

RACQUETBALL



OFFICIAL BI-MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 5 — NUMBER 4

JULY/AUGUST

\$1.00



TOURNAMENT REPORT

8th Annual IRA Internationals

PAGES 32 - 51

GET TO KNOW THE **V**FORCE



STINGER

Designed for the beginning to intermediate player, Stinger is built to take the punishment while giving great playing characteristics. Durable aluminum frame and one-piece molded rubber grip give heft and weight. Natural brushed aluminum with blue bumper strip. Heavy duty strings for long life. A great value at an affordable price.



VANTAGE

A modified teardrop head shape for larger sweetspot. Lightweight but rigid frame for quick response with control. Carbon black aluminum with white bumper strip for great looks. Choice of rubber or leather grips in several sizes. Best all around racquet value for players of any caliber.



ELIMINATOR

Best racquet on the market. Full teardrop shape gives largest string area and sweetspot in the game. Superb balance and feel. Minimal rotational torque and vibration. Best string for long life, power, and finesse. Steding model in copper-gold... Muehleisen model in deep bronze. Grip choices in several sizes of rubber and leather. The choice of champions.



921 Fee Fee Road
Maryland Heights, Mo. 63043
St. Louis, Mo. (314) 434-3536

A member of Brown Group, Inc.





There are ~~two~~ ^{three} basic reasons we have sold panels for . . .

250* COURTS!

The first two, basic, reasons are quality of product, and integrity of service. The third reason? Satisfied customers. The impressive list of clubs and universities at the right is our best endorsement. You are invited to visit one or more of these installations. Because building construction methods vary, different installation procedures are found in many of them. You will gain a better appreciation of the help we offer you, and at the same time will acquire a better understanding of your own court construction procedures.

Better yet, call one of us at Sports Unlimited, and let us tour one or more of the courts with you. Your questions can often be answered with on-site illustrations of what has worked, and is working for others.

Write for a free copy of our informative brochure.



*In just nine months we have completed, or have under contract 250 courts in 16 different states.

MYRON RODERICK—
PRESIDENT

KENT TAYLOR—SALES

POST OFFICE BOX 1207
STILLWATER, OKLAHOMA

74074

(405) 624-1252

JIM AUSTIN—Houston, TX
713-652-0700

DAN BAGLEY—LaGrange, IL
312 482-4970

JOHN BENYON—Baltimore, MD
301 342-2600 Bus.
301 879-8526 Res.

RICK BROWN—Cinnaminson, NJ
609 786-0180

KEN PORCO—Louisville, KY
502 583-3871 Bus.
502 491-6455 Res.

JEFF ROGERS—Westboro, MA
617 366-1618

BILL SCHMIDTKE—Wayzata, MN
612 432-2407 Bus.
612 473-3546 Res.

MARLIN SLOUGH—Harrisburg, PA
717 234-2664

LEN STREAM—San Carlos, CA
415 593-1671 Bus.
415 592-0384 Res.

KEN WILSON and HOWIE RANKIN
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
403 425-1540 Bus.

Elvis Presley—Memphis
Columbia Racquetball Club—St. Louis
Racquet Time, Inc.—Lexington
University of Maryland—College Park
University of Tennessee—Chattanooga
Town & Country—St. Louis
Recreation Center—Carrollton, TX
YMCA—Ardmore, OK
Junior Battista—Chicago
Northgate Racquet Club—Stillwater, OK
Dr. George Nichopoulos—Memphis
Royal Racquet Club—Warren, OH
Stockton Racquet Club—Stockton, CA
Regency Racquet Club—Washington, DC
Don Kessinger Court Club—Memphis
Navy Support Activity—Seattle
Beaver Enterprise—Boise, ID
Jerry Guymon—Arlington, TX
Dick Saugert—Belleville, IL
Presley Center Courts—Memphis
Ashland Oil Co.—Dublin, OH
Supreme Court I—Sunnyvale, CA
Supreme Court VI—Van Nuys, CA
Supreme Court VII—Albuquerque
Supreme Court VIII—San Leandro, CA
Illinois Racquet & Health—Chicago
Towson State University—Baltimore
East Branch YMCA—Wichita
Almaden Valley Athletic—San Jose
Oklahoma State University—Stillwater
MonMac—Kansas City, Mo.
San Juan Campus—Farmington, NM
YMCA—Bartlesville, OK
Reston Racquet Club—Fairfax, VA
Supreme Court IX—Reno, NE

WHAT READERS ARE SAYING



• We have sent the story on Pennsylvania's fourth annual state championships, and want to call attention to the steady increase racquetball has shown.

1973— 32 entries
1974— 52 entries
1975— 64 entries
1976—168 entries

In a game marked by over-inflated egos, Pennsylvania takes pride in announcing the first winner of the "Broken Racquet" award is Joe Jackman, New Castle. The award goes each year to the player in Pennsylvania who displays the smallest ego, best sportsmanship, best court manners and is the quietest on the court.

• Chattanooga was my first IRA tournament. It was great. The courts were spectacular and the hospitality fabulous. It won't be my last.

However, I do have a concern about the annual meeting and election of officers. At first I thought I was alone in this feeling but listening to some others found I wasn't.

If those players (and thier families) who had all or part of their fare paid to the championship tournaments had failed to attend the Sunday morning breakfast there would not have been enough people left in the room (we counted about 180) to have provided the nominating committee a slate from which to choose,

let alone have any available to cast a vote, and this count included Chuck what's-his-name, with the dark glasses.

I am fully aware that the IRA is a player owned and controlled association. I wouldn't want it any other way! But, with a membership of about 10,000 it is obvious that control is not in the hands of the membership, but in the hands of some of the membership.

This is better than one man, but it could be better still. If I didn't feel this way, I wouldn't make the effort to write. For what it is worth, would the following suggestion make sense?

Just as it is right that players who compete in the championships must qualify at the regional level, why wouldn't it also be right for voting delegates to be qualified (voted on?) at the regional level?

To carry this one step further: If players have part of their expenses met for appearing and doing their thing, the voting delegates should also have part of their expenses paid for from out of regional membership dues, to enable them to do our thing.

A. B. Guzman,
Atlanta, Georgia

NEW MARKETS FOR OLD
RACQUETS—Joe Jackman thanked the Pennsylvania tournament committee for its thoughtfulness.

(See accompanying letter.)



The annual tournament was held at Penn State, and our members want to express appreciation to the university for its help. Also, we owe a lot to floor manager Done Maturah, to Denny Onkotz and Carolyn Willey. Every tourney has its hard workers, and these were three of ours.

Pennsylvania's
Tournament Committee

RACQUETBALL

the official voice of the International Racquetball Association is published bi-monthly at 100 N. Central Expressway, Richardson, Texas 75080 (mailing address: P. O. Box 31481, Suite 1012, Dallas, Texas 75231). Telephone 214-690-0244.

• • • Magazine subscription is included in IRA membership: \$6 per year; \$10 for two years in U.S., Canada, and Mexico. All other foreign countries add \$1 per year for mailing costs. Memberships are for 12 months regardless of date issued.

• • • Controlled circulation postage paid at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73125 and pending at Richardson, Texas 75080. Postmaster: send forms 3579 to P. O. Box 31481, Suite 1012, Richardson, Texas 75080.

LETTERS

• Separately we have sent the results of our "First Annual—First Ever" Kansas state racquetball doubles championship held in the four new courts at the Hutchison YMCA. Two have glass back walls which were great.

We want to thank the IRA office for the prompt handling of tournament supplies and shirt information. I have **no reservations** when selling IRA memberships to our YMCA members when I know our "lifetime Sport" leadership is as genuinely interested as you have shown it to be.

Larry E. Swank,
YMCA Program Director
Hutchison, Kansas

• Traveling around the country playing numerous tournaments has been fascinating—particularly from the standpoint of entry fees and what players receive in return. For example, if you pay \$20 for a single event, do you receive \$20 worth of benefit in return? What really should the player receive!?

The typical tournament provides the player with a souvenir (usually a shirt costing \$3), racquetballs (sometimes donated by manufacturer), hospitality in the form of food and drink (50c-\$3

apiece, depending on extent and number of days), and trophies/prizes (if he is so fortunate as to win one at perhaps \$8 each).

If a tournament has 150 entries at \$20 each this comes to \$3,000. Using the above assumptions: shirts cost \$450; balls (if purchased at 25 dozen for \$10) \$250; hospitality \$200; trophies \$600; miscellaneous \$100; for a total of \$1,600. This amount is purposely overstated. What of the remaining \$1,400??? Was the hospitality superb? Were the souvenirs unique? Were the trophies stupendous? In most instances, **NO**.

The argument usually given by the host for the exorbitant fee is "The remainder makes up for lost court time." If court time does actually need to be paid—fine, but where a court club is used for the event, the promotional benefits through the newspaper, TV, radio and other media by hosting the tournament far outweigh the lost court fees.

Let's face it, the functions of tournaments are to promote the game, provide a meeting of the players to enjoy themselves, and involve new players in competition.

If players come away from tournaments with a bad taste because they feel

"ripped off," they will probably avoid that tournament the next time (justly!). All I suggest is that a tournament host please provide \$10 or \$20 worth of entertainment for every \$10 or \$20 charged, and everyone will be happy. More players will enter the game. More courts will be busy, and more people will enter more tournaments.

Mark Wayne,
State Chairman
Fremont, California

• Members of the Maine Racquetball Association have asked about the possibility of an inter-state league. I guess this would basically involve a representative group of senior, A, B, women, and juniors from Maine meeting a similar group in league play among other New England states.

We have none of the details worked out, but if representatives in any of the other states are interested, I would like to hear from them as soon as possible.

Bob Folsom, State Chairman
University of Maine, Recreation Dept.
99 Falmouth Street
Portland, Me. 04103

PANEL-MASTER®

THE COURT OF CHAMPIONS

THE FINEST COMPLETE COURT LINING SYSTEM AT ANY PRICE, AND
NOW PRICES HAVE BEEN ROLLED BACK TO PRE-INFLATION LEVELS.

AMERICAN SPORTSURFACING CO., INC.

BOX 434 • VILLANOVA, PA. 19085 • (215) 687-6356

Publisher
International Racquetball Association

Executive
Tom McKie

Managing editor
Max Rodgers

News and advertising required 45 days prior to date of issue. Advertising rates on request from the IRA office, Box 31481, suite 1012, Dallas, Texas 75231. (Phone 214-690-0244)



RACQUETBALL

OFFICIAL BI-MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF
THE INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION



Sportsmanship award . . . page 2



Racquetball trails . . . page 25



IRA International Championships . . . page 32



Touring the courts . . . page 61

CONTENTS

PAGE 13

Report to the membership—Minutes of meetings; elections; new officers

PAGE 17

KEELEY-ISMS—From the court thesaurus. Ah, what definitions lurk in the dim, dark, cobwebbed recesses of the human mind

PAGE 20

Reports from state and regional tournaments

PAGE 31

Connecticut holds its first Juniors open

PAGE 32

8th Annual IRA International Championships

PAGE 52

Seniors Invitational—Eight teams at Santa Ana

NEXT ISSUE

YMCA National tournament results . . . St. Louis Pro-Tour . . . First Smith-Schippers Sportsmanship honoree . . . and more . . .

DEPARTMENTS

- PAGE 2 Letters from the members
- PAGE 6 Rules Committee reports
- PAGE 7 President lists IRA goals
- PAGE 12 The director announces . . .
- PAGE 25 Along the racquetball trails
- PAGE 53 Scoreboard
- PAGE 61 Touring the Courts:
Don Kessinger . . . Presley Court . . . Divorce Court . . . Down East . . . Fountain of Youth
- PAGE 67 Player profile—Interview with Jerry Hilecher
- PAGE 72 Calendar of Racquetball

IRA Board of Directors

President—William B. Tanner, Memphis. Vice-president—Ivan Bruner, Madison, Wisc. Secretary-treasurer, Cal Murphy, San Diego. National Commissioner, V. Z. Lawton, Norman, Okla. Rules Committee Chairman, Bill Dunn, Union City, Calif. Directors: Peggy Steding, Odessa; Pete Crummey, Fort Devens, Mass.; Hal Price, Phoenix; Gene Grapes, Irwin, Penn.; Ivan Velan, Canadian Racquetball Association, Montreal Quebec, Canada. Tom McKie, executive director, Dallas.

EKTELON RACQUETBALL RACQUETS

Send for free copy of new Ektelon Catalog and Buyer's Guide to Ektelon Racquets. Read about our new MAGNUM racquet with quadri-form head shape. It's a lighter, longer racquet with superb balance.

EKTELON

7079 Mission Gorge Rd.
Dept. RM-05
San Diego, CA 92120



Steve Strandemo
Pro Racquetball Champion

GLOVES

At the last meeting of the Board of Directors, two rule clarifications were made. The first concerns the equipment time out. It was decided that a change of glove should be specified as an official time out, not as an equipment time out. It was felt that a person who wears a glove should not have the advantage of being able to take time without penalty to change his glove when it gets wet, while a player without a glove has to take a time out to dry off his hand if it should become wet.

SHIRTS

The other clarification deals with the shirt. It was determined that a player can wear a shirt with anything written on the front and/or the back as long as it is in good taste. Good taste is to be initially determined by the referee. If the player whose shirt is in question does not believe his shirt to be in bad taste, then the tournament director has the final word.

SCORING

There has been much discussion about the need for a change in the scoring system in racquetball. A rule change of this magnitude needs to be tried and discussed before being voted upon. With this in mind, the IRA will use a new rule in the regionals and state tournaments for the coming year. Then, the proposed rule change will be discussed at length during next year's international singles championships and Annual Meeting. After that a ballot will be sent to the membership for a vote.

The proposed rule change is two out of three games to fifteen; win by two up to twenty-one points. If the first person to reach 15 has at least a two point advantage, the game is over. But if the score is 15-14, then play must continue until one of the players has a two point advantage. To insure that a game won't last forever, if neither player can obtain a two point advantage by the time the score reaches 20-20, the player to score the 21st point wins the game.

The advantages of such a scoring system are numerous and easily outweigh the arguments against:

- (1) The average length of a singles match is 40 minutes; doubles, 60 minutes. This means that a tournament will be able to run on time. More players will be able to play in a tournament as there will be more time to schedule matches.
- (2) More time will be available to schedule consolations and additional events.
- (3) The shorter games will reduce the fatigue factor, but it will not eliminate it. (This is specially good for large draws such as novice or "C" divisions where a player might have to play four matches a day. Master and Golden Master players also favor this. They feel fatigue plays too large a part in their matches.)
- (4) The new scoring system will make every point of each game important. There will be no place where a player can relax and afford to lose a few points.
- (5) There will be additional excitement with having to win by two points, yet a maximum of 21 points will keep a game from lasting forever.
- (6) Every game is the same. The pace, strategy, and psychology is the same. There is no tie breaker that will abruptly change the complexion of the match.
- (7) The 15-point games are very helpful to club players who must play by the hour as this will usually allow them to finish a complete match in an hour where it is often difficult to finish two games to 21 during the same amount of time.

I urge you to try this rule in your local tournaments in addition to the regionals and state tournaments. Only by trying out the proposed change can you make any valid comments as to its merit as a new rule. Any change meets with initial resistance. All we can ask is that you analyze the 15-point game carefully. I will be most interested to read your comments.

Also if there are any rule interpretations or clarifications that you feel are important, or any new rule changes that need to be discussed, drop me a line. I will try to answer them in future issues of **Racquetball**.

Bill Dunn, Chairman
IRA Rules Committee
4537 Alice Way
Union City, California 94587

The President identifies some IRA goals . . .



INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION

Dear Members:

As your new President, I would like to express my ideas and goals for the future. Our Association is on the threshold of tremendous expansion in a sport that is increasing in popularity on a daily basis.

The IRA's primary responsibility is to promote the sport of racquetball. We will not sacrifice the amateurs in any way for the professionals, but I do feel that a professional tour has a lot of benefits for the amateur association. The IRA and you, as amateur members, have a lot to gain through expansion. With a larger membership, we can demand greater royalties and endorsements which will provide more revenue for the programs of our Association. As a member, it is your responsibility to be loyal to the association by using the products it endorses. These endorsements are the major source of our revenue. The IRA will not endorse any product unless it meets our strict standards.

I have a definite plan of action for this coming year, which includes:

- a) Improving our ball situation.
- b) Improving our magazine.
- c) Increased revenues and sponsorships.
- d) Increasing our membership.
- e) Providing better assistance to state and local organizations.
- f) Improving our tournaments.
- g) Establishing a Pro-Tour.
- h) Syndicating racquetball for television series.
- i) Exposing the game to all media for better awareness.

For the benefit and betterment of the game of racquetball, I feel the two racquetball associations and the manufacturers should work together. I have been assured of this cooperation by Mr. Bob Kendler, President of USRA/NRC, and by the manufacturers. With these plans in mind, I am sure the IRA will continue to grow and that we will all be proud of our membership in this fine association.

We should go into this new year with enthusiasm throughout the entire organization. Any thoughts or constructive suggestions you can give me to improve your Association will be welcome. Please do not hesitate to write or call at any time.



Sincerely,

Bill Tanner

William B. Tanner
President

An aerial photograph of the University of Tennessee tennis complex. In the foreground, several blue tennis courts are visible, some with players. A dark, elevated walkway or fence runs along the side of the courts. In the middle ground, a large parking lot is filled with numerous cars. Behind the parking lot, there are several large, modern buildings with flat roofs and large windows. The background shows a line of trees and a clear sky.

Your host, Luigi Tucci, welcomes you . . .

NORTH AMERICAN PRO-TOUR RACQUETBALL CLASSIC

Pro-Am tournament players will enjoy the finest St. Louis style hospitality at the fantastic Town and Country Racquet Club, first stop on the 1976-77 IRA sanctioned Pro-tour. Your host, Luigi Tucci, is co-owner and manager of the Town & Country restaurant. Joe Morrissey and Jim Burst, owners of the plush racquet club located on nine acres of choice St. Louis real estate have overlooked nothing in their efforts

to make this tournament the finest on the circuit.

Players, fans, and friends will enjoy 13 racquetball courts, an exhibition court with three glass walls, and permanent seating for 350. Two courts have glass side-wall viewing.

Twin olympic size swimming pools, twelve tennis courts, suanas, steam rooms, several lounge areas, whirlpools, bar, restaurant, snack

lounge, pool-side dining, supervised nursery, TV room and game rooms are among the amenities available.

Pro shop managers Gene and Tom Fluri are looking forward to serving you. Pro-Ben Koltun is on hand to help keep things running smoothly. Players and fans should have a ball. If you don't it won't be for lack of effort on the part of Luigi Tucci and Joe Morrissey.

Diagram illustrating the seating arrangement for the 4-Day Reserved Seats. The seating is organized into concentric rectangular sections, labeled RED, BLUE, and GREEN, surrounding a central area.

4-Day Reserved Seats

Green section	\$40.00
Blue section	35.00
Red section	25.00

Tournament participants will receive a \$5 discount on tickets.

Standing room tickets available on a day to day basis.

TICKET ORDER FORM

Please send the following reserved seat tickets for the Town & Country Pro-Am classic.

_____ Tickets in the GREEN section @ \$40 per seat \$_____

_____ Tickets in the BLUE section @ \$35 per seat \$_____

_____ Tickets in the RED section @ \$25 per seat \$_____

Total \$_____

Make Checks Payable to: Malvern, Inc.





August
19-20-21-22



to the Town and Country Racquet Club!!!

IRA SANCTIONED

Tournament Host:

Luigi Tucci and the Town and Country Racquet Club

Tournament Dates:

August 19, 20, 21, 22, 1976

Eligibility:

IRA membership

Entry Fee:

Professional: Men \$25; Women \$20.
Amateur: \$15

Mail entries to:

Town & Country Racquet Club
Att: Joe Stephens
1777 Des Peres Drive
St. Louis, Mo. 63131
(Phone 314-965-7783) Make checks payable to Town & Country.

Ball:

Pro-division — Seamco 559
Amateur division — Voit Rollout

Rules:

IRA. Differences resolved by chairman.

Accommodations:

Ramada Inn, Page & I-270 (314-878-1400).
Ramada Inn, I-44 just west of I-270 (314-343-4300).

SPECIAL CLUB RULE APPLIES TO ALL TOURNAMENT PLAYERS

1. All players must dress neatly.
 - A. Professionals: white attire or sponsor's colors.
 - B. Amateur: white attire with color trim.
2. Referees—match winners are requested to referee the next match on their court.

PURSE DISTRIBUTION

Men's Professional

First prize	\$2,000.00 x 1	\$2,000.00
Second prize	750.00 x 1	750.00
Third prize	400.00 x 1	400.00
Fourth prize	300.00 x 1	300.00
Quarter-finalists	200.00 x 4	800.00
Round of sixteen	50.00 x 8	400.00
Consolation first	150.00 x 1	150.00
		\$4,800.00

Women's Professional

First prize	\$ 500.00 x 1	\$ 500.00
Second prize	300.00 x 1	300.00
Semi-finalist	150.00 x 2	300.00
Quarter-finalist	50.00 x 4	200.00
		\$1,300.00

Total **\$6,100**



ENTRY FORM

Please enter me in:

___ Men's Pro-division; ___ Women's pro-division;
___ Men's open; ___ Men's Senior; ___ Men's B;
___ Women's open; ___ Women's B

I hereby waive and release any and all rights and claims for damages I may have against Town & Country Racquet Club, Luigi Tucci, and/or the IRA, which may be suffered by me in connection with participation in this tournament.

Name _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Official Entry Blank
October 29-31, 1976
Houston, Texas

International DOUBLES Championships

8th
Annual
IRA

Please enter me
in the event checked:
Age _____ as of October 29, 1976.

- ☐ Pro Doubles (\$25 entry fee)
☐ Open Doubles
☐ Junior Doubles (18 or under)
☐ Senior Doubles (35 or over)
☐ Master Doubles (45 or over)
☐ Golden Masters Doubles (55 or over)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Business Phone _____

Estimated time of arrival _____

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

Date _____

Signature _____

Contestants must show or obtain current IRA membership card.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO IRA
SEND THIS PAGE WITH ENTRY FEE TO:
IRA CHAMPIONSHIPS
Post Office Box 31481 — Suite 1012
Dallas, Texas 75231

ENTRY FEE \$25 Pro Events; \$20 Amateur events, LIMIT: One Event.
ENTRY DEADLINE October 18, 1976
TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR IRA—(214) 690-0244
TOURNAMENT SITE (15 Courts; 2 Exhibition Courts)
Downtown Houston YMCA
1800 Louisiana Street, Houston, Texas

TOURNAMENT HEADQUARTERS
Allen Park Plaza
2121 Allen Parkway
Houston, Texas
713—521-9321

BE READY TO PLAY
8 a.m., Friday, October 29, 1976

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
Tom McKie, IRA office, Dallas 214—690-0244

IRA Card No. & Expiration Date _____

Residence Phone _____

Zip _____

Whose new panel is the best, yet costs less? M-M Court Systems!



Comparison based on suggested retail prices in U.S.A. as of August 2, 1975, for a 4 walled standard 20' x 40' handball/racquetball court including door. (Excludes ceiling, installation, freight and tax.)

**For the best panel, the best price and the best
consulting service, call or write now.**



M-M Court Systems Inc.

2160 Fletcher Pkwy.
San Diego, Cal. 92020
714/449-1779.

M-M

Doubles and pro-invitational tournaments being announced . . .



INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION

Post Office Box 31481 — Suite 1012

Dallas, Texas 75231

TOM McKIE
Executive Director

Dear Members:

The past IRA Singles Championships were even better than anticipated. The new facility at the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga set the tone for the tournament—a beautiful, spacious, friendly place to play and watch. As you will see in the pages that follow, new faces abound with only one defending champion repeating—the incomparable Dr. Bud Muehleisen in the seniors. Our special thanks go to four manufacturers: **EKTELON, MARCRAFT, AMF-VOIT, and CONTINENTAL LEISURE SPORTS** for their joint sponsorship of our pro divisions and to **CHATTEM DRUGS** and **COMBUSTION ENGINEERING** of Chattanooga for their support.

Hardly has the last ball stopped bouncing from the singles and its time to think about the **IRA Doubles Championships**. Again we are heading for a new facility and a new city. Mark the dates October 29-31, 1976 on your calendar. An entry blank is included in this issue. Notice a new event—Pro Doubles as we are initiating a breakthrough in doubles competition.

As you may have noticed on my letterhead, the IRA Offices are now in Dallas, Texas. After being in temporary quarters in Memphis the past eight months the Board of Directors has selected Dallas as our permanent location.

Our first stop on the **1976-77 pro tour** happens this month at the Town and Country Racquet Club in St. Louis. The club has thirteen courts with their showcase court having glass on three walls. It's a great place to start. (Dates: August 19-22, 1976.)

Second stop is the doubles tournament. The rest will be finalized for the next issue.

We are looking for new energetic people in the states where programs have been stagnant. If you have an interest or can recommend a strong person please let me know.

It's going to be an exciting fall.



Sincerely,

Tom McKie

Tom McKie
Executive Director



1976 Annual Meeting

MINUTES OF THE IRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING Chattanooga, Tennessee May 27, 1976

The meeting was called to order by President DeWitt Shy at 8 a.m.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The report was presented by Tom McKie in two parts—1975 and the first quarter of 1976. Hereafter the fiscal year will be from April 1 through March 31. Basically the Association showed a loss of \$33,894.07 of which a loss of \$40,261.89 on pro tournaments was the major reason. Those occurred during the spring of 1975 and except for that period income has equaled expenditures.

BUDGET

The proposed (enclosed) budget was presented and gone over item by item. The Board recognized that it was dependent on what ball royalty is negotiated and therefore difficult to estimate.

OFFICIAL BALL REPORT

Shy reported on the background of the official ball and why a change in manufacturers was made last year. Vittert had offered a product that would not break, they agreed to do the same royalty basis as we had with Seamco and they were willing to work with us to improve their product to our needs.

Throughout the year Vittert has worked hard toward this but it has become evident the one piece process will not lend the quality needed. Vittert has now committed to change and make a two piece compression molded ball. Production is expected in the fall.

While studying the ball situation it was brought to the IRA's attention that amateur softball had had problems legally with the official ball distinction. We investigated and found that the exclusive official ball is probably a violation of restraint of trade laws and could be a problem for us.

We have negotiated with AMF-Voit on the basis that official specifications will be sent and anyone meeting those specs and working with us on an equitable royalty basis could have an official ball. Vittert has agreed to this and we felt Voit would also at a rate of 5%. However, Voit's most recent offer has been for only 2 1/2%—the same rate we currently receive from them for approved status.

Seamco has been talking to us through Bill Tanner. They have indicated an interest in again being the official ball. Their legal department feels comfortable in their position at present regarding official ball status with the NRC and feel there would be no problems in working with us.

Shy asked for a vote from the board as to which concept to pursue should the financial arrangements produce similar returns. The Board voted 8-1 to pursue the open ball concept.

ROYALTY CONTRACTS

McKie reported that a racquet royalty contract has been signed with Continental Leisure Sports, Santa Ana, California. Contracts are also being negotiated with Sunset Sporting Goods, Kansas City, Missouri (representatives will meet with the Board later today), and Master Knitwear, Milwaukee, Wisconsin on a sweater.

PAYMENT TO STATES

McKie explained the problems that arose when payments to the states were initiated. Some states have no state association and some have broken with the IRA. While the IRA has a responsibility toward the states it also has a responsibility to see the money goes to a functioning entity that is working with the IRA. Shy set up a committee of Chambers, Marks, and Grapes to report back to the Board with some guidelines for distribution.

REGIONAL WINNERS PAYMENTS TO THE IRA CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Board voted to continue our present policy and if the funds are available to increase the junior's and women's open winners to full coach fare. The Board also clarified the present policy to cover payment to the winner, runner-up or third place finisher—the highest finisher of the three who make the trip. No minimum number of entries is needed in a regional to qualify a player for a trip.

TRAVEL PAYMENTS TO DEFENDING IRA CHAMPIONS

The Board reiterated that its policy is not to pay any travel expenses to defending champions or place winners but to concentrate all its resources toward the regionals.

CANADIAN REPORT

Canadian representative, John Chambers, reported his term of office expires with this meeting and the Canadian Board has chosen Ivan Velan to replace him.

Canadian racquetball has made great strides this past year coming out with a newsletter (magazine) and obtaining grants from the Canadian government for travel. However, all grants are earmarked specifically for certain travel allowances and can't be used for administrative costs.

The CRA has worked out agreements with both AMF-Voit and Vittert to both be official balls and has found this arrangement to work very satisfactory, for the association.

The CRA has had strong feelers from the NRC-USRA but wants to remain affiliated with the IRA.

NATIONAL SPORTING GOODS SHOW REPORT

The 1976 Show was held in Chicago in February and was attended by McKie and Shy. The IRA did not have a booth but circulated instead and it was Shy's feeling this was the best approach for the IRA. Sixty-six manufacturers displayed racquetball equipment and both McKie and Shy felt it important that the IRA attend this show every year.

STATE CHAIRMEN AND REGIONAL COMMISSIONER'S CONVENTION

McKie reported the minutes of the meetings had been distributed to the Board. It was held in New Orleans in December and was attended by about 25 chairmen. The interaction of information and rapport established were very helpful to the IRA. Next fall's meeting will be in Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

Continued on next page

REPORT TO THE MEMBERSHIP

Continued from preceding page

SITE OF THE NATIONAL OFFICES

The Board voted to move the offices from their temporary headquarters in Memphis to Dallas, Texas. McKie has expressed a desire to have them there where he owns a home and the Board felt the offices could function more effectively there. With the Presidency possibly changing every year it was felt impractical to attempt to keep the offices in the same city as the President. It was felt that as the association grows—at some time in the future—the offices will become permanently associated with one place and then any change in staff would mean the new personnel would come to the office rather than the office coming to them.

MAGAZINE COST AND IMPROVEMENT

The magazine is currently running us about \$1.20 an issue and we are printing 10,000 copies. It was felt the magazine could be more effectively produced if it were printed in the same city as the offices. Also looked at were additional advertising revenue sources and the possibility of hiring an advertising agency.

INTERCOLLEGIATE

The number of players in the colleges were discussed and means to recruit them as members of the association were explored. It was felt some incentive program should be tried in this area.

The past intercollegiate tournament was held in Champaign, Illinois and did not have as large an entry as expected. The 1977 tournament is scheduled for Memphis State University, March 18-20.

PRO CIRCUIT

The pro circuit this past year had only three stops due to a lack of sponsorship money. The Board felt as they did last year that pro racquetball is good for the IRA but it should be on a self-sustaining basis. The consensus was that the ball situation needs to be settled before plans for the pro circuit can be worked up.

RULES REPORT

A written report from Charlie Brumfield was read by all board members and it was agreed the linesman concept which we have used for the past year is good. The following rule changes were recommended by the Board to the membership:

- 1) As an experiment all regionals and state tournaments during the 1976-77 season will use 15-point games (with a win by two—21-point maximum rule). Next year at the membership meeting we will vote on acceptance or rejection of this rule.
- 2) The current T-shirt rule was changed to: include any shirt considered in good taste by the referee (final determinant to be the tournament director).
- 3) The time out rule was clarified to include a wet glove time out must be charged against the three time outs allowed. It is not an equipment time out.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Chairman Bill Dunn presented the committee's slate:

Bob Peterson—Boise, Idaho
Pete Crummey—Fort Devens, Massachusetts
V. Z. Lawton—Norman, Oklahoma

The Board voted to present these to the membership.

OLD BUSINESS AND NEW BUSINESS.

Due to the lateness of the day the Board deferred action on any additional business until its Sunday meeting.

Thomas D. McKie

Executive Director

IRA MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Chattanooga, Tennessee

May 30, 1976

One hundred sixty members attended the annual membership meeting which was called to order by Executive Director Tom McKie at 9:30 a.m.

President DeWitt Shy presented awards to:

John Halverson—Male Athlete of the Year for 1975
Janell Marriott—Woman Athlete of the Year for 1975
Ken Porco—Man of the Year for 1975

The following rule changes were recommended by the Board and presented to the membership:

- 1) To change the current T-shirt rule to include any shirt considered in good taste (by the referee)—final determinant to be the tournament director. (Change approved)
- 2) The Board has decided on an experimental basis to incorporate a 15-point game (win by two—maximum 21 points) in all regionals and state tournaments next year. It is encouraged that it also be used in local tournaments.
- 3) The time out rule has been clarified so that a time out to change a wet glove is to be counted as one of the three allotted time outs.

Tom McKie explained the financial statements of the association and the minutes of the Board of Director's Meetings will be printed in the July/August magazine.

The current progress on the ball situation was reported by President DeWitt Shy. (See the minutes of the Board of Director's Meeting.)

Awards to the three retiring Board members were presented by the Executive Director. Those Board members who served the association for three years were DeWitt Shy, Charles Brumfield, and the late Smith Schippers.

Nominating Committee Chairman, Bill Dunn, presented his committee's slate of nominees for new directors:

Bob Peterson—Boise, Idaho
Pete Crummey—Fort Devens, Massachusetts
V. Z. Lawton—Norman, Oklahoma

Nominations were taken from the floor for:

Cal Murphy—San Diego, California
Richard Walker—Dallas, Texas
Robert Troyer—Lake Forest, Illinois
Johnny Hennen—Chattanooga, Tennessee

On the first ballot Pete Crummey and Cal Murphy were elected and a run-off was needed between V. Z. Lawton and Bob Peterson. On the second ballot V. Z. Lawton was elected as the third director.

The meeting was adjourned at 11 a.m.

RACQUETBALL

REPORT TO THE MEMBERSHIP

INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION BALANCE SHEET DECEMBER 31, 1975 (Unaudited)

ASSETS	
CURRENT ASSETS	
Cash	\$ 3,674.93
FURNITURE, EQUIPMENT AND RELATED RESERVE	
Furniture and Equipment	\$ 4,572.06
Less Reserve for Depreciation ..	766.23 3,805.83
OTHER	
Notes Receivable—SML Industries	1,399.25
	\$ 8,880.01
LIABILITIES AND NET WORTH	
CURRENT LIABILITIES	
Taxes, Payroll	\$ 96.73
NET WORTH	
Net Worth January 1, 1975 ..	\$41,508.81
Decrease for Period	(32,725.53)
	<u>8,783.28</u>
	\$ 8,880.01

INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION INCOME AND EXPENSE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1975 (Unaudited)

REVENUE:	
Membership	\$ 27,186.70
Sales—Emblems and Supplies	8,533.52
Sales Publications	3,799.30
Royalty	97,642.16
Tournament Income	10,190.25
Tournament Income—Pro	12,850.25
Advertising—Magazine	10,021.73
Miscellaneous	1,010.95
	<u>\$171,234.86</u>
EXPENSES:	
Salaries	27,098.46
Fees Personal Service	5,193.54
Depreciation	442.83
Dues and Subscriptions	80.47
Retirement	2,600.00
Insurance	573.92
Legal and Accounting	2,618.40
Rent	2,590.03
Taxes, Payroll	1,771.22
Awards	2,236.25
Duplicating	1,703.96
Magazine Production	31,575.14
Mailing Service	4,677.81
Office Supplies	1,535.82
Postage	7,154.98
Supplies—Membership	4,984.77
Supplies—Resale	20,019.27
Telephone	6,070.22
Tournament Expense	19,956.56
Tournament Expense—Pro	48,626.77
Travel	4,817.19
Miscellaneous	4,626.36
State Chairmen	3,006.42
	<u>\$203,960.39</u>
NET (LOSS)	\$(32,725.53)

INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION BALANCE SHEET MARCH 31, 1976 (Unaudited)

ASSETS	
CURRENT ASSETS:	
Cash	\$ 1,830.32
FURNITURE, EQUIPMENT AND RELATED RESERVE:	
Furniture and Equipment	\$ 4,572.06
Less Reserve for Depreciation ..	880.53 3,691.53
OTHER:	
Notes Receivable—SML Industries	1,399.52
	\$ 6,921.10
LIABILITIES AND NET WORTH	
CURRENT LIABILITIES:	
Taxes, Payroll	\$ 62.00
NET WORTH:	
Net Worth January 1, 1976 ..	\$ 8,783.28
Loss for Period	(1,924.18)
	<u>6,859.10</u>
	\$ 6,921.10

INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION INCOME AND EXPENSE THREE MONTHS ENDED MARCH 31, 1976 (Unaudited)

INCOME:	
Memberships	\$ 14,402.80
Sales—Emblems and Supplies ..	2,345.09
Sales Publications	1,631.57
Royalty	25,622.94
Tournament Income	485.00
Tournament Income—Pro	6,685.00
Advertising—Magazine	4,901.01
Miscellaneous	967.58
	<u>\$ 57,040.99</u>
EXPENSES:	
Salaries	\$ 6,450.00
Fees Personal Service	503.00
Depreciation	114.30
Dues and Subscriptions	10.00
Retirement	400.00
Insurance	156.30
Legal and Accounting	225.00
Rent	850.00
Taxes, Payroll	377.34
Duplicating	122.83
Magazine Production	22,011.14
Mailing Service	882.10
Office Supplies	305.90
Postage	3,937.71
Supplies—Membership	803.38
Supplies—Resale	3,484.21
Telephone	985.72
Tournament Expense	4,269.57
Tournament Expense—Pro ...	11,170.37
Travel	761.74
Miscellaneous	300.61
State Chairmen	843.95
	<u>58,965.17</u>
NET INCOME (LOSS)	\$ (1,924.18)

REPORT TO THE MEMBERSHIP
MINUTES OF THE IRA
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Chattanooga, Tennessee
Sunday, May 30, 1976

The meeting was called to order by President DeWitt Shy at
1:45 p.m.

Three new by-laws were passed to add to the constitution:

- 1) An officer may be removed from office by a 2/3 vote of the Board.
- 2) If an officer of the Board dies, resigns, or is removed a new officer will be elected by the entire Board.
- 3) A director may be removed from the Board by a 2/3 vote of the membership at its annual meeting.

New Officers:

President: William Tanner
Vice-President: Ivan Bruner
Secretary-Treasurer: Cal Murphy
National Commissioner—V. Z. Lawton
National Rules Chairman—Bill Dunn
At-Large Member of the Executive Committee: Gene Grapes
Chairman of Equipment Evaluation Committee: Bill Dunn

Old Business

- 1) Talked about the Hall of Fame Committee. McKie will check on its regulations and find out its membership
- 2) Regional entry fees and what the player should receive. Board decided there should be a checklist of minimum requirements for the regional tournaments.
- 3) Board decided to hold a second yearly board meeting before the IRA Doubles Championship in the fall.
- 4) Board decided to hold four executive committee meetings per year.

- 5) Ball—Motion was made that the IRA adopt an open ball policy, i.e., any company that will meet our minimum requirements and standards will receive the official ball designation provided they will also agree to the uniform financial arrangements the IRA has set forth for that designation. Motion passed unanimously.
- 6) Magazine Committee set:
McKie, Murphy, Velan, Crummey, Grapes
- 7) Recommended that new state chairmen and regional commissioners be appointed in those areas where the incumbents are not doing their job.

New Business

- 1) A new 11th Region—Europe—be established with the travel allowances from point of entry to the Nationals the same as in other regions. Passed unanimously.
- 2) Moved to have Tanner make social contact with Kendler at the NRC tournament and if the opportunity presents itself look at working relationship possibilities. Passed unanimously.
- 3) Definition of a Pro:
Committee:
McKie, Steding, Dunn, Lawton
- 4) Raise of \$100/month for the Executive Director tabled to the Executive Committee meeting (raise to be retroactive to June 1 if approved at that time).
- 5) Refund to the states—to any state that has a viable organization. Refunds will continue on memberships received through August 31, 1976 and discontinued after that date.
Suggestion that \$1 of every tournament entry fee be delegated to the state organization.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Please Note New Mailing Address for the . . .

INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION

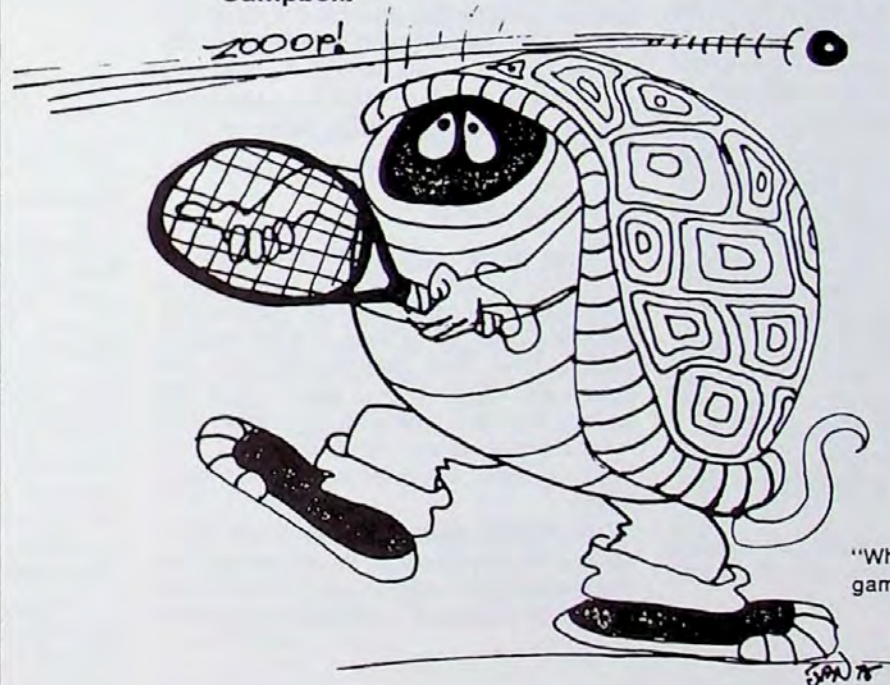


P.O. Box 31481, Suite 1012 • Dallas, Texas 75231 • 214-690-0244

(Offices are located at 100 North Central
Expressway, Richardson, Texas)

With progressively less understanding of Steve Keeley, the English language, and racquetball vernacular, the editors present with appropriate disclaimer of any malicious feelings for Webster, a continuation of "Keeleyisms," as submitted by the author from his forthcoming book "It's a Racquet," and for the sole purpose of edifying his friends, fans, near relations, and various subscribers who have nothing better to do.

Readers know Keeley—the racquetball pro. In this, and his instructional book, "The Complete Book of Racquetball," they have an opportunity to know (and love?) Keeley the author. Illustrations are by Jan Campbell.



From the court thesaurus of KEELEY-ISMS:

"X" Concept—

Normally, racquetball box scores read something like Willie Makit 21—Sammy Strate 20, which translates Makit downs Strate, 21-20, in a single game of racquetball. So, where does the "X" in 21-X come from? Webster defines "X" as, "An unknown quantity. An arbitrary value from the domain of a variable." Therefore, 21-X signifies 21 to who-knows-what.

Do not snicker . . . this "X" concept burst into reality at the 1973 national

tournament in St. Louis. This is a story which should not be penned but rather played on a gypsy violin accompanied by appropriate sobbing. Charlie Brumfield had edged Steve Serot in the upper bracket semifinals and, in the bottom half of the bracket, I had squeaked by Bill Schmidtke. The energetic young whipper-snapper Serot quickly rebounded from his defeat and went off alone into a court to practice his stinging kill shots, while repeating aloud "every day in every way I'm getting better and better." On the other hand, the grizzled veteran Schmidtke

Continued on next page

KEELEY-ISMS

Continued from preceding page

followed up his defeat by going off by himself and downing a copious amount of an agreeable liquid, while letting fly many self-directed comments such as "jeezus cheezits, Bill! you stunk! Just give it up!"

It was Serot vs. Schmidtke in the play-off for third place bright and early the next morning. Serot was jazzed. Adrenalin coursed rampant through his bloodstream as he screamed words of self-encouragement and jumped around the court as though chased by a herd of drug-crazed alligators. Schmidtke was not so jazzed. Pure ethanol from last night's boozing dripped sluggishly in his blood vessels as he lolled here and meandered there in the court. The two-time national champ could only muster a sickly grin-and-bear-it expression while Steve commenced a juggernaut march toward twenty-one.

Sixteen to zero. Seventeen to zero. Soon the chagrin reached the point of intolerance. No more of this for the former champ. Schmidtke opened the court door and staggered out. "I quit," he exhaled with brewery breath. "You can't quit!" answered Serot, serving up the ball. The ball fell untouched. Bill stood at the court exit and reiterated, "I quit!" and he just continued to stand there, eyes semi-glazed and smirking at an agitated Serot. I reckon Schmidtke resembled Davey Crockett grinning down a tolerable ornery bear.

Serot served out the game, all service, unanswered, and to this day the score stands 21-X.

Amoeba Man—

This hapless court chap has been referred to in previous thesauruses as the three-toed sloth and the turtle. As they are apt to say about these players back in my home state of Michigan, "he's slower than molasses in an air-conditioned court."

If during a match, your opponent suddenly pats you condescendingly on the back and simps, "nice try, amoeba man," you should sock him right in the face with one of your pseudopods. This is the most cutting of all court insults. An amoeba is a microscopic protozoan possessing a basically formless structure. It moves about by extending a viscous mass called a pseudopod and then by pull-

ing the rest of its body after the pseudopod. Thus, it locomotes like a squashed inch-worm.

Box Theory—

A teaching practice and/or game-aid whereby the player utilizes an actual or imagined box at which he directs his killshots or serves. This fantasized or actual box provides a general rather than an exact target area. By way of analogy, pretend you are standing in rear court armed with a bow-and-arrow and are trying to hit a quarter taped to the front wall. Your arrows scatter asunder as you try to scope in on a ridiculously minute bullseye. Now, pretend you are standing in rear court and are trying to hit a quarter taped in the middle of a paper plate, all stuck to the front wall. Not only will your arrows funnel into the paper plate area, many will hit the quarter. The box theory works similarly.

On corner killshots, put the ball through a one foot square box (use an actual box in practice; imagine one in play) sitting in the front corner. On garbage serves, bounce the ball into the top of a three foot square box sitting in the rear corner. On low drive serves, put the ball through that three foot square box. Aim for generalized targets and hit more specific bullseyes.

Center Court—

Some define this as that floor area of the court starting from the front service line and extending posteriorly (toward the back wall) to about four feet behind the second short line. Specifically, it is the floor area described by a circle which has its center in the middle of the service box—midway between the side walls and half way from the front service and short lines.

The player who maintains center court control usually emerges the victor, just as the chess player who controls the center squares of the board commands that game.

Controller—

A conservative player whose game strategy revolves around moving his opponent around the court with many passes and defensive shots. The success of the controller hinges upon his ability to hold down center court position (as opposed to a pure shooter). For example, Charlie Brumfield and Steve Strandemo are controllers.

Crotch—

Anatomical area of the racquetball court from which spurt myriad freak and tweak balls. It is the juncture of two play-

ing surfaces, usually applied to the front wall-floor and the backwall-floor junctures. For example, a crotch killshot or crotch serve.

Technically, a crotch kill is a skip ball and a crotch serve is a side out. Realistically, there is no such thing as a crotch ball, just as there is no such thing as a perfect rollout with zilch bounce. A crotch ball—while indistinguishable to the human eye—must hit the wall or floor initially, but it would take a microscope to decide which, so play such questionable shots over.



"Amoeba man"

Cut Throat—

Racquetball game with three players. Each person during his serve plays and scores against the other two. Synonym: Triples. Recommendation: negative. Eschew the madness which combines the worst aspects of singles with the worst aspects of doubles. Every cut-throat game I ever played seemed to be against two northwest gorilla types who had helicopter wind-ups and roundhouse follow throughs. My major objective was not to outscore my simian rivals but rather to slink to the safety of the nearest side wall.

Do not confuse cut-throat with one-or-two. The latter contest involves three players, but one person versus the other two as a team for the entire game. As an additional handicap, the single player may have only one serve to the team's two.

Five Foot Rule—

The receiver(s) on service must stand at least five feet behind the short line. (This is indicated in many courts by a three inch vertical line on the side walls.) Also, the receiver(s) cannot return the ball until it passes the short line. In making a fly return, no part of the receiver's body or racquet may enter the service zone (the short line or anterior). A violation of any of these rules results in a point for the server.

Handy-Wipe—

For lack of a better term the small (approximately 6" x 12") towel a player partially stuffs into his shorts for when the gun-hand or racquet handle becomes sweaty. The handy-wipe is a good alternative to the glove and wristband in remedying the slippery palm syndrome. Synonym: mini-towel (for lack of a better synonym).

Half-Volley—

To stroke the ball on its short hop off the floor. This is the test shot for potential spasticity which I give to all my new court students. Some of the pros cannot pass the half-volley spasticity exam, much less the hackers.

Half-and-Half—

The most common means of dividing court responsibilities between two players of a doubles team. Here, an imaginary line is drawn down the middle of the court (from front to back walls) with one player covering most balls on the right side, his partner covering most shots to the left. Synonym: side-by-side.

Hierarchy—

In racquetball, the division of players according to skill. This classification in tournaments is usually alphabetical. The novice or "C" rank player who wins a "C" tournament must participate as a "B" player in all future competition. The average or "B" player becomes an "A" upon winning a "B" tournament.

Hierarchy by court slang is more descriptive, perhaps more familiar. The lower ranking "rubber pushers" and "weekend hackers" gain nomenclature status with experience and become upper echelon "big wigs" and "pros".

You can always distinguish between a rubber pusher and a pro. Upon hitting a lucky freak ball, the former freezes in dropped-jaw astonishment and apologizes profusely. Upon hitting the same shot, the latter raises a singular eyebrow and struts sanctimoniously toward the service box as though he were entering a scummy public restroom only out of perfunctory biological necessity.

Hospitality Room—

The free grub room for all tournament participants is indigenous to our four-walled sport. This subtle effort by wives and girl friends of the tournament committee to appease the first round losers must be commended. The main course often is racquetball hash, a "stomach-pump food" which goes best with voluminous amounts of water, or gatorade, or both. Whether or not the eats are palatable, in the typical hospitality room 10% of the

people eat 90% of the food. Synonyms: The losers trough, the grunt-a-rama, the puke and choke cubicle.

Gamesmanship—

Use of unusual strategic tactics to secure points or psychological advantage. For example, the verbal psych-out ("Boy, your backhand stinks today, doesn't it?") crowding, intentional long serves, stalling tactics (wiping up a dry floor), bickering. The all-time Guru of gamesmanship is also known in the court world as Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Brumfield.

Gravity Ball—

At attempted killshot whose air speed approaches that of a falling leaf. The ball travels so slowly the force of gravity causes it to rapidly lose altitude enroute to the front wall . . . skip ball. As Elmer Einstein, our local YMCA champ expounds, "the horizontal force vector provided by the racquet is less than, and eventually is overcome by, the vertical force vector provided by gravity. Therefore, the sphere hits the hardwood before the plaster." Some say the gravity ball travels so slowly the brand name may easily be discerned.

Gym Strip—

A term I hear frequently in Canada in reference to gym clothes.

"I" Formation—

One means of dividing court responsibilities between two players of a doubles team. Here, an imaginary line is drawn to equally split the front and back courts. One player covers shots to the front and his partner balls to the back. Synonym: Front-and-back.

Inner Game—

Every racquetball game has its inner and outer facets. The inner game concerns the mental aspects: confidence, concentration, choking. Synonym: Cerebral racquetball.

Interval Training

Rigorous method of physical training where periods of stress are interrupted by rest intervals for partial recovery. For example, sprint fifty yards, jog twenty, sprint fifty . . . Repeat thirty times. If it sounds terribly toilsome, it is. If it sounds terribly beneficial, it is. You end up feeling as though you just crawled out of a centrifuge. Recommended for fifteen years old and under physical studs or members of the Justice League of America.

Jill Strap

Female counter-garment to the male supporter.

Northwest Gorilla Ball—

Uncontrolled flail. The objective is power not accuracy. I picked up this term at a Portland, Oregon, clinic/exhibition where there seems to be a preponderance of northwest gorillas. You know the type: He has the physiology of Popeye and the mentality of Sweet Pea. That massive muscled caterpillar brain who plods into the service box thinking "Duh . . . I am going to drop da little ball and hit a low drive serve, just like I seen at da clinic." And as the boob drops the ball, windmills his backswing and steps into the service, his slow-flowing mental stream changes course. "Duh . . . I think I'll hit a high soft lob instead of a low hard drive." And the racquet wielding ape wallops a high hard drive that zooms at warp ten over the back wall. Be thankful the incidence of northwest gorillas within our racquetball population is low.

Odor Hinder—

Self-explanatory. A tactic not to be sniffed at.

Offensive Theory of Play—

Certain schools of strategic thought which advocate unleashing offensive rather than defensive shots whenever feasible. The offensive theory proponent as first thought on any set-up is to administer the most offensive shot, the kill. If he is out of position or leary of his opponent's court coverage ability, his second thought is the second most offensive shot, the pass. Only if he is psyched-out, dogged-out, or slipping on a wet spot does the third most offensive thought enter his mind—a defensive shot (ceiling ball, z-ball, around the wall ball.)

Whether they realize it or not, such players as Steve Serot, Marty Hogan, Jerry Hilecher and northwest gorillas flail in accordance to the offensive theory of play.



"Northwest gorilla-types" are found throughout the country.

Three straight for Guinter

44 Doubles teams in Penn tourney

Over 160 racquetball enthusiasts participated in the Fourth Annual Pennsylvania State Racquetball Championships held at the beautiful 12-court facility on the Penn State campus. The championships hosted by the Nittany Lion Racquetball Club saw six divisions—open A, open B, seniors, open doubles, women's singles, and women's doubles.

Craig Guinter, Williamsport, continued for the third straight year his total domination of the open A singles. On his way to the championship Craig was never threatened, winning the final over Joe Jackman, New Castle, 21-10, 21-12. Fatigue seemed to take its toll as Jackman faded in the finals. Jackman entered both seniors singles as well as the open division where the grueling schedule took its toll of players. Jim Jones beat newcomer Joe Ross for third place, 21-14, 21-7. John Corkhill beat Tom Bush, 31-22, in consolations.

The seniors saw fourth seeded Guy Natale, New Castle, beat Carmen Feleccetti, Clarion, 21-18, 9-21, 21-1, to win the title. Forfeitures due to stamina took out the top seeds as Gene Grapes, Pittsburgh, forfeited in the semis to Natale in favor of doubles and Jackman forfeited to Feleccetti in favor of trying for the open title. John Landy defeated Done Wetcher for the consolation title.

Over 78 entries squared off in the B division with a much improved Eno Stover beating the up and coming Rich Zewe, 21-16, 21-18, in the finals. Third place was taken by Done Maturak over Scott Owens, 21-8, 21-1. The consolation title was won by John Kline over Ted White.

Forty-four doubles teams entered as the top seeded and defending state champions Dick Snyder (Harrisburg) and Luke St. Onge (Penn State) were upset in their bid for two straight by the third seeded team of Joe McAndrews and John Musewicz (Scranton), 21-4, 21-13. The new champions upset second seeded Gene Grapes and Al Shattner (Pittsburgh) took third place over Craig Guinter and Tom Schrimp (Williamsport). Consolation doubles were won by the Pittsburgh team of Dahar-Cerarolo over the Penn State team of McAtee and Fite.

One of the major highlights of the tournament was the women's division where 28 entries vied for the title with

the finals narrowing down to Northeast Regional champion and two time, and defending state champion Eileen Turiak (Pittsburgh) facing second seeded and last year's state runner-up Samantha Weaver (Scranton). Weaver, concentrating on singles only and much improved over last year, upset Turiak in two games, 21-17, 21-17. The level of play was excellent with a vastly improved field in the division. The shot selection, agility, conditioning, and overall execution was great. Third place was won by Abbie Baxter over Maxine Millar, 21-15, 8-21, 21-13. Consolations was won by "spark plug" Lee Esheimer over Nancy Katz, 31-9.

Women doubles saw two-time defending champions Turiak-Farrel (Pittsburgh) over the surprise team from York, Betsy Small and Lucy Zarfes. Lucy Zarfes suffered a cracked cheekbone when she collided with Turiak in the finals. Unfortunately, she was unable to continue play and the title went to the Pittsburgh duo. Third place was won by Pettinato-Musewicz over Millar-Stover. Consolations was won by Katz-Brumbaugh over Baxter-Bogles.

At the state business meeting Luke St. Onge was elected to serve a second term as state chairman. Over 60 gifts were donated and given away and our special thanks go to Voit, Ektelon, Leach, Trenway, and The Racquet Shop of State College for their tremendous support of our program.



TOP PICTURE—From left, John Musewicz, Joe McAndrews, Dick Snyder and Luke St. Onge.

LOWER PICTURE—From left Jeanne Farrell, Eileen Turiak, Betsy Small and Lucy Zarfes.

A Dunn brothers invasion

Trey Sayes drops Idaho crown 15-6, 5

Departing from the 21-point scoring system to the 15 (with 2-point spread) provided some strange looking scores as Steve Dunn upset the odds-makers and took the Idaho state open singles championship in a win over his brother Bill, 15-15, 15-7, 15-13.

Trey Sayes, number one seed, and favored to hold the title for the second successive year, fell to Steve in the semifinals, 15-6, 15-5, to do his part in making the finals a family affair. J. B. Scott, in the lower bracket dropped two straight to Bill Dunn, 15-5, 15-6.

Bill Dunn owned the Idaho title in

1974. Trey Sayes took it in 1975. Now Steve Dunn has it. The only fair thing will be for Morgan Sayes to further the string of un-predictables and take it in 1977.

Third place in the open singles went to J. B. Scott, one of the rug-pullers in the tournament of upsets, when he defeated Trey Sayes, 15-3, 15-9.

The April 30, May 1-2 tournament was held in the Boise, Idaho, YMCA, and marked the fourth anniversary of the state's open racquetball singles and doubles championships. Twenty-two players entered the open singles, coming from throughout the northwestern part of the country.

In the open doubles, J. B. Scott teamed with Dave Carley to upset the Dunn brothers, 15-10, 16-14, on the third day of the tournament. Earlier both teams had begun the contest with byes in the first round, then two-game wins, followed by three-game wins.

Scott-Carley took their quarterfinal match easily, giving up but 12 points in

State reports

continue

on next page

the two game affair, but ran into trouble against the Sayes brothers in the semis, going the route: 15-4, 8-15, 15-4.

Dunn-Dunn at the same time relinquished but ten points in their quarter-final match with Erickson-Frame, but were pressed to three in the semifinals with Lund-Flop: 7-15, 15-12, 15-10.

Matheson-Tunncliffe won the Idaho seniors doubles competition, defeating Cooper-Somerton two straight, 15-10, 16-14. Erickson-May took third, and in the consolation event Crupper-Angell downed Seeley-Turner, 21-15, 11-21, 21-20.

Memphis dominates southern regionals

Zeitman & Green — take men's and women's titles

The Southern regional tournament was held April 3-4-5, 1976, at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee, with over 200 participants.

Open singles was won by Mike Zeitman of Memphis defeating John Hennen of Chattanooga in two games. John faltered in the first game, but came back in the second game to give a close match. David Fleetwood and Randy Stafford were to play for third place in Memphis at a later date.

In the upper bracket Steve Smith of Memphis gave Zeitman a run for his money with a closely debated call in the match. Zeitman won, 17-21, 21-9, 21-20. Randy Stafford of Memphis went three games, but Zeitman managed to win the third game, 21-11.

In the other bracket, Hennen had little trouble until he met Tom McKie of Memphis and went three games, 21-18, 17-21, 21-11.

The women's singles was represented with 20 players. Sarah Green of Memphis beat Martha Byrd of Gainesville, Florida, 21-15, 21-16. Lyn McKie was ahead of Byrd in the second game when she defaulted because of a questionable call. Third place went to Cile O'Connell of Ormond Beach, Florida, beating Nancy Hornack of Hollywood, Florida, 21-9, 21-16.

The men's seniors with 22 entries, was won by Don Clark, Montgomery, Ala., beating Norm Chambers, Raleigh, N.C., 21-16, 21-15. Third place went to Jerry Winsberg, New Orleans, Louisiana, who defeated Harold Krafchick, Atlanta, Georgia. Don Miller, Knoxville, went three games with Krafchick, 21-20, 21-17, 21-17.

Master singles was won by D. W. Detjen, Ashland, Ky., who defeated Herb Frank, Clearwater, Florida, 20-21, 21-10, 21-9. Detjen played a strong offensive game throughout the tournament. Third place went to John Hogan, Raleigh, N.C., beating Ray DePue, Knoxville, 20-21, 21-3, 21-5.

Junior singles was represented by a strong group of young players. Mike Fatolitis, Clearwater, Florida, beat Pete Tashie, Memphis, in three exciting games, 21-4, 17-21, 21-15. Tashie looked poor in the first game, but rallied to play strong in the second and third games.

The golden masters was won by none other than Ike Gumer, Louisville, Kentucky, who played Mel Lebowe, Chattanooga.

A large open doubles contingent was won by Randy Stafford and Tom McKie, who beat Steve Smith and Dean Nichopoulos, Memphis, 21-15, 21-13.

John Hennon and Davy Bledsoe, Memphis, went three games with both Jim Lane and Frank Johnson, Hollywood, Florida, and Larry Liles and John Dunlap, Memphis. Davy was playing with a bad wrist, which forced him to forfeit in the open singles. Third place went to Liles and Dunlap. Steve Terry and Mike Fatolitis, Clearwater, Florida, had a good match with Smith and Nichopoulos losing, 21-20, 16-21, 21-9.

The women's doubles was won by Sarah Green and Lyn McKie, Memphis. Third place went to Pat Seipp and Quinn Lovingood, Knoxville, beating O'Connell and Diane Palazolo, Memphis, 21-19, 21-9.

The senior doubles found Tom McKie and Luther Green defeating Donald Donoghue and Mike Mojer, Orlando, Florida, 21-13, 17-21, 21-9, to take first place. Norm Chambers and Sonny Harmon, Knightdale, N.C., won third place by a forfeit over Jerry Bryant and Frank Burkholder, Nashville.

Master doubles was won by Ike Gumer and Bill Simon, Louisville, Kentucky, beating Thomas Stidham and Herbert Frank, Clearwater, Florida, 21-14, 21-14. Third place went to Andy Kozar, Knoxville, and William Tanner, Memphis, 21-14, 21-15, defeating John Hogan and Walter Obman, Raleigh, N.C.—Ray V. DePue.

Audience of Millions ? ? ?



"Sixteen million racquetball fans packed the galleries of Tulsa's Thornton Family YMCA on Fulton Street May 21-22-23 to witness a series of the greatest racquetball exhibitions ever staged by man or beast." Oklahoma Racquetball Association president V. Z. Lawton was asked whether the preceding quote would adequately describe the state championship tournament. Lawton replied, "In spite of several inaccuracies, that will do nicely."

In the men's open clash, Jerry Linton was forced to give the state title back to Myron Roderick. Linton, defending champion from last year, went down in two straight, 21-9, 21-18.

From the score it appears there might have been a struggle in the second game, and to some extent this is true, but such as it was, it was apparently going on in Roderick's head, not the court.

In the first game Roderick took fifteen straight points before Linton broke the scoring blockade. At 15-0 Linton began his only sustained point harvest, and managed to basket eight tallies to Roderick's three. With the card reading Roderick 18, Linton eight, the first game began to close. About two minutes later with the score 20-9, Roderick served for game point a high floating lob that Linton drove into the floor.

The second game began exactly like the first with the notable exception that Linton was leading, and Roderick was blowing everything that came his way. The former OSU wrestling coach called a time out trailing by four points and leaned against the wall. Roderick has commented that if one game isn't working it is time to change your game. Coming back from his first time out, he changed tactics, and in a few more minutes Linton was leading by eight points. He may have changed his game, but at this point it was all to Linton's advantage.

Linton wasn't contenting himself with Roderick errors. He was shooting well and retrieving some fantastic shots, one of which was a behind the back return the Harlem Globetrotters would have been proud to use. But he was playing against a reputation, and this had to affect him to some extent, mentally. He was also playing against the best conditioned player in the state, and this—if nothing else—began to show. Although, ahead on the scoreboard, Linton was fighting an uphill battle.

The second game began at 12:13. At 12:33 Linton led 18-10. Six minutes later the score was Linton 18-Roderick 17. The crowd sensed the end of match game. Roderick brought the game to 18-

MASTERS FINALISTS Ray Crowley and Ed Grula, left to right in the top picture with first and second place stein-trophies. (No champagne crew at the Oklahoma tournament.) From left to right in the lower photo are senior division finalists, Jim McPherson, Carl Provence, V. Z. Lawton, and Bill Sturdevant.



all, then went ahead on a kill shot into the right corner. He picked up another tally bringing it to game point and with Linton in the far front of the court Roderick provided him with what should have been a setup, but Linton overreacted and drove match point into the floor. Roderick took back the state crown, 21-18.

In the playoff for third Roland Treat, who had been side-tracked by Linton in the quarters faced and fell to Ken Smith in two games, 21-10, 21-15.

Jim McPherson, Mustang, Oklahoma, took the senior division with two games over insurance counselor Carl Provence, 21-17, 21-15. The first game was in doubt until the final serve, being tied repeatedly, and with McPherson seldom leading by more than two points. At 17-all McPherson broke the tie and ran the next four points, with game point coming on Provence's skip shot at the end of a rally that saw both players making returns from all parts of the court.

V. Z. Lawton met Bill Sturdevant, Tulsa, to settle third and fourth positions in the senior division. This was Lawton's first tournament competition following a six to eight week layoff from any sport more strenuous than squeezing juice from cranberries (but not partaking of the bright red fluid). His physician had detected heart ventriculation and proscribed any sports competition. During the six weeks it is reported Lawton filled seventeen quart jars with fresh squeezed cranberry juice.

After the enforced rest, Lawton said he had a complete go-ahead, and his health is as good if not better than it was before the condition arose. Sturdevant may have been one of the first to agree. Lawton took third place in two hard-fought games: 21-20, 21-18.

Masters titlist Ray Crowley is not the most graceful player in the sport. Where people have described Steve Keeley as looking like ballet set to racquetball, Ray Crowley would have to be described as a tree growing firmly in center court. Not a big tree, but a stubborn one.

In the deciding match of the masters division Crowley met Ed Grula. It was a study in contrasts. Crowley's hair is gray with a few dark streaks. Grula's is almost black. Crowley looks undernourished, and

in need of somebody to help him bend over and pick up the racquetball. Grula outweighs him by fifty pounds, and looks like he could bend over and pick up Crowley. The study in contrasts continued through a three game match.

Ray Crowley took the first one easily, 21-12. Grula came back in the second after trailing, 19-12, to even the count at one each, 21-19.

Match game began with Crowley serving, and speculation was that after Grula's come-from-behind finish of game number two, Ray had run out of energy, and Grula's better condition would decide the third set-to.

This rumor was promptly squelched as Grula ran out of energy and Crowley used up all 21 of his points. Match game: Crowley 21, Grula 10.

As the sport of racquetball grows, publicity-seekers continue to look for promotional angles. An almost natural one existed in the Oklahoma contest.

Myron Roderick is the former wrestling coach at Oklahoma State University. Tommy Evans is his counterpart at rival

University of Oklahoma, Norman. Both coaches played in the state tournament, but Tommy Evans was in the masters, and Roderick in the open. The tournament received good television coverage from Tulsa stations, but none of the cameramen was able to schedule his time to coincide with the free times of the two coaches. It would have made a good show.

ONCE IN A LIFETIME

Mrs. Jim (Sandy) McPherson took the women's title defeating Nell Farris in two games that confirmed her status as the best woman player in the state. Sandy over Nell Farris: 21-3, 21-9.

In posing for photographer Ray Crowley (he does all sorts of things equally well) Jim asked for an extra copy of the picture, saying, "This is a first for us . . . and it may never happen again, so I need a picture to prove it!" Jim McPherson had won the senior division title, his wife the women's open, making it a rare husband and wife tournament effort.

Additional results are listed in the IRA Scoreboard.

In Connecticut open . . .

New York ace upsets Luciw

Second seeded Leo Marsocci, Rochester, New York, upset top-seeded Mike Luciw, New Britain, Conn., 16-21, 21-12, 21-8, in the early spring Class A Connecticut state open co-sponsored by the IRA and the New Britain YMCA.

Under the direction of Phil Panarella, Daniel Cocores and Charles Baldesari, the event pulled in 78 racquetballers for this third annual state of Connecticut open.

Marsocci, a southpaw, using deadly forehand, easily defeated Phil Bruzas, John Luciw and third-seed Dave Yurgaitis enroute to the final. Luciw also had a fairly easy time in defeating Tony Rodalkis, Steve Meltsner and Jim Winner-ton before meeting Marsocci. Luciw will defend his singles and doubles title in the New York State Open Racquetball Tournament to be held in Niagara Falls.

In the "B" Singles final Mike Weiner of Hamden, Conn., defeated Dick

Haughey of Boston, 21-20, 21-6. Weiner advanced through the three-day event by defeating Larry DeMaime, Mike Suzan, Bob Imbrogno and Bob Corrigan. Meanwhile, Haughey had advanced through the Upper bracket by beating Chris Nickerson, Tom Roy and upsetting the number one seed in the "B" division, Dave Matulis in the quarterfinals and also beating Harry Cohn of Bridgeport.

The "B" singles received added color by the entry of Jackie Adler of Waterbury, Conn., the first woman to ever play in the New Britain YMCA racquetball courts. A big crowd was on hand to watch her first round match against Mike Suzan.

In the Seniors Division (35 years and older) it was Pete Crummey of Fort Devens, Mass., defeating Tom Waltz of New Canaan, Conn. The doubles final was won by number one seeds Mike Luciw and Leo Marsocci over Tom Waltz and Ed Castillo.—Phil Panarella.



CHUCK HUMPHREY presents trophies to singles champion Kent Taylor, on the left, and Marci Greer, right.

At Kansas' third annual

Taylor topples Stepp & Campbell

Ninety-five Kansans vied for State honors at the Third Annual Kansas State Racquetball Championships, April 23-25, at the beautiful new Court Club East in Wichita.

Kent Taylor, Wichita, avenged two straight tournament losses to Phil Stepp, Lawrence, by the convincing semifinal scores of 21-18, 21-9, and then took the open singles title over defending Champion Wayne Campbell, Wichita, 21-15, 21-12, in a hard fought finals match. Dean Gorman, Lawrence, was third.

Marci Greer, Wichita, has established herself as one of the top women amateurs in the Midwest this year by taking second in both the YMCA Nationals in Houston and the women's open at the San Antonio Pro-Am. She again proved her potential by defeating Mary Bender, Emporia, 21-2, 21-2, in the finals of the women's open. Barbara Leavitt of Topeka was third over Sharon Brundage, Garden City.

Topeka's Vic Dyck won the seniors title by defeating Bill Branta, Hutchinson, 11-21, 21-17, 21-16. Dr. Marvin Wilson of Topeka took third place over Wichita's Dave Bowersock.

B Singles saw Ed French, Salina, outlast Topeka's Bill Parodi in a two hour

marathon, 21-18, 18-21, 21-11. Tom Gilligan of Topeka won third in a hotly contested match with J. D. Fredrick of Wichita.

Chris Stepp of Lawrence displayed a good all-around game in defeating Vicki Krebs, Salina, 21-8, 21-16, to take women's novice. Linda Parodi of Topeka took third over Bobbie Rieger of Topeka.

Court Club East, Vittert Sports, and I.R.A. and the Olympia Brewing Company cooperated in helping make the Kansas finals a very special success. On hand when they were needed were Doug Stone, Chuck Humphrey, Charlie Stees, Kent Noller and Marci Greer. Without help from companies and individuals such as these, the tournament might never have been, let alone be the best one ever.

In two years New Mexico shows . . .

600-percent racquetball growth

The New Mexico state racquetball tournament was held Easter weekend at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque. The tournament was sponsored by the University of New Mexico Racquets Club under the auspices of Gary Mazaroff and Clay Childs.

One hundred twenty participants competed in the six events. Compared to the twenty participants in the state tourney two years ago, it appears that New Mexicans have joined the nationwide racquetball boom. With the addition of some new facilities in the offing, the outlook on racquetball is very favorable.

The open singles for men saw Gary Mazaroff defeat Dr. Earl Badger in two games, 21-12 and 21-17, for the championship. Badger gained some revenge by taking the open doubles along with partner Dennis Chavez. They defeated Mazaroff and Clay Childs in the semis, 21-20 and 21-11. They clinched the championship by defeating local Francisco Silva and Jack Wrenn, 21-14 and 21-5.

Wrenn traveled all the way from Little Rock, Arkansas, for the tournament, and showed favorably by coming in third in the open singles as well as placing second in the doubles.

The B singles, which had the most participants—42—saw Kim Robinson, a Utah resident, defeat a fellow serviceman, Duncan Johnson, 21-9 and 21-17, for the championship. Another Utah resident, Bob McNabb, took the senior division crown by easily defeating Roswell's Louis Lucero, 21-6 and 21-8.

The C or Novice division matched Ed Rodriguez against Albuquerque handball notable Ken Gattas. Rodriguez had no problem, as the scores reveal: 21-5, 21-3.

The women's open singles division saw Lynn Chirigos defeat Renee Lowden, 21-7 and 21-12, for the title. This match was by far the toughest test for Ms. Chirigos, who has been coasting through local competition for the past few years.—Gary Mazaroff.

ALONG THE RACQUETBALL TRAIL

100 help celebrate Los Angeles Center Courts' first anniversary; Radford wins club title

By Mike McClelland

The Center Courts, West Los Angeles, celebrated its first full year of racquetball with a member's-only-tournament. For many it was their first tournament and the field of 100 was not gathered without some coaxing of the more hesitant. As one might expect, some of the more hesitant turned out to be some of the more enthusiastic as they learned what all tournament players have known for a long time—tournaments are fun.

Bruce Radford emerged as the men's club champion in a double elimination open bracket. Pete Maccarrone finished second, losing to Redford two matches to one.

The women's champion was not so well defined as a few of the club's more experienced women elected to play in the men's classes. Judee Hames lost to semifinalist Richard Mesnick in the C class,

21-11, 21-10; Debbie Radford lost in the semifinals of the men's novice to the eventual winner, Ron Behar, 21-12, 20-21, 21-14; and Kelly Radford lost in the men's novice to Jim Olsen, 21-18, 21-17.

The men's B class was won by Mitchell Schwartz, 21-19, 14-21, 21-18, over Rob Boriskin. Mitchell defeated Jerry Feldman in the semifinals, 21-14, 21-11, and Rob defeated Dave Warman, 21-11, 12-21, 21-12.

The men's C singles was won by Mike Gallagher defeating Richard Mesnick in the semifinals, and Stu Schwartz in the finals. The men's novice was won by Ron Behar over Paul Krantzman.

The women's novice featured 12 newcomers to the game in some close matches. Pam Eyer defeated Pam Adelman in the finals. In the semifinals Pam Eyer defeated Carol Leavitt, and Pam Adelman defeated Cathie Warman.

Racquetball tourney launched in D.C.

George Washington University in Washington, D.C., held its first racquetball tournament this past spring following the opening of its brand new gym, the Smith Center, attracting 100 students, faculty members, and staff. The A and B ladders operated along the challenge system so the best players would ultimately rise to the top; then the top eight played in a single elimination tournament to determine the champion.

The first four seeds, Tom Cutler, Vincent Stanford, Roy Herman and Professor John Dirkse, all made it to the semis. Cutler was the favorite inasmuch as he had not lost a single game during the ladder portion of the tournament. He beat Dirkse easily in the semis and Herman forfeited to Stanford setting the stage for the finals. The match was anticlimactic as Cutler prevailed over Stanford, 21-3, 21-3.



BRUCE RADFORD dives for return against Pete Maccarrone during Center Courts club rivalry.

Norfolk liked it well enough, but how about George Washington?

George Washington's birthday was celebrated in Norfolk, Va., with the first annual Jewish Community Center, George Washington Racquetball Classic. The tournament took place on the holiday weekend of 14, 15 and 16 February 1976, and attracted over 50 racquetball enthusiasts from Virginia, Maryland, North Carolina, Delaware and Washington, DC.

In the open singles division, Norfolk JCC athletic director, Ed Taylor took top honors, winning a close three game match from Buzz Parker of Ft. Monroe, Va., 21-14, 19-21, 21-14, in the finals. Taylor, who was not seeded, participated despite a serious abdominal injury, and was forced to three games in all his tournament matches. Semifinal action in the open singles resulted in Ed Taylor defeating Glenn Allen, Virginia Beach, Va., 13-21, 21-7, 21-11, and Buzz Parker topping George Long from Dahlgren, Va., 16-21, 21-16, 21-8.

Third place was captured by George Long who defeated Glenn Allen, 9-21, 21-6 and 21-10. Two of the top four seeds in the open division were upset early in the tournament, as George Long defeated second seeded Willie Wang of Delaware, 15-21, 21-8, and 21-19, in what was probably the most exciting match of the tournament. Additionally, unseeded Buzz Parker defeated number three seed Clay McCaskey from Richmond, Va., 21-17, 21-7.

The senior's division was won by Charles Sullivan from Maryland who defeated Bill Buckman, Richmond, Va., 20-21, 21-15 and 21-12, in a two hour marathon match. Third place was captured by Alan Baynard from Quantico, Va., who defeated Bruno Giordano, Washington, D.C., 21-3, 21-6.

Norfolk residents captured top honors in the master's division, as Chuck Lake defeated Bernard Jaffe in a close match. Third place was won by Red Martin of

Fort Eustis, Va., who defeated Bruno Giordano, 21-17, 21-14. Red Martin, in the master's division, was upset by runnerup Bernard Jaffe in a long three hour match during semifinal action.

1975 and 1976 Virginia State champion, Carol Frenk of Newport News, Va., easily won the women's division with a 21-11, 21-7 final match victory over Patti Gurson of Pittsburgh. The women's competition featured a double elimination format with third place going to Sue Cumming of Virginia Beach, Va. Cumming is the 1976 women's Virginia state runner-up while Gurson is a former regional champion.

The Jewish Community Center of Norfolk hosted the tournament, and provided an outstanding hospitality room. A banquet was held on Sunday night for participants and guests. The George Washington Classic is planned as an annual tournament for the top east coast racquetballers—Glenn R. Allen.

Hodges-Horton over-do Holiday in Dixie

By Jimmie Hamiter

Many of the Yankee players haven't heard of Shreveport, Louisiana, so I figured I'd mention the third annual *Holiday in Dixie Open*, held April 23-25.

In open singles, Eric Campbell was the victor over our own executive director, Tom McKie, 17-21, 21-6, 21-13, which proves that leadership does not always take precedence. Kevin Meyer of Houston won third place over Ron Meek of Austin, 21-12, 21-10. Open consolation was filled with two typical losers with Andy Hodges of Shreveport, defeating Carlos Nieves of Dallas.

In B singles, Shreveport dominated with Chuck Croft defeating Arnold Davis of Dallas, 20-21, 21-18, 21-9. Larry Bobbit of Lafayette beat Guy Faget of Baton Rouge for third, and another typical loser, Driskill Horton of Shreveport, won Consolation over Ron Terry of Baton Rouge.

Ron Statton of Barksdale Air Force Base, Bossier City, downed Harry Stelly of Lafayette for the C singles title. John Pierce, "the racquet peddler of Shreveport," downed Harold Spring for third. Both are from Barksdale. Brit Coleman downed Mike Rittgers for consolation.



DIXIE FINALISTS—Front from the left are Ron Stratton, Harry Stelly, Chuck Croft and Arnold Davis. Standing, from the left: John Pierce, Kevin Myers, Eric Campbell, Tom McKie, Ron Meek and Larry Bobbitt.

In women's singles, Suzanne Storey of Friendship dominated, and defeated Beverly Haney of Austin for the title, with the scores showing 21-14, 7-21, 21-14. Marianette Miller of Fort Worth beat Carol Greenberg of Dallas, 14-21, 21-18, 21-6, for third, and Virginia Davis beat Candy Stone for Consolation.

In open doubles, Eric Campbell and Tom McKie, Dallas and Memphis, beat Richard Walker and Kevin Meyer, Dallas and Houston, in a well deserved match.

In B doubles, Andy Hodges, playing with a backhand like Serot, and the disposition of Hogan, and with his partner,

Driskill Horton, playing with the ability and court temperament of an Aardvark, took the title over Steve Montoya and Ralph Sturgeons, Shreveport and Dallas, 21-1, 21-4, in a really close match.

There was no limit to the number of events one could enter, so Andy Hodges and Driskill Horton of Shreveport, being their usual brave selves, entered THREE EVENTS. That's right racquetball fans. And both won two each. Driskill told me before the tournament, "With three events, I can't miss. Just think, next time four events, tomorrow, the world." Driskill was easily subdued, and spent the night in the city mental hospital.

ALONG THE RACQUETBALL TRAIL



Hard core addicts climb Canaveral walls

It was a hot and rainy weekend in the City of Cape Canaveral, but that didn't slow down the 32 hard-core racquetball players who turned out for Cape Canaveral's first annual men's open four-wall racquetball tournament May 15, 16, 1976.

Percy Philman, Rockledge, took the top honors by defeating the Pride of Puerto Rico, A.F.M. Sgt. Mike Mojer, 21-6, 21-11.

Philman is the present Florida State 4-wall outdoor champion, while Mojer

was runner-up in the 1975 Senior Singles. Both men hold numerous titles throughout the state.

Cuba's representative, Luis A. Garriga, defeated Earl Potter of Jacksonville for the third place title and trophy, 21-6, 21-14.

In the consolation bracket Cape Canaveral's own John Brugger beat Stan Wing of Cocoa Beach in two hard fought games, 21-19, 21-16.—*Jack Piccolo, Recreation Director*

PERCY PHILMAN, on the court, kept his fans out in the sun as briefly as he could, downing Mike Mojer in two straight.



75,000 Chattanoogans check with First Tennessee.

FIRST
TENNESSEE
BANK
MEMBER FDIC



ALONG THE RACQUETBALL TRAIL

Wright-Campbell doubles team have it their way in Metro mixer

Stern's Health Club served as host for the third annual Fort Worth-Dallas metro racquetball championships held the last weekend in February. On hand for the three day affair were 161 eager participants competing in eight different categories. The lively action in women's novice found Ruth Srulovitch defeating Jamie Bunch, 21-14, 21-11, in the finals. Paula Snyder took third from Gail Marshall. Morgan Bressett posted a close win over Faith Ragow in the women's open, 21-16, 21-18. Top-seeded Virginia Davis had to settle for third over Linda Senter. In the women's doubles, Ragow and Davis continued their winning ways by claiming top spot from Carole Greenberg and Cindy Stone with Bressett and Marshall claiming third.

Men's competition found several newcomers taking the spotlight along with many familiar names. Skip Merrell captured the C Division over Al Hirsch with Dave Key capturing third from Sam Young. Merrill is a rapidly developing player with speed and stamina who will pose problems in the upper level soon.

Duane Cooper, 35, proved to be the top man in the B Bracket and should be a factor on the national seniors scene. The stocky Cooper turned back Carlos Nieves, 21-18, 21-19, in the finals. Improving Arnold Davis outlasted Jerry Brazil for third. Tom Roth and Bill Manor won B Doubles from Ralph Sturgeon and Ernie Thurmond. As expected the open singles and doubles drew much of the fan attention. In the semis, up and coming Eric

Campbell had too much speed and over all conditioning for Chuck Johnson, 21-15, 21-15, while in the other half of the bracket Pete Wright was destroying Luther Bernstein, 21-4, 21-9. The hard fought finals found the experienced Wright going to overhead kills to defeat the much faster Campbell, 21-18, 21-14. Johnson handled Bernstein for third, 21-16, 21-10. Wright and Campbell dominated the open doubles and easily defeated a tired Johnson and Dan Groves in the finals. Steve Terry and Richard Walker took third.

Faith Ragow and husband, Steve, did yeoman's work as tournament directors with help from Bob Davidson, Bob Stone, and Jerry Brazil.

PRO-FOOTBALL takes over class "C" at Court Sports I's classic. Club manager Marc Auerbach, left, presents trophies to Houston Oilers, left to right, Emmett Edwards, Curley Culp, and Karl Mauck.



Jim Austin grabs Houston classic

The First Annual Court Sports Racquetball Classic was held May 14, 15, 16 and 201 players competed for the trophies in nine classifications. This was the first major tournament held at the club and possibly the best run of any organized tournament held in the southwest region this year.

Court Sports modeled the tournament after the old National Invitational Doubles Tournament in Louisville and the Canadian "Klondike" open held in Edmonton. The emphasis was on hospitality and atmosphere. The Court Sports Classic was geared to the beginner and intermediate player. This does not mean that the caliber of the open, senior or B field was short on talent.

In the open division, Jim Austin lived up to his number one seed and won the title over the rapidly improving Jeff

Kwartler, 21-15, 21-9. The open field was evenly matched and the quarterfinals saw Austin defeat Mark Malowitz, Mike Carr defeat Kevin Meyer, Marc Auerbach defeat Jerry Winsberg, and Kwartler eased by Luther Bernstein. In the semifinals Austin was pushed to three games by Carr. Austin held on for the win, 21-20, 12-21, 21-8. In the lower bracket Kwartler also was forced to go three games with Auerbach in a very close match. The scores were 12-21, 21-19, 21-18. Auerbach took third place over Carr.

In the Senior Division, Luther Bernstein, fresh from his Mexican journey defeated Jerry Winsberg of New Orleans in a come from behind thriller. Luther was down, 18-20, in the third game and pulled it out, 21-20. (Luther added to the hospitality by showing up with pink eye.) Dr. Bob Hill took third place.

Barry Smith took the B division over Larry Nitishin in an exciting final match. Johnny Savage took third place over Ken Kachtik. The caliber of the B's was extremely high and produced some good matches. In the C's, the finals looked like an inter-squad game with the Houston Oilers. Karl Mauck defeated Curley Culp in two straight. With 540 pounds of players crashing into the walls, the building was severely pushed to its structural limitations. Fleet footed Emmett Edwards, also of the Oilers took the third place trophy.

Don Young of San Antonio won the large Novice field with his victory over David Weiser. Alan Thomas took third over newcomer Jack Leewright.

The women's open saw Sandy Barker, number two seed defeat top seed Janice Segall for the title. This was the first opportunity for most Court Sports members to see the better women players in the region compete. Suzanne Storey defeated Marilyn Morton for third place. Doris Yorloff of San Antonio won the Novice rather easily with her victory over Gloria Prater. Pam Tune won the third place consolation match over Jewel Anderson.

In the B Doubles the team of Jay Solinger and David Mosier defeated the brother act of Armondo and Art Cortez in the all Courts Sports final. Larry Nitishin and Mark Norenberg took third place over Albert Hirsch and Alan Miller of San Antonio. There was a four team open doubles round robin concluded on Monday and Kwartler and Malowitz defeated Auerbach and Meyer based on total number of points. The team of Minor and Horvitz was third and the father-son duo of Karp and Karp was fourth.

Metal Racquetball Racquets



1 Aztec Z-100

The hottest selling member of the Trenway Power Team. Gleaming silver frame and white vinyl bumper offset by black leather grip and stringing. For purists that demand excellence in both looks and performance.

2 Black Hawk Z-88

The newest addition to the Trenway Power Team. An imposing black metal frame, white grommets and stringing, and a rubber-cork composite grip. Unequalled in quality, materials, and price.

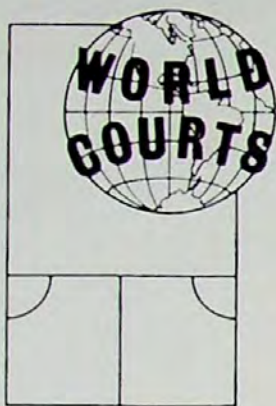
3 El Dorado Z-200

A classic in styling and playability. Gold anodized high tempered aluminum, protective white vinyl bumper, and premium leather grip and stringing make this racquet unbeatable.



This is Trenway's line of quality metal racquets. Trenway metal racquets combine superb performance, exceptional ball control, durability, lower repair and replacement costs, and a moderate price tag. Experience for yourself the finest lightweight metal racquet available. Play Trenway.

TRENWAY PRODUCTS INC.
2785 KURTZ STREET
SAN DIEGO, CA 92110
(714) 299-2300



Are You Building New Squash, Handball,
Racquetball and Paddleball Courts?
Revamping or Repairing Your Old Ones?

WORLD COURTS, INC.

Offers These Unique Features

LOWER INSTALLATION COSTS

Compare Our Prices Against the \$35,000-\$45,000
Concrete and Plaster Courts

LOWER MAINTENANCE COSTS

No Cracking or Chipping and No Painting Ever. A
Mild Soap and Water Cleaning is All That is Ever
Needed. No Wall Sweating.



Call or Write For Further Details To:

WORLD COURTS, INC.

554 Main Street, Dept. R

S. Weymouth, Mass. 02190

Phone: 617-337-0082



COHEN AND HORTON—
Finalists in Connecticut's
first junior open tournament
are from the left: Charles
Horton and Carl Orkin, both
in 14 and under division;
Mark Kahan and Bob
Cohen, in 18 and under
division.

Youth Open . . . *first ever for Connecticut*

The First Annual IRA Connecticut Junior Open Tournament was held March 6-7 at the new Western Connecticut Jewish Community Center in Waterbury. A surprisingly large field of 288 players comprised the 18 and under, and 14 and under divisions. Both divisions were co-ed as there were not enough women to fill their divisions. Players traveled from Patterson, New Jersey; Port Chester, New York; Worcester, Massachusetts; as well as the surrounding Waterbury area.

Bob Cohen, a 15-year-old of the Western Connecticut JCC, upset top seeded Mark Kahan also of the Jewish Community Center in the 18-and-under final. In the 14-and-under division Charles Horton, of Port Chester a 12-year-old was devastating as he defeated Carl Orkin of the Jewish Community Center.

In the 18-and-under finals Bob Cohen, came back from a sprained ankle in the second game and regained his uncanny accuracy of kill shots to win the three game final, 21-17, 7-21, and 11-10. Many observers felt Kahan, an experienced tournament player, played himself out in a thrilling and exhausting match with Heather Marshall of the Hartford Jewish Community Center. Heather is

the current Connecticut women's singles and doubles champion, and was also a pre-tourney favorite. Kahan readily psyched for the match, opened with an 8-1 lead and the large gallery seemed to spur him on, as he finished with a 21-8 first game victory. Heather, an 18-year-old who has been playing competitively for the past two years, settled down and took control of the second game and won, 21-18. Mark regained his touch and through a consistent array of ceiling shots captured the final, 11-6.

In the 14-and-under, Charles Horton, entering in his first tournament, surprised everyone with his power, form and assortment of shots as he raced through the division with no one scoring more than six points. Charles, taking lessons from Pat Columbo a former national doubles champ, proved to be the player with the most potential in the tournament. Carl Orkin of the Jewish Community Center persevered throughout the rounds and made the finals by depending on his quickness and defensive game. Another player with considerable experience for his age of 12 years, was Peter Hawkesworth from Worcester, who looked dapper in his Ektelon court attire. Peter lost to Carl Orkin in the semifinals.

In the consolation rounds Brian Dehm of New Britain defeated Jack Scelza also of New Britain, 31-26. In the 14-and-under Phil Panarella of New Britain defeated Paul Sochin of the Western Connecticut JCC, 31-12, to cop that crown.

Mike Luciw, New England's number one player, served as head official and gave a short clinic after the matches. The director of the tournament was David Valinsky, Health and Physical Education Director of the Western Connecticut Jewish Community Center. The State IRA, headed by Phil Panarella, donated the trophies for the tournament. The National IRA also supplied brackets, rule books and magazines.

The surprisingly large turnout is an indication of the continued growth of racquetball in the total Connecticut region. Many of these youngsters are participating in other area B and open tournaments.

TOURNAMENT REPORT

8th Annual IRA International

PAGES 32-51

MEN'S PRO
 First Round: Strandemo def. Champagne, 21-1, 21-17; Strom def. Hennen, 21-16 18-21, 21-12; Zeitman def. Dawson, 21-16 18-21, 21-12; Stefford, 21-6, 21-19; Schmidtke def. Wang, 21-5, 21-4; Bowes def. McKie, 21-14, 19-21, 21-16; Hilecher def. Stephens, 21-10, 21-10; Dunn def. Campbell, 21-5, 21-17.
 Quarterfinals: Steve Strandemo def. Ron Strom, 21-16, 21-15; Craig McCoy def. Mike Zeitman, 14-21, 21-13, 21-17; Jerry Hilecher def. Bill Dunn, 21-9, 21-13.
 Semifinals: Strandemo def. McCoy, 21-7, 21-12; Hilecher def. Schmidtke, 21-6, 21-8.
 Finals: Hilecher def. Strandemo, 21-11, 21-11.

**Jerry
Hilecher**

IRA's World Champion

By Jerome M. Winsberg

Jerry Hilecher is the 1976 Champion of the International Racquetball Association. Playing to a packed gallery at the new University of Tennessee Chattanooga Harris Racquet Center, Hilecher routed Steve Strandemo in two games for the title. Hilecher's near-perfect serve-and-shoot game, combined with what appears a new on-court maturity, made him unstoppable from the opening round to the finals. The 10,000-plus members of the International Racquetball Association can be proud of this young man who worked his way through the ranks to become possessor of this coveted crown.

Since the pro-scheduling required each athlete to play only one match per day, both players were fit as a fiddle for the finals. Earlier, Strandemo, top-seeded, had no problem in disposing of Bo Champagne, Ron Strom and Craig McCoy, all in two games. On the other side of the bracket, Hilecher, seeded third, sent home Gary Stephens, Bill Dunn, and number two seed, Bill Schmidtke, also all in two. Both finalists had been evenly, although not strenuously, tested and each was fired-up and ready to play.

Throughout the long warmup period, one could sense the mounting excitement of the crowd. Some 200



Steve Strandemo offers congratulations to new pro-division champion.



people were crowded around the three glass walls of the Center's exhibition court. Even the young ladies from the hospitality room had deserted their tables for the first time in days, and one could make out three cameras in action behind the small window in the front wall. For the only time during the tournament all other courts were empty.

While Strandemo was the odds-on favorite, it was obvious that Hilecher was at his best. Strandemo knew he couldn't take the youngster for granted as the two had been practicing and working out together in San Diego for the past three weeks. It was ironic that they should meet. In fact, some of the "smarts" at courtside were predicting a Hilecher victory off of his decisive win over Schmidtke. They proved to be correct; the outcome was never in question.

Strandemo won the coin toss and began the match with a hard drive serve to Hilecher's backhand. After a change of serves, Referee Mike Zeitman gave Strandemo his only lead of the afternoon by assessing an avoidable hinder when Hilecher jumped into Strandemo's path. The call was disputed, but was upheld. Everyone hoped this would not set the tone for the entire match and fortunately, it didn't. Only one other

avoidable was called, and it was against Strandemo. Amazingly, there were only eleven hinder calls of any variety.

As play progressed, Hilecher rushed to a 9-1 lead. His drive serve was coming in low and hard and Strandemo could do little with it. In less than five minutes, Hilecher served notice that he was as hot as a Bicentennial firecracker, and the only question at this point was, could he keep it up. It really was hard to believe that a top pro could be so completely dominated.

Finally, Strandemo was able to put Hilecher out and do a little damage of his own. With the pressure on, Strandemo became a bit more aggressive and ran four points on three great kills and an easy error. Briefly, it appeared that there could be a turnaround, but Strandemo psyched himself out with an attempt to stall by asking for a glove change. Referee Zietman quickly put a stop to these shenanigans and ordered Strandemo to serve within ten seconds or have a technical called on him.

Why a pro of Strandemo's caliber has to play these senseless games is beyond comprehension. This was an example of a player cutting off his own momentum. In

Continued on next page



Continued from preceding page

fact, when play resumed, Hilecher ticked off eight straight points. Serve changed eight times, but Hilecher was the only one doing the scoring. Again, hard drive serves to the backhand, together with pinpoint accurate kills had Strandemo scrambling, but not scoring.

The score was 17-7 and the number-one seed seemed confused. A time-out was what he needed and he called one. His usual run-and-shoot game was being blunted by Hilecher's relentless attack. If he was to stay in the game, it was obvious Strandemo had to make some radical tactical changes.

A change did come, however briefly, as Strandemo went to the ceiling and ran four unanswered points. Two Hilecher errors, a kill and a dynamite pass brought it to 11-17. But, this was the end of the comeback as Steve skipped what looked like an easy winner to give up the serve.

At 17-11, the second unavoidable was called. Two more rocket-like serves that Strandemo couldn't handle brought it to 20-11. Even a time-out didn't help this time as Hilecher cut short the next rally with a backhand roll-out for game: 21-11.

The first game had taken 33 minutes and provided the fans with a smorgasbord of racquetball styles: Hilecher's stretched out service stance as compared to Strandemo's more balanced form; brief flurries of ceiling ball play which neither player seemed to enjoy; dives and gets that went for scores; and shooting from every angle and court position. No one in the audience was complaining.

When asked after the match what had happened, Strandemo succinctly summed up his problems, "Jerry was rolling out everything I gave him. My shots were coming up too high in the first game and Jerry just didn't make any errors." One wonders about the effect of the facility on a pro's game, and when asked about

this, Strandemo didn't reply. Just a word about this is probably in order here since so many pros and cons were voiced by players and fans about the place.

While the viewing was considered great, the total isolation of the players from the gallery, soundwise, was disconcerting. The three glass walls had the effect of cutting off any rapport between the contestants and the fans. Once inside the court, a player could hear nothing but the loudspeaker, and often not even that. Much thought should be given before construction of these Eichmann-like shields are built in the future. Courts such as these make audience participation nil. In fact, it's a little embarrassing to scream for your favorite to "get going" when you realize that the only way he could understand you is if he is a lip reader.

While no two racquetball games are exactly alike, the pattern set in game one was destined to be followed in game two. Again, Jerry Hilecher broke out quickly to a big lead. He looked great and was getting to everything. He ran eleven straight points on six kills, two clean passes and three Strandemo errors. At this juncture, he looked like Jimmy Connors at Wimbledon when he was getting his ass kicked by Arthur Ashe. Connors screamed, "I'm trying! I really am!" If anyone could have heard Steve Strandemo, he was probably saying the same thing.

At 0-11, Strandemo finally scored. However, he put himself out by skipping a setup. Hilecher went back to work and ran three more making it 14-1 before Strandemo could get back in. Here, Strandemo got three; one on the best rally and shot of the day, a forehand kill while coming off an impossible dive-get. Hilecher kept his head though, put Strandemo out, and proceeded to get two more, bringing it to 16-4.

It was here that Strandemo made his last run. A brief mental lapse by Hilecher got him back to 6-16. Three long rallies culminating in kills by Strandemo



The six camera frames to the left, and above, were shot as Jerry Hilecher served and won match point. Principals: Anne and Dan Hilecher, and fiancée Debby Natoli.

Shannon Wright IRA's World Champion Women's pro Division

brought it to 9-16. But, that was it: Strandemo comeback hopes were jolted by two fantastic kills. Then at 19-9, Hilecher got the one he wanted on a poor ceiling ball return that he easily killed. Serve changed hands four times after Hilecher reached match point, and as in any sporting event, anything could have happened. Strandemo had the ammunition to pull it out, and at another time, on another day, he may well have done so. But, not this time. Some suspense was mounted as Strandemo was able to get a couple more. But, at game and match point he hit long off the rear wall and Hilecher was there to dump it for the match. Same score as the first, 21-11.

Hilecher dominated every aspect of play. He was rarely out of position and took very few bad shots. He kept his cool and never got overconfident. There are not enough adjectives to describe his prowess this day. He was ever in command. This was no fluke; he was undoubtedly The Champ.

Strandemo should not be accused of turning in a poor performance. There have been matches where he played better. Obviously, there have been matches in which he looked better. But, at Chattanooga he didn't have the opportunity to display his exceptionally fine talents.

After the match, one of the most touching scenes ever witnessed in the topsy-turvy game of racquetball occurred. Hilecher's parents, Don and Anne, had watched their son win it all. They had squirmed and grimaced and played every point with him. And as Jerry Hilecher emerged from the court, the first person he called for was his mother. He and his parents hugged and kissed, and unabashedly cried. He had made them proud and wasn't afraid to show to the world that they deserved the title as much as he. It was truly a fine ending for a fine tournament.

Texas entered the Union with the reservation that, if at some future date it becomes desirable to do so, it could divide itself into two states. Racquetballers might feel that time has come. The capitols would appropriately be named Steding and Wright. The first governors of the two new states would be called Super Tex North and Super Tex South.

As it is, there can be but one "Super Tex," and she's from Odessa. The new champion will have to await word from the "Gar" before a synonym for her championship status is coined.

Shannon Wright wasn't waiting for anyone, for either title or synonym, at Chattanooga. She came for the win that eluded her last year. She had worked, trained, and planned for this particular match. She won it. And she deserved to win. It was no fluke. Two long games brought out the best each player had to offer. The first lasted a surprisingly long 33 minutes, time enough normally for two games. Wright took it, 21-13.

The second game was almost as long, and ended 21-11, Wright over Steding. For those not present, and still doubting, the scores are repeated: Wright 21-13, 21-11. With this the IRA crowned a new world's champion.

On the way to the finals Wright and Steding played five games in two matches each.

Steding was seeded number one and started the tournament with comparative ease: 21-4, 21-5. Sunday she had a full workout to stop an improved Kathy Williams: 21-2, 17-21, 21-12.

Wright, seeded number two, stopped Sue Carrow in her quarterfinal bid, 21-5, 21-9, on Saturday. The next day she went three games with Janell Marriott in what came close to being her undoing: 21-9, 16-21, 21-19.

Although Wright was improved, the coming upset was not predicted in the quarters and semis. It may be she was looking forward to the match with Peggy Steding a little too much.

Continued on next page



TOM McKIE, center, above, presents pro-tournament earnings to Shannon Wright, left, and Peggy Steding. In the center picture, Steding and Wright at Chattanooga. At far right are men's open singles finalists, left to right: David Fleetwood, Mike Luciw, Joe Wirkus, and Pete Wright.



Continued from preceding page

On Monday, the final day of the 8th annual IRA world championship tournament Steding and Wright met in the glass walled exhibition court. Steding had complained about the walls earlier, and lighting over the spectator areas along either sidewall had been dimmed to improve the player's in-court vision.

In the first game Shannon Wright won the toss and began play with an ace serve to Steding's backhand. Repeating the drive serve to left court Wright jumped to a quick three point advantage on the basis of the first ace, and two kill shots.

Wright's favorite serve was the low drive to left court, and only twice in the game did she serve anything to Steding's forehand. Toward the end of the first game with the score 17-13 she abandoned the drive and began serving a high lob to left court, keeping Steding as close to the rear glass-walled corner as possible.

After Wright jumped to the three point lead, Steding gained serve on the strength of a pass shot, and broke the scoring ice by catching her fellow Texan too far out of position to return the rally.

Steding reached the service area trailing 5-1. She forced Shannon into three poor returns, and a rollout to tie the game five-all. She drove another kill shot on

her next serve, and took the lead for the only time that game—6-5.

Wright won the next point to even the score at 6-6. She took three more and called her first timeout of the game. According to Nancy Hornack's game notes the two women had played 15 minutes without a break. Pete Wright called it closer to ten, but either way, it appeared a Wright strategy.

In other games Steding's superior conditioning had left Shannon Wright limp by this time, so observers anticipated Wright's use of, even if not a need for, all of her time-outs.

The rest was as much to Steding's advantage. Serve bobbed back and forth, and Steding again made it a new ball game, with a tie at 9-9. This time she was unable to use her advantage, and Wright soon led, 11-9.

For the fourth and final time Peggy Steding tied it up. This one at 11-all. Wright almost immediately regained serve, picked up point number twelve and wasn't headed again.

"Super Tex's" cape got impaled on point number 13, and wouldn't budge. Peggy had six more opportunities to score. She forced Shannon out of serve that many times, with three otherwise point-earning shots, and three poor plays by Wright.

During that same time-span, about eight minutes,



Wright was serving 13 times to add the needed seven points for game. She collected number 15 on a great dive play and pass shot that caught Steding on the wrong foot. Numbers 18 and 19 came after a pair of long rallies and ceiling balls exchanges. Game point was earned when Steding hit a three-wall shot that failed to make the front wall. Game two was coming up, and Steding's fans were saying, "just watch."

In the same vein that records are made to be broken, so, too are champions to be upset. Whether Shannon Wright will hold the top spot in women's racquetball as long, or as well as Steding will be seen, but on this day she became the champion. She wanted it badly. Now that she is there will she make the sacrifices to hold it?

The second game-performance matched the tempo and surprise of the first. It wasn't a re-run. Nor, as Steding's backers had expected, was it a reversal. It was a continuation.

Shannon had switched to a high lob serve that landed deep in left court during the last four points of the first game. In the second game, she picked up where she had left off. And where, in the first she had served low drive after low drive, she now went entirely to the lob. Out of approximately 36 serves all but four were floated to Steding in deep left court.

Peggy's game contrasts with Shannon's in more ways than one can spell Wrong without getting it Wright. While she prefers a drive serve, she rarely uses any one style more than two or three times in succession. In the second game she used every serve in the book—with the notable exception of the lob—and mixed them randomly throughout play.

In neither game did Steding call a time out. Wright on the other hand was playing what appeared a planned game. Her selection of service styles seemed almost mechanically programmed, and her time outs seemed to appear when least expected, coming in relation to the score rather than the momentum of the action.

Wright called time at 9-6 (15-point total), 14-11 (25-point total), and 16-13 (29-point total) in the first game. In the second her calls came 10-5 (15-point total), 15-6 (21-point total) and 17-10 (27-point total).

Without regard to statistical post-mortems, whether it was a "planned game," makes little difference when the game is in motion. Then both women are moving too fast, and serve is changing too often for the spectator to see or feel anything but the blurring speed with which both are competing.

Steding sets a rapid pace, and it was to this that

Continued on next page

Wright geared herself. She spent a year training for this one. She had run, weight lifted, practiced, played, and possibly prayed. Had she done less she would never have made it.

In the deciding game of the title match, Steding served and won the initial point. Wright gained serve and evened it with an overhand kill shot to the right front corner. She picked up another tally with another overhand kill, this one to the front left corner. She then ran three more quick points with a string of kills.

This was not a new game. It definitely was the first game, continued. Steding put a halt to the flood, when Wright failed to maintain the rally, took serve and for a brief gesture—perhaps three minutes—showed the crowd the raveled threads of her Super Gal cape. She made three successive kills, passed Wright for a tally, and caught the champion-to-be almost flat-footed on yet another. This tied the game at five-all.

In the next rally Wright passed Steding to regain serve. Arched with deadly monotony to Steding's backhand. Steding returned. Wright cut short the rally, passing Steding who questioned the accuracy of the call. It stood.

Peggy was having trouble with the glass walls of the court. The walls were the same for both players, but in the same freakish way that some racquetball players are born with pads on their feet while others must earn them, some players have more trouble adjusting to the glass than others. It had been known for two days that Peggy's timing was faulty when taking balls off the adjoining glass panels.

The challenged point put Shannon ahead by one. From breaking the five-all tie to 10-5 Shannon relinquished the serve but once to Peggy, who gave it right back when she couldn't match Shannon's efforts on the ensuing rally. Shannon passed and killed for three of her five points and racked up two more on Peggy's errors.

At 10-5, Wright took her first breather. The two gals had been slugging it out for a straight ten minutes. The crowd was beginning to sense a difference in Wright's ability to keep up with Steding. She wasn't showing the same signs of fatigue that had marked their earlier matches.

Too, her shooting was maintaining its accuracy. Wright isn't built like a powerhouse, and her strength comes as a surprise. She was described a year ago as one of the hardest shooting players in the women's division.

This was no surprise to Steding, but the stamina probably was.

Play resumed and Steding picked up another point. In the following five minutes (four on Pete Wright's clock) Wright earned five more to bring it to 15-6, and time for another rest. In the five-minute scramble Shannon lighted up the scoreboard with two kill shots, an ace serve, a deceptively timed pass shot, and a Steding gift (skip).

Wright continued to pull in front. Both players were disputing the referee's calls. Steding questioned another pass play, but the linesmen upheld him. Wright argued with a Steding kill shot (for point number eight). Steding was called on a hinder at point nine, and Wright was in a mild donnybrook with the referee over whether Steding was following too closely.

It wasn't counted as a time out, but the dispute took three minutes according to most fans. Steding was serving, and ran up three points with four serves, earning them in the rallies on two pass shots and a Wright return into the floor. The score was now 16-10.

Those three were Steding's final, sustained, service effort. She gained only two more points to bring her scorecard to 11. Four of Wright's next five points came on pin-point accuracy. Wright killed for number 17; made a dive return then rolled out for number 18; rifled a cross court bullet for number 19; benefitted from a Steding error for 20; and rolled out for game, match and title point.

On Sunday, Texan Steding lost to Texan Wright. On Monday the IRA moved its headquarters to Dallas, Texas—gosh, what a state!

Joe Wirkus Men's Open Singles

Brackets for the world's championship open singles was long, but it was exclusively top-notch. Not just any Tom, Dick or Harry could enter. In fact, not one Dick or Harry was entered. And only one Tom,* but he was shucked aside before the quarterfinals.

Without Tom, Dick, and Harry, who did that leave? For one thing it finally left Joe Wirkus to face Mike Luciw in a match that would decide the IRA's new world champion.

*Tom Whipple got off to a good start but ran afoul Mark Thomas in the second round. And with this, there wasn't a single Tom, Dick or Harry left in the men's singles.

The suspense never had time to build. Wirkus stopped Luciw's bid in two hard, fast, and decisive games, 21-8, 21-5. The new title holder exhibited almost flawless shooting, timed his passing shots as if he had Luciw on a string, and made retrieves that at any other time should have gone for Luciw-points, or side-outs.

Joe Wirkus entered the 8th IRA International tournament as one of the two top seeds, but slightly behind favored Pete Wright, who had eliminated him from championship contention a year ago. At St. Louis Wirkus had fallen to Wright in a three game match that could have gone either way. Wirkus had taken the first by a three-point margin; Wright took the next two games by margins of six and three. But that was St. Louis in 1975. This was Chattanooga in 1976.

There were no byes handed out in the men's open singles. Everyone came to play, and the 64-man bracket was loaded.

Wirkus came to the tournament with an upset victory over his Northern regional foe, Paul Ikier, and with an ego satisfying recapture of the Wisconsin state championship which he had let slip to Dan Adler, after holding it for three successive years. Surprisingly, the Northern champ found his first games in the Internationals easier than the ones he had just completed, prior to the IRA tournament.

Back home Adler had forced Wirkus to a grueling two-hour contest that went three games. In the Chattanooga affair Wirkus swept through six matches in four days, meeting the best in the world, without losing a game.

Doug Clark was the first victim. The tournament had barely begun when Wirkus and Clark entered the courts at 9 a.m. Friday. After what may have seemed like a long time later to Clark, they stepped out, and Wirkus had cut the first notch on his handle: 21-11, 21-5. It wasn't even 10 a.m. Too late for breakfast, too early for lunch.

The dilemma about eating was Wirkus' worst problem of the day. He had a second match scheduled for 3 p.m. with Bob Siegel. If he ate too much, he might be sluggish. The report is that he opted to skip lunch, hurry through the match, and have time for a banquet. The report may have been true. Siegel was permitted but two points in the first game, plus six more in the second. Wirkus' dinner may have been delayed, but he now had both time and cause to celebrate.

Open division entrants faced another two-match schedule Saturday. Before most racquetballers had their eyes open, and before a number learned that Friday

had ended, Wirkus and Mike Romano were at the courts flailing away, trying to break the little orb in two. The vulcanization held, but both players got warmed up in the process. Especially Wirkus.

Looking forward to a second match at 2 p.m., Wirkus got down to the business at hand, completely dominating the first game, 21-9. Whatever difficulties he may have had before coming to Chattanooga, he was free from them now. Romano is a consistently good player, but this day his game was not in a class with Wirkus' and he went down for the second and deciding time, 21-12.

Everything was running behind schedule, as scheduled, Saturday afternoon. Wirkus' opponent, Brad Walker, had also played an 8 a.m. match that day, but by the time the courts were available, both men had time to recoup some of the energy they had used that morning. They needed it.

Walker almost didn't make it to the so-called 2 p.m. bracket. He started the day by meeting one of the finest players in the east, Pennsylvania's Craig Guinter in a 19-21, 21-18, 21-15 trail which many experts expected to go to Craig, "the Assassin."

The long match with Guinter had taken its effect on Walker, and he managed but nine points off Wirkus in the first game. In the second he brought the scorecard up to 15, before succumbing, but the game wasn't really that close.

David Fleetwood was next on Wirkus' list. Fleetwood had fought his way on every rung to the semi-finals. Each match went the route. When he and Wirkus squared off Sunday afternoon Fleetwood had played twelve games to Wirkus' eight. On this basis he could boast more tournament game-experience. He left the court the same way, having now played fourteen games to Wirkus' ten. That was his only statistical edge. It was the Wisconsin champ's match: 21-13, 21-4.

Meanwhile back at the ranch, Mike Luciw had been carving a few notches of his own. In the other half of the open bracket he had gunned down one fast draw expert after another, meeting the same quantity of competition, in the same number of matches as had Wirkus. Like his Northern regional counterpart, Luciw had gone all the way in a series of two-gamers.

Luciw had dispatched Ron Dick and Ted Larsen on Friday; Bill Fuson and Robert Daku on Saturday; and had pulled his biggest victory plum by toppling favored Pete Wright in two games.

Continued on next page

Luciw's 21-20, 21-15 match over Wright robbed Wirkus of the chance to avenge the 1975 tournament loss in St. Louis in which Wright had stopped him even before the quarterfinals.

The finals showdown was appropriately set for Monday at high noon. But tournaments aren't western epics, and the shootout was moved back to 1:30. Then it was moved back again.

Finally somebody told Wirkus to start shooting anyway, and they'd have Luciw catch up later. At least the first game score looked that way: 21-8. Luciw was still trying to catch up in the second game, but just fell further behind. At game's end he had five points.

The way Wirkus was playing on Monday if Luciw had been forced to catch-up, he might still be in the court. Somehow the new open singles champion was shooting the ball as accurately as he had at any point in the six-match, four-day, holiday weekend.

CONSOLATIONS

Third and fourth places in the open singles went to Pete Wright (3rd), and David Fleetwood.

Consolation finalists were Jerry O'Neill who downed Dan Bertolucci in the quarters, and Ron Meek, who defeated Doug Clark in their quarterfinals match. Meek took the consolation win, 21-12, 11-21, 21-11.

Bud Muehleisen Men's Senior Singles

Crummey—IRA military commissioner. Lawton—IRA Southwestern commissioner. Muehleisen—former IRA director. Porco—former IRA national commissioner. Chambers—IRA director. Peterson—IRA state chairman for Idaho. Roderick—former IRA executive director. Wayne—IRA state chairman for California. And so on goes the roster.

From the preceding list of senior division contestants one might suppose a player had to be an organization man before he could enter. Based on the ability of the players in this category, the seniors division might well be re-named (except for the lack of any congressmen in the bracket) the Board of Education. And, if so re-named, there could be but one person elected to serve as chairman, or number one seed, on the board.



CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

With the completion of this year's IRA international tournament Dr. Bud Muehleisen has captured the Senior division title each year since it was offered. At the De Sales-Harrison Racquet center on the campus of the University of Tennessee, Chattanooga, the good doctor called his first class to order at 6 p.m. Friday, May 28.

Luther Green was his first student. Green did his first round homework on Ron Waeckerle, 21-14, 4-21, 21-15. Dr. Bud looked it over and said that's very nice Luther, but compare it with this: 21-4, 21-3.

Muehleisen's next lecture lasted a little longer. Ron Galbreath chalked up 13 points on the blackboard in his first session causing the doctor to re-examine his notes. Coming back after recess things returned to normal in the classroom: Dr. Bud, 21-6.

In the quarterfinals Muehleisen and Ken Porco compared advanced racquetball philosophy in Bud's first three game match of the tournament. Porco, regional open division champion, and one of the game's consistently better practitioners of the art, didn't appear a threat in the first game, going down, 21-7.

The Kentuckian came back in the second and with hustle, sweat (lots of sweat) and improved shooting



WOMEN'S DOUBLES finalists, on the facing page, and from the left: Janell Marriott, Jennifer Harding, Kathy Williams, and Sue Carow. In the center picture, Joe Wirkus rolls one out during his match with Luciw (yellow shirt). Women's open singles champion from Memphis, Sarah Green aims one for the ceiling, at the right.



over the first game, he tied the match, 16-21. With this execution, Porco began to fade. Muehleisen's condition made itself evident, and the variety of returns that Porco had to handle was too much. The third game was another Muehleisen Rx: 21-11.

Saturday evening after the Porco match, Dr. Bud showed evidence of the strain of two tournament events on the same day. He didn't appear overly tired, but muscle cramps caused him to finish his dinner either standing or walking about.

By this time speculation was beginning to direct itself toward Monday's showdown between Muehleisen and Myron Roderick. Although both players still had matches to complete, fans anticipated a repeat of last year's set-to in which Roderick appeared a certain winner until leg cramps stopped any chance he had.

Muehleisen was seeded number one on the top bracket; Roderick was number one on the lower bracket. Like Muehleisen he had polished off Dave Hults, his first pupil, in two quick games with identical scores of 21-9, moved through two matches on Saturday, eliminating Tom Cannon and Mark Wayne.

In the Cannon match Roderick dropped the first game, 17-21, and set off rumors of an impending upset.

Continued from preceding page

Every few minutes through the second and third games somebody would run to the referee asking for the scores. After the first game there wasn't any answer. Cannon hardly scored, being blown off the court, 21-1, 21-1, in an awesome reversal of racquetball misfortunes.

In the second Cannon-Roderick game the Oklahoman gave up his first tally after taking an eight-point lead, then proceeded to run out the final 13 points in fewer than six minutes. Altogether the game lasted about ten minutes. The third game was even worse. Roderick refused to give Cannon a score—and hardly a chance to serve. In less than a quarter-hour the score was 20-zip before Roderick permitted Cannon the last of about five times in the service area. The game ended 21-1. Altogether the three games had taken just seconds over one hour.

Other than this, Roderick went through the four days and five matches limiting himself to two games each.

Dr. Bill King and "the Gar" were the next two members of the racquetball panel exhibition. King met Muchleisen and Garfinkel met Roderick. The Board of Education was still in session.

The session between Roderick and the Gar was a quick one. The young lady assigned to take notes on the game came back saying all she could find were some feathers floating around the back court. She was told there was no way the match could be over that quickly. Only the day before the Gar had been shooting so well in practice that—in his own modest words, he had gone up to the balcony just to enjoy watching himself.

She came back the second time, saying she had asked Roderick what happened but he just smiled at her like a Cheshire cat. The big bird was no place to be found.

Somebody checked the brackets. Roderick: 21-8, 21-2. David had done it to Goliath again.

Meanwhile, Dr. King was pushing his luck with Dr. Bud. He took the first game, 17-21, and threatened an upset in the second before dropping it, 21-18. The deciding session was back in the hands of the old master, and King was never a serious threat after the half-way mark. Match game was Bud's: 21-13.

Monday morning final exam time came for the two panelists on the Board of Education. When the tests were graded the score read simply: Muchleisen, 21-14, 21-20.

Muehleisen won the toss and started with a lob serve to left court and Roderick's backhand which he repeated the next four times at serve, picking up a quick three point lead on the basis of a well placed passing shot and two accurate kills.

Roderick nibbled away at the lead, finally evening the game at six-all, but couldn't build the momentum needed to move ahead. Muchleisen, was faring not much better. He had almost abandoned the lob serve with which he began the game, using it sparingly and mixing it among drive and cross court serves to either side of the court, plus a couple of junk serves.

The California dentist's shooting was a slight edge better than Roderick's throughout the first game, but for the most part he was forced to content himself with no more than a three point lead. At one time he was out front, 15-11, but it wasn't until Roderick got hung up on the black-magic number 13 that Dr. Bud began to pull away, building a six-point margin between them that held. The game ended at 21-14.

After a brief rest Roderick served to start the real contest. It was a cliffhanger all the way. Serve changed hands seven times before a point was marked. The first game had its share of disputed calls, and at least one avoidable hinder noted by the referee. The second game had even more.

The first game between the two giants of the seniors division lasted 30 minutes. The second took nearly an hour.

In the second game neither player appeared to have an edge. The lead changed continuously. The score was tied at 2, 4, 5, 9, 16, 19 and most awfully at 20-20.

At nine-all Roderick broke out of the tie to build a five point shield between himself and Muchleisen. It appeared the game would be decided on the basis of superior physical conditioning, for there had been no demonstrable superiority of shooting by one over the other.

Roderick was mixing his serves but leaned notice-



ably to serving cross court to Bud's forehand. His tie-breaking serve at 9-9 was a cross court ace to Muehleisen's forehand (the doctor is a southpaw). He garnered the next point by catching Muehleisen out of position with a quick pass; another on a kill, and two more on pinch shots before Muehleisen called his second time out to stop the flow of points.

It seemed to have worked. Roderick slammed out another cross court serve to Dr. Bud's forehand to start a short but fierce rally which Muehleisen ended by closing in and killing the ball.

Serve changed hands ten more times before Roderick could add another two points. In that time Muehleisen had scored for seven to again tie the game: 16-16.

This time Muehleisen broke the tie and went ahead by three: 19-16. Roderick regained serve, with a rare overhand kill shot, picked up points on a pass shot and two kills to even it: 19-19.

Muehleisen reached game point by shooting where Roderick wasn't for a fine passing play, and had two more chances to ice the cake at 20-19. Roderick slammed a kill shot that sizzled close to Muehleisen to tie the game for the last time at 20-all. The Californian disputed the referee's call, claiming the ball had struck him on the way to the front wall, but the call stood.

Roderick made his final serve of the championship match, a not quite perfect lob to Muehleisen's backhand, which the dentist played, and subsequently killed with a short rollout. He served and won game, match and title point when he made the final kill of the game.

The record is consistent: Honor Roll winners of the Senior division: 1974, Muehleisen. 1975, Muehleisen. 1976, Muehleisen.

Bob McNamara Masters Singles Champion

Joe Bechard set out to make Penguin pot-pie out of Bob McNamara in the finals of the Masters division, taking the first game, 21-7, and making the proud bird on McNamara's uniform look more like a plucked rooster.

But something went awry during the two-minute interval, and Bechard's successfully executed first game recipe got all "fowled" up. Munsingwear's clothes horse from Minnesota came back with a fresh outfit and fresh game plans that almost blanked Bechard. McNamara took the second game, 21-2, and the third game, 21-14, for all the eggs in the nest.

It was rumored around the court that McNamara's frequent change of playing outfits helped him conquer the 64-man draw of the master's division. By appearing in a different combination of shorts and tee-shirts, he confused the opposition. They thought they were watching a different player each time.

Racquetballers—since the days of Bill Schmidtke—had not been accustomed to having the best dressed man on the courts hail from Minneapolis. Now, if Munsingwear would just sponsor Schmidtke in the pro-division the entire image of the sport could be revolutionized.

(Not only that, but Garfinkel would have to start a new series of adjectives to describe the Minnesota pro.)

While it may be true that clothes make the man in some circles, it takes a lot more than that on the racquetball court. McNamara had more.

The master's division had the largest field of entries at the tournament, and boasted the best conditioned and game-wary veterans of the sport. McNamara had gone through eight two-game matches before meeting Bechard in the finals, and before being extended to a three game set-to. In his first round he met Al Hanke (21-11, 21-16); in the next he downed (21-16, 21-5) Bill McLaughlin who had come from an encouraging, but strenuous, three game win over Ivan Bruner.

McNamara met Ray DePue in the quarterfinals, yielding 19 points, and Earl Dixon (who had elimin-

Continued on next page



ON THE FACING page Dr. Muehleisen breaks the 19-all tie in his game with Myron Roderick. At left the senior's division champion receives congratulations and IRA trophy from Floridian, Nancy Hornack.

BOB McNAMARA chases the blue ball into a corner during finals match with Joe Bechard, below. At the right Ike Gumer shares his favorite camera pose with Fred Vetter (in blue shirt).



Continued from preceding page

ated both Gene Grapes and Pat Whitehill along the way) in the semifinals. Up to and including this point each game appeared to be easier for the future Master's champion.

He was not only winning each match in two games but in each of his first four matches gave up fewer points each time (in this order: 27, 21, 19 and 13). McNamara was kidded about wearing a different outfit each day from the company he works for, but with a record like that it might be everyone will be pushing Penguins next year.

On the opposing rung at the finals was Joe Bechard. Like McNamara, he had scored a few upsets along the way and had come through the same number of matches, but had played two more games. Richard Walker slowed him to three games in the quarterfinals by a grueling 19-21 first game only to succumb in the next two by almost identical scores, 21-6, 21-7.

In earlier rounds Bechard defeated David Perelman, allowing six and nine points in a two-game match. He polished off number two seed Bill Sellars, 21-13, 21-15 in the semifinals. In the round of sixteen he turned back one of the master's top seeded players, Bob Troyer, in three games—14-21, 21-1, 21-15.

After splitting the first two games by rather odd

point-spreads Bechard and McNamara butted heads in a match decider that left their fans in suspense through the first two-thirds of the final game.

Bechard started the third game with a lob serve to McNamara's forehand, and quickly earned point one on a smooth kill. He picked up point two on a missed return, and number three with another kill.

McNamara brought the score to 2-3 on the basis of a Bechard error and one kill. The scoreboard teetered back and forth with lead changing on almost every side-out. It was tied at 6, 8, 9, and 10-all.

Bechard seemed to prefer a lob serve, forcing McNamara to deep left backcourt, but used a frequent change of pace serve that caught the Minnesotan out of position, ace-ing him with a cross court serve two or three times in the first half of the game.

With the score at ten-all serve changed hands four times before McNamara drove a pass shot out of Bechard's reach. It seemed, too, that Bechard was beginning to tire more than McNamara. In looking back, 10-all was probably the turning point in the game.

McNamara built a three point lead on the basis of errors committed by Bechard. He kept the lead with pass shots and an occasional kill shot until the score reached 17-13. From that phase on there was little doubt about the outcome.

Bechard took his final time-out, stretching it to the referee's limit. Game resumed with McNamara passing for point 18, and accepting number 19 on an easy kill. It seemed the time-out had not helped Bechard as much as it did McNamara.

Both men were soaking wet. After four days of competition neither will be able to perspire for a month. With no more time-outs the only rest either had was while awaiting serve.

Bechard served three more times, picking up his final tally. McNamara served four times, moving to game point with a soft looking kill shot. Each rally was marked with a number of ceiling balls, but with the score hung on 20-14 Bechard was unable to move ahead, and McNamara was unable to put the game away.

On his third try for the elusive number 21 McNamara served a beautiful lob to Bechard's backhand, and with less than a perfect setup killed the ball for game, match and title. The Penguin finally had something to crow about.

Bill Sellars Master's Marathon For Third

While McNamara was doing his thing in the exhibition court with Bechard, Bill Sellars and Earl Dixon were conducting their own personal, private marathon in court one. Two hours and thirty-six minutes after pulling the door shut on themselves in the 16,000 cubic foot chamber, they emerged. Somewhat slower and somewhat lighter than they had entered.

During the last minutes of the third game Sellars approached the service area as if it were a bed of nails. At one time he stood there awaiting the referee's call of score with his racquet braced under him like a walking stick. If it is possible for a player to gain a second wind, or to re-coup lost energies in this manner, Sellars did.

But once the ball was served everything changed. There was as much action in the final minutes of the punishingly long match as at the beginning serve.

Sellars took the match, downing Dixon, 21-8, 18-21, 21-19, to earn third place in the master's division of the world championship competition.

Sarah Green Women's Open Singles

Separating the pros from the open made the 8th IRA International championships a different tournament. A year ago the women's open was dominated by Steding, Wright, Marriott, and Pasternak, as any tournament would be today in which these four were entered.

At Chattanooga over the Memorial Day weekend a new wave of top flight competitors emerged from the shadow of the professionals. Riding the crest was Tennessee's Sarah Green, appropriately identified as number one in the seeding arrangement.

Ms. Green entered the St. Louis event last year and barely got her toes on the first rung of the ladder when she encountered Shannon Wright. Shannon was on her way to the finals, and Sarah probably felt lucky to claim 18 points in two matches, which was more than the South Texan gave to several others.

In the 12 months between St. Louis and Chattanooga not only did the draw change, but Sarah Green continued to change—for the better. She copped her Southeast division title emerging ahead of several IRA national tournament veterans. In 1975 she placed above the likes of Cile O'Connell and Kentucky's state champion, Kay Evans. This year the field was larger and tougher but the name at the top of the list was the same: Sarah Green.

Green met and defeated Carol Frenck in the finals with two bursts of great courtmanship. Both young women are slightly built and seem to lack the driving of Kathy Williams or Jan Pasternak, or the continuity of Steding and Carow, but make up for this in a well rounded game. The difference is more in quantity of experience rather than in quality of their games.

Frenck lost the first game of the finals match by a surprisingly large margin of 13 points, but came back in the second with more determination and a sounder attitude. Her shots were better placed, and she didn't seem as tense. The effort wasn't enough. Green handled everything thrown her way and took the game, match, and International women's open title, 21-16.

On route to the finals Green turned back Pat Schmidt, 21-5, 21-12; stopped Quinn Lovingood, 21-9, 21-4; and hardly let Myrna Byrd touch the ball: 21-2,

Continued on next page



Continued from preceding page

21-1. Altogether, in eight games over four days of play she gave up a total of 57 points. At the same time she was out-scoring her opponents almost three to one.

The scoring of Carol Frencik was, on the one hand a surprise, of an upset nature; and on the other a let down. Frencik entered the tourney seventh seeded in the lower bracket behind third rated Marci Greer, sixth placed Monique Parent, and the very consistent, always challenging Camille McCarthy. To outpoint this field took some doing. It was an upset. It was an accomplishment of no mean measure. It was a let down only to the extent that after this sort of a climb, there was a great speculation she would win it all or at least force Sarah Green to three tight games.

Frencik had her closest call with Canadian Monique Parent, in what may have been the most exciting match of the women's singles, but pulled away in both games to win it, 21-16, 21-18. Ms. Parent played her second Sunday match against Pat Schmidt to decide third place, taking that spot, 21-10, 21-17.

Early in the IRA tournament a Chattanooga newspaperman was looking at the seeding arrangement trying to decide which players he should interview. A by-

stander told him the seeding wouldn't help him. The reporter should have ignored the advice. Look at this: of the eight seeded players in the women's open singles, seven entered the quarterfinals, and only seeded players came out. In the final results first through fourth positions were taken by players originally seeded 1, 7, 4, 6, in that order.

Sarah Green was one of them—number one going in, number one coming out. The IRA women's open has a great new world's champion.

Williams & Carow Women's Doubles Champions

Stranger things happened at the Chattanooga tournament, but among the unexpected was the emergence of a new women's doubles championship team. Kathy Williams paired with Sue Carow on May 29. Three days and nine games later theirs were the only names left at the far right hand edge of the bracket.

Behind them lay last year's champions, Jennifer

RACQUETBALL



SEMIFINALS action in women's doubles, on facing page, reading from the left, are: Camille McCarthy, Jannell Marriott, Jennifer Harding, and Jean Sauser. On this page, upper left, Carmenza Pond receives women's senior trophy from McKie. Above picture: more from the Hilecher-Strandemo finals. At far left, Dr. Bill King and Charles Garfinkel exchange congratulations. Immediate left Marriott forces Wright to three games in their pro-match.

Harding and Janell Marriott (16-21, 21-15, 21-18), victims in the finals; Peggy Steding and Ruth Knudsen (21-19, 21-4), victims in the semifinals; Jan Pasternak and Marcie Greer (21-13, 21-3), in the quarterfinals; and before that Holly Rentz and Nancy Hornack (21-1, 21-12), in the first round.

Every team they met was good. In the first round, and in what was apparently their easiest match they warmed up on two southerners: Nancy Hornack, one of the finalists in the southeast division; and Holly Rentz, Kentucky's women's champion. After overcoming a first game case of jitters the two representatives from the southeast division turned in a creditable second game, but were far from having the experience to challenge the Williams-Carow crusade.

The quarterfinals went exactly according to schedule. The top four seeded teams entered the brackets as called for. But at this juncture the seedings began to go awry. Instead of Steding and Knudsen emerging from the semifinals, it was Williams and Carow who faced up to last year's champions and this year's top seeds.

Chattanooga had not been good to the oddsmakers. The final three game match continued the strain. Although Kathy Williams and Sue Carow had

been scoring decisive wins, the western division was still expected to put it together for the crown.

It didn't go that way. Carow was as much a ball hawk as ever, and teamed with a Williams who showed vast improvement over a year ago, the two gals took the match in a well deserved win. It was no run-a-way, and in spite of dropping the first game in an I-told-you-so loss they had the court savvy to correct their errors and win the final two on their own terms.

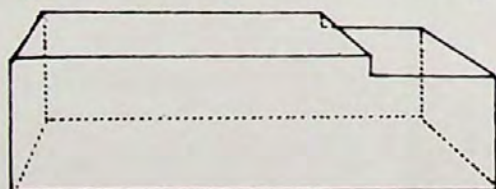
Carmen Pond Women's Senior Singles

On the basis of accumulated scoring, Carmen Pond won the women's senior division title hands down, defeating Mildred Gwinn, Millie Guerry, and Mary Ann Bayless, each in two game matches.

Mary Ann Bayless, with wins over Gwinn and Guerry was second; Gwinn, with one win was third; and Millie Guerry fourth being blanked, 0-3, in spite of a one point loss in her round with Ms. Bayless.

A FORTUNE IS BEING MADE...

(IN A BOX)



THIS STARK, WHITE,
20-FOOT BY 40-FOOT,
AIR-CONDITIONED
BOX IS EMPTYING OUT
—ABOVE ALL COSTS—
ANNUALLY \$20,000.

RACQUET-TIME IS
BUILDING AND
OPERATING COURT
CLUBS NATIONWIDE.

For those who qualify
... A Racquet Time court
club offers ... Con-
venience (a turnkey
business, professionally
managed) ... National
Image ... Highest
Standards of Quality ...
Proven Techniques.

**SITES AVAILABLE IN
MOST GEOGRAPHIC
AREAS.**



(405) 372-8655 ... POST OFFICE BOX 809 ...
STILLWATER, OKLAHOMA 74074
*A DIVISION OF RACQUET TIME, INC.

RACQUET TIME

Ike Gumer The Golden Master

Ike Gumer took off his shoes, leaned back in one of the chairs in the Chattanooga gym, lofted his stockinged feet onto the lower seat of the bleachers as if it were a polished desk top, wriggled his toes, smiled, and said, "Now, who was it that seeded me number three?"

The quote may not have been worded exactly, but Ike Gumer, the IRA's world champion golden Master racquetball player let it be known that he knew he wasn't "supposed" to win this one. And the broad smile let everyone know how much he enjoyed the victory.

At the beginning of the tournament Gumer was seeded behind last year's champion, Fred Vetter, and number two seed, Cal Murphy. The arrangement wasn't bad. Number four was Tulsan Ray Crowley, and fifth was Don Green. Of the top five, four emerged unscathed from the quarterfinals. Of the top three, two emerged from the semis.

The victory may be regarded as an upset, but in this instance, only a mild one.

Gumer and Fred Vetter met in the finals where Ike took the world's title in the best two out of three games. He didn't surprise his fans, and didn't frighten Vetter's, when he soundly out-pointed Vetter in the first game, 21-12.

The second game evened things up with Vetter doing almost the same thing to Gumer: 21-10. Match game was a change of tactics, and a reversion to the first game's score: 21-12, all Gumer's.

Being a Golden Master competitor has some advantages. Games aren't scheduled too early in the morning. For example, in the four-day, four-match event, neither Vetter nor Gumer were called out to play before noon. Outside of this, the schedule gave no deference. Vetter began his sequence meeting Robert Goldberg on Friday, 21-8, 21-16; on Saturday defeated Stan Berney (who had eliminated Len Marks) in three: 21-11, 17-21, 21-12; and on Sunday stopped Don Green in a surprisingly quick two-game match, 21-9, 21-13. Most observers expected this to be much closer.

Gumer followed the same path in the lower bracket. During the late Friday afternoon activity he got off to a slow start with Marvin Simkins, requiring the full book to take the match, 14-21, 21-12, 21-19. Of

Continued on next page

IKE GUMER, top picture, with ball at his ankle; Bill Schmidtke, at right, demonstrates back hand off the sidewall; Carol Frenck, center, on an overhand lob; and Cathy Williams leaves the floor with a backhand smash.

and some
other
swingers . . .



Continued from preceding page

his four games at the internationals, this was probably his most exciting, and closest brush with defeat. Simkins nearly de-railed the ex-champ on his return trip to the title, needing but two points. He had the shots and the moves with which to do it, but after three games, his timing faltered and the ball took Gumer bounces.

Ben Wirkus got a break in the first round with a forfeit, but at the same time, it may have been too much rest. He wasn't in the same league as Gumer made short work of their match, taking the first, 21-15, and the second even more decisively, 21-7. This set up the Sunday match with Cal Murphy. Cal began the tourney in a strange way, dropping his first game by the what's-the-name-of-this-game score, 21-1, then taking the next two, from Don Goddard, 21-15, 21-12.

For the second time in the tournament Gumer was pushed to exert himself fully in order to take the first game, 21-18. For a while it looked like it would be a repetition of the match with Simkins, with Gumer dropping the first round, but Ike managed to hold on to service when he needed the points and they came his way.

Match game was an anti-climax. Gumer: 21-14.

The International Racquetball Association's honor roll of champions now reads: Golden Masters, 1974, Ike Gumer (runner-up Alex Guerry); 1975, Fred Vetter (runner-up Ike Gumer); 1976, Ike Gumer (runner-up Fred Vetter).

Bob Adam, Jr. Junior Division

Bob Adam, Jr., met Lindsay Myers in the finals of the junior's division on Monday and won the IRA title in two lop-sided games, 21-5, 21-6. But he won't be able to do it again next year.

For one thing, Adam, Jr., graduates this year from the juniors, but Lindsay Myers has another year of competition, and another year in which to improve. By the time they meet again it should be one fantastic game. And Steve Strandemo should take a measure of pride in the outcome of the match whichever way it goes. Lindsay explained that he and Adam play the "Strandemo method."



WORLD CHAMPION and Runner-up in the Junior division, above, are, left to right, Bob Adam, Jr., and Lindsay Myers. On the facing page are Mark Malowitz, third place, on the left, and David Kinberg.

Adam and Myers both drew byes in the first Friday rounds, then played one game per day for the balance of the tournament. Adam downed Kenneth Goldberg, 21-5, 21-11, in his first match; set Pete Tashie back, 21-16, 21-12, on Saturday; eliminated Mark Malowitz in his first three games, 21-7, 15-21, 21-9, and went to the finals on Monday.

At the same time Myers was defeating Steve Ira (IRA ?), 21-3, 21-6; Jeff Kwartler, 21-14, 21-15; and John Moshides, 21-17, 21-8.

Most of the younger players predicted the game correctly. Mark Sandler, Houston, who was eliminated early by John Moshides felt Adam would take the tournament win from Myers, saying the two had met before, and Adam was too experienced.

Experienced, perhaps, but Lindsay Myers came to Chattanooga with an impressive record of eleven tournaments in 15 weeks, including wins or good showing in places such as the Daffy open, Edmonton, Canadian



championships, Seattle, San Francisco, and Aberdeen. At seventeen he has been clocked on some fast racquetball turfs.

Of the two players Myers probably mixed his serves a good deal more than Adam, but without the number of times at serve the comparative effectiveness was hard to gauge. Adam has come close to perfecting the arched lob to left rear court and used it repeatedly to keep Myers behind him. In the two games he didn't serve more than twice to Myers' forehand, and such changes of pace that he mixed in were cross court or drive serves to Myers' backhand.

In the first game of their final match, Adam stormed ahead, 11-0, before Myers soiled his side of the scorecard. Myers got his first marker with a rollout, then picked up numbers two and three catching Adam out of position, rather than on accuracy of his own shooting.

At 13-3, Adam served and played for six consecu-

tive scores with an ace serve, about three rollouts, and two pass shots. Myers made the most of his time in the service box to gain his fourth and fifth points, killing and passing well, but Adam was having none of it, for any longer than necessary. The champion-to-be regained serve with one kill shot and racked up 20 and 21 with two more.

His shooting was great. If what Lindsay had said about both of them being students of Strandemo, Steve had much with which to be pleased.

The second game was similar to the first. The biggest difference came in the number of times serve changed hands, giving Lindsay more openings for a comeback. Each time it seemed he used his best shots to force a side-out, but couldn't bunch his good ones when he was serving.

Adam opened the match game and earned his first point, but Myers killed the ball on the next rally, gained service and scored three quick points on two kill shots, one a perfect rollout, and forced Adam to shoot off balance, skipping the ball for this third point. It was the only time in either game that he led.

Adam, for his part mounted two sustained scoring marches, each for a handfull of points. Coming from behind at 1-3, he earned one point when Myers skipped the ball into the floor then garnered three more on three successive kills.

Serve was traded back and forth. Myers couldn't make it stick when he had the serve. Adam was gaining no more than a point per serve. At 10-6, Adam leading, he re-entered the serving area and ran up five successive points for his best effort of the match. He gained the serve from Myers on one kill shot, and in the rallies following five cross court serves, killed the ball four times, and passed Myers once.

With the score now 15-6 Adam could afford to coast, and did so, picking up all but one of his final six points on Myers' errors.

Bob Adam, Jr., took the world title in the junior division and re-entered his name in the Honor Roll of Champions. He is already listed as the 1974 Junior doubles champion (with Mark Domanque). He now becomes the third World's Champion Junior Singles player.

Jerry Zuckerman won the title in 1974, and Marty Hogan took it in 1975.

With these two wins (doubles and singles) Bob Adam now has the opportunity to hold more titles in IRA racquetball than even Bud Muehleisen.

Two names tell the story: Muehleisen and Roderick

Seniors Invitational Doubles



The senior invitational doubles championships was held March 19, 20, 21 at Santana Courts, the beautiful new ten-court complex in Santa Ana, California.

The team of Dr. Bud Muehleisen, San Diego, California, and Myron Roderick, Stillwater, Oklahoma, once again proved too much for a very formative field as they successfully defended their title. The tournament was played on the popular round-robin basis, and the winners emerged with a perfect 7-0 won-lost.

Three teams tied with records with 5-0, but on the basis of total points scored, the awards for second place went to Al Rossi and Mark Wayne from San Francisco, third place to Dr. Charles Hanna, San Diego, California and Jim Austin from Dallas, Texas. Fourth place went to the San Diego team of John Halverson and Jim Trent.

It is interesting to note that after the eight matches had been played, only a total of 19 accumulated points separated those three teams. Fifth place went to the team of Buddy Meeker of San Diego, California and Keith Luhnnow, El Cajon, California. This was their first try at the senior open doubles title, and although they got off to a slow start in the early rounds, they finished very strong and will certainly be a team to be reckoned with in the future.

Sixth place in the standings went to the team of Jeff Mullins of Santa Cruz, California and Bob Peterson of Boise, Idaho. Seventh place went to the team of Pat Colombo of Scarsdale, New York and Ron Botchan from Granada Hills, California. Eighth place went to the team of Tom Carlyon and Bob McInerney, both from San Diego. And ninth place went to the team of Bruce Russell, San Diego and Ron Starkman from Costa Mesa, California.

The spectators in attendance were treated to some of the best doubles play ever put on in any tournament. Not only has the caliber of play improved, but the

sportsmanship exemplified by the participants was of the highest mention.

For those who would aspire to be invited to this same tournament next year, talk to any of the participants to see that this is one of the most fun-tournaments during the year. The camaraderie and sportsmanship is second to none.

It would be unfair not to mention the banquet dinner at which Dr. Charles Hanna emceed and Tom Carlyon aided with his guitar. Should one even now see a smile on any face of those in attendance, it is probably because they are still recalling events of that evening.—*Report, courtesy Muehleisen Courts.*

	Muehleisen and Roderick	Rossi and Wayne	Mullins and Peterson	Hanna and Austin	Meeker and Luhnnow	Halverson and Trent	Russell and Starkman	Colombo and Botchan	Carlyon and McInerney
MUEHLEISEN and RODERICK	X	31-26	31-8	31-24	31-27	31-13	31-18	31-18	31-2
ROSSI and WAYNE	26-31	X	31-29	29-31	28-31	31-26	31-27	31-22	31-2
MULLINS and PETERSEN	8-31	29-31	X	25-31	31-29	23-31	31-25		31-2
HANNA and AUSTIN	24-31	31-21	31-25	X	31-24	29-31	31-11	31-13	26-31
MEEKER and LUHNOW	27-31	31-28	29-31	24-31	X		31-30	25-31	28-31
HALVERSON and TRENT	13-31	26-31	31-23	31-29		X	31-27	31-21	31-1
RUSSELL and STARKMAN	13-31	27-31	25-31	19-31	30-31	27-31	X	12-31	31-1
COLUMBO and BOTCHAN	13-31	22-31		13-31	31-25	21-31	31-12	X	31-2
CARLYON and MCINERNEY	24-31	22-31	27-31	31-26	31-28	25-31	18-31	26-31	X

ELEVEN OF THE 18 doubles contestants at Santa Ana are, from the left, in the front row: John Halverson, Bob Peterson, Mark Wayne, Jeff Mullins. In the back row, from the left, are: Jim Trent, Ron Botchan, Myron Roderick, Pat Colombo, Bud Muehleisen, Al Rossi, and Keith Luhnnow.

THE SCOREBOARD

Chattanooga, Tenn.

8TH IRA CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT
MAY 27-31, 1976

MEN'S OPEN

First Round: Wirkus def. Clark; Siegel def. Seipp; Remen def. Zetrouer; Romano def. Brown; Guinter def. Wood; Scordas def. Hinkle; Walker def. Giordano; Phipps ftt.; Chase def. McCaskey; Fabian def. Lunsford; Marsocci def. Cobia; George def. O'Neill; Velan def. York; Bailey def. Grapes; Fleetwood def. Howard; Hildebrand def. Jones; Wright def. Camara; Aguglia def. Bertolucci; Whipple def. Ellis; Thomas def. Ranker; Smith def. Hefner; Saperstein def. Burnett; Kelly def. Hayes; Richie def. Barksdale; Luciw def. Larsen; Dick def. Ray; Fuson def. Meek; Taylor def. Outlan; Sayes def. Thaxton; Daku def. Long; Treat def. Hutchinson; Kaardal def. McDonald.

Second Round: Wirkus def. Siegel; Romano def. Remen; Guinter def. Scordas; Walker def. Phipps; Chase def. Fabian; Marsocci def. George; Velan def. Bailey; Fleetwood def. Hildebrand; Wright def. Aguglia; Thomas def. Whipple; Saperstein def. Smith; Kelly def. Richie; Luciw def. Dick; Daku def. Sayes; Treat def. Kaardal.

Round of 16: Wirkus def. Romano, 21-9, 21-12; Walker def. Guinter, 19-21, 21-18, 21-15; Chase def. Marsocci, 21-18, 21-5; Fleetwood def. Velan, 18-21, 21-11, 21-11; Wright def. Thomas, 21-9, 21-15; Kelly def. Saperstein, 21-8, 21-17; Luciw def. Fuson, 21-5, 21-8; Daku def. Treat, 21-16, 21-7.

Quarterfinals: Joe Wirkus def. Brad Walker, 21-9, 21-15; David Fleetwood def. Steve Chase, 21-10, 13-21, 21-10; Pete Wright def. Gordon Kelly, 21-13, 18-21, 21-18; Mike Luciw def. Robert Daku, 21-9, 21-14.

Semifinals: Wirkus def. Fleetwood, 21-13, 21-4; Luciw def. Wright, 21-20, 21-15.

Finals: Wirkus def. Luciw, 21-8, 21-5. Third: Wright def. Fleetwood ftt.

MEN'S OPEN CONSOLATION

First Round: Hayes bye; Bertolucci def. Barksdale; Seipp bye; Zetrouer def. Lunsford; Hutchinson bye; Howard bye; O'Neill bye; Ellis ftt.; Long bye; Meek def. McCaskey; York bye; Cobia def. Jameson; Ray ftt.; Camara ftt.; Giordano ftt.; Clark def. Hinkle.

Second Round: Bertolucci def. Hayes; Zetrouer def. Seipp; Hutchinson ftt.; O'Neill def. Ellis; Meek def. Long; Cobia def. York; Ray def. Camara; Clark def. Giordano.

Quarterfinals: Dan Bertolucci ftt.; Jerry O'Neill def. Chuck Hutchinson, 31-24; Ron Meek def. Frank Cobia, 31-11; Doug Clark def. Mike Ray, 31-16.

Semifinals: O'Neill def. Bertolucci, 31-19; Meek def. Clark, 31-28.

Finals: Meek def. O'Neill, 21-12, 11-21, 21-11.

SENIORS

First Round: Green def. Waeckerle; Galbreath def. Piper; Joynor def. Lawhorn; Waltz def. Wilson; Chambers def. Gwinn; Berry def. Burkholder; Jackman def. Scallion; Chambers def. Chasse; Wood def. Armstrong; Tait def. Bryant; Clark def. Roy.

Second Round: Muehleisen def. Green; Galbreath def. Crumney; Russell def. Lawton;

Porco def. Joynor; King def. Waltz; Chambers def. Curl; Austin def. Berry; Peterson def. Epstein; Roderick def. Hults; Cannon def. Popino; Wayne def. Jackman; Cooper def. Chambers; Garfinkel def. Woods; Winsberg def. Tait; Clark def. Starkman; Gibbs def. Bernstein.

Round of 16: Muehleisen def. Galbreath, 21-13, 21-6; Porco def. Russell, 21-8, 21-17; King def. Chambers, 21-5, 21-2; Austin def. Peterson, 16-21, 21-3, 21-16; Roderick def. Cannon, 17-21, 21-1, 21-1; Wayne def. Cooper, 21-17, 21-16; Garfinkel def. Winsberg, 21-10, 21-5; Clark def. Gibbs, 21-12, 18-21, 21-8.

Quarterfinals: Bud Muehleisen def. Ken Porco, 21-7, 16-21, 21-11; Bill King def. Jim Austin, 16-21, 21-3, 21-16; Myron Roderick def. Mark Wayne, 21-11, 21-8; Charles Garfinkel def. Don Clark, 21-11, 21-14.

Semifinals: Muehleisen def. King, 17-21, 21-18, 21-13; Roderick def. Garfinkel, 21-8, 21-2.

Finals: Muehleisen def. Roderick, 21-14, 21-20. Third: Garfinkel def. King, 12-21, 21-15, 21-17.

MASTERS

First Round: Halverson bye; Hogan def. Fulton; Lapierre bye; DePue def. Rodriguez; McNamara bye; Hanke bye; McLaughlin bye; Bruner def. Miller; Grapes bye; Daines bye; Detjen bye; Ellett def. Marsh; Whitehill bye; Obman bye; Dixon bye; Harris def. Fox; Sellars bye; Greig def. Ira; Price bye; Zane def. Saathoff; Rossi bye; Freshwater bye; Poletta bye; Webster def. Hilecher; Walker bye; Zetrouer bye; Tanner def. Young; Eckis bye; Troyer bye; Pearl def. Miller; Bechard bye; Perelman bye.

Second Round: Halverson def. Hogan; DePue def. Lapierre; McNamara def. Hanke; McLaughlin def. Bruner; Grapes def. Daines; Betjen def. Ellett; Whitehill def. Obman; Dixon def. Harris; Sellars def. Greig; Price def. Zane; Rossi def. Freshwater; Poletta def. Webster; Walker

def. Zetrouer; Tanner def. Eckis; Troyer def. Pearl; Bechard def. Perelman.

Round of 16: DePue ftt.; McNamara def. McLaughlin; Grapes def. Detjen; Dixon def. Whitehill; Sellars def. Price; Poletta def. Rossi; Walker def. Tanner; Bechard def. Troyer.

Quarterfinals: Bob McNamara def. Ray DePue, 21-4, 21-15; Earl Dixon def. Gene Grapes, 21-8, 19-21, 21-19; Bill Sellars def. Sam Poletta, 21-17, 21-13; Joe Bechard def. Richard Walker, 19-21, 21-6, 21-7.

Semifinals: McNamara def. Dixon, 21-9, 21-4; Bechard def. Sellars, 21-13, 21-15.

Finals: McNamara def. Bechard, 7-21, 21-2, 21-14. Third: Sellars def. Dixon, 21-8, 18-21, 21-19.

WOMEN'S OPEN

First Round: Green bye; Burns def. Vickery; Guerrero ftt.; Lovingood def. Bayless; Schmidt def. Smith; Bechard def. Hornack; Rassenti def. Zetrouer; Lerner ftt.; McCarthy def. Pond def. Dupree; French ftt.; Gwinn def. Turlington; Greer bye; Smith ftt.; Parent def. Seipp; Rentz def. Dodson.

Second Round: Green def. Burns; Lovingood def. Guerrero; Schmidt def. Bechard; Rassenti def. Lerner; McCarthy def. Pond; French def. Gwinn; Greer def. Smith; Parent def. Rentz.

Quarterfinals: Sarah Green def. Quinn Lovingood, 21-9, 21-4; Pat Schmidt def. Dena Rassenti, 21-9, 21-12; Carol French def. Camille McCarthy, 21-15, 21-13; Monique Parent def. Marci Greer, 21-19, 21-9.

Semifinals: Green def. Schmidt, 21-5, 21-12; French def. Parent, 21-16, 21-18.

Finals: Green def. French, 21-8, 21-16. Third: Schmidt def. Parent, 21-10, 21-17.

WOMEN'S DOUBLES

First Round: Harding-Marriott bye; Tennesse-Dillin def. Byrd-Zetrouer, 21-11, 21-11;

Continued on page 55

new from LEISURE PRESS



IN PAPERBACK ONLY
PRICE \$6.00

All personal orders must be prepaid

Please include 50¢ handling charge on all orders

Official purchase order must accompany institutional orders

N.Y. State residents are required to include applicable sales tax

- selected articles from *Racquetball*, the official voice of the International Racquetball Association.
- over 200 pages • over 50 articles.
- covers all aspects of the game: basic skills and techniques, hitting the ball, Official IRA rules, service, practice hints and drills, conditioning, etiquette, teaching the game, conducting a tournament or clinic, and much more!
- includes articles by Brumfield, Muehleisen, Garfield, Keeley, Finger, Lawrence, Dellinger, Mazaroff, Williams, Ross, Stauffer, Campbell, and many more.
- A must for all racquetball players, fans, and instructors of the game!!

LEISURE
PRESS

P.O. Box 452
Cornwall, N. Y. 12518

Put your club in the only racquetball court club directory distributed throughout the U.S., Canada & Europe!

The January Directory issue will be used by members and friends all year long.

It is perhaps the most in-demand issue of the magazine printed.

Last year many clubs said they weren't notified in time to put together an ad. We are making the announcement early this year . . . and as the saying goes, are "repeating the issue by popular request." Let us hear from you.

*Here's how your club
can become
internationally
famous
overnight!*

The magazine printing company can make up your ad for you (at no extra cost), or you can sketch out you own. Either way, today is the best possible time to start.

ADVERTISING DEADLINE: DEC. 1, 1976

Court Club Directory Advertising Rates

One inch ad	\$ 30
Two inch ad	\$ 50
Three inch ad	\$ 70
1/4 Page	\$150
1/2 Page	\$250

We know that deciding what you want in your ad takes time. We also know that it is easy to put off. But now, while it is on your mind, please take a few minutes, write out what is needed, and drop it in the mail. We can do a better job for you . . . and you won't have to worry about the deadline.

International Racquetball Association
Post Office Box 31481 — Suite 1012
Dallas, Texas 75231

Fill it out; mail it in.

Attach black and white printer's proof of any art or special logotype desired. The printing company can enlarge or reduce art work to fit your ad-space.

SUGGESTED INFORMATION CHECK-LIST:

Name of Club _____
Address _____ City _____
State _____ Zip _____ Telephone _____
Club owner and manager _____
Number of Courts _____ Hours Open _____
Annual club sponsored events (tournaments, clinics, etc.) _____
Other _____

Please include payment with copy.

THE SCOREBOARD

Sauser-McCarthy def. Guerrero-Turlington 21-3, 21-3; Snizek-Burns ftt.; Steding-Knudsen bye; Parent-Rassenti def. Gwinn-Lerner, 21-1, 21-3; Williams-Carow def. Rentz-Hornak, 21-1, 21-12; Pasternak-Greer def. Lovingood-Seipp, 21-5, 21-13.

Quarterfinals: Harding-Marriott def. Tennesen-Dillin, 21-3, 21-9; Sauser-McCarthy def. Snizek-Burns, 21-2, 21-2; Steding-Knudsen def. Parent-Rassenti, 21-13, 21-18; Williams-Carow def. Pasternak-Greer, 21-13, 21-13.

Semifinals: Harding-Marriott def. Sauser-McCarthy, 21-18, 21-17; Williams-Carow def. Steding-Knudsen, 21-19, 21-4.

Finals: Williams-Carow def. Harding-Marriott, 16-21, 21-15, 21-18. Third: Steding-Knudsen by default.

Atlanta, Ga.

STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

MARCH 19-20-21

OPEN

Semifinals: Dan Stark def. Tom Marshall, 21-3, 21-5; Bob Siegle def. Doug Wurster, 14-21, 21-10, 21-4.

Final: Stark def. Siegle, 21-16, 21-13. (Third: Marshall.)

"B"

Semifinals: Eddie Lee def. Wayne Vincent, 12-21, 21-18, 21-17; Steve Swartz def. Alan Shaw, 21-10, 21-16.

Finals: Swartz def. Lee, 21-7, 16-21, 21-17. (Third: Vincent.)

SENIORS

Semifinals: Jim Hilliard def. Scott Carroll, 21-13, 21-3; Bill Darby def. John Derdeyn, 19-21, 21-5, 21-10.

Finals: Hilliard def. Darby, 21-1, 21-8. (Third: Derdeyn.)

MASTERS

Semifinals: Frank Jernigan def. Don Hall; Jim Bradford def. Scott Dimon.

Final: Bradford forfeit over Jernigan. (Third: D. Hall.)

NOVICE

Semifinals: Joe Clamon def. Ken Hall, 21-13, 21-5; Charles Brock def. James Dunn, 21-12, 21-6. (Third: K. Hall.)

WOMEN

Semifinals: Dianne Crowe def. Andi Smith, 21-7, 21-8; Nancy Hamrich def. Nancy Fox, 21-7, 21-8.

Finals: Hamrich def. Crowe, 21-9, 21-4. (Third: Smith.)

Louisville, Ky.

MAY 7-8-9, 1976

DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIPS

OPEN

Finals: Alan Hyman-Fred Michels def. Ken Porco-Doug Gordon, 21-17, 15-21, 21-17. Third place: David Brown-David Fleischaker def. Chuck Cooper-Billy Evans, 21-15, 20-21, 21-14.

WOMEN'S

Finals: Kay Evans-Marge Polites def. Holly Rentz-Laura Perkins, 21-14, 21-12. Third place: Diane Sanders-Bobbi Brennan def. Joan Barlow-Eileen Ernst, 21-19, 21-13.

MIXED

Finals: Ken Porco-Holly Rentz def. Chuck Cooper-Kay Evans, 21-17, 13-21, 21-12. Third place: Ray Sabbatine-Brenda Montgomery def. Dean Sorg-Judy Shirrell, 21-17, 21-14.

"B" DIVISION ROUND ROBIN

1. Ike Gumer-Brian Bloom
2. Rick Russell-Dean Sorg
3. Jon Fleischaker-Bruce Prizant

SENIOR DIVISION ROUND ROBIN

1. Bob Adkins-Russell Travis
2. Ben McRoberts-John Sacks
3. Grayson Hanks-Jerry Philpot

MASTERS

1. Ike Gumer-Billy Simon
2. Lew Whipple-Bernie McGinnis

Morgantown, W.Va.

2ND ANNUAL STATE TOURNEY

MARCH 20-21, 1976

"A" OPEN SINGLES

Semifinals: Ron Dick def. Dave Taylor (Morgantown); Dave Johnsen def. Rich Yobbagy (Weirton).

Continued on page 56



Slazenger

Since 1881 ®

WRITE FOR FREE ILLUSTRATED CATALOG

SLAZENGERS INC. • 2522 STATE ROAD • CORNWELLS HEIGHTS, PA. 19020

Continued from page 55

Finals: Ron Dick (Huntington) def. Dave Johnson (Morgantown), 20-21, 21-13, 21-15.
3rd Place: Dave Taylor def. Rich Yobbagy.
Consolation Winner: Ted Gallagher (Morgantown) def. John Loth (Morgantown).

"B" OPEN SINGLES

Semifinals: Andy Muldoon def. Jack Hollahan (Morgantown); Mike Howell def. Pat McCune (Weirton).

Finals: Andy Muldoon (Charleston) def. Mike Howell (Charleston), 21-7, 21-7.

3rd Place: Pat McCune def. Jack Hollahan.

Consolation Winner: Peter Halsey (Morgantown) def. Joe Prentiss (Morgantown).



HELP PREVENT EYE INJURY!

Not only can you buy the finest handball and racquetball gloves and the finest racquets from Champion, but you can get the very best eye protection for these exciting sports from Champion, too.

Champion's MK Eyeguard is made from strong, lightweight aluminum, covered with soft, natural rubber and designed to mold around the eyes for maximum visibility.

Champion's MK Eyeguard reminds you to keep your eye on the ball, where it belongs, and play with confidence you have never felt before.

We don't expect you to strut when you get on the court, but you will feel "confidently" different.

Available at Sporting Goods Stores, Athletic Clubs and your YMCA.

Champion
 GLOVE MFG. CO.
 2200 E. OVID DES MOINES, IOWA 50313

WOMEN'S SINGLES

Semifinals: Carol Wojcik def. Kathy Van Dyke (Morgantown); Mary Scherer def. Cori Jordan (Morgantown).

Finals: Carol Wojcik (Weirton) def. Mary Scherer (Morgantown).

3rd Place: Cori Jordan def. Kathy Van Dyke.

OPEN DOUBLES

Semifinals: Johnsen-Taylor def. Arnold Margolin-Andy Muldoon (Charleston); Yobbagy-Krovocheck def. Ted Gallagher (Morgantown)-Dave Furda (Weirton).

Finals: Dave Johnsen-Dave Taylor (Morgantown) def. Rich Yobbagy-Gib Krovocheck (Weirton), 21-17, 21-10.

Hutchison, Kans.

MAY 15-16, 1976

DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIPS

OPEN DOUBLES

Semifinals: Kent Taylor-Wayne Campbell def. Champagne-York, 21-14, 20-21, 21-19; Lemmon-Parodi def. Swank-Ruelas, 21-12, 21-19, Third: Champagne-York def. Swank-Ruelas, 21-15, 21-7.

Finals: Taylor-Campbell def. Lemmon-Parodi, 17-21, 21-8, 21-17.

Consolation: Patton-Clark def. Gorman-Duncan, 21-14, 6-21, 21-17.

"B" DOUBLES

Semifinals: Stroup-Frye def. Parson-Smith, 21-18, 17-21, 21-9; Brewer-Stram def. Brundage-Mangan, 21-17, 6-21, 21-13.

Finals: Brewer-Stram def. Stroup-Frye, 21-20, 6-21, 21-16.

Consolation: Canaday-Hafner def. Corey-Thomas, 21-18, 21-4.

WOMEN'S DOUBLES

Semifinals: Greer-Wilson def. Livingston-Hauff, 21-3, 21-0; Brundage-Wicks def. Bender-Long, 17-21, 21-15, 21-17.

Finals: Greer-Wilson def. Brundage-Wicks, 21-16, 21-6.

MEN'S SENIORS

Finalists: 1, Bill Branta-Ed Brown; 2, Dave Dalke-Jon Paulin; 3, Andy Small-Carl Russell; 4, Ed Hensley-Don Dirks; 5, Charles Brooks-Dick Woodson.

Intercollegiate

Men's A

Quarterfinals: Steve Smith (MSU) def. Jim Scheyer (Tulane); Mike Sipes (Cincinnati) def. Helmut Brown (Iowa); John Lynch (Illinois) def. Gary Zetover (Santa Fe CC); Miguel Guzman (Lake Forest) def. Johnny Phipps (Auburn).

Semifinals: Smith def. Sipes, 21-3, 21-15; Lynch def. Guzman, 21-7, 21-9.

Finals: John Lynch def. Steve Smith, 14-21, 21-12, 21-7. (Third: Sipes def. Guzman.)

Men's B

Finals: Scott Bernstein, Illinois, def. Jim Culen, MSU, 21-8, 21-9. (Third: Jay Kastner, Illinois def. Kevin Spence, Univ. Florida, 21-10, 21-0.)

Men's Doubles

Semifinals: Jeff Wood-Bill Cook (Iowa State) def. John Dunlop-David Fleetwood (Memphis State); Eric Hines-Dennis Meijer (Ill.) def. Ed Frank-Rejiv Kaul (Lake Forest).

Finals: Hinds-Mejher def. Wood-Cock, 21-11, 21-6. (Third: Dunlop-Fleetwood def. Frank-Kaul.)

WOMEN'S SINGLES

Finals: Sarah Green, Memphis State, def. Annette Hughes, Lake Forest, 21-1, 21-1.

WOMEN'S "B"

Finals: Vickie Kimber, Ill., def. Gail Ferguson, Memphis State, 19-21, 21-7, 21-14.

Norfolk, Virginia

TIDEWATER INVITATIONAL

MARCH 19-20-21, 1976

MEN'S OPEN

Quarterfinals: Weinstein def. Clay McCasky; Sullivan def. Glenn Allen; Wang def. Jim Dailey; Beard def. Buzz Parker.

Semifinals: Stan Weinstein def. Charles Sullivan; Willie Wang def. David Beard.

Finals: Weinstein def. Wang. (Third: Beard def. Sullivan.)

SENIORS

Semifinals: Bill Buckman def. Charles Lake, 21-10, 21-10; John Devlin def. Walter Wales (ft).

Finals: Buckman def. Devlin, 21-8, 21-7 (Bracket not completed.) Third: Lake def. Wales. Consolation: Bill Highland def. George Iselepes.

Waterbury, Conn.

MARCH 6, 7, 1976

CONNECTICUT JUNIOR OPEN

18 AND UNDER

Quarterfinals: Mark Kahan def. Jack Scelza, 21-19, 16-21, 11-7; Heather Marshall def. Larry Spector, 21-5, 21-8; Bob Cohen def. Mike Mitrukewicz, 21-5, 21-6; Marco Paoletta def. Don Rogers, 21-16, 21-12.

Semifinals: Mark Kahan def. Heather Marshall, 21-8, 18-21, 11-6; Bob Cohen def. Marco Paoletta, 21-9, 21-17.

Finals: Bob Cohen def. Mark Kahan, 21-17, 7-21, 11-10.

14 AND UNDER

Quarterfinals: Carl Orkin def. Mike Margolis, 21-12, 21-11; Peter Hawkesworth def. Sam Houston, 21-6, 21-5; Frank Szecla def. Donna Wine- man, 21-17, 21-9; Charles Horton def. Bill Ma- guire, 21-1, 21-3.

Semifinals: Carl Orkin def. Peter Hawkesworth, 21-10, 21-18; Charles Horton def. Frank Scelza, 21-2, 21-5.

Finals: Charles Horton def. Carl Orkin, 21-6, 21-5.

Eastern Canada

MAY, 1976

REGIONALS

First place winners, only: Ivan Velan, open singles; Monique Parent, women's open; Ross Harvey, juniors; Murdock Cranston, seniors; and Frank Young, masters.

Western Canada

REGIONALS

First place winners, only: Lindsay Myers, open and juniors; Dena Rassenti, women's open; Logan Tait, seniors; and Don Wynn, masters.

Continued on page 59

**"inside
racquetball"**

**"The best book ever
written about
racquetball," according
to some of the game's
foremost players.**



**THE AUTHORIZED
IRA PLAYER'S
MANUAL
AND RULE BOOK**

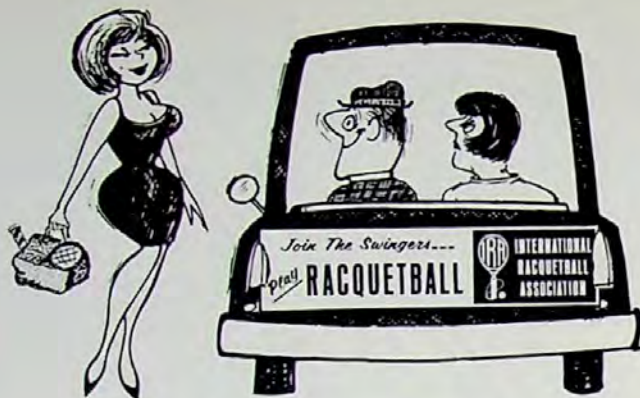
\$4.95

To order "inside racquetball," and/or tournament supplies, use this handy order blank.

Please rush — postage paid — the following racquetball supplies:

Mail this Order Blank with your check or money order to:

57



If you have hesitated to ask a friend to join you in the IRA, hesitate no longer. We'll even encourage you.

Membership application for the . . .

INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION

Name _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Attached is my check for \$ _____ One year at \$6.00 or
\$ _____ Two years at \$10.

(Add \$1 per year if outside the U.S., Canada or Mexico.)
— IRA Magazine subscription is included with your dues —

Detach and mail to:

New _____
Renewal _____

INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION

Post Office Box 31481 — Suite 1012

Dallas, Texas 75231

Membership application for the . . .

INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION

Name _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Attached is my check for \$ _____ One year at \$6.00 or
\$ _____ Two years at \$10.

(Add \$1 per year if outside the U.S., Canada or Mexico.)
— IRA Magazine subscription is included with your dues —

Detach and mail to:

New _____
Renewal _____

INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION

Post Office Box 31481 — Suite 1012

Dallas, Texas 75231

Membership application for the . . .

INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION

Name _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Attached is my check for \$ _____ One year at \$6.00 or
\$ _____ Two years at \$10.

(Add \$1 per year if outside the U.S., Canada or Mexico.)
— IRA Magazine subscription is included with your dues —

Detach and mail to:

New _____
Renewal _____

INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION

Post Office Box 31481 — Suite 1012

Dallas, Texas 75231

MEMBERSHIP in the IRA has been said to make its members happier, healthier and wealthier than almost anyone you care to mention . . .

And some you might not care to mention.

We don't guarantee this statement, but we won't deny it, either; some of the healthiest, happiest, wealthiest people we've ever known are members.

If you are not, join us, and let's see what happens next. Whether it's wealth or not, you can be sure it'll be exciting.

IRA racquetball is excitement.

As an IRA member you are eligible for IRA sanctioned and sponsored tournaments, activities and sundry competitions; you are eligible to wear the Official IRA shoulder patch (and are privileged to wear it anywhere you please); you will begin receiving within minutes (or at least six weeks) your own, personal, private copies of the IRA Racquetball Magazine telling you about everything that's going on in racquetball . . . interviews with top players . . . instruction on improving your game . . . and a host of enjoyable reading.

You'll be notified of national tournaments and the annual membership meeting; you'll be eligible to vote in the most democratically run organization that ever admitted a republican to membership. (How's that for being democratic?) Join us today. You'll enjoy the IRA, and we believe you'll enjoy your favorite sport even more.

RACQUETBALL

THE SCOREBOARD

Continued from page 56

Salt Lake City, Utah

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

OPEN

Quarterfinals: T. Sayes def. B. McNabb; R. Mills def. C. Kuntz; H. Ringwood def. D. Kartchner; M. Sayes def. L. Odom.

Semifinals: T. Sayes def. Mills; M. Sayes def. Ringwood.

Finals: Trey Sayes def. Morgan Sayes, 21-18, 18-21, 21-5. (Third: Mills def. Ringwood. Consolation: Kamalu def. Paul Boman).

"B"

Quarterfinals: Dan Brown def. Janell Marriott; Pete Pearson def. Ray Moore; Kim Robinson def. Jerry Hudson; Paul Boman def. Byron Boyd.

Semifinals: Pearson def. Brown; Bowman def. Robinson.

Finals: Bowman def. Pearson, 21-7, 21-7. (Third: Brown def. Robinson. Consolation: Dave Van Massenhove def. Fred Behm).

"C"

Semifinals: Sonya Sharp def. Bill Greider, 21-18, 17-21, 21-8; Kim Robinson def. Randy Darrohn, 21-5, 21-20.

Finals: Robinson def. Sharp, 21-7, 21-16. (Third: Darrohn over Greider. Consolation: Rusty Storms def. Jay Gardner.)

SENIOR-MASTERS

Quarterfinals: Warner def. Crumme; Smoot def. Schofield; Rogers def. Rampton; Wilde def. Skamchy.

Semifinals: Warner def. Smoot, 21-19, 21-11; Rogers def. Wilde, 21-10, 9-21, 21-16.

Finals: Warner def. Rogers, 21-10, 9-21, 21-16. (Third: Smoot def. Wilde. Consolations: Carpenter def. Rampton.)

WOMEN'S B

Semifinals: Walton def. Nelson; Maddalena def. Brown.

Finals: Maddalena def. Walton, 21-15, 21-19. (Third: Nelson def. Brown. Consolation: Taylor def. Gaddis.)

Minneapolis, Minn.

JAN. 30-31-FEB. 1, 1976

MASTERS INVITATIONAL

First Round: Kronenberg def. Rosenbloom; Melvey def. Anfensen; Brandup def. Sisler; Rudrud def. Singer.

Second Round: Sladky def. Graves; Rosenbloom def. Kronenberg; Claridge def. Huber; Stillman def. Ward.

Third Round: Kronenberg def. Melvey; Brandup def. Rudrud; Sladky def. Rosenbloom; Stillman def. Claridge.

Semifinals: Kronenberg def. Brandup, 21-9, 21-16; Stillman def. Sladky, 6-21, 21-4, 21-11.

Finals: Harold "Diz" Kronenberg def. Ralph Stillman, 21-6, 21-15. (Third: Sladky def. Brandup, 21-12, 21-15.)



(A)



(B)



(C)

This is an IRA shirt tale,

(The girl in the photo is a different story.)

Tee-shirts are not all the same. The experienced racquetball player will observe right off that the guy wearing the shirt with a collar is holding a tennis racket, while the racquetball player is holding an attractive young lady.

If you're curious about what you will be holding, send (today) your check or money order to the IRA—International Racquetball Association, Box 12490, Memphis, Tennessee 38112. There's no way you can lose.

(Married players are advised to order the shirt modeled by the guy wearing the hat. Although the young lady does not automatically come with the shirt ordered, you never know what's liable to happen.)

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------|
| (A) Mesh crew neck | \$5.25 |
| (B) Collar shirt | \$5.50 |
| (C) Regular crew neck | \$5.00 |

Specify color (blue, white, yellow) and size (S-M-L-XL).

To: IRA, Box 31481, Suite 1012, Dallas, Texas 75281

Find attached my check (MO) for \$_____ to cover charges for

_____ shirts model_____ @ \$_____ each. Color

_____. Size_____.

Send to: Name_____

Address_____ City_____

State_____ Zip_____

All shirts carry the silk-screened IRA emblem, are wrinkle free and comfortable. We are sure you'll enjoy them. Order several.



SPORTCRAFT serves up a comprehensive line of I.R.A. approved equipment. The newly designed #13130 "Explo," lightweight aluminum racquet with protective bumper. The "spaceage" racquet! - #13136, nylon glass



frame with rubber grip. Our satin finish aluminum #13127 with bumper.

For long, hard, accurate play the answer is SPORTCRAFT'S I.R.A. approved #'s 13265, 13275 and 13274 racquetballs.

**SPORT
CRAFT**



SPORTCRAFT excellence . . . a winning player's partner.
Quality beyond the ordinary.

GENERAL SPORTCRAFT CO., LTD. BERGENFIELD, N.J. 07621



A new ball game!

TOURING THE COURTS

Don Kessinger learned about baseball while growing up in Memphis. Now Memphis is learning a new ball game from Don. The all-star shortstop of Chicago Cubs and St. Louis Cardinal baseball fame has announced the September opening of one of the newest racquetball court clubs in the South.



The Don Kessinger Court Club will serve an area of some 800,000 people in Memphis and surrounding suburbs. Kessinger, and his wife, Carolyn, say the club will not only be the first in this area, but will be one of the finest in this part of the nation.

The new racquetball facility was conceived in 1975 when Kessinger learned he was being traded to the St. Louis Cardinals. He and his wife, along with their sons, Keith, 9, and Kevin, 6, decided to settle in Memphis—the area in which both Don and Carolyn grew up. It was really a homecoming.

The Kessingers are avid racquetballers. Don uses the game to keep in top condition during his off-season, and Carolyn is a daily player. After only two years she is the third ranked woman player in Tennessee.

On arriving in Memphis, they found the availability of racquetball courts woefully lacking. It was at that moment the idea for the new club was conceived.

Substance was added to the idea with a January 1976 groundbreaking. In partnership with Harold and Barry Sterling, the Kessingers have worked with the architectural

Continued on next page

firm of McGhee, Nicholson and Burke to create a structure that is attractive on the outside, and completely functional on the inside. Building is in the hands of the Maler Construction Corporation, and according to the Kessingers and Maler is right on schedule.

Bob Navickey is the general manager of the facility. He has a marketing background with the IBM corporation, and is an active handball, racquetball, and tennis player. He received his tutelage under Mike Dau, the Lake Forest, Illinois, college athletic director.

With Navickey at the club will be one of racquetball's finest player-teachers, Randy Stafford, author of the outstanding manual, "Racquetball—The Sport for Everyone." Navickey said, "For our handball playing members, we will have the expert counseling services of Larry Edwards, coach of the top-ranked Memphis State University's handball team. He's also a rather fine racquetballer."

In describing facilities of the Don Kessinger club, Navickey said, "It will be a private, family oriented club with limited membership. We definitely do not want to get into an overcrowded situation. We look forward to a 40 percent women's membership. The club offers separate dressing areas, complete with hair dryers, saunas and whirlpools, exercise room, free supervised nursery, a fully stocked pro-shop, and comfortable refreshment-lounge area."

The Kessingers and Navickey pointed out that the eight courts will be similar, and in some respects identical, to those in which the IRA international championship tournaments were played at the University of Tennessee in Chattanooga.

"Our court construction is of the best materials that the present state of the art has to offer," Navickey said, adding, "The walls and ceiling are of Wilson Arts Laminated panels designed and supplied through Sports Unlimited, and installed with their metal splining. Lighting is with 100-candlepower balanced illumination, and the floors are of solid maple."

Well in advance of the opening date, the Don Kessinger Court Club was providing membership information to Memphis residents. Before July, one could reach the club by calling 682-6661—and the building wasn't hardly begun.

"We are planning ahead," Navickey said. "We will have an active internal program for members including free morning clinics for women. There will be league play, in-house tournaments, student programs, a divisional challenge ladder system, mixed doubles and family competitions."

The Kessingers, Sterlings, and Navickey agree it is an exciting time in which to be involved in the court club business. "Being the first, or one of the first clubs in Memphis affords us the opportunity to set high quality standards, and further the cause of a sport in which we believe (and enjoy). Naturally a membership-club has a premier responsibility to its members, and we are promising them many hours of fun and healthy recreation."



Don Kessinger at work

The name Kessinger is as well known to sports fans as the name Kissinger is to politicians. Not so well known, but also in politics is Harold H. Sterling, Jr., one of the other partners in the court club. Sterling and his brother formed their own real estate company nine years ago, and in 1968 Harold Sterling, Jr., ran for, and was elected to the Tennessee House of Representatives. He is married, the father of three youngsters, and in 1972 was named the most Outstanding Young Man in Tennessee.

Barry Sterling is a 1967 graduate of Memphis State University, a partner and co-founder of the Sterling Real Estate firm, and a co-partner in the Don Kessinger Court Club. Following his graduation from MSU he was voted Outstanding Young Man of America in 1968 and 1970. Barry is also married. He and his wife have one child.

A third party might be considered a "partner-in-action," although not in name. Financing for the club's initial construction has come through the Bank of Germantown, Tennessee (a suburb of Memphis), and has been handled by bank president Don Russell.

TOURING THE COURTS

Memphis - Nashville - Atlanta

PRESLEY'S Center Courts

The name works magic everywhere, but especially so in Memphis, Tennessee. When groundbreaking ceremonies were announced for the first Presley Center Court club, rumor spread that Elvis, himself, might be back home for the proceedings and a crowd of more than two thousand showed up at the Mendenhall and Mt. Moriah building site.

The misunderstanding was unintentional, but such is the Presley charisma that most stayed for the ground-breaking even when they knew the city's favorite son would not be present.

The Memphis court club will be the first in a number of facilities now under construction and/or in the site selection stage, according to Michael McMahon and Dr. George Nichopoulos, two of the principals in the firm of Presley Center Courts, Incorporated.

McMahon said the first club should open early in September, and will be followed in a matter of weeks by their second one—in Nashville. Sites for three clubs are

being studied for the Atlanta, Georgia, area. Average court club costs, including buildings and land, will be in the neighborhood of \$700,000 each, providing the burgeoning sport with between three and seven million dollars worth of new playing facilities in the south. Other cities being considered, the firm indicated, are Knoxville and Chattanooga.

Dr. Nichopoulos, president of Presley Center Courts, Inc., said each of the clubs will be similar to the one under construction at Memphis, and will include ten courts in an 18,000 square foot, fully air-conditioned building. Architects Sanford, Faulk and Hardaway are working with the Nashville construction company, D & A Enterprises, in the first club building. Playing surfaces—floors, walls and ceilings—are being supplied by the court-club panelling company, Sports Unlimited.

Other officers in the company besides president Nichopoulos are vice-presidents Michael McMahon, Memphis real estate

developer and general manager of the Memphis club, and Joe Esposito, Elvis Presley's road manager. Presley, who is chairman of the board will not take an active day-to-day part in management of the parent company, but will be involved with decision making.

The popular singer-entertainer began playing racquetball about two years ago, and came to appreciate the game so thoroughly that he had a private court constructed at his Graceland home in Whitehaven. From this enthusiasm came the interest that brought the Presley Center Courts construction company into being.

McMahon said the Memphis club is already receiving requests for membership, and invited those who would like to become charter members to call his office (901) 767-8368.

"See you in 'Divorce Court'"

"See you at 2 o'clock in Divorce Court." An attorney squaring off for a legal battle with another attorney? No. An attorney setting an appointment with a friend for a fast game of racquetball at Ventura Courthouse.

Ventura Courthouse is located in the center of Ventura, California, and is the only facility of its kind in Ventura County. Dennis Kuttler, Bill Burke, and Rick Beguelin began to investigate the possibilities of such a facility over two years ago. The need was firmly established and, after several months of financial packaging, construction was started in late December of last year.

The final result of this effort is a beautiful facility with over 16,000 square feet of floor space. It cost in excess of \$500,000 to construct. Ventura Courthouse has ten regulation racquetball/handball courts, each individually temperature controlled. In addition, an exhibition court with a glass side wall, an observation deck running the length of the building, two very attractive lounges

complete with lounge chairs, couches, and tables, a large pro shop, a health bar, two saunas, a jacuzzi, very nice men's and women's locker rooms, supergraphics to highlight the entire club, and a second floor veranda overlooking tennis courts and the Pacific Ocean are provided to the patrons.

The Ventura Courthouse theme has been carried throughout the building with extensive use of colorful supergraphics in various areas of the facility. Individual

courts are called "Divorce Court," "Small Claims Court," "Traffic Court," and other appropriate court names.

Ventura Courthouse is open from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily. The manager is Peter Rizzo who was previously membership and public relations director for the YMCA in Santa Barbara, California. The general partners consider this facility one of the nicest in the nation. They are currently in negotiations on five other similar facilities on the West Coast.

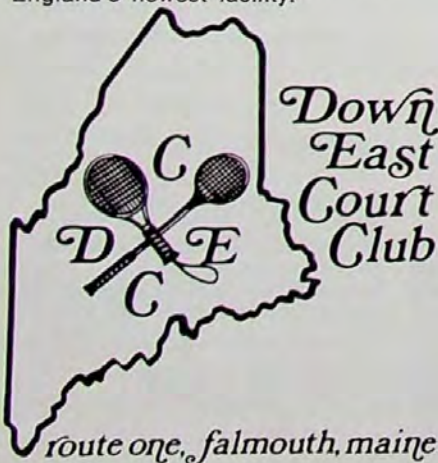


DIVORCE COURT SPECIALISTS—Left to right, Dennis Kuttler, attorney; Bill Burke, stockbroker; and Rick Beguelin, investment banker as they keep pace with construction of their Ventura county facility.

TOURING THE COURTS



MARION SANDERS, upper left, keeps exercise room equipment from getting rusty; upper center: Dr. and Mrs. Carl Jackson on the court; upper right: lounge overlooking one of the courts; and Beth Astor, wife of club president, checking out the whirlpool in New England's newest facility.



The state of Maine's only court club opened four racquetball and one squash court in March. Fewer than five months later they decided the club needs four more courts!

Kevin York, manager of the Down East Court Club, explained that additions to the present site have already been discussed, and plans are being considered for construction of additional court clubs along the eastern seaboard. Racquetball in the northeast is enjoying the same boom as has been seen in the rest of the nation.

Down East is a joint venture of Ken Astor, Portland, and Peter Camplin, York, Maine. Of their four racquetball courts, one is an exhibition court with 16-foot glass backwall, and an eight-foot glass side wall. For the other walls they chose the block-bonded and plaster finish. Floors are of standard maple. The owners feel the new court is on of the finest in the upper New England area.

Amenities are plush! The club's upper level includes a TV equipped nursery, pro-shop and lounge from which one can view the court action, or just relax, in front of the fireplace. Intimate furnishings, warm, cheerful decor, and a variety of food, drink, and conversation are always available, said York. If one isn't ready for a fast game of racquetball, he can challenge a member to an equally fast game of backgammon.

The spacious locker rooms are carpeted, and equipped with saunas and whirlpools for both men and women. There is also a steam room for the men. Both dressing rooms are furnished with over-size lockers. Hair dryers and even hot lather machines are on hand.

Members can work out in the fully equipped exercise room, and take advantage of diet and nutritional consultations. Instruction in the court sports of racquetball, handball, or squash are offered on an individual basis, in classes, group clinics, and through tournament play.

Club manager Kevin York said the state of Maine has long needed a facility of this kind. "We think we have provided the people in the area of Portland a place in which they can enjoy America's fastest growing sport . . . and relax in a posh, luxurious atmosphere. We have concentrated our efforts on building a totally member-oriented club, with the finest available facilities and amenities.

Membership rates for the club are \$80 for individuals; \$100 for husband and wife; and \$10 for junior memberships. Court fees vary from \$4 to \$6 per hour depending on time of day, but permanent court time reservations can be made at reduced rates.

TOURING THE COURTS



Fountain of Youth

by

John and Nancy Brown

It's unfortunate that the sport of racquetball and the philosophy of *The Fountain of Youth* were not around for poor Ponce de Leon.

Our staff at the new *Fountain of Youth* Court Club and Health Spa in White River Jct., Vermont, would say, with grins on their faces, that he actually approached the fabled fountain without ever knowing it. For they know that good health requires good exercise. And that is one thing that de Leon must surely have gotten.

Racquetball is a sport totally new to our area. However, Nancy and I were enthusiastic about the game and optimistic as to its future. A few facts will strongly support that optimism.

We opened the *Fountain of Youth* on March 1 this year with a total of 25 members. After only three months spent in introducing the sport, membership is now over 200.

We designed the complex so expansion from our current three courts could easily be accomplished. And already we are looking forward to the time when we will be able to host a major pro tournament. The first three months of operation have surely justified this confidence.

Although basically we are a rural Vermont community (*The Fountain of Youth* is built on the land of the dairy farm where I was raised as a boy), it is a highway hub of the entire Northeast. Population within a fifteen mile radius exceeds 50,000. Dartmouth College

with its fine arts center lies just five miles up the Connecticut River.

The Fountain of Youth is an 8,000 square foot, complete, air-conditioned facility, with special emphasis on health through enjoyable participation in sports. Complementing the three racquetball courts are two lighted outdoor tennis courts. Outdoor activities are further encouraged with horseback riding in the summer, and snow-mobiling and ice-skating in the winter.

The facility has two exercise rooms equipped with the latest Universal exercise equipment available. Both locker rooms provide saunas and Roman baths. The staff includes fully trained and professional personnel to draw up individual health programs for members. A para-professional staff is also maintained at all times to provide games for members coming in alone.

There is a supervised nursery where members can leave their young children while enjoying a game of racquetball. A comfortable lounge provides members with court viewing, pool tables, and a 6-foot by 4-foot wide-screen TV.

If Ponce de Leon were to return, to search in the Green Mountains for his fountain, there's a pretty good chance we'd see him. Whether he traveled I-89 or I-91, he would find but one place where these routes cross and where he could find the answer for all his needs—gas and oil for his horses, food and rest in a Howard Johnson's Motor Lodge and Restaurant with indoor pool and lounge, the largest shop of hand-crafted gifts in the state, a custom leather boutique, and many others. And, he would also find in this oasis of the modern highway system *The Fountain of Youth*.



RIBBON CUTTING ceremonies with, from the left, Jim Young, Sue Cirkl, Sheldon Dimmick, and owners Nancy and John W. Brown. Shane and Chris make use of the children's play room, and club pros Bert Moffet (left) and Mike Cain try out the front wall. Exercise equipment in the lower photo was furnished by Universal.



RACQUETBALL

Building new courts this year?

R² Inc. has perfected F.R.C. and the total playing surface for all types of court construction.

F.R.C. means Fiberglass Reinforced Concrete. It combines the playability of concrete with high durability. Only R² Inc. has it.

F.R.C. costs far less than panels and is much more durable than plaster. All of this with no or low maintenance means a much lower total cost. We have installed over 100 courts throughout the U.S., each with complete customer satisfaction.

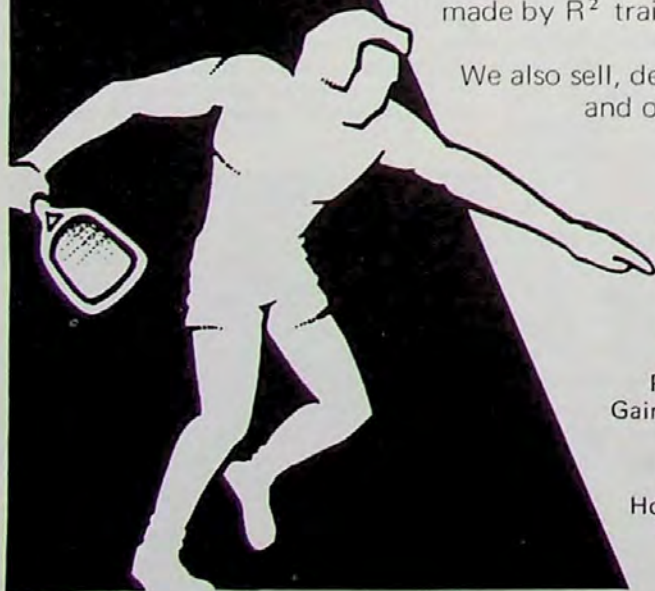
R² Inc. sells, custom designs and installs the entire F.R.C. playing surface and complete R² court systems.

Hardwood Floors are specially designed for handball-racquetball courts. They are not just gym floors.

Ceilings are specially designed with the R² acoustical feature and are available with F.R.C.

Doors, lights and glass are all designed for R² court use. R² courts, both **indoor** and **outdoor**, are designed for excellent playability on all surfaces. Installations are made by R² trained personnel and carry a full warranty.

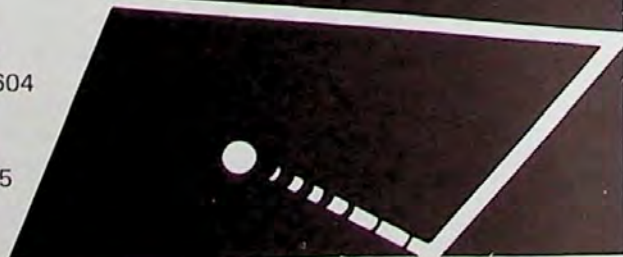
We also sell, design, install and repair panel and other court systems.



R² INC.

P.O. Drawer 13415
Gainesville, Florida 32604
(904) 373-5539

P.O. Box 35846
Houston, Texas 77035
(713) 729-4071



Jerry Hilecher

In an interview with a world-champion, one would hardly expect to hear him say, "I went three weeks straight without winning a match, going into the (international) tournaments." In the following interview by Tom McKie, Jerry Hilecher, IRA's world's champion professional racquetball player talks about winning and losing, and some of the things he does about both.

By Tom McKie

Tom McKie—Jerry, we know this has been a busy year for you. You have become engaged; you graduated from the University of Missouri; and you have won the professional racquetball's world championship, but tell us something about those years leading up to the competition in Chattanooga.

Jerry Hilecher—Most of my life has been spent in St. Louis. I was born in Chicago, but we moved when I was about five-years-old, so my high school years were spent in St. Louis, and my college years were at Columbia and St. Louis.

Tom—Did you start playing racquetball at the university, or before?

Jerry—Dad, my brother and I would play at the JCCA—mostly during the summer. Dad would take us. I was about ten at the time and racquetball was just recreation. I enjoyed playing with them, but I didn't take the game seriously. It was just one of a number of sports.

Tom—That was eleven years ago, and of course there were no national tournaments at that time, but you were old enough to enter the first IRA nationals. Did you?

Jerry—No. I played in the second one, however. It was held in St. Louis, at the JCCA, and on home courts. I remember I played against Ken Porco, and he was nice enough to let me stay in the game. He didn't let me embarrass myself.

Tom—How old were you then?



Hilecher serving to Strandemo.

Jerry—I was 15 that year. It was at that time I got involved with the game. I was playing pretty well, and enjoyed it. That was the year Porco and Mike Zeitman won the doubles. I looked at Zeitman as an idol.

Tom—And Mike was on hand to referee your championship match at Chattanooga...

Jerry—Yes. I thought about that after the match. Both he and Porco were at the nationals this year. It made the day that much nicer. When those two guys won the national doubles at the second IRA championships, it was kind of like a dream.

Tom—Since that second IRA tournament you have improved each year...

Jerry—Actually, I have done pretty well in each of the IRA tournaments, but of course, I have improved along the way. At the third internationals at Salt Lake I met Bill Schmidtke and lost to him in the quarterfinals.

The Salt Lake event was the first away-from-home tournament I attended, and it was the first I had trained for. Until then, racquetball was just a lot of fun, good exercise, but no more so than any other sport. But for this one—in Utah—I was psyched up. I had worked for it, and I knew how I stood against other St. Louis players. I went to Salt Lake expecting to do well. I guess that was good, because I had a lot of confidence.

I didn't know the other players. I had never played Schmidtke. He was ranked in the top eight. He went on to win it, but when I played him, I didn't think he was that much. I beat him the first game of the match, 21-9, and when I walked off the court I was feeling

Continued on next page

Jerry Hilecher, at right, in typical pre-serve posture. In photo at far right Jerry's fiancée shows evidence of proper upbringing (one will note she is holding the check). Below: Jerry and Tom discuss the championship finals.



Continued from preceding page

pretty good, but not with the feeling of an upset. Just a win. I didn't know who he was, really.

All of a sudden I saw about 15 players gathered around him, throwing all these suggestions at him, and nobody was talking to me. It was kind of weird—all those people—then the next strange thing I saw was a ceiling ball. My first. And when you have never seen one before you don't know what to do with it. The next two games weren't too close!

Tom—You've mentioned other sports several times, Jerry. Which others do you enjoy?

Jerry—In high school I started playing soccer and golf. As for conditioning soccer was perfect. In racquetball you are constantly moving, and the same thing is true of soccer.

Tom—If soccer improved you physically, would you say that golf helped you mentally . . . ?

Jerry—Yes! Golf is a game where you must have complete concentration. Golf helped my racquetball game, and racquetball has probably helped my golf. Back then, however, I couldn't concentrate on racquetball. And in golf I was throwing my clubs around. I think that if I go back to golf, I'll be a much better player simply because I now have much better mental control than I did then.

Tom—This year dictates that you start making a number of changes in your life style. You now have a college degree, so there's no more school for a while. And you have a championship title. Both are going to make some new demands of you.

Jerry—I feel my choice of studies was good. I majored in economics and minored in marketing and psychology. Lately I have talked with some people along the line of putting both of these major fields of study to some use . . . and in the racquetball world. I have several tentative ideas about what I would like to do, but nothing has been settled, or decided.

I have talked with—am talking with—Ektelon about working for them as a player representative.

Tom—For this summer?

Jerry—For a full time job. They are as interested in my degree as they are in me as a player. So, I'm glad the degree is in business—economics and marketing. Being

PLAYER PROFILE

out of school is a different feeling from past summers. All of the sudden it hits you, knowing you're not going back to college at the end of August.

Tom—Your security blanket is gone?

Jerry—Yes—you don't realize it at first, and maybe it still hasn't hit me, but it is creeping up, on me. When I was in college I didn't worry about a full time job, and now, instead of rushing into a summer job I will wait for something more suitable. Something permanent.

Tom—What are some of the longer range plans that you're considering?

Jerry—Because I enjoy the sport of racquetball, and believe in its future, most of my thinking has included the sport. I am interested in ownership, or part ownership of a club. I have thought about management—in terms of managing a chain or, at least several clubs. But at the same time, I do not want to be tied to one club all of the time, as I've seen other pro-managers do.

They are in the club nine or more hours a day. If they keep their game sharp they must stick around another two hours. That is a lot of togetherness, and I think this is something I'd rather avoid.

I would like to stay close to the sport. Possibly with an equipment company. As a coordinator of activities for several clubs. Maybe as an investor, or part owner. These are a few of the ideas I have.

Tom—Many people would think being a club pro would be a perfect setting for a professional player, but I agree that a player can go "stale." Right now you are in great condition, and considered one of the hardest hitting players in the league. How do you account for the fact that you hit so much harder than most?

Jerry—I think most of it is due to the manner in which I learned the game. Consider some of the other St. Louis players. Most of them are hard hitters: Steve Serot, Marty Hogan, and the up-coming Ben Koltun. All four of us started when we were very young, and young players have more confidence in swinging harder. Power seems more important to them, whereas older players want to conserve their strength, and develop more of a controlled game.

Players from St. Louis are all serve and shoot. All of us have good serves. We are hard hitters, and we are all shooters. Part of it goes with our ages. Phil Smith, at the JCCA, advised Serot and me, and most of the other

players. He started us on programs, and he emphasized timing. None of us is particularly strong or heavily muscled at all, but with proper timing we can get a lot of power into the ball. Very little arm movement is needed for power; it is just where you are hitting, where the point of contact is made, and your wrist.

He (Phil Smith) stressed the wrist. He always had us snapping our wrists, hitting the ball out in front of us and getting down low and moving into the ball. If you do these things you are going to hit the ball hard. The players who wait for the ball to come to them and swing with no wrist are not the power hitters. If you watch us play our stroke we are just about scraping the floor with the racquet. We have a full swing and a long follow-through and are snapping the ball right in our lead foot.

Tom—You have always had great support from your family. I'm sure you have found this to be a big help...

Jerry—It is kind of different. I think my family travels to more tournaments than anybody's. Dad especially. He really enjoys the game. And I feel it is good for him to see what I am doing. He is interested in the sport, and in me...

Tom—Has this been a help to you?

Jerry—It has sometimes, and it hasn't at others. Racquetball is a big mental thing, and you have to keep everything in the right perspective. I think I have grown more mentally in this past year than in any other single year. I think I have matured a great deal this past year. So, when you ask whether having your family at a tournament helps, I think the answer depends on what stage of the game you are in.

In the beginning it was always nice to have the rooting section along. It added momentum. But there is a point in the game where all of your concentration is within the court, and you aren't aware of the rooting. Maybe—in the back of your mind you might hear some—but it isn't that important then. And there was a stage when I think their being at the court was a little added pressure on me to perform better, and at that stage the pressure probably outweighed the benefit of their cheering. But, how do you see the change develop?

I could always face defeat, but it hit harder with dad there. I couldn't help feeling I hadn't given him what he wanted, and there was a stage during which I

PLAYER PROFILE

would do better when he wasn't at a tournament.

I don't know if that had anything to do with it, but I always felt better calling home and saying I had won, knowing they would be feeling good; and I knew I wouldn't feel as badly if I called them up and told them I had lost, as I would have, had they been watching.

But, at the present stage, neither of those feelings is the same. It is no longer a pressure—and it never was too much pressure—and in looking back, I don't think I would have had it any other way.

Tom—What type of player gives you the most trouble?

Jerry—That's hard to answer. Lately, no type has been giving me a hard time. A shooter, like myself, if he is hot will give me a hard time, but I like to think I will outshoot him and keep up with him.

Tom—Would you rather play a shooter or a control player?

Jerry—I think I would rather play a flailer, and for sure, I'd rather play a slow control-player. A slow control-player takes so much time for a stroke that it gives you time to get to the front wall before the ball gets there. That type is ideal for me. I am able to drive the ball to him before he is ready. He isn't able to hit with the control he likes.

A flailer gives you a lot of set-ups. He may beat the average player just on the strength of power, but a top player beats him through better court knowledge—better decisions as to whether to let the ball go to the back wall or to cut it off. And what to do with it when he shoots.

In contrasting the ability of a top control player—such as Brumfield, although I have beaten him when I was hot—with most shooters, you'd have to admit the control player has the edge. And, if Brumfield is playing an average game, and I'm playing only an average game, I'd say he—or another similarly top control player—would probably beat me.

In this sense I think my own game is turning more toward a controlled game. I am changing a little, and not just for the first quick shot. I think you'll see me playing a more balanced game, this year, and I will be able to beat most shooters regularly, as well as some of the top control-players.

Tom—What advice would you have for a beginning

player, say a youngster, or a woman?

Jerry—It depends on their goals. If they want to play racquetball for the pure enjoyment of it, fine. Don't worry about it. They shouldn't worry about running, or jogging, or weight lifting, unless they also enjoy these things.

And I wouldn't push a young player—and I'm talking about the ages of ten to thirteen—into taking the game seriously, or playing it any more than he happens to want to. If I had been pushed, I might not have stayed with the game. If I had been pressured to run three miles a day, or lift weights, for sure I would never have kept it up. I'd say the best thing for the younger player is for him to play just as much as he likes. Then, when he is ready, let him seek advice from older players, rather than for them to say to him, "Look, you're doing this wrong . . . or that wrong."

If a younger player wants to improve his game, he'll notice that he is doing something wrong, and he'll be able to seek advice. He'll ask questions like, "this or that part of my game is giving me problems. How do I correct it?"

Tom—So, you are saying don't put a lot of pressure on the kids: let them mature at their own pace?

Jerry—Of course. At thirteen and fourteen the young player is still growing. They are starting to mature physically, but they don't have the coordination and body, and muscles ready. To ask too much would kill their interest. I enjoyed the game at that age, and I think that is why I enjoy it now. If I had found something else at that age, there is no way I would be playing now.

As far as practice goes, if they want to improve their games, I'd suggest they just hit set-ups. Easy set-ups, and to work on their timing, because timing is the most important part of the game. You are not going to do anything until you can take a set-up and shoot it 95 percent of the time for a roll-out . . . and a winner. The top players—including myself—do this, and that is about all.

I warm up: for half an hour I may hit basic set-up shots that any beginner should be able to hit. But, those are the things you just can't get enough practice with. They are basic. They couldn't worry about the fancy Z-balls and fancy serves. These shots will come to them later. Let them work on basic forehand and backhand kill shots. Later they can move to more difficult shots.

PLAYER PROFILE

Tom—You have recently added some bulk. Is there any special diet you use?

Jerry—I have had trouble gaining and holding my weight. After graduation this spring I was at my lightest weight in the last two years. My stamina was low. I would be tired after my first game, so when I went to San Diego I just ate and ate and ate. Steve Strandemo and I were working out together. Steve is a real health food nut and I began eating healthful foods and protein drinks. I bought all the fancy protein garbage and gained ten pounds in a week. That, plus working out and lifting some weights helped turn the fat into something I would use. I think protein food and drinks help me the most. I think I am in my best, or close to the best condition I could be in.

Tom—Other than diet, and the practice routine you mentioned for youngsters, what special training habits do you have?

Jerry—I may be more unique than many players . . . at least as compared to those who say it is hard work, more hard work, and all hard work. For me, I have to be able to enjoy it, otherwise I don't think I could do it. I think if I had to force myself to follow the training of most of the players, I wouldn't be playing much more.

At the same time, there are a number of training disciplines I follow. But, I enjoy them, too. I usually jog a mile, and sprint at the end, maybe the last lap. I have always had a breathing problem . . . with my lungs. After steady exertion I wouldn't be tired, but maybe five minutes later I would still be breathing very hard. So, what I do now is to jog about quarter speed and then sprint for about ten seconds; then resume quarter-speed jogging, and another ten-second sprint. After a mile or two of that, even though you are not exerting yourself too much, your breathing is very rapid and you are expanding your lungs.

As a result, I don't get winded on the court like I used to. Too, the sprints are excellent for your legs. The constant movement is similar to racquetball. You can feel the wear on your legs when you jog and sprint, alternately. You get more good out of a mile this way than you would be jogging three or four miles. I don't think I have ever jogged more than two miles at any one time in my life. Some guys will jog ten miles a day, but I don't think it's the right exercise for racquetball, at all.

Tom—How did you feel mentally and physically going into the nationals?

Jerry—I didn't expect too much. I went to San Diego before the national, and for two weeks played Steve Strandemo every day, playing an average of two and a half hours a day. After three days my arm felt like it was falling off, and I don't think I won a match during the entire two weeks.

It wasn't that I was playing so poorly, but everybody was beating me. My confidence was kind of low at the time, so I went home a few days early, and got beaten in St. Louis. Just before the nationals I had gone three straight weeks without winning a match. I didn't expect too much going into the tournament.

I had always played well with the Vittert ball, and this helped my confidence some. In the first round I was pretty skeptical about what I could do. But, as I began playing, and as my serves started coming in—and this is the most important part of my game—I began to think nobody could touch me, so it was just a power game, power serves, and I really felt nobody could return the serves. All I had to do was serve the ball, and I would be making points. As the tournament progressed I saw the final win as a real possibility. It became feasible.

I thought during the nationals at Chattanooga, as a whole, I played the best I ever have as a complete tournament. I felt very much in control just about all of the time. There were a few mental lapses that I had which would last about four or five points. But if that is all you have to worry about, then you are doing really well.

I thought, in general, my control, my shooting, and my serves were about the best they ever have been and I guess that is why I won.

Jerry—I felt I was thinking quickly. I didn't feel sluggish at any time and never felt tired. My legs felt great, and my arm never tired. It was just perfect. I couldn't have asked for anything better. Everything fell into shape.

CALENDAR FOR UPCOMING RACQUETBALL

AUGUST

19-22 ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI—IRA sanctioned Pro-Tour. Hosts: Luigi Tucci and Town and Country Racquet Club, 1777 Des Peres Drive, St. Louis 63131. (314) 965-7783, Manager Joe Stephens. (See entry blank, page 8.)

SEPTEMBER

3-6 ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI—Third Annual Missouri open. Castle Oak Racquet Club. Contact Dan Hilecher, c/o CORC, Swingley Ridge Road, Chesterfield, Mo. 63017. (314) 469-1989.

18-19 FALMOUTH, MAINE—Harvest Time Open tournament. Down East Court Club, Route One, Falmouth, Me. Bob Folsom, state chairman, 207-773-2981.

OCTOBER

9-10 WATERTOWN, MAINE — Maine closed tournament, A and B. Waterville, YMCA. Bob Folsom, state chairman, Recreation Department, University of Maine, 96 Falmouth Street, Portland, Me. 04103. Res. 207-773-4803; office 773-2981.

29-31 HOUSTON, TEXAS—IRA International Association's men's championship doubles tournament. Pro-division offered for first time. Downtown YMCA. See page 10, this issue, for entry blank.

NOVEMBER

19-21 WARREN, OHIO — IRA Master's doubles invitational. Write IRA headquarters, Dallas, Texas, regarding information needed for invitations.

19-21 PENN STATE UNIVERSITY — Nittany Lion Open. Luke St. Onge, director, Box 193, Centre Hall, Pa. 16828. 814-364-1482.

20-21 PORTLAND, MAINE — Turkey Fest Open. University of Maine. Contact Bob Folsom, state chairman, 96 Falmouth Street, Portland, Me. 04103.

JANUARY 1977

8-9 UMPG, PORTLAND, MAINE — Maine closed singles: C, novice, ladies, juniors. Contact Bob Folsom, state chairman, University of Maine, 96 Falmouth Street, Portland, Me. 04103.

15-16 WATERTOWN, MAINE — Maine

closed doubles. Contact state chairman, Bob Folsom, Portland, Me.

FEBRUARY

11-13 AUGUSTA, MAINE—Sno Fest Open, men's A and B. Augusta YMCA. Contact state chairman for additional information: Bob Folsom, Portland, Me.

25-27 PENN STATE UNIVERSITY — Pennsylvania State Championships. Luke St. Onge, director, Box 193, Centre Hall, Pa. 16828.

MARCH

18-20 MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE — Intercollegiate championships. Memphis State University. Drite Dr. Leroy Fanning for additional information, or IRA headquarters, Dallas.

18-20 FALMOUTH, MAINE — State open championships. Down East Court Club, Route One, Falmouth, Maine. Kevin York, manager. Owners, Ken Astor and Pete Camplin. Contact state chairman, Bob Folsom, University of Maine, 96 Falmouth St., Portland, Me. 04103. Res: 207-773-4803. Office: 207-773-2981.

Racquetball magazine deadlines

For the January-February issue (mailed January 25),
your copy is needed by December 15.

For the March-April issue (mailed March 25),
your copy is needed by February 15.

For the May-June issue (mailed May 25),
your copy is needed by April 15.

For the July-August issue (mailed July 25),
your copy is needed by June 15.

For the September-October issue (mailed September 25),
your copy is needed by August 15.

For the November-December issue (mailed November 25),
your copy is needed by October 15.

Are you planning a change of address?

we need is your OLD ADDRESS & ZIP, plus your new one.

NAME _____
Former Address _____ New _____
Former City _____ New _____
Former State _____ New _____
Old Zip No. _____ New Zip No. _____

WHOLESALE RACQUETBALL RACQUETS, BALLS & ACCESSORIES

sports awards.co.

LEACH • SEAMCO
SPORTSCRAFT
VOIT • CHAMPION
SARANAC
SPAULDING

Wholesale to
YMCA'S, Pro Shops &
Sporting Goods Stores

All Merchandise in Stock
for Immediate Shipment

Racquetball Trophies in Stock

WRITE OR PHONE FOR
WHOLESALE CATALOG

4351 N. MILWAUKEE • CHICAGO, ILL. 60641
TELEPHONE (312) 282-8060



Introducing a racquetball that will top any ball you've ever played.

AMF Voit is rolling out its hot new Roll Out™ racquetball.

Here's an I.R.A.-approved ball that will out-bounce, out-rebound, out-perform any ball around.

Prove it to yourself with a good old-fashioned drop test. Those extra inches of bounce promise the liveliest game you've ever played.

But the Roll Out is more than just a hot ball. For one thing, it's more accurate because it's rounder. Hold it up against the ball you've been using and you'll see the difference immediately. Other balls tend to bulge at the "poles" which makes them bounce erratically and wobble in flight. Which can mess up your best shots.

The Roll Out ball, on the other hand, is formed in precision molds which produce not only a rounder but also a better balanced ball because the wall thickness is more uniform.

The result is a precision ball that lets you play your very best game.

The Roll Out is also tops in durability. Super strong seam construction virtually eliminates the major cause of ball failure.

Exhaustive comparison testing proves the point. Using a modified pitching machine set to deliver balls at 90 mph against a concrete target, we measured the failure rate of the Roll Out ball against two versions (green and black) of the most popular ball in use today. The results were outstanding: after 500 repetitions, 81



percent of the green balls had broken. And the black version was just slightly better with a failure rate of 56 percent.

By comparison, only a scant 8 percent of the Roll Out balls failed prior to 500. Concrete proof that the rugged Roll Out ball will be around long after the others have split.

To put our great new ball into play, there's also a complete line of



AMF Voit Roll Out racquets and accessories. You'll find the same top quality built into our aluminum and fiberglass racquets, racquetball bags and racquet covers. Plus pro-quality shorts and shirts for on-the-court comfort and distinctive good looks wherever you go.

Give the game your best shot with Roll Out. A great new top performance ball...and a top-notch line of equipment. All designed to bring out the best in you.

AMF Voit, 3801 South Harbor Boulevard, Santa Ana, California 92704.



E. PLURIBUS UNUM



E. PLURIBUS UNUM (FROM MANY... ONE). WHY, FROM THE MANY RACQUETBALLS ON THE MARKET, WAS ONE — THE V-77 BLUE — CHOSEN AS THE ONLY OFFICIAL BALL OF THE I.R.A.? BECAUSE IT COMBINES ALL OF THE BEST INDIVIDUAL CHARACTERISTICS INTO ONE UNIQUELY SUPERIOR BALL. CONSISTENCY, DURABILITY, DEPENDABILITY. ONE-PIECE VULCANIZED, NOT TWO-PIECE GLUED. LONGER LIFE. BETTER FEEL. THAT'S WHY ITS OFFICIAL. SO JOIN THE V FORCE. PLAY THE V BALL, AND SEE THAT WE PRACTICE WHAT WE PREACH. E. PLURIBUS UNUM.



921 Fee Fee Road
Maryland Heights, Mo. 63043
(St. Louis, Mo.) (314) 434-3536

A member of Brown Group, Inc.