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RACQUETBALL TODAY

Bledsoe Blasts Mishandled Tours

For those of you who might not be too familiar with pro racquetball, this is who Davey Bledsoe is: 29-years-old; from Tennessee (now lives in San Diego); a graduate "with honors" from the University of Tennessee; consistently ranked amongst the top players; was the 1977 NRC National Champion; is generally regarded as "the fastest player on the court;" holds wins over virtually all the

top players, including Hogan as recently as this season's Memphis Pro Stop.

Along with Shannon Wright, Bledsoe represents Wilson Sporting Goods and travels around the country giving clinics and exhibitions, **free to the public**, to help advance the sport (see article on Wilson in this month's issue of **RACQUETBALL TODAY**). Davey is extremely well-known for his knowledge of the intricacies of the

game and his ability to teach; he has written many instructional articles which have been published over the years. His summer racquetball camps at Steamboat Springs, Colorado, and Seven Springs Resort in Pennsylvania are among the most well-attended and highly regarded in the industry. Davey could have played professional baseball, and is accomplished at many other sports including paddleball

and skiing. At this time, however, Davey describes himself as "very disillusioned and uncertain of the future of professional racquetball," and he is extremely blunt and open with his criticisms of the sport.

"I don't know if I could ever compete again on a tour controlled by people like Charlie Drake, and Leach and the NRC again. I'm pretty well fed up with the way they've handled the players and the tour over the years, and recent developments are as distressing as ever. I also blame the players for **holding back the advancement of the sport** for their failure to unify against 'the establishment' and also for their antics on the court and poor sportsmanship. When we go to prospective sponsor for an alternate tour, many of them tell us they simply wouldn't have anything to do with those 'juvenile delinquents' on the court!"

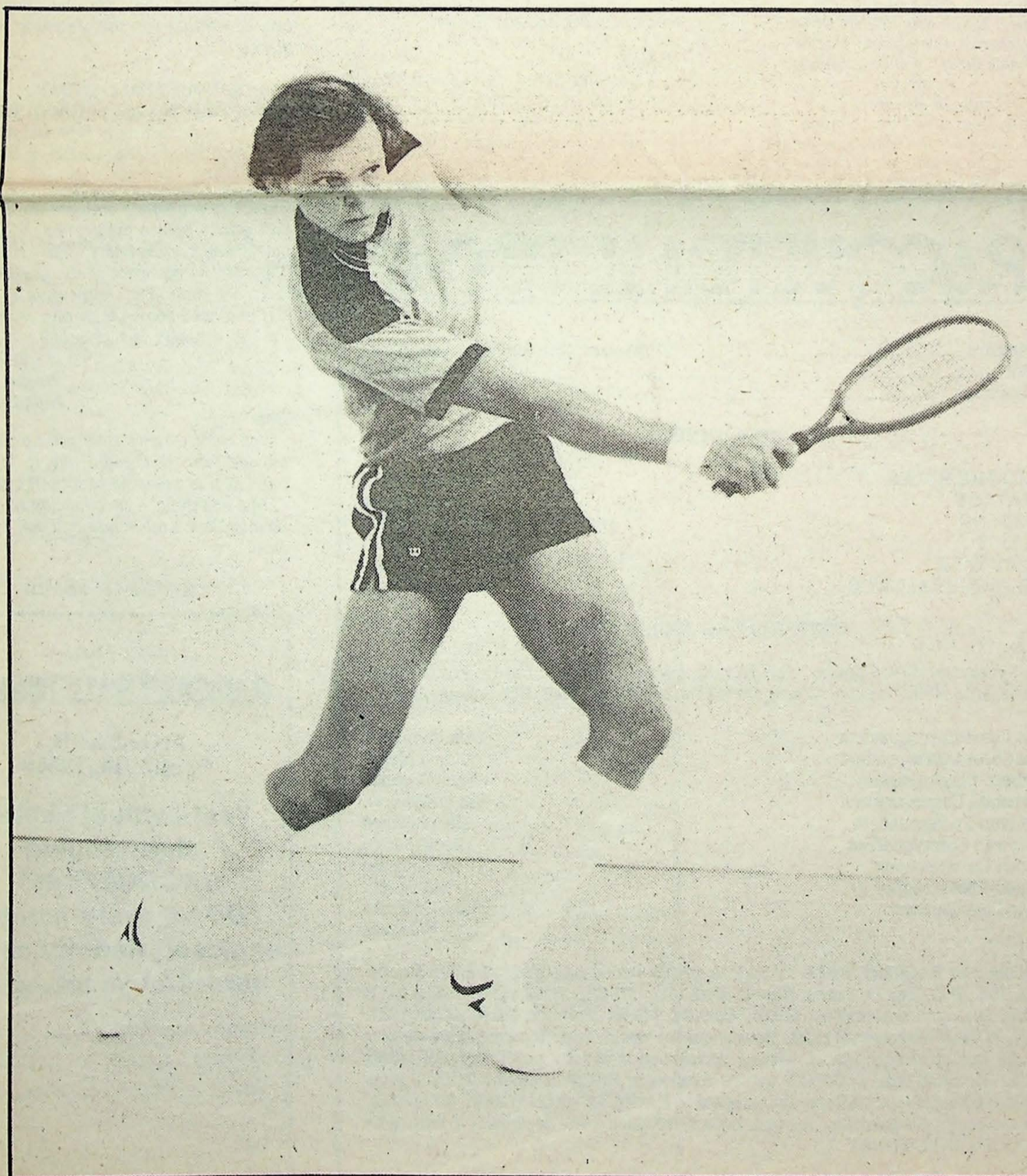
WHEN ASKED TO BE more specific about his grievances toward the handling of the tour, he states that they are almost too many to name, but points particularly to "lack of qualified refereeing that's professional and unbiased, use of an inferior ball, unfair draws and seeding practices, lack of player representation, collusion between the sponsors and the people who run the tournaments and various players who actually play on the tour" just to name a few.

Bledsoe then refers to a letter written to **RACQUETBALL ILLUSTRATED** that was distributed to many players and people in the industry that spells out a long list of grievances against Mr. Drake, Leach, and the NRC and he states: "I didn't write the letter, but every word of it is true and I can personally testify to most of the things in the letter. I don't think you'll see it published because not only does Leach advertise in **RACQUETBALL ILLUSTRATED**, but Ben Kalb (editor) told me that Drake offered to pay his way to Hawaii to cover their tournament."

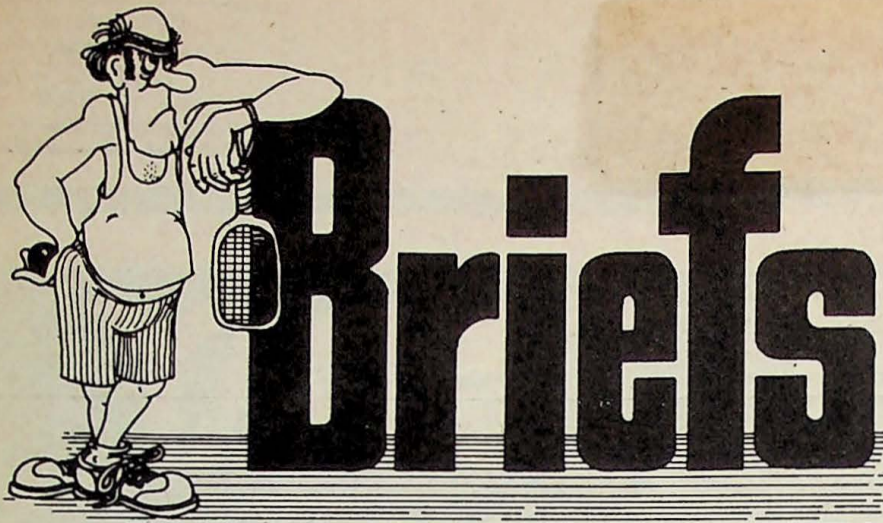
Getting more specific Bledsoe tells about when he was sponsored by Leach and "I was told not to show up at a major tournament until the tournament director delivered a color TV to Marty Hogan's mother. Then I got the word that the TV arrived and it was OK to go to the tournament. They've really done some petty stuff over the years."

Davey is one of the more active supporters of the men's players' association, the NARP, but points to problems with that group because the Leach players have not supported the group, and "Drake is doing everything he can to keep us from having our own tournaments or having any real voice in his tournaments. He even tried to bribe Peck and Yellen if they'd get out of

(Continued on Page 3)



Davey Bledsoe



**Playboy's Lake Geneva Centre
Opens With A Splash**

Playboy kicked off the opening of their new Lake Geneva Fitness and Racquet Centre with a gala press conference held July 20th, and RACQUETBALL TODAY reporters Geoff Peters and Diane Gabrisco were on hand to witness the festivities. The 40,000-square-foot facility features six regulation racquetball courts, a complete Nautilus fitness center, men's and women's health clubs, and indoor and outdoor tennis courts.

No. 2 and No. 3 ranked pros, Mike Yellen and Dave Peck, were on hand for a one-game exhibition match, refereed by UARA Director Bob Keenan, which Yellen won by a score of 21-19. For more information on the center, contact Sherry Winger, 312/751-8000.

Team Racquetball Developed

Tom Grobmisi reports that he has developed an intricate format that he believes will make "team racquetball" a major factor in the sport, "just as team tennis virtually revolutionized that sport." The biggest advantage in team racquetball is the ability to have up to 10 people on the court at the same time, and as Grobmisi's study proves, "that can lower the average court cost per hour, per person, by nearly 500 per cent! A lot of money is also saved on racquetballs, as they are no longer required. Team racquetball is strictly a test of racquet skills." Good luck, Tom.

Pro Schedule

We get many people who would like to know the schedule for both the men's and women's tournaments next season. We tell all those people to contact the people who run those "tours" and when they get some answers, to let us know!

The answer is, they don't know themselves, yet. Both the men and women are out looking for sponsors and making final arrangements with the sponsors they do have, and both groups generally have very little advance notice themselves when and where their next few tournaments will be. It's not that they don't want the public to know, they just don't know yet themselves.

Seamco

Seamco Sporting Goods division of Dart Industries, Inc., has announced the sale to Seamco, Inc., Hatfield, Pennsylvania, of the Racquetball and Handball/Paddleball business of Dart's Seamco division. The effect of the sale is that the Seamco "small ball" business will be manufactured and run out of Hatfield. Seamco's sales organization will stay basically the same: Art Orloski, national sales manager; Marvin Konowita, national accounts sales manager, and James Amick, director of racquet sports promotion.

Contracts Galore for Hogan

Marty Hogan, racquetball's "superstar" has renewed his contract with Leach Industries and entered into a new contract with Catalina Sportswear. It was reported that the two contracts are for a minimum of three years and total over 1.5 million dollars. The 22-year-old National Champ will be featured in Catalina's racquetball apparel and other promotions. Catalina sponsored two Pro Stops last season and will be sponsoring more NRC tournaments this coming season.

An Ode to Hogan

*He's still on top, make no mistake,
And signed, again, with Charlie Drake.
But now, there's a new Marty Hogan —
"Impeccable dress" will be his slogan.*

*He'll be the class of any arena
In his spiffy new duds from Catalina.
And in those outfits, he won't look funny,
"Cause what he's really in, is money!"*

We Get Letters . . .

Dear RACQUETBALL TODAY,

I love your paper, but I'd sure like to see more coverage of amateur tournaments around the country.

Art Ball
Philadelphia

Dear Art,

We only went "nationwide" in June, 1980, and the tournament directors and club owners honestly have not started sending us their results. When we get them, along with black and white pictures, we'll be happy to put them in the paper. Start letting the tournament directors know that you care about reading the results in the paper. Also, if they would send us advance notice of their tournament dates, we'll put that on our tournament schedule, too.

Editor

Dear RACQUETBALL TODAY,

It's great to see a publication that doesn't take the sport (or itself) too seriously. Your paper is not only informative, it's full of laughs. Keep up the good humor!

Cindy Winchell
San Diego

On Bob Gura's story of the mood of the first annual Women's Professional Racquetball Championships held in Bloomington, Illinois, (July issue) is this response from a reader and participant.

Hi Bob,

It was nice to have met you in Chicago. The article was, as they say in racquetball "awesome." Your observations made the article! Nice coverage for the WPRA too!

Marci Greer

Dear Phil,

Re: "Who is a pro?" article in July issue.

I thought your article brought up some excellent arguments as to what is wrong with the current USRA and AARA regulations regarding the distinction between a pro and an amateur. There's no question that the determination should be based on performance rather than an arbitrary dollar figure. The only fault I find with your recommendation is that you state that local tournament organizers and groups should adopt your ideas, because, as you suggest, both the USRA and AARA go too far in wrong directions and would never come to an agreement. It's already too confusing having two sets of rules, and you're suggesting many sets of rules around the country. Why not just get the USRA and AARA together and come to some reasonable compromise based on your ideas?

Sincerely,
Chuck Vale

Dear Chuck,

I couldn't agree with you more. I'll just ask Bob Kendler (USRA) and Luke St. Onge (AARA) to drop into my office some afternoon and the three of us will work out some nice, fair method of dealing with the problem. (By the way, for health reasons, I recommend that you not hold your breath waiting for that meeting to take place.)

Phil

Dear RACQUETBALL TODAY,

Your June '80 issue of RACQUETBALL TODAY is refreshingly new and an excellent addition to the literature covering racquetball.

I have but one complaint — you should have had someone complete the racquetball puzzle before publication. Eketelon is not spelled "Eketelon" and the word "bounce" is not even in the puzzle. Also, there are two "lobs" in the puzzle.

If you need someone to give you a puzzle, I'd be happy to supply one.

Sincerely,
Roger Wilson
Alliance, Ohio

Dear Roger,

You're on — give us a good puzzle and anyone else who would like to try their hand at it is welcome to submit a puzzle.

Just one thing — no bouncing tricks and no mistakes. Like windows, I don't do puzzles.

Editor

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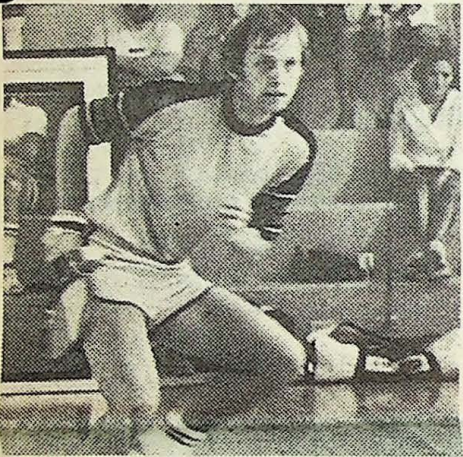
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Wilson Promotes Grassroots Racquetball

Ed. Note: from time to time we will be featuring major companies involved in the sport of racquetball to give the reader some insight into what these companies are doing to help the player and the sport.

Wilson Sporting Goods is one of the "giants" in the racquetball business. Unlike most other manufacturers in the sport, Wilson is a large, multi-faceted company that supplies equipment to virtually every major sport played in the U.S. As a result, they have the advantage of experience in dealing with a new, growing market such as racquetball offers.

"Wilson's approach to promoting racquetball," according to Max Brownlee, in charge of racquet sports promotion, "is patterned after our highly successful approach to the marketing of tennis when it was in its infancy." Wilson's success in tennis is legendary. They took on a few, select, top pro players who were known for their personality and intelligence off the court, as well as their skill on the court, and they worked closely with these



John Lynch has worked with Wilson for years in the development of their racquetball products. John, now 25, is a former touring pro, once ranked as high as 12, and holds wins over many top pros including Marty Hogan. Though he now is an executive with Shell Oil Company and does not spend much time in the court, he has still managed to retain the ISRA Illinois State Singles and Doubles titles for the second straight year.

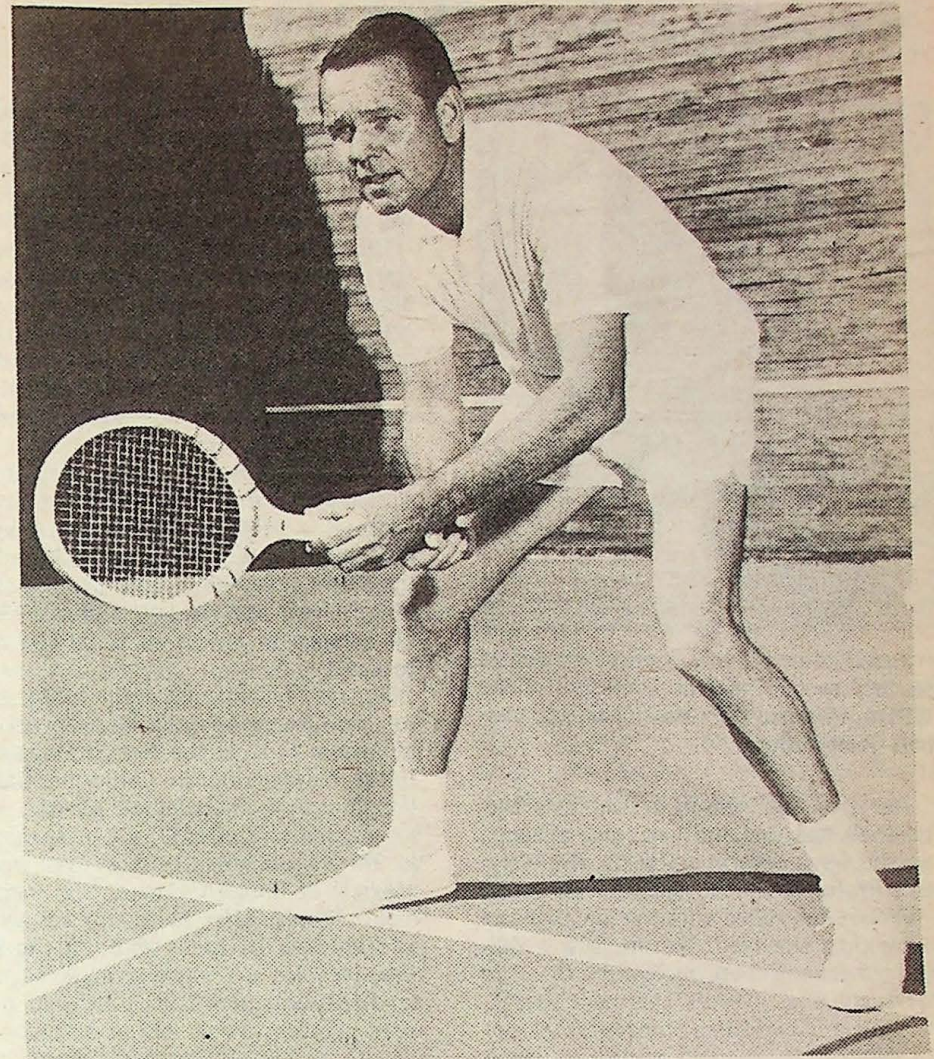
pros for years.

Their big "star" of course, was Jack Kramer, the signator of the largest selling wooden racquet, by far in the history of the sport. Jack was not only personally involved with the design and testing of the racquet, but took part in marketing decisions, manufacturing technique, and all modifications of the product. Further, Wilson sent Jack Kramer around the country constantly giving clinics and exhibitions, free of charge, to young players and coaches. Their theory was that if they help advance the sport at the "grass roots" level, and use policies and people that leave the players with a positive image about Wilson, they will get "their fair share" of the market, and then some. Now, over 30 years later, Jack Kramer still gives clinics and exhibitions representing Wilson!

BROWNLEE SEES racquetball today in a very similar stage to that of tennis in the late 50's and 60's, and Wilson's approach is basically the same. They have developed a close, long-standing relationship with two top pros: Shannon Wright and Davey Bledsoe. Like Kramer, each of them worked very closely and directly with Wilson in the development of their signature racquets, and are consulted about all aspects of the development and marketing of new products. In the past nine months, Brownlee estimates that the two "stars" have given over 60 clinics and exhibitions around the country, free to the public, to help advance the sport of racquetball.

In addition to Bledsoe and Wright, Wilson has two other highly experienced and knowledgeable consultants who aid them in the testing, development and marketing of their products: Steve Dunn in San Francisco and John Lynch in Chicago. In particular, since Lynch lives near the corporate headquarters, he is closely involved in the testing and development of new products and works with Bledsoe and Wright and the Wilson staff "to insure that only the best finished products get put into production."

There is one other area where the company works directly with players, and that is done through their 10 district rep-



Jack Kramer, advisory staff member, Wilson Sporting Goods Company.

representatives. Each of those reps look for aspiring, promising young players, as well as good, qualified teaching pros, and they are supplied with equipment. There are many players who have proven their success on the courts that have now signed contracts with other racquetball manufacturers, but when they were getting started and needed help, Wilson supplied them with racquets, balls, shoes and other items.

As for plans for the future, Brownlee promises some "new innovations in clin-

ics and exhibitions in the coming season" but beyond that refuses to speculate. "Wilson has been, and always will be dedicated to promoting the sport at the 'grass roots' level and will continue along those lines, mainly because it has already proven so successful, in racquetball, in tennis, and in other sports as well." One thing is certain, they have the resources (money, personnel and public image) to be a major force in any area of the sport they wish to... it's strictly a matter of where they wish to channel those resources.

Davey Bledsoe Speaks Out on Ills of Mishandled Tours

(Continued from Page 1)

the organization. Now, they've signed a contract with Catalina for tournaments in a very tricky manner that channels everything through a company owned by Hogan and Drake, so they get 25 per cent off the top and the players get cheated some more." Davey goes on to discuss other points brought out in the letter to R.I., which include anti-woman practices; egomaniac handling of the tour, lack of imagination, and not living up to responsibility to help promote the sport among the amateurs.

AS FOR THE FUTURE, Davey will leave his "options open" but will concentrate on the clinics and programs with Wilson. "What we're doing is really fantastic. Many of our exhibitions draw bigger crowds than the NRC Pro Stops do! Wilson foots the bill for these and doesn't try to make any money on them at all. We just do it to help more people around the country understand and enjoy the game. We get the club players and beginners as

well as the advanced players, and we have the chance to sit down with them and talk casually about the game as well as give them tips on the court. Next year, we're going to expand our program and go into colleges and universities all over the country and give seminars and clinics for the coaches and players and then give an exhibition. The proceeds from the exhibition will go to the schools to help the team, and help advance the sport of racquetball on campus. **That's where the future of the sport is**, the students and the schools, and it's exciting for me to be in a position to help, thanks to Wilson. Helping the sport grow is something a lot of other companies have really neglected." As for future competition, Davey hopes some day the player's will "clean up their act" and there will be an alternative to the people who now control the tour, and then he "can get excited about competing again."

As we see it, the pro tour's loss may well be the public's gain, and we look forward to seeing Davey continue his travels around the country in years to come.

Dear Reader:

Fill out and return the survey and your name will be put into a drawing for shirts, balls and other nice prizes.

On average, how many times a week do you play racquetball? _____

Have you ever paid for a racquetball lesson? _____

What brand of racquet do you use? _____

What brand of shoe do you wear? _____

What is your favorite ball? _____

Have you ever played in a tournament? _____

What kind of articles do you enjoy reading most in our paper? _____

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Janell Marriott Speaks for WPROA



Janell Marriott has been re-elected to serve a second year as President of the WPROA (Women's Professional Racquetball Association).

Our first full season of women's racquetball has just finished, and although we did have several setbacks, the Women's Professional Racquetball Association (WPROA) has rolled with the punches and more than survived. We are now a full-fledged organization, recognized by all in the racquetball world. This past season, we played in eight Pro Stops for a total of \$73,000 in prize money, \$45,000 of which was raised by the WPROA. We held the first women's-only Pro Stop in Long Island, and the first women's-only Nationals which was held in the Chicago area. The women's pro draw was recently expanded to a full round of 32, and we had an average of 50 entrants per tourney for

the pro division. We've even made some changes in the rules to enhance the game.

A big thanks is due to the past members of the Board of Directors, all of whom worked very hard in getting the WPROA established: Rita Hoff, Jennifer Harding, Jean Sauser, Judy Thompson, Shannon Wright, Marci Greer and myself. A special thanks, also, is due to our commissioner, Dan Seaton, who's worked harder than all of us, guided us in the right direction, and has done a terrific job.

We held elections at our meeting at the Nationals, and I was re-elected president; Rita Hoff, vice-president; Peggy Steding, secretary/treasurer. Elected to the Board of Directors were Lynn Adams, Marci Greer and Heather McKay. We're all anxious to get to work on the new season.

Our first tournament of the 1980-81 season has already been set for the weekend of August 14-17 at the Newport Sporting House, Newport Beach, California. Called the Sundance Racquetball classic, this tournament will offer \$15,000 prize money for the women pros, the most ever, and a preview of things to come. The tournament will also offer full men's and women's amateur divisions with trips to Hawaii, bicycles and warm up suits for prizes. The tournament is in a beautiful part of the country, with lots of sunshine — hope to see you all there! For more information about the tournament, contact the tournament director, Jim Carson at 714/979-6942.

Keep reading RACQUETBALL TODAY for future WPROA reports.

A Job Well Done!

Dear RACQUETBALL TODAY:

Your coverage of the 1980 Women's Professional Racquetball Association (WPROA) National at Killshot, Ltd. in Bloomingdale was, in a word, superb!

Diane Gabrisko's article about the results of the tournament and the hard work that was put in by Gary Danno, Sue Sulli, Frank Szatkowski and Geoff Peters was as comprehensive as possible and we of the WPROA are grateful for her diligent efforts.

The article by Bob Gura entitled "The Dawn of a New Era" was also well done. Through his interview of Marci Greer and Bonnie Stoll, he was able to capture the true spirit of our fledgling organization.

Many of the RACQUETBALL TODAY staff were continuously seen during the four days of the tournament. Phil Simborg went out of his way several times to assist with the refereeing. Our hats off to the

entire RACQUETBALL TODAY staff for their efforts and interest during the tournament.

Needless to say, the WPROA has firmly established itself as a viable, innovative and well-intentioned organization. The 1980-81 WPROA Pro Tour will begin August 14 at Newport Beach, California. We will have from 10 to 15 stops during the next nine months culminating with its Nationals in late May or early June. Frank Szatkowski, the owner of Killshot, Ltd., will have the WPROA Pro Tour back in his club sometime in late spring of 1981. We of the WPROA salute the many kind Chicagoans who helped make our Women's Nationals such a tremendous success. We look forward to seeing you next year.

Best Regards,
Dan M. Seaton
Commissioner
WPROA

Re: Tournament Coverage

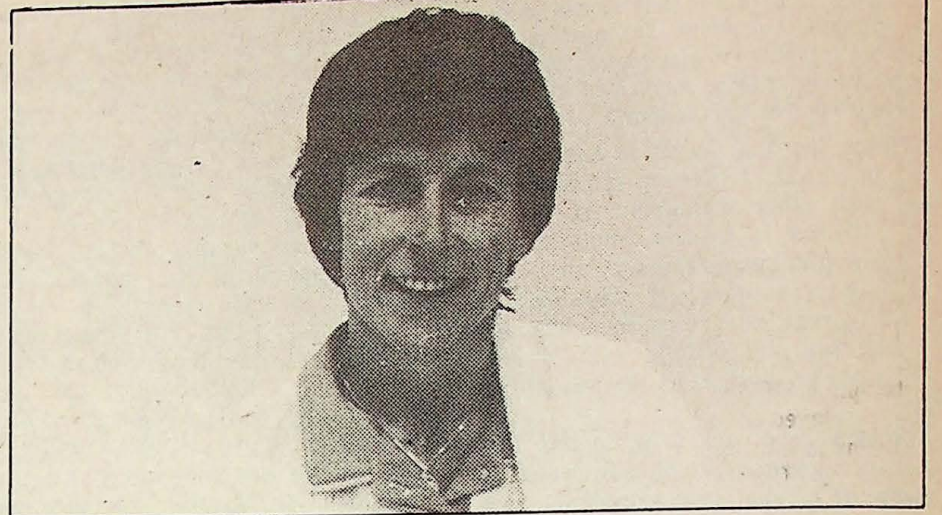
RACQUETBALL TODAY will include tournaments from all over the country on both our schedule and on the tournament results page. We have sent letters to the heads of local and national amateur and professional racquetball organizations requesting them to send us the information by the 10th of the previous month, and will get as much of the news and information into the paper as we possibly can. We've also asked for black and white pictures to go with the results, whenever possible.

If you don't see information about tournaments in your area in the paper, it's because the tournament promoters and

associations in your area are not getting them to us. If you encourage them by writing or calling them, you will help improve the coverage of tournaments in your area.

We ask that all information be typed. Tournament schedule information should include the name of the tournament, dates, site, who to contact, and a phone number with area code. Tournament results should also be typed, include the results of the finals ONLY of all divisions (we will get more in-depth reports on major tournaments), the name of the tournament, site and date. Black and white pictures should be clearly labeled on the back and cannot be returned.

To Heather McKay



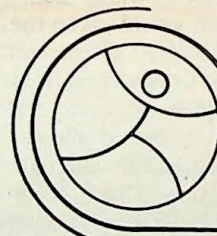
"At thirty-eight, you're much too old To learn a new game" she was told. "You'll never learn to kill the ball After years of hitting higher on the wall."

But Heather said, "You might be right, But I don't quit without a fight!" And now, she's proved to be the best Defeating Shannon and the rest.

Her body may be past its prime, But you cannot defeat the mind Of the greatest woman athlete of all time!

Heather, you're a champion, on or off the court. We are grateful and honored, that you chose to play our sport. Welcome to racquetball, and thanks!

On behalf of RACQUETBALL TODAY and the entire racquetball community, By Phil Simborg



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Charlie Club's new multi-million dollar facility is a dream come true for racquetball enthusiasts! Featuring 17 racquetball courts with low, low court rates of only \$1.50 (night-owl); \$3.00 (non-prime); and \$6.00 (prime). Charlie Club also features a glass court with gallery seating, which will be the site this month for:

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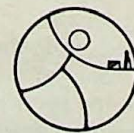
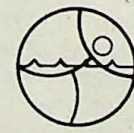
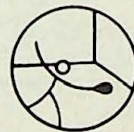
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Janell Marriott — A Class Act for the WPRRA

By BOB GURA

At first appraisal Janell Marriott doesn't fit the image of an outspoken crusader deeply involved in a cause. At 5-foot-9, the slim blonde Utah resident seems the picture of civility. Seated in the lounge of a Chicagoland racquetball club dressed in a skirt and blouse she fits the picture of an interested albeit detached observer.

With a little research, however, it becomes clear the image is a trifle misleading. Far from an observer of affairs athletic, the 26-year-old Marriott is quite a sportswoman. While a student at Utah State she played on basketball and volleyball teams that progressed to post-season tournaments. On the racquetball court, however, she's something else again. Last season Janell finished in second place on the ladies professional tour. Recently, she was fifth ranked in 1980 prior to the first Women's National Racquetball championship held at the Killshot club in Bloomington. Although she failed to win the ladies title her comments and reflections on the women's circuit bear notice. They merit attention because Marriott is more than just a racquetball player. She also serves as one of the five women on the board of directors of the recently established Women's Professional Racquetball Association and is the current president.

Outspoken on many topics concerning her sport Marriott is forthwith in explaining the ladies separation from the National Racquetball Club. "The big break came in January," she said, cracking a grin adding "that's when the NRC kicked us off the tour. I think everyone's been a little shaky . . . up and down since then." She stopped for a moment, and continued her evaluation, speaking much slower. "We didn't know what would happen . . . even if we could make it on our own. Finally, over that time period things have started to come together."

PLACING HER ARMS to her side and crossing her legs she projected assurance, stating, "I feel we're standing on firm ground now, whereas before we were somewhat shaky. I think things are looking up for next year." One of the major reasons for the sunny outlook according to Janell is "the publicity that was created over the break." Thanks to the bruhaha she believes people interested in sponsoring a ladies tourney now know of the WPRRA's existence. "Originally people looking to sponsor a tourney called the NRC or the old IRA or whatever. It's taken us a while to be recognized as an organization that individuals and companies can contact about sponsorship."

Still, she's aware the ladies' game needs to achieve nationwide recognition in order to become fully established and maximize the players earning potential. "Television is the key" she reported. "That's where you gain the mass audience." No fool as to the demands of television she pointed out "I think most of our women are pretty nice-looking and play the sport well."

Turning to the time frame involved she spoke to television's disputed ability to competently televise racquetball. "I feel we're ready for it now. I don't believe the fact they (the major networks) can't televise it for this and that reason. I think it's ready to be televised."

"It's just a matter of public demand," she grimly added. "I've talked to some people at CBS and they just don't feel there's enough demand for the sport on television. Once they (networks) hear the demand I'm sure they'll put it on with no problem."

PART OF THE problem facing the

WPRRA in its struggle for recognition has to do with sponsorship and promotion. Marriott addressed the problem directly. "Well, we're still seeking sponsors and it's been hard this year to get them. This club (Killshot Ltd.) is very interested in holding the national tournament and has helped us get sponsors for it." Regardless of these factors the host club is still situat-



Janell Marriott

ed far from metropolitan Chicago and its media sources.

Would the WPRRA move its tourneys to the big cities as the circuit grew? "I think so" replied Marriott, "But you know a lot of times (maybe not in this area) you get more publicity in a small area or town." She went on to consider that in the past efforts to promote tour stops in New York and places east captured less than good coverage. "The tour would go to the big cities to get the publicity," and, according to Janell, "those guys (the media) were out covering basketball."

She went on to say it's just a matter of effort that goes into each tournament. Waving a slender hand expansively she mentioned a recent WPRRA tour in New York. "We even made the N.Y. Times and we were an hour north of New York City." Kudos in this instance were delivered to the Fishkill club that "had a good publicity lady who did an excellent job."

Marriott recognized the need for women's racquetball to increase its appeal by

developing flamboyant players. "I think the existence of players with star quality helps your sport. Obviously the thing we need right now is publicity. Anybody that has the flair to draw attention to themselves as well as the sport is going to help women's racquetball. Somebody like Marty Hogan (men's pro superstar) has helped racquetball because he's exciting to watch and flamboyant. He's the spark in the works. I think the women could use someone like that and everyone would profit from it."

THERE WAS A brief pause while she brushed a stray hair and concentrated on the train of thought. "But look at some of the other women's sports. There are only one or two people that are even known, and these are big-time sports."

She hastened to clarify, aware that ladies tennis has made popular a myriad of names like Wade, King, Navratilova, Goolagong, Austin, etc. "Tennis," she posited, "is a little different, but only four or five names are really well known." Utilizing golf as an example she reported, "I only really know Nancy Lopez."

The prime mover she repeated had to be publicity engendered by television coverage. As to how the women would gain access, the reply was succinct. "We have to just keep pushing the way we're going." Some progress however, could already be noted. "There's a Canadian deal that was done on their government channel," she said. "It (a racquetball tourney) was filmed and is being shown on cable TV in Connecticut. It's just being shown over and over. Every once in a while," she smiled, "someone comes up and says 'Hey, I saw you on TV last night.'"

While the battle for airtime steams, Marriott attests the WPRRA is going all out to gain sponsors. "We're talking to every company we can think of that would have an interest in the sport." While the ladies tour will probably have to wait a while to reach tour stops numbering in the 20s it's apparent she's thought of days touched with future success.

"LAST YEAR I finished the season the second ranked player. I won a total of \$7,000. I don't foresee purses rising up to \$100,000," she honestly stated, "but maybe at the most \$50,000." That amount,

she wryly mentioned is still a lot of money.

She also refrained that the ladies would hopefully continue to divvy up the purses (at the larger tournaments) among the top 32 players. This reasoning is natural, she implied, as many other sports pursue the same routes in their major events. Also, she hastened to add, as the purses rise so will the shares.

Prize money aside, athletes in many sports often earn great amounts via product endorsements. Few women racquetballers have as yet been able to garner contracts for non-racquetball related products. Marriott spoke of the dilemma, saying "I have no idea why they (the women's racquetball pros) don't get more commercial endorsements."

Another grin cracked her face as she tossed out an anecdote. "I talked to a lady once who was an agent. The lady said 'I just don't know if he (a product manufacturer) wants a racquetball player.'" The agent, who Janell related worked for a guy named Pete Rose, was obviously competent. Her own conclusion was that the ladies pro game "just hasn't been around that long."

WHEN IT CAME to the quality of the play Marriott was enthusiastic about the distaff side's abilities. "I would say Heather McKay, myself, Shannon Wright or anyone in the top ten has an excellent game. About two or three years ago there was a big division. There were about four girls and that was it. In the last year it's been much more equalized. Still, I think the top ten are maybe and step above the rest of the girls. And the top 16 are probably a bigger step above say players number 17-32."

Summing things up Janell Marriott delivered a parting line to the effect that women's professional racquetball would continue to prosper. As she walked away to talk with other competitors it was difficult to remember she was one of the women who played the game. If one didn't know better it was easy to think she was simply a very intelligent observer and forecaster of the sport. Lump them together, ability, knowledge and foresight, and the result is tough to beat. Maybe that's as good a reason as any why the women's tour is bound to feature many more national tourneys.



Ron Townsend, left, managing director of the Lake Geneva Fitness and Racquet Centre, and Don Klote, racquetball pro at the Centre enjoy some friendly competition on one of six courts housed in the complex. Located at the Playboy Resort and Country Club in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, the Fitness Centre opened to the public on July 1.



Racquetball at it's best. The scene is Playboy's new Fitness and Racquet Centre at Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, and the players are none other than top pros Dave Peck (left) and Mike Yellen.

Read The Rules

Footfaults: Where to Draw the Line

"Read the Rules" will feature articles and information about the rules of racquetball and their application, presented by various people in the racquetball community who are well-known and well-respected in this area.

Ed. Note: This month's article is presented by Diane Gabrisko, a highly experienced and skilled referee of both amateur and professional matches. Her article shed new light on the much confused subject of foot faults — what they are and why they should be called.

By **DIANE GABRISKO**

The rules governing footfaults on the serve are clear and simple:

1. The server must be ENTIRELY within the service zone when he starts his service motion.
2. The server must remain entirely within the service zone until the ball passes the short line.
3. In doubles, the server's partner must be entirely within the service box with both feet on the floor and his back to the side wall, from the time the server starts his motion until the ball passes the short line.

THE LINES ARE included as part of the service zone; thus one can step ON but not OVER the lines. Violations of the above rules are called "footfaults," and result in a fault serve. (Two faults and you're out.) You won't hear the call made very often, however, unless the fault is flagrant. Most players, and therefore many referees, feel that calling this rule is being "picky," or too technical. "What is the harm," they think, "in being one half of an inch outside the line?" And too, calling the fault would surely be contested by the player — or at least questioned. (You can appeal footfaults.) *It simply isn't worth the hassle.*

Why are the rules there? Possibly, their purpose is somewhat overlooked. First of all, the rules attempt to minimize the chance of contact or bodily harm to either player. The server cannot move out of the zone, and the receiver cannot move in. In fact, the receiver cannot strike the ball within five feet of the service zone unless it bounces. And at no time can the receiver's racquet or any part of his body break the plane of the short line while returning the serve. So together, rules regarding footfaults and receiving line protect the server at a time when his back may be turned. For the sake of SAFETY, there are "footfaults."

Secondly, the server already has a tremendous advantage in serving. The footfault rules restrict the server, and therefore take something away from this advantage. The server cannot strike the ball as he moves into the zone. He cannot move into position before his lob serve passes the short line. He cannot overextend himself beyond the front line in an attempt to hit a more powerful serve or gain a better angle. All such tactics would be unfair to the receiver, and allow the server even more of an edge. So, for the sake of FAIRNESS, there are "footfaults."

With two good reasons for the rules, footfaults should be called more closely and more frequently. Players will become more aware of the proper procedures. One foot, or one inch over the line is a fault. The line has to be drawn somewhere. IT IS — ON THE COURT! Draw the line when you ref.



Diane Gabrisko

'Super' Referee Clinic set in Illinois

The Illinois State Racquetball Association (ISRA) Referee's Committee will be presenting a special Referee's Clinic for advanced players and referees on Tuesday, August 19, 1980, at Killshot, Ltd., 321 Edgewater Drive, Bloomingdale, Illinois, at 7 p.m. The clinic is open and free to the public and will feature a presentation and discussion of the new rules of the sport, presented by Dan Bertolucci, director of the NRC and foremost pro referee. There will also be presentations and discussions about various aspects of refereeing by ISRA Referee Committee Co-Chairmen John Greene and Bill Precht, and by ISRA Executive Vice-President Phil Simborg.

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TOURNAMENT NEWS

E.F. Hutton Open Kicks Off Opening of Landmark Club

By JAN DIENGOTT

The newly opened Landmark Racquet and Health Club in Peoria, Illinois, celebrated its opening by hosting the E.F. Hutton Open on May 26, 1980. A total of 175 players participated from four different states with Dennis McDowell defeating Jeff McDowell in the Men's Open division and Debbie Payne winning against Kim Drader in the Women's A division. (For other winners check tournament results below.)

The Landmark Racquet and Health Club prides itself on being a total recreational facility. The club offers 12 racquet and handball courts including two special glass-walled courts for spectator viewing and classes, a sport-tred running and jogging track, mirrored exercise areas for men and women, Nautilus health equipment, a gymnasium designed for everything from basketball to ballet, locker-room facilities for men and women featuring individualized jacuzzis, saunas, and tanning room, and finally, a juice bar which serves fresh fruit and vegetable juices.

In keeping with Landmark's philosophy of assisting Central Illinois with the improvement of their over-all health and physical well-being, and in order to properly introduce racquetball to the area, the

club is allowing members to play free for the first three months. Bob Schwab, racquetball instructor, adds that in order to assist players to get their games going, they have a "find-a-partner" program, and for ranking club members, a challenge ladder.

We, at RACQUETBALL TODAY, wish the Landmark Club the best of luck in their new endeavor and welcome the hosts of new racquetball devotees in the Peoria area to the challenge and fun of racquetball.

RESULTS

E.F. Hutton Open Landmark Racquet and Health Club Peoria, Illinois May 26, 1980

- MEN'S OPEN**
Dennis McDowell def. Jeff McDowell, 21-19, 21-18
- MEN'S A**
Larry McDowell def. Mike Gordon, 21-11, 21-19
- MEN'S B**
Kirk Tomaseske def. Ken Neyens, 21-18, 21-20
- MEN'S C**
John Hallam def. Jack Fulton, 21-8, 21-17
- MEN'S D**
Terry Beecham def. Jim Wolfe, 21-6, 21-19
- SENIORS**
Darrell Meisenheimer d. Bob Scroggs, 21-4, 12-21, 11-5
- WOMEN'S A**
Debbie Payne def. Kim Drader, 21-6, 21-9
- WOMEN'S B**
Deb Jones def. Kelly Swanson, 21-5, 21-14
- WOMEN'S C**
JoAnne Lytle def. Patty Damm, 21-6, 21-8
- WOMEN'S D**
Shirley Grigsby def. Jill Benson, 21-13, 21-17



Larry Fox captures Men's Pro title at 1980 Jack Nicklaus Sports Center/Kings Island Pro/Am.

RESULTS

Jack Nicklaus Sports Center/ King's Island Pro/Am Lebanon, Ohio June 13-15, 1980

- MEN'S PRO**
Larry Fox def. Kelvin Vantrese, 19-21, 21-15, 11-2
- MEN'S PRO DOUBLES**
Larry Fox/Danny Clifford def. Clark Pittman/Mike Sipes, 21-13, 20-21, 11-6
- WOMEN'S PRO**
Becky Callahan def. Karen Brunkus, 21-20, 21-3
- MEN'S B**
Rick Scotten def. Sol Fahuna, 21-12, 21-15
- MEN'S C**
Gary Hornsby def. Pat Casey, 21-3, 21-8
- MEN'S SENIORS**
Jim Marsh def. Pete Kelsner, 21-16, 21-13
- MEN'S MASTERS**
Frank Redden def. Leo Cox, 21-10, 21-16
- MEN'S NOVICE**
Robert Mitchell def. Russel Myer, 15-21, 21-4, 11-5
- WOMEN'S B**
Melanie Britton def. Babs Skilling, 21-7, 21-1
- WOMEN'S C**
Sherry Rawlings def. Karla Redden, 21-9, 21-6
- WOMEN'S NOVICE**
Judy Morgan def. Marsha Curtis, 21-16, 7-21, 11-8
- MIXED JUNIORS 15 & UNDER**
Robi Bradley def. Paul Rogers, 21-3, 21-7

RESULTS

Second Annual Star Spangled Battle Lakeview Hills Racquet Club Antioch, Illinois July 11-13, 1980

- MEN'S A**
Dale Eggert def. Brian Group, 21-14, 21-14
- MEN'S B**
Barry Silverstein def. Craig Steichen, 18-21, 21-7, 11-6
- MEN'S C**
Frank Saliba def. Jim Huffschnid, 21-20, 8-21, 11-4
- MEN'S D**
Bill Lackey def. Steve Wapon, 21-20, 21-17
- MEN'S SENIORS**
Gerry Clements def. Tom Kane, 21-8, 21-9
- MEN'S DOUBLES**
Jerry Belcaster/John D'Amico def. Ed Pertoclus/Brian Group, 21-20, 5-21, 11-3
- WOMEN'S B**
Debbie Popp def. Donna Shephard, 21-15, 21-14
- WOMEN'S C**
Linda Lacey def. Barb Becherini, 21-13, 18-21, 11-9
- WOMEN'S D**
Round Robin won by Dawn Finley over Linda Lynch
- JUNIORS 16 & UNDER**
Dan Mohr def. Tod Domek, 21-2, 21-3
- JUNIORS 11 & UNDER**
Tom Kane def. Ron Tillotson, 21-3, 21-16

RESULTS

Kettle Moraine Open Kettle Moraine Racquet Club Germantown, Wisconsin June 13-15, 1980

- MEN'S C**
Finals: Fred Gutierrez d. Steve Wilde
Semi's: Gutierrez d. Rob Blanchette; Wilde d. Bill Healy
- MEN'S NOVICE**
Finals: Tom Wagner d. Cris Komarnicki
Semi's: Wagner d. Rich Heron; Komarnicki d. Eric Farrenkopf

RESULTS

Northgate Racquetball Club Championships Galesburg, Illinois June 13, 14 & 15, 1980

- MEN'S A:** 1st: Dave Marty; 2nd: Mike Brennan
MEN'S B: 1st: Mike Vacala; 2nd: Dave Greene
MEN'S C: 1st: Wayne Miles; 2nd: Ty McMullin
MEN'S NOVICE: 1st: Larry Cross; 2nd: Rob Baughman
- WOMEN'S A:** 1st: Beth Wells; 2nd: Jeanne Bouker
WOMEN'S B: 1st: Kathy Thron; 2nd: Gayle Pacheco

Michigan Juniors Championship Davison Racquet Club

- BOYS 17 & UNDER**
Finals: V. Mack def. B. Mitchell
Semi's: Mack d. S. Shaw; Mitchell d. D. Dutcher
- BOYS 15 & UNDER**
Finals: C. Teets def. A. Pugh
- BOYS 13 & UNDER**
Finals: C. Cole def. S. Woodard
Semi's: Cole d. M. Daniher; Woodard d. A. Meta
- GIRLS 14 & UNDER**
Finals: Pina Finazoo def. Traci Floyd



Dave Marty, winner of the Northgate Racquetball Club tournament held in Galesburg, Illinois.

Ektelon/AARA Juniors

Over 220 of the top Juniors in the United States, Canada and Mexico competed in the Ektelon/AARA Junior Nationals held at Kangaroo Kourts IV in Redding, California.

RESULTS

- BOY'S SINGLES**
15 & UNDER
Sergio Gonzales (Fla) def. Fred Calabrese (Fla), 21-13, 21-2.
- 13 & UNDER**
Gerry Price (Cal) def. John Amatulli (Ind), 21-6, 17-21, 15-13
- 10 & UNDER**
Louis Miranda (Tex) def. Jeff Mulligan (Nev), 21-4, 21-11
- 10 & UNDER**
Matt Rudich (Nev) d. Derek Robinson (Wash), 7-21, 21-7, 15-12
- GIRL'S SINGLES**
17 & UNDER
Mona Mook (Cal) def. Ginger Sottli (NY), 6-11
- 15 & UNDER**
Stacey Fletcher (Mich) d. Heather Stupp (Conn), 21-13, 21-18
- 13 & UNDER**
Noelle Kundinger (OR) def. Lisa Anthony (Cal), 11-(20)-4
- 10 & UNDER**
Delainie Comer (Cal) def. Nikki Anthony (Cal), 8-9
- BOY'S DOUBLES**
17 & UNDER
Gregg Peck-Paul Bakken (Cal) def. Steve Ginsberg (MD)-Jra Miller (Ind), 21-11, 21-20

- 15 & UNDER**
Gerry Price-Shawn Fitzpatrick (Cal) def. Jeff Plazak (Wis)-Ray Navarro (Tex), 11-21, 21-14, 15-4
- 13 & UNDER**
Luis & Carlos Miranda (Tex) def. David Simonette (MD)-Roy Aronwitz (Tex), 17-21, 21-9, 15-10
- 10 & UNDER**
Sloan Holmes-Matt Rudich (Nev) def. Jeff Stark-Mike Vargas (Cal), 18-21, 21-18, 15-5

- GIRL'S DOUBLES**
15 & UNDER
Heather Stupp (Conn)-Stacey Fletcher (Mich) def. Tricia Rasmussen (OR)-Cheryl Mathieu (MO), 21-12, 21-16
- 13 & UNDER**
Lisa Anthony-Jenelle Deluff (Cal) def. Michelle Gilbertie-Lisa Mark (Cal), 21-17, 20-21, 15-2
- 10 & UNDER**
Delainie Comer-Rodie Martin (Cal) def. Andriana Miranda (Tex)-Dona Kundinger (Cal), 21-15, 21-11

- TEAM TITLES**
Sun Oaks Junior Racquetball Team - 18 points
Fort Lauderdale - 8 points
El Paso, Texas - 7 points

Correction

Second place winner in the Women's C division of the WPR Women's National tournament was Marianne O'Rourke of West Lafayette, Indiana.

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RACQUETBALL TODAY

1980-81 Tournament Schedule

August 11-16, 1980

USRA Junior Nationals
Sponsored by: Seamco/Leach
Site: Court Club
Indianapolis, Indiana
Contact: USRA
312-673-4000

August 15, 16 & 17, 1980

S/S/S Diamond Lil 3-Wall
Outdoor Midwest Championships
Site: Diamond Lil's
South Haven, Michigan
Contact: 616-637-8067

August 15, 16 & 17, 1980

11th Annual Masters
Invitational Doubles
Site: Supreme Court
555 Odana Road
Madison, Wisconsin
Contact: Joe Wirkus
608-274-5080

August 21, 22, 23 & 24, 1980

Southern California Grand Prix
Site: Rocky's Racquet World
12111 Strathern Street
North Hollywood, Cal.
Contact: 213-956-3300

August 22, 23 & 24, 1980

S & S Insurance Agency Open
Site: Charlie Club
Palatine, Illinois
Contact: S/S/S Promotions
312-439-3030

September 4, 5, 6 & 7, 1980

Southern California Grand Prix
Site: Stadium Racquet Club
5885 Rancho Mission Road
San Diego, California
Contact: 213-956-3300

September 5, 6, & 7, 1980

Natural Light Open
Site: Davison Racquet Club
Davison, Michigan
Contact: Jim Hiser
313-653-9602

September 12, 13 & 14, 1980

1980 USRA Ohio State Tournament
Site: Hall of Fame Racquetball Ctr.
2700 Roberts Avenue N.W.
Canton, Ohio 44709
Contact: Fred Zitzer
216-455-7788

September 11, 12, 13 & 14, 1980

Southern California Grand Prix
Site: Rancho Mesa Verde Athletic Club
1600 Adams
Costa Mesa, California
Contact: 213-956-3300

September 12, 13, & 14, 1980

\$1000 Lite Summer Smasher
Tournament for Multiple Sclerosis
Site: Brookfield Racquet Club
Waukesha, Wisconsin
Contact: John Bergman or Mary Peters
414-782-6120

September 17, 18, & 19, 1980

Fall Classic
Site: To be announced
Contact: S/S/S Promotions
312-371-2555

September 19, 20, & 21, 1980

3rd Annual Happy Joe's
Courtside Tourney
Site: South Courtside Racquetball Club
Moline, Illinois
Contact: Gary Whitaker or
Judy Thompson
309-797-1966

September 19, 20 & 21, 1980

MRA-1
Site: Little Traverse Racquet Club
P.O. Box 825
Petoskey, Michigan 49770
Contact: Match Point Enterprises
517-372-2886

October 10, 11 & 12, 1980

MRA-2
Site: Dearborn Athletic Club
2145 S. Telegraph
Dearborn, Michigan
Contact: Match Point Enterprises
517-372-2886

October 10, 11 & 12, 1980

3rd Annual Men's Open
Southwest Side Shootout
Site: Tinley Park Racquetball Club
Tinley Park, Illinois
Contact: Mike Bazzo
312-532-7900

October 31, November 1 & 2, 1980

3rd Annual Forest View Open
Site: Forest View Racquet Club
Arlington Heights, Ill.
Contact: Jeff Wilke
312-640-2574

November 7, 8 & 9, 1980

3rd Annual Women's
Sharpshooter Open
Site: Tinley Park Racquetball Club
Tinley Park, Illinois
Contact: Mike Bazzo
312-532-7900

November 7, 8 & 9, 1980

MRA-3
Site: Michigan Racquetball & Fitness
Lansing, Michigan
Contact: Match Point Enterprises
517-372-2886

November 14, 15 & 16, 1980

Midwest Invitational
Site: Metro Clubs
Contact: Lynne Farmer
312-441-6700

November 21, 22 & 23, 1980

Thanksgiving Classic
Site: To be announced
Contact: S/S/S Promotions
312-371-2555

December 12, 13 & 14, 1980

MRA-4
Site: To be announced

December 19, 20 & 21, 1980

2nd Annual Tinley Park Open Doubles
Site: Tinley Park Racquetball Club
Tinley Park, Illinois
Contact: Mike Bazzo
312-532-7900

January 23, 24 & 25, 1981

1st Annual Junior Hotshot Tourney
Site: Tinley Park Racquetball Club
Tinley Park, Illinois
Contact: Mike Bazzo
312-532-7900

February 27, 28 & March 1, 1981

2nd Annual Tinley Park Invitational
Site: Tinley Park Racquetball Club
Tinley Park, Illinois
Contact: Mike Bazzo
312-532-7900

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MICHIGAN STATE RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION NEWS



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First Northern Effort

MRA 1 Enters Beautiful Petoskey

By PEGGY DOTY

On September 19, 20 & 21, 1980, the Michigan Racquetball Association (MRA) will be kicking off its 1980-81 tournament season at the Little Traverse Racquet Club...

This will be the first MRA effort to hold a sanctioned tournament in Northern Michigan and in order to assure its success, Match Point Enterprises, your MRA tournament director

for the 1980-81 tournament season, and sponsor of this tournament, has arranged an accommodation package for tournament participants and their families at Harbor Cove Condominiums...

To encourage tournament participants to bring along their friends and families and make this an end of summer getaway weekend, special rates have been secured at this luxurious development located on Little Traverse Bay.

of Lake Michigan's most scenic shoreline and a modern beach club, there is also a heated pool and sailboats and bicycles for rental. For example, four individuals sharing one townhouse would cost \$16 per person per night...

1-800-632-7131. General tournament information may be secured by calling Match Point Enterprises, 517/372-2886.

Little Traverse Racquet Club Manager Tom Todd and his staff are very enthusiastic about being the Northern Michigan testing ground for an MRA sanctioned tournament...

Watch for entry forms at your local club.

You Must PLAY in Three

By BOB SZUCH

On September 19, 1980, the Michigan Racquetball Association (MRA) will begin its 1980-81 tournament season. The season will begin in Petoskey and will culminate in Lansing on March 27-29th at the State Finals.

This year, to be eligible for the State Finals, a participant must play in three MRA sanctioned tournaments. The key word is PLAY! No longer can a participant send in his or her entry

form and then forfeit in the first round. Participants must be at the host club and play. First round forfeitures will not count as a tournament stop.

Also, this year's entry forms will contain a club capacity number. This figure denotes the maximum number of players who can participate if the tournament is to start at 10:00 a.m. on Friday.

Michigan Juniors Compete at Davison Club

The Davison Racquet Club was the site of the 1980 MRA State Junior Championship. A total of 45 entrants competed in four divisions. It was evident from the number of tie-breakers that the quality of Junior play is developing across the state.

Exciting matches were seen in all divisions with excellent play by such young players as Chris Cole, winner of the 13 and Under, and Chuck Teets in 15 and Under.

MICHIGAN CLUB GUIDE

SPORTS ILLUSTRATED COURT CLUB No. 1: 2111 Golfside Road, Ypsilanti, MI. (313) 434-2111. 10 courts, Nautilus fitness center, free nursery, saunas, lounge, racquetball instruction, pro shop and much more!

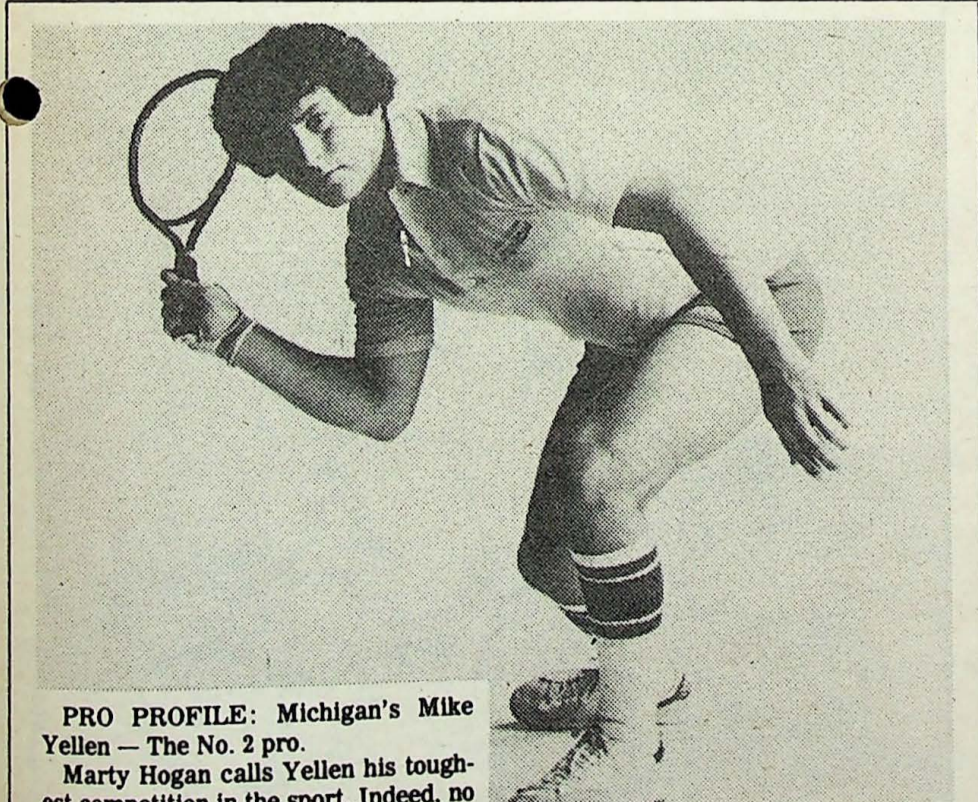
FLINT RACQUETBALL AND FITNESS CENTER: G-3237 Beecher Road, Flint, MI. (313) 733-3000. 10 regulation courts (1 glass), 2 saunas, co-ed whirlpool, fully-equipped pro shop, leagues, lessons and parties.

SPORTS ILLUSTRATED COURT CLUB No.7: 2717 Schust Road, Saginaw, MI. (517) 790-0150. 15 regulation courts, Swedish sauna, whirlpool, free nursery from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday, Universal fitness cen-

ter with jogging area, and pro shop.

SPORTS ILLUSTRATED COURT CLUB No. 12: 42140 Van Dyke, Sterling Heights, MI. (313) 254-1012. 8 regulation courts, 2 saunas, 2 whirlpools, 1 badminton court. Special women's programs, free nursery, men's and women's traveling leagues.

FLINT RACQUETBALL AND FITNESS CENTER: G-5219 W. Pierson Road, Flushing, MI. (313) 733-7730. 15 regulation courts, Swedish sauna, whirlpool, free attended nursery from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday. Universal fitness center with jogging area. Pro shop. Located 1 mile west of I-75 on Pierson Road. Club Manager: Al Nuechterlein



PRO PROFILE: Michigan's Mike Yellen - The No. 2 pro.

Marty Hogan calls Yellen his toughest competition in the sport. Indeed, no player threatens Hogan as does Yellen who beat Marty twice this year before losing to him in the Nationals.

The key to Yellen's game is his consistency. He is a strict control player not subject to streaks or slumps; he has also added the power-oriented, serve-and-shoot play to his arsenal.

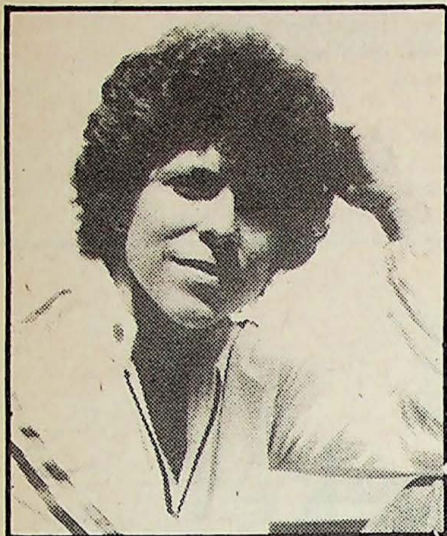
A graduate from Michigan's Southfield high school, Yellen attends college on an Ektelon-sponsored scholarship and assists the San Diego racquetball manufacturing company as a member of its professional advisory staff.

John's the original frozen pizza. Nutrition never tasted so good.

PSYCHING

By MARILYN STERLING

The Only Way to Eat an Elephant Is One Bite at a Time — Think Positive



Sometimes the tasks at hand seem all but impossible. In life, as in racquetball, we find that successful accomplishment is almost directly proportionate to the attitudes we express towards those tasks. Attitude — it's a biggie!

We human beings have so much un-

tapped potential. We can do just about anything we put our minds to . . . but, we just don't seem to believe it . . . we have negative attitudes about our abilities.

Norman Vincent Peale, author of "The Power of Positive Thinking," says, "Altogether too many people are defeated by the everyday problems of life. They go struggling, perhaps even whining through their days with a sense of dull resentment at what they consider the "bad breaks" life has given them. In a sense there may be such a thing as "the breaks" in this life, but, there is also a spirit and method by which we can control and even determine those breaks."

POSITIVE THINKING is the process we can learn to employ which will help us to determine those "breaks" in life.

If it's true what psychologists say, that success breeds further success and failure reinforces future failures, it is understandable that we should want to choose success. Let's learn how to do it.

We need to have a positive attitude to attract success; we need to replace all negative thoughts with positive ones. The

only way to drive negative thought from our mind is through **displacement**. Identify the area you currently feel negative or fearful about clearly in your mind. Listen to the words you presently use to describe this area, and then displace those negative thoughts with positive ones. For example, typical negative feedback like "I can't hit a killshot, I'll never get that stupid shot" is displaced with the positive affirmations, "I have a good killshot; I **knew** I could learn it!" If you keep repeating these positive messages to yourself long enough and often enough, and also work at visualizing, or seeing in your mind's eye, the fulfillment of your words, before long you will see a change in actual court behavior.

It's been proven scientifically, that if we consciously steep our brain and spirit with signals of one kind or another, that the brain will organize itself for action accordingly. Have you ever read the incredible things doctors have recorded while studying the placebo effect?

SO, IT'S EASY. You can improve any

area you'd like to by first, becoming aware of specifically what it is you would like to change. Now, consciously arrange your behavior towards that goal by applying a positive attitude; positively affirming what it is you desire, e.g. I have a good killshot. I bend low and follow through. I'm the No. 1 player on my ladder. Hooray, I won the tournament! Visualize it, see yourself killing, following through, your name on the top of the challenge board, yourself standing there accepting your trophy. It's important to do this as often as you can each day.

Bad conditions, failures and problems do exist. A positive thinker doesn't refuse to recognize them, but a positive thinker refuses to dwell upon these things. If you will realize the power we all have within ourselves to achieve what we want; we've seen glimpses of this potential through the stories of people in accidents, lifting cars off people they love, placebos curing terminally ill patients, etc. If you will accept this, you'll come to realize that **anything** is possible for you. It's like eating the elephant — **You Can Do It!**

If Pros Told Interviewers What They Really Think

By TOM GROBMISI

I've read a lot of interviews with top racquetball players, and they all say basically the same things. They all say what they think they should say, NOT WHAT THEY REALLY THINK.

To find out what a pro really thinks, I got a top player to give me an interview after taking sodium pentothal (the truth serum), and I agreed to keep his/her identity a secret. I think you'll find the interview interesting.

GROBMISI: With all you exposure on "Superstars" lately, combined with your fame as the top player in the sport, you must be tired of giving interviews.

MR. H: Damn straight! The same stupid questions over and over. I think the

next reporter who asks me "where I got those dimples" is gonna get a knuckle sandwich.

GROBMISI: Well, I certainly won't ask you that. What do you really plan to do after you retire, and how soon do you think that will be?

MR. H: I don't know if I can ever retire, even if I wanted to. You see, I've got this contract with "you-know-who" and he tells me everything I can and can't do; what tournaments I play at; what interviews I give; sometimes, even what girls I can date. Why I can't even take a ship or plane without his permission.

GROBMISI: What, if anything, would you like to see changed in the sport?

MR. H: Well, first off, I'd like to see

them give more money . . . to me! I'd like all the tournaments to be winner-take-all! And of course, we need a faster ball. The fans love to see my macho serves and splat shots. Also, I'd like to have my own, private ref that I can bring to all the matches . . . oh, never mind, they've already done that.

At this point Mr. H's agent entered the room and abruptly ended the interview, but I think you'll agree with me that there's a lot more that goes on in the mind of the racquetball pro than we usually read about. I'm in the process of contacting other pros for future sodium pentothal interviews . . . keep watching the papers!

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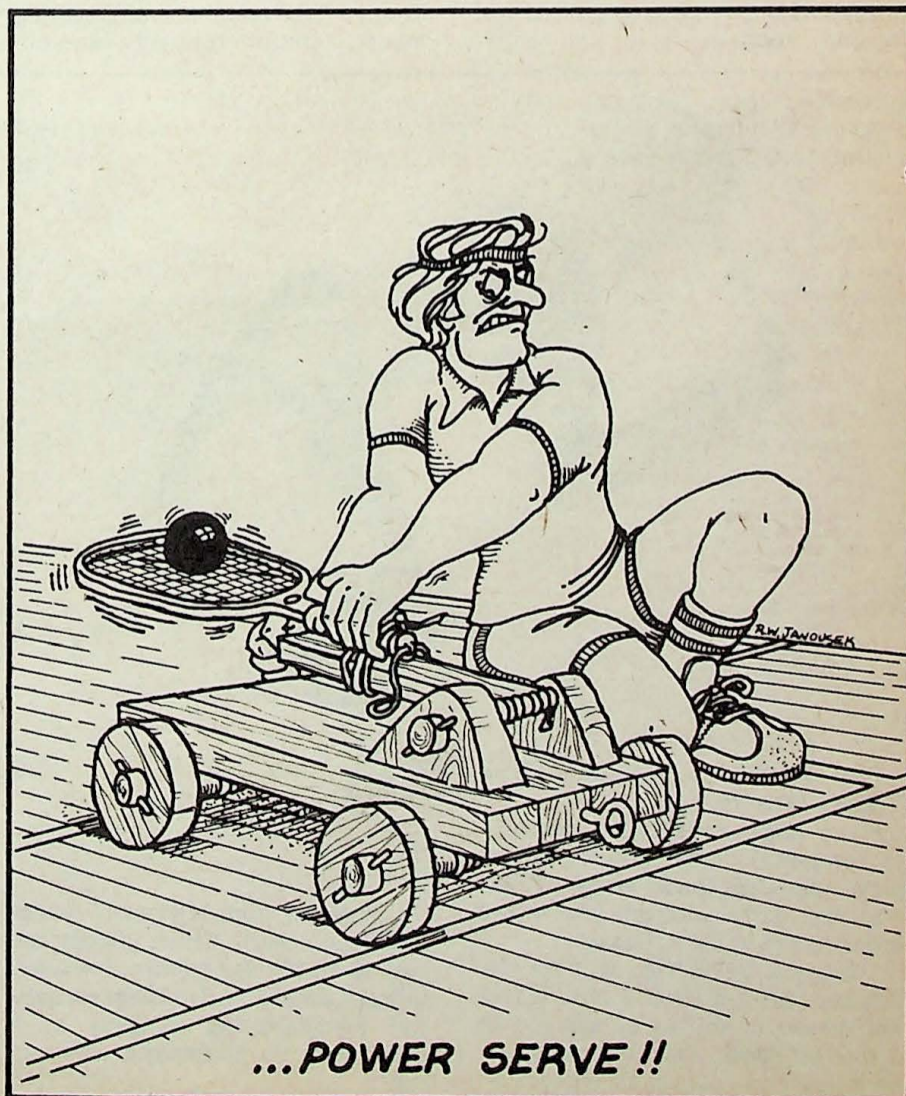
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The following racquetball pro's names can be found in the enclosed puzzle: Adams, Ambler, Bolan, Cohen, Green, Hawkins, Hoff, Hogan, Jackson, Jones, Keeley, Lee, Marriott, McCoy, McKay, Morrow, Myers, Peck, Peterson, Prefontaine, Stoll, Thomas, Wright, Yellen (there is no "bounce"). See if you can find them all; circle them, and send the puzzle to us with your name and address. You'll go into a drawing for some nice prizes.

Congratulations to our new puzzle winners, even though many of them remained somewhat puzzled. We drew the winners out of a hat from the puzzles sent in. The following people will receive a new can of Seamco 600 racquetballs and a shirt: J. Mainini, Wilmington, Mass.; Ken Bradley, Louisville, KY; Cheryl Fuentes, Phoenix, Ariz.; John O'Donovan, San Jose, Cal., and Andy Hall, Delmar, N.Y.

THE FUN-DAMENTALS OF RACQUETBALL by R.W.JANOUSEK



Strategy

By JEAN SAUSER

Editor's Note: Jean Sauser, the sixth ranked women's racquetball pro, and photographer Arthur Shay, are the co-authors of "Racquetball Strategy," a book devoted to those racquetball players who are absolutely determined to get better and better. With permission of the author and publisher, RACQUETBALL TODAY will reprint portions of that book.



Situation: You are receiving the first serve, a drive or a Z-serve

STRATEGY: Use good receiving position and capitalize on errors.

Position yourself in the middle of deep court, a little more than an arm's and racquet's length from the back wall. Focus your attention on the ball as your opponent sets up to hit it.

Execution: To return drive serves:

1. Move up. It may throw your opponent off by making him try too hard to serve the ball past you.
2. As the ball comes over the short line, turn and get ready to hit it, but do not move over and crowd the ball.
3. Determine which wall the ball will strike first.

a. If the ball strikes the side wall and pops up for set-up, kill it. A corner pinch will work best in this situation. (Diagram 1) The corner pinch works best because your opponent is backing out of the service zone toward center court. The pinch gives him no chance of recovering the ball.

b. If the ball strikes the side wall first but is not a set-up, return a ceiling shot down the line near the left or right wall. To try and do more with an effective drive serve will probably result in your giving your opponent a set-up. (Diagram 2)

c. If your opponent's serve is coming around the corner and off the back wall you have two good options, either of which should win you an immediate side out if executed well. You can kill the ball or pass the ball. (Diagrams 3 and 4)

d. If the ball goes into the back wall first and pops out for a set-up you have three good options. You can kill it straight in. (Diagram 5) You can hit the ball into the left "pinch" corner — left wall-front wall. (Diagram 6)

If your opponent starts to drift back on the backhand side you can hit a cross court pass shot for a winner. (Diagram 7)

Execution: To return the Z-serve:

Fly shoot the ball — that is, hit it before it bounces on the floor — before it gets to the side wall and causes you problems. When you cut the ball off on a fly, pass it around your opponent either down the line or cross court. There is a surprise element working for you when you hit a fly shot. (Diagrams 8 and 9)

If you can hit a fly shot off the first attempt your opponent makes at a Z-serve you intimidate him away from serving it again, especially if your return is an effective one.

Execution: Other returns for the Z-serve:

If the ball hits the side wall and comes up short, enabling you to wait and execute a sidearm stroke, try to pass your opponent or kill the ball.

If the ball jams you coming off the side wall at chest level, return a ceiling shot, if you can get set for one.

If the ball comes around off the back wall, try to kill it.

Diagram 1. The corner pinch works best because your opponent is backing out of the service zone toward center court. The pinch gives him no chance of recovering the ball.

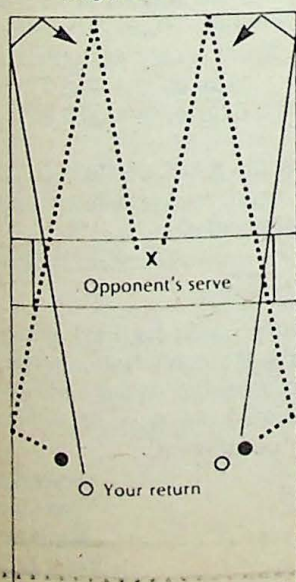


Diagram 2

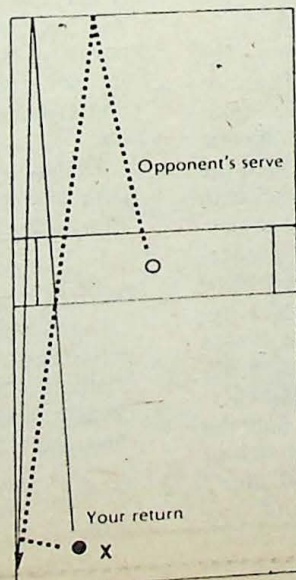


Diagram 3. Straight kill. Option 1.

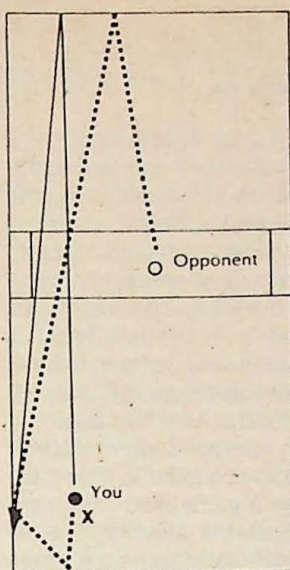
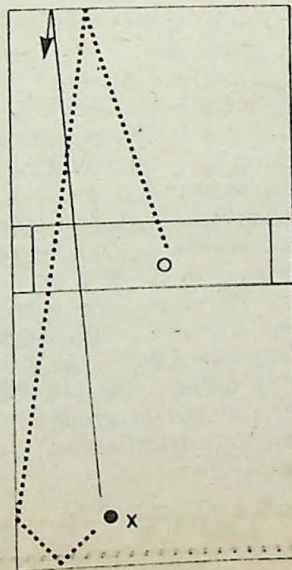


Diagram 4. Option 2. The pass shot. (Above)

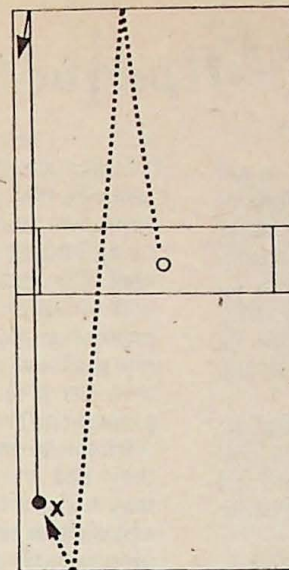


Diagram 5. (Above)

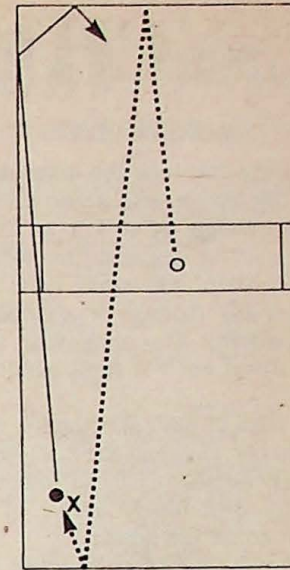
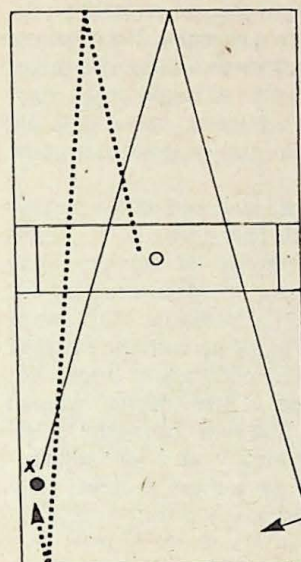
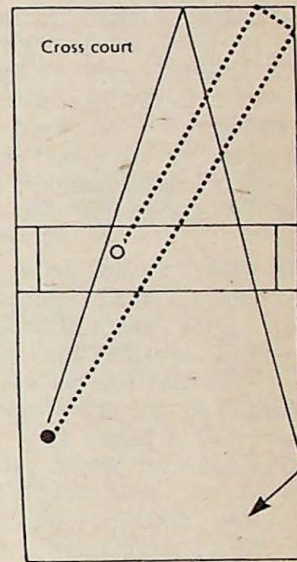
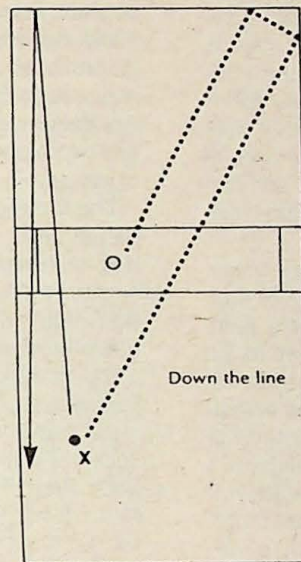


Diagram 6. (Above)

Diagram 7. (Below)



Diagrams 8 and 9. Two fly shots off a Z-serve to your backhand side. (Below)



In a recent promotional film highlighting "nutrition, fitness and fun" the American Dairy Association of Wisconsin featured an exhibition racquetball match between Tim Usher and Joe Wirkus at the Supreme Court Racquetball Club in Madison, Wisconsin. Pictured (left to right) are Tim Usher, Joe Wirkus and John Oncken of the Wisconsin A.D.A.

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Court Talk Racquetball — Somewhere or Nowhere

By BOB GURA

I had the bad luck the other day to get into a discussion with a certain friend of mine. Although we've known each other for years I'm amazed the relationship endures. No matter what topic crops up we generally manage to stridently disagree. Perhaps the thing that keeps us going is that each is right about half the time.

Now most of our talks tend to center on subjects like religion, the economy or politics. Meaningful as these topics are it's generally difficult to arrive at specific answers to all the questions.

So imagine my surprise when my companion makes the bold-faced statement that racquetball is a "nowhere" sport. "Nowhere," he went on to define, meaning that the game is largely unrecognized by the public at large. "Nonsense" I retorted, retrieving the statistic that over 15 million American men, women and children currently play the four-walled sport. "Furthermore," I blustered, "any fool could note that more and more magazines and television commercials are featuring racquetball in their advertisements."

"OH YEA?" replied my acquaintance. "How's about a small wager?" Ever eager to reap the benefit of another's ignorance I cast my wallet into the fray to the tune of a sawbuck. The bet was as follows. All I had to do was, in my guise as a writer, interview 30 people as to whether or not they had ever played racquetball. I would also ask, while providing anonymity as to their identities, if they could name any of the top pro players — male or female. For a final query I was to ask if they knew what a killshot was.

Inasmuch as racquetball can be a costly game to play I drew my random sample from two well-heeled sources: shoppers along Michigan Avenue's famed Magnificent Mile and patrons of several racquetball facilities I frequent. The age of the population varied from the late teens to one man and woman who claimed to be in their 40s. If so, they were remarkably well preserved. The results went like this.

Of the 15 men surveyed eight claimed they had played racquetball. Two said they had watched a game, and only three could come up with the identity of a top professional. In all fairness, while each stated knowledge of perennial men's champ Marty Hogan, the association was a bit tainted. None of the trio had heard of Hogan in conjunction with racquetball, but had seen him compete on ABC's televised Superstars program. Nonetheless, 20 per cent awareness among the males was still 20 per cent. All eight of the players knew what a killshot was and so did the twosome who had watched the game in action.

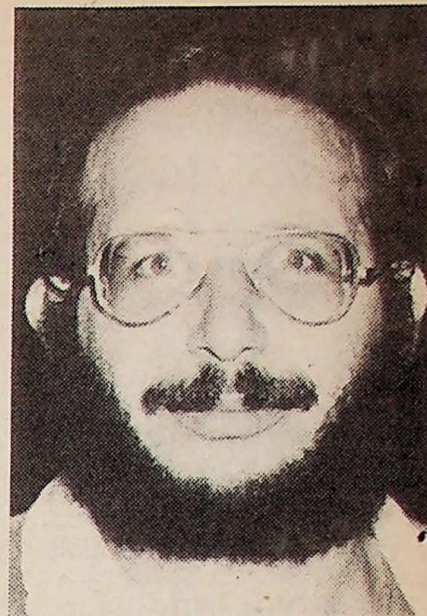
The ladies fared less well on the participation side, with only three of 15 admitting to having played. Of the remaining dozen, 10 expressed the desire to play but just hadn't gotten around to it. Only one of the ladies could come up with the name of a top male pro — once again Hogan via Superstars fame. Three of the women were familiar, however, with the existence of Heather McKay as a top lady racquetballer. The awareness derived, they said, from having read an article in Sports Illustrated about the former Australian squash champion.

THE THREE WOMEN who played the

sport correctly identified a kill as a shot that bounces low off the front wall for a winner. Of the remainder, two admitted to guessing correctly, while one thought the term related to any shot that struck another player and cause "killing" pain.

When the moment came to decide who had won the bet we were stumped. It seemed that while a certain percentage played the game, many others remained in the dark.

Since we couldn't come to a clear cut solution as to whether the sport was "nowhere" or "somewhere" we settled the debate in a diplomatic fashion. Pooling together our sawbucks we proceeded to a nearby bar to further analyze the issue. All our disagreements should end so amicably.



Bob Gura

We Get Letters . . .

(Continued from Page 2)

Dear RACQUETBALL TODAY,

Once again you guys have lost your bounce. We thought it might have bounced out of the court, but we still couldn't find it. I hope you find your bounce because it's been two months (June and July) that your puzzle hasn't had it. I know my checks bounce, my racquetball bounces and women with enlarged glands bounce. But your puzzle lacks it. Nice try.

Dan Espo, Dave Adams
and Vicki Soule

Editor:

I guess you're right — your puzzles have no bounce. One thing for sure your balls haven't lost their bounce. I happen to be one of the lucky winners from June's racquetball puzzle. (You misspelled my name and town.)

Thanks for the shirt band balls but more than that the chance to search for enjoyable words.

Mary Boitano
Commack, N.Y.

Dear Mary,

I'm glad you're a happy winner of our puzzle contest and that you enjoy the humor of the bounceless word.

Nobody likes to see their name misspelled and it was not a misprint. We spelled it as we saw it. So to you and others who have worked to complete a puzzle or fought to win at a tournament make sure your name is printed legibly so we can give you the credit you deserve.

Jan Diengott
Editor

Dear Phil,

You may have "dreamed you beat Marty Hogan," but I've seen you play! Nightmare is a better description of that dream. Good article, anyway.

Lee Cruz
Austin, Texas

Dear RACQUETBALL TODAY,

I read with interest your articles on the NRC and WPRA Nationals, the first one telling about how horribly the NRC tournament was for the players and spectators, and the second telling how nice the WPRA tournament was. I was at both tournaments, as were several other people I know and talked to and the general consensus was that your two articles were right to the point. Good, honest job of reporting! The only thing you did not do was tell why they handled the players so differently between the two tournaments: the NRC picked the wrong city to hold the tournament, picked the wrong club to host it (not enough seating, etc.) and didn't take the time and concern to see that people were treated nicely. The WPRA did all the right things, but most importantly, the

tournament was run by people who cared about the players!

Name withheld upon request

Dear Editor,

Your July issue was truly fun. You obviously didn't have a lot of news to report so you put in a lot of Tom Grobmisi's humor. Your paper is relatively new to this area and I understand I missed a lot of great Grobmisi stuff in the past. Any chance of getting back copies?

Rita Brill
Atlanta

Dear Ms. Brill,

Back copies are "dear" to us right now, but we can assure you more fun Grobmisi articles in the future, and, after a reasonable lapse of time, we will reprint some of his, and others' classic articles that appeared when the paper was strictly an Illinois publication.

Ed.

Dear RACQUETBALL TODAY,

It's funny how tournaments run by Natural Light and other companies who advertise in your paper seem to get on the front page of your paper. At least last month you saved enough room to put the winners of the Nationals on the cover too.

Chris Bennett

Dear Chris,

We had a little extra room, so we figured, why not put Hogan and McKay on the front too?

Ed.

Gentlemen,

Just picked up a copy of RACQUETBALL TODAY at the club, and was pleased to find my photograph printed as your first selection. Thank you for the opportunity to combine my two loves, photography and racquetball! With the first place prize money I'll be able to support my racquetball addiction a little longer.

I enjoy RACQUETBALL TODAY mainly because it keeps me abreast of local as well as pro activities. Your racquetball coverage is excellent. I only wish the major newspapers, such as the Sun-Times and Tribune did a quarter as much as you do.

Thanks again for RACQUETBALL TODAY and once again to everyone connected with the photo contest.

Mary R. Thomas

Dear Al, Tom and Phil,

Thank you very much for having supported the WPRA Women's National Racquetball Championships. Your ad was greatly appreciated as was your help throughout the tournament.

Sincerely,
Sue Sulli
Manager
Killshot Ltd.

S/S/S—DIAMOND LIL 3-WALL

OUTDOOR, MIDWEST RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

AUGUST 15, 16, 17

South Haven, Michigan

- DIVISIONS:** Men and Women's Open, B, C, and Seniors (35 plus)
- LIMIT:** First 16 entrants per division
- DEADLINE:** Wednesday, August 13th. Entries will be accepted by mail or by telephone.
- STARTING TIMES:** First round matches will begin after 3:00 P.M. on Friday. You may call Diamond Lil's (616) 637-8067 on Thursday afternoon or evening for your exact time.
- AWARDS:** Trophies for 1st place. Prizes for second place. Shirts to all entrants.
- LOCATION:** Diamond Lil's is located one block West of Exit 22 on Highway I 196, on North Shore Road, in South Haven, Michigan. South Haven has one of the finest public beaches on Lake Michigan, so be prepared to spend your spare time in the sun. Also be prepared for a party Saturday nite.
- HOUSING:** Participants are invited to camp on Diamond Lil property, or if you prefer, there are motels and resorts available in the area . . . call Lil for assistance.
- ENTRY FEE:** \$8 per entrant.

Send NAME, ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER, and DIVISION along with your check to:

Diamond Lil's
Box 24, Rt 2.
South Haven, Mi. 49090

What Goes Into a 'Good' Racquetball Club?

By BOB SCHMENDRICK

There's a lot of things that go into the making of a good racquetball club, and a lot of it, I know, is strictly a matter of personal preference. Some people put high

import on facility (having a lot of courts, exercise equipment, swimming pool, etc.) and others are more concerned with good in-house leagues and teaching programs. While I don't think it's fair to compare the

large, multi-sport facility with the simple court club, there are some things common to both that I look for in a good club.

The most important factor, as with any business, is ownership. The attitude of ownership towards employees and customers invariably determines many of the most important factors in the running of the club. Namely: are the customer's desires and needs considered **first and foremost**. Do they truly try to make the club as enjoyable and pleasant to use as they can? Many clubs do not. Many clubs have practices with regards to lockers, towels, reserving and selling of court time, etc. that are set up in a way that cause them the least problems and make them the most money with little regard to convenience or inconvenience to the member. For example, one club I know requires you to give them a 12-digit number every time you reserve a court so as to make it easier for them to bill you. Another club, using the same billing system, takes the reservation by name only and then gets the number off your card for you when you come in.

Of course, there are, in my opinion, some "absolutes" that determine a good club — things that almost everyone finds important regardless of the size and type of club. Not necessarily in order of importance, I believe the following to be mandatory in a good club: clean courts; clean locker rooms and viewing area; no smoking allowed in locker rooms or viewing areas; a reasonably easy method of getting towels and lockers; a reasonable method of reserving courts; prices that are in line with the area, market conditions, and type of club; policy and pricing policies toward bringing guests; supplying at least the minimum necessities in toiletries — something to dry your hair with and something to wash your body with, and hopefully, other items like razors, combs, etc.

IN MY OPINION, any "good" club should rank high in all those areas, and any club member should **insist** that high standards be maintained in those areas. There are, of course, many other things that you might want out of your particular

club, and you must consider those things in selecting where you belong.

Things which I consider, because of my particular needs, are: 1) an attractive, attended nursery for my kids; 2) a club that has a lot of in-house tournaments, programs, ladders, etc. so I can find and meet others to play with at my level of play; 3) a really good pro who will not only charge me for lessons, but will give me some pointers from time to time; 4) I happen to love a good whirlpool, so I look for that in a club; 5) I have a "thing" about small lockers, so I tend to spend more time at the club with the bigger lockers, and 6) I happen to like to work out on exercise equipment from time to time, so I belong to a club with a complete equipment room.

There are many other things that various people consider important: some like a place with a bar so they can relax with friends for a drink after the game; some like to take a dip; others like a running track, and still others like a restaurant. Many players like a lot of glass and exhibition area. The list is endless. You should think about these for yourself.

My main motive in writing this article is to get you thinking about what your club provides and what they should provide, and get you to recognize that **you can do something about it**. You should complain if your club is dirty. You should let the owners (or managers) know if you would like to see more back wall glass installed, or more exercise equipment added, or more in-house tournaments. And most importantly, you should think about driving a little farther to a club that might not be quite so convenient if they offer more of what **you** want from a club.

One last point, think about being a member of more than one club. Often, you'll find that the cost is minimal in comparison to what you get. Aside from having more places to get a court when you need it, you get to choose from a wider variety of people to play, more in-house tournaments, and a wider assortment of activities in which to participate.

You pay good money to the club. Choose the club wisely and make your feelings known to management.

The Wright Answer

Editor's note: RACQUETBALL TODAY IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE the addition of Ms. Shannon Wright as an exclusive columnist for this paper. Ms. Wright, who has virtually dominated women's professional racquetball for the past four years, travels around the country giving racquetball clinics and exhibitions, playing in tournaments, and representing Wilson Sporting Goods Company and Triple-S Promotions. Ms. Wright will answer personal and professional questions submitted by our readers and our staff. Please address your questions to Ms. Wright, c/o RACQUETBALL TODAY.



SHANNON WRIGHT

By SHANNON WRIGHT

QUESTION: Do you follow a special diet during a tournament?

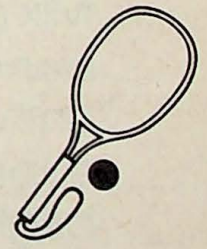
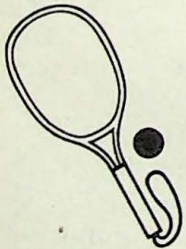
ANSWER: The answer is both yes and no. No, because I try to eat the same kinds and amounts of food all the time. *Eating consistently is a key to playing consistently.* When you know that you have been eating good food in the correct amounts and you still lose a match, then you know that the loss must be attributed to something else — practice, concentration, illness, injury, (or maybe, a superior opponent). But if you have not monitored your diet, how on earth can you know the reason for your loss? In top notch competition most factors that contribute to success are nearly equal among competitors, but by carefully watching your diet, you

can gain a small, but significant edge.

My answer is yes, in relation to what most people today are eating. I try to eat a well-rounded diet. That includes lots of fruit, vegetables, juices, cereals, and other light foods. It does not include liquor, coffee, sweets (other than fruits), soft drinks, or fast foods.

I've played racquetball nearly ten years now and one point that has really been driven home to me is that I don't need to eat nearly as much food as many people think. My mother says, "of course you need to eat more — look how hard you play racquetball." Well I do play intense racquetball, but even racquetball doesn't burn off that many calories. So in the end I really do have to watch both what and how much I eat in order to play top professional racquetball.

ILLINOIS CLUB GUIDE



THE RIGHT CLUB: 2330 N. Hammond Drive, Schaumburg, IL. 397-3300. 8 racquetball courts featuring 4 new glass backwall courts, complete Nautilus-aerobics fitness center with supervised programs and exercise classes; 5 tennis courts featuring indirect lighting providing the highest ceiling in Chicago; cocktail lounge with viewing gallery; attended nursery, whirlpools, saunas, traveling teams, instructional and advanced leagues, sanctioned tournaments, match arranging, social events and parties.

PRO RACQUETBALL AND FITNESS CENTER: 1055 Lake Avenue, Woodstock, IL. (815) 338-8222. 8 climate controlled racquetball/handball courts. Fully carpeted locker rooms including saunas and whirlpools. Nautilus fitness center for extensive exercise programs. Spacious lounge with championship court viewing. A place for everyone to see.

SUPREME COURT: One Virginia Road, Crystal Lake, IL. (815) 455-3330. 10 air-conditioned racquetball courts, saunas, whirlpools, carpeted locker rooms, attended nursery, fully equipped pro shop. Manager/Pro: John Isaacson.

OAK LAWN RACQUET CLUB: 10444 South Central Avenue, Oak Lawn, IL. 499-3626. 5 racquetball/handball courts, 8 tennis courts, saunas, whirlpools, exercise room, carpeted locker rooms, attended nursery, T.V. lounge.

KILLSHOT, LTD: 321 Edgewater Drive, Bloomingdale, IL. 893-9575. 15 climate controlled racquetball/handball courts, fully carpeted locker rooms, large co-ed whirlpool, separate saunas, and massage rooms, extensive exercise room, fully equipped pro shop, attended nursery, spa, room, fully equipped pro shop, attended nursery, spacious lounge with viewing gallery. Horseshoe-shaped bar with 2 way fireplace. Private and group lessons. General Manager/Head Pro: Don Jenkins. Manager/Pro: Sue Sullivan.

CHARLIE CLUB: 2701 Black Road, Joliet, IL. (815) 729-4503. Open 24 hours, 7 days. Restaurant and Disco (open to the public). 8 racquetball/handball courts, 2 indoor tennis courts with special "Sport Sod". Fully equipped men's and women's exercise rooms with Nautilus, Universal and Paramount equipment. Indoor swimming pool and jogging track, one kilometer outdoor parcours; locker rooms include saunas, steam rooms, massage, showers, and private Swedish massage. Supervised nursery. Members over 18 years, Corporate memberships available.

SILVER LAKE COUNTRY CLUB: 147th Street and 82nd Avenue, Orland Park, IL. 349-6947. 9 racquetball/handball courts (1 glass walled court for viewing), saunas, free attended nursery, exercise rooms, full length lockers, extensive bar and lounge. Private and group lessons available.

FOREST VIEW RACQUET CLUB: 800 East Falcon Drive, Arlington Heights, IL. 640-2574. 8 air-conditioned racquetball/handball courts, 6 indoor tennis courts, 6 outdoor tennis courts. Separate saunas and whirlpools, men's and women's locker rooms, attended nursery. Manager/head pro: Jeff Wilke. Racquetball pros: Georgia Maskalunas, Scott Thurber.

TINLEY PARK RACQUETBALL CLUB: 17500 Duvan Drive, Tinley Park, IL. 532-7900. Open 7 days, 6 a.m. to 12 a.m. 15 regulation racquetball/handball courts with unique use of glass for uninterrupted playing and viewing. Luxurious health facilities including saunas, steam bath, whirlpools, Universal exercise areas. Free attended nursery. Pro shop, racquet rental, complete lessons program. Temperature controlled for comfortable year-round play. Home of the plush Prime Time Lounge. Managed by Five Stars International Enterprises, Inc.

THE RACQUET HOUSES

- O'HARE RACQUET HOUSE:** 951 East Touhy Ave., Des Plaines, IL. 296-6144. Club Pro: Shirley Schelthe.
- THORNDALE RACQUET HOUSE:** 1220 Mark St., Bensenville, IL. 595-2020. Club Pro: Colleen Shields.
- HILLSIDE RACQUET HOUSE:** 4401 W. Roosevelt Road, Hillside, IL. 449-2255. Club Pro: Crystal Durdil.
- HARLEM IRVING RACQUET HOUSE:** 4203 North Harlem, Norridge, IL. 457-2040. Club Pro: Sam Rizzio.
- ELMHURST RACQUET HOUSE:** 233 West Grand Avenue, Bensenville, IL. 595-5060. Club Pro: Rose Magliano.

All clubs have racquetball/handball on 8 regulation courts. Carpeted locker rooms, saunas, whirlpools, steamrooms, exercise facilities, free attended nursery, pro shop, racquet rental, group and private lessons, instructional and non-instructional leagues. Open 7 days a week. Director of all club operations: Carol Armstrong. Program Director/Public Relations: Mary Lou Burny

SPAULDING RACQUETBALL CLUBS:
HIGHLAND PARK CLUB: 2699 Skokie Valley Road, Highland Park, IL. 60035. 433-8000.

NORTHBROOK CLUB: 2175 Commercial Avenue, Northbrook, IL. 60062. 498-9890.

LINCOLN PARK CLUB: 220 West North Avenue, Chicago, IL. 60610. 943-2266.

All clubs have 12 air-conditioned racquetball/handball courts, carpeted locker rooms, saunas, whirlpools, free attended nursery, pro shop, racquet rentals, group and private lessons, leagues, programs and parties. Open 7 days a week.

TREBORSHIRE HEALTH & RACQUET CLUB: 195th Street and Glenwood Road, Glenwood, Ill. 60425. 754-8400. Four racquetball, 7 tennis regulation courts. Whirlpool, sauna, complete bar and health facilities under construction. **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. NO GUEST FEES OR MEMBER-**

SHIP FEES THROUGH SEPTEMBER, 1980. LOWEST COURT RATES IN THE AREA. Charter memberships now available. Tennis and Racquetball Pros. Tom Karras and Frank Johnson, your new owner/manager/racquetball pros.

CONTINENTAL CLUB: 1701 Golf Road, Rolling Meadows, Ill. 981-7777. Ten racquetball/handball courts, two squash courts, indoor swimming pool and whirlpool, indoor running track. Nautilus equipment, basketball, volleyball, Judo, Karate, golf driving. Separate Paramount equipment workout rooms for men and women. Carpeted locker rooms for men and women with sauna, steam, sun rooms. Color TV in lounges, towels & toiletries, massages. Free attended nursery, pro shop, group and private lessons available. Open 7 days a week. This club is built in conjunction with restaurants, Deli, shops and three twelve story office towers. Individual and Corporate memberships available; Charter membership available until June 1; call Debbie Engle, Director of Membership, 312-981-7777. General Manager: Norb Duba.

CHALET SPORTS CORE: 8300 South Wolf Road, Willow Springs, IL. 246-4030. Conveniently located 1 mile from the Tri-State and Stevenson expressways. 22 racquetball/handball courts, indoor swimming pool, indoor running track, exercise room, saunas, whirlpools, steamroom, sunroom, free attended nursery, pro shop, cocktail lounge and disco.

WHEATON SPORT CENTER: 1000 Prairie Avenue, Wheaton, IL. (312) 690-0887. Featuring 12 indoor racquetball courts, three with back wall glass for viewing; six indoor tennis courts; two outdoor tennis courts; 25-yard, six-lane, indoor pool; free attended nursery; dance studio; indoor running track; complete pro shop; steam, saunas and whirlpools; racquetball and tennis lessons available; other outdoor activities including golf driving range for members.

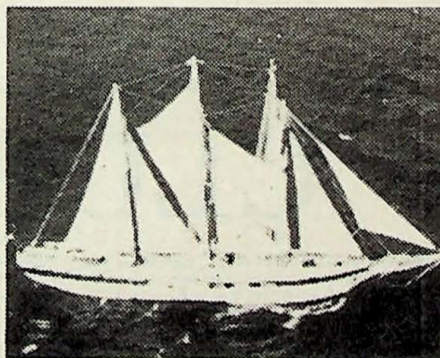
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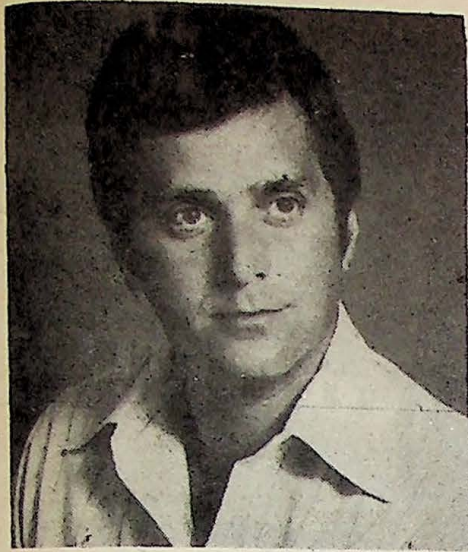
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By PHIL SIMBORG

When racquetball came into being some 30 years ago, the ex-handball players found it convenient to simply apply the rules of handball to their new game. That made sense at the time, because racquetball had no organization, or experience to experiment with the game and determine the best set of rules for the particular characteristics of the game. Over the years, the game of racquetball, itself, has changed, but the rules have remained essentially the same. They have remained the same, not necessarily because they were so good, but because people who are closely allied with handball have continued to control the rules of racquetball;

It's Time to Change the Rules

because there is a general tendency toward conservatism in the hierarchy of all large organizations; and because, I think, people have just plain been lacking in time, desire, and imagination to experiment with new ideas.

Following are three basic rule changes that I think would greatly enhance the sport of racquetball. You don't have to wait for these changes to be made official nationally in order to start using them in our private and local games and tournaments, and I think if you try them with an open mind, you'll agree that they are definite improvements.

1. ONE SERVE. By eliminating the second serve, two very important improvements occur: a lot of "drag time" between serves is eliminated, which speeds up the game, makes it more exciting to play or watch, and ends up giving the participants a significantly better workout, and; the server's advantage is significantly reduced, which makes the game fairer, more interesting, and more likely to result in longer rallies.

2. BOTH SERVER AND RECEIVER SCORE POINTS. This rule further reduces the service advantage, and puts both players on an equal basis on each rally. This would eliminate the current strategy of playing defensively when

you're receiving and more offensively when you serve . . . that strategy results in a lot of "no-risk" kill attempts, a lot of side outs, and, again, gives the server and artificial and unfair advantage. "Total scoring" provides another very important benefit: it would be easy to predict, within reasonable limits, how long a match will take (depending on how many points the game is played to). This would make the scheduling of tournament matches, court times, and most importantly, television coverage much easier.

3. SHORTER GAMES. I recommend playing 3 of 5 games to 7 or 11 (depending on time available). Games to 15 or 21 get boring and lose intensity for both the players and the spectators. In the shorter games, every point is critical, and therefore more exciting for all. The players are forced to push themselves harder at all times, and the result is a game that is not only more exciting, but is a much better workout.

One of the leading arguments for not changing the rules of a given sport is the "why-argue-with-success" theory. The sport is growing in popularity, and millions love it already, so why change the rules?

Racquetball could take a lesson from other major sports that will clearly repudiate the above argument:

TENNIS: going to tie-breakers to decide the set;

BASKETBALL: widening the three-second zone, changing free-throw rules, and going with a three-point field goal;

FOOTBALL: moving back the kickoff, and changing field goal rules;

BASEBALL: designated hitter, and playoffs.

The list goes on and on. These major sports, too, were growing and were certainly well-established, but the "powers that be" recognized the need to make changes that would make the sport more interesting and exciting, both to play and watch; that would make the game more adaptable to television audiences and scheduling, and finally, that would keep the game fair in view of advances in player ability and equipment being developed for use at the professional level.

Ability to recognize that these changes are needed, and "mental flexibility" to accept and make these changes, is a sign of strength, not weakness; of foresightedness instead of stubbornness; of imagination and guts instead of conservatism and cowardice.

I sincerely believe three things about the above recommended rules: 1) the game would be fairer and more exciting to play and watch; 2) within any given period of time, you would get a better cardiovascular workout using the above rules than using the current rules, and; 3) these changes would not be adopted by the national racquetball associations that currently write the rules until they are first adopted, tested, and proven at the local levels and by other groups and associations . . . the change would come from the bottom up, not from the top.

I urge you to try these changes and, if you like them, contact your local racquetball organizations and tournament promoters and urge them to try them, and write the USRA and AARA.

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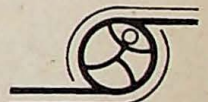
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ENTRY DEADLINE: All entry blanks and corresponding entry fees must be in the possession of tournament director by Friday, August 15, 1980.
ENTRY FEE: \$20 per entry; except the entry fee for 1979 S & S entrants is \$15. Mixed Doubles entry fee \$20.
RULES OF SANCTION PLAY: All current ISRA/USRA rules will govern play. No player having accepted \$1000 or more in prize money on NRC Pro Tour within last 12 months may enter.
ELIGIBILITY: All participants must be current ISRA/USRA members.
AWARDS: Trophies to first four places in all events, and 1st place consolation.
PAYMENT: Make checks payable to Racquetball Enterprises 570 E. Higgins, Elk Grove Village, IL 60007
STARTING TIMES: Entrants will be notified by postcard. (If you do not receive a post card by Wednesday, May 14, call the club 312/934-4900.
CONSOLATION: All Divisions—First-round losers must sign up.
LIMITATIONS ON ENTRANTS: Open: All eligible. A: Have not been a winner in A or open. B: Have not been a finalist once, or semi-finalist twice in B. C: Have not been a finalist once, or semi-finalist twice in C. D: Have not been a finalist once or semi-finalist twice in D.
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Please Enter Me In: Men Women

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 Veteran Open (30+) Sr. B
 Senior Singles (35+) Sr. C
 Veteran Senior Singles (40+) Master B
 Master Singles (45+) Master C
 Veteran Master Singles (50+) Mixed Double Open
 Golden Master Singles (55+) Mixed Doubles A
 A Mixed Doubles B
 B Mixed Doubles C
 C

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