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# RACQUETBALL TODAY®

## The kids are alright!

### Juniors compete for national titles

by Betsy Koza

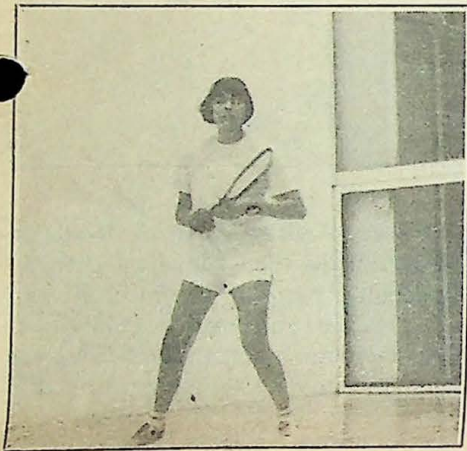
From August 10 to 15, the juniors ruled The Charlie Club in Palatine, Illinois, the host of the 1981 Junior National Championships. Of the over 200 juniors competing, eight earned the right to be called National Champions. Several juniors merely added another title to their "string" of national championships.

In the Girls' 17 & under finals, two national champs battled for the right to yet another national title. Seventeen-year-old Heather Stupp, the reigning Canadian Women's National Champ, and the new U.S.R.A. Women's Open Champ, Liz Alvarado, squared off on the glass court at the Charlie Club for the national junior title and a first place scholarship. Alvarado, a "veteran" juniors player who has made the finals four times and won twice, captured the crown from Stupp after two close games. A "no holds barred" player, Alvarado squeaked past the Canadian 21-20 in the first game, and held Stupp to 13 points in the second game.

The Boys' 17 & under final saw AARA Junior National Champ Jack Newman defeat Ira Miller, of Baltimore, 21-9, 21-13. Miller, the dark horse of the tournament, ousted three seeds, including top seeded Gerry Price, of Castro Valley, CA, en route to his showdown with Newman. Although the final encounter liberally endowed with fantastic shots and pickups, Newman, the hometown favorite, never gave Miller a chance to get into the match, making the show a relatively short one. In the semis, however, both Miller and Newman had to go to tie-breakers: Miller downed Price 17-21, 21-16, 11-5, while Newman beat hard-hitting John Amatulli, from Merryville, IN, 21-20, 20-21, 11-0.

In the Girls' 15 & under, Lynn Wojcik, from Tuscon, AZ, claimed her third national title in a row. Wojcik, the Arizona Women's Champ and a semi-finalist in the U.S.R.A. Women's Nationals, simply outclassed her opponents throughout the tournament. In the finals, Wojcik defeated lanky Dana Pritchett, from Anderson, IN, 21-0, 21-3. Pritchett, a relative newcomer to racquetball, was a finalist in the 1981 WPRA "A" division Nationals.

(Continued on page 3)



Liz Alvarado



Jack Newman



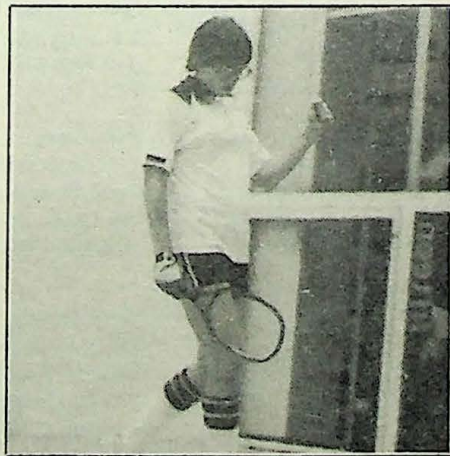
John Amatulli



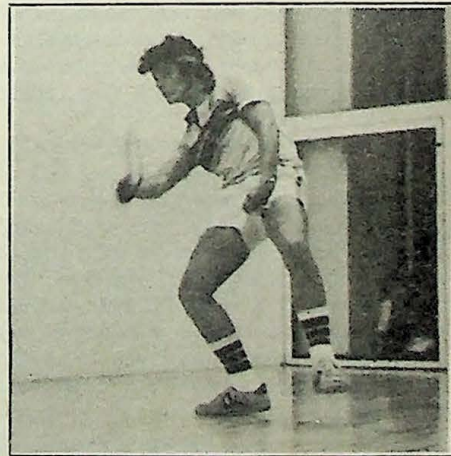
Heather Stupp



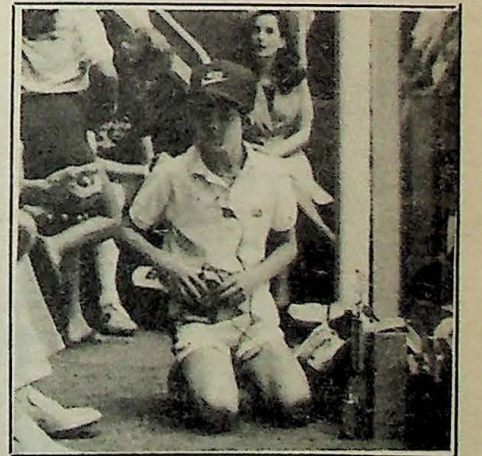
Tim Doyle



Gerry Price



Ira Miller



David Simonette

## USRA/NRC: End of an era

Story on page 6

# We Get Letters . . .

Lynn Adams:

Dear Sirs:

Lynn Adams recent articles are insightful, helpful and well written. The ability to communicate technique in the written form is difficult but Lynn writes from experience so we all benefit from her clearly expressed mechanics.

Thank you for a great service to a thrilling sport.

C.J. Smith  
Springfield, MA

### Embarrassed about Tom:

Dear Editor,

I've been a subscriber for two years. I've read every article written by Tom Grobmisi. The man is sick. His humor is sick. I love it! Enclosed is my check for my renewal. Please don't print my name if you print this letter. I don't think anyone who likes Tom Grobmisi would like to have that known publicly.

Name Withheld

(her initials are W.S. and she's from Kalamazoo, MI and lives on Center St.)

### September front page:

Who was that great looking kid on the front of your September issue? I love the way your paper accentuates the young, the old, and the day-to-day player. Keep it up. I doubt that many people are interested in reading about the pros.

Sincerely,  
Martha Hylesse  
Amarillo, TX

Dear Martha,

The handsome 13-month old "junior player" was Brandon Bozer and the picture was submitted to our photography contest. As for coverage of the sport, we try to cover everything that's happening, including the pros. In that way, people who agree with you can skip over the pros or read about them as they see fit. Our goal is not to make everything in our paper acceptable to everyone, but have enough for everyone or something like that whatever etc. etc. so so so so.

— Ed.

Joe Sobek:

ANOTHER LOOK

Dear RACQUETBALL TODAY,

The interview with racquetball's father, Joe Sobek, in last month's issue was excellent. Anyone who has ever read a book on racquetball has heard of the man. Never before have I seen information given on the original racquetballer, who ranks with the likes of Abner Doubleday. What it must feel like to be creator of a major sport, still alive to see it reach world-wide prominence. Mr. Sobek deserves recognition as the man responsible for a game that made fitness appealing to people of all ages.

After reading the article, I was both happy and worried: happy that I finally got a look at this man I had heard so much about, and worried about his feeling on the progress of his sport-child. As a teaching professional and tournament promoter I am also qualified to make an assessment of "the state of the sport". With all due respect to Mr. Sobek I offer another school of thought on racquetball.

Much talk has been made on the power serve used today. Sobek feels it dominates the game, and has no appeal to spectators. I disagree, and point to his game (tennis) as an example. Many times I have watched pro tennis on television, with John McEnroe and Roscoe Tanner serving aces that would humble Marty Hogan. The tennis crowds love it, just as I love watching Hogan rip the cover off the ball. Sobek further states a power serve "discourages a lot of newcomers". I have yet to see two newcomers play a match involving anything resembling a decent drive serve. But when the pros play those power serves are at times answered with amazing gets that awe the crowd. The serve is an important part of the "flow of the game" and needs little in the way of change.

Mr. Sobek also mentions hinders and out-of-court rules, two areas of controversy that certainly have room for improvement and do not affect the "flow". Next he gets back to an area I again disagree on, the ball speed. More than anything else the ball affects the "flow of the game!" because it IS the game.

The finesse, strategy, and tactics are all still there even to a greater degree than with a slower ball. No self-respecting director would let the ball speed hamper his coverage of a top match. I know, I studied TV production in college. The pressureless balls now being marketed are very acceptable to today's game. The flow of the game of racquetball is exciting by it's very nature.

Athletes enclosed within a small court firing a ball in excess of 100 mph can get pretty exciting. What needs to be more exciting is the format under which matches are executed. More frequent finishes to games within a match to keep the spectators interested. Call up anyone who has observed a WPRO Tournament and ask them about crowd involvement!

My final point is one that agrees with Sobek's stand on player behavior and lack of control. The rules to control rudeness and foul play are in the books Mr. Sobek, and I invite you to attend one of our tournaments in Oklahoma and see them put to proper use.

We all may disagree on different points of detail, but I think everyone would agree that with a little housecleaning racquetball can take it's place as a major sport in the world of athletics.

Mark S. Fairbairn  
Director, Oklahoma Grand Prix  
Racquetball Series

If your state is not listed here, WE NEED YOU to get local news and tournament results to us. If you are interested, please give us a call on our toll free number 800-323-9167.

# Shetzer!

by Alan Shetzer

*Joshua Chap. 6 vs. 20: So the people shouted and the trumpets were blown. As soon as the people heard the sound of the trumpet, the people raised a great shout, and the wall fell down flat. (I also read the book, Bob.)*

R.I.P....USRA, NRC, National Racquetball Magazine 1973-81. It was a short life with a glorious beginning and a not so glorious end.

It started in 1973 with a promotional idea (pro racquetball), added a national amateur racquetball "association" (USRA) to combat the abusive dealings of the International Racquetball Association, and ended abruptly last month because its leader forsook its roots and became mired in his own self interests — self interests that led to fractionalization of the national and state associations that governed the sport.

The divisiveness that resulted in so short a period of time was incredible. National and state associations competed to serve the same public; manufacturers competed for most-favored status with these organizations to the detriment of their own companies and to the sport they wanted to promote. (They even competed against themselves and their own subsidiaries, blantly flaunting conflict of interests.)

In the meantime, the American Amateur Racquetball Association (AARA) was having the same problems of the USRA. They were tied to a privately-owned publication and the majority of their income went to the publication (as well as a substantial portion of their time and effort.)



But the AARA was smart. Realizing the problems they had, they changed directions, severed the financial (and other) ties they had with the publication, and restructured their membership fee so that the money stays primarily within their organization.

Its a moot point if the USRA will ever restructure or try to govern racquetball. Now that there's a truly democratic association in existence that's answerable to the players and is not controlled by private interests, the sport should regroup, unite behind the AARA, and really do what had to be done for the benefit of the players.

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## Editorial

# The women simply said "no"

*Opinion of the editor and publishers of RACQUETBALL TODAY.*

When Charlie Drake sent the contracts for his new "tour" to the men, those who were "invited" to join grabbed it. But the women said "no". And Drake can't figure out why. From his side, he offered the women proportionately everything he offered the men (there were to be 8 women compared to 12 men but the prize money was proportionate). He also allowed the women to continue to compete on the WPRA tour or wherever else they pleased so long as the other events were not in the same metropolitan area 14 days before or after his event. He promised to use his "best efforts" to stage a minimum of six regular events with a minimum of \$15,000 per event and a championship offering a minimum of \$25,000. That's a lot of money for only eight players to shoot at.

According to our information, Drake sent these offers to the eight women he recommended to his sponsors, principally, Catalina, on the basis that these women would best represent the sponsors' products. Included in the eight were the top three, Heather McKay, Lynn Adams, and Shannon Wright. While some of the women's farther down in the rankings accepted the contract, the ones who had the most to gain from it (by virtue of their odds of winning the money) did not. Further, they consulted with the WPRA, who determined that the Drake offering was not in the best interests of the women as a whole.

What was wrong with Drake's offer? Well, for starters, there's history. The women were once under the control of Mr. Drake and just about any woman (or open-minded man) will tell you they did not receive anything close to equal treatment with the men (less money, promotion, court scheduling, etc.). And when they organized and refused to accept a "take-it-or-leave-it" proposition, they were simply "booted." But there were other things wrong with Mr. Drake's offer...it wasn't fair. Fair play is something that is extremely important in sporting competition, as well as in life. Drake's new tour allows him to pick who can play and who cannot, and this choice is **not** based on ability or performance (as No. 4 ranked male Jerry Hilecher was not "selected" for the men's portion of the tour). Further, there was no provision which allowed new players to prove themselves and become a part of the tour. After the initial period of the contract was up, continuation on the tour would be *totally at the discretion of the organizers, based on whatever criteria they would like.*

There was nothing in the agreement that gave the players any rights whatsoever with regard to rules, seeding, scheduling, or anything. Having tasted "freedom", the women knew that without the right to rule their own destiny, there is a tremendous potential for abuse.

In addition, there were technical problems with the offer as well. For one thing, it had a two-year term, but Drake could, at his option **only**, renew it for an additional 3 years. There was nothing in the renewal giving the women the right to "reject" the renewal, renegotiate the prize

money (cost of living etc.), or change any of the terms if they were unhappy with the tour. Anyone who would sign such an agreement would be crazy to leave themselves open to such one-sided control, but we've been told that 12 men have signed such an agreement. The contract also states "best efforts" as the criteria for coming up with the amount of prize money and number of events, but what if they attract only \$1,000 per event for the women (while attracting, say, \$50,000 for the men)? There is no check for this, and possibly, the women would still be required to participate in this tour and stay out of the "market area" for the whole month. And the market restriction clause has its problems, too. What if the WPRA set up its Nationals, and then Drake just happened to set up one of his "exhibitions" 14 days before it in the same city? According to the contract, the women would not be legally allowed to play in the WPRA event.

But all of these "technicalities" are things which, given time and cooperation, could probably have been negotiated, better defined, and even worked out. But like previous offers from Drake, the women were "given" what he felt was a terrific deal, and they could "take it or leave it". After all, that was his approach to the male pros, and they took it! For the men, it was the only game in town...what else could they do? They had no organization that could hold the players together. Their top three players, Hogan, Peck and Yellen, as well as the others, were not willing to pass up their best shot at earning money out of concern for the other players, fair play, or their right to control, at least to a reasonable degree, their own destiny. And when you look at the history, Drake hasn't done all that bad for the men pros. He certainly hasn't hurt Marty Hogan's income or exposure, and others who have played ball for Charlie haven't done so badly either. And in fairness to Peck and Yellen and the others, had they said "no", they would be giving up their only reasonable shot at this point in life to make a living at what they do best...hit killshots. If they'd said "no", they might well have gone down in history as "heros", similar to the original labor and union organizers, and the sport, in the long run might well have been better off, but, like many heros, they would have been forced to make a great personal sacrifice and commitment.

But that's what Heather, Lynn, Shannon and others did. And they are heriones in our book. And the WPRA is flourishing. And those particular women who turned down Drake will probably make less money...a lot less money, at least for the next couple of years, but they proved that their principles and their freedom would not be compromised just for the green stuff. Their personal sacrifice, strength of character, and commitment to their fellow players and player's organization will be realized and remembered. We at **RACQUETBALL TODAY** are proud of them and we know that history will prove they did the right thing not only for moral and ethical reasons, but for financial reasons as well.

## News Briefs

### McCarthy named new IRSA Executive Director

The newly created International Racquet Sports Association (IRSA) has named John McCarthy, 44, as its Acting Executive Director. McCarthy, who has been Executive Director of the highly acclaimed New England Racquet Sports Association (NERSA) will take command of IRSA on September 19.

"We're delighted that John McCarthy has accepted this post," said IRSA President, Norm Cates. "John has shown exceptional leadership and foresight at NERSA and his abilities should go far in developing the programs and projects of IRSA."

"My goal is to help IRSA develop the same kinds of benefits and programs throughout America and wherever the racquet sports clubs business exists," McCarthy said.

Assisting McCarthy in this effort are Charles S. "Chuck" Leve, and Mary Johnsen. Leve, the former Executive Director of the National Court Clubs Association (NCCA), has been named IRSA's National Sales and Central Regional Director. Johnsen, the Act-

ing Executive Director of the National Tennis Association (NTA), will serve as Western Regional Director.

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### 13th Annual Doubles Championships to be held at the Monroeville Racquet Club

The Racquet Club in Monroeville will host the 13th Annual American Amateur Racquetball Association (AARA) National Doubles Championships October 22 through October 25.

The tournament is made up of 22 divisions including men's and women's events. For the first time, a Mixed Doubles event will be offered in the National Doubles.

Over 500 top amateur men and women from across the United States will be competing for the National Championship titles.

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### Self Magazine/Spalding Racquetball Classic Tournaments

SELF, the magazine of self-improvement for women, will significantly increase its

commitment to sports sponsorship with a six-city, eight-division racquetball tournament for both amateurs and professional players. The SELF Magazine/Spalding Racquetball Classic Tournament will be held at Centre Court Racquetball in Rockville Centre, Long Island, October 9 through 11.

Second stop in the circuit will be at the Killshot Club in Chicago, October 23-25.

Other matches in the competition, which is co-sponsored by Spalding Corp., will be in Atlanta (November 12-15), Detroit (January 1-3) and San Francisco (January 15-17), with finals in Los Angeles February 12-14.

The tournaments will be conducted in eight separate divisions (four each for men and women): Pro-AM/Open; Seniors (over 35 years for men, over 30 for women); B/Intermediate; and C/Novice. 64 players in each local tournament will win prize merchandise valued at a total of \$10,000, plus a chance to compete in the finals, where close to \$25,000 in prizes will be awarded.

Grand prizes at the finals include two Datsun 210s and two Canadian Pacific Airline passes. Top prizes in all tournaments for each division include the Mattel Electronics Intellivision and Jensen car stereos. Entry blank may be found in the eastern and midwest regions of this paper.

## Juniors...

(Continued from page 1)

In the Girls' 12 & under, tall Chris Upson, from Rochester, NY, claimed her first national title. Upson defeated #1 seed Tammy Horrocks, 21-19, 21-3 in the finals. Both Chris and Tammy are **good**, talented players, a foreshadowing of the talent that is coming up through the junior ranks.

David Simonette, the "cute kid of racquetball," proved that he's no slouch on the court as he won his fourth junior national title. Simonette defeated Tim Doyle, from Williamsville, NY, 21-12, 21-10 in the Boys' 12 & under final, Doyle who's the #1 15 & under player in New York, found that Simonette was just too hot to handle.

Alma Fuentes, another one of "Peck's Kids" from El Paso, won her fourth national title in the Girls' 10 & under. Fuentes defeated Stephanie Pinola, from Bluebell, PA, 21-17, 21-16 in the finals.

In the Boys' 10 & under, Brad Nelson, of Lincoln, NE, defeated Jason York, from Yorktown, IN, 15-21, 21-15, 11-7, in the only final that went to a tie-breaker.



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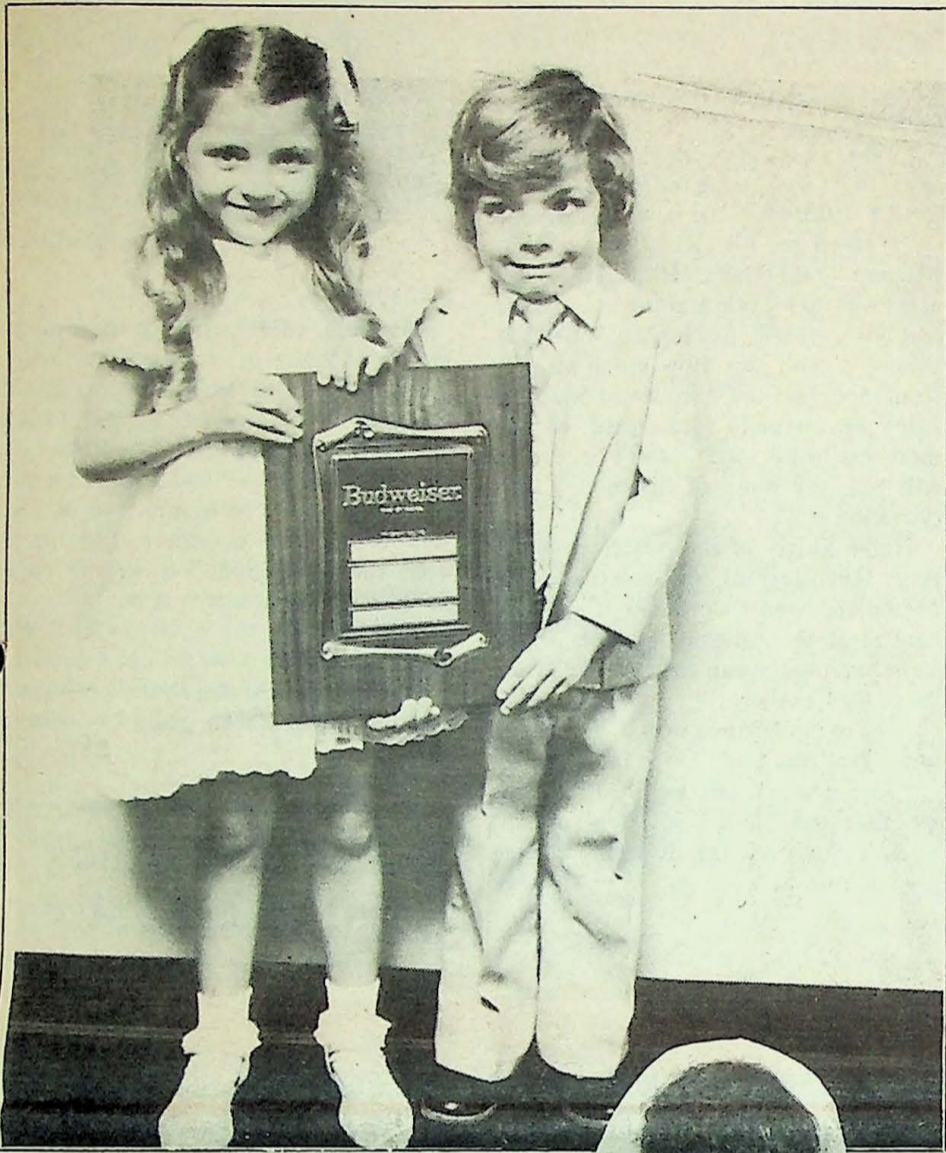


**THE TOUGHEST SHOES ON THE COURT.**

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First competition

# Budweiser Killshots for Cystic Fibrosis



Betty and John



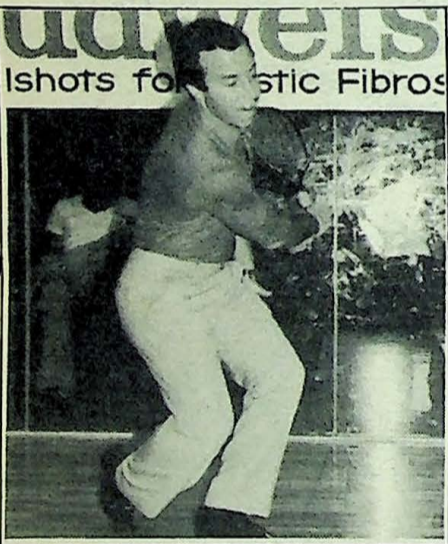
The first Budweiser Killshot competition for the benefit of Cystic Fibrosis was a "smashing" success from every standpoint! The event raised money for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation on behalf of children afflicted with the terminal hereditary disease; the participants had a lot of fun and won many terrific prizes; and the tournament which hosted the event, the S & S Open (August 28-30) had a terrific draw...628 entries!

The new event, designed and directed by RACQUETBALL TODAY, offers 3 men's and 3 women's skill levels of competition in which players try to hit as many killshots as they can in 5 attempts from the back court. (If all 5 are made, they keep going until they miss.) Regional and National records will be kept for all divisions and special awards given to "record holders". Participants are requested to offer a donation of \$3 or more to CF, and several received pledges for donations based on the number of successful killshots.

All six of the 1st place winners won a new Wilson Graphite Plus racquet and went into a drawing for a get-away weekend for two at the beautiful Charlie Club Hotel and Fitness Center in Palatine, IL, which hosted the event. Second place winners in all divisions received Budweiser Warmup Suits; 3rd place, Foot Joy Racquetball Shoes; 4th place, 1 dozen Ram Racquetballs; and 5th thru 8th place, Pro Tec eyeguards.

Cindy Calaretta won the drawing for the weekend and was a winner of the Women's Level 2 Division. The other winners were: Sandy Robson, Women's Level 1; Kathy Pfeiffer, Women's Level 3; Mike Hernandez, Men's Level 1; Dave Jones, Men's Level 2; and Rick Tillofson, Men's Level 3.

The event was extremely successful from the standpoint of raising funds and awareness on behalf of CF and this new form of competition greatly augmented the tournament draw. RACQUETBALL TODAY plans to promote the Budweiser Killshots competition in clubs and tournaments throughout the country and is in the process of setting up the promotional material, prizes, and national scheduling.



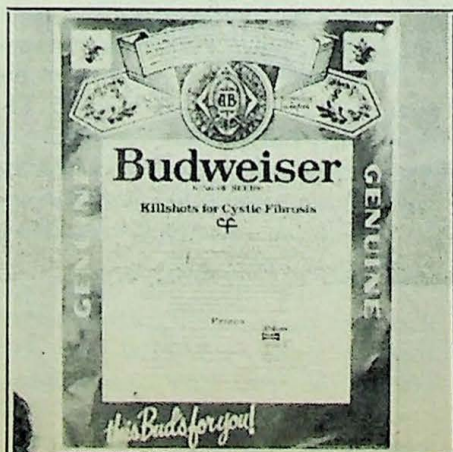
Gary Goldstein, Mktg. Director for Anheiser Busch.



Bev Franks



Dave Jones (l.)



Mike Hernandez (l.), Ric Dern (r.)



Debbie Lome

# USRA/NRC: end of an era

by Len Ziehm

Make of this one what you will.

The United States Racquetball Association and National Racquetball Club have either all but folded or are in the process of a major overhaul.

That became evident on Sept. 10, a day that may go down as infamous in racquetball history, at the USRA's offices in Skokie, IL.

On that date Bob Kendler, president of both the USRA and NRC, dismissed both Dan Bertolucci, the NRC director, and Terry Fancher, the USRA director. Carol Brusslan, editor of *National Racquetball magazine*, and secretary Rene Copplan were also given a week's notice on their employment.

"Joe Ardito (Kendler's right hand man) came to our office and said the boss has decided to close things up," reported Fancher later in the day. The word spread quickly to leading members in the racquetball community, but whether Kendler's move means the folding of the one of the two major ruling bodies in the sport or not remains to be seen.

Kendler denies the folding of the two groups. "Sure, they are still in exist-

ence," said Kendler. "No doubt about it. We're just making some changes in policy."

He would not, however, say what those changes would be other than to suggest a secondary professional tour may be in the works. Nor did he set a timetable for making any future announcements.

"There's been no major development here," said Kendler. "Somebody's been spoofing you. Don't believe everything you hear. We think our changes will be beneficial."

Fancher, who took two stints of working duty with the USRA and was once Kendler's son-in-law, belittled Kendler's vowed intention of keeping the racquetball groups going. "He doesn't like to show any weakness," said Fancher. "But he's sick of the entire thing. There's not enough left to salvage anything."

The USRA was hampered in recent years by legal fights involving a ball contract and the sale of Seamco Sporting Goods, which had provided the USRA with royalties on its racquetball sales. A number of state chairmen protested what they considered too high USRA

membership costs. The NRC, which conducted a tour for professional players, was hurt by the formation of a circuit formed by Leach Industries boss Charlie Drake.

Drake, who had worked with Kendler since 1973, was among the first to call the USRA office after the news circulated.

"I asked for his (Kendler's) official position," said Drake. "He said the magazine was up for sale and that the USRA and NRC are still in existence. What that means, I can't say. How much activity from them that you'll see seems doubtful since he virtually eliminated all the members of his staff. I don't believe he will put any more of his money into operating it."

Hallie Singer of the American Amateur Racquetball Association, the Memphis-based rival of the USRA for control of the Amateur portion of the sport, said her group was notified of the move by Fancher.

"We're not gloating over it. That's not our style," she said.

"The competition was healthy, but whether the USRA is there or not doesn't really matter. It won't change any of our approaches to what we're



Robert Kendler

doing."

While Kendler, who has become a multimillionaire in other business ventures, declined to declare an end to his racquetball involvement he did admit "the racquetball industry is not spending any money these days. People are not spending money on leisure-time activities. It's murder out there. I've never seen the racquetball industry so confused or depressed as it is now."

Fancher said the USRA and NRC staffs greeted the news as "a surprise and a shock. We knew there were problems, but we thought they could be worked out."

## APRO clinics and testing sites

### OCTOBER 10th and 11th

Continental Racquetball Club  
14880 Bammel  
North Houston Road  
Houston, TX 77014  
Director: Marc Auerbach 713-893-5146

### OCTOBER 12th and 13th

All Sport Fitness and Racquetball Club  
240A North Road  
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601  
Director: Jim Winterton 914-452-5050

### OCTOBER 17th and 18th

Midtown Court Club  
5400 Kennedy Avenue  
Cincinnati, OH 45213  
Director: Mike Sipes 513-351-3000

\*\*\*

Manchester Court Club  
1 Lec Lerc Circle  
Manchester, NH 03103  
Director: Bill Polopek 603-668-8375

### OCTOBER 19th and 20th

Court Sports II  
4242 Commerce  
Eugene, OR 97402  
Director: Connie Peterson 503-687-2255

### OCTOBER 24th and 25th

Tucson Athletic Club  
4220 E. Bellevue  
Tucson, AZ 85701  
Director: Linda Siau 602-881-0140

### OCTOBER 31st & NOVEMBER 1st

East Bank Club  
500 N. Kingsbury Street  
Chicago, IL 60610  
Director: Chuck Sheftel 312-527-5800  
312-991-4646

\*\*\*

Off the Wall Racquetball Club  
1 Leech Drive  
Pittsburgh, PA 15236  
Director: Lou Fabian 412-885-5532

## The Hogan-Peck \$10,000 winner-take-all

### Marty proves what everyone already knew

by Carole Charfauros George

"Racquetball history will be made tomorrow," announced Dave Peck, 24, at a press conference at the Long Beach Athletic Club the day before his \$10,000 winner-take-all exhibition match against Marty Hogan, 23. "And hopefully,

Marty will be history too."

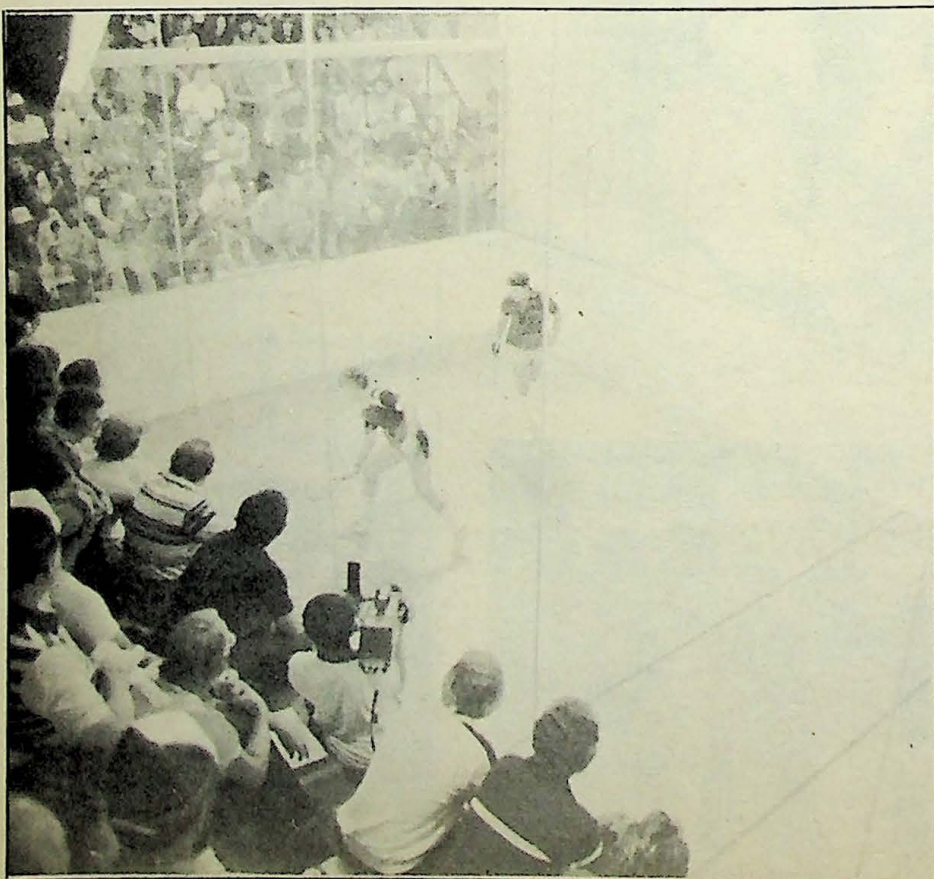
Like Hogan predicted, the pressure was all on Peck. If Hogan won, as he did, there really wouldn't be the excitement there would have been had Peck won. If Peck had been able to handle the pressure and outplay Hogan there probably would have been a revenge match the next weekend. As it stands now, Hogan proved that he is indeed the number one player in the world of racquetball — but we already knew that.

The scoring format for the exhibition was the best 3 out of 5 games to 11 points. Peck started out strong enough after a summer of teaching camps and working out on Nautilus. The first three games were the most thrilling, with Peck taking the first 11-8, followed by Hogan's 11-8 win, then Peck winning 11-7. That left Peck just one game shy of the 10,000 smackers. However, Hogan turned himself on for the final two games, while Peck turned on his "skip" button, managing only two points and four points before the match was over.

After the match, Peck seemed almost embarrassed. But Hogan hadn't played his best either. Hogan couldn't quite psyche himself up, even for ten-grand, and Peck seemed a little overpsyched. "In all the times we've played each other (of which Hogan won five out of six times this season), this was the most nervous I've ever seen Dave," confessed Hogan. Hogan also suggested, after the match of course, that if Peck had approached him after the third game when Peck was ahead 2-1, Hogan would have split the money 50-50.

On Saturday preceding the big match was a special pro mixed doubles between Don Thomas and Kippi Bishop and Craig McCoy and Laura Martino. The two lefties, Bishop and McCoy, played the left side which resulted in a really "mixed" doubles match. Martino and McCoy finished it off in straight games 11-9, 11-7, 11-6.

Even though there have been bigger first place purses in racquetball, such as Heather McKay's \$40,000 first place finish in the Coors All-Pro tournament a few years ago, the Hogan-Peck Challenge Match ranked first time any player has received that much money for playing only one match.



C. George photo

A large crowd was on hand in Long Beach to see Hogan (c) win \$10,000.

## An interview with Charlie Mandrake

Satire, by Tom Grobmisi

*Editors Note: RACQUETBALL TODAY reporter, Tom Grobmisi was able to get this exclusive interview with racquetball promoter extraordinaire, Charlie Mandrake, as he was relaxing in his beautiful Southern California mansion. As they talked, Mr. Mandrake played with his extensive collection of puppets which closely resembled all the top racquetball pros. Mr. Mandrake would place various players down into the miniature courts on strings and from time to time would jerk a player off the court and spank him for being bad.*

**RT:** Congratulations on your pro tour. I understand you're going to have sport's top 4 players going around the country challenging the local juniors in each area for big prizes.

CM: Well, that's not true any more. We started off that way, but in the interest of fair play we expanded our touring pros to 8, and we've opened up the qualifying to allow everyone to play in the regional events.

**RT:** Great, Charlie. How did you happen to choose the 8 touring pros?

CM: Let me make one thing perfectly clear. I did not select the 8 players. They were selected by a company formerly owned by myself and Arty Hohum, but the final decision was left up to the main sponsor, on the basis of who truly looks best eating their Perfect Pucker Pickles. After, all they're putting their money where their mouth is, and they're entitled to have players that best represent their product line. With the way we've got this thing set up, it really doesn't matter too much who plays...Arty's going to win almost all the money anyway, and I've got a piece of his action both on and off the court.

**RT:** But how can you pass up someone like Jerry Eraser, ranked number 3, and go with totally unranked Davey Cadillac?

CM: You're kidding, of course! Have you ever seen the way Jerry eats a pickle? He actually squints! Now, Cadillac, when he eats a pickle, it makes your mouth water.

**RT:** Well is there any real chance for the other pros like Eraser to get a piece of the pie, I mean pickle?

CM: Absolutely. All they have to do is be one of the top two players to qualify in the marathon; beat Arty, Dale, Peck, or Ikey Yeller in the first round and pucker up for those pickles, and we'll give them \$500 and the chance to meet my boys again in the finals 9 months later. Of course, in the meantime all we ask is that they don't play in any tournaments or exhibitions, don't form a player's organization, and don't complain publicly; or we'll sue them!

**RT:** Sounds reasonable. But what about the women? I notice you don't have women on the tour and there's a few of them that are simply knockouts eating pickles.

CM: Right, Tom. There's some great looking puckerers among the women and we invited them to join the tour but they turned us down! Now, I'm no chauvenist, but I think the fat and hairy ones we didn't invite simply voted the cutiepies down...those kind of stupid things happen once the players are allowed to organize. And there was no good reason to turn us down! We offered the women essentially the same things we offered the men, with the exemption of the "window clause."

**RT:** The window clause?

CM: Yes. The window washing clause. You see, the glass and windows on the court often get messy (sweat, pickle juice, etc.) during a match and we felt that since the women would be right there anyway, and washing windows is so natural for them, that we could use their "natural talents." But we've gone back to the women and offered them a contract to do mud wrestling in a side court and I'm hopeful we'll get the women to go along. (At that point Mr. Mandrake reached in a box and pulled out some female puppets which he threw down into a box of mud and water, holding several of their heads under the mud for quite a long time and pulling at their hair and clothes.)

**RT:** I understand A & F/Foot is one of your sponsors. Isn't it a little strange for you, the president of a major racquetball manufacturing company, to be promoting a tour featuring one of your biggest competitors? What does your parent company, Diversified Everything, think of this?

CM: Well, they're so big I'm not sure they know. You see, my theory has always been to keep the sport sort of low key anyway, so as long as I continue to keep the tour out of the papers and off TV, as I have for so many years, I don't think Diversified is likely to find out.

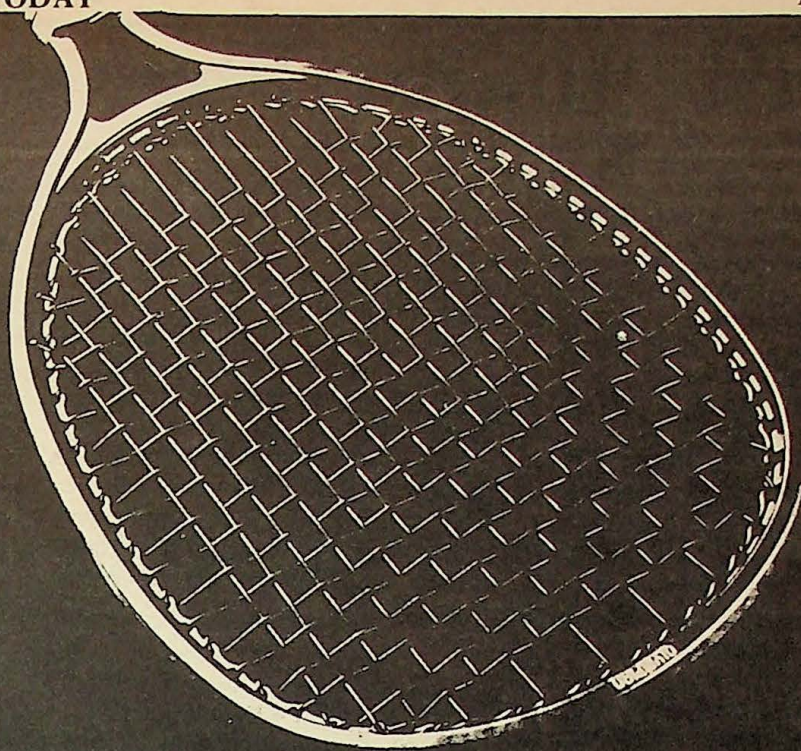
**RT:** Where does Bob McKendrick and the N.A.R.C. fit in to this new tour?

CM: Hah! They don't! I don't need Bob or anyone. I'm going to run the whole show myself. Of course, I'll hire someone experienced to actually do the setup and dirty work. (at this point Mandrake held up two more puppets resembling Dino Bertinelli and Randy Flood.) These might give you a clue.

**RT:** No chance of Terry Franchise running things?

CM: Of course not, our sponsors would never accept anyone who goes around wearing torn shirts all the time.

*(At this point the interview ended as Charlie's eyes glazed over as he became completely engrossed in playing with a miniature puppet of Arty Hohum...dressing and undressing the puppet, taking money out of the puppet's pocket, and moving the puppet's lips while he made the sounds. Tom Grobmisi left the Mandrake mansion, totally unnoticed by racquetball's great entrepreneur and puppeteer.)*



## Olympian introduces the suspension system racquet.

Once again Bud has turned the sport inside out. After the innovations Bud has brought to racquetball you'd think he'd be content. No way. Once again, this inventor/pilot/skier/racer/engineer has advanced the state of the art.

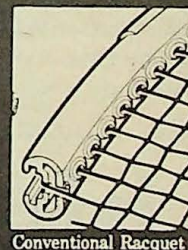
"Until now racquets were strung through the frame. The holes weakened it, allowed it to twist. Now there is the suspension system. An integral flange inside the frame provides the stringing platform. The result is a strengthened frame, and a much stronger game. This new trampoline platform holds the ball longer, allows it to regain an aerodynamic shape, then slings it with added power and control. Even when shots are struck off center.

You'll feel the added control and power immediately. Later, you'll feel less wrist and arm fatigue, because there is less torque action each time the ball is struck."

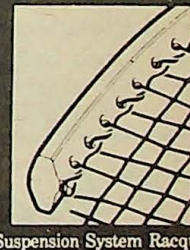
Of course, pick up any Olympian racquet and you'll sense the perfect simplicity combined with optimum control and power. That is Bud's philosophy.

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Suspension System Racquet

*Bud*

Bud Leach, the Chairman of the Board of Olympian Sports Products, Inc. is world renowned as a Champion water skier, multi-class racing driver, scuba pioneer, inventor and racquetball engineer.



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## Junior Forum

By Betsy Koza

*Editors Note: Junior players are encouraged to send their questions and comments to Betsy in care of RACQUETBALL TODAY.*

Many times, the people I play are surprised to learn that I spend so much time before a match (or a workout) in the locker room — stretching. These people, mainly players my senior by a good number of years, usually laugh and ask "Why are you bothering with all of that? You're still young. Just wait until you get to be my age...I should be the one stretching out."

While the racquetballers are correct in realizing that they **should** be stretching out, they're dead wrong in assuming that kids **don't** have to properly stretch out their bodies, before they exert themselves in racquetball or any other sport. In fact, stretching out before and after a match or workout is just as important to kids as it is to adults.

While it is true that kids, having softer ligaments and tendons, are **generally** more flexible than adults, whose attachments have grown less resilient as they have grown older, this doesn't mean that at the age of 21 your joints suddenly become welded together. This shouldn't happen at all! By taking a few minutes every time you workout to stretch, you can offset the effects of the "aging process" on your body. More importantly, **regular stretching now** can help you in your youth by making you even more flexible — and less injury prone. You don't want to foreclose on your racquetball future at the ripe old age of 14 because of an athletic injury!

Stretching is not just a preventive measure, that is, something you do to keep from getting hurt in the future. It can help you **immediately** after you stretch out and walk onto the court! After a day of sitting in a cramped school desk, and then walking home from the bus in 10°F weather, your body is not

ready to immediately hop into a racquetball court and play a strenuous game — no matter what type of condition you're in. Your joints aren't "oiled up;" your muscles are locked into the "sit and write" position, and your circulation is sluggish. A transition period is needed to warm up your body, iron out the kinks, and get your blood coursing through your veins so that when you step onto the court, your first shot's a winner. Stretching provides this physical transition. A slow stretching start *off* court means a quick, snappy start *on* court.

While stretching's physical importance is paramount, its mental importance is not to be overlooked. Just as your body is uptight after a day of school, your mind is full of little tensions, thoughts, and emotions which have no place on a racquetball court. In the short time you physically stretch your body, you can relax your mind as well, and forget all else. Now you can concentrate on racquetball.

If you concentrate on each muscle or bodypart as you stretch it, you'll gain a rapport with it: you will have more knowledge, more power and control, both mental and physical, over your body. You'll be more aware of what you — your arm, your leg, your body — is doing on the court, and how to tell "bad movements" from "good movements."

There is too much to the art of stretching itself for me to relate in this column, but there are many sources that can help you learn more about stretches and stretching out. Just ask your racquetball pro, club fitness instructor, P.E. teacher, or someone you know who stretches religiously to show you a basic stretch or two. There are also many books, magazine articles, and posters devoted exclusively to stretching. At first, stretching may hurt your "sleeping" muscles a bit, but, as your flexibility increases, you'll look forward to your daily stretches, for **not** stretching will be painful!

Extend yourself a bit — stretch!

## Drive serves

by Lynn Adams

*(Editor's Note: Lynn Adams, 23, is currently ranked No. 2 on the Women's Professional Racquetball Association tour. In three seasons, she has won the Columbus Pro Stop in 1980 and 1981, National singles and double championships, and recently, the Providence Pro Stop. One of the sport's best teachers, Lynn is currently a member of Ektelon's Advisory Staff.)*

In the coming articles, if you detect a higher rate of enthusiasm on my part, it's because the fun parts of racquetball are going to be talked about. I love to teach serves and strategy. To me, serving is a blast. When you get behind the theories and reasons behind serving, it can open a whole new dimension to your game!

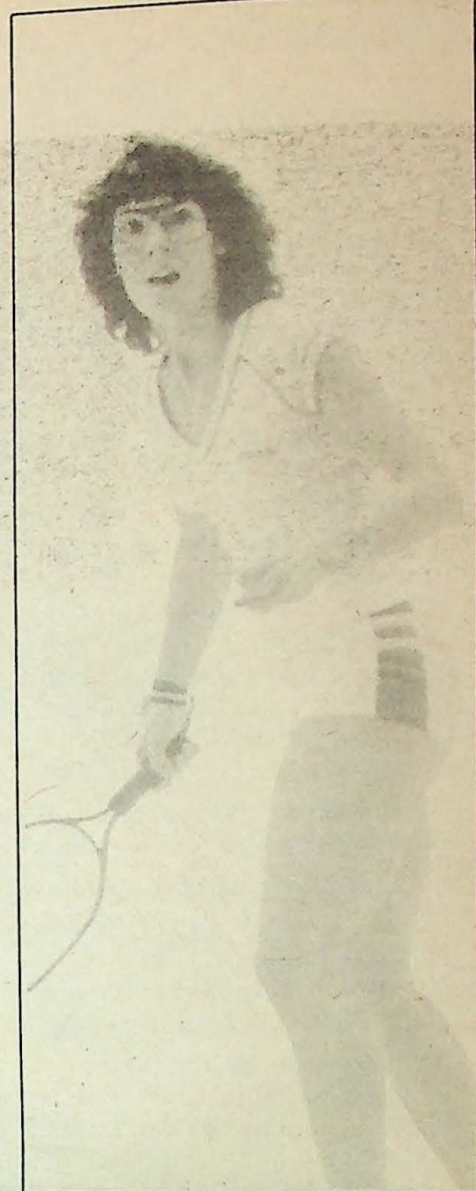
I want to get a little more detailed and specific in my coming articles, so this instructional will be on how to hit a drive serve, and the thoughts behind it. Next month's will be on how to return a drive serve, footwork, etc.

The drive serve is the most popular serve in racquetball today. Everyone hits it, so let's learn to hit it with more control and accuracy. First, define a drive serve. It's a low, hard-hit serve. Normally, its objective is to bounce twice before it hits the back wall, and its direction should be towards the corner. There are variations on this particular serve, but this will be the one we'll talk about in this article.

Let's start with the service motion. Everyone prepares to hit a serve differently. Your service motion should be whatever feels comfortable to you. Start any way you want, as long as when you actually hit the ball your body is in a forehand position. What I mean is that hitting a serve is the same motion as hitting a forehand. *Exactly* the same. You step into the ball, using your legs and knees to bend low. Your toe should be open to the corner, etc.

One of the most important aspects to serving is to keep things consistent, which then leads to deception (the fun part!). Your service motion should always look the same. Your body should never change from serve to serve, and you should drop the ball in the same spot each time. What makes the serve able to go to either side without changing your body is your **wrist**. This forces your opponent to stay in the middle, and not anticipate which way your serve is going. If you always look the same, how can they tell?! It helps to have someone with you when you first start working on your motion. Sometimes you think you're doing one thing, while your body is actually doing another. Another pair of eyes can help.

Now let's get to the actual serving. You're up front in the service box, getting ready to serve. Notice how big the service box is. It goes across the whole court! *Obviously*, you say. But if you ever watch players in a game, you'll notice that probably 90% of their serves are from the *middle*. They forget that the box extends out to the side walls. **Use the whole box.** With just the straight serve, you can serve 6 different ways, from 3 places in the box. That beats standing in the middle and serving most of your serves to the guy's backhand.



C. George photo

What you need to remember in serving is that you're in **total** control. Only you know what serve you're going to hit, to which side, how hard, etc. You have optimum conditions. You can take your time, and do exactly what **you** want to do. Your opponent is in the dark. He's looking for clues and hints to help him out. If you vary your serves and move around a little, that makes it all the more difficult for your opponent to guess your serves. But most of all, **keep your motion the same!** That is the key to deceptive serving. And later on, we'll add more serves to your motion, so get it down now.

Finally, here's a list of things to work on to make your drive serves more effective.

1. Service motion — Consistent and comfortable. Always step into your serves, just as if you were hitting a forehand.

2. Hit the ball flat and parallel. You want the ball to just clear the short line, and head back toward the corner. Your serves should **never** come off the back wall. That's a tough one to accomplish, so don't get discouraged.

3. Pick a spot. Through experimenting and practice, you should have an area on the front wall, that if you hit it, your serve will be fairly accurate. Find your spot and then look at it before each serve. It plants an image in your brain, and your body follows through to it.

4. Use the whole box, and serve to the forehand and backhand sides. Don't be afraid of your opponents forehand. People are not used to serves on their forehand side. It surprises them, and their footwork is usually sloppy. It also forces them to be honest and receive serve from the middle of the court, instead of off-center a little bit, to get to the backhand serves quicker.

Gook Luck!

## The big match

by Ralph Moil

My opponent walked into the court wearing *pajamas*. It wasn't the national championships, but it was a big tournament for me, and I was pretty nervous about being in the B-division finals. But my opponent steps calmly into the court wearing red and blue striped p.j.'s, black hi-top gym shoes and a red and white polka dot bandanna around his forehead. He introduced himself, **Tom Grob-misi**, shook hands, and proceeded to warm up.

I wasn't sure if he was breaking any rules, and since I didn't want to look like a poor sport or "uptight" I just went ahead and warmed up too. When the ref arrived, he just looked down, chuckled, asked us if we were ready and began the match! I noticed an unusually large group of spectators on hand, and they were laughing and pointing, but nobody seemed to want to do anything about it, so we just played. Needless to say, I

found it difficult to concentrate, played very poorly, and lost the first game 15-7.

I rushed to the locker room between games and went to work...determined to fight fire with fire. I tore off the sleeves of my T-shirt and ripped the midsection into strips. I took off my shorts and put them back on inside out, and I stuffed my socks full of toilet paper, so they'd stick out. Then I grabbed a red marker and colored my nose like a clown, and for the finishing touch, I pulled out an extra jock strap and wrapped it around my forehead as a sweatband.

I ran back to the court, ran inside, and there stood my opponent neatly attired in a lovely, clean, matching racquetball outfit. The ref laughed, yelled "play ball", and the next thing I knew, I was serving to "Mr. Clean", while fifty or so people crowded the gallery to laugh at me. I lost 15-2.

So that's the story of my big match. My *last* big match.

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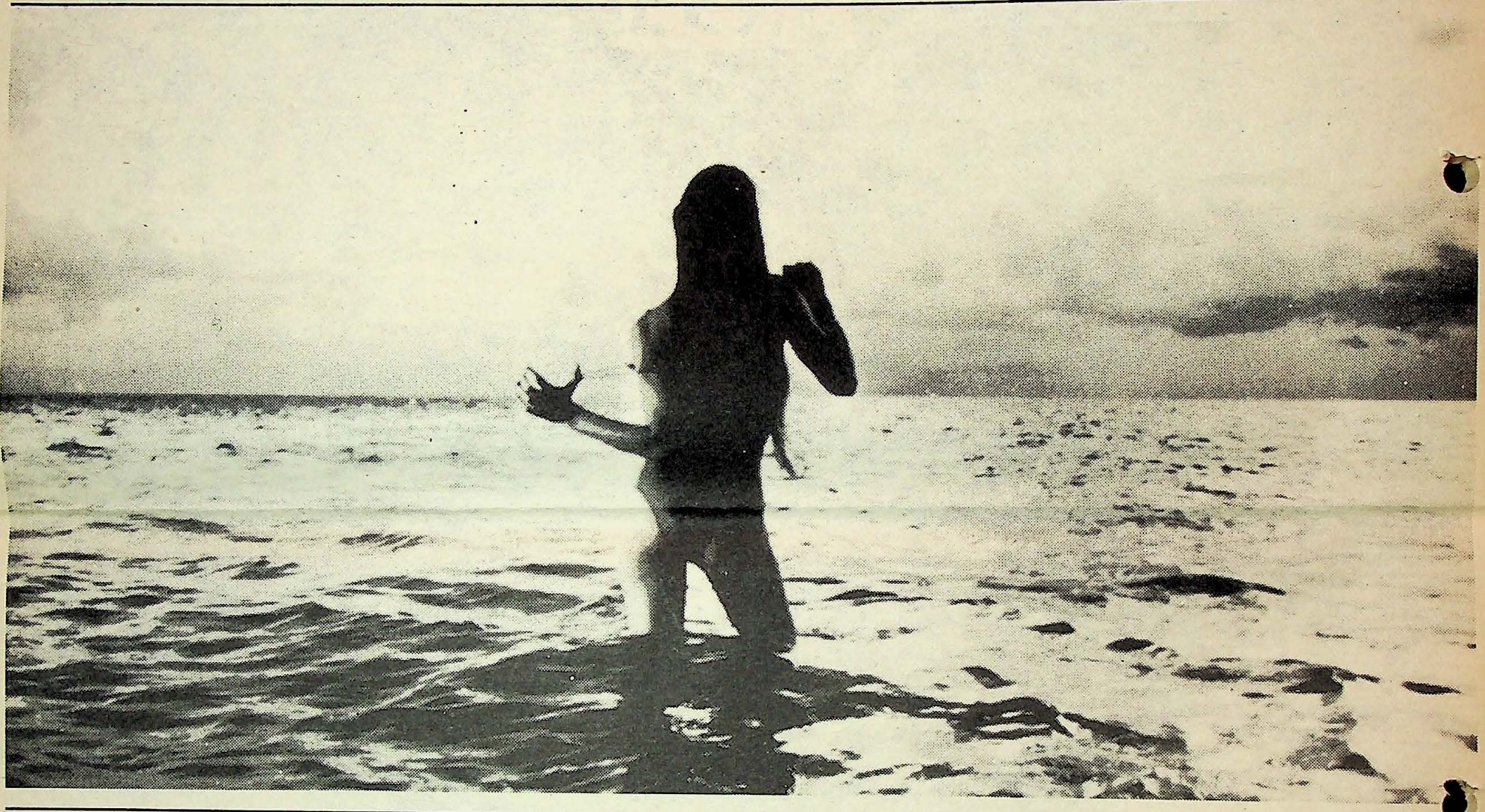
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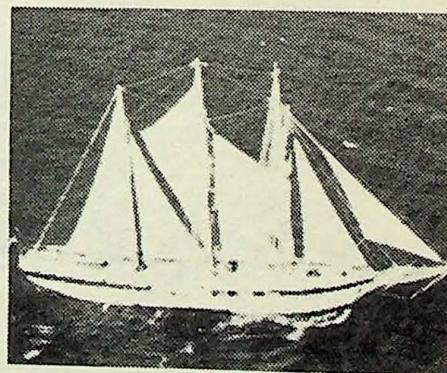
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# WEST TOURNAMENT RESULTS

**Matt Fischer Realtor Racquetball Festival**  
Yuma Athletic Club  
Yuma, AZ  
August 21-23, 1981

by Bill Perry

Kyle Kamalu of San Diego had too much in the clutch for his Arizona challengers as he won the \$400 first prize in the Matt Fischer Realtor Racquetball Festival played at the Yuma Athletic Club August 21-23.

The touring pro beat Jack Nolan in the final and Cliff Fiore in the semi-finals to take the event. In two games against Fiore and one against Nolan the games were tight, but in all three games Kamalu's superior experience under pressure paid off.

Nolan won the \$200 second prize after beating Lou Kessing of San Diego in an 11-10 tie-breaker match. Kessing called two bounces on himself on match point. The play was very close and Kessing won everyone's admiration for his sportsmanship.

Debbie Swenson of Glendale won the \$200 first prize in the Women's Pro round robin. Carol Pranka of Tucson received \$50 for her second place finish.

**MEN'S PRO**

Finals: Kyle Kamalu d. Jack Nolan, 21-18, 21-10.  
Semi's: Kamalu d. Cliff Fiore, 21-20, 21-19; Nolan d. Lou Kessing, 14-21, 21-16, 11-10.

**MEN'S A**

Finals: Mark Thomson d. Tim Swenson, 21-12, 21-3.  
Semi's: Swenson d. Lee Giermann, 21-17, 15-21, 11-9; Thomson d. Joe Siemienowski, 21-4, 21-15.

**MEN'S B**

Finals: Richard Sprague d. Steve Pell, 21-16, 21-13.  
Semi's: Rich Sprague d. Lee Giermann, 21-7, 21-11; Steve Pell d. Chuck Hallock, 10-21, 21-13, 11-3.

**MEN'S C**

Finals: to be played at a later date.  
Semi's: Rod Shaffold d. George Carvajal, 21-14, 20-21, 11-3; Gordon Roediger d. Ron Canham, 21-19, 21-8.

**MEN'S NOVICE**

Finals: Dale Duncan d. Don Schilling, 21-12, 21-11.  
Semi's: Duncan d. Fred Weber, 17-21, 21-12, 11-6; Schilling d. Mike Botthof, 6-21, 21-17, 11-9.

**MEN'S BEGINNING NOVICE**

Finals: Tony Chavez d. Don Stacey, 21-13, 21-5.  
Semi's: Tony Chavez d. Rick Metcalfe, 21-8, 21-8; Stacey d. Duane Legill, 18-21, 21-8, 11-6.

**MEN'S 35 B AND UNDER**

Finals: Fred Greenwood d. Lou Sukor, 11-21, 21-20, 11-7.  
Semi's: Greenwood d. Charles Angelopolous, 21-8, 21-11; Sukor d. Ed Hayes, 21-2, 21-13.

**MEN'S OPEN DOUBLES**

Finals: Mike Romo/Evan Terry d. Tom Ochoa/Joe Durant, 21-8, 21-5.  
Semi's: Romo/Terry d. Gabe Fuentes/Joe Siemienowski, 21-9, 21-9; Ochoa/Durant d. Jack Nolan/Brian Oates, 21-19, 21-7.

**WOMEN'S PRO (ROUND ROBIN)**

1st: Debbie Swenson.  
2nd: Carol Pranka.

**WOMEN'S A-B**

Finals: Flossie McNally d. Denise Wah, 21-13, 21-7.  
Semi's: McNally d. Leigh Saffell, 17-21, 21-19, 11-10; Wah d. Mary Jo Michelson, 21-15, 21-8.

**WOMEN'S NOVICE (ROUND ROBIN)**

1st: Mary Jo Langwell.  
2nd: Brenda Schilling.

**Bay Area Racquetball Summer Spectacular**  
Coos Bay, OR  
Aug. 14-16, 1981

**MEN'S OPEN**

1st: Jim Boyce.  
2nd: Chris Rudolph.  
Consol: Bob Officer.

**MEN'S A**

1st: Dave Matheson.  
2nd: Tim Fischer.  
3rd: Bill Inge.  
Consol: Scott Hansen.

**MEN'S B**

1st: Dave Salo.  
2nd: Doug Skilling.  
3rd: Pete Nicoll.  
Consol: Momi Lee.

**MEN'S C**

1st: Terry Salo.  
2nd: Bob McRae.  
3rd: Beth Jackson.  
Consol: Mike Neyt.

**MEN'S D-N**

1st: Lee Figas.  
2nd: Paul LaPlante.  
3rd: Mark Phillips.  
Consol: Mike Solomon.

**MEN'S OPEN DOUBLES**

1st: Matheson/Ford.  
2nd: Hadley/Boyce.  
3rd: Fischer/Rudolph.  
Consol: Inge/Adams.

**MEN'S B/C DOUBLES**

1st: White/Christie.  
2nd: Salo/Idica.  
3rd: Lood/Miller.  
Consol: Ruggles/Cannon.

**MEN'S MASTERS 45+**

1st: Jay Hathaway.  
2nd: Clair Jones.  
3rd: Chuck Bushong.  
Consol: Bill Malcolm.

**WOMEN'S A**

1st: Sally Boyer.  
2nd: Dee Dee Nagel.  
3rd: Beth Jackson.  
Consol: Stella Smith.

**WOMEN'S B**

1st: Melody Duke.  
2nd: Linda McRae.  
3rd: Cheryl Higdon.  
Consol: Jann Lavender.

**WOMEN'S C**

1st: Pattie Hickens.  
2nd: Marce Knight.  
3rd: Kelli Jones.  
Consol: Stella Smith.

**WOMEN'S D-N**

1st: Laurie Burke.  
2nd: Michelle Hedgepeth.  
3rd: Diana Wall.  
Consol: Lili Paul.

**WOMEN'S OPEN DOUBLES**

1st: Officer/Lee.  
2nd: Jackson/Higdon.  
3rd: McRae/Nagel.

**The Cascade Open**  
Sportsports I  
Eugene, OR  
August 21-23, 1981

**MEN'S OPEN**

1st: Jim Ford.  
2nd: Scott Grastle.  
Consol: Scott Hansen.

**MEN'S A**

1st: Glen Laskin.  
2nd: Rick Rexius.  
Consol: Scott Hansen.

**MEN'S B**

1st: Momi Lee.  
2nd: Gary Pacarro.  
Consol: Scott Hansen.

**MEN'S C**

1st: Sal Gonzalez.  
2nd: Dave Walters.  
Consol: Scott Hansen.

**MEN'S D**

1st: John Zacharias.  
2nd: Rodd Brihante.  
Consol: Scott Hansen.

**MEN'S SENIORS**

1st: Parker Adams.  
2nd: Ron Myers.  
Consol: Scott Hansen.

**MEN'S OPEN DOUBLES**

1st: Hull/Fitkin.  
2nd: Laskin/Ballyntyne.  
Consol: Scott Hansen.

**MEN'S B/C DOUBLES**

1st: Wise/Blair.  
2nd: Eyring/Wilson.  
Consol: Scott Hansen.

**MIXED DOUBLES**

1st: Michelon/Michelon.  
2nd: Gallegos/Griffith.  
Consol: Scott Hansen.

**WOMEN'S B**

1st: Kim Baker.  
2nd: Carrie Barr.  
Consol: Scott Hansen.

**WOMEN'S C**

1st: Pauline Hull.  
2nd: Youngman.  
Consol: Scott Hansen.

**WOMEN'S SINGLES**

1st: Ruth Sherman.  
2nd: Joyce Michelon.

**Big Brothers 2nd Annual Open**  
Perfect Racquet  
San Diego, CA  
July 24-26, 1981

by Jerry Monell

Before an excited gallery at San Diego's Perfect Racquet July 26th, circumstances were right for Dan Factor, and he worked off the championship court with local donor Bill Gamble's Men's Apparel Gift Certificate for first place open.

Not to be outdone by Dan's victory over perennially tough Leo Gurnoe, Sissy Paredes received a Walkman stereo in capturing the women's open over her host, Viki Rosi. Look for great things from these gals in the coming months as both were gracious sports.

In a sport where only twenty division plaques can be won, the REAL winners again this year were San Diego County's Big Brothers and their Little Brothers. For the second consecutive year Mission Valley's Perfect Racquet has been the perfect host in holding this exciting annual fund raising event for the BB's Foundation.

"Everyone pitched in and the tourna-

ment went smoothly and proceeded ahead of schedule", Viki Rosi related as tournament director. "Special thanks goes to those entrants who again made this 2nd annual benefit a great success for Big Brothers", board member Frank Arrington added as he presented the many appreciated gifts, prizes, and custom plaques from San Diego's community-minded donors, including rounds of 'cock-your-own' Jack-in-the-Box Burgers (complete with their secret sauce!).

Also this year in keeping with tradition, the Big & Little Brothers highlighted the division of doubles along with men's and women's 1st time tournament division plus a consolation.

And among those who contributed to make the annual tournament another success were Ginny Baxter and Frank Arrington in charge of organization, and of course the entire staff and management (Chris White) of the Perfect Racquet.

**WOMEN'S OPEN**

Finals: Paredes d. Rosi, 21-7, 21-7.  
Semi's: Paredes d. Burton, 21-8, 21-6; Rosi d. Paraiso, 21-16, 21-17.

**WOMEN'S B**

Finals: Humphrey d. De La Paz, 21-16, 21-8.  
Semi's: Humphrey d. Brummit, 21-11, 21-16; De La Paz d. Paraiso, 21-14, 21-16.

**WOMEN'S C**

Finals: Aguirre d. Paraiso, 21-6, 8-21, 11-6.  
Semi's: Aguirre d. Bordieri, 21-16, 21-15; Paraiso d. Leeper, score not received.

**WOMEN'S NOVICE**

Finals: Colker d. Boosey, 21-8, 21-7.  
Semi's: Colker d. Hamilton, 21-1, 21-0; Boosey d. Kinner.

**WOMEN'S 1ST TIME TOURNEY ROUND ROBIN**

1st: Bennis.  
2nd: Hughes.  
3rd: Osborne.

**MEN'S OPEN**

Finals: Factor d. Gurnoe, 21-8, 21-13.  
Semi's: Factor d. Lusk, 21-14, 21-13; Gurnoe d. Kevin Williams, 17-21, 21-17, 11-5.

**MEN'S B**

Finals: Ackerman d. Holtz, 21-15, 21-19.  
Semi's: Ackerman d. Juarez, 21-19, 21-15; Holtz d. Araujo, 21-8, 21-17.

**MEN'S C**

Finals: Hackney d. Johnson, 21-20, 21-7.  
Semi's: Hackney d. Paraiso, 21-7, 20-21, 11-3; Johnson d. Orduna, default.

**MEN'S ADVANCED NOVICE**

Finals: Zepeda d. Heinz, 21-16, 19-21, 11-4.  
Semi's: Zepeda d. Kimmaman; Heinz d. Fredrichs, 21-13, 21-13.

**MEN'S NOVICE**

Finals: Gaytan d. O'Brien, 21-5, 21-16.  
Semi's: Gaytan d. Thornton, 21-9, 21-11; O'Brien d. Angelopolous, 21-8, 21-19.

**MEN'S BEGINNING NOVICE ROUND ROBIN**

1st: Paraiso.  
2nd: Flores.

**MEN'S 1ST TIME TOURNEY**

Finals: Andres d. Robitaille, 21-19, 21-17.  
Semi's: Andres d. Kaiser; Robitaille d. Alvares, 21-4, 21-14.  
Consol: Platman.

**MASTERS**

Finals: Kunze d. Johnson, 19-21, 21-14, 11-8.  
Semi's: Johnson d. Gutzmer, 21-19, 21-5; Kunze d. Scott, 21-11, 21-9.

**SENIORS ROUND ROBIN**

1st: Curtis.  
2nd: Caballero.

**JUNIORS ROUND ROBIN**

Girls 1st: Fair.  
2nd: Goodman.  
Boys 1st: Deviso.  
2nd: Abdelnour.

**MIXED OPEN DOUBLES**

Finals: Berneathy/Singh d. Clifford/Pawka, 21-14, 21-10.  
Semi's: Clifford/Pawka d. Rosi/Gurnoe, 21-20, 17-21, 11-5; Berneathy/Singh d. Weed/Georgeon, 21-14, 21-9.

**MIXED C/NOVICE CONSOLATION**

Finals: Leeper/Orduna d. Anderson/Finrock, 21-6, 21-16.  
Semi's: Pawka/Soloman d. Laughter/Maddocks.

**MEN'S OPEN DOUBLES**

Finals: Pawka/Soloman d. Benavides/Cassidy, 21-17, 17-21, 11-8.  
Semi's: Pawka/Soloman d. Benavides/Cassidy, 21-17, 17-21, 11-8.

**MEN'S B DOUBLES**

Finals: Nyberg/Taylor d. Durante/Holtz, 21-10, 10-21, 11-9.  
Semi's: Nyberg/Taylor d. Durante/Holtz, 21-10, 10-21, 11-9.

**MEN'S C DOUBLES**

Finals: Drew/Guerro d. Scott/Scott, 21-6, 21-16.  
Semi's: Scott/Scott d. Kunze/Kunze, 21-20, 17-21, 21-5; Drew/Guerro d. Williams/Woody, 21-14, 21-0.

**BIG AND LITTLE BROTHERS DOUBLES**

Finals: Robitaille/Trejo d. Flores/Kaiser, 14-21, 21-12, 11-3.  
Semi's: Robitaille/Trejo d. Avila/Porter, 21-4, 21-14; Flores/Kaiser d. Hays/Wing, 21-14, 20-21, 11-0.

**Summer Spectacular**  
Coos Bay, OR  
August 14-16, 1981

**MEN'S OPEN**

1st: Jim Boyce.  
2nd: Chris Rudolph.  
3rd: D. Chamberlin or J. Ford.

**MEN'S A**

1st: Dave Matheson.  
2nd: Tim Fischer.  
3rd: Bill Inge.  
Consol: Scott Hansen.

**MEN'S B**

1st: Dave Salo.  
2nd: Doug Skilling.  
3rd: Pete Nicoll.  
Consol: Momi Lee.

**MEN'S C**

1st: Terry Salo.  
2nd: Bob McRae.  
3rd: Beth Jackson.  
Consol: Mike Neyt.

**MEN'S D/N**

1st: Lee Figas.  
2nd: Paul LaPlante.  
3rd: Mark Phillips.  
Consol: Mike Solomon.

**MEN'S OPEN DOUBLES**

1st: Matheson/Ford.  
2nd: Hadley/Boyce.

**MEN'S MASTERS 45+**

1st: J. Hathaway.  
2nd: Clair Jones.  
3rd: Chuck Bushong.  
Consol: Bill Malcolm.

**MEN'S B/C DOUBLES**

1st: White/Christie.  
2nd: Salo/Idica.

**WOMEN'S A**

1st: Sally Boyer.  
2nd: Deedee Wagel.  
3rd: Beth Jackson.

**WOMEN'S B**

1st: Melody Duke.  
2nd: Linda McRae.  
3rd: Cheryl Higdon.  
Consol: Jann Lavender.

**WOMEN'S C**

1st: Patti Hickens.  
2nd: Marce Knight.  
3rd: Kelli Jones.  
Consol: Stella Smith.

**WOMEN'S D/W**

1st: Laurie Burke.  
2nd: Michelle Hedgepeth.  
3rd: Diana Wall.  
Consol: Lili Paul.

**WOMEN'S OPEN DOUBLES**

1st: Officer/Lee.  
2nd: Jackson/Higdin.

# RACQUETBALL TODAY

## WEST TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

October 9, 10 & 11, 1981

**MID-WILLAMETTE VALLEY OPEN**  
Albany Superior Courts  
380 Hickory Ave.  
Albany, OR 97321  
503-926-2264

October 23, 24 & 25, 1981

**WESTERN RACQUET CLUB FALL TOURNAMENT**  
Western Racquet Club  
8785 S.W. Beaverton-Hillside  
Portland, OR 97225  
503-297-3723

October 16, 17 & 18, 1981

**1st ANNUAL FOOT-JOY RACQUETBALL CLASSIC**  
Court Sports  
3443 India St.  
San Diego, CA 92103  
Contact: Tournament Director  
714-294-9970

**1st ANNUAL SOUTH CITY OPEN**

(Sponsored by Ram)  
G & G Health & Racquet Club  
18915 16th South  
Seattle, WA 98188  
206-244-3010

October 23-25, 1981

**THE 3RD ANNUAL FOG CITY CLASSIC**  
The CalCourts  
518 W. Clark  
Eureka, CA 95501  
Contact: Pat Idica  
415-445-5445

October 23, 24 & 25, 1981

**THE 3rd ANNUAL FOG CITY CLASSIC**  
The Calcourts Racquetball Club  
518 W. Clark  
Eureka, CA 95501  
Contact: Pat Idica  
415-445-5445

October 30, 31 & November 1, 1981

**OPEN TOURNAMENT**  
The Club  
798 Falls Ave.  
Twin Falls, ID 83301  
208-734-2599



# OSRA

By Linda Lopez

There is a new purposefulness, a cohesiveness in Oregon racquetball. If you haven't noticed it yet, you will soon if you are a tournament player. Twenty five of the major club owners in Oregon have banded together to form the Oregon Racquetball and Recreation Association, ORRA. The major goal of the association is to strengthen the sport in Oregon and insulate it from the uncertainties of the national racquetball picture. In short, they want to make Oregon racquetball continue to prosper. The association has developed clinics and seminars that are available to the participating clubs (including referee clinics, general racquetball clinics, especially for the beginning players, and training seminars for staff employees).

A standardization of tournament procedures is planned. To insure quality tournaments, new formats have been developed including 15 point games, standard balls, a conduct code with some teeth in it, refereeing procedures and hallelujah! a tournament calendar. The ORRA has also set criteria for hospitality, trophies and entry fees.

Wayne Westwood, the association President, is justly proud of the accomplishments of the association so far. Wayne extends his thanks to all cooperating club owners and extends an invitation to all club owners to join and become involved. For more information, you can contact Wayne at 644-3900 or other members of the board: VP: Frank Eisenzimmer, 665-4142; Sec: Devri Sharp, 644-3900; and Board members Jerry Whipper, Barry Franz, Jennifer Harding and Lew Kern.

## Playing tips

by Tom Grobmisi

**GROBMISI PLAYING TIP NO. 1:**

The smaller the door, the more you should duck.

**GROBMISI PLAYING TIP NO. 2:**

You don't need eyeguards any more than you need eyes.

**GROBMISI PLAYING TIP NO. 3:**

Never insult an alligator until you've crossed the river; never criticize the ref until after the match.

**GROBMISI PLAYING TIP NO. 4:**

Just concentrate on scoring points; the rest comes naturally.

**GROBMISI PLAYING TIP NO. 5:**

It's easy to have a backhand that's as good as your forehand — just ease up on your forehand.

**GROBMISI PLAYING TIP NO. 6:**

Hitting a ceiling shot is an effective way to insure you won't accidentally kill the ball.

**GROBMISI PLAYING TIP NO. 7:**

The shortest distance between two points is an avoidable hinder.

**GROBMISI PLAYING TIP NO. 8:**

Never play with anyone called "killer." Never allow anyone your opponent calls "dear" to be your referee.

**GROBMISI PLAYING TIP NO. 9:**

Racquetball seems to turn every winner into a coach.

**GROBMISI PLAYING TIP NO. 10:**

Don't be too upset with your self if you lose — it's only half your fault.

**GROBMISI PLAYING TIP NO. 11:**

If you worry too much about your strokes and spend too much time on the court practicing, you just might become a winner.

**GROBMISI PLAYING TIP NO. 12:**

If you're playing a cheater, beat her!

**GROBMISI PLAYING TIP NO. 13:**

Relax, the only difference between a tournament match and a regular match is that one is for fun, and the other shows what kind of a person you really are.

**GROBMISI PLAYING TIP NO. 14:**

Stay away from sugar; she's mine.

**GROBMISI PLAYING TIP NO. 15:**

It's great playing with kids: they're fun to beat and easy to cheat.

**GROBMISI PLAYING TIP NO. 16:**

Never hit a ceiling shot when you can hit a pass shot. Never hit a pass shot when you can hit a kill shot. Never turn down a forfeit.



Touring pros John Egerman and Dave Peck will be among those featured on the new exhibition tour. Scott Hawkins (background) is an alternate.

Bob Goodman photo

# Club Guide

## California

### SIERRA TAHOE ATHLETIC CLUB

2565 Lake Tahoe Blvd., South Lake Tahoe, California (916) 544-6222. 12 racquetball/handball courts; co-ed jacuzzi; sauna and whirlpool available for both men and women; universal weight room; attended nursery; pro shop; tv lounge; gym/basketball court; exercise classes; slimnastics and aerobic classes. Hours 6 a.m. — 2:30 a.m. 6 days, 6 a.m. — 11 p.m. Sundays. Manager: Patrick Ryan.

### COURTSPOrts

3443 India St., San Diego, CA (714) 294-9970. 14 racquetball/handball courts; 2 glass courts; nautilus exercise center; sauna, steam and jacuzzi available for women; exercise classes; pro shop; group lessons. Manager: Herb Solomon.

### MODESTO COURT ROOM

2012 McHenry Ave., Modesto, CA 95350 (209) 577-1060; they have 16 racquetball courts; whirlpool and saunas available in both locker rooms; 10 hour attended nursery; indoor/outdoor pool; juice bar; conversation area; fully stocked pro shop; lessons, clinics, extensive aerobics and exercise classes; complete Nautilus fitness center.

### IRVINE CLUB HOUSE

17859 Skyline Blvd., Irvine, CA 92714 (714) 754-7500. they have 12 racquetball courts, 2 with glass back walls, men & women whirlpools & saunas, full exercise room, outdoor running track thru 4 acre park, slimnastic and aerobic classes, attended nursery, lounge with TV games and movies, lessons and leagues available. pro: Scott Winters.

### RIVERSIDE RACQUETBALL CLUB

11060 Magnolia Ave., Riverside CA 92505 (714) 687-5440; 10 racquetball courts; co-ed jacuzzi; sauna in men & women's locker rooms; lounge; racquetball lessons; public is welcome.

### BKB COURTHOUSES

3760 Telegraph Rd., Ventura, CA, 93003 (805) 642-2131.  
201 W College Ave. Lompoc, CA 93436 (805) 736-3483.  
7849 Canoga Ave. Canoga Park, CA, 91304 (213) 340-8888.  
500 Paseo Camarillo, Camarillo, CA, 93010 (805) 484-0423.  
31425 Agoura Road, Westlake Village, CA, 91361 (213) 991-4500.  
43845 N 10th Street, West, Lancaster, CA, 93534 (805) 945-2631.  
1020 Southwood Dr., San Luis Obispo, CA, 93401 (805) 541-1816.  
All clubs have 10 racquetball courts, saunas, jacuzzi, weight equipment, lounges, babysitting service, & fitness center.

### ROCKY'S RACQUET WORLD

12111 Strathern St., N. Hollywood, CA 91605 (213) 768-5541; 18 temperature controlled tournament level courts with cement front walls; men's locker room has showers, jacuzzi, sauna and also a complete Universal gym room (over 30 stations); women's locker room has private showers and dressing area, jacuzzi, sauna & grooming area and a complete Universal gym area (over 15 stations); four glass back wall exhibition courts; full spectator observation gallery for all courts; tournament and club ladder play; Challenge Courts discount playcard packages; complete pro shop; racquet rentals; instruction; club and party rentals; free day use lockers; league play and social events; special programs; snack bar; free parking; viewing lounges.

### TORRANCE COURT CLUB

3825 Del Amo Blvd., Torrance, CA 90503 (213) 542-3538; 8 racquetball courts; men & women sauna and jacuzzi; aerobics & exercise classes; 3 instructors; complete lessons & leagues; attended nursery; open to the public; memberships are also available.

### THE COURT HOUSE RACQUETBALL CLUB

2120 University Ave., San Diego, CA, 92104 (714) 297-5203. 10 racquetball courts; private & group lessons; universal exercise room; exercise classes; weight control classes; jacuzzi available for both men and women. Mgr. Saul Klein.

### CLAREMONT TENNIS CLUB

1777 Padua Ave., Claremont, CA, 91711 (714) 621-3907. 10 racquetball/handball courts; 20 tennis courts; universal exercise center; steam, sauna and whirlpool available for both men and women; pro-shop; snack bar; private lessons by appointment; free attended nursery; aerobic dance classes; exercise classes, members only. Manager: Karen Lucke.

## Utah

### TOWNE & COUNTRY RACQUET CLUB

2250 South 800 West, Woods Cross, Utah, 84047. 8 racquetball/handball courts; 4 indoor tennis courts; sauna, steam and whirlpool available for both men and women; universal weight room; attended nursery; pro shop. Hours 6 a.m. — 10 p.m. Weekdays, 7 a.m. — 8 p.m. Saturdays. Open Sundays for members only.

### FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH HEALTH CLUB

4300 So. 300 West, Salt Lake City, Utah, 84107 (801) 262-7487. 10 racquetball/handball courts; gym/basketball court; 7 tennis courts, sauna, steam and whirlpool; universal weight room; snack bar; pro-shop; beauty salon; barber shop. Hours: 6 a.m. — 10 p.m. Weekdays, 7 a.m. — 8 p.m. Saturdays. Open Sunday for members only.

### SHERWOOD HILLS RACQUET CLUB

4303 N. Foothill Drive, Provo, Utah, 84601 (801) 224-6969. 6 racquetball/handball courts; 1 challenge court; 13 tennis courts; slimnastics and aerobic classes; tap, jazz and ballet classes; dining facilities; 3 outdoor pools, sauna and jacuzzi; nautilus and free weight equipment; gym/basketball floor; modeling classes, pro-shop; boutique; lounge, tv.; adults and junior locker rooms; group and private lesson. Open 6 a.m. — 11 p.m. 6 days a week; closed Sundays. Pro: Racquetball — Mike McGovern, Pro: Tennis — John Bennett, Manager: Larry Anderson.

### OGDEN RACQUET & SWIM CLUB

1221 E. 5800 S. Ogden, UT, 84403 (801) 479-6500; 6 racquetball courts; co-ed sauna & whirlpool; weight room; pool; snack bar; pro shop; private bar; indoor tennis; private classes and clinics; aerobic classes; weekly round robin; USRA tournaments. Mgr. Chris Zimmerman.

## Oregon

### KLAMATH RACQUET CLUB

2524 Crosley Avenue, Klamath Falls, OR (503) 883-3728. 9 racquetball/handball courts; 2 glass courts; universal exercise room, restaurant lounge, attended nursery for members; sauna, steam, whirlpool and jacuzzi for both men and women pro-shop; jazzercise classes; mens exercise classes, group and private lessons. Hours 6 a.m.-11 p.m. weekdays 9 a.m.-9 p.m. weekends

### THE COURT HOUSE FITNESS CENTER I

2975 River Road South, Salem, OR, 97302 (503) 364-8463. 10 racquetball courts; outdoor track, one glass side court, universal weight room, sauna, shower and whirlpool available for both men & women, co-ed jacuzzi, nursery, pro shop Mgr. Dean Wallace.

### ALBANY SUPERIOR COURTS

380 Hickory Ave., Albany, OR 97321 (503) 926-2264. 9 courts, 2 glass; rental conference rooms; complete snack bar; pro shop; men & women locker rooms, each with sauna & jacuzzi; indoor jogging track; separate men's & women's weight room; day care center; large lounge area.

### MEDFORD SUPERIOR COURTS

727 Cardley Ave., Medford, OR 97501 (503) 779-7529. 8 courts, 2 glass; complete snack bar; pro shop; men & women locker rooms; each with sauna & jacuzzi; indoor jogging track; separate men's & women's weight room; day care center; large lounge area.

## Nevada

### CAPITOL COURTS

3759 Gross Circle, Carson City, NV, 89701 (702) 882-9566. 12 racquetball courts; jacuzzi, sauna, steam and whirlpool available for both men & women; separate weight rooms for men & women; pro shop; in-door jogging track; basketball & volleyball area. Mgr. Rich Bennett.

### INCLINE COURT HOUSE

880 North Wood, Incline Village, NV, (702) 831-4212. 10 racquetball/handball courts; 2 glass courts; steam room, weight room and jacuzzi available for both men & women; nursery available for children ages two years and up; pro-shop. Open 7 days a week.

### CAPITOL COURTS

3759 Gross Circle, Carson City, NV 89701 (701) 882-9566; 12 racquetball courts, 2 with back wall glass viewing; attended nursery; men & women whirlpool, steam and sauna; exercise, aerobics and slimnastics available; complete men and women's weight rooms; lounge with TV; complete leagues and lessons available; basketball and wallyball. Hours: 6:00 a.m.-10:30 p.m. M-F; 8:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. Sat.; 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Sun.; Mgr. Rich Bennett.

## Washington

### MUENCHER ATHLETIC COURTS

13018 Meredian Court, Puyallup, WA 98371 (206) 845-7620. the racquetball club is attached to Shakey's Pizza; has two racquetball courts, both with glass back walls for spectator viewing; weight room; individual sauna and whirlpool for both men & women; snack bar.  
196th & 50th, Lynwood, WA 98036 (206) 778-1998; the racquetball club is attached to Shakey's Pizza; has three racquetball courts, two with glass back walls for spectator viewing; weight room; individual sauna and whirlpool for both men & women; snack bar; liquid refreshments (beer & wine) also available.

### TUMWATER VALLEY RACQUET CLUB

4833 Tumwater Valley Dr., Tumwater, WA 98501 (206) 352-3400; this club has 10 racquetball courts; 7 indoor tennis courts and 4 outdoor courts; gymnasium; attended nursery; steam, whirlpool, sauna and exercise room available for both men & women; group or private lessons and leagues available; pro shop; they also offer classes in the following: aerobics, exercise, and jazzercise. Club Manager: Ed Odegard; Club Pro: Jeff Watson.

### VANCOUVER TENNIS & RACQUETBALL CENTER

5300 E. 18th, P.O. Box 1995, Vancouver, WA 98663 (206) 696-8123; they have 4 racquetball courts; lessons & leagues are available; will be expanding the facilities real soon! Pro: Bill Brouhard.

### FIRST SERVICE RACQUET CLUB

24228 76th Ave. West, Edmonds, WA 98020 (206) 775-0667; they have 10 racquetball courts; saunas available in both locker rooms; co-ed jacuzzi; lounge; full pro shop; attended nursery; massage; sun room; lessons, clinics, leagues and aerobic exercise classes also available; weight room, wallyball; Head Pro: Mike Hoonan.

### THE ACE OF CLUBS

610 W. Tietan, Walla Walla, WA 99362 (509) 522-0330; 7 racquetball courts, 1 all glass; running track; complete weight conditioning area (2 types available); locker rooms; saunas & spas available for both men & women; observation & lounge area.

## Colorado

### THE EXECUTIVE PARK ATHLETIC CLUB

2233 Academy Place, Colorado Springs, CO 80909 (303) 597-7775; they have 10 racquetball courts, available for the men is a whirlpool & steam sauna, for the women is a whirlpool & dry sauna; swimming pool, running track, weight equipment, half-court basketball court; pro shop, restaurant; lounge with TV; just about any program is available aerobic exercises, racquetball lessons, karate, self-defense, etc.

# No elephants, please!

By Phil Simborg

There are no elephants allowed in the court during a match. It's a hinder. I checked. Both the USRA and AARA rules cover this. If an elephant enters the court, the referee should immediately call a hinder and stop play. If one of the players intentionally brings an elephant into the court, it's an avoidable hinder. The ref may also issue a technical for unsportsmanlike behavior. If the player continues to bring the elephant into the court, the referee may forfeit the match (never the game).

Players have the right to ask the ref if they can bring their elephant into the court. You do have the right to question the rules, or the interpretation of the rule. If a player does not believe the referee is properly interpreting the rules, he has the right to ask for clarification from an official.

The tournament director (or his designee) has the right to overrule the referee on a matter of rule interpretation or application. He may even overrule the rule book! If he wants to, the tournament director can allow elephants in the court. (I'm surprised it hasn't happened yet...I've seen just as ridiculous things happen at tournaments!) He can do this! It's in the book. There is no appeal. No "higher court."

Anyway, the point I'm trying to make is this: at any "properly run" tournament, the player on the court does not have to live with an absurd situation. He has recourse. He does not have to play a match with an elephant on the court; he does not have to play against someone who is guilty of flagrant footfaults; he does not have to play with someone who hits obvious screen serves - just because he landed a ref who doesn't understand the rules. The player should simply, and politely, ask for a ruling, or interpretation from a tournament official.

I'm tired of hearing players who complained after the match that they "would have won if only the ref knew how to call..." As we tell participants, "Don't get mad...get help!"



Ex-touring pro Mike Levine — where will he play?

Bob Schmeidrick photo

Club Owners: To list your club in the Club Guide, call toll free 800-323-9167.

Advice for tournaments:

# Referee's pre-match briefing guide

By Bob Keenan

Probably one of the most overlooked responsibilities of an official is the "pre-match briefing." Many officials neglect to take the time to properly instruct the players, or answer questions, before the match begins. This time can be used in a positive way and, most important, the official has the undivided attention of both players.

Over the years I have prepared a checklist for myself; issues that should be discussed or pointed out before the coin flip and start of the match. I have found this system works best for me, saves time, and helps gain players respect. I'd like to share that checklist with you today:

## 1. THE BALL SELECTION —

The players should be given the game balls by the official as early as possible. Two balls are enough, with instructions to select number 1 and 2 ball as they warm up. While the players are warming up the official should prepare for his or her duties.

## 2. REFEREE'S DUTIES —

The official is responsible to see that towels are readily available and the scorecard is properly filled out. DO NOT leave this responsibility to someone else. If linesmen are to be utilized, select them early and brief them as to their respective duties. This shouldn't take more than a minute or two. You are now prepared to enter the court and speak to the players.

## 3. CHECK FOR COURT HINDERS —

Immediately upon entering the court check carefully for obvious court hinders. Check door frame, door, locks balcony ledges, trim or any surface that may interfere with play. (If any, note them, because they will be discussed during player briefing).

## 4. STOP PLAYERS FROM WARMING UP —

You want their undivided attention and you won't get it unless they discontinue their warm up shots.

## 5. WHO'S WHO —

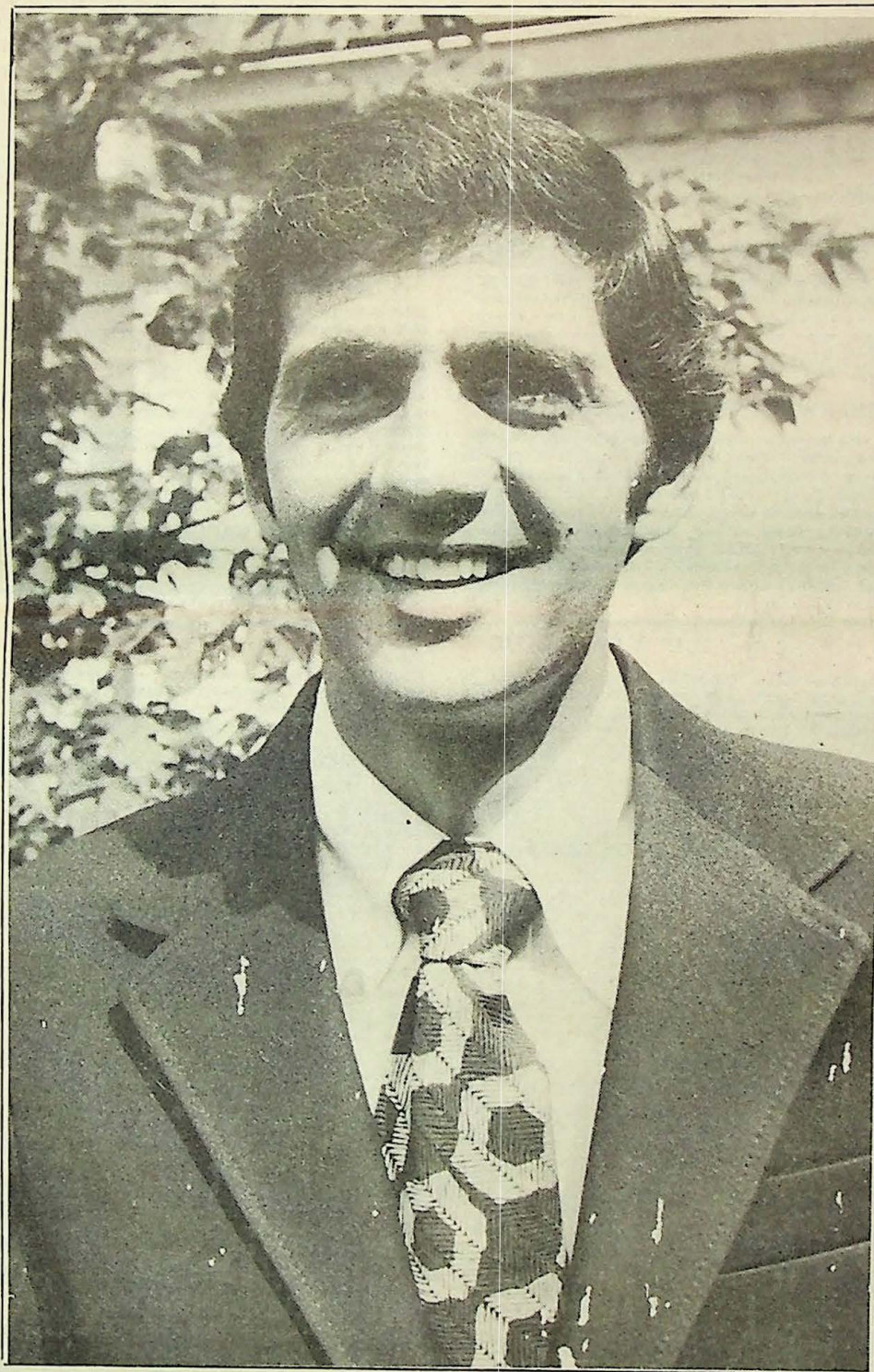
Introduce yourself first and then make sure they both know each other. If you are not familiar with the players, make yourself a note on the scorecard on some identifying feature of one or both players. (Color of shirts or shorts usually works best.)

## 6. THE COURT HINDERS —

If there are court hinders that will interfere with play now is the time to establish just how a particular play will be handled. Explain that all court hinders will be called by the official. Once this has been understood then the players may have the option of agreeing to a specific court hinder. For instance, a door frame or door handle is usually the most common court hinder. You can give the players

the option of holding up on a shot that has taken a bad bounce off this type of court hinder but, they must hold up on the shot, they cannot take the shot and then ask for the court hinder. Both players must agree — if they don't then the official will call everything.

7. CONDUCT — Explain to the players that you expect their conduct to be sportsmanlike. Mention that you will be willing to discuss any call the players



Bob Keenan is former National Director of the USRA and an experienced referee.

may disagree with but, you will not argue with them. If linesmen are being utilized clearly make it understood that no criticism, gestures, or verbal abuse to the linesmen will be allowed.

8. TECHNICALS, TECHNICAL WARNINGS, AND AVOIDABLE HINDERS — The pre-match briefing is the best time to give a general warning on misconduct, technicals and avoidable

hinders. One of the most misunderstood rules is that many players feel they are entitled to a "warning" on the above violations during the match. *This is absolutely not true.*

9. APPEALS — If linesmen are being utilized explain clearly that all appealable calls will be made directly to the official. It is best to repeat the appeal so the linesman clearly understands

10. THE TEN SECOND RULE AND CALLING OF THE SCORE — I lump these two areas of the rules together because they do go hand in hand in controlling the match. Explain to the players that the ten seconds will

not start until the score is called. Explain to the players that after each rally both players will be given a reasonable amount of time to return to their respective positions. Clearly explain that once both players are in position then, and only then, will the score be called and the ten seconds will commence. Also remind the players, while in the receiving position, the only recognized signal that will be acceptable to allow for the ten seconds is a *raised racquet*. The racquet must be raised so there is no misunderstanding to both the server and the official of his or her intent. Also explain, while in the serving position, it is the *server's* responsibility to see that the receiver is ready — it is not the official's responsibility to hold up play on a raised racquet. When actually calling the score be clear and concise, maintaining the same audible tempo throughout the match. Do not allow the server to "rush" your duties or to commence the serve before the calling of the score is completed. If explained clearly to the player prior to the match, and sequentially handled as I described above, the ten second rule and calling the score should be problem free during the match.

## 11. CALLING FOR "SECOND SERVE" —

Explain to the players that if a fault serve occurs you will call for a "second serve." The receiver and server again have the right to another ten seconds. The calling of "second serve" begins the ten second sequence again. By explaining this sequence you will alleviate any misunderstanding during the match.

## 12. QUESTIONS —

Once your pre-match duties are completed ask the players if they have any questions. If either player has a question make sure both are aware of it, and your answer.

## 13. THE COIN FLIP —

The lower seeded player (if seeding has been determined) has the right to select "heads" or "tails." The winner of the flip serves first — he or she does not have a choice of serving or receiving. Note the first server on our scorecard immediately.

## 14. PLAYER INTRODUCTION —

If the match warrants player introductions, it should be done appropriately. The lower seeded player, whether serving or receiving first, should be introduced first. Credits and achievements should be acknowledged along with their respective seed in the event. The higher seeded player is introduced last with similar acknowledgements. Linesmen should also be introduced and identified for the players.

The pre-match briefing should take no longer than 5-10 minutes. It is time well spent! Questions and controversy during the match can virtually be eliminated if the pre-match briefing is handled properly. Remember — every player wants a quality official and quality officiating requires preparation.

# RACQUETBALL TODAY<sup>®</sup>

## tips from the pros



Shannon Wright

*Editors Note: Each month RACQUETBALL TODAY will feature a series of tips on playing, rules, and etiquette, along with a personal note from a leading pro. This month our tips come from Ms. Shannon Wright, one of the games all-time greats and currently ranked third on the WPRA tour. In addition to her playing skills, Shannon is highly regarded for the hundreds of clinics she has conducted as a representative of Wilson Sporting Goods Company.*

### PLAYING TIP:

**What to do after serving the ball.** Many beginning (and even advanced) players are confused as exactly what to do after serving the ball. The correct term for this procedure is "the backout."

When serving to the left side, "backout" into the center of the court slightly favoring the left side. Your feet should be angled into the left side wall at about a 45 degree angle. You should be crouched ready to pounce upon whatever return your opponent makes. You should also be glancing over your left shoulder, watching the ball constantly. Only by this constant vigilance will you be able to anticipate where your opponent will hit the ball.

The main advantage of this stance (compared to facing the front wall) is that you are actually able to move laterally (side to side) more efficiently. The other advantage is that it's easier to keep your eye on the ball.

For serves to the right, simply reverse the process.

### RULES TIP:

In tournaments, when there are linesmen, you may appeal skip balls, double bounce pickups, fault serves, and out serves. You should use the appeal anytime you honestly think the ref made an error...overusing your right to appeal will tend to alienate the ref and linesmen and hurt your chances of winning the appeal.



### ETIQUETTE:

You're playing in a "friendly game," but like most "friendly games", you still want to win, and so does your opponent. But everytime you get a nice setup off the back wall, it seems your "friendly opponent" has camped himself right in front of you. What should you do? A lot of people say, "Hit him, he'll start moving!" Before you resort to such a tactic, if you ever do, why not first try holding up and asking, nicely, for an "avoidable hinder." This is an honest and considerate way to put your opponent on notice that his actions are **not** fair, and maybe he'll start moving.

### PERSONAL NOTE:

I'm often asked who I admire as an athlete, and I consistently pick Chris Evert Lloyd. I admire her as a person, as a lady, and as a player. She has the self control, discipline, and toughness so necessary for a champion and her sportsmanship and poise are attributes that make her an inspiration to so many young women.



# A host of New Products make the scene

by Bob Schmendrick

New Products are coming at us in droves. Gloves, balls, and racquets lead the list.

The Ram Golf Corporation, who introduced a great new ball at the beginning of the year, has come out with a new glove.

The Ram glove is 100% leather, is soft, slip resistant, durable and washable. What distinguishes this glove from others is the uniquely designed elastic band with a velcro fastener that allows the glove to fit your hand better — relying on their long experience with golf gloves, the fastening band fits closer to the wrist adding greater comfort and a tighter fit.

I had the opportunity to play with two new balls this past month. Wilson Sporting Goods after exhausting testing has come out with their new ball dub the "True Blue". Packaged two to a can.

The ball is unpressurized with a medium fast bounce (like the Penn and Ram) which is fast becoming the industry standard. I found the ball to have a good consistent bounce, and the visibility and control was very good.

Seamco, Inc. as come out with a new ball which they are marketing as their "Club Ball."

The ball is unpressurized, light green in color (a little lighter than the 559) and packaged in an attractive clear plastic box. As to playability: the ball has no bounce (it reminds me of the old Voit ball), the green color aids visibility and the construction seems to be very durable.

LTR Enterprises out of California has developed a racquetball exercise device named the power commander. According to their literature, the power commander is designed to develop speed and stamina in a players stroke.

Constructed of a high quality, moisture resistant nylon material, it weighs 220 grams (slightly less than a light weight racquet). The product looks sim-

ilar to a racquet cover and in principle, does for the racquetball player what the warm-up donut does for the baseball player.

Ektelon introduces a new Magnum Flex racquet designed for ultimate control. Because of its quadriform head shape and I-Beam aluminum construction, the racquet gives the player more snap to the ball and flexibility resembling fiber glass and composite frames.

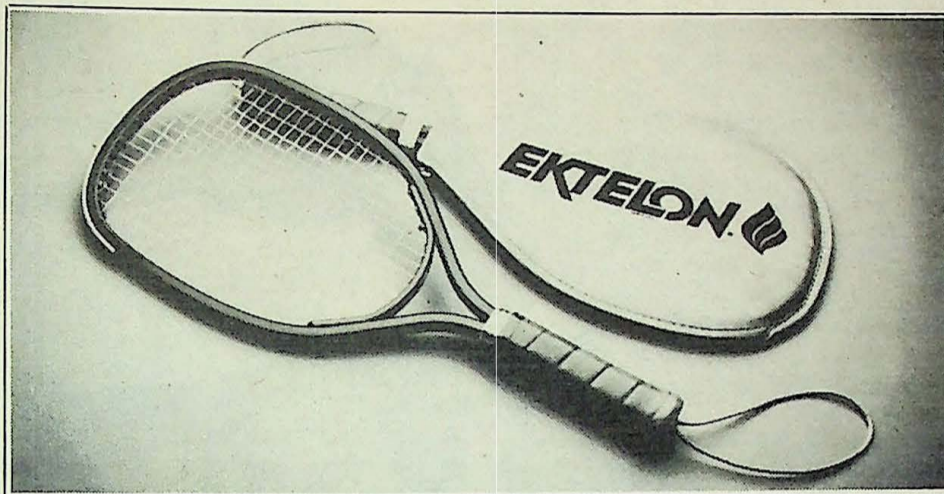
The frame durability is enhanced by a patented interlocking throat design, and the head shape creates a large sweet spot for accuracy response and better shot control. The suggested retail price is \$65.00.

The Elaston Company has developed a product called Liquisole...a shoe repair rubber. Composed of urethane rubber that gives abrasion resistant, long-wearing and economical repairs for the



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soles and heels of shoes. The product can be applied to high wear areas of new athletic shoes to prolong the shoe tread characteristics or old shoes can be made almost like new when worn heel and sole areas are rebuilt. Liquisole is sold in tubes with a suggested retail price of \$3.25 to \$3.50.



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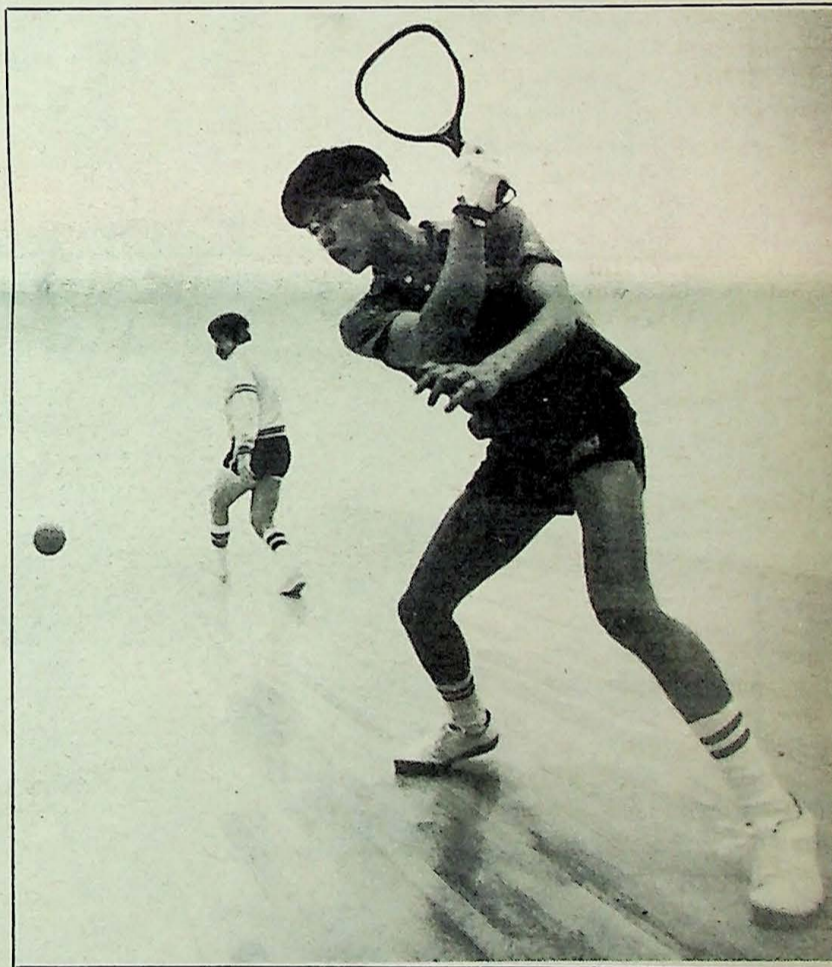
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Peter Wong sets up to shoot a backhand.

Craig Ashway photo

## Words of wisdom

by Tom Grobmisi

Any idiot can learn to play great, however, very few do.

If you can't stand to lose, there are many that will be glad to help you master this difficulty.

When it comes time to challenge your teacher, you'll find they taught you everything you know, not everything they know.

In racquetball, you either win or you learn something.

The trick is to learn to win.

## CONTEST RULES:

1. You must be an amateur photographer
2. Photo must be a black and white glossy
3. Subject must be racquetball or racquetball-related
4. Photo must not have appeared in any other publication
5. Back of photo must be clearly labeled:

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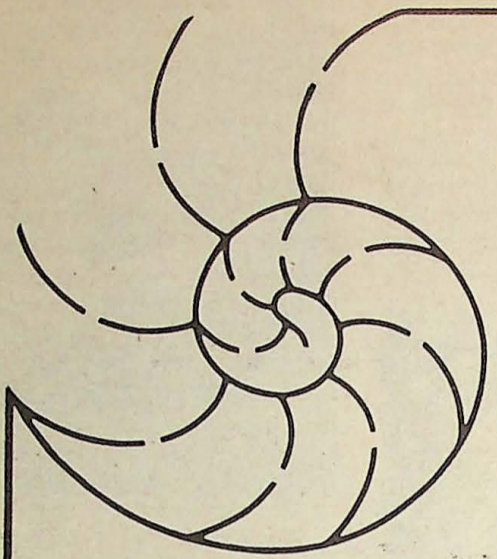
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# The vitamin caper

By John P. Donati

*John Donati of Nautilus Sports/Medical Industries will be happy to answer questions pertaining to training and conditioning. Questions may be submitted to John Donati: P.O. Box 1783, DeLand, Florida, 32720.*

Every day 60 million Americans consume some type of vitamin pill. Over a billion dollars a year is spent on an industry that flourishes in a country where food is more plentiful than any other region in the world. Why this fascination with pills? It seems that man doesn't have faith in his diet, and therefore tries to "insure" proper nutrition through supplementation.

**What is this magic thing called a vitamin?** A vitamin is an organic substance needed by the body in very small amounts to perform specific metabolic functions within the cells. The cell cannot synthesize these substances and therefore it must obtain them in food or through vitamin supplementation.

**But does an athlete need this vitamin insurance?** For years the use of vitamins in athletics has been referred to as the classic example of the "supercharge" theory in the care and feeding of athletes — "if a few are good, more is better." Some athletes, such as Bobby Riggs or Lou Ferrigno, take *handfuls* of

vitamins. To be sure, most athletes take some form of vitamin supplementation every day.

**Does this vitamin supplementation improve performance?** To this date there is **no** researched evidence to support the claims that supplementation improves the performance of an athlete who consumes a properly balanced diet. There is evidence, however, that vitamin deficiencies may **decrease** performance. The claims of improved performance through increased vitamin intake may be the result of a deficiency caused by improper diet. But the need for supplementation should only be determined by a doctor with nutritional background. Only through proper nutritional evaluation (i.e., blood and urine testing) can an accurate decision be made concerning deficiencies.

If an individual eats well-balanced meals consisting of meats, vegetables, cereals, fruits, and milk, he will more than adequately meet his daily needs for vitamins. The daily requirements for vitamins are relatively independent of a person's physical activity level. Even the athlete who expands considerable energy engaging in vigorous physical activity need not consume extra vitamins in the form of vitamin supplementation, because as the level of energy expenditure increases, the amount of food required increases in order to maintain

body weight. In most cases, an increase in food intake in itself will usually increase the intake of vitamins, provided the athlete maintains a well-balanced diet.

And what constitutes a well-balanced diet? The nutritional balance should be such that 65% of the diet is made up of carbohydrates, 20% fats, and 15% protein. This balance will supply the body with essentially all the necessary requirements for efficient human performance.

Despite the preceding information, many athletes reading this article will continue to take vitamins, "to be sure." Therefore something needs to be said concerning *natural* versus *synthetic* vitamins. The idea that "natural" connotes better is a carefully designed commercial sales pitch. Generally, there is **no** difference between natural and synthetic vitamins, except that the natural are two to three times as expensive as the synthetic vitamins. Both have the same molecular make-up, which means their chemical behaviors are identical. A rose hip C tablet has the same chemical behavior as a synthetic C tablet. A vitamin is a vitamin — *period!*

If psychological dependency demands vitamin supplementation, at least choose the less expensive synthetic vitamins. Your pocketbook will thank you, and your body won't know the difference.

## Attention Association Members

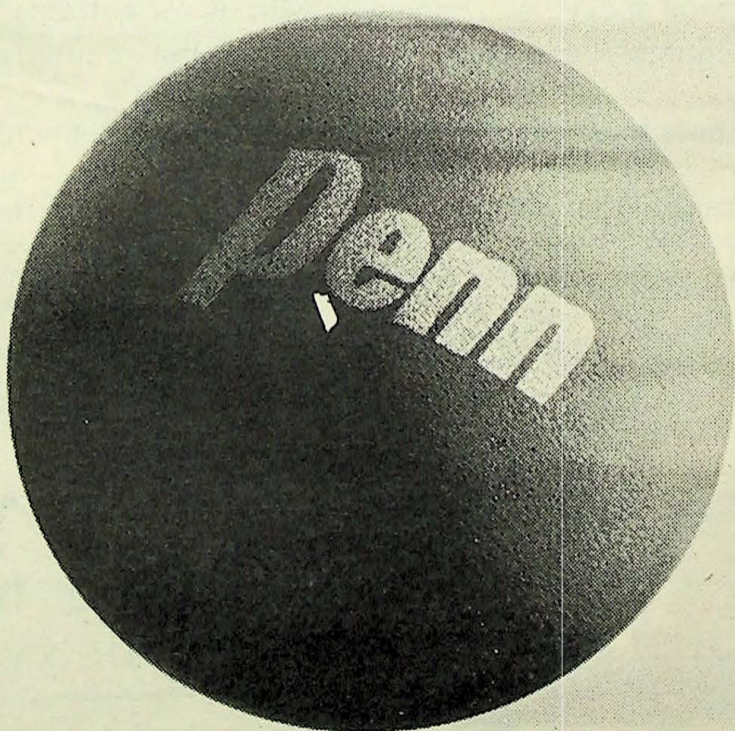
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Congratulations to our September Racquetball Puzzle Winners! Sorry, but you were all correct in saying that the word bounce was left out. Sorry! The winners will receive a free can of balls or a Rippers wallet.

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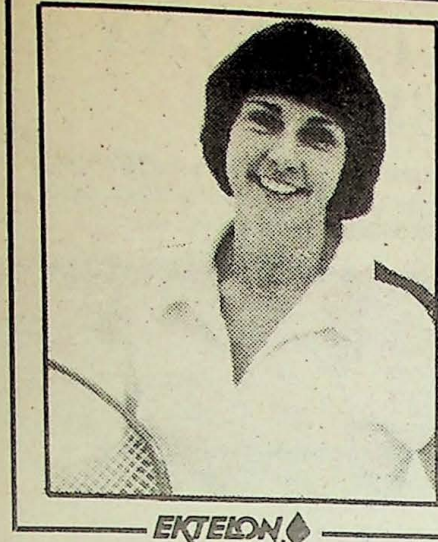
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# Teaching your child racquetball

By JEAN SAUSER

*Editor's Note: Jean Sauser, professional women's player sponsored by Ektelon, and photographer Arthur Shay, are co-authors of TEACHING YOUR CHILD RACQUETBALL, a do-it-yourself manual which gives the prospective "teacher" everything he needs to know to help a youngster learn to play and enjoy the game. With permission of the publisher, RACQUETBALL TODAY will reprint portions of that book.*

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## Lesson 2:

### More Fundamentals

In this lesson, students will learn how to do the overhand stroke, how to practice taking balls off the back wall, and a bit of court strategy. These few new items have room for a review of Lesson 1, a review that is vital in the same sense as the foundation is vital to the house to be built on it.

OK. Your student or students join you on the court.

1. Do five minutes of warm-up, stretch, knee bends, jog in place.

2. Go over the grips, forehand, backhand, two-handed. Hit some balls against the wall, trying to be fairly accurate in aim, say within six feet of the spot on the front wall you aim at.

3. Explain the scope of this lesson. Demonstrate the overhand stroke, which is like the forehand and backhand, a side-ways stroke made with the body facing one side wall or the other. (There is a forehand overhand and a backhand overhand.) Generally the overhand stroke is a deep court (rear-of-the-court) stroke, usually defensive, often a "reach-the-ball" shot.

### Overhand Stroke

Emphasize a ball-throwing motion for the overhand stroke.

Later on in Lesson 8, the overhand stroke will be used for the ceiling shot, a fine defensive stroke consisting of hitting the ceiling within five feet of the front wall, then having the ball hit in turn the ceiling, then the front wall, and bounce deep into the court, thus giving the opponent a tough shot to return. But that will come later.

At this stage the beginner must begin to develop a feeling for choosing the right shot for the right situation and to move into the proper position for that shot without hesitation.

You can help by hitting balls to one side or the other — or throwing them — and yelling, "Backhand!" "Forehand!" "Overhand!" The idea is to get your student thinking on the run during the excitement of a volley or a simulated volley.

In the overhand stroke, the lead foot still moves forward and the wrist still snaps, though it now snaps in a downward direction, transmitting the body's power to the ball via shoulder, arm, and wrist to hand and racquet.

Generally the forehand or backhand stroke will serve your student better on the court than an overhand stroke that is being used too frequently anyway.

Your tone at this stage should be encouraging. "That was fine, but I think you would have hit it better with a sidearm stroke." Or "Next time try a sidearm stroke on that shot and see if it doesn't feel better."

For the back wall shots (taking the ball off the back wall with a forehand or backhand stroke), demonstrate this technique to your youngster by standing an arm's length from the back wall, facing your forehand side wall. Bounce the ball with your free hand into the side wall so that it rebounds slightly past you. Shoot the ball to the front wall using your usual controlled forehand stroke. Have the child watch as you execute a few shots in this manner. Emphasize the importance of keeping an eye on the ball, setting the body up behind the ball, using a sidearm stroke, and contacting the ball off the lead foot.

Now it's time for your young student to try to hit the back wall shot. Give the student set-ups as you did in Lesson 1 for the forehand stroke, only this time you face him while he assumes the proper ready position (racquet back, shoulders facing the side wall, eye on the ball that you are about to throw). Bounce the ball into the back wall so that it will rebound slightly ahead of your youngster. Tell him to swing the racquet behind the ball and hit the ball to the front wall.

Then set up a server-receiver drill with you as server and your youngster as receiver. Give your young player high serves that will come off the back wall where the ball can easily be reached with a sidearm stroke. Have your student practice serve returns off the back wall until he can hit most of the balls as they come off the back wall.

Next, have your youngster stand in center court with you, and then you hit a shot that goes past both of you and rebounds off the back wall. Your student must run back, set up, and hit the ball after it comes off the back wall to the front wall. Not only is this drill good exercise, but it also helps the student learn how to run after a ball that has gone by him and play it off the back wall. Point out the three steps: (1) run back, (2) setup, and (3) hit.

For backhand off-the-back-wall shots, follow the same three-step procedure. Emphasize that it is crucial to watch the ball all the time and to set the body up properly before striking the ball as it comes off the back wall.

If your student is a fast learner, you might go a little more deeply into the rules at this point, closely going over the serving rules in preparation for the next lesson. "You must stand in the serving box and hit the ball past the short line without hitting the back wall on the fly. It's OK for the ball to hit a side wall after

it has hit the front wall."

As you practice volleying with your young student, you might introduce the center court position. Center court position is an area with about six feet diameter beginning about a foot past the short line in center court. Most good players use it as a "headquarters position," that is, a sort of combat base of operations, or home base. From center court position a player has the best mathematical chance of retrieving most shots hit by an opponent. This position as a strategy improves and learns the advanced strategy of the game; so pointing it out early is all to the good, especially if you have a fast learner.

During game play at the end of this lesson, try to hit shots that will force your student to run back to deep court, setup, and hit the ball as it comes off the back wall, no easy task for beginners. Hit a few shots high enough, left and right, to get the overhand stroke working.

By the end of this lesson, you should see considerable improvement in your student's ability to time shots, and you should be proud of your teaching ability if your young student starts hitting that ball with growing confidence — and begins to smile alot.

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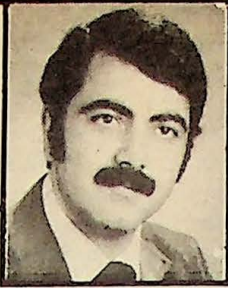
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# Feet First

## Ask a podiatrist



by Dr. Louis A. Sorto, Jr.

*RACQUETBALL TODAY will feature monthly articles on foot care provided by the Community Health Information Council, a not-for-profit organization of consumers, health professionals and media professionals cooperating in the development and dissemination of health related information at the community level. Readers are invited to submit questions to be answered by Dr. Louis A. Sorto Jr., 420 Lee Street, Des Plaines, IL 60016.*

**Q. I have been suffering from painful bunions all of my life, as did my mother and her mother before her. They are especially bothersome when I participate in strenuous athletic activities, such as racquetball. I have a two part question. First, do shoes really cause bunions? And, secondly, how are they best treated?**

A. One of the most common foot problems seen in my office is the unsightly, and often times painful, bunion deformity. The word "bunion" refers to the swelling and inflammation of the soft tissues overlying the big toe joint. This inflammation is the result of chronic shoe pressure on an underlying bony prominence. A more accurate term of use to describe the actual bony malalignment associated with this deformity is "hallux abducto valgus". This term better describes the deviation of the big toe toward the second toe, which is accompanied by a reciprocal drift of the first metatarsal bone (which is located just behind the big toe) in the opposite direction. It is this abnormal position of the first metatarsal bone which creates the visible "bump" on the inside of the foot, just in front of the instep.

There are many misconceptions concerning the cause of this painful malady. Shoes

have had to bear the main burden of blame for many centuries. However, studies conducted in the unshod populations of New Guinea have shown that natives, who have never worn shoes in their entire lives, were found to develop bunions. Shoes certainly can irritate an existing bunion deformity, but their occurrence seems to be genetically predetermined.

There are certain foot types which are hereditarily passed on from generation to generation, which seems to predispose one to the development of a bunion. The best example of this is a flexible flatfoot. People with flat feet seem to be far more prone to a buckling of the big toe joint with a resultant bunion.

There are but two alternatives when discussing the treatment of painful bunions. One is to live with the problem and merely attempt to avoid excessive shoe pressure on the malpositioned bony prominence. This is best accomplished by wearing shoes which are constructed of soft material that tend to stretch rather than confine the foot. One may also wear open shoes or utilize a cut-out, or protective shield, to avoid the pressure altogether.

The other alternative is to have the underlying bony deformity surgically corrected. When choosing this route, care must be taken in selecting a doctor who specializes in foot surgeries to perform this technically demanding operation. In the hands of an experienced foot surgeon, this procedure is usually associated with little discomfort and disability, and in many cases can be done on an outpatient basis.

# RACQUETBALL TODAY SURVEY

Fill out and mail this survey to RACQUETBALL TODAY, PO Box D, Posen IL 60469. You will not only help us plan future issues or our paper, but we will have a drawing and award 20 prizes including wallets, eyeguards, racquetballs, and other fine prizes.

1. Of the various types of articles in our paper, which of the following do you enjoy reading:

- about amateur players
- about amateur tournaments
- about pro players
- about pro tournament
- about the rules
- instructional articles
- humor and satire
- cartoons
- puzzles
- association news
- Junior Forum
- health and nutritional articles
- pictures
- tournament schedule
- letters to the editor
- APRO report
- club news
- general, human interest articles
- about the history of the sport
- about new products
- advertisements
- WPRA Report
- Tom Grobmisi
- Shetzer!
- Lynn Adams
- editor's and publisher's comments
- news briefs

2. I would like to see more coverage of \_\_\_\_\_

3. On a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being the highest, how do you rate our paper? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Are you a regular subscriber to RACQUETBALL TODAY? yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_

5. What other racquetball publications do you read regularly? \_\_\_\_\_

6. Are you a member of a state amateur racquetball association? yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_

7. Are you a member of a national amateur racquetball association? yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_

8. Have you played in more than 2 racquetball tournaments outside of your own club during the past 12 months? yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_

9. How long have you been playing racquetball?

- less than 1 year
- 1 to 2 years
- 2 to 4 years
- over 4 years

10. Are there any comments you would like to make or questions you would like to see answered in our paper? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

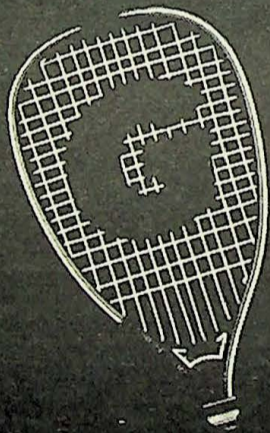
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# Classifieds

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**JUNIORS:** We're looking for Junior Correspondents...kids under 18 who are active in the sport and want to help us get more news and information about junior racquetball leagues, tournaments and general news. With your help we can provide a lot more information about what is available for and happening with kids. Just call and ask for Betsy at 800/323-9167.

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**RACQUETBALL TODAY** is looking for correspondents to assist in collecting local tournament results and news. We particularly need people in Arkansas, Colorado, Hawaii, Kansas, Kentucky, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska and North Carolina. If you'd like to see your local news in print, call toll-free 800-323-9167

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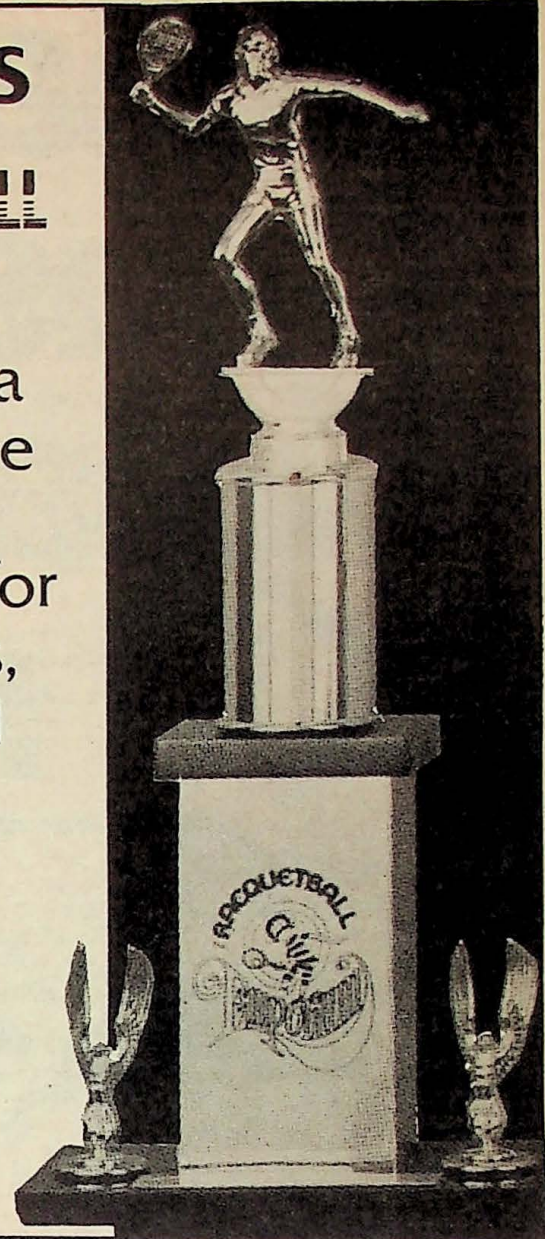
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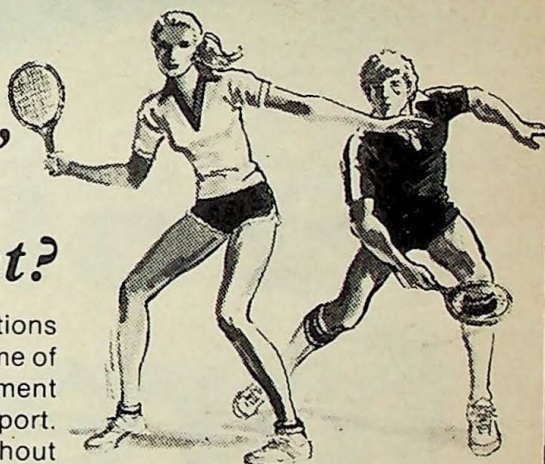


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