

National Racquetball

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE U.S. RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION

Volume 3 Number 2

July, 1975

Brumfield Wins Seamco Pro Tour Finals





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National Racquetball

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE U.S. RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION

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From the editor . . .

Las Vegas, Television And Things To Come



LEVE

Exciting, dramatic, exhilarating, tense, and tough. Those words describe our Las Vegas experience. Great matches, fantastic people, hard work and honestly, relief when it was all over. But we loved every second of the Nationals and we certainly hope those who attended enjoyed themselves as well.

Since I edit *National Racquetball* I get a sneak preview of all the articles written and run in the magazine, and I have to add another name to the list of people Joe Ardito thanked for their efforts in Vegas. That person is Joe Ardito. Talk about tireless efforts, not only in Las Vegas but for months prior to it! Joe's the guy who put the whole thing together.

We can't say that Las Vegas was perfect. We gave it a great effort but a few things can be improved next year. It's always tough, number one, to run a major tournament. Secondly, being in a town without a strong local organization makes it harder and thirdly, Las Vegas itself is not quite your normal host city.

Well, the local group is there now in the Las Vegas Racquetball Association; and now that we realize just how many people can and will come to the Magic City for the Nationals, the next Vegas extravaganza will be that much greater. And now that we know the Tropicana people a lot better and exactly how things need be done in order to get them done, we know the future years will mean even greater things for the Las Vegas Classic.

Two new starts began in Las

Vegas, both of them reported in this issue. The first to occur was the marriage of Gerry and Patricia Lapierre, on the Trop's Championship Court number five, pictures of which you'll find on page 49. The second as Joe Ardito reports in his column was the birth of Mark Edward Seaton, to Dan and Tanya Seaton. Dan is president of the newly-created Las Vegas Racquetball Association.

As those of you who attended know, the finals between Charlie Brumfield and Steve Strandemo was video-taped for later airing on national television. At this time we do not have the exact time and date of telecast, but as soon as it becomes available you can be sure we'll pass it along to the racquetball world.

It's too bad that the match wasn't a close one, but the tape will surely be an outstanding instructional show on how to play the game by Brumfield. I have never seen a better played racquetball match in my life, and that covers a few.

I might add that my predictions of the last issue came true, with Brumfield and Peggy Steding capturing the titles. It didn't take a ouija board to figure, though, it only made sense.

We're in the process of setting up the 1975-1976 tournament season, and the sites and dates will be announced in the next issue of *National Racquetball*.

Right now it looks like we'll be going to such places as Denver, Milwaukee, Tucson, Aurora, Orlando, Florida, Toledo, Ohio, and

hopefully Montreal, St. Louis, San Diego and others. It promises to be a fantastic year, and we at the N.R.C. and U.S.R.A. are certainly looking forward to it.

* * *

We'd like to thank all you readers who responded with opinions on our proposed rule changes. All of them pulled great support, as you'll be able to see for yourselves in the article on page 27. We do feel, however, that more time must be used to test the proposals, and we would also like to hear from even more of you out there.

Remember, if the rules are changed it could have a dramatic effect on the sport, so much so that we want everyone who plays to give extreme consideration to the proposals. Let us know how you feel. Right now, our mail is running between three and four to one for making changes. If you don't feel that way, then please let us know, it's the only way you'll get the message across.

* * *

Court club building continues to be one of the biggest real estate stories of the nation as club after club spring up all over the country. You can look forward to an expanded court club section in our next issue, along with an interview with John Wineman, Jr. the main man with The Court House Sports Clubs, Inc., a group of investors out of Chicago who have four clubs in Chicago and one in St. Louis. For a stimulating discussion of racquetball and its clubs, don't miss it.

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It Was All Hard Work; But It was Well Worth It

By Joe Ardito

It took a while but we finally have recuperated from the thrilling and difficult task of the Las Vegas Nationals. Never before have so many racquetball players congregated in the same place at the same time for a National or any other tournament. It was a thrill to be a part of this, our first Nationals, and the first time a major racquetball event has ever visited Las Vegas, the glowing city.

The U.S.R.A. and N.R.C. Nationals could not have come off without the help of scores of volunteers, the names of whom would fill this entire page. There were some individuals, however, whose key roles cannot go unnoticed.

Take, first of all, floor manager Al Gracio. Anybody who was in Vegas knows what this man meant to our tournament. Always the first man up and on the scene in the morning, always the last man to leave the courts, usually also in the morning, the next morning. Al gave his all to our cause, and this is the dedication that makes our organizations work.

Gracio, assigned courts, posted scores, kept matches moving, did the unenviable such as find and assign referees, obtain and pick up towels, replace balls, — he did it all, even refereeing himself.

We sincerely hope that some of you had a chance to drop by the floor manager's desk at the Tropicana and just thank Al for his great efforts. That's really all he asks, and I would like to go on public record just to say, "thank you," to a super guy for us and for racquetball, — Al Gracio.

One of the fringe benefits for Las Vegas at the Nationals was the be-

ginning of another great organization, the Las Vegas Racquetball Association. Headed by Dan Seaton and Phil Waldman, these guys have put together a thriving and forward looking racquetball group that are ready to handle any of our tournaments in the future.

Dan and Phil especially put in hours above and beyond the call of duty at the referee's stand. And Dan's effort calls for special mention, as his lovely wife Tanya was nine and one-half months pregnant at tournament time. Yet, Dan still was in there helping right up through the finals during which Tanya began to feel her time was near. Two hours later Mark Edward Seaton entered the world, some say showing the backhand form to be a certain champion. Our thanks and congratulations to the Seaton's.

The registration desk personnel did a great deal of work, and just a quick thank you to Mary and Mary Beth Wells, Ruth Warnick, Inez and Lena Ardito and Millie Costello.

Wasn't the entire Tropicana layout superb! The manufacturers product display booths, encircling the courts and bleachers had plenty of wide open spaces from which to display, sell and take orders. And how about Saranac's John Fabry capturing third place senior doubles with Gordy Pfeifer? Who says the manufacturers can't play?

Certainly our thanks to the Tropicana Hotel for their co-operation and support. The Domani brothers, Don Gilday, Peggy Polvino and those lovely ladies in the tennis club were exceptionally nice to us for three solid weeks. We



ARDITO

appreciate their kindness in what must have been a hectic time for them too.

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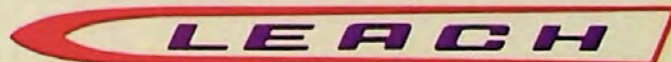
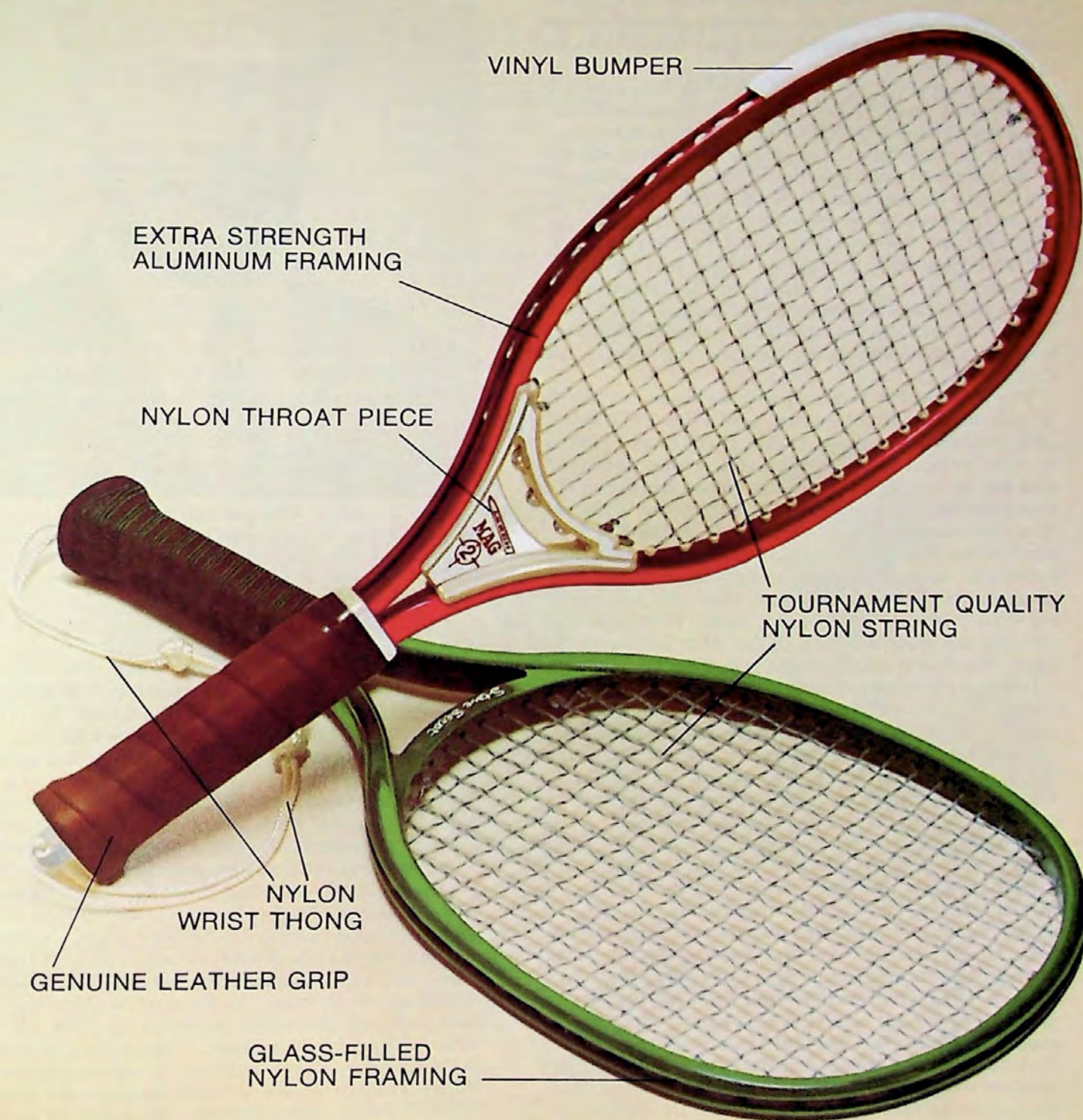
Now we turn our attention to the year ahead, the upcoming National Outdoor 3-Wall Championships Labor Day weekend, then the start of the 75-76 pro tour, the National Juniors in Florida in December, U.S.R.A. Regionals in the Spring, and possibly back to Las Vegas for the 2nd annual National Championships.

The season past was memorable one, one in which we feel progress was made as each month coasted by. The pro tour, a struggle at first, now has a sponsor in Seamco Sporting Goods and we can continue to expand our amateur programs.

To add a personal note, I am happy and certainly feel privileged to have been a part of the fantastic growth and success of racquetball over the past two years. The people with whom I've worked have been the greatest, the players for the most part have been the same. It's been a rewarding two seasons of racquetball for me and I look forward to many more.



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Let's Get The Record Straight

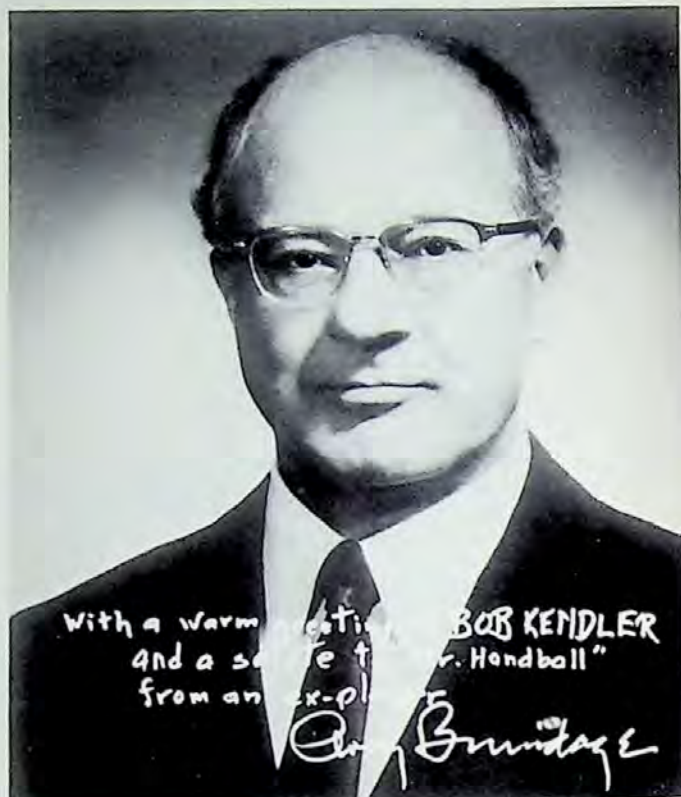
With a heart full of sadness, I read the obituary of one of the greatest men in athletic history. Illustrious Brother Avery Brundage, 33rd Degree. The totally inadequate newspaper resume pointed more to the disciplines than to the demonstrations of his most meaningful life. The personal side of this wonderfully warm man was completely ignored. Please let me add this side to the record.

Having achieved the 33rd Degree in Freemasonry should make unnecessary any further judgment of his character. There is no higher distinction in the world. Like all his other honors, he treasured it and he earned it. He was a 50 year member of his Lodge, giving of himself and his substance right up to the end. Not long ago he appeared as the speaker at North Shore Lodge (Chicago) and, shortly after, gave \$50,000 to the Scottish Rite Museum in Lexington, Mass. Just before his passing, he gave all his papers to the International Sports and Games Research Collection at Notre Dame University, and followed this with a gift of \$300,000 for handball scholarships at the University of Illinois, his alma mater.

Why were these facts missing from the obituary? Why no mention of the contribution of his \$30,000,000 collection of Chinese Art to San Francisco? I have a personal reason for protesting. No totally dedicated man was less appreciated. Every editorial spoke of his unpopular decisions, never the good they did. Take my case, for instance. When the players decided to take handball out of the A.A.U., the ensuing struggle both in public and in court was not in keeping with the high principles of either organization. Only one man could solve the problem, and that was Avery Brundage. His decision was profound, like all the other judgments he made. He simply asked, "Who is best for the sport?"

It was my privilege to see the enormous collection of honors, awards, and trophies that came to him from the rulers of most every country. He kept them in his bedroom where they filled two closets. It took hours to see and explain them all. Yet, for anyone interested, he was happy to point out all the interesting aspects of every jewel. And there were hundreds of jewels, some absolutely priceless. One could sense him reliving the great moments that he associated with each memento.

Fortunately, I always had Avery Brundage's wholehearted support. Maybe not because I deserved it, but because no sport meant more to him than handball. He played it for 40 years and was a real champion. He reigned supreme in this area from the beginning of modern handball, from 1919 until 1929, until some guy named Kendler got involved. He called it the "perfect game" and when the moment of decision came at the A.A.U. trial, this fair and fearless man who had the amateur world on his back, told the A.A.U. that I was the best for handball, and his ruling was for the players. In his position as head of the A.A.U. and the Olympics, it took almost unbelievable faith to bless our little band of beginners. But he did, and that's partly why handball has been almost a religion to me. If there is anything that inspires me, if there is anything that keeps me striving to make our sport what it really should be, it's because I have never wanted to fail Avery and his faith



Avery Brundage, - the one man who never gave up on amateur sport, - was a true friend of the court sports. Despite his controversy, the ideals he stood for cannot be doubted. And never can it be said that this man did not live up to his ideals. We mourn his passing.

in us.

In June of 1972, he invited me to his office and very simply said, "Bob, you have earned this." With that he presented me with a Medal of Merit from the Avery Brundage Foundation, "For unsurpassed devotion and a lifetime of outstanding service to the perfect game of handball."

This story would not be complete without a word about his devoted bride, Marianne. They just barely missed their second wedding anniversary, and there is no doubt in my mind that these were some of the happiest years Avery ever had. Princess Marianne Reuss is a royal lady in every respect. Her devotion to Avery was beautiful to behold. She hovered about, showering him with attention and tenderness in a way that makes every man's life complete. The little tricks she played on him were hysterical, and she made every moment of their marriage interesting and exciting. That's what I would like everyone to know. There was no difference in their point of view or attitude. It was easy for her to understand him for she served as his secretary through many Olympic years. Her favorite words of endearment were always "Herr President," and with that the decision was always in her favor.

There are towering men in every age, and Avery Brundage was the tower of principle in our generation. He did us great honor by serving the cause of amateurism.

BOB KENDLER

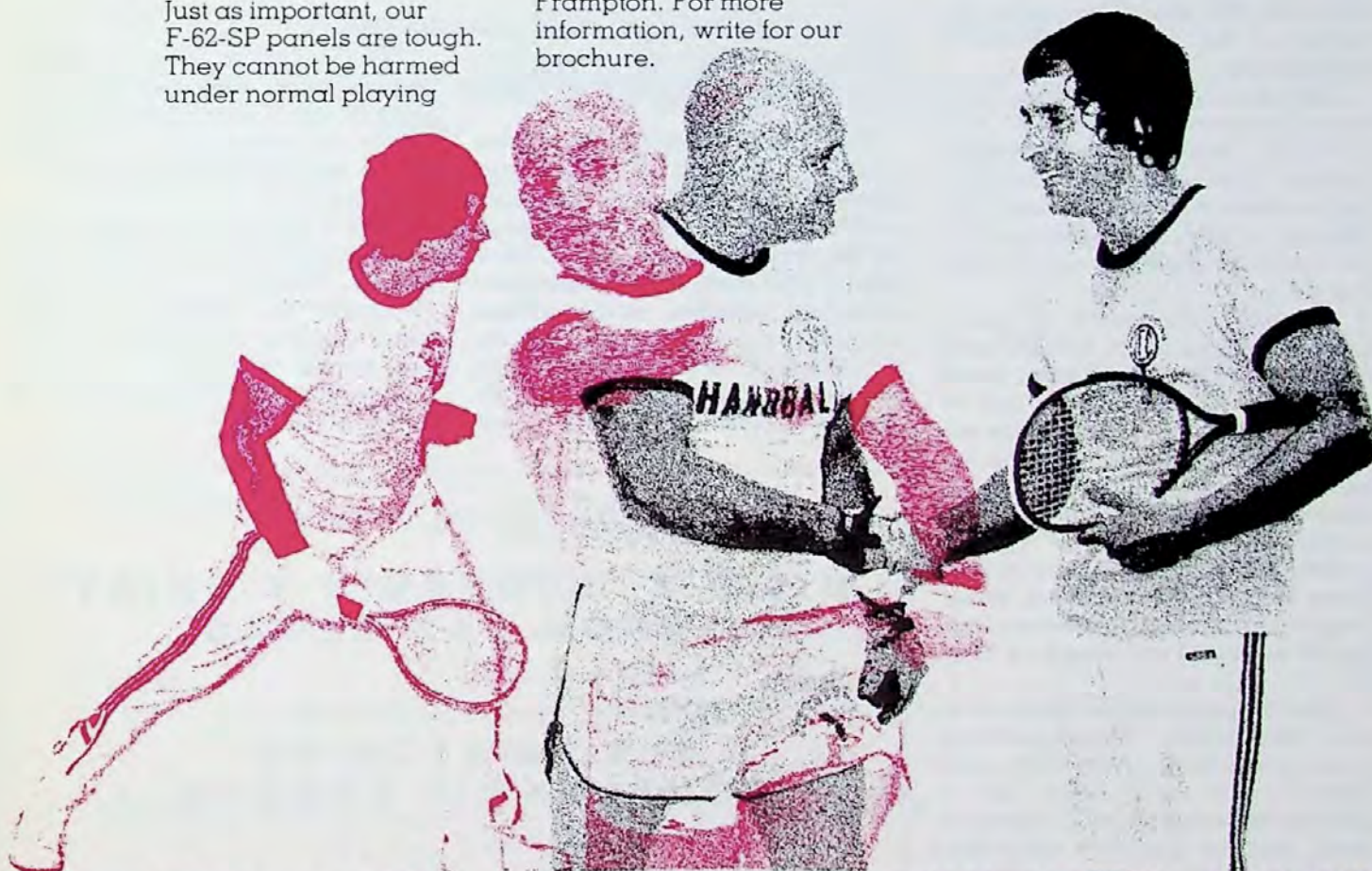
For once, handballers and racquetballers agree: It's great to play on a Frampton court.

Frampton handball/racquetball courts are of championship caliber any way you look at them. First off, they have the solid sound and "feel" that top players demand. There are no "dead" or hollow spots to throw your game off. Walls are absolutely plumb, and they stay that way because our exclusive F-62-SP panel has superior dimensional stability.

Just as important, our F-62-SP panels are tough. They cannot be harmed under normal playing

conditions, because they're made from fused fiber resin panels developed by Frampton and U. S. Gypsum Company. The only maintenance they need is an occasional wall washing. There's no patching, no painting, no downtime. Whether you're a handballer, a racquetballer, or planning to build a court, you have to agree those are good reasons to go with a Frampton. For more information, write for our brochure.

Coming soon: An important new product from Frampton. After several years of planning and research, we are going to introduce a new product that will be of great interest to anyone planning to build a new court installation. Watch these pages for more details.



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First U.S.R.A. National Outdoor 3-Wall To Be In Toledo Labor Day Weekend

The United States Racquetball Association proudly announces the creation of the 3-Wall National Outdoor Championships, to be held over the Labor Day Weekend in Maumee, Ohio.

The tournament site is the Lucas County Recreation Center, just outside Toledo. This complex houses eight regulation 3-wall racquetball/handball courts in addition to many other beautiful facilities.

The championships will be from August 29-September 1, 1975 and will be held in conjunction with the National U.S. Handball Association's 3-Wall tournament.

Entry fee is \$15.00 per player for the first event entered, and \$10 per player for the second event. All entries, with fee, should be sent to Joe Ardito at the U.S.R.A. National headquarters.

"We decided to enter the 3-wall arena for a number of reasons," said U.S.R.A. National Commissioner Ardito. "For openers, we felt that the tournament should be run in the Midwest or Mideast so that a better cross-section of players would be attracted."

"Secondly, the courts at Lucas County are regulation, with full side walls, something that no other 3-wall racquetball tournament has had to offer. And third, we felt that the national organization ought to be the national promotional agent for this tournament, rather than a local committee."

Events for the tournament include Open Singles, Open Doubles, Senior Singles (35 and over), Masters singles (45 and over) and Women's Singles.

"We're expecting a large turnout," said Ardito. "We are aware of a great number of New York area players, who have never had a chance to compete on a National level, because the only other racquetball outdoor tournament was in California."

"We also feel that a great number of Midwest players will try their hand at the outdoor 3-Wall game. It should be a barnburner of a tournament."

Trophies will be awarded to the

first four places in each event, plus the first place finisher in consolation. Consolation will be held in all singles events.

The Lucas County Recreation Center is located at 2901 Key Street, Maumee. The total center includes a multi-purpose recreation hall, with 24,000 feet of unobstructed floor space. There is also a three-pool swimming complex, seven softball diamonds, a permanent stadium for the Triple-A Toledo Mud Hens baseball team, a quarter-mile, all-weather track and many other

facilities.

"Each entrant will receive a souvenir-shirt, and a ticket to the banquet which will be Saturday night of the tournament," said Ardito. "We'll use the Recreation Hall for the banquet."

Players should use the entry form on the opposite page or write to Joe Ardito, U.S.R.A. 3-Wall, 4101 Dempster St., Skokie, IL 60076. Entry deadline is August 15, so get your entries in early.

Directions to Maumee can be found on page 47.

3-Wall Housing Headquarters

Holiday Inn West

At Exit 4, Ohio Turnpike, 1/2 mile from courts. Reservations must be in by August 12.

Contact: Innkeeper, attn. Major Maynard, Holiday Inn West, 2429 S. Reynolds, Toledo, Ohio. 43614 (Maumee). Tel. No. Area Code 419. 893-8765.

Indoor-outdoor swimming pool, two tennis courts, Big Al's Showroom . . . sing, dance, show groups.

Rates: Singles — \$19; Doubles — \$26; Three in room — \$30.

No deposit necessary with reservation. Only your address is needed to guarantee your reservation.

Information on special rental car deal also available.

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Sizes: (Adult) S-M-L-XL

Prices: Adult shirts \$2.50 each; three for \$6.
Children shirts \$2.00 each; three for \$5.
Shorts \$4 each; three for \$10.

Send check or money order to: U.S.R.A., 4101
Dempster St., Skokie, IL 60076.

1ST ANNUAL U.S.R.A. 3-WALL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS MAUMEE, OH, — AUG. 29-SEPT. 1, 1975 SANCTIONED BY THE U.S. RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION

SITE: Lucas County Recreation Center, Maumee, Ohio (just outside Toledo).

FACILITIES: 8 regulation outdoor 3-wall courts.

DATES: August 29-September 1, 1975.

ENTRY FEE: \$15 per person first event; \$10 per person 2nd event.

SANCTION: By The U. S. Racquetball Assn. (U.S.R.A.)

OFFICIAL BALL: Seamco 747.

RULES: U.S.R.A. rules and regulations apply. If two events entered, players may have back to back matches.

TROPHIES: To first four places in each event. First place consolation.

ENTRY DEADLINE: In our possession by midnight August 15. Prescribed fee must accompany signed entry form. Entries received after the deadline or unsigned, or without the fee will not be accepted.

MAIL ENTRIES: Joe Ardito
U.S.R.A. 3-WALL
4101 Dempster St.
Skokie, IL 60076
Check must accompany signed entry form.

Please enter me in:

Open Singles ()	Senior Singles (45 & over) ()	
Open Doubles ()	Master Singles (55 & over) ()	
Ladies Singles ()		

NAME _____ AGE _____ CLUB _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

NAME OF DOUBLES PARTNER _____ AGE _____ CLUB _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

U.S.R.A. National Juniors Set For Orlando, Florida, Dec. 26-30

"A fun time is guaranteed for all."

Those were the words used by U.S.R.A. National Director Chuck Leve as he described plans for the first annual National Juniors Championships, a separate, distinct tournament for boys and girls 18 and under.

The National Juniors is tentatively scheduled for December 26-December 30, 1975 at the Orlando, Florida Y.M.C.A. And although the Orlando Y has only two courts, all parties are certain that the tournament can be run off during this time period.

"There are an abundance of reasons why we're beginning a National Juniors tournament," said Leve. "The most important is that we feel the juniors deserve a major event of their own."

Some of the peripheral aspects to the tournament should create a great amount of excitement, the major one being a tour of world-famous Disney World, only 20 minutes from Orlando.

"There will be no problem in organizing the trip," said physical director Bill Dunsworth of the Y.M.C.A. "I imagine we'll take one day out of the tournament and spend it at Disney."

The tournament will have three brackets of play: Boys 18 and under, Boys 15 and under, and Girls 18 and under. All play will be singles only and there will be consolation in all brackets.

"We feel that all the kids should have a good time first," said Leve. "And they should also be able to play a lot of racquetball."

The scheduled dates are perfect for a National Juniors tournament, as the calendar has co-operated perfectly with tournament organizers.

"It's most important to have this tournament at a time of the year when the maximum number of junior players can participate," said Leve. "And not only is the Holiday vacation period perfect, we're happy that we have been able to set it up in a warm-weather climate."

The tournament will be open to amateur juniors only, since it is being sanctioned by the U.S.R.A. This should have little impact on the tournament since only one or two pro players are of junior age.

"There's no way we want to spoil the atmosphere of fun and play by allowing professionalism into the juniors arena," said Leve. "This will be a relaxed tournament with emphasis on camaraderie and competition, - not who has won more prize money."

Arrangements are currently being made to make this tourney even more attractive to the young players. All housing and meals will be provided for the participants, as well as the usual souvenir t-shirts. The entry fee is a nominal \$10 per player.

The U.S.R.A. is also negotiating with a large, national firm in the effort to procure funds to help each player make the long trip to Florida. Nothing definite has been agreed upon, but if all goes well, a travel allowance will be given for any player traveling over 500 miles to reach the tourney.

"Our major goal is to be able to

give the kids some money to help them reach Orlando," said Leve. "Once they get there, we see little problem with their finances."

The U.S.R.A. will provide chaperones for the boys and girls, while the Orlando Y.M.C.A. will provide the manpower necessary to run this tournament smoothly. The Seamco 747 black racquetball will be the tourney's official ball.

Entrants are encouraged to make early travel arrangements if they intend to participate. The Christmas-time season in Orlando (those flying should fly into Orlando's McCoy Jetport) is a crowded one, and the sooner the U.S.R.A. has an indication of how many players there will be, the easier planning the event will be.

"The last thing we want are players who want to go, but can't get the necessary airplane flights," said Leve. "So we urge all players and their families who are coming to make travel plans early."

Participants should use the convenient entry form on the opposite page, or write: U.S.R.A. National Juniors, 4101 Dempster St., Skokie, IL 60076.



Written by a professor of Psychology and professional salesman.

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Official Entry

U.S.R.A.-JUNIORS

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

SITE: Orlando (Fla.) YMCA

DATES: December 26-30, 1975

ENTRY FEE: \$10 per person.

SANCTION: By the U. S. Racquetball Assn. (U. S. R. A.).

OFFICIAL BALL: Seamco 747.

RULES: U. S. R. A. — N. R. C. rules and regulations apply.

TROPHIES: To first four places in each event. First place in consolation.

ENTRY DEADLINE: In our possession by 6 p. m. December 15, 1975. Prescribed fee must accompany signed entry form. Entries received after the deadline or unsigned, or without the fee will not be accepted.

MAIL ENTRIES: Bill Dunsworth
YMCA — 433 N. Mills
Orlando, FL 32803
Check must accompany signed entry form.

Please enter me in:

Girls 18 & under ()

Boys 18 & under ()

Boys 15 & under ()

Consolation in all events.

NAME _____ AGE _____ CLUB _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

I hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors and administrators, waive and release any and all rights and claims for damages I may have against the U.S. Racquetball Assn. or Orlando YMCA, their respective agents, or any facility used for this tournament, for any and all injuries which may be suffered by me in connection with my competition in said tournament.

SIGNATURE _____ PH. _____

Make checks payable to:
Orlando YMCA
Same must accompany entry.

Brumfield Is The Best

And Las Vegas Proves It

Nobody in the field could touch the number one seed, as he blasted his way to the first professional racquetball championship in history. That "The Brum" is number one there can be no doubt.

The U.S. Racquetball Association's National Championships in Las Vegas could have been more aptly described as "How to Play RACQUETBALL," by Charlie Brumfield.

Completely dominating the field, Brumfield unleashed a devastating combination of kills, passes, retrieves and serves to prove to the entire racquetball world that he is number one, — without doubt.

He did it before a full house at the Tropicana Hotel's Championship Court number five, as well as before national television cameras. His performance was awesome and if all goes well (see article page 4) racquetball fans across the nation will be able to see the match on television.

Succumbing to the Brumfield blitz in the finals was fellow San Diegan Steve Strandemo. Ironically, it was a win over Brumfield that buoyed Strandemo's racquetball career a year and a half ago. But this day in Las Vegas belonged to Charlie.

Final scores for the championships, the first National title for the Seamco-N.R.C. Pro Tour were 21-9, 21-11, and the scores most definitely indicated the tone of the match. In fact, Brumfield ran the first 13 points in game one before Steve tallied, and in game two he scored the last 10 points earning a victory after a tie at 11-all. The Brum was truly unbeatable.

It was the strongest pro field in history that Brumfield destroyed, as he held his opponents to an average of 8.2 points per game. And Charlie did not have an easy draw, going up against Steve Keeley (10 and 13 in the semi-finals), Jerry Hilecher (seven and 18 in the quarters), and Bill Thurman (three and eight in the round of 16) as well as Strandemo. Yet Brumfield's success was only one of the many stories coming out of the pro bracket in Vegas.

Without question the most entertaining matches of the tournament were those involving Vic Niederhoffer, the New York squash champion. Although Vic did not live up to his pre-tourney predictions of total victory, his accomplishments proved that he will be a force to be reckoned with in racquetball's future.

After an initial preliminary round win, Niederhoffer met 11th-seeded Marty Hogan in the round of 32. Although just 17-years-old, Hogan is a veteran of pro racquetball wars, and was a heavy favorite in the match, especially after his relatively easy 21-14 first game win.

But Niederhoffer, himself a tournament veteran, if in the squash arena, came back to edge Hogan in the second game 21-19, setting the stage for the incredible finish which was to follow.

The third game of the Hogan-Niederhoffer match was a classic.

Each player's hustle was admirable — the desire ferocious. The battle went down to the wire, when at 20-20 with the serve, Vic flailed a return from deep center court. The ball struck the right side wall, caromed over to the left side and like a well-placed Z-ball, died as it barely brushed the front wall. The all-time freak ball was 21 and match point!

An interesting sidelight to the Niederhoffer matches was the reaction of the spectators, many of whom were players. There was a strong pro-Niederhoffer group feeling that this man had showed great ability, hard work, and dedication to make himself an outstanding player in only three months.

However, there was also an anti-Niederhoffer contingent, prompted perhaps by jealousy, who ridiculed his form, strategy and individualistic character. Vic's answer to these people, altho he never said it, was "As the tournament progresses, I'll still be on the court and you'll still be in the gallery."

Finals

The Brumfield-Strandemo finals was one of those matches that the loser would like to forget. Each player was a bit tight at the outset with both making two errors in the first two innings. Then Brumfield

loosened up.

Two, five tally innings (the third and fourth) and one more point in the fifth ran the score to an insurmountable 13-0. Murmurs through the crowd were mentioning the donut.

But Strandemo is much better than that, in fact he had not really been playing that poorly. Steve committed only three errors in this five inning stretch. The problem was that Charlie controlled the play, he forced the action. Strandemo looked to be too tight, afraid to take chances. This feeling was borne out by the fact that Steve's first kill shot didn't occur until his serve, while trailing 2-13.

Strandemo did come up with a five-point run in his half of the fifth inning to make the score 13-5, but Steve was unable to score again until the 10th frame. After that Brumfield put together six points in the next three innings to take the commanding 20-7 lead. Point 21 came on a beautiful Brumfield pass right.

Statistics from game one were amazing. Brumfield erred more than did Strandemo (8-6), yet Steve managed to score in only three of the 13 innings of the game. Charlie's huge advantage in passing winners (12-5) was indicative of his control superiority.

The second game followed a greatly different pattern. It was tight throughout the first half, with Strandemo playing some of his best ball. The two combatants traded points and leads until the score reached 11-all. At this juncture Strandemo was definitely in

the game, in fact he had gathered some momentum, coming back from an 8-11 deficit. A tactical error followed that could have blown the game for Steve.

With Strandemo serving 11-all, a short serve, hinder and another short serve set the stage. Steve's effective cross-court serve to Charlie's backhand enabled him to take control of the ensuing rally, allowing Steve to set-up in deep court. He then chose an overhead drive down the left wall, a shot that whistled by Brumfield's ear. Charlie's return was another set-up this one off the back wall. Strandemo set-up with his forehand, but instead of shooting for the left corner, elected to drive the ball cross court. Since Brumfield was only a few feet in front of him, the shot took the appearance of a deliberate attempt to hit Charlie. From intimidation and psychological viewpoints this might have been good strategy, - except that the shot missed Brumfield, resulting in a plum set-up for him.

Brumfield killed the ball, took the serve and then ran nine consecutive points in the 10th inning. The string included three aces, remarkable in a championship match, prompting Brumfield to bel-low, "Cracks! And I want more!"

At 20-11 the apparent match point came when Strandemo's hurried back wall forehand appeared to skip. Referee Chuck Leve called the skip as match point for Brumfield. Strandemo appealed.

Steve's appeal was upheld, bringing jeers from the crowd and



Brumfield accepts congratulations from N.R.C. National Director Chuck Leve during post-match interview.

an ugly glare from Brumfield, who was standing at mid-court with his hand outstretched for his victory handshake. The television replayed showed the ball definitely skipped, before reaching the short line.

But it didn't matter as a few short minutes later, Charlie regained the serve. A hard drive serve to the backhand forced a weak Strandemo return to the ceiling. Charlie again drove the ball down the left wall and Steve's return only made it to three-quarters court. Another drive left, almost had Strandemo on the floor, and Brumfield applied the cruncher with a pass right that Steve did not even get a racquet on.

Point, game and match to Mr. Brumfield!

The Hogan win put Niederhoffer in the round of 16 where he faced sixth seeded Ron Rubenstein. Rubenstein, possessor of all of Hogan's shots, plus maturity (probably the deciding factor working against Marty) was the overwhelming favorite.

Again, Niederhoffer put on a tremendous performance. This time he lost, but the respect he gained could almost be called worth it. The amount of improvement he showed between the Hogan match and the Rubenstein match was amazing. Neither player dominated, but Ruby's shooting ability slightly outweighed Vic's excellent passing game, resulting in 21-19, 21-18 scores.

Finals

GAME 1

Brumfield	2	0	5	5	1	0	0	0	1	0	3	2	1	1	—	21
Strandemo	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	x	—	9

Kills — Brumfield 16, Strandemo 9; Passes — Brumfield 12, Strandemo 5; Errors — Brumfield 8, Strandemo 6; Aces — None; Hinders — 9; Court Hinders — 5; Time Outs — Brumfield 2, Strandemo 2.

GAME 2

Strandemo	1	0	1	4	2	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	—	11
Brumfield	2	3	0	0	1	1	4	0	0	9	0	1	—	21

Kills — Brumfield 12, Strandemo 10; Passes — Brumfield 12, Strandemo 3; Errors — Brumfield 8, Strandemo 7; Aces — Brumfield 3; Hinders — 9; Court Hinders — 3; Time Outs — Strandemo 3.



Steve Keeley is all concentration as he follows the ball into the front wall during semi-final play.

Semi-Finals

The semi-final round contained match-ups familiar to pro racquetball followers as Brumfield squared off against Keeley in the top bracket and Strandemo against Steve Serot in the bottom.

Both losers were disappointing in their performances. Keeley, who usually matches up well against Brumfield just didn't have it in him. Charlie forced the action, seemed to work harder and simply outplayed Steve. Neither game was close, as Brum took it to him, 21-10, 21-13.

The Strandemo-Serot affair was a re-play of the Milwaukee Pro-Am, but this time it was Strandemo coming out on top. Serot was not moving with the cat-like quickness he ordinarily shows, perhaps feeling the effects of a slight hip injury, for which he had been on medication all week.

But Strandemo is not the type to show sympathy, and he played his consistent, percentage game. The absence of Serot's diving game (where he injured the hip originally) severely hampered his retrieving ability, and that was all the

edge Strandemo needed. He captured the match 21-14, 21-16.

There was no third place play-off in the pro division.

Quarter-Finals

The quarters always produce some excellent battles, - it's the place where the player with the hot hand can really make a move. The best duel of the round was as predicted, the Keeley-Schmidtke match.

Observers cannot recall a time when these two players have ever met on the court with the match not going three games. So much so that, generally whoever wins the first game loses the match. Such was the case this time.

Schmidtke, showing the brilliance of which he is capable, was unconscious in his kill shot effectiveness. He rolled out everything: back wall shots, forehand shots, backhand shots, hypotenuse kills, - everything. Poor Keeley could do nothing but hope the barrage stopped. The first game went to Schmidtke 21-4.

Most players would be quite dejected after taking such a shellacking in the first game of a National quarter-final match, but not Keeley. After all, Schmidtke wasn't human in the first game, he'd have to miss a few shots as the match wore on. In the second game Bill missed plenty, and Steve came on strong for a 21-10 victory.

And so the only three game match of this round arrived, to nobody's surprise. And the third game was dominated by Keeley, as Schmidtke's 33 years could not keep up the highly emotional as well as physical pace of the tournament. Game and match to the curly-haired vet, 21-14.

Rubenstein and Strandemo had a good, well-played battle in their quarter-final. Strandemo was just coming off a tough round of 16 win against Rich Wagner, a match in which the 21-10, 21-17 scores did not indicate the closeness of play. Ruby, who had just barely escaped with his life against Niederhoffer the day before was playing well.

It was a good, solid, clean rac-



Scenes from Las Vegas:

(Above) Schmidtke, the proud champ, accepts the hand of Keeley after loss; (Above, right) Rubenstein pleads to no avail to the referee against Strandemo; (Right) T.V. and film crews ready their equipment; (Below, right) Stan Wright reaches for a Jay Jones pass in the amateur singles finals; (Below) Niederhoffer signals for a time out.



quetball, and enjoyable match to watch for the many spectators. The younger Strandemo kept the ball in play, waited for his opportunities and put the ball away when he had to. Rubenstein, choosing to shoot down-the-line more than is his custom, was just a shade short of a victory, and Steve captured the match 21-19, 21-16.

Brumfield and Serot both had relatively easy wins in this round, especially Serot who rolled over Ron Strom 21-5, 21-7. Here it was a matter of Serot being on his game and Strom, lacking the confidence necessary for a great effort, never got into the match.

The last quarter-final match was Brumfield against Hilecher and after the 21-7 first game, it looked to be all Brumfield. But Hilecher has the ability to get hot, which he did for a while at the outset of game two. Brumfield stayed with the control game, and finally overhauled Jerry for a 21-18 second game win.

Early Rounds

As always in major tournament,

many good players go out early. One of the best of these was Craig McCoy who lost to Strom in a beauty of a match 21-19, 21-20 in the round of 16. McCoy's great shooting ability could not overcome his lethargic footwork in this battle.

A surprisingly poor performance was put in by Bill Thurman who meekly succumbed to Brumfield in another round of 16 match, three and eight. Bill ordinarily plays Charlie tough, but this was not the case in Las Vegas. Davey Bledsoe gave Serot all he cared to handle in the same round, as Serot topped the up and coming Memphian 21-15, 21-16.

Dan Alder was a first round casualty to Dave Charlson; Gordon Kelly in three to Rich Wagner; Mark Susson to Bledsoe; and Jeff Bowman to McCoy.

Mike Zeitman was inconsistent, topping Dr. Fred Lewerenz in three in round one and playing horribly. He then played superbly in a losing, three game effort against Schmidtke 14-21, 21-8, 21-9.

one. Pasternak was making progress and points by driving the ball, both on serves and during the rally, moving Peggy around. From an 11-9 lead she put a kill and three beautiful passes together for 15-9 and later added another pass and kill for the 17-10 margin.

But Steding, with her shooting capabilities, is never out of a match. She came back on the strength of that forehand, doing those things she is so well known for. The pressure forced Pasternak into errors, and for some reason she abandoned her successful drive serves in favor of soft lobs. After one error, Steding was able to easily return the serves to the ceiling and take control of the rallies.

Semi-finalists were Jennifer Harding who lost to Steding 21-1, 21-7, and Kathy Williams who dropped a tough, three-gamer to Pasternak 21-8, 20-21, 21-12.

Absent from the action was highly-touted Jan Campbell, San Diego's number one female competitor. Just days prior to the tournament Campbell suffered a recurrence of an old knee injury, severe enough to keep her out of action for months.

Yet despite that, the competition was tough. The Pasternak-Williams semi-final battle was a beauty, as Kathy survived a Pasternak match point in the second game, only to drop the third.

Neither gal had an easy time of it in the quarter-final round, with Williams escaping by the smallest of

Peggy Steding, to nobody's surprise, dominated the Women's Pro Singles event in Las Vegas. Peggy was hardly pushed until the finals, where Jan Pasternak ran the string out before losing the second game 21-20, after a 21-9 initial game loss.

The lean Odessa, Texas native, still shows that booming forehand both driving the ball and shooting the corners. The great wrist action in that right hand enables her to continually hit deep court ceiling balls and extremely hard hit drive serves.

Pasternak, the gutsy go-getter, countered with determination, and retrieving ability, coupled with timely kills and passes.

The two styles made for an entertaining match, with outstanding racquetball skills. And frankly, Pasternak had Steding on the ropes with 17-10 and 18-12 second game leads.

"I had her," moaned Jan after

the match. "I had her. I had her. I had her."

That she did. The older Peggy, giving away about 15 years in age, seemed to be wilting as the second game wore on. Gone was the domination so apparent in game

Steding sets up for a forehand drive against Pasternak in the Ladies Professional finals in Las Vegas.



margins, an 18-21, 21-10, 21-20 win over Northbrook, Illinois' Jean Sauser. Pasternak had just as difficult a time with a three game win over impressive Janelle Marriot, Salt Lake City. Those scores were 21-16, 16-21, 21-18.

In the upper bracket, Steding was having things entirely her way. Many people were looking for petite Jennifer Harding to give Peggy a tussle in the semi's but it didn't work out that way at all. Jenny, who has taken a game off Steding in the past, just wasn't up to it this day.

The quarter-final match for each lady was nothing sensational. Steding controlled former doubles partner Ann Gorski, seven and 11, while Harding eliminated Glenview, Illinois' Sue Carow, 16 and 12.

The tough draw forced some good ladies out in the early rounds, including Betty Johnson, San Diego, being overwhelmed by Harding eight and five; Bette Weed, San Diego, losing to Sauser 17 and 13; and Bev Franks, Northbrook, Illinois dropping a tough three-gamer to Gorski, 17-21, 21-16, 21-15.

The Women's Pro event has shown steady increases in performances since its inception by the N.R.C. last year. There are now more top-rated gals than ever and more being added every tournament.

Jones Captures Amateur Singles

Eighteen three game matches, including three of the four quarter-finals, both of the semi-finals and the championship battle, was indicative of the rabid competition in the Men's Amateur Singles bracket in Las Vegas.

When it was all over, third seeded Jay Jones was alone at the top of the heap. The Sherman Oaks, California stunt man did it the hard way, too, going three games in three of his six matches.

In the finals it was Jones meeting San Diego lefty Stan Wright, another tough player who had a rough time reaching this stage. But these two fine players had a beauty of a match complete with all the skills necessary to make either of them potential pro tour standouts.

Jones, who has even captured a

game off the vaunted Steve Serot in one pro tourney, had the stamina required to hold on over the long haul in Las Vegas' biggest draw. But it wasn't fatigue that caught up with Wright, for it was as close a match as anybody hoped for.

The semi-finals pitted second-seeded Jeff Bowman, the 20-year-old University of Illinois student against Jones, while Wright was battling Don Little, from George Air Force Base, California. It was Little who eliminated top seed Gordon Kelly in the quarter-finals.

Both of these semi-final matches were bruisers, with each going three games. All four of the players had interchangeable skills, displaying the best amateur racquetball that anyone had seen.

Jones topped Bowman after a rough start 20-21, 21-17, 21-9. An interesting sidelight to the first game loss by Jones is that in each of the matches in which he was forced to three games, the one game he lost was by the identical 21-20 score.

After two tough battles, Jones' superior conditioning paid off as Bowman couldn't muster the

necessary petrol to make the third game an exciting affair.

Up top, fatigue was not a factor, just plain, old-fashioned shot making. Unseeded Little to this point was the surprise of the tournament, knocking off some pretty fine amateur players like Riverside, California's Al Shelby, and Kelly. It looked as though his string had run out, when a blisteringly hot Wright shot the eyes out of the ball in the first game of their semi-final match, coming away with a 21-8 win.

But the diminutive Little kept plugging in game two, showing the hustle and desire that had marked his play throughout the tournament. He turned the momentum around and captured the second game 21-17.

The third game, like the second, was nip and tuck most of the way, but a slightly more experienced Wright managed to pull away at the end for a 21-17 match victory.

Bowman captured third place with identical 21-17 wins against Little.

The quarter-final round was pure excitement, as three of the four

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matches were extended to three games. The toughest match was in the bottom quarter where Bowman escaped with his life in a tremendous battle against Morgan Sayes, Salt Lake City.

The scores were 20-21, 21-19, 21-20, and they most definitely indicated the great match that was played. A couple of breaks the other way, and it would have been Sayes going up against Jones instead of Bowman. Pressure, excitement and great racquetball were surely shown in this match.

Another three game quarter-final match saw Wright defeat fellow San Diegan Bill Stevens, 15-21, 21-13, 21-16. Stevens, although burdened with the job of assistant floor manager for the tournament, still managed to play top flight racquetball, and only some superb shooting by Wright held him off.

The Little-Kelly match was the other three-gamer in this round and strangely enough none of the games was particularly close. Little ran through the Grand Rapids, Michigan pilot easily in the first 21-10, and Kelly came back to take game two 21-12. The third went along the same lines as game one, only a little tighter 21-14.

The only player to have a relatively easy time of it in the quarters was Jones, who topped Honolulu's Marvin Wong 21-8, 21-10 to reach the semi's.

Among the 74 entrants in the



Jay Jones smilingly accepts the first place award in Amateur Open Singles from Seamco National Sales Director Bob Coate.

Amateur Open who did not make the grade were Lansing, Michigan's Jim Pruitt, another tournament worker who lost to San Diego's Wayne Emerick 11-21, 21-14, 21-19; Mike Burgener, in a tough draw lost to Jones 21-8, 20-21, 21-10 in the third round; John Spencer, Montreal, took it on

the chin from Al Shelby 20-21, 21-11, 21-12 in the third round; New Mexico's Gary Mazaroff dropped another tough one to Willie Wang, Newark, Delaware 16-21, 21-11, 21-10; and an injured Bill Fearing was not able to cope with Wong in the third round 14 and seven.

Zeitman-Bledsoe Reach The Top In Open Doubles

Men's open doubles, another event that turned out being program, showed some great action, especially in the finals.

The two top seeded teams made it that far, with the tandem of Mike Zeitman and Dave Bledsoe battling top seeded Dave (D.C.) Charlson and Ron Starkman.

It was an exceptionally long match which pitted a lefty-righty team (D.C.-Starkman) against an all righty duo. Prior to the match, most observers anticipated a strong showing by Charlson, rated one of the best left side players in the country.

Actually, it was Starkman who rose to the occasion, playing outstanding right side doubles. Charlson, on the other hand, didn't seem up to his usual game.

The title went to Zeitman-Bledsoe, showing greater court coverage and more consistent shooting, 21-17, 18-21, 21-14.

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Davey Bledsoe readies a backhand in the Open Doubles finals.



R.W.K. Speech Stresses Thanks For Vegas; Future

(Right) U.S.R.A. president Robert W. Kendler delivering his pre-show speech.



Good evening ladies and gentlemen, — and welcome to the first annual U.S. Racquetball Association awards banquet. It was only a week ago that I said the same thing to over 1,000 members of the United States Handball Association for the 25th consecutive year. It was a great thrill last Thursday and it is an even greater thrill tonight. I hope that I can be a part of racquetball's 25th anniversary and that every one of you will be present to help celebrate.

Thank you for being here, and for your tremendous support not only of our amateur association but our professional club as well. It takes far more than a handful of professionals or the lure of prize money to make a sports venture like this successful. First among the required ingredients is dedication to the sport by the amateur player. With close to 400 entries in this tournament, 45 of which were pros, the amateurs have shown they are dedicated to racquetball, — and it is going to be through the amateurs that the giant growth of this new-born sport will take place.

Although the pros thus far have received the publicity, the money and the glory, their efforts enormously enhance the status of racquetball throughout the nation, — for all players, pros and amateurs alike. So to both pros and amateurs, — my heartfelt thanks for making me proud to be a part of racquetball.

A tournament of this size cannot function without help from many, many sources. As those of you who have run tournaments know, you can never do without the unselfish volunteers, the unsung heroes who back up our staff. There have been many such volunteers here in Las Vegas. Forgive me if I miss some, — here are a special few who deserve recognition for the wonderful work they have done.

The smiling faces you all met at the registration desk the last four days belong to some beautiful people, beautiful not only in face and form, but beautiful in spirit as well. These gals have been efficient, congenial, and professional at registration, doing fantastic work under great pressure. At this time I would like to name these fine ladies, have them stand up and receive the applause to which they are certainly entitled: Mary Wells, and her daughter, Mary Beth; Inez Ardito and her sister, Lena Ardito; Ruth Warnick, Ellen Kendler and Milly Costello. How about a warm thank you for racquetball's sweethearts!

No tournament ever runs properly without an ex-

perienced floor manager. Did you know that the floor manager for racquetball, — also managed the handball nationals and is not only the best, — he is the only one in the business. I refer, of course, to the tireless Al Gracio. Al, please stand up and take a bow.

Organizationally, this Las Vegas Classic could not have taken place without months of preparation by a great many local people. Cecil Shinn, Phil Waldman, Dan Seaton, and his band of local volunteers have all done a superb job. Dave Pearl of the University of Nevada has been our key to Las Vegas, and even though his facility was not needed, it was available whenever necessary. All of these men gave generously of their time and money to make your stay here a pleasant one.

Refereeing is a real challenge with an unbelievable mortality rate. It is a thankless job, and few referees retain their friends. But it is a job that has to be done and those players who volunteer are the real workhorses of the tournament. No amount of thanks is sufficient to reward these courageous, dedicated people.

A special few have been faithfully calling matches far into the night, till early in the morning. Guys like Bill Stevens, Tevi Smith, Gerry Lapierre, Jeff Bowman, Jim Pruitt, Bob Greco, Dan Seaton, Phil Waldman, and all the others, certainly deserve a great big round of applause.

Not another moment should go by without a profound thank you to the tournament sponsors, the Seamco Sporting Goods Company. Seamco, by providing money for the promotion of both amateur and professional racquetball has added a new dimension to the game. The pros and their fierce battles have opened the eyes of the media people, not as just another game, but as a dynamic new sport to be reckoned with *right now*. Seamco's participation in bringing racquetball to this pinnacle cannot be underestimated. Their support of the N.R.C. and U.S.R.A. has been overwhelming and we hope that you players realize what this means to you. If you haven't already done so, you should stop by the Seamco booth and thank Bob Coate and Don Strong for their support. Better yet, by your purchases of Seamco products, you not only thank them, you support the Association as well. How about a salute to Seamco! Bud Leach and Charlie Drake also deserve a big bouquet. Their royalties and cooperation last year were most significant. I am grateful for the help they gave the players as well as our

club. Thanks a million, Bud.

The Tropicana Hotel deserves our sincerest thanks, not only for providing their beautiful facility, but for sharing with us the crowds that patronize this world-famous resort. From the Domani Brothers and Don Gilday down to the lovely people in sales, promotion, and publicity, our deepest gratitude for every kindness. And there were many of them.

And last but certainly not least, a few kind words must be said for the staff of the N.R.C. and U.S.R.A. They spent day and night for weeks, here in Las Vegas, putting it all together. You've seen them in action this week, so I know you realize the pressure they've been under, but do you realize that they have been working just as hard at the office all year, setting the stage for the biggest racquetball tournament ever held? I think Chuck Leve, Joe Ardito and Gordy Pfeifer deserve your thanks and a big round of applause.

A year ago, the National Racquetball Club had many hurdles before it, — hurdles that some people thought would deny us the support and leadership of the racquetball community. I think I can confidently say that right now the N.R.C. and the red-hot U.S.R.A. are number one with new members, better tournaments, more spectators and far greater initiative. This tournament and the final results of it, will establish for all time that the N.R.C. and U.S.R.A. have taken charge of racquetball's future.

What are the results of this tournament? They are far more than the winner of tomorrow's match between Brumfield and Strandemo. That match will be both videotaped and filmed for later airing on national television and unless someone breaks a leg, we think it will be racquetball's finest hour when our sport appears before 5,000,000, instead of 500 spectators.

It has been a good year for us, and we expect the succeeding years to be bigger and better. We have gathered some new ideas, added some additional staff and are working hard on a portable glass court featuring a glass front wall. This means three or four thousand spectators. We have also made some mistakes (one or two) but once realized, they are filed in our memory bank, never to re-occur.

What does the future hold for N.R.C. and U.S.R.A.? Well, the one bracket of play that was not held here, the juniors, will become a full-fledged, separate and independent tournament next season. We'd like to see the juniors play a big event at the time and place where it would be both successful and convenient for them. For example, during the winter holidays at an attractive site like Disney World or in one of the new Marriott Theme Parks. Being a Marriott partner should help me to sell this idea.

We feel the kids in racquetball should receive our individual attention and not be a part of an overwhelming and impersonal combination of hundreds of contestants like the nationals. The Juniors is right at the top of our schedule of things to do.

Another event that will be held separately is a national 3-wall tournament, most likely in the mid-west, so that all you four-wallers can match skills against the one-wallers from the east on common



Marquee at the world famous Tropicana Hotel welcomes handballers and racquetballers to two weeks of fun, excitement and action.

3-wall ground. The surprise showing of one particular New York player, Vic Niederhoffer, proves that there is considerable untapped talent in the east and their input into racquetball could be just as electrifying as it was in handball. There is no earthly reason to exclude one wallers from four wall. They'll do our game nothing but good.

We see no great changes in the format of next season's pro tour, but we *must* generate more sponsorship if there is to be more prize money. If the video tape of the finals Friday is exciting and clear, and we have no reason to believe it won't be, then the outlook for next year could accelerate tremendously. But I must tell you that without a substantial sponsor the prospects of a pro tour next year would be very dim.

Again we plan eight stops, some of which are already firm, others yet to be decided. Again we plan something special for the National Championships, and we are presently considering several sites. Again we plan to be firm but fair with all players, to allow any and all to compete in our tournaments, no matter what organization they are aligned with, no matter what manufacturers they may play for and no matter what part of the country they might be from.

We welcome your comments and criticisms. We need constant feedback from all players to improve our organizations, our events and our image. Specifically, we would like your comments on our new ball, — the better black by Seamco, — the sensational 747. We want to know if you have any suggestions as to how refereeing can be standardized, or at least improved. All of these things are of vital importance to us because we know how vitally important they are to you.

It's All The Brum In Milwaukee

Charlie Brumfield, using the Beer City as a tune up for Las Vegas gave indications of what was to come.



He wanted Milwaukee bad, and everybody knew it. The final Seamco Pro Tour stop prior to Las Vegas was to be the tune-up for the big one, and every top pro was striving to get his game moving toward the peak of performance. Charlie Brumfield was ready for this one, and he proved, for the second year in a row, that he is unbeatable in Milwaukee.

Brumfield coasted in the finals, putting on a devastating display of control racquetball, of offensive racquetball and in general a great clinic on how to play the game. He topped an obviously fatigued Steve Serot in the finals 21-11, 21-8, in a match that may have been closer had Serot been 100 per cent. But even so, the outcome would not have changed.

The Milwaukee Pro-Am had a number of unusual results, including two new faces in the quarter-finals, Marty Hogan and Charlie Drake. Hogan outlasted Rich Wagner in the round of 16, 19-21, 21-20, 21-7 and Drake upset Mike Zeitman 21-17, 17-21, 21-20 in one of the best matches of the tournament for sheer excitement.

Neither player was a match for their next round opponent, however, as Brumfield easily beat

Hogan six and 12, while Serot blew out Drake two and three in the round of eight.

One hundred and six entries made up the amateur open singles event at the Pro-Am and made for some interesting and well played matches. When it was all over two Michigan natives were in the finals, Bill Gottlieb, Lansing against Ken Pechumer, Grand Rapids. Gottlieb, who won the previous amateur tourney on the Seamco Pro Tour in Lansing, won this one too, with a convincing 21-14, 21-4 win.

A strong midwest flavor of ladies competed in the Women's Open Division and again it was Kathy Williams, Hazel Park, Michigan capturing the title and again over Sue Carow, Glenview, Illinois. As usual these two gals battled it out nip and tuck, with Williams' winning in two straight 21-20, 21-15.

Consolation winners included Ron DeMunter, another Grand Rapids player topping Don Schmidt, Appleton, Wisconsin in the finals 21-5, 17-21, 21-16 of the Open. Louise Lanphere, Racine, Wisconsin captured the Ladies consolation by beating Robin Grinrod, Milwaukee in the title match 21-10, 21-10.

All in all it was a highly successful tournament, and our thanks as

usual to Art Patch, Rod Lanser, Bob Keenan, Terry Schatzke and all the people at the Milwaukee Handball/Racquetball Club (now known as the Wisconsin Athletic Club).

Galleries were full from the quarters on as the rabid racquetball fans of the Milwaukee area continue to show their fine support of our sport. They came to see the pros, and they were not disappointed.

A full house was kept on the edge of their seats Saturday night during the match of the tournament as Steve Strandemo battled Serot in the bottom bracket semi-final match.

Serot to this point was untested, having easy wins over Wisconsin state champ Joe Wirkus and Drake following a first round bye, to reach the semi's. Strandemo, however, had no such yellow brick road to follow.

After a 21-7, 21-3 win over Tom Wirkus in round one, Strandemo took an easy game off Champaign, Illinois' Jeff Bowman 21-6. Relaxing and saving himself for later, tougher matches, Strandemo soon found himself on the trailing end of a 20-12 score in game two. He dipped into his reserve of experience and began chewing away.

Six times Bowman, who has one more year to go at the University of Illinois, came in to serve, and six times Strandemo put him out, picking up a point or two each time. Finally, when it got down to having to have the shot, it was the veteran Strandemo who came up with it, the rookie Bowman did not.

"I knew I had him," said a dejected Bowman after the match. "But I wasn't patient enough. I forced my shots instead of waiting for the real set-up."

"I was ready to concede the game," said Strandemo, "but I got a couple of easy points on good serves, he made a few errors, and I found myself right back in the game."

After that win, Strandemo still had to beat Bill Schmidtke for a crack at Serot. Big Bill, rounding his game into shape for a run at the Nationals was looking sharp, but not sharp enough it turned out. Strandemo controlled everything but the temperature in the sauna for a 21-5 first game win.

But true to Schmidtke fashion, he came out in game two like a new man. Hitting his shots, killing the ball, and forcing errors he eked out a 21-17 win and made the gallery wait some more before the final outcome was assured.

The wait was hardly more than the 10 minute rest interval, though, as the well conditioned Strandemo was like an expert sheep shearer going to work. The third game score was 21-4 as Schmidtke never got into it.

Thus the Serot-Strandemo semi-final began, late Saturday night and if ever there was a harder fought racquetball match, observers here had never seen it.

It was the usual Serot-Strandemo match, - plenty of dives, kills, retrieves, plus an assortment of psychological ploys.

Game one was close for a while, before Serot took a small lead that he eventually nurtured into a 21-16 victory. Game two was dominated by Strandemo, who jumped out to a big lead and coasted to a 21-7 win, setting the stage for a hum-dinger of a third game.

It was a classic. Never more than three points separated the two players, as they inched toward the magic 21. The oohs and aahs of the crowd accompanied each Serot dive, each Strandemo get and each



roll out by either combatant. Ties in the teens were commonplace and hours after they had started, it was 20-20 in the third.

Each player was fatigued; each player had made more incredible shots and retrieves than anybody thought humanly possible in one match. Now it all hinged on one point, one rally. And that point went to Serot, who after moving Strandemo out of position with a series of drives, put the ball away in the left front corner.

The standing ovation that both players received after the match, was not due reward. Somehow it should have been recorded for posterity.

Strandemo took no solace in the fact that he outscored Serot in the match 57-49. Nobody knows better than the pros that the only thing that counts is two trips to 21.

In the top bracket Brumfield, after a rocky round of 16 match with a red-hot Ken Wong, was breezing. After losing the first game of that match 21-17, nobody tallied more than 13 against the goateed San Diegan. Wong went down eight and 13 in the next two games, and Hogan was even easier in the quarters.

And where was top seed Steve Keeley all this time? After a bye and "routining" Jerry Zuckerman seven and 12, the curly-haired bicycle rider fell flat. Playing the early 10:30 a.m. match in the quarters, Keeley looked like he needed another six or seven hours sleep again Jerry Hilecher, a player against whom you have to be ready.

Keeley obviously was not, and Hilecher took advantage by knocking the top seed out of the tournament convincingly 21-7, 21-17. Jerry's reward was a crack at Brumfield for the second straight year in Milwaukee, in the first semi-final match Saturday evening.

The results were no different this time, as Brumfield's control stopped Hilecher's shooting, as it will

Scenes from another memorable Serot-Strandemo Match: (Top) Strandemo pushing off to go for a shot, or is it Serot blocking? (Center) Strandemo gives it the "Ole!" as Serot's dive comes up short. (Below) Serot pulling some of his facial antics, - is this a professional?

Charlie Drake, surprise quarter-finalist follows through with a backhand against Serot. Here the dream ended.

every time. Charlie dominated both games and slid into the finals with identical 12 and 12 wins.

Thus the championship match pitted a fresh Brumfield against a slightly fatigued Serot. But this was the Brum's tournament and nothing Serot was to do would stand in Charlie's way.

A play-by-play of the match would be useless, it was simply, Brumfield kill, Brumfield kill, Brumfield pass, Serot error. Excellent serves kept Charlie in control the entire way, and the final scores of 21-11, 21-8 were a true indication of the play.

Strandemo took third place over Hilecher 21-6, 21-15.

The Amateur open division was forced to go two rounds of 31 point games due to the great number of entries, and a number of good players dropped by the wayside before getting to the two out of three.

What's fun about the amateur open is the lack of age divisions, giving the seniors and masters a chance to compete against the younger players, something they seldom do during the course of the season. That they can still fare pretty well was demonstrated by Joe Bechard, master's age, yet still tough enough to reach the semi-finals. Along the way Joe topped number one seed Terry Fancher, Madison 21-19, 21-18, before being stopped by Pechumer in the semi-finals 16 and eight.

Pechumer defeated senior aged Bill Juckich, the number four seed in the round of 16, 21-12, 21-20 en route to the finals. In the quarters Ken stepped Mike Mackedon eight and 11.

Gottlieb met Champaign's John Lynch in the lower bracket semi-final after Lynch had defeated Howie Spector 18 and 10 in his quarter, with Gottlieb doing likewise to Dan Davis nine and 15.

More quarter-final action as Hogan prepares to shoot off the back wall against Brumfield, who barely gets out of the way.



Gottlieb had too much for the up and coming Lynch, scoring carbon copy 16 and 16 victories.

Lynch did come back to take third place over Bechard 11 and five.

The strongest group of ladies prior to the Nationals did battle in the Women's open, but none could match Kathy Williams. The veteran player and court club manager kept her record clean by never losing a game over this weekend.

Some people felt she'd get a run for her money from highly regarded Jean Sauser, Northbrook, Illinois, who she would have met in the semi-finals. But somebody forgot to tell Ev Dillin, Elk River, Minnesota, who stopped Sauser be-

fore she ever reached Kathy. It was Dillin, outthinking and then outthanking Sauser in the quarters 7-21, 21-18, 21-12.

Ev then went up against Kathy and was no match for her, 12 and 12. In the bottom bracket Beverly Franks took advantage of a good draw to blast her way into the semi's. There she was stopped, however, by Carow 21-7, 21-13.

Dillin captured third place over Franks 18 and 19.

NOTES OF THE TOURNAMENT
... The event marked the first entry of New York's Victor Niederhoffer on the Seamco Pro Tour, and Vic performed admirably in his only match, a 21-13, 21-10 loss to Schmidtko. Vic showed the guts





(Left) Bill Gottlieb, whose amateur singles win in Milwaukee made it two in a row on the Seamco tour; (Above) Tourney co-chairman Bob Keenan presents Ladies finalist with trophies. That's Sue Carow (c.) and Kathy Williams.

and racquet control that would lead him to bigger and better things in the future . . . Everyone missed seeing Chicago's Ron Rubenstein, who had to pass this one up due to family commitments. Ronnie called two nights prior to the tourney's start, necessitating a draw change . . . Can't say such nice things about Koni Porter, number three seed in the Ladies Open, who didn't call and didn't show, causing some imbalance in the ladies draw . . .

Milwaukee greeted the Tour with the usual blizzard, about 10 inches one night. The California players say they can do without it . . . Nice to see Seamco's midwest reps catching the action. You can't sell the product unless you see it perform . . . Joe Ardito, again displayed his great talents for floor managing, taking only a few breaks during the four days . . .

All consolation matches were played with scoring on every rally, in order to get the consolation rounds in. Reactions were negative at first, but improved to mixed by the tournament end. It does change the game strategically, but also makes it faster moving and more exciting. More experimentation must be done.

Stephens' Comeback Win Highlights Wash. State

From childhood when he was stricken with polio, Bob Stephens has had to overcome adversity.

So it wasn't unusual when he battled back from the brink of defeat to whip Doug Moore of Aberdeen in the third game Sunday at Tumwater Valley and become Washington state's first open singles racquetball champion.

In conjunction with Olympia Brewery, Tumwater Valley's new facility hosted the first state racquetball championships last weekend with more than 100 entrants from Vancouver to Bellingham, from Aberdeen to Spokane.

Stephens, a former assistant baseball coach at Washington State, earlier teamed with Spokane's Charlie Jackson to capture the doubles title, 21-9, 21-18 over Olympia's John Bernhardt and Moore, the same man he defeated to win the singles crown.

Stephens won the first match in his singles, 21-18, holding the command most of the way. Moore battled back to take the second game 21-18 and went on top, 19-14 before Stephens began his charge to eventually win it 21-20.

Stephens is now director of Campus Recreation for WSU.

Local entrants had to be content with consolation prizes.

Olympia's Ron Reed and Russ Gies won consolation in the open doubles, Willie Lippman of Olympia was a consolation winner in the seniors division, won by Bellingham physician Peter James over tough Tacoman Sid Williams and Lacey's Rick Murphy also took home consolation honors in the C singles, stopping 14-year-old Vancouver product, Mike Rittenhouse.

Other top winners were Tacoman Larry Reynolds in the B Singles and Wendy Werner of Bellingham stopped city rival Karen Litwiler to take the women's title.

Remember that address:

NATIONAL RACQUETBALL,

4101 Dempster St.,

Skokie, IL 60076.

Where the great pros are!

Why Is This Man Smiling?

U.S.R.A. president Robert W. Kendler has two reasons to be smiling. The first, obviously, because he is surrounded by Ms. Handball and Ms. Racquetball at Las Vegas. For the second reason, read page 28.



Opinion Running In Favor of Rule Changes

The article in our last issue proposing various rule changes for racquetball and inviting membership response has produced an overwhelming flurry of opinion. U.S.R.A. offices have been flooded with letters, notes and calls, each player with his or her own point of view. Many of these opinions have been reproduced in our expanded *Letters-to-the-Editor* section on page 52.

Taking the proposed changes (none of which have been adopted officially as yet) one by one, it turns out that the most radical changes in the opinion of the author, were not necessarily the ones with the biggest gaps in player preference.

All of the proposed changes carried a majority of those responding, in fact only one change, the elimination of the rule prohibiting a server from throwing the ball against the side wall, could be considered a close vote. In that particular instance 56.1% of the returns called for agreement and 43.9% disagreement.

In other words, more players felt that you should be allowed to

throw the ball against the side wall prior to serving. But it was the closest vote of the four.

What we considered the most radical change, scoring on every rally, held the second closest vote, yet in political election years the vote would be considered a landslide. A full 65.1% of the responding membership felt that yes, scoring should be allowed on every rally, no matter who happened to be serving. The remaining 34.9% felt that we ought to leave well enough alone.

The largest margin that any proposal carried was, again surprisingly, the elimination of the second serve. A whopping 71.4% felt that no second serve is needed in racquetball, compared to 28.6% who feel the opposite. Perhaps there are many more control players out there than hard hitters.

Elimination of the three bounce rule carried 70.7% of the readership while only 29.3% felt it necessary to continue with the three bounce rule. Again, an overwhelming margin in favor of the rule change.

Rather than sift through the reasons and opinions for the voting results you the reader can see for yourself what the players were saying, in the *Letters* section. We are not yet ready to make these changes on a national scale, however, we do feel that players everywhere should begin testing the changes, to solidify, or possibly change their own opinion.

The one thing the U.S.R.A. and N.R.C. will not do is rush into major and radical changes in the game. However, if the overwhelming voice of the players is for change, then it is our obligation to service the need of the game, in this case make the changes.

We invite you all to re-read the article on rule changes, then consume all of the comments offered by members in this issue. With this information in your head then put it to use on the court, form your own opinion and drop us a line. We intend to keep the channels of communication open on this subject, so don't let the opportunity pass you by. Let us hear what **you** have to say.



USRA

UNITED STATES RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION

4101 DEMPSTER STREET / SKOKIE, ILLINOIS 60076 312-673-4000

Seamco, Juniors, 3-Wall

All Make Racquetball News

The Seamco Sporting Goods Company, world's largest manufacturer of racquetballs has thrown its full support behind the U.S. Racquetball Association and National Racquetball Club. Effective this fall, every ball manufactured by Seamco, the 558 as well as the 559, will be exclusively endorsed by the U.S.R.A. and N.R.C.

"After serious consideration our company has decided that the goals and programs of the U.S.R.A. and N.R.C. are more oriented to the growth and prestige of racquetball," said Seamco Executive Vice President Don Strong. "For that reason we are throwing our full support behind Mr. Kendler's organizations."

This announcement comes at a time when far greater quality control is being achieved through newly developed equipment, costing more than one million dollars.

"We think so much of these balls," said U.S.R.A. president Kendler, "that they will be official in the National Championships as well as regional and local tournaments. The black 558 is specially designed for amateur play and the green 559 for professional play."

* * * *

Two big steps have been taken in the promotion of amateur racquetball by the U.S.R.A. this summer. The first is the National Outdoor 3-Wall Championships to be Labor Day weekend in Toledo, Ohio. This marks the first time the U.S.R.A. has hosted a National Outdoor 3-Wall, and also the first time such a tournament has been played on regulation (full side wall) courts.

The Lucas County Recreation Center in Maumee (just outside Toledo) is our host, with eight beautiful courts and plenty of room for everybody. The tournament will be held in conjunction with the U.S. Handball Association's National 3-Wall, making the Labor Day weekend one of court sport action galore.

The next big item is the formation of the first-ever National Juniors tournament to be December 26-30, 1975 in Orlando, Florida. This marks the first time that the junior racquetball players will have a chance to match their skills against one another in a separate and distinct juniors tourney.

Part of the excitement of this event will be a trip to world-famous Walt Disney World, something that should be as much fun as the tournament itself. Brackets of play will be Boys 18 and under, Girls 18 and under, and Boys and Girls 15 and under. We expect a great time to be had by all.

For more detailed information, including entry forms for these and other events, see National Racquetball, official publication of the U.S.R.A.

NATIONAL COURT CLUBS ASSOCIATION DENVER MEETING

Now Available:	Court Club memberships.	\$25.
	Individual memberships.	\$10.
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FOURTH SEMINAR MEETING REPORT

Held at Stapleton Plaza Motor Hotel, Denver

June 20-22, 1975

Includes reports from:

- Financial procedures . . . Court Consultants Ltd.
Larry Darrow/Pat Daly, Chicago
- Court Club "House" Tournaments, Ladder Development.
RaccBruce Hendin, San Antonio Racquet Club
- Developing Court Clubs . . . costs involved.
Rick Schliebe, Montebello Sporting House, Denver.
- Cardio-vascular program.
John Gillingham, Stapleton Plaza Athletic Center, Denver.
- Credit cards, financing.
Les Shumate, Aurora, Colorado, National Bank.
- Starting from scratch.
Carl Porter/Gene Decker, Tucson Athletic Club.
- Use of BlocBond, interior design with glass.
Charlie Hubbard, Burlington, Vermont, Court Club.
- Robbins Flooring Co.
George Pitzer, Memphis.
- Instructional Camps — A Step in the Right Direction.
Tim Schliebe, Storm Meadows A.C., Steamboat Springs, Colo.
- Pro Shop purchasing, inventory.
Dan Callahan, Bellingham, Wash.

NCCA, 4101 Dempster St., Skokie, IL 60076

Enclosed find () \$25 for official Court Club membership. () \$10 individual membership. () \$10 Products manufacturer for Court Sports. This fee will include both 1975 membership with all literature coming out of the NCCA headquarters, and the official booklet covering the fourth seminar-meeting, June 20-22 in Denver.

Name_____

Address_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

Make checks payable to: National Court Clubs Association.

The Story of A Court Club

How a Burlington, VT architect and contractor showed skeptics that the court sports can be a winning investment.

By Barbara Beroth

This past January, a five-court squash/racquetball/handball club opened its doors for business in South Burlington, Vt. In a little over two weeks, the club's membership rose above 400, a good 150 members more than the projected break-even point. The response to the new project convinced previously skeptical bankers and investors in the area to take a second, and decidedly more favorable, look at this type of investment.

When the idea of a sports facility was conceived in the offices of Burlington architect Charles J. Hubbard in January, 1974, the obstacles he and his partner, contractor Cliff Johnson, were to face paralleled many of those faced by Intersquash, a Swedish-initiated firm which attempted to put up squash courts outside of Boston last year (TNE, May 1974, p. 34). The Intersquash project, faced with a tight money market and lacking an established community standing, didn't make it. The Burlington project, faced with the former, but not the latter, did. In both instances, it was a gamble. Money for new — and untried — recreational facilities last year certainly wasn't on a New England banker's priority list.

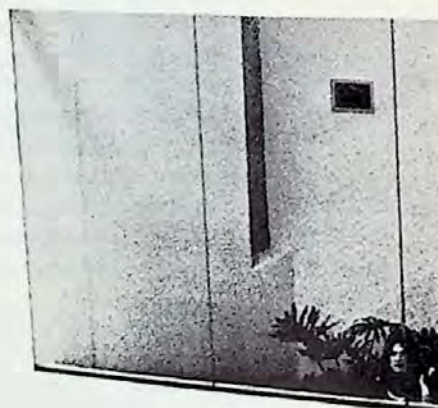
Could 100,000 support it? At first glance, Burlington doesn't seem to be the most likely place to attempt a fresh approach to sports facilities. With the Greater Burlington area population at the 100,000 mark, hardly in the metropolis category, there was some question as to whether there would be

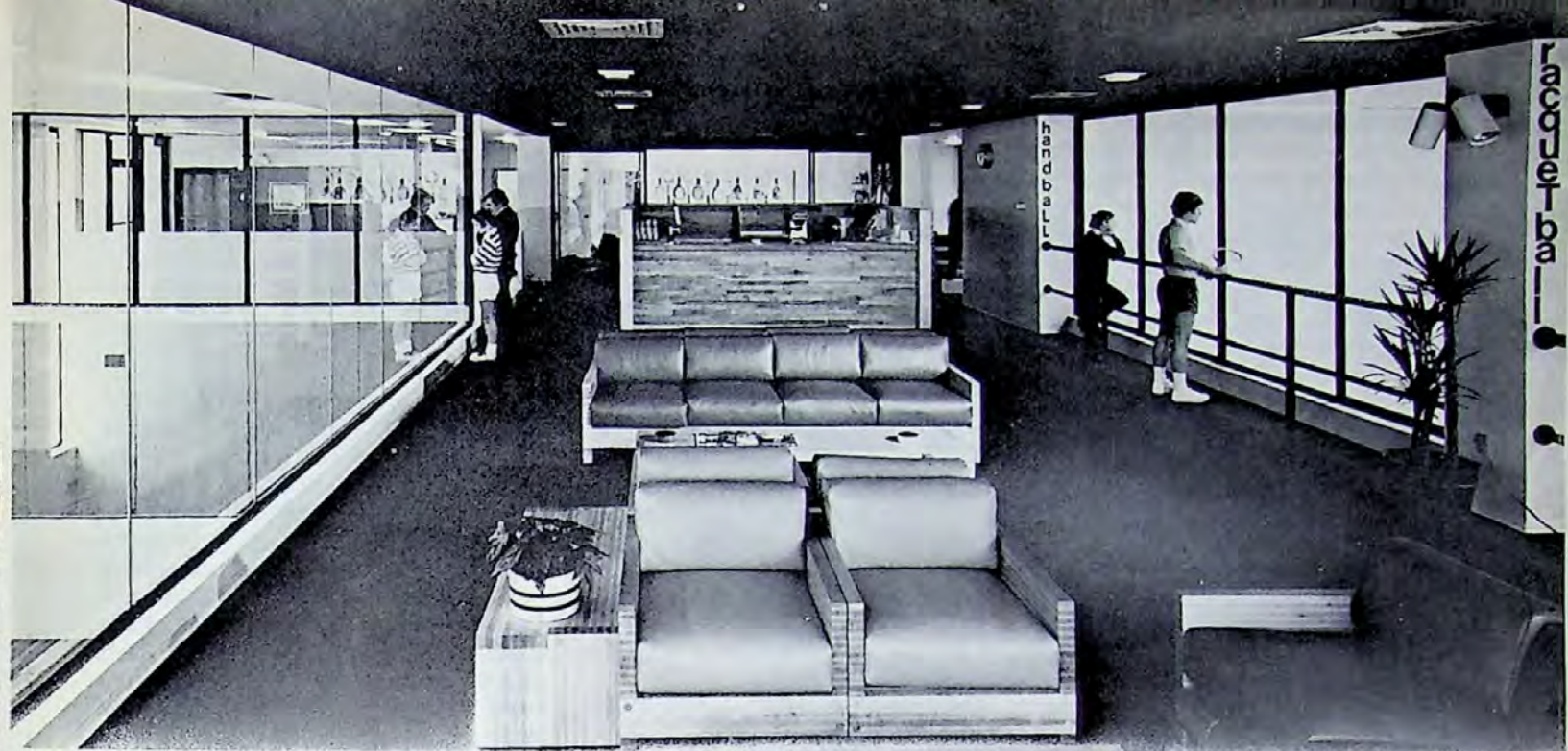
enough support for a club devoted to court games such as squash, racquetball (a relatively new game) and handball. This was just one of the questions which had to be answered by Hubbard and his staff at Burlington Associates/Architects and Planners.

The conception of the "Court CLUB" (as the facility became known) occurred at one of those routine office meetings so familiar to businessmen — the one where a few select staffers sit around and try to decide what to do next, i.e., what to do next that would also be a money maker. In Hubbard's case, the topic of conversation centered on the future of architecture in a recession period and the possibility of getting into the development field.

So, why not a sports facility? Hubbard knew the squash courts at the University in Burlington were kept busy and he, as he describes it, had a "gut feeling" about such an operation. The decision to go ahead with the project wasn't entirely unanimous, particularly on the question of whether it would be a money-making venture. However, it was decided to at least research the feasibility of the project.

A handball/racquetball outfit in Louisville, Ky., was contacted and a man from Burlington Associates went down to look over the operation. Also contacted was the National Court Clubs Assn. in Skokie, Ill., which had just completed a seminar on court games and was selling copies of its findings. For Hubbard, the report provided valu-





Compact design of 10,500-sq. ft., air-conditioned Club Court allows central viewing of five courts (three racquetball/handball, two squash), plus bar-lounge, sauna, pro shop facilities. Construction cost: \$252,000.

able statistical information on how best to judge the market in light of education, income, profession, etc.

Practical and aesthetic. The project was beginning to look like a financially sound one, so in March of last year design plans were made. With the question of cost always an overriding one, the approach was to design a facility which would need only one man to operate it, and to arrange the five courts so that they could all be viewed from one central area, a concept that proved to be both practical and aesthetic.

The preliminary drawings encompassed a nursery, pro shop, and bar area overlooking the five lower-level courts. The lower level also included an exercise room and locker rooms, complete with saunas and whirlpools. This was to remain the basic set-up throughout construction. Cost was estimated around \$250,000.

And still Hubbard hadn't seriously contacted any financial people regarding backing. So far, it was a purely speculative affair. But by this time word was getting around town about the project and Hubbard soon heard that a local contractor, Cliff Johnson, was interested in putting up a similar operation, although with a focus on the health spa aspect.

Obviously, the town wasn't big

enough for both operations. It became a matter of, if you can't out-build them, join them. Contact was made, a joint venture decided upon, and Cliff Johnson came in as partner. A very sensible solution. Next came the financing.

To say that the local bankers were enthusiastic, or even particularly interested, about the prospect of underwriting such an operation would be swinging on the wrong side of the fiscal pendulum. They were not. The smiles didn't come until much later.

For Hubbard and Johnson, it came down to having a friend in the right place and their willingness to put up everything as collateral.

Fed. Savings lends hand. The friend turned out to be the President of the Vermont Federal Savings and Loan Assn. of Burlington, W. J. Cody, Jr. After a bit of soul-searching, and a more secular request for a formal appraisal, Cody granted the loan requested by Hubbard and Johnson.

There were still the city's planning and zoning boards to be tackled and this took an additional two months, delaying start of construction until last September 1, several months later than hoped for.

The building itself, a handsome, compact structure, could rightly be called an experimental one. With a firm eye on the budget, one major innovation was to use the struc-

tural walls themselves as the playing walls for the five courts rather than installing the usual court wall. Hubbard estimates a savings close to \$9,000 to \$10,000 per court by using this method.

The entire building was constructed by laying concrete blocks dry and then applying the newly developed Owens/Corning mixture, BlocBond, 1/8" on the inside and outside surfaces. Since normally BlocBond's finish is a rather rough texture, Hubbard and Johnson experimented with the mixture until they came up with a fairly smooth finish for a playing wall that only the most finicky purist could fault.

The result of this experimentation and corner-cutting enabled Hubbard and Johnson to put up a 10,500-sq. ft. building at \$24.00 per sq. ft., a figure Hubbard says would have been almost impossible to have matched had they been building for a third party. If there are flaws in this experimental prototype — and there are a few — Hubbard feels they are minor and can be easily corrected in future buildings.

Location gamble pays off. The location of the Court Club was another gamble on Hubbard's part. The Burlington area has two indoor tennis courts, and Hubbard, with the idea of creating a sports center, went about designing his

club with one of the tennis courts in mind. He was unable to work out any deal to lease land near this particular tennis facility — his inquiries met with a rather cool reception — but he was able to lease a parcel of land on Farrell Road across from the second one, the Cross Courts. The first weeks of membership in the Court Club would seem to indicate Hubbard gambled wisely.

The success of an operation such as the Court Club depends a great deal on playing time of the membership (fee for renting a court during prime time is \$6.00 an hour), not the \$60.00 entrance fee. Indeed, in his original projections, Hubbard allowed for little or no real income from either the pro shop or the bar (perhaps a little unrealistically there). In fact, both the pro shop and the bar did, in Hubbard's words, a "fantastic business" when the club opened. The pro shop sold out of racquets during its first week.

Still, the coming summer season could prove to be rather slow, the summer generally is for such sports, and Hubbard expects business to level off. However, he and Johnson have been thinking ahead to that time with contingency programs such as bringing in groups of children for instruction (the club is currently barring children under 14 years old).

Eyeing NE expansion. It would, therefore, seem premature to start considering expansion plans, but that's just what Hubbard and Johnson have done. In just short of four weeks after the club's opening date, with membership pushing the 500 mark, it was decided to add three more racquetball/handball courts and possibly some platform tennis.

Negotiations were also started to purchase some adjoining land to the club for parking space. At this stage, financing is no longer a major problem. The Board of Directors of the Federal Savings &

This article re-printed with permission from the April, 1975 issue of The New Englander, Dublin, NH 03444.

Loan Assn. are thoroughly familiar with the Court Club by now, having been taken on a tour of the Club shortly before it opened in January.

In all probability, the present club with its additional courts is about all the Burlington area can handle, although additional clubs cannot be completely ruled out. But there is the rest of New England with ripe markets, such as Boston and Hartford. Hubbard and Johnson are already eyeing them for the future.

The author is a Boston-based freelance writer.

West Suburban Racquetball Club Another Planned Chicago Venture

The West Suburban Racquetball Club recently announced plans of their fall '75 opening serving the West Suburban area. The facility will be conveniently located at Butterfield and Finley Road in the Finley Square Shopping Center.

Jim Gribble and Bob Atkins of Rich Port, Realtor®, representing the West Suburban Racquetball Club, stated that the facility will offer 10 air-conditioned racquetball and handball courts and will feature men and women's locker rooms, sauna, whirlpool, exercise room, attended nursery, complete pro shop and lounge. Architects for the project are Faulkner-Faulkner & Associates of Hinsdale.

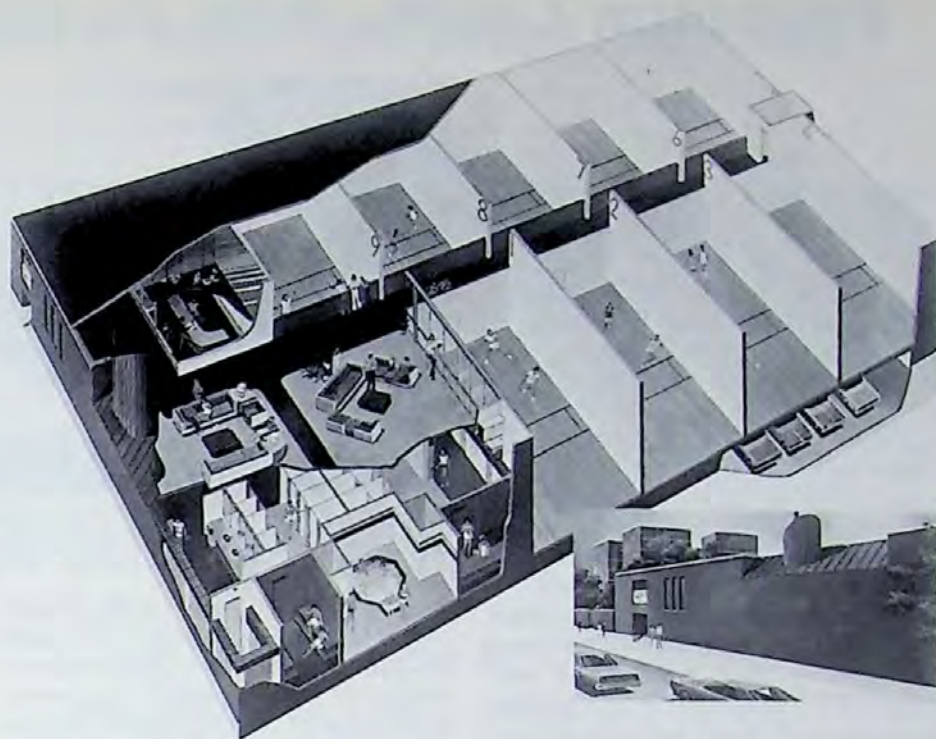
Gribble and Atkins stated that Racquetball fever is coming to west suburbia.

Within the year, the sight of a couple dressed in tennis attire carrying short handled, light weight racquets will become as familiar as today's tennis buffs on their way to the courts.

The Club will offer a country club atmosphere at less than tennis club prices. Deluxe memberships will include special court privileges. Regular memberships will also be offered with court time at \$6 - \$8 an hour.



Mid-Town Court Club To Open In Chicago



Unusual rendering shows many of the fine facilities at Mid-Town.

The first major in-city racquetball/handball court club in Chicago is currently under construction with a grand opening date scheduled for October 1, 1975. The nine court facility is the Mid-Town Court House, located at 1235 North LaSalle St., Chicago.

Mid-town is a joint venture between two of Chicagoland's racquet sports magnates, The Court House Sports Clubs, Inc. and Tennis Corporation of America. The Court House group, led by John Wineman, Jr. and Bob Fitzgerald have three other court clubs up and operating in the Chicagoland area, plus a newly opened Court House in St. Louis.

T.C.A. is headed by Alan Schwartz, owner of Mid-Town Tennis Club, the largest indoor tennis facility in the nation. T.C.A. also owns and operates a number of other tennis facilities around the country.

Mid-Town Court House, will feature one partial exhibition court, well equipped pro shop, spacious men's and women's locker rooms with Scandinavian saunas in both. Each locker room will have an abundance of full sized lockers, and the club will contain an attended nursery. Another attraction of Mid-Town is a co-ed whirlpool for the members.

Built adjacent to Carl Sandburg Village, high-rise and high density apartment complex in Chicago, the club will be accessible from a heated and attended underground garage. It is one block from Chicago's subway system and daily bus routes stop right in front of the club.

The beautiful lounge area, overlooking the glass upper side wall of one court, will also contain a fireplace, intimate furnishings and a vending area. The club also has the facilities for catering, and any group may rent the club on Saturday nights for racquetball/handball parties.

Membership fees are structured in two plans, one calling for membership in Mid-Town only, the other a Metropolitan plan covering the other three Court Houses. For a Mid-Town membership, rates will be \$45 per year for a family, \$30 per year for individuals and \$15 for juniors. A Metro membership is \$60-\$45-\$30.

Court fees will be \$8 per hour non-prime (6 a.m. - 4 p.m.) and \$10 per hour prime (4 p.m. to closing). On weekends the prime and non-prime times virtually reverse, with primed from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. and non-prime 6 p.m. to closing. Court time can be reserved on a permanent basis or daily.

New Champion R-Ball Glove

A new half finger racquet glove has been introduced by Champion Glove Manufacturing Company of Des Moines, Iowa. Called the Model 650, it has been designed for those players who prefer a direct touch of the racquet handle but also desire the no-slip feature of a glove.

The terry cloth glove is easy to put on and take off because of the large "V" wedge opening which has a Velcro tab closure for exact tightness adjustment. A thin doe-skin palm is included for a firm grip. A stretch-fit pattern assures a proper fit. Available in three sizes for both men and women in both lefts and rights.



Evanston Courts Add To Chi-Town Boom

Construction is well underway on a new 10 court, 3 sport indoor facility to be called "Evanston Court Club", located at Dodge and Greenleaf Avenues in Evanston, Illinois, just north of Chicago.

Play at the new club, one of the largest facilities of its kind in the United States, is scheduled to begin as of October 1st. Individual memberships for men, women and juniors under 18, as well as family memberships are now being offered at special low-cost rates.

As members of the Association know, racquetball, paddleball and handball — but principally racquetball — are among the fastest growing and most popular games in the country. Only about 250,000 people were playing racquetball as recently as 1973. By next year, the number will exceed a million, and it's entirely possible that racquetball will surpass tennis in popularity by 1980. Even many hardened handball players are turning to racquetball.

Evanston Court Club Manager Lee Duda, offered some comments about the new facility. *"Naturally, the increasing number of people wanting to play these sports makes it quite difficult to find available courts and get court time. The ECC really fills a need for it will be the only facility of its kind in the area. It's convenient location provides the people of Evanston, nearby suburban communities and the north side of Chicago easy access to 10 regulation-size courts."*

"And members can reserve the same court time each week, if they wish, to assure themselves of always having a court to play on when they want. Additionally, it's really quite inexpensive to play as the modest hourly court fee is split between two, three or four players."

In addition to the 10 climate-controlled regulation courts, the Evanston Court Club features carpeted locker rooms with adjacent shower facilities, men's and women's whirlpool baths and men's and women's saunas, all at no extra cost to members.



The Evanston Court Club, a 10 court facility in the near north suburbs of Chicago. The Windy City will soon be number one in court clubs.

An attendant will watch players' children free of charge in the fully equipped nursery. A pro shop will rent and sell needed equipment and apparel. And private instruction, group clinics, tournaments, and social events will round out the club's active program.

The center core of the club will be a comfortably-appointed lounge area, with the upper level being a viewing gallery where you can get a close-up look at play on all 10 courts.

Being the opening year, special low-cost Charter Membership rates are now being offered. In addition, those joining will receive a

coupon which provides for one hour of free court time play. The club will be open seven days a week from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., and while open court time will be available on a first-come, first-served basis, the club manager stressed that now is the ideal time to request permanently reserved court time for the upcoming 1975-1976 season.

Anyone interested in complete information and a free descriptive brochure, without obligation, should telephone the club at 312-866-9656. Or write to: Evanston Court Club, 11101 Dodge Avenue, Evanston, Illinois 60202.

Sacramento HB-RB Club To Open In September

Construction is under way on the Sacramento Handball-Racquetball Club, located at 14th and H. in downtown Sacramento, CA. A seven indoor-court facility with upstairs lounge and viewing gallery, the club will offer the finest competitive courts in northern California with concrete tilt-up walls and

hardwood maple floors.

Also available to the members will be locker room facilities with saunas and whirlpool areas. Scheduled for opening on October 1, 1975, the club will be managed by Jeff Hetherington and offer handball instruction by Jerry Cooke.

Recent photo at groundbreaking ceremonies in Sacramento: (l. to r.) Al Oshima, architect; Dave Gray; Jeff Hetherington, manager and racquetball pro; Bill Campbell, developer, and Rob Galloway, investor.



Parrott Captures Indiana; Kutas Second

In the 1975 Indiana State Racquetball Tournament Brian Parrott, who was also the tournament director, defeated Tom Kutas, Hammond, 21-13, 21-20 for the title. Kutas had previously been one of the top-ranked players in Ohio and was considered a favorite by most to capture the Indiana final. Unfortunately for Tom, he found the competition in Indiana on a par with its neighboring state to the east.

Parrott, a law student at Indiana University, advanced to the finals by defeating Al McClure, Ft. Wayne, 21-12, 15-21, 21-8. Kutas defeated Earl Dixon, Indianapolis in the other semi-final 21-10, 21-13.

For Dixon, who had won six consecutive state championships, this was his first loss ever to competition within the state of Indiana. It isn't that Earl has slowed, but rather the rest of the players have just improved, due greatly to Earl's long time presence.

Dixon defeated McClure 21-20, 21-13 for third place. Ron Johnson, Indianapolis defeated Mike Smart, also Indianapolis for the consolation title, 21-14, 20-21, 21-15.

In the B Division Tom Karas, Valparaiso defeated Orest Boyko, Bloomington 18-21, 21-11, 21-12, for the crown. In the semi's, Karas topped Rod Hofts, Indianapolis 21-20, 2-21, 21-16 while Boyko stopped Ron Waerckerle, Carmel 21-17, 17-21, 21-16. Karas showed tremendous improvement from a year ago when he lost in the first round. It was Boyko's first tournament, having played less than a year, but he proved up to the challenge by playing a grueling 15 games in less than 48 hours to truly earn his trophy.

Hofts defeated Waerckerle 21-20, 21-10 to take third place. Ron Anderson, South Bend won the B consolation over Martin Smith, Bloomington.

In the Women's division it was the same old story as Camille McCarthy, Indianapolis easily defeated Pat Foltz, Indianapolis 21-4, 21-10 for the title. Camille is simply in a class by herself among Indiana women. She even entered B sing-

les, (generally men only), but lost to Boyko 21-18, 19-21, 21-5 in the third round.

Camille advanced to the finals by defeating Nancie Messerschmidt, Ft. Wayne 21-2, 21-3. In the other semi-final Foltz topped Jane Pritchett, Anderson 21-16, 21-4. Pritchett beat Messerschmidt 21-6, 21-5 for third place.

Joyce Wilson of Clarkville won the consolation trophy in the Ladies open by defeating Sue Higgins, Bloomington 21-14, 21-11.

My apologies to Bill and Jo-Anna Davis of Anderson. Bill had to play Camille McCarthy in the first round of B singles and Jo-Anna played Camille in the first round of the Women's division. Both lost to Camille, and Jo-Anna did better! Then to rub salt into Bill's wounds, Camille's husband, Leo, a converted handballer, defeated him in the first round of consolation.

And a special thanks to Cyndi McDonald for all her help.

BRIAN PARROTT

Dr. John Tops In Columbus

The 5th Annual Columbus, Ohio City-Wide Racquetball Tournament was held at the Columbus Central YMCA on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday-May 16th, 17th and 18th with participation in two classes, Open and Masters. Entries were received from Marion, Zanesville, Ohio and Detroit, Michigan.

Last year's Open Champion Gene Erwine, Zanesville, Ohio was eliminated in the Semi-Finals by the local YMCA Champion Don Schiefer. The Masters City Champion from 1974 was not entered and the new Masters Champion is also the current Columbus Central YMCA Champion Art Payne.

The quarterfinals results in the Open class were as follows: Gene Erwine, Zanesville defeated Larry Shell, Columbus-Jewish Center 21-9, 21-3; Don Schiefer, Columbus defeated Sam Comstock, Marion 21-9, 21-3; George Geissbuhler, Columbus defeated Bob Anderson, Zanesville 21-15, 21-16; Dr. John Norton, Columbus advanced by forfeit.

The Semi-Finals results were: Don Schiefer defeated Gene Erwine 21-7, 21-11; Dr. John Norton defeated George Geissbuhler 21-13, 21-10.

An all Columbus final was played between the current Columbus Central YMCA Champion Don Schiefer and the current runnerup Dr. John Norton.

The match lasted two and one-half hours and Dr. Norton won after three hard fought games in which

Schiefer won the first 21-19, Dr. Norton the second 21-19, and finally after being tied at 10-10, Dr. Norton ran 7 straight points and went on to win 21-12, in the third.

In the Masters finals Art Payne of Columbus YMCA defeated Bill White of Columbus YMCA 21-10, 21-4.

In the Open Consolation Mike Thomas, Marion, Ohio won by injury default over Chad Tennant of Marion. The Open Consolation winner met the Masters Consolation finalist Bob Box, Columbus YMCA for the overall Consolation Championship.

In another two and one-half hour match Chad Tennant was the victor 21-17, 14-17, 21-7 over Bob Box.

ART PAYNE

Rochester, NY

Leo Marsocci successfully defended his Class "A" Racquetball title in the recently completed Rochester Central MMCA Tournament.

In the final round Marsocci won over Tony Palermo 21-14 and 21-15 after having beaten Herb Mitzner and Andy Doyle. Palermo scored victories over Steve Nicandri, George Schakow and Ray D'urbano to reach the finals.

Marsocci will have an opportunity to defend his Metropolitan Signles Racquetball crown in a tournament scheduled to be played at Central Y in May.

Brumfield Captures Keeley In Controversial Win At Queen Mary's

By Robert Hopper

Every sport, be it major or small, has at least one individual who, for some magical reason, towers above the others.

Handball has Paul Haber; football features Joe Willie Namath; Muhammad Ali is boxing's contribution. In racquetball it is the majestic Charlie Brumfield, an intense, charismatic competitor.

The tall, scholarly looking Brumfield was center of attention at the second annual Queen Mary Tournament held at Ben Agajanian's Long Beach Athletic Club. Electricity flowed in the air whenever he took the court. A packed house, spurred perhaps by free admission, was jammed elbow-to-elbow for the privilege of oohing and aaahing at his sleek moves.

Charlie didn't disappoint. He wrested the title from defending tourney champion Steve Keeley, 21-20, 21-14. Putting on a defensive performance that nearly out-sparked his offensive thrust that included some of the sharpest cross-court corner kills ever hit, he gave a near-flawless free lesson to the more than 275 participants who

joined the gallery to view the master at work.

A fired-up Keeley ripped some low, screeching kill shots from midcourt that provided him a 20-17 edge in the first game. He appeared to wrap matters up when a desperation lunge produced an off-balance backhand that floated to the front wall. Brumfield, who seemed stunned that the curly-haired Keeley came close to it much less connect, was caught napping. The ball dropped to the floor harmlessly for what seemed the winning point.

Not so, however. As Keeley savored the taste of victory, Brumfield argued vociferously that a hinder had blocked the ball from view, and that he didn't have a clear shot at it because of Keeley's position. The referee reversed the decision, ordering the point replayed. Brumfield won service from the disgusted Keeley, and went on to pound out five straight points to reverse the outcome.

Keeley made an all-out effort in the next game, but Brumfield's punishing shots had run his rival to the point of near exhaustion. The



JAN CAMPBELL

snap had vanished from Keeley's rubbery legs, and Charlie controlled things as he pleased.

Keeley had advanced to the finals with relative ease. His job was made easier when Steve Strandemo had to forfeit his matches because of an inability to make flight connections. A last-minute effort to adjust bracketing to accommodate Strandemo fell short as one contestant refused to agree to modifications.

Brumfield, meanwhile, had gone head-on with Craig McCoy in the semifinals. While he won by what appeared to be easy 21-10, 21-8 scores, the serve changed hands with regularity and the match dragged on longer than results would indicate.

Jan Campbell had to turn on the steam to claim the title in women's open. After breezing past Bette Weed, 21-4, in their opener, she found herself on the short end of a set-knotting 21-15 verdict. Ms. Weed switched tactics in the second game and began ricocheting ceiling shots to Jan's backhand. Many of the deliveries died in the rear corners, and Campbell's racquet came up with nothing but air.

After the break, Jan gained the upper hand rapidly. Depending mainly on a low, floor-skimming



Charlie Brumfield lays into one in first round match against Steve McCormas. The Brum won two and eight.

More Results From The Queen Mary

shot, she jumped out to a 10-0 advantage. After yielding a point to her dazed foe, she started drilling shots with pin-point control, and waltzed to a 21-1 conquest.

McCoy and Ron Starkman linked to smack Brumfield and Bill Dunn in doubles, 21-15, 21-12. Racquetball took a backseat to the muscling and verbal frays between Starkman and business partner Brumfield, a common occurrence when the two engage in combat.

A highlight of the four-day, 14-category tournament was a 45-minute belly dancing exhibition by Zainah, complete with Greek band.

In addition to displaying her artistic talents, Stephanie Corodimas — her off-stage name — vied in the tournament. She dueled Pat McCormick, holder of four Olympic gold medals for diving from the 1950s, in first-round action of novice women's play — and won, 21-14, 21-17. Sharron Reiher eliminated her in the next round, though, 21-5, 21-5.

TOURNAMENT NOTES: Playing indoors for the first time, Bob Wetzel advanced to the quarterfinals in the 64-bracket C Singles before being jolted by Larry Hoffman, 21-16, 21-20. He joined forces with Charlie Brand in B Doubles. They moved into semifinals before losing, 21-15, 21-17 to eventual titlists Phil Ivaldy and Dr. Jack Berman . . . Berman, a Los Angeles physician, not only played but practiced medicine at the same time. His patient was partner Ivaldy who caught a racquet above the eye once and later was given a nasty welt when chopped on the calf . . . Unheralded Gary Lusk rose to the occasion in B Singles. After surprising No. 2 seeded Mike Burgener, 21-10, 21-12, in the semifinals, he claimed the crown with a 21-8, 21-14 burst over the top seed, Jim Moore . . . Jody Lilly prevailed over Will Jordan in the talent-laden C Singles with a 21-10, 21-13 performance . . . Unseeded Carol Spinks captured Novice Women's Singles victory over Suzanne Gilbert. Ms. Gilbert gained the finals by upset — 21-20 and 21-6 in the semis over No. 1 seed Marilyn Edwards . . . Steve McComas and Al

Portune, both victims of Charlie Brumfield in his march to the men's open crown, squared off in Super B Singles for the championship. After moving in command, 21-15, Portune dropped the second game to the top-seeded McComas, 9-21, but rallied to snare

the title with a 21-13 showing in the final game . . . Mark Reyes clipped Beaver Wickham, 21-16, 21-17 to win the Jr. Boys division, a special category incorporated for young men 14 years old and under. Bette Weed's son, Darryl, finished fourth. He had been seeded No. 1 . . .



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Big Entry; Celebrities

Highlight Kings Court

The 5th Annual King's Court Invitational Tournament at the Edina, Minnesota facility was a tremendous success.

With 145 entries participating in the three-day event, we had eight divisions, most of which filled up long before the designated draw date. Included in this year's divisions was a B singles and doubles for anyone who had not previously played in an open tournament.

An added feature for the spectators and players was a pro-celebrity match between Minnesota Viking's 275 lb. tackle, Bob Lurtsema vs. the 'Queen of King's Court', Koni Porter. It was a two-game match with Bob pulling out the second game 21-20 for a split decision.

The *open singles* were won by Mark Hegg upsetting one of the area's top pros, Ron Strom, 21-17, 21-18. Paul Ikier took third place. Consolation winner was Steve Singer.

The *open doubles* had some great teams. The title was captured by Ron Strom and Bob Adam Jr. over Paul Ikier and Joe Wirkus, 15-3, 15-3. Third place was won by Bob Moreland and John Rude. Consolation winner was Steve Singer and Hank Weiss.

The *senior singles* title was won by Bob Adam over Bob McNamara, 21-18, 21-6. Third place went to Ron Haskvitz. Consolation was won by Jerry Cavanaugh.

The *senior doubles* was won by a good experienced doubles team from Rochester, Minnesota, Dr. Fred Banfield and Dick Carpenter defeating Bob Adam and George Sladkey 15-6, 15-7. Third place was won by Norm Goldetsky and Mike Shapiro. Consolation was won by Tom Keyes and Dave Herstad.

The *B singles* division was very impressive with many young and upcoming players. In the finals, it was a drooling three-game match having Jim McCarthy top Doug Kelly 14-21, 21-11, 21-14. Third

place went to Tom Saterdalen. Consolation was taken by Dave Harrer.

The *B doubles* awards went to King's Court team Jack Moore and Jim Schell over Tom Saterdalen and Dave Harrer 15-4, 15-10. Third place went to Norm Vogstrom and Jim McCarthy. The consolation was won by Rick Jacobson and Fred Rogers.

The *women's singles* crown was captured by Ev Dillon when she defeated Koni Porter 21-13, 17-21, 21-16. Third place went to Sue Dostal over Barb Tenneson. The consolation was won by Kay McDonald.

The *women's doubles* winners were Koni Porter and Kathy Frazer defeating Mary Adam and Jan Moore 15-9, 15-10. Third place was won by Bev May and Nancy Harrer. The consolation win went to Jan



Big Bob Lurtsema, Minnesota Viking's tackle picking on Koni Porter.

Mahoney and Denise Malarkey. The women's overall play in this area was very good!

Merchandise prizes included racquets, shirts, shorts, carrying bags, etc. which were awarded to 4th place and runner ups in the consolations.

Million Dollar Club

Scheduled For Houston

Court Sports, Inc., the first facility of its kind in Houston, opened May 28 in Woodlake at 2620 Tangilwilde.

A project of Maverick Investments, Inc., Court Sports offers eight courts for racquetball, handball, and paddleball in an 11,000 square foot building valued at \$1 million.

Clement C. Goth, a graduate of Lamar University in Beaumont and a competitive racquetball player, will manage the new facility.

In addition to the courts, Court Sports contains a mirrored exercise room featuring a Universal Exercise Machine, the machine used by professional sport teams for overall conditioning.

Locker room facilities will include saunas for men and women, whirlpool, showers and drying room. A supervised nursery will be

available for children.

A glass balcony viewing area and lounge is provided for members adjacent to the pro shop, which will carry a full line of equipment needed for court sports. Compared to other participant sports, a limited amount of reasonable priced equipment is needed, Goth said. Both private and group lessons will be available.

Bounding the Court Sports building is a jogging track for member's use.

The second Court Sports will soon be under construction in Spindletop Shopping Mall, FM 1960 at Sugarpine, another Maverick project. Court Sports facilities will also be constructed throughout Houston and other cities in Texas and the southeast, according to Peter T. Luffred, Maverick president.

Luciw Shoots The Bird In New York

By Paul G. Traver

Very few people gave Mike Luciw, of New Britain, Conn. any type of a chance to upset the defending New York State Open Singles Racquetball Champion, Charlie Garfinkel (known as Big Bird to some) in the finals of the N.Y. S. tourney this year. Mike had twisted his ankle in his first match and it was still sore Sunday. He had gone three tough games in the semis with Ivan Velan of Montreal, 19-21, 21-16 and 21-13. Big Bird on the other hand had little to sweat about until the semis and then he was able to wear down Mike Romano, of Fitchburg, Mass. quite handily, 21-19, 21-12.

But someone forgot to tell Luciw that he was not supposed to beat Big Bird in his neck of the woods. Play began with each feeling the other out. Mike became very hot with his backhand and Charlie was not as "on" as he is capable of being. The first game was over 21-7 in favor of Mike. The crowd said wait 'til next game.

They were right. Charlie counteracted and controlled the game for a 21-14 win. Games were one apiece and it looked as though Charlie was ready take his second N.Y.S. Open Championship. As the decisive game began, Mike began his psych tactics, but the score read 14-5 in Big Bird's favor. Then it happened, Mike began to regain the hot hand as Charlie began to lose it. The crowd came on strong behind Mike and his shenanigans

as he out scored Charlie 16-0 for the Championship. During the whole show Charlie kept his cool but it simply was not his day. (It was reported that the next week-end in Dallas Charlie kept saying 14 to 5? 14 to 5? in his sleep).

When play began Friday afternoon the largest field was on hand with 45 entries from six different states and two Canadian Provinces. And match losers of Friday night entered into the consolation tourney, which was anything but a cake-walk. The finals produced two hometown men shooting it out, Joey Tyree and Joe Tarantino. Tarantino prevailing 21-10 and 21-8.

One of the most exciting matches in the Open Tourney pitted Leo Marsocci against Mike Romano. Both used every trick in the book, from sweat spots to pleading with his opponent, as the match wore on. For close to three hours, at one point in the match Mike complained to yours truly the unfortunate referee that he could not see the shot, Leo replied, "Of course not I hit it too Fasssst!"

A young newcomer by the name of John Moshides (just 17) gave Jerry Davis, who is no slouch, an early ride home, 31-25.

I would like to say thanks to the Committee, who did another great job, every player for their cooperation (their wives for letting them out for the week-end) and for the Sponsor's donations which all adds up to the best tourney yet in

Niagara Falls, but wait 'til the 6, 7 and 8th of February 1976 for the 4th Annual New York State Open Singles Racquetball Tournament. See You Then!

NEW YORK STATE OPEN RESULTS:

ROUND OF 16: Garfinkel over Alfieri 21-14, 21-1; Mallie over Spencer 9-21, 21-12, 21-16; Marsocci over Moshides 21-11, 21-15; Romano over Winterton 21-15, 16-21, 21-8; Luciw over Ohnsobor 15-21, 21-9, 21-13; Sobel over Fonesca 21-5, 21-12; Columbo over Welsh 21-6, 21-4; Velan over Hill 21-6, 21-6.

QUARTER FINALS: Garfinkel over Mallie 21-6, 21-7; Romano over Marsocci 20-21, 21-15, 21-8; Luciw over Sobel 21-20, 21-4; Velan over Columbo 21-7, 21-14.

SEMI-FINALS: Garfinkel over Romano 21-19, 21-12; Luciw over Velan 19-21, 21-16, 21-13.

3RD PLACE: Romano over Velan 31-23.

FINALS: Luciw over Garfinkel 21-7, 14-21, 21-14.

Sawyer Wins Orange Coast

Alan Sawyer, an Orange Coast College mathematics instructor, won the super B title of OCC's three-wall outdoor singles racquetball tournament held last Friday and Saturday (May 3-4) at OCC.

Sawyer nipped Jim Rossman in the finals, 17-21, 21-14, 21-5, to annex the crown. Darryl Keene was third.

Gerry Long took the B championship by topping Chuck Bridges 21-12, 21-12. Terry Haun captured the C bracket, knocking off Steve Hurd 21-6, 21-14.

OCC student Diane Heims breezed to the women's division championship. No one scored more than 10 points against her in any of her five matches. She blitzed Maggie Franciskovich, 21-5, 21-5 in the finals.

Jim Hicks won the junior title, downing Ray Orgill 15-13, 15-6.

Need A Rule Book?

The new U.S. Racquetball Association-National Racquetball Club rule book is now available free of charge to all U.S.R.A. members and National Racquetball Magazine subscribers.

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Fundamentals Of Refereeing

By Bill Stevens

There are a multitude of responsibilities bestowed upon any referee during a racquetball tournament, from house to National. Perhaps the biggest burden facing the ref is keeping control of the match, i.e., making sure it goes smoothly without arguments between players or between the referee and the players. To accomplish this feat, the referee must be firm in tone of voice and consistent in his calls. Here is an insight into some secrets of refereeing.

Know The Court

Complete familiarity with the court on which his match is being played is an absolute must for all referees. Many courts will have "court hinders," *These are obstructions in the court which cause the ball to bounce untruly.* The referee must also be able to recognize these irregular bounces and make the appropriate call.

Lights are also a problem in many four-wall courts. If the lights are not perfectly flush with the ceiling the ball will not take a true bounce upon striking the lights. If the light is loose, the ball will be deadened and the ceiling ball will not carry into back court. If the light is ajar, it will cause the ball to bounce erratically to one side or the other, rather than a straight rebound.

The gallery area is also a court hinder if the ball has hit the front wall before entering the balcony. However, the gallery is not a court hinder if the ball goes into the balcony without first hitting the front wall. In this instance the correct call is point, or side out, depending on whose serve it was. The same is true in those courts where portions of the upper, rear side wall are left open, and the ball caroms into an adjacent court through this opening.

What The Player Can Call

Next step in being prepared for a match is for the referee to instruct the players as to what they can and can't legally do on the court. Among the most important things are 1) The only time a player can stop play is on a backswing contact. It must be called immediately; 2) Inform the players that avoidable hinders will be called. Never allow warnings; 3) Inform the players that technical fouls will be called.

The backswing hinder is a touchy situation because it can possibly create an "option play." That is when a player is hindered on his backswing but goes through with his shot anyhow. If he hits a winner he won't call the hinder; if not he'll want the hinder. As referee, you cannot allow this. The player being hindered must call the hinder immediately, if he does not, the shot must stand.

The referee should request that all players call their own skips balls and double bounce pick-ups. The referee should make a call, and if there is disagreement among the players as to whether the shot or pick-up was good or not, the referee's call will stand. For the sake of sportsmanship and a smooth running match, honesty on the part of the players is mandatory.

The double bounce pick-up is probably the most difficult call to make when refereeing a match. This is because the speed of the ball, plus the poor vantage point of the referee make it almost impossible to see or hear the bounces in certain front court situations. If, as referee, you are not 100 per cent certain that the ball bounced twice, *do not make a call.* Let play continue. This will not upset the players as much as calling a double bounce that possibly was a clean pick-up.

Calling The Score

One of the most important jobs the referee has is the often overlooked science of calling the score. Prior to the start of the match, the referee should inform the players that they cannot serve the ball, until the score has been called. The biggest reason for stressing this point, is that a well timed method of calling the score will set the tempo of the match in the referee's control, rather than that of either player.

The referee should wait until both players are in a state of near-readiness. The server is usually ready first. As the receiver is almost ready the referee should start his score call, timed so that the last number will be called very shortly after both players are ready. If the receiver is ready first, the score should be called immediately. The ball will then be served when the server is ready. *The receiver is ready only when he is facing the server.*

This method of calling the score keeps the game running smoothly. Both players are able to anticipate your call and get ready appropriately. There is nothing worse for a player to make a string of points, have both players ready, and then have to wait, and wait for a lethargic "16 playing 17" call to come from the ref. Call the score as both players (or sides) are getting ready, *not after* they are ready.

From the time you call the score, both sides have 10 seconds in which to either serve (the server) or be ready to receive (the receiver). There can be no intentional delays in returning to ready position. If the receiver is not ready in 10 seconds the server may serve the ball, — if it is not returned it results in a point for the server. If the server has not served in 10 seconds a handout is called.

The only time this rule can be circumvented is for a legal delay such as the need to wipe the floor due to accumulation of perspiration. The referee should, if he agrees that the floor is wet, provide a towel for this. If the ref notices the floor is wet he should immediately throw down a towel after the rally and instruct the players to wipe the floor in order to keep play moving as fast as possible. The floor should then be wiped by the player whose dive or fall caused the wet spot with no undue delay.

Stopping Play

During the course of a match the referee will have to stop play from time to time. If the reason for stoppage is not a hinder the referee should call "Hold it" or "Stop play." This could occur when the server serves before the receiver is ready, or in the case of a court hin-

der.

If the reason for play stoppage is a hinder, the referee should call "Hinder" loud and clear immediately upon recognizing the hinder.

Hinders fall into two categories, dead ball hinders in which case the rally is re-played, or avoidable hinders, in which case a point or side-out is called depending on the situation.

A dead ball hinder is described in official N.R.C. and U.S.R.A. rules as: *any unintentional interference by a player which prevents an opponent from having a fair chance to see or return the ball.* This can be a number of situations including 1) the ball going through the legs of the player who just returned the ball (not automatic); 2) the ball passing too close to the body of the player who just hit it, preventing the returning side from seeing the ball; 3) any ball which hits an opponent on the fly before hitting the front wall; 4) Any body contact with an opponent that interferes with seeing or returning the ball; 5) any court hinder struck by the ball.

Avoidable hinders were the topic of lengthy discussion in a recent issue of *National Racquetball* (Sept., 1974), but for the record the official definition reads: . . . *It is the*

duty of the side that has just served or returned the ball to move so that the receiving side may go straight to the ball and not be required to go around an opponent . . . it is no excuse that the ball is killed, unless in the opinion of the referee he couldn't return the ball . . .

Another reason for stopping play is a skip ball. There are two things which tell if the ball skipped in or not, — sound and spin. A skip ball will generally have a rubber sliding on wood sound (squeak) and will always pick up backspin when coming off the front wall. A good shot will have a solid "thunk" sound when it hits the front wall and will usually have topspin coming off. These methods will enable the referee to call 99 per cent of all the shots. The one per cent in doubt will come with experience. After you have seen 500,000 kill shots you will know which ones are good and which ones bad.

Many players shy away from refereeing for a variety of reasons. I can only make an impassioned plea to all players: everybody wants to have a good, competent referee during his or her matches. Everybody should then volunteer to learn to referee properly. In order to demand a ref, you should be one.

DePlanche Grabs

Charleston C.C.

The first annual Charleston Courts Club Open Racquetball Tournament was held April 24-25 in Charleston, South Carolina. Top players from The Citadel, Charleston Air Force Base and the Downtown Health Club participated. Ted DePlanche, 38, playing out of the Charleston AFB won top honors. DePlanche is considered by many to be the best player in the U.S.A.F. Tim Lough, of the Charleston Courts was runner-up.

Earlier, Lough and DePlanche had teamed up to win the Second Annual Charleston Air Force Base Open Doubles Tournament.

The Charleston Courts Club is the first indoor facility in Charleston. It boasts racquetball, handball, squash and tennis courts. This new facility should do much to bolster indoor court sports in the Southeast. For example, the South Carolina State Doubles Handball Tournament was held there May 16-18. Next year the club is planning to host racquetball tournaments which will be open to top players all over the Southeast.

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ANTICIPATION:

A Key To Victory

By Richard Wagner

How can a slow player seemingly cover the court better and quicker than a faster player? Why does one player seem to be able to pick up many more shots in front court, while another, equally speedy opponent cannot? And how do many players get stuck on proverbial tours of the court? The answer to all of the above is anticipation.

Anticipation is the combination of speed and quickness, often thought of as the same things, but actually far different. You can't time anticipation like you can speed, for anticipation is as much mental as it is physical.

The importance of anticipation in racquetball is immense. No top player can survive without good anticipation, and all of the outstanding competitors also have outstanding anticipation. Often anticipation can overcome the actual lack of speed to improve a player's game.

This is true of current National Champion Charlie Brumfield, probably the slowest player in the top 10 today. But Charlie is unequaled in his ability to cover the court, to anticipate his opponent's shots and thereby increase his chances of winning.

Anticipation is important for a variety of reasons, any one of which should be enough to cause the learning racquetball player to perk his or her ears. The most obvious and general improvement in one's game due to anticipation is better court coverage.

That extra step or step-and-a-half due to increased anticipation means picking up kill attempts and re-killing them rather than having them be double bounce pick-ups and points for your opponent. It means the ability to cut off passes

rather than having to scurry frantically into back court on retrieving efforts. And it also means being able to reach and set-up for countless shots that otherwise would have been unco-ordinated lunges.

Greater anticipation has many other benefits. For one, it allows the player a greater margin of error on his or her shots. For example, if you can cover the front court well, your kills need not be quite as low as would be the case if you were not a good front court coverer. Even if your opponent can pick up your kill attempt, he will be forced to rush his return and you will be right there to put it away.

Conversely, a player with good anticipation puts the pressure on his opponent to make a sure winner of his shots, thus increasing the margin of error still more. If your opponent knows you can get almost everything in front court he also knows his kills must be virtual roll outs; and this pressure often will cause him to skip more shots than usual, or in some cases abandon entirely his kill attempts in favor of passes.

A final advantage to the player with good anticipation is that it delays the often fast-rushing fatigue factor. By being able to reach balls with that extra step, you might be saving five, six or even 10 steps on that one shot alone. By being able to set-up for shots you eliminate the frantickness of retrieving, also a factor in fatigue.

All in all increasing your anticipation will increase your skill and your number of racquetball victories. So, how do you increase this nebulous factor of the game?

The first thing the player must do is get into condition. A well conditioned racquetballer is well on his way to being a quicker, and better anticipatory athlete. If your

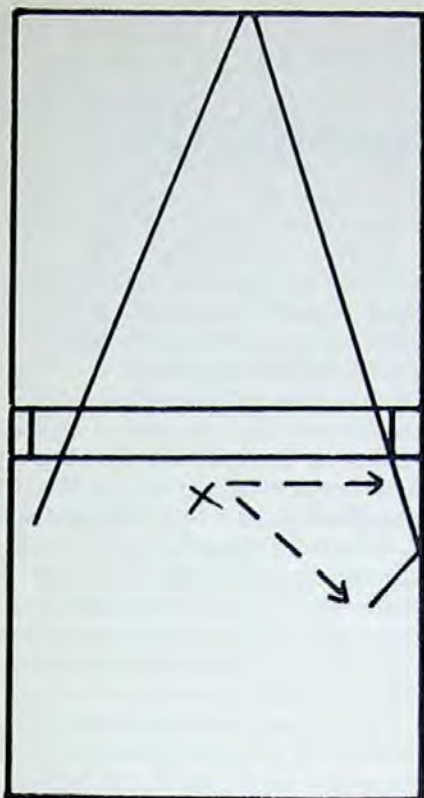
body is tired, your mind, no matter how great the desire, cannot instill life into those throbbing legs. There are a variety of conditioning programs both on and off the court, including running and playing. Many of these programs have been presented in past issues of *National Racquetball*. They make up a list of mandatory reading and then mandatory doing. The first step toward increased anticipation is getting into shape.

As for specific, on the court tricks to aid anticipation, - there are many. The first and most obvious, is to watch the ball at all times. There is no way a player can get a good jump on any shot, if he doesn't know where the shot is, from where it was hit, or where it is going. Many beginning players are guilty of not watching the ball, especially after the serve. As server you must turn and see where your serve went and what kind of return your opponent hits. After all, if your opponent shoots the ball, you'll have to move in; if the return is a ceiling ball you'll have to move back. If you don't watch the ball, how can you possibly know which way to move until it's too late?

Watching the ball is important on every single shot of a rally, not just the serve. It is the basic fundamental of racquetball, and the key to anticipation.

Anticipation can be increased if the player takes a little time to analyze his game and his shots. Do my ceiling balls carry into deep court? If they do you can anticipate a ceiling return. Do my ceiling balls come up short, or off the back wall? If so, expect an offensive return.

The same analyzation holds true for every shot you hit. You have chosen a particular shot either to end the rally or to extend it. Each



(Left) It's just as easy to take a few casual steps backward and set up for your shot, than to take a few frantic steps sideways in an effort to cut it off. (Right) If you're anticipation is good, you can cover the shaded area on any shot.

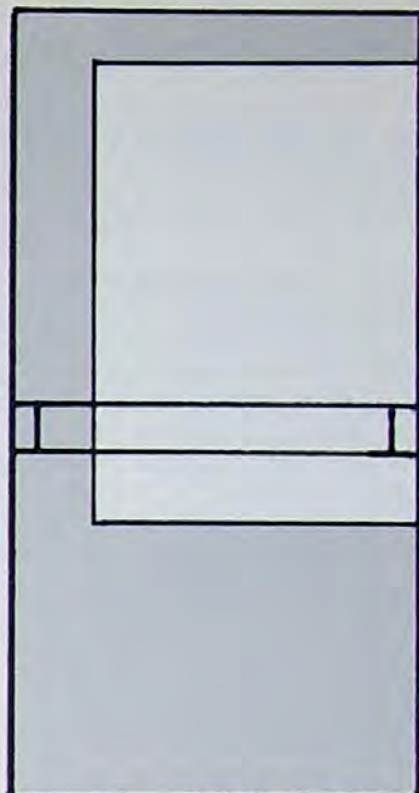
What if I hit a poor serve? Well, let's say I hit a low, hard drive again to your backhand and it comes off the back wall near the left wall. Now I'm in trouble, yet by anticipation I will increase my chances of reaching your shot.

I know you'll hit an offensive return, so I can eliminate all thought of you're going to the ceiling, as long as you have had time to set up. If you go for the kill you will most likely shoot it to the left corner, it being a far easier shot than trying a backhand hypotenuse kill off the serve. So now I have eliminated the back one-third of the court, and the front right corner. If you roll off the serve to that left corner I won't be able to pick it up anyhow, so my coverage need not worry about the true winner, only the shot that is left up.

If you attempt a pass you've made it a little tougher on me. My serve was poor enough to give you a good choice of down-the-line or cross court. In general, most players stand around the center of the service zone when they serve, and their first step is generally toward the left wall, anticipating a return to their backhand (right-handed players). Also, since I'm still wary of you shooting into the left corner, I would be leaning left. This means I will reach your down-the-line pass.

If any of the above makes sense to you, good. It has taken me four paragraphs to say that only a flat roll out in the left corner, or a cross court pass to the right will beat me, even though I have hit a poor serve. And these are the two hardest shots to hit with accuracy in racquetball. Anything else you hit, or if you are not extremely accurate with either of those two shots, I will not only return, but be in good position to put you out.

A lot can be learned by watching



your opponent. Many times a player will telegraph his upcoming shot, like a basketball player telegraphs his pass or a pitcher telegraphs fast ball or curve.

Does he dip his shoulder when going for a kill? How soon does he commit himself? Does he bring his racquet as far back for a pass as he does for a ceiling return? How far does he let the ball drop? Can he hit overheads?

A lot of the above can be learned by studying your opponent. If he is a daily or weekly adversary you can learn a great deal. Does he tend to shoot serves? Does he like to "go for it" when a shot comes off the back wall? How is his backhand? Can he go to the ceiling a couple of times, or does he prefer to drive the ball? Is his forehand deadly? What are his favorite serves? Does he ever rush the serve? All of these are questions you should ask yourself about your opponent. If you take the time to study and analyze not only your own game, but his too, you will be far better off.

Experience is another factor in improving your anticipation. Experience in the sense of knowing the walls. Top pro Bill Schmidtke is great at this. As his opponent hits virtually any shot, Bill has the uncanny ability to instantaneously figure out where that shot will end

shot has a specific goal, the reason you hit it. That goal is to force a certain return by your opponent. By being able to accomplish this, you have not only gained control of the rally, you have increased the percentages of anticipation on your behalf.

As an example of this, let's take the serve. Good serves are vital to any player's success, and those players with effective serves can anticipate their opponent's returns easily. If I serve a garbage serve to your backhand, and the ball reaches you at chest or shoulder height, I immediately recognize many factors.

First, you will not shoot that serve. The ball is too high to go for bottom board, and too low for any kind of reverse overhead. If you want to go for the kill on this shot, I'll give it to you every time, and I'll also beat you, badly.

I doubt seriously that you'll attempt a pass off this serve, either. As a surprise maneuver, maybe, but a down-the-line or cross court pass is very difficult to control on a garbage serve. And remember, I'm standing in center court. No, you won't pass.

You will hit a ceiling ball. It's really your only possible effective shot off a well hit garbage serve. And I know it, meaning I will be anticipating a ceiling return, and reach it effortlessly.

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What Is The Secret Of Racquetball?

By Steve Keeley

Editor's Note: The following is an excerpt from a chapter in Steve Keeley's forthcoming book, It's a Racquet! The book is anecdote oriented as opposed to being an instructional manual. Typical chapters include "#1 R-Ball personality—Charlie Brumfield," "History of Court Sports," "Unlikely Players," and "Game Theory." The written text is punctuated by a generous smattering of drawings from the talented felt pen of Jan Campbell. The excerpt here is a portion of the "Game Theory" chapter.

For all you space freaks who sit around contemplating such things of consequence as the universe, pi, navels and racquetball, we often do the same in San Diego. It is not at all uncommon to gather the guys and the beer together for a r-ball rap session. One of the most frequent topics to be rapped and ruminated is: "What is the best way to play this gol darn game? What is the secret to racquetball?"

As the gang downs the liquor, the theories arise quicker, — and evolve into even more far-fetched conclusions. Personally, I offer that when I think back on all the junk I have been taught in racquetball, it is a wonder I can play the game at all.

In all seriousness, who among us has not at least once pondered that singular mystery: What is the right or best way to play the game? Defensively or offensively? Intensely or nonchalantly? By way of some methodical groove or via random freak balls?

In the American tradition of such people as Edison, Franklin and Pasteur I have dedicated a good deal of my life to attempting to amount to something. Besides contributing to numerous charities, keeping my garden weeded and giving shelter to stray dogs, girls and diseases, I have worked day and night to discover the secret of racquetball. Ah, the secret of racquetball!

This quest all started back in my early paddleball days as a freshman at Michigan State University. I used to strongly feel the best way to win was to kill practically every shot I could get my plywood paddle on. This kill shot hypothesis held until I was blown off the court in my first tournament by a control type player. From thence forth I practiced the lob and passing game until I developed a decent control style of play. Of course, this theory was rebuffed by my next tourney loss. Therefore, I tried to combine kills and passes, and then kills and lobs and finally the all encompassing combo of kills, passes and lobs.

* * *

Out of being the most patient and prolific theorizer around, this author has finally derived the secret to racquetball and now has nothing more to worry about. Yet I somehow sense from previous experience that that ain't all there is. I live from one tentative conclusion to the next, thinking each is the final. Right now I guess the only thing I know for sure is I am confused.

Yet despite all this I have arrived, so to speak. But what of the unfortunate greenhorn lingering long within the bonds of self-restraining ignominy. Is there hope for these individuals who, after all, do comprise the great bulk of the court world populace? And too, what of the innovative person who desires to apply his own Yankee ingenuity to discovering the secret to racquetball, rather than employ the helter-skelter approach recom-

mended by some hairbrained author-player? There *must* be an outline, a guiding light for such creative minds. There is.

That is, I have devised a surefire method for all novices, near-spastics, or anyone wishing to, as I have, approach the riddle of racquetball's secret. This system was developed partly out of sheer desperation and partly from an instructional article on the construction of underground houses. It is called the "Start-here-and-work-there-that-way-taking-it-as-it-comes" formula. Here is how it works: First, put off the tough parts of the game until last. Procrastinate the puzzling. Later, when you have finally mastered all the basics and there is nothing left which is simple to comprehend, you will naturally start working on the more difficult aspects of the game.

It is soon after this that you will weaken mentally, falter and become totally checkmated. Important: At this point in time when your whole endeavor is being held up due to lack of completion, you must rest. Spend a day or two getting drunk or playing tiddly-winks, or both.

This relief interval serves at least two purposes: 1) it makes you regret wasting your time, and 2) it allows for your mind to "fester." That is, after a couple of days divorced from your "game secret quest" you begin to worry about letting time slip worthlessly through your fingers; you feel guilty about wasting hours on tiddly-winks and booze and thereby become desperate to



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complete the task at hand. In short, you become enthusiastically re-impulsed with a form of forced, cheap courage which should be more than sufficient motivation to tackle and thereupon find the solution to r-ball's mystery.

If this sounds unclear, it is only because it is confusing. But please bear with the explanation. The key here is the word *fester*. Okay, festering is that sort of semi-conscious thinking we all resort to at one time or another when we do not really know what the hell we are doing. If you try to sit down and think it out logically, you are likely to contract migraine headaches progressing to nausea, ulcers and a peculiar distaste for racquetball. In other words, worrying about it is completely ineffective.

Consider that 40 per cent of what you would worry about could never happen anyhow. And 30 percent of what could happen you could not have prevented anyway. About 22

per cent of the problem is too petty to be much of a difficulty worthy of your concern. That leaves eight per cent that is worthy of worrying about, — so you might as well forget it. Better to let it fester.

Let it build; let it multiply; let it smolder. Let it fester. When you become very desperate and festured up so badly you begin to climb the court walls, you are experiencing the fester *o.d.* Now you are ready to begin searching for the secret again.

Be encouraged and take heart that you are now so much closer and more knowledgeable.

If the *start-here-and-work-there-that-way-taking-it-as-it-comes* formula proves unsuccessful after a fair trial by the reader, be realistic. Give up the sport of racquetball. Take up knitting or collecting butterflies. But not before a truly fair trial. And in trying out this sure-fire formula to racquetball's ultimate riddle, do not take the at-

titude, "if God had meant for me to have a backhand he would have created me in the image of Charlie Brumfield rather than the Tin Woodsman."

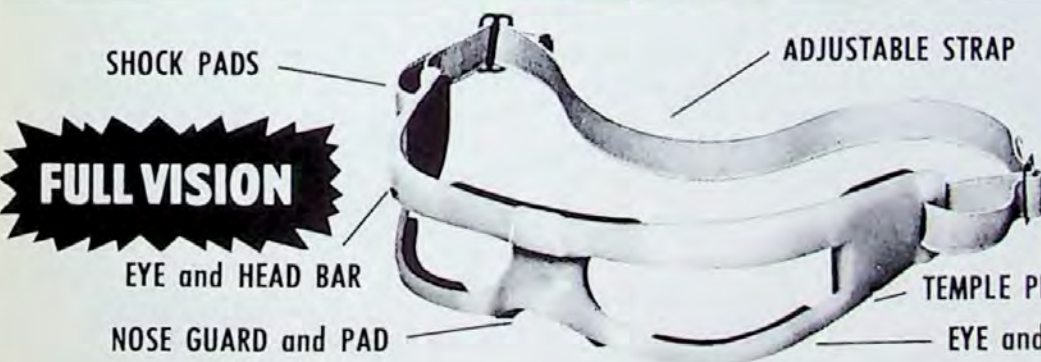
If, after hours . . . no, weeks of dedicated, methodical and patient practice and experimentation you still have not caught the knack for this most unnatural physical action, then I guess you will have to learn to live with your present status. Like a kid lives with acne; a man lives with his wife; a cow lives with flies; and the elderly live with arthritis. Just be content to get by with your athletic handicap and enjoy yourself.

Besides, you must realize that the champions with their potent backhands and surefire forehands, once their powers have waned with time, will not be able to emotionally cope with the sudden lapse with which you have existed throughout your court career. Be thankful.

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Why Manufacturers Choose Aluminum

NOTE: This is the second in a series of articles concerning racquetball equipment. The series is designed so that the consumer may be more aware of manufacturing techniques, new trends and technical advancement.

The search for the best strength-to-weight ratio in athletic equipment is as intense as it is argumentative.

Participants are attracted to purchasing lighter-weight equipment but yet demand stronger performance. Equating both poles of concern is a major challenge facing manufacturers of sports equipment.

But at least two major manufacturers of racquetball equipment — Leach and Ektelon have little difficulty in selecting the material best suited to help solve the dilemma — aluminum.

There are alloys of aluminum that have tested to be just as strong as alloys of steel, but the steel weighs three times as much.

But with aluminum, as with other materials, the higher the grade of alloy the greater the over-all playability of the product. And in racquetball, the alloy selection is crucial to proper performance.

"We believe that the use of aerospace-grade alloy is essential in the manufacturing of racquetball racquets," says Roger Richter of Alcoa. "The top-grade permits the manufacturer to maintain a high-level of consistency in production. Furthermore, the stronger the alloy the more weight that can be taken out of the frame to make the racquet lighter without sacrificing durability or playability."

Both Leach and Ektelon purchase only aerospace-grade alloy for their aluminum racquets, while lower-cost imports accept poorer-grade (softer) alloys.

"Tests also have shown that the use of premium-grade alloy in aluminum racquets permit a more rigid frame, better support for the strings and improved wearability,"

Richter says.

Ektelon, the first company to make equipment specifically for racquetball, was the first to select aluminum for its racquets. And it is the opinion of Bud Held, president of Ektelon, that the presence of the aluminum racquet has been a major contributor to the growing popularity of the sport.

"The aluminum racquet has allowed the beginner an immediate 'feel' for the sport, and has provided enjoyment from just about the first shot," Held says. "But it is important that the beginner select a quality racquet, a racquet that is made with premium grade material to insure wearability and proper performance."

"Players maintain they 'feel good' playing aluminum. The racquet seems especially suited for novices because it is light weight yet extremely durable and produces a solid shot impact."

Ektelon was attracted to aluminum early as a metal highly suited for racquet production.

"It's an excellent metal to work with for our purposes," Held says. "It can be pressed out, is corrosion resistant and tubing can be shaped to exact design. Furthermore, top-grade alloys of aluminum possess great strength, which allows the racquet to absorb the level of punishment that might wreck other type equipment."

Anticipation Improves Your Game

From page 43

up. He never takes an unnecessary step. Where the average player might take three steps right (see diagram) to try and retrieve a pass, the top player like Bill would take three steps sure enough, but back and diagonally right. Same exertion, but one player reaches the shot and the other does not.

In the above situation, the faster player might not get the ball, but Schmidtke, not known for his speed, will get it. Simply by know-

While the popular fiberglass racquets provide greater whip, a feature that is appealing to a high caliber player, aerospace-quality aluminum is more rigid and produces less vibration.

Less experienced players, Held believes, will be able to generate power shots with greater control by using aluminum.

"The beginner will get more power immediately out of our aluminum racquet," Held says. "Furthermore, the power zone is distributed throughout the hitting area, even to the tip of the strings. The new player, consequently, is less penalized for a mis-hit."

"Because it is light weight, durable and provides good hitting response, the aluminum racquet is perfectly suited for racquetball."

Both Ektelon and Leach feature new tournament-caliber aluminum racquets that are especially balanced for greater head speed and maximum ball control while retaining the qualities of light weight and durability, possible because both companies purchase only top-grade alloys.

Ektelon has introduced "deep-channel" tubing in its aluminum racquets, taking the place of the round tubing which Held maintains is "too rigid." The new tubing method serves to protect the strings, holds the bumper and creates a more flexible hitting area for better shot response.

Leach recently marketed two additions to its aluminum (Mag) racquet line. One is a racquet with a narrower contour and tougher vinyl bumper and the other features a 19-inch frame that extends the impact center and provides additional reach.

ing the walls.

What I've tried to point out in this article is that anticipation is not just guessing where your opponent will hit the ball. It is far more. It is something that can be practiced and improved. Anticipation can take the good player and make him great. Lack of it can make the potentially great player a frustrated also-ran. But anybody can improve his anticipation. Try it, - and see if your game doesn't improve along the way.

How To Get To National Outdoor 3-Wall





(Above) Jim DiVito, strokes a forehand in Golden Masters finals against Alex Guerry. (Below) Happy faces abound as hardware is given out to champs DiVito and Sam Rizzio. Joe Ardito is at left, Seamco's Bob Coate at right.

DiVito's Double Play

Shines In Golden Masters

Chicago's Jim DiVito, showing he still has the staying power of a youngster, pulled off a Golden Masters double play by taking the singles championships in this 55 and over age group and then teaming with spunky Sam Rizzio to capture the doubles in Las Vegas.

Strangely enough, DiVito's easiest match, score-wise came in the finals as he completely dominated Chattanooga's Alex Guerry, 21-8, 21-9.

"I have played Alex a few times when he comes through Chicago," said Jim. "And I thought I know how to beat him."

Milwaukee's Fred Vetter, a 21-17, 21-11 semi-final loser to Guerry in the top bracket, came back to capture third place. Vetter defeated Vancouver's Jack Duncan, 11 and 17, after Duncan lost a tough match to DiVito in the lower bracket semi-final 16 and 19.

In the Golden Masters Doubles

DiVito and Rizzio, Jim's long time partner at Chicago's Duncan Y.M.C.A., had only one rough game. That was game one of the finals against another classy Hawaiian team, Ralph Yempuku and Gil Kobatake. Score of that skirmish was 21-19, however game two was not nearly as close, the Chicagoans capturing it 21-11.

The match of the tournament for Golden Masters was the semi-final pitting Yempuku-Kobatake against Milwaukee's combo of Vetter and Des Smith. It was a long, yet thrilling battle as neither side gave an inch to the other. By the time it was over, over two hours of stimulating racquetball had been played and the Honolulu duo had reached the finals 18-21, 21-14, 21-20.

Smith and Vetter later took third place by default over Doug Wilson, Seattle, and Jules Rusoff, North Miami, Florida, who dropped a 21-9, 21-2 semi-final to DiVito and Rizzio.

Open Doubles

From page 20

A hoped-for exciting match in the semi's fizzled in the bottom bracket when Zeitman-Bledsoe destroyed Charlie Drake and Marty Hogan 21-5, 21-11. Drake-Hogan, had never played together before and were at a disadvantage in that respect, plus Hogan has been known more as a singles than doubles player. He showed it in this match.

In the top bracket semi-final the Southern California team of Mark Susson and Scott Gayner challenged Starkman-Charlson. They never really got into the first game, as D.C. and Ron hit very well and coasted 21-9. But game two was a good battle, before the favorites pulled away 21-17.

None of the semi-finalists had much trouble in the quarters except for Hogan-Drake who barely topped Jim Pruitt, Lansing, Michigan and his partner Willie Wang, Newark, Delaware 21-20, 21-18. Zeitman-Bledsoe defeated Jim Warner, Boulder, Colorado and Rick Schliebe, Denver 10 and 12; Susson-Gayner stopped the Los Angeles team of Don Little and Charles Baker nine and eight; and Charlson-Starkman topped the Chicago duo of Graham Moore and Jordon Tilden 11 and six.





Gerry And Pat

Scenes from the wedding on the Tropicana's Championship Court number five. (Above left) Gerry Lapierre places the ring on Pat's hand. (Above right) Patricia Kubat does the identical to Gerry.



(Below left) A bit of fun as the newlyweds cut the cake. (Below right) And is there ever a wedding without champagne? (Center) The everlasting kiss.

Tie The Knot





Seniors doubles finals action finds Ed Creagh about to shoot a forehand.

Clay Takes Vegas Seniors

The top four seeds made it all the way through the seniors bracket battling their way to the semi-finals. There top seeded Deryck Clay, Portola Valley, California met number four seed Pat Columbo, Scarsdale, New York.

Columbo, who had been priming for the Las Vegas tournament by working out with Vic Niederhoffer, didn't quite have the shots shown by Clay, who has the luxury of daily practice with some outstanding players in Northern California.

The scores were 21-13, 21-16, and put Clay in the finals, Columbo in the third place match.

The bottom bracket semi-final found second seeded Bob McNamara, Minneapolis, pitted against Milwaukee's Dan Trost, the number three seed. This match was a physical one, with both players giving every ounce of energy within them, - and every ounce was needed.

McNamara, in a great match, squeaked by Trost 21-18, 20-21, 21-17.

That set up the finals between Clay and McNamara and if anybody even wondered if Mac could come back after such a tough match the day before, well, they just don't know Bob McNamara.

Both players were ready, and the match was a great one. Both games could have gone either way,

but Clay's superior shooting ability won it in the end by identical scores of 21-18, 21-18.

Both players were ready, and the match was a great one. Both games could have gone either way, but Clay's superior shooting ability won it in the end by identical scores of 21-18, 21-18.

McNamara also took the bridesmaid role in senior doubles as he and pick-up partner Columbo lost a thrilling three game match to Lakewood, Colorado's Ed Creagh and John Mooney 11-21, 21-17, 21-19 in the championship match.

The surprise team in Senior doubles was another pick-up tandem, John Fabry, president of Saranac Glove Company and Gordy Pfeifer one of the top pro handball players in the nation. These two combined a knowledge of doubles and great court sense into a third place finish.

Fabry-Pfeifer lost to Columbo-McNamara in the semi-finals, their bubble bursting 21-17, 21-3, but they bounced back to take third place over two racquetball veterans Tevi Smith, Vancouver and Ron Starkman, president of Brum-Star Corporation, 21-10, 21-18.

Smith and Starkman had dropped their upper bracket semi-final match against Creagh-Mooney 21-4, 21-4.



Sam Koanui vs. John Leech

Koanui Captures Masters

Honolulu's Sam Koanui became the first Hawaiian to capture a national racquetball title when he blasted his way to the Masters singles title at the U.S.R.A.'s National Championships in Las Vegas.

The stocky Koanui, coming from an unseeded position, defeated Cleveland's John Leech in the finals 21-10, 21-16, and in process gained recognition as surprise of the tournament.

Sam did it the hard way, topping number one seed, the newly-wed Gerry Lapierre in a thrilling match in the quarter-finals. Scores were 20-21, 21-17, 21-20. Lapierre, to his credit, did not succumb to fatigue, just the clutch shooting of Koanui.

In the semi-finals Koanui met Dr. Hal Price, Phoenix, and although the scores did not indicate the closeness of the match, Price held his own, before being worn down 21-10, 21-12.

In the bottom bracket Leech was battling Madison, Wisconsin's Ivan Bruner in the semi-finals and he

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Las Vegas Masters

From previous page

finally came away with a victory 21-8, 18-21, 21-8.

In the quarter-finals, after the Lapierre-Koanui match, Price defeated Jack Domnik, Englewood, Colorado in one easy one, 21-3, and then one hard one 21-19.

Bruner had a tougher time against Milwaukee's Claude Manning, edging him in the first game 21-20, dropping game two 21-14, and then coming back for the match win 21-12 in the third.

Leech captured his quarter-final match with a win over Joel Hamburger, Oak Park, Michigan 17 and 10.

In Masters doubles, the always-tough, lefty-righty duo of Jim White and John Fazio, Milwaukee captured the championship, topping Cleveland's team of Lapierre and Leech 21-18, 21-4.

Koanui and partner Richard Lee, Honolulu, topped Chicago's Irv Alper and Vic Frumpkin for third place.

Knudsen Wins Ladies Amateur

Salt Lake City's Ruth Knudsen won the first Ladies Amateur singles title of the U.S.R.A. in Las Vegas coming from her number one seeded position and losing only one game in the process.

Ruth topped Huntington Beach, California's Donna Noguchi 21-10, 21-8 in the championship match, displaying good power and an effective backhand that was too strong for Donna.

Pam Kvandal, Mountain View, California took third place over Encinitas California's Jan DeWolf. Kvandal had lost her semi-final battle against Knudsen 13-21, 21-16, 21-9, while DeWolf was on the short end in her semi skirmish with Noguchi 21-11, 21-10.

Jean Oeschger, Santa Clara, California won the Ladies Amateur Open Consolation 21-8, 21-18 over Gail Rickling, Hayward, California, a first round loser to Knudsen.

In Ladies Open doubles, turning out to be a pro-am, the tough tandem of Peggy Steding and Jan Pasternak defeated Janell Marriott and Knudsen for the title 21-10, 21-16.

Steding-Pasternak had no trouble in their semi-final match against Linda Siau and Bette Weed, San Diego, 21-11, 21-5; while Marriott-Knudsen won their semi battle by default from the Illinois team of Jean Sauser and Sue Carow.

Siau-Weed took third in the doubles also by default.

Keeley-Serot Open R-Ball Summer Camp

The Steve Keeley — Steve Serot San Diego Racquetball Camp, the first of its kind catering to players of all ages, will open this summer with three five-day sessions.

Owned and operated by professional stars Steve Keeley and Steve Serot, the camp will offer boys, girls, men and women, quality instruction in all phases of racquetball.

Keeley and Serot, who rank in the top four in earnings on this year's pro tour, will be assisted by Hugh Terrell, former YMCA camp manager, and a staff that provides one trained counselor for every 10 campers.

The evenings will be devoted to participation in monitored competition and a review of individual progress. The curriculum of the camp is designed so that each day will be given to a specific aspect of the sport.

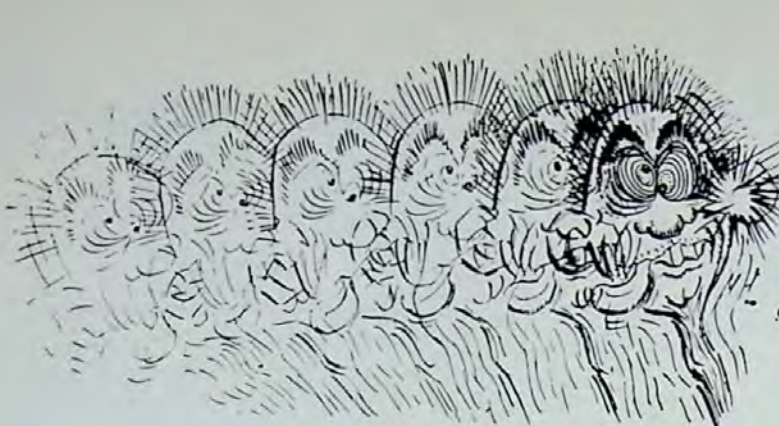
The San Diego Camp will run from Aug. 11 to Aug. 29 and campers may enroll for one-week sessions or all three. Housing will be at the University of California at San Diego.

Each camper will receive a minimum of six hours court time daily at the near-by George Brown's Racquetball Club, a beautiful eight court facility. Movies and special classroom instruction will be utilized to develop fully each person's skills.

"We don't intend to run a purely fun camp," Keeley said. "We want everybody to learn the correct way to play racquetball, are anxious to receive our instructions and expect to become better players because of attending our camp."

The all-inclusive fee is \$175 for each session. Each camper also receives as part of his fee merchandise valued at \$50, including a Steve Serot signature model racquet by Leach Industries, a Leach Tote bag, T-shirt, and Seamco 559 racquetballs.

To enroll or to receive more information write Steve Keeley - Steve Serot San Diego Racquetball Camp, Box 6596, San Diego 92106.



DEAR EDITOR:

....now that I have your attention....

About Rule Changes

Dear Sirs:

In reply to the article in *National Racquetball*, March, 1975, regarding rule changes, I wish to offer my opinion on your proposals.

In essence, I agree on all four of your proposed rule changes, however, I am rather dubious about the proposal that would allow a score on every rally. I feel that a follow-up survey be taken after enough players have had the chance to play with this rule to ascertain how popular (or unpopular) it seems to be.

Also, I want to congratulate you on a fine article (re. rule changes) and for publishing the magazine on such an exciting and booming sport.

Richard C. Callan
San Diego, CA

Dear Sirs:

On the proposed rule changes I think that elimination of the second serve would definitely be a good change. If a person can't clear the line on the first serve, get out of the way and let his opponent do it.

And the scoring on every rally is a great way to keep the game going. It's only logical when you think about it. If an individual makes a great kill, or if the person serving can't return the ball, — the point should go to the other person. I try this once during every hour I play, and it really improves the quality of the game because every rally will eventually become a point when it's ended.

And the three bounce rule, like the writer of the article mentions, is rarely enforced. Just a nod of the head, or saying "serve" is all a person needs do to let his opponent know he is serving the ball.

And the throwing the ball against the side wall rule should never even have been put in the rule book. It doesn't annoy your opponent, plus you don't have to stand there looking stupid or giving the ball three dribbles before you serve.

There are several of my friends who I play racquetball with, and they too like the changes that could be made with the sport.

John J. Adam
Minneapolis, MN

Dear Sir:

Your souvenir issue was very well done. However, I would like to make my protest against all your suggested rule changes and for the following reasons —

1. The second serve allows one to go for a winner on the first one and as in tennis, an ace is a real crowd pleaser. If it fails or faults, then the rally can still be safely started on second serve.

2. Scoring on every winner allows too much element of luck to rule the game. To have to win a rally to get the serve and then win again to score a point eliminates at least some of the effect of lucky shots and promotes the better player winning more often.

3. Why more than three bounces; it is only prolonging the interval between play, and unnecessary.

4. In somewhat the same way, throwing the ball against the side wall is only another distraction and totally unnecessary.

Having made these comments, I would like to point out that in the game of badminton which is played all over the world, one only scores points when serving and badminton is an even more strenuous game than racquetball to my mind.

Now that I've got all that off my chest, as a full fledged racquetball convert, I would ask you to forward me a rule book and take this opportunity to wish you many more great successes in promoting this game so that more and more people can enjoy it.

Doug Bauld
Halifax, N.S., Canada

Dear Sirs:

Right On!!!

Tom Koch
Palatine, IL

Dear Chuck:

With regards to your proposed rule changes, I would like to make the following comments:

1) Eliminate the second serve: AGREE. No need for second serve.

2) Score on every rally: AGREE. Except on 20-20 match point. The game can and should be won only by the server.

3) Three bounces: AGREE.

4) Side Wall: DISAGREE: This is distracting and

the ball is very often dropped by the server which holds up the game until he has retrieved the ball.

Myron Dudynsky
St. Paul, MN

Dear Editor:

I agree with eliminating the second serve; allowing more than three bounces and allowing the ball to be thrown against the side wall.

Scoring on every rally should apply to women players only. I say this from experience by refereeing quite a few games. The men's singles games averaged 20 minutes; the women's averaged 45 minutes, *per game*. (One game even took 1 hour, 20 minutes.) Starting times at most tournaments are pushed back two hours or more because of women players.

Re. Prizes: Prizes should be items of value. I took an informal survey of players and 98 per cent would rather have racquets, gloves, shirts, sweat suits, etc. than trophies. One club here in Southern California does just that.

Nick Mandarano
Long Beach, Cal.

Dear Sirs:

I'll vote "yes" on change number one (eliminate second serve) and vote "no" on change number two (score on every rally). That's a strong "no" on number two. I could give a dozen reasons but most would be just my own feelings and opinions. I agree completely that a way has to be found to speed tournaments and accommodate more entries, especially if the sport continues to grow as it has. But I believe this change in the scoring system is too severe and would change the game too drastically. Therefore, I'm writing some suggestions and hope maybe some will help hit the spot with an answer.

1) Why not count it as a point against me when I hit the ball so hard that it flies out of the court?

2) In the lesser brackets, or even all brackets play two out of three as is presently done but play to only 15 points until the quarter finals.

3) Play first round of consolation on the same day the first round of men's singles is played. That way when more brackets begin play the next day there will be less consolation confusion and some people eliminated from the tournament will have left for home.

4) Set a limit on warm-up time on the courts.

5) Only allow two time outs in a game instead of three.

6) Figure out some way to have some type of qualifications in order to get into the more skilled brackets of play.

7) Possibly raise entry fees a little.

8) Create a shut out rule. Eleven-nothing and it's time for the next game.

Well, what do you think?

Soon a racquetball star to be

Gentlemen:

I also think that the ceiling should be out of bounds at all times, — not just on the serve. The

game has developed into a power and endurance contest until someone hits a little short or off the back wall. It would be a faster, more skillful game if the lob were the defensive shot, not the ceiling ball.

E.L. Van Dusen
New Castle, PA

Dear Chuck,

Enjoyed your March issue of *National Racquetball* and am responding to your questions on rule changes.

I disagree with the first two and agree with the others. We tried playing a few games with only one serve and scoring on every rally. I think it changes the nature of the game too radically. With only one serve you are not going to take a chance on the low, angle serve that falls just behind the short line for an attempted ace. Likewise your deep lob serves will become more conservative perhaps causing the ball to end in a "plum" return for your opponent. I think it would take away from the aggressiveness of the service. I understand the reason for wanting to change it, and apparently the IRA wants to change that also. I don't have any solution for the stalling tactic (never having been able to experience that first hand since my better opponents seem to be able to dispatch me relatively simply), but I don't think we ought to take away the second service.

I feel that scoring on every rally also takes away from aggressive offensive play. It causes the server to play more defensively when he is supposed to have the advantage. If our objective is to shorten the time played, we could consider going to a 15 point game. This would bring the total time of the match down about one-third, and there would be an additional side benefit for "older" players (that's me, folks) in that the fatigue factor would be reduced in tournaments where you sometimes have to play twice in one day.

Thanks for listening.

Jim Harper
Evanston, Ill.

Dear Sir:

I disagree with the suggestion of eliminating the second serve. I consider the serve an important part of the game. It is not simply a matter of getting the ball over the short line, but rather of doing so in the most effective fashion. Even though service aces are not too common, very often an effective serve will cause a poor return which sets the server up for his point on the next shot.

I disagree with the recommendation to score on every rally. Endurance is part of the game. To take it out will significantly alter the game in a fashion which I consider undesirable.

I am opposed to allowing more than three bounces and to allowing the server to throw the ball against the side wall. There is no necessity for these distracting maneuvers and they should not be permitted.

Joel I. Hamburger, M.D.
Southfield, Mich.

Dear Sir:

Enclosed please find my selections for the proposed rule changes. My selections are arranged in descending order of desirability as follows:

1. **Score On Every Rally:** I think this rule would add a new dimension to the game. With this rule change, the game would become closer to ping-pong & tennis which allow non-servers to score points. The serving-scoring format of the game would be identical to ping-pong if each server was allowed five serves, then the other person serves. This would also make racquetball closer to tennis since a player serves a complete game. Hence, racquetball could be modified to allow points to be scored by non-servers either on an alternating serve or consecutive 5-serve basis. I plan to play a game or two with both formats. I will inform you of the result.

2. **Eliminate Second Serve:** The only time a second serve should be allowed is when the ball touches the back line or hits the crack between the floor and wall. Otherwise, a second serve should not be allowed since it needlessly prolongs matches. This rule change would also agree with 'net' serves in racquetball and tennis.

3. **Allow More Than 3 Bounces:** As long as the ball is served within 10 seconds, it shouldn't make any difference how many times the ball is bounced. However, if the ball is bounced several times, the ball should be served off a single bounce; that is, served following the bounce after the ball was dropped.

4. **Allow Throwing Against The Side Wall:** As long as the ball is served within 10 seconds, it shouldn't make any difference if the ball is bounced off the side wall. However, the ball should not be served from the bounce of a ball off the floor that was thrown against the wall. It should still be required that the ball be vertically bounced once prior to serving.

I feel that adoption of the four rules given above would more closely align racquetball with tennis and ping-pong. Alignment of the sport with tennis is especially important if it is ever expected that racquetball will compete with tennis on the national level.

Thank you.

Wayne Emerick
San Diego, California

Dear Sirs:

After borrowing the *National Racquetball* magazine from a friend to see what it was all about, I came across Chuck Leve's article on the four proposed rule changes. I would like to state my opinion on such changes.

I would agree that the second serve could be eliminated without changing the game. It would help speed up the game as Leve puts it but more importantly it would not affect the quality of the game. It will also force the server to make a good first serve rather than having to rely on a second serve to bail him out.

I would also agree with allowing throwing against the side wall as Leve describes it, as long as the ball is served in the normal manner.

I also agree that the 10 second rule, which applies

to both server and receiver is all that is necessary to keep play moving. Does it really matter how many bounces the server takes?

But I do disagree with Leve on permitting a point to be scored on every rally. As I see it physical conditioning is very much a large part of the game. A good shot to win serve and then be able to score is the game of racquetball, isn't it? So what if it speeds up the game? Is that what racquetball players want? I certainly do not. Having to play more games does not necessarily make the rule change better. Do racquetball players want quantity or quality in their game? I prefer QUALITY.

Leve's fourth point is well taken IF new and unconditioned master and golden master players took up the game. I doubt if they would. They would stop before any serious symptoms develop. But I doubt if there has been any reported accidents of this nature. If there has I would like to hear about them.

In conclusion I think that racquetball is a great game as it is. If too many rule changes are made it may destroy the game as it now stands. That's the way I see it.

Stephen Setacci
Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.

Dear Editor:

As requested, here are my opinions concerning the proposed rule changes. The fact is that I have as many questions as comments.

ELIMINATE SECOND SERVE: I think we should keep the second serve for the following reasons. Writing as a non-expert player, (I can't even play class C without being embarrassed by opponents who themselves fail to make the round of 64). I like to have one opportunity to execute a Z serve, (usually the ball contacts too many side walls) or attempt to drop a LOB serve deep into the backhand corner, (usually long) before I am required to set the ball up (second or sure serve) for the frequent kill or more frequent pass down the backhand alley.

It is my observation that most racquetball players have not ever entered a tournament, (neither do they play league) so relating that fact (opinion) to the number of players who do enter tournaments, you can imagine how many of us inexperienced, non-beginners are trying to play the game. To score an ACE is not the point. To try and force a return that perhaps will allow me an attempted kill is the point. I too, use a long (or short) serve to re-coup energy, if that need is more pressing than the need to try and force a weak return. So, as you can see, I DISAGREE WITH THE PROPOSAL TO DO AWAY WITH THE SECOND SERVE.

SCORE ON EVERY RALLY: I can't offer an opinion because I have too many questions. Who will serve? Will we have five serves per player, as in Table Tennis? Will the winner of a game be required to win by two points (advantage or duece type of thing)? Will one player serve an entire game? Will scoring be changed to be similar to tennis? X number of points per game, and X number of games per set, and X number of sets per match? Again, equating with players who are long on desire, but short on ability, how about CUT-THROAT? I realize this is not an official competition, but I see it played more than

doubles and nearly as much as singles. Are these participants unimportant? How would it be scored? I THINK THE PROPOSAL TO SCORE ON EVERY RALLY NEEDS MORE STUDY.

ALLOW MORE THAN THREE BOUNCES BEFORE SERVING: Most people do not bounce the ball more than three times, but if one has a nervous habit, (a la Jimmy Connors) I have no quarrel with bouncing the ball. YES, OF COURSE WE SHOULD ALLOW MORE THAN THREE BOUNCES WHEN SERVING THE BALL.

ALLOW THROWING OF BALL AGAINST SIDE WALL: Why not, as long as the player comes to a complete rest before serving the ball. YES, ALLOW THROWING OF BALL AGAINST SIDE WALL.

In case it matters to you, all of these comments are as noted by myself. I am 45 years of age, and all of my playing opponents and partners are between the ages of 17 and 26. I do not play with players of my own age group because there really aren't many around, and the ones who are around are doctors, lawyers, successful businessmen, or husbands of well known female racquetball players. These men are interested primarily (if not only) in tournament play, and the expense of practicing bothers them not at all. In short, I don't have money enough to compete with my own age group, and I don't have enough quickness or stamina to compete successfully against the younger players. However I do like to play, so please don't hurt me too badly with rule changes.

NEW SUBJECT: I have tried to explain to several of my opponents, the fact that just because they are standing in a given spot on the court when they hit the ball, does not mean that they may continue to stand there, if they impede my movement along a straight path to the ball. So far I have not been rewarded by any significant change in their style of play. Will you please make the rules MORE SPECIFIC? Please tell these turkeys that they MUST MOVE to allow me to get to the ball.

Thank you for your time.

Kenneth A. Williams
Imperial Beach, CAL

Mr. Leve:

This is in response to your request that you be told "why not" regarding the three bounce rule. But first

... I've no quarrel with "I think it's a great idea, but of course, I'm proposing it," for you should feel that way and I praise your efforts. Too few people ever propose changes in everyday rules. However it is obvious that your mind is made up before hearing from the masses. The tone of the article hardly invites exchange of ideas.

I have experienced a situation where the three bounce rule is ideal. My opponent (whom I'd not played previously) bounced the ball as though his serve stroke were following in rhythm. My body tensed and I leaned slightly forward shifting my weight to the balls of my feet. He caught the bounce and I relaxed a bit. He then bounced it again — in the same way, and with my reaction the same also. Well, the fourth bounce came and I requested the ball

saying that he'd violated the rule and I was tired of rocking into readiness.

This is the only instance of the rule's value in my experience but I admired the foresight of the rule's author. It simply prevents the server from gaining an unfair advantage in a situation. Rules covering the rare occurrence abound in sports and should not be deleted for their infrequency.

Perhaps the rule needs revision — eliminating the accidental bounce sentence and stressing an unfair advantage aspect. This would relieve refs of the anxiety of calling a technicality since detection of intentional effort would convert it to a judgment call. Maybe good players don't do it but the better the server the more effective his use of a balk bounce would be.

I don't believe that the reasons for striking this rule are substantial enough. Your reasons are these: either it has no real purpose, or it causes confusion (and arguments), and it prevents off hand development. Confusion can be eliminated by revision to show the spirit of the rule. Off hand development, on the other hand, can hardly be enhanced by two or three more bounces in the ten second span.

In conclusion I might add that the "What Do You Think" blank is premature if the readers are to hear different views before firming their opinions. Your ideas concerning the second serve and scoring on every volley are good. I'd like to hear another side before agreeing or disagreeing. So — please keep these issues alive while they are being tested.

David Marschall
Baton Rouge, La.

Dear Sir:

In regards to your proposed rule changes:

1) Does the server lose a point if he misses the serve, — or does he just lose the serve?

2) What will it take to get these rules "passed?"

I feel the new rules make the game much more exciting and I will promote them among those who play the game with me.

Good luck!

Walter J. Rataj
Birmingham, MI

Dear Sirs:

I would also like to propose a rule change. While playing in the paddleball nationals, I was struck in the face by an opponent's paddle. I was playing in Women's Doubles, and my partner and I were the top seeds. The incident occurred in our first game of the first match. My opponent should never have swung at the shot during which she hit me. I had to leave the court immediately, and travel to a hospital to receive 6 stitches over my eye. My partner and I were forfeited out of the tournament. Our opponents eventually won third place. It seemed highly unfair to my partner and I, that our opponents should thus benefit from injuring me. It seemed even more unfair in light of the fact that my opponent knew where I was and so was being very irresponsible in her swinging. My partner and I would like to propose that in a future situation where someone

1. injures an opponent sufficiently severely that

the opponent must leave to receive immediate medical attention and

2. the person inflicting the injury did so due to irresponsible playing IN THE OPINION OF THE OFFICIAL REFEREE,

the person, inflicting the injury, instead of the injured person, should be required to forfeit the match.

I firmly believe that such a rule change would make racquetball and paddleball safer for everyone.

Carol Stewart
Ypsilanti, Mich.

Dear Chuck:

After reading your article on the one serve rule in the recent NRC magazine, I became extremely interested in the idea and began thinking about the different factors the game would take on if the rule was changed to one serve only. The Supreme Courts I and II were having an interclub tournament the next weekend, and Bob Kraut and I decided that it would be a good idea to change to the one serve rule and make some observations on its effectiveness.

Here are some comments from participants in the tournament and some of my own:

"It takes away too much offense, everybody is afraid to gamble."

"It helps the careful, control server while it hinders the server going for the ace or error on the low, drive serve."

"It should not be mandatory for beginners or low flight players; they should be encouraged to try different serves and not be afraid of losing their serve on the first try."

"A player can use several different tactics for stalling besides the long serve. Mopping up perspiration on the floor works, and so does arguing with the official, or taking the entire 10 seconds to serve. Serving long does not create that much of a problem in stalling the game."

"Having only one serve does make you concentrate and helps you develop consistent, effective serves."

We found no real conclusion as to whether the one serve rule is a good idea or not. Opinion was divided about 50/50. Interestingly enough, all of the control players, such as Bill Dunn, Steve Dunn, and Len Stream, liked the rule. They rely on their control game and use easy serves designed to make their opponents hit ceiling balls. But the shooting, fast playing players, such as Bill Thurman, Mark "Mingo" Wayne, and Lou Concha, didn't like the rule at all, and their games suffered because of it. All three shooters rely on a hard serve and all three faulted several times a game. Even though Bill Thurman faulted at least 10 times in the finals, he still managed to hang on and beat Bill Dunn in three games, 8-21, 21-12, 21-19.

I hope this letter gives you some information and insight into the one serve rule and helps you in any future decisions.

Stephen E. Dunn
Supreme Court I

About Las Vegas

Dear Mr. Kendler:

I wish to express my gratitude to you for bringing to racquetball what has to have been the single most successful tournament to date. On behalf of myself and a number of other players, I wish to thank you for the Las Vegas event and look forward to participating in other events sponsored by the N.R.C. in the future.

Charles Drake
Leach Industries

Dear Bob:

Handball and racquetball took a giant step forward when that T.V. truck pulled up beside the front court glass in Las Vegas. It is only fitting that T.V. should be initiated by the man who pioneered every major innovation in both sports over the past 30 years. We at BRUMSTAR join in saluting you for this enormous personal achievement.

CHARLIE BRUMFIELD
VICE PRESIDENT

Dear Joe:

Wow! That was the week that was! I can't remember when I've had such an exciting time. Thank you very much for all the consideration you showed me and my family during the racquetball tournament. Please thank Inez for me, for her many kind words.

Would you also ask Chuck Leve to say 'hello' to Ruth Warnick for me. I hope Ellen's animals survived her absence and the flooding. But most of all, I hope you enjoyed your stay in Las Vegas as much as I enjoyed seeing you there.

Apparently the excitement from the tournament has carried over to the newly founded Las Vegas Racquetball Association. We are conducting our first tournament in less than two weeks, June 7-13. I'll finally get my wish to referee some matches. I have even found the courage to enter the tournament.

Our association has been slow in sending you notice of membership so that we may start receiving *National Racquetball Magazine*. Since I don't wish to miss the issue covering the Las Vegas tournament, would you please send me a copy of this issue, if notice of my membership does not reach you in time, and notify me of all costs involved.

Hope to see you again, soon!

Mary H. Wells
Las Vegas, Nevada

Chuck:

I would like to express a special "Thank You" for your support in Las Vegas. If you can attend one of the sessions, please drop us a note and we'll roll out the red carpet. Congratulations on a great job in Vegas.

Thanks Again.

Tim Schliebe
Director of Athletics
Storm Meadows Athletic Club

From Pat & Gerry

Dear Bob:

Pat and I wish to extend our sincere thanks to all the wonderful people who made our marriage in Las Vegas a most memorable one. We will never forget the enthusiasm and well wishes shown by the people attending and working the tournament nor, the interest shared by the management of the Tropicana.

Two who helped immeasurably were Barbara Cohn, Public Relations gal for the Tropicana, who also, as a personal favor, was our bridesmaid; and Chuck Leve for standing in as best man and helping to see that everything ran smoothly.

We were sorry that you and your lovely wife Evie were unable to attend and hope that she has fully recovered from her illness. However, the "pearls of wisdom" given to us during the dinner about the love shared between you and Evie has given us something to work towards.

Our warmest thanks to you and everyone who helped us to start our life off without an "avoidable hinder".

Our most sincere thanks.

Pat & Gerry Lapierre
Cleveland, OH

Another Thank You

Dear Mr. Kendler:

I am writing you a letter to thank you for all you did for me on this year's racquetball tour. You have opened so many doors for me, I could not begin to tell you how much I am thankful. I have met so many more racquetball players and fans that I probably never would have met without your support.

And Bob, for one sure thing you have the best team I have ever seen. I am talking about Chuck Leve, Joe Ardito and Gordy Pfeifer. They have been so great to me. I don't know where to start to thank them for all they did for me. Even though I did not talk to Gordie Pfeifer during the racquetball season, he gave me some good tips about my game in Las Vegas. Chuck is the all-around nice guy who really broke his back for me this year. And for Joe, he was like a father to me on this year's pro tour. He was always looking out for me, and trying to help me with my game.

Being only 17-years-old it's great to have someone looking out for you. So Bob, with guys like this, I think it is the greatest thing for anyone to have. Once again, thanks a million for your support for me this year. And I hope to play with the N.R.C. next season which I am sure will be bigger and better than ever.

Marty Hogan
St. Louis

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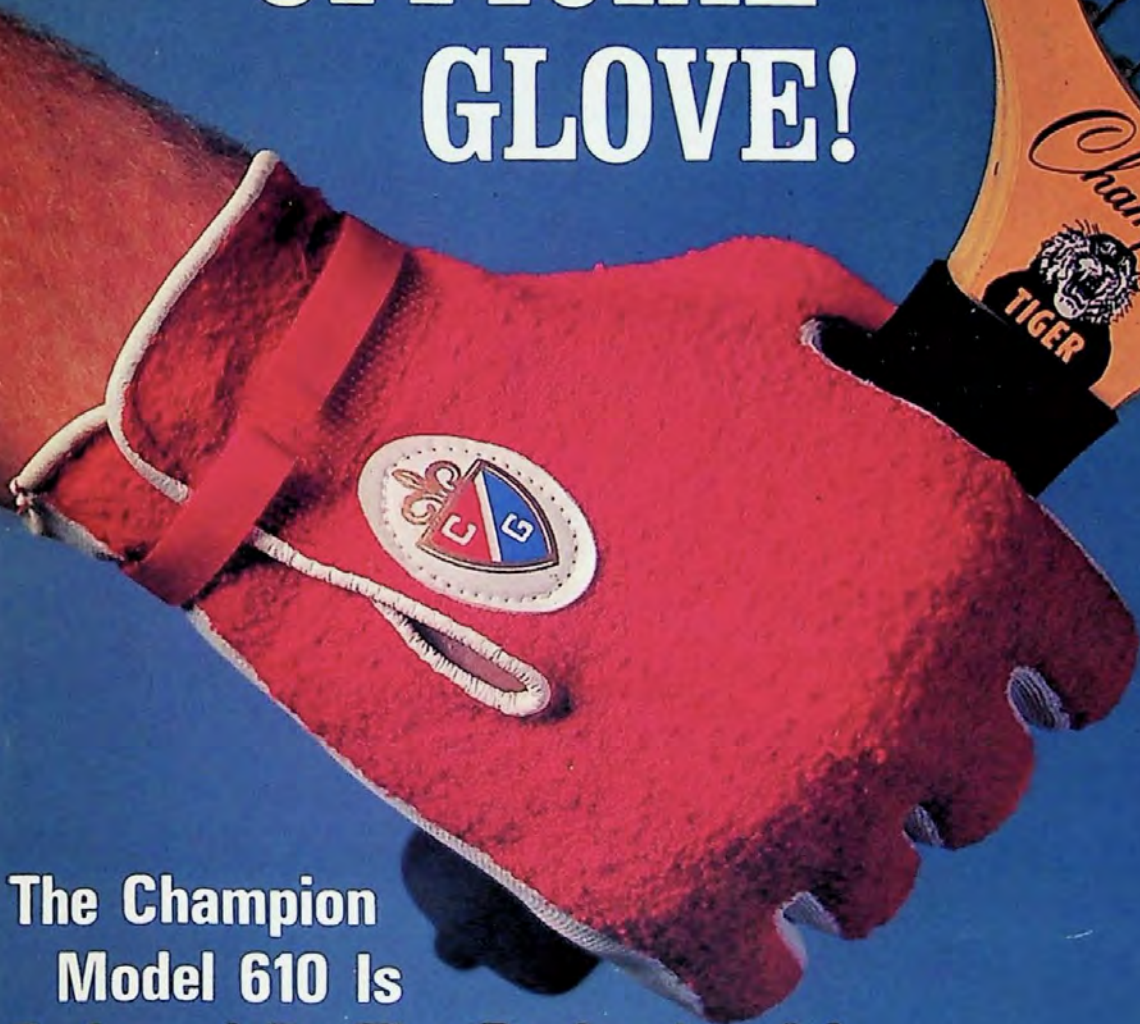
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What More Can We Do? Here's What!

Las Vegas is not going to be an easy act to follow. Both our amateur and professional shows were highly acclaimed by players and spectators alike. We had more entries, more spectators, more prize money and more events than we, or anyone else ever had. We are proud that the racquetball world recognizes our leadership in this great sport.

You won't find us sitting on our laurels, - in fact you will find us working hard to improve our product, - the promotion of racquetball. We are flattered that some people have chosen us as an example, - "the penalty of success," as the saying goes, "is imitation." We have made it very easy for anyone to follow in our footsteps, not only in running tournaments, but also in the building of court clubs. We give away thousands of plans and specifications annually and follow that with considerable cash to promising young players.

But there is so much more to do. We have taken two important steps in the last few weeks to improve our overall program. The first is the National 3-Wall Outdoor Tournament, - held for the first time on regulation courts with full side walls. This will be Labor Day weekend in Toledo, Ohio at a beautiful eight court complex. The tournament will be held side-by-side with the National Handball 3-Wall, as we prove once again that the two court sports can grow together and complement each other.

The second step is equally important, if not more so. This is the organization of the first ever National Juniors Championships, to be held over the Christmas Holidays in Orlando, Florida. This tournament will be exclusively the pride and joy of the juniors, with play for boys 18 and under, girls 18 and under, and a 15 and under bracket for boys and girls. The Orlando Y.M.C.A. has tentatively accepted the host responsibilities and we feel that this event will be one of the highlights of the season.

We plan to give each participant coming from over 500 miles away a part of his travel costs based on the distance. We are currently negotiating with the world-famous Disney World for a tour for the youngsters. It's hard to tell how many participants will be there, but one thing we can guarantee, - they'll all have a great time!

The results of Las Vegas are still coming in. We know that you are all anxiously awaiting word about national television coverage of the tournament, and all we can tell you is be patient. As soon as our representatives in New York have a firm time, we will inform the entire racquetball world. Without questions, that day will be racquetball's biggest in history.

There is no question that our efforts have taken a great deal of hard work. Las Vegas was a tremendous challenge, the tour was hard work, planning the season was not easy, and this magazine is a great effort. But let no person misunderstand, - we love the hard work of building a new sport. That has always been the key to our success.

Bob Kendler

NATIONAL RACQUETBALL CLUB INC.

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