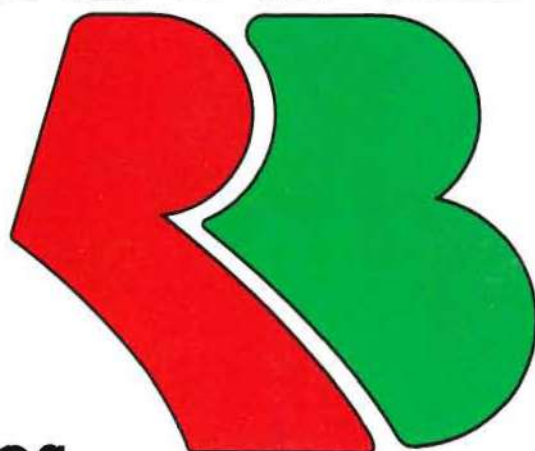


INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL

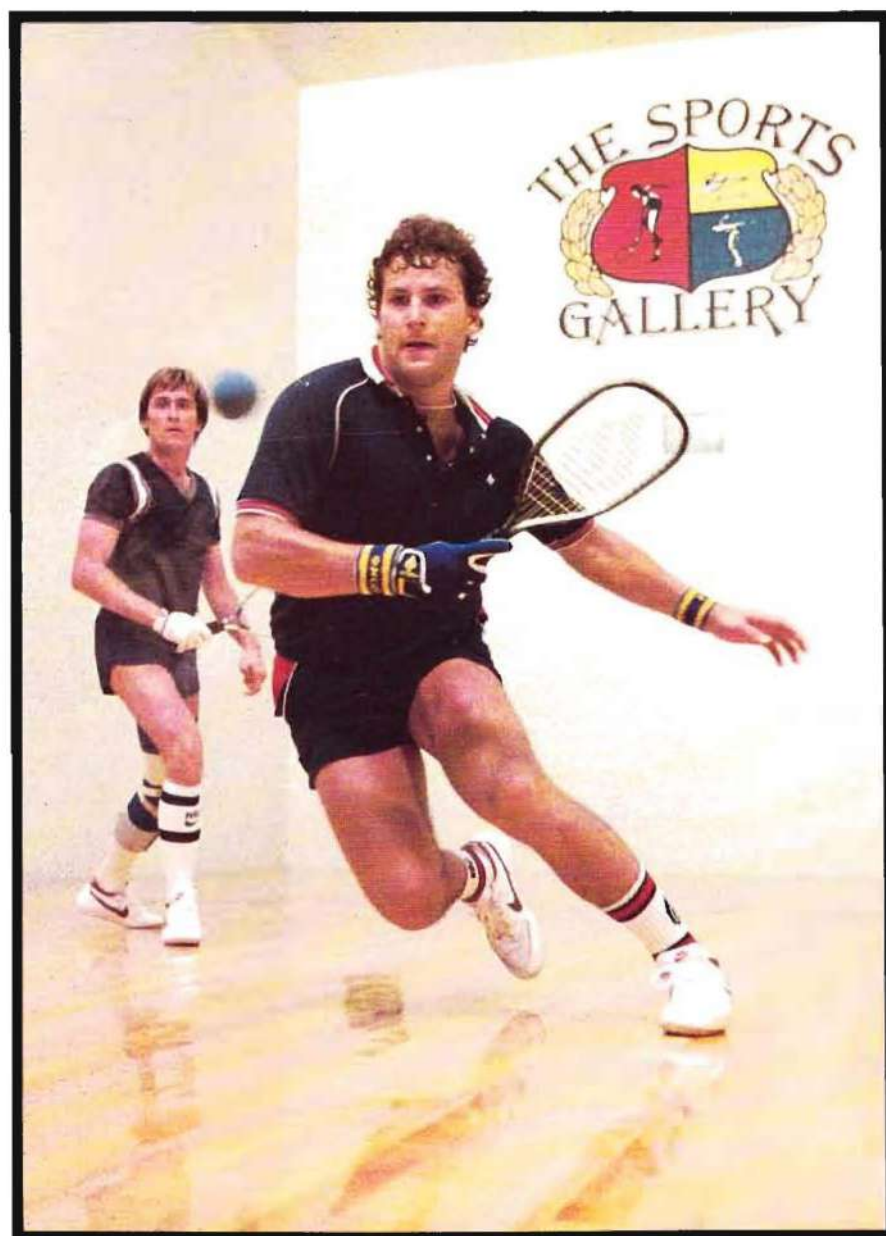
June 1983

Vol. 1 No. 2

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Yellen Takes Two: Toronto and Ektelon Championships



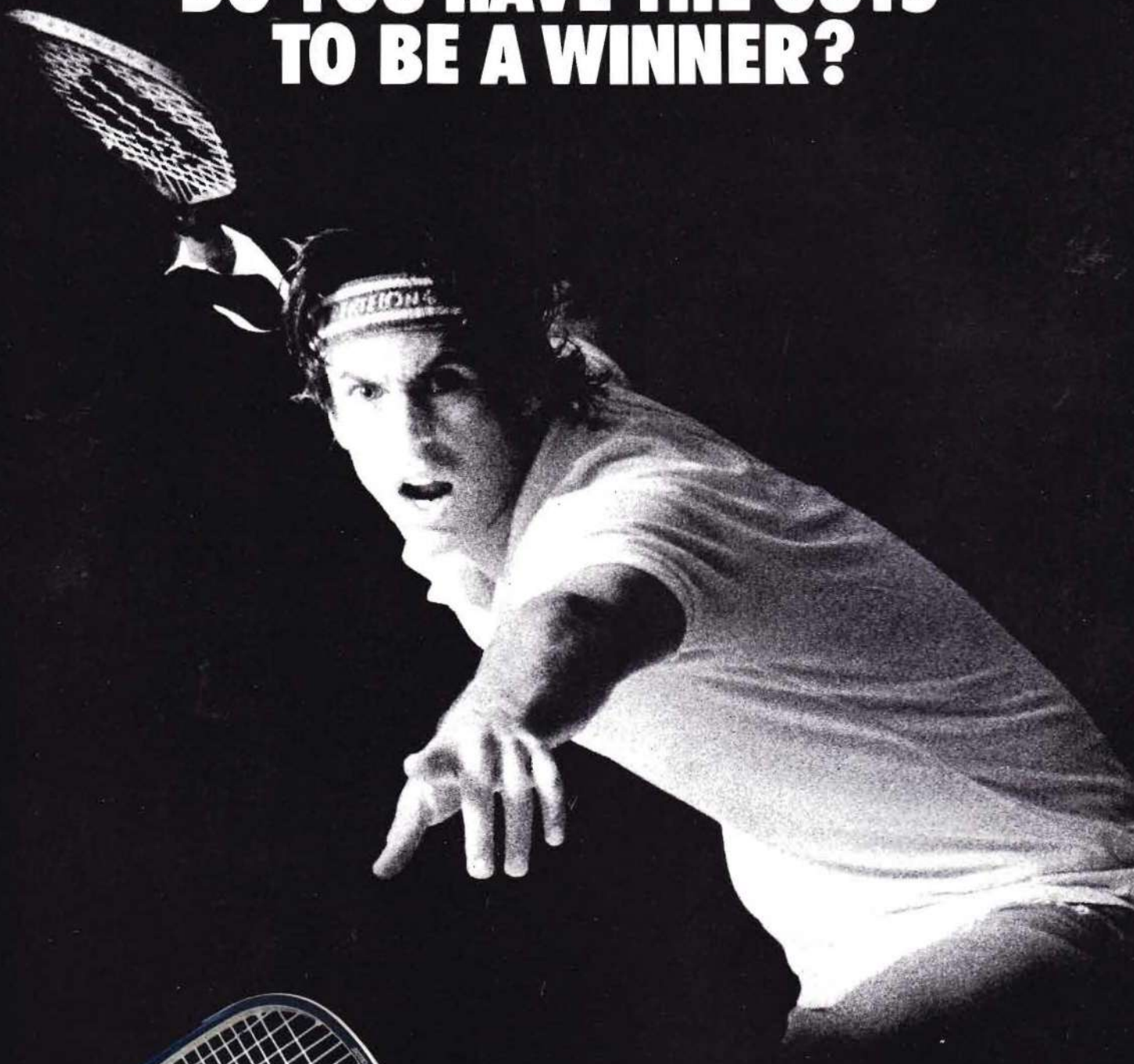
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Table of Contents

June 1983



**INTERNATIONAL
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Buzz Words, Bad Guys and Good News	_____	Page 4
	The publisher's column	
Editorial: Pro Racquetball Opens Up	_____	Page 6
	A time for optimism, and a note of caution	
Letters to the Editor	_____	Page 8
	Praise and problems penned by our Readers	
News	_____	Page 9
	Some important news and last minute stories	
Public Forum with Marty Hogan	_____	Page 11
	Marty answers questions in Beaverton	
Special Feature: Enter the P.R.O.	_____	Page 14
	Racquetball's new player association forms in Anaheim	
P.R.O Application	_____	Page 19
The Tournaments:		
San Francisco	_____	Page 22
Toronto	_____	Page 24
Ektelon	_____	Page 29
Seattle	_____	Page 35
Instruction: Serving to the Forehand	_____	Page 36
	by Dave Peck	
Instruction: The Reverse Pinch	_____	Page 38
	Egerman and Hawkins tell you how	
Schedule of Events: The 1983-84 Tour	_____	Page 43
Next Month	_____	Page 44
Head to Head Competition Chart	_____	Page 45
	Who beats whom and how often	
Professional Men's and Women's Ranking	_____	Page 46

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Buzz Words, Bad Guys And Good News



Jason Holloman
Publisher

It's been expected for a long time. People have heard rumblings, but no one knew when it would happen—when or where it would surface. Now it has happened. An earthquake: The Professional Racquetball Organization. . . at last, an organized men's professional racquetball association. And like an earthquake, the shock waves are going to change the face of professional racquetball but change them for the better. Where did it happen? Why, California of course! (Where else?) Read our feature article "Enter the P.R.O." for all the inside facts.

The P.R.O. It will soon be the buzz word for all you aspiring pros. Take a look on page 19 for an application. While I'm talking of buzz words, I'd like to throw another out for your inspection: Catalina. What does it mean to you? What should it mean to you? The second you say Catalina or more accurately, the Catalina Tour, many players tense up. You can see thoughts such as "The Closed Tour" or "The Bad Guys" frown across their faces. The Catalina Tour—The Bad Guys. It seems synonymous to some. But let's examine this a little closer.

Who is Catalina? They are a clothing company that manufactures sport clothing, racquetball sportswear included, and great clothing at that! They looked at racquetball's handsome men pros and dressed them up royally. Nothing wrong with that. Who is Catalina? Just a business, a business trying to be successful. Unfortunately, they were in the right place at the wrong time and, out of no fault of their own, they were led down the primrose path into a ditch. Their name has been muddied-up and I say they don't deserve it. I say we owe Catalina some form of apology and restitution for all the mud pies. Well, you say, put your money where your mouth is! Indeed. Catalina, International Racquetball is sorry for what has happened in the past and as a gesture of our appreciation for your fine clothing, we will give you a free full-page color ad in every issue of International Racquetball for the balance of this year. It would be our

pleasure to welcome you back.

Have you ever wondered how one pro stacks up against the other? Has Reuben Gonzales ever beat Ed Andrews or visa versa? Find out in our Head to Head competition chart. It's new this month in International Racquetball and it will be updated each month. Tell us if you would like to see it expanded to include more pros. And how about our Schedule of Events! Over \$350,000 dollars in prize money on an open tour! (It may double by our next issue.) What is surprising is that we receive a call every week from clubs informing us of a new tournament they would like to sponsor and a lot of them ask us if they can get the pros to come. The answer is yes, but that is now going to be handled through the new players' association. They haven't got a number to call yet, as far as we know, but if you are interested, give us a call (801)-531-1484 and we'll try to get you in touch with the proper people.

We've also got that public forum with Marty Hogan that we promised last month along with tournament coverage for the WPR and the Catalina Tour in San Francisco, Toronto, Seattle and the Ektelon tournaments in Anaheim. Great stuff! Study some good advice from pro Dave Peck in a special instructional and read our newest installment from John Egerman and Scott Hawkins on the Reverse Pinch. We'll make a pro out of you get.

My phone has been ringing and ringing and ringing. I dreaded answering them at first, but, I must thank you all. The response to our first issue has been unbelievably positive from all over the country even though we were a little late getting to you. For those who are interested, it takes us about ten days from the time we cover a tournament till the time International Racquetball rolls off the press and sometimes we hold the press so we can cover an important story. Then there's the U.S. mail. Need I say more? Anyway, thanks for your vote of confidence. Check out our Letters to the Editor for more feedback. Why don't you drop us a line and tell us how you feel about all these new happenings?

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Professional Racquetball Opens Up

Sometimes the greatest display of acquired power lies in the conscious decision to not exercise it.

As Kyle and I were traveling in our car down to the Ektelon Championships in Anaheim, I had a thought. As is often the case, I considered this particular thought sufficiently profound that everyone around me needed to hear it. Being my good friend, and being the only other one in the car, Kyle was patient enough to listen and kind enough to not laugh.

"You know," I expounded, "ten years down the road we may all look back at this weekend and realize that it was one of the most important events in the history of professional racquetball."

We knew that crucial meetings had been set for Anaheim. And we knew that professional racquetball was sitting at a crossroads waiting for some direction to proceed. But we really had no idea what was about to take place. We had no idea.

It would take pages to describe everything that transpired during that relatively short 5-day period. And, indeed, many pages of this issue are devoted to exactly that. But for the purposes of this column, what happened in Anaheim can be summed up in a single thought: professional racquetball is about to open up.

If you're one of those players who has had dreams of playing professionally, it's time to get your racquets out of the closet. By the time you read this, the Chicago Nationals will be history and closed racquetball will be gone forever. Nearly everyone in Anaheim seemed driven by the same basic goal: that from now on the only thing that will determine how far any player can go in pro racquetball will be how well he or she plays.

The formation of the Professional Racquetball Organization (P.R.O.), racquetball's first generally accepted men's players' association, is an important step in the evolution of professional racquetball. As long as they are able to remain unified, the men should be able to effectively protect themselves and the sport in general from ever again being exploited for the profit and glory of a selfish few. In addition, the stability that can be fostered by a solid players' association should encourage potential sponsors to now become involved with professional racquetball where they have been hesitant in the past. In short, all areas of the sport—the players, the

promoters, and the manufacturers—should become more successful.

However, although the formation of the P.R.O. is a giant step forward for pro racquetball, it is only a step. A great deal remains to be done. And perhaps the greatest challenge now facing the players is the realization that, although they have become the most powerful force in the sport, they cannot accomplish it alone.

There is going to be an understandable temptation for the players to want to display their newly acquired muscle. That will only waste time. What the P.R.O. must remember is that professional racquetball will flourish only as long as it continues to serve those parties who share a vested interest. Specifically, the players and the manufacturers need to work together. Like any working coalition, that cooperation is going to require compromise from both sides. And few things in life are as difficult as compromising when you truly hold the upper hand.

Another challenge facing the fledgling P.R.O. lies in how the players are going to allow themselves to be affected by what has occurred in the past. They would be wise to remember that revenge is like eating chocolate syrup by the spoonful: it's sweet for a while, but it only ends up making you sick. As trite as it may sound, it's time to put the past in its place: remember it and learn from it, but don't waste your time trying to avenge it. Under the right circumstances, even people who have made serious mistakes can have good things to offer.

Finally, a word to the players themselves about unity. Whatever difficulties you may encounter in the next few months, you must never let the P.R.O. fall prey to infighting. Those who stand to gain by the failure of the P.R.O., and make no mistake about the fact that they exist, will attempt to bring that failure about by dividing the players against each other. You must never allow that to happen. Remaining unified is tough. But the benefits, both to yourselves and to the sport in general, will justify the effort.

At International Racquetball we are in total support of the P.R.O. We believe an effective players' association is a positive and necessary step for professional racquetball. We are committed to offering whatever assistance we can to ensure the success of the P.R.O. and encourage others to do the same. "»



Drew Stoddard
Editor



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Congratulations!

Many thanks for your launching issue of International Racquetball. I was most interested in seeing your ambitious endeavor and want to take this opportunity to wish you the best of luck with it.

Gina Sullivan
Brooklyn, New York

Congratualtions on your initial issue of International Racquetball. It is very professional and the emphasis on the need for exposure through a strengthened men's pro tour is well taken.

Mort Leve
Scottsdale, Arizona

I was pleasantly surprised with your new magazine International Racquetball. I subscribe to other racquetball magazines (I won't mention them here for fear of embarrassing them) but, they seem pretty empty when I compared them to yours. I mean, celebrities and amateur tournaments are great, but it's the pros that develop the new shots and introduce new insights. Keep up the good work.

Eileen Stone
Minneapolis, Minnesota

It's about time somebody came up with a decent racquetball magazine! I got mine yesterday in the mail and read it cover to cover. I thought the tournament coverage was great, but how about some more color photos?

Gavin DeCamp
Reno, Nevada

Thanks for compliments. They are appreciated. As for color photos, we will add more color photos to our magazine when time permits. The time it takes us to prepare color photographs for the printer is usually longer than we can wait. It may be interesting to note, however, that all of the photos in International Racquetball were taken with the new Kodak 1000 color film and we just made black and white prints from the color negatives. So you see, it's not that we don't have the capability to reproduce color, it's that we wish to give our readers timely stories and tournament coverage. We feel that is more important.

A Call for Unity

I have seldom written letters to editors concerning their publications, yet in this case feel compelled to do so out of my love of the sport/business of racquetball.

Having been involved with racquetball for the past ten years, first as a student/racquetball enthusiast and now as a club owner/player, I have seen quite an evolution of the sport. What has consistently amazed and confounded me has been the lack of unity (of any degree) among the various associations, organizations, and promoters that have set themselves on the racquetball community. Indeed, more often than not there has been a high level of animosity among these groups. The divisive actions that have been used in the past have only served, in my estimation, to retard the growth of the sport. Although all of the surveys throughout the past ten years have shown a marked increase year to year, I wonder what they might have shown had there been a cohesive element among all the groups to promote the sport collectively.

It is time that people active in the sport took a hard look at their efforts and to see if maybe there would be more gained in unity.

Mr. Stoddard's article "What's Wrong with Professional Racquetball?" is right on the money. I believe if he had carried the thought process a few steps further he would have found the Pro's problems not too different than that of the rest of the industry. Sadly, in summary, the real problem continues to be that everyone is looking out for "number 1." When we can overcome this hurdle and work together for the growth of the sport, we might all be surprised with how well "number 1" succeeds.

Ed Barziza
Houston, Texas

A Good Question

How many of us are out here? I've heard arguments ranging from 500,000 all the way up to 22,000,000 people play racquetball here in the U.S. Realistically, how many people regularly play racquetball? How are these numbers arrived at?

David Wells
Van Nuys, California

Of course, there isn't any way to get an exact count how many racquetball players there are, but, there have been some definitive studies done by professional research firms that give us a pretty good idea. In 1981, Simmons Research Bureau, Inc., did a survey of 160,000 people and found that 6.1% of the sample played racquetball. Now if that holds true for the total population of 230 million people, then Voila! . . . you have 14,030,000 playing racquetball in 1981. Add to that a 22% growth rate in the sport each year (an

interesting figure we picked up from a Nielson survey), and you get about 18,000,000 racquetball players in the United States in 1983. Now as to how many players there are in the world, we have no idea, but we'll gladly find out if you happen to have \$100,000 you'd like to give us to pay for the survey.

New Scoring System Smyshtem

What's wrong with the server having the advantage anyhow? I read in your magazine where the WPRA is experimenting with a new scoring system. Enough already! In tennis the server has the advantage offensively, why shouldn't racquetball. As for games to 21, I get bored! You get ahead 18-5 and you lose interest. I think the 11 point game that the men pros use is much more lively. Let's stick with that. And while I'm on the subject, I've been hearing that the ball goes too fast for television and that some people want to slow the game down even more. I say let technology catch up to the game. Who runs racquetball, the players or television?

Dan Goldowitz
Coral Gables, Florida

Jack Splat

That article on the Splat that you had is driving me crazy. I can't seem to get the hang of it. I'm not any 98 lb. weakling but I can't get the ball to jump like you said it should. Would weight lifting help? (I hate to weight lift.)

Dennis Tremblay
Spokane, Washington

We're glad to see you tried out the Splat. It is a very difficult shot to master and is probably the only shot in racquetball that does require a good deal of upper body strength. In fact, there are many pros who do not have the strength to execute the shot, so they don't use it. But, it is consistently used in pro tournament matches by the likes of Hogan, Yellen, Peck(s), Harnett, and our instructors, Hawkins and Egerman. As for gaining the upper body muscle for the Splat, some recommend weight-lifting, others don't. Use whatever method you think is right for you and above all, keep trying.

Send your comments to: International Racquetball, Letters to the Editor, P.O. Box 11755, Salt Lake City, Utah, 84147. All letters will become the property of International Racquetball and may be edited for reasons of space and clarity.

PECK SIGNS WITH EKTELON

Dave Peck has signed a five-year contract to play professional racquetball for Ektelon, one of the industry's largest manufacturers of racquetball equipment. The announcement was made at the monthly meeting of the Southern California Sportswriters' Association which was held at the Sports Gallery in Anaheim, California, prior to the start of the Ektelon National Championships. The new contract marks the continuation of the relationship between Peck and Ektelon that has been in effect throughout most of Peck's professional career. Peck is the defending National Champion and is currently the number 2 ranked player in the world. Other top players under contract with Ektelon include Mike Yellen, Ed Andrews, John Egerman, Scott Hawkins, Lynn Adams and Laura Martino.

PLAYERS' ASSOCIATION FORMED

The Professional Racquetball Organization, or P.R.O., was formed prior to the Ektelon Championships in Anaheim, California. With the initial support of over 40 players, the P.R.O. became racquetball's first generally accepted men's players' association. An Ad Hoc committee, composed of Jerry Hilecher, Kyle Kamalu and Bud Muelheisen, was selected and empowered to draw up suggested by-laws and make other recommendations to the general body at the next players' meeting. That meeting is scheduled for 7:30 pm, Sunday, May 29, in Chicago.

The committee also met with members of racquetball's Governing Board on the afternoon of Thursday, May 12. At that meeting it was agreed that the Board, which has been composed of representatives of Ektelon, Voit, DP Leach, Head, and O.I. & D., would now become a manufacturer's association and that the two associations would proceed together to formulate next year's pro tour. The representatives of both associations will meet again in Chicago on Thursday, June 2.

According to Kamalu, the entire schedule and structure of next year's pro tour should be finalized by the DP Leach Nationals in Atlanta, June 13-19.

Although the exact criteria have not been established, it is believed that membership in P.R.O. will be available to any player who makes a portion of his income from playing professional

racquetball.

Both the P.R.O. and the manufacturers are in agreement that next year's tour must be open. Norm Peck, Ektelon's representative on the board, said, "All the manufacturers are in total agreement that all stops must be open to all players."

In addition the P.R.O. agreed in their initial meeting that one of the responsibilities of the association will be to enforce a rule that prohibits sanctioned events from paying appearance fees to any player. How the rule will be enforced has not yet been determined.

MIKE YELLEN WINS TWO

Mike Yellen, of Southfield, Michigan, won his second and third events of the year by sweeping both the Molsons Racquetball Classic in Toronto, Ontario, and the Ektelon National Championships in Anaheim, California. Yellen thus becomes only the second player to win three major events this season, the other being Marty Hogan. The tandem win thrust Yellen into a tie for the number two position in the point standings for the Catalina Tour.

Rich Wagner, coming from the number 13 seed, upset Bret Harnett in the quarterfinals and Marty Hogan in the semis before losing to Yellen in the finals before the ESPN TV cameras at the Ektelon event.

The men's tour concludes this month with the DP Leach/Catalina Finals in Chicago, and the DP Leach National Championships in Atlanta.

McKAY RECAPTURES NO. 1 POSITION IN WPRA RANKINGS

Heather McKay of Toronto, Ontario, dominated the field and defeated Laura Martino in the finals of the Ektelon Championships. The victory gave the 42-year-old Australian native the number 1 ranking on the WPRA computer for the first time since March of 1982. McKay did not lose a single game in her quest for the Ektelon title.

Lynn Adams was again thwarted in her attempt to capture the coveted Ektelon crown when she was upset in the quarterfinals by unseeded Brenda Poe-Barrett of Miami, Florida. The defeat marked only the third time in eleven WPRA events that Adams has not appeared in the final.

The women conclude their season

with the Budweiser Light WPRA National Championships, May 23-26. That tournament will be held at The Glass Court Swim & Fitness Club in Lombard, Illinois.

NEW TOUR ANNOUNCED

The World Racquetball Tour, an independent professional tour, was announced by WRT Executive Director Louis Ruiz. The proposed tour is designed to achieve a high amount of exposure via the use of television, radio and newspaper, and will experiment with a number of different rule changes designed to enhance the spectator appeal of professional racquetball.

Although the bulk of the schedule has not yet been announced, the first event has been scheduled for July 1-3, 1983, at a site soon to be determined. That event will be an experimental 8-man round-robin tournament and will be called the WRT Professional Racquetball Challenge. Current plans call for televising the event throughout the Southern California area on KDOC TV, Channel 56. Date for the telecast will be July 10, 1983.

According to Ruiz, the July event is intended to be a preliminary stop for the purposes of test-marketing the entire concept. From that point on all events will be open to all pro players, Ruiz stressed.

The eight players selected for the July event are Marty Hogan, Dave Peck, Mike Yellen, Bret Harnett, Jerry Hilecher, Don Thomas, Doug Cohen and Greg Peck. The tournament will offer a total of \$26,500, with \$10,000 going to the winner, and will include professional doubles.

Also associated with the WRT is Benny Ricardo, eight year veteran of the National Football League and former team representative for the New Orleans Saints. Ricardo, who is now employed as Director of Sports for KDOC TV in Orange County, will oversee the Media and Public Relations for the tour.

Mike Yellen and Herry Hilecher were recently featured on a KDOC broadcast of "Orange County Today," a local public affairs program, to publicize the upcoming event.

EMMY NOMINATION

International Racquetball Art Director Greg Mason has received his second nomination for an Emmy Award for set design at KSL-TV in Salt Lake City.

Good work Greg. Now win this one.

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Crush me.
Splat me.
Kill me.**



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marty:

Introduction: Prior to his semi-final match with Mike Yellen at the Beaverton, Oregon pro-stop, Marty Hogan held an unusual question/answer session with tournament spectators and members of the press. The references made to upcoming matches concern the semi-final match-up between Dave Peck and Bret Harnett, which Harnett won, and Hogan's own match with Yellen, which Hogan won. The following day Hogan defeated Harnett for the title. What follows has been edited for clarity and length only.

Q-What are your predictions for the Harnett-Peck match?

A-Harnett. Peck is not playing very well. The last time they played Harnett beat him very bad. There are certain styles that contrast in different player's games. Peck would much rather play me than he would Harnett, because Harnett is constantly hitting the ball a ton, and he's going to constantly keep Peck moving. Any time Dave Peck has to go to the back wall two or three times during a rally, he's going to lose the rally. Peck relies so much on the easy set-up game style that somebody like Harnett is going to give him a lot of problem. Also Dave hasn't changed his game since he started on the tour six or seven years ago. It's the same basic style game. He's a percentage player. He's had a lot of problems with the power type players, and I think his inability to adjust his game to the power of the hard hitters has caused him to have a lot of problems getting beyond the semi-finals. He can beat what I consider the run-of-the-crowd type of players—those who can't execute the shots as well as he can. He (Dave) covers well for a big guy but he rarely will score points from the back court. He relies on holding center court and moving his opponent around the court.

Q-What's he going to have to do to improve his game?

A-He has to learn to be more effective with his backhand in back court. He only has basically one shot; he either can kill the ball straight in or he hits a pass

In an uncharacteristically unguarded session, Marty Hogan opens up about his own game, his fellow players, and the closed tour.



cross court. Peck is not, I would say, one of the more creative shot-makers. He plays a very dull, steady type of game. He'll hit straight in shots all the time, and every once in a while a pass. There are players in the game today that have the ability to crank the ball from every position on the court; cross-court pass shots, kill shots, a variety all the time. The players who hit just one particular shot are going to have problems with the younger group of players coming up—the really aggressive-minded player. The players coming up who want to play a control style game—the wait and see type of game that depends on the easy set-up—are not going to be successful in

professional racquetball. There's going to be no chance for them to make it. You have to be well-rounded enough to combat different styles all the time. You see players who don't have the ability of other players but they're very effective against certain game styles; they can do one or two things better than their opponent.

For example, Mike Yellen has what I consider to be a very well-rounded game. He does everything well, but nothing exceptional. He can lose to a guy that gets hot: a one-sided player like Egerman, or Hilecher, or Gregg Peck who's got a big forehand, but doesn't have much of a backhand or anything else in

“The players coming up who want to play a control-style game, the wait-and-see type of game that depends on the easy set-up, are not going to be successful in professional racquetball.”

his game.

Q-How do you develop a game that is effective against the power players?

A-One thing I try to stress is to hit with a swing that allows you to have a variety in your shots. You'll see a lot of different swings out there; many of them are push-type swings. But a lot of the newer power players use what I call a pendulum-type swing, which allows you to hit the ball from just about any position. With the set style of play, the Peck style, you have one ideal place to hit the ball. His ideal spot is always right here, and unless he gets the ball right there he's going to have a lot of problems with it. Whereas someone like Harnett can hit the ball up high, or he can hit it behind him. He can adjust to wherever the ball comes to him. The Dave Peck style of play is to adjust to the ball. Harnett will adjust to the ball, but he'll adjust to it wherever the ball may be. A player with a stroke similar to mine doesn't have to wait for the ball to come into his ideal hitting zone.

Q-Why do you think you are so effective against different styles?

A-My particular stroke is a stroke that I can hit aggressively; I can hit down, and I can hit hard at any position on the court. The old style required you to have your feet properly planted, step forward and hit. I don't talk about footwork at all. I think it's the last thing you should worry about. When the ball is coming at you at a hundred miles an hour you don't have time to set your feet, get ready and step forward. A player needs to have a swing which doesn't require perfect body position, where they don't need their feet in an ideal stance. They can hit from any position.

Q-So you think people should concentrate on their stroke instead of their footwork?

A-Exactly. I think players should develop what I consider a loose type of swing, not a groove or a set type of swing. The ability to execute a lot of

different shots comes from using what I consider the pendulum type of swing.

What else do you creative Portland people see out there?

Q-Why do you use a lob serve on the first serve rather than try to crack it out?

A-I think all of you notice that a lot of players use the lob serve, a very non-aggressive type of serve. You'll see a lot of those serves from the players who have to work hard to get a set-up during the rally, like Dave Peck. He doesn't want to serve hard to somebody like Bret Harnett, whereas Harnett will serve it hard ninety percent of the time. The main reason I use a lob serve is I like to get my opponent in the rally right away. I know that, barring any bad series of hard drive serves that come off the back wall, I'm going to win a majority of those rallies. I think that when you get down to the semi-finals most players can return the drive serve fairly well, so you see a lot of slow-pace shots. (You'll see) Peck trying to slow the ball down because Harnett really thrives on the power game; he (Harnett) wants fast action all the time, and Peck wants just

the opposite.

Q-What do you think of purposely foot-faulting?

A-Yeah. Purposely foot-faulting. I think that's one of the poorest, worst situations I've ever seen. Dave Peck is doing it; some other players are starting to do it. Hilecher does it. I think it's just...if you're a professional athlete and you're supposed to be the best in your game and you cannot hit a lob serve, you've got a problem. It think it's just abusing the rules. If you hit a lob serve and you don't think it's going to be good you just step out of the service box. I think it's a delay tactic, it's a stalling tactic and I've been talking about it for over a year. I think it's an intentional violation of the rules. I think they should change the ruling on it. It's just poor.

Q-I notice at this tournament you've been running around your backhand. Why?

A-I don't know why. I usually don't run around my backhand. Sometimes if I want to hit a real good pass to the right I'll step over and take a forehand. But if I've been doing it...now you're going to get me thinking about it on the court. I don't know. My backhand is so much better than my forehand, I don't know why I would.

Q-Could you explain what your grips are for forehand and backhand and why you change grips?

A-I don't change my grip. The grip I use is very similar to a continental grip in tennis; it's like a flat handshake grip.



“Most players have dedicated the majority playing it better than anyone else. They've game than these fence-sitters, these would-

Most of the players use a western type grip which requires a quarter inch change in their grip to hit a backhand. I found a long time ago that when you're up front, when both players are up front, and you're cranking it out, you do not have time to change grips. What I've done is, instead of making the adjustments in my grip, I make all the adjustments in my wrist. Also I hit the ball deeper off my back foot than most players do. Most players need to hit the ball deeper out front, hit it off their front foot. It's something that's very complicated that I didn't intentionally develop. It can be learned, but it's very difficult to control.

Playing an aggressive power game is difficult to do all the time. A lot of players are what I consider streak players, because it's very hard to play the power game a hundred percent of the time. You'll see players who run seven straight points and then they lose five points. I do this a lot. I get an 8-2 lead, and suddenly it's 8-8. It's 10-2 and then it's 10 up. I'm not doing that on purpose.

Q-Do other power players use your same type grip?

A-Just about all the players that are hitting the power-type stroke, the power-type game, are using that same type of grip.

Q-Are they hitting it off the back foot?

A-Not many of them hit it off their back foot. The further back the ball goes, the more difficult it is to control. If the ball's out front you can do anything you want with it.

"The old style required you to have your feet properly planted, step forward and hit. I don't talk about footwork at all. I think it's the last thing you should worry about."

Q-So you think the power game is here to stay?

A-Oh, I don't think you're going to be seeing any more control style players coming out. They can only go so far in the draw before they just get overwhelmed. The best control game ever played against the best power game ever played would be no contest. No contest.

Q-What's happening with the Catalina Tour next year?

A-The Catalina circuit next year? I know for a fact that Catalina is not going to participate as a major force. Originally, two years ago, when they came to the players, they didn't want to be the pro tour. All they wanted was to showcase their clothing through a marketing situation where the players could play in it, and all of a sudden it became a tour. And I think that with all of the controversy that's been stirred by some of the players—you know, they don't like using Catalina clothes and whatever—Catalina doesn't need racquetball. All they want to do is promote their clothing. I think the number one problem in our sports is the personality

of the players. I think that athletes in general are the most difficult people in the world to work with. And racquetball is no exception. We've got some of the worst human beings in the history of sports. We won't talk about some of them. They've already lost in the first round. I don't like to mention names, but you know who they are. Generally most of the racquetball players get along pretty well. But, you know, there's a couple of bad apples in every batch.

Q-What will happen next year?

A-There's a couple of people looking to sponsor the pro tour. What direction it takes, I don't really know. I think some things will be firmed up by June at the Nationals.

Q-There's not going to be an end to the pro tour then?

A-No. I read an article in National Racquetball that said there's not going to be a pro tour. I read an article where a guy said that professional players, all they do is take, take, take from the sport. If I could just get that guy out there I would just beat the living hell out of him without any problem at all. Because, I think, in every sport you have to have a showcase. Most players have dedicated the majority of their lives to promoting this game and playing it better than anyone else. They've made a substantially bigger investment in this game than these fence-sitters, these would-be athletes who do nothing but criticize. But that's exactly what athletes are for. They're there to be criticized. Because they never do anything good enough, and they always get paid too much, and they always take too much. I don't know, I just have a very biased attitude, being an athlete.

Q-How do you feel, personally, about closed tournaments like this one?

A-I think the format of this tournament and these tournaments we've had for the last two years has produced some of the best quality racquetball we've ever

Continued on page 44



of their lives to promoting this game and made a substantially bigger investment in this be athletes who do nothing but criticize."

EXCLUSIVE REPORT:

ENTER THE

P.R.O.

Professional Racquetball comes of age as the pro men form the Professional Racquetball Organization.

number of different groups who are working on separate tours for next year," said veteran player Jerry Hilecher who was one of the players instrumental in spearheading the association. "Everyone was running around working on their own, and no one knew what anyone else was doing. The P.R.O. will serve as a type of clearing house for those efforts."

The Anaheim meeting was conducted by Jerry Hilecher and Kyle Kamalu and was attended by nearly every one of the professional men players who played in the Ektelon event. After selecting a name, the players elected a three-member committee whose job it will be to make a number of recommendations to the body at the next P.R.O. meeting in Chicago at the Catalina Nationals.

Those selected for the committee were Jerry Hilecher, Kyle Kamalu, and the former National Champion Bud Muelheisen.

"Our responsibility is to come to the players with some recommendations in Chicago," said Kamalu, a professional player from Provo, Utah. "We want to present some by-laws to the association, and hopefully have a tentative tour schedule to present as well. In addition, we'll also screen a number of candidates and make a recommendation for a commissioner."

"One of the most important things we

On the evening of Wednesday, May 11, approximately 40 professional racquetball players met together in a hotel room in Anaheim, California, prior to the start of the 1983 Ektelon Championships. After discussing general goals for 30 minutes or so, a vote was taken to select a name for a new organization. By a nearly unanimous vote, the name "Professional Racquetball Organization" or P.R.O. was chosen, and the first generally accepted men's professional players' association was born.

The movement towards forming a players' association had been gaining momentum for the last few months as many of the players began to realize that next year's professional tour was in jeopardy. A small meeting was held at the Toronto stop in April to discuss the idea of forming an association, which has been unsuccessfully attempted at least five times in the past. This time, however, such strong support was expressed by the players that it was decided that a general meeting should be held in Anaheim.

"We felt we needed an organization that could correlate the efforts of a

Players' meeting: a need for unity

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Jerry Hilecher addresses the group



"We are in total agreement that all stops must be open to all players." — Norm Peck

have to do is meet with the Governing Board (manufacturers) about funding the association and next year's tour. Then we're going to make our presentations to the players at our next meeting in Chicago on Sunday night, May 29. All professional men players are invited to attend that meeting."

After the committee members were elected, the group discussed a few specific topics that were of obvious general concern. A number of players discussed the closed tour of the past two years, and there seemed to be unanimous agreement that the number one responsibility of the P.R.O. will be to keep the sport open. Dave Peck also raised the concern of appearance fees, and general agreement was reached that the P.R.O. will attempt to prevent appearance fees from being paid to any player at any sanctioned event. Although the appearance fee problem has not been widely recognized in the sport, in the past few years it has become one of the most hotly-contested issues among the top players.

Some discussion took place about next year's tour. Kamalu presented a schedule of independent pro events that have expressed an interest in aligning into a formal tour. Another independent promoter, Louis Ruiz, presented the basics of a newly formed tour called the World Racquetball Tour, and expressed his group's support of the association.

The last speaker of the evening was Benny Ricardo who is associated with the WRT. Ricardo, who is an eight year veteran of the National Football League, spoke to the players about the importance of supporting a players' association. Ricardo was the team representative for the New Orleans Saints during the NFL strike, and has recently come to agreement to play for the L.A. Raiders.

Before closing the meeting all of the players in attendance signed a sheet indicating their support of P.R.O.

The only group of players notably absent from the meeting were those who play for DP Leach: Hogan, Harnett, Wagner, McCoy, Thomas. It was unclear whether they will support the association or not. According to Kamalu, "We don't want to exclude anybody. We hope they come along when they see that P.R.O. ain't going to be anything negative. We really hope they'll want to be a part of it. There's been enough fighting in professional racquetball."

On May 12, the afternoon following

the players' meeting, Muelheisen and Kamalu (Hilecher was playing a pro match) met with racquetball's Governing Board at the Sports Gallery. The Board is a group of manufacturers that was established two years ago for the purpose of controlling the pro tour. It has been composed of representatives of Ektelon, Voit, DP Leach, Head, and O.I. & D.

After some initial problems in the meeting Muelheisen and Kamalu made a presentation to the group and received what Muelheisen described later as a "very encouraging" response.

"Most members of the Board seem positive about the association," said Kamalu. "They're going to formulate some plans over the next couple of weeks and we're going to meet again in Chicago."

"We strongly support a players' association," said Norm Peck, Eketelon's representative on the Board. "As a corporate policy Ektelon has always supported the concept. In general, I believe all the manufacturers support a players' association."

According to Peck, now that the players have formed P.R.O. the nature of the Board will change somewhat. "We will effectively become a manufacturers' association," he said. "We have now extended an invitation to representatives of most major manufacturers of racquetball equipment to join the association."

Peck said that the invitation has gone to Penn, Wilson, Addidas, Foot Joy, Omega, Champion, Nike, Saranac, and New Balance. "We hope to get 10 solid members behind the association."

"Our objective will be to create the funding necessary to set up an office for an executive director or commissioner. His job will be the actual development of a formal pro tour."

"One thing the players need to understand is that from a manufacturers' standpoint it is important that there be a single tour of major stops that everyone recognizes as 'the tour'. Our feeling is that the tour should be around 10 to 12 stops in length. Of course there will be many other pro tournaments sanctioned by the players, but as manufacturers we need a set, formal tour."

Peck also left little question about the manufacturers' stand on opening the tour. "All manufacturers are in total agreement that all stops must be open to all players."

Continued on page 44

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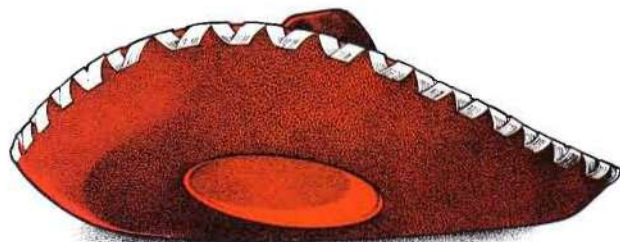
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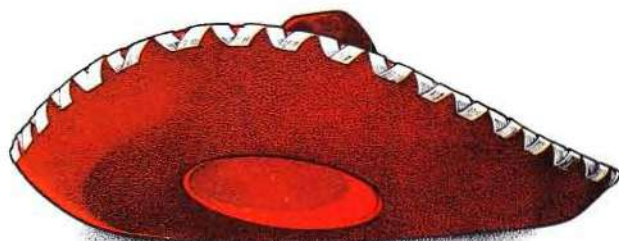
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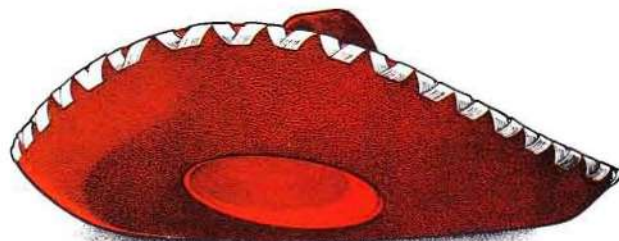
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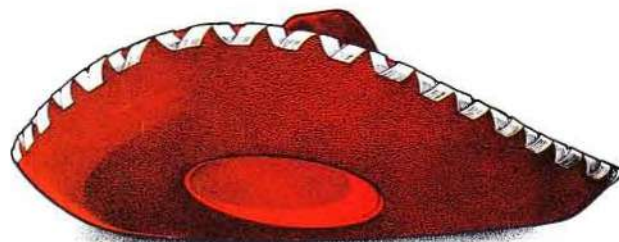
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Please list the professional tournaments (prize money tournaments) that you have participated in over the last 12 months whether sanctioned or unsanctioned and list them below.

Tournament	Money Won
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3. _____	_____
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5. _____	_____
6. _____	_____
7. _____	_____
8. _____	_____
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10. _____	_____

(Use a separate piece of paper if you need more space to list tournaments.)

All information I have placed on this application form is correct to the best to the best of my knowledge.

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PLEASE ENCLOSE \$25.00 FOR CHARTER MEMBERSHIP DUES. ** Make checks payable to Professional Racquetball Organization (P.R.O.) and send application and fee to:

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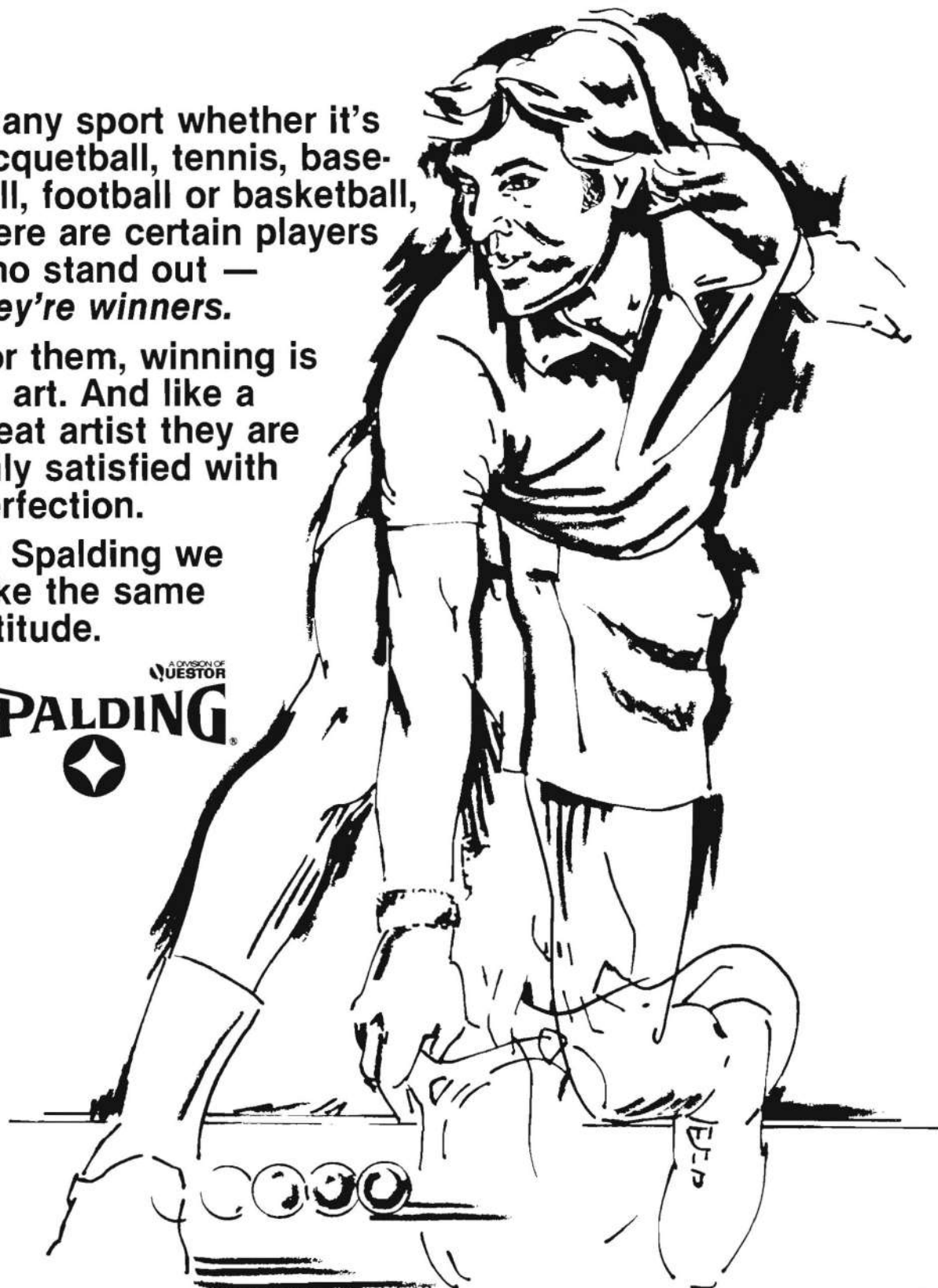
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SAN FRANCISCO—After three months without a tournament victory, Lynn Adams, the current reigning WPRA champion, stopped 6th ranked Terri Gilreath in three games, 21-6, 21-8, 21-14 and walked off with the first place purse. The WPRA pro Spring Racquetball Classic was staged March 24-27 in the Schoeber's Racquetball Spa before capacity crowds who watched with interest as 25-year-old Gilreath fought her way up to the finals.

To begin with, Gilreath took out qualifier, Donna Myer, in three straight, followed by a controversial win over Vicki Panzeri. By the fourth game of that match, it was 2-1 in favor of Gilreath. Another win for Gilreath would have been the match, but Panzeri had a slight advantage, 19-18, when a most questionable call occurred.

"There were a couple of bad calls," admitted Gilreath, "One right after another—an avoidable for sure when I dove." However, bad calls are to be expected, even, unfortunately, in the proranks. Gilreath won the fourth and final game against Panzeri 21-19.

Meanwhile Lynn Adams battled it out with Jennifer Harding. Adams commented, "Jennifer played very well. She was hurt, though. She had shin splints and couldn't run well." Even so, the match went five games 21-14, 16-21, 13-21, 21-17, 15-7.

In the first round match-ups Marci Greer upset fourth-seeded Laura Martino. Watching these two battle it out brought back to mind the days in San Diego several years ago when Marci was in the top three or four and Laura was struggling to take a game off of her. That's just what happened as Greer took the first two 21-13, 21-19, Martino won the third 21-16, then Greer regained her momentum with a 21-14 win.

Number two seed, Shannon Wright had little trouble with Bonnie Stoll in the first round and Jannel Marriott's game over Elaine Lee Riley also ended after three games, even though Riley, who is making a comeback after three knee operations, showed great improvement.

At the Quarter Finals, Adams took on 8th ranked Peggy Gardner and eked out a win in four close games, then went on to the semi-final round against Marci Greer. "I like playing against Marci because she is fair," Adams noted, "she's honest, a real professional. I had played doubles with my husband, Jim Carson, before this match. I felt the pressure was off, and I actually was

enjoying playing racquetball. That relaxed attitude set me up to play my very best." Still, Greer didn't go down without a fight and the match went five games.

In the semi-final between Gilreath and Shannon Wright, the refereeing was again questionable, but this time both players agreed to call in a replacement early in the first game. The match was close and intense, with Gilreath winning the first and Wright winning the second game. Wright put on the pressure by winning the third game 21-16, but Gilreath shrugged it off with two more wins of 21-16 and 15-4.

This set up the finals between two good friends, both coached by Jim Carson. Lynn Adams offered this about their friendship: "People think that because Terri and I are good friends that I'll always have an edge over her. I don't think so. She is a very competitive player. To win any match, I have to have a clear thinking mind, confidence that my shots will go where and when I want them to, and not be afraid of losing." Lynn didn't lose, though; in three games she beat Terri 21-6, 21-8, 21-14, and won the day.

Special thanks go to Bill Dunn, tournament director, for putting on a great show at Schoeber's. For the WPRA, the next stop is Seattle where a few Canadians would like to whittle a few champions down to size. Watch out!

SCHOEBER'S SPRING CLASSIC SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

FIRST ROUND:

Lynn Adams def. Jennifer Harding, 21-14, 16-21-21-7, 15-7; Peggy Gardner def. Susie Carlos, 21-14, 21-11, 23-21; Carol Pranka def. Jean Sauser, 9-21, 14-21, 21-19, 15-7; Marci Greer def. Laura Martino, 21-13, 21-19, 16-21, 21-14; Terri Gilreath def. Donna Myer, 21-8, 21-10, 21-15; Vicki Panzeri def. Fran Davis, 17-21, 21-10, 16-21, 21-12, 15-11; Jannel Marriott def. Elaine Riley, 21-12, 21-16, 21-17; Shannon Wright def. Bonnie Stoll, 21-13, 21-7, 21-8.

QUARTERFINAL:

Adams def. Gardner, 21-18, 21-16, 19-21, 21-17; Greer def. Pranka, 21-13, 21-4, 22-20; Gilreath def. Panzeri, 21-14, 21-14, 16-21, 21-19; Wright def. Marriott, 17-21, 21-16, 21-9, 21-16.

SEMIFINAL:

Adams def. Greer, 21-14, 18-21, 19-21, 21-12, 15-4; Gilreath def. Wright, 21-19, 19-21, 16-21, 21-16, 15-4.

FINAL:

Lynn Adams def. Terri Gilreath, 21-6, 21-8, 21-14.

TOTAL PURSE: \$6,000



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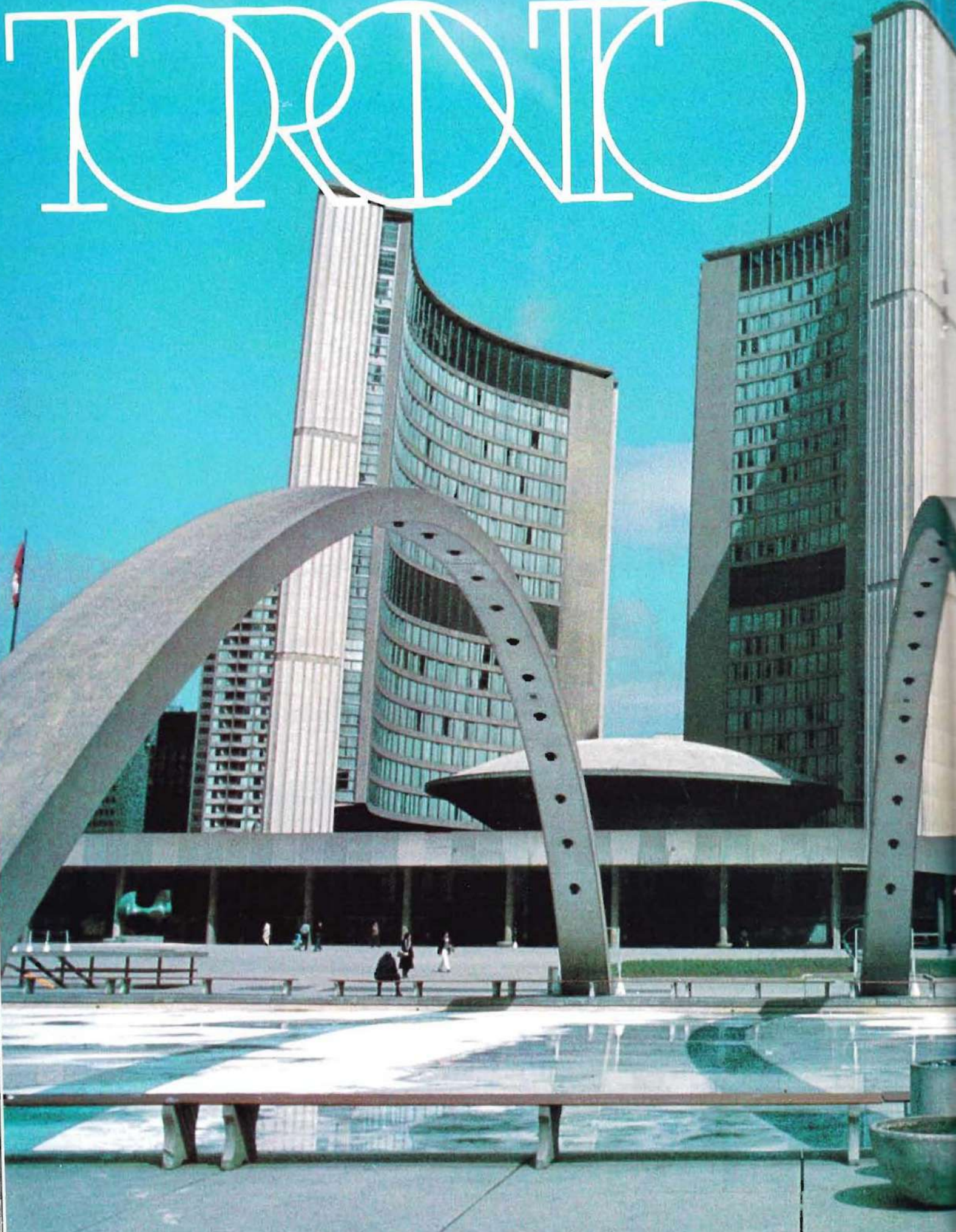
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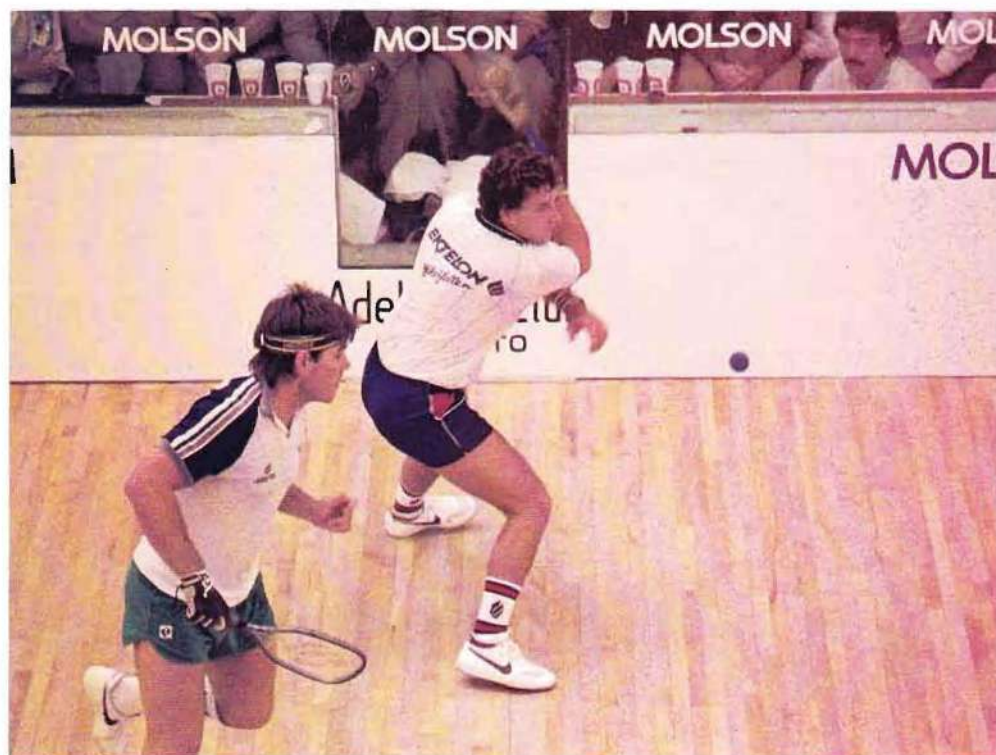
ten different styles in all. So instead of wearing a shoe that was designed for a game, wear one that was designed for a battle. Tuffs, by Foot-Joy.

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TORONTO





Against the backdrop of one of the most spectacular cities in North America, Mike Yellen won his second tour event of the year by defeating both Marty Hogan and Dave Peck in the Molson Racquetball Classic. The tournament, which was the first ranking tour event ever to be held outside the United States, was played at the Adelaide Club in downtown Toronto, Ontario, April 20-24.

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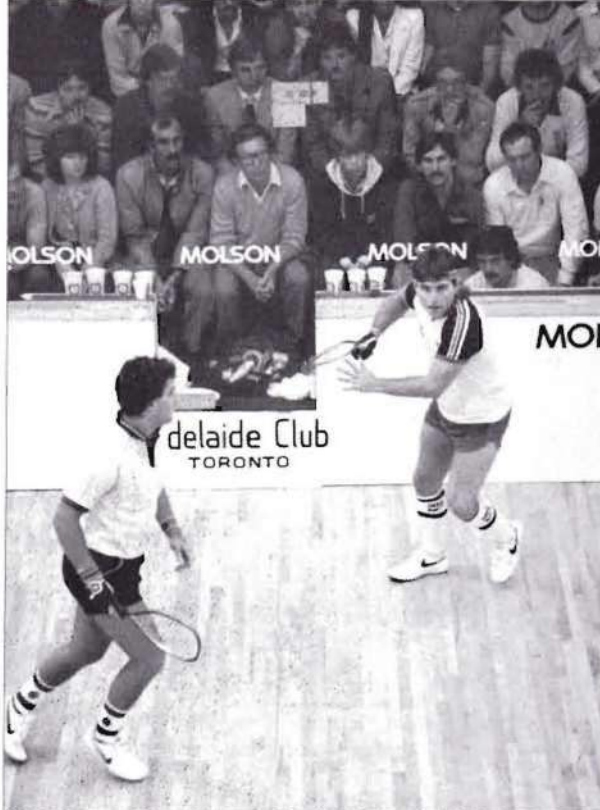
Yellen, from Southfield, Michigan, was seeded fourth in the tournament behind Hogan, Peck, and Bret Harnett. Playing near-perfect control-style racquetball, he ousted Hogan in the semifinals, 5-11, 11-4, 11-8, 11-5, and Peck in the final, 11-10, 11-6, 11-9, to take the first prize in the \$15,000 event.

In a shocking upset, Bret Harnett, who many had expected to be the greatest threat of the tournament, was soundly beaten by fifth ranked Gregg Peck in the quarterfinals, 11-8, 11-8, 4-11, 11-6. With the victory, Peck continued a string of surprising upsets, including a victory over Mike Yellen at the previous tour stop in Austin, and gained his second consecutive semifinal. There he faced the one player against whom he has had the most trouble; his older brother Dave Peck. For the third straight tournament, Dave beat Gregg in three games, 11-9, 11-7, 11-4.

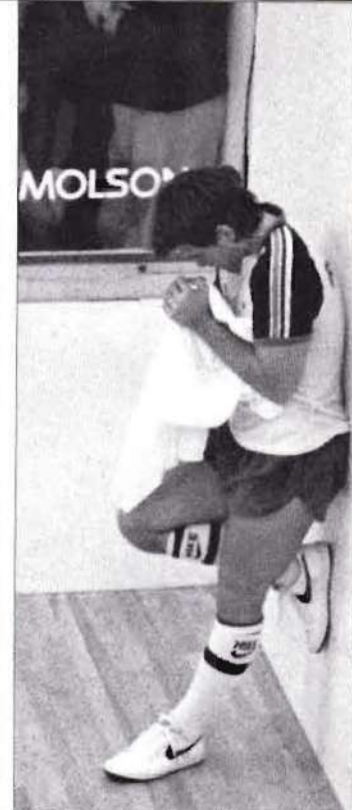
Yellen's semifinal victory over Hogan was his second of the season against a single loss, making him the only player who holds a head-to-head advantage over the number-one ranked Hogan. With a game style that seemed considerably more aggressive than usual, Yellen had little trouble ousting the powerful Hogan who was less than sharp throughout the tournament. In a match he obviously wanted very much to win, Hogan was continually frustrated and ineffective against Yellen's well-rounded game, which is considered by many to be the best blend of power and control in racquetball today.

The final match between Yellen and Dave Peck was expected by many to be close. Prior to the match Peck held a 3-0 advantage over Yellen for the current season, and he had encountered few problems getting by his early round opponents, qualifier Brian Valin, Ed Andrews, and Gregg Peck, to get to the final. But Yellen made a convincing case for high-percentage racquetball by playing a nearly error-free match while capitalizing on everything Dave Peck did wrong. Peck, like many players in the tournament, had a lot of difficulty keeping his shots down and keeping them from coming off the back wall on the faster-than-usual exhibition court at the Adelaide Club. Yellen, on the other hand, was served well by the wide-angle "C" pass that has become his trademark, a shot which seldom comes off the back wall.

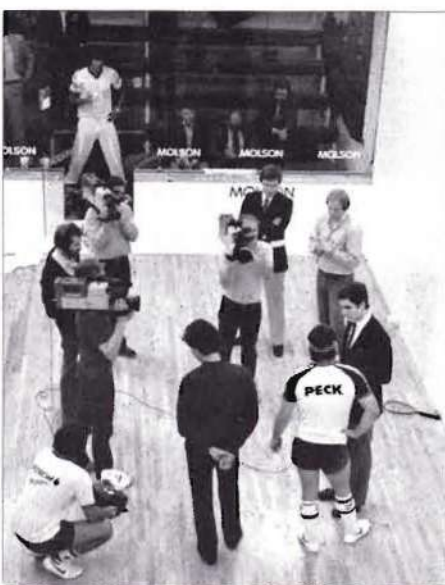
In other tournament action, 18-year-



Peck sets for a forehand in final with Yellen

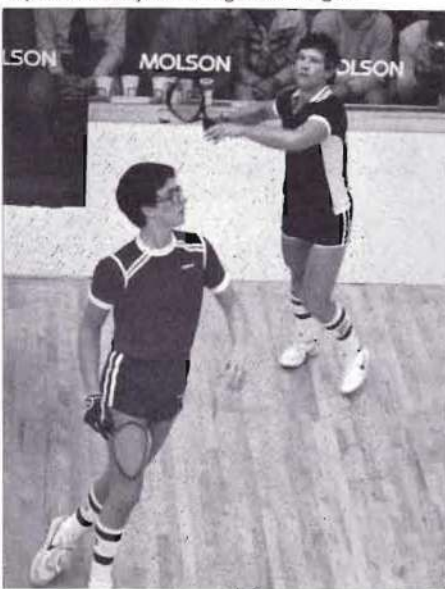


Peck: too many errors



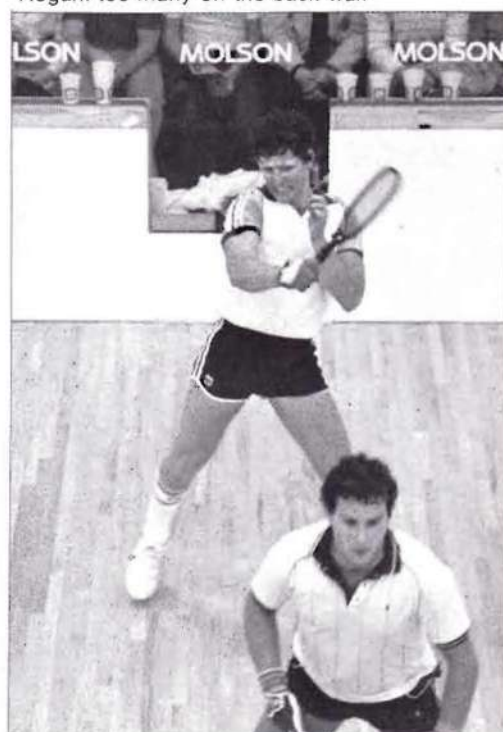
Canadian TV crew after finals

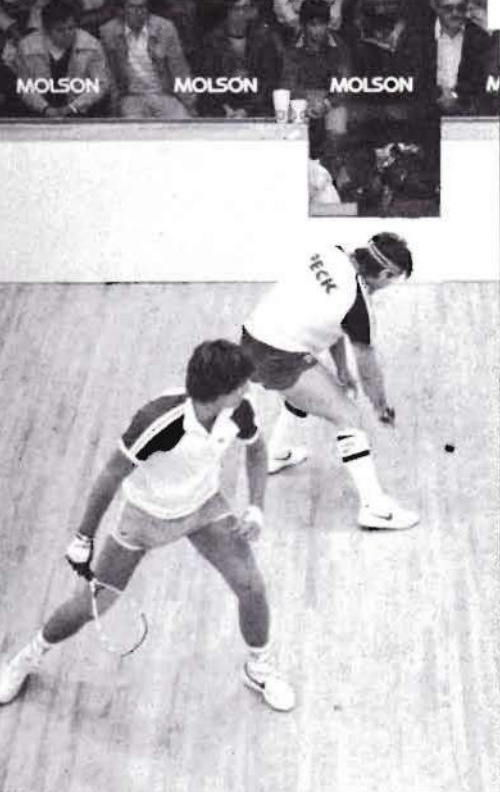
Upstart Gerry Price against Hogan



Greg Peck caught Harnett off guard

Hogan: too many off the back wall





Brothers Dave and Gregg Peck in semis



Yellen with first place award
Tournament director Clive Caldwell



old Gerry Price once again made everyone stand up and take notice by ousting John Eggerman in the first round and then pushing Marty Hogan to the limit in their quarterfinal matchup. Price astounded the crowd with his accuracy while he extended Hogan five games before Marty took the match, 5-11, 11-4, 11-5, 1-11, 11-3. The Toronto tournament, which was an open event, was only Price's second opportunity this season to play in a ranking event, due to the fact that he is not a Catalina contract player. Previously he upset Jerry Hilecher after qualifying at the Catalina stop in Beaverton, Oregon.

Canada's top professional player Lindsay Myers (who was ranked among the top players of the world just two years ago when he was excluded from the Catalina tour), playing in his first tour event of 1983, was eliminated in the round-of-16 by Gregg Peck. Myers, who was once considered one of the game's future superstars, was disappointed with his showing, but said he hopes to be able to play and regain his high ranking next year when the tour opens up.

Jerry Hilecher, the tournament's fifth seed, defeated Scott Hawkins in the marathon match of the tournament. In their round-of-16 matchup, Hilecher dropped the first two games before coming from behind to beat the young Californian, 4-11, 10-11, 11-4, 11-7, 11-7. The victory sent Hilecher into the quarterfinals where he was eliminated by Yellen in three straight, 11-4, 11-3, 11-3.

The tournament draw was somewhat diluted by the absence of three Catalina Players. Rich Wagner, Don Thomas, and Craig McCoy, all contract players for DP Leach, all failed to attend the event.

In terms of the professional rankings, the Toronto tournament had the most effect on Yellen, Harnett and Gregg Peck. Yellen pulled well away from Harnett, solidly establishing himself in the number three position with Harnett in fourth. The scramble between these two players for the third and fourth positions which has been taking place all year is crucial because playing from the number three slot assures a player of not having to play the number one seed, in this case Marty Hogan, until the final. With only three tournaments remaining, all National Championships, and all with high prize money, the number three slot is more important than ever.

In addition, with his early defeat of Harnett, Gregg Peck moved himself into

striking distance of the top four for the first time in his career. Although it will still be difficult, there is a real possibility that Peck could threaten the number four position if he continues his upset record. The results of each of the last three tournaments of the season (Ektelon Championships, DP Leach/Catalina Nationals, DP Leach Nationals) will have a heavy effect on the year-end rankings because of their unusually high prize money levels.

Canadian cable television crews were on hand to tape the final match for delayed broadcast inside Canada. Increasingly, Canadian television is becoming recognized as a pioneer in the broadcast of professional racquetball.

Canada's first ranking professional event was considered by most of those who attended and participated to be a strong success. Clive Caldwell, the tournament director (and one of the world's top ranked squash players), conducted a relaxed and smoothly efficient event. The Adelaide Club, although somewhat small for hosting a tour stop, proved to be functional and pleasant. Caldwell expressed interest in repeating the event next year, and suggested that the viewing facilities will most likely be enlarged before that time.

THE MOLSON RACQUETBALL CLASSIC TORONTO, ONTARIO APRIL 23-24, 1983

ROUND OF 16:

Marty Hogan def. Doug Cohen, 11-6, 11-6, 11-7; Gerry Price def. John Eggerman, 11-6, 11-5, 11-5; Jerry Hilecher def. Scott Hawkins, 4-11, 10-11, 11-4, 11-7, 11-7; Mike Yellen def. Allan Lee, 11-4, 11-4, 8-11, 11-4; Bret Harnett def. Reuben Gonzales, 11-6, 6-11, 11-10, 11-10; Gregg Peck def. Lindsay Myers, 11-3, 11-10, 11-7; Ed Andrews def. Ralph Hackbarth, 11-9, 11-9, 11-9; Dave Peck def. Brian Valin, 4-11, 11-0, 11-4, 11-10.

QUARTERFINAL ROUND:

Hogan def. Price, 5-11, 11-4, 11-5, 1-11, 11-3; Yellen def. Hilecher, 11-4, 11-3, 11-3; G. Peck def. Harnett, 11-8, 11-8, 4-11, 11-6; D. Peck def. Andrews, 11-0, 11-9, 11-0.

SEMI FINAL ROUND:

Yellen def. Hogan, 5-11, 11-4, 11-8, 11-5; D. Peck def. G. Peck, 11-9, 11-7, 11-4.

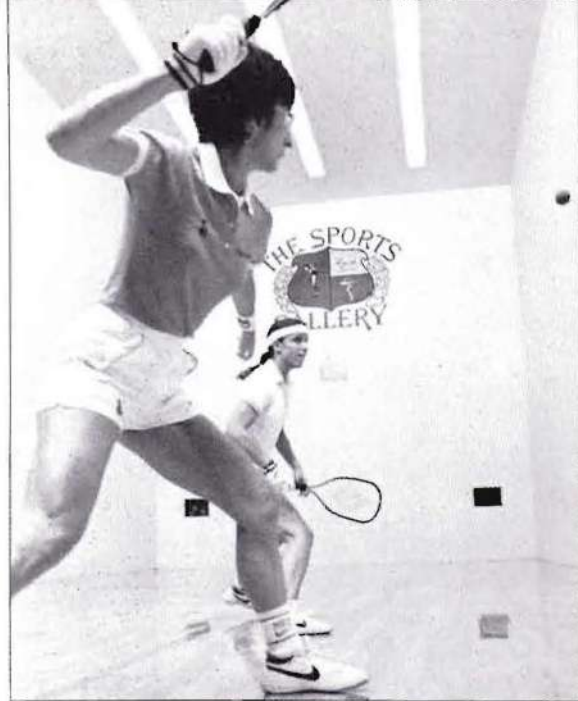
FINAL ROUND:

Yellen def. D. Peck, 11-10, 11-6, 11-9.

TOTAL PURSE: \$15,000 U.S.



Rich Wagner holds center court on Marty Hogan



Heather McKay set's against Laura Martino

EKTELON

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS



Yellen - a \$10,000 victory
Wagner and Yellen in final

One of racquetball's most prestigious tournaments proves once again that when the draw is open, nobody's ranking is sacred.

Mike Yellen, of Southfield, Michigan, came through a men's draw that was riddled with upsets to defeat Rich Wagner, of Riverside, in the final of the \$40,000 Ektelon National Championship Finals at the Sports Gallery in Anaheim, California, May 12-15. The finish was Yellen's second tour victory in a row, his third of the season, and the first National Title of his career.

Defending women's champion Heather McKay of Toronto defeated surprise finalist Laura Martino, of San Diego, for the women's crown.

The tournament was staged for its fourth consecutive year, and marked the first time this season that the men and women professional players have participated in the same event. The event is considered by many to be one of the most

prestigious open tournaments in the world, and sported a massive draw that included 89 professional men and women and over 450 amateur players.

As in the past, the men's and women's finals were both taped for national broadcast on ESPN.

MEN'S DIVISION

Mike Yellen's victory over Rich Wagner in the men's final came in four games, 11-10, 11-6, 9-11, 11-8, and was the end of a brutal draw for both players. To reach the final Yellen defeated Peter Britos, Doug Cohen, Gregg Peck, and the defending champion of this tournament, second seeded Dave Peck.

It was Rich Wagner, however, who really stirred things up in the men's draw. After having a relatively poor sea-





Peck and Yellen in semis



An angry Peck argues hinder call



Wagner hugs wife after Hogan upset

Peck pushes off Yellen



son on the tour, few players viewed Wagner as any kind of threat, particularly considering his number 13 seed, and the extremely difficult draw he faced. After ousting Mark Martino in the round-of-32, Wagner had the unfortunate opportunity of facing fourth-seeded Bret Harnett, the 18-year-old left-handed blaster from Las Vegas, Nevada, who is finishing the most remarkable season of his career (or anyone's career, for that matter). With Bret's family looking on, Wagner out-battled Harnett in an extremely intense and seemingly endless match, 9-11, 11-5, 11-6, 7-11, 11-8.

After a very short celebration, Wagner found himself up against another tough opponent, this time upstart Reuben Gonzales of New York City. Gonzales, who is the National One-Wall Handball Champion, was himself coming off two thrilling upsets: Lindsay Myers in the 32's and sixth-seeded Jerry Hilecher in the 16's. In a match that displayed one of the best exhibitions of driving in recent memory, Wagner beat Gonzales, again in five games, 11-10, 9-11, 5-11, 11-3, 11-8.

With three impressive victories under his belt and still rolling, Wagner saved his best for the semifinals. While Rich had been battling his way through the lower half of the upper bracket, Marty Hogan was rampaging down the relatively painless draw that is reserved for the number-one seed. And Hogan was obviously happy to be facing Rich in the semis rather than Bret Harnett, the one player Hogan feared could stop him from winning this tournament. In front of a large crowd, Wagner capitalized on every error as Hogan sputtered and struggled and railed against the referee. With surprising speed Wagner took the first two games, before Hogan regrouped and won the third and fourth. Wagner, however, was not going to be stopped. A terribly frustrated Hogan watched as his off-tempo game continually set Wagner up in center court. Wagner won the final game and took the match. 11-9, 11-1, 6-11, 6-11, 11-4.

It was an emotional Rich Wagner that emerged from the court to a standing ovation and thanked the vocal crowd that had urged him on from the first round. "Thank you all, thank you all," was all he could seem to say.

Mike Yellen's journey to the finals was no less spectacular. After defeating Britos and Cohen, Mike faced fifth-seeded Greg Peck who has become one of the most consistent winners on the tour. Peck had beaten two good players, Jack Nolan and Gerry Price, to get to the quarterfinals. In the previous meeting at the Austin stop in March, Peck upset

Yellen in a five game marathon that was undoubtedly still fresh in the memory of both players. This time Yellen outlasted Peck in a match that was a great display of high percentage racquetball, but again it took all five games to do it, 6-11, 11-9, 9-11, 11-7, 11-6.

The victory over Greg Peck sent Yellen into the semifinals where he faced the tournament's second-seeded defending champion and his eternal nemesis, defending National Champion Dave Peck. Their five-game match, which was the closest of the tournament, was the classic battle everyone expected. It will probably always be remembered, though, for a single incident that took place in the final game. After exchanging the lead numerous times, Peck and Yellen inched their scores to a 10-10 tie, and Peck found himself serving for the match. An attempted drive by Yellen came too close to his body and Peck was forced to hold up on a shot he viewed as an obvious kill. Referee Dan Bertolucci called a hinder and ordered the point replayed. Peck, expecting an avoidable hinder call, was livid, and launched into a tirade against Bertolucci that lasted over 10 minutes. When play finally resumed Yellen recaptured the serve and killed a Peck set-up for the match: 2-11, 11-6, 11-10, 5-11, 11-10. A fuming and tearful Peck came off the court and severely criticized the refereeing during the tournament. There was little question that in Peck's mind the call had cost him the championship and the \$10,000 first prize.

After the match, Yellen commented on the call: "It was close, but from where I was I couldn't tell whether Dave was there to put the shot away or not. That's a very touchy situation. It's a tough call for Dan to have to make at 10-all in the tie-breaker."

The final match between Yellen and Wagner was a beautiful example of two experienced players trying to out-smart each other, and using every strategy of the game in the process. Probably the most important moment in the match came at the end of the first game, when Wagner had a game-winning point voided by a foot-fault violation. When the point was replayed Yellen regained the serve and won the game. Yellen seemed to remain in control of the match from that point, and he won it in four games: 11-10, 11-6, 9-11, 11-8.

Wagner, though disappointed with the loss, seemed understandably pleased with his showing.

"Mike plays a really steady game," he said after the final. "He played really well. I let the refereeing bother me in that first game though. I won the game twice, I thought, and then had the rever-

sal on the foot-fault. But you just can't let it effect you."

Yellen's reserved personality seemed confusing to some of the local press people.

"I am excited," he said sitting stoically on a stool in the locker room. "This is a major title and everyone considers it one of the most important tournaments in the country."

After he calmed down, he commented on his play; "I liked the ball (Ektelon). It was slow and easy for me to control. At the same time the other players were having trouble with it coming off the back wall, which just plays into my game."

"I feel like I'm playing really well. In Toronto nobody was going to stop me, and when I got here I just felt very confident."

Probably more than anything else, Yellen's victory demonstrated the increasing importance in professional racquetball of having a solid all-around game. Time after time when the game began to go bad for him he would fall back into very basic high-percentage racquetball until he regained the momentum. But he has also added an aggressive dimension to his game, including an extremely accurate backhand splat that was instrumental in defeating both Wagner and Peck.

In other men's action, unseeded Jack Newman, of Chicago, Illinois, earned two impressive upsets in the tournament, beating Craig McCoy in the round-of-32, and seventh-seeded Don Thomas in the round-of-16. Newman, who is the National Junior Champion, National Open Champion, and reigning Intercollegiate Champion, was eventually eliminated by Dave Peck in the quarterfinals, 11-9, 11-6, 11-3.

Two important questions were raised by the results of the men's draw in Anaheim. First, does Mike Yellen's second consecutive tour victory signal a power shift among racquetball's top four? And second, are Bret Harnett's two early-round defeats significant? Some are certainly beginning to wonder if Harnett is falling prey to the pressure of being in the top four. Both of these questions should be answered at the Catalina National Championships in Chicago.

THE WOMEN'S DIVISION

Second seeded Heather McKay became something of a rarity at the Ektelon Championships; she was one of the few seeded players who survived. McKay, of Toronto, Ontario, had little difficulty defending the crown she won last year. She did not lose a single game in five rounds of play. She defeated

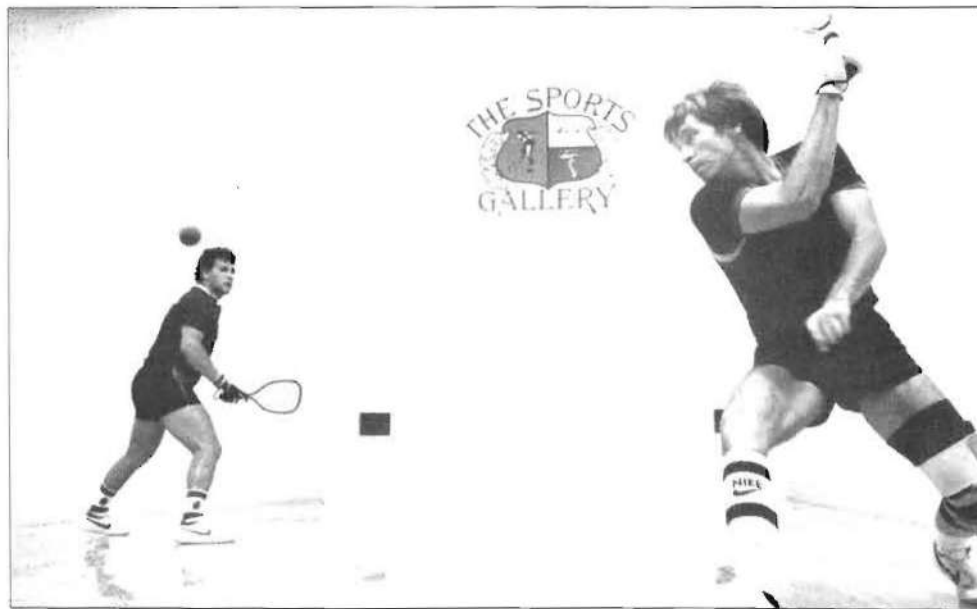
Mary Dee, Joyce Jackson, Marci Greer, Janell Marriott, and Laura Martino in the final.

The tournament's number-one seed, Lynn Adams, failed in her fourth attempt to win at Anaheim when she was upset in the quarterfinals by unseeded Brenda Poe-Barrett of Miami, Florida, in five games, 21-9, 18-21, 21-18, 15-21, 15-13.

Only fifth-seeded Laura Martino was able to stop Barrett's charge toward the finals. Martino, of Fountain Valley, California, defeated Barrett in their semifinal matchup, 15-21, 21-15, 22-20, 21-9, to earn her way into the finals against McKay.

The McKay-Martino final was well played, and was certainly enjoyed by the capacity crowd at the Sports Gallery. Martino was encouraged throughout the match by a very vocal hometown audience. Her well-rounded game was no match, however, for the almost awesome ability displayed by Heather McKay, who, when she is at the top of her game, seems almost unbeatable. With the precise angles and pinpoint passing shots she learned as a squash player, McKay dominated the younger Martino and won the match in three straight games, 21-14, 21-17, 21-7.

Martino, who is extremely popular among her peers, as well as the fans,



Rich Wagner sets up on a backhand as Mike Yellen looks on



Jack Newman



A tense Hogan

Reuben Gonzales beat Martino for Open title



Wagner has Hogan on the floor





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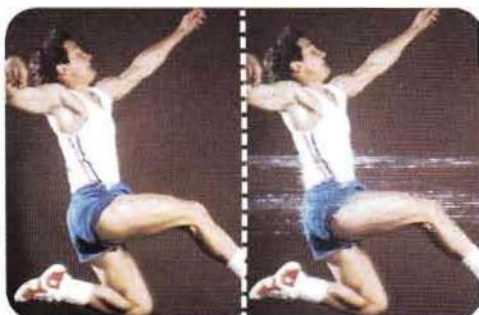
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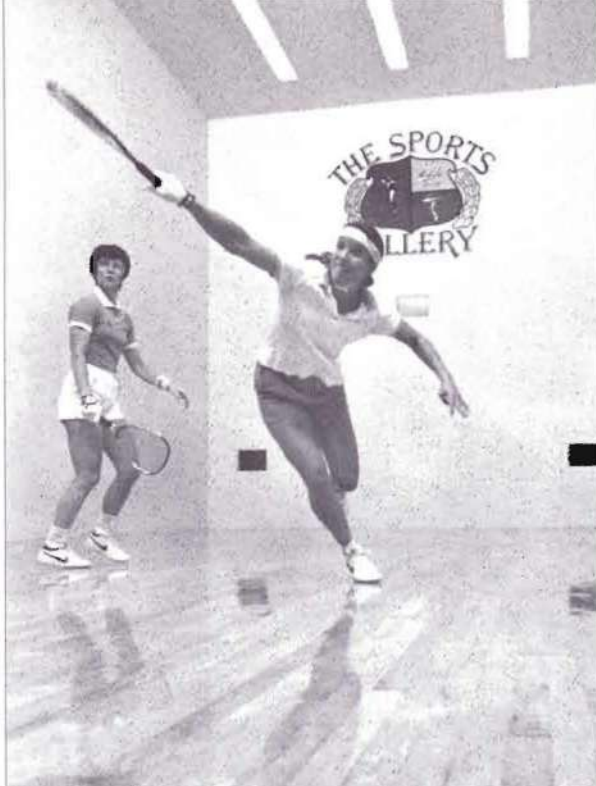
McKay and Marci Greer



Marriott upsets Wright in quarters



Brenda Poe-Barrett



Heather McKay and Laura Martino in final



Martino kills a backhand pinch

emerged from the court exhausted, and provided the tournament with its most touching moment. As she stood silently in the corner by the exhibition court waiting for the awards ceremony to start, no doubt wondering if she had let everyone down, someone in the crowd yelled out "Yeah, Laura!". The entire crowd immediately broke into loud applause that continued for minutes as Laura tried to fight back the tears. It was an unusually warm moment in a professional sport that is often coldly competitive.

Janell Marriott, who has been staging a comeback recently, was responsible for two surprising upsets. She beat

sixth-seeded Terri Gilreath in the round-of-32, and stunned third-seeded Shannon Wright in the quarterfinals before losing to McKay in the semis.

Few tournaments that are staged in professional racquetball are carried off with the efficiency and class of the Ektelon Championships. With the incredible facilities of The Sports Gallery (which has to be one of the finest clubs in the world) at his disposal, tournament director Jim Carson did an admirable job keeping everyone happy and on time. As the sport's longest running annual event, there seems little question that the Ektelon Championships has become the flagship tourna-

ment of both men's and women's professional racquetball. It is a reputation that has been earned.

EKTELON NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS ANAHEIM, CALIFORNIA

MEN'S DIVISION

ROUND OF 32

Hogan def. Hawkes; Lerner def. Koltun; Andrews def. Oliver; Egerman def. Brysman; Hilecher def. Ray; Gonzales def. Myers; Wagner def. Martino; Harnett def. Terry; Yellin def. Britos; Cohen def. Cascio; Price def. Sell; G. Peck def. Nolan; Thomas def. Davidson; Newman def. McCoy; Texeria def. Hawkins (default); D. Peck def. Berberet.

ROUND OF 16:

Hogan def. Lerner, 11-2, 11-6, 11-6; Egerman def. Andrews, 11-0, 11-2, 8-11, 11-9; Gonzales def. Hilecher, 6-11, 11-1, 11-0, 11-2; Wagner def. Harnett, 9-11, 11-5, 11-6, 7-11, 11-8; Yellen def. Cohen, 11-5, 11-1, 11-6; G. Peck def. Price, 11-6, 11-1, 11-9; Newman def. Thomas, 11-8, 11-9, 6-11, 7-11, 11-7; D. Peck def. Texeria, 11-7, 11-7, 10-11, 11-4.

QUARTERFINAL ROUND:

Hogan def. Egerman, 11-0, 11-0, 7-11, 11-2; Wagner def. Gonzales, 11-10, 9-11, 5-11, 11-3, 11-8; Yellen def. G. Peck, 6-11, 11-9, 9-11, 11-7, 11-6; D. Peck def. Newman, 11-9, 11-6, 11-3.

SEMIFINAL ROUND:

Wagner def. Hogan, 11-9, 11-1, 6-11, 6-11, 11-4; Yellen def. D. Peck, 2-11, 11-6, 11-10, 5-11, 11-10.

FINAL ROUND:

Yellen def. Wagner, 11-10, 11-6, 9-11, 11-8.
TOTAL PURSE \$22,500

WOMEN'S DIVISION

ROUND OF 32:

Adams def. Pranka; Bullard def. Riley; Barrett def. Hardek; Stoll def. Gardner; Martino def. Robson; Harding def. Pease; Fletcher def. Sauser; Panzerri def. Bishop; Wright def. Kuhfeld; McKinney def. Clifford; O'Brien def. Davis; Marriott def. Gilreath; Greer def. Lynch; Drexler def. McDonald; Jackson def. Baxter; McKay def. Dee.

ROUND OF 16:

Adams def. Bullard, 21-14, 17-21, 21-14, 21-13; Barrett def. Stoll, 21-15, 21-8, 21-14; Martino def. Harding, 21-14, 5-21, 21-14, 21-19; Fletcher def. Panzerri, 21-6, 21-18, 15-21; Wright def. McKinney, 20-22, 21-19, 14-21, 21-8, 16-14; Marriott def. O'Brien, 22-20, 21-13, 21-14; Greer def. Drexler, 21-16, 21-18, 22-20; McKay def. Jackson, 21-14, 21-15, 21-10.

QUARTERFINAL ROUND:

Barrett def. Adams, 21-19, 18-21, 21-18, 15-21, 15-13; Martino def. Fletcher, 23-21, 21-15, 21-6; Marriott def. Wright, 21-13, 16-21, 21-14, 21-17; McKay def. Greer, 21-8, 21-8, 21-17.

SEMIFINAL ROUND:

Martino def. Barrett, 15-21, 21-15, 22-20, 21-9; McKay def. Marriott, 21-10, 21-9, 21-17.

FINAL ROUND:

McKay def. Martino, 21-14, 21-17, 21-7.
TOTAL PURSE \$17,500



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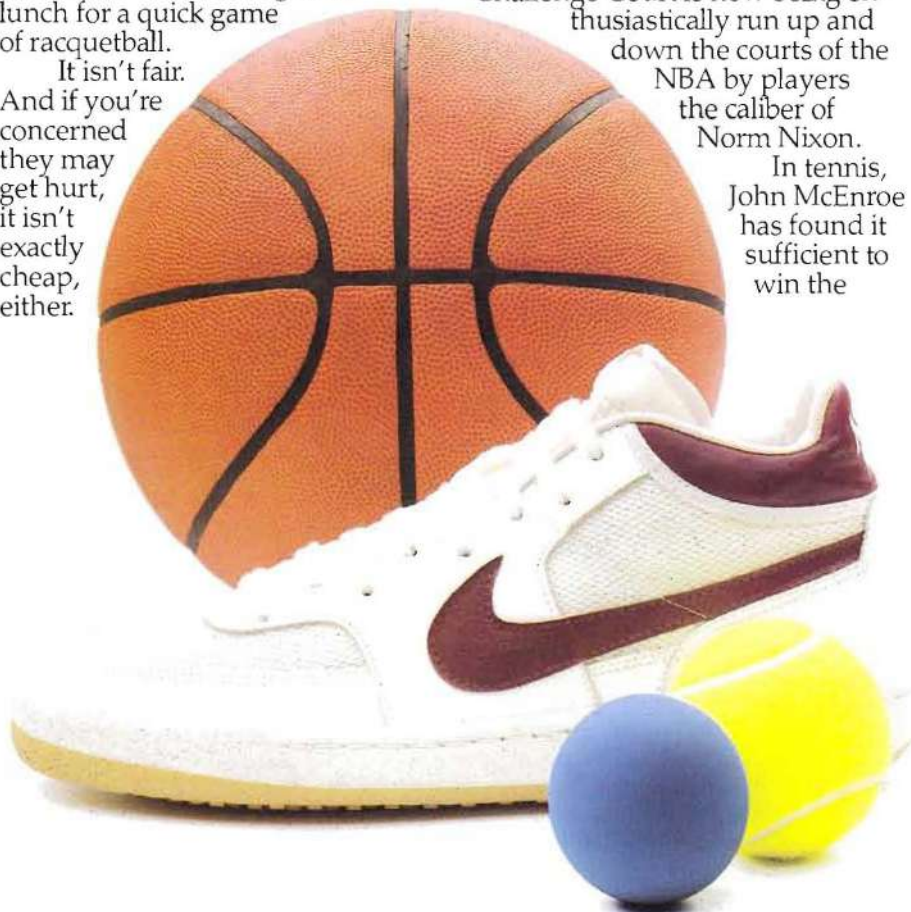


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SEATTLE

SEATTLE—Lynn Adams, after a slow start in 1983, claimed her second victory of the year, defeating Shannon Wright, 21-16, 21-23, 21-11, 21-12, at the Pacific West Sport and Racquet Club in Seattle. A few weeks earlier, Adams had easily put away Terri Gilreath in the finals at a tournament in San Francisco. She has been building up her confidence and momentum for two big WPRA events in May—the Ektelon Championships in Anaheim, California, and the WPRA Nationals in Chicago, Illinois.

Wright, the number three seed, confronted Adams in the finals, after defeating Heather McKay, the second seed, in the semifinals. After an unusually good weekend of play, Wright was geared up to play Adams. Evenly matched until the third game, Adams then took control of the match, using her patient style to outlast the more impulsive Wright.

Adams' intelligent, mature game aided her in this match. She claimed a more diverse shot selection than Wright, although both Wright and Adams used solid, hard shots throughout the match. Bruce Hartley, the tournament director, commented on Adams' gracious manner and personableness, making her one of the most well-liked players on the tour.

Sharp during the the entire tournament, Adams was only extended to four games in the finals. She met Heather Stupp, a top Canadian player, from St. Laurent, Quebec, in the semifinals. Stupp, a less experienced player, often went after the kill too soon, allowing Adams to control the match. Adams won with a score of 21-17, 21-11, 21-17.

The popular Stupp defeated Terri Gilreath and Laura Martino, the fifth and fourth seeds, in four games each, to reach the semifinals. A real crowd pleaser, the young and cute Stupp is rapidly becoming one of the most decisive players on the women's professional tour. The other pros have learned to look for Stupp's name on the draw, recognizing her as a new threat.

In the other semifinal match, Wright, who hasn't won a WPRA tournament since the beginning of December, was eager to reach the finals. She was happy to beat Vicki Panzeri in three games in the quarters since Vicki had recently defeated her in the finals of an event in Tucson, Arizona. Continuing to use her intimidating style of play in the semis, she defeated Heather McKay, the top Canadian player, 21-16, 12-21, 22-20, 21-15.



Lynn Adams

PACIFIC WEST TOURNAMENT SEATTLE, WASHINGTON QUALIFYING DRAW:

Lynn Adams, bye; Leslie Clifford def. Molly O'Brien, 21-17, 21-17, 21-15; Elaine Riley def. Jean Sausser, 21-11, 21-14, 21-14; Marci Greer def. Carol Pranka, 21-9, 21-9, 21-15; Laura Martino, bye; Bonnie Stoll def. Peggy Steding, 22-20, 15-21, 21-19, 21-18; Heather Stupp def. Martha McDonald, 21-11, 21-12, 17-21, 21-11; Terri Gilreath, bye; Vicki Panzeri, bye; Jennifer Harding def. Brenda Barrett, 21-18, 20-22, 21-19, 21-11; Stacey Fletcher def. Val Paese, 21-16, 21-4, 21-3; Shannon Wright, bye; Peggy Gardner def. Marcy Lynch; Diane Bullard def. Gail Woods, 20-22, 21-15, 21-8, 21-19; Joyce Jackson def. Fran Davis, 13-21, 21-15, 21-11, 21-15; Heather McKay, bye.

ROUND OF SIXTEEN:

Adams def. Clifford, 21-5, 21-10, 21-5; Greer def. Riley, 21-16, 21-15, 21-11; Martino def. Stoll, 21-16, 21-19, 21-19; Stupp def. Gilreath, 21-10, 21-9, 19-21, 21-8; Gardner def. Bullard, 10-21, 23-21, 21-18, 13-21, 15-11; McKay def. Jackson, 22-20, 21-7, 21-12.

QUARTERFINALS:

Adams def. Greer, 21-16, 21-17, 21-18; Stupp def. Martino, 21-19, 14-21, 21-15, 21-15; Wright def. Panzeri, 21-11, 21-19, 21-18; McKay def. Gardner, 21-8, 21-5, def.

SEMIFINALS:

Adams def. Stupp, 21-17, 21-11, 21-17; Wright def. McKay 21-16, 12-21, 22-20, 21-15.

FINAL:

Lynn Adams def. Shannon Wright, 21-16, 21-23, 21-11, 21-12.

TOTAL PURSE: \$13,000

Serving to the Forehand

by Dave Peck

(Editor's Note: Dave Peck finished the 1982 season as the No. 1 ranked player in professional racquetball. He has won virtually every major racquetball tournament. Dave is a two-time winner of the Ektelon Racquetball Championships and a member of the Ektelon Pro Advisory Staff.)

Early last year, John Eggerman and I were in San Diego for a player meeting at Ektelon and we happened to watch a replay of the 1981 Ektelon-Perrier Finals between Marty Hogan and Mike Yellen.

At one point of the videotaped match, with Mike down a point or two, he served a beautiful ace to the forehand side. Marty had been napping. Eggerman smiled, turned to me and said, "Great shot. Hogan was sitting on that backhand serve. That's an excellent way to score some points on Marty."

Yellen obviously thought so, too. The very next serve he blasted another forehand down the line. Mistake. This time Marty was right there, perfectly set up. The next shot on the tape was the ball rolling out from the front wall.

The Yellen-Hogan exchange underscores the point of this instructional: the forehand serve can prove surprisingly effective if players will break the backhand habit and use it; but it must be used discreetly—or, as Hogan did, your opponent will be playing rolland.

Therefore, let's break this instructional down into two parts. One, what the forehand serve is and when to use it. The other, how to defend that serve and return it properly—putting yourself into an offensive position.

First, let's define what we're after. A forehand drive serve should be low, hard hit, bounce twice before the back wall, and head straight for a corner.

To accomplish this, your service motion—and this is important—should be the same as hitting a forehand: stepping into the ball, using your legs and knees to bend low, toe open to the corner. One of the most important aspects of serving is keeping everything

consistent. This leads to deception—a very important part of the forehand serve.

Your body should never change from serve to serve, and you should drop the ball in the same spot every time. This will force your opponent (he's the bad guy in this part of the article) to stay in the middle of the backcourt and not cheat. Why? Because with a hard snap of your wrist, you can blister a backhand serve, and by opening your wrist a bit you can fire off a forehand serve.

Now, let's explain your spot in the box. This has been done many times, but it's important. Ninety percent of the players today serve from the middle of the box. You can hit a forehand serve from right, middle or the left-hand side of the service box. Use all of it!

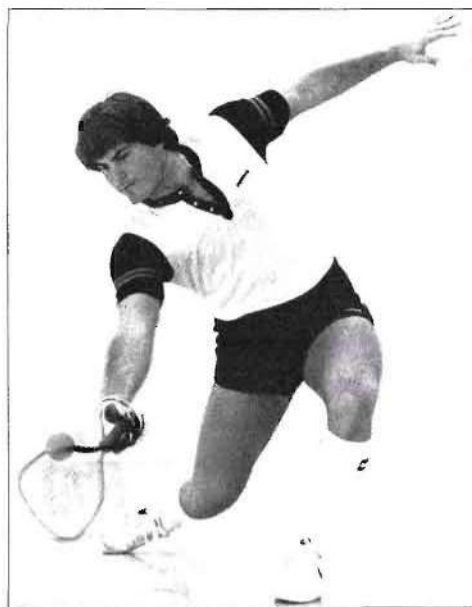
And when you serve, act like you are in total control. You are! Your opponent is in the dark. He's looking for clues (more on that later) and if you can keep your motion consistent plus *vary* your serves, your opponent will never know what side your serve is going to—all of which makes your forehand serve that much more effective.

The service itself is fairly simple. As you set up in the service box, sneak a peek back. Check where your opponent is playing. If he's cheating to the backhand side, rattle a forehand down the line. If he's playing straight up but has trouble with his footwork, use the forehand serve to mix him up.

Also, when serving, always drop the ball in the same motion and strive to make racquet contact flat and parallel (just like a forehand shot, remember?)

To gain confidence in your serving, practice by picking a spot on the front wall you know results in a tough forehand serve. Look at it before each serve in your match. Then strive to hit it. If your opponent has trouble moving to his or her right and can't set up for a forehand that quickly, use it to your advantage. Play on it until your opponent proves otherwise.

Now for the other side of the serving spectrum: how to handle the forehand serve.



Obviously, as Yellen did with Hogan, everyone is going to get surprised with a forehand serve once in a while. With everyone looking for an advantage off the backhand, it's bound to happen. But the key, as Hogan so aptly demonstrated, is not to be beaten twice in a row.

There are a couple of keys, actually. First, if you know your opponent, you'll know his or her strengths and weaknesses if your opponent can't—or won't—serve a forehand to save his life, then forget about it. Play a couple of steps to the left of center and concentrate on your backhand return.

However, if your opponent likes to mix it up, keep you honest, then be honest; don't cheat. But think. Anticipate. Concentrate on the game situation. Look for those clues. Is this the time for a surprise? Is the server sneaking peeks? Is it the first or second serve (very few forehand drives will come off the second serve)? Where are your opponent's feet and hands pointed?

You have to get off to a fast start in service return. There's no way around it. Don't wait for the ball to enter the backcourt before moving; react as soon as it is hit.

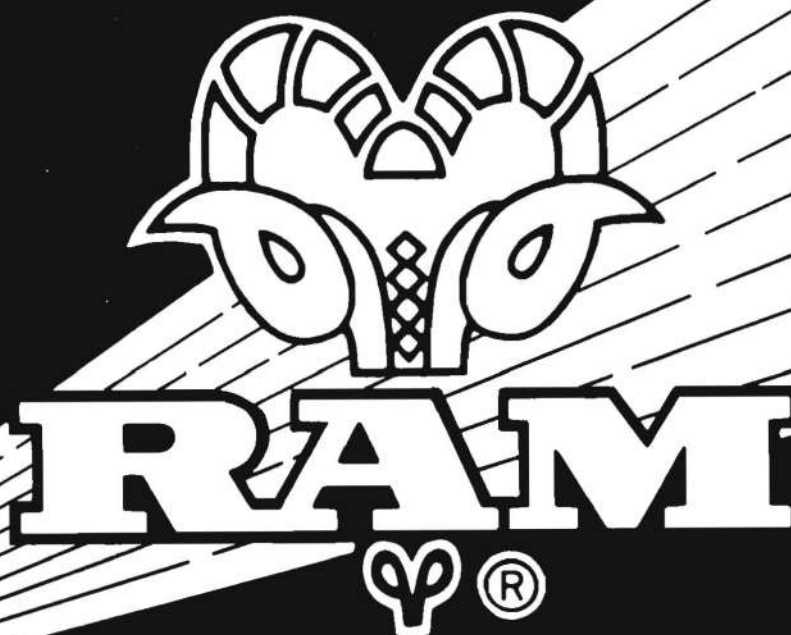
As the ball is served, note where it will hit the front wall. You'll immediately be able to anticipate a back or forehand serve and adjust your movement accordingly. And get your racquet up into the forehand (or backhand) position as soon as possible.

It should be pretty obvious that the only forehand serve you have to worry about is the drive. On the Z or lob, you'll have plenty of time to react. But once you've reacted to the drive serve, what do you do? And where do you hit it?

If the serve allows for a kill, by all

Continued on page 43

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THE

Reverse Pinch

by John Egerman and Scott Hawkins

This is the second in a series of articles on the shots and strategies of advanced racquetball. John Egerman and Scott Hawkins are two of the brightest and most respected young players in professional racquetball today. Between them they hold eight national titles, and both are former National Juniors Champions.

Like the splat shot we covered last month, the reverse pinch is one of the most difficult shots in racquetball to hit consistently. There's an important difference in the nature of the two shots however; while the splat is used primarily to augment

an already strong game, the reverse pinch is a vital part of a complete game. Stated simply, if you can't hit a splat you're no worse off than most other players in the game, advanced or otherwise; if you can't hit a reverse pinch you have a serious weakness in your game.

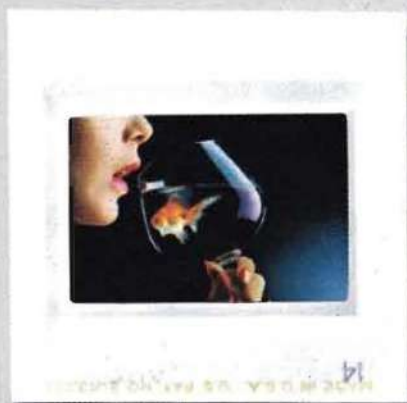
To understand the reverse pinch, let's break it down into three parts: what it is, how it's hit, and when it's used.

As its name implies, the reverse pinch is the opposite of the bread-and-butter shot of racquetball: the pinch shot. A pinch shot is defined as a low shot hit into one of the front corners and which strikes the side wall before it rebounds

into the front wall. For a right handed player a forehand pinch is hit into the right front corner, a backhand pinch to the left. To execute a reverse pinch you simply direct the shot to the opposite corner; a forehand reverse is hit to the left front corner, backhand to the right.

At first thought it would seem that the pinch and reverse pinch should be equally difficult to execute. This is not the case. The pinch shot is considered by most players to be one of the highest percentage shots in the game. The reverse pinch is one of the lowest; for many players it can be a terribly difficult shot to hit with any consistency.

The interesting thing about the



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reverse pinch is that almost every player knows by instinct that it is a low percentage shot. Most players, because of their own experience, subconsciously avoid attempting it. If you analyze your own game, chances are you'll find you hit ten pinch shots to every one reverse pinch. Why do you suppose that is?

Your subconscious is smart. Although few realize it, the natural swing of almost every player puts an inside spin on the ball. It is this inside cut that makes the pinch shot such an easy shot to hit. Imagine a right handed player hitting a forehand pinch to the right front corner. His swing cuts the ball on the inside and imparts a clockwise spin that propels the ball of the right side wall into the front wall. There is a large margin for error with this shot, because even if you hit it poorly its spin usually gets it to the front wall anyway. Many advanced players have built their game around the pinch shot, because even when it is hit only moderately well it is effective, and often an outright winner.

However, with the reverse pinch everything reverses except the spin on the ball. When our same right-handed player hits the forehand to the left front corner instead of the right, the spin works against the shot. Instead of propelling the ball forward, the clockwise spin tries to reverse the direction of the

ball and usually directs it right to the floor. If you think about it now, you probably have seen this happen more than you care to remember.

HOW TO HIT THE REVERSE PINCH

The difficulty you have hitting the reverse pinch will depend a great deal on your individual stroke. Different players put varying amounts of spin on the ball. Obviously, the more inside spin your stroke imparts to the ball, the more difficulty you will have with the reverse pinch.

How can you tell how much spin your stroke creates? The easiest way is to examine which shots are naturally easiest for you to hit. If you put a great deal of inside spin on the ball the regular pinch should be one of your most accurate shots, and therefore is probably one you use frequently. If you find that you tend to avoid hitting pinches and opt instead for a lot of straight in drives, you probably hit the ball very flat and put little inside cut on the ball. Players who have this second type of stroke are generally more successful hitting the reverse pinch than those with the first.

Whichever type of stroke you have, the key to a successful reverse pinch is

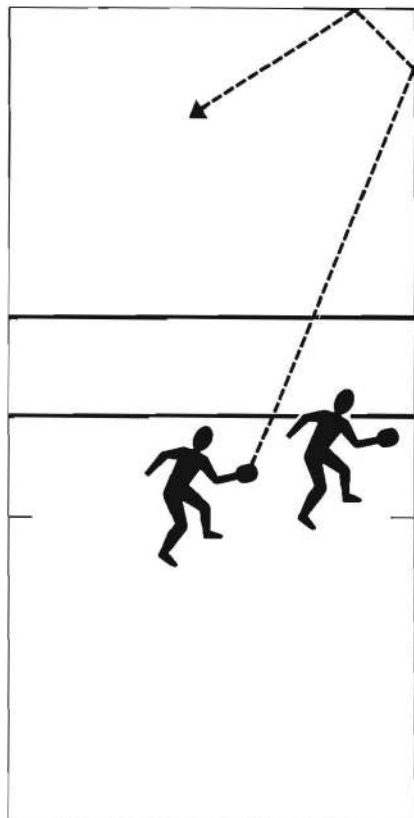
in minimizing the reversing effect of that inside spin. There are two ways to do it. The easiest way is to hit the ball flatter, and the best way to hit it flatter is to hit it harder. There is a rapid snap of your wrist when you hit the ball with a lot of power, and the by-product of that snap is a very flat contact. Most players who hit the reverse pinch well, hit it hard like this, and angle it very tightly into the corner. The spin still works against it somewhat, but the momentum carries it into the front wall where it dies quickly.

Remember though, if your stroke is putting a lot of cut on the ball, just hitting it hard won't do. Some players just spin the ball more when they hit it harder. When this happens, the harder the shot is hit, the worse it becomes. If this is the case with your stroke, the best thing for you to do may be to hit the ball with something called topspin.

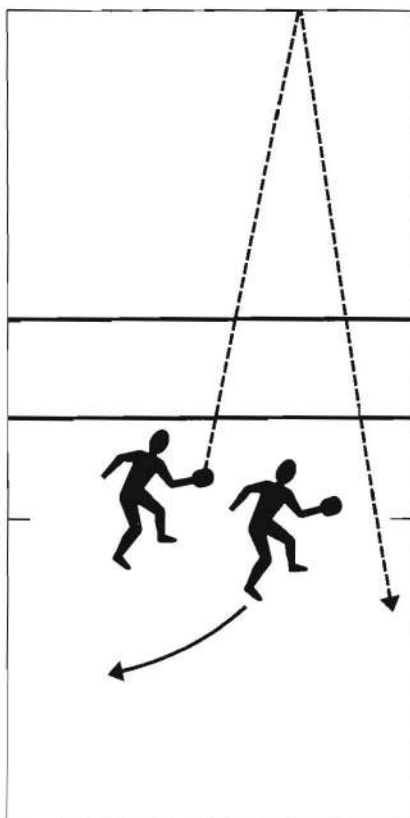
This technique was first suggested a couple of years ago by Steve Strandemo, and although it can be difficult for some players to master, a few have had good success using it, particularly ex-tennis players who are familiar with topspin. As in tennis, topspin is put on a racquetball by starting the stroke with your

Continued on page 43

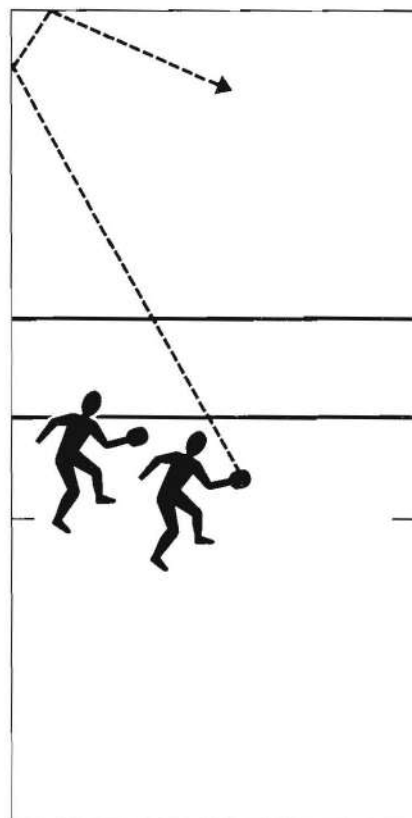
Regular forehand pinch



Forehand passing shot



Forehand reverse pinch



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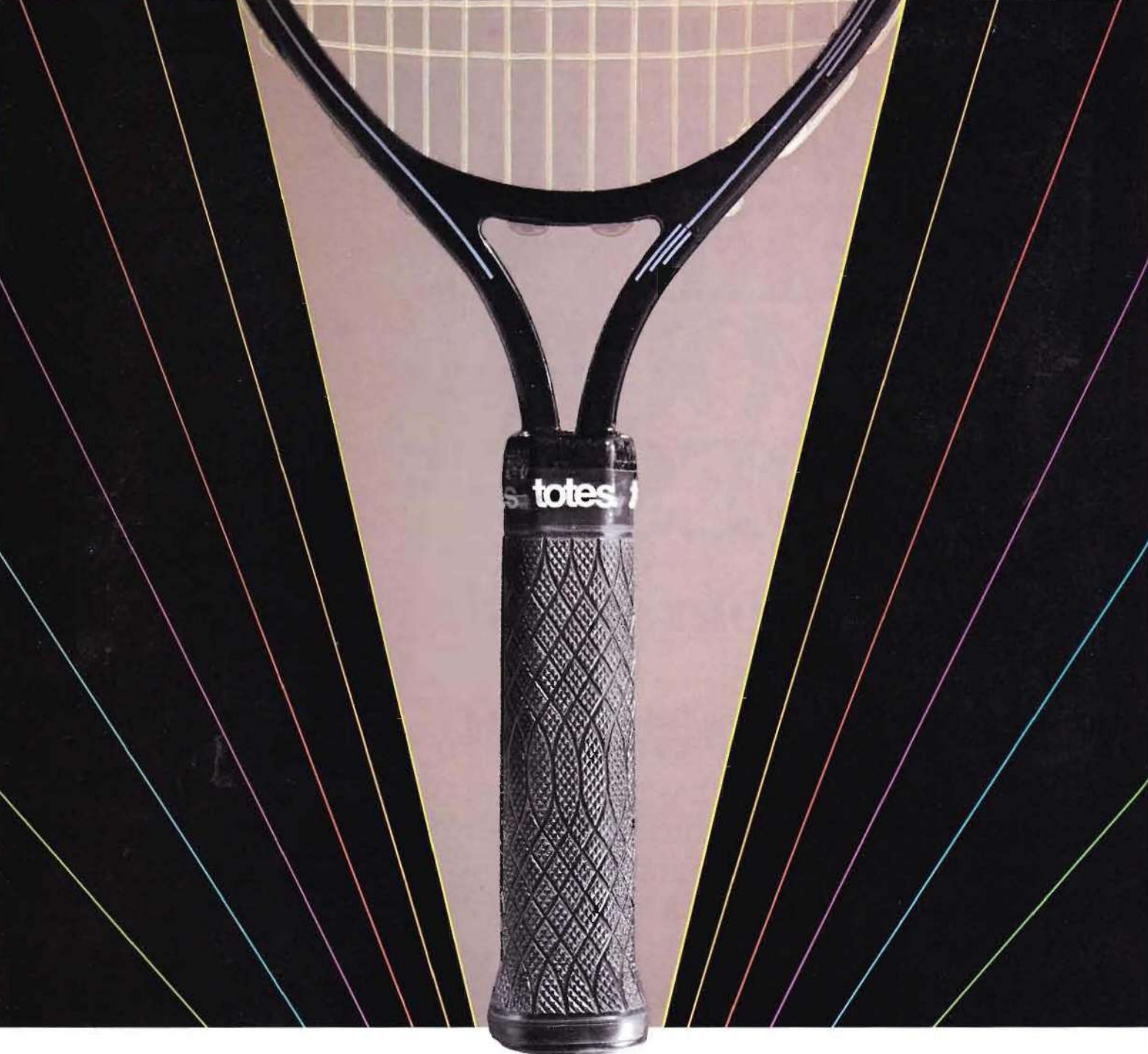
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Reverse Pinch *Continued from page 40*

racquet head low and swinging with an upward motion. The topspin on the reverse pinch acts to lift the ball off the side wall and give it an extra kick toward the front. The nice thing about hitting the reverse pinch this way is that it does not have to be hit hard; it can actually be finessed into the corner.

WHEN TO USE IT

One of the oldest and most basic strategies in racquetball is the pinch/pass strategy. It is so fundamental and so effective that advanced players stick to it even when their opponent knows what they're going to do.

When you are set up in center court and your opponent is to one side of you, the correct shot is to pinch the corner in his direction. In other words, if you have a forehand and your opponent is on your right, pinch the right front corner. This is perhaps the most effective shot in racquetball, because the defender cannot move into center court to intercept the path of the ball until the shot passes in front of him; it "pinches" him out of position and keeps him there until the shot is nearly halfway through its travel. If he tries to step toward center court too early he'll get hit and you'll get an avoidable hinder. This scenario should nearly always result in a point or side-out for you. Not only is the pinch a high-percentage shot, but the pinching action tends to stop the ball and keep it in front court.

After you have done this to him a few times, your opponent will get frustrated; he'll try to leave his position early and run behind you to pick up the pinch before it reaches the opposite side wall. As soon as you see him lean that direction, drive the ball into the area he's vacating; pass him on his right.

This pinch/pass strategy is important for three reasons: it's effective, the necessary court position occurs frequently, and perhaps most importantly, no deception is required. You shoot the necessary shot whether your opponent knows it's coming or not.

The obvious problem is that sometimes you can't hit a regular pinch. Suppose you are set up with a backhand and your opponent is on your right. The correct shot is a pinch to the right corner: a reverse pinch. If you're like most players and can't execute it, you've lost one of the most potent weapons of the game. You must be able to execute the necessary shot of the pinch/pass strategy everytime it becomes available, and in order to do that you must have a good command of both the regular pinch and the reverse pinch.

MEN'S PROFESSIONAL RACQUETBALL SCHEDULE OF EVENTS 1983-84 SEASON

The following is a preliminary list of independent professional tournaments. In many cases the dates and prize money amounts are tentative. A formal tour will be presented to the P.R.O. (Professional Racquetball Organization) in Atlanta, much of which will be composed of these stops. At that time International Racquetball will publish the official tour schedule of the P.R.O. All tournaments listed below will be open except for the May tournament in Chicago. See our next issue for more details.

DATE	LOCATION	PRIZE MONEY
MAY 28-JUNE 5, 1983	CHICAGO, IL	\$40,000.00
JUNE 14-19, 1983	ATLANTA, GA	\$50,000.00
JULY 7-10, 1983	MONTEREY, CA	\$15,000.00
SEPT 1-4, 1983	DAVISON, MI	\$12,000.00
SEPT 15-18, 1983	TEMPE, AZ	\$12,000.00
SEPT 23-26, 1983	STOCKTON, CA	\$ 6,000.00
OCT 13-16, 1983	WALNUT CREEK, CA	\$ 9,000.00
OCT 23-26, 1983	PLEASANTON, CA	\$20,000.00
NOV 4-6, 1983	WHEELING, WV	\$ 7,500.00
NOV 10-13, 1983	VANCOUVER, B.C.	\$15,000.00
DEC 1-4, 1983	TORONTO, ONTARIO	\$ 7,500.00
JAN 11-15, 1984	FEDERAL WAY, WA	\$15,000.00
JAN 19-22, 1984	HONOLULU, HI	\$15,000.00
FEB 9-12, 1984	PALM DESERT, CA	\$ 9,000.00
FEB 16-10, 1984	BEAVERTON, OR	\$15,000.00
FEB 20-24, 1984	GILLETTE, WY	\$ 7,000.00
MARCH 1-4, 1984	CHEYENNE, WY	\$ 7,500.00
APRIL 5-8, 1984	AUSTIN, TX	\$ 6,000.00
APRIL 19-22, 1984	TORONTO, ONTARIO	\$15,000.00
MAY, 1984	EKTELON NATIONALS	\$25,000.00
MAY, 1984	SALT LAKE CITY, UT	20,000.00
APPROXIMATE TOURNAMENT PRIZE MONEY TOTAL		\$378,500.00

WOMEN'S PROFESSIONAL RACQUETBALL SCHEDULE OF EVENTS 1983-84 SEASON

MAY 23-26, 1983	CHICAGO, IL	\$12,000.00
JULY 8-10, 1983	ANCHORAGE, AK	\$ 6,000.00

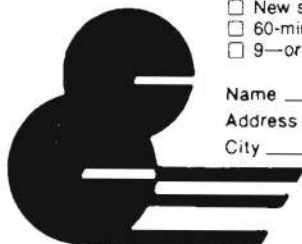
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Marty: *Continued from page 13*

seen. You have the best players in the country playing this tournament. But on the other hand, I do think there are a lot of unknown players out there who have the ability to beat some of the pros, what I would call would-be pros. The sport needed a change a couple of years ago. There was a lot of bad, what I consider bad talent out there; players who didn't deserve to compete, but yet through inferior ranking systems, maintained high rankings and falsely publicized themselves as being better ranked players than they really were. ❧

PRO: *Continued from page 16*

In addition to the formation of P.R.O., Peck said he is personally glad to see Bud Muelheisen involved with the players. "I have a tremendous amount of respect for Bud. I believe that he can truly represent the interest of all the players. He certainly has the respect of everyone in the game."

The next meeting of the P.R.O. will be at 7:30 pm, Sunday night, May 29, in Chicago. On June 2 the manufacturers will meet again with the executive committee to make a formal proposal for next year's tour. According to Kamalu,

all professional players are encouraged to attend the May 29 meeting.

The optimism surrounding the formation of the P.R.O. was summed up by Jerry Hilecher; "I feel better about the tour now than I have in a long time. It's funny. A lot of people have been going around saying that pro racquetball was dying. I am more optimistic about professional racquetball right now than I have been for five years." ❧

Forehand: *Continued from page 36*

means kill it. Generally, however, based upon the difficulty of the serve, its speed, direction and element of surprise, your options should be ceiling, pass and kill, in that order.

Your first consideration should be to keep the ball in play and get into second-shot positioning. You have to remember racquetball is primarily a game you play with your legs, not your arms. You have to be in position to shoot a shot before you can complete it. So, to keep a game going, anticipate what might happen, where that serve will go.

Either way you'll find the forehand serve and return should add important pages to your racquetball playbook. Especially if you do a little "studying" at your neighborhood court club. Good luck! ❧

In the next issue of International Racquetball, we will take you to tournaments in Chicago, Atlanta and Anchorage. The Women will make their first stop in Chicago for the National Championships and then hop up to Alaska for the Midnight Sun Classic.



Chicago is also the location for the men's \$40,000 D.P. Leach-Catalina National Championships at the fabulous Charlie Club. Then, \$50,000 is up for grabs in the D.P. Leach National Championships starting on June 14th at the Atlanta Sporting Club. This is an open tournament so the competition should be brutal!



The P.R.O. will again be in the news next month with player's meetings being held in Chicago and Atlanta. What happens in those meetings will effect the entire industry, so don't miss it.

Also, we hear there might be something tremendous about to happen with next year's tournament schedule. More money? A big sponsor? Find out this and more in our July issue of International Racquetball!

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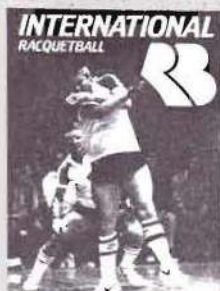
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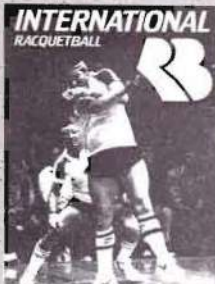
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Head to Head

How the Top 20 Match Up



Announcing **John EGERMAN — Scott HAWKINS** RACQUETBALL CAMPS

JUNIOR CAMP

DATE: July 18-23, 1983
LOCATION: Garden Racquetball
Club - Monterey, California
CONTACT: Scott Hawkins
208-248-9327

GENERAL CAMP

TO BE ANNOUNCED

JOHN EGERMAN

Three time National
Junior Champion,
National Open
Singles Champion,
Catalina Tour Pro,
Currently ranked in
the top 10 players in
the world.



SCOTT HAWKINS

Four time National
Junior Champion,
Canadian Junior
Champion, Catalina
Pro, Only player ever
to win the Junior
Grand Slam.

ENROLLMENT LIMITED

	M. HOGAN	D. PECK	M. YELLEN	B. HARNETT	G. PECK	J. HILECHER	G. PRICE	E. ANDREWS	D. THOMAS	S. LERNER	J. EGERMAN	R. WAGNER	S. STRANDEMO	D. COHEN	C. McCOY	R. GONZALES	S. HAWKINS	M. MARTINO	S. OLIVER	L. MYERS
MARTY HOGAN		3-1	1-2	2-1	2-0	2-0	1-0	2-0	2-0	1-0	2-0	1-1	1-0	1-0			1-0	1-0		
DAVE PECK	1-3		3-2	1-3	3-0			1-0	1-0	2-0	1-0	1-0		1-0	1-0					1-0
MIKE YELLEN	2-1	2-3		1-1	2-1	2-0	0-1	1-0			1-0	1-0		2-0	2-0	1-0			1-0	
BRET HARNETT	1-2	3-1	1-1		0-1		1-0	1-0				0-1	0-1	1-0		1-0	1-0	1-0		
GREG PECK	0-2	0-3	1-2	1-0			1-0				1-0	1-0		1-1	1-0					1-0
JERRY HILECHER	0-2		0-2				0-1	1-0		1-0		1-0		0-1		0-1	1-0			
GERRY PRICE	0-1		1-0	0-1	0-1	1-0			1-0		1-0	1-0		1-0	1-0			0-1		
ED ANDREWS	0-2	0-1	0-1	0-1		0-1			1-0	0-1	0-2			1-1	2-0				1-1	
DON THOMAS	0-2	0-1					0-1	0-1			1-1	0-1								
STEVE LERNER	0-1	0-2				0-1		1-0							1-0		1-0		2-0	
JOHN EGERMAN	0-2	0-1	0-1		0-1		0-1	2-0	1-1					0-1			1-0	0-1		
RICH WAGNER	1-1	0-1	0-1	1-0	0-1	0-1	0-1		1-0				1-0			1-1	1-0	1-0	0-1	
STEVE STRANDEMO	0-1			1-0								0-1		1-0		0-1				
DOUG COHEN	0-1	0-1	0-2	0-1	1-1	1-0	0-1	1-1			1-0		0-1							
CRAIG McCOY		0-1	0-2		0-1		0-1	0-2		0-1							1-0		1-0	
REUBEN GONZALES			0-1	0-1		1-0						1-1	1-0							1-0
SCOTT HAWKINS	0-1			0-1		0-1				0-1	0-1	0-1			0-1					0-1
MARK MARTINO	0-1			0-1			1-0				1-0	0-1			0-1					
SCOTT OLIVER			0-1					1-1		0-2		1-0								
LINDSAY MYERS		0-1			0-1											0-1	1-0			

HOW TO READ CHART: For any player the won/loss record against every other player is read horizontally opposite his name. The tournaments used are the same as those used for the IR Computer Rankings and are listed on page 46.

RANKINGS

Following are the current rankings for both men's and women's professional racquetball. The ranking listed for the women is that of the Women's Professional Racquetball Association (WPRA).

The Catalina men's tour rankings are for those players who have been invited to participate in Catalina events. The system is a point accumulation of all tournaments of the 1982-83 season held thus far. The rankings include the last stop in Austin.

The International Racquetball Computerized rankings are somewhat more complex. Because the current status of men's professional racquetball consists of a number of invitational

events, it has been necessary to create a system that measures performance and yet does not penalize a player who is not allowed to play in certain events. The IR system is a hybrid, computerized point averaging system that this month takes into account the performance of players over an eleven tournament schedule. The tournaments used as ranking events include all professional tournaments that distributed at least \$6000 in the men's division since September of 1982. Since the points awarded for performance in a specific tournament are weighted by the prize money distributed, both tournament location and money are listed here for the events used in the IR ranking: Stockton, California - September 1982 -

\$6000; Westminster, California - September 1982 - \$20,000; Burnsville, Minnesota - October 1982 - \$20,000; CBC Classic, Canada-October 1982 - \$20,000; New Haven, Connecticut - November 1982 - \$20,000; Schoeber's Pleasanton, California - December 1982 - \$15,000; Honolulu, Hawaii - January 1983 - \$20,000; Palm Desert, California - February 1983 - \$7,000; Beaverton, Oregon - February 1983 - \$20,000; Cheyenne, Wyoming - March 1983 - \$7,000; Austin, Texas - March 1983 - \$20,000; Toronto, Ontario - April 1983 - \$15,000; Anaheim, California - May 1983 - \$22,000

A detailed description of the International Racquetball Computerized Ranking system can be found below.

IR COMPUTER RANKING			DP LEACH/CATALINA RANKING			WPRA WOMEN'S RANKING		
RANK	PLAYER	POINTS	RANK	PLAYER	POINTS	RANK	PLAYER	POINTS
1	Marty Hogan	149.44	1	Marty Hogan	680	1	Heather McKay	585.38
2	Dave Peck	136.11	2T	Dave Peck	550	2	Lynn Adams	511.42
3	Mike Yellen	105.90	2T	Mike Yellen	550	3	Shannon Wright	384.38
4	Bret Harnett	84.50	4	Brett Harnett	460	4	Laura Martino	256.50
5	Greg Peck	56.25	5	Gregg Peck	370	5	Vicki Panzeri	226.13
6	Rich Wagner	47.50	6	Jerry Hilecher	300	6	Terri Gilreath	199.38
7	Jerry Hilecher	42.44	7T	Don Thomas	260	7	Janell Marriott	162.86
8	Gerry Price	38.00	7T	Ed Andrews	260	8	Marci Greer	153.38
9	Ed Andrews	34.95	9	John Egerman	240	9	Peggy Gardner	132.50
10	Don Thomas	33.70	10	Doug Cohen	230	10	Caryn McKinney	127.86
11	John Egerman	32.50	11	Craig McCoy	170	11	Heather Stupp	112.14
12	Steve Lerner	32.36	12T	Steve Strandemo	150	12	Brenda Poe-Barrett	109.16
13	Doug Cohen	28.85	12T	Scott Hawkins	150	13	Jennifer Harding	92.63
14	Reuben Gonzales	24.29	13	Rich Wagner	140	14	Joyce Jackson	92.50
15	Craig McCoy	23.35	14	Reuben Gonzales	100	15	Stacey Fletcher	80.11
16	Steve Strandemo	21.25				16	Bonnie Stoll	71.50
17	Scott Hawkins	17.13				17	Francine Davis	68.88
18T	Mark Martino	13.76				18	Diane Bullard	66.24
18T	Scott Oliver	13.76				19	Martha McDonald	54.38
20	Lindsay Myers	10.54				20	Gail Woods	47.66
21	Cory Brysman	9.40				21	Barbara Maltby	46.67
22	Jack Nolan	8.76				22	Jean Sauser	42.00
23	Jack Newman	7.86				23	Carol Pranka	41.00
24	Wayne Bowes	7.14				24	Molly O'Brien	38.67
25	Ben Koltun	5.11				25	Leslie Clifford	34.34
						26	Elaine Riley	31.00
						27	Val Paese	28.67

INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL COMPUTERIZED RANKING SYSTEM

The IR Computerized Ranking System for men's professional racquetball is a hybrid system which computes a performance factor that takes into account the number of tournaments in which a player has played, the number of tournaments in which the player could have played, how far the player has gone in the tournaments entered and how much money was paid into the men's division of each event. An individual's performance rating is determined by the following formula:

$$R = \frac{T}{A}$$

R = ranking (performance rating)

T = the computed total points of tournaments entered

A = the attendance factor

Calculating Points;

The points earned per tournament are calculated by using the following formula:

$$P = R \times M$$

P = points per tournament

R = round points

M = prize money factor

(1) Round Points - Points per round for all ranking events are as follows:

Finish	Point Value
First	95
Second	75
Semifinalist	50
Quarterfinalist	25
Round of 16	10

(2) Prize Money Factor - The prize money factor is 1 for each \$1,000 of prize money that is paid into the men's division, regardless of the prize money breakdown. For example, if a tournament has a total purse of \$8,000 the factor would be .8, for \$15,000 it would be 1.5, and so on.

For a specific tournament the points received are calculated by multiplying the round points by the Prize money factor. For example, if a player went to the semifinals of a \$7,000 tournament his round points would be 50, the prize money factor would be .7, so his effective tournament points would be 35. Obviously, if a tournament pays \$10,000 the factor is 1, so the points awarded are the same as the round points.

Once the points per tournament have been calculated the points for each event used in that particular month's rankings are added together for the total points of tournaments entered (T). The events used each month will be detailed at the beginning of the rankings.

Calculating the Attendance Factor;

Until the end of the 1982-83 season, the

attendance factor will be different for Catalina Tour players and non-Tour players. The reason for this is that non-Tour players should not be penalized for events which they cannot enter. Calculating the factors for each group is as follows:

(1) Catalina Players - The attendance factor for Tour players is either (a) the number of events actually entered, or (b) one less than the number of Catalina events used in that month's rankings, whichever is greater. The minimum attendance factor this month is 8.

(2) Non-Tour Players - The attendance factor for non-Tour players is the number of events a particular player could have entered. Since every player can qualify for one Catalina event this number is generally the number of open events used in that month's rankings plus one. The attendance factor this month is 7.

Special Note;

IR believes that this system is the fairest possible ranking system given the current fragmented status of the men's professional game. We are well aware that it is not completely fair in all cases, it is simply the best possible compromise. This system will be in effect through the end of the 1982-83 season. At that time, assuming the men's pro tour opens up to all players, a different system will be put into effect.



Playing with an erratic racquetball is like shooting pool during an earthquake. Either way, you're holding yourself back. And guessing a lot.

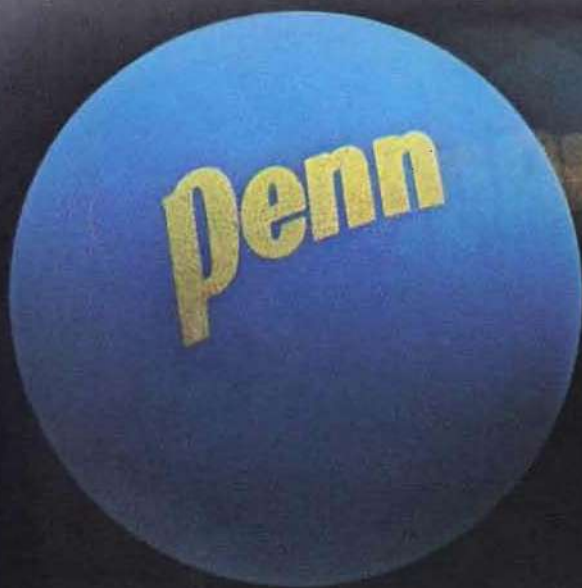
Since 1979, there's been a lot less guessing. That's the year the Penn® Ultra-blue first appeared. The year players discovered consistent performance—from their ball, and from their own game.

Since then, Penn has quickly become America's number one racquetball—going from nowhere to everywhere at courts and in major tournaments around the country. Virtually overnight.

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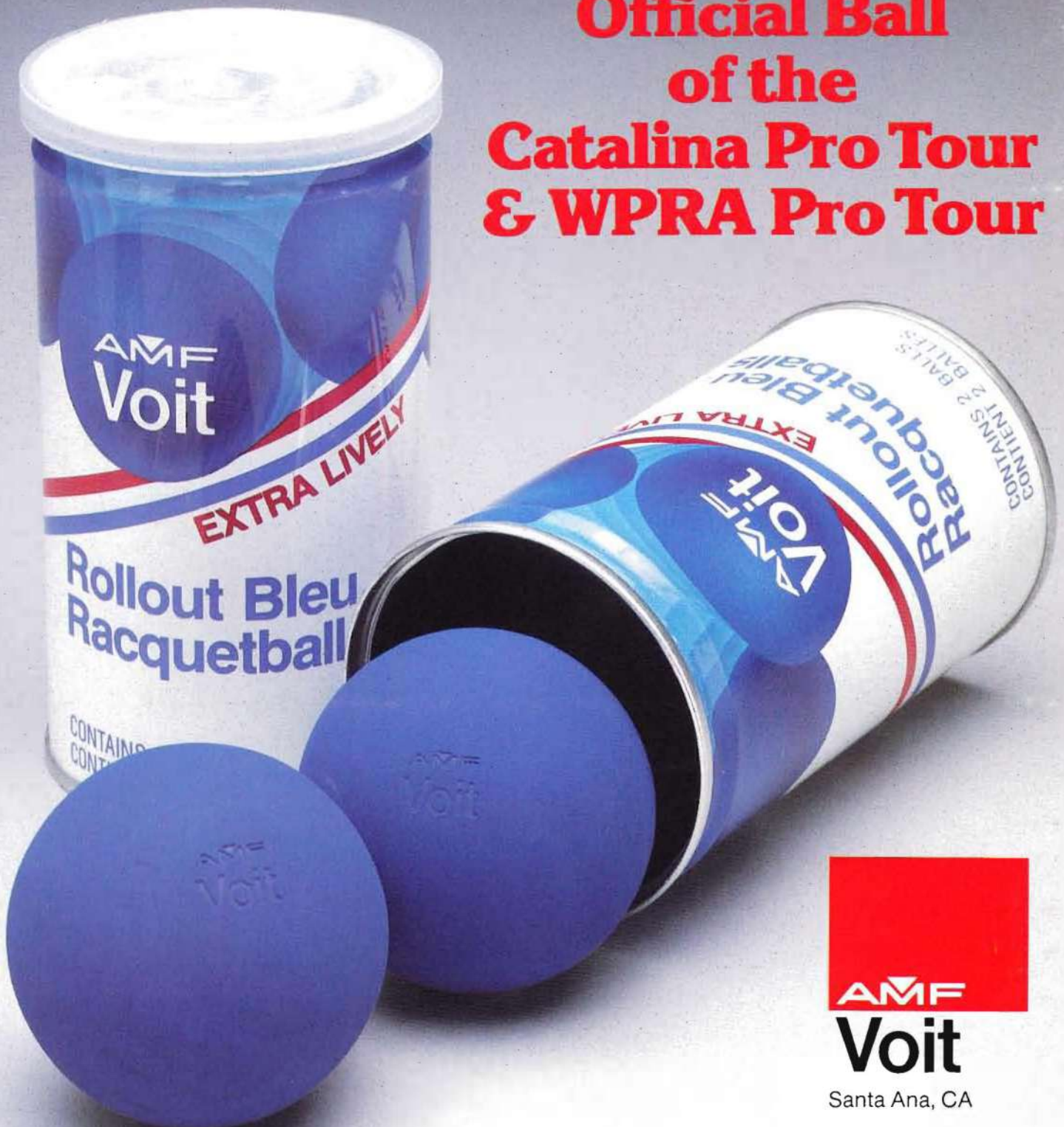
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