

National Racquetball®

VOLUME 5 NUMBER 4 • \$1.00 • JULY, 1977

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE U.S. RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION

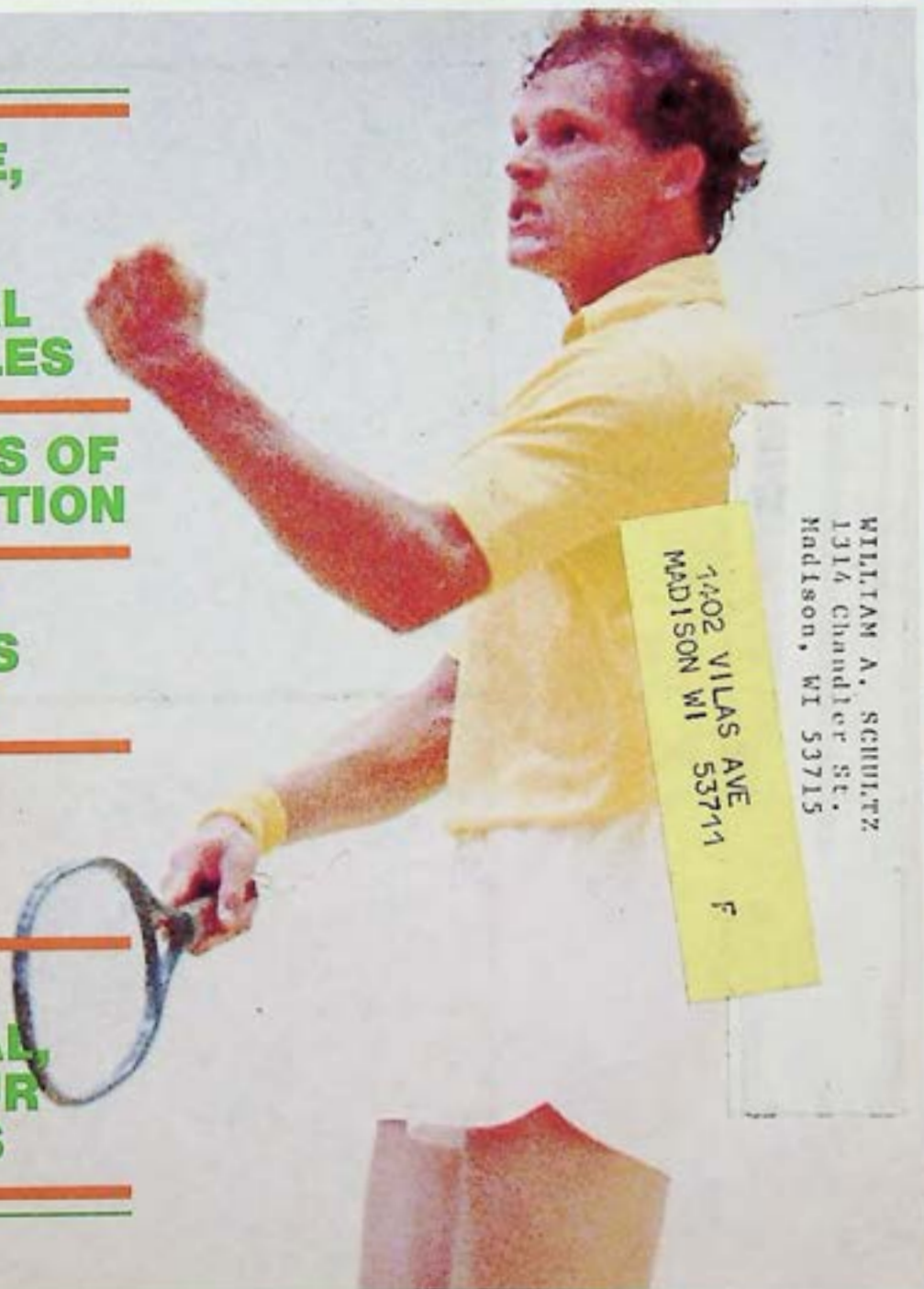
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FEATURES

Cash & Charge Accountability ↔ Money Management

Your racquet sports club can have an accounting management system utilizing the Sweda 725 Electronic Register. Register-imprinted member receipts are automatically generated for all transactions. Backup register documentation of all transactions is provided for club use, as is a register-imprinted transaction summary for expeditious day's-end balancing.

Front Desk Organization

The electronic register is the record-keeping nucleus for all front-desk activity. Through program control, register-guided entry of information is performed accurately and easily by all front-desk personnel with minimal training. Separate register totals facilitate drawer-balancing by shift. The register-produced journal tape with all recorded transactions is used as input to the Louis Zahn Data Service Corp.'s processing center.

Instantaneous Information

Separate register totals (dollars & units) are provided for all sales classifications, such as court-time, resold court-time, lessons, Pro Shop sales, bar & lounge. The club has total access to all recap information at any time. Confidentiality is assured with a security code control employed by the register, preventing unauthorized access to information.

System Highlights:

- Updated monthly paper Rolodex cards with member ID, aging & court-time.
- Racquetball Charge System/PCB® automated Permanent Court-time Billing (PCB)® with descriptive statements.
- Metropolitan Billing or Circuit Billing for members play in multiple owned clubs.
- New member listing printout.
- Court Scheduling Reports.
- Total Business Analysis Report on sales & service categories.
- Permanent Court-time & League/Round Robin information printed on member's statements.
- Automatic membership renewal billing.
- Bound booklet of duplicates of all statements generated.
- Total electronic stuffing, posting & mailing of members' statements with club fliers & newsletters.

Your facility can now enjoy all the fine points of the standard RACQUETBALL CHARGE SYSTEM/PCB® without filling out & batching transaction forms.*

*Note: The Total Electronic Administration Management® register system does not provide the hand-signed proof-of-purchase cards with the members' monthly statements (usually requested by IRS for corporate accounts) as DOES The Standard RACQUETBALL CHARGE SYSTEM/PCB® described in the adjoining RACQUETBALL CHARGE SYSTEM/PCB® ad.

TENNISYSTEM® WITH **PCB®**
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Endorsed By: Court Club Enterprises



NOTE: TENNISYSTEM/PCB®, RACQUETBALL CHARGE SYSTEMS/PCB® and Total Electronic Administrative Management are exclusive registered and trademarked data systems for racquet sports by

LOUIS ZAHN DATA SERVICE CORP. 1930 GEORGE STREET, MELROSE PARK, ILLINOIS 60160

Racquetball Charge System/PCB® Total Electronic Administrative Management System/PCB® is also designed from market research by the Louis Zahn Data Service Corp., developers of Racquetball Charge System/PCB® which totally solves the billing problems which your club and other clubs are now experiencing, while providing you with timely and concise information needed for your club's present and future growth in an ever increasing competitive market.

Both the total Electronic Administrative Management System/PCB® and Racquetball Charge System/PCB® provide your facility with *Totally Descriptive Statements* that will eliminate billing-related questions and problems.

Customized imprinted payment cards, pre-addressed to your club, and matching return-envelopes enclosed with your Racquetball club members' monthly statements help convert charges into working cash fast... especially with our guaranteed 72-hour Turnaround Service. The Racquetball Charge System/PCB® Total Electronic Administrative Management System/PCB® provides you with an easy-to-read color-coded aging analysis which tells you instantly who owes *What* and *For How Long*. In addition, the Louis Zahn Data Service Corp. includes *The Date Your Member Last Used Your Club's Services* and *The Date Payment Was Made*, as well as your *Member's Year-To-Date Total Charges*.

Racquetball Charge System/PCB® Total Electronic Administra-

live Management System/PCB® provides a precise sales analysis (Including Cash) which sorts down all sales categorically, *Without Your Club Having To Fill Out Total and Batch Transaction Forms or Cards.*

Free PR, sales and optional dunning messages can be custom-imprinted on top of your racquetball members' Descriptive Statements each month.

Racquetball Charge System/PCB® Total Electronic Administrative Management System/PCB® also provides *Electronic Stuffing and Mailing Services* with optical scanning to insure **Accuracy and Instantaneous Cash Flow**, as well as providing the ability to **STUFF and MAIL Your Monthly Club's Newsletters** and two additional advertising leaflets.

Racquetball Charge System/PCB® Total Electronic Administrative Management System/PCB® also provides *Free In-Club Training By Our Pro.*

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Smooth and immediate transition from your present system, no matter what system you presently use, or you can start now before your club is constructed. **RACQUETBALL CHARGE SYSTEM/PCB®** Total Electronic Administrative Management System/PCB® serves clubs throughout our entire nation and internationally as well. Optional *Percentage-Free Collection Services* are also available with all Louis Zahn Data Service Corp. systems.



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Journal of Internal Medicine 247: 1-11

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Your method of billing your members' regular charges may be the least professional thing you do.

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RACQUETBALL CHARGE SYSTEMS/PCB® is the computer billing system designed from market research by the racquet sports specialists, the Louis Zahn Data Service Corp. We are the exclusive developers of TENNISYSTEM/PCB®, the system that totally solves clubs' billing problems, while providing you with timely and concise information needed for your club's present and future growth.

We have many satisfied clients throughout the country, with 100% renewals each season. RACQUETBALL CHARGE SYSTEMS/PCB® will cost you less than your present program, and we can prove it. We know it will give you the finest controls.

Receipts, optionally signed by your Racquetball Club Members are promptly mailed with our concise, informative, **TOTALLY DESCRIPTIVE STATEMENTS**, to eliminate billing related questions and problems. Customized imprinted payment cards, pre-addressed to your club, and matching return envelopes enclosed with your racquetball club members' state-

ments, help to convert charges into working cash fast... especially with our guaranteed 72-hour turnaround service. Easy-to-read, color-coded aging analysis tells you instantly who owes what, and for how long. In addition, we include the date your member last used your club's services and the date payment was made, as well as member's year-to-date total charges.

Precise sales analysis (including cash) sorts down all sales, categorically. Free PR, sales, and optional dunning messages can be custom-imprinted on top of your racquetball members' descriptive statements each month. RACQUETBALL CHARGE SYSTEMS also provides electronic stuffing and mailing services with optical scanning to insure instantaneous cash flow, as well as providing the ability to stuff and mail your monthly club's newsletters and two additional advertising leaflets.

And you receive free in-club training by our pro. It takes only an hour a day to operate RACQUETBALL CHARGE SYSTEMS/PCB®. Can you beat that? No expensive, complex installations or confusing, sensitive gadgets. No minimum service period. No binding contract. No cancellation fee.

Smooth and immediate transition from your present system or you can start now before your club is constructed. RACQUETBALL CHARGE SYSTEMS/PCB® serves clubs throughout our entire nation.

***PCB is Permanent Court-Time Billing.**

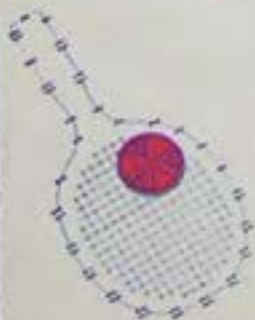
NOTE: OUTPUT OF JOURNAL PAPER TAPE FROM IN-CLUB CASH REGISTERS CAN BE USED AS INPUT TO THE ABOVE SYSTEM. IF YOU SO DESIRE, WE CAN AID YOU IN POINT OF SALE REGISTER SELECTION AND IMPLEMENTATION.

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Louis Zahn Data Service Corp. 1930 GEORGE STREET MELROSE PARK, ILLINOIS 60160



We don't sell



...our clients do!



Mort Leve, Executive Director,
Court Club Enterprises
360 Park Drive, Northbrook, IL 60062
312 272-4508

Mr. Richard Perlman
Louis Zahn Data Service Corp.
1930 George Street
Melrose Park, IL 60160

Dear Richard:

In conducting numerous seminar/meetings during the past four years; first, as executive director of the National Court Clubs Association and now as president of Court Club Enterprises, the participation of the Louis Zahn Data Service Corp. has been a definite plus factor. Those hundreds of persons preparing their "packages" to enter into this very viable racquetball/handball enterprise seek as much information as is possible. Richard Perlman, making the presentation for the computer billing system, has demonstrated the full values and the tremendous services that can be given Court Clubs throughout the country.

My personal contacts with clubs who have employed the Zahn service demonstrates how much they have appreciated such involvement and their total satisfaction with the system.

I would not hesitate in recommending the Louis Zahn Data Service Corp. "Racquetball Charge Systems". NCCA gave its full endorsement when I served as executive director, and now, the full "turn key" consultation service we offer through Court Club Enterprises secures this full endorsement. As an integral part of our full consultations we always include the feasibility of utilizing the Louis Zahn Data Service.

Our updated seminar report booklets contain the full information on this Racquetball Charge Systems and in all our seminar/meetings full information from the corporation is made available to those in attendance.

In addition to providing this very worthwhile service to the handball/racquetball Court Club industry, the Louis Zahn Data Service has cooperated 100% in furthering the promotion of the games and the Court Club facilities.

Sincerely,

Mort Leve

Mort Leve, President
COURT CLUB ENTERPRISES



MORT LEVE — founder of National Court Clubs Association, 1973; 23 years as executive director/editor, United States Handball Association; original executive director and co-establisher of the International Racquetball Association, 1968. Elected to Helms Handball Hall of Fame as contributor, 1976; authored *Inside Handball* with Paul Haber; has conducted more than 15 seminars on handball/racquetball court clubs; innumerable private consultations throughout United States and Canada.

Journalism graduate, University of Illinois, graduate work, Northwestern University.

20 years vice-president, Board of Directors, National Boys Baseball, national program in age brackets. Coached world series teams from Northbrook, Ill. in Pony League, American Legion.

Married, four children. Son, Chuck, present executive director of United States Racquetball Association.

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belt it  splash it  whack it 
slap it  dunk it  bounce it 
freeze it  spin it  cream it 
chop it  wet it  dribble it 
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Unbreakable nylon laces.

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National Racquetball®

VOLUME 5 NUMBER 4 • \$1.00 • JULY, 1977

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE U.S. RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION

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On The Cover . . .

Davey Bledsoe in his first moments after victory gives determined "I got it" to the full house gallery. Bledsoe's shocking victory at the Nationals came over Marty Hogan 21-20, 21-19.

—Photo by Arthur Shay

Our Biggest Ever . . . Again

This issue's 160 pages plus cover reaches a further milestone in racquetball journalism, — the largest racquetball magazine ever published in our sport. The old record, set last issue, of 120 pages plus cover, lasted exactly two months. We hope you enjoy and appreciate **National Racquetball** magazine, number one in racquetball.

National Racquetball Magazine is the official publication of the United States Racquetball Association and is published bi-monthly by the National Racquetball Club, Inc., 4101 Dempster Street, Skokie, Illinois 60076, (312) 673-4000.
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All editorial communications should be addressed to The Editor, National Racquetball Magazine, 4101 Dempster Street, Skokie, Illinois 60076. Manuscripts must be typewritten and double spaced. Color and black and white photographs are welcomed.

Subscriptions are \$5.00 for one (1) year and \$12.00 for three (3) years. Rates are for U.S., possessions, military and Canada. Foreign subscriptions add \$5.00 per year for postage. Second class postage paid at Skokie, Illinois and at additional mailing office. Postmaster send form 3579 to National Racquetball magazine, 4101 Dempster Street, Skokie, Illinois 60076.

What Title Did You Win?

National Championships have only one objective . . . to identify superior skill and title it. Unfortunately, winning a title, instead of exalting, sometimes debases those who exhibit less than championship qualities. We have only one or two thoughtless pros left whose conduct, undoubtedly, will one day equal their skill.

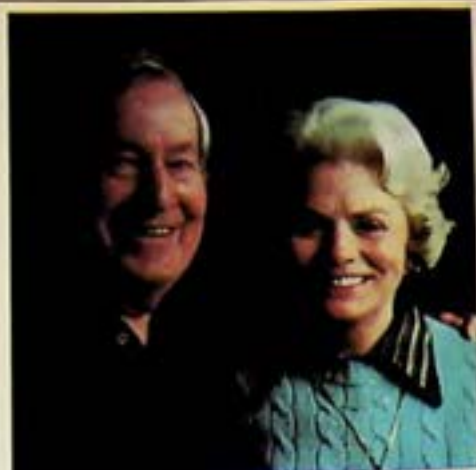
We have just completed the biggest racquetball championship ever held. I hope the winners know that it is not titles that reflect honor on the men, but men on their titles! And this brings me to the Nationals at San Diego.

They were great! Superb! Unmatched! On the way to the finals, there were people who did not deserve to win, and didn't. They were the players who challenged every call, defied every ruling, and generally made the referee's work a nightmare. I think the referees did an excellent job, and my thanks go out to Chuck Leve, Terry Fancher, and every one of their referees and linesmen. I salute and thank every one of you. This tournament would be nothing without the unsung players and referees who, more than some so-called stars, deserve the title of Good Sportsmen.

Elsewhere in this issue we have made mention of the many co-workers who made this enormous task a success.

And success it was! There has never been a better managed, more popular, or more exciting racquetball championship staged, and it should come as no surprise that prime credit goes to the Atlas Organization. Unbeknown to any of you, there were numerous critical situations, none of which eluded the capable handling of their professional staff. Their hospitality was sumptuous, their facilities fabulous, and their publicity unequalled in all of court club history. You can all look forward to cassettes, in living color, with slow motion, at very popular prices. All the exciting moments of this thrill-filled week have been captured on film. This is another reason why my vote is cast for Atlas who wins the title as the greatest host in our 10 year history.

We just have to give the Sweetheart title to Charlie Brumfield. There is no doubt all the girls love him, the men admire him, and the pros envy him. Wait till network television hears his melodious voice. Howard Cosell will eat his heart out!

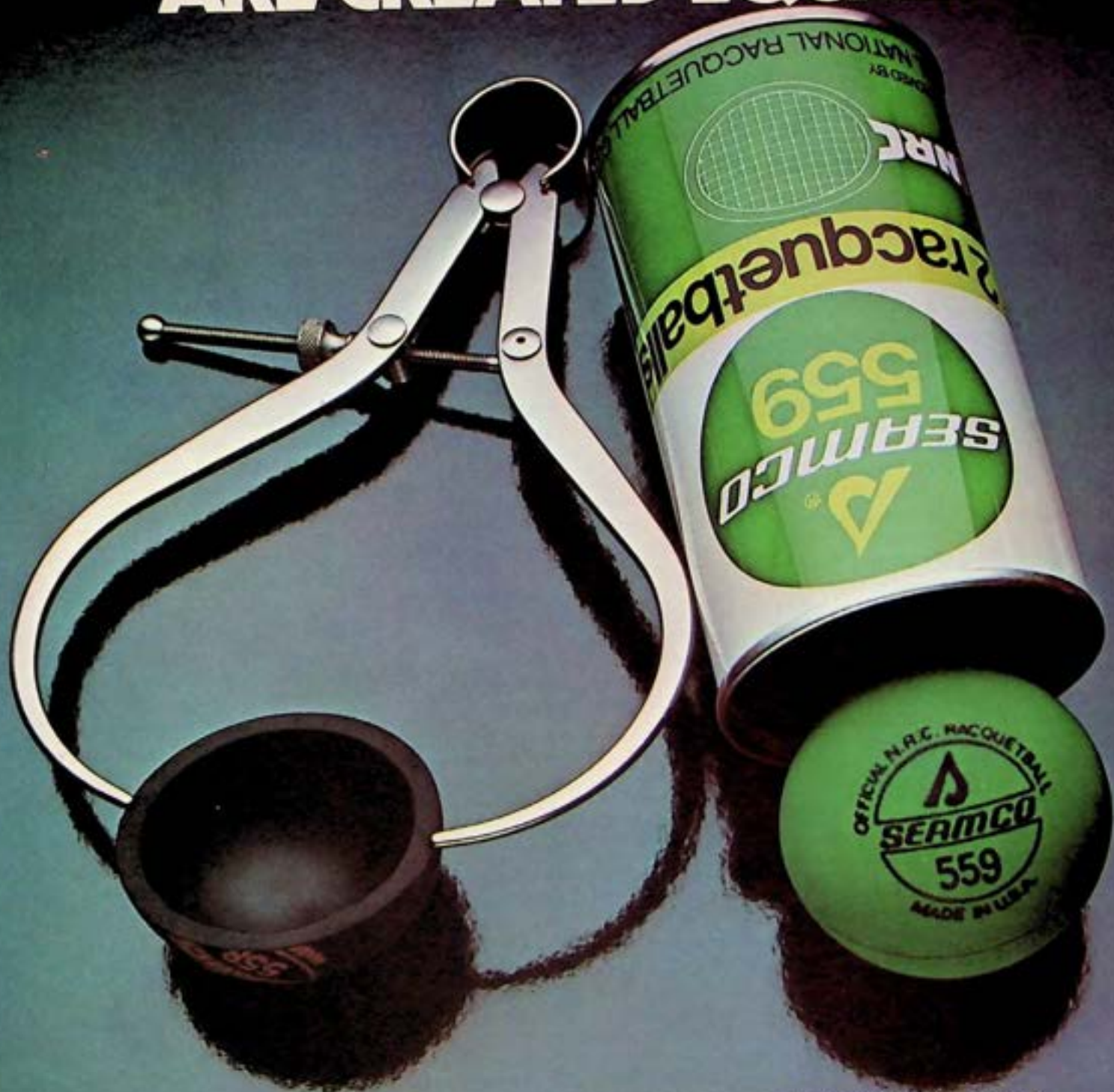


I hope you are one of those who came home with the best title . . . the satisfaction of having helped us make this a memorable event. For myself, I'm like the fellow who said, "I'm not what I'm gonna be. But I'm not what I used to be!"

And it's going to be a lot better. When you watch your thoughts, they become words; when you watch your words, they become actions; when you watch your actions, they become habits; when you watch your habits, they become characteristics. So watch your characteristics, for they become your destiny! Live with men as if God saw you; converse with God as if men heard you. Then your real title will be won! ●

Bob Kendler

NOT ALL RACQUETBALLS ARE CREATED EQUAL.



Some are rounder than others. At Seamco, we inject superheated rubber into our molds. This gives us a uniform wall inside. And a roundness outside that nobody in the industry can match.

Technically, our racquetballs are within

seventeen one-thousandths of perfect roundness. Our next closest competitor is "out of round" more than twice that figure.

Calibrations aside, we give you a truer bounce where it counts.

Off the wall.

SEAMCO RACQUETBALLS
The official ball since the game began.



An Era Ends

He was in trouble and everybody knew it. His lithe opponent took a forehand off the back wall and as the man moved in to cover the kill, his opponent drove the ball cross court, perfectly camouflaged.

The man with glasses screeched to a halt, changed direction, and raced to the deep left corner after the spinning sphere. He got there, but too late. His black carbon racquet could not help his outstretched arm as he desperately "wristed" the ball back into the back wall.

The Seamco 559 fell 10 feet short of the front wall and the match was over. Charlie Brumfield would not repeat in his quest for National Title number five. He had lost to Jerry Hilecher, 11-9 in the tie-breaker, in the quarter-finals.

Half of the gallery was cheering wildly. The other half was initially in stunned silence, and gradually began applause of respect, which grew to a thunderous ovation for excellent play, effort, and I believe past performances.

A guttural "Allright!" came from Hilecher's throat, he did a little dance and there was Brumfield. The men shook hands and walked off the court.

There were no tears, no tirades, no obscenities, neither before, during or after the match. The Charlie Brumfield era was officially over.

The former champ did not win a single tour stop this past season. He won barely \$6,000 in prize money, while tour leader Marty Hogan captured \$22,000 and runner-up Davey Bledsoe, who was to take the National title a few days later earned over \$10,000.

Those who couldn't understand why Brumfield had not been "on" all year still looked puzzled. They shouldn't have been, however. Certainly

Brumfield wasn't. He knew long ago that his time had come and the transition from number one to number three was made in a manner befitting any national champion. It was made with class.

Brumfield has always been one of the most, if not the most intelligent racquetball performers. His analytical mind and ability to think himself out of any situation was a large contributing factor to his success.

His was the first mind to figure out that he couldn't win consistently and would have difficulty winning at all. He, before almost any others, realized that the game had changed.

The era of control racquetball left with Brumfield. The two are and were synonymous. The game now is power and kill. The younger, stronger players show this, - Hogan, Bledsoe, Wagner, McCoy, Hilecher, - serve and shoot.

Control racquetballers still can show well, with Brumfield, Strandemo and Keeley all reaching, then losing, in the quarter-finals. On a fluke they might make the semi's. On a rarity, the finals. On a prayer, the title.

This is no knock of these fine competitors. They possess and perform the skills once considered mighty, just as well as they did a few years ago. But the game has changed.

The power hitters hit the ball so hard that they have wrecked the balance between power and control, where idealistically, two premier players of each style would have a tremendous battle. Today the power players destroy the controllers.

Control, that beautiful, flowing movement of finesse and percentages, playing by the book, maneuvering your opponent until you get that good

offensive opportunity, - it is no longer effective.

Witness new national champion Bledsoe: "For me to wait for a high percentage shot is stupid," he said after the Nationals. "I win off low percentage shots."

It's called making the first offensive opportunity, instead of waiting for it. It calls for booming serves that cripple the receiver. It means shoot anything, and hit it hard.

Brumfield didn't have a chance. His physique and stroke have been groomed for 12 years in control. To totally change his game at age 29 would be asking too much of anyone, even Brumfield.

So Charlie accepted the inevitable. He continued to play, and play his hardest. But a new mental attitude emerged, one of court sanity. Brum went out, did his best, and let the chips fall.

He left the antics, the rages, the intimidation, the shenanigans, the bush leagues behind. In losing Brumfield became a true professional. He may be the only one in the game.

His era is over, but his career is just beginning. Brumfield will make his next mark within racquetball, in law, coaching or television.

He is legend. I had the privilege of witnessing the last seven years of that legend. He has done more for racquetball than any other player in the game's history. Charlie Brumfield put us on the sports map. He calculated the need for an outspoken, controversial, haughty, and ego dominated champion and he made himself one.

Now as his reign ends Brumfield's true personality has come out. More than ever, he is a champion. ●

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I'D RATHER BE RACQUETBALLING

U.S. RACQUETBALL ASSN., 4101 DEMSTER ST., SKOKIE, ILL. 60076



Goodbye 76-77

The 1976-77 season is over. Can it be that 12 pro tour stops, eight regionals, 92 state tournaments and countless sanctioned events have come and gone? It seems like yesterday we were right where we are today, already planning the next season.

This time it will be the 1977-78 year. What it holds for racquetball is greatness. It is our job to make sure that we attain that greatness.

Before moving on, I feel a few reflections on the year just completed are in order. Much was accomplished for our sport and many people deserve much of the praise.

Another breath cannot go by without thanking the Seamco Sporting Goods Company, from president Al Mackie and national sales manager Bob Coate down to every factory worker who has labored to continue the fine 558 and 559 racquetballs. It has been the generous support of Seamco, through royalties and sponsorship monies, that has provided the funds necessary to build this sport. Our hat is off to these fine people.

Leach Industries, the pro tour, co-sponsor, and provider of so many top players, has been another firm, whose input has been invaluable this season. What Leach has done has aided thousands of players throughout the nation.

It's awkward to look back and try and determine what the high points of a 10 month period were, but if I was asked to recall the single most important

achievement of the 1976-77 season it could be summed up in one word: involvement.

The U.S.R.A. and N.R.C. were able to involve thousands, perhaps millions of players in racquetball. Not only through our 46 affiliated state associations, but through other tournaments, and recently a national television spot.

Involving people in racquetball is so important, because racquetball can become so important to each individual. As we promote health through our sport, we promote well being for all people. It is a task that no one has asked that we do, but one that we feel is our duty to perform.

That is why we will continue to promote racquetball for everyone. The professionals will be stimulated further; the state associations will be enlarged and made more efficient, with further funding; the amateur sector, especially the women, seniors, masters and golden masters will receive greater promotion and programs; the juniors program will be expanded; and our efforts for national television coverage will continue.

And those items should only be the beginning as we prepare racquetball for the season that will surely introduce our great sport to the nation, - and the world.

I'd like to add a few thank you's to Bob Kendler, the president of our Associations, and the driving force behind our efforts. I've never seen a more tireless, harder worker on behalf of racquetball and it is truly my honor to work with him.

To Chuck Leve and Terry Fancher, our two organizational phenoms, thanks for taking the pressure off me with the states, the tours, and the magazine. In this way I was able to bear down on the public relations and business ends of our work.

And lastly, a thank you to all you wonderful readers and players. We certainly couldn't do any of the above without you. It's been a terrific year, and its going to get better. ●

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A Personal Foot Health Care Program

Pre-Game Prevention

No part of the human body is as neglected as the foot. As our ultimate weight bearing surface, it bears the brunt of all physical abuse heaped on it from above and thrust into it from below. In racquetball, as in other highly mobile and physical weight-bearing sports, poor foot health is a serious problem, magnified by its crippling effects on total performance. The slightest sprain, muscle pain, blister or infected ingrown toenail often incapacitates and can eliminate the athlete from competition just as effectively and painfully as ligamentous rupture or fracture.

Unfortunately, many people are unaware of the existence of preventive foot health, in spite of the fact that 160 million Americans suffer from some sort of foot disorder. Racquetball is a strenuous sport, so certain amounts of residual foot and leg discomfort for the average player, playing once or twice a week is within normal limits and should be expected. However, if debilitating pain, for whatever reason, persists beyond one's physiologic limits, forcing a player to walk uncomfortably, distracting him on his job, or hampering everyday activities, then racquetball for recreation and physical fitness becomes detrimental.

In this and future articles emphasis will be placed on the etiology and prevention of troublesome foot and leg conditions in order to recognize them before they occur. With common sense care, we can avoid things like improper shoe selection, unnecessary skin irritation and infection or inadequate warm-up and thus insure our longevity on the court while making racquetball more enjoyable and less painful. Some of the home medical treatments will be stressed as well as complications and related problems that could arise but would require a Podiatrist's attention. These conditions should never be

treated by the player himself unless under the physician's direction.

It is required that all players implement a personal health care program even before entering the court. This should consist of: 1) correct shoe selection, materials and fit; 2) proper foot hygiene; and 3) active foot and leg exercise in the pre-game warm-up.

Correct Shoe Selection, Materials and Fit

The racquetball shoe becomes a danger to all who fail to insist on proper support, fit, and construction. These assurances will be had by considering the following suggestions:

1. First, you will always be wise to select shoes in the late afternoon or early evening since the foot probably swells with weight bearing throughout the day. Try on shoes with one or two layers of socks, whichever you wear when playing.
2. Insist that the salesman take foot measurements while you are standing up, to allow for natural splaying with weight bearing. Both width and length should be measured for ballpark figures.
3. Once the shoes are on, make sure the widest portion of the shoe corresponds with the widest portion of the foot — or the distance between the first and fifth toe joints. Pay particular attention to the fit at the heel which should feel snug yet not constricting. A cushioned backing to prevent abrupt irritation and blistering of the Achilles tendon is recommended.
4. Avoid very tight fitting counters (the hardened areas at the inside and outside of the heel) which can precipitate Achilles tendonitis and bursitis or excessive medial shoe pressure. Counters that are too loose may lead to blistering as the shoe rises and falls, and will fail to provide proper heel support. This will cause a shoe to

break down faster while the foot, still exerting pressures from various directions, is thrown out of balance, not necessarily damaging ligaments or muscles but causing excess strain, fatigue and unnecessary pain.

5. Comfort is the most important factor and proper fit will insure it. Give yourself time to get the feel of the shoes by walking and moving around in them. Good shoes will not "give" that much. Orthopedic arches built into some shoes must correspond to the longitudinal arch of the foot but can be adjusted. Players with "flat feet" or balance inlays should remove arches to avoid future discomfort and irritation. Conversely, arches can be built up for extra support, if necessary.

6. Always choose a shoe that is roomy in the toe area so that the toes, within the sock, can naturally flex, extend and spread on the inner sole. If pinched from the sides or the top, they will be subjected to pressure and friction that will eventually damage the skin and open the way to blister formation, corns, calluses or impingement on toenails. Note that excess pressure and friction will invariably develop heat and consequently increase perspiration, setting up conditions advantageous for bacterial and/or fungal infection, and cause burning and swelling.

7. Choose a shoe with a hard toe box providing adequate clearance and protection of the toes. Stepping on other player's feet or jamming against the walls accounts for many painful injuries that can be avoided.

8. Insist on a sole that is semi-stiff to rigid and be sure it has tread. These soles seem to provide excellent shock absorption, greater floor-sole contact and less innersole-foot friction.

9. Be sure the upper is constructed of leather, rather than cloth or a synthetic combination. Leather bends easily and will conform to the contours of one's

foot. It is both tough and porous so it can protect the foot, keep it stable within the shoe and at the same time allow it to "breathe." In this way air can circulate within the shoe and this will facilitate keeping the foot cool and dry. Both synthetics and cloth fail to do this and their characteristic tightness may even hamper circulation — a consideration for the players with varicose veins and other circulatory problems.

Proper Foot Hygiene

The rules of proper foot hygiene in the health care program seems fundamental but must be included. Keeping our feet clean, cool and dry, especially when playing, are most important factors. Anytime excess heat and perspiration accumulate within the sock or fail to be washed off, odor develops (Bromidrosis), skin alkalinity increases and inter-digital maceration may result — creating an atmosphere even more conducive to fungus infection or fetid bacteria. We can all play more comfortably by following these guidelines:

1. Use 100% cotton socks when playing. This material absorbs sweat so it can best provide ventilation, keeping the feet cooler, while it claims the lowest incidence of skin reaction. Do not use cotton-synthetic-wool combinations which generate heat and often cause contact dermatitis when toxic chemicals are released to interact with skin.

2. Change socks frequently according to how much your feet perspire. Moisture is especially conducive to skin friction, infection and foot odor.

Therefore, it is good practice to change socks between matches in order to prevent complications. It must be noted that certain conditions cause feet to perspire more. Excess sweating is commonly associated with obesity, nervous system disorders,

disease, and contact dermatitis. If recurrent and uncontrolled foot perspiration and odor exist, see a Podiatrist or Dermatologist to ascertain its etiology.

3. Allow shoes to adequately dry out after play. Make a note to remove them from the racquetball bag to do this. Playing in damp shoes the following day, may permanently stretch and distort the leather upper, subject it to mold and mildew and accentuate the hyperthyroidism, peripheral vascular Bromidrosis. Sprinkling foot powder into shoes will absorb moisture and aids in this respect.

4. To decrease the incidence of communicable skin disease such as Athlete's Foot (Tinea Pedis) in the locker-room wear rubber thongs at all times—including the shower and sauna. (Paper sandals should be provided by each clerk as a healthy safeguard.) Pay special attention to the mechanical scrubbing and soaping of the feet when showering, as a first defense against spread of micro-organisms around the locker-room facility. Examine your toenails for embedded dirt and first signs of infection. Be sure they are clipped straight across but not too short.

5. Do not wear your thongs into the whirlpool; you may contaminate the water. Players who run barefoot into the whirlpool right after a brief water rinse off, become vehicles for dissemination of micro-organisms.

6. Be careful using towels. The drying of feet and intertriginous areas and then standing on these same towels may contaminate the floor but more importantly other body areas. Dispose of towels in hampers which must be maintained frequently.

7. Over the counter antifungal and antibacterial powders and sprays are good for use after feet are dried,

prophylactically. However, if troublesome symptoms develop such as interdigital itching, maceration (softening of the flesh due to continued perspiration), redness and tiny blisters, consult your Podiatrist. He must make a differential diagnosis before treatment is started. Home remedies at this stage, should not be attempted.

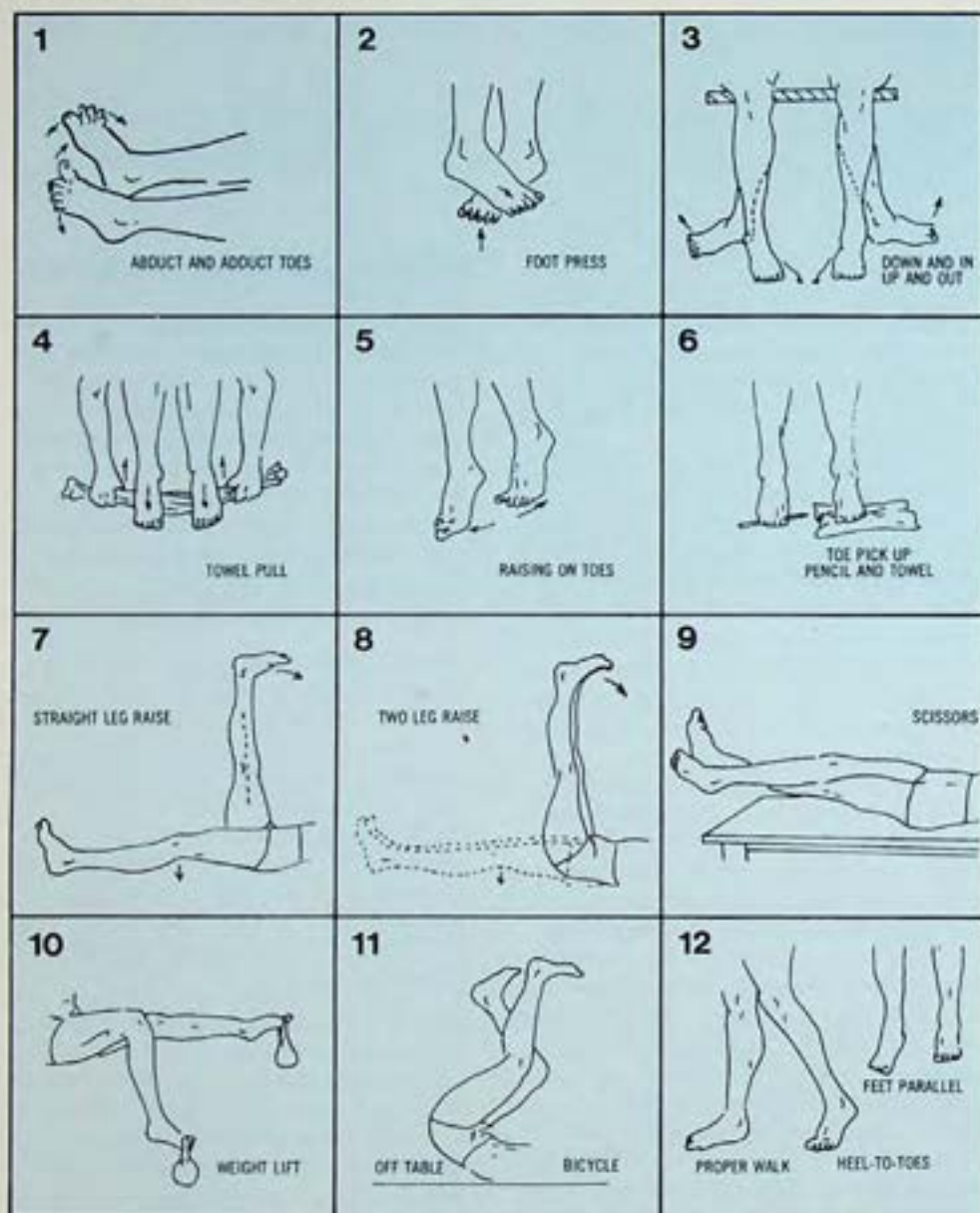
Active Foot and Leg Exercise in the Pre-Game Warm-Up

It is not surprising that lack of the pre-game warm-up exercises in a player's personal health care system, too often results in painful and debilitating injuries. The warm-up not only prepares the body for the forthcoming increased activity but is also a good way to pinpoint areas of residual foot and leg soreness and stiffness. In this way, special attention may be paid to these areas during warm-up exercise.

One theory supporting warm-up exercise is obvious. The optimum temperature for the speed of chemical reactions and metabolism in muscle has been demonstrated to be 102-103°F. Since a muscle's temperature rises during work, it is the warm-up exercise that enables our muscles to approach their optimum temperature. (Pre-game sauna also aids in this respect before playing.) Further evidence suggests that muscular speed, strength, and efficiency is enhanced in this temperature range, as well.

Certainly the most neglected exercises in the pre-game warm-up are those related to the muscles of the lower legs and feet. Execution of these exercises, shown in Fig. 1, are mandatory before play and should be performed barefoot, before shoes and socks are

EXERCISES FOR FEET AND LEGS



Exercises #1 to #6

Move ankles, feet and toes SLOWLY through these exercises.

Exercises #7 and #8

Raise one leg at a time, lowering slowly. Then raise both legs together and lower slowly.

Exercise #9

Raise legs up 2" from floor or bed and slowly cross and uncross them.

Exercise #10

With 10 pound weight across foot, elevate alternately the right leg, then the left leg, to 90°.

Exercise #12

When walking, keep feet parallel and finish step on the toes (not on ball of foot).

put on. The movement of no other part of the body is so hampered by clothing as the foot is by the shoe, so exercise with shoes on will limit full use of muscles and joint ranges of motion — and both must be available during increased activity. It is obvious that the warm-up necessary to produce adequate muscle tone and flexibility for a certain individual will depend on the conditioning status of that individual but any player is inviting serious injury (e.g., strain, sprain, muscle or ligament rupture, fracture) and certainly more rapid fatigue if they play without vigorous pre-game warm-up exercise.

Part I in this series has emphasized a personal health care system that should be incorporated into every player's pre-game plans. Total performance will surely improve if incapacitating and painful foot and leg problems can be recognized and thus prevented. Future articles will deal with some of the more serious conditions that develop as a result of player negligence, where these minor pains and symptoms culminate into more serious, debilitating and aggravating injuries. ●

PAYMENT FOR ARTICLES

Payment For Articles

Do you know a better way to teach a particular phase of racquetball? Have you experienced something first hand within our sport that you would want to share with the entire nation? Taken any good pictures of racquetball lately? Have any health tips that could help somebody's game?

If you possess or are capable of writing any of the above, *National Racquetball* will be happy to accept contributions from our readers. Payment will be made, on publication at the following rates:

\$200 for Instructional Articles.

Contributions must be specific, well documented with drawings or photographs, on a particular phase of our sport and how to improve it. Potential contributors should read any of Ken Wong's instructional series (November, 1975, January, March, 1976) as a good example. Minimum length: 2,000 words.

\$200 for First Person Articles.

Contributions must be actual, true, original unpublished story about something that happened to you or you witnessed within racquetball. It can be humorous, dramatic or just plain interesting. Potential contributors should read David Northcutt's *A Game With Charlie Brumfield* (May, 1976) as a good example. Minimum length: 1,000 words.

\$200 for Health Articles. Contributions must be factual, documented and related to how to improve or maintain your health in or with racquetball. Articles dealing with diet, conditioning, safety, cardio-vascular improvement, or psychological areas are particularly desirable. Dr. P.E. Allsen's *Racquetball Increases Cardiovascular Fitness* (March, 1976) is a good example. Minimum length: 750 words.

\$50 for pictures, cartoons or drawings. The material may be dramatic, humorous, or singularly interesting. It must be original and unpublished. Regular tournament photos, unless containing an unusually high degree of originality will not be considered. All photos must be black-and-white glossy, and any cartoons or drawings must be camera ready.

The contributor's name and address and the date the contribution is sent should be on all items. Compositions must be type-written, double spaced, and are subject to revision, alteration, correction or rejection by the editor. **CONTRIBUTIONS CANNOT BE ACKNOWLEDGED OR RETURNED.**

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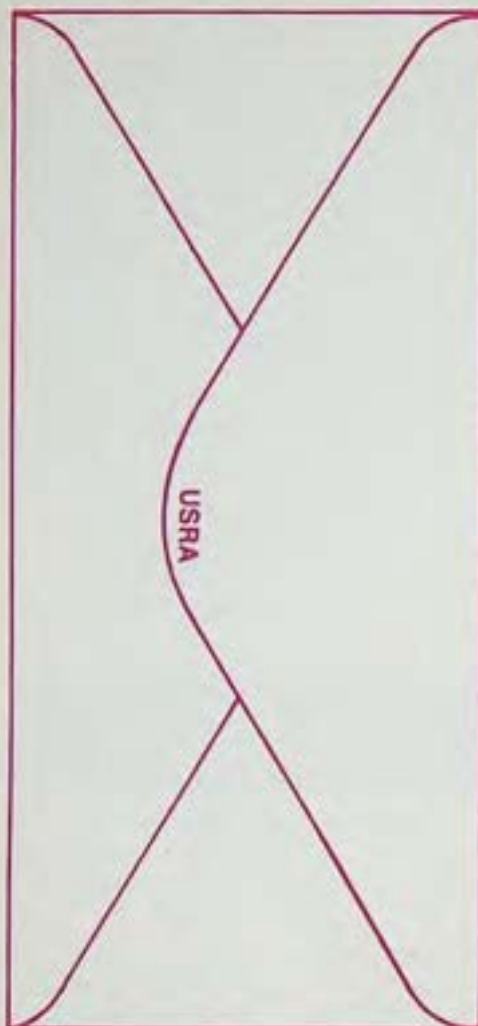
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LETTERS



Dear Bob:

Thank you! I very much appreciate your generosity and willingness to support our Chicago Heart Association Tournament. I assure you that all of your requests will be honored and I personally will look forward to joining you so that we can share the Gapers food and fun.

Your continued efforts and support of the court sports is most appreciated.

John S. Wineman, Jr.
Northfield, IL

Dear Mr. Kendler:

On page 57 of your May 1977 issue, you made an offer that if we belong to a club where there is a woman pro or manager, you would send us a free can of balls. I submit the name of Linda Browning as the manager of Courtside Racquetball Club in Springfield, Illinois. Linda has only been the manager for a few months, but in that short period of time is doing an excellent job.

As long as I have taken the time to write, I would like to tell you of the great help your magazine has been to my racquetball game. I have recently progressed from the C class to the B class, and I feel that part of my improvement has been due to your excellent articles on instruction in *National Racquetball*. Before taking up racquetball two years ago, I was a 4-day a week golfer, and since then I have not touched my golf clubs, which, by the way, makes my wife very happy because now she can expect me home all day Saturday and all day Sunday.

I would like to commend you and your staff for your excellent contribution to a game which more people should play for purposes of personal enjoyment and physical fitness.

Please keep up the good work.

Paul F. Deutsch
Springfield, Ill.

Dear Mr. Leve:

What a disservice your publication has made regarding women racquetball players on the cover of Volume 5, Number 2, March 1977 *National Racquetball*. Why must you feature an unnatural and unbecoming pose of women athletes? Especially when there is a better photo of the same players within the publication. Action and game-like photographs are interesting, but please be more selective for a cover photo. Do not mistake my concern. I am happy to see women getting some publicity, but I feel that discretion should be used. The current cover is the very type of photograph which encourages caricature, criticism and distortion.

Myreen Loveless
Lincoln, NE

Dear Mrs. Brusslan:

Beside me is my fresh out of the mailbox, one-hour old *National Racquetball* magazine for May. I have just finished browsing through the new women's section and am writing a letter to you in frustration.

I am a 25-year-old, second grade teacher, and live on the Eastern part of Long Island, New York. You might think it is very populated out here, but the biggest store for miles is a Woolco. There is much undeveloped land, sod farms, and potato farms. I am originally from Long Island, but closer in towards New York City.

I went to college in Buffalo, New York and in the fall of 1970 two boys who were in a swimming class taught me how to play what everyone up there called paddleball. (It was actually racquetball). Well, it was love at first sight. I lived in those courts for four years. My freshman year I came in third in the women's singles championships. In the next three years I came in first in both singles, and doubles (with the help of a good friend I often played with). Every Friday afternoon I would play from noon to six or seven o'clock at night, not to mention the times during the week. 95% of the time I played with men, often the male gym teachers, some who are up to this day very good friends of mine.

After graduation in May, 1974, I never got to play because there were no courts available to me. I got extremely frustrated. There were a couple of colleges that had courts but I.D.'s were needed. I was lucky enough to get an excellent teaching job last year and also nearby is Stony Brook University where I am taking graduate courses part time. So, since this past January I have been playing again.

I really want more than "just" playing. When I read about the small number of women who were playing even last year, it makes me feel like an old pro or something. Four years ago I tried to buy a new racquet on Long Island and when I told all the salesmen what I wanted, they looked at me as though I had four heads. Today there are racquets available.

I am curious as to what my playing ability really is. I'm sure that any pro or any state champ would probably cream me but I want a chance to see. I would

love to be in some kind of amateur tournament but rarely see where one is being held in my area.

When I see all the pictures of women playing in your magazine I cringe with envy because I want to be competing very badly.

I could go on and on. Long Island, with its large population and money is ripe for the growth of racquetball.

If there is any way you can offer a suggestion to me or send me any kind of helpful information, please do so. Thank you for listening. Good luck in your job.

Lynn Doerner
Rocky Pt., NY

Editor's Note: Two people who know about local tournaments in New York are Tom Flannery, chairman of the Eastern New York Racquetball Association; 3 Alpine Drive, Wappingers Falls, N.Y. 12590 and Jim Winterton, chairman of the Upstate New York Racquetball Association; 211 Brooks Ave., Rochester, NY 14619. And perhaps there will be some tournaments at Long Island's first racquetball club, Health 'N Sports Club and Spa in Westbury.

Dear Sirs:

Having returned from a wonderful tournament in Lombard, Illinois I wanted to thank so many people I felt a letter to you was the best way to do so. First, let me say this was a beautiful tournament, well run in every way. The hospitality extended was lovely, plenty of good food, fresh fruit, even Dannon yogurt was offered to everyone desiring it, including guests.

The management charged admission, which was certainly worth it. The matches were thrilling, breathtaking, exciting, unbelievable and any other adjective you use to describe the type of play exhibited by the pros and amateurs at this magnificent racquetball club (The Glass Court).

The thrilling matches started immediately. It seemed each game was more exciting than the last one; which seemed hard to believe at the time. My hands were blood red and my voice had laryngitis, but I enjoyed every bit of what I had seen.

Racquetball! What a sport! I love it. In my opinion there is no sport more exciting. Please extend my thanks to the management of The Glass Court, Dan Bertolucci, and his able assistants.

The great refereeing job done by Terry Fancher, who came to Chuck Leve's rescue after he developed laryngitis, was superb. Governor Thompson of Illinois added an additional thrill just by his presence.

Thank you all for a wonderful tournament.

Ann Hilecher
St. Louis

Dear Bob:

My sincere congratulations to you, Joe Ardito, Chuck Leve, and Terry Fancher for an outstanding year of racquetball.

The racquetball profession truly owes all of its success to you and all the fine people that work for the N.R.C. and the U.S.R.A.

If we can ever be of any help to you please let me know.

Again, congratulations on a fantastic and very exciting year.

Dan Isaacson
Newport Beach, Cal.

Dear Editor,

I have just picked up your edition of *National Racquetball*, Volume 5, Number 3, May 1977, and I think it's fantastic!

I have only been playing racquetball for about a year and think that it is the greatest thing since the invention of the light bulb.

I'm writing this note only to inform you that there are places to play racquetball East of the Mississippi and even East of the Appalachian Mountains.

I think the East Coast should have a little advertisement about playing facilities. I have been playing at the Bogota Racquet Club in Bogota, New Jersey. At present it only has one court, but is planning to have three more courts by September 1977. It is an excellent club and its facilities include seven tennis courts, two squash courts, one handball/racquetball court,

lounge, steam room, whirlpool, sauna, exercise room and great atmosphere.

Racquetball is such a great game to get a good workout, most of my friends now prefer it to tennis.

Frank DeBari
New Milford, NJ

Dear Bob:

First, I want to thank you for agreeing to serve on the Governor's Council on Health and Fitness. A distinguished group of people have agreed to be appointed as members and I am sure we can do a great deal to improve the health and fitness of Illinois residents.

One bit of information that you may have missed is that a bill is pending in the legislature that would provide \$35,000 to the Governor's Council. If adopted it will enable us to hire an executive director and provide a modest budget to support the activities of the Council. I am hopeful that the bill will be passed. If you have suggestions of a qualified person who might be considered for the position of executive director, please forward their curriculum vitae to me.

This session of the General Assembly ends June 30. I should have more time to devote to the Council's activities after that date. Will you please send me any events that are coming up that you think the Council should sponsor. I will try to attend as many events as my schedule will permit. I will call on members of the Council to represent me when necessary. I will appreciate whatever amount of time you can contribute to such a program.

I have asked Dr. Paul Q. Peterson, Director, Illinois Department of Public Health, Room 450, 535 West Jefferson Street, Springfield, Illinois 62706, to help me with Council matters until we obtain the services of an executive director. All questions or suggestions should be addressed to him.

Thanks again for your willingness to serve on the Council. I'm excited about it as I know you are and as I hope the people of Illinois will become.

James R. Thompson
Governor
Springfield, IL

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A large crowd of spectators is shown in a gymnasium, cheering and clapping. In the center, a man in a brown shirt and white pants stands with his arms raised in excitement. The crowd is diverse in age and appearance, all focused on the event. The text 'The Nationals '77' is overlaid in a large, white, outlined font.

The Nationals '77



The Best Of The Rest Is The Best

Hogan reaches for a forehand as Bledsoe struggles to avoid the avoidable hinder in the championship match. It was the greatest upset in the history of the Nationals.

It was like Rocky winning.

The massive underdog against the huge favorite. Bookmakers would have taken this mis-match off the board. Yankee fans would have hated it.

Davey Bledsoe won the National Professional Championships.

Playing to the sold-out, frenzied and screaming fans at the Atlas Health Club on June 11, 1977 Bledsoe put on a performance that will go down in history as the guttiest, most daring, and thrilling execution of racquetball skills ever seen.

Marty Hogan was the loser 21-20, 21-19.

It's hard to describe what happened because nobody thought it was possible. Hogan, winner of each of the last nine tournaments he entered, had barely sweat going into the finals. He was at the top of his brutally powerful game.

So what happened?

Probably the easiest and most unfair explanation would be that Hogan choked. He had a 19-13 lead in the first and lost. He had a 7-0 advantage in the second and lost. His most potent weapon, the ace serve, scored only one point in the two games.

Bledsoe on the other hand, played the finest match of his career. His game plan was sound, although risky. His mental attitude was excellent. He never folded to Hogan pressure and applied much of his own. It was Hogan who folded.

"The big difference," said Bledsoe, "is everybody said don't match power with him. What was I supposed to do, change my entire game in the finals of the Nationals?"

"I stayed with my game. I played power with him. I kept the pressure on."

That he did. When Hogan took a close first game at 13-all and raded to that 19-13 lead, the fans, 90 per cent for Bledsoe moaned as the vaunted Hogan late-game attack had apparently geared up. Bledsoe was in trouble.

Instead, Davey got tougher. He returned serve to the ceiling, but then he took that first offensive opportunity, shooting from deep court or driving the ball cross court.

"I had to play smart for me," said Bledsoe. "I took the first shot I thought I could make. I even forced it."



Hogan went to the floor more than anyone had ever seen. Here Bledsoe helps him up after an in vain attempt at a diving get.



The emotions of the Nationals were clearly evident as Hogan is here consoled after his loss by Charlie Drake, the chief executive officer of Leach Industries, which sponsors both Hogan and Bledsoe.

As Bledsoe drew his bead on Hogan, Marty's game wilted. All of a sudden his first serve wouldn't go in. He lost the zip on his highly publicized 142 m.p.h. drives. All agreed that Davey's power was equal to Marty's on this day. It was a classic example of one player giving the other a taste of his own.

The crowd, as vicious as they were rabid, continually screamed Bledsoe on with encouragement for Davey and sometimes belittlement of Marty.

"I didn't hear the crowd much," said Bledsoe. "The only time it bothered me was when they got on Marty. He's a fair and honest champion and didn't deserve the riding."

After Davey's first game win, the crowd settled down, or actually Hogan settled them down, grabbing an immediate 7-0 lead in the second. It was time for Bledsoe to fold. He didn't.

"I think he let up," said Davey. "He figured he had me where he wanted me."

But Bledsoe roared back to tie the game at 7-all, and then he made another run of his own taking a 13-8 lead and forcing Hogan to put everything he had into the match.

But how could anybody get Hogan in such a position?

"I tried to control the pace," said Bledsoe. "When he made an error, I'd serve quick. When he made a good shot I'd take my time. I tried to always make him aware of my presence."

Another factor that made Hogan aware of Bledsoe's presence was Davey's fine shooting. Never had his forehand corner kills been better, his retrieving quicker, nor his serves harder.

Yet even when Bledsoe took a 20-15 second game lead, there were those who thought Hogan would or could still win, he had mesmerized onlookers to that extent.

The belief was nearly realized when Hogan crept back, picking up a point here and a point there, holding Davey and re-gaining the serve at 19-20. Then the end came quickly.

Marty blew a forehand set up, missing a right corner pinch for side out. Davey immediately set to serve, a three-quarter speed Z to Hogan's

Hogan had it much easier in his semi-final win over Wagner. Here Marty sets up off the back wall as Wagner waits for the inevitable.



backhand. The serve was not too deep, and Hogan, as he has done hundreds of times this year stepped up to shoot the left corner. A 95 percent.

But the muscles were tense. The fluidity of the stroke gone. Hogan hit it in the dirt, barely five feet from his body, a massive skip which ended his frustration, 21-19.

The ensuing scene was drama. Both players released their tensions with tears.

"I couldn't believe it," said Davey. "I had to stop and think of what happened. I figured I'd cry like a baby."

In retrospect Hogan succumbed to the immense pressure put on him by all those, including himself, who expected him to win. At age 19 it was almost too

much to ask of anybody. His nine tour victories this season meant little to him if he didn't cap them with the National title.

"I have a lot of sympathy for Marty," said Bledsoe. "I'm not the number one player, still. He is. His record during the season showed it. In my eyes Hogan is still the best."

Quite a tribute from the man who just took Nationals from him.

In the semi-finals Hogan met Richard Wagner, who had stopped fourth seed Craig McCoy in the quarters. It was Hogan's brilliant play in this one that never allowed the match to become interesting, 21-12, 21-10.

To this point in the week Hogan had been devastating. He was never in trouble, although sent to three games

by amateur runner-up Stan Wright in an early round. Against Wagner, it was all Hogan.

"I couldn't do anything against him," said Rich. "I never got into the match."

Wagner, to his credit, attempted to play his own game rather than fool around with antics, trying to upset Hogan. But Wagner's game wasn't good enough. Hogan powered well, kept Rich back and off balance and Rich was unable to generate a serious offensive threat.

Hogan's big win here and the comparative bottom bracket semi-final showed the contrast that led up to the finals.

It was Bledsoe and Hilecher for the umpteenth time this season in the



Bledsoe and Hilecher played their usual close match in the lower bracket semi's. Here Davey is on the run to track down a Hilecher pass right.

lower semi. Hilecher had ended Charlie Brumfield's dream of a third title in a row in the quarters and now set his sites on the championship match.

A Bledsoe-Hilecher battle is always that, as the two men have similar games and styles, making for interesting encounters. The victor is usually the player serving best and this time it was Bledsoe, although not by much.

Scores of the match were 21-17, 15-21, 11-6.

"I knew it would be tight with Jerry," said Bledsoe. "We always play tight. I felt I would win the match, in fact I was never worried."

Well, he sure had all of us fooled.

To Hilecher's credit, it had to be difficult to mentally be at a peak after his physically and emotionally draining experience against Brumfield, one which kept everybody in an advanced state of frenzy for over two hours.

In fact, had the finals not been such a shocker, this would have been the best match of the tournament.

It was a classic confrontation. Brumfield representing the old, antiquated control style of racquetball, Hilecher representing power and shooting ability.

Added to that was the natural rivalry of playing for different manufacturers (Brumfield-Leach; Hilecher-Ektelon) and of course, Brumfield's attempt to defend his title against seemingly impossible odds.

With both Leach and Ektelon based in San Diego, the gallery was overflowing with fans who definitely had their favorite whichever player it might be. The atmosphere was electric.

It all flowed Brumfield's way in game one, a 21-10 win that looked remarkably easy. Charlie used some stalling tactics to keep Hilecher from generating any momentum, and the strategy worked. Jerry's complaints were for naught, however, as all of Brum's moves were well within the rules.

In the second game, Hilecher ignored Brumfield's slow down and the two had a tremendous battle. Brumfield's inability to kill the ball consistently, led

to good offensive opportunities for Hilecher. Charlie was missing the front right corner, leaving the ball up, and Hilecher was covering the pinch and re-killing or passing left.

Jerry built up a big lead and then held on 21-19, forcing the tie-breaker.

Superb racquetball followed. the tie-breaker found the players trading points until Hilecher broke from the 5-all deadlock to 6-5 and then 10-6 on a series of forehand kills and a down-the-line pass on the right.

But Brumfield, the defending champ, battled back from the brink of extinction, gallantly holding Hilecher four times at match point, while he slowly added points, 7-10, 8-10, 9-10.

The momentum built to this awesome zenith. At 9-10, the single best rally of the entire tournament occurred, with all in agreement later that the winner of this one rally would be the winner of the match.

Both players were tired. Neither risked the kill and they each went to the floor three or four times. Finally Hilecher captured a front court set up and with his forehand, killed the ball on a reverse pinch, left wall, front wall to put the side out.

That done, the 11th point was almost anti-climactic. It came on a perfect pass left by Hilecher, the little green ball virtually dying in the back left corner. Brumfield bolted toward it, but was only able to barely attempt to jab it into the back wall. It fell far short, 11-9 for Hilecher.

The other close quarter-final match was Wagner's win over Craig McCoy, still nursing his Newport Beach-injured left arm. So with the scent of atomic balm in the court, this re-play of Newport Beach's semi-finals began.

Wagner, whose biggest fault all year was his inability to get his first serve in, finally did so in this match. They battled close in the first game 3-5, 6-8, 8-all, 10-9 until Wagner hit a streak to grab a 15-10 lead. But McCoy came back, to 14-17 and then a break for Wagner occurred.

McCoy found himself with a perfect off-the-back-wall set up at front court and he blasted a near-perfect kill with his forehand down-the-line. But the ball hit him in the foot, forcing a side out.

Rich tallied three and again McCoy came back, this time to 18-20 when he

Brumfield takes the direct course, despite Hilecher's body, as the ball drives down the right wall. Their quarter-final match was a classic.



Now it's Wagner's turn to set up off the back wall, which he does as McCoy peeks in from center court in the quarters.

Strandemo was constantly on the run in his efforts to railroad the Hogan express. Here Strandy does his best to retrieve a Hogan drive.



skipped a backhand plum. Wagner ended the frustration with a forehand right corner kill.

Game two was virtually the same with McCoy holding the slight advantage, taking the offensive opportunities and this time it was Wagner's errors that led to victory. A key Wagner mis-hit at 16, an ace at 20 and another Wagner forehand error gave the second game to McCoy 21-18.

But Craig couldn't mount the effort in the tie-breaker. Richard assumed an early 3-1 lead, built it to 7-3 and finally 10-4 on a series of kills and passes for the 11-4 win.

The Hogan-Steve Strandemo quarter-final match found Hogan at probably his best during the week. He seemed to score points at will against Steve, who while giving his best shot, could never mount a serious offensive threat.

Hogan on the other hand, was serving and shooting right out of the textbook taking off from 5-all in the first game to 18-6 in four innings, despite Strandy time outs at 13-6 and 17-6. It ended 21-7.

In game two Hogan started early, built an 11-5 lead and as he coasted, Strandemo rallied to close to within 10-11. But Marty, not to be stopped, promptly scored twice, Steve made one, and Marty ran out, tallying match point on an ace (Z to the right) for the match, 21-11.

Bledsoe and Keeley, like Brumfield and Hilecher had a match pitting the old (Keeley) versus the new in game styles. Keeley had emerged by topping a surprising Bill Thurman (32's victor over Steve Serot) in the 16's and his reputation of always finding his way to the semi's in the Nationals preceded him.

But Bledsoe would have none of it, taking the match easily 21-13, 21-7 in a devastating show of power over finesse.

The round of 16 had only two outstanding matches, Strandemo's 15-21, 21-20, 11-4 win over Jay Jones and McCoy's 12-21, 21-19, 11-7 victory over John Lynch.



Acrobatic Keeley does a change-of-direction as he attempts to avoid a Bledsoe boomer in their quarter-final battle.

Strandemo and Jones normally play a tough, methodical, percentage game, and they did so here, with Strandy showing the tenaciousness in the second game for which he is so well known.

McCoy was in trouble against Lynch, who was super hot in the first game, rolling everything. Craig came back for a big lead (18-6) in the second when Lynch asked referee Chuck Leve how many points McCoy had scored in the first game.

The meaning was that Lynch would attempt to score at least the 13 necessary to ensure the serve in the tie-breaker, but probably wouldn't make a run at the game.

Instead he didn't stop at 13 but actually closed to 18-19 before McCoy went out, and in a good tie-breaker it was 11-7 for Craig.

The shocker of the round of 32 was Thurman's incredible win over Serot who ended his dismal season even worse. Steve just couldn't kill the ball and a psyched up and renewed Thurman retrieved with the acrobatic lefty, finally taking the match 18-21, 21-20, 11-4.

Strandemo flips a reverse backhand toward the front wall as Jones waits for the return in their round of 16 encounter.



Bill Thurman, a surprise winner over Serot in the 32's goes galloping after a Keeley drive in their round of 16 match.

John Lynch makes the desperation dive into the back wall in his 16's loss to McCoy. Note McCoy still has his eyes on the ball.



Hilecher winds up for the forehand back wall shot in his 16's victory over Ben Koltun.

Nationals Men's Pro

Results:

(First Round): S. Wright d. Kasay 21-2, 21-0; Schmidke d. Siewierski 21-9, 18-21, 11-5; Fancher d. Gladner 21-8, 21-18; Lusk d. Capitani 15-21, 21-10, 11-2; Romano d. Drake 21-9, 21-17; Kelly d. Mondry 9-21, 21-13, 11-10; Wikus d. Bolan 21-4, 20-21, 11-3; Alderson d. Strom 17-21, 21-16, 11-6; Kent d. Hemphill 21-18, 21-13; Fleetwood d. Durnoe 21-5, 21-8; Stafford d. Schmitt 21-4, 21-5; Bowman d. Austin 21-6, 21-16; Berberet d. Thomas 21-13, 17-21, 11-3; Thurman d. Jaworski 21-7, 21-8; Hadkin d. Marcus 21-16, 21-12; Iker d. Sayes 21-17, 21-7; Chase d. Hoonan 21-10, 21-4; Burnay d. P. Wright, forfeit.

(Second Round): Hogan d. S. Wright 18-21, 21-7, 11-2; Schmidke d. Fancher 13-21, 21-20, 11-4; Strandemo d. Lusk 21-13, 21-9; Jones d. Romano 21-9, 21-9; Wagner d. Kelly 21-15, 21-12; Morrow d. Wikus 7-21, 21-16, 11-10; Lynch d. Alderson 21-16, 21-11; McCoy d. Kent 21-15, 21-19; Brumfield d. Fleetwood 21-15, 21-16; Stafford d. Rish 21-9, 21-18; Koltun d. Bowman 16-21, 21-15, 11-6; Hilecher d. Berberet 21-11, 21-14; Thurman d. Serot 18-21, 21-20, 11-4; Keeley d. Hadkin 21-8, 21-9; Chase d. Iker 11-21, 21-5, 11-5; Bledsoe d. Burnay 21-3, 21-1.

(Third Round): Hogan d. Schmidke 21-14, 21-13; Strandemo d. Jones 15-21, 21-20, 11-4; Wagner d. Morrow 21-14, 21-17; McCoy d. Lynch 12-21, 21-19, 11-7; Brumfield d. Stafford 21-9, 21-7; Hilecher d. Koltun 21-13, 21-10; Keeley d. Thurman 21-7, 21-14; Bledsoe d. Chase 21-12, 21-11.

(Quarter-finals): Hogan d. Strandemo 21-7, 21-11; Wagner d. McCoy 21-18, 18-21, 11-4; Hilecher d. Brumfield 10-21, 21-19, 11-9; Bledsoe d. Keeley 21-13, 21-7.

(Semi-finals): Hogan d. Wagner 21-12, 21-10; Bledsoe d. Hilecher 21-17, 15-21, 11-6.

(Championship): Bledsoe d. Hogan 21-20, 21-19.



At Seamco's booth, Coate (r.) chats with (l. to r.) Art Orloski, Brumfield, Rick Isaacson and Kathy Williams.

Bata Shoe Company was on hand as Steding and Fred Williams look over the model Peg wears.



At the manufacturer's hospitality area, Seamco's Bob Coate (l.) poses with McCoy (c.) and Drake at the Leach booth.





Shannon Wright basks in the glory of the National Championship. To the victors belong

• A New Queen Of The Hill



Look out Peggy! As Wright takes a forehand off the back wall, Steding moves in to receive it, without looking in the Women's Pro Finals.

It had to happen sooner or later, the end of the reign of Peggy Steding and the ascension of Shannon Wright to the top rung on the ladies professional ladder.

Shannon assumed the title at the 1977 National Championships with a 21-13, 21-10 win over Steding, the first national title that Peg has not won since her emergence into racquetball in 1973.

Utilizing her superior speed and quickness, along with a powerful arsenal of shots, the 20-year-old San Diegan captured the championship match without ever being in trouble. In fact Shannon was never in trouble during the entire tournament.

"I was confident, very confident," said Wright, who made the Nationals her fifth straight pro tour victory. "I had to contend with the pressure of the Nationals, but I was sure I could handle it."

Steding, whose valiant effort en route to victory a year ago was still fresh in the minds of the San Diego fans, did not have the drive or crispness of shots that she showed a year ago.

Actually healthier than in 1976 when a pinched nerve severely hampered her, Steding still couldn't keep up with rapid rising Wright, no wonder with the 21 year age difference.

And gone too was the devastating overhead kills, the single shot that won Steding the title in '76. She connected on only two overheads during the match.

"I wasn't surprised she didn't hit overheads," said Shannon. "She knew that if she missed it at all I would roll it."

Each game was like the other, with Shannon breaking out of early game tightness of score and building a big lead that became insurmountable as each game wore on.

If the championship wasn't really a surprise, the semi-finalists sure were,



Green's dream of the National title ended in this semi-final match against Steding. Sarah here is forced to retrieve in deep right court.



Bringing her game to a season's end peak, Harding (r.) was impressive reaching the semi's. Wright's control forced shots such as this, an into-the-back-wall and pray effort.

with Steding facing Sarah Green, the 1976 amateur national champ, and Wright going up against left Jennifer Harding.

Green, seeded 11th, had upset third ranked Janell Mariott in the quarters 18-21, 21-16, 11-10, while Harding had surprised Kathy Williams 21-13, 21-20.

"I couldn't believe that Kathy and Janell both went out in the quarters," said Wright. "I guess there's a new generation coming."

Shannon's match against Jennifer found the underdog fighting her heart out. Jenny's game has come alive with more competition at home, and renewed determination on the tour.

Her downfall was a garbage serve to the backhand side, a shot on which Wright continually earned weak returns.

"I wasn't planning on using the garbage so much," said Shannon. "But when my drives wouldn't stay off the back wall I went to it and fortunately it worked."

After a well played, though not too close first game win 21-13, Harding came from far down to close to within 16-18 in the second, but never could close the gap.

"Jennifer has gotten a lot better," said Shannon. "She's in much better shape and her shots are greatly improved."

In the bottom bracket, Steding again was giving away over 20 years against Green, the baby-faced Memphian who barely played half the circuit this season. And it wasn't easy.

Down 13-3 in the first game Steding went to a drive serve cross court to Sarah's forehand. A blistering and unusual serve, Green was handcuffed and the match began to turn around. Peggy totalled nine aces to come from behind and take the 21-16 initial contest.

In game two the 21-14 final score was closer than the actual game, with Steding taking a 7-all tie into a four to five point lead and holding it throughout the match.

Oh, those quarter-final matches! Nothing could be more thrilling than the 11-10 battle between Green and Mariott. Each gal served three times at match point 10-all, with Sarah finally accounting for the last point.

Marriott readies a big forehand against Green in their superb quarter-final match which went to 11-10 in the tie-breaker.



Harding readies for her forehand kill against Williams in another women's quarter-final battle.

As in her other losses, Marriott for some reason abandons her offensive game, plays a bit too safe and then seems to lose her stroke. Against the stiff tour competition, this will get you into deep trouble.

Harding's win over Williams was not as big an upset, as Jennifer's increased prowess had been a known factor. But the Nationals, where experience counts, is where all knew Kathy was going to give her best shot. It had to be a disappointment to Williams, who never made it out of the semi's all season.

Wright handled Jan Campbell in the upper bracket quarter and the 21-16, 21-13 scores show that Campbell has regained much of the form that found her among the top few just a couple of years ago.

"I thought Campbell would be tough," said Shannon. *"She always plays me hard. She had nothing to lose and just came in and shot the ball."*

That kind of pressure made this one a real shooting gallery as Wright's new-found forte is also the offensive theory of play, i.e., shoot anything.

The fourth quarter-final encounter saw Steding totally dominate Rita Hoff, who finished her rookie season ready to take on the best next year. However in this match Rita caught Peg on a good day, early in the tournament and the result was 21-8, 21-5.

Only one round of 16 match went three games, Campbell's exciting three game victory over Sue Carow 14-21, 21-10, 11-4 in a battle of the eighth (Carow) and ninth seeds.

Green had a surprisingly easy time against fifth seed Jean Sauser, whose heart was not in it.

"It was a long season," said Sauser. *"I'm glad to be able to take some time off."*

Regional winners were more comfortable in the amateurs, as Marci Greer stopped Northeast champ Dena Rassenti 21-18, 21-1 in the first round, and then was stopped herself by Marriott 4 and 5. Greer had won the Southwest Regional.

Martha Byrd, the Southeast champ was eliminated by Hoff 19 and 17 in the second round.

Another surprise early in the draw was Bette Weed's win over Jan Pasternak,



who eventually won the Women's Doubles title. Weed played probably her best match of the season 14-21, 21-17, 11-1 to move on to the second round, and then out at the hands of Williams.

The victory by Wright and second place by Steding made them the third and fourth leading money winners of the season behind Marty Hogan and Davey Bledsoe in the men's division. Despite the imbalance in prize money, only the top two men made more in prize money than did the top two ladies.

Jan Campbell, well on her way along the comeback trail, sets up against Wright in the quarter-final match won by Shannon.

Nationals Women's Pro

Results:

(First Round): Bernathy d. Knudsen 21-3, 21-11; Campbell d. Oeschger 21-18, 21-5; Carow d. Segall 21-2, 21-2; Moore d. McCarthy 21-18, 21-16; Weed d. Pasternak 14-21, 21-17, 11-1; Greer d. Marriott 21-18, 21-1; Green d. Siau 21-3, 21-1; Byrd d. Villa 21-1, 21-12; Davis d. Noguchi 21-10, 21-17.
(Second Round): Wright d. Bernathy 21-16, 21-4; Campbell d. Carow 14-21, 21-10, 11-4; Harding d. Moore 21-6, 21-3; Williams d. Weed 21-19, 21-4; Marriott d. Greer 21-4, 21-5; Green d. Sauer 21-18, 21-7; Hoff d. Byrd 21-19, 21-17; Steding d. Davis 21-6, 21-8.
(Quarter-finals): Wright d. Campbell 21-16, 21-13; Harding d. Williams 21-13, 21-20; Green d. Marriott 18-21, 21-16, 11-10; Steding d. Hoff 21-8, 21-5.
(Semi-finals): Wright d. Harding 21-13, 21-16; Steding d. Green 21-16, 21-14.
(Championship): Wright d. Steding 21-13, 21-10.

NOTES OF THE TOURNAMENT . . .

How can you say thank you enough to the great bunch of people at the Atlas Health Club, who did such a fantastic job on behalf of the Nationals and the players . . . Jerry Sandstrom, Lee Hinrichs, Ken Davidson and the entire crew were terrific. . . the hardworking N.R.C. crew, including Jim Stotz, Woody Woodman, Dan Seaton, Jerry Monell and all the scores of referees did more than their share . . . our congrats to Terry Fancher and his new bride-to-be, Kip Kendler, announced at the tourney . . . U.S.R.A./N.R.C. prez Bob Kendler and his lovely wife Evie were in attendance all week and took the opportunity to meet with sponsors and players as plans for next season continue . . . Seamco's Al Mackie, Bob Coate, Art Orloski, Rick Isaacson, and Dar Prouty made the tournament, always asking players help to continually upgrade their products . . . Leach's Bud Leach, Charlie Drake, Ray Bayer and Bob Black were on hand, cheering on their players. Drake's announcement at the banquet that Leach was to be sold to Colgate-Palmolive means big things in store for that firm. . . Nice to see many of the eastern players making the long trek to San Diego . . . A demonstration of the new Hawkeye electronic monitoring device was well received and should make a tremendous addition to tour play in the future, as well as every day action . . . Ben Koltun's \$5,000 scholarship as best young tour player was a superb gesture by Seamco and Leach, a well deserved honor . . . Brumfield received a beautiful ring, again compliments of Seamco and Leach for his years as National Champion and all of the good will he did for racquetball as the number one player. We don't think Brum's playing career is over yet . . . It was a touching scene to see both men in tears after the professional finals, — as emotional a match as any had ever seen . . . I.M.G.'s David Armstrong and Stuart Rowlands took in their first Nationals, making notes and offering suggestions for next season. Rowlands was able to introduce writer Nick Longhurst to Bob Kendler

for a future article in *Us* magazine . . . Hearts tour was won by John Lynch, a hard fought win . . . The weather didn't accommodate as well as last year, but nobody really complained, it actually saved many sunburns . . . Full galleries from the round of 32 on made this the best attended National tournament of all time. There wasn't a seat to be had all week . . . Fred Lewis did another year of excellent television commentary as again the key matches were sent into 28 states and over 500,000 homes the last three days of the tournament. The U.S.R.A. reports that video cassettes will be available soon. . . . amazing the ability of the many teen-agers entering the amateur open. The skill levels continue to rise almost astronomically . . . George Brown of court club fame gave a nice party one night during the tourney, an impressive affair . . . The banquet, as usual, was well recieved and attended . . . Hospitality during the week, compliments of Seamco, Leach, Champion, Bata and the Atlas was good and plenty . . . Fire marshalls forced a difficult refereeing angle on the championship court when they ruled the normal referee's chair was blocking an exit. The tourney was on the heels of the major fire near Louisville and it was understandable that regulations were strictly enforced. It was inconvenient and awkward, however . . . Steding was upset prior to her championship match when forced to change a shirt which read, "Oldie But Goodie" on the back. Apparently somebody in Shannon Wright's corner thought it was distracting . . . Hungry Hunter still has the best Italian salad dressing in San Diego . . . Excellent press coverage of the tournament, and hats off to San Diego Union's Linda Kozub for her diligent reporting. One day had three separate racquetball articles . . . The Atlas is still one of the most amenity rich clubs in the nation . . . Zuckerman's win the am open makes it two years in a row for St. Louis, one of the nation's leading developers of young r.b. talent . . . The word is growth, growth, growth with no end in sight.

All photos of the Nationals by Arthur Shay



Not exactly Butch and the Kid, but the Wagners pose with pro Richard, wife Joan, and the Juniors National Champ of 1992, Richard Mark.

Deethroned champ Charlie Brumfield found his latest challenge that of television color man with play-by-play announcer Fred Lewis.



Zuck, D.C., Souders Handle Ams

The Men's Amateur Singles division of the National Championships is the bracket that annually sends its winner on to the pro tour. The last two winners Jay Jones (1975) and Ben Koltun (1976) are both solid fixtures in the professional ranks.

Well, move over guys and make room for Mr. Jerry Zuckerman, the 22-year-old St. Louis southpaw who already owns a professional forehand.

Zuckerman outlasted the largest amateur draw in the history of racquetball national tournaments, 168 strong, to capture the Men's Amateur Singles crown.

His championship victory came over another lefty, San Diego's Stan Wright, who for the second time in three years came out of the finals with the runner-up trophy (he was a loser to Jones in Las Vegas in '75).

The scores were 21-10, 21-15, showing the strong play of Zuckerman, who retreated to the amateur ranks mid-way through the season from an aborted pro tour attempt.

"I thought the way to get to the pros was to play against them," said Zuck. "But by the middle of the season my confidence was shattered. I decided that learning how to win was the important thing."

He learned the lesson well, capturing a number of amateur victories through February, March and April and a near-victory against pro Steve Keeley in Lombard convinced him he was ready to take on the multitude of numbers in the Nationals.

"The sheer bulk of the tournament might have been a factor," said Jerry. "But with the tourney running eight days I wasn't concerned about stamina."

The first game of the finals was an easy win, with Wright errors making things even easier.

"I think he was more under pressure than I was," said Zuckerman. "He made some errors in the first game that you don't usually see."

The game was close early, but Zuckerman drew away mid-way through the game for the 21-10 score.

Game two had all the signs of a repeat, with Zuckerman again holding a substantial lead, 18-12. But Wright picked up, quit hitting the ball into the floor and blasted his way back to 15-18.

Looking a lot looser, Wright reeled off his run of points, utilizing good serves, which had led his way to the finals all week.

Zuckerman, however, cranked up his fine forehand, shooting into the corners and regained control of the match.

"My forehand is getting a reputation," Jerry said. "Everybody knows I'll walk around my backhand to take any forehand I can. My opponents tend to change their game and shots to get me to hit a backhand. What usually happens is I get even easier shots because they're not comfortable."

In the semi-finals, Zuckerman met young Mike Yellen, whom he had beaten only a week earlier in another tournament. That time it was a blow-out, and Jerry appeared over-confident going in.

The 21-19, 21-14 win for Zuckerman was an excellent battle, with Yellen playing the top notch ball that earned him the tournament's number one seed.

"I have a lot more respect for his game now," said Zuck.

In the bottom bracket Wright went up against another recent juniors grad, Vancouver's Lindsey Myers, whose wins over Eric Campbell and Randy Stafford had to make him the match favorite.

But Stan was ready for Lindsey and his 21-20, 21-5 victory was certainly impressive.

In the quarter-finals a deserted top bracket (no-shows Pete Wright and Trey Sayes) helped Gary Mazaroff get that far, although he did have two nice wins over Gary Berberet and Joel Schienbaum along the way.

But Mazaroff was no match for Yellen 21-9, 21-15.

Zuckerman ended Dave "D.C." Charlson's bid for the title which barely eluded him last year in the second quarter-final match 21-9, 21-20.

After the big first game win it was 18-8 for Zuckerman before D.C. began

getting his game together. He did it by running 10 straight, tying the game at 18 and holding on.

After two tries each at 20-20 Zuckerman finally put the match away with a perfect forehand left wall, front wall pinch kill.

Wright's quarter-final opponent was upset minded Mike Maddocks who knocked off one of the pre-tournament favorites Joe Wirkus in the fourth round 9-21, 21-20, 11-2; then did it to Steve Mondry 21-10, 17-21, 11-3.

But Stan let Gary know that his dream was over, taking two quick games 21-9, 21-10 to move to the semi's.

In the bottom bracket, which most observers felt was the toughest, Myers hard earned win over seventh seed Campbell 13-21, 21-2, 11-7 and his big win over number two Randy Stafford (18 and 15), made him a factor.

Lindsey's opponent was Alan Kent, a San Diegan who came out of a bracket filled with regional winners. Kent stopped Cincinnati's Clark Pittman, Mid-east regional champ 21-9, 21-14 in the 16's the usual San Diego welcome.

Myers then took Kent 19 and 15 before his loss to Wright.

Some top racquetball names were lost throughout the maze of players. Mike Romano, Bill Thurman, Mike Luciw, Berberet, Gary Lusk, Campbell, Wirkus, Tom McKie, Gil Schmitt and Johnny Hennon never made the top 16.

"The tournament was easier than I thought it would be," said Victor Zuckerman. "I don't know what happened to some of those guys."

As we've seen, you never know what will happen at the Nationals.

Playing even better than a year ago, the San Diego team of Dave Charlson and Roger Souders devastated the Amateur Open Doubles field to capture their second straight national title.

Destroying the highly touted Texas tandem of Tom McKie and Eric Campbell in the finals, Charlson/Souders did not lose a game enroute to their victory.

The championship match was 21-10, 21-6.

"We concentrated more this year," said Charlson. "I think we were more fired up to win it a second time."

D.C. and Roger used the famous serve and shoot style of play that is becoming far more common in top notch racquetball circles.

"We played more control last year and had a tough time winning the tournament," said D.C. "This year we decided to take that first opportunity."

Souders, who plays one tournament a year, the Nationals, performed brilliantly on the right, with D.C. shooting his left-handed pinch shots into the left corner on his side.

McKie/Campbell, probably not used to the rapid-fire pace of the San Diegans never really got into the match. Although they too are lefty-righty (McKie on the left), Charlson/Souders were able to control front court the entire match.

"Up front is where doubles is won," said Charlson. "And we never allowed them up front."

D.C. was super with re-kills on the left, and Souders was just as good picking up everything on the right. Charlson served especially well, a hard drive to Campbell's forehand that resulted in many weak returns.

The effect was a red hot beginning to both games that gave Charlson/Souders big leads which they never relinquished.

The semi-finals found Souders/Charlson against long time nemesis Dr. Bud Muehleisen with his pick-a-partner, former national doubles champ Mike Luciw.

But Dr. Bud, with age catching him, and Luciw, with an extra 25 pounds dragging him, did not have the necessary quickness to stay with the champs.

The scores were 21-14, 21-6 in a perfect display of the best of racquetball doubles. Muehleisen's offensive shooting in the left corner, on which the team rode to the semi's was non-existent as Charlson's threatened re-kills kept Bud from taking his favorite shot.

Jerry Zuckerman, who made it through the mammoth Amateur Open Singles tournament, flashes the winning smile as Stan Wright, the runner-up, contemplates his loss.



"Bud wouldn't shoot the left corner," said D.C., "so Roger had only to cover the cross court drive and pinch. He's so quick they couldn't move us out of the front."

In the lower bracket semi-final, McKie/Campbell dropped Jim Pool and Gary Lusk another Southern California duo with a big reputation, 21-16, 21-15.

Pool and Lusk were not on their usual game and McKie/Campbell took advantage to capture the victory.

The best match of the week in this bracket was the Muehleisen/Luciw quarter-final win over Al Portune and Gene Gibbs, 21-18, 14-21, 11-7.

Other quarter-final results found Charlson/Souders easy winners over Ken Garrigos and Paul Darnell 21-11, 21-11. Although the scores may sound distant, the 22 total points was the most tallied against the champs all week.

Pool/Lusk stopped a young Houston team Jeff Kwartler and Mark Malowitz in their quarter 21-20, 21-15, and McKie/Campbell handled another San Diego tandem Larry Handley and Jim Doyle 21-15, 21-11.

Nationals Men's Open Singles

Results:

(First Round): Williams d. Dorosh 21-15, 21-3; Thompson d. Wendel, forfeit; Kingston d. Georges 21-2, 21-10; Davidson d. Moreno 21-7, 21-5; Altaro d. Swond 21-9, 18-21, 11-5; D. Smith d. Korporaal 21-2, 21-11; J. Trent d. Alpert 21-11, 21-13; Factor d. Ruben 18-21, 21-11, 11-7; Loth d. Humphrey 21-3, 21-16; Davidson d. Lau 21-3, 21-18; Atkins d. Hickey 21-10, 21-5; Fluk d. Loprite, forfeit; Holland d. Barkey 19-21, 21-10, 11-9; Fonseca d. Juarez 21-14, 21-6; McGovern d. Goodman 21-2, 21-14; Sakaniwa d. Lynn 20-21, 21-14, 11-5; Harper d. Hartnett 21-8, 21-9; Floyd d. Tashie, forfeit; Rezentes d. Rogers, forfeit; Beattie d. Schneider 20-21, 21-7, 11-7; Levin d. Krauser 12-21, 21-7, 11-7; Gary Kelly d. Ranta 21-14, 21-6; Manna d. Leber, forfeit; Hoonand d. Bible 21-5, 21-13; Price Thomas d. Loganbach 21-15, 17-21, 11-6; Gibbs d. Shipley 21-3, 21-10; Wassentel d. Matthews 12-21, 21-11, 11-1; Scott d. Shetler 14-21, 21-11, 11-5; Grisz d. Burnett 20-21, 21-6, 11-5; Radford d. Heath 21-14, 21-14; Schmitt d. Kaakimaka 21-13, 18-21, 11-5; Meza d. Heatherington 21-17, 21-10; Knox d. Chast 21-19, 21-10; Siemienowski d. M. Sayes 21-17, 20-21, 11-4; Zepeda d. Chase, forfeit; Holland d. Townsend 21-7, 21-1; Bush d. Myers 21-19, 17-21, 11-8; Schmidtke d. Karas, forfeit.

(Second Round): Yellen d. Williams 21-17, 21-9; Thompson d. Yoneyama 21-3, 20-21, 11-0; Capitani d. Ochus 21-2, 21-6; Gump d. Kingston 21-5, 19-21, 11-4; C. Davidson d. T. Sayes, forfeit; Kwartler d. Rivet 21-7, 21-16; Snow d. Diamond 21-10, 21-15; Romano d. Altaro 21-13, 21-4; D. Smith d. P. Wright, forfeit; Malowitz d. Larkford 21-8, 21-11; Scheinbaum d. Dem 21-17, 21-16; J. Trent d. Owen 21-20, 16-21, 11-7; Aderson d. Factor 21-14, 21-8; Mazzoff d. Goluske 21-8, 21-13; Pool d. Kipulos 21-13, 21-10; Barberet d. Loth 21-3, 21-8; Jerry Zuckerman d. B. Smith 21-18, 21-9; Cohn d. Garrigos 21-17, 10-21, 11-9; J. Davidson d. Crabbe 21-10, 21-14; Thurman d. Atkins 21-3, 21-2; D. Thomas d. Fluk 21-9, 21-12; Weigman d. Bernstein 21-10, 17-21, 11-2; Wickham d. Jaworski 21-2, 21-4; Luciw d. Holland 21-7, 15-21, 11-8; Fleetwood d. Fonseca 21-6, 21-3; Stevens d. Pasche 21-2, 21-5; Ball d. Kubatke, forfeit; Marcus d. McGovern 21-15, 21-8; Portune d. Sakaniwa 21-9, 21-7; Jon Zuckerman d. Deletric 21-10, 21-14; Harper d. McKinney 21-7, 21-15; Charlson d. Wozniak 21-3, 21-9; Wikus d. Floyd 21-7, 21-3; Rezentes d. Stockman 21-4, 21-9; Maddocks d. Peck 21-13, 21-12; Deuster d. Beattie 21-3, 21-10; Mondry d. Levin 21-10, 21-3; S. Davidson d. Bertolucci 21-17, 21-9; Whipple d. Gary Kelly 21-14, 21-18; S. Wright d. Manna 21-13, 21-1; Beal d.

Walton Takes Singles;

The largest entry in the history of women's racquetball turned out in San Diego for the Women's Amateur singles event. The draw was highlighted by a number of pro tour regulars who had not amassed enough prize money to make them ineligible for the ams.

So in a draw highlighted by Rita Hoff, Martha Byrd, Camille McCarthy and Bette Weed, the championship match found none of them playing. Instead it was fast-rising Karen Walton, San Clemente, California against little Pat Schmidt, Milwaukee.

If Walton's devastating blitz through the bottom bracket was the big story (it was) Schmidt's struggle through the top was at least as exciting and then some. In each of her five matches (after a first round bye), Schmidt, seeded fourth, was forced to a tie-breaker.

"I can recall playing only one other tie-breaker in my life," said Pat. "I seemed to play well in them."

To say the least. She started with a second round win over a tough Patti Berneathy, one of San Diego's best 21-11, 16-21, 11-4 and then moved on to a quarter-final victory over southwest regional champ Marci Greer 21-5, 20-21, 11-6.

"Marci was two different people in that one," said Schmidt. "After the easy first game win, I didn't expect her to be so hard in the second. But she really hustled."

The semi-finals found her against hard-hitting Hoff, the St. Louis lass who was the top seed.

"I don't like to watch the other girls play," said Pat, "so I'd never seen Rita. But I know she's done well both in amateur and professional, so I was worried."

Fortunately for Pat, Rita was playing both pro and am, and the extra match per day could have been Hoff's undoing. After winning the first 21-15, Rita could not duplicate the effort, falling by the same score in the second and never getting into the tie-breaker 11-3.

Nationals Men's Open Doubles

Results:

(First Round): Marras/Alvarez d. Oliver/Harris 21-14, 21-15; Weaver/Loveday d. Schiebe/Glander 19-21, 21-4, 11-9; Juarez/Snow d. Lankford/Harnett 21-4, 21-17; Leiben-Rosvall d. Karas/Maccarrone 21-6, 17-21, 11-4; English/Ortega d. Gibson/Loth 13-21, 21-15, 11-4; Peck/Mazaroff d. Shetler/Crabbe 21-5, 21-1, Kingston/Heath d. Lily/Miller 21-16, 21-15; Beckman/Olson d. Reid/Matthews 21-9, 21-12; Tripp/Stevenson d. McGovern/Wendel 21-13, 21-4.
(Second Round): Charlson/Souders d. Austin/Ziemer 21-6, 21-7; Bowman/Stoddard d. Marras/Alvarez 21-18, 21-10; Garrigos/Damell d. Whipple/Siemienowski 21-19, 21-20; Weightman/Meckel d. Weaver/Loveday 21-11, 21-20; Portune/Gibbs d. Juarez/Snow 21-8, 21-7; Bertolucci/Dem d. Leiben-Rosvall 21-13, 11-21, 11-8; Begert/Heatherington d. Duda/Golebuek 14-21, 21-14, 11-9; Muehleisen/Luciw d. Akeo/Kobak 21-5, 21-5; Pool/Lusk d. McKinney/Kopulos 21-6, 21-5; English/Ortega d. Hawkins/Barkley 20-21, 21-19, 11-10; Peck/Mazaroff d. Radford/Ruben 21-9, 21-19; Kwartier/Malowit d. Kingston/Heath 21-9, 18-21, 11-4; Handley/Doyle d. Meckman/Olson 21-7, 21-20; Suli/Deuster d. Laz/Kaskimaka 21-17, 21-17; Tripp/Stevenson d. Sakanwa/Hustendahl 21-19, 10-21, 11-3; McKie/Campbell d. Grisz/Gorges 21-8, 21-6.
(Third Round): Charlson/Souders d. Bowman/Stoddard 21-2, 21-10; Carrigos/Damell d. Weightman/Meckel 21-19, 21-12; Portune/Gibbs d. Bertolucci/Dem 21-14, 21-7; Muehleisen/Luciw d. Begert/Heatherington 21-2, 21-13; Pool/Lusk d. English/Ortega 21-11, 21-11; Kwartier/Malowit d. Peck/Mazaroff 18-21, 21-11, 11-7; Handley/Doyle d. Suli/Deuster 21-15, 21-17; McKie/Campbell d. Tripp/Stevenson 21-9, 21-8.
(Quarter-finals): Charlson/Souders d. Garrigos/Damell 21-11, 21-11; Muehleisen/Luciw d. Portune/Gibbs 21-18, 14-21, 11-7; Pool/Lusk d. Kwartier/Malowit 21-20, 21-15; McKie/Campbell d. Handley/Doyle 21-15, 21-11.
(Semi-finals): Charlson/Souders d. Muehleisen/Luciw 21-14, 21-6; McKie/Campbell d. Pool/Lusk 21-16, 21-15.
(Championship): Charlson/Souders d. McKie/Campbell 21-10, 21-8. (Third): Muehleisen/Luciw d. Pool/Lusk 21-14, 21-11.

Men's Open Doubles semi-final action finds D.C. Charlson, of the eventual winners, chasing down a Bud Muehleisen (r.) drive, as Mike Luciw (forecourt) and Roger Souders hold their position.

Sergentaris 20-21, 21-16, 11-6; Akeo d. Eliege 21-4, 21-4; Stepp d. Hoonan 21-13, 21-6; Damell d. P. Thomas 21-15, 21-9; Bolan d. Groves, forfeit; Hemphill d. Bowman 21-11, 21-12; Lusk d. Gibbs 21-9, 21-15; Kent d. Wasseneil 21-14, 21-6; Hawkins d. Terrance 21-2, 21-9; Corbett d. Scott 21-19, 21-13; McKie d. Grisz 21-11, 15-21, 11-9; Pittman d. Radford 21-5, 21-10; Schmitt d. Doyle 21-13, 11-21, 11-10; Weed d. Dunlap, forfeit; Hennen d. Meza 21-5, 21-14; S. Trent d. Knox 21-4, 21-11; Campbell d. Wroblewski 21-2, 21-6; Siemienowski d. L. Smith 21-11, 21-10; Myers d. Zepeda 21-9, 21-4; Suli d. Holland 21-6, 21-7; Bush d. Ramirez 21-4, 21-8; Stoddard d. W. Kelly 21-9, 21-8; Stafford d. Schmideke 21-2, 21-9.
(Third Round): Yellen d. Thompson, forfeit; Capitani d. Gurnoe 21-15, 21-6; Kwartier d. C. Davidson 21-4, 21-16; Romano d. Snow 21-18, 21-20; Malowitz d. D. Smith 21-18, 21-11; Scheinbaum d. J. Trent 21-19, 21-17; Mazaroff d. Alderson 9-21, 21-7, 11-10; Berberet d. Pool 21-5, 21-10; Jerry Zuckerman d. Cohn 21-17, 21-15; Thurman d. J. Davidson 21-6, 21-16; Weightman d. D. Thomas 13-21, 21-9, 11-4; Luciw d. Wickham 21-11, 21-20; Fleetwood d. Stevens 21-11, 21-15; Marcus d. Ball, forfeit; Portune d. Jon Zuckerman 21-7, 21-10; Charlson d. Harper 21-8, 21-18; Wirkus d. Rezenes 21-1, 21-8; Maddocks d. Deuster 21-17, 21-11; Mondy d. S. Davidson 21-3, 21-11; Whipple d. Gordon Kelly 19-21, 21-14, 11-10; S. Wright d. Beal, forfeit; Stepp d. Akeo 21-16, 21-3; Bolan d. Damell 18-21, 21-20, 11-5; Lusk d. Hemphill 21-8, 21-14; Kent d. Hawkins 21-7, 21-8; McKie d. Corbett 21-8, 21-6; Pittman d. Schmitt, forfeit; Hennen d. Weed 21-8, 21-4; Campbell d. S. Trent 21-18, 21-9; Myers d. Siemienowski 21-6, 21-10; Suli d. Bush 21-18, 17-21, 11-5; Stafford d. Stoddard 21-8, 19-21, 11-0.
(Fourth Round): Yellen d. Capitani 21-6, 21-11; Kwartier d. Romano 21-14, 20-21, 11-9; Scheinbaum d. Malowitz 21-19, 21-15; Mazaroff d. Berberet 21-19, 10-21, 11-10; Jerry Zuckerman d. Thurman 21-12, 21-3; Weightman d. Luciw 21-9, 19-21, 11-6; Fleetwood d. Marcus 21-16, 21-5; Charlson d. Portune 21-15, 21-14; Maddocks d. Wirkus 9-21, 21-20, 11-2; Mondy d. Whipple 21-17, 21-10; S. Wright d. Stepp 21-17, 14-21, 11-6; Bolan d. Lusk 21-10, 21-17; Kent d. McKie 21-7, 18-21, 11-3; Pittman d. Hennen 21-17, 8-21, 11-9; Myers d. Campbell 13-21, 21-2, 11-7; Stafford d. Suli 21-8, 21-18.
(Fifth Round): Yellen d. Kwartier 21-14, 21-8; Mazaroff d. Scheinbaum 21-17, 21-18; Jerry Zuckerman d. Weightman 21-14, 15-21, 11-0; Charlson d. Fleetwood 21-9, 21-20; Maddocks d. Mondy 21-10, 17-21, 11-3; S. Wright d. Bolan 21-15, 21-15; Kent d. Pittman 21-9, 21-14; Myers d. Stafford 21-18, 21-15.
(Quarter-finals): Yellen d. Mazaroff 21-9, 21-15; Jerry Zuckerman d. Charlson 21-9, 21-20; S. Wright d. Maddocks 21-9, 21-10; Myers d. Kent 21-19, 21-15.
(Semi-finals): Zuckerman d. Yellen 21-19, 21-14; Wright d. Myers 21-20, 21-5.
(Championship): Zuckerman d. Wright 21-10, 21-15. (Third): Yellen d. Myers 9-21, 21-20, 11-0.



Pasternak/Siau Doubles In Ladies Amateurs

"Rita's power didn't bother me," said Pat, herself a hard hitter. "My serves were going in well in the second and I got a lot of weak returns."

On the other side of the draw Walton was tearing up the tournament, with people having difficulty scoring double figures against her.

Her semi-final match against Byrd was 21-5, 21-13 a dismal encounter for the semi's. But Walton has been doing that lately, and should be a solid addition to next year's pro tour.

The quarter-final Walton/McCarthy match was 21-8, 21-18, as Camille finished a disappointing season, giving the second game one last gasp.

In the finals Schmidt kept to her usual pattern of making it go three, by taking the first game 21-20, Walton's first loss of the tournament.

But Karen didn't panic, in fact she came back even better, grabbing a 21-14 second game win after being down 11-2.

"I'm not sure what happened," said Schmidt. "I think she passed me well, she was hitting her shots, and I may have let up a little."

Using drive serves to both sides, Walton scored some aces and a lot of weak returns in the last game and a half. Her excellent backhand, which overshadows her forehand, made things even tougher.

"I got frustrated," said Schmidt.

The tie-breaker was all Walton, 11-2. She cut off Pat's passes, maintained center court and never let the Milwaukee native get going.

In other quarter-final action, Byrd stopped Donna Noguchi, who had an impressive but difficult 16's win over Dena Rassenti (11-9 in the tie-breaker) 21-11, 21-8; and Hoff had no trouble with Alicia Moore up top 21-7, 21-16.

In another of those matches where singles foes are pitted in doubles, the Women's Doubles final match found

San Diego's Bette Weed against Houston's Jan Pasternak. Earlier in the week it was Weed who upset Pasternak in the Women's pro division in the first round.

But each player had help, - Weed from fellow San Diegan Patti Berneathy and Pasternak from Linda Siau, Riverside, Cal. Linda, who has played competitively against Weed/Berneathy with four different partners, could feel the pressure of a National Championship match.

"I really wanted to win, not for myself so much," she said, "but for Jan. She was playing terrific, and I felt holding me up."

Nobody had to hold little Linda up in the first, as the diminutive right side player held herself up, shooting well and blending perfectly with Pasternak's court coverage and back wall shooting for a 21-10 win.

But the tables were reversed in the second game.

"I got a little tight," admitted Linda, "and I began skipping the ball. Jan was super, she never got on me, just told me to keep taking my shots."

She did and the result was a 21-9 second game victory for Weed/Berneathy.

It wasn't all that simple, however. Bette and Patti are a fine doubles team, they know each other and rarely make doubles errors. They were playing well, and probably were the favorites going into the tie-breaker.

The third was close early with many ties culminating at 5-all, before a back wall crack gave Pasternak/Siau point six and a huge psychological boost.

"That was the turning point," said Pasternak.

They rolled to 10-5 and then Weed/Berneathy held tight, four times, but were unable to dent the scoreboard

with more than one point. Finally, on their fifth try, Pasternak/Siau took the title, 11-6.

An unusual victory occurred in the top of the semi-finals, with Judy Clemens and Karin Walton forfeiting to Pasternak/Siau. Walton, intent on capturing the prestigious Women's Amateur Open title, decided two matches in one day would be too grueling on her.

"I'd sure hate to have my partner do that to me," said Siau. "When I enter a tournament, I stick it out to the bitter end."

There was a match in the bottom bracket, a super one at that. Weed/Berneathy topped Ruth Knudson and Camille McCarthy 21-20, 21-17 in a battle that could have gone either way.

Ruth, a marriage and baby later, was playing possibly her best ball in over two years, when she won the National Amateur title. But Bette and Patti were able to hang in for the win.

Only one of the quarter-final matches went three, Knudson/McCarthy taking on Kathy Pool and Pat Spencer 20-21, 21-19, 11-1. Pool, an excellent player, was a surprising non-entry in the singles division.

Other quarter results found Pasternak/Siau stopping Salazar/Morris 12 and 15; Clemens/Walton defeating Seavello/Villa 10 and 17; and Weed/Berneathy erasing Stewart/Kslazek 6 and 9.

Seniors Double Dip

Jim Austin, the lanky Houston, Texas native and former professional player, captured the National Senior Singles title, stopping defending champion Joe Gibbs in the championship match 21-13, 21-14.

Austin, who still has a picture-book backhand, was the second seed and had an extremely difficult time reaching the finals, going three games in his quarter and semi-final victories.

But Jim had too much for Gibbs, the St. Louisian, who coaches pro football for the St. Louis Cardinals. The win, plus Austin's Senior Doubles victory made him the only "double play" victor of the National Championships.

Austin took the singles the hard way, coming through a difficult number two seed. He had to take on another former pro, Buffalo's Charlie Garfinkel in the semi-finals and the two had a tremendous battle 21-1, 9-21, 11-7.

Although the scores may seem strange, that's a typical Garfinkel match, who made his reputation on the ability to lose, figure out why, make the necessary adjustments, and then win. But Gar didn't have quite enough in the tie-breaker.

In the upper bracket semi-finals, Gibbs knocked off another outstanding senior, Joel Schienbaum, Los Angeles. Schienbaum, who still competes in many A tournaments around L.A., is a fierce competitor, much in the mold of the tougher seniors.

But defending champ Gibbs proved his worth by stopping Schienbaum and going all the way to the finals in this event, in which the competition was much more difficult than a year ago.

Only Austin had to go three games in the quarter-finals, defeating number seven seeded Roger Ehren 8-21, 21-18, 11-7. Garfinkel and Schienbaum had easy times of their quarter-final encounters, Gar 21-7, 21-12 over Price Thomas and Schienbaum 21-14, 21-6 over Luther Bernstein, who had the giant killer reputation. Gibbs eliminated Jim Trent in the last quarter-final 21-8, 21-19.

Schienbaum won the third place play-off 21-13, 21-20 over Garfinkel.

Forty-two players made up the Senior Singles division, the largest ever in the Nationals, which itself grows by record numbers annually.

Austin made it a sweep in the seniors by taking the doubles title with partner Chuck Hanna, making it a San Diego-Houston duo.

Their championship match win was 21-13, 21-13 over the Chicago team of Jordan "Dr. J." Tilden and Tom Street.

Tilden, a hard hitting southpaw matched his booming forehand against Austin's superb backhand on the left, while retriever Street attempted to match forehands with Hanna on the right in a battle of U.S.R.A. state chairmen.

In the first game Austin/Hanna looked unbeatable, racing to a 9-0 advantage, largely on the strength of Austin's patented backhand pinch kills in the left corner. But a good adjustment by Tilden/Street found Street's diving gets keeping the ball in play off the pinch and Dr. J. began hitting his forehand.

The result was a comeback to 11-all and then 13-all for the Chicagoans, before the roof caved in.

"I think we were so intent on getting back into the match," said Street, "that when we did we lost that little edge of concentration. It was over so quick we couldn't adjust."

The second game bore no resemblance to the first, except that the score was the same. This time it was close through-out but with Austin/Hanna keeping that couple of point margin, 13-11, 15-12, 18-13 and then out.

It was a match complete with sportsmanship and good play. Austin/Hanna, despite being about 1500 miles apart, played like partners for ages. When Austin's backhand failed, Hanna's forehand was on. When Hanna was neutralized, Austin got hot.

And that's how you win titles.

In the semi-finals Austin/Hanna had an unusual match against Jerry Monell and Bill Torres, losing the first game 21-9, and coming back to take the match 21-7, 11-6.

That first game was a surprising mis-match. Austin's backhand was nowhere to be found, except the floor, and Monell/Torres took advantage for the easy win.

But you can't keep a top player off for

Women's Amateur Open

Results:

(First Round): Carey d. Goodman 21-5, 21-8; Koppel d. Soon 21-10, 21-15; Segal d. Ksiazek 21-8, 21-7; Davis d. Seavello 21-16, 14-21, 11-4; Sprout d. Kender 21-6, 21-20; Overcast d. Soli, forfeit; Berneathy d. Bishop 21-1, 21-7; McGowan d. Hoffman 21-4, 18-21, 11-5; Murphy d. Dalton 21-5, 21-13; Thorton d. Van Veen 21-3, 21-13; Weed d. Williams 21-1, 21-0; Villa d. Stewart 21-5, 21-7; Descher d. Morris 21-7, 21-8; MacIntyre d. Heins, forfeit; Armstrong d. Hogan 21-9, 21-4; Vukan d. Lewis, forfeit; Hunt d. Montalbano 21-19, 21-8.
(Second Round): Hoff d. Lankford 21-2, 21-0; Carey d. Koppel 21-17, 8-21, 11-10; Ackerman d. Segal 21-16, 21-9; Moore d. Davis 21-11, 14-21, 11-2; Greer d. Sprout 21-4, 21-4; Clemens d. Overcast 21-6, 21-4; Berneathy d. McGowan 21-10, 21-14; Schmidt d. Murphy 21-11, 16-21, 11-4; McCarthy d. Thomson 21-6, 21-6; Weed d. Barker 21-17, 21-6; Salazar d. Villa 21-14, 21-15; Walton d. Descher 21-7, 21-6; Rassenti d. MacIntyre 21-2, 21-1; Noguchi d. Armstrong 21-8, 21-10; Hunt d. Vukan 21-5, 21-8; Byrd d. Moughan 21-3, 21-6.
(Third Round): Hoff d. Carey 21-8, 21-10; Moore d. Ackerman 21-20, 21-8; Greer d. Clemens 21-9, 21-12; Schmidt d. Berneathy 21-14, 12-21, 11-6; McCarthy d. Weed 21-14, 21-16; Walton d. Salazar 21-11, 21-3; Noguchi d. Rassenti 18-21, 21-5, 11-9; Byrd d. Hunt 21-2, 21-7.
(Quarter-finals): Hoff d. Moore 21-7, 21-16; Schmidt d. Greer 21-5, 20-21, 11-6; Walton d. McCarthy 21-8, 21-18; Byrd d. Noguchi 21-11, 21-8.
(Semi-finals): Schmidt d. Hoff 15-21, 21-15, 11-3; Walton d. Byrd 21-5, 21-13.
(Championship): Walton d. Schmidt 20-21, 21-14, 11-2.
(Third): Hoff d. Byrd, forfeit.

Women's Amateur Doubles

Results:

(Preliminary Round): Seavello/Villa d. Morris/Lewis 21-6, 21-4; Pool/Spencer d. Sykes/Mclaughlin 21-7, 21-8.
(Quarter-finals): Pasternak/Siau d. Salazar/Morris 21-12, 21-15; Clemens/Walton d. Seavello/Villa 21-10, 21-17; McGovern/McCarthy d. Pool/Spencer 20-21, 21-19, 11-1; Weed/Berneathy d. Stewart/Ksiazek 21-6, 21-9.
(Semi-finals): Pasternak/Siau d. Clemens/Walton, forfeit; Weed/Berneathy d. McGovern/McCarthy 21-2, 21-17.
(Championship): Pasternak/Siau d. Weed/Berneathy 21-10, 9-21, 11-6. (Third): McGovern/McCarthy d. Clemens/Walton, forfeit.

Notch up Another One

long, and Jim cranked it up in the second, got the range and Monell/Torres were doomed.

The tie-breaker was much the same, with Hanna covering the right like he owned it, and Austin shooting the left corner like he put a magnet in the ball.

In the bottom bracket semi Street gained some measure of revenge when he and Tilden knocked off Roger Ehren and Dave Torres 21-14, 21-16. Ehren had erased Street from the singles competition early and badly.

"We were keyed up for the Ehren/Torres match," said Street. "They're tough and we knew we had our work cut out for us."

Showing the balance in the senior doubles, three of the four quarter-final matches went three games, with Ehren/Torres stopping Vance Lerner and Jerry Conine in the closest of the three 9-21, 21-10, 11-9.

Tilden/Street worked hard to stop the Honolulu tandem of Mel Tom, former pro footballer and Warren Kobatke 12-21, 21-18, 11-3. Monell/Torres also had good battle stopping Phil Ivaldy and Rick DeSaracho 21-11, 20-21, 11-7.

Meanwhile Austin/Hanna watched all the confusion with a 21-1, 21-3 win over the Costa Mesa team of Livsey/Wagner.

Bud Muehleisen won another National title in San Diego, and since we lost track a long time ago, we're not sure how many that makes. But "Dr. Bud" handily won the Masters singles crown with a 21-14, 21-10 win over Bob McNamara, probably the only other Master in the country who can even give Bud a game.

The muscular McNamara, a former national paddleball champ (like Muehleisen), still doesn't have quite the shots that Muehleisen, the deft southpaw does.

Neither game caused Bud, who has retired from doctoring, any trouble, as he kept arms-length, point wise away from McNamara.

In the semi-finals, Muehleisen gave Gene MacDonald a double donut 21-0, 21-0, while McNamara, although not winning quite as easily, stopped former champ Sam Koanui 21-15, 21-8.

MacDonald came back to take third place 21-7, 21-14 over Koanui.

In the quarters Muehleisen beat Jim Miller 9 and 8; McDonald had a tough one against Bill Armstrong 15 and 20; Koanui had an even tougher time stopping Al Green 21-11, 14-21, 11-3; and McNamara defeated Earle Castle 21-8, 21-18.

A record 26 players participated in the Masters singles.

In the Masters Doubles, McNamara and partner Chuck Jackson took the title, stopping the Hawaiian tandem of Skelton and Lee 21-15, 21-14.

But the best match of the Masters Doubles was the third place battle between two Los Angeles teams, Castel/Burt Morrow against Armstrong/Bill Gibson, won by Armstrong/Gibson 17-21, 21-16, 11-10.

Castle/Morrow rallied from a 4-9 deficit to tie at 10-all, but the next rally, a furious barrage of shots that had the spectators on their feet, was won by Armstrong/Gibson. It made match point, a short ceiling ball, seem anti-climactic.

Armstrong/Gibson had been eliminated by McNamara/Jackson 21-9, 21-11 in the semi-finals while Castle/Morrow were stopped by Skelton/Lee in a super match 21-11, 20-21, 11-6.

Nationals Senior Singles

Results:

(First Round): Keeler d. Rotella 21-2, 21-4; Rezendes d. Weisner 21-4, 21-8; Lankford d. Inna 21-5, 21-10; Conine d. Spear 21-5, 21-13; Tom d. Huistendahl 21-14, 21-14; Blitt d. Agner 21-16, 21-3; Thomas d. Bible 21-11, 15-21, 11-8; Thornton d. Gelfan 21-4, 21-0; Broderick d. Ludwick 21-6, 21-13.
(Second Round): Gibbs d. Hall 21-5, 21-7; Keeler d. Rezendes 21-19, 21-16; Lankford d. Lufnow, forfeit; Trent d. Lipton 21-0, 21-15; Bernstein d. Conine 21-5, 21-15; Sergeantanis d. Seaton 21-20, 21-12; Tom d. Duda 21-15, 21-20; Schienbaum d. Kajiya 21-8, 21-11; Garfinkel d. Torres 21-8, 21-4; Tilden d. Blitt 21-9, 21-19; Ivaldy d. Harmon 21-14, 21-16; Thomas d. Russel 21-18, 21-18; Ehren d. Thornton 21-10, 21-8; Street d. Weckerly 21-18, 21-7; Broderick d. Fabry 21-8, 21-4; Austin d. Ziemer 21-2, 21-2.
(Third Round): Gibbs d. Keeler 21-6, 21-7; Trent d. Lankford, forfeit; Bernstein d. Sergeantanis 21-5, 21-18; Schienbaum d. Tom 15-21, 21-9, 11-1; Garfinkel d. Tilden 21-6, 21-5; Thomas d. Ivaldy 19-21, 21-2, 11-8; Ehren d. Street 21-4, 21-8; Austin d. Broderick 21-8, 21-4.
(Quarter-finals): Gibbs d. Trent 21-8, 21-19; Schienbaum d. Bernstein 21-14, 21-6; Garfinkel d. Thomas 21-7, 21-12; Austin d. Ehren 8-21, 21-18, 11-7.
(Semi-finals): Gibbs d. Schienbaum 21-18, 21-18; Austin d. Garfinkel 21-1, 9-21, 11-7.
(Championship): Austin d. Gibbs 21-13, 21-14. (Third): Schienbaum d. Garfinkel 21-13, 21-20.

Nationals Senior Doubles

Results:

(First Round): B. Torres/Monell d. Ulagalakis/Kelly 21-7, 21-9; Lerner/Conine d. Fabry/Seaton 21-14, 21-16; Tom/Kobatke d. Keeler/Devlin 21-1, 21-14.
(Quarter-finals): Austin/Hanna d. Livsey/Wagner 21-1, 21-3; B. Torres/Monell d. Ivaldy/DeSaracho 21-11, 20-21, 11-7; Ehren D. Torres d. Lerner/Conine 9-21, 21-10, 11-9; Tilden/Street d. Tom/Kobatke 12-21, 21-18, 11-3.
(Semi-finals): Austin/Hanna d. B. Torres/Monell 9-21, 21-7, 11-6; Tilden/Street d. Ehren D. Torres 21-14, 21-16.
(Championship): Austin/Hanna d. Tilden/Street 21-13, 21-13.
(Third): B. Torres/Monell d. Ehren D. Torres, forfeit.

Nationals Masters Singles

Results:

(First Round): Chamberlain d. Ross 21-4, 21-2; Miller d. Ekelman, forfeit; Lerner d. Morton 21-8, 21-15; Armstrong d. Gates 21-4, 21-9; Holland d. Gutmer 21-8, 21-13; Patterson d. Sholt 21-12, 21-6; Hurd d. Berg 21-1, 21-5; Castle d. Skelton 21-19, 19-21, 11-3; Brown d. Sproul, injury default.
(Second Round): Muehleisen d. Chamberlain 21-9, 21-4; Miller d. Lerner 21-15, 21-6; Armstrong d. Bruner 21-4, 12-21, 11-0; MacDonald d. Holland 21-16, 21-10; Koanui d. Patterson 21-6, 21-7; Green d. Hurd 21-18, 21-4; Castle d. Brown 21-4, 21-2; McNamara d. Woods 21-5, 21-12.
(Quarter-finals): Muehleisen d. Miller 21-9, 21-8; MacDonald d. Armstrong 21-15, 21-20; Koanui d. Green 21-11, 14-21, 11-3; McNamara d. Castle 21-8, 21-18.
(Semi-finals): Muehleisen d. MacDonald 21-0, 21-0; McNamara d. Koanui 21-15, 21-8.
(Championship): Muehleisen d. McNamara 21-14, 21-10.
(Third): MacDonald d. Koanui 21-7, 21-14.

Nationals Masters Doubles

Results:

(First Round): Castle/Morrow d. Appleby/Chamberlain 21-15, 21-19; McNamara/Jackson d. Deeds/Hughes 21-18, 21-15; Green/Evans d. Hurd/Peterson, forfeit.
(Second Round): Castle/Morrow d. Loveday/Brown 21-4, 21-15; Skelton/Lee d. Press/Bruner 21-11, 21-16; McNamara/Jackson d. Koanui/Young 21-3, 21-10; Armstrong/Gibson d. Green/Evans 21-13, 21-7.
(Semi-finals): Skelton/Lee d. Castle/Morrow 21-11, 20-21, 11-6; McNamara/Jackson d. Armstrong/Gibson 21-9, 21-11.
(Championship): McNamara/Jackson d. Skelton/Lee 21-15, 21-14. (Third): Armstrong/Gibson d. Castle/Morrow 17-21, 21-16, 11-10.

From Far Back

Carl Loveday lost the first game of the Golden Masters Singles championship match to Chicago's Jimmy DiVito 21-10. And the top seeded San Diegan was down 20-13 in game two to DiVito, who was going for his second U.S.R.A. Golden Masters title in three years.

And Loveday won, 10-21, 21-20, 11-8.

Whatever happened to Loveday happened at the right time, or the wrong time for DiVito. But Carl killed Jimmy's serve to regain service at 13-20, then scored five straight before being put out at 18-20.

Still serving match point, DiVito's hard Z serve to the left got a weak return and his next shot was a near-perfect pass left to counter Loveday's charge forward to cover. But Loveday scrambled into deep court and floated the ball lazily to the front wall. DiVito then fanned his attempted dump corner kill for another side out.

Loveday, shooting well, came in and tallied the necessary three points to send the match to the tie-breaker.

"I thought I had the match," said a

disappointed DiVito. "He made a lot of nice shots, but I thought I had the match."

The tie-breaker was close, 11-8 for Loveday, but DiVito's mind was still on that 20-13 blown lead. His shots weren't as crisp as in the first game and a-half, and Loveday, sensing victory, came on stronger than ever.

In the semi-finals Loveday had a good match against fellow San Diegan Cal Murphy 21-15, 21-16, while DiVito stopped Salt Lake City's Luzell Wilde 21-16, 21-7. Murphy then captured third place 7-21, 21-5, 11-8.

The quarter-finals also had some nice matches, with Murphy stopping number five seed Alex Guerry 21-13, 21-20 and Wilde knocking out number two seeded Al Payne 16 and 17. Both DiVito and Loveday won their quarter-final matches easily over Manny Nosen and Will Chung, respectively.

In the Golden Masters Doubles, DiVito and partner Sam Rizzio almost did what DiVito did in the singles. They captured the title 20-21, 21-7, 11-10 over Murphy and Stan Berney, the defending champions.

But in game one the Chicago duo held that pesky 20-13 lead, only to have it vanish as Murphy/Berney came back to capture the first game 21-20.

"I told Sam after the first game," said DiVito, "that we'd have no more blown games. We had to bear down."

That they did in game two, never letting up and relentlessly pursuing that 21st point, finally getting it 21-7.

But perhaps that win was too easy, for the tie-breaker was anything but a breeze. DiVito/Rizzio scored three quick points, only to have Murphy/Berney come back with seven straight to take an impressive 7-3 lead.

"We had to do something right there," said Jimmy.

They did. They scored seven of their own, finally losing the serve with a 10-7 lead. And Murphy/Berney came back, scoring three without losing even one serve.

The best rally of the match came next, with great Golden Masters front court play. Rizzio, on the right was battling both Murphy and Berney who had DiVito's vaunted backhand out of position. But Sam came through finally killing a backhand left corner pinch for one down.

DiVito killed on the next rally to regain the serve and the boys from Chicago notched the next point to take the title.

The semi-finals were routine for both teams, as DiVito/Rizzio took the Honolulu tandem of Chung and Nakama 21-10, 21-7, while Murphy/Berney stopped Payne/Wilde 16 and 14.

Payne and Wilde took third place by forfeit over Chung/Nakama.



Carl Loveday (back court) ambles toward the back wall as Jimmy DiVito covers in their excellent Golden Masters Singles championship battle.

Nationals Golden Masters Singles

Results:

(Preliminary Round): Wilson d. Scott 21-11, 21-20; Brown d. Hickey 21-5, 21-10.
(First Round): Loveday d. Purcell 21-9, 21-8; Chung d. Wilson 21-16, 21-20; Guerry d. Brierty 21-14, 21-2; Murphy d. Nakama 21-13, 21-14; DiVito d. Stehly 21-3, 21-14; Nosen d. Brown 21-5, 21-6; Wilde d. Schmidt 21-15, 20-21, 11-4; Payne d. Walker 21-10, 21-3.
(Quarter-finals): Loveday d. Chung 21-4, 21-7; Murphy d. Guerry 21-13, 21-20; DiVito d. Nosen 21-11, 21-3; Wilde d. Payne 21-16, 21-7.
(Semi-finals): Loveday d. Murphy 21-15, 21-16; DiVito d. Wilde 21-16, 21-7.
(Championship): Loveday d. DiVito 10-21, 21-20, 11-8. (Third) Murphy d. Wilde 7-21, 21-5, 11-8.

Nationals Golden Masters Doubles

Results:

(First Round): Payne/Wilde d. Scott/Brown 21-4, 21-15; Chung/Nakama d. Schmidt/Schmidt 21-17, 21-5.
(Semi-finals): Murphy/Berney d. Payne/Wilde 21-16, 21-14; DiVito/Rizzio d. Chung/Nakama 21-10, 21-7.
(Championship): DiVito/Rizzio d. Murphy/Berney 20-21, 21-7, 11-10. (Third): Payne/Wilde d. Chung/Nakama, forfeit.



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Goals, Principles Main Issues

Kendler Addresses Nationals Audience

At the player's banquet, U.S.R.A. Prez Bob Kendler addresses the 300-plus attendance.



(Editor's Note: U.S.R.A. president Bob Kendler spoke to approximately 300 U.S.R.A. members at the annual awards banquet at the National Championships. The following is his presentation.)

When I arrived here the other day I noticed a small sign behind the registration desk announcing this players party, which I thought was an excellent idea. Would you believe that I went by this sign a half-dozen times before I noticed the menu included a steak and a meat ball?

You are eating the steak and looking at the meat ball. Any handball player who gets up in front of the best racquetball players in the world, at the finest racquetball club in America, has to be a dedicated meatball!

I am sure there are some of you who wonder why I do it, — what possible

reward could there be for a handballer among racquetball pros. Well, I have a little surprise for you. No one could have been blessed by racquetball more than this handball player. Evie and I got the reward right here in San Diego during this tournament. The Good Lord gave us a new son-in-law, one we not only love but one who is also loved by all the racquetball players as well.

Terry Fancher asked our permission to marry our daughter Kip, who is also a racquetball player. This fall there will be a wedding in Lake Forest and you will all be invited!

Now, will you all join Evie and I in a toast to Terry and Kip for a lifetime of

Mrs. Evie Kendler and Joe Ardito react to the announcement that the U.S.R.A.'s Terry Fancher and Kip Kendler became officially engaged during the Nationals week.



racquetball happiness. Or even better, a lifetime of the same love Mom and Pop have. Who says there isn't romance in racquetball?

Now I am aware that some of my recent notoriety has not earned me any brownie points within the racquetball world. So I will try to make amends by giving you a glimpse at some of the programs that our organization will be embarking on rather soon. I would like to emphasize, however, that final decisions are yet to be made and if you have any better ideas, — well, please come forward.

The U.S. Racquetball Association was formed to serve the players in just exactly the same way the U.S. Handball Association has served its players for some 40 years!

Our highest priorities next season will be the juniors tournament, the inter-collegiate program and the amateur and women's events.

We hope to have a generous sponsor who will enable us to do more things for more youngsters and amateurs. Somewhere in America there are scores of diamonds like Marty Hogan, Richard Wagner, and Ben Koltun who only need to be polished up a bit to make racquetball even more exciting than it is now.

The 1977-78 season will find women's prize money receiving a healthy and

well deserved boost, with none of the additional monies taken from the men's pot. We think we have a sponsor who loves the ladies, as I do, and hopefully the gals will soon be getting their just reward. And I think it's about time, don't you?

Now, I want you folks to keep a little secret for me. If all goes well, we should start the new year/publishing our magazine every month, instead of our current bi-monthly schedule. That's assuming Chuck Leve is the same man after his July honeymoon as he was before, — although I must say that from what I hear the odds are against this.

At the moment we are planning 10 pro tour stops next season, although this could change to 20 very suddenly. We have over 50 clubs throughout North America anxious to host any kind of a tournament, pro or amateur, but especially amateur. All we need are a few more Terry Fanchers and this would be possible.

And speaking of Terry, — as National Coordinator his assignment for the year was to affiliate all 50 states with the U.S.R.A. Well, he failed miserably, — all he got was 46 of them! So, I've told Terry that he better hurry up with those last four, because his next project might be tougher still, — to affiliate 50 nations, — to make racquetball a truly International sport.

It is no secret that I have tried for years to introduce handball into the Olympics. I now believe, as I'm sure everybody here does, — that the faster way to the Olympics is with racquetball. Thanks to the wonderful help of my dear friend Avery Brundage, I was able to make key contacts in dozens of countries, many of which were not quite ready for handball. But they are ready for racquetball.

The expansion of racquetball into the Far East and Europe could occur at dizzying speed, — into Japan, Taiwan, Australia, England, Germany, and the Middle East. These are no longer dreams, — they are goals.

You know, I get criticized from time to time for being a hard-nosed businessman. Those who criticize my no-nonsense business rules and the solid financial foundation of our Associations, are the only real threat to racquetball's success, and I don't mind telling you why.

For this sport to succeed it must grow orderly and with financial stability. Haphazard growth is our only enemy, but sound fiscal policies/based on principle/are our true allies.

We could have hundreds of tournaments annually instead of our current 70 or 80, but it would be

Brumfield, who received a standing ovation from the audience, accepts a special award presented by Bud Leach (c.) and Coate for Brum's contributions to the sport. That's t.v. announcer Fred Lewis (front right) and his daughter listening.



foolhearty. We could build thousands of courts, but it would be premature. We could separate the men and women professional tours, and again be premature.

What I am saying is this: I am dedicated to the fulfillment of a sane and financially sound growth to this sport. That is my only desire and God willing I will see it through.

As long as I am at the helm of the U.S.R.A. and N.R.C. you will see racquetball properly structured and organized. What happened to bowling will *not* happen to racquetball. What happened to tennis *will* happen to

racquetball, — and then some. But we will closely monitor our growth to ensure that we do not rise in 10 years and then fall, like tennis, but rather/rise and keep rising/well into the 21st century.

We feel the same way about "trick" tournaments. Although I will be the first to say that the recent CBS All Racquet Sports competition did a great deal of good for racquetball, (due to Charlie Brumfield's expert commentary), I do not feel that events such as this should be the wave of the future.

True competition, televised as well as the atlas club has done is all we need, — and that's what we're going to get.

I've seen matches this week that would leave network audiences spellbound. The grace, style, speed and power shown here in the nationals has been absolutely thrilling.

I have to admit to you that I did make one mistake this past year, — I let myself get talked into running a cigarette ad in our magazine. Boy, did I get letters, and rightly so. You've never seen a person cancel a contract as fast as I cancelled this one.

There is no place in racquetball for sponsors such as cigarette companies, or liquor firms. We don't need their money and we certainly

I.M.G.'s David Armstrong (r.) chats with N.R.C.'s Chuck Leve at the banquet. It was the first Nationals for Armstrong, who gallantly fought the stairs at the Atlas Health Club all week, while on crutches.



don't want their image. When we promote good racquetball we promote good health. Our slogan, "Play Racquetball For The Health Of It," is not just a slogan, it is our way of doing what we think is our destiny.

This year alone we turned down close to \$500,000 from sponsors whose products we thought were detrimental to your health. It didn't make the sponsors very happy, but I felt this was the right decision to make during our

inaugural years. That \$500,000 will come from another sponsor one day, and one we can all point to with pride. Would you mind if I made an additional comment about money? Virtually every pro today has been helped by us at some time in his sports or school career. I am not talking about prize money, either. I am talking about personal financial aid, whether for tuition, books, travel to tournaments or other personal needs. And gratefully, not one of these players has ever failed us.

I mention this because I want the players to know they will never find themselves beholden to liquor or tobacco sponsors. We ask no thanks, — only the knowledge that these players continue to show the good character and fine ability that led us to help them in the first place.

We help fund our state affiliates for the very same reason. They get monthly checks from us for every member that joins from within their boundaries. One club owner just signed with us for 10,000 new memberships. Just think how happy the Michigan Racquetball Association will be with their share of the membership dues every year!

This owner feels he couldn't possibly educate his members as well as we do for as little money as our membership-subscription package costs. And I might add that the man behind the scene who really put the deal together is with us here this week. His name is Gil Schmitt, a long time supporter of the U.S.R.A. and a man who is doing more for his members than many other clubs combined.

You know, I wish we didn't have to talk about money. Or where it comes from. But I want you all to realize how lucky we are. You see, we don't have a 50,000 seat stadium or a million dollar television contract. All we really have is Al Mackie, Bud Leach, Charlie Drake, Ken Konkol, John Pabry and a few other far-sighted investors. I say investors, because they have taken a long range gamble that you can be sure will pay off. Without Seamco balls, Leach racquets, Champion and Saranac gloves, we would have been hard put to stage our extravaganzas and make the progress we made

through the years. And a number of our younger players might never had the chance to play tournaments or see a college classroom.

Now that we are a cinch, — everyone wants to get on the band wagon. And who can blame them? And I don't just mean racquetball companies. Don't be surprised when I tell you that we are now finalizing agreements with several international conglomerates, one of which is the largest corporation on earth. It's too early for me to give you details, but you can rest assured that if the lawyers don't get too fancy, we will soon have a great deal more money for all of our programs, men and women, pro and amateur.

That noise you just heard was Marty Hogan falling off his chair when I mentioned more money.

You haven't heard me say anything yet about our contract with Mark McCormack's International Management Group. That's because we promised them we wouldn't disclose a single new sponsor until all papers have been signed. Let me just say that I have all the confidence in the world in these people, and that especially includes Dave Armstrong, the man at IMG with whom we work very closely. It also includes Art Shay, — our world famous photographer, who incidentally was the official Olympic photographer. Now you know why our promotion and pictures are both great.

I've been to over a thousand handball and racquetball tournaments in my lifetime as both a player and

administrator, and I have yet to see anybody put on a better National Championship tournament than the Atlas Health Club. Jerry Sandstrom, Ken Davidson and Lee Hinrichs have been tremendous to work with and for their superb job I think they deserve a big round of applause.

A couple of weeks ago we ran another National Championship at the luxurious Town and Country Club in Creve Coeur, a suburb of St. Louis. Like this tournament, it was a huge success and some of the matches will be talked of as long as any of us live.

The highlight at St. Louis had to be the finals where Freddie Lewis handball's all-time leading money winner, played Naty Alvarado, a youngster from Mexico. The setting for this match was perfect, — Freddie had defeated the Canadian champ, while Naty was eliminating the Irish champ. Freddie can speak English and doesn't, — Naty can *not* speak English but does.

In the most thrilling handball finals I ever saw, Naty got to 20 after winning the first game. At this point I said to former all star baseballer Stan Musial, "*Come on Stan, it's time to go under the stands with the awards,*" Which we did.

Well, we waited under those stands quite a long time for one point, — nearly half an hour in fact. There were 14 consecutive service changes before Alvarado finally captured the title. But what happened after that was really funny.

Musial turned to the gallery and said, "*I wanted to come into the court and make this award to Naty Avocado.*"

To which Alvarado replied in half Spanish, "*And I want to thank you too, Mr. Music.*"

That's really what I want to do also, — call everyone by their right name, and thank everybody here for a remarkable tournament, and most of all for your great sportsmanship. True, there were a few explosions but nothing that could be called anything other than fierce competition. It certainly wasn't like the early days when I was so happy so few people could read Marty Hogan's lips.

You all have my sincerest thanks because everyone of you contributed something. And I know I speak for Joe Ardito, Chuck Leve, Terry Fancher and the entire Atlas Health Club when I say you are a credit to sports in general and San Diego in particular.

I hope you will invite us back again and again, and Jerry Sandstrom if San Diego is tournament site favorite next season you have nothing to worry about.

I do hope we can all be together again next year, and if any of you mothers have a daughter you want to get rid of, — bring her to the tournament. Evie will show you how! ●

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Racquetball 'Cure' For Heart Attack Victim

Hal Higdon lives in Michigan City, Indiana and writes for several national publications. This article is adapted from his latest book, "Fitness After Forty." Reprinted from *Chicago Sun-Times Midwest Magazine*, May 1, 1977.

Gerald Smith, a commodities trader and insurance broker, arrived at his office in the Chicago suburb of Lincolnwood at 7 a.m.—a typically early arrival. Smith, a wiry individual, once played basketball in high school despite being only 5 feet 6 inches. Thirty-one years old, he continued to maintain his interest in physical activity, playing handball four or five times a week. As a handball player, he was intensely competitive—as he was in business.

Smith often worried about business and, as a result, slept fitfully. This morning he had awakened at 5:30, snatched a quick breakfast and left for the office.

Once there, he began experiencing signs of discomfort, belching frequently. He suspected he had a severe case of indigestion so decided to go downstairs to a restaurant and get some milk to coat his stomach. But the discomfort grew. Smith climbed into the back seat of his car, rolled down the windows and elevated his feet, but nothing helped. He felt chilled. He started sweating. Things began getting blurry. He looked up and saw a friend staring in the open car window at him. Smith had difficulty focusing on his friend, and wondered if it was part of a dream.

His friend appeared only by chance. He had parked nearby, glanced in Smith's car window and saw him suffering.

"My god, Jerry, what's the matter?" asked the friend. Smith could not reply. The friend rushed him to the emergency room of Chicago's Weiss Memorial Hospital.

Gerald Smith was having a heart attack, although he felt no pain. "There was nothing like the binding wire across the chest you hear about," Smith recalls. "It was just a combination of nausea and sweating."

He was stunned when the doctors told him he had experienced a heart attack. "I always considered myself in excellent condition," Smith insists.

But there was that nervous, intense side of his personality. "In college they always used to call me 'Smitty the worrier,'" he admits. "If I had something to do tomorrow, I would spend the whole previous day and night worrying whether or not it might rain, and there was nothing I could do about it. I had what is known as a cardiac profile. A person with a cardiac profile is someone who, if somebody he plans to meet is a minute late, he's aggravated by it. He's always on time, never deviates from his schedule. He is, if anything, over-organized. Well, that was me."

Gerald Smith also had other coronary-prone characteristics. In a coronary risk estimate chart designed by Penn State University for the American Heart Association, one of the factors was sex. The scale for that category, in points, went from female (1), to female over 45 (2), to male (4), to

bald male (5), to bald, short male (6), to bald, short stocky male (7), the more points scored, the higher the individual's likeliness of developing heart disease. Gerald Smith can be categorized as a "bald, short, stocky male."

Yet he did not fit the pattern when it came to lack of exercise, which on the Penn State chart went, in points from intense occupational and recreational exertion to complete lack of exercise. Smith definitely was on the low point range of that scale—at least until he had his heart attack.

Under doctor's order, he no longer could play handball. Being intensely competitive, he missed this opportunity to express himself athletically. He worried about being able to walk fast, let alone play a sport. He needed to report for blood tests once every 2½ weeks to check against clotting.

"I thought I was going to be one of those rocking chair victims," he said. "I couldn't be the father I wanted to be—or the husband. I couldn't shovel snow. Things like having my wife carry the groceries from the car all the time was bugging the heck out of me. I became a second-class husband, father and citizen, and it wasn't my makeup to be that way."

He began hoping every night when he went to sleep that he would not wake up the next morning. He eventually

began going to a psychiatrist. Depression is a common problem for heart attack victims.

Gerald Smith pondered the reasons for his heart attack. He was not overweight, although he had a dangerously high cholesterol level: around 450. He never smoked cigarets. He did have a family history which hinted at possible cardiovascular problems, since his mother died at age 46 of a cerebral hemorrhage. His father, a former swimmer, had a mild heart condition but lived to age 66 before dying of pneumonia. Yet one grandfather was still alive at age 94 and in good condition. (Smith also had a brother who seemed to be in good condition.)

"The only thing that aggravates my grandfather is when the Cubs lose," says Smith.

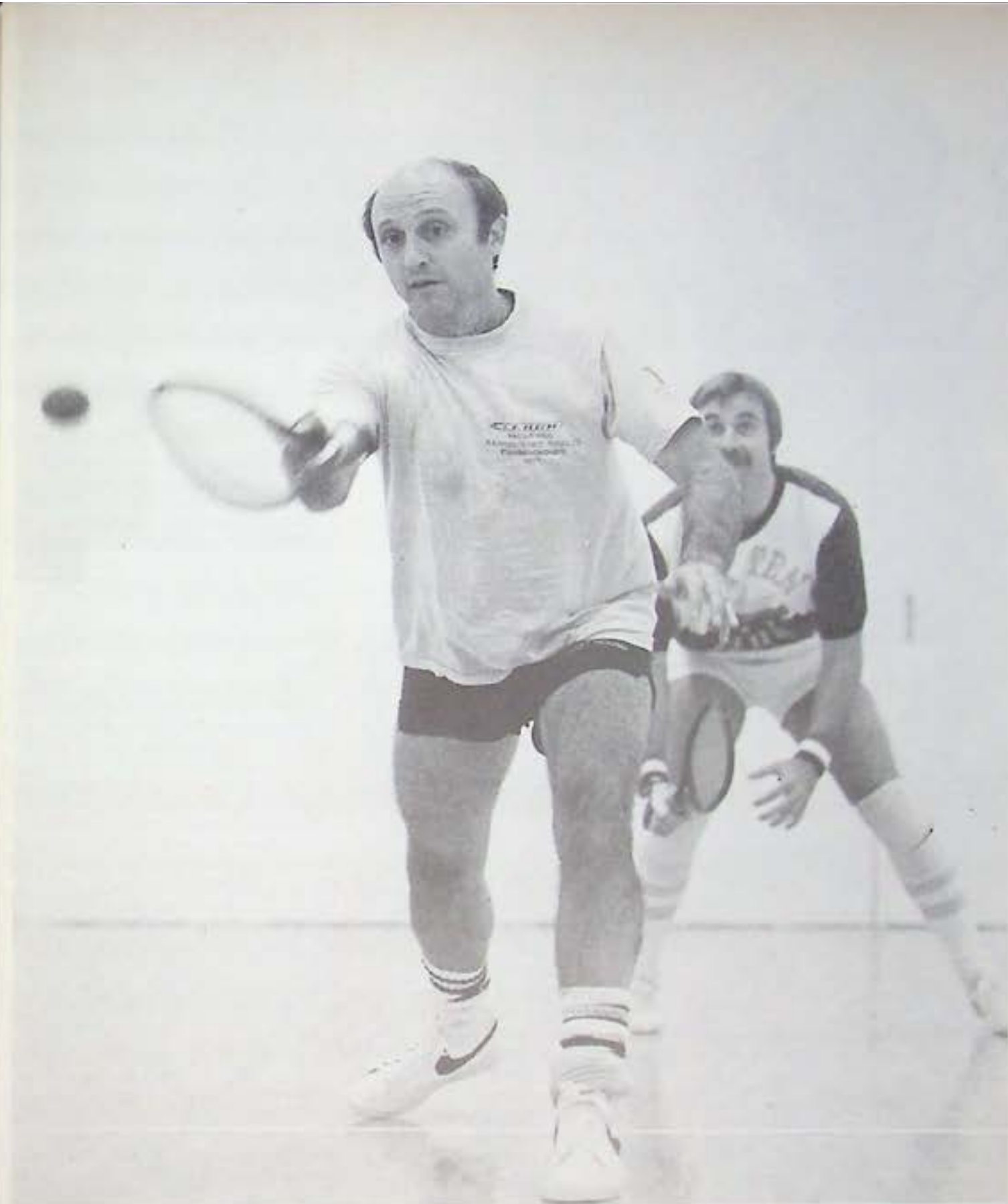
The heart attack happened in 1965. After several years of inactivity, Smith finally received permission from his physician to join an exercise class at the Lawson YMCA (Chicago) directed by Dick Woit. Woit's program, which attracted professional athletes as well as middle-aged businessmen, consisted of an intensive 45 minutes of almost unlimited push-ups, wind sprints and sit-ups.

(Although doctors once prescribed bed rest and lack of physical activity for heart patients, modern physicians now realize that this probably killed more people than it saved. Cardiologists now recommend that heart patients become more active physically than before their attack. For example, Dr. Noel Nequin of Swedish Covenant Hospital in Chicago supervises an exercise program for more than 150 heart patients who run up to an hour each morning at the North Park College gym and track.

Smith began his program with Dick Woit by exercising at an easy level but soon increased his activity to where he was matching the achievement levels of others around him. His competitive nature was emerging once more. But he disliked the exercise program because it was boring and because it lacked the competitive aspect of other sports. He decided to return to handball.

"Handball is a game which is fun," Smith explains.

In 1973, several years after resuming handball play, he had troubles again, this time in the middle of a handball match at the Riviera Club. He began getting a feeling similar to the first attack and finally had to lie down on the floor. Fortunately, a physician present took his blood pressure and rushed him to Skokie (Ill.) Valley Hospital where his problem was diagnosed as a coronary insufficiency. The first attack had been diagnosed as a myocardial infarction, but the second attack was merely a



Jerry Smith leans into a serve in one of his daily racquetball workouts.



With his Brumfield autograph model racquet in one hand, Smith shows off his surgical momentos, on his chest . . .



matter of not enough blood getting through to the heart. Released from the hospital, he resumed playing handball as well as tennis.

"This is when things started coming together as to what was wrong with me," Smith explains. "I noticed each morning after driving to work that while walking from the car I would get a funny feeling in the area around my chin. But it would go away. Then I started noticing the same feeling during warmups to play tennis. It, too, would go away. I noticed that when I stopped warming up for a few minutes, the feeling would go away faster. But it still kept coming back again."

"It was explained to me later that I suffered from angina. Every time the blood supply to the heart became insufficient, because of the blockage in the arteries, it would cause this funny sensation. Slowly, the blood would start circulating through other vessels to get around the blockage, what is known as collateral circulation. When the blood finally gets through, the pain starts subsiding."

At a tennis party one evening, Smith happened to meet a cardiovascular surgeon, Marlin Silver. Dr. Silver (not his real name) was on staff at Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke's Hospital. One of Dr. Silver's colleagues

was the physician who had operated in 1974 on Mayor Richard J. Daley, removing a blockage of the artery in his neck to improve circulation of blood to the brain and lessen the chance of a stroke. Dr. Silver performed similar operations, but also specialized in coronary bypasses, a method of improving circulation to the heart. He did as many as 200 bypass operations a year.

The physician suggested that Smith's problems might be alleviated by such a bypass and asked him to visit the hospital for a stress test on a treadmill. Smith was on the treadmill for only a few minutes when Dr. Silver ordered it stopped. Smith's heart condition was such that it was dangerous to proceed, just as it would have been dangerous for Smith to continue playing handball.

As Dr. Silver later explained, *"Jerry Smith had major impairment of all the arteries, and his heart muscle was damaged from his previous heart attack. When we did the stress test, we weren't sure we would be able to help him despite his relatively young age. We feared he would be relegated to an inactive life."*

Until the last few decades, patients as severely compromised as Gerald Smith were sent home with instructions to remain relatively inactive and wait for the inevitable closing of the final passage, with accompanying massive heart attack followed by death. But in the mid-1960s, physicians developed a means of bypassing blocked arteries. Among the people who have had bypasses are actor Walter Matthau and Michigan football coach Bo Schembechler.

. . . and thigh. His operation enabled him to continue a normal, active, racquetball-filled life.

While Marlin Silver was in surgical training in 1970, he began learning how to perform bypass operations. There are perhaps 50,000 such operations performed in the United States each year, mostly at major medical centers.

Despite the operation's becoming routine because of its frequency, the coronary bypass remains a technically difficult procedure. Arteries are between one and two millimeters in size (approximately 1/20th to 1/40th of an inch). In order to join arteries, a surgeon must make 10 to 20 stitches.

"Each stitch is tiny and exact," says Dr. Silver. "One stitch can ruin an entire bypass."

In order to bypass the blocked coronary artery, Dr. Silver removed a saphenous vein from the inside of Smith's left thigh. As yet, no artificial arteries have been developed capable of being utilized in a bypass operation, and only a few veins within the human body can serve as substitute coronary arteries. The saphenous vein is one such vein. Although it helps drain blood from the leg, there are additional deep veins that serve the same purpose. Once the saphenous vein is removed, those other veins assume its function, part of a backup system within the human body. The saphenous vein also serves well as a substitute coronary artery because of its elasticity, which makes it more capable of withstanding the pressures present in the arterial system.

Any operation, no matter how routine, contains risks. One risk in Gerald Smith's case was that his previously

Smith on one of his two jobs, at the Board of Trade, hustling in the "pits." He's also a full time insurance salesman.



damaged heart might fail. It would be sustained during the lengthy operation by a heart-lung machine and other devices. But Dr. Silver worried that once the heart-lung machine was turned off following the operation, Smith's heart might not resume its normal function.

Dr. Silver estimated that Gerald Smith had an operative risk of 10 to 12 per cent. The odds in his favor were about 9 to 1 that he would survive the operation. This compared to an

operative risk on the average coronary bypass of about 5 per cent. For a patient with no previous evidence of heart trouble, who was receiving a bypass for preventive reasons, the risk might be as low as one per cent.

For some patients with severely damaged hearts, the risk might be as great as 25 to 50 per cent. With such odds, a surgeon probably would proceed with a bypass only if it was the last chance of saving that patient's life.

When coronary bypass operations were first performed, surgeons operated mostly on patients in their 50s and 60s. They did not operate on older patients, because the new technique

seemed risky. They did not operate on younger patients for the same reason. Today, coronary bypass operations are being recommended for both older and younger heart patients.

"The state of the art has progressed," says Dr. Silver, *"so with relative safety and confidence we may even recommend surgery to people who have not even had a heart attack yet."* More patients in their 70s also are being given coronary bypass operations.

Dr. Silver admits to "dropoffs," patients who die within a year or two after surgery, but adds, *"The dropoff in the post-operative patient is about a third of what it would be if those same patients did not have their surgery."*

The operation on Gerald Smith proved successful. Ten days afterwards, he left the hospital. Forty-five days later, he began swimming, trying to get his chest muscles back in shape again. Four months following the operation, he began playing racquetball.

Gerald Smith believes he would have experienced much less trouble if he knew 10 years ago what he knows today. He advises, *"Anyone over 40 who endeavors to go into any athletic activity, running or whatever, should go through a physical examination every year to check his blood pressure, check his heartbeat. He should also take a stress test, because that's a good indicator if you need an angiogram, which seem to be more prevalent in people over 40. If I was a wealthy man, I would get on a soapbox all over the country and just talk about it."*

"There are doctors completely against stress testing. They think it's dangerous. There are doctors completely against the angiogram for the same reason. There are doctors against the coronary bypass. But all I know is that I'm not experiencing that angina anymore. There supposedly is no definite data that a coronary bypass prolongs life. There is no way to prove that I'm going to live longer than if I had not been operated on, but I feel safe. I feel as though my blood is going all the way through my circulatory system and into my heart."

"There is a fellow who works for me in the next office who is 47, three years my senior. He had a coronary shortly after I did. He has a completely opposite life pattern. He does nothing athletically. He is extremely heavy. He drinks. Who's to say who is going to live longer?"

"Right now, I am living a better life than I ever did before. I have complete confidence in my physical being. If something is going to happen, it's going to happen, but I don't think it would happen as much because of the surgery. What slows me down now is the fact that I'm 43 and I would start to slow down because of that anyway."

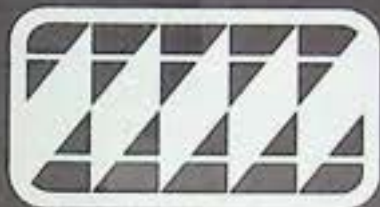
Presumably, the coronary bypass operation is the first step toward what might in coming centuries become a "Six-Million Dollar Man." Perhaps in

some future medical era, artificial arteries can be devised as replacements for our actual coronary arteries, rather than using saphenous veins, which are in limited supply. Perhaps in some future era, we will have artificial hearts. We already have artificial pacemakers.

In the meantime, the Gerald Smiths of the world must learn to cope with their heart conditions, living life from one day to the next, hoping that the inevitable can be postponed. Jerry Smith comes off the racquetball court covered with sweat, a smile on his face, hoping that he can return to play one more time, then another time, then another time. He plays the game five days a week. He is very good at the game. He plays racquetball as though each game was his last, squeezing every drop of enjoyment he can out of life. Perhaps that is the way we should all play the game of life.

But there is no magic in the coronary bypass operation. Jerry knows it and is taking medication to lower his cholesterol level. He has reduced it from the 400s into the 300s. He is more careful with his diet now than before.

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But Dr. Silver says, "Jerry Smith is probably not your ideal patient." He follows orders grudgingly.

Several weeks after watching Jerry Smith demolish his partner in a game of racquetball, I spoke with Joan Ulliot, M.D., a San Francisco physician involved in sports medicine. Her husband is a cardiovascular surgeon and performs coronary bypass operations. He also has done a study on patient mortality which seems to support the theory that, indeed, coronary bypasses do extend life rather than merely improve it.

"A coronary bypass operation doesn't cure you," Joan Ulliot said. "It simply gives you another chance to do things

better the second time around. The same disease is going to attack the substitute vessels unless you change your life style. It's an opportunity. You wreck one set of arteries, so you have another set that are good for a couple more years. If you don't change, they, too, will clog up. It gives you a chance to stop smoking, start exercising, change your diet, change the stress level, whatever contributed to the clog-up the first time."

Joan described going to a party and meeting a young man on whom her husband had operated only a few months before. The young man, 28 years old, sat at the party smoking a cigaret.

Joan asked him, "Didn't they tell you at the hospital that smoking was bad for coronary patients?"

"Yeah," said the young man, "But I figure, easy come, easy go."

Joan was appalled: "If you stop smoking, you'll have a better chance."

The young man attempted a smile: "I have a cholesterol level of 450, anyway. I might as well enjoy life while I can."

Joan Ulliot suspects that, coronary bypass or not, she may not see that individual at many future parties. "Obviously," she said, "his vessels are not going to last him very long. If he lives to age 30, He's lucky."

And I thought about Gerald Smith, a victim of his own Type A personality, still working following his coronary bypass, in his two jobs as commodity trader - life insurance broker. When I first visited him in his office, I started to give my name to the receptionist, but Jerry was sitting nearby talking to one of his staff members and he spotted me first. "Two seconds," he said. "Two seconds." He held up two fingers to indicate how soon he would see me.

And he was sitting on the edge of his chair. ●

Racquetball Camp: To Go or Not To Go?

Jeanne B. Clark is a free-lance writer and graduate student in Librarianship at the University of Washington.

You say you like racquetball, Boobie, and you need a vacation, too? You say you want to improve your game, but you don't know whether it rates a trip to San Diego? You say you want to watch and learn from the pros, but you can't imagine them relating to your level of play? Well then, racquetballers, the Atlas Racquetball Camp may just have the answer for you.

The four-day racquetball camp is offered by National Racquetball Clinic, a group of top U.S. professionals in the field, in conjunction with the Atlas Health Club, San Diego's most exclusive racquetball club and one of the finest facilities in the country. The concept of the clinic is to communicate through professional lecture, instruction and supervised play, correct fundamentals of the game in order to equip each participant to reach maximum performance level.

As a racquetball enthusiast of about a year, I attended the April 1977 session, one of four offered each year (February, November, April and July). In reaching a decision about whether to attend the camp I honestly had reservations about such a camp. At my present level of play was I ready for such a camp? Of what value would the clinic be in terms of my game? Would the experience be worth the commitment of time and money? By writing this article I hope to provide insight into what goes on at an Atlas Racquetball Camp, in order to assist the reader in making a similar decision.

Freebies

A strong selling point of the clinic is its location in sunny San Diego. As a former San Diegan—now Seattlelite, I know how warm and versatile San Diego is in terms of entertainment: its great outdoor life on the water and beaches, its world-renowned zoo and historic Old Town, its fine Sports Arena and its myriad restaurants. In appropriate seasons one can charter a boat to sail or fish, drive east to see the desert in bloom or go south to Tijuana and jai-alai. This seaport city, discovered by Portuguese explorer Juan Cabrillo in 1542, is rich in history and scenic beauty.

The Atlas Racquetball Camp is offered as a package which includes: four nights lodging (which can be extended prior to or following the clinic) at the Atlas Hotel's Mission Valley Inn, located on Hotel Circle; tickets to Sea World and the San Diego Wild Animal Park; an equipment package of a Leach racquet of your choice, a Leach equipment bag, a shirt, and Steve Keeley's book, *The Complete Book of Racquetball*; 20 hours of professional racquetball instruction; tournament cocktails and banquet. I was happy to find Keeley's book so humorous and readable. It is a most comprehensive text on the sport — covering history, rules and techniques. I was especially pleased with the free Leach racquet: the lighter, fiberglass "Little Bandido" has added power to my game.

When off the court, the Mission Valley Inn provides lots to do for relaxation: the 10-acre complex has two swimming pools, a jacuzzi, a 24-hour



Clinic members executing daily warm-up and flexibility drills.

coffee shop, bottle shop and restaurant with entertainment. It is centrally located to theatres, restaurants, shopping centers and especially convenient for clinic sessions: our room was just a couple of flights of stairs away from the AHC.

The pros and staff of the National Racquetball Clinic really make an effort to see that clinic members have fun as well as learn. Instruction is informative but very relaxed and instructors tell you the way it is, whether it's why you're doing something wrong or how they develop strategy for professional play. Camp members and pros have various backgrounds, but the common interest and enthusiasm for racquetball result in some fine, fun times on and off the court.

Facilities And Staff

As stated, the four-day, five-hour sessions (10 a.m.-12 p.m.; 2 p.m.-5 p.m.) take place in the Atlas Health Club's impressive facilities. The modern, mosque-like structure houses seven racquetball/handball courts (two with glass back walls), a gallery, therapy pool, steam room, separate saunas, exercise rooms and massage rooms for men and women, club lounge, snack bar, pro shop, barber

shop, game room and videotape system; club grounds include a 25-meter, 3-lane lap pool, a jogging track, volleyball court and six lighted tennis courts (one with gallery).

Into this plush setting introduce as instructors National Racquetball Clinic members, some of the top professional players in the field today: Charlie Brumfield, five-time national champion; Shannon Wright, currently national women's champion, Davey Bledsoe, 1977 national champ and Rich Wagner, ranked in the top four or five players in the world. Other instructor/players are involved with the camp as professional competition schedules permit and include Steve Serot, Steve Keeley, and Marty Hogan. Such a combination of modern facilities and qualified staff established credibility about the camp's serious purpose: to teach racquetball.

Agenda And Teaching Techniques

The clinic opened with the introduction of Atlas Health Club Manager Ken Davidson, National Racquetball Clinic Coordinator John Weaver, and instructor/players Brumfield, Wright, Bledsoe and Wagner. After an

introduction of camp participants, some traveling from as far as Pennsylvania, Michigan and Washington, we toured the AHC facilities — and they are lovely.

An effective aspect of the instruction agenda from a learning standpoint was its logical organization. By focusing upon one aspect of the game through lecture, example and then practice, I was able to pick up new information and see it executed properly, then have a chance to use it on the court. Specific lectures on equipment, warm-up exercises, basic strokes and strategy were accompanied by audio-visual techniques and professional exhibition matches. Participants' forehand and backhand strokes were videotaped, reviewed by the pros and discussed with each participant. Twenty-five people attended the April session. Two-thirds that number would have provided a more ideal student-to-instructor ratio. Lecture to court time was about 40/60. The four days of instruction were wrapped up with a camp tournament and banquet. The lecture on racquetball equipment was particularly useful. Have you ever wondered; what is the most appropriate clothing to wear for racquetball? What kind of shoe is



Author with free Leach racquet and five-time national champ Charlie Brumfield.

safest and wears best? What types of racquets are there and which is best for you? What about racquet flexibility and string tension? Which glove is best — or wear one at all? What is the difference in racquetballs on the market? What is the proper grip and why? Some of these things I had never thought about. Now I have the information to make an educated decision about equipment in terms of my own needs.

I knew about stretching before playing, but warming up before stretching? This is another logical, but until the camp, never-before-thought-about-phenomenon, a piece of information gained. We were shown the proper kinds of "flexibility drills" and how best to perform them. Bob Anderson's book, *Stretching*, details further handball/racquetball/tennis stretching exercises.

"But I thought I was doing it right!" the lectures on the forehand and backhand either confirmed or denied for camp members, their proper or improper grip and stroke. Although trying, this lecture/exercise defined the importance of getting the basic strokes down, and then allowed us to execute the stroke under professional supervision. It was at this point that each person's forehand and backhand

was videotaped. Demonstration films of proper execution of each stroke and strategy would have complemented these lectures beautifully.

I learned that the forehand and backhand actually become the building blocks of the game: a sound basic stroke develops power, consistency and smoothness. The important facts communicated here are that there is a correct grip, swing, stance and point of contact which compose a correct stroke. Changing to a lighter racquet and being able to see strokes executed by good players helped tremendously in getting a feel for the stroke as it should be performed. At will I can now replay the strokes in my mind as demonstrated by the instructors as a review aid on my own court. I am beginning to recognize a good stroke from a poor one, knowing why it's a winner or a loser.

Both the offensive and defensive strategy lectures were sources of a great deal of new information relative to future game improvement. Anyone who has the discipline to shoot 1000 ceiling balls a day and is five-time national champ probably has worthwhile strategy expertise to relate, which he did through these lectures (Brumfield). The importance of the serve as an offensive tool, various kinds of serves and their delivery, the necessity for a variety of serves and shots, return of service and types of game-play for types of opponents, were all valuable points to acquire and utilize later. I believe my thinking about forming strokes and placing shots, my movement on the court, has all improved due to these lectures.

Benefits

To summarize, I found the benefits of this particular racquetball camp to be two-fold: I acquired sound information about fundamental techniques of the game and I witnessed a different physical and psychological approach to how the game is played than I had ever seen before.

Through professional explanation of what is involved in the make-up of a stroke or the logic behind court positioning, I now better understand how and why I should do what when playing racquetball. Perhaps equally valuable is this new sense of "looseness" I picked up from watching professional racquetball being played. Compared to the average hacker, the pros are incredibly fast — retrieving the impossible — as well as accurate and powerful on kill shots. Yet at the same time there is something else happening: the execution of shots is definitely relaxed, positioning remarkable fluid. The game becomes a smooth, loose exercise, a beautiful combination of energy and control, which must be seen to be assimilated.

Through their relaxed and supportive teaching, by showing their friendship and "humanness," the pros and staff at the National Racquetball Clinic succeeded in creating an atmosphere which is conducive to learning, remembering and improving, regardless of individual level of play. From one who's been there, the Atlas Racquetball Camp of April 1977 was not only fun, but worthwhile; my game's been telling me so. ●

Brumfield Takes 2nd in World Racquets Championships

Racquetball official Tom Rogan poses with competitors in World Racquets Championship, held May 23 at Homowack Lodge, Spring Glen, N.Y. in the Sullivan County Catskills, and telecast by CBS on May 29. Left to right, Bjorn Borg, tennis; Flemming Delfs, badminton; Rogan; Charles Brumfield, racquetball; Dan Seemiller, table tennis; and Sharif Khan, squash. Khan won the event.



Results:

Squash (Semi-finals): Brumfield d. Seemiller 15-5; Borg d. Delfs 15-9. (Finals): Brumfield d. Borg 15-4.

Badminton (Semi-finals): Borg d. Brumfield 15-3; Khan d. Seemiller 15-2. (Finals): Khan d. Brumfield 15-8.

Racquetball (Semi-finals): Khan d. Delfs 21-2; Borg d. Seemiller 21-14. (Finals): Khan d. Seemiller 21-6.

Tennis (Semi-finals): Delfs d. Brumfield 6-1; Khan d. Seemiller 6-1. (Finals): Khan d. Delfs 6-0.

Table Tennis (Semi-finals): Borg d. Brumfield 21-11; Khan d. Delfs 21-5. (Finals): Borg d. Khan 21-18.

Former National Champion Charlie Brumfield captured second place in the first annual World Racquets Championships May 23 in Spring Glen, New York. The winner was world squash champion Sharif Khan.

The competition, in which the champions of five racquet sports (racquetball, tennis, badminton, table tennis and squash) played the four sports not their own, was televised nationally by CBS-TV.

Khan, a 32-year-old native of Pakistan, now residing in Toronto won three of the four events in which he competed, collecting 27 points, far outdistancing Brumfield and tennis star Bjorn Borg, who tied with 11.

Brumfield was awarded second place over Borg because he defeated the Wimbledon winner in two of the three events in which they met.

Khan received \$15,000 for his victory, Brumfield \$6,500 and Borg \$5,000 in addition to his \$25,000 appearance fee.

Also competing were Flemming Delfs, of Denmark, the world Badminton titlist and Dan Seemiller, of Pittsburgh, the U.S. Table Tennis champion. They scored three points each and shared \$4,250.

Brumfield won the squash competition, in which Khan was ineligible, and Borg won the table tennis.

The tournament was sponsored by Vitalis. ●

Hogan's 142 Mph Leads Seamco Ball Test



Hogan vs. the Seamco radar gun.
Racquetball's hardest hitter at 142 m.p.h.

Marty Hogan went up against a radar gun this past April, a radar gun provided by the Seamco Sporting Goods Company, the official ball manufacturer for both the U.S. Racquetball Association and National Racquetball Club.

Hogan, who along with a dozen other professional players, tested a number of Seamco balls, as that firm continues to seek out player input in the evolution of a superior product.

What Hogan did confirmed everybody's feelings and then some. The 19-year-old number one ranked

professional blasted the ball 142 miles per hour, by far the hardest of anybody tested.

"The next hardest was 106 m.p.h.," said Chuck Leve, the U.S.R.A.'s national director who watched the testing. "We all knew Marty could hit, but 142 is amazing."

And many who watched Marty and the radar gun are convinced the youngster really didn't give it his best shot. He was tested just prior to his championship match with Charlie Brumfield (97 m.p.h.), and many thought he held back.



Charlie Brumfield jibes with the Seamco tester. The Brum couldn't break the 100 m.p.h. barrier.

—Photos by Lawrence Mackie

The testing procedure was monitored by Seamco personnel including president Al Mackie and national sales manager Bob Coate. Also on hand were vice president of finance Fred Buchholz, William Birdson, director of quality control, and regional sales manager Art Orloski.

Additionally, a staff of experts from Georgia Tech University, headed by Dr. John T. Berry conducted the testing.

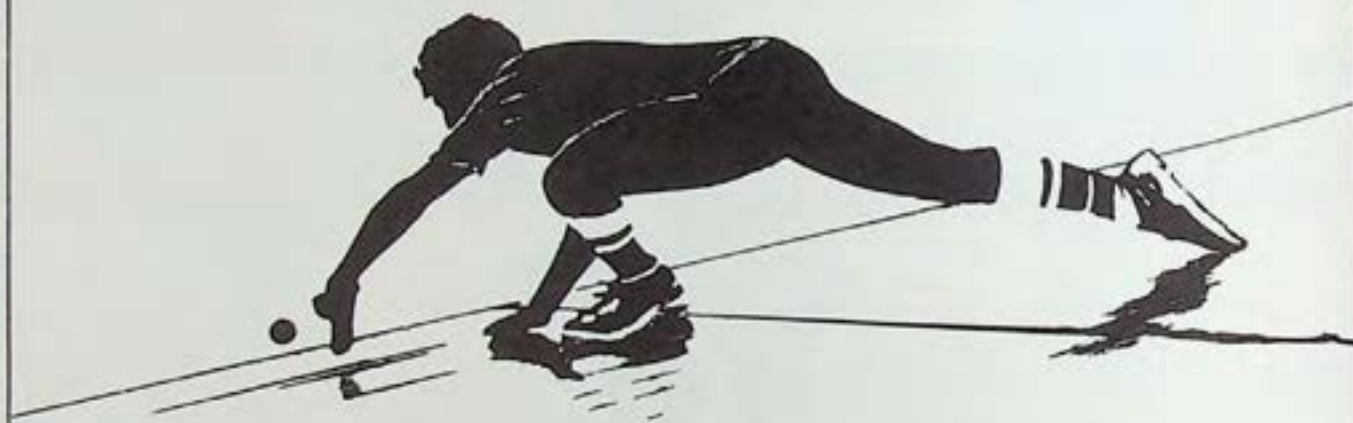
"We can conduct laboratory tests all day," said Coate to the group of testers. "But what counts is how the balls perform in play." ●



Kathy Williams discusses the testing procedure with an interviewer.



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Computer Billing For Court Clubs

The Racquetball/Handball industry has, over the years, grown progressively more and more complex and competitive, a development which often necessitates the utilization by the club of computerized management systems. These systems can provide thorough and more accessible information for the club while expediting and simplifying the bookkeeping procedures. The key word here is information; concise, timely and accurate information. We would like to focus the attention of this article on service bureaus who provide a broad spectrum of computerized services for the club, while precluding the necessity of extra bookkeeping personnel.

Depending on the informational and managerial needs of the individual clubs and the specific service bureau chosen, a computerized approach can be utilized for any size club at any period of development or operation. A primary area of club bookkeeping that lends itself to computerization is accounts receivable management. Certainly clubs can choose to automate general ledger, P & L, payables, payroll, and inventory control. In the interest of simplicity, we are going to limit our discussion in this article to computerized accounts receivable management.

Accounts Receivable

There are a myriad of service bureaus nationwide that offer accounts receivable services. There are, however, only a few who offer "specialized" services specifically designed for racquetball/handball accounts receivable management.

In light of the fact that it would be impossible in the time and space allotted to deal with every approach and nuance, we will discuss one approach, Racquetball CHARGE Systems with PCB (permanent court-time billing)/offered by the Louis Zahn Data Service Corp. who specialize in racquet sports accounting

management, and in our opinion offers the best systems we have seen for the clubs.

Both the Racquetball CHARGE Systems/PCB® "batch card" approach and the "Total Electronic Administrative Management" approach utilizing a point of sale electronic register provide the club with court scheduling reports, and handle league, membership billings, and renewals as well as all other accounts receivable needs.

At this juncture it might be worthwhile for purposes of clarification to briefly define the "batch card" system and the point of sale electronic register (terminal) approach. With the "batch card" approach, one copy of the sales ticket is sent to the service bureau for processing. With the register approach the service bureau processes from the internal paper journal tape generated from the register.

Starting

At the outset, the club provides the service bureau with a list of all members (billing heads) who have charge privileges with the club. This list is keypunched and verified and returned to the club for ultimate approval. Once the approved name lists are returned, the service bureau generates optional plastic member cards. These cards are kept in the club alphabetically in a standard Rolodex file. The plastic cards are compatible with a 3-part transaction form and an Addressograph imprinter. The transaction tickets are universal in function. Any bookkeeping transaction is handled by the transaction tickets, be it charge, cash, credit, payment or adjustment, merely by Xing the appropriate box on the ticket. The plastic cards maintained at the desk level provide security for the clubs and their members, while eliminating transpositional and other input errors, definitely associated with manual or pegboard systems.

Some clubs prefer a member held card which takes into account promotional priorities. However, the internal cards are recommended as they are less costly and do not necessitate expiration or loss considerations. In that they are internal, they are inexpensive. Paper cards can also be substituted and information hand written. Since the terminal approach bypasses writing up sales tickets, the plastic cards are replaced with computer generated paper Rolodex cards reflecting member ID, phone number, type of membership, permanent court time and past due balance information.

Day To Day Operations

When your member comes into the club to purchase court time, lessons, pro shop items, etc., the plastic card and 3-part transaction form is used. The staff member Xes a charge box on the ticket, initials the appropriate area for internal control, and codes or describes the purchase. The process is quite simple. The top copy will be filed at the end of the day. The middle copy is given to the member as a receipt. The third is sent to the service bureau weekly. Preferably, the member has been asked to sign the ticket! For those clubs who wish to utilize their own sales slips, the procedure is similar. The service bureau can also use your sales slip to keypunch from. For those clubs wishing to utilize point of sale electronic registers, the service bureau, as indicated, will keypunch from the paper transaction journal tapes produced by the register. Furthermore, the service bureau will thoroughly assist you in choice of register and implementation.

With the register format total cash and charge accountability is provided. All transactions are electronically recorded with an account receipt generated by the register. Backup register documentation of all transactions is instantly generated for office use, as are transaction summary listings for expeditious day's end balancing.

Through program control and register guided entry, information is entered into the register accurately and simply by all personnel, with minimal training. Separate register totals (dollars and units) are provided for all sales classifications at any time. A security code control is employed by the machine to prevent unauthorized access to confidential information.

The club may lease the electronic register from the service bureau. They are then given the option of upgrading equipment, if they should ever feel it necessary due to technological advancements in this area.

End Of Day

At day's end, or the morning of the following day if it proves more convenient, the bookkeeping person files the top copy of the 3-part form numerically by account number or alphabetically, if so desired. The hard third copies are separated by type of transaction (charge, payment, credit, etc.). An adding machine tape is run on the final ticket totals and wrapped around the batch. The batch totals are posted to a control sheet which is kept by the club. The batch of tickets are mailed to the Data Center weekly in custom corrugated shipping boxes to insure security, safety and timely delivery. If the club has chosen a point of sale register format, it is not necessary to have this batching process as all information is picked up from the paper journal register tape. Once the service bureau receives the club activity, the rest of the process is automated. In-club work is minimal as opposed to a more time consuming manual approach such as a pegboard ledger system.

At the Service Bureau

The service bureau submits the tickets or journal tape to their keypunch department personnel where they are keypunched and then keypunch verified. They are then fed to the computer where totals are generated. If there are any discrepancies between

the computer totals and the club entries, the batches are submitted to the control area where any errors are corrected by the service bureau.

An arithmetic check is also provided for those tickets that have been added incorrectly by the club, checks and balances unavailable with manual systems. Once the control work and balancing have been completed, the service bureau then generates descriptive statements (at monthly billing time). Most service bureaus do not perform these auditing and balancing functions. The club must ultimately correct their own errors, which means extra work at the club level.

The statements are stuffed into a statement envelope electronically and optically scanned for accurate insertion. This service bureau electronically combines a customized computer-imprinted payment card pre-addressed to the club and a return payment envelope for the members' convenience. This is a definite plus of the computerized approach. Most other service bureaus have a perforated statement for payment remittal with no return envelope. At this point, the hard signed proof of purchase copies of the 3-part ticket can also be electronically combined with the statement and payment card to substantiate the descriptive entries on the statement, for those clubs using the batch system. If the club has any stuffers, such as newsletters or fliers these too are inserted into the statement mailer.

Now, with the advantages of computerization, the statements have been expeditiously mailed soon after date of receipt. Most service bureaus have the clubs do their own mailing. A mailing service would prove a valuable option in the interest of time and accuracy. The burdensome in-club

manual task of stuffing and posting associated with manual systems is eliminated by the automated process.

Informational Reports For The Club

In advance of the arrival of the statement mailers to the members, the club receives their computer reports. These reports certainly differ from one service bureau to another. As stated initially, the following applies to one specific service bureau format:

The first report is a Name List produced in triplicate and constantly updated. This report tells the club which members currently have charge privileges with them. The Name Lists, are formatted alphabetically with member name and type of membership, address, city and state, zip code and phone number. This particular service bureau additionally gives the club the capability of individualizing each member's account. A given member can be automatically exempted from service charges, dunning messages and mailing. The Name List also gives this detail by member. An additional *new member* report is also provided.

Certainly one of the most important informational reports is the Account Aging Analysis. This one is color-coded and alphabetically or numerically lists all members who owe money or have a credit balance. The club has instantaneous access to this valuable information. The Account Aging Analysis shows how much is owed, what portion is current, 30-60-90 days past due, and if it should occur, how much over 90 days. The club can easily see when and how much the member last paid and what his year-to-date purchases have been. Additionally, this report indicates when the member last used the club's services. This report is of ultimate importance and eliminates the laborious search through pegboard manual ledger sheets.

At the bottom of the report are totals and percentages by aging category

(total, current, 30-60-90 days and over 90). For example, a club with 72% of its money in total and current is obviously doing better from a collection standpoint than a club with 47% in total and current. Problem areas are therefore flagged to the advantage of the club.

A supplemental "Hot Sheet" Aging Report can also be obtained. This isolates late pay members for added convenience and control. (i.e. 60 days and over or 60 & 90 days and over).

In addition to the Name Lists and Aging Analysis, the club receives a Business Analysis Report. This is a categorical breakdown of the club's sales, reflecting charges and cash. The club selects the categories it wants evaluated, such as membership sales, court-time sales, pro shop purchases, lessons, guest fees, bar & lounge sales, etc. A club can see how many units of racquets were sold less returns, net sales and average unit price. This information is almost impossible to obtain with manual systems.

The club will finally receive a bound booklet of duplicates of all statements generated. Included is an accounting recap page, indicating balance forward, sales, payments, credits, adjustments, balance due, etc. An additional page tells the club how many statements were exempted from mailing by category, such as -0-balances, credit balances, balances under \$1.00, and 90 days and over. These choices are predetermined by each club and automatically handled by the service bureau.

Members who were late payers had a reminder message automatically printed on the statement at club selected intervals. Informational or promotional messages were also printed on the statements by the computer.

Specialized Reports:

As we stated at the outset of the article, there are some specialized court scheduling reports that are made available to the clubs. For those of you who bill permanent court-time, the following may be of interest.

Permanent Court-time Billing is a universal headache, but fortunately there is a tremendous overlap in requirements that lends itself to specialized computerization. Most clubs have a season of predetermined duration (34 weeks approximately) and bill permanent court-time twice. Although this is common, the automated permanent court-time billing program and reports we will explore are flexible enough to be compatible with any format. The company we have been discussing offers an automated permanent court-time billing format, which bypasses mathematical involvement on the club level. The club does not have to calculate how much each member owes, based on what portion of the court-time he or she will pay. Furthermore, the club can do away with the "captain system" of billing one person for the whole court-time, due to the automation process. This is certainly a promotional plus in that one member does not function as a collection agent as with manual pegboard approaches.

For the sake of simplicity again, let us take a look at a typical permanent court-time billing. The club has a 34 week contractual season and bills court-time in October and January. The service bureau will calculate the correct dollar figures, by member, and integrate them into the October and January statement with the permanent

time information. The member is told how much the total court-time is, what is his portion, and how much that is. The member is also told how many weeks he is being billed for and when and how long he plays. Multiple times are also printed. The club receives court scheduling reports by court and by day. Open time not pre-sold is flagged.

A complete Permanent Court-time Overview Report is also provided with detailed information by member. These reports are supplied as proof reports in advance of the billing. Any club mistakes are flagged by the computer. When the actual statements are mailed, the finalized reports are given. This is a definite plus. There are inherent problems in the best manual approaches. In this case, the computer is checking the accuracy of input. As an adjunct to permanent time, the statements printed can also reflect league information.

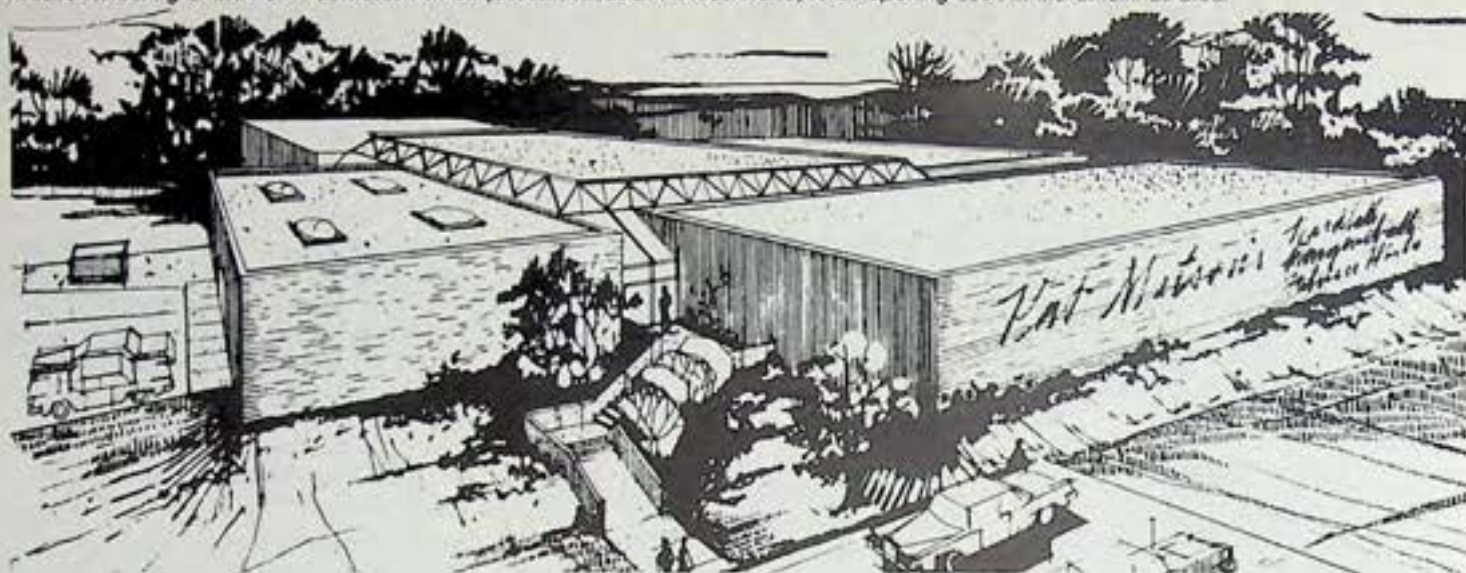
A monthly court schedule can also be utilized as a desk level work sheet. The computer flags all committed court-time allowing the club to post the open time sales as they occur.

Summary

Clubs can certainly profit by utilizing certain specialized computerized approaches. The controls and professionalism can definitely aid the club and its members. When choosing a service bureau, use the utmost caution. Choose a service bureau with an established record of excellence in the racquet sports/handball field.

BLUE ASH, OHIO

Artist's rendering of the new Pat Matson's Racquetball/handball Fitness World, to be opening soon in the Cincinnati area.



Pat Matson's new Racquetball-Nutilus Club will offer a variety of individual and family oriented recreational and fitness activities not available elsewhere under one roof in Greater Cincinnati. Included are fitness programs tailored for individual taste and in accordance with personal physical condition.

Racquetball is the fastest growing racquet sport in America today. Men and women of all age groups find playing racquetball is fun and provides a really good means for year-round physical activity. Racquetball coupled with a time-proven Nautilus program provides a physical fitness package.

The new Pat Matson Club will initially have 10 racquetball courts (also

suitable for handball). Area is available for six additional courts to be added at a later date. All courts will have glass-enclosed viewing decks. One special tournament court will have a glass front. Projected tournaments will be played on this court.

The club's master plan provides for development of other activities, such as jogging, deck tennis and swimming.

A well-planned Nautilus Program and enjoyable racquetball play provide means to quickly reach a good physical fitness level, and maintain it.

Pat Matson's new club will be much more than just a place to work out in. In addition to complete men's and

women's locker facilities, the club will have:

- A lounge and snack bar
- Card and business lounges
- Saunas
- Sun booths
- Whirlpool
- Pro shop

Charter membership applications for Pat Matson's Racquetball and Nautilus Fitness Club are now being accepted. The membership fees for a Racquetball-Nautilus Membership or a Racquetball Membership are surprisingly reasonable. Call 851-8600 for complete details.

MASSILLON, OHIO

Groundbreaking ceremonies took place May 12, on the first court club facility in the Canton, Ohio area. The Glove and Racquet will cater to fitness conscious adults with programs that include family activities.

The Glove and Racquet will feature 10 courts, four of which have glass back walls for tournament play, 18 lap to the mile running track, plus ample locker rooms housing saunas, steam rooms and jacuzzies. The 15,000 square foot facility will house a lower level lounge for viewing plus the upper level game

room and pub area. The traditional pro shop will stock top line equipment and apparel promoting the Glove and Racquet Club.

Partners in the \$150,000 venture are Charles and Walter Parks, and Jerry Anderson. All three partners expressed the need to provide a social facility that makes fitness a year round enjoyable task. The club will meet the growing demand for racquetball plus help develop junior programs for handball hopefuls.

Oakes construction acted as the

general contractor and the firm of Mallalieu, Ross, Roberts and Doll designed the building from sketches provided by the general partners.

Projected grand opening will be September 15 with a kickoff party for all charter members.

For membership and club reciprocation information write: The Glove and Racquet, 3855 Wales Rd. N.W., Massillon, Ohio 44646.

VAN NUYS, CALIFORNIA

The Center Courts, a 16,500 square foot racquetball and handball sports complex, is under construction at 8141 Orion Avenue, Van Nuys, one block east of Roscoe and the San Diego Freeway.

Upon completion in July, The Center Courts will feature 12 regulation air-conditioned racquetball-handball courts, four of which will be glass exhibition courts, a lounge with backgammon and other games, complete pro shop with equipment for rent or sale, men's and women's locker

rooms with saunas, childrens play area and an outdoor coed jacuzzi.

Introductory membership fees have been set at \$18 for individuals and \$24 for families for the balance of 1977. An hourly court rental fee also will be charged. Members may reserve court time up to 7 days in advance. Hours open to the public will be 6:30 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 8:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. weekends. Permanent court time reservations, assuring a court at the same time each

week for a 26 week period will also be available.

Both individual and group lessons will be given and a special women's round robin will be held every Thursday morning.

Members joining the Center Courts, Van Nuys, will also have full member privileges at The Center Courts, West L.A., which has 11 courts, located at 11866 La Grange Avenue, West L.A. For more information, call (213) 826-6648.



Center Courts owners Gary Guillette, on the left, and Mike McClelland show the new Center Courts complex under construction at 8141 Orion, Van Nuys, to Van Nuys' Honorary Mayor, Claire Courtney, and Miss Van Nuys, Ronna Rollins.

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GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

The Riverview Racquet Club located at 4940 Plainfield Avenue, Grand Rapids, Michigan is Western Michigan's newest and finest tennis-racquetball and fitness center. This \$1.2 million dollar facility will open in September of this year. Riverview Racquet Club will provide complete exercise, recreation, and sports for both men and women in an atmosphere of luxury. A great place for a before-work game of tennis or racquetball, lunch-time workout in the exercise and weightroom, or a moment of relaxation in the sauna or whirlpool. Riverview Racquet Club incorporates a total program of recreation and physical fitness.

The club facility provides 10 regulation racquetball, handball, and paddleball courts and six "elasta-turf" tennis courts. The club has been designed with large spectator areas for tennis and racquetball viewing. Not only is a gallery and ground-level viewing available, but in addition the club has two glassed back walls for lounge and tournament viewing of racquetball. Air-conditioned racquetball courts, lounge, and locker areas provide for year around comfort and enjoyment.

The new club has been designed with a spacious exercise and weight room complete with a Universal weight machine. In addition, an exercise room exclusively for women has been included in the women's locker room. Each spacious, carpeted locker room is composed of individual, private

shower stalls and separate Scandinavian saunas and whirlpool baths. Each locker room will be equipped with personal grooming aids for one's convenience.

Many extra features, providing a total environment of comfort, relaxation, and sociability, have been included in the special design of this new facility. Some of the extra features include a television viewing area, and convenient game areas. A deluxe kitchenette facility is available for group parties. For business, personal, and church groups a conference-meeting room is available for members' use. For the convenience of the members of the club, a large, professionally staffed, well-equipped nursery is provided for children. A large Pro Shop, with a complete line of equipment and sportswear, is an additional asset to the club. Professional service from tennis and racquetball experts, exercise instructors, and a totally competent and committed staff will inevitably make Riverview Racquet Club a new dimension in the concept of recreation.

The club will provide professional tennis-racquetball lessons on both a private and group basis. Special events for members as well as tournaments and exhibition matches will be a regular part of the club programming. For its members' convenience, the club will be open 365 days a year.



Artists rendering of the Riverview Racquet Club, the first combination tennis-racquetball facility in the Grand Rapids, Michigan area.

SOUTHFIELD, MICHIGAN

A new factor in the Midwest racquetball facilities picture is Court Players Club, Inc., Southfield, Mich. — and it will eventually be a national factor.

By the end of this year — less than 15 months after it opened its first club — Court Players expects to be the largest group operation in racquetball. It will have a minimum of 11 clubs in six outstate Michigan cities and three in Ohio. Its total of 125 courts will be double the largest known present group.

By the end of 1978, it expects to have a minimum of 22 clubs in several Midwest states and Florida, with a total of at least 290 courts.

Longer-term, Court Players plans to expand nationwide. Its ultimate goal, says chairman Craig Hall, is to become "the McDonald's of racquetball."

Membership in any Court Players club will command guest privileges at any other club in the chain.

The first two Court Players clubs have enjoyed immediate huge acceptance. The Ann Arbor club which opened October 15, 1976, had 2000 full-paid members and over 70 percent court usage five months later. The Kalamazoo club, which opened February 12, 1977, achieved those numbers in less than eight weeks.

The other clubs building this year include one more in Kalamazoo, two in Lansing, and one each in Belleville, Flint and Saginaw — all in Michigan — and at least one each in Cleveland, Dayton and Canton, Ohio.

The basic club design was developed from an attitude survey of Ann Arbor-area residents. This includes separate saunas in men's and women's locker rooms; extra-large day-nursery facilities, glass-walled courts, luxury touches in the women's locker room and facilities for private

parties. Other facilities in the Court Players module include weight and exercise rooms, whirlpools, lounges, refreshment areas and pro shops. The number of courts ranges from 10 to 15.

In operation, the clubs provide permanent court time, lessons, ladders, leagues and club and private parties to accommodate players of all ages and abilities. The nursery is staffed by college students with an education major.

Complete information and literature about all clubs now operating or opening this year may be obtained from Gil Schmitt, Court Players Club Corporation, 11550 Beckley Road, #103, Belleville, Mich. 48111. Phone (313) 697-6600.



The standard Court Player's Club as seen through the eyes of the rendering artist.

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HUNTINGTON BEACH, CALIFORNIA

A reception for members and invited guests formally opened Racquetfun, Inc., a luxurious new private racquetball club in Huntington Beach recently.

The three-quarters of a million dollar facility has 10 air conditioned racquetball courts, a spacious lounge and a fully-staffed child care center with indoor and outdoor play areas for youngsters through seven years of age.

The already highly successful club has more than 1300 members and applications are still coming in at a rapid rate. New members are presently being accepted on a provisional basis only to assure that facilities remain uncrowded. Court time is usually available even at noon time weekdays when courts at other clubs are often unavailable. Racquetfun intends to keep memberships in numbers that permit nearly full-time access to courts.

Members of the private club may participate in many active programs including clinics, tournaments and league play. Private and group instruction is available.

"Families can play racquetball together because it's so easy to learn," says George (Bud) Godfrey, head of Racquetfun, Inc. "The age, sex or athletic skill of a player makes little difference in the enjoyment of the sport."

The modest membership fee allows a family unlimited play and use of all the other clubhouse activities. Mothers may play racquetball during the day while their children are supervised in the play areas.

GLASS WALL on Racquetfun, Inc. court allows spectators to view other players close-up. According to manager Mel Amerman, players gain confidence by seeing that more experienced players techniques are not too far out of reach of even a novice. Here Bryan Hardwick warms up for a match while spectators watch through the transparent wall.



The first of what will be a series of private clubs, the Huntington Beach Racquetfun, Inc. is managed by Mel Amerman, a long time racquetball/handball player and official.

"This is a beautiful club," says Amerman. "It has the atmosphere of an exclusive club and, because membership is limited, at no time has it been overcrowded."

"One of the 10 courts is glass-walled for viewing games from the spectator lounge. It's a real confidence-maker for fledgling players as it provides them an opportunity to compare their skill to others and often, unlike tennis, beginners quickly find they can

compete with players having much more experience."

The carpeted locker rooms include saunas and whirlpool baths, overnight laundry service and rental lockers. There is a refreshment stand near the spectator lounge.

Located at Brookhurst Avenue and Hamilton Street, Racquetfun, Inc. is open Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to midnight, from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. on Saturday and 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Sunday. Individual memberships are from \$50, and Family memberships from \$65. There are no monthly dues. Additional information on Racquetfun, Inc. may be obtained by calling (714) 963-0864.

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ORLANDO, FLORIDA

The Racquet Ball, Orlando, Florida, now under construction.



THE RACQUET BALL, Orlando's first and Florida's finest racquetball and fitness club for men and women, will be located near I-4 and Lee Road on Adanson Street in Orlando. Construction was begun on the new facility April 4, with completion expected this summer.

THE RACQUET BALL is entered through an open atrium area that is abundantly landscaped with lush greenery and bright flowers, into a two-story reception lobby. The feeling of space and color is carried throughout the entire club.

A richly appointed social lounge complete with game tables, theatre TV system and a health food bar affords members the luxury of total relaxation within a warm environment to share with friends for an enjoyable time day or evening.

THE RACQUET BALL is a 20,000 square foot facility containing eight racquetball/handball courts, a glass-walled exhibition court with a viewing gallery, a pro shop, and individual health spas, and separate conditioning facilities for both men and women. The separate conditioning facilities will include the finest exercise equipment available designed to improve all aspects of physical conditioning and physical development. Spa facilities include steam rooms, saunas, therapy pools, showers and richly appointed locker and dressing rooms.

A physical fitness expert will be available to help plan and design conditioning programs that are compatible with each member's physical condition, personal endurance and stamina.

Bob Burke of Lewis & Burke Associates, one of Orlando's leading architects and the designer of the Club, traveled extensively throughout the West and Southwest touring sports-related facilities including luxurious golf and tennis clubs. Lewis & Burke have designed **THE RACQUET BALL** to be the ultimate Club environment for a racquetball and fitness club.

"Many clubs of this type are stark and unfriendly," stated Tom Lewis. "We have designed THE RACQUET BALL facilities with an abundance of interior landscaping, lighting, colorful exercise and conditioning rooms and other rich interior appointments, including super graphics and views of tournament courts and plush carpeting in lounges and locker rooms," continued Lewis.

Special programs for women are being developed at **THE RACQUET BALL** designed for figure refining and control, flexibility and general coordination and fitness. A fully supervised children's play area will also be available.

The developers, Duke Burris and Pete Hegener, have been building and developing single family homes and

condominiums in Orlando since 1973. *"We are building THE RACQUET BALL large enough to meet the demand in Orlando," said Burris, "and are expanding the Club to include exercise and conditioning facilities and a luxurious club house to give members a well-rounded Club that can be enjoyed on a frequent basis,"* said Burris. There is a significant social aspect of sport clubs not usually associated with racquetball clubs. Men and women in the community who want their social activities to stem from healthy sport-related events such as tennis, will find the same spirit and atmosphere at **THE RACQUET BALL** without the high price and social demands of joining.

For information about joining **THE RACQUET BALL** call (305) 862-5989. **THE RACQUET BALL** offers individual and family memberships as well as corporate and group membership programs. Family memberships are \$350.00 with monthly dues of \$35.00. Individual memberships are \$225.00 with monthly dues of \$25.00 and corporate membership fees are \$450.00 with monthly dues of \$25.00. There are no court fees. A limited number of pre-opening memberships are available at a substantial discount.

Club hours will be as follows: Monday through Thursday, 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Friday and Saturday from 7 a.m. to 12 p.m.; and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

FALLS CHURCH, VIRGINIA

The Skyline Racquet and Health Club, (see rendering) now under construction in Skyline City at Bailey's Crossroads (just 4 miles south of Washington, D.C.) and scheduled to open for play this fall, will be one of the largest racquetball/tennis facilities in the area. The unique club, one of the few facilities in the entire country located on top of a complete shopping center, will also be one of the only clubs in the Washington area to combine a racquet club with a fully equipped, professionally run health club and indoor pool. Charter memberships and court time are now being sold, and initial response to the membership drive has been very enthusiastic.

Two types of memberships are available: Racquet Club membership, and total Racquet and Health club membership.

Racquet Club membership will offer seven indoor tennis courts and four racquetball/handball courts with glass back walls for viewing. There will be extra space (17 ft.) between tennis courts, and skylights to brighten the courts during the day. There will be extensive lesson and clinic programs for both tennis and racquetball. A special classroom will include both movie and videotape equipment. There will be a private viewing lounge for the racquetball/handball courts and a large party lounge which includes a fully equipped kitchen and serving bar which can be divided into two separate party rooms. Men's and women's locker rooms will have saunas, steam rooms, sun rooms and masseurs and masseuses on duty. There will also be a supervised nursery, free of charge, and a pro shop-boutique.

Total Racquet and Health club membership will include all of the above Racquet Club facilities, plus a supervised equipment room and a large exercise hall. Members will be offered a variety of classes, including slimnastics, yoga, exercise, and



modern dancing. There will be a 25-meter, year round indoor pool and a large whirlpool. Special social events will also be offered.

Prices for the Racquet Club and total Racquet Club and Health Club memberships are very competitive with other clubs in the Washington area.

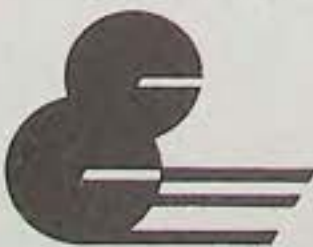
Memberships and court times are being sold now in the Racquet and Health Club sales office in Skyline City. A three-dimensional scale model of the Racquet and Health Club is on display in the sales office. The office is open everyday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Phone 703-820-4100.

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Dec. 3—Los Angeles

Further details, mail to:

Mort Leve, Executive Director,
Court Club Enterprises
360 Park Drive, Northbrook, IL 60062

FT. LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA

Key people at the Supreme Courts Sport Center in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida are (l. to r.): Barry Gelber, owner; Steve Lubarsky, general manager; Sabra Hadaway, director of membership services; John Hadaway, manager.



The Supreme Court Sports Center has purchased the Ft. Lauderdale Handball & Racquetball Club and major renovation and construction is presently under way.

The goal of this club, as with all Supreme Courts, states owner Barry Gelber "will be to provide our members with the finest possible total club." We will accomplish this goal in a

three-fold program: (1) provide a friendly, responsive and professional staff (2) offer the finest amenities and membership services and (3) limit the size of the membership so as to provide ample court availability to all members.

The club will offer nine regulation courts, separate Mens and Womens locker rooms with whirlpool, rock sauna, steam room a complete snack bar and pro-shop, a staffed nursery, two exercise rooms with modern weight training equipment and three separate lounge areas for viewing the four glass-walled courts.

The management positions recently announced are Steve Lubarsky - General Manager, John Hadaway - Manager, and Sabra Hadaway - Director of Membership Services.

The charter membership program is currently in full swing, with six of the courts presently in operation. Lubarsky states "We are presently offering one of the finest and most varied membership programs in the country. Our members may (1) chose a program tailored to their individual needs, (2) may attend professional clinics and receive private lessons free of charge. All of this is being offered at low charter rates.

For membership information, please contact The Supreme Court Sports Center, 5065 N.E. 13 Ave., Ft. Lauderdale, FL. 33334 or call (305) 491-2255.

Special 1 Day Seminar

Conducted by Court Club Enterprises, August 27th at Steamboat Springs, Colorado's famous Storm Meadows Athletic Club. For full details contact: Mort Leve, Court Club Enterprises, 360 Park Dr., Northbrook, IL 60062 or call 312-272-4508.

CINCINNATI, OHIO

The final plans for the construction of a racquetball/handball club in North College Hill were released by Glenn B. Jeffers, Jr., Community Builders, a Cincinnati-based real estate development company. The new facility, to be named Wallbangers, (see rendering) will be located on Goodman Avenue, near the intersection of Hamilton Avenue and Galbraith Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45224.

Plans include construction of ten racquetball/handball courts, lounge, snack bar, locker and sauna facilities, as well as a pro-shop, and nursery. Four of the courts will feature full glass back walls facing the lounge area, providing spectators with the unique opportunity to observe play on these courts.

The construction of the building will be total pre-cast, with a brick front. The



entrance will be highlighted with a 40 foot bronze curtain wall. The interior decor is being designed by Greiwe Group III, Cincinnati's outstanding interior designer. The four glass back walled courts will be the first installation of glass courts in Cincinnati.

Construction of the club will begin the

first part of June, with completion schedules for sometime in early fall of this year. Information concerning membership can be obtained by calling Deborah Gehres, Membership Director, Community Builders, at (513) 563-4050.

Sorry We Forgot You

Below is an additional list of racquetball facilities that we unintentionally omitted from the Directory of Court Clubs published in the March issue.

Superior Courts of Manchester
90 Taylor St.
Manchester, CT 06040

Court House East
2655 29th St.
Grand Rapids, MI 49508

Sports 'n Health
1020 Old Country Rd.
Westbury, NY 11590

Courts Royal
4700 Thalbro St.
Richmond, VA 23230

Courts Royal North
11650 Nebel St.
Rockville, MD 20852

The Supreme Court R.B. Club
1130 Alberni St.
Vancouver, B.C., Canada

Tom Young Spas & Court Club
2250 Wyoming N.E.
Albuquerque, NM 87112

Charleston Heights R.B. Club
740 S. Dacatur Blvd.
Las Vegas, NV 89107

Racquet World
U.S. Hwy. 9
Lakewood, NJ 08701

Olympia Health Club
8701 Highway 59 T
Fort Smith, AR 72901

Off The Wall Racquetball
3100 Industrial Blvd.
Bethel Park, PA 15102

West Shore Health Club
107 St. Johns Rd.
Camp Hill, PA 17011

The Club House
Box 128
Ketchum, ID 83340

The Courthouse
7211 Colonial
Boise, ID 83705

Idaho Falls Racquet club
1710 E. 16th St.
Idaho Falls, ID 83401

If we have omitted your club from our Directory, please drop us a line so we can publish the club's name and address for all the racquetball world to see. That's *National Racquetball*, 4101 Dempster St., Skokie, IL 60076.

Get more out of it.



Steve Lubarsky, Supreme Court Sports Center, Van Nuys, California

U.S. Patent 2,837,509 1-16-62 3-643-008

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We could tell you about endorsements from sports greats like Bill Russell, John McKay, George Allen, Barry Switzer, Larry Csonka, Nolan Ryan, Reggie Jackson and others.

But we'd rather show you how your club can provide as many as sixteen different exercise stations that can be used by sixteen people all at the same time, in only 300 square feet of space! When your club has more to offer, it stands out from all the rest. A Universal physical fitness center includes a conditioning program for every member of the family.

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National Racquetball

EXTRA!

General News

Revolutionary Invention 'HAWK-EYE' Great, New RB Aid

HAWK-EYE, a new electronic monitoring device that can be installed in all types of racquetball courts, is the latest invention to hit the racquetball scene.

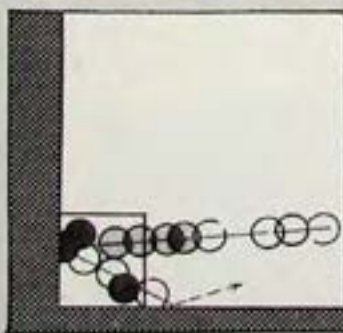
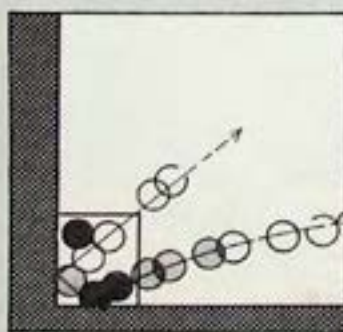
Developed by two San Bernardino (California) racquetballers, Neal Gilbert and Manny Berz, HAWK-EYE will detect skip balls, short serves and foot faults electronically, thereby greatly reducing player-player arguments and player-referee disagreements.

"HAWK-EYE works terrifically," said Chuck Leve, national director of the U.S. Racquetball Association, which has granted its approval to the system. "This is the most important and beneficial development that we have seen in products in a long time."

HAWK-EYE is marketed under the company name of Sports Electronic Equipment. Essentially it is a series of light beams that when broken cause a light or buzzer to go on, alerting the

players, fans and referee that a violation has been committed.

The system can monitor skip balls near the front wall, probably the most difficult refereeing call in racquetball.



If the ball strikes the front wall first (kill shot), it breaks the circuit and no light or buzzer will be alerted.

"I've dreamt of a unit that could do this," said Leve, who is also the head referee for the N.R.C.'s professional tour. "Once this unit is installed nation-wide it will tremendously upgrade the level of refereeing across the country."

HAWK-EYE also monitors the service line for foot faults - if a player steps over the line the light beam is broken and the players are alerted.

On short serves, HAWK-EYE only monitors the actual short line, with its light or buzzer going on when the served ball lands on any portion of the short line.

"The short line section will prove to be important," said Leve, who participated in an unveiling of HAWK-EYE at the Riverside, California Racquetball/Handball Club in May. "Those difficult to call crack serves will be called correctly every time now."

Craig McCoy, top ranked professional and one of HAWK-EYE's early testers feels the most dramatic reaction to HAWK-EYE will be due to the foot fault monitoring.

"Just about every top player foot faults," said McCoy, who pleaded guilty to the offense. "That's not a bad reflection on referees, because their total concentration is on the serve. It's often impossible to watch a server's feet and the ball at the same time."

"Now with HAWK-EYE, players will have to watch their footwork and in some cases actually change their serve. They won't be able to indiscriminately blast the drive serve."

Jack Kendler To Join USRA

USRA President Bob Kendler has announced the addition of a new member to the busy racquetball staff. Jack Kendler, son of prexy Bob, will assist in all phases of racquetball administration, and will aid the handball administrators also.

"I don't consider this a case of nepotism," stated Kendler at the announcement, "because the tremendous growth of the court sports has

made the addition of new staff people mandatory. Jack will be a troubleshooter around the office, lending a hand wherever it is needed, until he learns the business inside and out."

Jack is no stranger to the Skokie offices, having worked for many years in Kendler's Community Builders enterprises. He has a sound knowledge of all phases of business, and

should be especially valuable in the business end of racquetball.

"I'm really looking forward to the challenge of this new assignment," said Jack. "Of course, I've been around the court sports all my life, and have grown to love them almost as much as my father."

Now that's a real recommendation!

Gilbert and Berz are a couple of average players, attended the National Championships in San Diego in 1976, their initial introduction to top level racquetball. They left the tournament impressed with the play and sympathetic to the plight of referees.

"We went away thinking, 'There must be some way to electronically monitor the court to help the ref,'" said Berz. "We just weren't sure how to do it."

Gilbert, an electronics expert

then began investigating the possibilities, and working closely with Leve at U.S.R.A. headquarters, the system was finally devised.

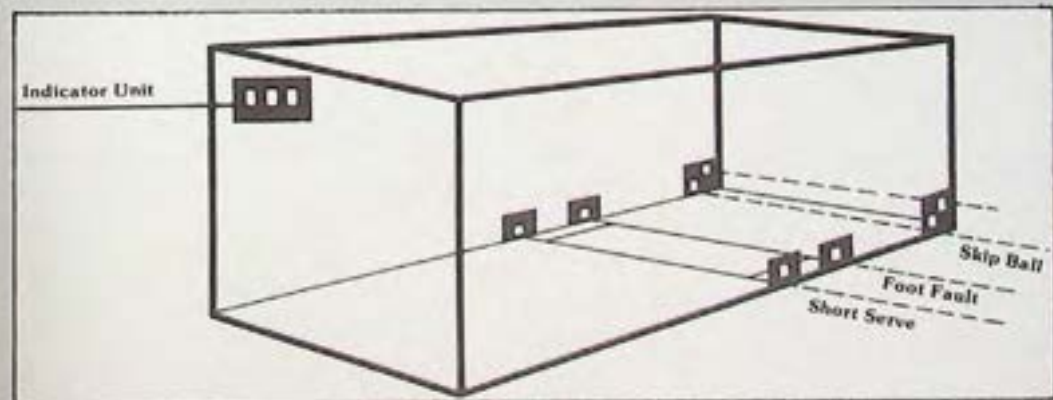
"It was a long year of trial and change, trial and change," said Gilbert, "but it was worth it. We've got HAWK-EYE to the point that it cannot make a mistake."

The system is adaptable to any method of court construction, whether concrete block, tilt-up concrete or panels. It can be put into

existing courts or in new installations.

"I'd like to see the day where every tournament uses HAWK-EYE," said Leve. "I think it's that good."

For further information regarding HAWK-EYE, contact Sports Electronic Equipment, P.O. Box 5863, San Bernardino, California 92412 or call (714) 889-6744.



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23,000 sq. ft. busn. land adj. town parking. Sale/Lease or build to suit. GENIE ASSOC 516/433-4340.

CLUB CHAIN SEEKS MANAGER

Racquetball International, fastest growing chain of court clubs in the country, seeks an individual experienced in all facets of court club management for assistant manager job in its newest facility which will open soon in the Boston area. Successful applicant will be promoted to manager position within one year. Send resume to Stan Dubitsky, Box 1005, Dearborn, MI 48121.

R.B. Marathon Record Set . . .

When Jeff Hetherington and Hans Sacre played 60 consecutive hours of racquetball recently, they did more than set a new Guinness World Record. They also raised \$1500 for the local Easter Seals chapter, from sponsors who pledged as much as \$5.00 an hour for every hour they played. Racquetball entrepreneur, Ken Gromacki, offers congratulations and delivers the largest contribution on behalf of Tamarack, the new super court club scheduled for a mid-1977 construction start in Sacramento, California. Hetherington's and Sacre's record setting marathon was played on the courts of the Sacramento Handball and Racquetball Club.

Unfortunately for them, the record only lasted four days (see below).

Jeff Hetherington (l.) and Hans Sacre accept congratulations from Ken Gromacki with a check for the Easter Seals for their world record racquetball marathon.



. . . And Broken 4 Days Later!

World records are "Tiger Bill" Holden's racket.

Or more precisely, racquet.

Holden, of Canoga Park, California regained the world's marathon racquetball record April 24 playing a total of 60 hours and 20 minutes.

He broke the previous record of 60 hours set four days earlier by two racquetball enthusiasts in Sacramento California.

In the course of the record stint, Holden played 39 different opponents in 182 games, winning 163 of them.

Opponents paid \$2 an hour to play against Holden, with all proceeds going to the March of Dimes' work to prevent, treat and cure birth defects.

After more than 60 hours of play, with only 5-minute

breaks each hour, Holden emerged in relatively good condition. He refused the 2-minute breaks between games allowed in marathon competition.

Foot problems caused by a new-design athletic shoe grated away the bottom of Holden's feet. From approximately his 25th hour on, he was forced to play in old sneakers and socks which were seeping with blood.

Holden did nothing special to prepare for the event. "I didn't change any of my regular habits," he said. "I just made sure I maintained my three balanced meals a day." Holden's wife, Judy, and two children, Billy, 2½ and Margaret, 7, kept a daytime vigil at the Warner Center Racquet Club in Woodland Hills, where the marathon record was set.

"I think he's crazy for trying to go so many hours," Mrs. Holden said, "but I think he's wonderful for trying to help the March of Dimes."



"Tiger Bill" Holden shows the form that again puts him on top of the racquetball marathon world.

Holden's first opponent was KGIL radio's "Sweet Dick" Whittington. After losing 3-21 and 8-21 to Holden, Whittington promised him, "If you stop I'll tell the world you stopped."

Holden's second opponent was Rob Scribner of the Los Angeles Rams, an excellent all-around athlete, who emerged winded and exhausted after an hour of play.

Holden hadn't even begun perspiring at this point.

Holden, who set the first world marathon racquetball record in 1975 at 40 hours and 19 minutes, does not plan any future record attempts.

He'd like to settle down and own his own racquetball club instead.

INVESTIGATE

Racquetball club franchises NOW available

Don Coryell, head coach of the St. Louis Football Cardinals, is offering a complete Racquetball Club Franchise through *Don Coryell's Racquetball Franchises, Inc.*

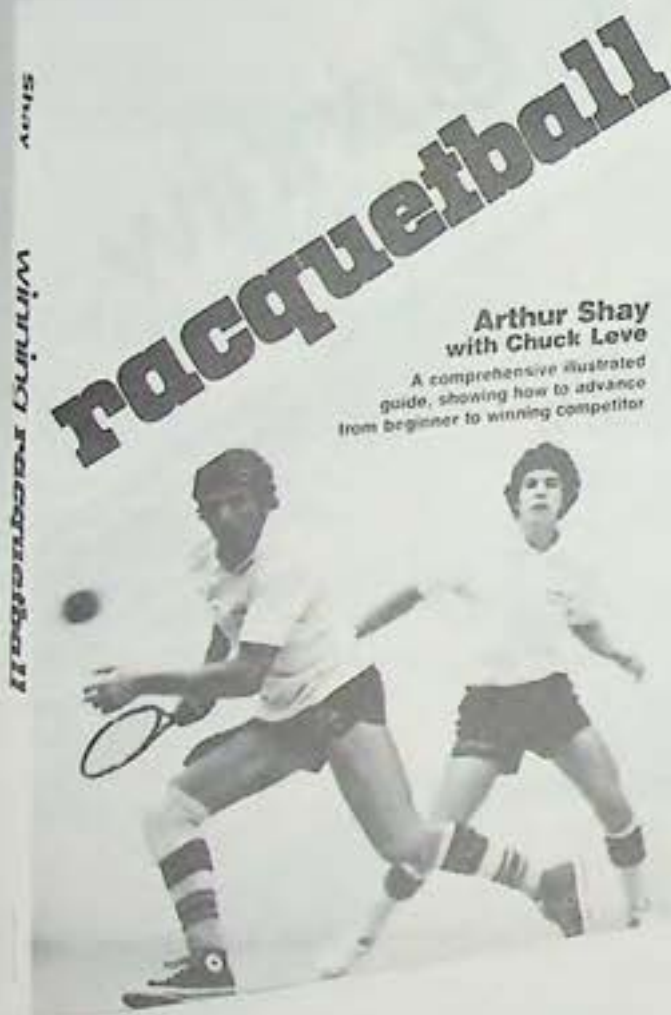
The Franchise provides the interested investor with:

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- The granting of a Franchise within a defined geographic area for a term of years
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- Bookkeeping and accounting
- Manuals covering business practices and policies
- Newsletter informing the Franchisee of current trends and developments
- Advertising and promotional techniques
- Periodic manager supervision at franchisor's discretion

The Don Coryell Racquetball Franchise provides the racquetball club owner with an operational system that begins with financing and continues thru the day-to-day operation of one of the fastest growing sports businesses in the country.

Call or write Charles A. Lewis or Joe Gibbs at 11520 St. Charles Rock Rd., St. Louis, Missouri 63044, (314) 739-0417.

winning racquetball



Arthur Shay with Chuck Leve

Winning Racquetball is intended for beginning players seeking shortcuts to racquetball competence as well as those who have achieved the competence required to enter local club tournaments and last at least a round or two.

Building on the basics, Shay and Leve cover such areas as the mental attitudes required to win tournaments; how to get into supershape for racquetball; how to use your limitations (fatigue, for example) as advantages; and how to play against someone who is trying to out-psych you. There are winning suggestions for every department of play.

Proven racquetball winners, such as Steve Keeley, Steve Serot, Sue Carow, Kathy Williams, Charlie Brumfield, Bill Schmidtke, Ron Rubenstein, and racquetball's 19-year-old superstar Marty Hogan, are photographed in action and quoted throughout to illustrate the points made in the text.

Winning Racquetball will lead the racquetball enthusiast to the level of competence and beyond into tournament excellence.

Arthur Shay is a former *Life* and *Time* writer and *Sports Illustrated* photographer. He is the author-photographer of thirty-one books. Chuck Leve is the author of *Inside Racquetball* and the National Director and editor of *National Racquetball* magazine, the official publication of the United States Racquetball Association and the National Racquetball Club, Inc.

Foreword by Robert W. Kendler, President, United States Racquetball Association

Please send me _____ copy(ies) of WINNING RACQUETBALL at \$4.95 each plus 50¢ postage and handling for each book ordered. Illinois residents kindly add 5% sales tax; California residents please add 6% sales tax. NO CASH OR C.O.D.'s accepted—please send check.

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GRAPHYLITE

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Model CM150



THE SPOILER

The LARGEST legal size racquet has larger "sweet spot," yet is lightweight for better control, 265 grams.

The Spoiler is strung at 27-30 pounds with tournament nylon and fine quality cowhide grip. Sturdy deluxe vinyl cover is included. Grip Sizes: 4 1/8", 4 1/4" and 4 1/2". Stock No. 28815

Model CM100



THE ENFORCER

Specially designed extruded frame in a rectangular shape, total weight 255 grams. Black tournament nylon strings, a top grade cowhide grip and durable vinyl cover make the Enforcer a popular choice. Grip Sizes: 4 1/8", 4 1/4" and 4 1/2". Stock No. 28820

Model CM110



THE EXCALIBUR

Comes in either red or blue anodized aluminum frame, aluminum grommets, top quality nylon strings, raised sewn cowhide grip, and weighs less than 270 grams. Two Grip Sizes: 4 1/8" and 4 1/4". Stock No. 28823

Model CM200



MODEL CM300

This popular style in teardrop design features aluminum extrusion and throat piece in natural finish, vinyl head guard, cross nylon strings, aluminum grommets, and composition rubber grip. Grip Sizes: 4 1/8" and 4 1/4". Stock No. 28828

Model CM300



VENDETTA

This model is EXTRA LIGHT, only 235 grams, in a teardrop design with a nylon throat piece. Other features are tournament nylon strings and cowhide grip, as well as vinyl bumper guard. Grip Sizes: 4 1/8" and 4 1/4".

Stock No. 28824 Model CM220



DIGGER

New power-flex construction, extremely strong and lightweight. Nylon strings and durable composition rubber grip. Grip Size: 4 1/8". Stock No. 28835

Model CM400



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Stock No. 28852

Men's Cotton Racquetball Glove — Absorbent dimpled rubber palm design with velcro closure. One size stretch fits all. Standard Pack 12, right hand only.

Stock No. 28861

Eyeglass Holder — Adjustable elastic band and metal slide. Standard Pack 12.

Stock No. 28840

Hand-Dri — Handy pocket bag keeps hands dry. Standard Pack 12.

Stock No. 28849

Pro Stick — Non-toxic, non-irritating no-slip formula. Standard Pack 12.

Stock No. 28846

28852

28861

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28843

28858

28855

28849

28846

Belt Towel — Absorbent terry cloth with metal clip. Standard Pack 12.

Stock No. 28843

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Women In Racquetball



Carol Brusslan

Cheering Your Teacher to Victory (sometimes)

Watching her teacher play at the Leach-Seamco tournament in Lombard, Ill.'s Glass Court Karen Ulin felt as if she were down on the court with Jean Sausser. Every winning point was Karen's victory—every error Karen's loss. Jean aced again and Karen cheered.

Jean's lead mounted over Kathy Williams in Game One of the quarter finals. Jean's strategy was on target, and she took the game 21-4. Karen was overjoyed. "She's really playing today."

Kathy and Jean split the next two games. The match went into a tie-breaker and Karen drew her chair closer to the side of Court A. A light 11 points later Kathy was the winner.

It looked as if Karen might cry. It was clear no words would console her. After the match, slumped in a chair across from Jean in the Glass Court lobby, Karen couldn't speak. Her

large brown eyes gazed mournfully at Jean, who was acting one hundred per cent pro—explaining how much she liked to play Kathy, what good matches the two tournament players give each other (Jean beat Kathy the next month in the Newport Beach tournament.)

Not all students have a chance to watch their racquetball teachers win—and lose—championship matches. But most women who take lessons have the same good feelings toward their teachers as Karen Ulin has for Jean Sausser. Our story, "Do Lessons Help?", describes (among other things) how women like the people who teach them to play racquetball.

Would you root for your racquetball teacher? How does he or she stack up with instructors in our story? If you'll write us about your teacher, we'll print some of your comments in future sections of *Women in Racquetball*.

Do Lessons Help?

Six women who live in Maine, California, Ohio, Missouri, Florida and Colorado think there's do—and tell how and why... 82

Playing Tips

Not calling hindern can hurt three ways... 87

Should Women Dress Up the Courts?

A man complains "no style, no image, no class." And some Canadian models show how it can be done... 88

She Ate Whipped Cream and Sugar and Didn't Gain Weight

She even eats pastries in London... 90

Luring Women

Into Racquetball
Learn How at a Club Where Women Outnumber Men... 92

Who's Playing Racquetball?

A special kind of nurse... 94



The Gallery Game

Do Lessons Help?

Almost 65 per cent of the country's women racquetball players take private or group lessons, *National Racquetball* discovered in a survey made earlier this year.

Often these lessons are starter clinics — a club's way of teaching the women basics and giving them a chance to meet other beginners. Clinics bring together four to 10 novices who get some verbal tips from the pro, then break into smaller groups for a try at the game.

As a woman plays longer, she signs up for private lessons. She wants a teacher who can help her rise from a C to a B to an A player.

Some clubs try teaching tools to move their students up the proficiency scale. The Court House in Chicago records lessons on video tape and plays them back to students. At Omni 41 in Schererville, Ind., students aim the ball at target boxes painted in blue, yellow and red on the walls of an instructional court.

Does all of this help? Are dollars spent on lessons producing better women players?

To find the answers we spoke to a woman in Florida who's a teaching pro and to six others who take lessons in Maine, Ohio, Missouri, Florida, Colorado and California. Here are our racquetball lesson reports.

Pro Nancy Hornack, Ft. Lauderdale: Teaching Them Positive Thinking

Nancy Hornack's boyfriend, Ken Hendricks, is one of Florida's top racquetball players. "He's a better player than I am," the teaching pro at Ft. Lauderdale's Courtrooms admits.

"Still — I'm a better teacher. It's harder for Ken to teach beginners and intermediates because the game's so natural for him — he picked it up by playing with good players, not in lessons. He can't spot people's mistakes."

Nancy thinks every good racquetball teacher can see errors



Nancy Hornack

and tell people how to correct them.

"I also praise as much as I can," Nancy says, "because this is a game of positive thinking. I say 'you're doing great' whenever it's true. But I have to know when to push, too. I can sense when I should get angry and remind the student 'you're not concentrating.'"

When Nancy gives a lesson, she remembers those dozens of games she's played in state, regional and national tournaments. She recalls how she had to concentrate, be aggressive and believe she was going to win. Nancy also remembers her own first lessons with Hugh Durham, Florida State University basketball coach and the state's best seniors racquetball player.

And she pulls out teaching tricks she's learned from other pros. "Like the way Kathy Williams has of getting people to feel how their bodies should move. In this exercise I get my student to stand with feet pointed to the side wall and arms up in the air. The routine starts with arms toward the back wall. As the student swings through, with arms ending up toward the front wall, the hips have

swiveled around the way they should every time you hit the ball during a game."

No matter what her students are learning Nancy urges them to practice between lessons. She compares herself with her piano teacher who "always knew when I hadn't practiced."

Nancy's enthused over talented players, like one of her current stars — an 11-year-old girl with "real potential." But the pro is happy just promoting the game — getting more women into racquetball.

"I consider myself an average athlete. But I've worked at improving my game. I like to convince other women they can become good players, too."

Peggy Connors, Hazelwood, Missouri: Breaking Bad Habits

Peggy Connors, who's 5'4", started playing racquetball with her 6'6", 250 pound husband, Jack. Jack was a competent player, so Peggy watched him closely. What he did, she tried to do.

But Peggy's version wouldn't work. When she asked Hap Mather to observe her game, the teaching pro at Spalding's Hazelwood Racquetball Club in suburban St. Louis pinned down her problem.

"He said I was going at the game as if I were 6'6", 250 pounds and a weight-lifting physical fitness nut like Jack," Peggy says. Jack's so tall, he needed to bend over to serve. When I bent over, I lost power — I couldn't drive the ball. And Jack's wrists are so strong, he snaps the racquet across the ball without even thinking about it. I wasn't using my wrist.

Unlearning bad habits was Peggy's first goal when she asked Hap for twice-a-week lessons. Hap also worked with her on turning her body to the wall, getting her racquet back and letting the ball drop.

Now Peggy's happier with her game. She tags herself an advanced intermediate, has been winning more often and is "giving

Husband Jack observes Peggy Connors' pre-lesson serve attempt.



—Photos courtesy Spalding Racquetball Club



Pro Hap Mather straightens the serve out.

the better players more competition. I'm winning more points against them."

Peggy gives Hap credit for her improved game. She considers him "one of the best teachers around. I

wanted to take lessons from him because he really cares about helping women develop their games. He's so organized when he teaches you, and he's always patient."

Patti York, Falmouth, Maine: Lessons from Above

Put yourself in pro Tom Jakes' place.

There she was, the manager's wife, setting herself up in a back court, down there with a bucket of balls, hitting them against the front wall, running around, working hard — and doing everything wrong.

Tom watched silently from above. Minutes went by. Should he step in



Photo courtesy Down East Court Club

Patti York

and correct her? He looked at her stiff knees. Her poor balance. Her bad position. Her tennis stroke. Her grip! That did it. He shouted down: "Hey Patti, your grip is fat. Let me show you how to hold your racquet."

Married to Kevin York, manager of the Down East Court Club in Falmouth, Maine, and an assistant manager herself, Patti has taken an unconventional approach to lessons.

Patti says her instruction has been mostly "Tommy calling corrections down to me."

She changed her grip so she was hitting the ball squarely. Then she tried stroking with a ball under her arm so she'd have to use her wrist.

Soon she was learning how to hit low, how to serve, how to make ceiling and defensive shots.

"Until then I was too embarrassed to get on a court with other people. Once Tommy got my basic game in shape, I met different girls and starting getting matches together. At that point - when I started knowing what I didn't know - I even asked Tommy to come down on the court and give me some playing lessons."

As Patti's game improved, she watched the better players at the club. *"I picked up strategy by seeing how the good players won tournaments. Then I imitated them."*

It all worked. Less than a year after she first entered a court and with only one in-house tournament under her belt, Patti took the Maine women's closed championship.

Tom Jakes, watching her match from above, was glad that he shouted down those first instructions.

Paula Pizzifred, Riverside, Cal.: Two for the Price of One

Physical ed. and math teacher Paula Pizzifred believes in racquetball lessons for women (*"Lessons correct their tendency to look like uncoordinated rejects"*), but she also likes what the lessons do for men.

Her husband, Joe, agrees. In fact he's willing to turn their weekend matches into playing lessons so he can learn what Paula learns from pro Linda Siau at the Riverside Handball/Racquetball Club in their California town 60 miles inland from Los Angeles.

Paula, who started *"hitting the ball around an outdoor court about two years ago,"* went on to Linda's Saturday clinics and then into private lessons.

"I began the privates after Joe and I played in a tournament. We were bad."

Paula reports that the Linda to Paula to Joe maneuver has *"helped us*

Pro Linda Siau helps Paula Pizzifred improve her backhand. After the lesson Paula shows her husband Joe how to bend low and keep the racquet head square.



-Photos courtesy Riverside Handball/Racquetball Club



play smarter." Paula's PE-math expertise makes her a natural for the thinking game of racquetball. But she still has Linda teach her strategy. *"You could figure it out for yourself, but it's faster to have someone tell you what works."*

Though passing on advice to a man is no problem for Paula, she thinks she learns better from a woman. *"I*

think I'd have felt self-conscious with a guy. I feel at ease with Linda because she's low pressure and is always encouraging me. That gives me confidence."

Joe thinks so, too. Linda's lessons have made better players out of both of them.

Cindy Constantino



Cindy Constantino, Sylvania, Ohio: Cultivating the Killer Instinct

"It just blows my mind when I hear the ball crash into the wall and die."

The thrill of the kill is what Cindy Constantino wants from her racquetball game and what she's hoping to develop in private lessons with Fred Zitzer at The Supreme Courts in Sylvania, Ohio.

Cindy's first try in a regional tournament last spring made her hunger more than ever for the kill.

"That tournament play confirmed it. The first round I drew Irene Ackerman, who won the tournament. I learned a lot by playing her. You can't wait for your opponent to make mistakes. She won't make any if she's good. At the end of a rally, someone has to put the ball away."

In her lessons Fred helps Cindy concentrate on the kill by throwing the ball while Cindy gets into position and tries to hit the ball into the wall as low and as straight as possible. Fred drills Cindy on the front and side walls, the backhand — always reminding her to hit straight and low.

During the tournament hosted by The Supreme Courts Cindy was *"just happy to return the ball. Irene has such control, and she hit the ball so hard. The next time I played it seemed like a slow motion game."*

When Cindy talked with Irene after the match, she discovered that the tournament champ had been taking lessons for all eight years she'd been playing.

That renewed Cindy's faith in her lessons, which she said Fred supplements with informal instruction. *"He always has time to talk. He'll draw me a diagram and then go out on the court to explain it. He's a good teacher because he's patient and because he can tell me what I'm doing wrong."*

Cindy visits The Supreme Courts at least five days a week for lessons, games and Fred's between-lesson advice. Each day she stops at the nursery to deliver and pick up her children — four-year-old Kari and one-and-a-half-year-old Jay.

As she walks out the door — a child grabbing on to each hand — she hardly looks like Cindy Constantino, the racquetball player whose kill shots blow her mind.

Diane Hatchell, Ft. Lauderdale: If You Think You Can, You Can

She's a Dale Carnegie instructor who thinks you need confidence to succeed. So Diane Hatchell knows she has to believe in herself if she's going to win at racquetball.

"I'd say the confidence I've picked up is my biggest gain from lessons," says Diane, who gets private instruction from Nancy Hornack once a week at the Courtrooms in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

"I recently tried some challenge play here at the club and I won a great many of my matches. It was because I've gained confidence, and now I can control the ball."

Diane had just *"batted the ball around with a friend for a couple of months"* before she signed up with Nancy.

"I have a competitive nature and I want to be good at what I do. Whatever I do, I want to do it well."

Diane chose Nancy for a teacher *"first of all because I knew she was a good player — among the top at the club. Frankly I also thought I could relate best to a woman, who would probably be more patient than a man."*

"I've been more than happy with my choice. Nancy seems to understand my little problems — like the fact that I have to see myself doing something before I do it. That sounds confusing, but Nancy understands. She has me try a shot — then maybe I'll do it wrong, and then she explains and goes over and over the shot before she goes on to something else. She's a precise type of person, and yet she's patient. She shows her interest. Taking lessons with her is fun."

Diane says play in her pre-lesson games *"was limited."* In fact Nancy started out by *"explaining the meaning of basic terms like 'stroking' and 'taking the ball off the back wall.'"*

Since that first hour of instruction Diane's lessons have covered the whole gamut of shots and she's

improved her serve to the point where she's won games "with a couple of serves. My corner drive shot to the backhand - if I'm enacting it properly - is a natural for me and difficult for my opponent to pick up."

Now that she has the shots down, Diane wishes she could play more often. (Twice a week is all her current work schedule allows.)

"The more I play the more I discover weaknesses in my game that my lessons can correct."

Pro Nancy Hornack (1.) playing against her student Diane Hatchell.



Photo courtesy Courtrooms

Katie Beck strikes a forehand under the watchful eye of pro John Foust.



Photo courtesy Court Club

Katie Beck, Denver: Lessons on a Budget

For every hour lesson at Denver's Court Club Katie Beck puts in more than 10 hours of practice.

"When I can afford more lessons, I'll take them," Katie explains. "In the meantime I'm making each lesson count."

You can find Katie Mondays through Fridays at 7 a.m. at the Court Club working away at the drills that John Foust shows her in her twice-a-month lessons.

"I'm a B player learning to play with A's. Now I'm mainly learning to return and kill ceiling shots."

Even among energetic racquetball players Katie's stamina is spectacular. After her 7 a.m. practice she spends the day on the greeting card business she and her husband started in January when they moved from Deerfield, Ill. (Katie and Herb met at a racquetball club. They played each other when both their opponents failed to show up.)

At 4:15 p.m. she's back on the courts where she finds "a lot of competition for women. There are many good players around Denver." Then at 5:30 p.m. it's aerobics. She's convinced that the total program, including "the gruelling exercises that build muscles and endurance" puts Court Club people into the finals and makes them tournament winners.

A former school teacher Katie knows what to look for in a good racquetball instructor. She thinks players should choose a teacher who's "encouraging, doesn't intimidate, can tell you what's wrong, (but in a positive way) and is a good player, not necessarily the top."

"I've never judged a teacher by watching him play. My only concern is whether or not he can help me out."

Katie likes clinics and group lessons for starters. "They're fun, a good way to meet people," but at her playing level, she'd rather spend money on a few private lessons where she can work on specific skills.

Her lessons, plus her practice, give Katie more enjoyment from her game. "When I play, I remember what I've learned. I think to myself 'if that girl knew what I know, she'd be beating me now.'"

Playing Tips

When you're taking your aggressions out on the racquetball court, it's best to use the ball — not the other player. As Jean Sausser and Arthur Shay tell us, "the mistake of not calling hinder is too often compounded by injury, hard feelings—and bad shots."

This mistake-correction playing tip on hinders from their book *Inside Racquetball for Women*, is especially helpful if you're a new player. You might clip the page and check it with your opponent before you start your next game.

The book by Shay, a *Time* photographer, and Sausser, a tournament player who's pro at SkyHarbor Court Club in Northbrook, Ill., will be ready for readers later this summer. The hard and soft cover editions are being published by Henry Regnery and Company.



MISTAKE: Not Calling Hinder

The hinder—short for hinderance, in simplest terms is any impediment to hitting the ball legally. The rule book divides hinders into two categories, "dead ball" and "avoidable". Dead balls occur when your just-hit ball strikes your opponent; when you make body contact with your opponent; when one player screens a clear view of the ball from the other; when the ball passes through the legs of the hitter or his or her partner's legs; when any other unintentional interference occurs which prevents an opponent from having a fair chance to see and return the ball.

Trying to make a desperate return or shot too close to your opponent first of all exposes both of you to injury. Chances of making this kind of shot are not good. Chances of making the next shot — of getting there from your off-balance position are slim.

The avoidable hinder has begun to make its mark in professional play and in other play with a good referee. The theory is that if you intentionally block your opponent from a fair chance to see and shoot, you are penalized with the loss of serve or loss of point. If you do not move sufficiently out of the way of your opponent, you are liable to an "avoidable" call. (Pro matches average three hinder calls a game, one of which is often an "avoidable.")

CORRECTION: Calling Hinders

In the hinder department it is always wiser to err on the side of caution. Practice calling "Hinder!" immediately. Previously, you might have started that heroic charge through your opponent's body to the ball. It goes without saying that an injury is the very bottom line, to be avoided at all costs. The more control you learn from correcting your other mistakes, the fewer charges you will have to make. Your eyes and court sense will work for you, keeping you at proper distances from your opponents. One of the big mistakes most beginners make is rushing the ball. There is usually much more time than you think. Less haste in many shots means, literally, more speed. Your timing will improve.

Most racquetball players strive to be gentlemen and gentlewomen on the court. If your calls of "hinder" sometimes draw criticism from opponents, don't get mad, don't try to get even. Keep your cool and play it safe. So call "hinder!" at the moment it occurs.



Should Women Dress Up the Courts?

By Chuck Leve

Would Chris Evert ever play a tournament wearing gym shorts and a football sweat shirt? Would Dorothy Hamill figure skate wearing men's skates and a t-shirt? Would Laura Baugh step onto a golf course looking as if she just came out of the men's locker room?

Of course, none of the above would ever occur in today's world, yet such a thing is happening every day in women's racquetball, where the gals seem to have thrown fashion to the wind.

Isn't it time that women racquetballers lead the way in enhancing their image by wearing clothes that are attractive and that would attract the spectators, sponsors and television coverage that women's racquetball deserves? And isn't it time that the professional women players take a leadership role in this endeavor, for aren't they the ones who stand to prosper?

Women's racquetball is healthy today. It is growing rapidly, over a million females are participating with thousands more taking up our sport daily. Women's racquetball is being promoted in virtually every area of our nation, women's prize money is up 200 per cent this season — and the future could hold even brighter things for the ladies.

Where Are The Sponsors?

But no national company has been interested, to date, in doing a big promotional push for our women. One of the big reasons is that these firms just don't like the way they look.

"I hate to say it," said one potential sponsor, *"but racquetball's women dress like they're on their way to a dorm party. There's no style, no image, no class."*

Such a statement sends chills up the spines of racquetball promoters, most of whom feel that the women have shown an abundance of style, image and class while on the court, far to the contrary of their male counterparts.

But the problem is not how the gals

act on the court, it's how they look on the court, a not too subtle difference.

In a recent pro-am racquetball tournament, over 60 per cent of the ladies entered performed in men's clothing, either shoes, shorts or shirts. The lack of femininity was appalling to most observers.

On the other hand, female racquetballers have long claimed that one of the attributes of racquetball is the informality of the unwritten dress code — that you can go onto the court and wear whatever you want, that nobody will care — and you will not have the peer pressure to invest ridiculous amounts of funds for ridiculous outfits as in tennis.

If this is a paradox, it's one that need never have occurred. There is common ground between high priced women's tennis fashions (which only serve to embed the caste system) and walking on the court as if a chaw of tobacco is hidden between the teeth.

"Women's racquetball has a huge growth potential, in the amateur ranks as well as professionally," said Joe Ardito, U.S.R.A. and N.R.C. national commissioner. *"But the big money for both promotions has got to come from outside the sport, with television, and no sponsor is willing to put women's racquetball, as it now looks, on t.v."*

Let The Class Show

The shame of it all is that women's racquetball deserves much better. Women players are more honest, fairer, and show far more class than do the men on the court. The play is exciting and the drama intense. But nobody wants to buy it.

The masculine manner in which women racquetballers dress insults their own femininity. Femininity does not mean players cannot be aggressive or successful in their sporting endeavors. Evert, King and countless others retain their femininity, and in fact use this resource to develop and endorse fashion lines for profit.

Such marketability does not exist with women's racquetball, — unless one of our gals wanted to endorse men's gym shorts.

Silence The Critics

Women racquetballers have an opportunity to silence all critics on their own, just by cleaning up their own act. If they would take it upon themselves to dress in a manner that is attractive, and feminine, there would be no stopping the future of their sector of racquetball.

Arguments that newly found women's freedom means gals have an obligation to wear whatever they want will fall on deaf ears. What women want is progress. Progress comes with promotion, and promotion comes from dollars. The dollars come from sponsors and sponsors do not want a bunch of grubbies to represent them.

So do yourself a favor, ladies. Take a good, hard look in the mirror of the women's locker room before you take to the court. Then change what you see. If you do, that sponsor will take another good, hard look at your sport, — and from there the future is beautiful.

Since our U.S. Racquetball Association Director Chuck Leve wrote his searing article we've learned that women are — indeed — "cleaning up their act" with attractive racquetball clothes.

To give players what he calls "a touch of class," Manager Fred Hampton arranged a fashion show at The Court Sports Club, Winnipeg, Canada's new racquetball, handball and squash facility.

Valmai Skelton, right, modeling a Dorbin outfit with contrasting green piping and Joan Gibson, left, in a Penny Sparling T-shirt and skirt demonstrated *"how to make the sport more enjoyable to watch and play—even on a glass back court."*



Photos courtesy The Court Sports Club



She Ate Whipped Cream and Sugar And Didn't Gain Weight

What's her secret?

According to V.L. Nicholson, a spokesman for the President's Council on Physical Fitness, for most players, a brisk game of racquetball "burns calories at a rate of 600 per hour." Other physical fitness experts have concluded that during an extremely strenuous hour-long game, some pros and top-seeded tournament players expend up to 800 calories.

There is no question that this kind of vigorous exercise, combined with a 600 calorie meal, results in satisfactory weight control for the average player.

TWA International flight attendant Barb Smith has been playing racquetball since July of 1976. As a member of Chicago's Mid-town Court House Stewardess League, she plays the game at least twice a week. Barb recently gave up smoking and is convinced that racquetball helps her keep off those extra pounds. "I fly to London each

week and find it difficult to resist the restaurants' pastry tables," she confides. "Playing racquetball allows me to enjoy such rich desserts as chocolate cake with whipped cream."

Like Barb, you too can avoid unsightly bulges brought on by fattening foods and too little exercise. Remember! each hour that you spend chasing that little rubber ball around the court, you burn at least 600 calories.

On the next page we are presenting recipes for a three-course gourmet meal, totaling 600 calories per person. With a one-hour racquetball workout, you can enjoy, guilt-free, this menu, including a glass of wine and such forbidden ingredients as whipped cream, sugar, and butter.

So eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow you can play racquetball.

—Judith Neisser

Ready to play racquetball with pro Chuck Sheitel, Barb Smith looks forward to the game that will allow her to consume a luscious lunch without gaining weight.



—Photos courtesy The Court House



Barb's match burned up 600 calories, the amount contained in this gourmet meal.

Broiled Marinated Chicken (4 servings)

1 medium broiler, quartered

Combine:

1 tablespoon melted butter

¼ cup soy sauce

¼ cup dry vermouth

1 teaspoon dijon mustard

1 large garlic clove, crushed

2 teaspoons dried tarragon

Mix well, then pour over quartered chicken. Marinate for at least 2 hours. Place chicken skin side down on a broiler rack, and brush with the marinade.

Broil for 13 minutes 3 inches from heat, turn, brush with marinade, and broil skin side up for another 12 to 14 minutes.

If preparing chicken on the barbeque, broil over charcoal for 30 to 40 minutes, turning occasionally and basting frequently.

(165 calories per serving)

Vegetable-Rice Salad

(4 servings)

1 cup cooked rice (do not use minute rice)

½ cup thinly sliced scallions

1 cup thinly sliced celery

1 cup cubed seeded cucumber

1 cup coarsely chopped seeded tomato

1-¼ tablespoons freshly squeezed lemon juice

¾ tablespoon safflower oil

½ teaspoon Lawry's Seasoning salt

2 teaspoons dried dill weed or 4

tablespoons chopped fresh dill

Combine rice, vegetables, lemon

juice, oil, and salt, and toss well.

Sprinkle with dill and toss again.

Spoon into a salad bowl. Serve very cold.

(90 calories per person)

Cold Orange-Strawberry Souffle

(4 servings)

⅓ cup cold water

2 teaspoons unflavored gelatin

3 eggs separated

¼ teaspoon salt

4 ounces frozen orange juice concentrate (defrosted)

⅓ cup sugar

⅓ cup heavy cream whipped

1 cup thinly sliced strawberries and

4 whole strawberries

Place water in the top of a double boiler and sprinkle gelatin over the surface to soften. Beat the egg yolks lightly and add them with the salt. Mix well. Place over simmering water, and cook, stirring constantly with a wire whisk until the gelatin dissolves and the mixture thickens, about 4 minutes.

Remove from the double boiler and immediately stir in the orange concentrate. Chill until mixture

resembles softened sherbet and drops from a spoon in soft mounds. Beat the egg whites until stiff but not dry. Gradually beat in sugar and continuing beating until the egg whites are stiff. Fold the egg whites into the orange mixture and then fold in the strawberries and whipped cream.

Spoon the mixture into 4 individual ramekins or dishes and chill until firm. Before serving decorate each dessert with a fresh strawberry. (267 calories per serving)

Note:

Included in this meal is a well chilled 3-ounce glass of dry white wine.

(70 calories per glass)

There ARE Female Teaching Pros

Thank you for letting us here at *National Racquetball* know about the female teaching professional or club manager at your racquetball facility. The response from our readers has been good, with the following additional names being submitted since our original article in the May, 1977 issue.

Sue Morgan, Arlington Tennis and Racquetball Club, Palatine, Illinois. Carol Stewart, Court Players Club, Ypsilanti, Michigan. Karin Walton, Dana Point Athletic Club, Dana Point, California. Sue Halsey, Racquetball Center, Warren, Michigan. Barbara O'Connor, The Players Club, Gaithersburg, Maryland. Provie Russo, Wallbangers, Campbell, California

Bonnie Korytowski, The Court House, Schaumburg, Illinois. Kathie Stelsted, Schoeber's Racquetball Spa, South San Francisco, California. Linda Vaile, 21st Point, Mountain View, California

Those who sent us the names of the above women in racquetball have been sent a free can of Seamco 559 racquetballs. And if you know of any additional women in a teaching or managerial position within our sport, please send us her name and address. If you are the first person to bring this lady to our attention, then you'll be receiving a free can of Seamco balls.

Luring Women into Racquetball

Learn How at a One-Day Session at a Club Where Women Outnumber Men

"When Sandy Coffman starts talking about the game, she generates the kind of enthusiasm that makes you want to sign on the dotted line, grab a racquet and start swinging," wrote Lois Blinkhorn in a full-page story in The Milwaukee Journal, headlined "Racquetball Makes Mom a Good Sport."

Since the story appeared in February, Coffman has put several dozen more Milwaukee area women into racquetball courts and away from — in Coffman's words — "that hour of meaningless conversation on the telephone, away from the television soap opera."

Coffman began her first league after she took on the full-time job as women's coordinator at The Racquetball Club in West Allis, Wis., a Milwaukee suburb. Starting with 24 women she built a program that attracts more than 200 female players into business-sponsored leagues, doubles competition and the cutthroat league. Even in the summer Coffman has 150 women in leagues, with 100 of them playing during daytime hours.

What has this strong women's program meant to the club? It's created a membership roster that's the only one of its kind in the country: there are more women than men who belong to The Racquet Ball Club. And the feminine influx has been a major factor in the expansion from eight to 12 courts and the construction of a second 12-court center.

With her track record and personality Sandy Coffman looks like the best person in the country to tell other people "How to Successfully Develop a Women's Racquetball Program." Which is exactly what she's doing on Saturday, August 27.

We recommend the session to you if you're a court owner, an athletic

director, a pro or a manager. Or if you're just a woman player who wants to spread the racquetball gospel among your friends. (Convince your club to sponsor

you.) And while you're learning about racquetball for women, your family can visit the famous Milwaukee zoo. It's only five minutes away down Highway 100.



Sandy Coffman, Wisconsin state director for the United States Racquetball Association, will lead a one-day seminar on women in racquetball Saturday, August 27, in West Allis, Wis., just outside of Milwaukee.

Agenda

8:30 a.m.

Opening, introduction and tour of the club —

Distribution of course materials —

How to create that "initial" interest —

- How to use your established players.
- How to interest the new players hesitant to get involved.

Several ways to set up a league —

- Various round robins
- Team play

How to set up a team —

- Division of classes.
- Number of players.
- Scoring procedures.
- Rules.
- Schedules.

Common pitfalls and how to avoid them —

How to handle complaints gracefully —

How to get sponsors and how to use the sponsor's fee —

How to get the non-participating player to play —

Special events — ideas and how to run them —

12:00 noon

Lunch — a light buffet will be provided and an opportunity for social hour and discussion will be available —

Beginning lessons for women —

- How to recruit pupils.
- Group lessons vs. private lessons.
- Complete lesson plans.
- Demonstration.

How to set up a tournament for beginners —

Effective follow up procedures —

- How to arrange games.

- How to get the "dropouts" back into playing.
- How to get the beginners involved in organized activities.

How to use your best players —

How to improve your good players —

How to rejuvenate your discouraged players —

4:00 p.m.

Question and answer period —

Adjourn

Reservation Request

"How To Successfully Develop a Women's Racquetball Program"

Seminar by Sandra Coffman
The Racquet Ball Club
1939 South 108th St.
West Allis, Wis. 53227
Tel. - 414-321-2500

Please accept my reservation at The Racquet Ball Club for seminar Saturday, August 27, 1977., 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____ Club _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home phone _____ Business phone _____

I am bringing _____ family members with me.

(number)

Make checks for \$115 payable to The Racquet Ball Club (or \$150 for two from same club).

Reservations must be in by August 15. No refunds after that date. You will receive a reservation confirmation and directions for getting to the club.

Return this portion with your check.

Who's Playing Racquetball?

Debbie Roth: Special Kind of Nurse

Deborah Sue Roth arrives at Denver's St. Anthony's Hospital at 6:45 a.m. five days a week; for the next eight hours she is submersed in the tragic lives of cancer patients. With every third weekend off the staff nurse on the oncology floor finds her job "emotionally and physically exhausting."

"I need some kind of outlet, some way to get it all out of my system." Always athletic the 24-year-old Colorado native joined the Court Club of Denver for its exercise activities. Capitalizing on a vague awareness of racquetball she took a few lessons, began playing regularly, and has since met and married Bill Roth, the club's director.

As a Registered Nurse Debbie is normally responsible for planning the care of eight to 10 patients. She also supervises two aids. Having received special training in cancer nursing she often speaks to

refresher classes on the psychological and technical subtleties of the field. In fact she suggests that the students seek some form of exercise to alleviate the strain they experience in such close and constant contact with death.

Debbie now plays racquetball three times a week and Bill gives her a lesson on Saturdays. She has even attracted two other nurses to the sport. *"I go straight from work,"* Debbie says. *"It energizes me so when I get home I'm not all tense and upset from the day."*

Although she also plays tennis, Debbie is continuing her racquetball game this summer. Generally considered a high C player, she hopes to win a tournament which would give her B status.

—Jennifer Alter

Debbie Sue Roth, at work



Debbie (l.) and frequent partner Paula Gordon, a legal secretary, take out their job aggressions on the ball.



Bill and racquetball entered Debbie's life together last year. She sees him at the Court Club as much as at home.

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Racquetball



Terry Fancher

A Year Gone By

At the conclusion of my first year of working with our U.S.R.A. state affiliates, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation for the hard work and sacrifice by our state chairpersons. My thanks is also extended to all of those people who work on the state committees and who assisted with our sanctioned tournaments. This combined voluntary effort, made in behalf of the great sport of racquetball makes me proud that the U.S.R.A. has been associated with the massive organization of the amateur sector of our game.

The most gratifying aspect of our entire program has been the success in getting more and more people involved in racquetball. By combining subscriptions to *National Racquetball* with state memberships and making people members of both their state as well as national associations, we can keep our members informed and involved in nearly all respects.

In some states where the amateur racquetball program had begun to stagnate, fresh ideas and new blood revived an interest that was never before realized. The wealth of volunteer help and talent that had previously been untapped now has begun to produce active and exciting programs such as leagues, state tournaments and state newsletters. In short, more offerings to the state members have become available due to the work of our new chairmen.

A total of over \$10,000 has been sent to our state affiliates since last June. All of this funding has gone to directly support amateur racquetball either by donations or through subscription

money that is sent to the state or acquired by the state association from new members. If you count the thousands of dozens Seamco 558 balls donated to sanctioned events and the tournament shirts made possible by Leach Industries, the total is astounding. Seamco also donates free draw sheets and score cards for our events. This is absolute evidence of the faith and support all of our sponsors and the U.S.R.A. have in the backbone and future of racquetball — the amateur player.

Due primarily to the state programs acquiring new members in our behalf, the circulation of *National Racquetball* has soared to a total of 25,000 members. This compares with a circulation of less than 8,000 only one short year ago when our amateur programs began from the initial support of two states, Connecticut and Illinois. Now we have 44 state associations working in cooperation with our office. We anticipate further growth and development for our magazine to keep up with the demand for more instructional articles, news about the states, women in racquetball and feature articles. The growth spiral will continue its upward trend.

There are several things which were not accomplished in this past 12 months which are high on our list of priorities for the upcoming year. First of all, if anyone who is reading this column from the states of Hawaii, Delaware, Ohio, Utah, Tennessee, or South Dakota, who are interested in working with or starting a state association, please let me know. We are down to our final six states.

We are always seeking new means of expansion for our junior programs and our goal is to have a state juniors championship in conjunction with all of our state tournaments held across the country. Our National Juniors Championships will always be an event we are most proud of and one that will always be conducted. But we want to expand the effort and include state programs as well.

One essential goal that needs further support is the organization of competent referees through our state associations. The N.R.C. pro tour this year was assisted greatly by the unselfish work of many of our state members and state chairmen who volunteered their services at the pro-am stops. By making all participants qualified referees, tournaments at every level of competition will run more smoothly and without delay. It will also continue to make the players more supportive of the events in which they participate.

We also want to promote more activity among the seniors, masters, and golden masters categories. These players helped begin the first big swing of the growth of racquetball and their continued support and participation is very necessary for the continued development of the game.

Lastly, I would like to thank those who have worked so closely with me in the past year and who continue to contribute so much to the game and to all those who play it. My thanks to Chuck, Joe, Evie, Bob and all of the staff at our headquarters. Health and happiness to you all.

Alaska, Arizona, North Dakota Raise State Affiliates To 44

If your state is not represented in the list of affiliates in this issue, and you wish to become involved, please contact Terry Fancher at U.S.R.A. headquarters.

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Meet Your State Chairmen

Georgia - Wayne Vincent

"Being an athlete all my life," said Wayne Vincent U.S.R.A. state chairman in Georgia, "I could no longer tolerate team sports. I was looking for something more individualized and I found racquetball."

Vincent, 27, is a 1968 Graduate of Florida State University where he starred in baseball for two years as a pitcher under former major leaguer Fred Hatfield.

Wayne took the reigns of the Georgia affiliate in December of last year and has made great strides in promoting the game there.

A resident of Marietta (about 30 miles north of Atlanta), Vincent and his wife Ruth handle most of the daily work associated with running a racquetball association.

"Ruth's the treasurer of the organization," said Wayne. "She handles the funds and is in charge of all the paper work. And she's not a bad player, either."

Wayne and Ruth play at the Jewish Community Center in Atlanta, the current hot bed of play in Georgia.

"I envision a number of court clubs going up in our area pretty darn quickly," Wayne said. "There's lots of talk and we should see something substantial very soon."

Wayne earns his living as an insurance agent for All-state, an occupation that allows him to spread the gospel of racquetball throughout Georgia.

"I was introduced to the game through friends," he said. "And I am continuing to introduce others to the game the same way."

The Georgia Racquetball Association with Vincent's leadership is actively promoting the sport. They've already got their state tournament organized and send out a newsletter as often as possible.

"We are constantly promoting the U.S.R.A. to everyone we are in contact with," he said.

Vincent, who says he became involved because of his interest in tournaments, feels now that tournaments are but one phase of the ongoing promotion of racquetball.

"It's a rapidly growing sport," he said. "And we hope to make it an even faster growing sport through our Association."



The Upstate New York Racquetball Association is in the process of giving clinics for any area of the state requesting one.

Here President Jim Winterton shows the forehand swing to a group of onlookers at the YMCA in Auburn, New York. The clinic was a great success and the local populace was impressed with both the clinic and the U.S.R.A.'s state program.

Any other clubs or organizations in New York State interested in a clinic should contact Jim Winterton, President, U.N.Y.R.A., 211 Brooks Ave., Rochester, NY 14619. -Photo by Tito Padilla



A Guide To Doubles For the Thinking Player

Charlie Brumfield certainly needs no introduction to the racquetball public. As holder of every major racquetball title in the game's history at one time or another, Brumfield has earned the respect, awe, and jealousy that usually accompanies success. He is overwhelmingly regarded as the game's all-time best player as well as racquetball's foremost mental analyst. He is also an expert right side doubles player.

In this article, the second of two, Brumfield relates the theories, alignments, shots and secrets that made him such a successful doubles player.

Last issue's discussion left off with the various methods of court coverage patterns. One of the most common (whenever possible) combination in doubles is the lefty-righty team, which is where we'll begin this article.

Lefty-Righty

The lefty-righty combination has proven itself to be the arrangement for winning doubles. The reasons are those two big forehands on the respective side walls. Also, it is possible to back around shots directed down the middle for one partner or the other to get a forehand on it.

Looking back on the history of doubles racquetball, righty-lefty combos have won a huge majority of the major tournaments. Brumfield and Muehleisen won four consecutive National Invitational Doubles tournaments and Brumfield-Serot took over to win the fifth. In the past, the national invitationals was the real test of doubles because it was an undiluted field. In the Open nationals many top singles players refuse to enter doubles simultaneously since fatigue or injury might become a deterrent to their quest for the singles crown. To give you an idea of what could happen when a lefty-right combo of top singles players did enter doubles in the open, Brum and Serot won the '73 title, holding their opponents to an average of five points per game and beating a righty-righty combo (Hilecher and Wong) 21-1 in the first game of the finals.

Given that lefty-righty is the best, what if you're not fortunate enough to find a southpaw partner? You're at a disadvantage. However it's certainly true that, R-L combos have lost in the past. Here's how it was done.

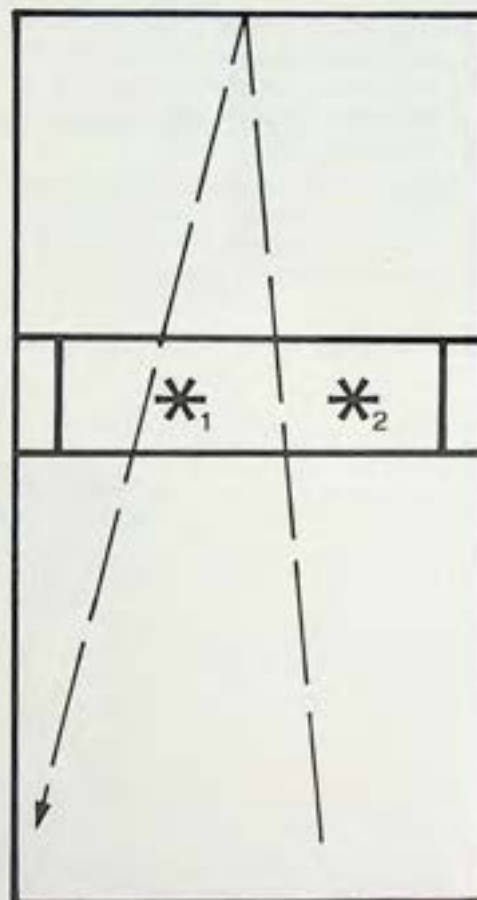


Fig. 1 Pure V.

How To Attack The Lefty-Righty Combo

The Pure V is a shot designed to bisect the angle toward the respective back corner. This shot is an extremely poor selection when playing a righty-lefty combo because you are playing into the strength of their forehands. X need only step over and fly kill his forehand into the left corner and it's Adios. (Figure 1).

The wide angle V causes absolute pandemonium if hit properly. It comes off the side wall adjacent to that powerful forehand and jams in toward your opponent's body. He'll be lucky if the ball doesn't bounce off his chest. Generally speaking, since you've cut off his leverage, all he can do is pop the

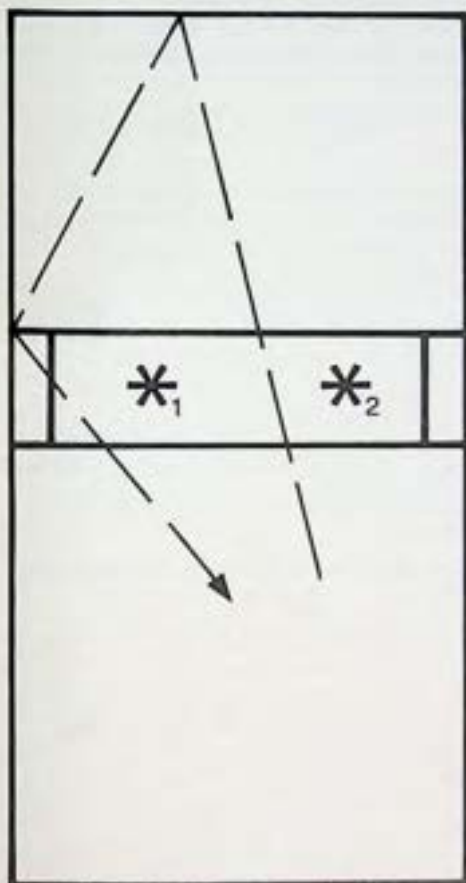


Fig. 2 Wide V.

ball up for a plum. *Tip: Keep this drive shot about 3½ feet high so if it is not cut off it will not travel to the back wall.* (Figure 2).

The more often you can create a situation where both of your opponents try for the same ball or at least there is confusion until the last second the better your winning percentage will be.

With a righty-lefty combo, that land of indecision is down the middle.

Normally it gets down to who is going to take the ball with the backhand.

It only makes sense that a goodly amount of serves should go down the

center for a number of reasons. First, you can take advantage of the confusion principle just discussed. Second, you're very likely to see a backhand used for return rather than the more powerful forehand. Third, that ball returned from the center doesn't have a real good angle for passing. Since most singles serves are designed to avoid the center, maybe some discussion of what serve to use is in order:

1) The first alternative is a low hard drive up the middle. Be careful to keep this serve very low because if it comes off the back wall it gives the opponent time to adjust to a forehand. This serve

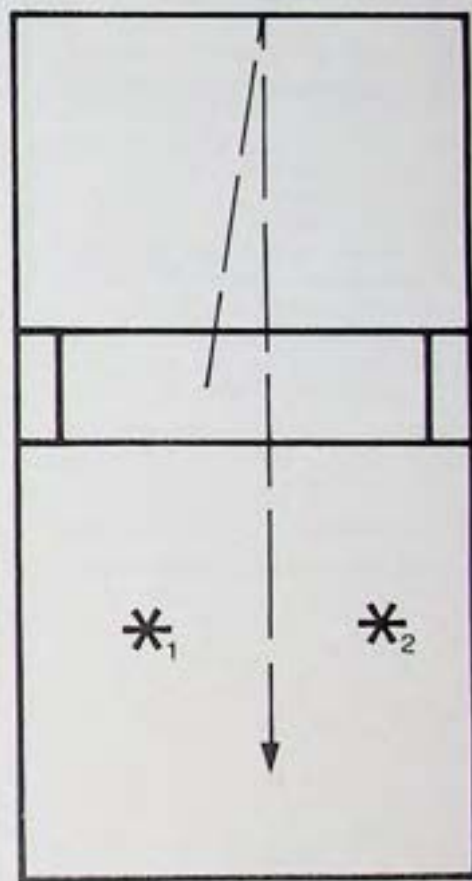


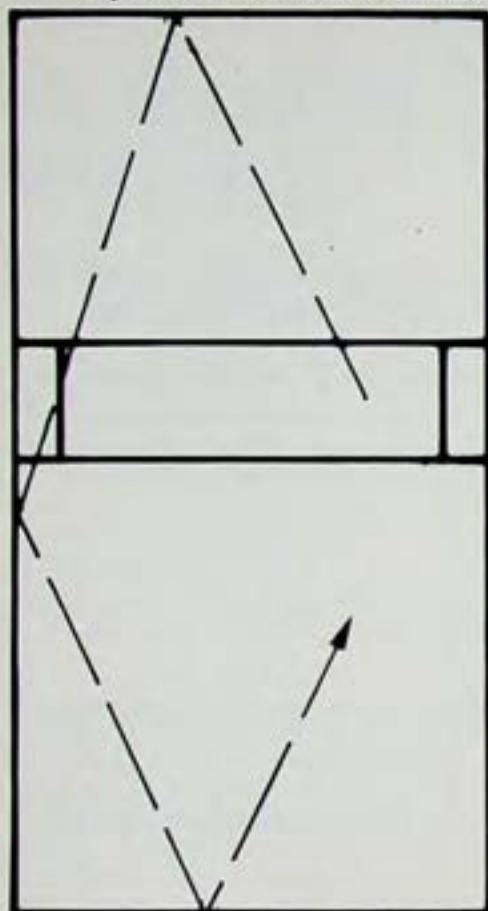
Fig. 3 Hard-Low Drive up the middle into the back hand.

should begin from a stance near the center. If you serve from the side, the angle may carry the ball too far to the side where a forehand could be taken. (Figure 3).

2) The medium angle Z is probably the best serve to accomplish the confusion objective and also since it's a slowly developing serve, it keeps your opponents a little deeper and out of center court longer.

Tip: Angle the ball off the side wall nearest your most dangerous opponent. In other words, angle the ball toward the backhand of your

Fig. 4 Low Hard Drive serve to the left.



opponent that you prefer to return the ball. If the stronger player wishes to intercept this serve he must hit a ball that is angling across his body and away from him which is a difficult ball to hit with power.

3) The third serve is the low, hard drive that gets very deep and dribbles around the corner toward the center. It presents the receiving player with a quick problem, whether to back rapidly away to try and get a forehand on the ball, to spin around and hit a backhand, or let the ball go all the way over to his teammate. Believe me, you'll get confusion with this serve. (Figures 4 and 5).

As you will notice, all of these service techniques are designed to put the ball into the backhands of the righty-lefty combo to take advantage of what we'll call the "confusion quotient." As you might imagine, the same tactic also pays dividends during the rally itself.

One device I've found successful is to aim my ceiling balls down the middle rather than try for a wall hugger down either the left or right walls. Not only does this force one of your opponents to backpedal rapidly to try and get in position to hit a forehand, but it also all but eliminates giving up those pesky setups which result when a ceiling ball catches a side wall too far toward the front wall.

In addition, I'll occasionally hit a controlled drive from an overhand stroke designed to drive down the middle with good pace yet not come off the backwall. This is an excellent tactic and causes many miss-hit returns. As a matter of fact, it is important to follow in behind such an overhand stroke to prevent your opponents' miss-hit return from dropping in for a fluke winner.

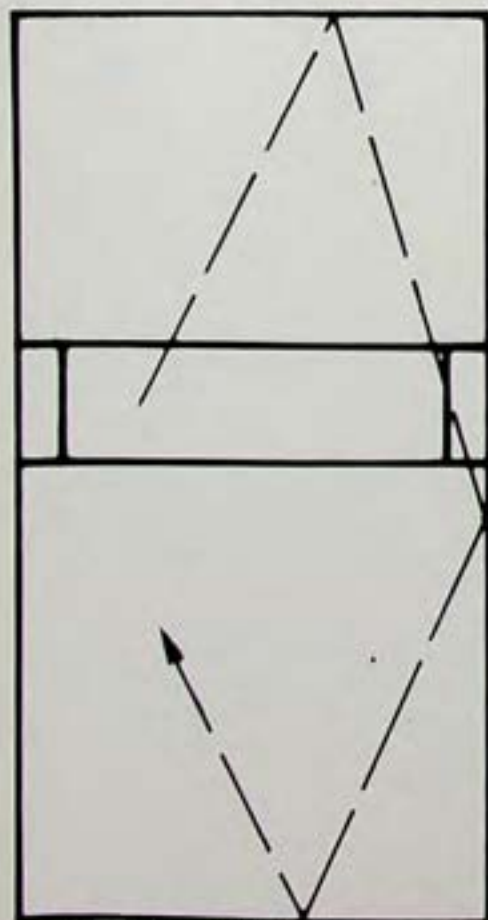


Fig. 5 Low Hard Drive serve to the right.

Righty-Righty

The righty-righty combination has produced some excellent teams. Rudyz-Luciw, Thurman-Dunn, Zeitman-Porco, Brumfield-Marcus, just to name a few. The vulnerability is backhand down the left wall which can be pounded by pure V's and ceiling balls from the opposing team. The strength is that leftside forehand that can mop up the center of the court.

There are a few special tricks of the trade that righty-righty teams have relied on to score their doubles victories.

1) Wallace-Wetzel ("I got it-No you take it.")

Barry Wallace and Bob Wetzel of Orange Coast College, California are definitely one of the top 10 teams in the history of outdoor doubles despite not having a lefty to provide that strong forehand power on the left outside lane. Their high finishes are a result of playing with their own students as referees plus a few wily tricks developed over the years. One is so effective I feel it deserves attention in this doubles treatise.

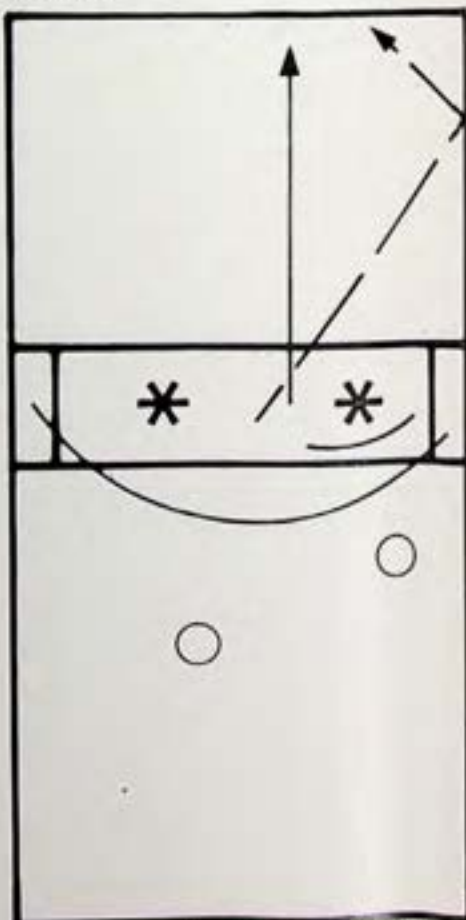


Fig. 6 I got it - no, you take it.

The setting for their maneuver is a slow hit ball down the right center of the court. Wetzel moves over from his right side position and sets up to hit his backhand, yelling "I got it" loud enough for everyone to take notice. Simultaneously, Wallace sets up to take the ball with his forehand. This dual motion forms an arc of legs, bodies, and racquets that keeps both opponents deep in the court for fear of creating a backswing contact avoidable hinder. At the last second, Wetzel drops his racquet, steps back away from the play (coincidentally into the right side coverage area) and Wallace slides in a right wall-front wall kill. Not surprisingly, no one gets within 20 feet of touching the ball. (Figure 6).

2) When Bill Thurman and Bill Dunn were in their heyday in the early 70's they practiced a front court flooding coverage pattern that caused their opponents to misread the actual coverage zones and squander precious set-ups. When Dunn's right side opponent got a set up from half to three-quarters court and prepared to

kill the ball in the right corner, Thurman would leave the left side completely open and move into almost a front court defensive position. The shotmaker has to think twice about shooting a ball with the defensive man that close to his target area and has a tendency to by-pass the kill attempt and drive the ball cross-court. Meanwhile, unknown to everyone, Dunn has waddled over at one mile per hour to the left to cover the cross court drive and punched the ball to the ceiling and the rally starts again. (Figure 7).

3) Probably one of the most disciplined right side players of all time is Dr. T. Kimbal Hill, a dental surgeon out of San Diego. He never ventured out of the front right corner—allowing his long time partner, Carl Loveday, to take all the set ups out of the back right corner with his forehand. While Carl was moving back to deep right, Hill would establish a position perhaps three feet from the right side wall—just enough room to allow Loveday to shoot down the alley. If the right side

opponent took a position to Kim's left, Carl would slide the ball for a kill exactly down the right wall. Kim would face front and not budge an inch. If the poor opponent tried to dart in front of Hill at the last minute to cover the alley, Carl would pinch the ball off the right wall just in front of Kim. The opponent would never see a thing. (Figures 8 and 9).

Playing the right side in a righty-righty combo requires much more patience and poise than does the left. Your primary responsibility is to position and to move in such a way as to discourage offensive shots in the right front corner. Try to force the play deep and over to the left side where your partner will have plenty of time to set up and work for a forehand offensive opportunity. The "mortal sin" of right side play is sticking your backhand out and taking away your partner's forehand.

As a general rule, anytime you have to reach to the left for a backhand, your partner has time to make a better shot with his forehand.

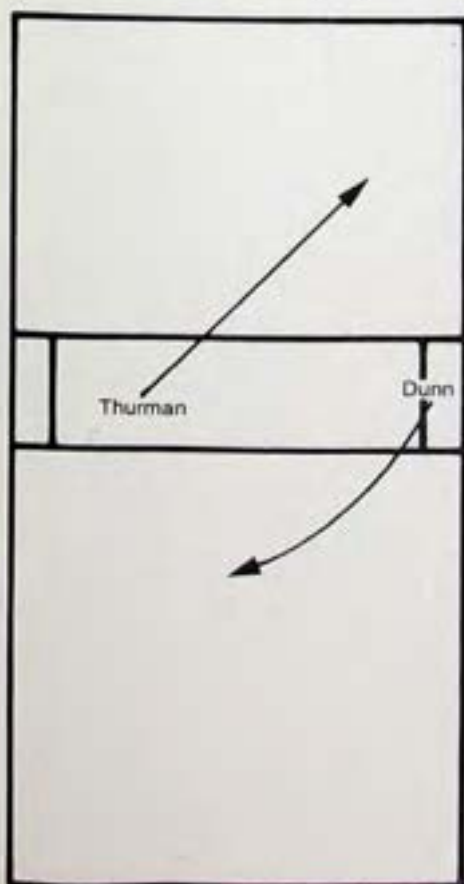


Fig. 7 Flooding the coverage pattern.

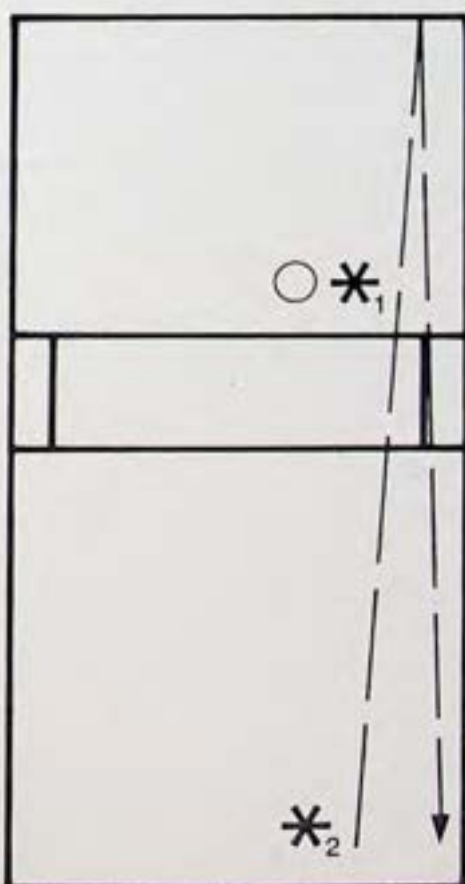


Fig. 8 Down the line.

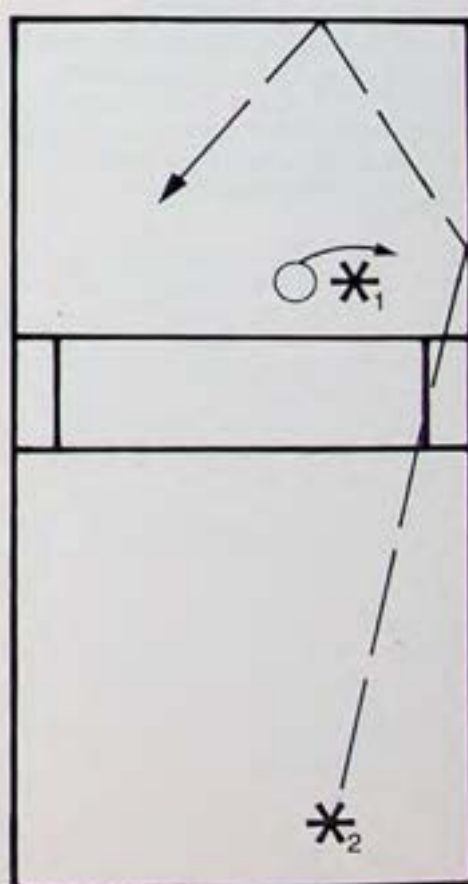


Fig. 9 Right wall front wall pinch.

Safety

1) *Warm up properly.* Although doubles is not nearly as taxing as singles it nevertheless requires many abrupt movements and hard, quick swings. Do your body a favor and go through a full range of stretching exercises. Also make sure to completely loosen up your playing arm before serving the first ball.

2) *Never swing if there is any chance of hitting another player with your racquet.* In practice and in tournaments, such a practice should be recognized as a "mercy hinder."

3) *Be aware of the ball at all times.* Make it a habit of giving your opponent more than enough room to move to the ball. Courtesy is contagious.

4) *Investigate the use of eye protection.*

5) *Wear a good pair of sweats.* Protect your legs from ball impact.

6) If there is no way to hit my preferred shot without hitting my opponent I make it a practice to go to the ceiling or hold up and ask for a "mercy ball." Careful about this in tourneys, though. Some referees force you to rip your opponent if you want the hinder.

Coverage And Movement

Movement of the offense and defense depends on the path of the serve. Ideally, both teams should move to their respective formations as soon as possible after the ball is served and returned (assuming the rally continues).

For instance, if the serving team is playing a modified deep left diagonal, the left side player should back out quickly two steps toward the back wall and at least a step and a reach from the left side wall. The right side player should not move as deep in the court but should be careful to move quickly away from the side wall.

Tip: Always try to get off the side wall to avoid getting "jammed" by your opponent's return.

Exception: If the ball is served hard and low right behind you, never jump off the ground as your opponent is striking the ball or your maneuverability and agility will be greatly impaired.

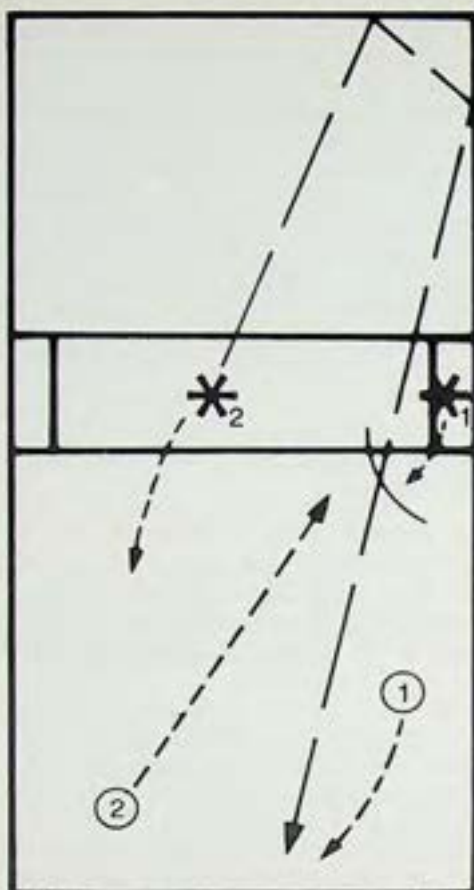


Fig. 10 Letting the ball go through.

O₁ moves to return the serve
O₂ moves into the "singles" defensive position.
X₁ moves slightly away from the right side but leaves an alley up the center.
X₂ moves out of center to open up the alley plus move into preferred back diagonal.
Remember - always know where the ball is and watch your opponents pre-shot movement.

Modification Of Above

Despite these general rules, the experienced team will allow the path of their served ball to dictate their initial movements. However, they always keep in mind that the objective is to move as quickly and efficiently as possible into the chosen patterns.

Ball down the center—Stay near the walls and leave a path down the middle through which your opponent's shot can travel. (Figure 10).

X₂ is entitled to front court position since an O₁ is hitting the ball, so he should position his body in order to make it uncomfortable for O₂ to achieve a perfect singles position. In other words—keep him a little deeper than he wants to be as long as this doesn't seriously disadvantage your own positioning. X₁ should not jump too far out to the middle as he normally might in this deep left defensive diagonal because the center should be left open for O₁'s return. (See Figure 11 and 12).

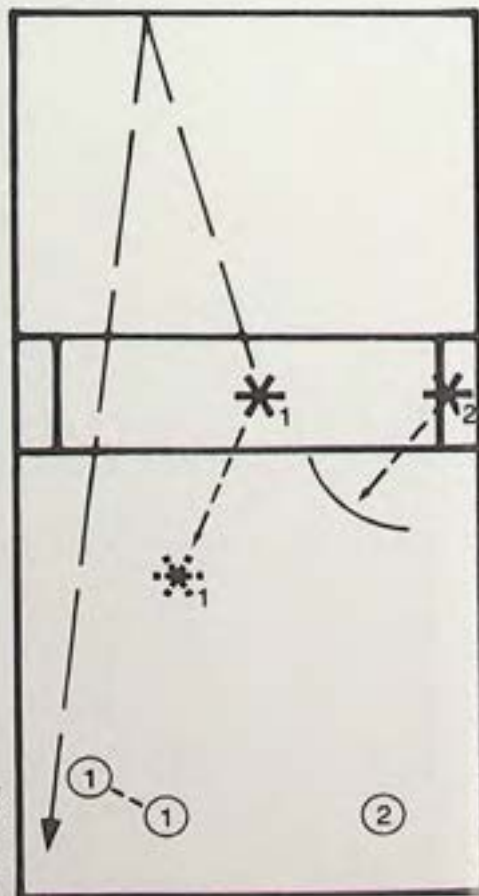


Fig. 11 X₂ moves to block out O₂ from singles position and still cover the left wall pinch and cross court drive.

X₁ moves step and reach to cover important alley kill.

Fig. 13 X_2 retreats for ceiling shot.

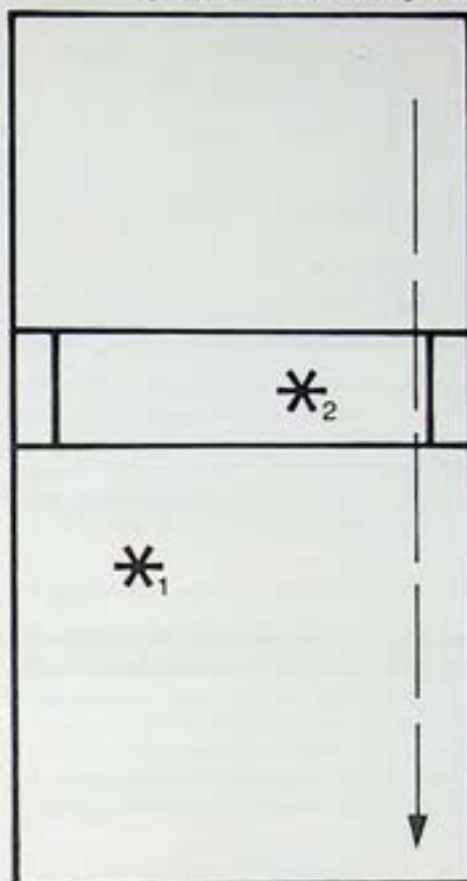


Fig. 14 X_1 should move as if he were going to play singles defense on his own partner's shot. This will put him in perfect position for the opponent's quick shot should X_1 misfire.

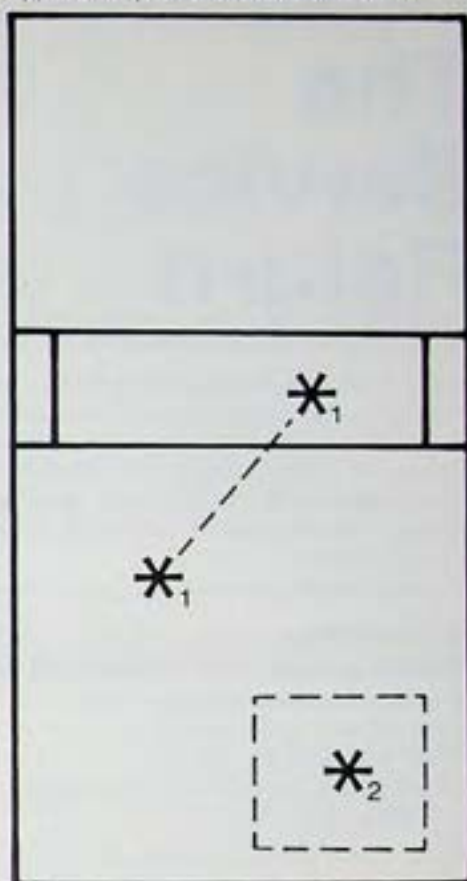
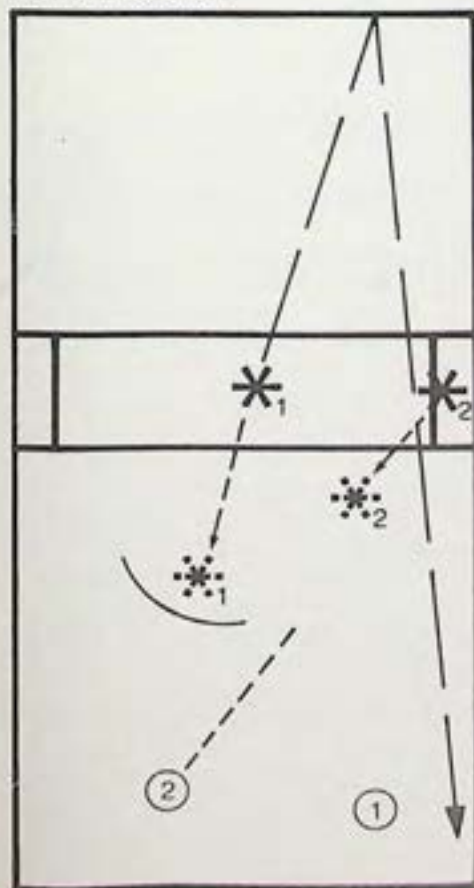


Fig. 12 X_1 blocks out O_2 from singles position.

X_2 moves step and reach responsible for alley and shallow pinch.

X_1 responsible for deep left diagonal coverage and wide angle pinch.



Rule 1: Always follow every single swing of your opponent to your primary front court coverage zone. This means playing without the ball and always being in motion. Remember, in doubles we are not trying to pace. This move will make you look quicker than any number of wind sprints; in a word: *anticipation*.

Rule 2: If your opponent is forced out of position automatically flow into a singles coverage pattern. Move back to your normal coverage position as you see your partner regain his proper spot. (Figures 13 and 14).

Rule 3: Play closer from a serve return position and aggressively rally and follow in any weak return.

Rule 4: If the serve goes to your partner, forcing him deep, remember that you have to temporarily move into singles coverage, even if you ordinarily play the deeper man.

Rule 5: If the ball comes directly at you in front court and you have to make a quick decision on which way to jump, always move out of the way of the weaker shotmaker. This body movement effectively takes the stronger opponent away from the play.

Rule 6: If your partner has a set up from his side of the court, you should achieve a position as if you, not your opponent, have to cover the shot. This has a two fold effect: 1) It puts you in excellent singles coverage position if the rally continues. 2) If you're there first, it makes your opponent work harder for position and makes it more difficult for him to see and return your partner's shot. ●

The Service Return

Editor's Note—The following article, the last in a six part series, is excerpted from Steve Keeley's recent publication, *The Complete Book Of Racquetball*. The book, endorsed by the U.S. Racquetball Association, is published by D.B.I. Books, Inc., 540 Frontage Rd., Northfield, Illinois 60093. *The Complete Book Of Racquetball* sells for \$7.95 and in our opinion is one of the finest instructional manuals on racquetball published to date. This segment is from Chapter 11, Service Return.

Service Return

After the serve comes the serve return. By now the overwhelming importance of the service and its rebuff should be drilled permanently into the bottom-board crevices of the reader's four-cornered cerebrum.

First a sound piece of advice, and then on to the concrete specifics of service returns. As with the server, the receiver must *think* and, especially, keep his cool. For example, upon receiving a low hard drive, it definitely ain't cool to tense up that pencil throat, let loose a strident ALLEY OOP yell and attack the little sphere with gladiator ferocity. No-no. The service return must be carried out in a confident and perfunctory manner, usually stroking the ball with 80 percent power and with a definite shot in mind. And hang loose.

Let us commence with the stark basics, progress into semi-muddled sophistications, and then return to earth with the possible types of service returns.

The ideal position for return of service is approximately three to four feet from the back wall. I "sense" this distance by occasionally taking up my potential position, swiveling my upper body at the hips such that the top half of me is looking at the back wall, while the

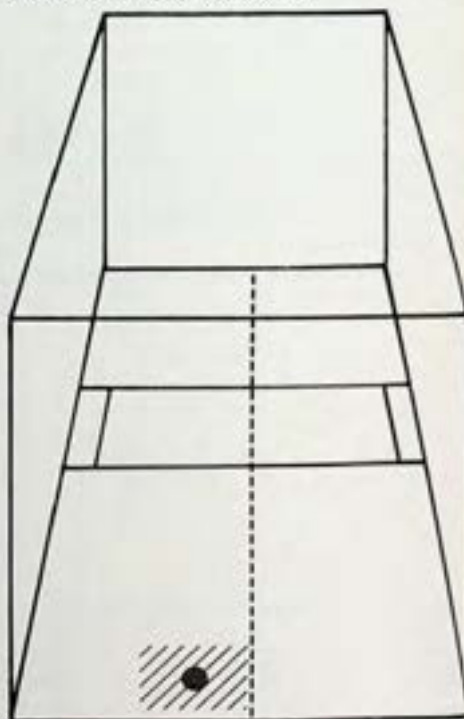
bottom half of me is fixin' to run toward the front wall, and waving my racquet with an extended arm at the rear wall plaster. If I am rooted at the correct distance from the back wall, my out-reached racquet will barely scrape the plaster as I wave. (See figure 1.) I



Fig. 1—Stand to receive service about a racquet and arm's length from the back wall.

tell beginners to stand in the center of the court because this is easy to remember. Actually, a station slightly to the left of center is permissible if the receiver expects most serves will be fired at his melancholy backhand, as is usually the case. Figure 2 displays this general receiving zone.

Fig. 2—The usual receiver's starting stance is a racquet's swing from back wall and slightly off center to the backhand side.



The correct stance within this zone has no strict limitations. For the uninitiated whose natural posture leans toward the elephantine, it is beneficial to imitate the tennis player's ready position for receiving service; knees bent slightly, eyes forward and racquet ready. Not to knock tennis, but I actually feel that a more relaxed stance is indicated for the intermediate to advanced four-wall aficionado. This is because, unlike tennis, the racquetball serve loses energy on the front wall ricochet, arrives in rear court at a lesser velocity and is generally presented within fairly easy reach. Therefore your

Fig. 3—Be ready but relaxed when awaiting the serve.

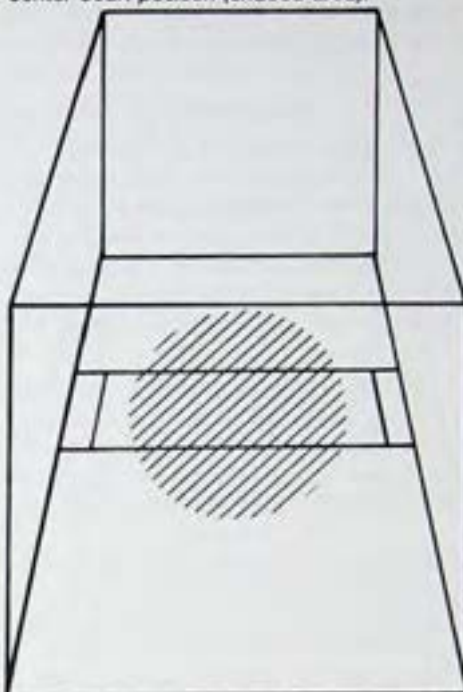


receiving stance should be somewhere between loosey-goosey and board-rigid. Note the serve returner's initial posture in figure 3.

Now on to those semi-muddled sophistications mentioned above. Although service return is an autonomous concept in itself, it is also a tight strategic associate with the theory of *center court position*. In other words, the idea of service return is one wing and the concept of center court position is another wing; and without both of these in working order your game will not get off the ground.

As you ponder the following rationalization, augment the text by examining the diagrams in figures 4 and 5. At the instant that you receive a decent serve, you are in the *worst* court position possible—in deep rear court. Simultaneously your opponent, stationed in exact center court, is in the *best* strategic position possible. Obviously, if you make a slight error

Fig. 4—A liberal schematic representation of center court position (shaded area).

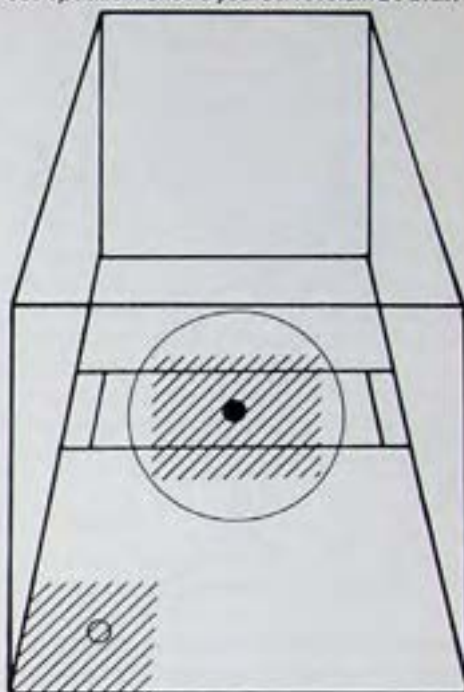


now you will not have another chance until a point later when the next ball is served up.

Therefore, your first objective as service receiver is to return the ball in such a way as to *force your opponent out of center court position*. Unless the serve is outrageously muffed—for example one which rebounds high off the back wall for an appetizing set-up—do not go for the kill shot. Rather, force your rival into back court with a defensive shot and subsequently assume center court position yourself. The opening moments of each racquetball rally are remarkably similar to chess in that whoever controls the middle of the court/board will most often emerge the ultimate victor.

If all this is acceptable, then exactly how is one to best utilize strategic positioning in making strong service returns? There are five ways. That is, the receiver of the serve has *five possible returns*. However, let's simplify this on the grounds that percentage racquetball dictates only *three optimal returns* taken from the basic five. They are the ceiling ball, drive and around-the-wall-ball. These three we will take up immediately; the remaining two lower percentage possibilities are the lob and kill shot,

Fig. 5—Initial server's and service receiver's positions (after the serve) with respect to center court position. Should your serve return be a kill?



and they will be dealt with briskly later on. (Note: The Z-shot is unlikely as a return off of a good serve, due to the receiver's striking position in very deep court.)

Ceiling Ball Return

Rank having its priority, the ceiling ball is presented first here as the *safest and most logical service return* of all. Remember that when the opposing player is serving, he is in control of center court, and your number one thought as service receiver is to shoo him the heck outa there. Bullet balls to the kidneys or ear lobe shots being illegal, return the sphere so as to oblige him to retreat posteriorly, concurrently allowing you to occupy the coveted center court station. The ceiling ball suits this occasion in a most appropriate fashion.

The rub is that the ceiling shot necessitates veteran patience and poise; a beginner is often overly eager to get things rolling with a more offensive return. The most convincing advice to offer such early zealots is to have them analyze a few points between a couple of pros, or at least A players—with a pencil and paper. Take

Fig. 6—THE main service return: CEILING BALL.



note of the types of shots utilized to return the first 30 serves. If at least half of them are not ceiling balls, then either the serves are rotten to the ball's core or the subjects under surveillance are of sub-A ranking. Patience is especially a virtue on the service return, and the ceiling is the path to patience.

Since the execution of the all-important ceiling shot has already been detailed in previous articles, it will be reviewed only briefly now. Note the photo portrayal in figure 6. Recall that the properly struck ceiling ball initially contacts the ceiling, then front wall, then floor, and ultimately bounces high and deep into back court. It is pretty much impossible to cut off this shot prior to the leapfrogging bounce toward the back wall, thus the opponent (server) has to back-pedal and then swat at the shot from shoulder height in deep court. Under these circumstances, the back-pedaling returner of the ceiling ball usually has no feasible choice but to come back with a similar defensive play (i.e. another ceiling ball).

Direct your ceiling returns to the server's backhand (figure 7), a process which generally entails hitting with your backhand stroke down the left line (against a right-hander). Keep

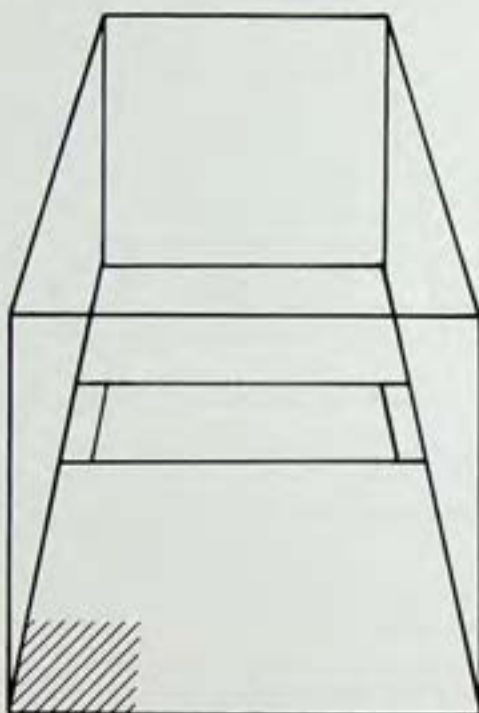


Fig. 7—Basic rule of service return: Direct most of your service returns to the opponent's weaker stroke, the backhand in deep court (shaded area).

the rubber orb a-huggin' that left side wall but, at the same time, do not allow the type of side wall contact which will send the ball squirting out into open air.

If, during a game, you suddenly experience difficulty in keeping your ceiling service returns close and parallel to the side plaster for near wallpaper balls, do not be afraid to change tactics just a tad. Scope in on a ceiling bullseye more toward the center of the court. That is, guide the sphere in a slight cross-court direction. True, this may result in a service return to the server's forehand, but this is of little consequence provided the shot carries deep enough in the court.

The main mission of a service return off of a strong—or at least adequate—serve is to spew back anything which cannot be offensively attacked by the server.

At the risk of throwing this whole line of thinking out of kilter, it is compulsory to add that a weak serve should not be answered defensively, but should be assaulted with a pass or kill attempt. Unfortunately I see few weak serves coming my way these days.

To me, the ceiling ball is a comforting shot to maintain within my strategic repository as I stand there on shaking, spindly legs with racquet clutched in trembling hand about to absorb the feared rival's primo serve. Why comforting? Because the ceiling shot can be used to send back any service that hamburger could offer. If he lobs me, I can either step up and volley the ball to the ceiling or go to the ceiling after the floor bounce. If he low hard serves me, I do my best to flail the speeding sphere upward at the ceiling target area. A served Z, reverse or normal? I still look to the ceiling, perhaps aiming slightly toward center court to prevent the ball's English-spawned antics from eliciting an unwelcome encounter with the left side wall. Too, the ceiling ball is my 100 percent rebuff for a good garbage, unless I opt to rush the thing for a volley shot. And when that sly humpty-dumpty catches me leaning left during his drive serve to the right, I reverse, scramble right, cast out my strings quick as a lizard's tongue and flick the ball toward the court heavens, praying for deep deliverance. It is a comforting shot and thought, isn't it?

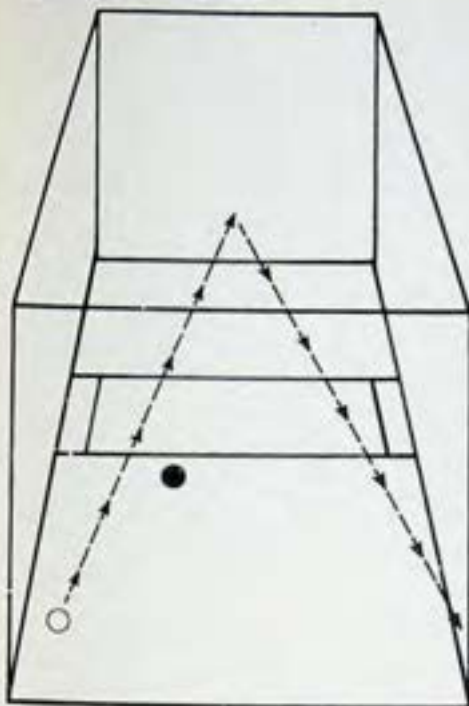
Drive Return

Next to the ceiling ball, the drive (pass shot) is probably the most widely utilized service return. The pass is much more offensively geared than the ceiling play, yet less offensively oriented than the risky kill attempt. Therefore it is neither, and both, an offensive and defensive return of service.

The drive return is advocated by the player who desires to initiate a rapid-fire, reflex type or rally.

Witness a cement coop standout during a serious game and you will doubtless observe that when that player does bash a pass shot off the serve, the ball is usually sent cross-court. (Figure 8.) This is because the cross-court drive allows for greater margin of error—an overused term signifying your shot can stink and there is still a good chance you will come out smelling like a rose—than hitting straight up and down

Fig. 8—The cross-court drive is a good aggressive service return.



the alley. The down-the-liner should not be discounted entirely as a potential service return (from the backhand side), but it is potent only when pin-pointed with great precision, which is a tall order for a racquetballer of any stock. All in all, the pros favor the V-ball when they choose to drive return the serve.

A rather self-evident tidbit of advice for the would-be practitioner of drive service returns: if you are presented with any *well-placed* serve, play it safe and go to the ceiling rather than ripping off a V-ball. If you are given a *moderately good* serve which has some potential for offensive return, a drive may or may not be made. *Bad* serves deserve strong returns, such as riproaring drives.

Specifically, do not drive back a good garbage or similar soft style serve (e.g. high reverse Z) which must be contacted at shoulder height. But, do try drives off of ill-placed garbages which either pop off the side wall in shallow court or carry off the back wall. Do drive return low hard services which either wrap around the left rear corner for set-ups or rebound straight off the back wall. Do slash out with a vicious cross-court drive off any serve presented to your forehand, provided you are able to set up for the shot and it may be contacted at waist height or lower.

In short, the drive return uproots the opponent lounging within the service box (center court position) in a manner which forces an immediate point or, at least, a weak return.

Around-The-Wall Return

The around-the-waller is relied upon sparsely today as a service return; for that matter, its use during the course of normal play is also scarce. This is probably due to lack of recognition. There are a multitude of talented court club players who do not even realize the A.W.B exists.

Throw an around-the-waller in retaliation to your opponent's next garbage, reverse Z or lob serve, and see if you are not pleasantly surprised by the other dude's shock and surprise. This multi-angled, multi-walled return should literally drive your competitor up the right side wall, his sense of equilibrium sent topsy-turvy by the ball's aerial antics. Meanwhile, you wait up to center court with mouth watering and await the lame return.

As a service return, the A.W. ball functions best against the "softer" serves, as opposed to the lower harder drive serves and low hard reverse Z's to the backhand. The reason for this is

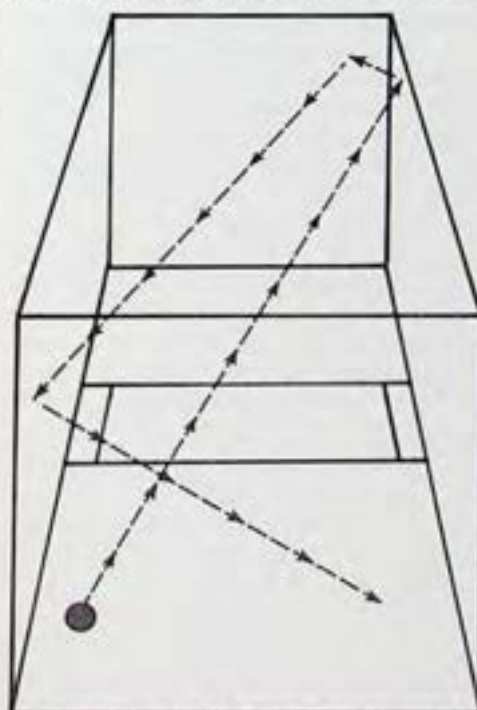


Fig. 9—Path of A.W. ball from backhand.

the around-the-waller is usually contacted *above* the waist, which is the height of presentation of the softer serves. For me, the defensive play is an acceptable response to a garbage or high reverse Z-serve (figure 9).

Thus the A.W.B. is more frequently issued from the *backhand* side of the court, and is directed upward and cross-court into the right front corner at the appropriate right side wall bullseye. And to point out two things which should never occur, but often do: First, do not allow your own around-the-wall ball to descend and strike your lumbering person. Second, do not let the server trample you during his random tramp in pursuit of the elusive orb.

Lob Return

If this book had been written in the very early 1970's, when racquetball was just crawling out of the catacombs and into the airy glass-walled fishbowls, a good deal of this chapter on service returns would have been dedicated to that floating, frustrating return known as the lob. However, in these days of our sport's semi-maturity, the lob is certainly outmoded due to the advent of more lively balls and modernized racquets. I touch here upon the lob as a service return only out of finicky methodicalness.

I find myself forced into a lobbing situation only once or twice per tournament, and these are always desperation flick-of-the-wrist circumstances where no other shot is physically possible. But even in these rare instances I try to send the lob as high as possible without touching the ceiling, cross-court and strive for side wall contact on the ball's downward trajectory.

Avoid lobbing the serve return if at all possible.

Kill Shot Return

The kill shot return of service is bold and flashy when successful, humiliating and demoralizing when

skipped in. As a service return weapon off of a sound serve, it is a double-edged sword which could just as easily cut the receiver as the server. As such, the kill is an illogical choice of return.

The wizard of logic, Mr. Spock, of television's "Star Trek," would rarely go for the bottom board of the spacebound court within the steel bowels of the Starship Enterprise. He might relate that "The feasibility of shooting the serve is a fascinating possibility, but hardly one worthy of actual practice."

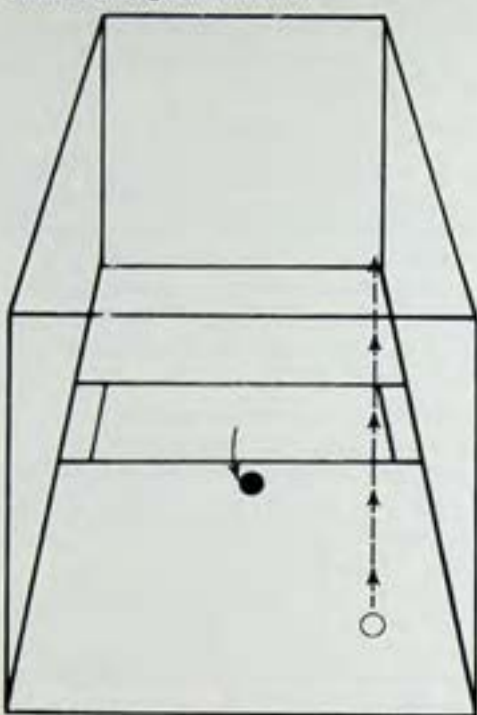
Another self-proclaimed logistician, Charlie Brumfield (Ceiling ball Brum) once sagely penned with tongue in cheek: "So why try it (the service return kill)? How many balls are you going to hit for absolute winners off your opponent's best shot, his serve? I can't hit very many percentage-wise, and if you can, send me your name and I'll bet on you in the next national tournament."

This author is less fanatical about the situation than Mr. Spock or Mr. Brumfield. I do concur that a strong propensity for the defensive should occupy the player's mind as he awaits service. But—and this is a big but—the kill shot is a definite percentage possibility, as well as a quick rally-ending ploy, for returning a weak service. So administer the offensive punch on a languid serve by shooting the ball. To not do so would breach the "Offensive theory of play," besides removing the keep-on-your-toes pressure from the server who normally packpeds nonchalantly into back court after serving the ball.

When you do go for the death stroke on the service return, it is generally wise to place forehand kill attempts into the forehand corner, and backhands into the backhand corner. (See figure 10.)

Repetition spawns remembrance. So excuse any redundant emphasis which ensues, because the following concept is worth a heapful of points per game. When one goes for a kill off a good serve, all the cold and calculating center court theory in the court world is working against you.

Fig. 10—A weak serve to the forehand may be killed in the right front corner.



Does it make sense to shoot for the roll-off from three-quarter court when your nemesis is stationed in front of you in perfect center court position? If you skip the ball in, your rival picks up a point without expending an iota of energy; and if you leave the ball up even slightly on the front wall, your opponent will be right there in two daddy-sized steps ready to gratefully pounce on the plum. This time he gains the point by outlaying but few milliergs of energy. Of course, it is true that if your shot is a flat roll-out then you win the side-out (not the point) along with the admiration of the spectators, but I can almost guarantee this will transpire a low percentage of the time. Save your kill shots for riper times, which are sure to arise during the course of the rally.

(It must be clear that the above paragraph assumes the serve to you, the receiver, is a good-to-moderately good one. But again, if the serve is weak, then inhale, grunt and tee off offensively with a kill or pass.)

But, you cry in rebuttal, it feels so fine to smack those solid flat rollers which send the server into vocal fits of self-condemnation. True. Just observe a pro take another pro's weak serve and handle it adeptly with a kill shot return. The faces of the server and returner are respective masks of agony and ecstasy: "I've been had by that lucky sonofaduffer!" the pro server fumes internally as he snails with

weighted shoulders to rear court. "That'll show that pea-brained court scum!" his jubilant peer inwardly leers as he moseys to the service area. The latter casts a knowing eye at the bleachers, dramatizing his temporary stroke of proficiency. Two plays later, our man with the up-turned eyes and up-turned nose is a picture of humility and frustration. His eyes look inward, avoiding contact with all others, for he has just skipped in three service return kill attempts in a row.

I can identify with the above fantasized (?) anecdote. Back when I was a pure court rat, flaunting freak balls, enthusiasm and jockstrap headbands, I often found myself in the same movie. I wanted to display my flash, power and ignorance to the sprinkling of mini-skirted dumplin's in the gallery. I did this by pouncing regularly on every other service and flailing for the bottom board. Won their hearts, but not the game.

Let's assume, contrary to this, that you are after points. Want to unfurl a paragon of patience, poise and savvy to the grizzled court veterans in the stands? Then send your service returns elsewhere than the bottom board.

Summary

When practicing the various defensive shots, you automatically groom your skill in the area of service return. Keep in mind that most balls being put into

play will be directed at your *backhand*, and train accordingly. The fly in the soup is that the offensive game is also an integral component of the receiver's consideration. Hence, some skill for being able to bury the ball low into the corners is needed. It is a tough order, but drill for the service return by keeping up on all the defensive (especially) and offensive shots used in racquetball.

The ultimate way to practice the return of service is to find someone who wants to work on his serves. In this case he serves, you return and the ball is caught. Repeat and re-repeat.

The summary of a dissertation on service return is easily written:

- 1) The principal service return is the ceiling ball.
- 2) To a certain degree, the type of serve will dictate your type of response.
- 3) Be patient when responding to a good serve, and be alert for offensive possibilities when given a poor serve.
- 4) Mix up your returns if you have not yet discovered anything that is especially effective against an individual server (e.g. at the beginning of the game).
- 5) If a specific service rebuttal does prove to be the antidote against a particular opponent, importune him without variation with that shot.
- 6) Next to the serve, the service return is the most overshadowing facet of racquetball play.

By way of further summary, the most *common errors* department is extensive:

- 1) Assuming an initial stance too anterior in the court. Start with heels about three feet from back wall.
- 2) Following the return stroke, not moving up to seize center court position. Do no lollygag in back court, but follow in your shot.
- 3) Not aiming for a specific shot. Do not spray your returns at random.
- 4) Forgetting the prime objective of neutralizing the server's positional advantage. Drive him posterior.
- 5) "Running around" the ball to take what should have been a backhand stroke with the forehand. This is strategically sacrilegious, positionally suicidal and leads to inferior development of the backhand.
- 6) Indiscriminately shooting of the ball off the serve. Get hep with a conservative train of thought when receiving service.
- 7) Not employing the "fifth wall" enough. The ceiling is not there solely to keep the raindrops out and the racquetballs in.
- 8) Hitting ceiling shots on balls presented to the receiver below waist height. Recall that a weak serve at knee level or lower should be assaulted with offensive intent.
- 9) Not hitting ceiling shots on balls presented to the receiver above waist height. ●



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Developing Your Racquetball Skills At A Faster Rate

Editor's Note:

Larry Bobbitt started playing racquetball six years ago when he was in the U.S. Air Force. After completing his military duty, he attended several racquetball camps which were held by racquetball professionals.

Presently, Larry is the racquetball instructor at Red Lerille's Health and Racquet Club in Lafayette, Louisiana. He also is the Academic Counselor for Student-Athletes at the University of Southwestern Louisiana. He has a B.S. in Business Administration, B.S. in Health and Physical Education, and an M.Ed. in Education.

This article is addressed primarily to the novice or intermediate racquetball player. The information is intended for players who are making racquetball a secondary but a permanent dimension in their lives. It is intended as much for women as for men.

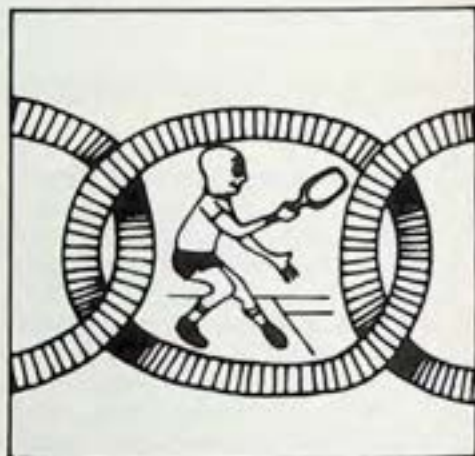
I believe there are some basic principles that you (the novice and intermediate racquetball player) can use to develop your racquetball skills at a faster rate. Some of these principles you may know and understand, but I think they need to be re-emphasized. I am convinced that the application of these principles will improve your level of play and enhance your enjoyment of racquetball.

The first step, and perhaps the most critical, is the establishment of *goals*. These goals must be defined in measurable behavioral terms and distinguished between process and product assessments. A *product* is the outcome of a behavior, e.g., the number of kill shots executed, the number of games won.

Processes are the behaviors emitted in producing a desired outcome, e.g., getting in position to hit the ball, watching the ball while hitting, and following through after hitting the ball. In the early stages of learning racquetball, I recommend that you focus primarily on process behaviors. Judging your progress according to the number of kill shots executed or games won can seriously undermine your progress in racquetball. I will elaborate on this point later.

Defining your initial objectives in terms of process behaviors does present some problems. Many behaviors that are generally treated as discrete units are actually chains of smaller behaviors. *Chaining* is a series of responses that follow in close succession and thus form a more complete behavior. For example, the complete art of hitting a racquetball requires running to the ball, getting into

position with the racquet back and wrist cocked, bending your knees, watching the ball, and swinging through the ball. The most accurate way to define your goals is to divide your racquetball skills into chains and define your goals in terms of the units that these chains comprise.



The chaining concept has major implications for the relearning of racquetball skills. While a novice in racquetball might have to learn every single unit in a chain, an established player might need to reshape only one or two of those units. Focusing on one unit at a time, while leaving other behaviors intact, is the most reinforcing way to rebuild a racquetball skill. If you have not been sufficiently cocking your wrist on your strokes or have not been following through on your shots, you initially should attempt to change only one of these elements. You might begin with the link closest to the end of the chain (following through) and work backward. This approach seems to be less disruptive of the previously established response chain than beginning with an early link and working forward. Or, if one link is noticeably easier to change than another, you might begin with the easier link. The *point* is that you should focus on one thing at a time; do not try to rebuild a skill in one day.

Your behavior objectives will change tremendously as you progress in your racquetball skills. Once you have developed some proficiency in executing the fundamental process behaviors, you can begin thinking in terms of products, e.g., number of serves that produced weak returns. You eventually should reach a point where the goals are very stringent. For example, your goal might be to play the percentage shot on every shot hit to you in a match. Who knows, one day your goal may be to win the Nationals.

A primary problem in attempting to monitor your behavior objectives is that the logistics of monitoring can undermine your enjoyment of racquetball. Paper-and-pencil techniques are generally too cumbersome for self-recording in racquetball. Instead, I recommend the wrist counter which can be used to record your behavior without interfering with the game itself. With the wrist counter, you can record three behaviors concurrently or you can record occurrences of a particular behavior plus opportunities for that behavior. A wrist counter with three separate recording dials can be obtained from Behavior Research Company, Box 3351, Kansas City, Kansas 66103, for approximately \$4.00.

Another method I recommend for recording behavior is the bead counter. The bead counter is worn around the wrist and allows you to monitor up to eight behaviors at once. The beads are tightly strung so they will not accidentally slip back and forth. Each strand has 12 beads, but the number of strands and beads per strand can be increased.

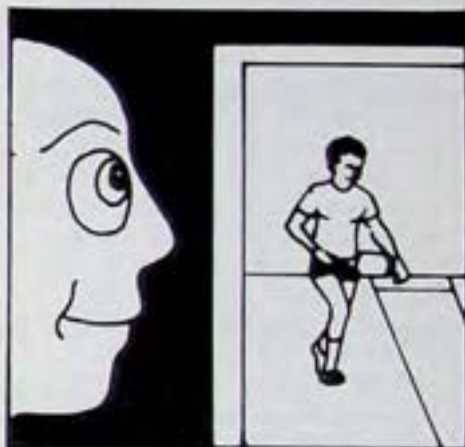
The best way to record your behavior in racquetball is a straight frequency count (the number of times a response occurs). It will present a descriptive picture of your behavior.

As previously stated, self-recording in racquetball should focus on process behaviors rather than product behaviors. Assessment of process behaviors will be more useful in improving your racquetball game.

In practicing your racquetball skills you do not need a playing partner. It is a fact that practicing your backhand stroke independently may be more beneficial than working on it under game conditions. Independent practice gives you more opportunities to execute the backhand stroke than game conditions do. Independent practice also allows you to keep playing conditions more consistent than is typically possible under game conditions. This is especially important in the initial stages of skill acquisition. For example, it is very difficult to develop your backhand stroke when the ball is coming back to you in many different ways.

Another way to improve your racquetball skills is to take formal instruction from a qualified instructor, rather than going out and learning on your own. While you can acquire many skills just by playing, you can also acquire a multitude of bad habits that are practically impossible to change. Naturally acquired skills can limit your future development. So if you plan to get any instruction in racquetball, the best time to get it is when you first get involved in the game.

Another approach you can use to improve your racquetball skills is simply by watching a skilled player perform. This is called *modeling*. A demonstration of the forehand stroke is often much clearer than a verbal description of the forehand stroke. You will benefit most from watching a skilled performance after you have developed some fundamental skills of your own. Otherwise, you will not be aware of what the skilled player is doing. You will only be aware that the player is executing certain major skills. You will not see the behavior chains (e.g.,



positioning of the feet, racquet back and cocked, follow-through) that constitute those skills.

Much of your reinforcement for participating in racquetball will come quite naturally from the activity itself; but natural reinforcement is not inevitable. We are all familiar with the player who plays racquetball with the greatest anticipation but ends up hitting his racquet on the wall or floor — or at any rate, feels that his or her game has completely deteriorated. This sense of frustration can be removed. There are several procedures for maximizing the reinforcement value of playing racquetball and for minimizing its frustration potential.

There are two major objectives that characterize participation in racquetball — exercise and execution of shots. It does not matter how badly you play, vigorous racquetball playing will make it worthwhile. Unfortunately, the amount of exercise and proficiency of play tend to be highly correlated. This is particularly true if you consider the performance of all players collectively. Poor performance on the part of one or more players usually means that the ball is not kept in play long enough for anyone to get much exercise. Another way that poor play diminishes the exercise value of playing racquetball is when things go

badly, and you stop moving, attempting difficult shots and start sulking between points. This slows the pace of the game even more, accentuates your mood of self-pity; and further decreases your performance level. These problems cannot be totally eliminated, but you can control the pace of your movements between shots. If those behaviors can be altered, you can still get a great deal of exercise even though you are not playing well.

The second major source of reinforcement for playing racquetball comes from the execution of shots. There are two types of feedback in evaluating your performance level in racquetball. The first is what Rushall and Siedentop (1972) refer to as intrinsic information feedback. This kind of feedback is inherent in racquetball. You can immediately determine whether you hit the ball correctly with power and accuracy.



This feedback will affect your future attempts at that behavior. Even though racquetball provides a lot of intrinsic feedback, external feedback is important also. External feedback, which is another means of evaluating your performance level in racquetball, is the information regarding your performance that is supplied from an external source. For example, an instructor may view your process behaviors (response chains) and then tell you what you are doing wrong or right. The best way to get external feedback is to use videotapes of your performance. A videotape can give you immediate and accurate feedback about your responses — feedback that can be very useful in adjusting those responses.

In evaluating your performance under game conditions, you must examine

your playing in highly specific terms. It is not sufficient simply to ask whether you are having a good or bad day. Instead, you must appraise your playing in the different situations that occur during play. There are two questions that you should ask about each situation: (1) Was the correct shot attempted? (2) Was the shot performed correctly? When you are playing poorly, it may be that the shot was well executed but inappropriate for that situation. Or, you may have selected the right shot but executed it poorly. If you do not answer these questions, you may attempt to change the wrong phase of your game.

A phenomenon known to all who play racquetball is the infamous bad day. Absolutely everything goes wrong and you become convinced that the gods are against you. It is this kind of day that can cause a racquetball player to give up the game. However, there are ways to find reinforcement even on the worst days. Usually there is some aspect of your game that you are executing fairly well — ceiling shot, pass shot or whatever. Capitalize on that shot and use it extensively enough to make the game interesting. In racquetball a sense of control is fundamental to enjoying the game. By emphasizing a shot that you are executing fairly well, you can achieve some sense of control, even on bad days.

Self-verbalization is another principle that can be used to learn and improve your racquetball game. Just before a shot is to be executed, we say to ourselves, "Do this and do that." It is imperative that your self-verbalization focus on process rather than product. Focusing on the product ("Hit the ball low," "Hit the ball in the corner") will cause you to anticipate the consequences of your actions, which often will cause you to lose sight of the immediate shot to be executed. Self-verbalizations such as "Get in position," "Watch the ball," and "Swing through the ball" will focus your attention where it belongs. These verbalizations will also maximize the chances of the ball hitting in the corner for a winner.

What I have just described is a procedure for concentration. Lack of concentration is often the cause of executing poor shots in racquetball. But how does one learn to concentrate? I do not have the

complete answer, but I believe that self-verbalization will increase concentration. Verbally telling yourself to do something does increase the probability of doing it.

In the previous paragraph I suggested that concentration is a very elusive concept, but I think an even more elusive is the concept of confidence. Whatever confidence is, it probably emerges primarily from success. Confidence is a covert response which entails at least two dimensions: (1) absence of extreme muscular tension, and (2) the belief that you can execute the shots required in racquetball.

It is without question that extreme muscular tension will adversely affect your performance in racquetball. Muscular tension is very destructive to a forehand or backhand stroke which require a great deal of muscle coordination. To alleviate this tension, I recommend that you engage in some type of muscle relaxation exercises just before you play. If you can put muscle relaxation under the control of a single stimulus (e.g., the word relax), you could employ that strategy during play. This procedure was proposed by Bugg (1972). He advocates that a person do three things when confronted with muscular tension or stress: (1) Take a deep breath and let it go suddenly. According to Bugg this procedure forces relaxation at least for a split second. (2) Tell yourself to relax. (3) Focus for a few seconds on something very pleasant. After completing these steps, you will redirect your attention to the problem situation. Whenever you felt yourself tensing up, you could apply this technique during a time out or between games in a match.

Another effective way to relax or reverse anxiety reactions is self-directed guidance (Meinchenbaun and Cameron, 1974). When you begin to get anxious, you probably say a number of things to yourself that accentuates your anxiety (e.g., "I'm going to look bad," "I'm really going to be embarrassed!") If you would start emitting positive self-utterances (e.g., "I'm well prepared for this match," "My shots are as good as anyone's," "All I need to do is play percentage racquetball.") At the first sign of tightness or anxiety, muscular tension can be avoided. Whenever you felt yourself tensing up, you could apply that stimulus immediately.

A second dimension of confidence is believing that you can execute the shots that are required to play a good game of racquetball. By visualizing the execution of a forehand shot and experiencing favorable consequences resulting from the shot, you may improve your ability to hit the forehand shot. Some support for this belief is provided by Corbin (1967). He



compared actual practice of a skill to mental practice and to no practice. He found, not surprisingly, actual practice produced more rapid acquisition than did the other conditions. However, mental practice was superior to no practice. Corbin also found that mental practice was most effective when it was preceded by actual practice. To visualize yourself accurately performing racquetball skills will help you in executing those skills.

Your overall perception of yourself as a racquetball player can be improved through positive self-references. In racquetball, as in life, we can focus too much on our negative attributes. Undoubtedly, there are many good features of your racquetball game. By recording these positive features and verbalizing them to yourself just before playing a match, you may enhance your perception of yourself as a racquetball player.

In this article, I have identified some basic principles that will help you develop your racquetball game at a faster rate. Go forth and play racquetball!!! ●

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Basics For Beginners

The Back Wall

If you are a beginner at the game of racquetball, or have played for only a short period of time, this article is written for you. It has been the experience of many teaching professionals that new players, men, women or children, who take either group or private lessons at a club, YMCA or other facility start to acquire needed fundamentals of the game right from the beginning. Conversely, players who participate in the sport for a period of months without instruction have a very difficult time in trying to correct bad habits. In short, it makes sense to start learning correct techniques from the onset of play rather than having to readjust poorly learned techniques later.

One of the most common shots in racquetball not only for beginners but for all levels of play is the back wall shot (Fig. #1). Any ball that rebounds crisply off of the front wall at a height of five feet or more will probably carry off the rear wall and is retrievable.

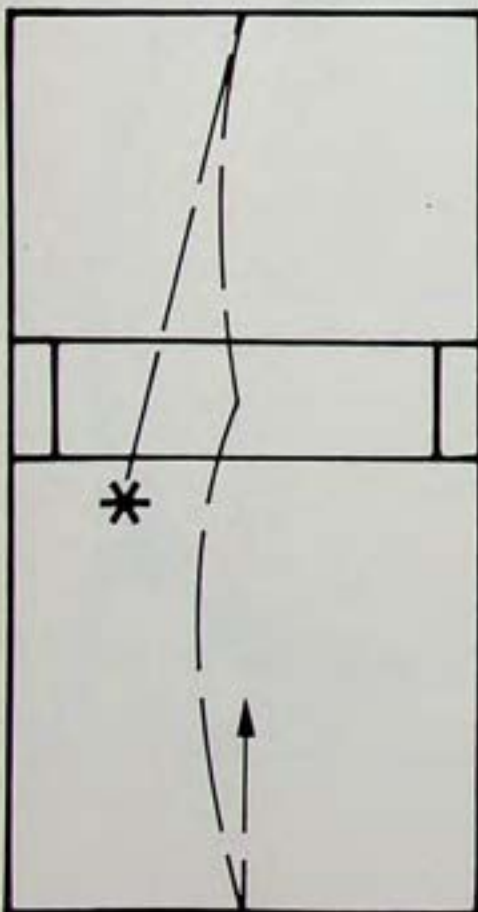


Fig. #1—Typical off the back wall set up.

If the player can reach the ball on its rebound off the back wall in time, he can hit a hard offensive return or go for the kill. If the player has to rush to the ball and does not have time to set up, then the shot should be returned defensively. In any case, this shot is one of the most basic in the game and should be mastered if the player wishes to play the game successfully.

A meaningful sequence to teach or learn the back wall shot for a beginning player is described in outline form in the following paragraphs:

Step 1. The instructor or friend tosses short back wall set ups as the first step in learning the shot. A ball is tossed to the floor about two feet from the back wall and rebounds toward the beginner who is already in the position required for an easy forehand return (Fig. #2). This drill may be practiced with a bucket of old balls tossed one after the other and the purpose is to give the student a feeling for the basic rhythm of the shot and stroke.

Key indicators of success for the drill are:

1. Do not position yourself too close to the back wall; allow room for the ball to rebound
2. Keep the ball at arms length
3. Keep your feet spread widely apart
4. By the time the ball hits the back wall, your racquet head should be up and your wrist should be cocked
5. Bend at the knees

Fig. #2—With a friend or instructor, the ball is tossed off the wall and the student strikes it to the front wall.

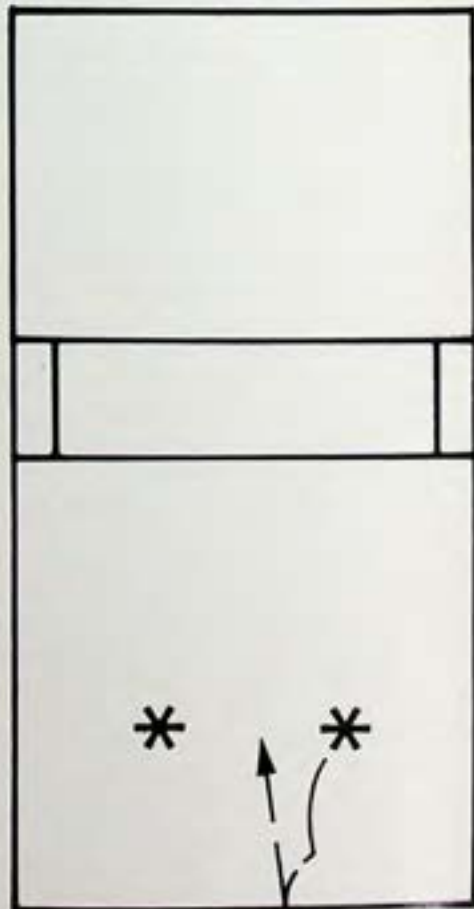
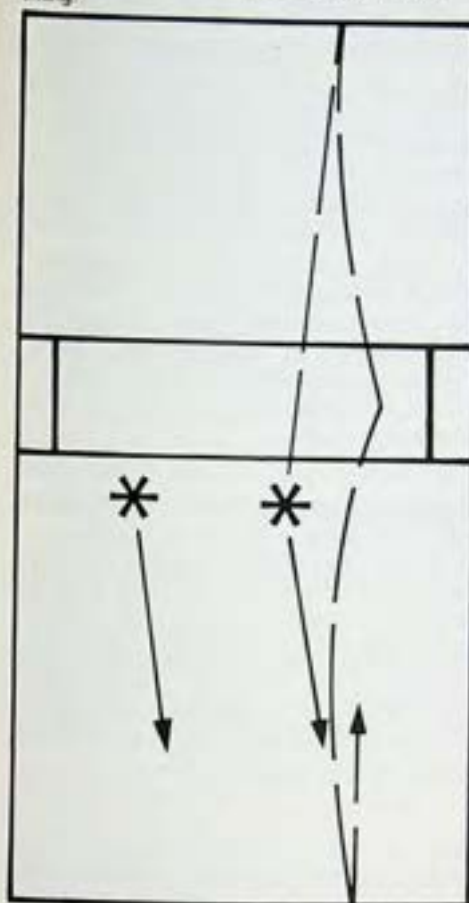


Fig. #3—Instructor hits a back wall set up to himself and student imitates movement and timing.



6. Allow the ball to drop to waist height before striking

7. Focus vision on the ball at all times

Step 2. After step one feels comfortable, usually after 25 to 50 balls have been struck, the beginner then may start from center court position to practice the footwork and positioning similar to that in a game situation. The instructor stands in right center court and the student stands in left center court; then the instructor hits a back wall set up to himself and the student imitates the movement and timing of the instructor (Fig. #3). This gives him a feeling of exactly how quickly he must move back to retrieve the ball.

Key indicators for success are:

1. Track the ball to the back wall and focus your eyes on the ball as it hits the

front wall, the floor on the bounce, and then rebounds to you off the back wall

2. Follow the ball facing the right side wall (forehand) with a sideways cross-over step or a sideways slide step

3. Keep the ball at arms length as it rebounds off the back wall to allow for a full swing and to eliminate jamming the swing

4. Allow the ball to drop below the waist before beginning the swing

5. Quickly get the head of the racquet up, cock the wrist, plant both feet securely on the floor, and let the ball drop into position

6. Step into the stroke with the forward foot as you start to make contact with the ball

7. Remember, the harder the ball is struck on the preceding shot, the further it will rebound off the back wall. The softer it is struck on the preceding shot, the less it will rebound off the

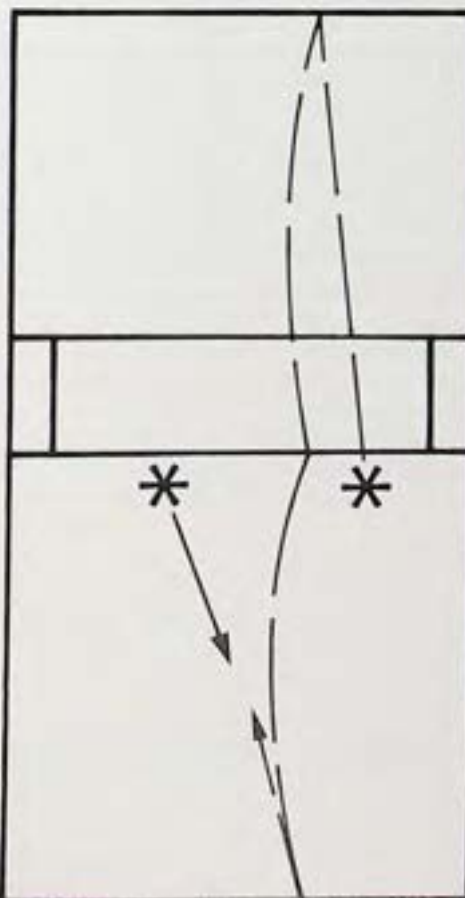


Fig. #4—Instructor hits a back wall set up and student executes the complete set up and stroke sequence.

back wall. Therefore, the harder the ball has been hit, the less distance you will have to move back and the softer the ball is hit, the more you will have to move back into deep court to retrieve it.

Step 3. After repeating the tracking drill several times the instructor now hits the student an actual back wall set up. If the lead-in drills have been taught correctly, the basic execution will now make sense to the student. The instructor stands in the same position as in Figure #3 except he now hits the ball straight off the back wall and the student executes a complete off-the-back wall return sequence (Fig. #4).

Common mistakes include the following:

1. The player does not follow the ball to the back wall but instead waits for the ball to come to him on the rebound
2. The beginner does not stop his retreat to the back wall in time and the ball rebounds away from him
3. A beginner may follow the ball to the back wall but does not allow himself enough room to execute a full swing at the ball
4. The player tries to strike the ball too soon, at head or shoulder height, resulting in an awkward and ineffective return
5. The player attempts to return the ball without having the racquet back or feet set prior to executing the swing

After the basic back wall sequence is learned, then further practice can be devoted to more precise execution and timing. The set ups may also be practiced above. Group drills for teaching the back wall shot can be used with as many as four beginners on the court at one time (Fig. #5).

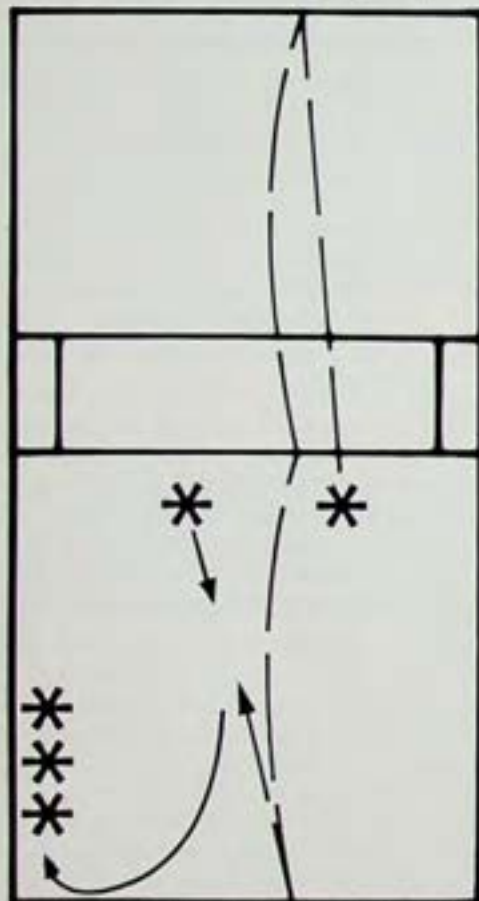
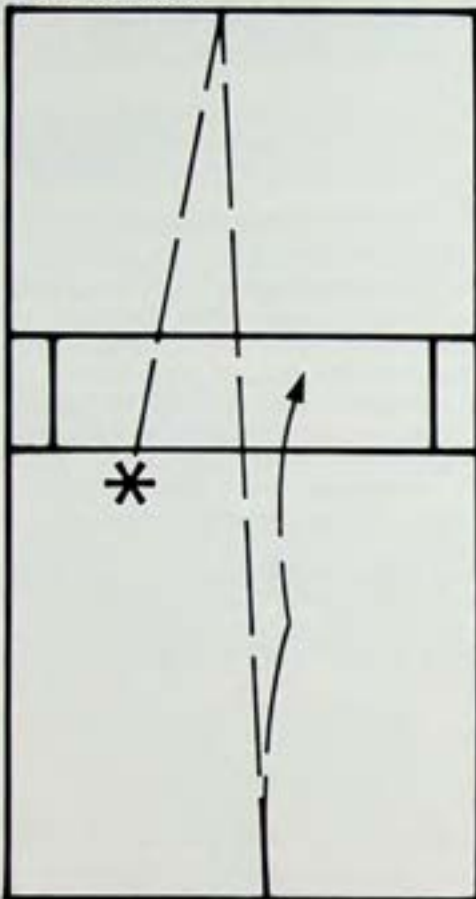


Fig. #5—Student executes the back wall set up, then returns to the end of the line.

A constant and continuous rotation of the sequence lets the students watch for errors to be corrected the next time their turn comes up. It also allows a brief rest prior to trying again. The instructor can speed up or slow down the drill as he pleases or stop to point out corrections that need to be made.

The same drill may be used to teach the proper return of a ball that rebounds from front to back wall without striking the floor on its journey to the back wall. (Fig. #6). Instead of having to retreat for this type of shot, the player has to quickly move to short court position to return the shot. The difference in these two shots is that one strikes the floor enroute to the back wall and the other does not. A player must learn to

Fig. #6—The ball rebounds so hard and high off the front wall that it does not strike the floor and lands in front court.

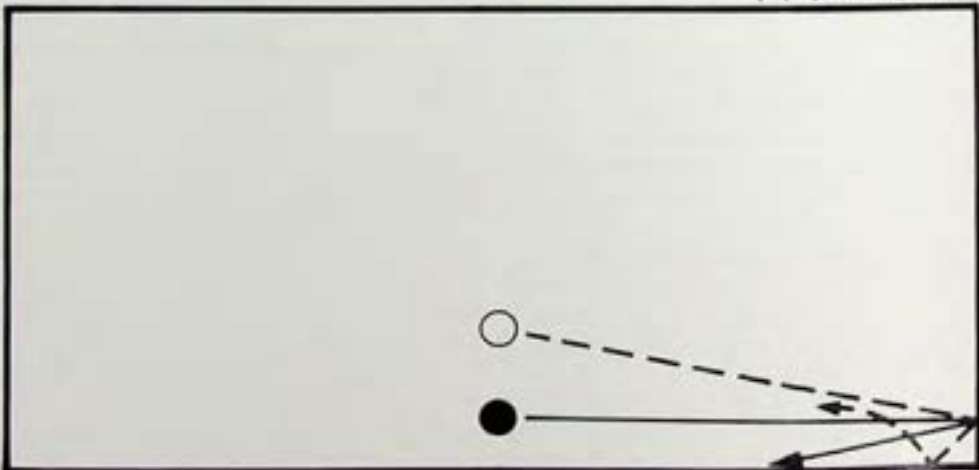


distinguish quickly between the two shots because you must move in two different directions depending on which shot is to be played.

The same group drill may be used to teach beginners to recognize and execute both the shots. The only difference is that the instructor varies the set-ups and the students must decide for themselves which way to move for the ball. The drill teaches quick anticipation. One key factor for the player to consider is how hard and high the ball is hit on the front wall, because that will determine whether or not it will strike the floor before hitting the back wall.

This brings us to the final analysis of a perfectly executed back wall set up and kill. The lower the ball is struck in relation to the floor, the less chance it will have to stay in play (Fig. #7). In effect the back wall return becomes a back wall set up with a kill shot return in which the ball is virtually unreturnable. Varied with an occasional pass down the left or right wall, the shot becomes even more effective. ●

Fig. #7—The lower the ball is allowed to drop before being hit, the less the angle to the front wall, and the less chance it will pop up and stay in play.



INSTRUCTIONAL FOR INSTRUCTORS

Footwork

Lee Duda is the head pro at the Evanston Court Club, Evanston, Illinois, a top ranked A player in that state and long-time contributor to *National Racquetball* magazine.

As instructors and players we have all admired the grace and agility of the professional tour player. His fluid ability to move after the ball seems almost impossible to achieve. His timing is perfect and his physical skills are unparalleled by those of any other racquet sport.

As instructors, we more frequently see the novice player who can barely hit the ball. He is afraid to move forward or backward to retrieve a ball. But this player is our bread and butter. It's our job to refine his skills and transfer him into a player whose ability approaches, to the greatest extent possible, the ability of the touring pro. With proper instruction and a lot of patience on the part of both the instructor and the player, this can be achieved.

If one watches a skilled player, he notices that this player can switch to the forehand or the backhand hit in an instant. If one watches the novice player, he sees the opposite. If the novice takes a ball on the forehand and his next shot is hit to the backhand, he will invariably back up and attempt to take a forehand shot without pivoting. To really help a student, an instructor must understand what causes this difference between pro and novice.

The answer is simple, but important, — no matter how perfect the swing, you can't hit the ball if you can't get your racquet on it. In other words, if you don't move your feet (and your expletive deleted), you can't hit the ball. If you don't pivot your hips and feet, you can't turn your body to hit the ball.

The solution is simple: Move your feet, turn your body, and hit the ball. But, most beginners are not aware of this simple concept when they start to play. As instructors, we must understand the beginner's lack of awareness of this concept and be prepared to teach body and feet movements in the initial sessions with a student.



To do this I have my student participate in a pivot drill to make him aware of the proper movement. I ask the student to start in an open position with his body facing the front wall. If he is right handed, I ask him to turn to the right, drop his right foot back and step sideways to the front wall with his left foot. While he turns, he is getting his racquet in position to hit the ball. This imitates the forehand hit. I ask him to repeat this until he gets his feet and body moving properly.

Then I do the same drill for the backhand. The student starts in the open position, drops the left foot back, and steps sideways to the front wall with the right foot. While pivoting he's getting the racquet in position to hit. Now he has learned how to pivot both to the forehand side and to the backhand.

Finally, I work on the transition from forehand to backhand. I start the student again in the open position and ask him to repeat the drill continuously moving from backhand to forehand to backhand, etc. Hopefully, he is now aware that he can move his feet and can pivot. It actually turns out to be a half step and a turn to the right and a half step and turn to the left from the open position, but it is movement to the ball and that's what this game is about. ●

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TOURNAMENT RESULTS

Virginia

1977 USRA Virginia State Singles & Doubles Tournament

The first USRA Virginia State singles and doubles tournament was held March 4, 5 and 6 at the new Courts Royal Richmond facility. A record 127 entries comprised the field in five divisions, which kept the 11 courts busy from 2 p.m. Friday until 5 p.m. Sunday with over 170 matches.

In the open singles division with 45 entries saw the top eight seeds progress to the quarter-finals with only one upset. Mike Mankin of Alexandria upset #7 seed Clay McCaskey of Richmond 12-21, 21-5, 11-8. Tom Kutas the #1 seed and defending state champion moved to the semi's by defeating #5 seed Buzz Parker 21-6, 21-11. Tom's opponent in the semi's was Jack Blystone (#4 seed) who defeated Stan Weinstein by a forfeit as a series of cramps would not allow Stan to get started. Kutas defeated Blystone (21-13, 21-8) to reach the finals as Jack just couldn't get his shooting game going. In the lower half of the draw Glen Allen the #3 seed advanced to the semi's by defeating Mike Mankin 21-6, 21-6. Ed Remen, seeded #2, and last year's runner-up to Kutas, moved into the semi's by defeating Jim Roberson 21-7, 21-6 in a battle of the shooters. Remen defeated a tired Allen who was also moving along in the Senior competition 21-12, 21-17 to reach the finals and set up a re-match of last year's state finals. Tom Kutas prevailed again as the state champion with a 21-7, 21-17 victory, as Ed came up a little short again for the 2nd year in a row. There's always next year, Ed!

Jack Blystone took third as an exhausted Glenn Allen could not muster enough energy to challenge Jack.

The Senior Division drew 22 top competitors. The top 4 seeds progressed to the semi's with #1 seed Bill King facing #4 seed George Long in the upper bracket. King, the defending state senior's champ, defeated Long 21-14, 21-14 to reach the finals. In the bottom half of the draw, #2 seed Glenn Allen met #3 seed Bill Buckman. Buckman emerged the winner in a long, hard contested match. Bill King beat Buckman for the title again 21-14, 21-10. George Long beat Glenn Allen for third place 14-21, 21-3, 11-1.

The Women's Open, with 24 entries, saw #1 seed Carol Frenck defeat Pat Tillotson, an up-and-coming competitor, 21-12, 21-4 in the semi's. Barbara Leavitt #2 seed, defeated Fran Davis 21-14, 21-8 to reach the finals. Carol, one of the top ranked women players in the nation, proved too tough for Barbara who gave a valiant effort in a 21-11, 21-5 loss. Pat Tillotson defeated Fran Davis for third 21-6, 21-11.

The Open B singles division showed the largest number of entries with 60 participants. The caliber of play was excellent and all had a good experience in what was for many their first tournament. Carol Frenck defeated Todd Carter

Ed Remen goes to the ceiling in his quarter-final round win over Jim Roberson in the Virginia State Championships.



to reach the finals 21-11, 21-16. In a hard fought match Leroy Pringle of Hampton defeated a rapidly coming Guido Alvarez 21-20, 21-13. The finals proved to be a barn-burner with Carol losing the first game 21-16 but coming back strong 21-7 to take the second. The momentum was with Carol for the 11 point tie breaker as she ran the score to 10-6. However, she could not find that last point as Pringle came back strong to take it 11-10 and win the title.

The doubles field had 21 entries. Top seeded King-Kutas defeated Grandy and Graham in the semi's 21-16, 21-7; Remen and Blystone defeated Door and Drennon 21-12, 21-13 to reach the finals. Remen and Blystone upset the #1 team of King and Kutas 21-13, 21-7 to take the state doubles title. Jack Blystone put on a rollout exhibition that could not miss. With Ed retrieving and Jack shooting, King and Kutas could not get going and remained frustrated until the end.

Everything went smoothly, with a great hospitality room made available to the players and their families by Anne Remen and her helpers, Jennifer McCaskey and Debbie Miller. A special thanks to Courts Royal Richmond and Greg Cuenin for all their help, Dr. Pepper people and McDonald's for their contribution, Sid Semel for a great floor managing job and Anne and Ed Remen for running such a smooth tourney. Looking forward to a bigger and better turnout next year.

Arkansas

Arkansas held its first state championship since its affiliation with the USRA at Burns Park Tennis Center in North Little Rock and it was by far the biggest and most successful tournament ever. Brett Misteles who has been bidding for the state's honor for three years, finally is the 1977 Arkansas state champion. It wasn't easy, however, as Jack Wrenn took Misteles to the three game limit before losing 21-11, 10-21, 11-9.

This was the first time Arkansas had a women's championship and Lisa Collins is its first champion. The lady's bracket proved to be one of the most exciting of the tournament. Lisa played Carolyn Holliday to the tie breaker, 17-21, 21-1, 11-9, before a full gallery.

The biggest surprise of the tournament was Mel Kinco, who entered his first state tournament in the B bracket. Melvin won the B bracket by beating Clovis Swinney, former New Orleans Saint, 21-14, 21-14. Mel, who also entered the A bracket for the experience, made it to the semi-finals and took first seed Jack Wrenn three games before losing, 21-20, 20-21, 11-4.

Dick Wells, two months shy of being a master's player, took the C bracket over Neil Bryant 21-16, 21-7.

Bob Plante is Arkansas' master's champion; he beat Lee Morgans in the finals 14-21, 21-17, 11-6.

Hugh Groover, Athletic Director at Harding College, defeated Ross Cox to become Arkansas' seniors champion.

Herbert Jones, 15, is the new junior champion defeating Bill Dodson, Jr., 14, 21-2, 21-5.

Vermont

Host: Fountain of Youth Court Club & Health Spa

Men's Seniors (Semi-finals): Christensen d. Norbert 21-4, 21-19; Melzer d. Barone 21-17, 21-15.

(Championship): Melzer d. Christensen 21-7, 21-11.

Men's B (Quarter-finals): Iannaccone d. Basile 21-14, 21-4; Christensen d. Iverson 21-2, 21-7; Hall d. Olcott 21-14, 21-19; Polopek d. Lotempo 21-11, 21-16.

(Semi-finals): Iannaccone d. Christensen 21-20, 15-21, 11-2; Polopek d. Hall 21-2, 21-8.

(Championship): Polopek d. Iannaccone 21-10, 21-14.

Women's B (Semi-finals): Dee d. Aquaviva 21-4, 21-9; Jacob d. Eastman 21-0, 21-4.

(Championship): Dee d. Jacob 21-10, 21-17.

Men's Novice (Quarter-finals): Halberstadt d. Gagne 21-1, 21-3; Hohn d. Francis 21-4, 21-11; Brumble d. Gaidys 21-3, 21-6; McCormick d. Cunniff 21-9, 21-9.

(Semi-finals): Hohn d. Halberstadt 21-3, 21-5; Brumble d. McCormick 21-10, 21-18.

(Championship): Hohn d. Brumble 21-19, 21-15.

Women's Novice (Quarter-finals): Krall d. Cunniff 21-1, 21-11; Asselin d. Boardman 21-7, 21-3; Tirabassi d. Mafuro 21-2, 21-6; Ingraham d. McAvoy 21-9, 21-2.

(Semi-finals): Krall d. Asselin 20-21, 21-18, 11-0; Tirabassi d. Ingraham 21-7, 21-5.

(Championship): Tirabassi d. Krall 21-6, 21-0.

Ohio

The First Annual Court Yard Semi-Pro/Am was held March 4, 5 & 6 at Cincinnati's Court Yard, North. Four divisions, Men's Semi-Pro, Women's Semi-Pro, Seniors and Class B drew 97 players from all over the mid-west.

Top seeds in the Men's Semi-Pro Division included: Chuck Cooper, 1976 Kentucky State Singles Champion; Ron Johnson, 1976 Indiana State Singles Champion; and Larry Fox 1976 Junior Nationals (16-and-under) Champion. The finals saw 17-year-old Steve Sulli, Elmhurst, Ill., winning the first game over 17-year-old Fox, Cincinnati 21-10. Despite Sulli's excellent kills, Fox fought back to win the second game 21-12. In the tie breaker Sulli jumped out to an early lead of 6-2 but again Fox came from behind to win 11-9 in an excellent display of racquetball.

The Women's Semi-Pro Division saw 14-year-old Bobbi Brennan, Frankfort, Ky., upset number two seed Nance Messerschmidt, Fort Wayne, Ind., in the semi-finals. In the finals, number one seed Gerri Stoffregen, Cincinnati showed excellent form as she beat Brennan to capture the Women's Semi-Pro Division.

Senior Division saw Len Wilson, Louisville, down Rod McKinley, Cincinnati 21-8, 21-6.

In the Class B event, Elijah Helton, Cincinnati, O., fought his way through the number two seed Bruce MacQuarrie, West Allis, Wis., and in the finals beat number one seed Allen Cohen, Louisville, to win the Class B competition.

One of the many good features of the tournament was the abundance of food and drink. Thanks to many sponsors around the Cincinnati area, players were kept refreshed throughout the weekend. Another great feature was the closed circuit TV camera set on the main court to give maximum viewing during the matches.

The tournament as a whole was a great success and players, sponsors and spectators are all looking forward to the 2nd Annual Court Yard Semi-Pro/Am. Hope you can be there.

The first annual Tri-City Racquetball Tournament was held at The Back Wall in Akron, Ohio on February 25, 26, and 27. Sixty-four of the best racquetball players from all over Northeast Ohio competed for trophies and prizes in this double elimination event.

The Matches were well played and intense, as the entrants viewed the "Tri-City" not only as a major tournament, but as a tune-up for the upcoming Ohio State Championships.

Jack Sobel, South Euclid, and Keven Deighan, Painesville, played each other twice during the tournament. Both times were crucial, as Deighan won the first time, putting Sobel into the losers bracket. Sobel came back strong, however, and was matched against Deighan again. This time, they were playing for the right to move into the

finals. Sobel prevailed in this one, and gave Deighan his second loss.

Steve Carson, Clinton, was one of the top four players of the tournament. His biggest win was over a very tough Jack Lecerf, Akron.

The most impressive player of the Tri-City Open was Marc Fried. Marc lives in Lyndhurst and plays most of his racquetball at the Beachwood Back Wall. He certainly seemed to like the courts in Bath, however, because he moved into the finals without a single loss. Fried maintained his perfect record by defeating Jack Sobel 21-17 and 21-14 in two hard-fought games.

Idaho

Tournament: Idaho Seamco Open

Host: Idaho Falls Racquet Club

Men's Open: 1. Ron Deaver 2. Bill Greder 3. Danny Green

Open Doubles: 1. Greder-Deaver 2. Green-Shipley 3. Burgard Van Massenhove

B Singles: 1. Tom Reese 2. Van Massenhove 3. Mark Trujillo

C Singles: 1. Rob Rankin 2. Paul Krabenhof 3. Pete Waylett

Women's Open: 1. Lynn Math 2. Mary Ann Lambert 3. Sandra Trainer

Tournament:
St. Valentine's Day Massacre Open
Host: Idaho Falls Racquet Club

Men's Open (Quarter-finals): Bowman d. Hagler 21-4, 21-14; Petersen d. Bell 20-21, 21-10, 11-3; Green d. DaV 21-11, 21-13; Shipley d. Burgard 21-30, 21-3.

(Semi-finals): Petersen d. Bowman 17-21, 21-20, 11-3; Green d. Shipley 21-18, 21-7.

(Championship): Petersen d. Green 21-17, 21-4 (Third): Bowman d. Shipley 21-12, 21-13.

Men's B (Quarter-finals): Reese d. Strong 21-20, 19-21, 11-3; Eggerman d. Chandler 21-5, 21-8; Bell d. Johnson 21-12, 21-3; Van Massenhove d. Linde 21-16, 21-13.

(Semi-finals): Eggerman d. Reese 21-11, 21-10; Van Massenhove d. Bell, default.

(Championship): Eggerman d. Van Massenhove 21-20, 21-11 (Third): Reese d. Bell, default.

Minnesota

Tournament: Minnesota State Racquetball Tournament

Open Singles: 1. Steve Singer 2. Dan Ferro 3. Bob Adam, Jr.

Seniors: 1. Bob Adam, Sr. 2. Bob McMamies

Masters: 1. John Brandrup 2. Bill Coldough

Tournament: Fergus Falls 1st Annual Juniors
Host: Fergus Falls Y.M.C.A.

(Quarter-finals): Bakken d. Mortenson; M. Johnson d. Jorgensen; Bruns d. Melke; Hatcher d. C. Johnson.
(Semi-finals): Bakken d. M. Johnson; Hatcher d. Bruns.
(Championship): Bakken d. Hatcher 21-10, 21-14.

Wisconsin

Sun Prairie Racquetball Club was the host of the 'Terrace Sports State Singles Racquetball Championships' held April 30 thru May 1st.

The finals featured Jim Wirkus 18, the youngest player in the tournament, and Joe Bechard 48, the oldest player in the tournament for the championship. The youngest won, but not before Bechard made a close and exciting match of it, 21-18, 21-15. Jon Derkson, Appleton took third over Dave Hufts, Madison 21-16, 21-7.

The women's finals featured a match between two of Wisconsin's more attractive players, with Linda Frank beating Sue Bechard 21-11, 21-11. Pat Hufts Madison, captured third over Sandy Coffman Milwaukee, 21-20, 21-17.

Quarter-final men's losers were Scott Schultz to Hufts in two, Ken Frank to Derkson in three, Jon Neville to Wirkus in three and Roger Siegrist to Bechard in two.

Our tournament offered a class C for men and women. With so many new clubs opening in the area, we wanted to offer a class that would allow these new players to experience the fun and excitement of a major tournament. The Court Club in Madison and the Racquetball Club in Milwaukee both encouraged their beginners to give it a try. So along with the 30 entries from our club we ended up with a large draw for Class C. Some of the C matches turned out to be the most exciting of the tournament. Dan Frank, Madison defeated Joe Fucci, Appleton 21-12, 15-21, 11-4 in the finals. Kerry Hendrickson, Milwaukee defeated Duane Appledorn, Sun Prairie 19-21, 21-15, 11-4 for third.

Women's Class C was won by Robin Jasinski over Mary Gissal, Pewaukee 21-18, 21-20. Jody Oehrlein, Sun Prairie defeated Lou Bradley, Sun Prairie 21-10, 21-19 for third.

One hundred and fifty players participated in the three day event. Appreciation goes out to Seamco for their support of the tournament. A very special thanks to Darrell Fuller of Terrace Sports, who donated some beautiful trophies for this tournament. Thanks also to the staff and club members who donated so many hours during the tournament. And lastly to Ralph Blanchette who acted as floor manager all weekend. Super job Ralph!



A full gallery watches the action at the Sun Prairie Racquetball Club in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin for the Terrace Sports State Singles tournament.

California

The Center Courts marked the start of its third year of operation by hosting the Victoria Station Charity Club Tournament in April. From each entry fee \$5 was donated to the U.C.L.A. Children's Cancer Research Fund. A total of \$730 was donated as 146 racquetballers signed up for the members only tournament. Throughout the three-day tournament, players and their guests were treated to Victoria Station's famous roast beef, as well as their ham, crisp salads, cold beer and Gatorade. Needless to say, no one went home hungry from the tournament. And many went home winners.

Despite effort by many to upset him, Bruce Radford remained The Center Courts Club Champion for the second year running by besting Kirk Williams in the finals of the Men's Open 12-21, 21-18, 21-8.

The Men's Novice Division was by far the largest class with a full draw of 64 players. Kelly Badford and Sue Strommer, two women opting to play in the Men's Novice, made strong showings by each winning three rounds against men players before bowing out in the quarter finals. Jay Streim eventually won this Division with a 21-17, 21-12 win over Mike Fisher.

The Men's B Division was captured by Sol Abrevaya 21-12, 21-8 over Al Green. Lee Pretnor, former pro baseball star, defeated Steve Howard 21-14, 21-12 in the Men's Class, and Lauri Gaudin defeated Diane MacIntyre 21-16, 21-14 to win the Women's C Class. Kathy Durbin and Tina Alpert played a particularly hard fought match in the Women's Novice Class with Durbin coming out on top 21-13, 18-21, 21-19. Wayne Radford and Don Thompson overcame Chuck Garabedian and Mike Knight to win the B Doubles.

Dr. Steven Frig (in the middle) accepts a \$730 check to the Children's Cancer Research at U.C.L.A. Medical Center from Dennis Hyder and Kipp Downing of Victoria Station and Gary Guillette and Mike McClelland, owners of The Center Courts. The money was raised at the recent Victoria Station Charity Racquetball Tournament hosted by The Center Courts, West L.A.



Montana

The first USRA-sanctioned state championships were held March 24-27 at Yellowstone Racquet Club in Billings, Montana. Participation remained on the increase, with over 200 entrants this year, some traveling well over 500 miles for the tournament. The state championships are the focal point of the year for Montana racquetballers, who enjoy the luxury of having both men's and women's championships the same weekend — making for a social gathering as well as a sports event.

Results:

Men's Open

(Quarter-finals): Pekovich def. Farrell 21-7, 21-4; West def. Nygaard 21-11, 21-13; Blewett def. McNeely 21-19, 19-21, 11-5; Lind def. Chavez 21-5, 21-19.
(Semi-finals): Pekovich def. West 21-11, 21-18; Blewett def. Lind 21-15, 18-21, 11-4.
(Finals): Pekovich def. Blewett 13-21, 21-19, 11-8.
(Consolation): Daley def. Dalton 21-11, 21-12.

Men's B:

(Quarter-finals): Palster def. Fry 21-13, 21-7; Bertino def. Burns 14-21, 21-19, 11-10; McCarvel def. VonEschen 21-5, 21-14; Zavadi def. Bauer 21-14, 11-21, 11-7.
(Semi-finals): Bertino def. Palster 21-10, 21-11; McCarvel def. Zavadi 21-16, 21-9.
(Finals): McCarvel def. Bertino 21-13, 21-1.
(Consolation): St. Pierre def. J. McCarvel 31-26.

Men's C

(Quarter-finals): Henry def. Wirtz 21-19, 21-11; Rainey def. Novak 21-11, 20-21, 11-9; Kahoulek def. Waylett 21-19, 21-14; Taylor def. Weber 19-21, 21-19, 11-9.
(Semi-finals): Rainey def. Henry; Taylor def. Kahoulek.
(Finals): Taylor def. Rainey 21-18, 21-14.
(Consolation): Ruegamer def. Fellows 31-23.

Men's Novice

(Quarter-finals): Richterich def. Beeler 21-1, 21-11; Hamilton def. Casper 21-20, 21-18; Johnson def. Olson 21-8, 21-3; Holner def. Anderson 21-7, 21-2.
(Semi-finals): Richterich def. Hamilton 21-2, 21-1; Johnson def. Helner 21-12, 21-7.
(Finals): Johnson def. Richterich 21-15, 11-21, 11-10.
(Consolation): V. Ruegamer def. Leibach 21-16.

Men's Seniors

(Quarter-finals): Martin def. Barstad 21-8, 21-7; Rich def. Bender 21-9, 16-21, 11-7; Copeland def. Christiansen 21-15, 21-12; Witt def. Taylor 21-15, 21-12.
(Semi-finals): Copeland def. Witt 21-19, 17-21, 11-3; Martin def. Rich 21-5, 21-5.
(Finals): Copeland def. Martin 21-14, 21-16.
(Consolation): Christiansen def. Archambeault 12-21, 21-8, 11-2.

Men's Masters

(Quarter-finals): Luckman def. Rugheimer 21-17, 21-18; Miller def. Marinkovich 21-12, 21-9; Goddard def. Grimm 12-21, 21-10, 11-5; Parmann def. Wolfe 21-4, 21-1.
(Semi-finals): Luckman def. Miller 21-17, 21-19; Goddard def. Parmann 21-16, 21-9.
(Finals): Luckman def. Goddard 21-17, 21-7.
(Consolation): Grimm def. Morrison.

Men's Open Doubles

(Quarter-finals): Nygaard-Farrell def. Atkinson-McNeely 21-12, 21-18; Pekovich-Rampe def. Chavez-Doherty 21-17, 21-12; Lind-Dalton def. Thornton-West 21-20, 21-13; Miller-DiFranzo def. Lunn-Blewett 7-21, 21-11, 11-10.
(Semi-finals): Nygaard-Farrell def. Pekovich-Rampe 21-14, 21-17; Lind-Dalton def. Miller-DiFranzo 21-9, 21-3.
(Finals): Nygaard-Farrell def. Lind-Dalton 21-16, 21-11.

Women's Open

(Quarter-finals): Abbott def. Bresnahan 21-10, 21-3; Fortney def. Nicholas 21-8, 7-21, 11-10; May def. Diefenbach 21-7, 21-18; Belfert def. Jackson 21-9, 21-7.
(Semi-finals): Abbott def. Fortney 21-6, 21-10; Belfert def. May 16-21, 21-8, 11-8.
(Finals): Abbott def. Belfert 21-8, 21-6.
(Consolation): Diefenbach def. Bresnahan 31-16.

Women's B

(Quarter-finals): Desy def. Newberry 21-18, 21-9; Potent def. Schuster 21-17, 21-4; Turner def. Tiffany by default; Miller def. Facey 21-7, 21-10.
(Semi-finals): Desy def. Potent; Turner def. Miller.
(Finals): Turner def. Desy 21-16, 16-21, 11-8.
(Consolation): Burnett def. Henry 31-18.

Women's Open Doubles

(Semi-finals): May-Guth def. Belfert-Miller 21-7, 21-7; Abbott-Shelton def. Elchart-Nicholas 21-16, 21-18.
(Finals): Abbott-Shelton def. May-Guth 21-11, 20-9 default.

Nebraska

More than 170 players participated in the first annual Nebraska Racquetball Championships, which was dominated by surprises and upsets. Top-seeded participants entered from all over Nebraska, with most of the players coming from the Omaha and Lincoln areas.

Divisions of competition for the men included Open, B, Junior, Senior, Master, Open Doubles, and Senior Doubles.

Women competed in Women's Open, B, and Open Doubles.

Sponsored by Valentino's Pizza and the newly organized, USRA-affiliated Nebraska Racquetball Association, the three-day tournament was hosted by Sports Courts of Lincoln.

A number of people worked to make the tournament a real success. While many of them must remain unsung, they worked under the guidance of the following committee chairpersons: Chuck Erickson, General Chairman; Myrta Hansen, Hospitality, Trophies, Registration; Ron Cooley, Floor Manager, Referees; Dave McEwen, Referees; Jeff Wisemiller, liaison with facilities; Teresa Armstrong, Finances; Pat Korbus, Publicity.

The Nebraska Racquetball Association and the tournament committee chairpersons also recognize the assistance of Dick Kincade in match scheduling, seeding and general guidance in how to run a tournament.

Women's Open (Semi-finals): Orduna d. Pickett 21-10, 21-15.
Greg d. Davis 15-21, 21-16, 11-7.
(Championship): Greg d. Orduna 21-16, 21-6.
(Consolation): Harrington d. Kathryn 21-16, 21-6.

Women's B (Semi-finals): Harrington d. Sullivan 21-11, 21-8.
Stacy d. Shepard 21-7, 21-7.
(Championship): Harrington d. Stacy 21-8, 21-10.
(Consolation): Brandenburg d. Austin 21-11, 21-4.

Women's Doubles (Championship): Pickett-Harrington d. Orduna-Davis 21-17, 10-21, 11-5.
(Consolation): Stewart-Heiser d. Winkelman-Jones 21-19, 21-14.

Men's Open (Semi-finals): Freeman d. Orduna 21-8, 21-13.
Domanque d. Olsen, forfeit.
(Championship): Domanque d. Freeman 18-21, 21-13, 11-4.
(Consolation): Huff d. Boslau 21-11, 16-21, 11-4.

Men's B (Semi-finals): Lewis d. McGinness, Jr. 20-21, 21-12, 11-8.
Irwin d. Gowing 21-17, 21-20.

Craig Olsen, l., watches as Mark Domanque sets up for a shot in their doubles championship match in which Olsen and Dale Beckman topped Domanque and Dave Kramer.

-Photo by Don Tremain



(Championship): Lewis d. Irwin 21-19, 21-9.
(Consolation): Giannangelo d. Braunslein 21-3, 21-19.
Juniors (Championship): Kahn d. Battershell 12-21, 21-19, 11-4.
(Consolation): Balrud d. Megrimis 21-0, 21-2.

Seniors (Championship): Oas d. Kennedy 21-8, 21-9.
(Consolation): Bowden d. Falk 21-7, 21-5.

Masters (Championship): Kincade d. McGinness 21-14, 21-12.
(Consolation): Wells d. Gustafson 21-4, 21-6.

Open Doubles (Semi-finals): Olsen-Beckman d. Lantry-Ekstrom 21-14, 21-7.
Domanque-Kramer d.

Boman-Guthrie 21-4, 21-8.
(Championship): Olsen-Beckman d. Domanque-Ekstrom 21-11, 21-17.
(Consolation): Boslau-Pritchett d. Damkroeger-Wisemiller 21-16, 6-21, 11-3.

Senior Doubles (Championship): Kennedy-Falk d. Paustian-Shankwiler 21-11, 21-20.
(Consolation): Kincade-McGinness d. Place-Popp 21-14, 9-21, 11-10.

Far East

The Racquetball Capital of the Far East, Yokota AB, hosted the 1977 Mainland Japan Interservice Racquetball tournament 8-10 April at the Base Gym. The tournament featuring top racquetballers representing Air Force (Yokota AB, Misawa AB), Army (Camp Zama), Navy and Marines (Yokosuka Naval Base), was highlighted by exciting play and good sportsmanship. Competition was held in Open Singles and Doubles and Senior singles.

In Open Singles, the Army's Mike Schneider continued his dominance over the Japan racquetball scene by repeating as champion. He swept through the tournament undefeated. Yokota's Gary Rickard, after being dropped by Schneider 21-17, 21-9, roared back through the loser's bracket, defeating Jim Benson, USMC, 21-11, 21-10 in the semifinals for the opportunity

to face Schneider for the championship. Rickard demonstrated as gutsy a performance as possible, but could not contend with the power, condition, and court savvy of Schneider, losing 21-11, and 21-10. Both matches featured exciting rallies, good saves and strong kills, providing excellent spectator interest.

In Open Doubles the Mike Schneider express was derailed. Schneider and his partner, Sterling Spears, defending 1976 Champions, fell to the Air Force tandem of Dayton Dickey and Mickey McDade. After losing to Air Force 21-14, 21-16 in the semifinals, the Army team toppled Navy 21-14, 21-16 to gain a final berth against Air Force for the title. The first Army vs Air Force game was perhaps the most exciting of the entire tournament. It lasted nearly one hour; several rallies appeared to last that long; both sides

served twice at 20, before Air Force made the winning point. The second game saw Army revert to their championship form as they gunned down Air Force 21-4 to set up the if necessary game. Air Force took it 11-7 and the Interservice Tournament had a new champion.

In Seniors, it was all Air Force. Old antagonists Norm Mash, Harry Davis, and Bill Durham played a round robin to determine the champion. Mash dropped both Davis and Durham by identical scores of 21-12, 21-5 to claim the 1977 crown. Davis outshot Durham 21-16, 21-14 for second place.

At the conclusion of the tournament Col Sharm Stevenson, Commander of host Yokota AB, presented awards to all first and second place winners.

Regional Results

Mid West

One hundred and twenty players made up the U.S. Racquetball Association's Midwest Regional, also sponsored by the Nebraska Racquetball Association and Valentino's Pizza Restaurants.

The host was the Sports Courts of Lincoln a private club open since October, 1976.

Men's Open Singles

Although the four top-seeded players actually placed in the top four positions, the order was slightly different than expected. Top-seed Ron York, Kansas City MO, was upset in the semi-finals by his doubles partner, Bo Champagne, Kansas City MO, who was seeded fourth.

Phil Stepp, Kansas City MO, seeded second, took the Singles title in a thrilling two-game match against Champagne. The scores of 21-20, 21-20, accurately reflect the superb skills displayed by both players. During extraordinary rallies, Stepp and Champagne repeatedly returned shots which seemed impossible.

Without a doubt, it was one of the best matches during the entire three-day tournament.

York won third place over Denny Kottkamp, St. Louis, 21-16, 20-21, 11-7.

Women's Open Singles

In a match much closer than the scores indicate, top-seeded Marcilene Greer, Emporia KS, defeated Rita Hoff, St. Louis 21-9, 21-16, for the Singles championship and the trip to San Diego in June. Greer breezed through the tournament winning each match in only two games, never giving away more than 16 points.

Khrysandra Cox, Kansas City MO, was the surprise in this bracket. Cox upset fourth-seed Kay McDonald, Fargo ND, in the first round of play, and went on to place fourth to Judy Thompson, Davenport IA.

Men's Senior Singles

Obed Oas, Omaha NE, was seeded third and was expected to be real competition for top-seeded Bernard Nielsen, Marshalltown IA. In a thrilling three-game match, Oas indeed proved a real contender and upset Nielsen, 21-15, 14-21, 11-9, to capture the winner's trophy.

Men's Masters Singles

Dick Kincade, Lincoln NE (manager of the host facility, Sports Courts), upset Jack Wells, Lincoln NE, 21-14, 21-14. Two unseeded players took third and fourth place — Dayton Pickett, Lincoln NE, and Lyle Johnson, Kansas City MO.

Men's Junior Singles

Meeting for the second time in tournament competition, Dan Battershell, North Platte NE, upset top-seeded Bob Kahn, Omaha NE, 21-18, 21-13. Only a month before Kahn had defeated Battershell for the Nebraska state title in a three-game match. Battershell had prepared well for this regional, by polishing his "passing shot", which wore Kahn down. Kahn possesses a fine kill shot, but never recovered from Battershell's new strategy to put his kills to good use.

Phil Stepp follows through on his backhand kill shot against Bo Champagne in the finals of the Midwest Regional, won by Stepp.



Men's Open Doubles

Top-seeded team Craig Olsen and Dale Beckman, Grand Island NE, dominated the play in a quick two-game win over Ron York and Bo Champagne, Kansas City MO, 21-4, 21-4. York's and Champagne's participation in tight singles competition as well as competing in the doubles bracket obviously had an effect on their playing ability. Olsen and Beckman had chosen to enter only as a team, which seemed a wise decision as they breezed through four matches to win the title.

Women's Open Doubles

The top-seeded team of Judy Thompson, Davenport IA, and Kay McDonald, Fargo ND, played a well-coordinated and strategic game to defeat Marcilene Greer, Emporia KS, and Khrysandra Cox, Kansas City MO, in the final match, 21-19, 21-7. Greer and Cox worked well together during the close first game, but were unable to sustain the momentum during the second and match game.

Men's Senior Doubles

Although the losing team put forth a good effort, Bob Tonkin and Monte McCunniff, Waterloo IA, overpowered them to win the title match. Glen Stover and Dick Kincade, Lincoln NE, bowed to the Iowa twosome, 21-6, 21-5.

Committee Members

Dozens of people in the background contributed to the success of the tournament, under the guidance of the following chairpersons: Chuck Erickson, General Chairman; Myrta Hansen, hospitality-trophies-registration; Dave McEwen, referees; Jeff Wisemiller, liaison with court facilities; Pat Korbus, publicity.

Special recognition also to Jim Schwartz, Bernie Smith, and Dave Ewert for invaluable help in scheduling referees for matches and making scheduling adjustments when necessary; to Mark Hegg and Mark Domanque who fairly and consistently called most of the title matches; and

to Dick Kincade for his assistance in seeding and continued guidance in running a tournament.

Results:

Men's Open Singles Final: Phil Stepp, Kansas City MO, defeated Bo Champagne, Kansas City, MO, 21-20, 21-20. 3rd Ron York, Kansas City MO, defeated 4th Denny Kottkamp, St. Louis, MO, 21-16, 20-21, 11-7.

Women's Open Singles Final: Marlene Greer, Emporia KS, defeated Rita Hoff, St. Louis, MO, 21-9, 21-16. 3rd Judy Thompson, Davenport, IA, defeated 4th Khysandra Cox, Kansas City, MO.

Men's Senior Doubles Final: Bob Tonkin and Monte McCuniff, Waterloo IA, defeated Glen Stover and Dick Kincade, Lincoln, NE, 21-6, 21-5. 3rd: Tony Paustein and Jerry Bowden, Grand Island NE, defeated 4th Ken Kennedy and Don Falk, Lincoln NE, 21-20, 21-3.

Men's Junior Singles Final: Dan Battershell, North Platte, NE, upset Bob Kahn, Omaha, NE, 21-18, 21-13. 3rd: Eric Danner, Kansas City, Mo, defeated 4th: Anetta Udofia, Lincoln, NE, 21-11, 21-4.

Men's Senior Singles Final: Obed Oas, Omaha NE, upset Bernard Nielsen, Marshalltown, IA, 21-15, 14-21, 11-9. 3rd: Bob Moreland, Sioux Falls, SD, defeated 4th: Monte McCuniff, Waterloo, IA, in a forfeited match.

Men's Masters Singles Final: Dick Kincade, Lincoln, NE, defeated Jack Wells, Lincoln, NE, 21-14, 21-14. 3rd: Dayton Pickett, Lincoln NE, defeated 4th: Lyle Johnson, Kansas City, MO, 21-19, 21-6.

Men's Open Doubles Final: Craig Olsen and Dale Beckman, Grand Island NE, defeated Ron York and Bo Champagne, Kansas City MO, 21-4, 21-4. 3rd: Bernard Nielsen and Gary Isenogle, Marshalltown IA, defeated 4th: Lee Lantry, Elkhorn NE, and Darryl Ekstrom, Omaha, NE, 21-8, 21-13.

Women's Open Doubles Final: Judy Thompson, Davenport IA, & Kay McDonald, Fargo ND, defeated Marlene Greer, Emporia KS, & Khysandra Cox, Kansas City MO 21-19, 21-7. 3rd: Sue Orduna & June Davis, Lincoln NE, defeated 4th: Karen Harrington, Bradshaw NE, & Becky Pickett, Lincoln NE, 18-21, 21-16, 11-9.

Rita Hoff drives her vicious backhand in the finals of the women's open against champion Marci Greer at the Midwest Regionals.

—photos by Robert Starck



Western

Event: U.S.R.A. Western Regionals

Site: University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Results:

Men's Open (Semi-finals): Alderson d. Fonseca 21-12, 21-16. Dvorsky d. Floyd 14-21, 21-19, 11-6. (Championship): Alderson d. Sworsky 21-13, 21-9. (Third): Floyd d. Fonseca 18-21, 21-19, 11-8.

Women's Open (Semi-finals): Walton d. Bemeathy 21-13, 16-21, 11-6. Clemens d. Weed 20-21, 21-20, 11-4. (Championship): Walton d. Clemens 21-19, 21-19. (Third): Weed, coin toss.

Seniors (Semi-finals): Hanna d. Harrell 21-9, 21-10; Seaton d. Dziedzic 21-8, 21-19. (Championship): Hanna d. Seaton 21-13, 21-5. (Third): Harrell d. Dziedzic 21-15, 16-21, 11-1.

Masters (Semi-finals): McDonald d. Prescott 21-7, 13-21, 11-7; Armstrong d. Lerner 23-8, 21-11. (Championship): McDonald d. Armstrong 13-21, 21-19, 11-7. (Third): Lerner d. Prescott 1-21, 21-19, 11-5.

Juniors (Semi-finals): Georgen d. Musgrove 21-18, 16-21, 11-9; Lerner d. Daly 21-7, 21-7. (Championship): Georgen d. Lerner 21-4, 21-16. (Third): Musgrove, forfeit.

Open Doubles (Semi-finals): Hurra Seaton d. Marlin Robinson 21-16, 21-10; McGovern/Wendall d. Hauser/Baker 21-5, 21-10. (Championship): Hurra Seaton d. McGovern/Wendall 10-21, 21-18, 11-2. (Third): Hauser/Baker, forfeit.

Women's Open Doubles (Semi-finals): Weed/Bemeathy d. Siau/McGovern 21-13, 21-12; Walton/Clemens d. Seaville/Panzen 21-16, 21-3. (Championship): Walton/Clemens d. Weed/Bemeathy 21-6, 21-20. (Third): Seaville/Panzen d. Siau/McGovern 21-15, 21-18.

Senior Doubles (Semi-finals): Armstrong/Gibson d. Prescott/Musgrove 21-17, 21-13; Castle/McDonald d. Rud/Muller 21-12, 21-8. (Championship): Armstrong/Gibson d. Castle/McDonald 21-15, 21-11. (Third): Prescott/Musgrove d. Rud/Muller 21-12, 21-17.

Mid East

The Supreme Courts of Sylvania, Ohio hosted the Mid East Regional Racquetball Tournament March 31 through April 3, 1977. The weekend was full of excitement, color, competition, success, frustration, glamour, food, fellowship, and of course great fun!

Bill Gottlieb - "The Radiation Man" from Lansing, Michigan, and Carl Myles - "The Psycho-Motor Man" from Ypsilanti, Michigan, gave the tourney plenty of color. Although, Nancy Messerschmidt of Ft. Wayne, Indiana, and Bobbie Bricker of Canton, Ohio with their very colorful and attractive playing uniforms also added a great deal of glamour. In fact Nancy had a matching racquet with each different outfit she wore throughout the tourney.

The real story of the Mid East Tourney though, was cool Clark Pittman of Mansfield, Ohio. A very low key person, Clark's play throughout the tournament was brilliant! He had it all, great consistency, great court coverage, great serves, all the shots, and always the gentleman, truly a deserving champion!

The Men's Open division attracted some excellent players. Tom Shively of Ashland, Ky., Dick Thompson of Aurora, Ohio, Ron DeMunter of Wyoming, Mich., Gordon Kelly of Grand Rapids, Mich., Bill Gottlieb of Lansing, Mich., Carl Myles of Ypsilanti, Mich., and Gil Schmitt of Belleville, Mich., were all outstanding players, who exhibited some terrific racquetball!

The semi-finals produced two fine matches. "The Radiation Man" - Gottlieb pushed Pittman to the utmost, but the eventual champ emerged a 21-20, 21-15 victor. Meanwhile Gil Schmitt and Gordon Kelly engaged in a tremendous three game match, with Schmitt winning the tie breaker.

A tough match was expected in the finals, but Pittman methodically destroyed Schmitt in two games 21-15, 21-13 to win the Mid-East Championship.

Gottlieb defeated Kelly for third place 21-14, 13-21, 11-4.

Irene Ackerman of Dearborn, Michigan proved to be the class of the Women's Open field. Irene displayed a real power game, plus a devastating back hand, excellent stamina, and was just super during the entire tournament. Irene's toughest match was in the semi-finals, where she disposed of the Michigan Champ Carol Stewart in three games 21-16, 19-21 and 11-3.

Messerschmidt survived the lower bracket by winning two tough matches, the first from Judy Huhta of Troy, Michigan 21-16, 21-18, then beating Bobbie Bricker the Ohio Champion 21-16, 21-12 in the semis.

In the finals Ackerman was just too strong and overpowered Messerschmidt 21-6, 21-11 to win the ladies crown.

Bricker, who injured her ankle in the semi's, defaulted third place to Carol Stewart.

Jack Sobie and Jerry Davis of Cleveland, Ohio won the Men's Open Doubles title by beating Mike Stern and Joel Feld of South Euclid, Ohio 21-19, 21-9.

Rob Abrams and Mark Hiudt the number two seed from Cincinnati, Ohio failed to appear for

Open Singles finalists, Clark Pittman (l.) who captured the title over Gil Schmitt (r.).



tournament play... Needless to say, tournament officials were disappointed!

Mike Beckham and Roger Lumm of Toledo, Ohio defeated a father and son team of Herbert and Mark Nash from Beachwood, Ohio 21-19, 21-11 for third place.

The Senior Singles tournament produced some outstanding play from Fred Lewerenz of Detroit, Mich. Fred played superbly throughout, beating Dick Tattersall of Toledo, Ohio in the finals 21-14, 21-14. Tom Perna of Toledo, Ohio beat Eugene Erwine of Zanesville, Ohio for third 21-4, 21-13.

Fred Wiegand of Troy, Mich. and Lynn Hahn of Saline, Mich. put on a great exhibition in the finals of the Masters Singles division. Wiegand won the title in two tough games 21-19, 21-20. Don Detjen of Ashland, Ky., beat Gerry Bapierre of Woodmere, Ohio for third 21-7, 21-10.

The Masters Doubles crown went to Marv Schinagle and Dave Perelman of Cleveland, Ohio, over Art Payne and Jonas Klein of Columbus, Ohio 21-17, 21-11. Norton Gutowitz and Jim Petty nipped fellow Toledoans, Ted Fine and Zale Rinestein for third 21-8, 21-18.

Manny Nosan of Southfield, Mich. proved too strong in the Golden Masters Singles beating Bill Kennedy of Dearborn, Mich. 21-3, 21-10. Bud Turner of Cleveland, Ohio, took third by edging Hike Sohikian of Dearborn, Mich. 21-18, 21-18.

Mark Richardson of Livonia, Mich., served notice that he will be a player to be reckoned with in the near future, by winning the Junior Division. Mark beat a fine young player from Findlay, Ohio, Kelvin Vantrease 21-8 and 21-11 to win the championship. Mike Kaufman of West Bloomfield, Mich. edged Paul Zitzer, Toledo, Ohio for third 21-18, 21-19.

The Tournament Committee consisted of Tournament Chairman - Norton Gutowitz, Tournament Director - Fred Zitzer, Hospitality and Registration - Grace Vereb. Food and

Beverages - Ted Fine, Publicity - Jim Mengel & Bill Orcutt. Officials - Tom Perna & Dave Revenaugh.

Special thanks to Jedy Huhta, the Michigan Commissioner and Reed Gunselman of the Ohio Association for their help in seeding the tourney. To Grace Vereb and her very excellent hostesses, who managed to charm and keep all tournament players informed and happy. To Dave Revenaugh, the floor manager, who supplied the officials for each match and kept the tourney moving and on schedule. And finally, thanks to the many volunteer officials, especially Mike "Omaha Man" Young, Pete Keiser, Matt Richardson, Mark Gutowitz and Brownie Vantrease who did more than their share!

Results:

Men's Open (Quarter-finals): Pittman d. Shively 21-14, 21-9; Gottlieb d. Myles 21-5, 21-11; Schmitt d. Jakowich 21-12, 21-1; Kelly d. De Munter 21-18, 21-18.

(Semi-finals): Pittman d. Gottlieb 21-20, 21-15; Schmitt d. Kelly 21-9, 12-21, 11-7.

(Championship): Pittman d. Schmitt 21-15, 21-13. **(Third):** Gottlieb d. Kelly 21-14, 13-21, 11-4.

Ladies Open (Quarter-finals): Stewart d. Cornblath 21-10, 21-9; Ackerman d. Vantrease 21-5, 21-8; Messerschmidt d. Huhta 21-16, 21-18; Bricker d. Simons 21-10, 21-14.

(Semi-finals): Ackerman d. Stewart 21-16, 19-21, 11-3; Messerschmidt d. Bricker 21-16, 21-12.

(Championship): Ackerman d. Messerschmidt 21-6, 21-11. **(Third):** Stewart d. Bricker, default.

Seniors (Quarter-finals): Perna d. Armstrong 21-8, 21-16; Lewerenz d. Freshwater 21-7, 21-6; Erwine d. Cornstock 21-8, 21-20; Tattersall d. Constantino 21-11, 21-7.

(Semi-finals): Lewerenz d. Perna 21-4, 21-8; Tattersall d. Erwine 21-14, 21-17.

(Championship): Lewerenz d. Tattersall 21-14, 21-14. **(Third):** Perna d. Erwine 21-4, 21-13.

Masters (Semi-finals): Hahn d. Lapierre 21-8, 21-11; Wiegand d. Detjen 21-12, 15-21, 11-9.

(Championship): Wiegand d. Hahn 21-19, 21-20. **(Third):** Detjen d. Lapierre 21-7, 21-10.

Juniors (Semi-finals): Richardson d. Kaufman 21-0, 21-0; Vantrease d. Zitzer 21-12, 21-7.

(Championship): Richardson d. Vantrease 21-8, 21-11. **(Third):** Kaufman d. Zitzer 21-16, 21-19.

Norton Gutowitz (l.) tournament chairman and owner of The Supreme Courts, host of the Mideast Regional with Fred Zitzer, tournament director and club manager.



Golden Masters (Semi-finals): Kennedy d. Turner 21-3, 21-3
 Nolan d. Schikun 21-4, 21-1
(Championship): Nolan d. Kennedy 21-3, 21-10. **(Third):**
 Turner d. Schikun 21-18, 21-18

Open Doubles (Quarter-finals): Sobie/Davis d.
 McKinney/Giovanni 21-10, 21-13; Nash/Nash d.
 Cummings/Kavalauskas 10-21, 21-9, 11-7; Stern/Feld d.

Abrams/Hudt; Forster/Beckham/Lumm d. Alexander/Sanderson
 21-18, 21-9

(Semi-finals): Sobie/Davis d. Nash/Nash 21-17, 21-17;
 Stern/Feld d. Beckham/Lumm 21-17, 21-17
(Championship): Sobie/Davis d. Stern/Feld 21-19, 21-9
(Third): Beckham/Lumm d. Nash/Nash 21-19, 21-11

Northeast

Tournament: U.S.R.A. Northeast Regionals

Site: Downeast Court Club, Falmouth, Maine

Results:

Open Singles (Quarter-finals): Gunter d. Kruger 21-15, 21-19;
 Diemar d. Wheeler 21-18, 21-4; Luciw d. Cohn 21-9, 21-12;
 Romano d. Lazure 21-9, 21-13

(Semi-finals): Gunter d. Diemar 21-1, 21-13; Luciw d. Romano
 21-13, 21-13
(Championship): Luciw d. Gunter 21-9, 21-9

Women's Open (Quarter-finals): Rassent d. Callahan 21-10,
 21-2; Yovic d. Church 21-11, 13-21, 11-2; Davis d. Dalton 21-7,
 21-3; Boyer d. Leckie 21-5, 21-12

(Semi-finals): Rassent d. Yovic 21-6, 21-4; Davis d. Boyer 21-9,
 21-12
(Championship): Rassent d. Davis 21-6, 21-13

Seniors (Quarter-finals): Colombo d. Coleman 21-7, 21-12;
 Talbot d. Walz 21-17, 21-15; Crumney d. Lefancois 21-16,
 20-21, 11-10; Fonseca d. Simmons 21-13, 21-5

(Semi-finals): Colombo d. Talbot 21-20, 21-17; Crumney d.
 Fonseca 21-5, 21-7
(Championship): Crumney d. Colombo 21-2, 21-19

Masters (Semi-finals): Greg d. Sullivan 21-7, 21-5; Folsom d.
 Rizzo 21-4, 21-6

(Championship): Folsom d. Greg

Juniors (Semi-finals): Gibbo d. Velleux 21-13, 21-11;
 Christensen d. Larrabee 21-10, 21-18

(Championship): Gibbo d. Christensen 21-20, 21-18

Open Doubles (Semi-finals): Lazure/Pattison d. Luft/Diemar
 14-21, 21-19, 11-2; Cavillo/Dubord d. Capitanelli/Sergantanis
(Championship): Cavillo/Dubord d. Lazure/Pattison 21-1,
 16-21, 11-3

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Seniors runner-up Pat Colombo makes a point at the Northeast Regionals.



Women's Open runner-up Francine Davis concludes one of her matches at the Northeast Regional.

Central

Joe Wirkus and Patricia Schmidt, both Wisconsin natives, won their respective Open divisions and for their efforts receive round trip air-fare to the Nationals in San Diego.

For the second year in a row Joe Wirkus, Madison, WI., defeated Paul Ikier, St. Louis Park, Minn., in the Men's Open finals.

The 2 hour, 20 minute championship match found Wirkus coming out on top 14-21, 21-17, 11-9. For a game and a half it looked as though Ikier was unbeatable. Jumping to a 7-0 lead in game one, he played almost errorless racquetball for a 21-14 win. Game two began as a carbon copy of game one as Ikier continued to dominate play with fine passes and kills. He seemed well in control of the game and built a 17-12 lead. At this point Wirkus changed his style of play and began lulling Ikier into long ceiling volleys. Even with the live balls Wirkus was able to control the ceiling game and seemed to win each and every sustained rally. Ikier was not able to score another point in game two and Wirkus pulled it out 21-17. The tie-breaker was as exciting as any spectator could want with both players playing cautiously but aggressively when necessary. The score remained at 9-9 for what seemed like endless minutes and on Wirkus' service Ikier skipped a backhand for number 10 and Wirkus himself flattened a backhand for game and match point.

Pat Schmidt, who won the Women's Division here sets up for a shot against runner-up Barb Tenneson.



her fourth straight tournament victory this season - without losing a game!

In the upper bracket semi's fourth seeded Tenneson upset number one seed Bev Franks of Northbrook, Illinois by scores of 21-9, 11-21, 11-6. In the bottom bracket semi's Schmidt stopped Ev Dillon of Elk River, Minnesota 21-14,

21-10. Third place went to Dillon over Franks 21-8, 19-21, 11-3.

The Juniors Division was completely dominated by Steve Sulli of Elmhurst, Illinois. Sulli did not lose a game for the entire tourney and defeated Don Constable of Palatine, Illinois in the finals 21-16, 21-14. In the semi's Sulli easily handled Paul Bakken of Fergus Falls, Minnesota 21-6, 21-8. In the bottom bracket semi's Constable had it much tougher in getting by Steve Peck of Milwaukee by scores of 21-9, 15-21, 11-10. Bakken defeated Peck for third 12-21, 21-17, 11-7.

In the Seniors it was Jim Clemons from Chicago topping Shelly Clor of Northbrook, Ill. in the finals, 21-7, 21-17. In the quarters Clemons stopped number one seed Bob Adam of Edina, Minn. by surprising scores of 21-12, 21-11. In the semi's he defeated Roger Siegrist of Milwaukee 21-12, 21-10. In the lower bracket semi's Clor needed the tiebreaker to get by Brad Armstrong of Madison, WI. 20-21, 21-18, 11-3. Siegrist defeated Armstrong 21-13, 21-18 for third.

The Masters division in the Central Regional has to be one of the toughest in the country. In the



Runner-up Paul Ikier gets set to rip a backhand down the left wall as champ Joe Wirkus readies to cover in the Central Regional.

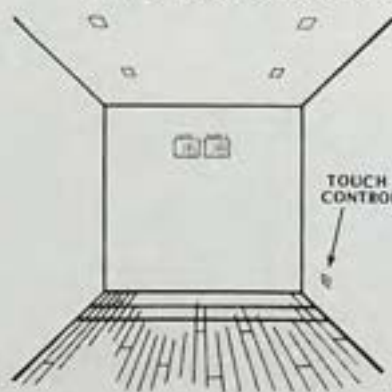
In the upper bracket semi's Wirkus topped number four seed Steve Singer from Minneapolis 21-17, 21-14. Singer played extremely well throughout the tournament but Wirkus was just a little too sharp for Steve this day.

In the bottom bracket semi's Ikier defeated 18-year-old Jim Wirkus 21-14, 21-17. Although Ikier was in control the entire match the young Wirkus made it known that he will have to be reckoned with in the very near future. This tournament was Jim Wirkus' first attempt in the Open division of Regional play. For third place Singer defeated Wirkus 21-11, 21-15.

In the Women's Open division it was hometown favorite Patricia Schmidt of Milwaukee topping Barb Tenneson of Elk River, Minnesota by scores of 21-19, 21-15. This was Ms. Schmidt's second consecutive Regional win in a row and

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finals it was Bob McNamara, Minneapolis defeating Jim White, Milwaukee 21-11, 21-20. Both of these players have national titles to their credit. In the upper bracket semi's McNamara had a somewhat easy time over Dick Kalal 21-12, 21-10. The lower bracket semi's was quite another story. White barely defeated Joe Bechard 21-17, 19-21, 11-10. This was Bechard's third loss to White in as many months (The other two being in Wisconsin State Masters finals), but it had to be the most heartbreaking. Bechard had two serves at match point in the tie-breaker and missed two routine forehands. Bechard went on to defeat Kalal for third 21-12, 16-21, 11-8.

The host site was The Racquetball Club West Allis, WI. This was the second major USRA sanctioned tournament hosted this year by the beautiful 12 court facility. The Tournament Director was club manager Bruce MacQuarrie. Bruce put in many hours prior to the event and also managed to direct the tourney despite being a little under the weather the entire weekend.

Floor Manager for the three day event was the "Southern Gentlemen" John Gardner. John hustled referees and players in and out of the courts and did a most commendable job. Hospitality and good cheer was provided by USRA Women's State Director Sandy Coffman and her husband Bud.

Bob Keenan

Results:

Men's Open (Quarter-finals): Joe Wikus d. Hall 21-10, 21-3; Singer d. Duester 21-14, 21-16; Jim Wikus d. Adam, Jr. 21-8, 21-15; Iker d. Dem 21-6, 21-3.
(Semi-finals): Joe Wikus d. Singer 21-17, 21-14; Iker d. Jim Wikus 21-14, 21-17.
(Championship): Joe Wikus d. Iker 14-21, 21-17, 11-9.
(Third): Singer d. Jim Wikus 21-11, 21-15.

Women's Open (Quarter-finals): Franks d. Pommerich 21-18, 21-19; Tennesen d. Lutz 21-10, 21-8; Dillon d. Meyer 21-10,

21-14; Schmidt d. Waldron 21-6, 21-1.
(Semi-finals): Tennesen d. Franks 21-9, 11-21, 11-6; Schmidt d. Dillon 21-14, 21-10.
(Championship): Schmidt d. Tennesen 21-19, 21-15. **(Third):** Dillon d. Franks 21-8, 19-21, 11-3.

Seniors (Quarter-finals): Clemons d. Adam, Sr. 21-12, 21-11; Seignat d. Moencke 21-5, 21-18; Armstrong d. Hults 21-4, 7-21, 11-3; Star d. Keenan 21-10, 21-8.
(Semi-finals): Clemons d. Seignat 21-12, 21-9; Star d. Armstrong 20-21, 21-18, 11-3.
(Championship): Clemons d. Star 21-17, 21-17. **(Third):** Seignat d. Armstrong 21-13, 21-18.

Juniors (Quarter-finals): Sullivan d. Borell 21-4, 21-15; Bakken d. Murray 21-6, 21-20; Constable d. Kerswell 21-11, 13-21, 11-10; Peck d. Nutting 21-13, 21-7.
(Semi-finals): Sullivan d. Bakken 21-6, 21-8; Constable d. Peck 21-16, 21-14.
(Championship): Sullivan d. Constable 21-16, 21-14. **(Third):** Bakken d. Peck 12-21, 21-17, 11-7.

Masters (Quarter-finals): McNamara d. Rosenbloom 21-3, 21-9; Kalal d. Schuberth 21-15, 21-17; Bechard d. Bruner 21-8, 21-7; White d. Bakken 21-5, 21-8.
(Semi-finals): McNamara d. Kalal 21-11, 21-12; White d. Bechard 21-17, 19-21, 11-10.
(Championship): McNamara d. White 21-11, 21-20. **(Third):** Bechard d. Kalal 21-12, 16-21, 11-8.

South Central

The beautiful Ray and Clare Stern Health Center served as host club for the 1977 South Central Region Racquetball Championships which attracted 135 entries from six different states. By requiring winning players to referee following matches the tournament remained on schedule much to the benefit of the players as well as management.

The men's open singles event, involving a free trip to the Nationals, was a hotly contested affair with top seed Pete Wright taking the honors. The crafty veteran did not drop a game to any of his opponents and handled speedy Eric Campbell in the finals 21-15, 21-12. Oklahoman Kent Taylor took third, with Kevin Meyer finishing fourth. Bill Manor of Dallas won the consolation.

The women's open singles also involved a trip to San Diego which was won by Susie Dugan of Dallas over Janis Segal of San Antonio. Remember Susie because she won with only six months training. A little more work and this lady will be competing in the pro division. Sandy McPherson captured third, over Chris Salazar.

Mark Pasche of Dallas defeated Dave Clark in the Junior Division while Houston's Jim Austin easily won Seniors over Luther Bernstein. In the Masters bracket it was Bruce Alger over Bill Reese in the finals.

Open Doubles went to Tom McKie and Eric Campbell over Pete Wright and Jim Austin. Women's doubles was won by the Odessa team of Chris Salazar and Sue Morris. Many thanks to Leach Industries and Seamco for their gracious donation of tournament balls and shirts.

Results:

Men's Open (Quarter-finals): Wright d. Walker 21-13, 21-19; Taylor d. Groves 21-14, 3-21, 11-7; Meyer d. McKie 21-12, 7-21, 11-3; Campbell d. Peck 16-21, 21-14, 11-10.
(Semi-finals): Wright d. Taylor 21-8, 21-10; Campbell d. Meyer 21-15, 21-14.
(Championship): Wright d. Campbell 21-15, 21-12. **(Third):** Taylor d. Meyer, Forfeit.

Women's Open (Quarter-finals): Salazar d. Greenberg 21-11, 21-11; Segal d. Bessett 21-16, 21-17; Dugan d. Mougant 21-6, 21-9; McPherson d. Ragow 12-21, 21-6, 11-2.
(Semi-finals): Segal d. Salazar 21-12, 19-21, 11-2; Dugan d. McPherson 15-21, 21-19, 11-1.
(Championship): Dugan d. Segal 21-20, 21-19. **(Third):** McPherson d. Salazar, Forfeit.

Seniors (Semi-finals): Austin d. McPherson 21-4, 21-11; Bernstein d. Ragow 21-12, 21-15.
(Championship): Austin d. Bernstein 21-12, 21-17. **(Third):** McPherson d. Ragow 21-5, 16-21, 11-6.

Masters (Semi-finals): Alger d. Ruffa 21-11, 21-14; Reese d. Walne 21-10, 12-21, 11-0.
(Championship): Alger d. Reese 21-6, 21-10. **(Third):** Ruffa d. Walne, Forfeit.

Juniors (Semi-finals): Clark d. Davis 21-10, 21-19; Pasche d. Walker 16-21, 21-17, 11-9.
(Championship): Pasche d. Clark 21-10, 21-11. **(Third):** Davis d. Walker, Forfeit.

Open Doubles (Semi-finals): McKie/Campbell d. Davis/Nieves 21-8, 21-8; Wright/Austin d. Merril/Peck 16-21, 21-12, 11-9.
(Championship): McKie/Campbell d. Wright/Austin 21-14, 18-21, 11-9.

Women's Doubles (Semi-finals): Dugan/McPherson d. Merril/Greenberg 21-6, 21-10; Salazar/Morris d. Ragow/Mougant 21-10, 21-12.
(Championship): Salazar/Morris d. Dugan/McPherson 21-13, 21-16.



Former All-Pro Donny Anderson presents 1st place Open Singles plaque to Pete Wright and 1st place Ladies Singles to Susie Dugan.

Southeast

Results:

Men's Open (Quarter-finals): Hennen d. Saperstein 21-18, 21-11; Giordano d. Thomas 21-16, 21-9; White d. Essa 21-0, 21-7; Bailey d. Caligiani 21-18, 20-21, 11-1.

(Semi-finals): Hennen d. Giordano 21-16, 21-18; White d. Bailey 20-21, 21-16, 11-6.

(Championship): Hennen d. White 21-16, 21-5. (Third): Giordano d. Bailey 21-20, 21-6.

Women's Open (Quarter-finals): Byrd d. Vickery 21-0, 21-2; Stribling d. Jarrett 21-7, 21-16; Young d. Smith 21-3, 21-20; Gwinn d. Dupree 21-11, 21-12.

(Semi-finals): Byrd d. Stribling 21-7, 21-5; Young d. Gwinn 21-5, 21-10.

(Championship): Byrd d. Young 21-18, 21-12. (Third): Gwinn d. Stribling 21-4, 21-9.

Seniors (Quarter-finals): Allen d. Allred 21-11, 21-2; Green d. Hildard 21-13, 21-13; Harmon d. Chamberlain 17-21, 21-20, 11-5; Wiles d. Mostella 21-7, 21-8.

(Semi-finals): Allen d. Green 21-9, 21-10; Harmon d. Wiles 21-10, 18-21, 11-8.

(Championship): Harmon d. Allen 6-21, 21-14, 11-5. (Third): Wiles d. Green, forfeit.

Masters (Semi-finals): Webster d. Lewis 15-21, 21-9, 11-2; Ira d. Simon 21-15, 21-10.

(Championship): Webster d. Ira 12-21, 21-17, 11-6. (Third): Simon d. Lewis, forfeit.

Men's Open Doubles (Quarter-finals): Saperstein/Bailey d. Hammond/Bradley 21-6, 21-15; Sepp/Hennen d. Gammons/Jarrett 21-20, 21-11; Vincent/Mitch d. Handson/Leonard 21-9, 21-8; Rabin/McDonald d. Giordano/Elis 14-21, 21-20, 11-5.

(Semi-finals): Sepp/Hennen d. Apterstein/Bailey 21-10, 21-14; Rabin/McDonald d. Vincent/Mitch.

(Championship): Sepp/Hennen d. Rabin/McDonald 21-19, 21-9. (Third): Vincent/Mitch.

Women's Doubles (Semi-finals): Gwinn/Smith d. Young/Leinbach 21-13, 21-14; Sepp/Dupree d. Jarrett/Stribling 11-21, 21-14, 11-6.

(Championship): Sepp/Dupree d. Gwinn/Smith 15-21, 21-19, 11-0. (Third): Jarrett/Stribling d. Young/Leinbach 21-14, 15-21, 11-8.

Senior Doubles (Semi-finals): Allen/Harmon d. Curtis/Payne 21-11, 21-13; Holmes/Wiles d. Green/Oman 21-16, 19-21, 11-7. (Championship): Wiles/Holmes d. Allen/Harmon 21-16, 15-21, 11-10. (Third): Green/Oman d. Curtis/Payne 21-3, 21-12.

Master Doubles (Championship): Otman/Simon d. Leinbach/Webster 21-18, 21-12.



The marquis at the tourney headquarters Holiday Inn lets all passing by know what's going on.

Open Singles winner Johnny Hennen (l.) with runner-up Charlie White after the match.



Martha Byrd (l.) won the Southeast Regional in the Women's Open, defeating Kerry Young (r.).

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PLAYER RANKINGS

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And Official Player Ranking

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1. Marty Hogan, St. Louis
2. Davey Bledsoe, Kingsport, Tenn.
3. Charlie Brumfield, San Diego
4. Jerry Hilecher, St. Louis
5. Richard Wagner, San Diego
6. Craig McCoy, Riverside, Cal.
7. Steve Serot, San Diego
8. Steve Strandemo, San Diego
9. Steve Keeley, San Diego
10. Ben Koltun, St. Louis
11. Jay Jones, Los Angeles
12. Mark Morrow, Los Angeles
13. John Lynch, Chicago
14. Mike Yellen, Detroit
15. Steve Chase, Phoenix
16. Bill Schmidtke, Minneapolis
17. Randy Stafford, Memphis
18. Terry Fancher, Northbrook, Ill.
19. Charlie Rish, Chicago
20. Mike Zeitman, Memphis

Final 1976-77 Official Women's Rankings

1. Shannon Wright, San Diego
2. Peggy Steding, Odessa, Tex.
3. Janell Marriott, Salt Lake City
4. Kathy Williams, Hazel Park, Mich.
5. Jennifer Harding, Portland
6. Jean Sauser, Northbrook, Ill.
7. Jan Campbell, San Diego
8. Sarah Green, Memphis
9. Rita Hoff, St. Louis
10. Sue Carow, Glenview, Ill.
11. Martha Byrd, Gainesville, Fla.
12. Jan Pasternak, Houston
13. Bette Weed, San Diego
14. Camille McCarthy, Indianapolis
15. Pat Schmidt, Milwaukee

Final 1976-77 Women's Prize Money Earnings

Rank	Player	Prize Money
1.	Shannon Wright, San Diego	\$7,700
2.	Peggy Steding, Odessa, Texas	7,050
3.	Janell Marriott, Salt Lake City	3,000
4.	Kathy Williams, Hazel Park, Michigan	2,350
5.	Jennifer Harding, Portland	1,225
6.	Jean Sauser, Northbrook, Ill.	1,050
7.	Sue Carow, Glenview, Ill.	725
8.	Sarah Green, Memphis	700
9.	Jan Campbell, San Diego	450
10.	Rita Hoff, St. Louis	375
11. (tie)	Martha Byrd, Gainesville, Fla.	225
	Camille McCarthy, Indianapolis	225
13. (tie)	Bette Weed, San Diego	200
	Jan Pasternak, Houston	200
15.	Pat Schmidt, Milwaukee	100

Final 1976-77 Men's Prize Money Earnings

Rank	Player	Prize Money
1.	Marty Hogan, St. Louis	\$22,000
2.	Davey Bledsoe, Kingsport, Tenn.	10,175
3.	Jerry Hilecher, St. Louis	6,800
4.	Charlie Brumfield, San Diego	6,725
5.	Craig McCoy, Riverside, Cal.	5,125
6.	Richard Wagner, San Diego	4,975
7.	Steve Strandemo, San Diego	4,625
8.	Steve Keeley, San Diego	2,875
9.	Steve Serot, San Diego	2,300
10.	Jay Jones, Los Angeles	2,275
11.	Ben Koltun, St. Louis	2,175
12.	Mark Morrow, Los Angeles	1,500
13.	John Lynch, Chicago	1,475
14.	Mike Zeitman, Memphis	1,275
15. (tie)	Steve Chase, Phoenix	950
	Bill Schmidtke, Minneapolis	950
17.	Terry Fancher, Northbrook, Ill.	600
18.	Randy Stafford, Memphis	550
19.	Ken Wong, St. Louis	400
20.	Charlie Rish, Chicago	350

TOURNAMENT RESULTS

LEACH
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Southfield



Part of the gallery for the championship matches at the beautiful Racquetime Center in Southfield.

Hogan Again — With Ease

Pat McPharlin awards Hogan his \$2,000 first place check while Seamco's Jim Amick (l.), Wagner, and the N.R.C.'s Joe Ardito look on.

All photos of the Southfield Pro Am
by Rick Dinoian



While everyone else struggled to reach him, Marty Hogan bided his time in the upper bracket to wait for his eventual foe in the finals of the Southfield (Mich.) Pro Am April 16-19.

That foe turned out to be Richard Wagner, making his first appearance of the season in the championship round on the Seamco-Leach pro tour.

Wagner came through the always difficult number seven seed, topping Jay Jones 21-10, 21-10 in the round of 16, besting Charlie Brumfield 21-20, 21-18 in the quarters, and stopping Craig McCoy 21-13, 16-21, 11-8 in the semi-finals.

"It's tough to stay up mentally," said Wagner. "I had to give it everything I had just to reach the finals. Hogan was just waiting for me."

That he was. And as has become his custom, Hogan was sporadic early in the first game, got his game together and began his relentless march toward 21. The closest Wagner got was 7-5, he called a strategic time out at 13-8, but could do nothing to thwart Hogan's overpowering barrage.

At 15-8 Wagner appeared to give up the game, hoping for some miracle to pull out the second game and take his chances in the tie-breaker.

Hogan had no such ideas, however. Game two started worse than game one. Rich didn't score until the fifth inning, and by then the board stood at 8-0. A time out there gave Wagner a chance to catch his breath and ponder the effects of a total wipe out in the finals.

After finally tallying his initial point, Wagner soon found that he had lost it, drawing a technical foul from referee Chuck Leve at 10-1. The technical had two effects. The obvious negation of a point, making it 10-0, but on Wagner's behalf giving him a chance to release his frustrations.

"Sometimes you're in there against Hogan," said another pro taking in the action, "and you can't seem to do anything right, while he does nothing wrong. So you're way down, and figure, what the heck, at least I know I can get a technical. It gives you a feeling of accomplishment."

Hardly one to brag about it would seem, but in Wagner's case it seemed to bring about a second wind of desire. He ripped off three aces in the next five

Wagner scurries into deep left court to retrieve a Hogan shot in the finals of the Southfield Pro-am.



serves, with his other serves effective enough to get offensive opportunities, which he cashed in on. Feeling some semblance of momentum Wagner kept right on going, until he closed to within one at 11-10.

"It takes every ounce of strength just to catch Hogan," said Wagner later. "All I wanted to do was hang on from there."

And so it went, — 12-10, 13-12, 14-all, 15-all as both players struggled to string a run together that would put some daylight between their scores. The last tie was at 16, with Hogan apparently checking his airline schedule. For coming in at 17-16, three kills and an error later and the ball game was over.

Later, Hogan confirmed it.

"I had a flight home that I had to catch" he said. "I couldn't fool around with Wagner any more."

Fooling around seems to be the new thing for Hogan. Knowing his superiority allows him to control not only the match, but the scores as well, he seems to have made up his mind to not embarrass anybody, allow the fans to cheer for whoever his underdog opponent happens to be, and then apply the coup de grace after giving up anywhere from 10 to 15 points.

Against Bledsoe in the semi's the pattern was there again. Before most fans settled into their seats Hogan had amassed a 14-6 advantage in the first game. At 17-9 Hogan was coasting until a time out by Bledsoe at 20-15 slowed down the blistering Hogan express.

Oblivious to such shenanigans, Hogan promptly stepped up and drove game point, an ace into the deep left corner off a behemoth drive serve for 21.

This time it's a drive to the right that has Wagner stretching to his limits.

Hogan goes for the reverse pinch kill against Bledsoe in the semi-finals. Note how both players' concentration is locked on the ball.

As he would show later in the finals, Hogan's pattern continued into game two. This time it was 12-3 after seven innings and Marty turned off the fireworks.

As Hogan coasted, Bledsoe saw his opportunity and took advantage of it. Cranking up his own super drive serves, Davey tallied on four aces, three kills and a couple of ridiculous Hogan mini-try errors to get back into the match.

The two traded serves at 17-14, Hogan's lead, until Bledsoe's hard drive Z serve produced two errors on Hogan's part, sandwiched around a patented Bledsoe right corner pinch kill to tie the game at 17.

They reached 19-all by each giving away two points, until Hogan, sensing danger nearby, exploded a near-ace serve on a drive to the left. Davey barely got his racquet on the green sphere and it lazily caromed short of the front wall for point 20.

Hogan gave a little half-smile to the gallery, wound up and served the identical serve, only this time it was a clean ace, for game and match.

"I'm going to beat him one of these times" prophesied Bledsoe. "He thinks he can fool around and get away with it, but we'll catch him."

Wagner's semi-final with McCoy was nothing out of the ordinary for both players. Craig started slowly, as usual, and Rich continued to serve amazingly well for a fairly routine 21-13 first game win.

So McCoy had to push his motor to warp eight, or whatever warp he felt it would take to win. He did both, showing excellent quickness and shot crispness in downing Wags 21-16, forcing the tie-breaker, something Wagner did not relish.

"McCoy's probably the toughest tie-breaker player in the game," he



McCoy's point of contact is ankle high as he goes for a winner against Wagner in their semi-final.

NOTES OF THE TOURNAMENT . . .

A big hats off and thank you to Pat McPharlin, owner of the Southfield Racquetime Center for his no-nonsense efforts in running a superb tournament. Due primarily to Pat's efforts, virtually every match started on schedule (Racquetime's 30 courts helped some), and his own staff personnel did a tremendous job in co-ordinating the event . . . Manager Roger Shockor, tourney director Carol Gray and secretary Barbara Tracy were excellent and professional aides . . . Largest gallery of the season was on hand three straight nights, as the three-walled glass courts (two of them) held upwards of 600 for all key matches. They saw the

best there is and appreciated it . . . Unsung Dennis McDowell, Bloomington, Illinois captured the massive amateur bracket (128 strong) with a 21-11, 21-12 win over Bill "Radiation Man" Gottlieb . . . Carol Stewart, who went three with Sue Carow in the pros, took the ladies amateur open 15-21, 21-10, 11-5 over Irene Ackerman. Both gals are Detroit area players . . . And "Doc" Fred Lewerenz had no problems taking the seniors in a 21-15, 21-16 victory over John Hatcher . . . Promotion and publicity were good, thanks to McPharlin and Starr Advertising which coordinated that phase of the event.

said. "Craig has the ability to pump himself up and reach back for the something extra."

Apparently Wagner does too, for it was the blond San Diegan who captured the third and decisive game, 11-8 to get his crack at Hogan.

For sheer excitement the Wagner-Brumfield match was the best match of the tournament. Following his Denver fiasco, Brumfield had looked good in barely bowing to Hogan in Chattanooga's finals. The fans were looking for a Brum-Hogan championship match here.

But Wagner, whose speed and quickness matches well against Brumfield's control, had other ideas. It was a tense battle, with the fans torn between their desire for a Brumfield-Hogan final, and their admiration for underdog Wagner in his quest to move on.

It was all guts by both combatants. Brumfield held a 20-18 lead in the first game, only to have Wagner stick it out, come from behind and capture the squeaker 21-20.

Brum appeared mentally down in the second, falling way back 14-3 and 17-9, virtually conceding defeat. But a couple of easy points, perhaps a Wagner let down and in a flash it was 19-18, Wagner's add.

There the two of them stayed, each finding a point as difficult to get as a date with Farrah. Five times Wagner held Brumfield on 18 until a right corner pinch kill sealed the attorney's doom.

McCoy topped Ben Koltun in the other close quarter-final encounter, by the odd scores of 21-11, 9-21, 11-1. Some observers say that the best way to make McCoy go three is to let him win the first, seemingly a strategy that Koltun applied.

Again McCoy played well in the first game, and he was too tough for Koltun, who was all over the court, but unable to penetrate Craig's defense.

So, if you're Craig McCoy what do you do if you win the first game? You let up in the second, of course. Which he obligingly did, Koltun took advantage and the two youngsters found themselves in a tie-breaker.

A foregone conclusion, the 11 pointer went to McCoy, whose serves had zip, his backhand was crisp, and Koltun was left at warp five as McCoy never looked back in his 11-1 win.

Another interesting quarter-final match was Hogan's win over Steve Serot, a round of 16 victor over Steve Keeley. It was the first meeting of Serot and Hogan in some time and many thought that Steve would give Marty as good a battle as anybody.

As usual, Hogan started slowly, tied the first game at 6-all, somebody blinked and it was 17-10. Serot, whose body was bouncing off the walls, decided to save his elasticity for the second game and the 21-11 verdict went to Hogan.

So the pattern repeated. From 5-all Hogan went to a 14-7 advantage, began coasting and Serot came back to 12-14. The lanky ex-St. Louisian could get no closer however, with Hogan's match point another ace, this time a hard Z to the right, 21-16.

Bledsoe and Jerry Hilecher, who seem to play each other in every tournament, met again in Southfield. Usually the winner of this match is the one whose serve is working best, since their games are almost identical.

Both games were close to the mid-way point, and in each it appeared that Bledsoe had that little concentration edge that separates the winners from losers in professional quarter-final matches.

Down in game one 12-13, his next service turn found him ahead 18-13. Hilecher tallied once, and then Bledsoe ended the game with two forehand corner kills, and a Hilecher backhand error, 21-14.

The second game was closer longer, with ties at 12, 13, 15 and 18 before Bledsoe zipped home, a drive ace to the left corner, a forehand error by Hilecher and a backhand error off the same drive serve, 21-18.

Only one other match went three games in the round of 16 other than the Keeley-Serot battle. That was McCoy (for a change) against the upstart, 16-year-old Mike Yellen, who had upset 14th ranked Steve Chase in the 32's.

McCoy got his act together in time to let Yellen know that his day would not be this one, 14-21, 21-16, 11-7, much to the dismay of the partisan, Yellen-infested home town fans.

Hilecher topped Mike Zeitman, who survived a near loss to Gil Schmitt in the 32's, 21-12, 21-15, in the only other 16's match that was close.

Results Men's Pro (Preliminary Round): Gottlieb d. Krenour 21-7, 21-12; Brownlee d. Fred 21-13, 19-21, 11-8; Wilcox d. Sullivan, forfeit; Kasay d. Klys 21-3, 21-2; Zuckerman d. Dawson 21-11, 21-5.

(First Round): Hogan d. Antriau 21-1, 21-4; Stafford d. Blish, forfeit; Serot d. Gottlieb 21-7, 21-15; Keeley d. Brownlee 21-6, 21-7; Hilecher d. Wilcox 21-3, 21-3; Zeitman d. Schmitt 18-21, 21-10, 11-7; Lynch d. Gregorio 21-7, 21-9; Bledsoe d. Demar 21-7, 21-6; McCoy d. Lewis 21-3, 21-8; Yellen d. Chase 21-15, 21-16; Koltun d. Kelly 21-12, 19-21, 11-1; Kasay d. Strandemo, injury default; Wagner d. Zuckerman 21-15, 21-11; Jones d. Hogg, forfeit; Fancher d. Morley 11-21, 21-7, 11-5; Brumfield d. Hummer 21-8, 21-6.

(Second Round): Hogan d. Stafford 21-13, 21-11; Serot d. Keeley 13-21, 21-12, 11-6; Hilecher d. Zeitman 21-12, 21-15; Bledsoe d. Lynch 21-12, 21-7; McCoy d. Yellen 14-21, 21-16, 11-7; Koltun d. Kasay 21-1, 21-9; Wagner d. Jones 21-10, 21-10; Brumfield d. Fancher 21-3, 21-4.

(Quarter-finals): Hogan d. Serot 21-11, 21-16; Bledsoe d. Hilecher 21-14, 21-18; McCoy d. Koltun 21-11, 9-21, 11-1; Wagner d. Brumfield 21-20, 21-18.

(Semi-finals): Hogan d. Bledsoe 21-15, 21-19; Wagner d. McCoy 21-13, 16-21, 11-8.

(Championship): Hogan d. Wagner 21-10, 21-16.



Wright, despite foot contact, is able to retrieve a Steding shot in the ladies finals.

Wright Again — Easier

Oh, Shannon Wright, have you no mercy? Apparently not, as the 21-year-old San Diegan totally destroyed former champ Peggy Steding 21-16, 21-3, to capture the women's pro bracket in Southfield.

Her game reaching a peak as the tour headed down the back stretch, Wright was too much for Steding and the rest of the field as she made Southfield her second in a row over Steding.

It wasn't so much the victory, but the manner of victory that must have given all those other lady pros that sick-to-their-stomach look.

In game two Shannon achieved the ultimate in destruction, giving Peggy an inside-the-game donut. Down 0-3 after winning the first, it took Shannon exactly six innings and 17 minutes to score 21 consecutive points and an unbelievably convincing 21-3 victory.

The only contest in the match was the first game, in which the tight battle which had been expected for the entire match, surfaced for this game only. With ties at 7, 11, and 14, it was Wright who took an 18-16 lead and added a left corner forehand kill for 19, a forehand skip error by Peggy for 20, and a perfect r-a-w ball pass down the left wall on which Steding got only plaster for 21.

"I'm hitting the ball super right now," said Shannon. "I'm using control and power and I don't think anybody in the ladies division can touch me."

She got no argument in Southfield.

The usual top four reached the semi-finals again, with the usual two, Wright and Steding moving on to the finals.

Shannon had no trouble in topping Janell Marriott, who was nowhere near her usually fine game, 21-4, 21-16. Wright is driving her serves, shooting well, and when in trouble going to the ceiling to get out of the jam.

In the lower bracket home town favorite Kathy Williams was unable to muster a threat to Steding against whom the butterflies fly for Kathy. In what everybody hoped would have been a better match, number four ranked Kathy succumbed rather meekly 21-9, 21-12.

Too much power and control was the story, as Peg rarely vacated center court, and Kathy, try as she might, was constantly scurrying from corner to corner to retrieve.

Only one match in the quarters even raised an eyebrow, the age-old battle between Williams and Sue Carow, who makes any match interesting.

No love was lost between Carow and the Southfield fans, many of whom considered her efforts to top their gal Williams as an insult to the entire state of Michigan. But Carow cares not for petty items such as those, and hustled her way to the tie-breaker, dropping game one 21-13, but pulling out the second 21-18.

Much to the delight of the gallery, however, Sue had run out of petrol by the third and in an interesting match went down 11-3.

None of the other quarter-final losers could manage 21 points in both games total.

Wright obliterated Sarah Green, the lithe Memphian who never got into the match 21-9, 21-3; Marriott did about the same with Jean Sausser 21-11, 21-3; while Steding topped Jenny Harding 21-11, 21-6. ●

Results Women's Pro (First Round): Green d. McCarthy 21-3, 21-20; Carow d. Steward 21-15, 20-21, 11-0; Harding d. Pasternak 21-19, 21-7.

(Quarter-finals): Wright d. Green 21-9, 21-3; Marriott d. Sausser 21-11, 21-3; Williams d. Carow 21-13, 16-21, 11-3; Steding d. Harding 21-11, 21-6.

(Semi-finals): Wright d. Marriott 21-4, 21-16; Steding d. Williams 21-9, 21-12.

(Championship): Wright d. Steding 21-16, 21-3.



Hogan 'Governs'

TOURNAMENT RESULTS

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Lombard



Governor Thompson autographs the game ball for U.S.R.A. president Bob Kendler prior to the match. Charlie Brumfield looks on.

Lombard



Hogan puts everything he has into a forehand shot against Brumfield in the finals. Note Governor Thompson taking in the action in the front row.

View of the scene at the beautiful Olvera Olvera & Dodson Oval, seating 4,300 with glassed-in roof also sold out. That's the way to build a spectator court.



Brumfield, glasses in hand, scurries to cover the right side, but far too late as the ball passes him down the right in the championship match with Hogan.

With Governor Jim Thompson in attendance, Marty Hogan made it nine tour victories in a row by capturing the Lombard (Ill.) stop on the Leach/Seamco pro tour. And he did it without losing a game.

In the ladies division Shannon Wright came back from 4-10 in the tie-breaker to defeat Janell Marriott and earn her third straight tour win.

It was Hogan versus Charlie Brumfield in the men's championship match, complete with pre-game gubernatorial ceremonies featuring Governor and Mrs. Thompson, both racquetball enthusiasts.

Standing room only crowds attended The Glass Court's Stadium for each of the last three days of the event, and it was packed Sunday afternoon for the finals.

Brumfield, the sentimental favorite, again attempted his control style of play, against Hogan's fierce power game. Hogan's domination of control players continued as shown by the statistic which found Brumfield not hitting a single pass shot for a winner in the first game.

Despite that, the game was relatively close throughout. Hogan never was able to gain the huge early lead that marked his impressive Southfield win. Rather, he stayed three to four points ahead of Brum most of the way, excepting a fleeting lead for Brum at 12-11.

Hogan went in at 18-14 twice, the second time for the last. He tallied on four straight kills, the final one a perfect forehand right corner pinch for the 21-14 win.

The second game was similar with Brumfield never able to close closer

than three points. And although three is within range Hogan would not allow the margin to dissipate. The key was at 14-11 when side went out six times (three for both players). For there it was all Hogan 20-14, 20-16, 21-16.

Again, power was the key. Brumfield got his passing game slightly into gear, but Hogan's massive power serves turned out to be the difference. In fact, his five aces in the game to none for Brumfield was the exact difference in score.

By far the most thrilling match of the tournament was the women's final in which Marriott was unable to score match point on five different occasions over two games.

The 21-13, 20-21, 11-10 loss by Janell was undoubtedly the most disappointing final for any player on tour this season. With a 10-4 lead in the tie-breaker, Janell for some reason played conservative, hoping for the Wright error that would win her the match.

"I waited for Shannon to make a mistake," said the soft-spoken Marriott. "She never did."

Game two was just as bad, as Marriott, a game up but five points down rallied from 15-20, to take two shots at the two game sweep. But again she was unable to capture the elusive 21st point and the 21-20 victory went to Wright.

To Shannon's credit, she hung in, never let up, and took her offensive shots when they occurred. It was a stunning performance.

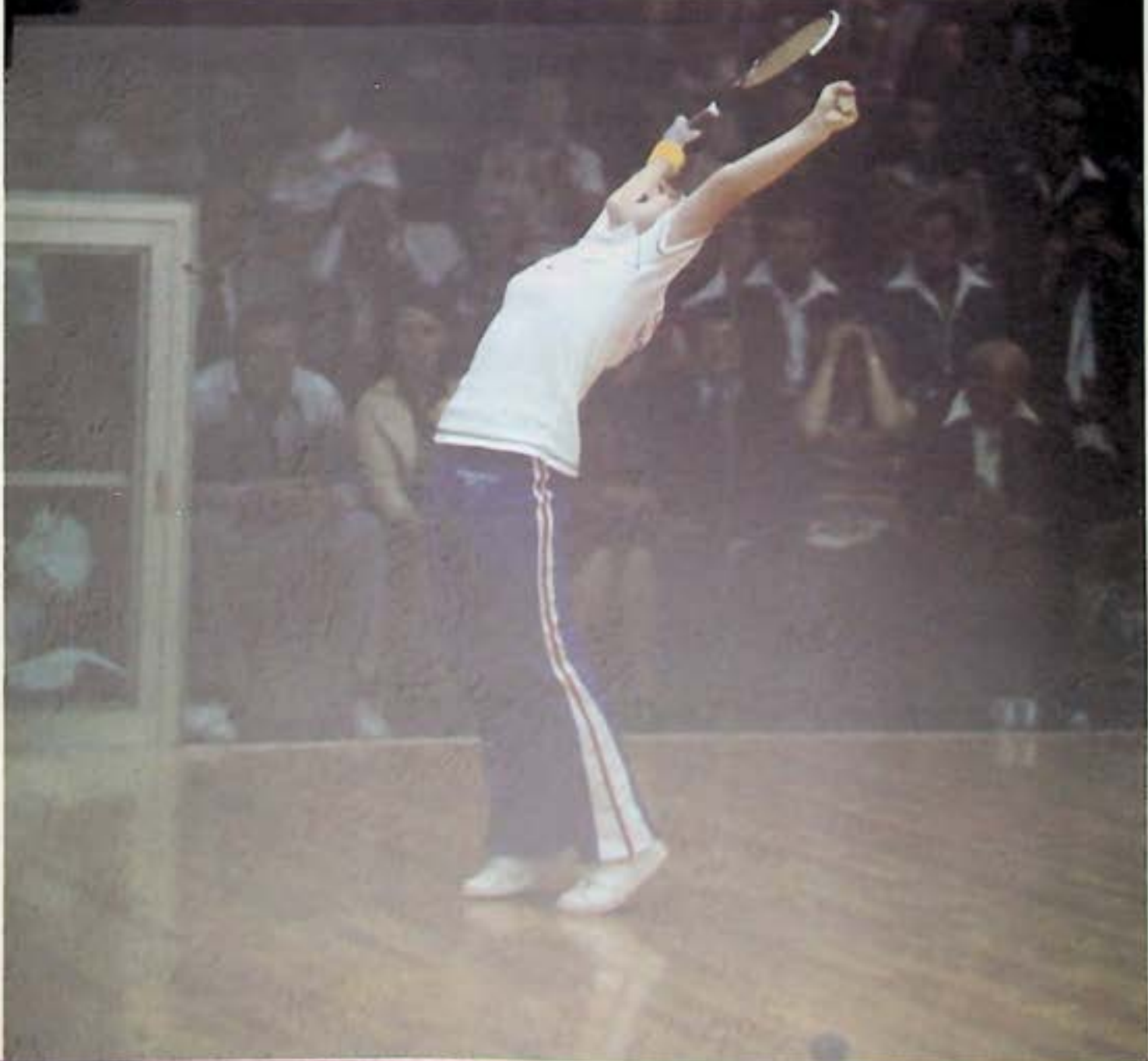
The thrill of victory for Shannon Wright, after being down 4-10 and coming back for an 11-10 tie-breaker victory.



Wright really gets into a forehand drive in the final match against Marriott. Governor and Mrs. Thompson can be seen to the left.



Marriott holds up the left glass wall as Wright drives the ball cross court in their thrilling championship match.



Brumfield goes for the right corner pinch for a winner against Morrow in the semi-finals. He had this shot often.

Mark Morrow, the first year pro from Los Angeles, was a surprise semi-finalist, working his way through a deserted bracket, thinned out by Craig McCoy's amazing first round loss, and Jay Jones' upset win over Richard Wagner in the second round.

But Morrow was not a threat to Brumfield, who played his most offensive match of the season. Claiming squatters rights to center court, Brumfield's combination of drives and kills was too much for the overmatched Morrow. A "screamer," Morrow was constantly berating himself, much to the amusement of the 450 fans.

The games were identical, — Brumfield in a blow out. He built a 14-5 first game lead and coasted 21-7. In the second it was more of the same, 13-3, 16-4 and 21-8.

"I had to get in and get out," said Brumfield. "I wanted to save myself for Hogan."

Another reason for Brum's offensive play could have been a slight shoulder injury, suffered in his quarter-final marathon win over Steve Serot. Unable to hit overhead without pain, Charlie kept everything down at waist level or lower, forcing him to offense.

Perhaps he should have continued the same way against Hogan.

In the upper bracket semi-final Hogan ran into a red-hot Jerry Hilecher, whose booming serve was right on all weekend. Jerry was off a surprisingly



Hilecher drives the ball down the left wall against Hogan in the semi's. — perfect form, perfect concentration.

Williams could hardly get lower to shoot this ball against Wright in the semi-finals. Eye contact couldn't be better.

easy 21-14, 21-11 win over Davey Bledsoe in their monthly flip-a-coin match.

But Hogan seems to be able to cope with everybody, no matter how hot. He definitely coped with Hilecher, whose seven aces over the two games were not nearly enough.

The first game, in which Hilecher scored five of those aces was an either-way affair, with never more than two points separating the warriors. That is, until Hogan came to life at 17-16, put together two kills of weak service returns, and then forced two Hilecher errors for the 21-16 victory.

The momentum swung sharply to Hogan's corner in the second. A huge eight point seventh inning truly sealed Hilecher's doom. Down 4-5, Hogan lost service after running off four kills, two passes and two frozen aces for a 12-5 advantage. Even a Hilecher time-out at 8-5 couldn't do anything but waste 30 seconds.

The pressure exerted by Hogan can make any player fold and Jerry succumbed late in the second game. Trying to make a run, he was able to close to within 14-19, only to have Hogan tally the final two points, both on forehand errors. That villian Mr. Skip seemed to have control of Hilecher's racquet.

The ladies semi-finals were strange. First off was Wright's three-game win over Kathy Williams, still striving to make her first visit to the finals. Tied at 15-all in the first game, Williams, who has been known to falter at this point, actually got tougher and scored the last six points of the game on an ace (Z to the right), two kills, two passes, and a Wright error, 21-15.



Game two was a joke, with Wright grabbing an 11-3 lead and after a Williams time out, two sides out, Shannon finished the job 21-4.

So came the unpredictable tie-breaker with Williams grabbing the early advantage 5-3, but Wright equalling the game at 5-all. Next came the key point for at 6-5 Wright's lead, the serve changed hands eight times before Shannon was able to tally her seventh, an error by Williams, skipping in a backhand back wall set up.

Shannon went as far as 9-6 and then sat back while Kathy erred twice for the 11-6 victory.

In the bottom bracket one of the weirdest matches seen in many a month occurred in Marriott's stunning victory over Peggy Steding. The scores should tell it all, 19-21, 21-2, 11-1.

Who could say what happened to Steding? She called it "mental laziness." Others said physical fatigue. Whatever the reasons, Steding was just a shadow of herself in those last two games.

Marriott, on the other hand, played two of the most perfect games seen in a long time. Serving hard and accurate and shooting likewise, she was a demon on legs in the court. The second

Steding (l.) and Marriott try and untangle after a collision during their first game of the semi's.
Peg wasn't laughing later.



game took but seven innings, with a 7-point third and 7-point fifth taking care of game two.

In the tie-breaker Janell came out smokin' again, jumping quickly to a 5-1 lead. At 7-1 Steding erred on an attempted ceiling ball, one of r.b.'s cardinal sins. A kill and perfect pass later made it 10-1 and to make this unusual match even more so, point 11 came on a controversial call. Referee Terry Fancher called the serve short, but an appeal by Marriott got the call reversed. Fancher, in a correct but pressure-packed call, awarded an ace to Marriott for the match.

"I saw it short," said Fancher. "But if it was good, it was perfect. I had to call the ace."

The best match of the men's quarters was Brumfield's win over Serot, a most unconvincing 20-21, 21-19, 11-9 affair.

As everyone expected, Serot spent most of the match sliding around the floor, picking up impossible to retrieve shots, staying alive and in general defying the laws of gravity and safety.

Brumfield, on the other hand, was content to stand in mid-court and punish his younger rival until he couldn't stand. It was here that Serot's tyrannical training program paid off, for he never did tire, causing a long, exciting and impressive match.

With the ooo's and aaah's psyching him continually, Serot picked himself off the floor time and again, to stay in the match. With a maximum of three points, and rarely more than one separating the two, the first game went to the proverbial wire, with a diving Serot get and re-kill earning him the game.

Brumfield assumed the comeback role in the second, when he fought from a 13-18 deficit to sneak in a 21-19 win.

The tie-breaker was classic racquetball, a match that fans had seen seemingly a thousand times before. Brumfield driving, Serot retrieving, Serot flailing, Brumfield scurrying. Ties at 1, 6, 8, and 9 left all on the chair's edges before Brumfield on his second try, racked up match point.

None of the other quarter-final matches went three, although two of them had 21-20 games. Morrow found himself against Jay Jones and had no easy time with the methodical stunt man.

The first game went to Morrow 21-20, and the second was also a good battle, before Morrow carried it through 21-15.

Hogan met Strandemo in the upper bracket quarter-final and Strandy, who stopped Steve Keeley in the 16's gave it his best shot in the first game before bowing 21-20. There wasn't much left for Steve in the second and the 21-10 score was an accurate reflection.

The last quarter-final encounter was Hilecher's big win over Bledsoe 21-14, 21-11. As stated before, Hilecher's super serve was on target, judging by his impressive 21-10, 21-4 win over home-towner John Lynch in the 16's. Jerry still had his hot hand against Davey as the scores indicate.



Just like yesteryear . . . Serot gives the sign to Brumfield in their quarter-final match while . . .

The Brum gives another sign right back to Serot. No love lost here.



Morrow's floating backhand was down enough to squeeze out this two-game win over Jones in the quarters.



This time it's a Hilecher backhand down the left wall as Bledsoe finds himself out of position in the quarters.

Williams goes to the ceiling against Sauser in their battle, the only three-game quarter-final ladies match.



Strandemo (r.) is caught in a familiar pose, — blocking. Note the ball at his right foot as Hogan prepares to rip. Better move, Steve!



The only real good 16's matches were Strandemo's 19 and 16 victory over Keeley; Serot's narrow 17-21, 21-10, 11-5 win against Ben Koltun, and although it was a lousy match, the Jones 21-15, 21-10 win over Wagner proved that mental preparedness is definitely a factor in pro racquetball. The ladies quarters, as usual, were nothing to write home about. Only Williams was forced to three games 4-21, 21-18, 11-7 by Jean Sauser.

Newcomer Pat Schmidt, Milwaukee lost to Marriott 21-19, 21-7 after stunning the Chicago area fans with her 16's win over local favorite Sue Carow 16 and 14.

Wright blew out Martha Byrd 21-4, 21-9 and Steding had it her way against Rita Hoff 21-9, 21-14 in the other quarter-final match-ups. ●

NOTES OF THE TOURNAMENT . . .

The shocker of the tournament was unseeded Bob Deuster, a local area A player, topping third ranked Craig McCoy in the round of 32 21-13, 21-20. A slim, club pro, Deuster took advantage of McCoy's mental relaxation and played a superb match. When Craig tried to turn it on, — it was too late . . . the tournament was a fantastic success, with total sell outs three nights, superb hospitality, thanks primarily to the Italian U-Boat which provided food and beverages from Vito, Jim and Angelo . . . The Glass Court is a perfect host and president Ron Hankin makes sure that things are run in a well organized and efficient manner . . . thanks too to George Smith, one of Ron's partners, for his help during the week . . . club manager/pro Dan Bertolucci was all over everywhere, making sure things were smooth and he had great help from Sue Sull, Mario Cesarini, Leo Goss and Jerry Sayers . . . the Illinois State Racquetball Association also pitched in, led by Tom Street, Al Shetzer and floor manager supreme, Jim Stotz . . . Illinois' Governor Jim Thompson and his lovely bride made the final day an absolute event, and working with the Governor's advance men was a privilege . . . The huge (156 man) Amateur Open division was won by Ron Galbreath, New Wilmington, Pennsylvania. Galbreath outlasted the field and captured the title with a 21-19, 21-4 win over Deuster . . . Martha Byrd, Gainesville, Fla. took the Ladies Open, 21-10, 21-19 over St. Louis' Rita Hoff . . . Chicago's Jim Clemons captured the Men's Seniors bracket, 21-6, 12-21, 11-2 over Bernie Nielson, Marshalltown, Iowa . . . The Masters championship was won by Al Hanke, Elmhurst, Illinois, who defeated Palos Heights' Jack Shuberth 21-14, 21-12.

Glass Court president Ron Hankin (r.) presents Illinois' Governor Jim Thompson with an award for being the state's number one r.b. booster.



Results Men's Pro (Preliminary Round): Zuckerman d. Naul 21-12, 21-11; York d. Whipple, forfeit; Mondry d. Karay 21-7, 21-6; Wikus d. Waldo 21-6, 21-5; Sull d. Champagne 21-13, 14-21, 11-7; Schmitt d. Karas 21-11, 21-15.

(First Round): Hogan d. Dem 21-7, 21-9; Aker d. Fancher 16-21, 21-12, 11-5; Keeley d. Zuckerman 21-20, 19-21, 11-8; Strandemo d. York 21-5, 21-7; Hlecher d. Mondry 21-7, 21-2; Lynch d. Bowman 21-8, 21-19; Rish d. Chase 21-15, 1-21, 11-6; Bledsoe d. Gibbs 21-18, 21-6; Deuster d. McCoy 21-13, 21-20; Morrow d. Stafford 15-21, 21-11, 11-1; Jones d. Wikus 12-21, 21-12, 11-9; Wagner d. Valera 21-1, 21-6; Serot d. Sull 21-8, 21-10; Kollun d. Schmitt 21-11, 21-13; Yellen d. Zelman 21-3, 21-17; Brunfield d. Hemphill 21-7, 21-12.

(Second Round): Hogan d. Aker 21-10, 21-12; Strandemo d. Keeley 21-19, 21-16; Hlecher d. Lynch 21-10, 21-4; Bledsoe d. Rish 21-17, 21-11; Morrow d. Deuster 21-8, 21-4; Jones d. Wagner 21-15, 21-10; Serot d. Kollun 17-21, 21-10, 11-5; Brunfield d. Yellen 21-7, 21-12.

(Quarter-finals): Hogan d. Strandemo 21-20, 21-10; Hlecher d. Bledsoe 21-14, 21-11; Morrow d. Jones 21-20, 21-15; Brunfield d. Serot 20-21, 21-19, 11-6.

(Semi-finals): Hogan d. Hlecher 21-16, 21-14; Brunfield d. Morrow 21-7, 21-6.

(Championship): Hogan d. Brunfield 21-14, 21-10.

Results Women's Pro (First Round): Wright d. Thompson 21-3, 21-6; Byrd d. Pasternak 21-17, 20-21, 11-2; Sauter d. McCarthy 21-2, 21-3; Williams d. Noguchi 21-7, 21-11; Marriott d. Franks 21-13, 21-4; Schmitt d. Carow 21-16, 21-14; Hoff d. Green 21-12, 17-21, 11-5; Steding d. Armstrong 21-10, 21-4.

(Quarter-finals): Wright d. Byrd 21-4, 21-9; Williams d. Sauter 4-21, 21-18, 11-7; Marriott d. Schmitt 21-19, 21-7; Steding d. Hoff 21-9, 21-14.

(Semi-finals): Wright d. Williams 15-21, 21-4, 11-6; Marriott d. Steding 19-21, 21-2, 11-1.

(Championship): Wright d. Marriott 21-13, 20-21, 11-10.

TOURNAMENT RESULTS

LEACH
SEAMCO

N.R.C. PRO TOUR

11

**Newport
Beach**



With the March of Dimes poster girl, winner Davey Bledsoe (kneeling, r.) and runner-up Craig McCoy (kneeling, l.) pose for the camera. Standing are Rick Schliebe (l.) and Dan Isaacson, of The Sporting House.

The Best of the Rest?

When Marty Hogan and Charlie Brumfield both elected not to play the Newport Beach pro stop, a sage racquetball commentator dubbed the event "The Best of the Rest," alluding to the Brumfield/Hogan domination of pro racquetball the past three years.

Hogan, who was in the midst of final exams at San Diego State, and Brumfield, nursing a sore shoulder, left the field wide open May 12-15, just three weeks prior to the Nationals.

For "The Rest" it was Nirvana. No longer did it matter whose bracket you were in. No longer did you have to worry about Hogan's bullets or Brumfield's brains. All you had to do was win.

After the initial shock, it became apparent that pro racquetball is alive and thriving with or without Hogan and Brumfield. And all you have to do is ask any of "The Rest." They'll be glad to tell you.

Their spokesman should be Davey Bledsoe who won Newport Beach and then graduated to "A Name" by capturing the National Title (see page 17). Bledsoe was showing his full hand in Newport, but nobody was watching, or remembering.

Coming from the second seed in the bottom bracket, Bledsoe wasn't pretty, nor was he dominating. But he was good, very good. And he got better as the weekend wore on.

Cranking up his own power drive serve (tour players are now conceding Davey second place to Hogan in the power hitter derby), Bledsoe was too much for anyone to handle.

His championship match foe was top seed Craig McCoy, who continues to perplex all handicappers. Fresh off of the most embarrassing pro

performance of the year in Lombard, McCoy totally turned his game around as he chased for the title.

The tournament was held at the luxurious Newport Beach Sporting House, similar to the Denver club of the same name which sported front wall glass. In Newport Beach, however, general manager Rick Schliebe, after consulting with N.R.C. officials, turned the court around, drew new service lines, and the tourney was played with a glass back wall, much to the delight of the players.

The final match had one good game, the first, and one drag, the second. McCoy bolted first with three quick points, but Bledsoe rallied to tie at 3. Ties ensued at 6, 7, 12, 15, and 16, until Bledsoe pulled away.

Two McCoy errors rang up 17 and 18 and Davey's own patented forehand right corner pinch was the 19th. But in a gesture of good will, Bledsoe promptly double faulted (his second of the game) giving McCoy the serve, 16-19 and a perfect opportunity to get back into it. He didn't.

Bledsoe rolled off the serve with his backhand, aced lefty Craig with a hard Z to the right, and tallied the game winner on a pass left, Davey's only passing winner of the game.

Between games a pro spectator predicted a McCoy injury in the second, and real or imagined, Craig's arm began aching him as Bledsoe's lead widened. Craig didn't even bother calling a strategic or injury time out as Davey gathered up 4-2, 6-2, 8-2, and 11-2 leads.

Finally McCoy stirred, rolling out a few forehands, serving well with a drive to Bledsoe's forehand, and all of a sudden it was 9-13, well within reach. But there Bledsoe's time out stopped the momentum and he in turn blasted

an ace on a drive to the left, and a perfect pass right. McCoy followed with two skips and the match was over at 17-9.

At 19-9 and 20-9 McCoy ignored the sensible time out and Davey ended the match, pocketing the two grand first place prize with a forehand right corner kill.

Bledsoe and Richard Wagner had a superb semi-final battle, Davey winning in three, and almost making comeback of the year to win in two 21-16, 18-21, 11-4.

Again Bledsoe's pattern was to stay close going into the final quarter of the game and pour it on. Down 13-14, he surfaced with the next lead 16-15 and three crucial points made it 19-15. In fact, had Davey not been over-anxious mid-way through the match (five of Wagner's last six points were shooting errors off the serve by Bledsoe), he would have had a much easier time of it.

As it was Davey still managed to grab the game 21-16, setting up the thrilling second. With Davey playing too cautiously (he made only two deep court errors the whole game), and Wagner playing well, Rich found himself up 20-12 and thinking about the tie-breaker.

Five times Wagner couldn't tally the 21st point, and Bledsoe kept creeping closer, 12-20, 13-20, 17-20, 18-20 before Wagner finally made it go three with a backhand kill from center court into the left corner.

The tie-breaker was good, solid racquetball, with Bledsoe's serve and shoot style just too overpowering for the retrieving Wagner, who seems to

Fair Warning

be one of the few players who can play well against either control or power styles.

But too much power was his foe, and a 3-all tie-breaker blossomed into a 6-3, 8-4 Bledsoe advantage. Wagner's time out at that juncture did nothing and Davey ran out 11-4.

In the upper bracket McCoy faced Jerry Hilecher, who smelled his second title of the year. His booming serve still on green, Hilecher was the upper bracket favorite. Only problem was McCoy. He wanted to play this night.

You would never have known it by looking at the first game a dismal 21-5 Hilecher win. Craig was sluggish despite the howling of encouragement from the home town fans, who flocked to Newport from nearby Riverside to cheer on their hero.

If the first game was a lesson in how bad Craig McCoy can be, the next two games were lessons in how well he can play. Limbering up his own drive and Z serves, McCoy out Hilechered Hilecher. He took control, forced weak returns and built a 20-13 lead from an 8-all tie.

Jerry called the token time outs, but Craig would have none of it and he busily called on the tie-breaker 21-13.

Talk about somebody getting hot! McCoy was charcoal white in a relentless pursuit of the finals. With his gallery screaming to each other (the players couldn't hear in the totally enclosed court) his advantage mounted 3-0, 4-0, 6-0 and finally 10-0. Would the season's third tie-breaker bagel be in Hilecher's bag?

Not so, as Hilecher took the serve and knocked out an ace on a Z to the right,

ensuring his twinkie (tour slang for a one point final game total). He then added four more to make the final a respectable 11-5.

Match point came, ironically, on a McCoy ace serve, a blistering drive to the forehand side, a serve that had been McCoy's best all weekend.

McCoy was the only semi-finalist to go three in the quarters, against Jay Jones. By typical McCoy scores he won the match 21-7, 17-21, 11-5. Craig's ability to up the pace a notch in the tight spots makes him one of the most dangerous tour players.

"You never know what he'll do," said one. "You go in knowing you can beat him, and you come out wondering why you didn't."

Jones, after being thumped in the first game 21-7, must have been praying for a reversal, and his prayers were answered. Craig slowed down, Jay heated up and a 21-17 Jones win was the result.

So McCoy went back to work, taking the tie-breaker 11-5.

Hilecher breezed in his quarter, taking Steve Keeley in routine fashion 21-13, 21-5, while Wagner stopped Steve Strandemo, who struggled all weekend, 21-19, 21-5.

The last quarter was similar with Bledsoe erasing Steve Serot 21-8, 21-20.

There were two excellent round of 16 matches, with Jones sneaking past Ben Koltun 21-15, 9-21, 11-8, and Wagner surviving a threat from unheralded amateur Gary Lusk 19-21, 21-13, 11-9.

Shannon Wright made it known to all at Newport Beach, - she was to be the player to beat in the women's pro division at the Nationals. She made this southern California site her fourth consecutive tour victory and did it in such dominating fashion that she left no doubts that she is the best female player in the world.

Much of the story of the ladies bracket at Newport Beach occurred in the earlier rounds, with the perennial semi-finalist Janell Marriott and Kathy Williams both losing in the quarters. The tournament also marked the return of Jan Campbell, who showed fine form in barely losing her quarter-final match against Peggy Steding.

It was Peggy who finally reached the finals against Wright, but as was the case throughout the last part of the season, racquetball's grand, old lady was no match for her youthful foe.

Game one was all Shannon, who played an almost flawless game. Making only two errors that cost her points, serving well and excelling in all phases of the game she galloped toward 21 with stops at 6-0, 12-0 and 19-4 for a final 21-5 margin.

It just wasn't the Steding of old. Peg had been sluggish all tournament, having to go three times just to reach the finals, an unheard of development even a year ago. In the finals, the zip was gone.

The second game was better, as Steding took an early, slight lead 7-5, but Shannon passed her at 9-8, kept going to 14-8 and held the six point difference to 18-12.

Wright actually played a better game offensively than she did in the first. Only one of her points came on a Steding error, the rest were kills (13), passes (5) or aces (2). Shannon's last

Isaacson presents ladies winner Shannon Wright with a bouquet of roses after her victory over Peggy Steding in the finals.



four points were kill shots, with the 21st coming on a picture book forehand right corner kill, the bread-and-butter of any tour player.

The semi-finals were poles apart. In the upper bracket Wright faced Jean Sauser, who finally caught Kathy Williams in the quarters (Jean seemed to be chasing Kathy all year). But Jean's nerves got the best of her, and Shannon's relentless power game was too strong, ending in identical 21-7, 21-7 wins.

But as much as the Sauser-Wright match was no contest, the

Steding-Jennifer Harding semi-final was very much a contest.

Harding, who scored only 39 points in her three game win over Marriott in the quarters, was spectacular against Steding in the semi's. After dropping the first game 21-14, Harding got tough in the second, saving three match points and slipping by Peggy 21-20.

The tie-breaker was a barnburner, close all the way, with southpaw Jenny (the only female lefty on tour) playing her toughest. But Peggy was just that

little extra tougher. With the pressure on her, Steding was up to the big points when needed and came in with the winner 11-8.

The quarters were the best complete round of the entire tournament. Wright's 21-11, 21-14 victory over Jan Pasternak was the only match not to go three, and two of them ended 11-10.

Sauser and Williams, a couple of long-time midwest foes (Chicago-Detroit) matched similar styles into a beautiful match. As in

Lombard, Williams took the first game, but the gutsy Sauser held off match point at 20-20 and captured the game 21-20.

But if Williams was disheartened, it didn't show. She was strong and confident in the tie-breaker, as was Sauser. Down to the wire, with fans straining to get a glimpse, it was Sauser 11-10.

Harding took the first game against Marriott in the top of the lower bracket 21-19, but Jenny couldn't cope with the stronger Marriott's power serve and shoot style in the second, folding 21-7 and making her outlook bleak.

But it was not, as Jenny put together a solid, error-free tie-breaker and never looked over her shoulder to stop Janell 11-5.

The Steding win in the last quarter-final battle was a heartbreaking loss for Campbell. Her first appearance in eight months was a pointed one, however, as she recovered from a total bombing in the first game (21-3) to take the second 21-15.

The tie-breaker for awhile was all Campbell. She held an almost insurmountable 10-4 lead, but as Marriott did against Wright in Lombard, Jan became overly cautious, waiting for the freebie 11th point.

Steding kept her cool, made some unbelievable gets to save match point and finally put together her run for an 11-10 victory. ●

NOTES OF THE TOURNAMENT . . .

The Sporting House again turned over all proceeds of the tournament to the March of Dimes, \$2,000 as in Denver . . . Steding again was the only pro player to donate a portion of her winnings to the Dimes, showing that she may not be number one on the court any longer, but she sure is number one in the heart . . . Thanks to Rick Schliebe, Dan Isaacson, Ellen Frey et. al. for their help . . . Seamco's prez Al Mackie and national sales manager Bob Coate were on hand to take in the tourney . . . Par for the tour's course, the weather made all happy to be indoors, with cool and windy the order for the weekend.

Results Men's Pro (First Round): Kelly d. Snow 21-16, 21-6; Bush d. Schenbaum 21-14, 16-21, 11-8; Radford d. Siemenowski 21-5, 21-6; Wickham d. Stoddard 21-8, 21-12; Portune d. Thurman 21-10, 21-16; Weighman d. Austin, forfeit; Kent d. Williams 21-7, 21-7; Lusk d. Schonert 21-17, 21-17; Wright d. Corbett 21-7, 21-6; Fearing d. Matthews, forfeit; Hawkins d. Mondry 21-15, 16-21, 11-5; Thomas d. Floyd 21-8, 21-8; Davidson d. Maddox 17-21, 11-4, 11-7.

(Second Round): McCoy d. Wadlick 21-1, 21-15; Kelly d. Bush 21-10, 21-10; Kottun d. Radford 21-13, 21-6; Jones d. Wickham 21-16, 21-10; Keeley d. Portune 21-11, 21-12; Fancher d. Weighman 21-4, 21-16; Kent d. Stafford, forfeit; Chase d. Wright 11-21, 21-13, 11-7; Strandemo d. Berberet 21-14, 19-21, 11-7; Serot d. Alderson 21-8, 21-14; Morrow d. Fearing 21-19, 21-11; Thomas d. Hawkins 21-6, 21-15; Bledsoe d. Davidson 21-6, 21-12.

(Third Round): McCoy d. Kelly 21-12, 21-13; Jones d. Kottun 21-15, 9-21, 11-8; Keeley d. Fancher 21-13, 21-10; Hlecher d. Kent 21-6, 21-8; Wagner d. Lusk 19-21, 21-13, 11-9; Strandemo d. Chase 21-10, 21-7; Serot d. Morrow 21-6, 21-14; Bledsoe d. Thomas 21-0, 21-14.

(Quarter-finals): McCoy d. Jones 21-7, 17-21, 11-5; Hlecher d. Keeley 21-13, 21-5; Wagner d. Strandemo 21-19, 21-5; Bledsoe d. Serot 21-8, 21-20.

(Semi-finals): McCoy d. Hlecher 5-21, 21-13, 11-5; Bledsoe d. Wagner 21-16, 18-21, 11-4.

(Championship): Bledsoe d. McCoy 21-16, 21-14.

Results Women's Pro (First Round): Sau d. Hunt 21-6, 21-19; Pasternak d. Clemens 21-8, 21-5; Gick d. Bernesthy, forfeit; Heims d. McGovern 20-21, 21-19, 11-2; Murphy d. Morris 21-13, 21-10; Weed d. Frey 21-15, 21-12; Campbell d. Lewis 21-4, 21-3; Moore d. Noguchi 21-12, 21-12.

(Second Round): Wright d. Sau 21-2, 21-3; Pasternak d. McCarthy 21-18, 21-14; Sauser d. Gick 21-4, 21-5; Williams d. Heims 21-13, 21-5; Marriott d. Murphy 21-3, 21-6; Harding d. Weed 21-3, 21-4; Campbell d. Carow, injury default; Steding d. Moore 21-16, 21-11.

(Quarter-finals): Wright d. Pasternak 21-11, 21-14; Sauser d. Williams 12-21, 21-20, 11-10; Harding d. Marriott 21-19, 7-21, 11-5; Steding d. Campbell 21-3, 15-21, 11-10.

(Semi-finals): Wright d. Sauser 21-7, 21-7; Steding d. Harding 21-14, 20-21, 11-8.

(Championship): Wright d. Steding 21-5, 21-13.

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