

The Magazine of Professional Racquetball

KILLSHOT

11-9-93

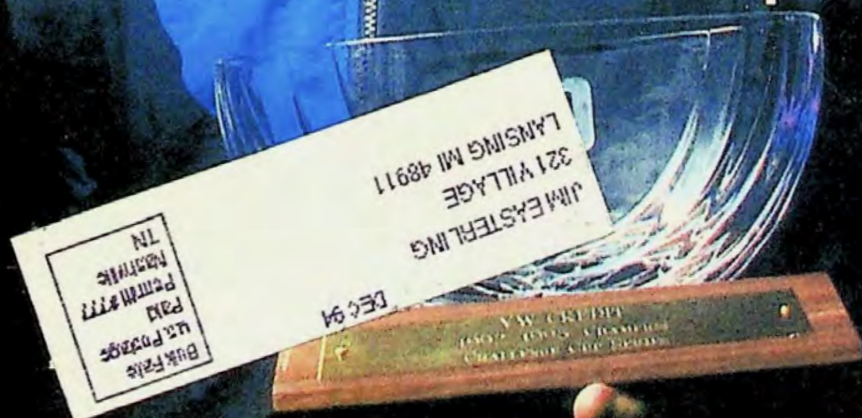
September/October 1993

Power Play

Andy Roberts Rises to the Top

Racquet Warranties

VCI Spreadsheet



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TAKE CONTROL

KILLSHOT

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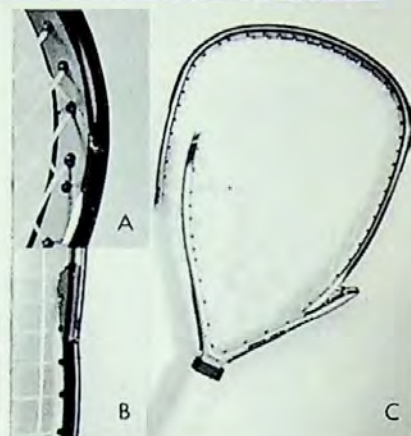
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Ever played with an opponent that shattered a racquet by hurling it at the front wall, only to see him return the next week with a brand new frame straight from warranties and returns? He may just be the guy causing racquet prices to soar higher and higher into triple digits. Let's take a look at the abuses and the excuses and how the companies are fighting back to keep frame prices affordable. **Page 38 It Was Like This When I Bought It. Really** by Lynne Balthazor.



Pro racquetball and the IRT have finally made the leap from court clubs to America's living rooms. The first ESPN racquetball broadcast in years marks the thrust into widespread spectator interest in the pro game. Take a look at three of the most recent and three of the most prestigious events of the season in blazing color with the inside scoop from one of the world's best. **Page 16 Power Play** by Aaron Katz.

One player keeps a strangle hold on women's racquetball today. Strong, fast, and smart, Michelle Gould not only wins, she conquers. Maintaining her amateur status by channeling pro winnings into a trust fund, Gould dominates the WPRA tour while retaining eligibility to play international amateur events. At twenty one, she seems destined to win racquetball's first Olympic gold medal. Recently Gould dispatched Malia Bailey on two occasions to capture the WPRA and the AARA titles. **Page 26 Two more for Michelle. Page 42 Amateur Nationals - United States.**



Cover: Andy Roberts photographed by Paul Sancya

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SHORT SERVES

A Force to Contend With

E-FORCE SPORTS, manufacturer and distributor of racquetball racquets, clothing, and accessories, has been purchased by an international holding company headed up by Michael C. Case. Egan Inoue, two-time world champion, will remain a key member of the organization. With Egan are other members of the E-Force team, Michael Case, Steven Tseng, James Bi, Alice Inoue, and Joe Sullivan.



The company, based in Hawaii, has also announced signing three members of the IRT to sponsorships.

Tim Doyle of Portland is one of the hardest hitters on the pro tour and is known for his super power serves.

Mike Guidry, from Dallas, last year's IRT Rookie of the Year is known for his diving gets and great court sense.

Dan Obremski of Pittsburgh, known for his conditioning and fitness, has two Tournament of Champions titles.



Doyle



Guidry



Obremski



License to Kill(shot)

Pam Hamon sends this photo of her husband's license plate and tells us that "He is an *avid* RB player." It's really nice to see players promoting the game in ingenious and creative ways. Doing anything unusual? Let us know.



Who Says We Don't Appeal to a Young Audience?

Riley Shannon Worth, nine-week-old daughter of Dee and Kelly Worth, proves what we have been saying all along. You are never too young to enjoy reading **KILLSHOT**. What we're not quite sure of is what this says about the mental level of the people putting the magazine together.

Norm Blum's Passing Shots

Will the legacy ever end?

There was no doubt who the #1 male racquetball player in the world was in 1993. Cliff Swain was clearly the dominant player. Yet Swain can't erase the myth of the game's most well-known player, Marty Hogan.

In a previous *Passing Shots* column, Hogan now retired, boasted that if he wanted to he could make a comeback and not have much trouble with the top players.

Hogan, a natural salesman, has convinced club players across the nation. "Several people have come up to me and asked if Marty was right," Swain says. "I think he's way out of line. Perhaps he could come back as a comedian."

Swain is so confident, he's willing to put up his own money against Hogan in a challenge match. "I'll go 2-1. For every thousand dollars he puts up, I'll put up two. I'll play him any time, anywhere."

Hogan, always good for a one-liner, chuckles when he hears Swain's comments. "You mean I might have to practice once or twice a week to get ready for Swain. Where will he get the money?" Hogan says in a loud voice.

The idea intrigues Hogan but he's not quite willing to commit. "I'd have to think about it. He's obviously head and shoulders above everyone else and it would make for a good promotion of racquetball."

Hogan, never known for a lack of confidence, thinks about the downside of such a match. "What if I come back and beat him. Wouldn't that do damage to the sport? It would hurt the credibility of professional racquetball to have a retired player beat the #1 ranked pro. Do you think they'll still be wondering if I can beat the top guys when I'm collecting social security? Hasn't the Hogan cloud lifted yet?"

Swain, who's heard Hogan's routine over the years, simply wants the talking to end and is awaiting the decision.

Potpourri

The recent World Senior Racquetball Championships in Albuquerque attracted participants from six countries! . . . Jeff Conine of the Florida Marlins is featured on a Coke cup. It says in his biography that he's a former world-class racquetball player. A former national juniors champ, Conine was considered one of the hardest hitters in the game. He still has connections with the sport, he is engaged to Cindy Doyle, one of the top female players. . . . Dave Peck destroyed a theory of success in the age group divisions. I once speculated that the top age group players that never play the pro circuit would beat the former pros. My reasoning was that



the amateurs would treat a match against someone like Peck as their crowning glory. Peck, however, not only still has the talent but also that competitive spirit.

SHORT SERVES

Racquetball From a New Perspective

Ruben Gonzalez' post-game stretching positions have become legendary. One common belief is that he discovered this position upon landing from a diving get. If it works for Ruben...



sizzlers

Who's Hot in Racquetball

Andy Roberts -- capturing his second TransCoastal Grand Nationals and the VCI World Championships on ESPN

Cliff Swain -- ending the season with top rank, top \$, and most successful season of any pro in years

Michelle Gould -- winning her 5th U.S. amateur title and her 4th pro title

Ruben Gonzalez -- beating the best at the Tournament of Champions

Jack Newman -- playing the best ball of his 10 year (so far) pro career

John Ellis -- winning his 1st U.S. amateur title

Sudsy Monchick -- making an historic sweep of junior national titles (8-, 10-, 12-, 14-, 16-, & 18-)

Kerri Stoffregen -- claiming a big win at the Junior Olympics

Carol McFetridge -- winning her first Canadian nationals

Sherman Greenfeld -- grabbing yet another Canadian national title

Laura Fenton -- becoming the upset queen of the WPRA

Dave Peck -- capturing one of the hottest contested age divisions (35+) at the U.S. amateur nationals

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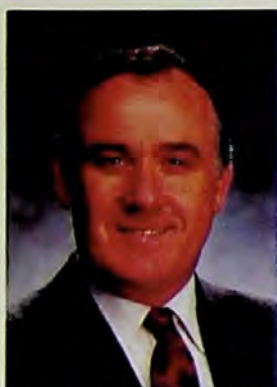
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(Editorial Comments)

The reality is better than the fantasy

It seems that most of the time I tend to inflate anticipation of upcoming events way out of reasonable proportions. There's nothing wrong with that, I suppose, except that when the much built-up event finally rolls around I'm generally in for a major league letdown. Very few things ever live up to the fantasy that I manage to conjure up in my hyperactive imagination. So, the reality rarely comes anywhere close to the fantasy.

Once in a great while something happens to throw off my whole philosophy and leave me, in essence, speechless. (hard to believe, huh?) Those rare occasions when the reality is better than the fantasy are worth remembering; yes,

even worth talking about.

It happened with the ESPN production of the Minneapolis VCI tournament. It's been a number of years since ESPN has ventured into the world of professional racquetball but the production of the VCI Minneapolis event proved worth the wait.

The crew at J&M Productions showed that they were up to the almost impossible task of creating a program that could be enjoyed by the racquetball playing public and at the same time provide instruction and entertainment to the millions of viewers who were racquetball illiterate.

There was just the right mix of on-the-court action, verbal sparring and off

court interviews to provide a realistic overview of professional racquetball today. The matches that were highlighted showed a keen sense of racquetball savvy and the choice of Marty Hogan to provide color commentary proved to be the perfect finishing touch.

It took guts for the VCI powers to back the debut event but the gamble evidently has paid off. According to tour commissioner, Hank Marcus, ESPN was so happy with the telecast that there is interest in pursuing a four-show series for the coming season.

I'd like to thank everyone concerned for bringing pro racquetball into the limelight where it belongs.

The reality is better than the fantasy.
-- S.Q.

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HOME COURT

news from the hood

The Right One, Baby

In Texas, Pepsi has become synonymous with racquetball as the soft drink giant has come to sponsor several major events throughout the season. The Pepsi Shootout at Dallas' Landmark Club in early July featured 170 amateurs and three of the top twelve pros from the IRT. With special permission from the IRT for top pros Drew Kachtik, Mike Guidry, and Aaron Katz to compete in a special "pro" division (not an IRT event) with the most elite open players from Texas, the event boasted some extra pizzazz. One of the strongest racquetball participation states in the nation, the lone star state also saw some intense competition from tough lower division and women's players.

Finals included:

Pro

- 1) Aaron Katz
- 2) Drew Kachtik

Men's B

- 1) Mike Kowalski
- 2) Mike Kelley

Men's C

- 1) John Matamoras
- 2) Mark Davis

Men's D

- 1) Mike Brown
- 2) Randy Kamin

Women's A

- 1) Pam Smith
- 2) Ann Gibbons

Women's C

- 1) Debbie Kamin
- 2) Charlotte Jones

Men's 40+

- 1) Mike Robinson
- 2) Jerry Dye

Men's 45+

- 1) Tom McKie
- 2) Jim Alen

Viva Las Vegas!

The *Turn Up The Heat Classic* is the traditional mid summer racquetball extravaganza at the Las Vegas Sporting House. This year, M.C. Enterprises teamed with the club, Fairway Chevrolet, Ripe Plum, and Saranac to bring a superior draw out to the desert for some intense action. Top honors and over three grand in cash and prizes went to:

Singles

Open

- 1) Louis Vogel
- 2) Steve Lerner

A

- 1) Rich Wagner Jr.
- 2) Gary Kinzelberg

B

- 1) Wynn Blanur
- 2) Shawn Wolfe

C

- 1) Travis Penning
- 2) Bob Brooks

D

- 1) Jay Littlefield
- 2) Craig Parsons

30+

- 1) Bill Sell
- 2) Steve Lerner

Women's B/C

- 1) Melissa Quintana
- 2) Laurie Johnson

Doubles

Open

- Lerner/McCoy
- Karp/Sell

A

- Wong/Barrera
- Cote/Harnett

B

- Furman/Pollack
- Spraggins/Vizzcaro

C

- Peng/Lopez
- Salazar/Gartner

45+

- Cote/Ross
- Valero/Salazar



1993 Police Olympics

The nation's finest gathered in Las Vegas this summer for the second of two major racquetball events at the Las Vegas Sporting House during what is the off-season in most of the rest of the country. M.C. enterprises, Fairway Chevrolet, and Ripe Plum put together about as much fun as is legal for the guardians of justice. (and in Vegas, that's a lot!)

When asked for photos of the action, tournament director Mike Coulter replied, "Are you kidding? Do you know how many undercover operations that could ruin?"

Anyway, it seems California officers captured quite a few of the first place positions. One thing's for sure, some very distinguished and heroic individuals proved to be no slouches in a different kind of court.

Winners included:

Gavin Henderson	Peoria P.D.	Ruben Sanchez	L.A.P.D.
Bruce Smith	Salt Lake City P.D.	Mike Rhodes	Orange Co. D.A.
Steven Howe	L.A.P.D.	Ralph Bruner	Downey P.D.
Robert Winn	U.S. Immigration	Randy Narrymore	Ridgecrest P.D.
Patrick Bearse	L.A.S.O.	Mike Visser	Rialto P.D.
Bart Landsman	L.A.P.D.	Eugina Ortega	Calif. Youth Auth.
David Antonini	Phoenix P.D.	Chris Fulmer	Honolulu P.D.
Donald Cola	NLV Muni. Court	Gloria Baca	Albuquerque P.D.
Domingo Martinez	U.S. Border Patrol	Monique Bryant	Calif. Youth Auth.
William Martin	L.A.P.D.	Lorraine Fabela	Calif. Youth Auth.
Dennis Brown	Inglewood P.D.	Linda Sena	Albuquerque P.D.
Joseph Giallo	Ontario P.D.		

How Does Your Garden State Grow?

Sixteen tournaments throughout New Jersey, including the State Doubles and Singles Championships make up the 1993-94 Spalding Racquetball Super Series. The tournament series has become the most prestigious tour on the east coast and boasts 26 singles and doubles divisions in competition for cash, prizes, and awards.

Lisa Gaertner, director of the series, says, "Spalding Professional Racket Sports and the Super Series make a great team. Spalding has emerged as a technological leader in racquetball development for the past several years."

Sharlene Sones, National Promotions Manager of Spalding says, "The Spalding Super Series tour promises outstanding competition for players of all ages and ability, great give-aways, and special events. In addition, Mike Ray and Marcy Lynch, Spalding Racquetball Professionals, will host free clinics and exhibitions at special events on the tour."

For additional information Gaertner can be reached at (201) 444-0859.



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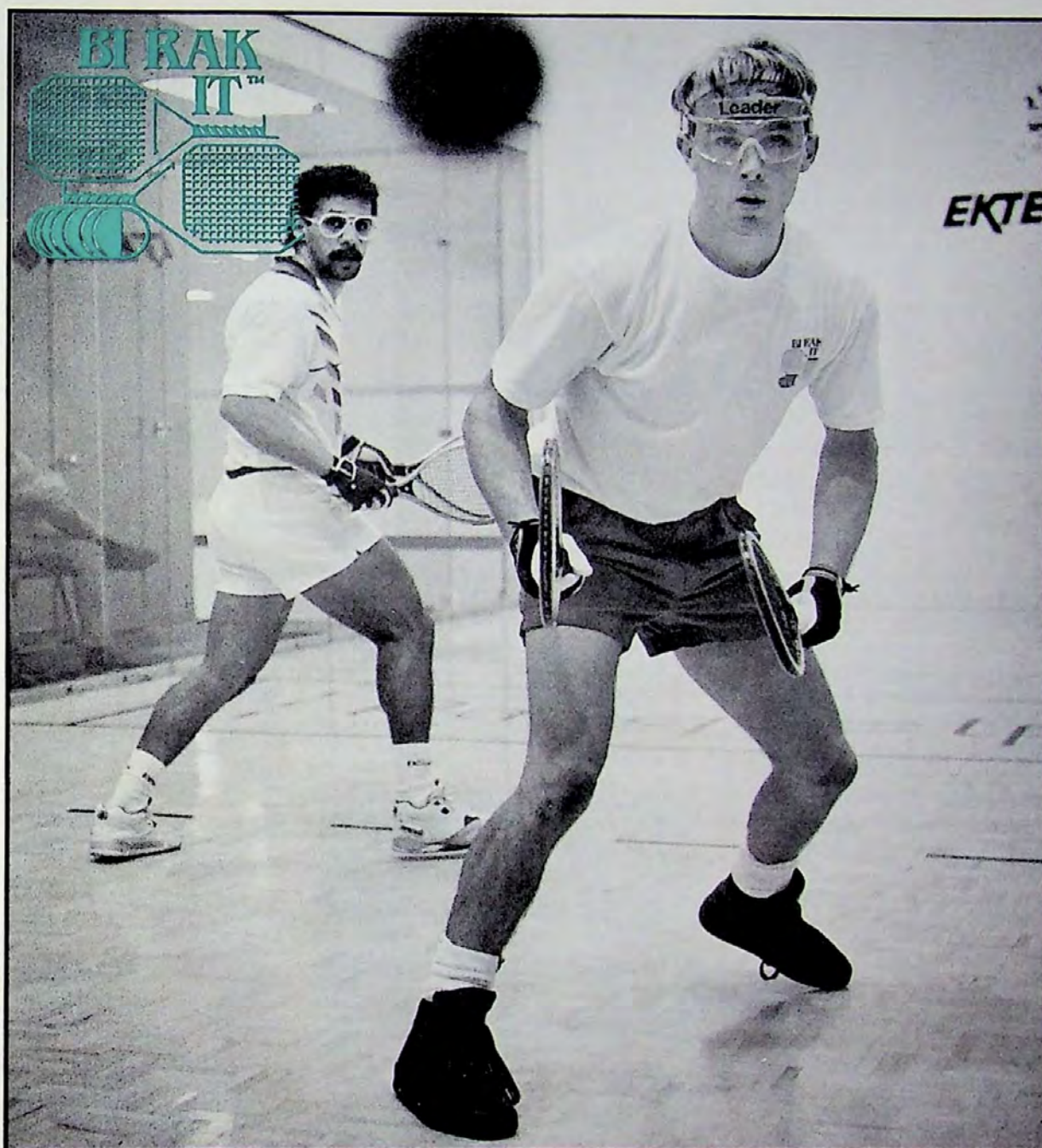
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The Side - Front Shot

"It'll Do in a Pinch"

By Jack Newman

One of the most common problems brought to our racquetball camps by players all over the country is their lack of good pinching ability. Many players do not know the correct time to use the pinch, or are simply afraid to use it. In matches with better players ("A" level and above), the percentage of rallies that end with pinches usually increases. At the professional level, as many as 60% of all rallies may end with pinch shots. Since the pinch is such a vital part of my own arsenal of offensive shots, I would like to discuss how and when to use it.

Pinches, shots that strike the side wall before the front wall, create a number of positive effects. One reason the pinch is so effective is that it is one of the few shots that, when well hit, will bounce twice before reaching the front foot-fault line.

A down-the-line or cross-court kill-shot usually makes its second bounce past the short line, often allowing it to be returned.

To properly hit a pinch, you must hit the side wall before the front wall. The key to this is the angle of your racquet. Angle the racquet face to direct the ball to the side wall, step toward the front wall,

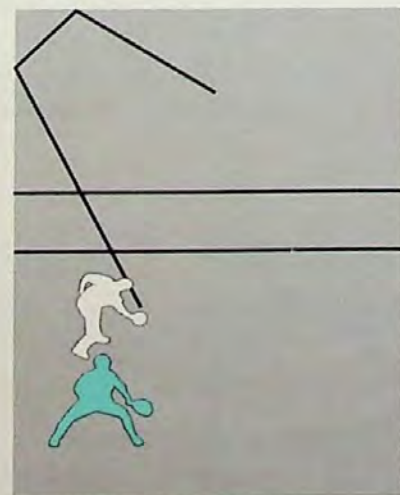
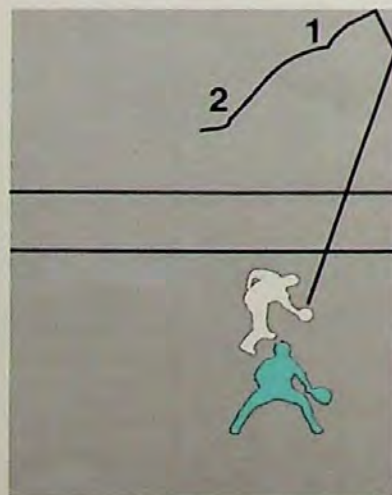
side of the court where your opponent is so that the ball travels away from him. (Diagram 2) Always hit pinches so that the ball hits the side wall first, then the front wall. If you hit the front wall first, the ball will travel to the center of the court, putting you out of position and setting up your opponent.

Remember, the idea is to end rallies as quickly as possible. Using good pinches to end rallies more quickly will greatly improve the level of your game. As you progress and become better and better at moving your opponent around the court, don't get caught in the trap of rallying too long to set him up. An opportunity to end the rally with a pinch often presents itself long before you get him out of position for the down-the-line or you get the set up for the perfect kill. Use it and win.

**One good rule
is to pinch
when you are in
front of your
opponent.**

then strike the ball in the middle of your hitting stance. Never step toward the corner to hit a pinch. By stepping toward the corner instead of the front wall, you will lose power and consistency, and you will telegraph your shot. The pinch should be used as a rally ending shot, primarily from the front court.

One good rule is to pinch when you are in front of your opponent. This increases the likelihood of ending the rally since it may be easier for him to cover a pass. Another good rule is to pinch to the



KILLSHOT • 15

POWER



PLAY

By Aaron Katz

Andy Roberts captures the top spot in the IRT rankings with a strong finish and a powerful beginning.

Seattle TransCoastal Grand Nationals Let's Get Ready to Rumble

The final stop of the most successful pro tour season ever was held in Edmonds, Washington, May 12-16. The beautiful waterfront Harbor Square Athletic Club played host to the TransCoastal Grand Nationals for the fourth consecutive year. With the Nationals weighted more heavily on the IRT ranking system, it was basically a three horse race for the #1 spot for the season. Cliff Swain, a six time winner on the tour this season led the pack. Only an extremely early upset for Swain combined with a tournament victory by one of only a handful of others could keep him from the number one spot. In fact, Swain's hold on the number one position was secure enough to prompt a press release earlier in the spring announcing his clinching the top ranking. In reality, however, either Mike Ray or Andy Roberts could dethrone Swain with one specific but very unlikely turn of events. Ray and Roberts were virtually even at second and third, either one would need to win the event and hope someone else eliminated Cliff early.

The 32's went mostly according to seedings with a few minor hitches along the way. The first upset was when #20 ranked Egan Inoue eliminated #13 ranked Woody Clouse in a tough four game match. Inoue has recommitted to the tour and seems to be playing as well as ever following a premature retirement announcement due to injury. Clouse strug-

gled toward the end of the season after a few very impressive showings early on.

The big upset came when John Ellis the Junior National Champ and Amateur National Champ took on five-time professional champ Mike Yellen. Ellis, who has as natural a pro style game as any player to come up in recent years was awaited on the pro tour with great anticipation. He had been a bit of a disappointment in his first few tournaments as he was eliminated early on. However, he served notice in Seattle that he was here to stay as he eliminated Yellen in three relatively easy games. This big breakthrough win against a seasoned veteran at an important event may provide the spark of confidence Ellis has needed.

Things started to heat up in the sixteens as the national title dangled one round closer for the top players. As so often happens in all sports, when the pressure is on, form prevails. Seven of the top eight seeds advanced with the only minor upset coming when #10 Jack Newman defeated #7 Bret Harnett. Newman's confidence in Seattle is very high, as he seems to always play his best racquetball there. The slower, more consistent panel courts suit his devastating side wall arsenal of pinches and splats. As for Harnett, it finished what he will surely remember as his most disappointing season in a long and distinguished career. His first year back on the tour full time brought home the reality of the depth of the talent on today's IRT as opposed to the top heavy cluster of talent on the tour in years past. With surprisingly renewed intensity, Harnett seemed immediately ready to shrug it off and set his sights on next year.

In other round of 16 matches, Texas' Drew Kachtik ended Inoue's run in a hard fought 4 game match. Roberts dispatched

SEMIS

Swain d. Gonzalez
8-11, 11-6, 11-4, 11-3
Roberts d. Newman
5-11, 11-9, 11-5, 12-10

SIXTEENS

Swain d. Harripersad
11-1, 11-2, 11-5
Johnson d. Ellis
11-4, 11-5, 11-1
Gonzalez d. Obremski
11-5, 11-2, 12-10
Kachtik d. Inoue
11-7, 11-7, 0-11, 14-12
Roberts d. Ceresia
12-10, 11-5, 12-14, 11-7
Doyle d. Guidry
11-6, 11-9, 11-8
Newman d. Harnett
11-4, 5-11, 11-9, 11-5
Ray d. Katz
10-12, 11-4, 11-7, 8-11, 12-10

Andy Roberts

7-11, 11-6, 11-3, 10-12, 11-9

Cliff Swain

QUARTERS

Swain d. Johnson
11-9, 11-6, 7-11, 11-7
Gonzalez d. Kachtik
11-2, 5-11, 5-11, 11-5, 11-1
Roberts d. Doyle
6-11, 11-8, 4-11, 11-2, 11-7
Newman d. Ray
11-6, 13-15, 11-7, 8-11, 11-3

Nationals (Seattle)

Canada's Mike Ceresia in four. Southern California's Dave Johnson trounced Ellis to renew the assertion that Johnson may just be the most unpredictable and most exciting player on the IRT. Swain was at his dominant best as he annihilated the always tough Canadian, Roger Harripersad in 3 quick games. Portland's Tim Doyle eliminated Texan Mike Guidry in three straight.

Ray continued the run for his second consecutive Grand National title with a 5 game, 2 1/2 hour war over your author. Ray's win at 12-10 in the 5th game gave me more time to work on the article, anyway.

The quarterfinals featured the exciting climax of some intense year-long rivalries as the players could really begin to smell the roses, or more likely the \$16,000 Acheiva, that waited in the winner's circle, courtesy of George Platis Motors. The first featured one of the fastest, most unbelievable, and most physical match-ups with Gonzalez and Kachtik. Kachtik had slipped to #5 after winning the national title in 1992 and came out looking for redemption. He jumped to a 2-1 game lead, but



Robert Liparelli

Mike Guidry flies through the air.



Michole Jensen

Jack Newman made a strong showing, going to the finals, here, at the Tournament of Champions, and also in Minneapolis.

Gonzalez cranked up his drive serve for the come back to continue his recent domination over Kachtik. Gonzalez seized clear control for strong wins at 11-5, 11-2, but not before treating the Washington crowd to five games of rip-your-guts-out, mad-dog racquetball.

The second quarterfinal between Roberts and Doyle was a slugger's delight. With three balls already broken by the time the match began, the crowd was able to feel the power. They did not leave disappointed either. These two slugged it out for five games with Roberts claiming the tiebreaker 11-8. This is a rivalry that seems to bring out the best in both players. Having competed against each other first in the amateurs and now in the pros, combined with both players vying to be the top Ektelon sponsored pro, both players brought an increased level of intensity into the match. No other pair on the tour can consistently rip missiles like these two.

The third quarterfinal was the antithesis of the Roberts-Doyle slugfest. Mike Ray and Jack Newman are two of the premiere control players in the game today. The difference from the previous ballistic encounter was evident early as Ray and Newman hit more ceiling balls in the first three points than Roberts and Doyle did in the entire match. A focused and confident Newman seemed to control the whole

match. Ray was able to force a tiebreaker on sheer determination, but Newman dominated to advance to his first semifinal since September.

The last quarterfinal held a tremendous amount of electricity as Swain had an opportunity to complete his comeback from the world of professional tennis and claim his second national championship. He was pitted against 8th ranked Johnson who has given Swain more trouble throughout the season than anyone else. Swain controlled the better part of what turned out to be a relatively close four-game victory for him, as he claimed his much deserved spot on top of the tour. Now his focus would have to shift to winning the tournament and the car.

The first semifinal between Roberts and Newman was an intriguing contrast in styles. In the past when Newman has been able to get Roberts to play the slow ceiling ball game, he has had excellent success. But when Roberts has been able to play his preferred attacking style without forcing his shots he has prevailed victorious. This match had a little bit of both with the lead see-sawing. There seemed to be little separating the players as each rally was closely contested. Roberts won a tough four-game struggle to advance to the TransCoastal Nationals Final.

The second semifinal was a rematch of the Anaheim semifinal between Swain and Gonzalez. Gonzalez, like most of the pros this season, has struggled against Swain. Swain's variety of drive serves and

tremendous power and deception during the rallies make it difficult for his opponents to stay balanced. He continued his dominance over Gonzalez with a three-game victory.

The finals pitted the #1 and #2 ranked players against one another. The stakes were a little higher than normal since the winner would take home the Oldsmobile Acheiva, The TransCoastal Silver Cup that accompanies the title from one of the most prestigious events in the sport, and a victory over a bitter rival. The players' intensity level reflected the disparity of the prize, in addition to the desire to claim a national title. They battled toe-to-toe for over two hours. Swain appeared to have sewn-up the match with a 9-3 lead in the tiebreaker, but Roberts, recognized as one of the toughest mental players in the game, came back with an 11-9 victory. The great comeback to claim his second TransCoastal title in three years took some of the sting out of finishing #2 for the third consecutive season. Look for the Swain-Roberts rivalry to intensify next season as these two figure to be near the top the entire season.

Portland TransCoastal Tournament of Champions Gonzalez Wins Another for the Baby Boomers

One of the most unusual and exciting (not to mention prestigious) events in the game today is the special elite invitational extravaganza held at the awesome Multnomah Athletic Club during Portland's Rose Festival. First you take the top eight pros from the just-ended tour season, add Mike Yellen and Marty Hogan (the semi-retired kings of the court), then throw in the top six amateurs from Oregon (one of the top men's open talent states in the nation), shake thoroughly, and play from a round of sixteen draw, and you have the Tournament of Champions. Although it is a non-ranking invitational, The TransCoastal Tournament of Champions annually draws the biggest

crowds and often the biggest surprises. This year was no different.

For those of you that have never had the opportunity to go to the Multnomah Athletic Club, it is the closest thing racquetball has to Madison Square Garden. The "M.A.C." is a plush club with a several year waiting list to get in. The stadium court seats over 700 spectators. In addition to the largest crowds, the Tournament of Champions features the largest purse of the season. If there was any shortage of drama, this year's event featured the return of Marty Hogan playing his first competitive match since his self imposed retirement at the end of last season.

Noticeably absent was the two time defending champion Dan Obremski whose #13 ranking failed to qualify him for this year's event (ouch!). Roberts' admission to a Memphis hospital as a result of a sudden virus opened up a spot for #9 ranked Newman.

The opening round offered no upsets but several interesting match-ups. Jim Wetherbee, a local Oregonian, extended recently crowned National Champion Swain to five games before falling in the fifth. The nostalgia buffs in the crowd were surely disappointed as Hogan and Yellen were both unceremoniously dismissed in three straight games in their first round by Johnson and Newman respectively. The irony is that the Tournament of Champions started as a \$10,000 winner-take-all match between Hogan and Yellen when they were dominating the sport and has evolved into the tournament in its present form.

The quarterfinals are where the Tournament of Champions begins to heat up. Harnett bolted out to a quick two-game lead on Gonzalez. As he so often does when he is down in a match, Gonzalez lulls you into thinking he is about to start acting his age. Gonzalez, however, lives by a different calendar than the rest of us mortals and came back to win three straight against the obviously frustrated Harnett.

The next quarterfinal, between Kachtik and Doyle, paired two pros that had recently finished disappointing seasons. Kachtik dropped from #1 to #5 and Doyle from #3 to #6. Both knew a victory at this tournament would go a long way to get the '93 - '94 season started on a positive note. Doyle defeated Kachtik in four in a good match between players that rarely find themselves playing one another in the regular season. A bounce-back season in '93 - '94 could seriously threaten the strange hold Swain, Roberts, Ray, and

Gonzalez have kept on the IRT victory roster.

Next a poised and confident Newman squared-off against #1 Swain. Swain is the closest thing our sport has had to a dominant player since Hogan took the tour by storm in the late seventies and early eighties. As opposed to other top players, Swain seems to approach each tournament with the attitude that anything but winning is simply unacceptable. Newman, who really came into his own late in the season, has one of the best control games on the tour. He displayed that ability as he controlled a less than sharp Swain for most of the match until he implanted the final dagger with an 11-0 exclamation point in the tiebreaker.

In the last quarterfinal match the spectacular but

Ruben Gonzalez

11-7, 8-11, 11-7, 9-11, 11-5

Jack Newman

SEMIS

Newman d. Doyle
11-7, 8-11, 11-6, 14-12
Gonzalez d. Johnson
11-6, 11-9, 12-10

QUARTERS

Newman d. Swain
11-1, 12-14, 6-11, 12-10, 11-0
Doyle d. Kachtik
11-7, 5-11, 11-8, 11-6
Gonzalez d. Harnett
2-11, 4-11, 11-7, 11-5, 11-7
Johnson d. Ray
11-5, 10-12, 11-2, 12-10

SIXTEENS

Swain d. Wetherby
11-3, 11-5, 9-11, 9-11
Newman d. Yellen
11-7, 11-5, 11-0
Doyle d. Cherry
11-2, 11-7, 11-0
Kachtik d. Krakewsky
11-0, 11-6, 11-7
Gonzalez d. Evans
11-2, 11-9, 11-3
Harnett d. Richards
11-1, 11-1, 11-0
Johnson d. Hogan
11-3, 11-9, 11-8
Ray d. Kelley
11-2, 11-4, 11-4

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often erratic Johnson squared off against Mr. Steady, Ray. Johnson did as Johnson does best by coming out of nowhere with good solid racquetball. Ray's game was not at its consistent best and he fell to a confident Johnson.

The first semi-final was fairly uneventful as Gonzalez quickly dispatched Johnson in three games. The second semi-final between Newman and Doyle would prove to be a little more interesting as Newman continued to take

Gonzalez was able to squeeze out the tie-breaker to claim his first Portland victory. The award presented by TransCoastal Mortgage Corporation's John Delaney fit nicely in the season's already crowded trophy case for Gonzalez.

Michole Jensen



Minneapolis
VCI World Championships
ESPN: In your Face

Ruben Gonzalez seems to be picking up steam. At 40 he still had enough endurance to lunge and dive his way to victory at the Tournament of Champions.

advantage of his wild card and confidently disposed of the powerful Doyle.

The finals between Newman and Gonzalez once again displayed the parity of the tour as the #4 and #9 seeds were in the finals of the season's premiere event. The packed house at the M.A.C. was treated to a five-game brawl filled with momentum swings. To the delight of the crowd,

No, not Daryl Strawberry nor Eric Davis nor any other sports icon was on the roster, but the VCI Professional World Championships hosted by the Burnsville Racquet Club returned professional racquetball to a legitimate position among the world's best spectator sports. Simply put, it was the most important tournament in professional racquetball in the last ten years. It was the young IRT's first time on ESPN competing for the final jewel of the VCI Challenge Cup.

The round of 32 produced only a few fireworks with Inoue once again being part of the toughest match-up. Inoue squared off against Harripersad in a marathon match that saw both players let big leads slip away and mount great comebacks.

Harripersad prevailed with a series of backhand pinches and tremendous gets. The only other scare to a seeded player in the round of 32 was when qualifier Rob McKinney took Drew Kachtik to the limit before losing 14-12 in the fifth.

Kachtik began the round of 16 by disposing of Clouse for the 12th consecutive time. Gonzalez continued to defy father time with a fairly routine four game win over Ceresia. The only upset of the round was once again turned in by Newman as he defeated Johnson

11-6 in the fifth in a match that see-sawed for over two hours.

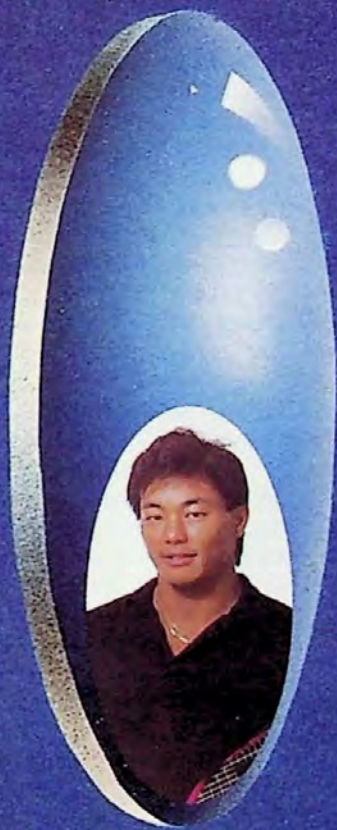
With all of the top seeds into the quarterfinals, the fun began as the players battled for the coveted TV time. The first quarterfinal between Kachtik and Gonzalez was a repeat. Gonzalez was on a four match winning streak against Kachtik and had put a damper on Kachtik's defense of his 1992 title. Unfortunately for Kachtik this match would bring more of the same, Gonzalez effectively using a drive slice serve behind him from near the left wall to keep Kachtik in deep court. Gonzalez capitalized on Kachtik's weak returns with deadly pinch shots. After mounting a brief comeback in the fourth, Kachtik fell short once again and Gonzalez advanced to the semis.

The second quarterfinal was power against control as Doyle squared off against the big left-hander, Ray. Ray had dominated Doyle, defeating him the last four times they had played. However Doyle has diligently worked to improve his speed and footwork, and the hard work is resulting in



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more consistent play. Doyle got off quickly in the first and bolted to a 10-1 lead. Ray worked his way back into the game, only to lose 11-9. He continued the momentum he had acquired in the first and ran away with the second and seemed to have the match going at his pace. However, Doyle started the third game launching missile serves that changed the momentum to win 11-5. Doyle kept things rolling his way in the fourth as he jumped out to a 7-1 lead and looked well on his way to breaking his losing streak against Ray. However, Ray has not maintained a top four ranking over the past six years by going down easily. He mounted a comeback using a lob "nick" serve deep to Doyle's backhand. Doyle unsuccessfully tried either to force an offensive shot or go to the ceiling. Ray came back to win 12-10 and force a tiebreaker. Once again Ray seemed to have the momentum pendulum swinging his way as he jumped to a 6-3 lead. But then it was Doyle's opportunity to demonstrate some intestinal fortitude as he came back to take the lead 8-6. The match see-sawed with side-outs between the two but climaxed in a beautiful Doyle ace at 11-6 for the win.

The third quarterfinal was a rematch of the Memphis semis where a hot Guidry had defeated hometown favorite Roberts. Guidry had advanced to the quarters with a victory over Kevin Graham. This match had nothing in common with the Memphis match other than the combatants. Roberts dominated from the beginning and had the

younger Guidry thoroughly bewildered the entire match.

The last quarterfinal pitted #1 Swain against Newman, one of the hottest players on the tour. Newman was in the midst of his best run of his ten-year pro career with a semifinal finish at Nationals and a finals at the Tournament of Champions. Swain looked more vulnerable than usual as he struggled to a four game victory over Harripersad in the sixteens. The match started as expected with Swain keeping Newman off balance with serves and deceptive shot selection to take a two games to zero lead. However, Newman hung in and stuck with his slow methodical game plan to sneak out an 11-9 victory in the third. After the third game you could see Newman's confidence start to soar and he took control of the match. Swain was uncharacteristically frustrated with Newman's lob serves as he continually moved up to attempt ill advised cutoffs. Newman dominated the entire tiebreaker to advance to the semis with his second victory over Swain in recent outings.

Roberts and Doyle had played the previous two tournaments and split, so this semi was a rubber match of sorts. As usual, there was no love lost between these two

Contrast in styles. Mike Ray's control against Portland's Vince Kelley with his dynamic power game.

and there was quite a bit of verbal banter between them. The metamorphosis Roberts has made into becoming the complete player is never more obvious than when he plays Doyle. Both natural power players, Roberts uses a variety of lob serves and ceiling balls to counteract Doyle's awesome power. Roberts' ability to adjust his game to a particular player is what makes him so consistent. After a very hard fought match Roberts prevailed in the tiebreaker as his experience seems to shine through on crucial points. Doyle, one of the hardest working players on the tour, seemed to find his range towards the end of the season and it looks like his work should result in more consistent results next year.

The final semi was between long time friends Gonzalez and Newman. Having played hundreds of times in practice and plenty more in tournaments, there are no secrets left off the court between these two. It is just a matter of who executes better. On this day Newman executed much better. He has learned to play within himself as well as any player on the tour and has the unique ability to accurately recognize his strengths and weaknesses. On this day his strengths were his backhand from the backcourt and his weaknesses were almost non-existent. Gonzalez continually hit ceiling balls to Newman's backhand that Newman continually rolled out as he



Robert Lipareli

Drew Kachtik lost to Gonzalez in the quarters in Seattle and in Minneapolis.

advanced to an easy three game victory over the tour's senior statesman.

The ESPN crew, the natural tension of the contest, and the intensity of both finalists created an unmatched air of excitement. Hogan's appearance to do the color commentary for national and international television seemed reminiscent of the days when he had been the most visible player in the game, and on the screen.

Newman controlled the majority of the first game as he frustrated the obviously nervous Roberts with his patented slow game. With a 2-1 lead Jack was one game away from his second tour victory. Roberts regrouped and won the fourth handily. With Newman up 8-6 in the tiebreaker, Roberts called what was probably one of the best time-outs of his career. He came back on the court, switched to a hard drive serve to Jack's backhand and went on to win 11-8.

On the tour to date, Roberts leads the pack with the #1 spot as the Minneapolis event marked the first event of the '93 - '94 season. Swain continues almost at his side threatening to overtake at any turn with a virtual domination of the past season that ended '92 - '93 with the number

one ranking in his first full year back from pro tennis. Ray and Gonzalez claimed their share of top money and could be felt breathing defiantly down the necks of Swain and Roberts. Doyle and Kachtik held tough nipping at the heels of Ray and Gonzalez. Guidry, Harnett, and Johnson closed enough distance on the chase to make things interesting. Inoue came back. Obremski slipped. And Newman closed more distance than anyone, with a sprint that proved he can hang with the front-runners and is not ready to be put out to racquetball camp pasture.

Andy Roberts

11-2, 8-11, 6-11, 11-3, 11-8

Jack Newman

SEMIS

Newman d. Gonzalez

11-3, 11-2, 11-8

Roberts d. Doyle

6-11, 11-4, 11-7, 7-11, 11-9

QUARTERS

Newman d. Swain

7-11, 5-11, 11-9, 10-12, 11-4

Gonzalez d. Kachtik

6-11, 11-3, 12-10, 11-8

Doyle d. Ray

11-9, 1-11, 11-5, 10-12, 11-6

Roberts d. Guidry

11-4, 11-8, 11-5

SIXTEENS

Swain d. Harpersad

11-7, 11-3, 6-11, 11-7

Newman d. Johnson

16-14, 5-11, 11-5, 10-12, 11-5

Kachtik d. Clouse

11-13, 11-3, 11-4, 11-7

Gonzalez d. Ceresia

11-6, 11-7, 6-11, 11-6

Ray d. Sweeney

11-8, 11-3, 4-11, 11-5

Doyle d. Obremski

11-3, 11-4, 11-6

Guidry d. K. Graham

11-8, 10-12, 11-5, 11-2

Roberts d. Katz

11-5, 11-5, 11-9

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VCI Spreadsheet

IRT

1. Andy Roberts (3)
Memphis, Tennessee
2. Cliff Swain (1)
Braintree, Massachusetts
3. Mike Ray (2)
Hilton Head, South Carolina
4. Ruben Gonzalez (5)
Staten Island, New York
5. Tim Doyle (6)
Huntington Beach, California
6. Jack Newman (9)
Hoffman Estates, Illinois
7. Drew Kachtik (4)
Dallas, Texas
8. Dave Johnson (8)
Huntington Beach, California
9. Bret Harnett (7)
Las Vegas, Nevada
10. Mike Guidry (10)
Dallas, Texas
11. Aaron Katz (16)
Dallas, Texas
12. Dan Obremski (11)
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
13. Mike Yellen
Bloomfield, Michigan
14. Todd O'Neil
Dallas, Texas
15. Egan Inoue
Honolulu, Hawaii
16. Mike Ceresia (13)
Montreal, Quebec, Canada

WPRA

1. Michelle Gould (1)
Boise, Idaho
2. Marci Drexler (2)
San Diego, California
3. Malia Bailey (3)
Norfolk, Virginia
4. Jacqueline Paraiso-Gibson (4)
San Diego, California
5. Lynne Coburn (6)
Baltimore, Maryland
6. Kaye Kuhfeld (9)
Indianapolis, Indiana
- 7T. Toni Bevelock (7)
Santa Ana, California
- 7T. Molly O'Brien (10)
Souderton, Pennsylvania
9. Chris Evon (11)
San Diego, California
10. Caryn McKinney (8)
Atlanta, Georgia
11. Ellen Crawford (13)
Minoa, New York
12. Robin Levine (5)
Sacramento, California
13. Laura Fenton
Lincoln, Nebraska
14. Cheryl Gudinas (14T)
Lisle, Illinois
15. Robin Whitmire (14T)
Atlanta, Georgia
16. Cindy Doyle (16)
Omaha, Nebraska

VCI Challenge Cup Series

1. Andy Roberts
2. Cliff Swain
3. Ruben Gonzalez
- 4T. Mike Ray
- 4T. Tim Doyle
6. Drew Kachtik
7. Dave Johnson
- 8T. Mike Guidry
- 8T. Bret Harnett

American Amateur Racquetball Association

Open

1. John Ellis
 2. Michael Bronfeld
 3. Brian Simpson
 4. Jimmy Lowe
 5. Doug Ganim
-
1. Elaine Hooghe
 2. Rachel Gellman
 3. Ellen Crawford
 4. Michelle Gould
 - 5T. Lorraine Galloway
 - 5T. Molly O'Brien

Racquetball Canada

1. Sherman Greenfeld
 2. Simon Roy
 3. Mike Ceresia
 4. Haydn Jones
 5. Doug McQuarrie
-
1. Carol McFetridge
 2. Sue McTaggart
 3. Josee Grandmaitre
 4. Vicki (Brown) Shanks
 5. Linda Ellerington

California Racquetball Association

Open

1. Michael Bronfeld
 2. John Ellis
 3. Dale Milhollin
 4. Kelly Gelhaus
 5. Mike Martinez
-
1. Robin Levine
 2. Tonya Spangler
 3. Mary Tessier
 4. Lisa Hjelm
 5. Margaret Demorest

A

1. David Worillo
 2. David Peterson
 3. Brian Sisneros
 4. Ed White
 5. Vince Carlone
-
1. Debbie Baker
 2. Cheryl Ford
 3. Anna Tang
 4. Lavonne Wilson
 5. Allison Cremo

40+

1. Gary Buzzell
 2. Vic Mandella
 3. Darryl Keene
 4. Mike Palmer
 5. Darryl Warren
-
1. Vera George
 2. Terry Ann Rogers
 3. Anna Tang
 4. Carol Sardella
 5. Pat Musgrave

The featured state in the next issue
of VCI Spreadsheet will be
Pennsylvania



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Two More for Michelle

Gould continues her domination of the WPRA tour with wins in Baltimore and Los Angeles

Baltimore Diet Pepsi Nationals Gould Owns the Nationals

The recent WPRA Nationals in Baltimore represented a major triumph for women's racquetball. The past "year of transition" for the WPRA might easily

have been the "season that wasn't" were it not for some tremendously dedicated effort and undeniable talent. The absence of Lynn Adams, the most popular women's pro ever (and biggest draw), hurt the tour even further since Adams had been a tireless force for positive growth within the WPRA. Toss in the fact that the racquet-

ball market is now reportedly 70 - 80% male and the question becomes "Can the WPRA handle a year of changes, maintain a tour, and sell spectator seats to a predominately male audience?". The answer delivered in no uncertain terms in Baltimore was an emphatic yes! The competition was tough (Michelle Gould's total domination of the tour notwithstanding), the seats were usually filled, the amateur draws at the events were ample, and fans felt they had gotten their money's worth. A short but successful season had reached a strong climax with nothing but optimism for the future. In terms of women's participa-

tion in the sport, there is room for some optimism especially with regard to female juniors participation. The bigger picture shows that even in tough times and baby booms, the WPRA is made of strong stuff.

The Merritt Athletic Club's back-to-back spectator courts have hosted the Diet Pepsi Nationals now for four years. And for those same four years, the event has ended with a Mother's Day cab ride to the airport following a Gould (previously a Gilman) victory.

As the hoopla began earlier in the week, a few other stars shined. Former WPRA president Chris Evon stayed focussed and determined as she upset local hero and #6 seed Lynne Coburn in the sixteens. The lesser-known Laura Fenton made the first of what would be two back to back quarters appearances by eliminating California's rough-and-tumbling Robin Levine. Semi-retired Caryn McKinney played brilliantly to upset Indianapolis' Kaye Kuhfeld in the same round.

As the season had progressed, Malia Bailey, Marci Drexler, and Jacqueline Paraiso-Gibson had served notice that they must be taken seriously. The nationals were no exception as each advanced with little difficulty into the semis. Drexler came out in the quarters with such intensity, in fact, that Southern California's Toni Bevelock never knew what hit her. Drexler ran eleven straight points against Bevelock, who is undoubtedly one of the game's toughest competitors.

Since strange things always seem to happen at the nationals, this year was no exception. A two hour power failure and a rush trip to a local hospital for tournament director Molly O'Brien for acute bronchitis caused a bit of a stir, but it was, after all,





Top: Michelle Gould and Malia Bailey. Center: Robin Levine. Bottom: Chris Evon and Lynne Coburn.



the nationals.

In the semis, Bailey took the advantage in her building rivalry with Drexler in three straight. The poised, consistent, thinking Bailey posted a clear victory over the cunning, unpredictable, lightening-fast, Drexler in what has now become the fans' favorite albeit unlikely rivalry. With the two trading back-and-forth the #2 and #3 rankings, it is a rivalry that is likely to continue, since the stakes are high and the encounter is unavoidable if each reaches the semis.

San Diego's Paraiso-Gibson found herself with a bit more difficult road in the semis since her #4 seeding led her directly into the path of the raging Gould. While Paraiso-Gibson looked tough, Gould prevailed over her former doubles partner for another trip to the national finals.

In the final Gould never let Bailey even get started, allowing her only 4 points in three games. Gould's showing left no doubt that she owns the tour and sets a formidable challenge for any takers.

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National doubles action saw a bigger draw than in previous years with some unusual mixing and matching. The match of the tournament came in the semis as Drexler and Paraiso-Gibson went to war with Gould and Levine in a marathon that saw its fair share of flaring tempers and amazing shots. In the end, Drexler and Paraiso-Gibson prevailed. Bailey and Bevelock reunited to knock out amateur champs Mary Lyons and Susan Morgan-Pfaler in the semis as well. Drexler and Paraiso-Gibson held on in the final to capture Paraiso-Gibson's fifth consecutive WPRA doubles title.

While the big L.A. event still remained to be played, the completion of the Diet Pepsi Nationals seemed to confirm the success of the season for the tour. The pros would head to L.A. with the confidence that they had braved a year of uncertainty and maintained an exciting tour.

Los Angeles Gould Again

Appearing on the original season schedule to be played in March, the Los

Marci Drexler

Angeles event rescheduled immediately following the Diet Pepsi Nationals gave many of the pros an opportunity to look toward revenge from the previous week. The official season-ending tournament, the L.A. event, received the usual warm reception from the traditional hotbed of racquetball, Southern California.

Early upsets included #14 ranked Fenton over #10 Evon. Moving into her second quarterfinals in two events, Fenton had served notice that her previous showing in Baltimore had been no fluke. Even playing in familiar sunny Southern Cal. was no help to Evon who fell in four.

In the other major upset of the round, and the other early dismissal of a top pro and California resident, collegiate top gun Tanya Spangler narrowly pulled out a big win over Bevelock. In one long, intense match filled with grit and hustle, Spangler posted a great profes-



Charlie Palek

sional showing with the victory.

Spangler nearly added another upset in the following round by pushing Coburn to the limit before Coburn's eventual win in the fifth. Bailey ended Fenton's streak in the same round.

In the semis, Bailey and Drexler found themselves again toe to toe for another battle in an escalating war. Drexler's run-and-gun style prevailed in L.A. for one of the instances where a player would taste revenge from the previous week. Particularly sweet was the fact that with the win Drexler recaptured the #2 ranking for the season that she had been trading back-and-forth with her rival-of-late, Bailey. With this season as an indicator, it seems that a ticket to a Bailey-Drexler match next season will be money well-spent.

Avenging her only defeat of the entire season, Gould was able to claim the win in the final, sans her usual blowout. In fact, Drexler nearly pulled the upset of the season by jumping up two games to one including a doughnut delivery in the second game. Shaken by the prospect of letting this one slip away, Gould rallied back for the win in the breaker.

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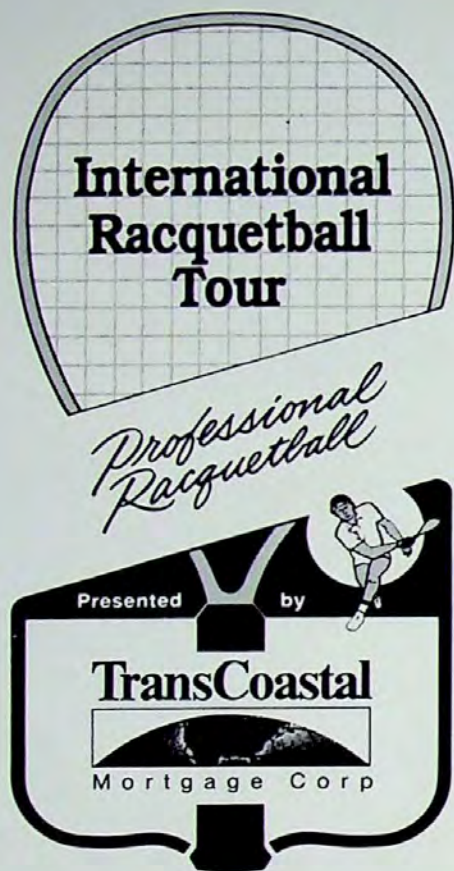
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IRT says, "It's a Racquet!"

Spalding Professional Racket Sports and the IRT have signed a multi-year agreement making Spalding the official racquet of men's professional racquetball.

David Reinhart, Director Spalding Professional Racket Sports, says, "Association with these top-ranked pros, coupled with exposure on-site and their TV audience will further establish Spalding's presence as a leader in the sport of racquetball."

Spalding product displays will be visible at each IRT event and the company will also introduce "Spalding Heat" fast

serve rankings. A radar gun will be featured at each tournament site throughout the season. Then, at the end of the year, the tour's fastest servers will receive cash bonuses from Spalding.

According to Sharlene Sones, national promotions manager for Spalding Professional Racket Sports, "The possibility for promotional joint efforts and tie-ins are extensive. Spalding's relationship with Mike Ray and Todd O'Neil, among others, combined with our sponsorship of the IRT, clearly positions us as the fastest growing company in the racquetball market."

RAY



GONZALEZ



SWAIN



ROBERTS



HEAD *to* HEAD

Ruben Gonzalez vs Drew Kachtik

The hottest rivalry on the IRT, Gonzalez and Kachtik are two of the game's best sportsmen, and most ruthless competitors.

Kachtik "Ruben's a good guy, but on the court, there's no friends"

- former #1 ranked pro
- plays a rough, physical style
- sometimes unorthodox shot selection
- fast, precise, hates to lose
- anything in his path gets crushed like a grape

Gonzalez "I'm protecting my turf...feeding my family"

- former #1 ranked pro
- 41 years old, tremendous physical condition
- master of the impossible get
- intense and focussed
- never quits...ever

Final count for the season:
Gonzalez 3- Kachtik 2



New Orleans

August 1992

Kachtik d. Gonzalez

11-5, 16-14, 11-7

Chicago

October 1992

Kachtik d. Gonzalez

11-6, 6-11, 14-12, 11-8

Pittsburgh

February 1993

Gonzalez d. Kachtik

9-11, 12-10, 9-11, 11-7, 11-8

Los Angeles

April 1993

Gonzalez d. Kachtik

6-11, 12-10, 11-6, 11-3

Seattle

May 1993

Gonzalez d. Kachtik

11-2, 5-11, 11-5, 11-1

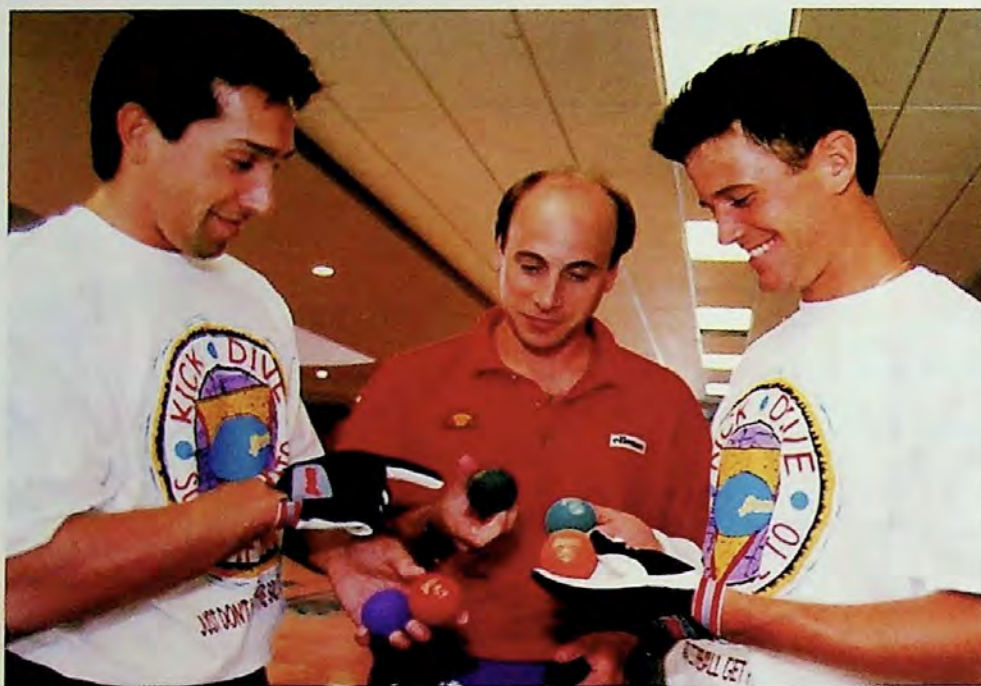


Bonus Baby

Cliff Swain, 1993 IRT National Champion (the season's #1 ranked player) received a \$5,000 bonus from World Racquet Sports Association, the IRT's new ranking organization. (see IRT Complete Current Rankings on page 33 for more about the WRSA, the "real time" alternative for both the pros and club players) Pictured here at the recent presentation in Minneapolis are Ken Perkins, WRSA Membership Director; Hank Marcus, IRT Commissioner; Swain; and Chris Williams, Executive Director of the WRSA.



IRT Says, "Havin' a Ball"



Penn Racquet Sports is developing a new racquetball specifically geared for professional play for the International Racquetball Tour. Helping Penn in its quest for the best product and color, pros on the tour have been testing numerous prototypes under all conditions.

Mark Wentura, director of sales and marketing for Penn, sees the changing ball as a natural progression for the sport. "Penn feels it is helping the sport into the next level by developing a ball that meets the needs of the best players in the world. This ball will have better visibility, faster speed, and more accurate ball response," says Wentura.

Dave Johnson, left, Hank Marcus, center, and Cliff Swain check out the different color prototype Penn balls for adoption by the tour.

IRT Considers **BI RAK IT** "Serious Fun"

Because of the physical benefits, the opportunity for some really diverse strategies, and the pure fun of it, the top pros have taken **BI RAK IT** from their official cross-training sport to their spare-time obsession. In fact, some unlikely characters have emerged to threaten reigning national champ Ruben Gonzalez and former champ Woody Clouse.

It seems the bonus and the bragging rights from the upcoming **BI RAK IT** Nationals are being taken very seriously. The date and site for the two-fisted championships have not yet been made public.



(Left to Right, Back to Front) Bret Harnett, Mike Ray, Jack Newman, Mike Guidry, John Ellis, Jason Krickorian, Woody Clouse, Ruben Gonzalez, and Cliff Swain with weapons in hand.

Paul Sancya

BI RAK IT Standings

1. Woody Clouse
2. Aaron Katz
3. Mike Brady
4. Drew Kachtik
- 5T. Mike Ray
- 5T. Vince Kelley
7. Egan Inoue
- 8T. John Ellis
- 8T. Michael Bronfeld
- 10T. Sudsy Monchick
- 10T. Jason Mannino
- 10T. Brad Poppino
- 10T. Torrey Richards



Head Anatom Bonus Pool (Season End Ranking)

1. Mike Ray
2. Dave Johnson
3. Bret Harnett
4. Dan Obremski
5. Mike Ceresia
6. Woody Clouse
- 7T. Jason Krickorian
- 7T. Dan Fowler
- 7T. Scott Lipareli



Penn Glove Bonus Pool (Season End Ranking)

1. Cliff Swain
2. Dave Johnson
3. Woody Clouse
4. Mike Ceresia
5. Roger Harripersad
6. Dan Fowler
- 7T. Jason Krickorian
- 7T. Jeff Evans



IRT Complete Current Rankings

The World Racquet Sports Association (WRSA) has become the official ranking body of the TransCoastal IRT. Players on the IRT are issued the WRSA "Smartcard" which may be plugged into the computer after each match to update their ranking. The Smartcard system recognizes *rating* (playing ability), *ranking* (factoring in ability, attendance, and value of the match), and *handicap* (the likely extent of victory by a given player over another). With a tried-and-true system already in place for tennis, the WRSA's extension into racquetball has begun with the pros, but is now expanding into programs for clubs and individuals at the competitive club level. Judging by the success of the program for the IRT, WRSA terminals are likely to become standard fixtures in clubs all over the world. The WRSA's world headquarters are located in The Racquet Club of Memphis. Regarded as the true indicator of ability as compared to other professional players, the official WRSA rankings for the entire IRT after the first event of the '93 - '94 playing season are as follows:



1	Andy Roberts	32T	Chris Cole	63	Jim Jeffers	92T	Steve Watts
2	Cliff Swain	32T	Louis Vogel	64T	Jamal Harris	92T	Tim Moore
3	Mike Ray	34	Brian Hawkes	64T	Mike Porter	92T	Mike Marner
4	Ruben Gonzalez	35	Joey Paraiso	64T	Anthony Defusto	92T	Chris Brumwell
5	Tim Doyle	36T	Joel Bonnett	64T	Bobby Rodriguez	98T	Marco Perez
6	Jack Newman	36T	Mike Engle	64T	Paul Newport	98T	John Mercante
7	Drew Kachtik	36T	Jason Krickorian	69T	Dan Llacera	98T	Mike Locker
8	Dave Johnson	39	Doug Ganim	69T	Lance Gilliam	98T	Max Brooks
9	Bret Harnett	40	Gerry Price	69T	Darrin Wright	98T	Todd Weller
10	Mike Guidry	41	Cory Brysman	69T	Dave Negrete	98T	Jeff Shaw
11	Aaron Katz	42	Jeff Evans	69T	Jeff Johnson	98T	Bret Beugen
12	Dan Obremski	43	Aaron Embry	69T	Ted Pittainaro	105T	Brian Freidenberg
13	Mike Yellen	44	Steve Lerner	69T	Luis Munoz	105T	Shawn Royster
14	Todd O'Neil	45	Dave Sable	69T	Buzz Sawyer	105T	Mike Kaufman
15	Egan Inoue	46	Guy Humphrey	69T	Mike Martinez	105T	Mike Skumas
16	Mike Ceresia	47	Mike Brady	78T	Kelly Gelhaus	105T	David Gardillo
17	Roger Harripersad	48	Jason Waggoner	78T	Denis Gagne	105T	Brian Berlin
18	Tim Sweeney	49	Scott Lipareli	80T	Ceriell	111T	Gene Freeze
19	Woody Clouse	50	Adam Karp	80T	Karl Wackerle	111T	Tom Travers
20	Marty Hogan	51	Fabian Balmori	80T	Jeff Hanno	111T	Craig Lane
21T	Tony Jelso	52T	Brian Rankin	80T	Sudsy Monchik	111T	Davis
21T	Dan Fowler	52T	Brian Jorgenson	84T	Ronald Mount	111T	Brad Carter
23	John Ellis	54T	John Negrete	84T	Bobby Jackson	111T	Patrick Jouvin
24	Dave Simonette	54T	Kevin Graham	84T	Rob Kulp	111T	Leon Preole
25T	Sherman Greenfeld	56T	Brian Istace	84T	Jeff Stark	118T	Dan Hardin
25T	Michael Bronfeld	56T	Kelly Kerr	84T	Richard Larivee	118T	Curtis Rettke
25T	Vince Kelley	58T	Jacques Demer	84T	Greg Spiegel	118T	Bob Becker
28	Scott Reiff	58T	Tim Hansen	84T	Scott Hamon	118T	Tom Ackerman
29	Rob McKinney	58T	Jeff Mulligan	84T	Ross Loyer	122	Torrey Richards
30	Eric Muller	58T	Brad McConneff	92T	Doug Eagle	123T	Francois Viens
31	Jim Cascio	58T	Derek Robinson	92T	Dave Rahn	123T	Darren Moran

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Bowling Green, KY	Oct. 9 - 10	Newman/Gonzalez
Madison, WI	Oct. 23 - 24	Newman/Gonzalez
Gaithersburg, MD	Nov. 20 - 21	Newman/Gonzalez

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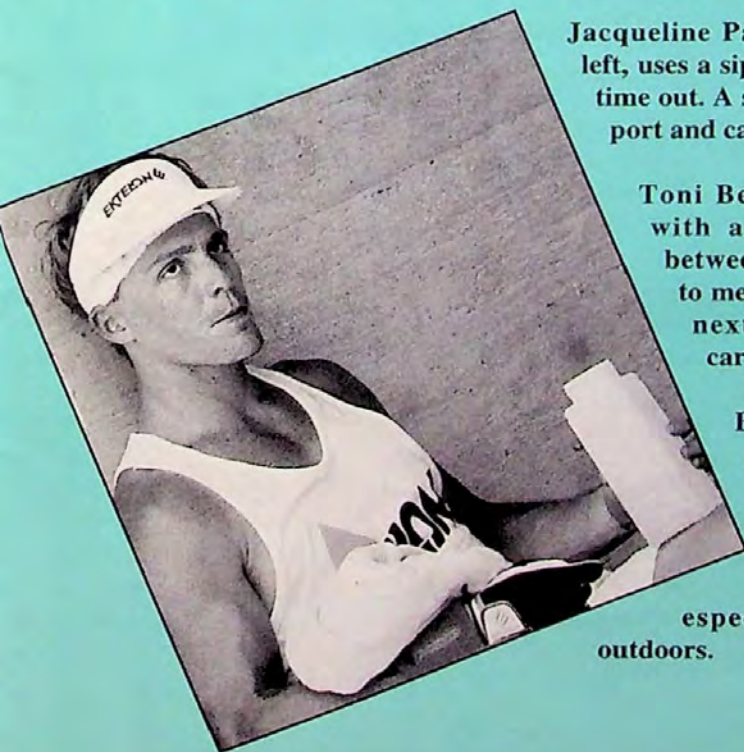


The pros take proper hydration very seriously but it is just as important to keep properly hydrated at any level of play. Water is by far the liquid of choice for players on the professional circuits. Before, after, and especially during matches the intake of water is essential in preventing dehydration.

Jacqueline Paraiso-Gibson, above left, uses a sipper off court during a time out. A sipper is easy to transport and can be accessed quickly.

Toni Bevelock, above right with a cup of cold water between games, takes time to mentally prepare for the next game while taking care of water intake.

Brian Hawkes, undisputed king of outdoor racquetball is well versed in the importance of proper hydration especially when playing outdoors.



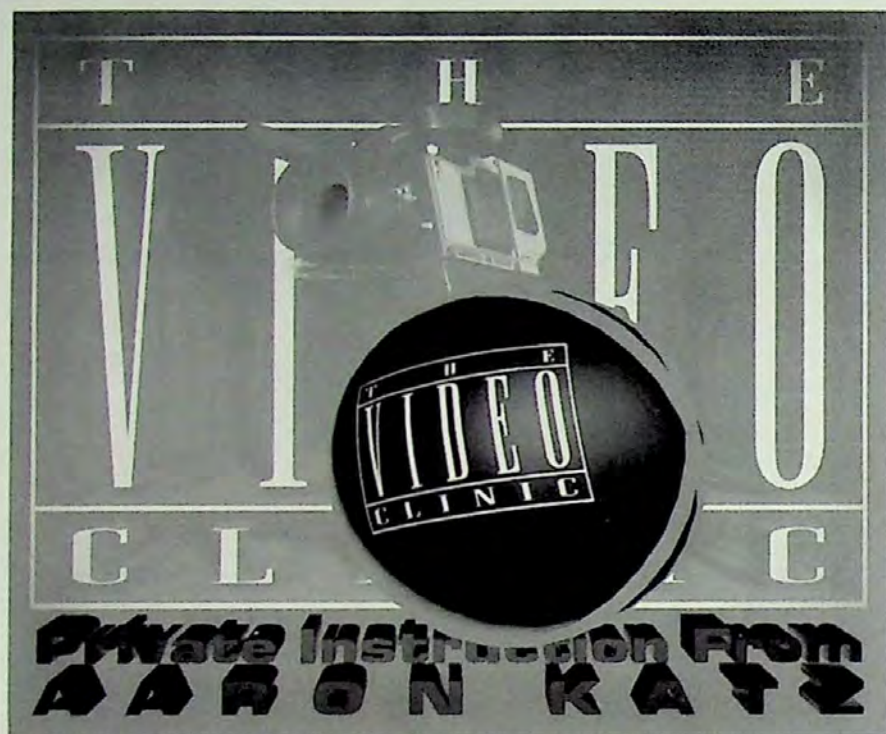
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Schaumburg, Illinois



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November 1993

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VCI Challenge Cup Series

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VW CREDIT, INC.

It Was Like This When I Bought It. Really.

By Lynne Balthazor

If you were a squash player, every racquet you purchased would say "Due to the nature of the game of squash this racquet is not guaranteed against breakage." If you played tennis you would assume that if your racquet hit anything other than a brightly colored, fuzzy ball no warranty would apply. So why do racquetball players assume that if their racquet breaks within their lifetime they deserve a new racquet - and often get one? There are several theories in the matter. I'll take them one by one.

1. The manufacturer's warranty says they will.

2. Racquetball racquets should be almost indestructible, if one breaks just because, for example, I slid into the wall at 40 m.p.h. while using it like a toboggan on a dive, something must be wrong with the racquet.

3. The manufacturers can't figure out how all these racquets get broken.

4. The manufacturers have been really, really nice to us racquetball players for years, but being Mr. Nice Guy is costing them lots of money and they're getting tired of it.

Theory 1 is not the answer. The manufacturer's warranties are all similar and read something like this:

"Brand X warrants the frame of their racquets to be free from any defect in material or workmanship arising from normal play for a period of one (1) year from date of purchase by the consumer. Proper stringing is critical to obtaining satisfactory performance and durability of this product. Failure to string the racquet according to

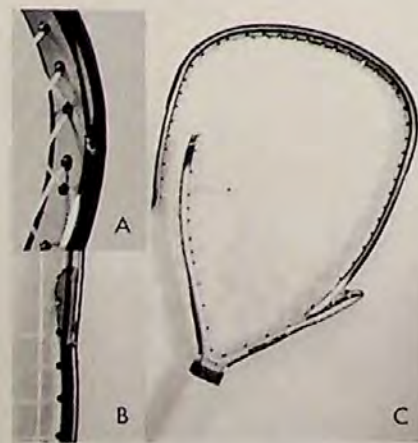
Brand X's instructions will render this warranty null and void. This warranty does not apply to racquet defects caused by:

- (a) Abuse
- (b) Negligence
- (c) Improper stringing tensions or techniques
- (d) Unauthorized repairs
- (e) Normal wear."

When standard size frames weighing 260 grams and more were the norm, theory 2 may have been the answer. 260 grams of solid fiberglass is hard to break. I recall one competitor who lost a match and declared that any racquet that couldn't beat a girl wasn't good enough for him to play with. He took the racquet into the court, raised it dramatically high in the air and crashed it into the wall with no effect. In all it took seven blows to destroy the frame. Today's super light, graphite frames generate 50 to 60 more m.p.h. with

less fatigue than the old standard frame, but they are not indestructible. Further, the racquets are designed to take certain stresses and if subjected to stresses the engineer did not plan for, any frame will break. If you consider the frame shape, it is somewhat similar to an egg. If you tap an egg on the point or top, it seldom breaks. If you wish to break the egg, tap it on the side. In the same way, racquets take an immense pounding with the ball and an occasional brush with the wall or floor, as they are designed to do without coming apart. But any racquet that is smashed on its side will break. This does not happen in the game, it happens in temper and is called "tomahawking" the racquet.

Believe me, theory 3 holds no promise. "Tomahawking" a frame creates a very distinctive break and the manufacturers know. Besides, the manufacturers know all about the engineering stuff we just discussed, and in addition to the engineering for normal stresses, they test the frames for breakage. They know where and why the frames will break and they know if a frame was abused. Manufacturers perform random testing of each production lot to determine how many pounds of pressure the racquet can withstand. In addition, broken frames are often tested by heating the broken section until



Composite racquet cracks. Example A is a crack that is generally caused by impact not normally encountered in normal play. Example B can sometimes be caused by fatigue or structural failure. Example C with multiple cracks is normally the result of racquet abuse.

Courtesy of Ektelon

the graphite layers start to peel away from each other. If the break was a defect, the manufacturer will see a bubble or kink or some abnormality amongst the layers of hand laid graphite. Despite all the racquets that are replaced, the manufacturers find very few actual defects.

Theory 4 appears to be the answer, and it is scary. For years manufacturers have replaced frame breakage that they knew was not a result of "any defect in material or workmanship." For example, one player I knew played challenge court regularly. If any opponent beat him by more than four or five points he would smash his racquet, toss it in the trash, and storm out. Eventually, the challenge was to beat him badly so you could retrieve the racquet from the trash and take it to the store for "warranty" replacement. And most of the time the dealers would pretend they believed the racquet broke when "I was just hitting the ball" and reward the victor with a new frame. In fact, warranty costs are higher for racquetball than for tennis, squash or badminton. Any manufacturer looking to enter or continue in the racquetball marketplace has to consider these costs.

If only in self-defense, the manufac-

turers have to get tougher on warranty issues, and they have. Ektelon and Wilson have both printed a photo guide to return policies that says abused racquets will not be warranted. (See photos)

It is true that there is more incidental contact with the walls and floor in racquetball than in tennis, but abuse has pushed the manufacturers into a defensive position. If racquetball players want to continue receiving optimistic consideration of breaks occurring in normal play they must stop expecting every broken racquet to be replaced for free. If something you did broke the racquet, the manufacturer is not responsible. Time to face the facts.

Thanks to the many companies who provided information for this article including: Ektelon (for photo-guide excerpts), Wilson, E-Force and Spalding (for information on racquet testing), and Transition Racquets Sports (for general information).

Top: Excessive wear is usually caused by contact with the floor or walls. Bottom: A warped frame can be caused by improper curing in the manufacturing process and should be covered by most warranties.



Courtesy of Ektelon

Excuses, Excuses, Excuses

One thing the manufacturers can all agree on is the excuses that are heard over and over for damaged racquets. For example, "I noticed it was cracked, but I kept playing with it to see if it would really break." John Hooghe of Transition Racquet Sports compared this to seeing the engine light come on in your car, then continuing to drive it at high speed to "see if it would really break." If you have a break that appears to be covered by the warranty, return it immediately before further damage causes the racquet to appear abused and exceeds the warranty specifications. The rule-of-thumb on breaks at several manufacturers is that a racquet broken at two or more locations is probably not damage covered by warranty, so continuing to play with a broken racquet until it breaks at a second location is asking for trouble.

The manufacturer's least favorite excuse for a really trashed racquet is "I saw that the racquet had cracked, and that made me so mad that I smashed it against

the wall." To continue the car analogy, this is like seeing the engine light and determining that the engine has a problem, then getting so mad that you drive into a wall at 60 m.p.h., then expect the manufacturer to replace the car! If you trash the racquet after it cracks it is impossible for the manufacturer to determine the cause of the original failure, both to improve the racquets in the future and to determine if your failure was covered by the warranty. If you lose your temper, take it out on something less expensive than your racquet, maybe try to rip the ball in half a la Brian Hawkes.

Another favorite is "I was just serving the ball, and the racquet folded." If you think back just a little, you may recall that on the previous rally when you dove the racquet hit the floor once and the wall twice. The racquet did not just suddenly fail for no reason. After really tough rallies where the racquet has had contact with the floor, walls, parts of your body, or your partner, glance at the frame to check for damage, before the racquet completely comes apart.

Another common reason for racquet destruction is a doubles partner who goes for the same ball you have targeted and smashes your precious frame. This situation creates a dilemma for manufacturers. The racquet did not have a defect and it is obviously not the manufacturer's fault that you were playing with a wild man/woman. However, the manufacturer would like you to continue playing with and enjoying their frame. If they abide strictly by the warranty you would be required to buy a new frame. At that point, you may be tempted to try something new (like a heavily armored model for doubles.) Manufacturers have considered a prorated warranty, like tire companies commonly offer, based on the age of the frame, and/or the amount of damage. Others have tried keeping a log of players with questionable returns. The manufacturers have also considered reducing or eliminating warranties while greatly reducing racquet costs, similar to squash frames, but fear the market reaction. The manufacturers are interested in the customer's feelings on this situation and other aspects of warranty policy.

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Antioxidants *and you*

By Marcy Lynch
Nutrition Editor

If mutual funds are the financial investment strategy of the 90's, then antioxidant nutrients are the health investment. Although the vitamin debate is ongoing, attitudes are changing and research shows that it is increasingly difficult to rely on our food sources to get all the nutrients we need. In fact, we would have to eat 2-4 servings of fruits, 3-5 servings of vegetables, 3-11 servings of complex carbohydrates (refined don't count), 2-3 servings of protein, and 2-3 servings of dairy ...every day to get all our nutrients. Not many of us do that. Even if we did, the nutrient value of our foods is affected by the soil food is grown in, soil that is overtreated with chemicals and often nutritionally depleted. Fruits and vegetables are almost always picked before they are ripe and before they reach full nutritional value so they can be shipped without bruising. The shipping process alone can cause nutritional loss. Food that we eat is not always fresh - it is canned, frozen and pre-prepared. This causes natural nutrients to be lost along the way. Food sits on the grocery shelf a few days and in our refrigerator a few days, then we cook it to death. Each of these events chips away at the nutritional content of the food. Certainly an argument can be made for vitamin and mineral supplementation.

But what about antioxidants? What are they and what do they do? The most common antioxidant nutrients are beta-carotene, vitamin C and vitamin E. Others are selenium, zinc, copper, manganese, and glutathione and new ones are being discovered all the time.

Antioxidants fight free radicals. Free radicals are unstable molecules that have lost an electron. To become stable, free radicals "steal" electrons from stable molecules such as body tissue proteins. These stable molecules then become unsta-

ble or free radicals. They seek and steal electrons from neighboring molecules and a chain reaction of free radical formation and molecular damage occurs.

Free radicals are created by normal metabolism, heavy exercise, exposure to sunlight, ozone, auto exhaust, cigarette smoke, chemical additives, and stress. Antioxidants have the ability to stop free radical damage. They are nutrients with extra electrons which are given up to stabilize unstable molecules, thereby neutralizing free radicals and stopping the chain reaction.

Everyday we are seeing
the implications of severe
molecular damage...

In my work as a nutrition consultant, I encourage people to take the antioxidant nutrients. Although these nutrients are found in food, we generally don't eat enough of the foods that contain them, nor can we rely on the integrity of food sources. I counsel clients on which formulas are well absorbed and which nutrients work synergistically to increase their effectiveness. These are important considerations in the choice of a product.

Everyday we are seeing the implications of severe molecular damage in the diseases which are doing the greatest amount of damage to our society's health; premature aging, heart disease, cancer, and AIDS. There is no cure for any of these degenerative diseases. The cure lies in the prevention of the disease. We must start the prevention process now, not necessarily just to live longer, but to live a disease free life well into our older years.

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P.J. Ruiz

John Ellis

Men's 25+

- 1 Chris Wright
- 2 Tony Boscia

Men's 30+

- 1 Jimmy Lowe
- 2 Rob French

Men's 35+

- 1 Dave Peck
- 2 Mike Anderson

Men's 40+

- 1 Tom Travers
- 2 Dave Kovanda

Men's 45+

- 1 Johnny Hennen
- 2 Jay Schwartz

Men's 50+

- 1 Ron Galbreath
- 2 Brad Parra

Men's 55+

- 1 Rex Lawler
- 2 Paul Banales

Men's 60+

- 1 Paul Banales
- 2 Fintan Kilbride

Men's 65+

- 1 Joe Lambert
- 2 Fintan Kilbride

Men's 70+

- 1 Nick Sans
- 2 Earl Acuff

Men's 75+

- 1 Luzell Wilde
- 2 Allen Shephard

Men's 80+

- 1 Jack Daly
- 2 John Pearce

Wheelchair

- 1 Chip Parmelley
- 2 David Kiley

Deaf

- 1 Jeff Eastman
- 2 Ron Tkachuk

Men's Open

- 1 John Ellis
- 2 Tim Sweeney

Men's 19+

- 1 Jeff Evans
- 2 Jeff Stark

Women's Open

- 1 Michelle Gould
- 2 Robin Levine

Women's 19+

- 1 Cheryl Guidinas
- 2 Rachel Gellman

Women's 25+

- 1 Kersten Hallander
- 2 Lorraine Galloway

Women's 30+

- 1 Laura Fenton
- 2 Karin Sobotta

Women's 35+

- 1 Susan Morgan Pfahler
- 2 Peggy Ludwig

Women's 40+

- 1 Janell Marriott
- 2 Gerri Stoffregen

Women's 45+

- 1 Agatha Falso
- 2 Gerri Stoffregen

Women's 50+

- 1 Sharon Hastings-Welty
- 2 Nidia Funes

Women's 55+

- 1 Jo Kenyon
- 2 Kathy Mueller

Women's 60+

- 1 Jo Kenyon
- 2 Lola Marcus

Women's 65+

- 1 Mary Low Acuff

Charlie Palek



Michelle Gould

Amateur Nationals Canada

Charlie Palek



Sherman Greenfeld

Men's Open

- 1 Sherman Greenfeld
- 2 Mike Ceresia
- 3 Simon Roy

Men's A

- 1 Troy Krakiwsky
- 2 Ryan Powell
- 3 Greg Holland

Men's B

- 1 Gary Shaw
- 2 Larry Heuchert
- 3 Stephaon Gaucher

Men's C

- 1 John Halko
- 2 Mike Broda
- 3 Mike Volek

Men's D

- 1 Jason Normandale
- 2 Robert Durrant
- 3 Paul Dorval

Men's Veteran

- 1 Mike McPhee
- 2 Terry Harkins
- 3 John Leckman

Men's Senior A

- 1 Cliff Hendrickson
- 2 Victor Dhue
- 3 Randy Pakel

Men's Senior B

- 1 Ross Elliott
- 2 Rob Dixon
- 3 Gerry Slamko

Men's Senior C

- 1 Bill Schaufele
- 2 Manfred Cienicala
- 3 Bob Bickerton

Men's Veteran Senior

- 1 Michel Gagnon
- 2 Rick Manson
- 3 Doug Shiratti

Men's Master A

- 1 Tim Teer
- 2 Rusty Rischuk
- 3 Terry Chong

Men's Master B

- 1 Charles Troger
- 2 Eric Easton
- 3 Randy Berg

Men's Veteran Master

- 1 Bruce Stocks
- 2 Bill Lasseter
- 3 Harold Stupp

Men's Golden Master

- 1 Al Holley
- 2 Ray Hunt
- 3 Sonny Zimmerman

Wheelchair A

- 1 Mark Cormack
- 2 Ken Michaylenko
- 3 Gerald Teichrib

Wheelchair B

- 1 Ralph Holt
- 2 Ken Currie
- 3 Chris Nichols

Canadian Athlete Information Bureau



Carol McFetridge

Women's Open

- 1 Carol McFetridge
- 2 Josee Grandmaitre
- 3 Sue MacTaggart

Women's B

- 1 Leanne Neubauer
- 2 Amanda Kerr
- 3 Marg Elligott

Women's C

- 1 Catherine Foisy
- 2 Wendy Wallace
- 3 Jennifer Southcombe

Women's D

- 1 Sara Schmidt
- 2 Chris Beverage
- 3 Julie Neubauer

Women's Senior A

- 1 Maria Farkin
- 2 Betty Adams
- 3 Debby Forgie

Women's Senior C

- 1 Delle Bonneau
- 2 Wendy Lee Naciuk
- 3 Myriam Laforge

Women's Veteran Senior

- 1 Shirley Pearson
- 2 Karen Dellow
- 3 Myrna Orr

Junior Nationals Canada

Boy's

18-

Kelly Kerr
Stephaon Gaucher

16-

Andrew Kane
Miguel Urteaga

14-

Eric Urteaga
Dana Wong

12-

Chris Odegard
Alan Chong

10-

Joel Mihilewicz
Warren Chow

Girl's

18-

Sheila Finch
Tanya Hodgkin

16-

Christie Van Hees
Sadie Gross

14-

Amanda MacDonald
Amanda Kerr

12-

Lisa Kerr
Riva Wig

10-

Karina Odegard
Claire Kelly

Boys Doubles

18-

Kerr/Veins
M. Urteaga/Powell

14-

E. Urteaga/Odegard
Threlfall/Wyatt

Girls Doubles

18-

Van Hees/Gross
Finch/Naubauer

14-

Kerr/Kerr
Wig/MacDonald

Lisa Kerr, Kelly Kerr, Amanda Kerr



Junior Olympics United States



Sudsy Monchick

Team

Oregon
Minnesota

Boy's

18-
Sudsy Monchick
Jason Manino

16-
David Hamilton
Eric Storey

14-
Rocky Carson
Bucky Freeman

12-
Gabe Gross
Shane Vanderson

10-
Jack Huczek
James Gooden

8-
Steven Klaimen
John Hellner

8- Multi-bounce
Brandon Shoemaker
Steven Klaimen

Girl's

18-
Kerri Stoffregen
Tammy Brockbank

16-
Shannon Feaster
Sadie Gross

14-
Vanessa Tulao
Rhonda Rajsich

12-
Sara Borland
Brooke Crawford

10-
Rebecca Dolloff
Melanie Mueller

8-
Kim Irons

8- Multi-bounce
Kim Irons
Melissa Jones

Boys Doubles

18-
Monchick/Manino
Bell/Wood

16-
Storey/Zimmerman
Gharfarshad/Manzuri

14-
Bloom/Freeman
Tilton/Eaton

12-
Garner/Staten
Thompson/Vanderson

10-
Huczek/Mead
Bower/Crawford

Girls Doubles

18-
Beugen/Feaster
Stoffregen/Peterson

16-
Derr/Thomas
Chastain/Rogers

14-
Tulao/Rajsich
Maginn/Thompson

12-
Borland/Branigan
Dolloff/Bateman

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Let's Do the Time Warp Again

By Dee Ferriera-Worth

Sometimes going into a new season is like coming out of a time warp. Most of the players that are not on the WPRA Board of Directors have not been in contact since the nationals. Serious training during the summer often involves a lot of guessing since none of us knows who's been training hard, who's hurt, who's gotten lazy, etc. Board members that have maintained closer touch with individual pros have focused more on politics and finances after breathing heavy sighs of relief after the success of the past "year of transition". With the heat of the summer in full swing and the new season fast approaching, here is a quick check in across time and space with the pros of the WPRA:

1) Top gun **Michelle Gould** never gets a rest since she still competes worldwide outside the pro ranks. Still striving toward

100% in the aftermath of her knee injury she managed to win the World Games in the Netherlands and make it to the finals of the Women's Sports Foundation awards with the likes of Bonnie Blair and Steffi Graf.

2) **Cindy Doyle** is in preparation for her marriage to Florida Marlins' outfielder **Jeff Conine**. The rising star Conine is a former junior national racquetball champ and often still returns to the court. Doyle, still recovering from a shoulder injury, met Conine through racquetball and should be a beautiful bride.

3) **Renee Lockey** spent eight recent weeks with the American Gladiators and will appear on the super hit program in September.

4) Southern California's **Toni Bevelock**

has concentrated on her booming retail business while nursing a persistent shoulder injury. Her newest Toni's Sports and Fitness location just opened.

5) **Marcy Lynch's** nutritional consulting service has grown to include mail order so that athletes outside her immediate area may take advantage of Marcy's nutritional expertise.

6) Atlanta's **Robin Whitmire**, elected vice-president of the WPRA, has assumed the position of president vacated by new mom **Dee Ferriera-Worth**.

7) Former WPRA president **Chris Evon** and former executive director **Molly O'Brien** have shared the duties of the recently vacated position of executive director. Their efforts have brought about contracts for stops in Syracuse,

Kaye Kuhfeld



Toni Bevelock



Robin Levine





Robin Whitmire

Philadelphia, Atlanta, Baltimore, and L.A. and at least four more pending.

8) #3 ranked **Malia Bailey** has taken on the responsibilities of membership and rankings to add to her already immense responsibilities as tour travel coordinator. Former WPRA statistician **J.J. Risch** has already begun coaching Bailey in the use of the intricate ranking system.

9) **Kim Macharin** survived the Mississippi River's flooding to prepare the new WPRA tour book.

10) Former WPRA National Champ **Caryn McKinney** has continued her efforts in sports marketing with the "Kawans Duck Race" for childhood diseases and with preparation for the upcoming *Pizza Hut Racquetball Challenge*.

11) The always-exciting **Robin Levine** has become the latest protege of top racquetball coach **Jim Carson**. Carson was **Lynn**

Marcy Lynch



Cheryl Gudinas

Adams' coach for over a decade and promises to make the most of Levine's incredible talent.

12) Chicago's **Cheryl Gudinas** should start the new season with confidence after a big win in San Antonio at the Olympic Festival.

13) Indianapolis' **Kaye Kuhfeld** has joined the Avia footwear team and is concentrating her efforts on sports footwear sales.

14) Top picks for upsets this season: **Laura Fenton, Ellen Crawford, Tanya Spangler, Janet Myers, and Loraine Galloway.**

15) Three pros with a purpose that have the talent and are training the hardest this summer: **Marci Drexler, Jacqueline Paraiso-Gibson, and Lynne Coburn.**

1993 WPRA Player Awards:

Stedding Cup
Robin Whitmire

Sportsmanship
Janet Myers

Most Improved
Ellen Crawford

Player of the Year
Michelle Gould



Chris Evon

1993 Penn Pro Series (season-end)

- 1) Michelle Gould
- 2) Malia Bailey
- 3T) Marci Drexler
- 3T) Kaye Kuhfeld



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When You Can't Shrug It Off...

by Richard A. Honaker, M.D., P.A.

The rotator cuff is a group of four muscles and their tendons which surround the shoulder joint attaching the upper arm to the shoulder and chest. They are named the Supraspinatus, the Infraspinatus, the Teres Minor and the Subscapularis. Their motion results in rotation at the shoulder joint. Problems of the rotator cuff can become a curse to an athlete. Injuries often result from repeated overuse especially involving use of the arm above the head. This motion results in impingement of the head of the humerus bone in the upper arm against the rotator cuff tendons. This impingement syndrome ultimately leads to inflammation and pain. The various bursa cushions, which are fluid filled sacs that cushion the muscles against the bones, can also become inflamed and result in bursitis and rotator cuff tendonitis.

With rotator cuff inflammation and tendonitis, pain will usually be noticed on the extremes of rotation as one externally rotates (demonstrated by trying to scratch the back of the head) and internally rotates (demonstrated by trying to scratch high up on your back with the back of your hand.) Abduction of the shoulder involves raising the arm out as if it were a wing flying. At these extremes of motion, an inflamed tendon will be stretched and cause pain. Comparing the bad side to the good side will show any limitation of motion which often occurs at approximately the horizontal position. Motion

above this results in further impingement and irritation of an inflamed rotator cuff.

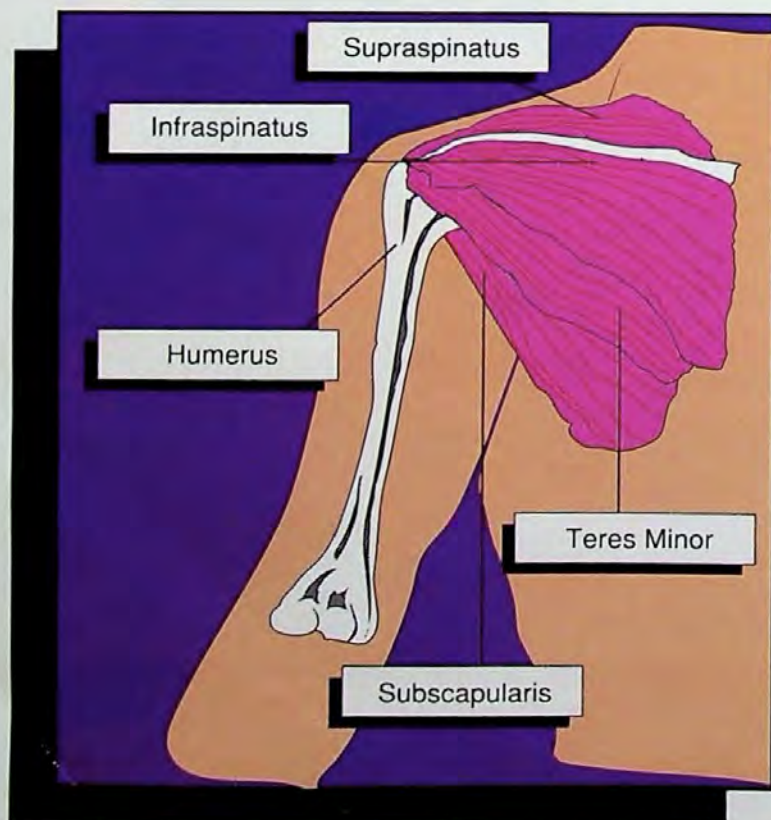
Tears of the rotator cuff often occur over a long period of time with repeated small injuries, but may also occur with one acute injury. To diagnose this significantly debilitating injury often requires an arthrogram in which dye is injected into the shoulder joint and X-rays are taken to see if there is leakage through a torn rotator cuff. Surgical intervention is often necessary.

For the usual overuse syndrome involving rotator cuff tendonitis and impingement syndrome, rest the injured

shoulder and apply ice in the acute phases then apply heat later on. For pain that has been present for several weeks, apply alternating 1/2 hour periods of ice and heat. Using anti-inflammatory drugs such as Motrin, Indocin, Naprosyn, etc. can help reduce inflammation. Physical therapy is often helpful as well as cortisone injections in resistant cases.

You should not treat your own rotator cuff injury too long by resting the shoulder as scar tissue can form. This can result in a condition called adhesive capsulitis which is a reduction in the flexibility of the capsule around the shoulder. This results in a lack of range of motion called a "frozen shoulder." This is a difficult problem to cure, often requiring prolonged physical therapy and sometimes surgical manipulation to "unfreeze" the shoulder.

Shoulder pain is a difficult syndrome to pin down as it can be caused from numerous problems. Rotator cuff tendonitis is one of the most common, however tendonitis of the biceps tendon, arthritis, various bursitis syndromes and pinched nerves in the neck (masquerading as shoulder pain) can confuse the issue. Mild injuries will usually take care of themselves. More severe injuries may require a significant curtailment of activities for healing.

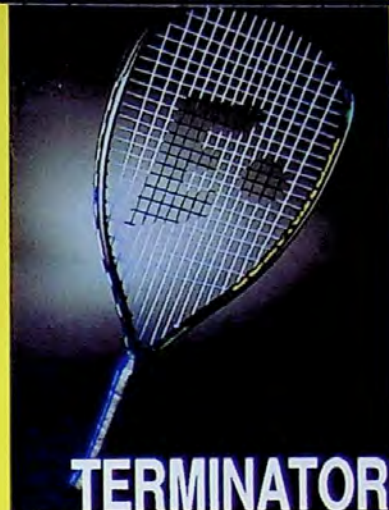




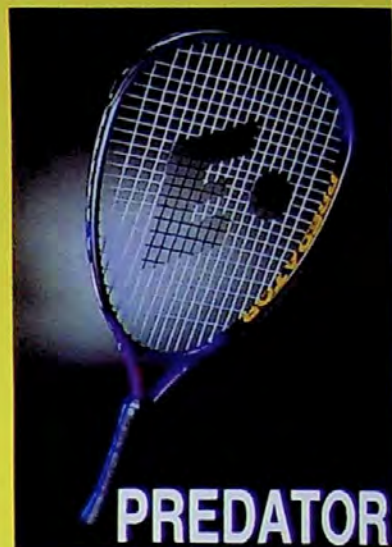
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