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**SPECIAL
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**The Professional
Game:**

**Egan Inoue
The New Force?**

What The Pro's Say

**Garfinkel Compares
Then and Now**





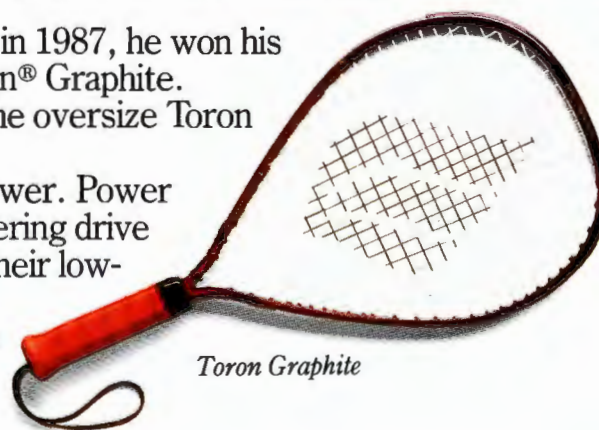
HALF THE PROS SWEAR BY IT. THE OTHER HALF SWEAR AT IT.

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Off The Wall

by Mark Wentura



Mark Wentura is product manager for Ektelon and serves on the Board of Directors of the Racquetball Manufacturers Association.

Over the past few years, the men's pro tour has been in varying stages of confusion. After a particularly disappointing 1986-87 season end, the dust has started to settle and it's now possible to see where the pro tour was stumbling and where it's now going.

The RMA, as the official supporter and organizer of the pro tour since 1985, has played a major, aggressive role in seeking solutions to the problems choking the pro tour. As such, it can offer some perspective on what problems had to be overcome and what's been accomplished to assure the success of the tour.

The RMA detected early on that the disorganization and conflicting goals of independent promoters who had something in mind other than the spirit of the sport — such as personal ambition and avarice — had given the tour a black eye. Conflicting sponsorships and erratic player elimination rules had hurt players and manufacturers alike, while damaging the atmosphere of goodwill and positive experiences needed to obtain new sponsors.

The RMA determined that the key to success was to get the players, manufacturers and tournament directors all working as a team towards one common objective — NOT as opponents.

For the last few years, the RMA has been doing everything in its power to get the tour established and to secure sponsors. The first step it took was to appoint Jim Hiser as commissioner to oversee each tournament.

Another giant step was to create the Pro Council, which will meet for the first time this Fall. The Pro

Council will be a united voice of all those whose interests are allied with the pro tour. It is made up of two players from the pro tour, two manufacturers from the RMA and two tournament directors. These representatives will become the pro tour management entity, thus releasing the RMA to go back to its original responsibilities — development of other activities and programs which help the sport grow, at not only the professional level, but in the amateur and recreational areas, as well.

As for the players, the RMA has set guidelines for consistent participation of players to provide a better guarantee to tournament directors and sponsors. Professional prize money has been increased to \$17,500 per pro stop to increase player participation. The 1987-88 season goal is to provide eight premier pro stops and a major culminating championship tournament.

Speaking of nationals, I of course have to mention the Ektelon Nationals (this is, after all, my 'forum'). When the Ektelon Nationals were canceled, some of the industry jumped to the mistaken conclusion that Ektelon was abandoning the pro tour. That was never the case. We are still very actively involved in professional sponsorship, and, in fact, sponsor many of the pro players ranked in the top twenty. And we're proud of the fact that we sponsor the number one male and female professional players, Mike Yellen and Lynn Adams. In addition, Ektelon is continuing to help amateur players move up in the ranks by providing them with a myriad of education and growth opportunities.

In addition to internal changes

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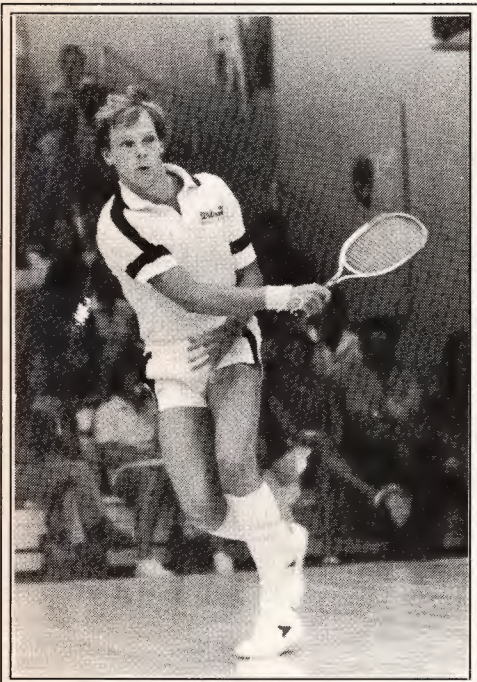
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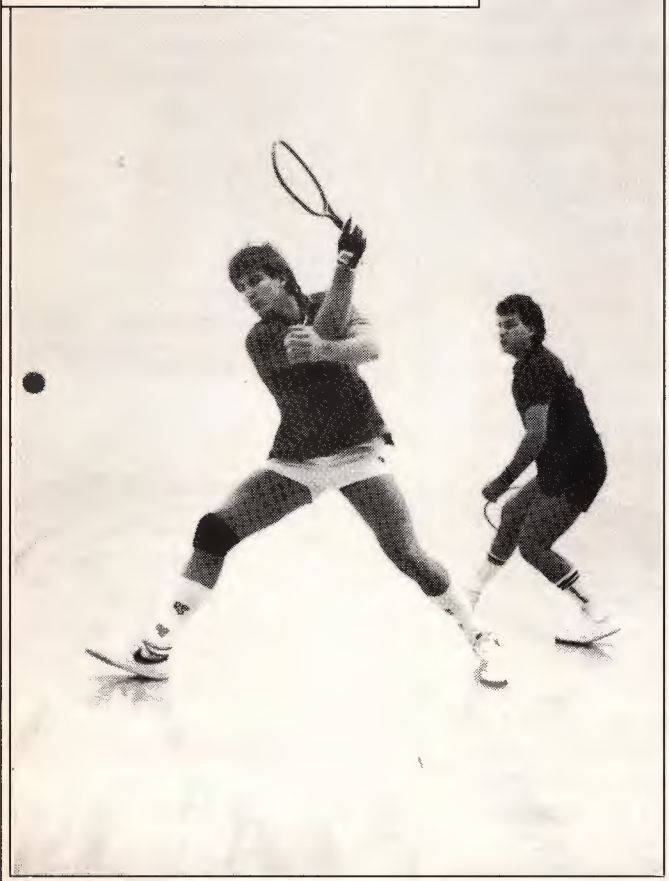
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National Racquetball®



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On the cover: Egan Inoue.

Photo: Lori Rodrigues.

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Booming Surf To Booming Serve

by Sigmund Brouwer

A surfboard is a fragile and precarious perch when you are at the bottom of a monstrous curve of water that towers the height of two racquetball courts above your head. Worse, you are riding only a few cushioning feet of water above the razor sharp edges of hard reef. And if you survive a fall onto the reef beneath the crushing tons of water, there remains the agony of holding your breath as the current tumbles you almost to the point of drowning.

Egan Inoue knows all that. So after spending time as semi-pro surfer on his native island of Hawaii, it takes a lot to unsettle him on the racquetball court.

In the last six months, Egan has assaulted the pro ranks with a combination of that ability to deal with pressure, the biggest blur of a serve in the sport today, and a new game plan sparked by intelligent coaching. Still, if one or two things had turned out differently, he would never have come close.

First there was surfing. If he had been good enough, he may never have left the waves. And as he points out with chagrin, there were one or two times he almost didn't come out at all, barely reaching surface to choke out water pumped into his lungs after a hard fall.

Second, there was money, or lack of it. It took luck, a

Photo by Lori Rodrigues

chance meeting with one of the best managers in racquetball — to turn his career around into a spectacular comeback.

Inoue was on the verge of quitting in January. His best finish, the semifinals of a pro stop, had been more than a year earlier. There had

been keeping his eye out for someone else in the sport. "I had a lot of chances to manage other players, but I wanted somebody I thought had that special extra. It didn't take me long to decide Egan had it, and I wanted to help."

It took exactly one tournament

...in the last six months, Egan has assaulted the pro ranks with the ability to deal with pressure, a blurr of a drive serve, and a new game plan...

been a quarter final finish at Davison in the beginning of the 1987 season, but since then he had dropped so low in the rankings that he was forced to qualify for tournaments.

Inoue had retreated to Hawaii and registered at the university there, not intending to play another professional tournament. Each trip to the mainland cost him nearly a thousand dollars, and travel expenses, even when sponsored by Ektelon, run out quickly at that rate. He had already borrowed from his parents, and did not want to borrow more. Inoue says, "I don't think I would have gotten back into it later. I had pretty well made up my mind that I was finished. I couldn't see where I would make money, and without travel funding I was finished."

Then the visit by lady luck. A friend called him and asked him to play a fellow from the mainland who needed a good game, needed some competition. Inoue obliged and won easily, then sat down and talked. And listened.

The mainland fellow was Dr. Fred Lewerenz, manager of five-time national champion Mike Yellen, sports doctor to a stable of boxers that includes Thomas Hearns and Mike Tyson. Lewerenz, an ex-professional racquetball player himself, had negotiated Yellen's million-dollar contract with Ektelon, and was one of three instrumental coaches during Yellen's early career.

Later, Fred said that he had

for his faith to be justified. Egan says, "He has helped me a lot in my mental game. Ever since I ran into him my game has jumped. He helped me out with my shot selection, how to get ready for tournaments, what to think while you're on the court, how to think in certain situations. Before, I'd go into it and I'd just go in there and play ball."

The next tournament was the

...The hours of practice on serve alone generated Egan's well-known and dreaded drive serves, estimated by RMA Commissioner Jim Hiser at "160 mph, or more"...

Tulsa stop. Egan lost three straight to Bret Harnett, but not until the quarter finals. Two tournaments later, after beating both of the Peck brothers and then Mike Yellen, Egan lost in the finals against Marty Hogan. Incredibly, one pro stop after that, the A'ME/Head Nationals in Minneapolis, Inoue not only made the finals, where he faced Yellen, but he won.

Nobody, not even Egan, will deny that a lot of his gigantic blast to the number five spot on the tour has resulted from his serve.

When he started playing, another Hawaiian, Joe Decker, coached him and stressed serves.

The hours of practice on serve alone generated Egan's well-known and dreaded drive serves, estimated by RMA Commissioner Jim Hiser at "160 mph, or more".

At one tournament, Marty Hogan watched Inoue, and before each serve, told spectators, "The venom serve. Here comes the venom serve."

With that kind of serve, by comparison, the rest of Inoue's game is weaker. Jim Cascio beat Inoue in a quarter final 11-10 tiebreaker during the AARA championships last May, by managing, barely, to consistently take that serve to the ceiling, to let him successfully test the other parts of Inoue's game.

Egan started playing about six years ago. He is 21 now, and the first time he picked up a racquet was to play his mother. "Wanting to play started with my mom. I had to beat her. That took a couple of days, then I couldn't beat my Dad. And then after that was the challenge court at the club."

Wanting to win each progression of levels led Inoue to his first

state championship four years ago. Last year, he won the world championship title in Orlando, FL, and also the Tourneo de las Americas in Venezuela. Then the professional game. "It's tough coming up the ranks. Everybody in the qualifying wants to make it. They're real hungry. You have to be in good shape to go through those rounds and then play against a fresh pro."

This season, he has the luxury of being one of those fresh pros at each stop, and all of Inoue's new challenges will be at the very top of racquetball's mountain.

Mike Yellen is in his prime, and
(continued on the next page)



Bret Harnett (above) searches for Egan Inoue's backhand return.

five national championships is an incredible feat on a tour packed with today's racquetball might. There are the others who are hot for Yellen's blood. Bret Harnett, Cliff Swain, Steve Lerner, Gregg Peck and Mike Ray are young, good, and hungry. The older professionals, Ed Andrews and Ruben Gonzalez are equally tough. And of course, there is always the looming spectre of Marty Hogan.

Against all those odds, will Egan Inoue be the king to follow the progression of Charlie Brumfield, Marty Hogan and Mike Yellen?

Just know that before the finals match between Inoue and Yellen in Minneapolis, Inoue thought it might be a good idea to try cooling Mike's fires by mentioning Yellen was already national champion because of the semifinal victory over Harnett.

As Inoue tells it, "Yellen said 'I'm a man of insurance, I'm gonna kick your butt.' He wasn't mad serious when he said it, but he wasn't joking either. It scared me for a bit."

Then Inoue won in straight games. ○



Off Court Fitness

by Jean Sauser

... Like all of us do when we're going for gold, he was imagining himself finishing first. He was obsessed ...



Escape From Alcatraz

Everyone has it inside them. One great performance. In sports, it's often called the dark horse, or personal best. Whatever you call it, watching someone perform beyond their known talent level to reach new heights can be as exciting as watching your home team win the superbowl, especially when it's somebody close to you.

It was the summer of 1983. Having just retired from professional racquetball, I was ready for a break from being involved with participator sports. That same summer, my brother Jim took up triathalons and became a triathalon buff.

He trained hard for a year, then came his opportunity. A race called the "Escape From Alcatraz". Yes, held in San Francisco Bay (sharks and all), from Alcatraz to Fisherman's Wharf. From there, 26 miles of biking out of town over the Golden Gate Bridge to Marin County. Then a 17 mile footrace, the "Double Dipsy", which meant going up little stairs over a hill the size of a mountain, down the other side, back up and over again.

Jim trained for this race like I've never seen anyone who was not a pro train. It was Options Trader by day, triathalete by night. His training schedule consisted of four hours a night, and all day on weekends. He lived on a bike, in Lake Michigan, and in his running shoes.

Like all of us do when we're going for gold, he was imagining himself finishing first. He was obsessed. Having been that way with racquetball, for me it was fun to watch. For my mother, it was,

"Your brother has gone nuts."

I had a hunch that Jim would surprise everyone at this race, so I decided to go with him to San Francisco and watch. His best friend, John, decided to do the same.

On the morning of the race — 4 a.m. to be exact — John and I found ourselves freezing, fully dressed on Fisherman's Wharf. There was Jim, standing cool, calm and collected with the some hundred or so other men and women wearing only swimsuits, on a ferry headed for Alcatraz.

It was an amazing sight, all of those bright orange swim caps in San Francisco Bay. As the first swimmers came out of the water, I noticed a woman in the top ten. I was liking this race better and better.

Jim came out halfway back in with the rest of the amateurs.

John and I jumped in our rental car and sped to where the triathletes would arrive to change into their running clothes after biking. As we passed the bikers on the Golden Gate Bridge, I was

(continued on page 44)

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Exercise For A Better Game

Make sure workouts help your game — without hurting you

by Dr. Ziegenfuss

To improve your racquetball game, it is essential to practice off the court as well as on the court.

If you are working out at a local health club, try to find someone with a knowledge of physical training to supervise you and help you to reach your goal. An instructor at your club would be an ideal candidate to be your "coach".

I would also recommend that you get a physical from that supervisor. The supervisor should be able to evaluate your current health status and locate any weaknesses in your current physical condition. We are all aware of our own weaknesses, too. For example, if you have a history of low back problems, that would aggravate this area. Get into a program that will effectively work through these problem spots.

Seek out the advice of someone knowledgeable. If a club supervisor is not available, you may want to get the expertise of a chiropractor, physical therapist, exercise physiologist, or anyone else knowledgeable in the workings of the body. By working

with someone to set up an intelligent workout program, you can greatly reduce injuries and more rapidly improve your game.

As well, a 20 minute aerobic program can greatly enhance your endurance and therefore improve

... By working with someone to set up an intelligent workout program, you can greatly reduce injuries and more rapidly improve your game ...

your stamina while on the court.

A good procedure to follow for executing an aerobics program is to treat your workout as you would a racquetball game. Warm up by stretching your muscle groups, do the workout, and then cool down by stretching those same muscle groups. This procedure is important to avoid muscle cramping and injury.

Precautions:

1. Avoid aggravating weak muscular regions of your body. For instance, if your low back happens to be your weak area, make sure your muscles in the low

back and legs are as flexible as possible.

2. Always stretch before and after to reduce the risk of muscle cramping.

3. Stretch within your own limits and relax.

4. Remember not to bounce while stretching. Bouncing will stiffen the very muscles you are trying to stretch.

5. Do not try to play with an injury. If you have an aggravated injury, seek the necessary professional advice before continuing with a workout program.

In essence, consult with someone knowledgeable to help structure your program. Treat the program like a racquetball game by warming up and cooling down. Better strength and endurance in a workout will lead to the same in your game.

Any questions regarding this article may be sent to Dr. Ziegenfuss c/o National Racquetball, or directly to him at 9211 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda, MD 20814. Dr. Ziegenfuss would like to thank Maria Bach at the Bethesda Racquet and Health Club for help with the article. ○

Racquetball for Beginners — The basics of solid contact

At any level, at any time, with any strike and set-up, each swing and contact with the ball should be solid. It should have a solid feel to it, and a good sharp report when you hit the ball. This is part of the sensory feedback you depend on to tell you that all the parts of the stroke went right.

A bad sound or feel from the racquet tells you something went wrong. When that happens, decide from the following what it was, and try to make corrections.

Usually it is a failure of the racquet to face the shot you attempt. The racquet is slanted up or down, or the wrist has snap-

ped too soon or too late and the racquet is angled towards one of the sidewalls. When this happens, the ball slides across the strings instead of hitting them solidly. The result is a loss of control and power.

The racquet may have twisted in the grip when the ball hit the strings. This will also produce a bad sound and/or feel. Racquet twisting happens when the ball is hit off-center, out of the sweet spot and closer to the frame of the racquet. As well, gripping your racquet too tightly throughout the match allows fatigue to rob your hand of strength so

that twisting might occur. If your racquet twists more at the end of the hour than at the beginning, you are probably over-gripping the racquet.

Finally, you may have mishit the ball completely, using part of the frame or handle to hit the ball. Catching the ball early in the throat of the racquet will sling the ball towards the top of the frame and feel more like a throw than a hit. This double hit is also illegal.

Remember, pay attention to the sound and feel of the contact. It should be solid all the time, no matter how fast or slow you swing.

What's The Call

by Michael Arnolt

... The referee does not have the luxury of making no call ...



Appeal process; ref must make the call

Q: At the Junior Nationals in Columbus, Ohio, I witnessed what I believe to be a misinterpretation of the rule concerning appeals. The scenario: Player A dives for a ball and returns it to the front wall. Player B signals his belief that the ball bounced twice by raising his hand during the rally. After the rally, Player B appeals the call.

Because his view was blocked by the diving player, the referee said he could not make a call. During the appeal process, the referee placed his "open palm down" (signaling no opinion); one line judge said the get was good, and the other said it was a double bounce pickup. The referee ruled the rally must be replayed because he made no call and the line judges had disagreed with each other.

Jim Daly, Lexington, NC

A: It would be fair to say there was a misinterpretation and misunderstanding of the appeal process, Jim. As you explain the scenario, the correct call would

continue to play. The referee speaks to end a rally generally by calling point, sideout, handout, fault, hinder, or some variation. So unless something obvious happens, such as a ball leaving the court or the offensive player turning away from the play because of a shot he knows did not make it to the front wall, all players may assume the shot was good.

Now, for the referee's responsibility. The referee does not have the luxury of making no call, especially in a match with line judges. No call, as in this case, signals to the players and line judges that the referee thought the get was good. Also, it is improper for line judges to verbally respond to an appeal. This should have followed the appeal:

Ref: "I called Player A's shot good. Player B appeals that it was a double-bounce pickup."

Immediately following the explanation, and without looking at the referee, other line judge or the players, the line judges should extend one hand in clear view of

Whenever a referee is silent during a rally, the players must assume that the ball is alive and continue to play.

have been a call in favor of Player A. The progression of thought that applies to this appeal or play in general is as follows:

Whenever a referee is silent during a rally, the players must assume that the ball is alive and

the players with the signal of thumb up (to agree with the ref) or thumb down (to disagree) or open palm (no opinion). This is explained on page eight of the current AARA rulebook in sections 1.F. and 1.G. ○

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Behind each performance, though, are the hundreds of hours of practice, the thousands of dollars and

Lynn Adams

I owed everybody money so I could start travelling around because I had no sponsor. But still, I really don't feel like I've given anything up, because I was doing what I liked. Sure, I give up some time at home, but I don't necessarily consider that a sacrifice because I enjoy the travelling.

Now, if I don't have a family within the next five years, at that point, I might feel like I had given up something, but I fully intend to have a family in the next five years.

Looking back, my worst moment was right after my best moment. It was right after I won the national title for my first time. That was about the biggest thrill for me in racquetball. But then there was a letdown. You do



something, work so hard to reach a certain point — and my whole life was focused to being number one and winning the nationals — and then I realized Monday still comes, Tuesday still comes and things just don't stop. That was a big reality jolt for me.

That's why the second national title was so satisfying, because by then I realized that life

goes on and what to do about it. That was probably the most *satisfying* thing for me in racquetball because I had worked through a lot of things to win it again.

Racquetball has given me too many rewards to count. I also feel like I know so much more about life and myself because of all the experience I've had to deal with in racquetball, that I might not have had otherwise.

I know that I have confidence from what I have accomplished, that I can go into any area that I want to go into and be successful.

uncounted defeats it took for each professional player to reach the pinnacle of a career in racquetball.

Playing professional racquetball is not easy. Physically, it is a hard game. The tour demands extensive travel and dozens of nights in strange hotels in strange cities. A career is a precarious thing; nobody guarantees any professional an end of season ranking, a sponsorship past the current contract, or even a tournament win.

As most players will say, racquetball itself is what drives them. Not money, not fame. They like — many say love — to play racquetball, and winning is important.

Here, then, is what some of the players feel about the price and rewards in professional racquetball.

Ed Andrews

When I started, I didn't even know racquetball had tournaments. Then I met this guy at the club where I started to play, and he told me about tournaments. The one thing that really got me going, really got me hooked was that I won the first tournament that I ever entered.

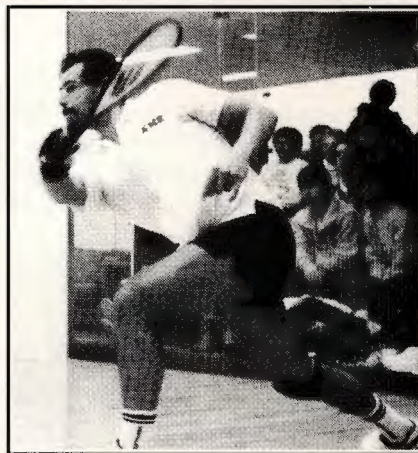
I never knew I would be a pro racquetball player. It's not like something I set out to do. It was just something that happened. The reason I originally began to play racquetball was because I enjoyed the game. When I do something, I do it head first. I really wanted to see how good I could be and I wanted to test myself in racquetball.

To become a professional, I think I gave up a little money. I had a good job in a small boat yard building custom yachts. I enjoyed the job I was doing, but basically I wanted to see how good I could get at racquetball.

Before I was sponsored by Ektelon in 1982, I used to drive to a lot of tournaments and sleep in my van in the parking lots of clubs.

I've had a few things that really stick out in my mind, but the first time I ever played Marty Hogan was the highlight of racquetball for me because I beat him. I was just starting to play the pros and I heard through the grapevine that Marty had made a comment on a talk show on ESPN saying that if he ever played me he'd kill me and I'd be no problem, he'd wipe the court with me. It was about a three and a half hour match, and that was about one of my best wins ever. That plus winning a pro tournament (in Vancouver) after playing so long on the pro tour and then finally winning.

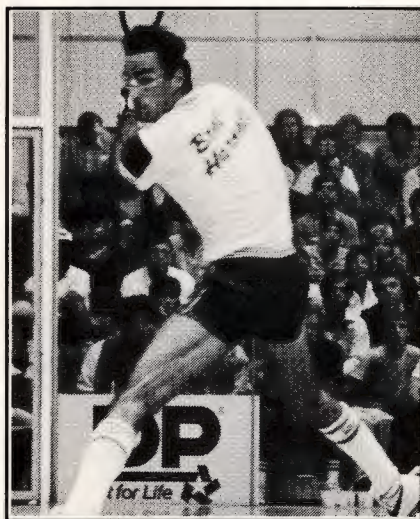
There's been a few times I felt like quitting. What stopped me was maybe determination. I thought I was a better racquetball player than I was ranked and I just wanted to prove to myself that I was.



Bret Harnett

For me, becoming a professional happened because I just played and was good and year by year it kept getting more and more serious.

I never had what you would call a hero, but did have players that I would watch. I took bits and pieces from a lot of players. After I saw them doing something, I would be down on the court and I would try to perfect exactly what they had done. I took a little of Yellen's strategy, and little of the mental attitude from Hogan, some shots from Strandemo, Brumfield.



One of the biggest sacrifices I made was my social life in high school because I was constantly travelling. Of course I was having fun at the time, and I had racquetball friends I would see at each tournament. But it was a lot different than high school buddies.

For me, any national title that I won has been an incredible thrill, starting when I was the 15 and under national junior champion. Then I won the amateur national title here in Vegas a year later. I had a deal with my manager that if I won the tournament he would give me a Mazda RX7. So at 16 I won the car and was the best amateur in the nation. (Beat Andrews in the finals.)

Still, I've had some up and downs. Everybody has their slumps. A whole year before that amateur title, I didn't win a single amateur tournament across the country. I felt slow because I was growing, but I never seriously thought about quitting.

What keeps me going now is that I'm winning. I've found out that all I've got to do is play well, work hard, and when you win you tend to want to play more. I still don't think I've reached my peak yet.

Marty Hogan

There's no way you can get into a sport because you think it pays more money, you make the commitment because you love doing it. All the guys that you see from the third ranking position on down, are guys that just haven't put all the pieces of the puzzle together to get to be the best there is. You have to be mentally 100% sure and positive about what you want to do out there. Physically you have to be able to do it too.

And being a professional athlete in any sport, is a 24 hour-a-day, 365 day-a-year commitment because you are trying to do things with your body that your body was not made to do. My early years I used to train 6-8 hours a day. I used to be on that racquetball court from the time it opened to the time it closed. You have to be in great shape, plus learn the strategies.

My approach was that I always, always thought of new ways of improving, of making myself better. For me, I never expected anything out of racquetball. Anything that has happened has been gravy because I always played because I loved the game.



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Caryn McKinney

To me, being a professional takes the perseverance to improve to a level of mastery over a long period of time. The dedication to do something like that is tough. We're all a generation of quick-fix, get-rich-quick, and get-great-fast and it just doesn't happen like that in racquetball. The longer you stick with it the harder it is to improve — six years ago I could improve a tremendous amount. Now I have to put in three times that amount to improve even a very small amount.

But because I enjoy what I do so much, it's hard to recognize the real prices that I pay. There's certainly plenty in terms of the dedication. You can't just work hard



at it for a couple of weeks or even a couple of months and then back off, it's to me the perseverance, from every standpoint — court skills and mechanics, general improvement in mental skills, physical skills and conditioning.

Definitely, I sacrificed the ability to develop and build a law career, but the choice was

to do the thing I enjoy the most, so it's hard even to think of that as a sacrifice.

You give up a social life to a degree, merely because you travel so much, but to mesometimes that is good. I think being away from homesometimes helps a relationship.

When I started, there was a financial struggle there, dealing with the fact that you knew you were going to a tournament and only would get to play one or two matches, and knowing that you were paying three or four hundred dollars airfare for that opportunity and you sure weren't going to come home with that kind of money. But you really have to pay your dues, and that to me is part of anything that you do that you really want to do well.

I would say that beating Lynn Adams in March and winning my first pro tournament were two career highlights. I won't forget it either. In the March tournament, the last shot I hit was a passing shot to Lynn's backhand. I can see it clear as day, I can still watch it going by her racquet.

There was never a point where it occurred to me to quit. I never had a huge jump in the rankings. It's been indicative of the type of player I am, consistency and just keep pecking away, and it's reflected in that change in ranking.

I think I can play at least another five years, barring injury. How much more fortunate can I be than to do something that I enjoy and make a reasonable living at it?

Cliff Swain

There's never been a time when I felt like quitting racquetball. I've been down and felt like not playing — sometimes three quarters of the way through the season it can get a little monotonous, the travel and everything, but it goes away. Sometimes if I lose, I'll be upset enough to want to play again. Because for me, when I lose, I know it's worse losing than not wanting to play.

There was a time when I had to take money out of my pocket to play, but luckily I was doing well enough in the open tournaments, and making money to pay those. There was a time when I was breaking even or losing a couple of bucks, but it was never bad.

I feel a sacrifice I make as a professional is that I can't go to school full-time. I'd really like to be able to work on my education because I'd hate to lose it, but racquetball is more important right now. What I'll do instead is start part-time in Sep-

tember, taking two or three courses like public relations, public speaking, or a business course so I can own my own business in the future.

Definitely social life is another sacrifice. I'm probably away two or three weeks every month during the season and that can be rough.

But, I just like playing racquetball. I like to win and I'd like to be the best there is. I'd give up anything to be number one.

Do I see it happening soon? It better. (he laughs) I'm not playing this game for any other reason. The money's nice and the travel, meeting different people is good, but I'd like to be number one. Soon.

What keeps me going is that I like playing. I like competition, I always have. If I was to get to be number one, I wouldn't be through, I'd like to see if I could do it two years in a row.

Winning my first pro tournament was an unbelievable feeling and winning the Ektelon Nationals was another good feeling. When I won the Tulsa Open, I beat Scott Oliver for my first pro tournament. The last point was an ace to the forehand side and for some reason, when I hit the serve, I just felt there was no way I wasn't going to get the point. The feeling was unbelievable.

I'm sure that's what every racquetball player dreams of, winning a pro tournament. The feeling lasted for a while. The initial shock was probably over after a couple of days, but it was still there until the next tournament, and then you forget about it.



Mike Yellen

My number one objective is to play the best racquetball that I'm capable of playing.. What keeps me going is that I know I'm a top competitor, and I try to play the best ball I'm capable of playing.

As a professional, there comes a point in time that there is a market for you to appear in clinics, lectures and speaking engagements. At that point in time, those opportunities pay well. But you have to watch out, because too much of those types of things can hurt your playing game, because you mentally drain yourself from these outside activities.

Sacrifices? I fell in love with the game. I didn't start playing until I was 13, and to play the first couple of pro tournaments at 16, there is no question I spent my fair share of time on the court. There were days that I spent 8-10 hours on the court. Sacrifices were made, but at that time, I didn't look at them as if they were sacrifices, because it was what I wanted to do. Maybe I missed a few social things and maybe I didn't date as often as I would have, but it never felt like a loss.

But in terms of rewards, there have been quite a few. Winning my first national championship in the fashion that I did was one of my greatest thrills.

Basically, I was way behind in points in the 81/82 season. I was number three before the run started. Dave Peck was number two, Marty was one. We had four tournaments left, the Ektelon, Catalina, DP Nationals. It took me winning all four of those tournaments just to tie Hogan in points. Then it became a matter of who won more head-to-head matches that season. Not only that, but the last match of the last tournament came down to Hogan and I in the finals. There were a lot of firsts, the first time anyone won the grand slam, the first national championship for me.



Fran Davis

My travel takes me to a different city every week and I am staying three or four nights outside my house, so it can get very, very lonely. The WPRM tour has it in their contract that the clubs will provide pros with private housing where possible. Otherwise, I would go crazy if I had to stay in a hotel all the time.

I would say since 1975 or so, racquetball has been a major part of my life.



I don't know if in ten years I will still be competing but I will always be involved in racquetball teaching and doing clinics. In fact, if somebody gave me a choice and said I could either be a clinician or play racquetball competitively, I would be a clinician. I love to teach, I love to promote, I love to work with people on the grass roots level of racquetball.

For me to be on the road 70 percent of the time and leave my house and waterbed and all that, I really have to love what I do. I wouldn't give it up for the world. ○

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Instructional Tips from Fran and Jim

A Better Ceiling Ball

Ask yourself these questions, "Can you hit 10-15 ceiling balls in a row? Do they come off the back wall, drop short, or catch the sidewalls for a set-up?" These are very common mistakes which occur when you hit a ceiling ball incorrectly.

The ceiling ball is most widely used as a defensive shot in the game of racquetball. If you have a weak ceiling ball one of these things could happen: you will be vulnerable deep in the court, especially on service returns, you will not be effective at drawing your opponent out of center court position when needed, or you will probably give your opponents too many set-ups. In order to be strong defensively and have a good all-around game your ceiling ball must be consistent and sharp. You also need to have patience; patience is a virtue.

To perfect your ceiling ball game you should be using the same stance and stroke as you do in the basic forehand: square to the side wall, step into your shot, shift your weight forward, rotate your hips, follow-through and hit the ball out in front of you at full extension (see our previous article in the July issue). The ceiling ball shot is

no different except for the height of contact (see figure 1).

Take this moment to imagine your self having a catch with a friend. You decide to throw them a pop-up ball (see figures 2). Or better yet, go out on a clear, crisp night and look up at the sky. Imagine reaching up to grasp a star. Both of these are the types of motion that will assist you in hitting a better ceiling ball.

In this ever changing game of racquetball, you cannot just get out on the court and rip every ball 150 mph and expect to win. You need to incorporate some control, accuracy and consistency into your shot selections. You want to play higher percentage racquetball. The safest and best defensive shot in the game of racquetball is your ceiling ball. To be a winner in your own right, either at a tournament, or a league match or just in a friendly game for a beer, you must have a good ceiling ball.

Reach for the stars for that ceiling ball you never had or that ceiling ball you lost for a while. ○

Fran Davis was ranked 11th on the WPRA Tour at the end of the 1986/87 season. Her hometown is Middlesex, NJ. She is an aggressive player, known as one of the most competitive women on the tour. Jim Winterton is an instructor for the AARA Elite training camps.

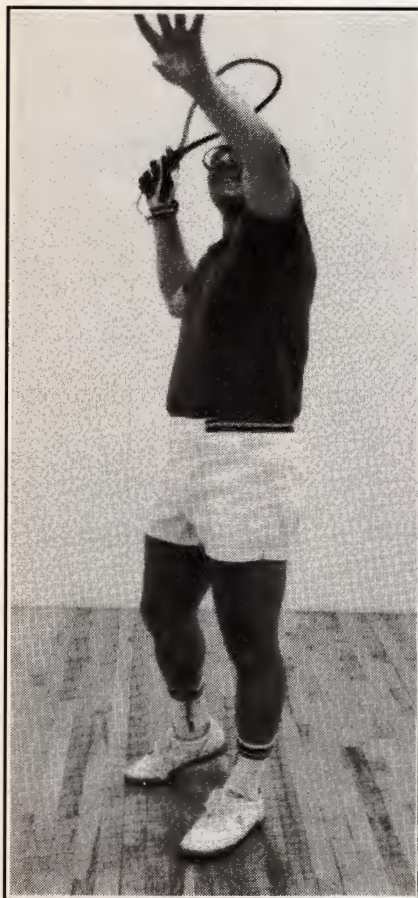


Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3

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In this city of a half million, a strange madness descends during the middle of every July. Normally staid bankers work unshaven in the high-gloss downtown buildings, wearing string ties, puffed-sleeve shirts and colorful vests. At stores and restaurants everywhere, pretty girls pile their hair high in buns, flounce in the lacy skirts of old-time bar dancers, and sometimes show enough leg to reveal their garters slinky tight around blackstocking thighs.

This strange madness is called Klondike days, a celebration in Edmonton, Alberta of the glorious and famous 19th century goldrush years into the north. During July, visitors have the chance to drink out of the bottle that contains a miner's pickled finger, or pan for gold at resurrected mining sites. Or play racquetball.

The tournament is called the Canadian Klondike Open, with a tradition nearly matching the Klondike itself. As a granddaddy of tournaments, from its beginning in 1970, it is one of the longest continuous majors in racquetball.

In the past, people have driven all the way from Georgia (nearly three thousand miles) and roller skated from Texas (reputedly done by a fellow named Luther Bernstein, once a top U.S. roller-skating competitor, in 1976).

The tournament is old enough, that Charlie Brumfield, the legend who won 20 professional tournaments in a row, wasn't even top seed in 1972, the year he beat another legend, then #1 seed, Dr. "Bud" Muelheisen.

Peggy Steding took the women's trophy home to Texas from

enough other major stops to keep them more than busy. But, it still drew tough Canadian talent and proved that racquetball, like the Klondike itself, is a rush of excitement.

The men's champion has the potential for a great trivia question, as in, "What Canadian Open winner appeared on the August 1986 cover of *National Racquetball*?" The answer, for dedicated buffs, would be, "Woody Clouse, of course." And if you look very closely at that cover, with Bret Harnett covering court in front of Mike Yellen, you will see in the upper left corner, someone in a

...The men's champion has the potential for a great trivia question, as in, "What Canadian Open winner appeared on the August 1986 cover of *National Racquetball*"...

there in 1973, 1974, 1975, and 1976. Karin Walton in 1979, Heather McKay in 1980 and 1981.

It is a tournament that Steve Strandemo (1973) won, and Marty Hogan won (1976). It is a tournament where Jerry Hilecher and Davey Bledsoe could only come close. It has seen doubles pairings like Hogan/Bledsoe (winners in 1976), Brumfield/Muelheisen (1974) and Hilecher/Bill Schmidtke (1973). In other words, the Canadian Open is legitimate history in a young sport.

This year's tournament, 17 years since the first one, did not have the top American names in racquetball, a sign that racquetball has

blue shirt sharing space with the referee. Yes, sports fans, *that* is Woody Clouse, because Woody was in Texas at that tournament, the DP Nationals, where he won the 19+ event.

Clouse fought his way past lightening-quick Paul Shanks in the finals, winning a narrow tiebreaker between southpaws on the strength of booming serves and intensity that was almost a tranced fervor. Clouse's toughness meant that Shanks, who dives well enough to have the reach of someone twice his height, fell just short of taking his second national title in 1987, after winning the Canadian Champion-

ships doubles title with Warren Hart in May.

Neither player had an easy semifinal. Clouse won in four games against Brian Thompson, another top Canadian player who has a game style that consists of no mistakes. Shanks defeated an old mentor, Cliff Hendrickson, formerly a professional hockey player in Europe.

In the women's championship event, a very consistent Linda Ellerington played with uncanny consistency to fight off the challenge of a younger Lori Johstone, proving to all of Canada that her home province of Saskatchewan can take pride in more than just prairie wheat. Johnstone, despite her home province advantage and compact quickness, could not out run and out hit experience.

Surprise after surprise occurred in men's doubles. The 1987 champions upset three of the top four seeds to win the event. Dan Tarrabain and Ken St. Laurent, still young enough to play juniors, took out the second seeded team of Robb Pratt and Cliff Hendrickson early in the draw, followed it with a semifinal win over third seeds Brian Thompson and Ron Pawlawski, and continued through the final's by beating Sigmund Brouwer and Wayne Davidson, fourth seeds. Top seeds Paul Shanks, and new doubles partner, Joe Kirkwood, played their first tournament matches together as warm-ups for the September Pan American Championships in Colorado, and lost a tiebreaker to Brouwer/Davidson in the semifinals.

Finally, what was not a surprise was the hospitality treatment that has become synonymous with the tournament. The banquet drew over four hundred people, who watched with glee the presentation of the The Klondike Canadian Open's nearly most coveted trophy (literally a piece of junk — somewhat sculptured) called the "racquetball nut". Fittingly, it went to a player who has attended every Klondike tournament since the beginning, a player famous in racquetball circles all across his country for everything but racquetball, Al Cooke.

And Al, that leaves only 365 days until your next Canadian Open, the 18th for you, for the Klondike, and for racquetball. ○

(continued on page 40)

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Adams and Yellen - Five Time Champs

The end of the 1987 professional season became racquetball history as Mike Yellen and Lynn Adams accomplished what no other players have done.

Mike Yellen, a member of Ektelon's professional playing staff, has achieved a stroke unsurpassed in the sport of racquetball, wrapping up the 1987 professional season with a fifth consecutive national championship.

Lynn Adams, also a member of the Ektelon professional playing staff (cover story, August 1987 issue), the only person in racquetball history to go undefeated in an entire season, also won her fifth national championship on the WPRA tour.

She also won the Triple Crown (Ektelon, DP and WPRA Nationals) in 1985. She took her first of five

national titles in 1982, then added the others in '83, '85, '86 and 1987.

Her off court activities show her as more than just an athlete. She has been spokesperson for the Arthritis Foundation for six years, and is a media representative for Upjohn Pharmaceutical Company to address the problems of arthritis and drug abuse.

For Yellen, winning national titles was never anything he set out to do. "When I began playing pro racquetball 12 seasons ago, I just wanted to play the best racquetball I could," said Yellen. "And fortunately, that's allowed me to play at a professional level and do what no one's ever done before in the history of the sport."

Yellen entered the final tournament of the 1987 season as one of

three players within range of the national title. Season rankings achieved throughout the pro-tour season from September-June determined the national champion this year, and Yellen now holds the number-one ranking.

The consistency of Yellen's last five years has actually distinguished his playing over the length of his professional career. His controlled style, consistent execution and disciplined concentration have brought him to the pinnacle of his profession.

Yellen was the only men's professional racquetball player to win the sport's prestigious "Grand Slam" (the Ektelon National Championship, the Catalina National Championship and the DP/Leach Nationals) — and this, in his first national championship year, 1983. ○

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Marci Drexler

Rank: #3 at the end of 1986/87

Age: 21

Hometown: San Diego, CA

Sponsor: Ektelon

Game style: Power, and more power. Known as one of the best natural athletes on the tour.



Terri Gilreath

Rank: #7 at the end of 1986/87

Age: 29

Hometown: Milwaukie, OR

Sponsor: DP

Game style: Control and retrieving; a diving ability that is acrobatic

The Professional Game

Here's a quick introduction to both professional tours and some of the players to watch in the upcoming season.

Women's Professional Racquetball Association

The WPRA was formed in 1979 by a small group of women players who felt their tour would be more effective separate from the men's tour. A circuit of five tournaments was organized in 1980 with a total of \$50,000 prize money. The 1986/87 season had nine stops and over \$120,000 prize money. This season promises more of the same. Commissioner of WPRA is John Samford of Arlington, TX.

Racquetball Manufacturer's Association

The men's professional tour has had a tumultuous and controversial past which finally led to the organization of the RMA in 1985. Each of its first two seasons had more than a dozen stops with total prize money over \$250,000. Final dates are being set for the 1987/88 tour with the same amount of scheduled stops and prize money expected. Commissioner of the RMA is Jim Hiser of Flint, MI.



Chris Evon

Rank: #9 at the end of 1986/87

Age: 28

Hometown: Oak Park, IL

Sponsor: DP

Game style: Methodical, does not emphasize power, relies instead on placement. Good foot speed and very tenacious.



Ruben Gonzalez

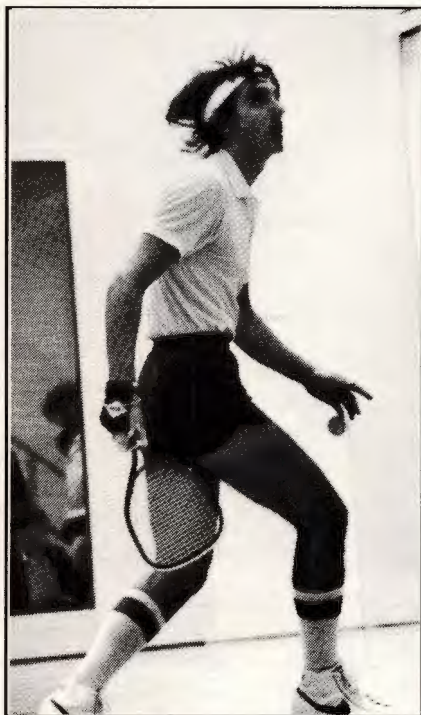
Rank: #7 at the end of 1986/87

Age: 36

Hometown: Staten Island, NY

Sponsor: Ektelon

Game style: Moderate power; good control; great retrieving and diving ability; always emotionally calm; true gentleman



Jerry Hilecher

Rank: #12 at the end of 1986/87

Age: 35

Hometown: St. Louis, MO

Sponsor: Head

Game style: Very strong forehand, usually runs around his backhand to favor the forehand; because of experience adjusts his style and strategy to the match.



Kaye Kuhfeld

Rank: #6 at the end of 1986/87

Age: 26

Hometown: Indianapolis, IN

Sponsor: Ektelon, Turntec

Game style: Called the "Ice Princess". Cool and calm, she uses off-pace shots, wide angle passes and slow pinches.



Marcy Lynch

Rank: 8th at end of 1986/87

Age: 32

Hometown: North Wales, PA

Sponsor: DP, A'ME

Game style: Prefers playing the power game rather than relying on placement to get out of trouble.



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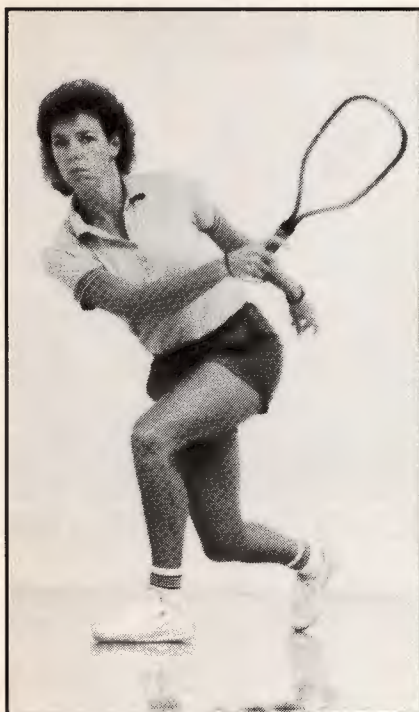
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Molly O'Brien

Rank: 4th at end of 1986/87

Age: 31

Hometown: Sellersville, PA

Sponsor: Ektelon, Reebok, "Friends of Molly O'Brien"

Game style: Likes to out think her opponent; uses her excellent physical condition to the best of her advantage



Gerry Price

Rank: #10 at the end of 1986/87

Age: 23

Hometown: Stockton, CA

Sponsor: Ektelon

Game style: power serves; great backhand splat and almost perfect stroke; sometimes tires.

National Racquetball- PLAYER OF THE YEAR

In the next ten months, the tours will bring the best of action, excitement and spectacular skill to racquetball. Tournaments can hinge on that single point in the tiebreaker at 10-10, when the roll out wins — or becomes a 120 mph squeak of failure. Unknown players will become stars, then maybe fade. And champions will face the new challenge each match.

National Racquetball would like to salute the tour and the professionals. Starting January, readers will be asked to choose the *National Racquetball* Players of the Year. Then each issue until April we will publish ballots for your votes. After the national championships, the RMA and WPRA players chosen by our readers will receive the *National Racquetball* Player of the Year award.

So start now. Follow the action at the tournaments or through *National Racquetball* features. Begin with the January ballots, and make your choices! Then watch for the ***National Racquetball* Player of the Year.**



Vicki Panzeri

Rank: 5th at end of 1986/87

Age: 33

Hometown: Seattle, WA

Sponsor: Head

Game style: Control and passing game; accurate pinches; patient



Mike Ray

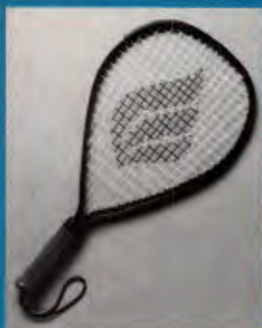
Rank: #13 at end of 1986/87

Age: 24

Hometown: Atlanta, Georgia

Sponsor: Head

Game style: deceiving lefthanded serve; high percentage shot selection; great reach



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Different Games on Different Courts

by William H. Piggott

William H. Piggott is a free-lance writer who is a frequent finalist and semifinalist in Chicago and North-west Indiana tournaments.

Have you ever wondered why some of your best shots sometimes behave differently on a strange court? The same pinch shot that *always* stays down on your favorite home court suddenly starts behaving erratically during a tournament at a different club. The same thing happens frequently with serves and errant passing shots that catch the side walls. Have you always attributed this to differences between balls or the psychology of that particular match or maybe that you were just playing poorly? In fact, the court construction and/or finish has more to do with the ball's behavior than most players understand.

Listen to a racquetballer describe our chosen sport to a non-player and, sooner or later, you're apt to hear something to the effect that: "... and the best part is, the courts are all uniform; there are no differences like in other sports ..."

Well, that's only half-correct; other sports do present differences in playing environments. Think about it for a minute; Baseball? There aren't two identical playing fields in the country much less distances to the fence. Football? Sure, the dimensions are the same but certainly not stadiums, surfaces, noise or weather. Basketball probably comes closest to a universal environment but even there, floors

and lighting can vary tremendously. The list is endless; bowling lanes with built-in grooves, cycling routes, running terrain. Variables in golf courses are what makes that game interesting. Tennis is notorious for different surfaces, indoors and out. "The Grand Slam" is a test of a player's ability to compete on radically different surfaces.

If you only play on courts at your home club, then none of this will mean much. But, if you're one of the many players who competes on traveling teams or in tournaments at any level, what follows may help refine your game for a particular match. Differences between courts should never be used as an excuse, but an understanding of how court construction will affect the game can make a difference.

Types of Court Construction

Plaster over masonry blocks

els over a light structure of metal wall studs have become popular but the penalty is solidity; balls hit on these courts are relatively slower. You can hear the difference. A hard front wall produces a high-pitched "crack" sound. Dead front walls just go "thwok" no matter how hard the shot. Worse yet, the effect isn't uniform. These courts can be very inconsistent, with unpredictable live and dead spots due to warpage. The walls actually give a little if you lean against them.

Effect of Finishes

All of the foregoing is minor when compared to the effect of what covers the wall or floor surface; yes the paint and varnish (or lack of it) or, obviously, surfaces like glass or prefinished panels with a shiny surface.

A couple of years ago, I played tournament doubles with a guy named Larry Russell. "Lar" is a very fine commercial painter and decorator. The first time we ever played at a new club he walked around the court, dragging the ball along the wall to see if the surface would grab it (generally with a "squeak") or let the ball slide a little. He knew what paint can do. Shiny walls make pinch shots work much better.

Contrary to their appearance, shiny walls are not slippers; just the opposite. The ball leaves the side wall spinning furiously and stays lower after contacting the front wall. Side wall splat shots (if they're already in your repertoire) can be almost magical. Shiny, painted walls are almost al-

...Differences between courts should never be used as an excuse, but an understanding of how court construction will affect the game can make a difference...

or concrete makes for hard, fast courts. There's no give whatsoever. The ball will carry farther back at a greater rate of speed than on other types of courts. Newer clubs use more exotic construction techniques to save time, money and maintenance. Space-age fiber pan-

ways covered with oil-base, semi-gloss, enamel paint which imparts much more spin upon contact. Be aware that passing shots, lob serves and ceiling balls that catch a shiny side wall, are going to decelerate very quickly. Worn down side walls or those with a flat finish will

always let the ball "slide", usually unpredictably.

Glass side walls can drive you nuts for reasons other than the obvious (that's for another article). Normally, glass should behave just like glossy walls; if the ball "squeaks" you have your answer. The problem is that humidity condenses more heavily on glass than on plaster or a painted surface and will make the glass slippery (usually in the last place you want it to be). The worst possible court has one side wall radically different from the other. A clever variation is a glass wall that begins three feet up from the floor over a painted surface; that way low shots behave one way and high shots another. During warmup or, better yet, well before the match, try to hit identical shots that contact both sides to see how the ball behaves.

The same idea applies to floors. A new coat of polyurethane varnish will have you thinking you're ready for Marty Hogan. Straight-in kill shots and pinches stay down better and drive serves start to bounce twice before they come off the back wall. It can be very ego-inflating. "Skips" though, are very audible. On worn floors, the ball will skid, most often on the serve, prompting "court-hinder" calls that everyone thinks were caused by perspiration. Worn floors also make for lousy footing which is hazardous.

Ceilings Can Be Weird

Ceilings are usually painted flat (slippery) white to help diffuse the light more evenly. Some recently constructed courts use suspended ceilings. The panels are tougher than your basic office-style types but they do play much softer than a plaster roof and, with a hard-hit ceiling ball, they'll actually bounce. The ceiling game requires a maximum of control. If you're used to a fast (normal) ceiling and then have to use fifty percent more power for the same result, your game is going to suffer. Also, the metal suspension grip frequently alters the ball's path. Don't be reticent about settling court hinder issues before the match begins.

The Lights

Court lighting really can't be discussed in the same context.

There's not much you can do about it. The ceiling rally is more affected by too-powerful or uneven lights. Outfielders lose fly balls in the lights all the time. It can happen to us too. One bad situation is where the lights at the front have been replaced with bulbs stronger than the middle or back. Then the ball actually isn't lit, it's rendered in silhouette (especially during ceiling shots) and is much harder to follow.

Remember, none of these factors will alter good, basic rac-

quetball strategy. If the game plan and opponent dictate "down-the-line-power-racquetball," stick with it.

On the other hand, if you look for the needed adjustments in certain shots during warmup, it will save you points during the match. And knowing that a certain court is very fast, might make you favor a particular serve.

If nothing else, thinking about the court will sharpen your focus on the game, and keep your head "in the court" where it belongs. ○



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How Much More To Go?

Gregg Peck, poised to be number one

by Jean K. Chastain

Gregg Peck has been good, very good for some time. He has already distinguished himself from the pack of a promising new generation of racquetball professionals by being a little better, a little more often. Still, since bursting from the gates only a few years ago, he has not yet managed to take the crown many feel is his for the taking. But he has time, and he does want the top of the mountain.

Gregg is 23 years old. His achievements, in a few short years, add up to success. He received his

...At age 12, he was coached by a very special friend, a person he always looked up to, and his racquetball hero, his brother David...

first title in 1980, taking first place in the USRA Junior Nationals. In 1981, he was named NRC Rookie of the Year; 1982-83, IR Most Improved Player, and a semifinalist in the DP Leach/Catalina Nationals. In 1985, he was named Player of the Year by National Racquetball magazine. After placing in the quarter finals, semi-finals and/or winning the tournament of almost every pro stop during the 1985-86 season, Peck reached as high as the number two ranking, and he finished the tour ranked in the top five.

Climbing to number one in this sport is the same as in other professional sports, with many factors determining success — professional coaching, physical fitness, the mental aspect of the game, the tour and the goals set by the individual.

Gregg Peck gained experience through local tournaments and continuous development from early coaching. At age 12, he was coached by a very special friend, a person he has always looked up to, and his rac-

quetball hero, his brother, David.

Dave Peck, many will recall, won the National Champion title in 1982. This was a major accomplishment, in that it ended the dominance of the title for four years, 1978-1981 by Marty Hogan.

Dave, more or less, introduced the sport to Gregg by taking him along during the early part of his career.

Gregg reminisces: "I went to all the tournaments with Dave because he had to drive, not having a sponsor at the time, so I was there to keep him company."

"One time in Tucson when he qualified, I stayed at the court the

whole day. I remember sneaking in because I didn't have a ticket, and I watched the matches on the exhibition court all day.

"Dave couldn't believe I'd been there all day, just watching racquetball."

Gregg's ability to pick up on different aspects of the sport, combined with the expertise and viewpoints from Dave, brought a new style of play to the game, one with more control than the previous "raw power" game.

Drew Stoddard, former Commissioner of the Racquetball Manufacturers' Association believes the

(continued on the next page)

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Gregg Peck

(continued from page 29)

progress of racquetball falls into three stages — slow, power, and then control.

Originally the ball, dead and black, was very slow. In the mid-70's and early-80's, the ball became extremely fast, about the same time Marty Hogan came along and changed the game to one of power. Then the ball became slower again, and Mike Yellen appeared on the scene.

"Mike Yellen was probably the one that has had the biggest influence on how the game is presently played," says Stoddard.

Many of the new, young players are using this power and control combination. "Gregg is probably the greatest practitioner of the combination," says Drew. "He was influenced by Dave, and many believe it was actually Dave Peck who started this combination style of play."

Gregg is quick to give Dave the credit. The brothers are close. The only competition between them is when they meet on court in a ranking tournament. Sharing the same career has special meaning for both.

"We watch each other's

matches, pick up on what's happening," says Gregg, "and most of the time, just exchange a joke or a comment. We've played almost everyone. We know how they play. We are there to help each other keep mentally tough."

Gregg also knows physical fitness will play a major role for a "new breed" racquetball player.

"I was not meeting my full potential," says Peck. "I realized that in order to be best, I would have to dedicate myself totally to racquetball."

He became one of the first players to seek professional supervision for total-body weighttraining, with a program designed specifically for his 6'2", 195-lb. body and for only racquetball.

Don Fields, formerly a strength coach at the University of Texas in Austin, was Peck's choice for this training. Fields developed a program for Peck, after taking a good look at his athletic ability and what racquetball entailed.

"Gregg had never done weights," says Fields. "I initially had to get him ready for weight training by starting a simple Nautilus workout."

After two or three months of sets for heavy, medium and light-day repetitions for upper and lower body, the preparation for the game began.

"Peck's training was focused on performance in the area of moving laterally, front and back, split-second changes in direction from all angles, leg strength and an explosive ability to move quickly," says Fields. •

When this program had become routine, with Don's blessing, Peck spent two weeks at the Nautilus factory in Florida for high-intensity training.

"What it is," says Peck, "is going through about 15 machines to failure. That's going until you can't lift the weights anymore."

Gregg believes this training has defi-

nately improved his game by allowing him to play tough matches throughout the tournaments.

But beyond physical training, there is the mental aspect, which makes the difference between rankings in the sport.

"It comes along the more you play," says Peck. "I've really improved in the last year, but mentally, that's where the top guys, Hogan and Yellen, are going to be tough."

Marty Hogan, has an incredible record, not only as a four-time titleholder in national championships and in the total of tournament wins, but also with never having dropped below second place in the ranking for 12 consecutive years. He says, "Gregg has the game, I believe, mentally. He is competitive enough and wants to win enough, but has been unable to sustain his position for definite periods of time."

Mike Yellen, now a five-time national champion, comments, "I believe all the top players have pretty sound, all-around games, and as a result, it really depends on who happens to be a little more 'on' during that particular day."

"Gregg has a well-rounded game plan and well-rounded strength from different positions on the court. He hits the ball extremely hard and is very quick for a man of his size. He has very fluid movements for a man of his size. He is a competitive force."

Jim Hiser, the RMA Commissioner agrees. "Gregg definitely has one of the top games in men's professional racquetball, and within the next three to five years, should be number one."

Drew Stoddard, Hiser's predecessor, says, "Gregg is extremely talented. He's good for racquetball. He's articulate and a good ambassador for the sport."

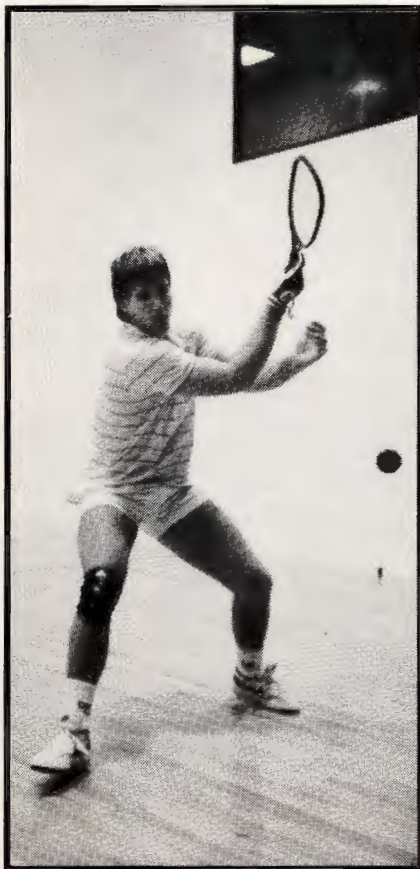
"His only weakness, I think, has to do with his size. He's one of the biggest players ever to play racquetball. It has been an advantage because he is difficult to pass and he's so strong he can hit with power. He is difficult to wear down. But it is also to his disadvantage."

"A tall player tends to be able to get low on the ball in the early stages of the game, but when they get tired, they begin to stand up. When you stand up, you tend to overcompensate and hit the ball to the floor."





...He became one of the first players to seek professional supervision for total-body weight training ...



As to Gregg's future in the sport, he says, "I just feel I haven't totally hit my potential as far as my game goes. I think I'm 75 percent of what I can be. If I get to 90 or 95 percent, I can play racquetball the best it has ever been played."

Marty Hogan may have summed it up best for Peck. "Gregg is continually on the verge of winning. It seems like he is missing the final piece of really putting himself together to where he can get to that top spot."

"It's an intangible that I think all great athletes have, the missing piece of why someone wins the major championships and why someone finishes second."

"This is something only Gregg Peck will know because that final piece is different for every athlete in every sport.." O

Jean K. Chastain is a free-lance writer living in Elk Grove, CA, and an avid supporter and spectator of amateur and professional racquetball.

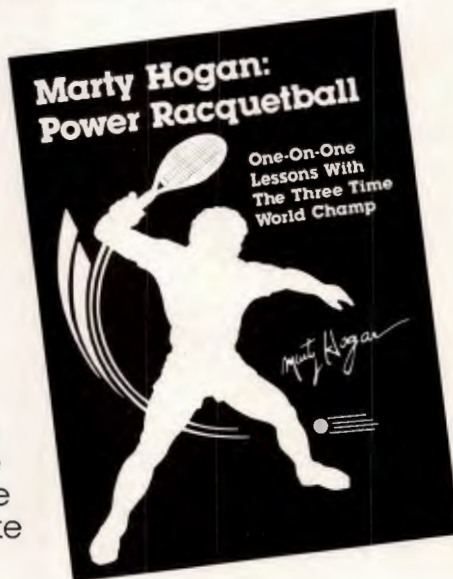
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Were Those The Days?

Garfinkel compares the best of two eras

In every sport the same question is asked over and over, "Could the greats of years ago compete with the professionals of today?" Racquetball is no different, but fortunately, it may be easier to answer in this sport. Racquetball is a relatively new game, with the first national championship held in 1969.

Before deciding whether Charlie Brumfield, Steve Serot, Steve Keeley, Steve Strandemo and Bill Schmidtke could compete with Mike Yellen, Marty Hogan, Bret Harnett, Ed Andrews, Cliff Swain and Gregg Peck, the similarities and differences in the game itself should be reviewed.

Fifteen years ago, all three games in a match were to 21 points. Ten years ago, the first two games were still to 21, but the tiebreaker was to 11. Today, of course, the scoring system is usually best three out of five games, each game to 11 points.

I feel that far more upsets occur in today's scoring system. The premise has always been, the longer the match lasts, the better the chances of the favored player. This happens because a player in the shorter games can get hot for five or six points, and practically assure a win in that particular game. It isn't unusual for Marty Hogan to win the first two games of a match, only to lose the next three games.

In the old scoring system, a five or six point spurt didn't mean as much, except in the tiebreaker. I feel that the 21 point games were a primary reason that Charlie Brumfield put together the unheard of victory streak of 20 straight tournaments.

The style of play must also be taken into consideration before making any judgment. Today's pro game consists of drive serves, dead-

ly splats, driving overheads, and spectacular shooting. Fifteen years ago, due to a slower ball, lob and z-serves, ceiling balls, drop-pinches and constant passing was the norm. The control game won matches. Charlie Brumfield could hit 20 consecutive ceiling balls only six to eight inches from the backhand sidewall (he probably could've hit 100!).

Other players, Serot, Strandemo, and Keeley, also had excel-

lent control games, due to the slower speed of the ball. Their ability to control the game, then shoot and pass when the opportunity finally arrived, put them in the semifinals 85 to 90 percent of the time.

Back then, Bill Schmidtke, who with his two national open singles championships must also be ranked with these elite four, didn't have quite as high a semifinal percentage because of his tendency to



Yesterday against today — Charlie Brumfield and Mike Yellen.

play streaks as a gambling shooter. Like the old song says, "When you're hot, you're hot. When you're not, you're not." This described Schmidtke perfectly.

On the other hand, today, if the professionals don't play the shooting game, they won't even qualify.

In terms of conditioning, no one will ever convince me that today's professional racquetball players are more superbly conditioned than Steve Strandemo, Mike Zeitman and Jay Jones, all of whom were outstanding players years ago.

Just reading about Strandemo's everyday routine used to fatigue me. His normal schedule consisted of running three or four miles a day, sprinting in the sand on the beach, using a light weight routine, stretching exercises, an hour of practice alone on the court, and at least two hours of play against the toughest players he could find.

Between his movie assignments as Hollywood stuntman, Jay Jones played up to five hours a day, as well as working out with weights. Mike Zeitman appeared to be chiseled out of granite and his strength and on-court acrobatics were legendary. The other top players also had outstanding conditioning.

But, I would have to say that *more* of the top players today may be in superb shape. Aerobics, cycling, rowing machine and nautilus training exercises are used as never before. Just keep in mind, though, that the "oldtimers" also played doubles in the same singles tournaments.

The biggest change in the game, besides the speed of the ball has been in the racquet itself. Aluminum and plastic racquets in vogue 10 or 15 years ago — not to forget the Joe Sobek wooden model! — would not be able to stand up to the power and pace generated by the over and mid sized racquets of today. In addition, the graphite that is prevalent in these newer model racquets greatly helps reduce the threat of tennis elbow as the racquets, not the arm, absorbs vibrations.

Today's larger racquets also give players added reach and control. If the pros early in the sport had to face them with the old racquets,



Was anyone faster than Dave Bledsoe?

they would be at a serious disadvantage.

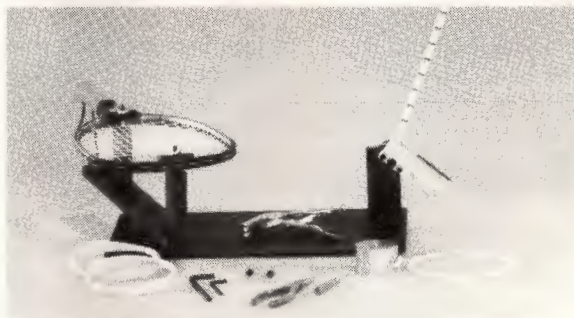
Although the depth of top players is deeper today than years ago, I feel that the ability levels of both eras are fairly close.

My reasoning is based on a couple of observations. Players such as Steve Strandemo, who was well into his 30's, and more recently Jerry Hilecher, both competed at the highest level of professional play a decade ago, as well as two or three years ago. Hilecher is still competing and ranked among the top 15 professionals.

Also, I have seen them all play, and I feel that the top players of years ago, although in a different type of game, were as gifted as the athletes in racquetball today.

I would say if the players of 10 or 15 years ago had the opportunity to use today's equipment, they would more than hold their own with today's professionals. ○

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Canadian Report

by Sigmund Brouwer



... Few volunteers should be expected to be saintly enough to answer even legitimate complaints after spending dozens of hours of work to help with a tournament ...

Amateur events in professional style?

It was with a wistful and apologetic half-chuckle that the tournament director made one remark during his banquet address at a recent, major Canadian tournament. The remark received little attention, in fact was almost ignored by the nearly 400 people in attendance.

He simply said that organizing the tournament was a lot of work and he'd never complain about getting paid for it. Imagine that, a volunteer wanting more than just the satisfaction of helping out the sport of racquetball.

Provincial (and state) associations and city associations run quite a few tournaments, and all depend heavily on volunteers. Despite that, it hasn't seemed proper for them to expect more than applause at banquets as gratitude for their services, and certainly not right to ask for money to take on the job, especially in racquetball where everybody is pulling together to "better" the sport. But maybe that should change.

It is a sign of maturity in a sport when it becomes a money-maker. It is hard to imagine people in tennis or golf expecting volunteers to "better" the sport. When they use volunteers at an event, it is for charity purposes, not because they regard the sport itself as a charity.

Racquetball has matured enough so that new people, those who have arrived since the "we will show the world this sport" generation, expect the same thing from a racquetball tournament as they would in older

sports.

The trend in racquetball, it seems, is reflecting the sports' maturity. Close examination of tournaments, and tournament trends, should show that the best ones, the ones drawing the most people, offering the most to entrants, running the most smoothly and giving the most satisfaction, are the ones run by someone motivated by money. It might be a club owner who stands to profit from a good tournament, or it might be a paid director, such as the head of the Canadian Racquetball Association or the AARA, but someone at the top has to perform well . . . or else.

Reward and accountability. Do the job right and profit, or continue to receive salary. Do it wrong, and suffer complaints, lose entrants for the next tournament, or even lose your job. That is why the "non-volunteer" tournaments are working.

On the other hand, the tremendous work involved in running tournaments taxes the most worthy volunteer, and that is another reason why association events suffer. More often than not, complaints are the only thanks volunteers get. Few volunteers should be expected to be saintly enough to answer even legitimate complaints after spending dozens of hours of work to help with a tournament.

This tournament showed professionalism, but only because of superhuman efforts by the volunteers. Will they be back next year? Will they want to be back?

Just look at the changes in association rosters for the answer to that.

Quite possibly, racquetball will be "bettered" much more quickly with individuals at the top motivated by reward to run tournaments and clinics and related events.

Look at it this way. The tournament had around 250 entrants. At \$40.00 a person that is \$10,000. Add sponsorship money and association dues collected, and tournament revenue is easily \$20,000. That amount of money has to be handled well to cover cost of souvenirs, courts, refreshments and banquet.

When that money is handled poorly, how can one get mad at the volunteers? After all, any time and effort they put into the tournament has been given. But on the other hand, when it is handled poorly, can you say to tournament entrants, "Look, this is run by volunteers, so expect a little less for your tournament dollar and be sure to return next year."?

Racquetball is not a charity. It is growing stronger, and to point out the obvious, the strong sports — hockey, baseball, football, golf — make money for the people involved.

I would be happy to vote a dollar or two from any of my entry fees in any association-run tournament to pay director's fees. It would be a good investment in professionalism, and it's a great excuse to expect the best from the tournament. And racquetball. ○

Letters To The Editor

No Losers, Only Winners

On paper, the results of the Torneos De Las Americas II reveal that the United States and Canada battled it out for first, and that current world champion Egan Inoue of the U.S. unofficially defended his title.

But there was more. Much more. Some of it will show up in the line scores. Most of it won't.

You can read of Costa Rica's Sergio Fumero's tiebreaker loss to Canadian ace Roger Harripersad without realizing what a valiant effort it was. Likewise, the totals will disclose that Panama finished third among the 12 countries, though you had to be there to realize what a gutsy performance it took to slip past host country Venezuela, Ecuador and the others.

Canadian Heather Stupp's dominance of the women athletes captured the attention of the spectators. It was her off-court, chatty friendliness that captured their hearts.

Nowhere among the pages of press coverage in Caracas will you find mention of the hundreds of hours lost to work and family while the Caracas Racquetball Association, led by Albert Earha, organized and ran the tournament and transported players and officials.

Perhaps there was a hint among the clippings that Ruben Gonzalez, because of his ability and Latin American heritage, would be a favorite. He competed for Puerto Rico. (Gonzalez, who lives in New York, is professionally ranked, as are Inoue and Harripersad. They maintain their amateur status by following guidelines similar to those established by the International Olympic Committee.)

Competitive spirit, physical combativeness, and sportsmanship from the players and appreciation from the spectators was commonplace throughout that April week before Easter, but never was it more prevalent than during the final singles match between the Ruben as the Latin American king of racquetball and overwhelming crowd favor-

ite, against Egan Inoue.

And though Gonzalez remains the king of Latin American racquetball, the crowd of more than 500 — filling the bleachers hanging over the railings pressing against the glass — graciously adopted the U.S.A.'s Inoue as their prince with his 14-15, 15-12, 15-12 victory.

Gonzalez and Inoue embraced, displaying what the records won't reveal. There were no losers, only winners. Racquetball has a home in Venezuela and all of Latin America.

Michael Arnolt
Indianapolis, IN

Editor's note: Thanks, Mike, for showing us that racquetball is more than just points and line scores. ○

Enough screen serves without help?

I have just finished reading the article "Legal Screen Serves: A Closer Look" by Brad Kruger, which appeared in the June 1987 issue. The article was based on the premise that you should take the screen serve ruling to the greatest possible advantage — get away with whatever you can!

I find this a bit surprising for this article to be published in a nationally circulated magazine that wishes to promote the game. The fact that there are a number of rule changes being considered to discourage this serve is an indication that many people feel this serve has no place in the game. But this article will be read by many players, and they will go to their clubs to add this strategy, and, more importantly, this ethic to their game.

If the screen serve can be eliminated, the players could then enjoy the more interesting part of the game — the rallies.

Tony Clinch
St. Paul, MN

Editor's note: You're absolutely right. We made a mistake in running the article and we apologize. ○

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Taking a Dive?

This letter is in response to Jean Sausser's April article (page 12) "No Diving Allowed". Although we agree that diving into the back wall during a non-tournament match on the first point of the first game is not sensible, we feel that to dive or not to dive is not a simple issue.

We feel that a diving "effort" in a sport, be it racquetball, baseball, football, etc. is more a function of one's personality characteristic and not a behavior that lends itself to instruction. This means that a person is either a diver or not . . . and that most players who dive make an unconscious, instantaneous decision based on the available information.

Most of us are products of organized sports of the 50's, 60's and 70's at the little league, high school, college and professional levels. This is where desire to perform to your fullest was nurtured and stressed, and anything but your best

(continued on page 40)

Passing Shots

by Norm Blum



... I get no respect on the racquetball court. I walked out of a court half exhausted and a four-year old kid says, "Did you lose again?" ...

The AARA's bold move to make eyeguards mandatory resulted in some nice national recognition. **Dr. Bob Arnolt**, the medical reporter for **CBS Morning News**, lauded the racquetball world for taking a stand. Arnolt said one out of four racquet sport players are treated for eye injuries. He dismissed one myth which pros have perpetrated: the "I can tell where the ball is going so I don't have to wear eyeguards" line. Just the opposite is true, says Arnolt, because they are watching the ball more, there is a better chance of a direct blow rather than a glancing blow. No one can react when a ball is coming straight at them at 100 mph."

INNOVATIVE — Marsha Hayward isn't your typical program director. Hayward has a unique arrangement at the Wayside Racquet & Swim Club in Marlboro, MA. Hayward isn't paid a salary. Instead she earns a commission from setting up leagues and giving lessons. "A lot of clubs have been burned by program directors. They sit home, draw a salary and watch soap operas or when they are at the club, they don't get much done. In my situation, the more active the programs, the better off I am financially."

BRUMFIELD TAKES A PADDLING — It's a good thing **Charlie Brumfield** didn't bet the ranch. With lunch on the line, Brumfield, who in his heyday dominated racquetball, challenged **Marci Drexler**, the #3 ranked player in the world to a match. He even offered to use his wooden paddleball racquet. Well, maybe he should have used a regular rac-

quet because Drexler polished Brumfield in two games before a packed house at the Telegraph Hill Club in Northern California. With side bets being placed, there was one sure winner — The Delancy Street Foundation, a drug and alcohol rehabilitation center ...

I get no respect on the racquetball court. I walked out of a court half exhausted and a four-year old kid says: "Did you lose again?" The boy wasn't even my opponent's son ... Why is it when you beat someone two out of three games, they always want to play a fourth game? ... Attention union members, why not have a portion of your dues go to racquetball tournament entry fees instead of the bowling bash?

TOUGH LOSS — **Marty Hogan's** first round loss at the A'ME National Championships which prevented him from ending the season ranked #1, came at the hands of California's **Dave Johnson**. Ironically, Johnson is sponsored by Marty Hogan Racquetball ... Sponsoring top-ranked players is important to companies as long as the players are more than just talented athletes. "It's important that they mix well with the public and blend with different age groups," reports Head's **Debbie Nohstadt**. "That's why **Mike Yellen** is good for Ektelon and **Mike Ray** is good for us." ... The Society for the Prevention of Blindness will begin putting its sticker on eyewear that they approve. Eyeguards should withstand balls that travel 90 mph ...

NO BUGGING JOKES, PLEASE — Racquetball courts are now at the United States em-

bassy in Russia. **Chuck Hendrickson**, sales manager of Construction Products for Fiberresin Industries said his firm supplied the panels for the courts ... You won't find it on the *New York Times* bestseller list, but there's a book on the library shelves which encourages senior citizens to play racquetball. "Can Grandpa Play Racquetball? New life beckons in this fun game." ... Defending your title can be tough.

At the AARA Nationals only three people successfully defended their titles ... One doesn't have to be a Rhodes Scholar to realize there is a serious shortage of qualified teaching pros. Out of 50 people who attended the certification seminar put forth by the Professional Association of Racquetball Instructors (PARI) only five were certified as teaching pros and two, Susan Morgan and Mary Lyons came from the same city, Jacksonville, FL ... I was browsing through some six-year-old racquetball magazines and read the tournament results. Few of the top-ranked juniors are today listed in the adult rankings. That means either they aren't playing now or they peaked early.

Things I like: Owners who play the game and mingle with the membership; being able to play three games without getting out of breath, playing smart players instead of people who just whale the ball. Things I dislike: Clubs that have suggestion boxes and don't pay attention to the complaints. If the suggestions go in file 13 why have the box?; Club owners who take advantage of people when a nearby club goes out of business. ○

Association Roundup

First RMA Pro Stop

The RMA has not submitted a column this month. All their energies are being directed toward organizing the 1987/88 Pro Tour. The first stop will be in Davison, Michigan, September 23-27. For information concerning future stops, contact: Jim Hiser, Commissioner, (313) 653-9602. A full schedule will appear in the October issue of *National Racquetball*. ○

Great Finishes Means Starting Over

by John Samford, Commissioner, WPRA

When you finally complete a successful tour, you really do not have time to sit back and admire how great everything went, because it is already time to start over. And 1986-87 tour was a tremendous success. Our attendance was the largest ever — as in every sport, fans are everything, and we had more tour stops, with more money than ever. Then there was our national championship in June . . . by the way this was my first time to attend a national championship of any kind . . . I cannot tell you how exciting, nerve-racking, and intense it was. All of the matches were well played. And as you would expect, it was Lynn Adams and Caryn McKinney in a final that had every fan exhausted and begging for more. Adams and McKinney truly represent the best in professional sports anywhere, both as players and people. It was a real pleasure to watch these two champions compete.

So, to all our supporters, fans, sponsors, our players both professional and amateur, and host clubs — thank you for making 1986-87 a major success. Without your support, it would have never happened.

Now, it's on to 1987-88. This year the WPRA features two new programs for clubs and two others are being developed. All of these programs are designed to bring in new members to clubs and promote the sport of racquetball as a whole.

Our tour schedule is set, but openings are still available for two to four additional tour stops. If your club is interested in hosting the world's finest professional racquetball players, contact our office.

For the first time ever, WPRA is offering racquet and fitness clubs to host one- or two-day

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certified instructional clinics hosted by a top ten WPRA professional. All of your members and their guests who attend will have the opportunity to learn from the best. This is a great promotional event for clubs and a way to attract major media attention and sign up many new members. I'll be glad to provide details.

This year the WPRA is also pleased to announce a "Corporate Club Membership" program whereby clubs can become associate members of WPRA. Again, I will be glad to explain all the benefits and details of this unique membership program. It will serve as another marketing tool clubs can use to enroll new club members.

We're ready for the upcoming tour season. Many of our younger pros are ready to challenge those currently holding top 20 positions. And it all starts in Anchorage, AK on October 3. I encourage each of you to take time to see a WPRA pro tour event and witness first hand the excitement that makes up a professional sports event. Racquetball is a sport that requires the unique and specialized talents and ability that are admired in all sports at the professional level. This translates into exciting sports action all fans can enjoy. WPRA invites you to check it out and see for yourself.

For more information on the WPRA or any of its programs, please contact our headquarters office at 3825 Green Oaks Boulevard, Suite 400, Arlington, TX 76016, or (817) 654-2277. ○

Letters To The Editor

(continued from page 37)

effort was not acceptable. Diving may be taking a chance but for many athletes who give 100% it is something ingrained, second nature and difficult to change.

We also disagree with Ms. Sauser's implication that there is an inverse relationship between diving behavior and skill level. The idea that a player preconceives diving before a match and that this commitment would affect the player's foot work and subsequently turn him/her into a retriever instead of an aggressor sounds unfounded to us. Also, it was interesting to note that in the same issue were articles describing the professional tour in which reference

was made to many of the top level pros who spent a lot of time diving.

Gary B., Bob P., Art M., Ed F., Jr., Nabil F., Hunter S., Billy B., Stan C., and Dennis W. — The Diving Club of Regency Court Wilson, NC

Off The Wall

(continued from page 1)

implemented by the RMA, there have been several external signs that indicate that the RMA has been accomplishing what it set out to do — to get the men's tour independent and in a position where it is completely self-sufficient. The sporting goods industry has awarded the RMA additional cash support, indi-

cating the faith they have in what the RMA is doing. Several corporate proposals for sponsorship have been submitted through Commissioner Jim Hiser's efforts. Also, new interest is coming from sponsors such as Head Racquet Sports and A'ME, with proposals to support pro tour series, not just events.

I can't put the subject of the pro tour aside without mentioning the WPRA tour. I believe that they set an excellent model for how a pro tour can work.

The WPRA is an organized entity: players know what they want, and have consistently been in agreement on their objectives. As such, they've been consistent in running an organized series of events. This year, the RMA has given the WPRA an honorary seat on the Association in order to get them more actively involved with the RMA. Perhaps together, the men's and women's pro tours can effectively strengthen and influence professional racquetball. ○

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Results of The Klondike Open (story on page 18)

Men's Open

1st Woody Clouse

2nd Paul Shanks

Women's Open

1st Linda Ellerington

2nd Lori Johnstone

Men's B

1st Doug Shmon

2nd Jeremy Bokitch

Women's B

1st Lori Jane Powell

2nd Myrna Orr

Men's C

1st Bruce Robinson

2nd Larry Howes

Women's C

1st Rhonda Holt

2nd Sheila Finch

Men's D

1st Peter Dyck

2nd Trent Foley

Men's Senior A

1st Ron Pawlawski

2nd Ted Townsend

Men's Senior B

1st Bob Pearson

2nd Don Hunter

Women's Senior B/C

1st Shirley Pearson

2nd Lynne Urner

Men's Masters

1st Fred Brisco

2nd Hinton Bradbury

Men's Open Doubles

1st Tarrabain/St. Laurent

2nd Brouwer/Davidson

Women's Open Doubles

1st Ellerington/Johnstone

2nd Davis/Webster ○

A Stroke of Luck

Ever wonder what motivates people to work for volunteer organizations? Why they would sacrifice their leisure time to coach teams, plant trees or counsel kids, when they could be down at the club working on their backhands? To understand this phenomenon, it's worthwhile talking to Chris Fischer, an open player with an enviable performance record, including winning the AARA Regional (Women's 30+) in Columbus, Ohio, two years ago.

Fischer is the producer of a slide show called Preventive Eye Injury. Meticulously researched with the help of a Harvard ophthalmologist, the show has certainly opened some eyes at the tournaments it has visited in the past year. What drove Fischer to commit hundreds of hours of personal time to the project? A racquetball accident which nearly cost her the use of one eye.

"I walked into a backhand follow-through. I was going up for court position and I knew where she [her opponent] was going to hit, but as she came into it and hit her backhand, she came around and I was right there," Fischer recalls. The rac-

quet struck her right across the eyebrow and she wasn't wearing eyeguards. It was a stroke of luck. A butterfly bandage was all she needed, but the injury made her think long and hard about what might have happened. And what she could do before the next time she stepped on the hardwood court. Get protection.

A product of considerable investigation and discussions with all kinds of sports medicine specialists and equipment manufacturers, Fischer's show is an illuminating look at the dangers of racquetball. Consider these statistics: American racquetball players suffer some 70,000 eye injuries every year; a forehand stroke has a velocity of 40-55 mph before it smacks the ball, 80-95 mph after contact. This is the speed of the racquet alone.

Even beginners can wallop the ball at 100 mph. At this speed the slides reveal the ball flattening out to a proverbial pancake against a forehead. Against an open eyeguard, well, you'd be hard-pressed to walk away unscathed. The rubber can actually penetrate the opening and come in contact with the eye. Fischer

wraps up her presentation by recommending closed eyeguards of polycarbonate material be worn by all players on the court.

Because Fischer doesn't have the time or money to travel to every regional tournament, she hopes to produce the show on videocassette, a simple format to distribute and present. Slide shows will now cost the host organization between \$50 and \$100 to help fund the video project. "I don't want to do a schmaltzy presentation," she says in response to queries about the \$25,000 price tag.



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She's already receiving enthusiastic support from one equipment maker and others are certain to rally behind the video project. The cassettes would be sold to the equipment manufacturers, who in turn would sell or distribute them to racquetball clubs. Her toughest customer - but also her most influential one - is the State of Ohio, which could circulate the safety video to coaches in all of its schools.

Born and raised in Cleveland, Fischer attended Western Michigan University, earning a B.Sc. in education with physical education as her major.

A confident and effective public speaker, her slide show is a professional effort. But what makes her video proposal even more attractive is the fact Fischer is a part-time freelance announcer and has appeared frequently in Ohio television commercials as well as industrial sales training videos. She says she's ready for the challenge: making all racquetball players aware of the high risks involved in playing the game without proper eyeguards. ○

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Newsbriefs

Pan American Racquetball Championships

Major international racquetball competition takes place in Colorado Springs, CO from September 17-20 at the Ektelon/KKTV Pan American Championships. The tournament will feature national teams from 15 countries in this hemisphere. Known as the regional games in previous years, the Pan Ams were raised to the level of Pan American Championships with the formation of the Pan American Racquetball Confederation during the World Championships in 1986.

Currently, the U.S. shares the world championship with Canada, so an exciting settling of accounts is expected between the two countries. However, Puerto Rico, with Ruben Gonzalez, may play a spoiling role to prevent that match up. Top U.S. men will include Jim Cascio, Andy Roberts, Dan Obremski, and Doug Ganim. Top U.S. women will include Diane Green, Kaye Kuhfeld, Mona Mook and Trina Rasmussen. ○

The Professional Association of Racquetball Instructors

PARI, under the direction of the AARA and Director Connie Peterson Martin, has been in existence for five months, and in this time, has trained and certified 60 instructors throughout the United States.

PARI was developed due to concerns of instructors, club owners and managers, programmers and industry merchants, who wanted a credible teaching association similar to the USPTA of tennis.

PARI's primary goal is to train and certify at least one instructor for every club and/or playing facility in the United States. Clinics for certification will take place in most regions of the U.S. between September and December. Certification for instructors comes after participating in a

two-day training session, which includes written, practical and on-court tests. Instructors can be certified at one of four levels. ○

Racquet Triathalon

Coca-Cola and Head Racquet Sports team up for the 2nd annual \$10,000 Racquet Triathalon Tournament on September 18, 19, and 20th at the Atlanta Health and Racquet Club in Atlanta, Georgia.

This unusual event consists of head-to-head competition in racquetball, squash and tennis. Play will consist of three games to 33 points — one game in each sport. The player to accumulate the highest number of points out of a maximum 99, wins and advances to the next round.

Competition in both men and women's divisions will consist of open, A/B, C, 25+, 35+, and 45+. Anyone may participate, and the tournament is endorsed by the AARA, SESRA and WPSA organizations. Prize money exceeds \$5,000.

This tournament has been designed to promote concentration, stamina and all-around athletic abilities. More information is available by calling Tom Rumpel of the Atlanta Health and Racquet Club at (404) 952-3200. ○

NEXT MONTH IN NATIONAL RACQUETBALL OCTOBER ISSUE

DR. FRED LEWERENZ
The Million Dollar Manager

BRET HARNETT
On The Splat

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Rankings

The sources for these national rankings are as follows: Men's - Official RMA Pro Racquetball Tour rankings; Women's - Official WPRA Tour; Amateur - Official national rankings.

RMA Pro Racquetball Official Rankings June 15, 1987

1	M. Yellen	442
2	B. Harnett	395
3	M. Hogan	360
4	E. Andrews	306
5	E. Inoue	269
6	C. Swain	255
7	R. Gonzalez	252
8	S. Lerner	227
9	G. Peck	195
10	G. Price	178
11	D. Obremski	151
12	J. Hilecher	144
13	M. Ray	143
14	R. Harriersad	135
15	A. Gross	126
16	A. Katz	125
17	D. Peck	124
18	D. Johnson	115
19	J. Newman	93
20	D. Gross	86
21	D. Green	76
22	L. Gilliam	75
23	C. Nichols	73
24	J. Casio	71
25	B. Sell	70

WPRA Official Rankings June 28, 1987

1	L. Adams
2	C. McKinney
3	M. Drexler
4	M. O'Brien
5	V. Panzeri
6	K. Kuhfeld
7	T. Gilreath
8	M. Lynch
9	C. Evon
10	Jackie Paraiso
11	F. Davis
12	L. Alvarado
13	Joy Paraiso
14	D. Fischl
15	S. Robson
16	M. Mook
17T	M. Dee
17T	B. Stoll
19	C. Nichols
20	T. Bevelock
21	A. Katz
22	J. Harding
23	J. Marriott
24	R. Whitmire
25	D. Fletcher

AARA National Rankings Men's Open July 31, 1987

1	Andy Roberts, TN
2	Doug Ganim, OH
3	Tim Hansen, FL
4	Jim Cascio, PA
5	Sean Moskwa, IL
6	Kelvin Vantrease, IL
7	Sergio Gonzalez, FL
8	Mike Lowe, CA
9	Tom Montalbano, NY
10	Don Kelly, CO
11	Dave Negrete, IL
12	Joe Cline, NJ
13	Dennis Aceto, MA
14	Dan Obremski, PA
15	Todd O'Neill, VT
16	Tony Boscia, CO
17	Charlie Nichols, FL
18	Jamie Sumner, UT
19	James Lorello, FL
20	Aaron Katz, TX

Men's Wheelchair

1	Chip Parmelly, CA
2	Jim Leatherman, MD
3	Jim Golden, TX
4	John Foust, CO
5	Gary Baker, TX
6	Mark Munson, WV

AARA National Rankings Women's Open July 31, 1987

1	Trina Rasmussen, CA
2	Mona Mook, CA
3	Chris Evon, IL
4	Mary Dee, NH
5	Cindy Baxter, PA
6	Kaye Kuhfeld, IN
7	Elaine Mardas, OH
8	Dot Fischl, PA
9	Cindy Doyle, NY
10	Diane Green, FL
11	Susan Morgan, FL
12	Diane Adams, CO
13	Crystal Fried, CA
14	Lori Basch, FL
15	Lisa Hjelm, CA
16	Michelle Labonne, IN
17	Terry Latham, TX
18	Linda Diamond, FL
19	Robin Rodrigues, AK
20	Kim Despain, UT

Women's Handicapped

1	Kathy Hagerty, AL
2	Charlotte Morris, AL
3	Bobbie Jo Almond, AL
4	Kay Cody, AL
5	Mary Lasli Dean, AL
6	Brenda Pike, AL

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WPRA Tour Schedule 1987-88 Season

October 3-6

Alaska Athletic Club
Anchorage, AK

October 9-11

Pacific West Sport &
Racquet
Seattle, WA

November 5-8

Chicago, IL

December 4-6

Los Cabelleros Sports Club
Los Angeles, CA

February 26-28, 1988

Shawnee at Highpoint
Philadelphia, PA

March 10-13

Westerville Athletic Club
Columbus, OH

April

Atlanta Sporting Club
Atlanta, GA

June 2-5

Riverbend Athletic Club
Dallas-Fort Worth

1987 AARA Schedule

September 17-20

Adult Region 15 Doubles
Pac West
5227 South Puget Sound
Tacoma, WA 98409
Sid Williams
(206) 473-2266

September 17-19

Pan American Games
Tourney-Point AC
2233 N. Academy Place
Colorado Springs, CO
80903

September 24-26

National Women's
Invitational
Tampa Bay Courthouse
7815 N. Dale Mabry
Tampa, FL 33614
Jon Chelena
(813) 932-5321

September 24-26

Tampa Bay Open
Tampa Bay Courthouse
7815 N. Dale Mabry
Tampa, FL 33614
Jon Chelena
(813) 932-5321

September 24-26

North American 40+
Tournament
Albuquerque, NM

October 2-4

Holiday Open
Pac West
5227 South Puget Sound
Tacoma, WA 98409
Sid Williams
(206) 473-2266

October 22-24

National Doubles
Arizona Athletic Club
1425 14th Street
Tempe, AZ 85281

October 23-25

Cool Cucumber
Lakeland YMCA
3620 Cleveland
Heights Blvd.
Lakeland, FL 33803
Grace Page
(813) 644-3528

October 30-November 1

9th Annual White
Rose Classic
The Athletic Club-Sawmill
3880 Carol Road
York, PA 17402

Doe Devivo
(717) 755-0991

November 6-8

Florida State Outdoor 4
Wall Tournament
Auburndale Rec Center
202 W. Park Street
Auburndale, FL 33828
Keith Jackson
(813) 967-7265

November 13-15

Sarasota YMCA
Tournament
Sarasota YMCA
1075 S. Eucud NE
Sarasota, FL 33577

**For AARA information
contact: Luke St. Onge
(303) 635-5396**

**For RMA information
contact: Jim Hiser
(313) 653-9602**

**For WPRA information
contact: John Samford
(817) 654-2277**

Off Court Fitness

(continued from page 7)

pleased to see that Jim had made up for lost time on the bike. He was now among the top 25 percent of the racers.

John decided to run the first part of the Double Dipsy with Jim to encourage him. Twenty minutes later John returned with more good news.

"Your brother is an animal," John said, out of breath. "It's like those stairs are made for him, he's passing guys left and right!"

Two and a half hours later, there was a call from the top of the hill, down to the rest of us waiting by the finish line. The first-place finisher was approaching. It was, of course, one of the professionals.

A few minutes later, more pros appeared. John and I knew not to start looking for Jim until the approximately 20 other pros would finish. We were expecting to start looking at the 30th or 35th runners.

You can imagine our surprise when from the top of the hill, they called my brother's name. He was going to finish 17th!

All around us people were saying, "Who is that guy? Who sponsors him?"

Jim came over the line, shook hands with a few of the pros, went over to where he had left his bike, and threw up. I've never seen anyone look so happy after they've just thrown up.

But that's the way it is when you do that once-in-a-lifetime great thing, whether it's placing

among the pros, finishing that great racquetball tournament, or just finishing at all. And, even though you may never perform that way again, you've just been where few people ever get to be. At the top.

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Left: Standard models available in crystal (shown) and tortoise.

Below: Caryn McKinney, #2 on the WPRA pro tour, uses Action Eyes exclusively.

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