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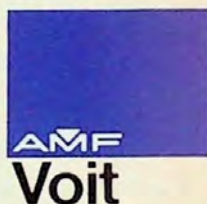
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CONTENTS

Features

- 14** **'Give Me An R...!'**
Let's Hear It for College Racquetball
• Judy Heinrich

- 21** **Becoming A Sponsored Player**
Freeloaders Need Not Apply
• Charlie Garfinkel

- 29** **Maine Man**
The AARA's Bob Folsom
• Nancy K. Crowell

- 32** **Some Like It Hot**
The AARA California State Championships
• Michael Hunter

Departments

- 6** **Receiving Line**
Letters to the Editor

- 8** **New Directions**
Announcement from the Executive Director

- 9** **Players' Forum**
A Discussion of Rules

- 11** **Industry News**
People and Equipment

- 12** **Short Lines**
News Round-Up

- 13** **Juniors' Page**
Youngsters On the Move

- 19** **Junior Regional Application**
Blank

- 24** **Calendar**
Upcoming Tournaments

- 36** **Winning Points**
Off-Court Training
• Sarah Green

- 38** **Winning Points**
The Three Wall Challenge
• Kurt Ronsen

- 40** **First Service**
Court Club Openings

- 41** **AARA National Singles**
Application Blank

- 44** **Scorecard**
Tournament Results

COVER:
Photograph by Larry Kuzniewski

Volume 9·Number 5·May, 1980

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RECEIVING LINE

Letters To The Editor

I herewith confirm my cable [to Luke St. Onge] of 1-29-1980, which said as follows: "We would like to become a charter member of the International Racquetball Federation. We exist since May 19, 1978. We do have two clubs. Next year it will be six. Letter follows. With sportgreetings, Han van der Heijden, president of the Nederlandse [Netherlands] Racquetball Associatie."

We opened our first club in October, 1978, a second in September, 1979. A third one will be opened in September, 1980 at the Holiday Inn at Leiden. Three others will be opened in September, 1981. Eventually others will come too, but we don't know [where] yet. We had our national championships in 1978 and 1979, and Open championships in 1979. We will have [the European] Open championships coming April 26-27 in our Racquetcenter Westvliet at Leidschendam.

There were 48 participants in our national championships last year, 26 the year before. The tournament was sponsored by AMF Voit and we used the Rollout Bleu ball. . .

Please inform me concerning the new IRF. . . and what our next step to join has to be.

Hans van der Heijden
President, Nederlandse
(Netherlands)
Racquetball Associatie



I took great umbrage with the article in your Fall Fashion Issue [see *Racquetball*, September, 1979], dealing with "The Business of Fashion." [The article included] this inset on page 18, which read: "It (racquetball) has emerged from the musty YMCAs. . . Under these circumstances, people are going to care more about how they look."

As the director of the Appleton (Wis.) Family YMCA, where we have four racquetball courts, highly used and distinctly not "musty," I object. There may be YMCAs which are musty, but please don't refer to our YMCA as musty unless you have come here, seen our courts and health centers, played on our courts with some of our great members and players and found any evidence of "musty."

Actually, I'm not nearly as angry as this letter might sound—more amused than anything else. Because you, like so many others, don't really know all of the

YMCAs and their facilities. Some of us suffer from the stereotype of what some other YMCAs appear to be.

Robert F. Brunken
General Secretary
Appleton Family YMCA
Appleton, Wis.



I would like to express my sincere thanks for the attention given to the Women '80 tournament in the [March] edition of *Racquetball*. I am sure that all the participants were pleased to get national recognition for their efforts.

I am looking forward, with great anticipation, to the Women '81 [tournament], again to be hosted by the Boston Tennis Club, and feel the prominence you gave the article will help to expand the draw and make it truly a nationally acclaimed tournament for women.

Maureen Boulette
Tournament Director, Women '80
AARA State Director
Millbury, Mass.



The [AARA] national Board of Directors recently completed an update of our official racquetball rules book. The new edition does not have a large number of changes, but does eliminate any reference to gender and is a document that will assure safety and better play for amateur racquetball players. This rules book is the official rules book for the newly-formed International Amateur Racquetball Federation. This organization has over 13 charter members, with many more countries interested in joining.

We are currently waiting for the printed copy of the new rules book, and [it] will be available to the membership as soon as we receive our copies from the printers.

The Board of Directors recognizes the need for continual review of the rules and realizes that changes must be made to assure safety and complete play for the players. We do not anticipate many major changes in the near future, especially to enhance the play of a particular group of players or for individual players. Changes must be made in the best interest of amateur racquetball players and hopefully will come as the result of your input to the Board of Directors.

The Board has a group of individuals who will listen to your request. We encourage you individually to review the rules and submit your recommendations and ideas to us for consideration. Our next meeting will be held [this month] in Coral Gables, Fla., at the National Singles Championships. We hope to hear

from interested people and will do our best to represent you, the membership, in all aspects of the game of racquetball. Thank you for your support of amateur racquetball.

Keith Calkins
AARA National Rules Chairman
Hayward, Calif.

(For more on the subject of rules changes, see page 9)



I look forward to receiving and reading your magazine. Enjoyed your article on the Women's Professional Racquetball Association tournament in Rockville Centre, Long Island, New York. [See *Racquetball*, February, 1980.] However, I could not understand why a write-up on the other deserving winning players was not listed. Do only the pro players matter? After all, the majority of we readers are the average amateur player. Does not your book boast, "The Official Publication of the American Amateur Racquetball Association?"

Also, how does your magazine get together your listing for national amateur rankings? I know numerous excellent tournament participants and winners whose names do not even appear on your list.

I am looking forward to an answer in your magazine. I have discussed this with quite a few other people, and have found I am not alone in my questions.

A racquetball fanatic
Lehigh Valley, Penn.

(As a rule, we don't normally publish unsigned letters such as this one. However, since the letter raises a couple of points which may be of interest to other readers, we are making an exception in this case.)

To begin with, in answer to your first question, the article you refer to was carried on our monthly "Pro Page." The purpose of this column, as we indicated when we introduced it several months ago, is to provide our readers with coverage of professional racquetball players. The major focus of our tournament coverage, however, continues to be (and will continue to be) the amateur player, with a complete report of an amateur tournament featured in every issue and results from several amateur tournaments listed in our "Scorecard" section.

As to your second question, national amateur rankings are based on results from AARA-sanctioned tournaments only. The AARA encourages all those interested in receiving national recognition to participate in multiple AARA-sanctioned events.) ■

Racquetball welcomes correspondence from its readers. Letters are subject to editing for clarity and length.

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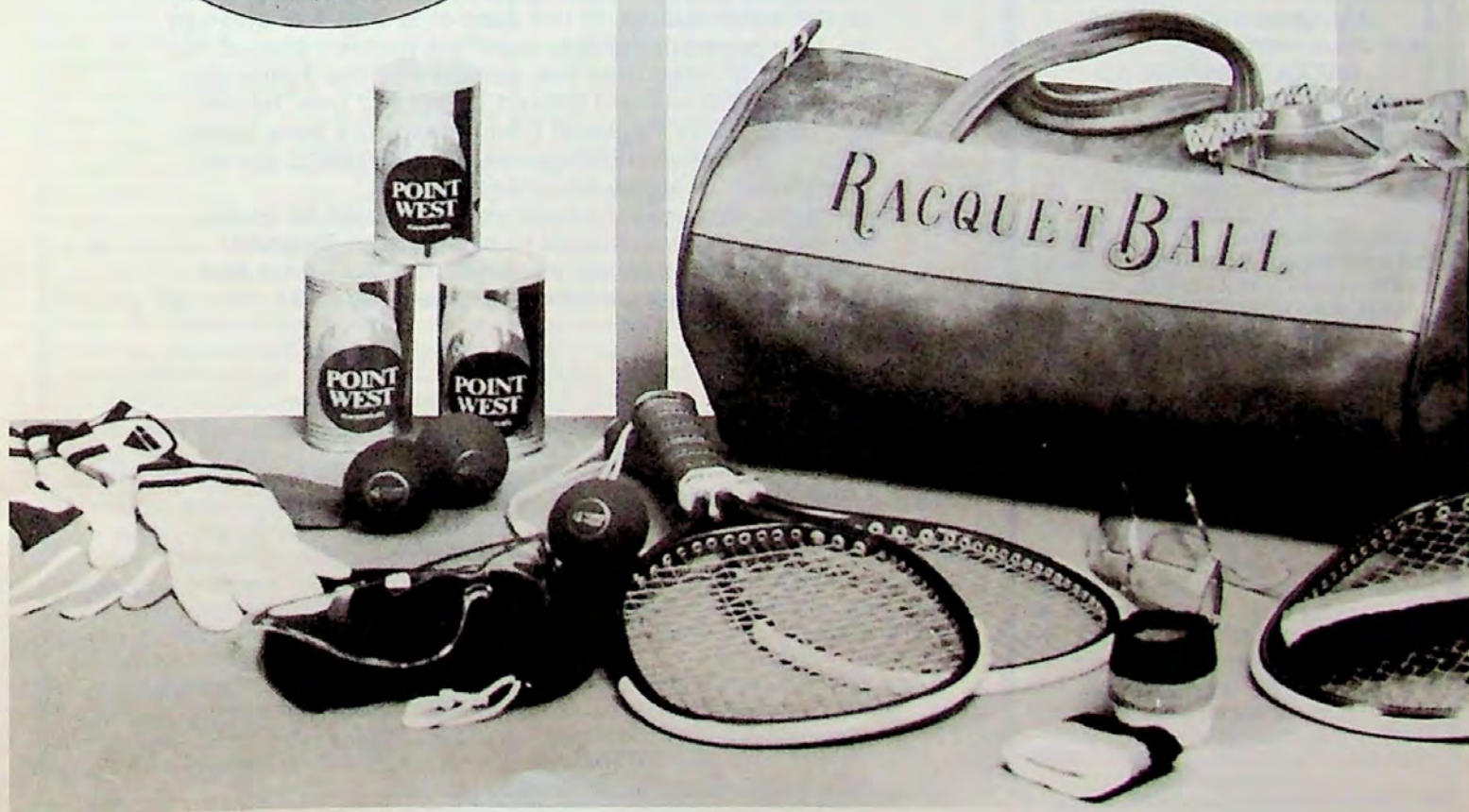
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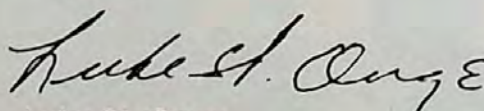
In October of 1979, the AARA's Board of Directors established the AARA National Junior Racquetball Council under the able leadership of Ed Martin, AARA Junior Commissioner and a member of the Board of Directors. The AARA National Junior Council is patterned after the United States Tennis Association's Junior Council, and is charged with the promotion and development of Junior racquetball within the United States. The Council is made up of dedicated individuals whose sole purpose is the development and support of Junior racquetball. We presently have nine regions, and expect to expand the number of regions dramatically after the Council meeting that will be held in conjunction with the Junior Nationals, July 10-13.

The first major commitment to the Junior Council and its purpose has been by Ektelon. Ektelon has agreed to sponsor the nine Junior Regionals and the Junior Nationals to be held in Redding, Calif. This will be the third consecutive year that Ektelon has made this commitment and we applaud their foresight and dedication to the development of the Junior game.

Some may question why the winners of these Junior Regionals will not receive round trip air fare for travel to the Nationals, as in the past. It is felt, and strongly so, that promotional and entry fee monies should not be spent on less than five per cent of the Junior participants, but instead should be spread over the entire field. Many Regional Commissioners have already begun to establish independent fund raising to help defer costs of those who need help.

We sincerely urge those of you who wish to be involved at the Junior level to contact the Regional Commissioner nearest you and offer your help and support. (For more information, see page 13.)

Regards,



Luke St. Onge
Executive Director

PLAYERS' FORUM

Calkins Discusses AARA Rules

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following message is directed to all AARA members from Keith Calkins, national rules chairman.

The American Amateur Racquetball Association has recently published the latest edition of the association's official rules of racquetball. We recognize that rules must be continually reviewed and changes made to provide safety and better playing situations for all players.

In reviewing the new rules, players will find that the AARA rules differ from those of the United States Racquetball Association (USRA) in several ways. Two significant rules where the two associations differ is in the return of serve and in readiness for serving. As the national rules chairman for the AARA, I believe that both of the AARA rules are good rules, and that changing them at this time is not in the best interest of the players' safety and would not improve the game. I would like to briefly review the AARA interpretation of each of these rules.

First, the interpretation of the rule 4.7, return of serve. This rule has safety built into the context and still does not allow the server to have total control of the five-foot area in the safety zone (that area extending from the short line to the five-foot line). The key to making this rule playable is the willingness of the referee to enforce the rule during play. The receiver(s) must stand at least five feet back of the short line and cannot enter into the five-foot safety zone until the ball has been served and passes the short line. At that point, the receiver(s) may enter the safety zone to return serve. However, in returning the serve, neither the receiver's racquet nor his body may infringe on the imaginary plane marked by the short line.

This rule provides the server with ample time to move into position for the receiver(s) return, and in the case of a poor serve, also allows time to give the receiver a shot with a full swing. The receiver(s), however, cannot charge the serve until after it passes the short line. Obviously, then, if the referee does not enforce the rule as it is written, the safety of the player(s) may be in jeopardy.

I believe that the server, especially in singles play, has a definite advantage in racquetball and that the USRA rule only

increases that advantage. The USRA rule states that the receiver is not allowed to return the serve on the fly inside the receiving line. The AARA rule, on the other hand, allows the receiver to take advantage of the service error by the server by charging a serve that does not get deep into the back court. It also provides for player safety. I personally teach racquetball to over 600 students each year, and I would be the first to favor a rule change if I believed that rule placed the safety of one of these players in jeopardy.

A second rule where the AARA and the USRA differ is the readiness to serve rule. The AARA rule 4.1e, readiness, allows the referee to keep the game moving, but also provides a built-in structure for time between points, side-outs, hinders, etc. The rule states that once the end of play is signaled by "point," "side-out," "hinder," etc., the receiver(s) is (are) given a reasonable amount of time, according to the judgement of the referee, to get ready to receive serve. According to the judgement of the referee, the score will be called when the receiver(s) is (are) ready to receive the serve. Once the score has been called, the server has 10 seconds to put the ball into play.

The USRA, meanwhile, allows the receiver to stop play for up to 10 seconds once in the receiving position, simply by holding his racquet above his head. This can lead to stalling and also result in there being a total of 20 seconds (including 10 seconds allowed the server) between points.

I believe that the game should have continual play and that a player should not be able to stop the play when in the receiving position. And while both the AARA and the USRA rules provide for time between points, side-outs, hinders, etc., I see no reason for the referee to stop play once the receiver is in the receiving position. Once again, if this rule is to be effective, referees must keep in mind the difference between the USRA and the AARA on this point and enforce the rules accordingly.

I hope that this brief discussion will help AARA referees and players in interpretation of the association's rules. I further hope that each referee will correctly interpret and enforce the rules so that players can play the game and be assured of consistent calls. ■

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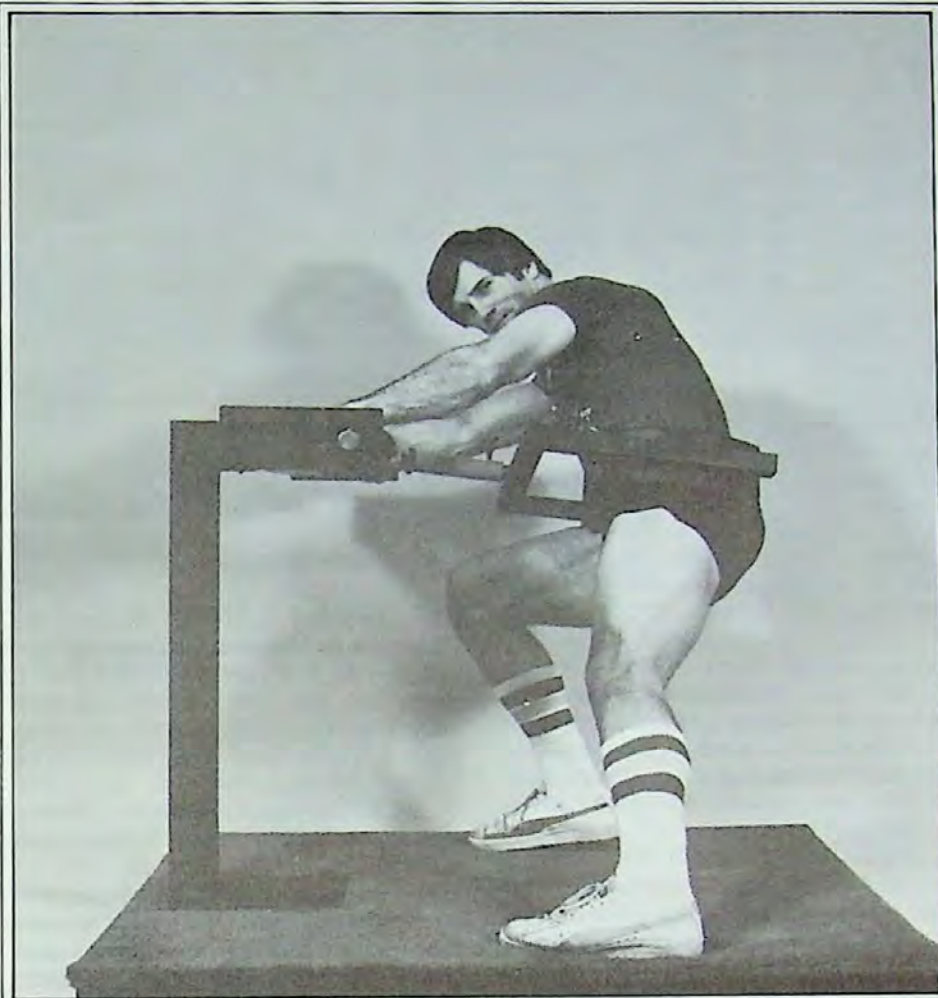
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Of course, if you aren't familiar with such exercises, you may wish to contact the manufacturer for more information about the Legmaster and its various uses. The person to contact is Dale Mask at Newmark Industries, Inc., 704 South 10th Street, Blue Springs, Mo., 64015; or call the toll free number 800-821-5576;

(in Missouri, call 816-229-5570).

Moving Up

Paul R. Aronson, chairman of the board of Grassroots Publishing Company, Inc., of Boston, recently announced the appointment of Marven Moss as editor of the *Northeast Tennis Journal and Racquetball*. Aronson also announced plans for the expansion of the monthly magazine's regional base to include New York and New Jersey.

The Montreal-born Moss edited the newly-published *Tennis Player's Handbook* (Atheneum, \$13.50) and was formerly associate editor of *Golf Digest* and a consultant to the Magazine Division of *The New York Times*. He lives in Rowayton, Conn.

Northeast Tennis Journal and Racquetball reports on tennis, racquetball and other racquet sports, emphasizing participatory and spectator activities plus equipment, travel, fashion, camps and trade news. It was founded in 1974 and was formerly called the *New England Tennis Journal and Racquetball Northeast*.

Double Vision

Eyeglass wearers, now you don't have to choose between wearing your prescription glasses or protective eyeguards on the racquetball court. Instead, wear both. Guardian Safety Products, Inc., of Danbury, Conn., offers safety glasses which the manufacturer says may be worn alone as protective eyeguards, or over prescription glasses for added protection.

The Guardian Safety glasses, made of polycarbonate plastic, which is highly impact-resistant, are available in either clear or yellow. This, according to the manufacturer, makes them suitable for a variety of activities, from racquetball to hunting. The new safety glasses feature a broad surface nose bridge, side lens protection and a thick adhesive foam brow rest. For more information on the Guardian glasses, which come with a carrying case and an adjustable headband, contact Guardian Safety Products, Inc., 8 Lake Ave., Danbury, Conn., 06810; or call 203-797-1963.

No Slips, No Drips, No Errors

Penn manufacturers are really dipping their hands, so to speak, into racquetball products these days. The newest addition to the Penn Athletic Products Co. line of racquetball accessories is — you guessed it — a racquetball glove.

Made of "genuine deerskin suede," the glove is extra thin for "better feel and fit," and features a non-slip grip, double stitching in stress areas and flat seams to prevent blisters, according to the manufacturer.

The new Penn glove is available in gold color for men, sizes small through extra large; light blue for women, in small, medium and large sizes. Both styles are available for either right or left hand. ■



Descriptions of new products are as according to information provided by the manufacturer; products have not been tested by Racquetball magazine.

**You do not
have to be born
with epilepsy. It
can result from
many causes...
viral encephalitis,
meningitis,
measles, high
fevers, poisons,
or serious head
injuries.**

Epilepsy.

It's not what you think.



Help light the candle of understanding.
Contact your local chapter of the
Epilepsy Foundation of America.
Or write Epilepsy, Washington, D.C. 20036.
(This is part of the former National Epilepsy League.)

SHORT LINES

Sale of Ektelon Reported Near

The Coleman Company recently announced it has signed a letter of intent to acquire Ektelon, a racquetball products company headquartered in San Diego.

Ektelon manufactures and distributes a complete line of racquetball equipment including racquets, racquetballs, clothing, related accessories and stringing machines for all types of racquets.

The inventor of the aluminum racquetball racquet, Ektelon also produces models of graphite/fiberglass and graphite/fiberglass/nylon composite construction. They are the leading manufacturer in the country of racquets retailing in excess of \$25.

Under terms of the agreement, Coleman will acquire Ektelon for Coleman stock or cash in an amount to be finally determined by formula at the closing. The company will be operated as a division of Coleman. There will be no change in the use of existing copyrights, trademarks, designs or distribution channels. Upon the satisfactory completion of a business review and audit, a formal sale and purchase contract was scheduled to be executed last month.

Coleman is engaged in the manufacture and distribution of outdoor recreation equipment including such varied equipment as camping and thermal products, backpacking equipment, canoes, Hobie Cat sailboats, O'Brien water skis, Crosman Airguns and camping trailers. They distribute products throughout the United States and Canada and in about 100 foreign countries.

'Ecstasy' Through Sports

Laurence Korwin was a chubby, accident prone kid who readily confesses, "I didn't start to use my body in sports until I was 25 years old." But once he discovered the joy of athletics, Korwin was hooked. In fact, his avid interest in sports has carried him a long way—to becoming director of the Chicago-based Sports Training Institute (STI), which "acts as a catalyst and clearinghouse for new ideas in sports instruction," according to Korwin.

A self-made evangelist of athletic activity, Korwin has written a book, *You Can Be Good At Sports!*, which he markets as "a program for life enrichment through sports." The book is aimed at every aspiring sportsman, from the lazy and uncoordinated to the supreme athlete. As Korwin explains, "This book combines my own findings and experience with the experience and advice of leading instructors of the world. It is

our hope that this book will make it easy for you to find joy, delight and ecstasy from the use of your body in sports."

On the way to finding "joy, delight and ecstasy" through Korwin's book, you can also read about everything from how to begin an exercise program to what to look for in a good instructor.

Published by the Sports Training Institute, *You Can Be Good At Sports!* sells for \$14.95, plus \$1.55 postage and handling, and can be ordered from Sports Training Institute, 333 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill., 60601. Or, if you are a new member of the AARA, or renewing your membership, you can order the book at a special discount price of \$12.95. Just use the \$2 coupon which will be enclosed as part of your information packet when joining or renewing your AARA membership.

Pro Football Goes to Court

Every now and then, professional football players welcome an opportunity to prove that they are proficient in more than one sport. With that in mind, Natural Light beer and the National Football League Players' Association (NFLPA) have put together a series of racquetball tournaments for pro footballers.

The series includes six regional tournaments and culminates with national finals in St. Louis. The regionals were kicked off last month in Miami (along with a simultaneously-scheduled amateur event) with players from the Miami Dolphins, New Orleans Saints, Washington Redskins and New York Jets facing off. The second regional was held last month in Dallas, and others, which are scheduled for May, will be held in Chicago, Boston and Los Angeles.

Regional winners who make it to the finals in St. Louis will have more at stake than team pride: Natural Light is putting up \$10,000 in cash and prizes.

Natural Light product manager Robert F. Merz said that Natural became involved in racquetball with the NFLPA last year. "Last summer we sponsored a racquetball meet among members of the Patriots, Giants, Bills and Jets," he said.

NFLPA director of special events Kal Weinstein said that many football players are avid racquetball players because, "Racquetball affords the football players a new way to exercise, to increase leg stretch, to control wind and timing. The players enjoy the game and it is easy to find a racquetball court at which to work out year-round."

Looks like racquetball has got the ole pigskin boxed in, so to speak. ■

JUNIORS' PAGE



Darin Grimes (left), Kansas State AARA 13-and-under champion, and Doug Jones (right), Kansas State 15-and-under champion, are two juniors who may shine in this year's Midwest Junior Regional. Tournament director for the Midwest Regional is Dewane Grimes (center).

Juniors To Blossom In May

May and June are the months of growth. From fresh green leaves to litters of kittens, the world is teeming with life. And it's only appropriate that the AARA Junior Regional tournaments — in which the youth of the sport blossom each year — are also held during these months. For those of you who plan to test newly acquired racquetball skills in the Junior Regionals, this month's Juniors' Page provides the following pertinent — in fact, vital — information.

First, you'll want to note that this year travel expenses to the Nationals in Redding, Calif., *will not be paid* for regional division winners. Instead, *all* fees collected will be spent on *all* participants in the Nationals. In this way, National tournament coordinators expect to make the tournament more enjoyable for everyone who participates.

Second, the Junior Regionals will be "open" this year. This means that a player may compete in any Regional he or she chooses, but no player may compete in more than one Regional.

Finally, as the Regionals are being held separately for juniors this year, if you are a winner, you may expect to be seeded in this year's Junior National tournament. All winners of Regional tournaments will be seeded in the National tournament.

Junior Regional sites which were determined as of March 27, are:

NORTHEAST

May 16-18

The Winton Racquetball Club

3120 South Winton Road

Rochester, N.Y., 14623

Nancy Allen, tournament director

716-271-3700

MIDWEST

June 20-22

The Supreme Court West

3725 West 13th Street

Wichita, Kan., 67203

Dewane Grimes, tournament director

316-945-8331

SOUTHEAST

June 20-22

The Courtrooms

750 W. Sunrise Boulevard

Fort Lauderdale, Fla., 33311

Terry Fancher, tournament director

305-764-8700

WESTERN

June 20-22

Casa De Courts

2183 Benita Drive

Rancho Cordova, Calif., 94670

Jeff Hetherington, tournament director

916-635-7354

NORTHWEST

June 20-22

The Court House

7211 Colonial Way

Boise, Idaho 83709

Gene Gibbs, tournament director

208-377-0040

EASTERN

June 20-22

The Playoff Racquetball/Handball Club

288 Wood Road

Braintree, Mass. 02184

Jim Daly, tournament director

617-848-8080

SOUTHWEST

June 20-22

Flagstaff Athletic Club

P.O. Box 1483

1200 W. Hwy. 66

Flagstaff, Ariz. 86002

Jim Garretson and Jack Nolan,

tournament directors

602-779-4593

MIDEAST

June 20-22

Branmar Racquetball Club

Branmar Plaza

Wilmington, Del., 19810

D.C. Lantz, tournament director

302-658-1036

CENTRAL

June 20-22

Lehmann Courts

2700 No. Lehmann Court

Chicago, Ill.

Ray Mitchell, tournament director

312-745-9400

And On to the Nationals...

The National tournament will be held July 10-13 at Kangaroo Courts, number IV in Redding, Calif. Ed Martin is tournament director.

Some items of interest concerning this year's Nationals:

*For the first time ever, doubles play will be offered in all divisions in the Nationals.

*Redding, Calif., site of the tournament, has a small airport, so Ed Martin cautions those planning to participate to make reservations early.

*Housing for the Junior Nationals: (Be sure to mention "Junior National Racquetball" in order to receive reduced rates):

The River Inn

1835 Park Marina Drive

Redding, Calif., 96001

916-241-9500

The Shasta Inn

2180 Hilltop Drive

Redding, Calif., 96001

916-241-8200

*All tournaments are AARA-sanctioned level five. See page 19 for information. ■

'GIVE ME AN R...!'



Their stride is purposeful as they cross the campus of the University. Books under one arm, racquets and gym bags under the other, their casual conversations are frequently interrupted by choruses of "hello's." They nod recognition, but hardly notice the numerous admiring glances tossed their way. As they near the Physical Education complex, they are greeted by the usual small crowd of fans who are eager to watch a practice session. Almost at the door, one of them is stopped by a child who emerges from the crowd and shyly requests an autograph. By now it's all commonplace, they are accustomed to it — they are, after all, the school racquetball team.

Sounds great, doesn't it? Too bad it's pure fiction. The current status of the typical college racquetball player is far from the BMOC ("Big Man On Campus") limelight often enjoyed by football or basketball players. In fact, most racquetballers are not even recognized for their abilities,

THREE SMALL CHEERS FOR COLLEGE RAC



except by fellow team members or die-hard racquetball aficionados. And virtually all of them can travel freely without fear of being mobbed by well-meaning fans. Still, a cursory examination of the 1980 NIRSA (National Intramural Recreational Sports Association) directory, which includes over 1,000 colleges and military installations, reveals that fully 60 per cent of the colleges and universities listed have some sort of formal racquetball program. This means instruction at the very least, an intercollegiate program at best. Why then, is there no recognition for the sport?

QUETBALL • BY JUDY HEINRICH



On all but one college team, official faculty involvement is limited to the required "advisor" position. The exception is Memphis State University's Coach Larry Liles—the only paid, full-time college racquetball coach in the nation.

The fact that even the very good college teams don't get much recognition can be blamed not on the sport or the players, but on the system itself. At most schools racquetball is considered an extracurricular activity, commonly known as a "club sport," rather than an official "team sport" like basketball or football. Typically, club sports get little or no financial support from the schools, which means that team members have to pay out of their own pockets for equipment, uniforms, travel, etc. And though racquetball equipment isn't as expensive as football equipment, the costs can add up: good racquets, shoes, balls, gloves, eyeguards, bags and clothing can easily top \$100 to \$200 per person.

Travel to tournaments is probably the biggest expense. And in many cases the money to cover transportation, lodging and food comes from the players themselves, or from fund-raising activities like local tournaments, car washes and cake sales. But in spite of the hardships, the teams do come to play — after all, there's no point in starting a team and then not being able to show your stuff against the competition.

The 1979 AARA (formerly IRA) National Collegiate Championships is a good example. Eighty players representing 16 colleges and universities made it to Memphis, Tenn., to battle it out on the courts. The University of Illinois team was fortunate enough to be lent a school van for the trip from their Champaign campus; but gas, food and lodging was paid for by team members. Barbara Faulkenberry of the U.S. Air Force Academy arrived in an Air Force jet. Others were much less fortunate: Dave Clark, of the University of Texas at Arlington, bought himself a plane ticket, and Don Pike of Oral Roberts University had a long drive from Tulsa, Oklahoma.

But to condemn the schools' administrations for what seems like an injustice would hardly be fair. After all, the so-called "major" sports like football and basketball do get the big bucks, whereas racquetball doesn't. The major sports also *pull in* big bucks through the sales of tickets, programs, souvenirs, etc. And in some cases, the revenue raised by these sports actually helps to support the rest of the athletic department. The club sports — racquetball, handball, volleyball, karate, and the like — do well to raise enough money to support themselves.

It is a tribute to the enthusiasm of the players that the racquetball teams continue to survive, although they do benefit from some help from their schools. At Auburn University, in Alabama, for example, where the team operates as a club under the department of Recreation Services, the school contributes administrative aid in the form of office space and use of telephones, copying machines, etc. According to Susan Nunnally, assistant director of Recreational Services at Auburn, they have requested funds for racquetball, but the request was denied by the Student Government Association. As for racquetball becoming a formal varsity athletic program, Nunnally says the chances are slim to nonexistent: "I don't see the school adding any varsity sports in the near future, whether they be racquetball, soccer, or whatever."

The story is much the same at the University of Illinois, where the team is actually put together by the Illinois Racquetball Club. They, too, can apply for funds from the school, but rely mainly on dues and revenue earned from sponsorship of tournaments to survive. Don Webb, the club treasurer, says the members are willing to foot most of their own bills "simply for the enjoyment of playing racquetball." Being able to say you played in a national tournament is a nice incentive, too, he adds.

The U.S. Air Force Academy has no real team at all — formal or club. Their star player, Barbara Faulkenberry, competes in intercollegiate tournaments strictly on her own, according to Captain William Wade of the Physical Education Department.

There is a mandatory racquetball course at the Academy and an active intramural program (played among Academy students), but there are no plans in the works to put together a tournament-level team.

On all but one college team official faculty involvement is limited to the required "advisor" position. Many times the advisor is in name only and has no specific duties. The exception is Memphis State University's Coach Larry Liles — the only paid, full-time college racquetball coach in the nation. It's very likely that Coach Liles' presence has much to do with Memphis State's well-earned reputation. (For those of you who don't follow college racquetball, the MSU team is to its competition what the Pittsburgh Steelers are to theirs — the seemingly unstoppable, perennial champion.) The 32-year-old Liles is also the AARA Intercollegiate National Commissioner, a post established by the AARA to oversee any college-related racquetball programs and to help facilitate development of collegiate racquetball by providing information to schools interested in establishing teams.

The situation at Memphis State is an exceptional one. Although Coach Liles' team receives none of the glory of the school's football and basketball teams, either of those two teams would do well to imitate his win/loss record. To wit:

- The MSU men have won three straight team titles at the AARA National Intercollegiate Championships, and four out of the last five.

- The women have taken four consecutive AARA National Intercollegiate team titles.

- The men have produced three consecutive "A" singles champions, and four of the last five.

Liles' team is exceptional in their status at the University, as well, for they are not part of the athletic department, but instead come under the auspices of recreation. You see, at Memphis State racquetball is considered an extramural leisure sport. As such, they receive about \$1,300 annually from the school, an amount which has not been increased in five years, according to Liles. And as Liles sees it, his team could quickly use up that amount just by traveling to three or four tournaments. Yet racquetballers at other schools around the country would probably consider *any* amount of funding reason for envy.

And, when one looks at the support Coach Liles has managed to drum up from the local community, it begins to look as if the MSU team exists in the lap of luxury — compared to the spartan existence of their competitors. Indeed, given the current state of racquetball in colleges throughout the country, it seems incredible that Memphis State can manage to travel to an average of 20 tournaments a year, find sponsors for tournaments, obtain assistance with promotions, gain contributors for uniforms, and even acquire an unofficial (unpaid) team physician.

It doesn't stop there — Liles' unflagging enthusiasm has seeped into other areas as well. The players themselves support the program by earning scholarships through the United States Racquetball Association's National Intercollegiate Championships. The team is self-perpetuating, it seems, because when a player wins a racquetball scholarship by winning a USRA championship, he or she will look to Memphis State as the place to use that scholarship. The Memphis State team presently holds five scholarships: three won by individuals, one team title, and another open scholarship. The three individual scholarships will be used by the players who won them, while the other two can be awarded to players of Liles' choice.

Needless to say, this sort of program has given Liles a corner on the market of recruiting. This past fall, for instance, 29 men tried out for one open spot on the team roster. And, as mentioned earlier, while Coach Liles is keeping his eyes on the young talent he sees at tournaments, those kids are also looking

Travel to tournaments is probably the biggest expense. And in many cases the money to cover transportation, lodging and food comes from the the players themselves, or from fund-raising activities like local tournaments, car washes and cake sales.

toward Memphis State as the place to go if racquetball and college are combined interests.

That wasn't always the case. In the early days of MSU racquetball dominance, the players were drawn primarily from the Memphis area. Steve Smith of Memphis won the school's first national "A" championship in 1975. His success was followed and improved upon by the dynamic duo of John and Keith Dunlap, local brothers who together shared three "A" titles: John winning in '77 and '78 and Keith in '79. (See *Racquetball*, April, 1979).

To all appearances, then, it would seem Larry Liles has a ride down Easy Street when it comes to recruiting. Not so. Liles faces one problem which affects both his position as MSU coach and his responsibility as AARA Intercollegiate National Commissioner — namely, the Siren call of the pro tour. (See *Racquetball*, December, 1979.) Some of the best young players in the country want to get up there with the big guys and play for that pro money. And seeing Marty Hogan begin dominating the professional game at the tender age of 19 only strengthens that urge.

An excellent case in point is Doug Cohen of St. Louis, Mo. Doug's older brother, Dan, plays for MSU and won the AARA National Intercollegiate "B" title in 1979. Doug, however, decided to forego the collegiate experience and turned pro soon after winning the boys 17-and-under title in 1979. Doug's competitor in that 1979 final was John Egerman — who turned pro at the age of 16.

Even the winner of the 1979 AARA 15-and-under division, Mike Levine of Rochester, New York, is already thinking to the future. He currently reigns as the New York State Men's Open Champion, and is the youngest player ever to win the Men's Open Division of the Nittany Lion Open at Penn State University. He has announced that he'll turn pro in less than two years — following high school graduation.

According to Liles, these young players don't just leave the college teams wanting, many actually hurt themselves. "If any

Most of the kids on college teams are "amateur oriented," according to Liles. They enjoy the camaraderie and atmosphere of college-level play, the fun of traveling to tournaments together and renewing old friendships and rivalries with other players.

young players have the opportunity to turn pro, I think they're going to go for it," he admits. "It's just something in the ego. But if they're going to do something like that they need more exposure. Right now there aren't enough pro stops or enough money, and most of the kids just coming in are going to be a turkey shoot for the big boys."

Liles is quick to point out that annual pro stops number only about 10, while there are amateur tournaments somewhere around the U.S. almost every weekend of the year. And once a young pro wins any prize-money, as in the case of Doug Cohen, he is no longer eligible to compete in the amateur events. So instead of being able to compete somewhere every week, the young pro is stuck between the proverbial rock and hard place: not quite ready to dethrone the pro champs and yet not able to hone his skills on the top amateur players.

Even some of the top pro players miss the chance to compete more often. Liles points to three MSU alumni who are now on the pro tour — Sarah Green, David Fleetwood, and Gary Stephens. Although they have been successful as pros (Green and Fleetwood are consistently ranked in the top 10), they still envy the amateurs their tournament availability. "I see a lot of Sarah, Dave and Gary at our Memphis tournaments," claims Liles, "drooling and wishing they could be playing."

There are some players who think they can handle college and the pro tour, too, but that's an expensive proposition in terms of time, money, and suffering of scholastic endeavors. The young pros don't have the luxury of being seeded as the top players are, and they usually have to be at the stops on Wednesday just to begin the qualifying rounds. Even if they make it through the qualifiers, they've played three or four hard matches before they get to the really tough competition.

Liles would rather see a pro aspirant play at the college level for a year or two (as many professional football and basketball players do), working to gain valuable tournament

experience. Dave Fleetwood did it that way, and Liles feels that Keith Dunlap could have too, if the desire to turn pro had been there. "Keith was ready last year, at the prime of his ability. But in spite of being very competitive on the court, Keith just wasn't committed to racquetball as a way of life. He has too many other interests. When the weather changes, he just wants to get on his motorcycle and ride."

As Intercollegiate Commissioner, Liles encourages that "other interest" attitude among all the college players, and at the present none of his team members have expressed an undying desire to go for the big time. Most of the kids on college teams are "amateur oriented," according to Liles. They enjoy the camaraderie and atmosphere of college-level play, the fun of traveling to tournaments together and renewing old friendships and rivalries with other players.

And, in order to make it possible for more of today's college students to enjoy that sort of camaraderie, Liles keeps burning the midnight oil — seeking support. For instance, at present he is working with Penn Manufacturing Co. representative Bob Balink, from Pensacola, Fla., to coordinate local and regional tournaments. The local winners would have their way paid to the regionals, and the regional winners to the finals, thus encouraging more college players to compete, by the draw of paid travel expenses.

Perhaps one of the most promising projects in the works for collegiates is the possibility of scholarships. Luke St. Onge, executive director of the AARA, is working with Coach Liles to secure funding for a scholarship foundation which would award scholarships based upon financial need as well as player ability. It would operate as a separately funded arm of the AARA, much the same as the AARA Youth Council (responsible for promotion and development of Junior racquetball) now does.

Another factor in the status of collegiate racquetball is the lack of acceptance by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA). The NCAA is the governing body of collegiate sports and sets up rules and guidelines, particularly pertaining to recruitment. Before the NCAA will sanction any sport they must first be convinced that the sport is accepted at a majority of universities and colleges in the U.S., that the schools are interested and that facilities (in this case, courts) are available. At present the AARA is working with the NCAA and the U.S. Olympic Committee to win recognition for racquetball. If these bodies do recognize and sanction racquetball, the impact on the sport could be tremendous.

In light of the fact that racquetball is played by both men and women, it would seem an attractive sport for the NCAA. After all, with the institution of the Title IX ruling that funding must be equal for men and women, racquetball would cause little extra expense for a school. (Men and women can use the same equipment and the same court facilities.)

The USRA is also directing attention to racquetball on the collegiate level, according to Bob Keenan, USRA national director. Although they do not have a specific department or individual assigned to promote intercollegiate activity, they are continuing the scholarship program begun at last year's USRA National Intercollegiate Championships. At this year's tournament they are also asking participants to fill out a survey designed to determine the status of college racquetball today: the level of play at the schools, whether the program is formally organized, if it is accredited, and so on. "We have difficulty contacting the right people because it's such an informal program at many schools," says Keenan. "But we're trying to get into college racquetball much more deeply than in the past."

With all of these projects underway, one wonders what the future may hold for college racquetball — expanded programs throughout the country, leading to floods of recruiters scouting for superstars to take their teams to the top, under-the-table offers from over-zealous alumni who want to see their alma mater win the racquetball title, scholarship funding so abundant that even top "B" players can get full funding for their educations? Or is this, too, only fiction. . . ? ■

EKTELON/AARA JUNIOR REGIONALS

June 20, 21, 22, 1980*

The Junior Regionals will be "OPEN" this year and players may compete in any regional he or she desires; however no player may compete in more than one regional.

ENTRY FEE:

\$15.00 (Limit one event) Make all checks payable to: AARA Junior Regionals (list the name of your regional) Entry fee includes 3 month introductory membership to AARA if entrant is not already an AARA member.

ENTRY DEADLINE:

Postmarked June 13, 1980. ALL ENTRIES ARE FINAL. No applications will be accepted after this date. Mail all entries to: the address listed for each individual region (see page 13)

OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT BALL:

Ektelon Speed Flight

AWARDS:

For first three places in each division and consolation. Regional winners will be seeded in the Junior Nationals - July 10-13, 1980.

RULES:

Age as of January 1, 1980. AARA Official Rules will apply. Only amateurs may participate. AARA rules state the definition of an amateur racquetball player as anyone who has not received money (any amount) in a professional NRC, IPRO, WPRA or NARP sanctioned tournament for one year. Validation of age must accompany entry.

Eye protection is necessary to play in any event.

*Northeast Regional: May 16-18 (see page 13 for details)

DIVISIONS:

BOYS

GIRLS

Check one

- ☐ 10 and under
- ☐ 13 and under
- ☐ 15 and under
- ☐ 17 and under

- ☐ 10 and under
- ☐ 13 and under
- ☐ 15 and under
- ☐ 17 and under

PLEASE PRINT

NAME _____ AGE _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

WAIVER: I hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors, and administrators waive and release any and all rights and claims I may have against the American Amateur Racquetball Association or its representative agents for any and all injuries.

DATE _____ SIGNATURE _____

SIGNATURE OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN _____



AARA AFFILIATE COURT CLUBS

If you're traveling farther than 75 miles from your home court, the following affiliate court clubs will honor your AARA (IRA) card. Please call ahead for house rules and guest fees.

Listing key: wlr-women's locker room, mlr-men's locker room, ws-women's sauna, ms-men's sauna, ww-women's whirlpool, mw-men's whirlpool, wsr-women's steam room, msr-men's steam room, tc-tennis court, sp-swimming pool, r-restaurant, b-bar, sb-snack bar, ps-pro shop, er-exercise room, n-nursery.

CONNECTICUT

Racquetball Spa
500 Kings Highway Cut-Off
Fairfield, CT 06430
203-366-7888
wlr, mlr, ws, ms, ww, mw, wsr,
msr, r, ps, er, n

Center Court Health and
Racquetball Club
234 Route 83
Vernon, CT 06066
203-875-2133
wlr, mlr, ws, ms, ww, msr, sb,
ps, er, n

FLORIDA

Sportrooms of Coral Gables
1500 Douglas Road
Coral Gables, FL 33143
305-443-4228
wlr, mlr, ws, ms, ww, mw, wsr,
msr, r, sb, ps, er, n

Jacksonville Racquetball Club
6651 Crestline Dr.
Jacksonville, FL 32211
904-724-6994
wlr, mlr, ws, ww, mw, msr, b,
sb, ps, er, n

Sportrooms of Hialeah
1900 West 44th Place
Hialeah, FL
305-557-6141
wlr, mlr, ws, ms, ww, mw, wsr,
msr, r, b, sb, ps, er, n

Sportrooms of Sabal Chase
10680 SW 113 Pl.
Miami, FL 33176
305-596-2677
wlr, mlr, ww, mw, wsr, msr, r, b,
sb, ps, er, n

Kendall Racquetball and
Health Club
10631 SW 88th Street
Miami, FL 33176
305-596-0600
wlr, mlr, ws, ms, ww, mw, wsr,
msr, r, b, sb, ps, er, n

Sportrooms of Plantation
8489 NW 17th Ct.
Plantation, FL 33322
305-472-2608
wlr, mlr, ws, ms, ww, mw, wsr,
msr, r, b, sb, ps, er, n

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston Tennis Club
653 Summer Street
Boston, MA 02210
617-269-4300
wlr, mlr, ws, ms, ww, mw, tc, r,
b, sb, ps, er, n

MINNESOTA

Exercise Dynamics
Old Highway 71 North
Bemidji, MN 56601
218-751-8351
wlr, mlr, ws, ms, ww, ps, er

NEW JERSEY

Racquetball Court Club
17-10 River Road
Fair Lawn, NJ 07410
wlr, mlr, ws, ms, msr,

Racquetball 23 and Spa
318 Route 23
Pompton Plains, NJ 07444
201-839-8823
wlr, mlr, ws, ww, mw, ps,
er, n

Ricochet Racquet Club
219 St. Nicholas Avenue
South Plainfield, NJ 07080
201-753-2300
wlr, mlr, ws, ms, ww, mw, ps, er, n

The Court House
20 Milburn Avenue
Springfield, NJ 07081
201-376-3100
wlr, mlr, ws, ms, ps, er, n

What's Your Racquet
1904 Atlantic Ave.
P.O. Box 1402
Wall, NJ 07719
wlr, mlr, ws, ms, ww, mw,
wsr, msr, tc, sp, b, sb, ps, er, n

NEW YORK

The King's Court
Racquetball Club
4101 Avenue V
Brooklyn, NY 11234
212-338-3300
wlr, mlr, ws, ms, tc, sb, ps, er, n

TEXAS

Killeen Athletic Club
405 South 2nd
Killeen, TX 76541
wlr, mlr, ws, ww, mw, msr, sp,
sb, ps, er, n

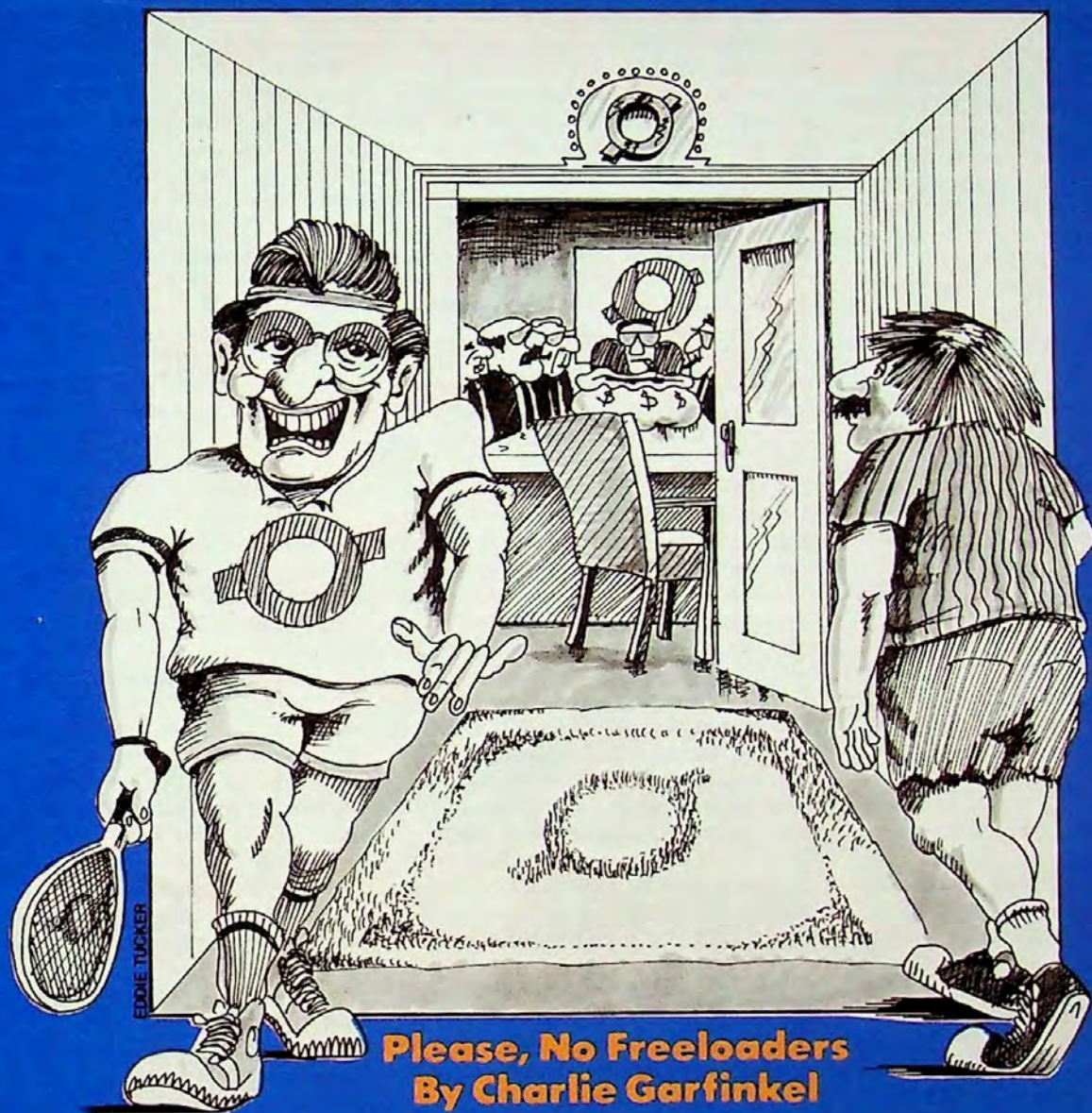
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BECOMING A SPONSORED PLAYER



Please, No Freeloaders
By Charlie Garfinkel

Almost every racquetball player entertains dreams of being sponsored. Think of it—free equipment, free clothing, expenses for tournaments; that would be the life, wouldn't it? But, just how does one go about fulfilling those dreams?

First, you dispense with the notion of a glorious free ride to superstardom. Let's face it—nothing in life is free. And players like Mike Yellen, who make it from top junior player to professional superstar, sponsored all the way (by Ektelon), are the exception, not the rule. So don't let your ego inflate just because

EDITORS NOTE: Charlie Garfinkel is an Ektelon-sponsored player. He is frequently sought out for his opinion of players in his area, and maintains the respect of his peers for his playing abilities. Here, Garfinkel offers some advice to those players who desire to be sponsored by racquetball products companies.

you've defeated some well-known tournament player. I knew a player once who had such a high opinion of himself that he sent a potential sponsor a letter that went something like this:

Dear Sponsor:

Recently I defeated Bill Dabest 21-18, 19-21, 11-10. As you know, Bill is ranked third in Horseheads, N.Y. I feel that this outstanding win will put me in great demand with the racquetball companies.

Because I like your company's policies and equipment, I'm giving your company the first opportunity of signing me to a contract. I feel that unlimited equipment, a travel allowance of \$7,500 and incentive bonuses would be sufficient to have me sign with your company.

I'm sure that you'll agree that my requests are very reasonable. I expect to hear from your company shortly.

Sincerely,
Major Upset

Needless to say, the player remains unsigned to this day. It's unfortunate too, because knowing him personally, I think he really might be entitled to equipment and possibly even some financial help from a company. However, his reputation as a "wheeler-dealer," has effectively negated his chances of obtaining a sponsorship.

It's not only the top "A" players who seek sponsorships. In fact, there are also many "B" players who believe they're entitled to a sponsorship because they're wearing the company's products and are playing in a lot of tournaments. Realistically, though, there are enough "A" players around who can give the company much greater exposure through their success in tournaments and their participation in clinics and exhibitions. So the best advice for a "B" player who is thinking about getting sponsored is to start by improving his or her skills to the "A" level.

As for the really top "A" players, they don't have much to worry about. According to Tom Stofko, player representative for Ektelon, the major companies are always aware of the very best players—the top eight or so. And, really, it's the sponsors who do most of the work in acquiring contracts with those players.

So if you're playing well and defeating many top players in your area, you won't go unnoticed. Player representatives will see you and talk to you about playing for their company. You would also be wise to keep a portfolio of your accomplishments, as well as some references from well-respected racquetballers in your area. If you're an excellent player and a good sportsman as well, you will be an asset to any company.

But what about the others, the really good players who aren't quite in the top

eight, but could still provide a lot of visibility for a company? Well, according to Ektelon's Stofko, such players should approach sponsors just as if they were applying for a job. In effect, that's exactly what they are doing. The only difference is that their pay will be in equipment.

And if you're looking for a "job" with a racquetball company, one of the first steps you should take is to compile a resume of your accomplishments. After all, you're trying to sell yourself to the company and you need something to show them as proof of your worth to them. For a racquetball resume, you'll want to include your vital statistics (height, weight, age, etc.) as well as information concerning your involvement in tournaments, clinics, camps or anything else that helps promote the sport. The players who are most involved in the promotion of the sport, according to Tom Stofko, "are the best candidates for sponsorship."

Don't be shy; include in your resume clippings of newspaper or magazine articles which demonstrate your involvement in the sport as well as your ability to get publicity. You must convince the manufacturer that it will be to his advantage to sponsor you, that his sales will actually increase if you're added to his staff.

Once you've organized your resume and assorted clippings, send them with a letter of introduction, directly to the public relations director of the company you're interested in. After about two weeks, follow up your letter of introduction and attached resume with a phone call. You'll then be able to discuss your chances of obtaining a sponsorship directly with the public relations director. At the very least, this person will be able to tell you how to improve your chances of obtaining a sponsor.

The key point to remember in all this is that the manufacturer's primary objective is to *improve product sales*. You've got to think like a manufacturer. For instance, if a manufacturer has a choice between sponsoring an outstanding player who lives in a town of only 500 people, and an equally outstanding player who lives in a major metropolis, chances are he'll choose the latter. It's only logical—manufacturers are seeking visibility for their products. And they'll stand a better chance of selling their products if the goods are seen in a densely populated area where a lot of people play racquetball. It's what manufacturers call a better "market."

Invariably, the initial type of sponsorship a player receives will be an equipment contract. In such a program, a player will receive equipment and clothing, but no financial assistance.

Speaking of Ektelon's equipment sponsorships, Stofko says, "The equipment player is very important to us. If he is a teaching pro, he's even more valuable to us. Our equipment program is a very important one. I also believe that players must feel the products that they're using are the best. They must be able to articulate and be knowledgeable as to *why* our products are the best."

Usually, the equipment players are sent catalogs of their sponsoring company's equipment and prices. Ideally, they should be able to discuss the qualities and differences in the company's various racquets, racquetballs and so on. Of course, it's to the sponsored player's advantage to be well-informed about such matters. Because the better job a player does on his initial equipment contract, the better chance he'll stand of eventually getting some financial assistance as well. As Stofko so aptly puts it, "We don't just give away money for tournament players. There must be a sales effort tied to [a sponsorship], or it just won't go."

Aye, there's the rub. It's a popular misconception that companies sponsor players just so they'll win a lot of tournaments and thereby make a name for themselves and the company. It simply isn't true. Even the professionals do more than just play in tournaments. They also conduct clinics and camps, make promotional appearances, do exhibitions and so on.

As I mentioned earlier, manufacturers are looking for visibility, and that means total involvement in the sport—clinics, organizing tournaments, etc. Also, and this is important, sponsors look for personalities. The player who sulks, complains, constantly causes trouble and sports a reputation as a poor loser—or worse, a sore winner—is less likely to gain the favor of a sponsor than the courteous player. (Then again, judging from the antics of a number of the pro players, it apparently doesn't hurt to be at least a little "colorful." See *Racquetball*, April, 1980.)

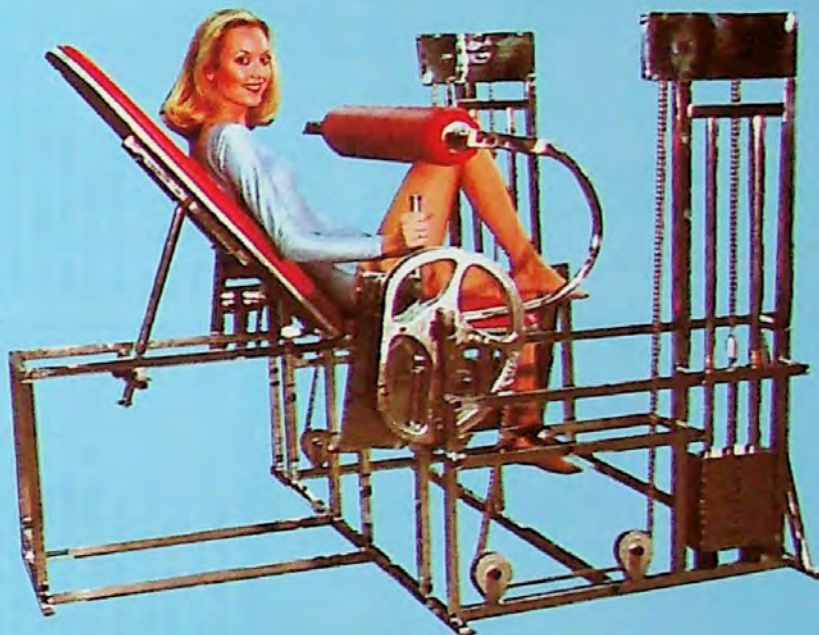
Again, once a player obtains a sponsorship, he should keep in mind that with it—just like any job—come certain obligations. Since exposure is one of the key objectives, it's only logical that a sponsored player is expected to plug his company's products at every opportunity. It doesn't necessarily mean that one has to do a constant "hard sell." Just pay attention to details. Like remembering to use the company's equipment whenever you play in a tournament, or conduct a clinic. And like mentioning your company when writing an article (if your editor will allow it), or displaying the company name when being photographed. There are lots of ways to sell a pro-

(cont. on p. 28)

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ACQUETBALL

MAY 1-4
New Mexico State
Championship (2)
Early May, contact Clay
Childs for details
505-247-9536

**Second Annual Golden
Triangle YMCA
Benefit Open Racquetball
Tournament (3)**
Manor Courts South
Pittsburgh, PA 15220
Norman Joyne
412-261-5820

**Racquetball tournament for
the Benefit of Retina
Research Foundation
Playoff Club**
Beverly, Mass.
Paul Henrickson
617-754-6073

MAY 2-4
Hemophilia Benefit (3)
Kessinger's
2611 S. Mendenhall
Memphis, TN 38117
Don Kessinger
901-682-6661

**Delaware State
Championships (2)**
Branmar Racquetball Club
Wilmington, DE
D.C. Lantz
302-658-1036

Missouri States (2)
Westport Spaulding
Racquetball Club
Bob Hardcastle
617-754-6073

**2nd Annual MIN-DAK Air
Force Racquetball
Tournament (2)**
TAC Racquetball Club
1401 Dyke Ave.
Grand Forks, ND 58201
SSgt. Ben Beck
701-594-6455/3184

Last Blast (3)
Holiday Health and
Racquetball Club
Odlin Rd.
Bangor, ME
Keith Mahaney
207-947-0763

**Racquetball Northeast
Grand Prix (3)**
Shrewsbury Racquet Club
Tournament Director:
Paul Henrickson
Tennis Drive
Shrewsbury, MA 01545
617-845-1001

Blue Point Open (3)
Blue Point Racquetball
Club
Blue Point, NY
Allan Seitelman

MAY 10-11
Downtown Racquet Club
Contact Tom Whipple for
details

MAY 16-18
Kansas State Doubles (2)
Hutchinson YMCA
716 East 13th St.
Hutchinson, KS 67501
Larry Swank
716-562-1203

**Game Point Racquetball
Open (3)**
Game Point Racquetball
and Health Club
Plymouth, MA
Rick Cash
617-746-7448

MAY 16-19
Spring Thing (2)
Supreme Courts
4633 Trousdale
Nashville, TN 37204
Mike Mjehovich
615-832-7529

MAY 21-24
T and C/AARA Open
Towne and Country
Racquet Club
2250 S. 800 West
Woodcross, Utah 84087
Vince Brown
801-298-3231

MAY 22-26
AARA National Singles
The Sportrooms
Coral Gables, FL

MAY 29-JUNE 1
Spring Open Classic (3)
Gainesville
Racquetball Club
6916 W. University Ave.
Gainesville, FL 32601
Van Dubolsky
904-372-2120

JUNE
Georgia State
Championship (2)
Early June, contact Jim
Cullen for details

**Western Junior
Regionals (5)**
Casa De Courts
2183 Benita Drive
Rancho Cordova, CA 94670
Jeff Hetherington
916-635-7354

**Northwest Junior
Regionals (5)**
The Court House
7211 Colonial Way
Boise, Idaho 83709
Gene Gibbs
208-377-0040

**Eastern Junior
Regionals (5)**
The Playoff
Racquetball/Handball Club
288 Wood Road
Braintree, MA 02184
Jim Daly
617-848-8080

**Southwest Junior
Regionals (5)**
Flagstaff Athletic Club
P.O. Box 1483
1200 W. Hwy. 66
Flagstaff, AZ 86002
Jim Garretson/Jack Nolan
602-779-4593

**Mideast Junior
Regionals (5)**
Branmar Racquetball Club
Branmar Plaza
Wilmington, DE 19810
D.C. Lantz
302-658-1036

Central Junior Regionals (5)
Lehmann Courts

JULY 10-13
AARA National Juniors
Singles and Doubles
Kangaroo Courts IV
1988 Park Marina Dr.
Redding, CA 96001
Ed Martin
916-221-4405

JULY 18-20
Racquetball Northeast
Grand Prix (3)
Worcester Court Club
Tournament Director:
Dave Forsberg
Gold Star Blvd.
Worcester, MA
617-852-8209

**Yogi Berra/Lite Beer
Grand Prix (3)**
Yogi Berra's Hall of Fame
333 Gothic Plaza
RT. 46 West
Fairfield, NJ 07006
Pete Talbot
201-227-4000

JULY 25-27
Arizona State
Championships (2)
Arizona Athletic Club
Jack Nolan
602-839-0036

AUGUST 22-24
Racquetball Northeast
Grand Prix (3)
Playoff-Braintree
Tournament Director:
Jim Daly
288 Wood Road
Braintree, MA
617-848-8080

314-532-0484

**Twinlo Racquetball
Tournament (3)**
Twinlo Racquet Sports
3900 Packard Rd.
Niagara Falls, NY 14303
Charles Lotempio
716-297-8100

MAY 8-11
Ektelon/Perrier National
Finals (3)
Rocky's Racquet World
12111 Strathern Street
North Hollywood, CA 91605
Mark Eller
213-768-5541

MAY 9-11
Women's Spring Open (3)
Supreme Court
7123 Cherryvale N.
Boulevard
Rockford, IL 61112
Holly Bona
815-332-9422

Forest Hills Open (3)
Forest Hills Athletic Club
3910 Caughey Rd.
Erie, PA 16506
Mark Salvia
814-833-2468

**Fiesta of Five Flags
Racquetball Tourney**
Racquetball Center of
Pensacola
Glenn Burkett
904-478-1400

**Northeast Junior
Regionals (5)**
The Winton Racquetball
Club
3120 South Winton Road
Rochester, NY 14623
Nancy Allen
716-271-3700

**Governor's Cup
Racquetball
Classic (3)**
International Fitness and
Racquetball Center
11033 Quail Creek Road
Oklahoma City, OK 73120
Ken Smith
405-751-5950

**All Military
Championships (5)**
Base Gymnasium
Little Creek Naval
Amphibious Base
Norfolk, VA
Dan Samek
804-424-2303

404-256-2120

JUNE 6-8
Space Coast Open (2)
Imperial Courts
1525 West Nasa Blvd.
Melbourne, FL 32901
Scott Nelson
305-725-5120

JUNE 13-15
South Carolina State
Championship (2)
Charleston Racquet
Nautilus
Center
Charleston, SC
Jerry Rogers
803-571-1020

JUNE 20-22
Midwest Junior
Regionals (5)
The Supreme Court West
3725 West 13th Street
Wichita, KS 67203
Dewane Grimes
316-945-8331

**Southeast Junior
Regionals (5)**
The Courtrooms
750 W. Sunrise Boulevard
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33311
Terry Fancher
305-764-8700

2700 No. Lehmann Court
Chicago, IL
Ray Mitchell
312-745-9400

**Racquetball Northeast
Grand Prix (3)**
Racquetime
Tournament Director
Rich Derby
200 VFW Parkway (Rear)
Dedham, MA 02026
617-828-7632

**New Jersey State
Championships (2)**
King George Racquet and
Health Club
17 King George Rd.
Greenbrook, NJ 08812
Frank Pescatore/Pete
Talbot
201-356-6900

Annapolis Court Club
Maryland State Singles
Contact Tom Whipple
for details

JULY
9th Connecticut Open (3)
Site to be announced
Tournament Director:
Phil Panarella
203-229-0526

Ocean City Outdoor Courts
Maryland Outdoor
Championships
Contact Tom Whipple for
details

SEPTEMBER 11-14
Best of the East (3)
Racquetime
168 Franklin
Walwick, NJ 07463
Nick Elie
201-447-6565

SEPTEMBER 26-28
Yogi Berra/Lite Beer Grand
Prix (3)
Yogi Berra's Hall of Fame
333 Gothic Plaza
RT 46 West
Fairfield, NJ 07006
Pete Talbot
201-227-4000

AARA sanctioned
tournaments in bold
(1)-1st level tournament
(2)-2nd level tournament
(3)-3rd level tournament
(4)-4th level tournament
(5)-5th level tournament
(6)-6th level tournament

State championships not
listed were not available by
press time; please contact
your local state director for
details

CALENDAR



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duct without being pushy.

In short, if you intend to remain in good favor with your company, don't be like the proverbial player who seemed to forget just who was sponsoring him. He was seen wearing a Leach warm-up, an Ektelon shirt, Head shorts and Adidas sneakers. He was also using a Voit racquet and carrying a Voit bag. When someone asked him who he was sponsored by, he replied, "Wilson." You get the picture.

It's also a little risky to start negotiating with another manufacturer while still under contract to one of his competitors, although this too is not unheard of. Chances are, however, that such players will rarely manage to obtain the expanded sponsorships which include finances for tournaments.

Still, for those players who are loyal to their sponsor and do a good job, there can be numerous advantages to being sponsored. If they have the magic combination of talent, personality, skill and undying enthusiasm, they might even find themselves included in that special circle of players who are sponsored and also receive considerable financial assistance as well. These players, as Ektelon's Stofko explains, "...are like our professionals. However, they function in their own special area. They have the respect of their peers and give us great exposure. They also have an im-

mense amount of knowledge about our products."

These players are often asked to test or try some new products for the company. Their input is important, as many opinions are evaluated before a new product is put on the market. These players will be seen at the most prestigious tournaments in their area, and in regional and national tournaments also. They're involved in clinics and exhibitions, and manage to get a great deal of publicity for both the sport and their company. In short, they are the real salesmen for their company, and are therefore invaluable to that organization.

Now, to get back to that dream I spoke of at the beginning of this article. If you are one of the lucky few who stands to realize the dream of becoming a full-fledged professional racquetball player, this will interest you. These are the requirements, according to Ektelon's Tom Stofko, that it will take to make it:

1. All-around athletic ability. The player's drive, his agility and balance are all important.
2. A willingness to work at improving his game. The player must be disciplined to practice at length.
3. His own coach. The coach must know what the player is doing at all times and must be able to enforce the right attitude and performance.
4. If the player is a junior, there must

be support for his accepting the sponsorship from someone whom the player respects. Parents are especially important in this area.

In addition, Stofko says, "Potential pros must demonstrate their value to someone in the [racquetball] business. They must have wide exposure for the company." Also worthy of note is what Stofko calls the key to "instant credibility"—a title. At the very least, this means a regional Open title; at best, it's a national championship.

As a pro, a player's responsibilities are manifold:

1. Perform in as many pro tournaments as possible and receive exposure (through exhibitions and celebrity matches) in other national tournaments.
2. Gain exposure on a national level through numerous clinics and exhibitions.
3. Be available to test products, be involved with player-related problems and be able to identify new talent.
4. Be able to motivate and articulate about the game.
5. Be available for direct product promotion ventures.

In conclusion, whether you are looking to turn pro or simply to continue playing on the amateur circuit, it is essential that you realize that sponsorship is a two-way street. Scratch your sponsor's back, and he'll scratch yours. ■

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MAINE MAN

A Profile of the AARA's Outgoing President

By Nancy K. Crowell

To the casual observer, Bob Folsom's youthful physique and the accompanying twinkle in his eye suggest a man of, say, 35, 37 years of age at most. And yet, Folsom's birth certificate clearly states that he is 50.

Perhaps Folsom has found the Fountain of Youth. Or perhaps, more simply, the answer lies in this quiet New Englander's approach to life. It's a life style—and a life *philosophy*—that emphasizes moderation, physical fitness and a deep respect for nature. The stressful, winning-is-everything attitude that can make a man old before his time has no place in Bob Folsom's life. Instead, like a true son of New England, Folsom prefers simpler pleasures, like chopping wood or taking long walks in the forest with his wife and five children. For Bob Folsom, life is a gift to be treasured, nurtured, enjoyed.

This attitude—that one should get the most out of life—spills over into everything Folsom does, from his career as a physical fitness specialist to his long-time love affair with racquetball. And for the past two years, Folsom has brought this spirit of friendly competition, camaraderie and fairness to his position as AARA president, a post which he relinquishes this month.

In many ways, it was almost inevitable that Folsom would become involved with racquetball. The sport is an excellent means of keeping in shape, and Folsom has a passion—indeed, almost an obsession—with physical fitness. For more than a quarter of a century, in fact, Folsom has devoted himself to the business of fitness. His career—from teaching physical education and coaching football, basketball and baseball, to his present position as director of the "Lifeline" fitness program at the University of Southern Maine in Portland—has kept him involved in some kind of physical fitness program. And even today, although most of his time is spent handling administrative details for the "Lifeline" program, Folsom is still directly involved in the teaching of good health and physical fitness. Three days a week he instructs the rehabilitation exercise classes for cardiac patients in the "Lifeline" program.

Overall, the program involves about 1,300 elderly people, with an average age of 75. Some of the participants have had heart attacks, others are suffering from hypertension and still others are healthy people who are simply trying to get in shape. As Folsom explains, "It ('Lifeline') is more than just an exercise program. It's really a program of preventive medicine. Actually, what we're involved in is behavior modification, trying to find some answers as to how we can get people to modify their behavior. . . to stop smoking, control their diets, control their body weight and exercise regularly."

It's all neatly tied in with Bob Folsom's deep conviction that the most important thing in life is health—"the health of your family, your own health, and the health of other people." He feels strongly that, ". . . anything we can do to encourage people to take care of their bodies, to exercise regularly and to participate in healthful competition just makes the world a better place to live in. You can live to 85 and be an invalid all your life. But I've seen people 75 and older who are as healthy as kids. You're as young as you feel."

One way Folsom has managed—and from all appearances, managed successfully—to practice a little preventive medicine of his own is through playing racquetball. Since he first discovered the sport in the late '60s, it has become a part of his regular routine, as evidenced by the fact that he still plays at least five times a week. He happened upon racquetball when he was looking for an alternative to badminton and handball, both of which were hard on his knees. He soon found that not only were his knees more tolerant of racquetball, but so were other people. It was easier to find a game in racquetball because more people were involved in the sport. In fact, Folsom claims, "I haven't seen anything in my lifetime that's as natural a sport for our society as racquetball. It fits into the busy working man's schedule, it doesn't take a lot of time, it's fun and the motivation

is there." By "motivation," Folsom means that the game is entertaining enough to keep people interested. Once they take it up, they are likely to continue playing for a long time—as he has.

So in racquetball, you might say, Bob Folsom found the ideal sport for Everyman. And that has worked out nicely for both Folsom and racquetball. Since he saw it as a sport with a lot of potential, Folsom became interested in organizing racquetball at the local level almost as soon as he began playing. When the International Racquetball Association (IRA) was first organized in the late '60s, Folsom volunteered to serve and subsequently became Maine state chairman for the organization. Of those early years, Folsom recalls, "At the time I developed an interest in setting up tournaments. In fact, we had some of the first tournaments in the northeastern part of the U.S., in 1969 and 1970." Indeed, Folsom's enthusiasm and hard work contributed much to the development of the sport in the northeast during those formative years. Later, in 1977, Folsom was elected to the IRA's board of directors, making him something of an oddity at that time. "When Bob Folsom came on the board, he was one of the first state directors—the people directly involved at the grass roots level—to sit on the board," recalls Luke St. Onge, current executive director of the AARA (formerly IRA) and at the time himself a member of the IRA board. In 1978, after

serving on the IRA board for a year, Folsom was elected president of the board.

His elevation to the IRA presidency came during a time of great upheaval and change for the organization. The troubles had begun five years earlier in 1973, when a dispute arose between the IRA's board of directors and Chicago businessman Bob Kendler, founder and then president of the organization. Kendler's autocratic rule angered board members, and when the board of directors voiced objection to Kendler's reluctance to furnish them with a financial statement regarding the distribution of funds earned by the IRA, the mercurial Kendler quit the organization in a huff. The IRA board then proceeded to make the association more democratic, while Bob Kendler, meanwhile, proceeded with plans to build a new racquetball association. Thus was born the USRA (United States Racquetball Association), and also the ensuing rivalry between that organization and the AARA.

In light of this train of events and the difficulties that followed it, it's not surprising that when asked to name the major achievement of his two years as AARA president, Folsom's candid response is simply, "survival." That's right, survival. Because in the face of two formidable obstacles—the obvious financial difficulties of a struggling young organization, coupled with the specter of well-financed competition from a rival

group—the AARA somehow managed to stay afloat. No mean feat, that, overcoming such growing pains. In short, it hasn't been easy.

"It's been, actually, a rough half dozen years," Folsom admits. "Even before I was on the board, the IRA was in serious trouble, due mainly to a [dispute] with a [racquetball] company . . . It was all over the adoption of a ball for our association, something the players didn't like. Lawsuits were draining us financially. But now we've got all that squared away; we've brought all those lawsuits to a conclusion. And now we're organized so we can survive financially."

Clarifying that definition of survival, Folsom sums it up by saying, "What we've done is turn the association around so that the manufacturers and the advertisers, and the players especially, have confidence in the association . . . It is alive and working for the betterment of the sport of racquetball."

Indeed, a number of policy changes have been instituted during Folsom's presidency. These include the "open ball" policy, which eliminated exclusive ball contracts, and a change in the executive director's position. Where once the executive director was largely a symbolic post, it is now a full-time position supported by a paid office staff. Thus, the executive director has been freed to handle the day-to-day business of the association—negotiating contracts, maintaining relationships with manufacturers, communicating with state and regional directors. In short, the executive director acts as a general clearing house of information for players and manufacturers alike.

Folsom is pleased with the way things have worked out, and doesn't hesitate to say so: "Luke St. Onge has been instrumental in getting the thing (the players' association) going."

Which brings us back to the other association. It's an open secret that relations between the two associations are less than congenial. Because of its association with professional racquetball, the USRA gets a lot of attention; and because of its association with Bob Kendler, it gets a lot of money. All this has led to a situation where the USRA and the AARA find themselves almost in direct competition in a number of ways. But, ever the careful optimist, Folsom doesn't seem to be particularly disturbed by this state of affairs.

"I don't think two organizations is all bad. I think competition is perhaps good. Because in the long run, the organization that best serves its members is going to survive. And I think," he adds with apparent confidence, "that if either one of us fails to do that, we'll lose our membership. Because there is no other reason for a national organization to exist."



Like a true son of New England, Bob Folsom prefers the simpler pleasures of life, like chopping wood . . .

Being a fair man, Folsom is reluctant to criticize what he terms "the opposition," but he does offer one caveat about the USRA. "I think the basic criticism of our opposition is that it's not a democratic organization," he says. Folsom admits, however, that "a democracy isn't always the most effective means of governing. We've kind of proven that [ourselves], because we've made a lot of mistakes along the way. Nevertheless, the basic premise [of the AARA] is that the organization is an association of the players themselves, and they have a vote in who's elected to the board. Then, the board decides as a group what decisions are made.

"Now, with the NRC/USRA, they don't have that kind of setup. Members pay their dues, and they [meaning the people who run the organization] make the decisions. You may agree or not agree, but regardless of that, you [as a player] don't have anything to say about those decisions."

In addition to structural differences between the USRA and the AARA, there is one other obvious difference between the two groups—sponsorship of professional racquetball. And what does Folsom, as head of an amateur association, think about this relatively new development? "There's nothing wrong with professional racquetball," Folsom says. "The problem is that the limelight—all the attention, and much of the resources, both financially and staff-wise—falls on professional racquetball, to the exclusion of the amateur. This has been obvious at some of the national tournaments they've organized where the amateur players couldn't even get in to see the professional matches, without reserving a seat and paying an awful lot of money. We've tried not to do that. We've tried to go the other way, and when we have a tournament, the spotlight is on the amateurs."

All of which brings up the problem of visibility. Professional racquetballers definitely provide visibility to the public, something vital to the survival of the sport. And there's been a lot of talk about promoting the sport through the medium of television which, as everyone knows, did miraculous things for the popularity of tennis.

For a man of such deep convictions, a man who seemingly knows his mind, Folsom has oddly mixed feelings on this subject. He seems worried about the possible effect of television on his founding sport. "As I see racquetball," he says, "the success of the game is that it's a participant sport. When you talk about television, you're talking about entertainment. Now, racquetball is entertaining when you play it, and it may be entertaining when you watch, especially when you

For more than a quarter of a century, Folsom has devoted himself to the business of fitness.

KIP BRUNDAGE



know the players. But I'm not so sure that the real basic appeal of the game is with the spectators." Thoughtfully, cautiously, he continues: "I think the real appeal of the game is when the players get down and do it themselves. I'm not so sure racquetball is a television product." It is a circular problem, as Folsom sees it. "The problem with television may be that you don't have an educated audience; they can't appreciate the sport until they've seen it more, or had a chance to play it. But there are still a lot of people who don't know much about racquetball, due perhaps to the fact that they haven't seen it on television."

It's a Catch-22 situation, Folsom admits, one that does not readily lend itself to a solution. "Perhaps 100 years from now," Folsom muses, "it will be a fantastic television sport. . . ." One suspects, however, that Bob Folsom would much rather see the sport grow by word of mouth and actual first-hand experience.

In addition, Folsom sees a number of obstacles still to be overcome before racquetball can be televised. Mainly, though, it's the attitude of the players that he speaks of. "Frankly, I've been very disgusted at some of the antics, foul language and poor sportsmanship associated with professional racquetball. [See *Racquetball*, April, 1980.] And any television you have now is going to cover the pros. It's too bad, because what it's doing is taking away from a terrific sport and focusing all the attention on the in-

dividuals. It may be good for television—such as a Jimmy Connors tennis match [being] more exciting than watching Bjorn Borg for instance, because Jimmy's apt to blow his top, slam his racquet down or swear and make obscene gestures. . . . That's the kind of thing that's in racquetball to some extent nowadays." But, true to his nature, Folsom believes "it doesn't have to be that way."

In fact, he *knows* it doesn't have to be that way. Referring to the Masters Singles Invitational tournament he recently participated in, Folsom raves over how smoothly things went. He says there were no disputes between players (who called their own matches), no temper tantrums, no grandstanding. "It's the kind of sportsmanship," he says, "you don't see among the younger players. I'm not saying it's all age, because that's not always true. But I think the younger players who've not had the tournament experience do become a little too emotional, and do take themselves a little too seriously."

Not everyone, though, is like Bob Folsom, who has been described as both "fiercely competitive" and a "fine sport" in almost the same breath. Indeed, Folsom himself laughingly confesses to having lost what he terms the "killer instinct." Perhaps he's mellowing with age? "Ah," comes the sigh and the impish smile, "I think you've got it."

"Age" should treat us all so well. ■

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TOURNAMENT

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REPORT

Some Like It Hot

THE AARA CALIFORNIA STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS BY MIKE HUNTER



JESUS V. SOUSA

In the Men's Open finals John Woodard (left) defeated his doubles partner, Dan Massari, in the tiebreaker.

Mike Hunter is AARA state director in California.

You know the old saying, "It never rains in Southern California." Around this time of year, in fact, it's downright hot there. Well, the weather's not the only thing that's hot in Southern California — so is the game of racquetball. And at no time was it hotter than during the AARA California State Championships, held at Rocky's Racquet World in North Hollywood.

The tournament drew some 250 participants and was the result of combined efforts by Omega Racquetball, Penn Athletic Products Co., Champion Glove Co., Gatorade and the AARA.

Men's Open

There were classic confrontations in the Men's Open division this year. To wit: the number one seed was bumped in the semifinals, the number two seed had to go to three games each in the quarterfinals, the semifinals and the finals. The scene was set, to say the least, for a real blood and guts tournament finale.

In the quarterfinals, Gary Mazaroff, a Los Angeles transplant originally from New Mexico, faced off with Dan Massari of Lancaster. Game one found Massari on top 19-5 and about to close the door on Mazaroff. But when Massari blinked for a second, there was Mazaroff at 14 points. Things looked ripe for a comeback, but Massari went for the winners and scored two more to wrap up game one 21-14. In game two, however, Gary Mazaroff came out shootin' and thinkin' — he rolled and controlled the game to win 21-12. The tiebreaker was a rough-and-tumble confrontation between two control players who threw in an occasional "go for it" shot. About halfway through 15 innings Massari was on top 9-8, and after a few more control innings he went for broke. It paid off. He was leading 14-8 when Mazaroff tried to come back. At 14-10 in favor of Massari,

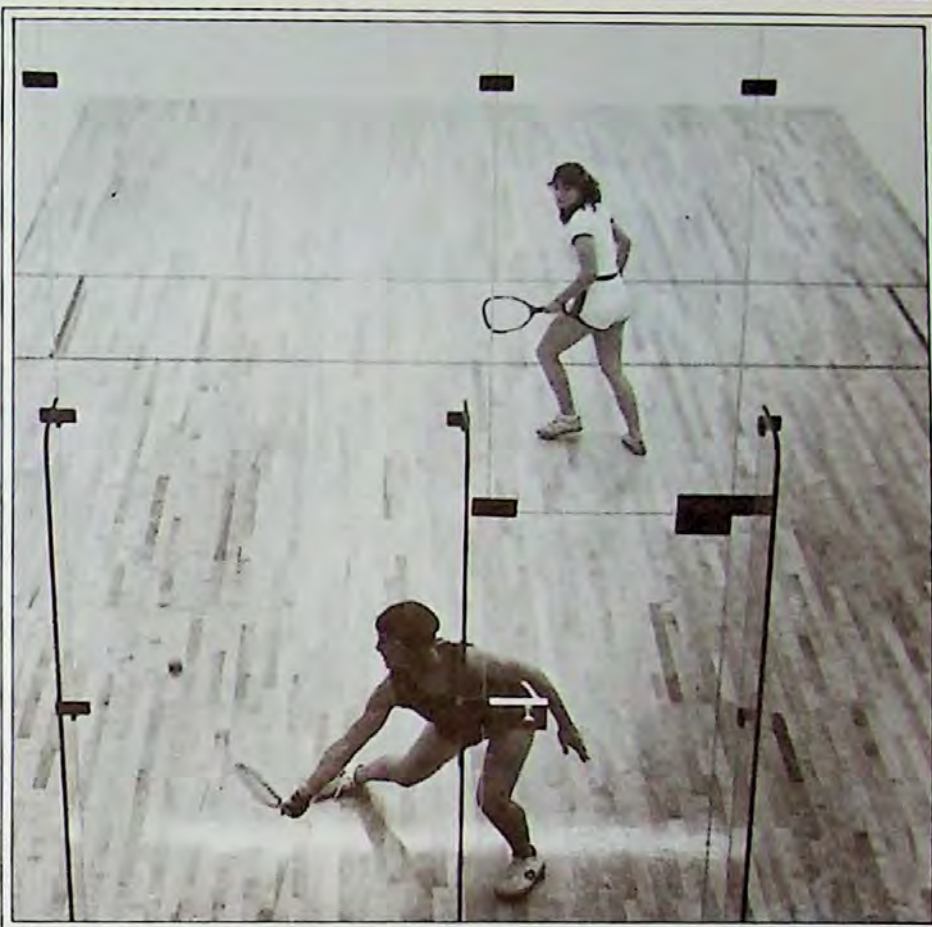
Mazaroff found himself just a little too far behind to save the match. Massari took the game and match with a final winning shot. Sportsmen to the end, the two players had nothing but handshakes, hugs and smiles for each other after the hard-fought battle.

In the bottom bracket quarters, Guy Texeira, winner the week before in the "Bs" Ektelon/Perrier tournament at Fountain Valley, played his first Open match against number two seed John Woodard of Van Nuys. Woodard looked tough as usual with his explosive power and surprising gets. Woodard's backhand is so powerful it seems as if his arm will pop out of its socket. And with awesome style, Woodard was victorious in game one, 21-11. However, Texeira is not one to give up easily, and game two proved that. In an all-out effort to "go for it," Texeira rolled and ran his way to a 21-19 victory in game two. However, in game three Woodard took control. He pulled out a strong lead and never looked back as he took game and match with a 15-6 victory.

In the Men's Open semifinals, number one seed Bruce Radford, who had won in the quarters over John Hagy of Thousand Oaks 21-13, 21-15, had a slow start in game number one against Dan Massari. Massari was already at 8-zip when Radford's temperature rose to red hot. He collected the next 21 points to win the game 21-8. Wow! Game two saw Massari, still in shock over Radford's first game, control the game with kills, passes and excellent front court positioning. So, despite the shock, the final tally for game two was 21-12, Massari.

In the tiebreaker, Radford led with scores of 6-0, 11-2 and 13-4. Radford displayed his typical grin, while Massari was more concerned with concentration and comeback. Well, it worked. Massari came back with winners, winners and more winners. On a truly unbelievable get, Massari barely touched the ball with his racquet, but the ball still floated to the front wall and ROLLED OUT. He never lost composure as he served at 14-14 and got the point. What a way to win, 15-14, Massari.

In the other Open semis, John Woodard won over Gary Gullette (owner of Center Courts, Van Nuys) 8-21, 21-9, 15-9. Gullette is from the school of control and style. Woodard displays well-balanced power. But power takes a while to warm up, and consequently Woodard lost the first game. Spectators anticipated a Brumfield vs. Hogan type match in the making, with Mr. Control about to unseed Mr. Power. But they were wrong. Woodard came into game two at full speed and passed Gullette, leaving him at 9 points to Woodard's 21.



DICK BENNETT

Mona Mook's passes were real trouble shooters for opponent Sandy Hunter, (bottom), in the Women's Open finals.

The tiebreaker didn't slow down Woodard one iota (he must eat protein bars!) as he made his way to a fast and furious 15-9 victory.

So, in the Open finals, John Woodard was pitted against his doubles partner Dan Massari. Game one was Woodard 21-15. Game two was Massari 21-15. To see these two games was to see John Woodard use his super power backhand, strong forehand and aggressive play against the hidden fluid power and well-balanced approach of Dan Massari. Both games one and two were the same in scores and strategy, if not victors. Both players employed all their mental powers of psyching, as well as their physical abilities. In game three, the tiebreaker, Massari was on top 7-6. But when Woodard got his chance to serve, his concentration was so intense you could almost feel it. After a handful of "gets," Woodard had worked his way to a 12-7 lead. Massari then tried for a few roll-outs, but Woodard managed to re-kill the kills, and roll the rest home for a 15-7 victory.

Women's Open

The finals of the Women's Open featured 16-year-old Mona Mook of Red-

ding, number one seed, and Sandy Hunter, number two seed, who hails from Monterey. Mook and Hunter had faced off once before in a Monterey tourney, with Mook emerging the victor after three games.

In the semifinals, Mook had a convincing win over Carolyn Koffman of San Diego, 21-12, 21-10. Hunter also had secured a semifinal victory in two games — over Deirdre Gossick, 21-18, 21-14.

It was the smooth action and powerful shots of these two competitors which captivated the spectators of the Women's Open finals. In game one, Mook started out on top with a successful run of six straight points. Hunter came back with a flurry of her own, but it wasn't quite enough, as Mook maintained the lead throughout. Hunter called a close one as she moved in on Mook to 13-15. But apparently it was too close for comfort as Mook then poured on the power and pinches to leave Hunter flatfooted and defeated at 21-16. In the second game, it was Mook's well-balanced attack against Hunter's powerful backhand kill and pinpoint passes. But Mook wouldn't give way and after collecting a handful of points at the beginning, she ran away with the game and match with a 21-14



DICK BENNETT

In the Men's "B" finals, Irv Fellenbaum (left) could only observe as the ball hit by opponent Mike Shedd, fell dead.

win.

Hunter was fresh from winning the Ektelon/Perrier Women's "Bs," while Mook is ranked number three in the nation in girls 17-and-under. Both have been winning this year, so keep an eye on this pair of west coast stars.

On Their Way

In the Men's "B" finals, Irv Fellenbaum (Charlie Brumfield look-alike, 1980) lost a well-fought match to Mike Shedd of San Diego. Fellenbaum, of Los Angeles, took the first game with his great control, 21-14, but fell to defeat in the second and third games. Shedd's kills from as far as 38 feet back were too much for Fellenbaum, and the scores of those last two games were 21-18, 15-5.

Almost an instant replay of the Men's "Bs" was the finals of the Men's "Cs."

Michael Lopez went three games with runner-up Vince Iannalo. Lopez won 19-21, 21-14, 15-12. Both are local players on the way up.

Women's "B" featured Linda Moss, the host club's local favorite, coming through victorious in three games, 21-17, 8-21, 15-8. Her opponent, Rhonda Torres from Newbury Park, looked strong, but Moss' speed and power were the difference.

Women's "C" draw, 29 strong, was virtually a two-woman affair. Winner Holly Ferris of Roseville won all matches (including the final) by the scores of: match one 21-0, 21-0; match two 21-0, 21-0; quarters 21-5, 21-4; semifinals 21-13, 21-10; and finals 21-15, 11-21, 15-10. Her opponent in the finals, Linda Lachance, of San Diego, won all of her matches en route in two games also. Still, the final match to three games was very evenly matched. These women will be Open

players by this time next year.

Men's Seniors paired Russ Banko against Rich Leiber. Banko, from Santa Barbara, used his power and size to outlast Leiber, a Van Nuys local, 21-14, 12-21, 15-13.

And in the Men's Masters, San Francisco Bay Area favorite Bill Masucci won by injury default over AARA rules commissioner Keith Calkins.

The Golden Masters brought out the strong play of Dr. Burt Morrow (father of pro Mark Morrow), as he won all matches in two games with a finale over Norm "Goodguy" Goodman of the Valley, by scores of 21-4, 21-14.

Oh, Those Juniors!

The juniors who participated in the California championships convincingly demonstrated why they are the backbone of the amateur racquetball movement. What a tremendous display of sportsmanlike conduct and good natured competition; recognition should go to the parents, coaches and young men and women whose efforts are contributing to the well-being of our sport.

In the boys 17-and-under division, Paul Algra of Bakersfield swept through all competition, going no more than two games per match. The power game he plays begins with a capitol "P." Scott Johnson of Pleasant Hills was Algra's opponent in the finals. Johnson's smooth style garnered him some key points, but not enough. He was overwhelmed by Algra's power, and Algra came out on top with scores of 21-12, 21-4. Still, despite an injured ankle, Johnson managed to play a good match.

The primo match of the tournament placed old rivals Gerry Price, number one seed, against Shawn Fitzpatrick, number two seed, in the finals of the boys 15-and-under. Price, from Castro Valley, and Fitzpatrick, from Auburn, have competed several times in closer-than-close matches. Price mastered Peter Kleinick in the quarters 21-11, 21-9, while in the semis, Price showed power against Eric Banko 21-7, 21-7. Fitzpatrick, meanwhile, played Ken Kramer (Ken with a broken hand) and came out on top by the one-sided scores of 21-2, 21-3 in the quarters. And in the semis, "Fitz" bested Bo Lundy by scores of 21-3, 21-2. In the finals, the Price-Fitzpatrick match had everyone on the edge of their seats. Fitzpatrick's quickness and deft backhand were quite a match for Price's blinding serves and "pure" style. Score of game one, 21-20, Fitzpatrick. In game two, Price played control-blast racquetball while Fitzpatrick's dives and gets came up disappointingly short. The result was a 21-13



Shawn Fitzpatrick (left) displayed his acrobatic abilities as he re-killed Gerry Price's kill shots in the Boys 15-and-under finals. But it was to no avail, as Price won the tiebreaker and match.

victory for Price. In game three, Price was in control of front court, with some "flash" serves and just-plain-smart play, as he rolled home the game, match victory 15-5. Had Price, Fitzpatrick and Algra been in the Open class, this might have been a different tournament altogether. Next year there will be some fireworks for certain!

Boys 13-and-under Jeff Mulligan took the cake from Jess Wilson in the finals, 21-13, 21-8. Both boys faced each other in a tough match, but Mulligan was just *too* tough, as the rest of the field will certainly attest to. Mulligan's opponents prior to Wilson managed to score only 2,0,2, and 5 points each.

Boys 10-and-under — these are the potential pros. Starting that young, they'll be hot by the time they reach 20! Jeff Stark and Mike Vargas, one and two seeds, finished the tournament just that way — Stark on top 21-13, 21-9. (It's amazing to see how well these guys can cover the court.)

And in the girl's 15-and-under division there were only four entrants. But they were tough. In a round robin situation Marci Drexler came out victorious. She was number one after three rounds of 42-point games, with a total of 126 points. Sheri Anthony (from the family of a dozen racquetballers) finished second with 90 points. Annette Farace (74 points) and Wendy Comer (52 points) rounded out the girls 15-and-under competition.

The girls 13-and-under and the girls 10-and-under competition was combined. Number one seed Lisa Anthony (not to be confused with Sheri) was upset by power player Janelle DeLugg in the finals 18-21, 21-6, 15-8. DeLugg really blasts the ball, but shows the style and control of a potential pro. Anthony displayed great control and speed equal to the match, but lost in the tiebreaker. The losers in the first round played for consolation, and Lisa Mark scored a win in this match, 21-3, 21-4. ■

Time Out Many Thanks To:

Omega Racquetball, Penn and Champion — for the prizes. Also Sandy Hunter and Chris Chinnici for the professional assistance in running the tournament, along with Bob Pfaender of Penn, Ed McClelland and Stan Harding of Omega. Rocky's Racquet World, with Mark and Becky Ellen and their staff, deserves "muchas gracias" for all the hard work. Also, special thanks to Dick Bennett for the professional photography.

The AARA is growing rapidly, and this was the association's first venture in Southern California. The success of this AARA tournament would not have been possible without the participants — thanks. And thanks again to Ed Martin's juniors and the folks from Redding — Nita, Chuck, Monty, etc . . .

DICK BENNETT

OFF~COURT TRAINING

WOMEN STRENGTHEN ON~COURT STAMINA THROUGH EXERCISE

By Sarah Green

EDITOR'S NOTE: Sarah Green is currently ranked second among professional women racquetball players. This is the second in an exclusive series of instructional articles for women which Green is writing for Racquetball.

For those women who take the game of racquetball seriously, off-court training is very important. Once you reach a certain level of play, you and your opponents are all able to hit the same shots, serve the same serves and make the same returns. So at this point you must look to general physical training to provide the "winning edge." This is where off-court exercise comes in—fatigue has caused the downfall of many a potential victor.

The first sign of fatigue to be overcome is loss of breath. If you are "wind-ed" and thus too busy thinking about breathing, you cannot possibly concentrate on the game. The next logical step to work on is overcoming the fatigue which can set in when playing a number of matches in a short span of time, such as in tournament play. Herein, I recommend some off-court exercises to overcome these potential problems.

It's best to analyze your own difficulties and design a program which will best suit your needs. Remember, the results won't appear immediately in most cases, so be sure to stick with your program over an extended period of time.

One of the most obvious exercises for improving your breathing is jogging. Whether it be long distances or just a mile or two, you'll improve as long as you run at a good steady pace and maintain a rhythmic breathing pattern. You need not run every day, but hardly any exercise will help unless you do it at least three times a week. Personally, I'd recommend running every other day, as it's difficult to start again once you've let yourself ease off the program. Besides, the more often you run, the more comfortable you'll become with a

rhythmic breathing pattern. Once you reach a distance which is easy and comfortable for you, increase it.

Another good exercise is jumping rope. Generally, it helps increase your stamina. It may be difficult at first, but as with most things, it will get easier as you go along. For those of you who are pressed for time, jumping rope may be your best bet. It takes very little time and can be done while you are warming up to play or while you are waiting for your court time.

Wind sprints in the court are also good. Just sprint from front court to back court. Repeat this procedure several times.

For those of you who have trouble with your legs or back and can't jog, run or jump, walking can also be good. Don't stroll; instead walk at a good strong pace and develop a rhythmic breathing pattern. As with jogging, you can increase your distance as it becomes easy for you.

Another good way to build up your endurance is through bicycle riding. Whether stationary or touring, you'll need to ride at a fast enough pace to increase your breathing and move into a rhythmic breathing pattern. All of the exercises I have mentioned so far have this one feature in common—they make you breathe hard. And in order to derive the most benefit from these exercises, I suggest you not only get to the point where you are breathing hard, but continue until you have set into an actual pattern. In this way you will gradually build up your tolerance, as the exercises will simulate your on-court experience, in which you are constantly moving and your lungs are pumping hard.

To help you through a long grueling weekend of matches, as in a tournament, it's important to increase your total body strength. For, as we all know, the winners are not only the best players, but also often the players with the greatest capacity for endurance.

In racquetball the most important parts

of your body in which to build strength are your upper body and your arms and legs. Two of the best ways to accomplish this are to start a total weight-lifting program and to attend exercise classes. Exercise classes are usually fun because you can be with friends, but many women cannot fit them into their schedules. If you are not restricted by a schedule and can therefore participate in an exercise class, you should be sure to pick one that lasts at least 45 minutes. The exercises should include a well-rounded variety which will work on the whole body. Also, they should not only build and tighten muscles, but should also stretch and relax them.

Many racquetball clubs and most health clubs have some type of weight-lifting program for women. As the concept of weight-lifting is new to many women, you should get together with the resident instructor to set up a program designed especially for you. I am not suggesting that you get into a program to help add bulk to your body—which is a common misconception of weight-lifting—but rather a program to help tone your muscles. One such weight system that works particularly well for women involves the use of Nautilus equipment. However, any type of all-purpose, weight machines such as Nautilus or Universal, should do. If such machines are available for your use, you should check into it.

If there is not a weight center available for you, there are a few good exercises that tone the muscles most frequently used in racquetball. These exercises can be done at home and require little or no special equipment.

The first is an exercise which involves using two small dumbbells. (Your club training advisor can probably recommend the proper weight for you to begin with.) Hold one dumbbell in each hand directly above your shoulders with the palms of your hands facing forward. From this position, doing one arm at a time, push your hand up in the air until your arm is straight, and then slowly return the weight to shoulder height. Alternate arms, making sure you lift straight up with the weight and not out to the side. Do this exercise about 15 times with each arm, then rest. Repeat three times.

To help build strength in the muscles that hold your racquet, take one of the dumbbells and be seated on the edge of a chair or bench with your legs together out in front, knees bent. Place your forearms down on your thigh with your palms up and your wrists just at your



Green demonstrates proper technique for using weights to strengthen arms.



Here, Sarah Green demonstrates her favorite type of push-up, in which she lowers and raises herself between two chairs.



Green also uses weights to strengthen her wrists.

MIKE ZEITMAN

knee. Take the dumbbell in your hand and move your hand up and down so that the back of your hand goes from being parallel to your leg to perpendicular to your leg, as close to a 90 degree angle as you can manage. Repeat this motion about 20 times with each hand. (The reason for working both hands is so that you'll not build up one arm more than the other.) Turn your hand over, palm facing down, and repeat the exercise. This should strengthen your wrists.

Another good way to build overall strength is swimming. You can begin with just a few laps at a time, and gradually increase the distance. Over time you will realize an increase in leg and arm strength, plus total body muscle tone. Swimming also helps with your breathing, but you must be conscious of keeping a steady breathing pattern, as I mentioned earlier.

The exercises that we have all been familiar with since childhood are also good. These include push-ups, sit-ups, and leg lifts. There are many different ways to do push-up type exercises, but I have a favorite which I'll explain here. This type of push-up is done with the use of a chair or bench and another surface of equal height. (Ex., use chairs, stack of books, etc.) Sit on the edge of the chair with your hands close together behind you for support. Try to put your hands as close together as possible. Straighten your legs and place your feet up on the other surface. Now, lower your body to the ground, keeping your legs straight and using only your arms. This helps build upper body strength while also helping you stretch your shoulder muscles.

Three more good, and easy, exercises for the legs are toe raises, stepping up on a chair and running the stairs. Toe raises: stand with your feet together and raise up on your toes as far as you can. Repeat this about 15 times and then hold

yourself up for about 30 seconds. Repeat this sequence about four times per day. The next exercise is stepping up on a stair. It involves standing at the bottom of a staircase, facing the stairs. Step up with your right foot to the first step and then bring your left foot up to the same step. Now, take your right foot back to the floor and then your left foot. Repeat for about one or two minutes, building up gradually. Start out slowly and then quicken the pace. Running the stairs, meanwhile, requires that you have a flight of stairs of at least five steps. All you do in this exercise is run up and down the stairs as fast as you can without skipping any steps. Make sure you stay on the balls of your feet. (This exercise is very easy to do because you can incorporate it into your daily routine if you have stairs in your home or office.)

Another form of exercise which is very important is stretching. You must learn to take the time to stretch before any type of workout whether it be jogging, practicing your shots, playing or lifting weights. You will do well to get together with a ballet or yoga instructor to design a program for your personal needs. If neither is readily accessible, there are plenty of good books on the subject. When I am spending a lot of time stretching, I find that I tire out less quickly, that I get less sore from playing and that my reactions on-court are much quicker.

Possibly the most important—and most controversial—part of off-court training is diet. (I am assuming here that you are at your desired weight and are not dieting to lose weight, but rather to help build up stamina and to maintain strength over time.) The most important time to be concerned with diet is just prior to and during tournaments. Eating during tournaments is often difficult, especially when you're not only playing two or three matches a day, but also

refereeing. You'll often find you are pressed for time to shower and have even less time to schedule for meals. Also, the availability of good food is often poor; hospitality rooms generally leave a lot to be desired, nutritionally speaking. And worse, eating out can be expensive. My personal recommendation is to pass up the hospitality room if the selection is poor, and go out to find some decent food. You'll be better off in the long run.

You must take care of your body nutritionally at tournaments, or all the training you've had will be wasted. Fatigue can set in from lack of nourishment, no matter what kind of shape you're in.

As I'm not a nutrition expert, I will not recommend what you should and shouldn't include in your diet. I will, however, suggest contacting a nutritionist at a local hospital to obtain help in putting together a good diet for yourself.

I recommend not deviating from your regular diet at tournaments. Just eat what you normally eat and you should do fine. The timing of meals must be considered, however. Although some people can eat and then play immediately afterwards, playing on a full stomach is more often detrimental to your game. Digestion uses up a lot of the body's energy, so you'll be pushing yourself that much harder if you try to eat and play too. So be conscious not only of what you eat, but also when.

Many of you will be surprised at how little time these off-court training procedures require. I hope you'll also be surprised at what a tremendous difference they will make in your game. Don't forget, though, that the exercises I've recommended here are meant to *supplement* your on-court training. If you must make a choice between on-court and off-court training, stick with the on-court training until you have time to add the off-court effort. ■

WINNING POINTS

THE 3~WALL CHALLENGE

RACQUETBALL UNDER THE SUN

By Kurt Ronsen



Kurt Ronsen, a recent convert to the outdoor game, lives in Brighton, Colo. He began playing racquetball 11 years ago, and is also an experienced soccer player and licensed soccer referee.

Picture yourself with the serve. You hammer a low, hard serve only a racquet's length from the right-hand wall and just over the server's box. Your opponent stretches for the ball and drives it cross-court waist high. You relax. Setup off the back wall, right? Wrong! Before you can take two steps, the ball is over the out-of-bounds line—gone! Welcome to the "three wall challenge," the great game of outdoor racquetball.

Playing three wall racquetball is a matter of compensating for conditions. The missing back wall and the lack of a ceiling dictate how three wall strategy is developed. Without these surfaces, one does not have the luxury of recovery or the extra moment of deliberation that you get in four wall racquetball.

Although the dimensions of the court are not increased, a player is forced to

cover more ground. And for those players who thrive on defensive strategy, the inability to make a ceiling shot can create a feeling of helplessness that may be even more difficult to adjust to than the lack of a back wall.

Rules in three wall are basically the same as in four wall. Long serves occur when the ball goes over the out-of-bounds line without touching the court. Short serves and faults are the same. Balls hit up high for ceiling shots are out-of-bounds. In addition, local rules may exist where the ball can come into contact with objects like outdoor light fixtures. With these rules in mind, a player is now ready to think strategy.

Shots which would be ill-advised in four wall are more common in three wall play. In four wall, the desired outcome of a cross-court drive is to keep the ball low so one's opponent cannot retrieve it off the back wall. The three wall player, however, has the option of keeping the ball low or seeking a higher trajectory that sends the ball out-of-bounds more quickly, as long as the ball bounces in-bounds first. In response, the defensive

player must position himself at least a yard farther back in the court than would be the case in four wall. This position is the optimum point from which he can move to retrieve a serve or a pass. It takes into consideration the lesson many of us learned playing softball: it's much easier to advance forward or laterally toward a ball than to pursue it after it has already passed. Without a back wall, then, there is really no other alternative to playing it safe.

The deep court position of the defensive player inherently lends an advantage to the person on offense. Since the defensive player is forced to play so far back in the court, he can become the victim of short, low drive serves and shots. If he "cheats" in close in order to pursue the ball, the person on offense can counterattack with longer, higher passing shots. This characteristic of three wall makes for a fast game with short volleys.

In effect, a cat and mouse situation is created. The absence of the back wall helps the person on offense to better use the dimensions of the court to his advantage. For instance, the server might use a stacatto pattern of short and long serves to keep his opponent off guard. (See Diagram A) From a defensive perspective, anticipation of the opponent's placement of the shot or serve, so as to place one's self in a relatively good position for a return, becomes the difference between winning and losing.

Reflex ability to drive or leap for a pass can also be the margin of success in three wall. A skillful player can even counterattack with a drive shot from the prone position. The accuracy of the drive is not as important as in four wall, where the other player can wait for it to come off the back wall for a setup.

Similarly, the overhand drive or smash, which is a low percentage shot in four wall, has much more significance in three wall. Since the defensive player will station himself in back court to cut off passing shots, the offensive player can take advantage of the situation by shooting for overhand kills. If the ball rebounds too high off the floor, after striking the front wall, it then becomes a passing shot, which is still a potential winner in the outdoor game. The key to making this shot effective is to make it parallel and as close to the sidewall as possible. Incorrect placement can cause the ball to touch the sidewall and angle into center court for a setup. In addition, if the ball has not been hit hard enough, the defensive player can take the offensive by driving the ball for a cross-court pass or a drive down the same wall.

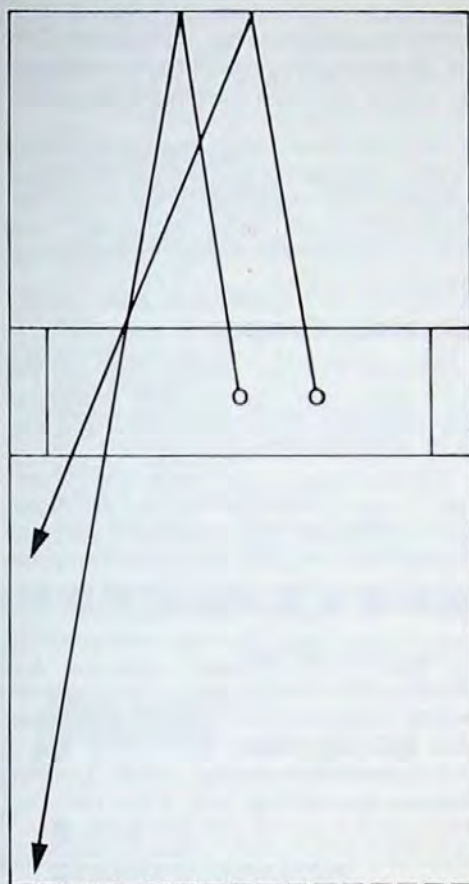


Diagram A

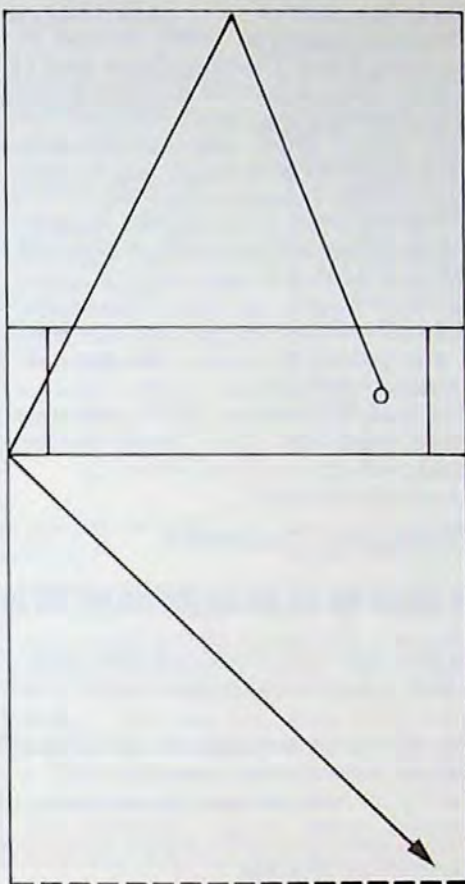


Diagram B

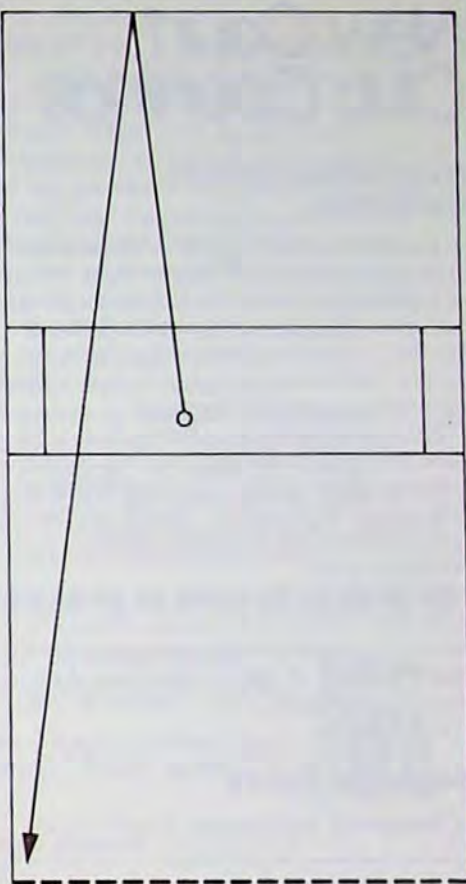


Diagram C

Like the overhand smash, the lob shot plays an important role in three wall. When the offensive player catches the defensive player "cheating" forward, the lob is an effective counterattack. The execution of the lob requires enough dexterity to be able to place the ball past the defensive player but inside the out-of-bounds line. If the defensive player is able to maintain composure and return the lob, his return shot is often weak or inaccurately placed because of the long distance the ball must travel to the front wall. This puts the offensive player in excellent position to score a low kill in the front court, as the defensive player struggles to regain position. The possibility of passing the onrushing defensive player also exists. Of course, the lob must be placed properly. If the lob is too short, the defensive player is set up for an overhand drive which will be difficult to stop.

In three wall racquetball, the serve is the focal point which usually dictates the tempo of the game. Deep, hard drives parallel to the sidewalls consistently provide winners. This ability to drive the serve out-of-bounds before the defensive player can reach it gives the server a one-two punch that the four waller can only dream about. And when the receiver is

"conditioned" into staying deep to avoid being passed, he is then primed to become the victim of the short, hard serve. In short, because the receiver has to protect his flanks, he is susceptible to maneuvers that will draw him out of position for a good return, or even for any return at all.

For the same reason, the three wall Z serve is deadlier than its four wall counterpart. When the Z serve is placed correctly, the receiver has no choice but to return it on the fly. The only alternative is to hope that the ball strikes the sidewall, instead of directly bounding out of the court for a point or side-out. This same principle holds true for Z shots that are hit during a volley. (See Diagram B)

Another effective serve is the lob down the sidewall to the backhand of the other player. The ball should have an arc that causes it to strike the court just inside the out-of-bounds line. It forces the defensive player to choose between hitting the ball on the fly or retreating out of the court for the return. But such long returns usually result in good setups for the offensive player. (See Diagram C)

When the serves that are particularly effective in three wall are mixed with the serves common to four wall, they provide a diversified array of offensive weapons.

The most important factor is the ability of the server to take advantage of the "expanded" dimensions of the court. More options exist for the server, while the defensive player must cover more ground. The server thus has a clear-cut advantage.

Notwithstanding occasional adverse environmental factors such as sun, rain, shadows and snow, three wall racquetball is an enjoyable form of exercise and provides excellent competition. Indeed, the accomplished four waller, who is accustomed to strategically locating himself at center court, may be surprised at the physical exertion and tuned reflexes that are the requisites of three wall success. Contrary to what one might think, three wall does not destroy the continuity or tempo of the four waller who returns to his normal environs. The key is to be able to shift gears according to the different conditions of the respective games. The experienced player, whose game is dictated by his cranial power, should be able to make the transition with little difficulty.

So if you are looking for something different, now that warmer weather has arrived, seek out a three wall court in your area and take on the "three wall challenge." You won't regret it! ■

FIRST SERVICE

New Court Club Openings

Huntington Beach, California

The Huntington Beach Athletic Club opened recently at 9872 Hamilton Ave., in Huntington Beach, located less than a mile from the ocean. Formerly Racquetfun, Inc., a pay-as-you-play franchise, the facility has been converted to a private club for dues-paying members.

The new owners have invested \$250,000 in remodeling the club, which features eight indoor racquetball/handball courts, two outdoor courts and two glass courts with adjoining galleries for exhibition play.

For further information on memberships and additional amenities offered by the club, contact general manager, Steve MacWilliams, at 9872 Hamilton Ave., Huntington Beach, Calif., 92646; or call 714-963-0864.

Houston, Texas

Continental Racquetball Court Clubs,

Inc., has opened a second club in Houston, located at 14880 Bammel N. Houston Road. The new club is part of Cornerstone, a planned development of 118 wooded acres, which will also contain retail, office and entertainment facilities, a medical center and a major high density residential complex.

The club has 10 handball/racquetball courts, two of which have glass walls and adjacent seating for spectators. Manager of the facility is Marc Auerbach, Southwest region racquetball champion.

For further information on the Continental Racquetball clubs, contact Theodore S. Jablonski, Jr., Continental Racquetball, 100 Galli Drive, Novato, Calif., 94947; or call 415-883-4671.

Durango, Colorado

The Court Club of Durango opened recently at 1600 Florida Road in Durango. The nearly 20,000 square-foot facility has eight racquetball/handball courts, which include two courts with glass back walls and one with a glass sidewall. Other amenities the club offers include two outdoor tennis courts, a variety of exercise and fitness classes, saunas, steam rooms, Jacuzzies and

massage rooms in the men's and women's locker rooms. The Court Club of Durango also houses in its facility a complete restaurant and lounge, juice bar, hair salon and pro shop.

Memberships range from full-facility, which includes the racquetball and tennis courts, to memberships in the health spa only. Individual, family and group rates are available. For further information, call 303-259-2579.

Ontario, Oregon

Eastern Oregon Sports club opened last December, but is still accepting memberships. The club is located at 366 S.E. 5 St. in Ontario.

Membership in the club offers complete fitness programs and the use of six racquetball/handball courts, two exercise rooms with Nautilus and Iron Company weight equipment, an indoor swimming pool, two saunas, two whirlpools and other amenities. The club management is aided in developing programs for members by a consulting health staff which includes a physician, a dietitian and a physical therapist.

For more information, write Eastern Oregon Sports, 366 S.E. 5 St., Ontario, Ore., 97914; or call 503-881-1323. ■

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Scorecard

RACQUETBALL welcomes all tournaments to report their results. Please list all rounds of each event. Scorecard will report as many rounds of each tournament as space allows.

For reasons of space and clarity, tournament results submitted for listing in "Scorecard" should be arranged as shown in the example below. Entries using this format stand a better chance of being included in the "Scorecard" section.

Men's Open:
Semifinals: John Smith over Peter Smith 21-7, 21-15; John Doe over Peter Doe 21-20, 21-13.
Finals: John Smith over John Doe 21-20, 13-21, 21-16.

coveted title. When the smoke cleared, Farrell (Racquet Club X) had won the battle 15-9.

The mixed doubles was won by Tater Junction's Mark Rapoport and Karen Bernardo, over Bill Miller and Mary Emmanuele 15-3. The women's doubles was dominated by the Racquet Club duo of Carol Redic and Jan Johnston over Marle DelGreco and Gail Evans 15-9.

The team championship was decided between the National Runners-Up doubles team of Herb Meyers and Carmen Fellicetti (Tater Junction), versus state champion Emil Scarano teaming up with Ken Baron, Racquet Club head pro. With the team championship tied at two wins apiece, Baron-Scarano serving and leading 12-10, Meyers and Fellicetti came on to break serve and score five straight points to win the match and championship.

INDIANA AARA STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS Racquetball of Greenbriar Indianapolis, Indiana February 29-March 2

Men's Open:
Quarterfinals: Kim Drake over Jack Eckman 21-18, 10-21, 11-5; Dick McCabe over Jim Knauer 21-6, 13-21, 11-6; Jack Roubush over Paul Evans 21-8, 21-4; Chuck Solomon over Terry Conway 15-21, 21-8, 11-7.
Semifinals: Drake over McCabe 21-7, 21-16; Roubush over Solomon 21-8, 21-15.
Finals: Roubush over Drake 21-11, 20-21, 11-3.

Men's B:
Quarterfinals: Harold Griggs over Ken Miller 21-12, 21-14; Joe Irak over Dan Paddock 21-13, 15-21, 11-5; Rick Scotten over Bob Fitzsimmons 21-13, 21-10; Rob Robbins over Tony Gabriel 16-21, 21-19, 11-3.
Semifinals: Griggs over Irak 21-5, 21-15; Scotten over Robbins 21-14, 21-13.
Finals: Scotten over Griggs 21-14, 21-12.

Men's C:
Quarterfinals: Sam Whilding over Hal Spiro 21-20, 21-12; Chris Beane over William Lee 21-15, 21-8; Ed Colon over Chuck Gemmer 21-17, 21-11; Kevin Wright over Pat Carey 21-20, 21-5.
Semifinals: Whilding over Beane 21-7, 21-11; Colon over Wright 21-14, 21-7.
Finals: Whilding over Colon 21-17, 21-18.

Men's Novice:
Quarterfinals: Art Warner over Tony Violi 21-4, 21-16; Rick Mills over David Pegg 21-11, 21-3; Tom Mathis over Ken Kraay 21-15, 21-10; Ed Moore over Mike Goldenberg 21-2, 21-13.
Semifinals: Mills over Warner 17-21, 21-18, 11-1; Moore over Mathis 21-3, 21-5.
Finals: Moore over Mills 21-19, 21-12.

Men's Seniors:
Quarterfinals: Ottis Campbell over Bob Steege 10-21, 21-13, 11-10; Larry Pritchett over Don Nixon 21-1, 21-10; Jay Reed over Harold Chatlosh 21-2, 21-9; Leo Cox over Richard Lasbury 21-6, 21-1.
Semifinals: Campbell over Pritchett 21-18, 12-21, 11-4; Cox over Reed 21-18, 21-16.
Finals: Cox over Campbell 21-18, 21-18.

Women's A (Round Robin): 1st: Dana Cornblath; 2nd: Kay Kuhfeld; 3rd: Jane Pritchett.
Women's B (Round Robin): 1st: Linda Green; 2nd: Sally Diller; 3rd: Michele Overton.

Women's C:
Quarterfinals: Anne Carsten over Lee Linenberg 21-4, 21-12; Linda Stoner over Lynne Zopf 21-4, 21-11; Dina Pritchett over Barb Butler 21-3, 21-8; Patsy Jones over Donna Newcomer 21-17, 17-21, 11-5.
Semifinals: Carsten over Stoner 21-12, 21-19; Pritchett over Carsten 13-21, 21-12, 11-8.

Women's Novice:
Quarterfinals: Catherine Berry over Cheryl Lasbury 21-6, 21-3; Linda Breedlove over Barb Greenwalt 10-21, 21-9, 11-10; MaryAnn Konczinski over Betty Lasbury 21-2, 21-10; Connie Kraay over Diane Huffer 21-8, 21-3.
Semifinals: Breedlove over Berry 21-9, 21-16; Kraay over Konczinski 21-3, 21-5.
Finals: Kraay over Breedlove 21-10, 21-20.

Juniors 17-15:
Quarterfinals: Jeff Zipes over Pat Conway 21-6, 16-21, 11-3; Scott Pufahl over Jim Kern 21-8, 21-13; Mark Lasbury over Brian Ramey 21-6, 21-15; Darin Odier over Mike Malinowski 21-17, 21-16.
Semifinals: Zipes over Pufahl 9-21, 21-13, 11-9; Odier over Lasbury 21-17, 15-21, 11-5.
Finals: Zipes over Odier 13-21, 21-6, 11-8.

Juniors 11-14:
Quarterfinals: Solomon over Pritchett 21-16, 21-11; Mikulla over Grinsfelder 21-1, 21-9; Lasbury over Franz 21-0, 21-0; Gray over Craig 21-6, 21-6.
Semifinals: Mikulla over Solomon 21-12, 21-6; Lasbury over Gray 21-11, 15-21, 11-4.
Finals: Mikulla over Lasbury 21-14, 21-7.



Left to right-kneeling: Karen Bernardo, Debbie Allhouse. Standing: Gail Evans, Al Plummer, Marilyn Ross, Herb Meyers, Carmen Fellicetti, Marle DelGreco, Dale Henry. Kneeling: Lou Fabian, Mark Rapoport.

1ST ANNUAL GOLD CUP OF RACQUETBALL Monroeville Racquet Club Monroeville, Penn.

The tournament included five categories of play: women's and men's singles, women's and men's doubles and mixed doubles. Ten teams were divided into two flights playing a round robin format. Each match between the teams consisted of a 15-point game, win by 2 in every category. A team could earn from 0-5 points in each round of flight play. When all flight matches were completed, the team with the most points won its flight and continued to play a championship match against the opposite flight winner. Ties in the final flight standings were broken by head-to-head results. In all, the winning teams and flight runners-up (playing for 3rd and 4th place) played five one-game matches in eight hours.

Several additional unique features are worthy of mention. The concept of team matches played on two adjacent courts boosted enthusiasm, player camaraderie and new strategy challenges for the sport of racquetball, (e.g.: player substitution between matches, line-up changes and scouting an opposing team). The round robin format used during flight play has two inherent values, e.g., elimination of the "bad day" syndrome found in single elimination tournaments and a guarantee for every team of four matches. While teams only need four men and four women to compete, an alternate man and woman are recommended in case of injury to pre-

vent forfeiture. The order of games during a match is left up to the team captains; mixed doubles serving, man to man and woman to woman, is recommended.

Head Racquetball commendably sent Steve Strandemo, fourth-ranked touring pro, to give adult and junior clinics, playing exhibitions and tips on racquetball. Strandemo entertained 250 onlooking racquetball enthusiasts by playing an exhibition game with Al Plummer. Strandemo's amazing talents of controlled power, ripping serves and superior court savvy bested Plummer 31-9.

ROUND ROBIN STANDINGS

FLIGHT A			FLIGHT B		
Team	Pts.		Team	Pts.	
1. Racquet Club X	14		1. Tater Junction	16	
2. St. Clair Courts	13		2. Manor Courts No.	12	
3. Manor South Y	10		3. Racquettime	9	
4. Rt. 30 Racquetball	9		4. Manor South Y	7	
5. Tennesisland	4		5. Racquet Club Y	6	

The flight winners of Tater Junction and Racquet Club X competed for the championship. The first championship match was a battle of Titans between current state champion Tim Grapes and Al Plummer. In a grueling half-hour game which saw many roll-outs and service breaks, Al Plummer (Tater Junction) came from behind 9-12 to win 15-13.

The women's singles championship saw Marilyn Ross and Jeanine Farrell challenge one another for the

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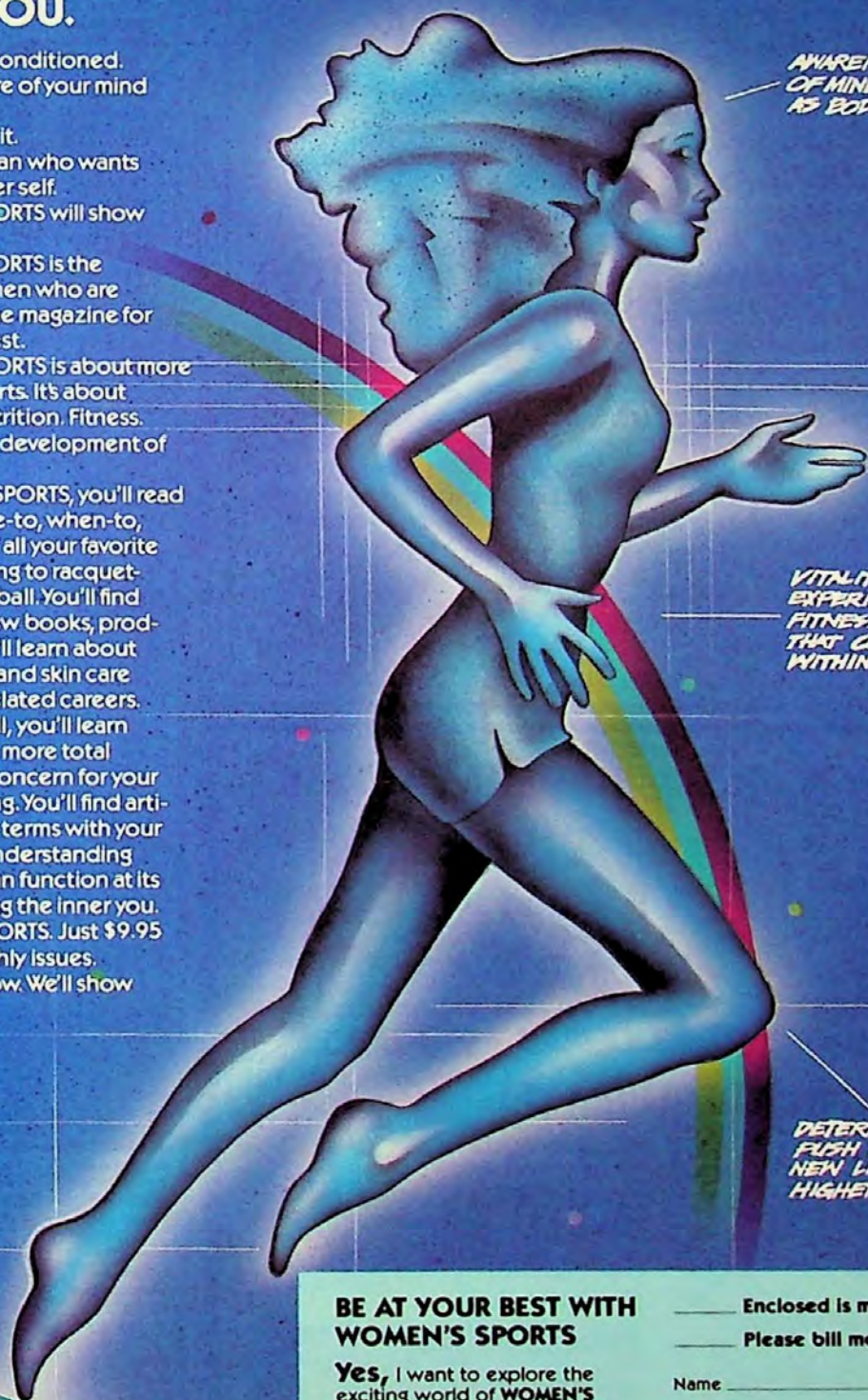
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EKTELON/PERRIER CHAMPIONSHIPS Chancellors Racquet Club Houston, Texas

Men's Open: 1st: Jeff Kwartler; 2nd: Bob Phillip; 3rd: Keith Dunlap.
Women's Open: 1st: Gail Woods; 2nd: Janice Segal; 3rd: Jo Ann La Pointe; 4th: Kathleen Fairchild.
Men's Seniors: 1st: Jim Austin; 2nd: Tim Heckley; 3rd: Tom McKie; 4th: Doug Moreau.
Women's Seniors: 1st: Renee Hebert; 2nd: Suzanne Storey; 3rd: Sandy Ellerman; 4th: Carolyn Villarrubio.
Open Doubles: 1st: Jeff Kwartler-Mark Malowitz; 2nd: Andy Hodges-Tom McKie; 3rd: Gary Merritt-Bob Merritt; 4th: Brad Walker-Bob Phillip.
Men's B: 1st: Momcilo Pokrajac; 2nd: Lane LaCour; 3rd: Brad Clinkenbeard; 4th: David Weiser.
Men's C: 1st: Blair Davis; 2nd: Peyton Dorsett; 3rd: Ed Rotenberry; 4th: Steve Higgins.
Men's Novice: 1st: Stewart Szycher; 2nd: Mike Elliott; 3rd: Mike Patterson; 4th: Butch Jung.
Women's B: 1st: Gigi Wigman; 2nd: Nancy Girouard; 3rd: Brenda Wyatt; 4th: Linda Seigler.
Women's C: 1st: Dalila Palomino; 2nd: Buffy Fitzgerald; 3rd: Randi Schwartz; 4th: Darlene Dye.
Women's Novice: 1st: Lee Ann Morrison; 2nd: Melissa Owen; 3rd: Marsha Cromwell; 4th: Pamela Wood.

COWBOY OPEN Colvin Center/Oklahoma State University Stillwater, Oklahoma

Women's C: 1st: Sherry Rawch; 2nd: Penny Drysdale; 3rd: Jill Overhuls; 4th: Carolyn Ash.
Women's B: 1st: Mindy Scherer; 2nd: Maureen Hickley; 3rd: Mimi Hatch; 4th: Dalene Yoder.
Men's B Doubles: 1st: Greg Shackel-Dave Arnold; 2nd: Lanny Chasteen-John Jobe; 3rd: Maby-Burkett; 4th: Dan Johnson-Don Hammons.
Men's (40+) Doubles: 1st: Pohne-Windes; 2nd: Rutherford-Sturdivant; 3rd: Grimes-Potts; 4th: Crowley-Murrell.
Men's Open: 1st: Kevin Chambliss; 2nd: Ken Smith; 3rd: Mark Sanford; 4th: Charlie Willingham.
Men's Seniors: 1st: Wayne Campbell; 2nd: Davy Auhele; 3rd: Lanny Chasteen; 4th: Billy Thornton.
Men's Masters: 1st: V.Z. Lawton; 2nd: Ed Erula; 3rd: Phillip Murrell; 4th: Dave Bowersock.
Open Doubles: 1st: Smith-Chambliss; 2nd: Hinkle-Linton; 3rd: Trent-McKie; 4th: Jackson-Savage.
Women's Open Doubles: 1st: Bunker-Bunker; 2nd: Turney-Kirkland; 3rd: Lee-Holt; 4th: McCurdy-Calloway.
Women's Open Singles: 1st: Ingrid Kirkland; 2nd: Beth Bunker; 3rd: Cindy Ouerstake; 4th: Jamie Holt.
Men's C: 1st: Edward Burke; 2nd: David Kirkland; 3rd: Mike Calavan; 4th: Cary Meister.
Women's B Doubles: 1st: Heinlin-Coley; 2nd: Grimes-Hatch; 3rd: Treat-Taylor; 4th: Jezek-Galoob.
Men's B: 1st: Dan Hammond; 2nd: Dan Johnson; 3rd: Charles Bradley; 4th: David Norris.

PEORIA YMCA RACQUETBALL OPEN CLASSIC February 22-24, 1980 Peoria YMCA, Peoria, Ill.

Men's A:
Semifinals: Jim Crick over Bob Schwab 21-7, 20-21, 11-5; Ron Durr over Bob Scroggs 21-8, 21-16.
Finals: Jim Crick over Ron Durr 15-21, 21-6, 11-0.
Consolation: Bob Scroggs.
Men's B:
Semifinals: Bill Motteler over Jeff Lahaie 17-21, 21-18, 11-6; Stewart Kinkade over Jack Fulton 21-17, 18-21, 11-3.
Finals: Bill Motteler over Stewart Kinkade 11-21, 21-5, 11-5.
Consolation: Bill White.
Men's C:
Semifinals: Mike Woodcock over Tom Cayson 21-5, 21-8; Harold Wilkerson over Derek Ronnfeldt 21-17, 21-18.
Finals: Mike Woodcock over Harold Wilkerson 21-15, 21-6.
Consolation: Bill Fortune.
Women's B:
Semifinals: Becca Deitrich over Dee Phelan 21-4, 21-13; Judy Schermann over Joann Lytle 21-3, 21-11.
Finals: Judy Schermann over Becca Deitrich 21-10, 21-10.
Consolation: Dee Phelan.
Women's Novice:
Semifinals: Kim Wolpert over Pam Selburg 21-19, 21-15; Lou Ann Taughenbaugh over Peggy Maloof 21-11, 21-7.
Consolation: Vicky Labhart.

EKTELON/PERRIER CHAMPIONSHIPS

Schoeber's Racquetball Spa
San Jose, California
February 29-March 2

Masters: 1st: Al Rossi; 2nd: Abe Woodson; 3rd: Bill Dabney; 4th: John Stelle.
Men's Seniors: 1st: Bill Dunn; 2nd: Dennis Lose; 3rd: Spencer Johnston; 4th: Price Thomas.
Men's Open: 1st: Steve Dunn; 2nd: Al Viola; 3rd: Gerry Price; 4th: Jeff Jensen.
Women's Open: 1st: Jean Oescheger; 2nd: Mona Mook; 3rd: Betsy Massey; 4th: Mary Visser.
Women's B: 1st: Sandi Hunter; 2nd: Terry Hill; 3rd: Sheila Budenbender; 4th: Janelle Delugy.
Men's B: 1st: Darin Davencinzi; 2nd: Jeff Mulligan; 3rd: David Johnson; 4th: Steve Freitas.

COLORADO STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

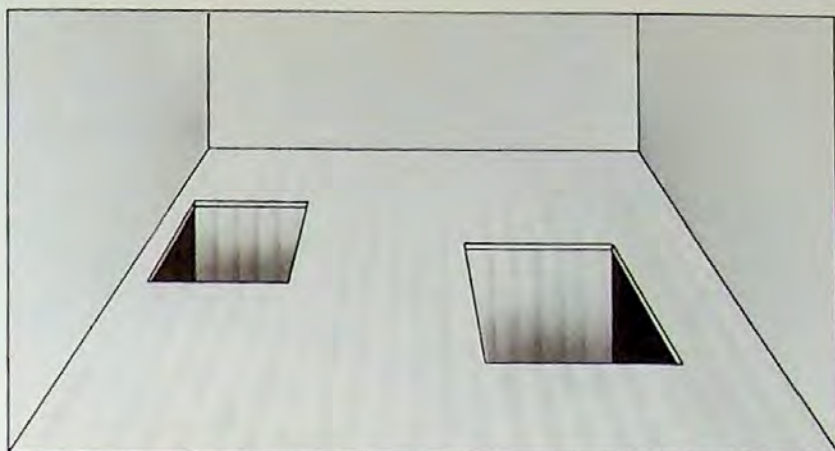
International Athletic Club
Denver, Colorado
March 6-9

Men's AA: 1st: Jack O'Connor; 2nd: Dirk Douglas.
Men's A: 1st: Richard Hauge; 2nd: Dick Screen.
Men's BB: 1st: Kim Koehn; 2nd: Mike Dipple.
Men's B: 1st: Elmer Arnold; 2nd: Terry McRae.
Men's CC: 1st: David Pope; 2nd: Colin Connor.
Men's C: 1st: Richard Tarde; 2nd: Wayne Chojnacki.
Men's Seniors: 1st: Ed Creagh; 2nd: Toby Marez.
Men's Masters: 1st: Frank Leydens; 2nd: George Garcia.
Women's A: 1st: Barb Faulkenberry; 2nd: Lydia Emerick.
Women's B: 1st: Sue Lang; 2nd: Barb Bergin.
Women's C: 1st: Marcy Abing; 2nd: Lynnette Mott.
Men's Doubles: 1st: Dick Screen-Dave Giocomo; 2nd: Dirk Douglas-Alden Bock.
Women's Doubles: 1st: Clippinger-McKenny; 2nd: Herschler-Helburg.
Mixed Doubles: 1st: O'Connor-O'Connor; 2nd: Faulkenberry-Blecher.

UNION TRUST/MARCH OF DIMES

RACQUETBALL OPEN
New Haven, Connecticut

Men's Novice:
Semifinals: Baross over Copeland 21-19, 21-15; Giordani over Ryan 21-13, 14-21, 11-9.
Finals: Baross over Giordani 21-15, 21-4.
Men's C:
Semifinals: Peterson over Kowalski 21-13, 21-12; Germano over Bruno 21-19, 21-11.
Finals: Peterson over Germano 21-14, 21-9.
Men's B:
Semifinals: Johns over Weiner 4-21, 21-14, 11-10; Barsky over Naimo 21-9, 21-14.
Finals: Barsky over Johns 21-6, 19-21, 11-9.
Men's Open:
Semifinals: McKinney over Panarella 21-18, 13-21, 11-9; Horton over Dehm 21-16, 21-16.
Finals: Chas Horton over Rob McKinney 21-20, 21-14.
Men's Open Doubles:
Semifinals: Luft-Yee over Nocera-Parker 5-15, 15-11, 15-11; Panarella-Maturah over Waltz-Castillo 15-13, 15-13.
Finals: Luft-Yee over Panarella-Maturah 15-3, 15-12.
Men's B&C Doubles:
Semifinals: Aquino-Alberti over Wilson-Howle 15-8, 15-8; Peterson-Tufano over Machowski-Marrone 21-9, 21-8.
Finals: Aquino-Alberti over Peterson-Tufano 15-9, 15-4.
Men's Seniors:
Semifinals: Shelman over Lansberg 21-15, 21-15; Waltz over Castillo 21-16, 9-21, 11-9.
Finals: Waltz over Shulman 21-14, 21-15.
Men's Masters:
Semifinals: Rizzo over Sousa 21-14, 21-6; Perimenis over Meltzer 21-9, 10-21, 11-2.
Finals: Rizzo over Perimenis 21-12, 21-11.
Women's Novice:
Semifinals: Cleaver over Cain 21-11, 21-8; Finn over Keeley 21-4, 21-10.
Finals: Cleaver over Finn 21-5, 21-5.
Women's C:
Semifinals: Cleaver over Burns 21-4, 21-15; Gentile over Maher 21-15, 21-15.
Finals: Cleaver over Gentile 21-3, 21-13.
Women's B:
Semifinals: Amiot over Stanley, forfeit; VanKampen over Huggen 21-19, 15-21, 11-4.
Finals: VanKampen over Amiot 21-20, 21-18. ■

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