, re-gaining the serve at 5-all, scoring once, and then, of all things, double faulting with his second serve, a lob, grazing the ceiling.

But Steve quickly re-gained the serve, and was able to hold onto his slim lead for the 11-9 third game win, and a trip to the finals.

Unfortunately, the finals never occurred, for in the avoidable hinder dive, Keeley re-injured a chronic left knee, and within 30 minutes of the match, it looked like a ripe Sunkist between thigh and calf.

In lieu of the championship mens' match, four of the remaining players consented to a doubles exhibition, much to the fan's delight. Strandemo and Hilecher teamed against Hogan and Ben Koltun with Steve and Jerry taking the encounter. The play was good, the banter light, and the entertainment crowd pleasing.

In the upper bracket Hogan had things all his own way. Never losing a game, Marty dominated like the old Yankees used to.

In the semi-finals he met Craig McCoy, an upset winner over Richard Wagner in the quarters. McCoy was unable to adjust to the rapid Hogan pace and he was never really in either game.

Hogan came out blasting in the first using power serves and drives to race to an 11-1 lead, primarily on the strength of an 8 point fourth inning.

Hogan continued the onslaught eventually reaching scores of 16-4, 20-8 and the final 21-9.

McCoy gave Marty a small battle early in the second game. They played even to five and McCoy took a short-lived 7-5 lead, only to allow Hogan five points next time in and two more the following inning for control of the game.

Down 20-12, a belated McCoy comeback reached 17 before Hogan ended it with a backhand kill into the left corner.

The quarter-finals had two new faces in Houston, due initially to fine play, and secondarily to a weaker field than normal as Charlie Brumfield, Davey Bledsoe, and Mike Zeitman all missed the tournament for one reason or another.

Hogan readies a forehand set up in the doubles exhibition that replaced the championship match. The others are (l. to r.) Strandemo, Koltun and Hilecher.



When John Lynch, the 22-year-old Chicagoan knocked off Bill Schmidtke 21-8, 21-15 in the round of 16, it earned John a crack at top ranked Hogan in the quarters.

"Despite what many think, I was looking forward to playing Hogan," said Lynch. "There's no way you can gauge his power until you're on the court with him. It was good experience."

Lynch's game is an off beat version of the Hogan power, serve and shoot style. John hits the big serve, shoots the back wall well, and has the backhand to stay with virtually anybody on the left. What he lacks is confidence, and brother, you don't get that against Hogan.

"He had control the whole way," said Lynch. "Sometimes when you play Hogan, you wonder if he's playing the same game."

The 21-12 first game Hogan victory was relatively routine, as Lynch gave away a number of points early, attempting to gauge the rocket serves offered by Marty.

In the second, Hogan seemed to ease up a little, and Lynch took advantage turning a 6-7 deficit into a 12-7 lead. This string of events caused Hogan to crank it up again, rallying for four points in the 10th inning to close to within 13-12.

Here Lynch got tough, riding out each rally, shooting his shot whenever possible. But the relentless Hogan had too much finally taking the advantage

19-15, before Lynch gave it one last drive and with the serve at 19-20, made the final error, a forehand set-up at mid court.

As all know, you can't ever let Hogan off the hook, and the number one came in and tallied the match ending point.

Richard Wagner didn't take McCoy seriously enough in their quarter-final match, and the result was a resounding McCoy win in a bracket that had expected a Hogan-Wagner semi-final. In their only previous meeting of the season Wagner handled Craig routinely in Sacramento, but that was months ago.

Craig started fast in the first, 6-2, 12-4, 15-5 and then coasted in at 21-12. Mixing his serves well, garbage down the left wall, Z to the back hand, hard drives to the right, McCoy kept Wagner off balance, and Rich never reached his stride.

Game two was even more frustrating to the blond speedster as he fell behind 0-12 and 1-16 despite time outs at 0-7 and 1-14. When Wagner finally decided to play, the scoreboard stood at 9-20, and although he battled back to 16-20, that's as far as McCoy let it go, as he ended the match with a Z serve to the left for an ace.

The other newcomer to the quarters was Arizonian Steve Chase who got there by upsetting sixth seed Ben Koltun in the round of 16, 21-17, 13-21, 11-4.

That put Chase up against Hilecher's big guns, and to Steve's credit, he gave Jerry a super-rough first game, before falling to the pace in the second, 21-20, 21-4.

Chase grabbed an initial 6-0 lead in the first and held it to 11-5 before Hilecher tied the game at 11. They traded points from there, with the experienced Hilecher being slightly tougher in the clutch and able to pull out the game.

Game two was no contest, as the emotional edge was off Chase's game after his near-win in the first. He dropped behind 8-0 after the first inning, then 12-0, finally 20-1 and the final two points, just in case, were Hilecher aces.

Shannon Wright gives us a glimpse of her backhand form as she readies to shoot against Steding in the finals.
Shannon was on, - and the match was hers.

Women's Pro



In the ladies division Shannon Wright captured her second tour victory with an impressive 21-17, 21-13 win.

It was a small women's field with 11 entrants vying for the standard \$2,000 in prize money, and none of the top four ladies had any trouble reaching the semi-finals.

Steding easily routed Martha Byrd, who was off an impressive 13 and 5 win over Rita Hoff. But Martha, although she hustled throughout, was never able to reach that next plateau which Steding represented.

In typical serve and shoot fashion it was 21-4, 21-14.

Kathy Williams found Jennifer Harding accommodating in their quarter-final encounter 21-10, 21-13, as southpaw Jenny is finding it increasingly difficult in her efforts to reach the semi's.

Power seems to be the lacking element separating the top four from the remainder of the field in the women's

division, and it was decisive in this match with Williams keeping Harding constantly on the defensive.

The third quarter featured Janell Marriott, overdue to reach the finals, against Jean Sauser, who also is off her game of a year ago.

Marriott eeked out the first game 21-19, and then dominated the second 21-10.

"Be nice to me in the write-up," said Sauser, a club pro in the Chicago area. *"We've opened a new club and without playing as much as I should, I was happy with my efforts."*

Marriott was pretty happy, too.

Jan Pasternak was the other quarter-final loser, getting blown out by Wright 21-6, 21-6. It's been a long road back for the former number two player (in '74 and '75) and Jan still has a good amount of work to do.

On the other hand, Wright is playing easily the best ball of her career, and a big loss to Shannon at this juncture of the season is no shame.

In the semi-finals, Wright topped Marriott 12 and 14, a match she controlled throughout. The first game was routine 21-12 and the second never got closer than 15-12.

From there Shannon tallied three more times to extend the lead to 18-12. Janell did everything she could to slow down the Wright express including three time outs to no avail. This was Shannon's tournament, no doubt about it.

In the upper bracket it took a superb comeback by Steding in the first game to avert the match eventually going to the tie-breaker.



Shannon Wright zeros in on a forehand back wall set up against Janell Marriott in the semi-finals.

Kathy Williams, the fourth seed, held a 14-13 lead, stretched it to 19-14 and then watched in amazement as Peggy came roaring back to take the game 21-19.

"You can really get down on yourself playing her," said Kathy, who got down on herself and lost the second game 21-11. "She never lets up, the pressure is always there."

That set the stage for the championship match, as usual pitting Wright and Steding. Peggy had an early 6-1 lead, which was wiped out by a Wright rally bringing the score to 9-all. Over the next six innings Steding was able to manage only a single point, while Wright, seizing the opportunity doubled her score to 18. With Peggy unable to generate the necessary momentum, it was Shannon all the way 21-13 in the last game.

NOTES OF THE TOURNAMENT . . .

The amateur segment of the tournament, sanctioned by the U.S. Racquetball Association, was the National YMCA Championships. Champions were crowned in 13 different brackets, singles and doubles, with Randy Stafford taking the Open Singles crown, and Rita Hoff avenging her pro loss to Martha Byrd by taking the Ladies Open title . . . The Houston Downtown YMCA was cordial as host, as usual, with Dewey Strickland and Joe Leach calling the shots and managing the affair . . . Nice to see old friends like Myron Roderick, Jim Austin, Richard Walker and Tom McKie, who have long made Southwest racquetball one of the nation's hot spots . . . A number of U.S.R.A. state affiliate chairmen were on hand for a good session on Saturday morning including, Strickland, and Sandy Comoeaux (Louisiana), among others, also Seamco's Art Orloski . . . Previous clinic commitments by Brumfield and Bledsoe forced them to miss the tourney, and work obligations kept Zeitman away. ●

Men's Professional (First Round): Marty Hogan, Steve Strandemo, Jerry Hilecher, Richard Wagner, Craig McCoy, Ben Koltun, byes. Terry Fancher def. Marc Auerbach 21-18, 21-17; John Lynch def. Lloyd Smith 21-10, 21-16; Bill Schmidtke def. David Peck, forfeit; Randy Stafford def. Skip Beattie 21-6, 21-9; Steve Mondry def. Jim Scheyer 21-8, 21-14; Eric Campbell def. Ron Ricks 21-6, 21-9; Steve Chase def. Britt Coleman 21-5, 21-8; Steve Serot def. Dan Groves, forfeit; Steve Keeley def. Ed Barziza, forfeit; Tom McKie def. Ron York 21-9, 16-21, 11-1.

(Second Round): Hogan def. Fancher 21-11, 21-18; Lynch def. Schmidtke 21-8, 21-15; McCoy def. Stafford 21-17, 21-14; Wagner def. Mondry 21-10, 21-4; Hilecher def. Campbell 21-9, 21-12; Chase def. Koltun 21-17, 13-21, 11-4; Keeley def. Serot 21-17, 16-21, 11-8; Strandemo def. McKie 21-3, 21-7.

(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.

Women's Professional (Preliminary Round): Martha Byrd def. Rita Hoff 21-13, 21-15; Jean Sauser def. Janice Seagal 21-7, 21-7; Jan Pasternak def. Goldie Hogan 21-1, 21-11.

(Quarter-finals): Peggy Steding def. Byrd 21-4, 21-14; Kathy Williams def. Jennifer Harding 21-10, 21-13; Janell Marriott def. Sauser 21-19, 21-10; Shannon Wright def. Pasternak 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.

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TOURNAMENT RESULTS

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7

Denver



McCoy struggles to reach one of Hogan's shots in the lopsided championship match. Hogan was invincible in Denver.

All photos of the Denver pro tournament
by Doug Panetta

To say that Marty Hogan dominated the Leach-Seamco March of dimes tournament March 3-6 at the Denver Sporting House, would be like saying the late Richard J. Daley dominated the city of Chicago. Hogan was in control all the way.

One need only look at the championship match score to note Hogan's powerful number one position as he did away with Craig McCoy in 42 minutes 21-10, 21-4.

Taking advantage of the Sporting House's full glass front wall, Hogan

boomed serves down both lines, mixed up with Z's to both back corners. McCoy, like all of Hogan's other opponents, were scrambling just to get a racquet on the ball.

"He's super tough normally," said McCoy. "But with front wall glass, he's out of reach. I had hoped to just give him a good match, but obviously I didn't."

So Hogan picked up his second straight easy victory, with Denver coming on the heels of his injury default win over Keeley in Houston.



Six Straight And Still Counting



The scoreboard tells the story as Davey Bledsoe faces match point in his semi-final battle with Hogan. Hogan got the point to move on to the finals.

Jay Jones sets up for a forehand corner kill in his semi-final loss to McCoy. It was Jones' first trip to the semi-finals on the N.R.C. tour.



In fact, the final day of the tournament was saved by a stellar performance in the afternoon's first championship battle, Peggy Steding against Shannon Wright. The two top ladies battled each other like two tigers in a den, with Steding coming out bruised but victorious 5-21, 21-18, 11-6.

The tournament was held in cooperation with the National March of Dimes campaign and all proceeds from the tourney were presented to the March of Dimes in ceremonies after the last matches.

In a gesture that all of racquetball could

feel proud of Steding donated \$100 of her winnings to the March of Dimes immediately after her victory.

And it was not an easy victory at that. No woman who ever played the game could have topped Wright in the first game. She was utterly unbeatable, playing one of the finest games that any professional player has ever played.

She didn't make a single error until 18-5 in the initial contest, and that was the only miscue she did make. She served five aces at various parts of the game and truly dominated the number one ranked Steding.

For a while it looked like nothing could stop the 21-year-old who has recently taken up residence in racquetball's mecca, - San Diego. She built an 8-7 lead into a 14-9 advantage and it appeared that, altho not playing as dominantly as in game one, - that Shannon was still the superior player this day.

But nobody told Peggy. She cranked up that 40-year-old forehand and began blasting serves and fly kills into the "glass front mirror" (as Brumfield called it, - more on him later), and the

Two upsets in one day was the order for Jones as he begins to cover a Richard Wagner forehand in their quarter-final match. Five hours earlier Jay had defeated Charlie Brumfield.

margin began dissipating. A run of six points carried her to a 16-14 lead, which she held at 19-17 and 20-18.

Shannon did her best to slow the juggernaut down, with a time out at 16-14, but this was beginning to become Steding's game. Finally, on game point, it was Wright with the crucial error, hitting herself with a drive attempt down the right wall and forcing the tie-breaker. Shannon started fast in the third, jumping to a 3-0 lead, but she was unable to hold it. Steding tallied six in a row in the third inning for a 6-3 advantage which she never relinquished, although Wright did close to within one at 6-5. At 9-6 Wright used her final time out, but it was not effective as the irrepressible Peg took game and match 11-6.

The big story in the men's division was Jay Jones' upset win over Charlie Brumfield in the round of 16. Nice guy Jones, complete with static in his ear, just outplayed the perplexed former number one.

Brumfield, who has been complaining about glass all season, found the front wall, plus the altitude's livening effect on the balls too much to overcome mentally.

Jones, on the other hand, sensed the upper hand, and virtually ignored the glass, went out and played superior racquetball. The scores were close 21-17, 21-18, and Brumfield was never out of either game, - in fact he held leads in both.

The Brum held a 13-10 all the way to 17-14 before Jones' steady play wilted the lead until it was gone. In fact, Brumfield had seen his last point of the first game at 17.

A record was set beginning the second game, - neither player was able to score until the eighth inning, making seven innings the longest stretch this season with neither player scoring.

Jones and Brumfield traded points throughout the first two-thirds of the game, trading leads, back and forth, playing some good, solid racquetball. The key inning was the 18th when Jones, down 10-13 tallied eight straight unanswered points. Brumfield struggled from there, using every means possible and did close to within 18-19.



An exasperated Hilecher lays prone on the floor after a diving rally against Bledsoe in the quarters. It was an impressive win for Davey as the spectators behind the front wall peer in.

Hogan blisters a serve against Keeley in the quarters. Note how Keeley strains for vision on the service return.

But Jay got the serve and scored twice to eliminate Charlie in Jones' biggest career win to date.

The game's two hardest hitters, Hogan and Bledsoe, paired up in the upper bracket semi-final with Hogan winning an easy victory in the first game. Six of his first 11 points were aces and points 13-16 were Bledsoe errors which Hogan followed up with two more aces, the best being a Z to the right which Davey never saw.

But Bledsoe eliminated the errors that cost him much of the first and settled down in the second. His game plan seemed to be to give Hogan some of his own medicine making the rallies short, the serves hard and the air electric.

But Davey should have known better. Hogan thrives on the power game and he showed it here taking a 13-6 lead and holding off a late Bledsoe rally, for the 21-17 match win.

Jones, who topped Richard Wagner in the quarters, next found himself against Craig McCoy who was making his third straight trip to the semi's. Game one was typical McCoy, he was slow motion, with the appearance of indifference. Jones was anything but indifferent; with concentration being his strong suit and the score of the first showed it 21-5 for Jay.

Somebody lit the firecracker under McCoy in the second, however, for he was a totally different player. Serving hard, running and showing some concern for the outcome, McCoy turned the tables completely. After the early stages his smallest lead was seven points, with six aces to his credit. Jones never knew what hit him, 21-10.

The tie-breaker continued the McCoy pattern of poor first game and devastating last two. Every match he played except the final loss against Hogan went to the tie-breaker and his opponents averaged only five in those.

Jones was average. Craig jumped to 4-1, extended to 8-2 and held on for the 11-5 win.

Three of the four men's quarter-final matches went three games



Note how low McCoy bends as he prepares to shoot a reverse pinch into the front right corner in his quarter-final win over Strandemo.

(two-and-a-half if you're a purist) and the only one that didn't was still a beauty.

That was Hogan's defeat of Keeley, as Marty finally got a crack at Steve, whose inflated knee forced him to withdraw from their previously scheduled meeting in Houston. And of all the matches Hogan played this weekend, the win over Keeley was the toughest.

Using his concentration powers to their hilt, Keeley managed to stay close in the first game, and was a threat to win it until the very end, - that's when Hogan really cranked it up. And when he did, he left Keeley scurrying in back court desperately trying to get a racquet on the ball.

The first game was 21-18 and Hogan kept right on going in the second for a more routine 21-13 win.

As mentioned, all of the other quarter-final matches went three games, an indication of the balance among the other players, excepting Hogan.

Brumfield's awkward-looking retrieve is typical of the match as Jones (1.) controlled the pace and the action of their round of 16'er.



A tough round of 16 match found Steve Serot, here shooting his forehand, going down to Keeley who prepares to cover.

The best of the three was probably Bledsoe's close win over Jerry Hilecher 9-21, 21-19, 11-8.

The first went to Jerry easy, and as we'll see actually was a shorter game than the tie-breaker. From a tie at 4-all, Hilecher ran 14 points in the next three innings to Bledsoe's single score and he ran out easily.

Game two was a trading affair early, with Bledsoe taking the lead mid-way through and extending it to 19-10.

Hilecher then made a belated move that almost turned into a match win, scoring twice in the 17th inning, twice more in the 18th and five times in the 20th to make it 19-20. But here his string ran out, and Bledsoe tallied the 21st to send the match to the tie-breaker.

It was serve and shoot racquetball at its best. Again the two players traded points to 6-all where Davey ran four to reach 10, but it was there he was put on hold.

Five times Hilecher held but in the five innings he was only able to score twice

Wright has position and a forehand set up as she goes for the bottom board against Steding in the finals.



and finally, on an ace which cracked at the left corner, Bledsoe took the match and a trip to the semi-finals.

The only close game McCoy and Strandemo had was their tie-breaker. Steve was sharp and moving well in the first and the usual McCoy lacklusteress in the same game caused a 21-9 Strandy win.

Big innings were the name of the second game, for as sharp as Strandemo was in the first, he was that dull in the second. Eight, five and six

point innings sewed up the win for McCoy despite time outs by Strandemo at every opportune moment.

It appeared that Strandemo tired and the 19-year-old McCoy was hardly tired, for he had hardly worked. Craig jumped to a 6-0 lead in the half-game and Strandemo jumped right back with five of his own. Finally McCoy applied his last rush from 9-6, a Strandemo time out at 10-6 only wasted time.

Match point came moments later in the strangest of manners, - an avoidable hinder against Strandemo, who walked

directly in front of McCoy as he set up for a backhand kill. The call was made by referee Chuck Leve, the U.S.R.A.'s National Director and was not contested by Strandemo.

Wagner and Jones met in the fourth quarter-final match with Jay never trailing in the first game. What was impressive about Jones' play was his ability to be "up" and at full concentration only hours after upsetting Brumfield. It's so difficult in pro sports to reach the emotional high after such a stirring win.



Kathy Williams goes for the throat as she and Peggy Steding are introduced prior to their semi-final encounter. Steding wasn't intimidated and scored an easy win.

It was obvious that Jones had it and his 21-13 first game win over Wagner proved the point.

The second game found Wagner up to the task of temporarily saving his tournament life. If you're going to get hot, get hot in the crucial periods and Wagner did it in game two, bolting from a 15-all tie to a 21-15 win in two innings.

"I couldn't wait around any longer," said Wagner. "My only chance was to move and move fast."

He wasn't fast enough in the tie-breaker, although he sure looked



Marriott rolls out a backhand kill in the semi's as Wright is caught out of position, —one of the few times that happened.

Seamco's National Sales Manager Bob Coate (r.) and N.R.C.'s National Director Chuck Leve discuss the ways of the world during an intermission in the action.

good. Unfortunately for Richard, he got stuck on seven, which in this case was not a lucky number.

His 7-3 lead became 7-4, then 7-5 and then 7-8, until finally it became 7-11, again not the kind you want. Jones had the 11, as the 15th seed continued his run upwards, entering the semi-finals.

As has been the case virtually all season, Steding and Wright have rarely been pressed by any of the other top players in the ladies division. It was true again in Denver where Steding



Front wall glass, - in all it's splendor! As photographer Doug Panetta peers in over Jones' shoulder (note the ball there) you can get an idea of what it's like to play into a sea of people.



ousted Williams 14 and 8, while Wright did away with Marriott 12 and 11.

It appears that just as Hogan is playing a pace slightly above the rest of the men's field, so too are Steding and Wright playing a higher pace than are the other gals.

The quarters? Same story with only Jean Sauser scoring as many as 12 points against any top four opponent, this time Marriott 21-7, 21-12. Jenny Harding managed 11 and 10 against Wright; and Camille McCarthy never was in her 21-3, 21-6 loss to Steding.

Women's Professional (First Round): Peggy Steding def. Nancy Gerou 21-5, 21-4; Camille McCarthy def. Jan Pasternak 21-12, 8-21, 11-10; Jennifer Harding def. Charlene Thompson 21-1, 21-1; Kathy Williams def. Carolyn Smith 21-1, 21-3; Janell Marriott def. Brenda Jeffers 21-3, 21-9; Jean Sauser def. Donna Noguchi 21-11, 21-6; Sue Carow def. Vicki Panzeri, forfeit; Shannon Wright def. Janice Brown 21-0, 21-2.

(Quarter-finals): Steding def. McCarthy 21-3, 21-6; Williams def. Harding 21-11, 21-10; Marriott def. Sauser 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.

March of Dimes poster child Julie Farrar is all smiles as she accepts a check for \$2,000 from Denver Sporting House owner Rick Schliebe (1.) and tournament director Bill Fay.



N.R.C.'s President Bob Kendler listens to another Charlie Brumfield dissertation. "Now, Bob, let me tell you about front wall glass!"

Men's Professional (Preliminary Round):

Gerald Johnson def. Ashley Houser 21-6, 21-11; David Blackford def. Jim Schotz 21-3, 21-7; Monte Huber def. Keith Ball 21-3, 21-0; Don Thomas def. Ed Creagh, forfeit; Jim Owen def. Mark Sanford 21-7, 21-6; Gary Mazaroff def. Harold Lujan 17-21, 21-20, 11-9.

(Second Round): Marty Hogan def. David Rippetoe 21-19, 21-1; Charlie Rish def. Randy Stafford 21-12, 14-21, 11-8; Steve Serot def. Johnson 21-4, 21-16; Steve Keeley def. Blackford 21-11, 21-16; Jerry Hilecher def. Kent Taylor 21-5, 21-5; Bill Schmidtke def. Steve Mondry, forfeit; Mark Morrow def. Mark Hegg 21-14, 21-13; Davey Bledsoe def. John O'Connor 21-6, 21-7; Steve Strandemo def. Dixon Elliott 21-1, 21-4; Steve Chase def. Gil Schmitt, forfeit; John Lynch def. Huber 21-10, 4-21, 11-4; Craig McCoy def. Thomas 21-12, 21-9; Richard Wagner def. Owen 21-16, 21-11; Ben Koltun def. Mazaroff 21-10, 21-18; Jay Jones def. Terry Fancher 21-17, 21-20; Charlie Brumfield def. Gary Garrison 21-1, 21-7.

(Third Round): Hogan def. Rish 14-21, 21-7, 11-4; Keeley def. Serot 21-16, 12-21, 11-6; Hilecher def. Schmidtke 21-7, 21-11; Bledsoe def. Morrow 11-21, 21-10, 11-5; Strandemo def. Chase 21-19, 21-16; McCoy def. Lynch 14-21, 21-8, 11-4; Wagner def. Koltun 16-21, 21-8, 11-4; Jones def. Brumfield 21-13, 15-21, 11-7.

(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.

NOTES OF THE TOURNAMENT . . .

The March of Dimes filmed all of the final day action for possible future use in promotions and fund raising, with the permission of the U.S.R.A./N.R.C. . . . The event raised more than \$2,000 for the Dimes . . . U.S.R.A. prez Bob Kendler took in the last two days of action along with son Richard and daughter Kip . . . Many, many thanks to Rick Schliebe, Ashley Houser, Dan Isaacson and the entire staff of wonderful people at the Denver Sporting House for all their unselfish help. They were super . . . Big Bill Fay, tourney director did yeomans work auctioning off souvenirs for the March of Dimes, controlling the between games banter and generally seeing to it that everybody was having a good time . . . The Sporting House is easily the most complete and comfortable facility

the tour has visited this season. Not to put a tarnish on any of the hosts this season, but the 13 courts, front wall glass, permanent, carpeted seating, built-in scoreboard in the upper back wall, running track with electronic pacing lights, in-house physician for physical exams and carefully planned exercise programs individually monitored, elaborate exercise equipment with professional staffers, swimming pool with push button current, steam, sauna, and huge, walk-in whirlpool, plush locker rooms and we can't even remember how much else . . . excellent crowds attended the matches with full houses the last three sessions. . . nice to see Bud Leach and Charlie Drake from Leach Industries on hand. ●



Bud Leach, president of Leach Industries, Shannon Wright enjoy the pre-match entertainment.

TOURNAMENT RESULTS

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8

Chattanooga



Brumfield gets down low for a forehand right corner kill attempt in the finals. For the first time in a long time Hogan was pushed.

All photos of the Chattanooga pro tournament by Alan Gay.

The N.R.C.'s Chuck Leve (2nd from left) discusses the upcoming championship match with linesmen, Johnny Hennon (l.) and Terry Fancher, the U.S.R.A.'s National Coordinator (r.).



Brumfield (r.) and Serot met for the first time in a long time in the semi-finals. Here Charlie follows through with a forehand drive.



But No Cigar

Marty Hogan's six month winning streak almost ended at the Seamco Leach pro tour stop in Chattanooga, - but it didn't. Hogan was able to withstand a furious assault on his domination by none other than Charlie Brumfield, the man he replaced at the top of the ladder.

After losing the first game, Hogan found himself down 17-13 in game two with the pressure and momentum building in Brumfield's favor. A victory for the Brum would tarnish Hogan's rapidly solidifying aura of invincibility.

But Hogan re-gained service, and amid cries of "now's the time, do it now," proceeded to perform one of the most amazing feats of pressure racquetball ever seen.

Three consecutive serves went for untouched aces, a Z to the forehand right, a power drive to the backhand left and another Z to the right. Finally Brumfield re-gained the serve at 17-16, only to have his serve rolled out by a booming Hogan backhand.

Coming in at 16-17, Hogan continued his barrage. A forehand roll out off a weak serve return tied the game at 17. Another ace on a Z to the right got him the lead, which was followed by still another ace on a power drive into the deep left corner. At 19-17, a Brumfield

avoidable hinder gave Hogan 20 and the game was won by the irrepressible Hogan with another ace, a Z to the forehand that Brumfield never touched.

Eight straight points, six aces and the match went to the tie-breaker.

Here there was no domination, only good, hard, work on both player's part. The game was tied at 2, 4, 7, 8 and 9 and it was Brumfield who held the big serve, tallying aces for points 4, 5, 7 and 8, most of them coming on crack serves just behind the short line to the left.

But at 9-all Hogan served his final ace of the match, a drive to the backhand corner, - and Brumfield never moved, - the ultimate shot. Match point came seconds later on a forehand kill into the right corner.

Game one was a beauty, with Brumfield bolting to a 12-6 advantage, taking his time, pacing himself and the match and giving Hogan plenty of time to think about each shot. But Hogan roared back to tie at 12 and from there the players traded points to 18-all, 19-all and a Brumfield kill into the right corner made it 20-19. The game went to Charlie on a massive Hogan mis-hit, a forehand skip ball that erred by at least 15 feet.

The match still held inspiration for the frustrated Brumfield who had been off his game for months. The second place finish was a tremendous rebound from his round of 16 loss in Denver, and he served notice that he will be a force to reckon with in the last quarter of the season.

As for Hogan, he had two other tough matches, winning in three against Richard Wagner in the quarters, and barely squeezing by a fired up Ben Koltun in a rousing semi-final that had the fans on their feet.

The younger, faster players generally play Hogan better than others on tour, and it was no surprise that the 21-year-old Wagner and 19-year-old Koltun gave Hogan a difficult time.

Koltun dropped behind early in the first game with the explosive number one player, but a stirring comeback from 7-14 to 15-16 put him back in the game. And as he did against Brumfield, Hogan geared up and moved on to warp-nine.

Of his last four points, three were aces, - a drive to the left for 18, and perfect drive down the right line for 19, a kill shot for 20 and left crack ace for the game.

Such a domination of play would have disheartened many a foe, but the gutsy

Wagner stretches for a backhand down-the-line shot against Hogan in their exciting quarter-final match, won by Hogan in three.



Koltun stuck in the second, holding on despite Hogan leads of 12-7, and 19-14. An ace of his own made 15, a beautiful backhand left corner kill made 16, and two Hogan errors made the scoreboard 18-19. One more backhand kill tied the game at 19, but Hogan regained the serve on a forehand kill attempt that turned into a pass down the right.

Marty tallied 20 and couldn't get the big one first time in, but Koltun did reach 20 tying the game at match/game point. With underdog Koltun the clear gallery favorite, the two St. Louis youngsters traded rallies four times, with neither being able to capture the elusive 21st point.

Finally, much to the dismay of the partisan crowd, most of whom were hoping for a tiebreaker, it was Hogan who captured the game and match, with a right corner forehand re-kill.

Part of the reason the fans wanted the Hogan-Koltun encounter to be extended was the speed with which Brumfield took care of Steve Serot in the earlier semi-final.

Serot, who had been playing his best ball of the season a day prior (knocking off Strandemo and Bledsoe), was unable to muster any semblance of those performances against his age-old nemesis Brumfield.

Steve never got into either game. After a 3-0 lead in the first, Brum took the advantage 4-3, extended it to 8-3, 13-4 and 16-6 before running out 21-8. Superior control was the key, with Brumfield never allowing Serot to get his high powered retrieve and re-kill game into the flow of the match.

Game two was even worse, with the match ending only seven innings. Brumfield scored in bunches, two in the second, two in the third, three in the fourth, six in the fifth, four more in the sixth and the last four in the seventh, 21-6.



Semi-finalist Koltun shows his concentration here against McCoy in their quarter-final battle.



Like all the good pros, Bledsoe's point of contact is ankle high, as shown here in his quarter-final loss to Serot.

Serot took the loss philosophically. The tourney marked his first trip to the semi-finals since the Tournament of Champions in May of 1976.

"One round at a time," he remarked at dinner. *"Progress is progress."*

Another player making progress is Steve Keeley, who for the third consecutive tour stop, played sharp, aggressive racquetball. He topped Denver's surprise, Jay Jones in the 16's and gave Brumfield all he could handle in their quarter-final match before bowing 11-21, 21-17, 11-6.

The first game gave little evidence that Keeley could continue his trip along the difficult comeback trail. He immediately fell behind early (1-7 and 4-10) and then Brumfield with excellent control and shooting enlarged the advantage to 15-4, then 20-4, before Keeley tallied a few courtesy points for the 21-11 final.

Game two was interesting, almost funny. This time it was Keeley who bolted to the big Lead running 12 points over a three inning mid-game period to take a 17-7 upper hand, which he padded to 19-7. Brumfield had seemingly given the game up, and Keeley noting this also eased up, - a near fatal mistake.

Charlie scored five times in the 20th inning to reach 12-20, and he added another five in the 21st for 17-20 before Keeley could re-group and tally the final point which sent the match into the tie-breaker.

The tie-breaker held outstanding play with drama besides. Each player traded points and side outs, mainly side outs, for after eight frames it was still 2-all. Brumfield finally tallied the third point on an unforced Keeley ceiling ball error and Charlie added four more in the same inning for a 7-2 advantage.



Another match-up unseen for many months was Keeley, here shooting a backhand, against Brumfield. It was anybody's match down to the wire.

Keeley came back with two, and closed to within 8-6 when a Keeley error, a perfect pass down the right, and finally the patented Brumfield right corner kill for match point ended the battle.

"It was a good match," said Brumfield afterwards. "We were both tired, but we both were able to play, control racquetball. There was some struggling, but good entertainment."

Serot, the other comeback kid, met Bledsoe in the second quarter-final match after defeating Steve Strandemo in his round of 16 encounter. It became a fast paced, shoot and retrieve match, with Serot taking two excellent games 21-19, 21-17.

In the first both players traded points all the way through with ties at 10, 11, 13, and 17. At 17-all the points came a lot slower with Serot hitting a wide V-pass for 18, and Bledsoe barely skipping in a forehand for 19. When Davey re-gained service he countered with a forehand right corner kill for 18-19 before being put out.

Four innings later with the score 20-19, Serot finally grabbed game point with a backhand kill into the right corner, his fifth attempt at elusive 21.

After an early lead in the second, Bledsoe trailed most of the way, falling behind 7-9, 10-14, and 11-17. Again he held Serot at 20 four times, but this time Davey was unable to string the needed points together, as Steve took the match on a Bledsoe backhand error off a medium drive serve down the left wall.

The most exciting and well played quarter-final match was Hogan's defeat of Wagner, one of the few players Marty takes seriously on the court. Game one was not serious, however, as Wagner never picked up the Hogan pace, fell behind early and succumbed meekly 21-3.

The determined San Diegan hung in, kept to his game plan of slowing the play down, taking his shots when they presented themselves, and playing deeper than usual against the powerful Hogan. The result was a frustrated Hogan and a victorious Wagner in the second game 21-15.

The tie-breaker saw some sparks fly. Hogan rushed to the immediate lead, blasting away at every ball, causing the fans to almost laugh in disbelief at the power. At 4-0 the frustration finally got to Wagner and he drew a technical foul

from referee Terry Fancher, the U.S.R.A.'s National Coordinator, for excessively striking the ball after the rally.

When the score reached 7 to negative one, the gallery became hushed with apprehension of seeing the first negative final score in pro ball history. It was not to be, though, as Wagner tallied twice in the next frame to both avert negativism and the donut. But Rich couldn't come all the way back and Hogan held on for the 11-4 victory.

"I knew I couldn't shut him out," said Hogan. "I thought he'd get three or four points in the tie-breaker."

The last quarter-final match was hardly a match. Ben Koltun, coming out of the difficult number 12 seed, stopped Jerry Hilecher in his 16's match and ran up against the tour's most improved player, southpaw Craig McCoy.

McCoy, who had looked good topping John Lynch in the 16's looked awful against the quick and hot-shooting Koltun. In fact, Craig never got into either game, with Ben taking the match 21-8, 21-7.

The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga's Jim Morgan does what he did so much of the week, calling players to their match.



Tournament floor manager John Chew (1.) scratches his noggin while taking advice from Joe Gibbs, who won the Seniors and placed fourth in the Amateur Open.

Steding retrieves a Wright shot and puts in back up to the ceiling in Shannon's win in Chattanooga.



In the women's division, the final match, as usual came down to Peggy Steding and Shannon Wright, as Steding continues her attempt to hold off her rapidly improving closest rival.

However, this time it was all Wright. Serving tough Z serves to the forehand side and shooting well, Shannon completely dominated Peg in game one, taking leads of 5-0, 13-4, and 16-6 before easing up for the 21-12 win.

"My mistake in Denver was beating her so bad the first game," said Shannon. "I was determined here to ease up if I could and save myself for the second game."

That one was much closer, with ties at 4, 5, 10 and 11 before Wright took a meager three point, 15-12 lead, which she held to 18-15. Even a broken ball, which nullified a 19th point on an ace, couldn't stop her, and she ran out on Steding the same inning for the 21-15 final score.

Wright played dominant racquetball all weekend, a factor which spells trouble for the other ladies. Her game's full evolution from control to power and kills has left many of her counter parts a notch behind.

One such left behind was Kathy Williams who was unable to muster any threat at all in her semi-final loss to Shannon 21-7, 21-8. Both games were nearly identical, as Williams tried everything, including time outs to stop

the flow of Wright points. At 14-4 in the first game a time out did no good, with the same result at 14-5 in the second.

"I can't relax," said Williams. "I keep rushing my shots instead of waiting for the ball to get to me. I see an opportunity and I'm not patient enough."

Somebody who was too patient was Janell Marriott and it cost her at least a game and maybe the match in her semi-final battle with Steding, won by Peggy 21-11, 21-20.

After ties at 5 and 7 in the first game a huge 12 point inning by Steding gave her command of the game. Marriott rallied to 10-14 but that was as close as she got as Steding kept the pressure on and took the game.

The second game was marked by good and bad play on the part of both players, with Marriott missing key shots down the stretch allowing a big Steding comeback.

Janell sprinted from the starting gate with 6-0, 8-2, and 15-6 leads that had the fans sitting back waiting for the tie-breaker. Marriott also sat back and waited, a critical mistake.

Peggy tallied six times in the eighth inning, stopped barely by a Marriott time out at 11-15. But Janell countered with three of her own for a 18-12 lead, and everything was still seemingly in hand.

But Steding kept coming with four points two innings later to close to within 16-19 when a Marriott forehand error made it 17-19. Janell was able to put the side out and a Steding backhand skip ball gave Janell 20, serving for the game. But the Salt Lake City native was unable to put it away, and Steding added two forehand kills and a Marriott whiff-error to tie it at 20-all. Match point was next, - another Marriott error with her forehand on an actual set-up.

"I got careless," said Janell. "I was thinking about what serves to hit in the tie-breaker before I ever got there."

Only one ladies quarter-final was competitive, Sue Carow's three game loss to Marriott. The dynamic Illinoian captured the first 21-17, but was unable to put another one with it, losing the next two 21-7, 11-3.

None of the other quarter-final losers were able to put enough pressure on their opponents to make it close. Steding ousted Sarah Green 21-8, 21-6, Williams topped Jean Sauser 21-11, 21-12, and Wright stopped Rita Hoff 21-8, 21-12.

Hoff and Green had impressive round of 16 wins, with Rita besting Camille McCarthy 21-8, 21-11 while Sarah eliminated Jan Pasternak 21-7, 21-11.

Men's Pro (First Round): Gary Zetrouer def. Bo Champayne 8-21, 21-15, 11-6; Denny Frye def. Jeff Weiner 21-12, 21-16; James Kasay def. Rich Stevens, forfeit; Steve Mondry def. Bob Owens, forfeit; Gary Stephens def. Percy Philman 21-12, 21-8; Howard Solomon def. Mike Clegg 21-15, 4-21, 11-3; Jerry Zuckerman def. Jesse Valera 21-3, 21-11; Dennis Kottkamp def. Gary Brown 21-19, 21-9.

(Second Round): Marty Hogan def. John Chew 21-6, 21-15; Terry Fancher def. David Fleetwood 16-21, 21-16, 11-10; Zetrouer def. Mike Zeitman, forfeit; Richard Wagner def. Frye 21-6, 21-4; Jerry Hilecher def. Kasay 21-8, 21-4; Ben Koltun def. Johnny Hennon 21-8, 21-19; John Lynch def. Mondry 21-16, 21-13; Craig McCoy def. Jim Lane 21-6, 21-3; Davey Bledsoe def. Ron York 21-9, 21-2; Mark Morrow def. Randy Stafford 21-12, 21-19; Steve Serot def. Stephens 21-10, 21-9; Steve Strandemo def. Gil Schmitt 21-7, 21-10; Steve Keeley def. Solomon 21-2, 21-10; Jay Jones def. Zuckerman 21-17, 21-4; Charlie Rish def. Bill Schmidtke 21-16, 21-15; Charlie Brumfield def. Kottkamp 21-2, 21-3.

(Third Round): Hogan def. Fancher 21-10, 21-12; Wagner def. Zetrouer 21-1, 21-1; Koltun def. Hilecher 21-19, 20-21, 11-3; McCoy def. Lynch 21-14, 15-21, 11-0; Bledsoe def. Morrow 21-4, 17-21, 11-3; Serot def. Strandemo 16-21, 21-17, 11-5; Keeley def. Jones 17-21, 21-13, 11-9; Brumfield def. Rish 21-4, 21-7.

(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, 21-20; Brumfield def. Serot 21-8, 21-6.

(Championship): Hogan def. Brumfield 19-21, 21-17, 11-9.

Women's Pro (First Round): Peggy Steding, Shannon Wright, Kathy Williams, byes; Sarah Green def. Jan Pasternak 21-7, 21-11; Sue Carow def. Donna Noguchi 21-7, 21-4; Janell Marriott def. Goldie Hogan 21-11, 21-3; Jean Sauser def. Nancy Hornack 21-3, 21-6; Rita Hoff def. Camille McCarthy 21-8, 21-11.

(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, 21-20; Wright def. Williams 21-7, 21-8.

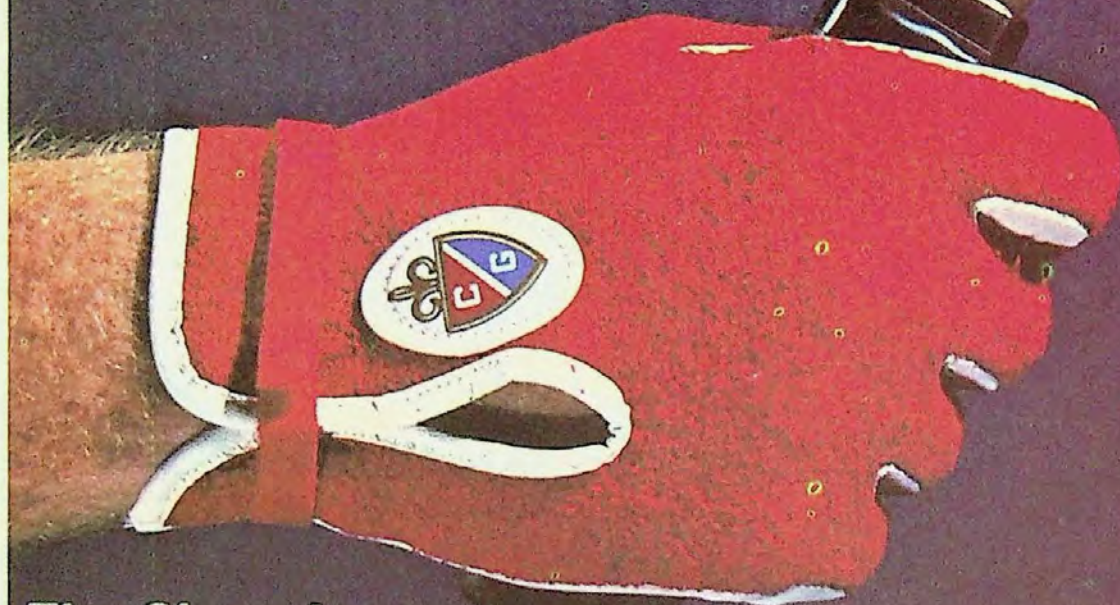
(Championship): Wright def. Steding 21-12, 21-15.

NOTES OF THE TOURNAMENT . . .

Hats off to Alex Guerry, the man most instrumental in bringing the tournament to Chattanooga at the beautiful University of Tennessee at Chattanooga DeSales Harrison Racquetball Complex . . . Alex, his wife Millie and daughter Chappel provided most of the players with a fun party with food, drink and entertainment on Friday evening after the quarter-finals, -a good time was had by all. Toughest part was navigating Lookout Mountain, at the top of which the Guerry residence is located. . . Hats off to Jim Morgan, John Chew, Mary Vandergriff and Dr. Charles Temple for their efforts and hard work in putting the tournament on . . . Newspaper coverage was the best of any tour stop to date, with full pages three straight days, including color photos in the Chattanooga *Free-Press* . . . Seamco Sporting Goods conducted a testing session on Sunday morning, using men and lady professionals to test a variety of ball compounds. Also measured was ball speed, with Marty Hogan's 142 miles per hour topping the next hardest hitter by over 30 miles an hour . . . Seamco's president Al Mackie and national sales manager Bob Coate were on hand to take in the play and the testing, which was conducted by a group from Georgia Tech . . . Hospitality was very good with players receiving bagged lunches and Gatorade for three days . . . Thanks to Johnny Hennon, Chattanooga's number one, for his refereeing and line judging help, along with Denny Fry,

Dennis Kottkamp and all the many others who helped out . . . Five state chairmen of the U.S.R.A. were on hand, including Jim Lane (Florida), Wayne Vincent (Georgia), Jerry O'Neal (Alabama), Gil Schmitt (Michigan) and Ron York (Missouri), and they all rolled up their sleeves to help . . . Tough round of 16 matches found some players losing earlier than usual, - Hilecher to Koltun 21-19, 20-21, 11-3; Strandemo to Serot 16-21, 21-17, 11-5; Jones to Keeley 17-21, 21-13, 11-9; Lynch to McCoy 21-14, 15-21, 21-0 (the first tie-breaker donut on the men's tour this season); and Mark Morrow to Bledsoe 21-4, 17-21, 11-3 . . . Unseeded Percy Philman captured the Men's Amateur Open 21-15, 12-21, 11-7 over 11th seed John Dunlap . . . Joe Gibbs won the seniors 21-15, 21-10 over O'Neal and also took third in the open. Tom Cannon won third in the seniors . . . Hoff captured the ladies amateur division, stopping Donna Noguchi in the finals 21-11, 21-20. Nancy Hornack stopped Goldie Hogan for third 21-16, 21-16 . . . A no-show by Mike Zeitman in the professional division created some imbalance and was regretted by all . . . Best comeback in a long time was accomplished by Fancher who after being down 9-0 in the tie-breaker came back to defeat David Fleetwood 11-10 to earn a crack at Hogan in the 16's . . . Veteran Bill Schmidtke took it on the chin from up and comer Charlie Rish, 16 and 15, but Rish got his lesson from Brumfield in the next round. ●

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as of January 1, 1977

- #1 Marty Hogan, LEACH Racquet
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- #5 Davey Bledsoe, LEACH Racquet
- #6 Rich Wagner, LEACH Racquet
- #7 Mike Zeitman, LEACH Racquet
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