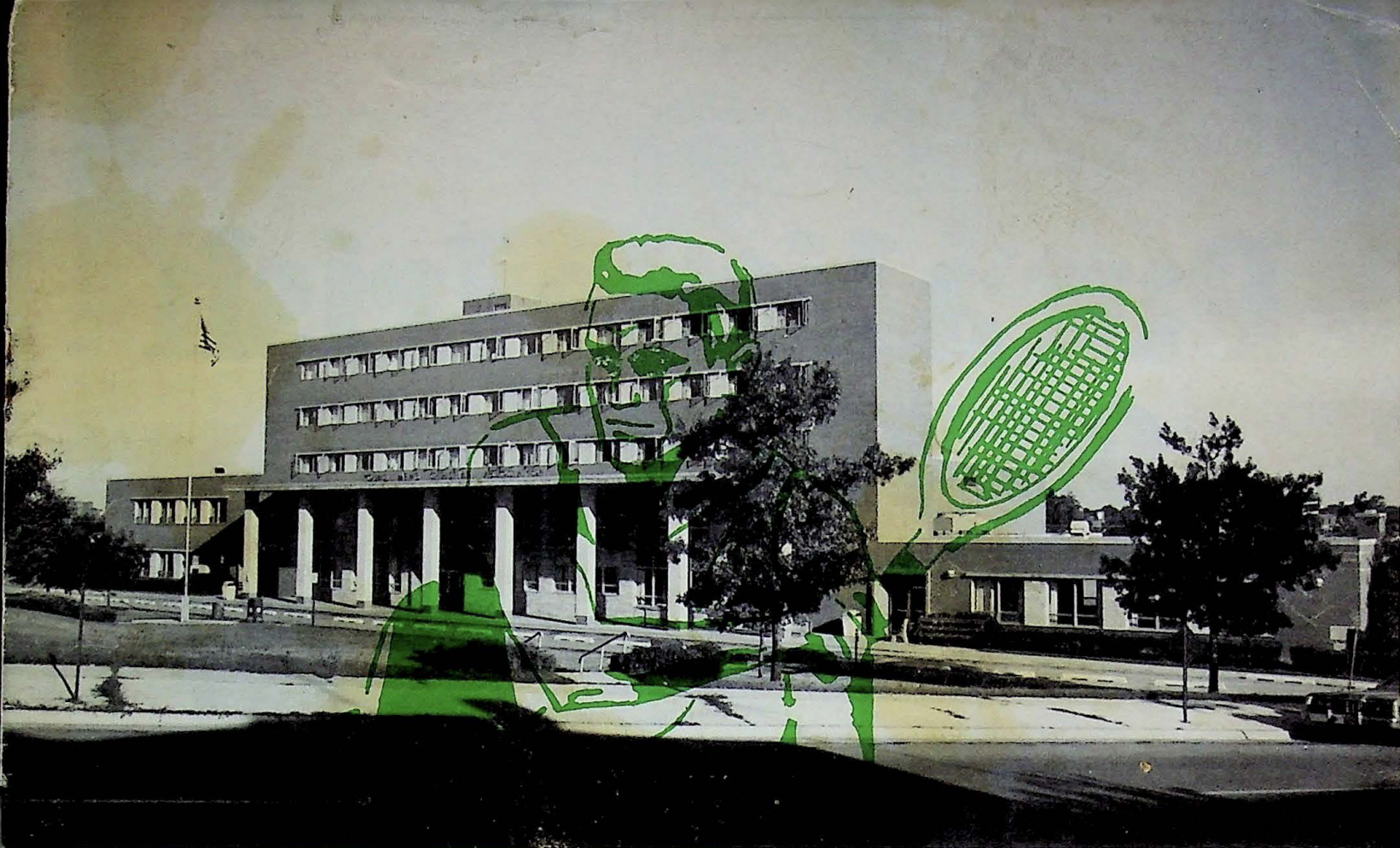




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The Aurora YMCA, where this tournament is to be held, has one of the finest facilities in the midwest. They have five new racquetball courts and a glass court which is one of the nicest in the country and can accommodate 350-400 spectators.

We in Aurora are most happy that you are meeting here. You can be assured that you and your families will receive the complete hospitality of our city. I hope your visit is a most enjoyable one.

Sincerely,

jlv



## N. R. C. PRO-AM SCHEDULE

| Date            | City                    | Site                                | Prize Money |
|-----------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| September 19-22 | Oceanside, Calif.       | Gorham's Sport Center               | \$4,600     |
| October 24-27   | Vancouver, B.C., Canada | M.A.R.C.                            | \$4,000     |
| November 14-17  | Aurora, Illinois        | Y.M.C.A.                            | \$5,000     |
| December 12-15  | Cleveland               | Executive Club                      | \$4,000     |
| January 16-19   | Sunnyvale, Calif.       | Supreme Court                       | \$5,000     |
| February 13-16  | Minneapolis             | The Court House                     | \$5,000     |
| March 13-16     | Milwaukee               | Milwaukee HB/RB Club                | \$5,000     |
| April 20-25     | Las Vegas               | Tropicana Hotel/<br>Univ. of Nevada | \$15,000    |

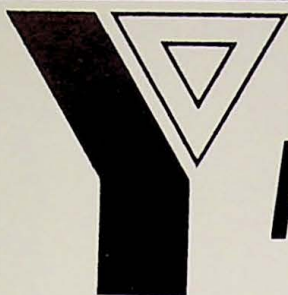
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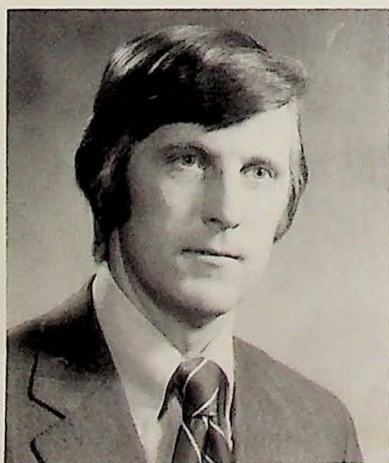
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Dear Racquetball Enthusiast:

What a great pleasure it is to host our 1st Mid-west Pro-Am Open. On behalf of all of our members, staff and board of directors, we bid all the players, officials and guests, a sincere and warm welcome.

We look forward to seeing the greatest display of racquetball talent ever seen in our area. I personally want to thank all of you who advertised in this program, and urge your continued support of our Aurora YMCA.



We wish the "Pros" and amateurs the very best of luck and heartily encourage all of you to use our facilities.

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(Left to Right) — Jim Stotz, YMCA Physical Director; Benn Eilert, Tournament Co-chairman; John McKee, Ticket Chairman, and Roger Beck, Hospitality Chairman.

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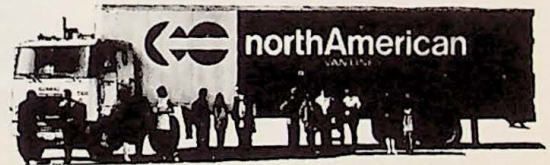
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## THE DRAW

Seedings and match pairings for N.R.C. tournaments are based on results in previous pro-am tourneys. A seeding committee chaired by National Director Chuck Leve, seeds the top player and places him at the top of the draw, then the second ranked player goes at the bottom.

From there, players three and four are chosen, and a coin is flipped, deciding which player goes at the bottom of the top bracket.

Players five through eight are then determined based on point standings and their places in the bracket are chosen by luck of the draw. Players nine through 16 are placed in a likewise manner. The remaining 16 slots to a round of 32 are filled by luck of the draw.

The benefits of this manner of draw are twofold. First, the tournament is given balance by separating the top players on opposite sides of the tourney. Secondly, it is fair, by determining opponents by a blind draw.

## Current N. R. C. Player Rankings

| Rank         | Player                  | Prize Money |
|--------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| 1 (tie)..... | Steve Serot .....       | \$2,000     |
|              | .....Steve Keeley ..... | 2,000       |
| 3 .....      | Dan Alder .....         | 1,000       |
| 4 .....      | Mike Zeitman .....      | 680         |
| 5 .....      | Ron Rubenstein .....    | 500         |
| 6 .....      | Richard Wagner .....    | 360         |
| 7 (tie)..... | Charlie Drake .....     | 215         |
|              | .....Joe Ycaza .....    | 215         |
|              | .....Jim Trent .....    | 215         |

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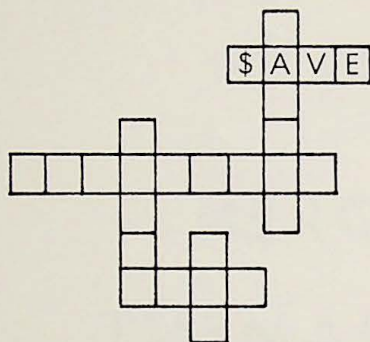
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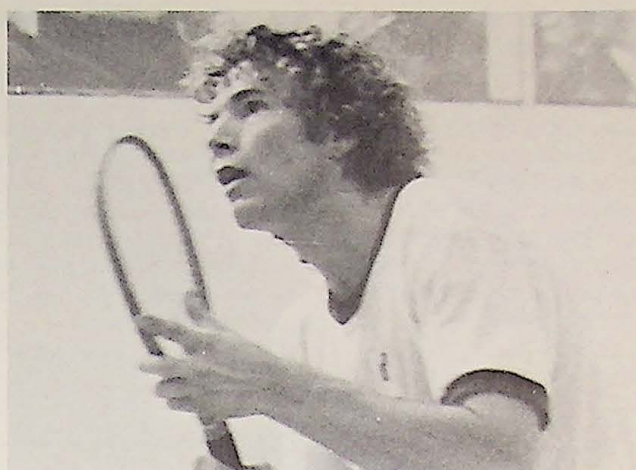
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**RACQUETBALL TOURNAMENT**  
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STEVE SEROT . . . ST. LOUIS . . . 18 years old and at the top of the ladder. You can't get much better than young Mr. Serot. This 6' 2" southpaw can do amazing things with a racquetball, some of which makes one wonder about the credibility of the matter versus anti-matter physics laws. Hitting a booming forehand and ferocious backhand is just Steve's preamble, for he controls every other necessary skill to be a true champion. Last year's leading money winner, he lost to Keeley in Oceanside but topped the field in Vancouver. Steve is the only player with enough raw power to totally dominate his opponents. "I've seen him go for kills," says another pro, miss the shot, and have it be a winning pass shot. That's how hard he hits the ball."



STEVE KEELEY . . . SAN DIEGO . . . Winner of this year's first pro-am tournament in Oceanside, California, veterinarian Steve was at the pinnacle of his game doing it, with a strong two-game effort over Steve Serot. With his golden curly locks flowing through the court, Keeley's combination of shooting and finesse puts him in racquetball's upper echelon. A two-time paddleball national champ (1971, 1973), the strength needed to play paddleball has certainly extended to Steve's racquetball game. A master at the ceiling ball, Steve can also play control racquetball, yet he is better known for his crowd pleasing unusual shots, ie, backhand overhead deep court corner kills, etc. Whether Steve's choice of shots equals his ability to make them, is questionable, but you can't argue with success.

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KEN WONG . . . ST. LOUIS . . . Little Ken, the shortest player on the tour at 5' 6" has one of the most exciting styles of play there is. A former squash player, this 28 year old dynamo gives total effort at all times. Ken still shows signs of his squash upbringing, using many side-wall front-wall shots and excellent passing strategy. But that same background has led to the "Wong kill," which in effect is no kill shot at all, being about a foot off the floor. The phrase, taken by Wong in the humorous vein in which it was intended, has come to mean any attempted kill that is left "up". To play Ken is to run, for he takes advantage of his fine conditioning.



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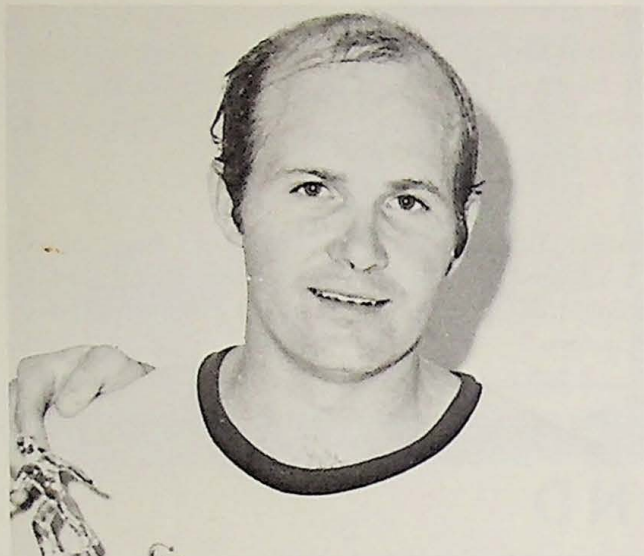
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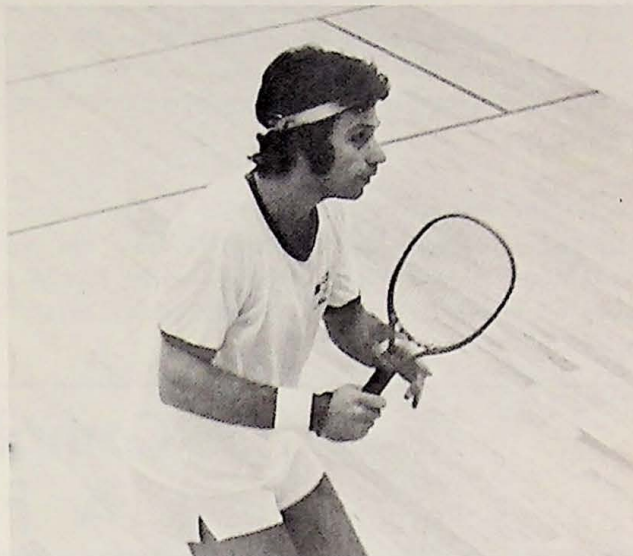
MIKE ZEITMAN . . . SAN DIEGO . . . Steady improvement has marked Mike's game over the past few years culminating in two solid performances in the N. R. C.'s tournaments. Owner of all the shots and unblemished form, at 25 years old, Mike can be expected to begin picking up some National tourney wins soon. Two-time Southern Regional champion, and two-time National Doubles champ, Mike has been to the winner's circle before. He lost to Dan Alder in the Oceanside N. R. C. event and then was topped by Serot in three games in Vancouver. He's on the verge of big things in racquetball, and they could be now.



CHARLIE DRAKE . . . SAN DIEGO . . . As are many of the west coast's top racquetball stars, Charlie Drake is a former Midwesterner and a grad of Michigan State University. Now 30 years old and living in San Diego, Drake heads the racquetball division of Leach Industries. A doctor of behavioral psychology and teaching professor at the University of San Diego are additional occupations to keep Charlie occupied. Seems like almost too much work to get in any racquetball, but Charlie's fierce competitive drive does not allow him to relax his game. A former paddleball player, Drake has worked hard to meet the daily competition in San Diego.



RON RUBENSTEIN . . . CHICAGO . . . The "grand old man" of the tour will be 36 in April, 1975, but you'd hardly know it from his domination of the sport in Illinois. There have been four state tournaments in the Land of Lincoln and Rubenstein has won them all. He captured the Central Regional championship three times and finished as high as second nationally (1972). Ruby's game is marked by pin-point shooting, with exceptionally effective side-wall front-wall "pinch" shots, both forehand and backhand. A former high school and college basketball and tennis great, Ron has long had the vital eye-hand co-ordination necessary for racquetball.



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## PLAYERS TO WATCH —

**RON STROM** — This powerful lefty, playing out of the Twin Cities, features a booming southpaw forehand and good backhand. He's 28 years old, a former high school teacher and coach, now managing a court club in St. Paul.

**DAN ALDER** — This San Diego champ has won \$1,000 in two N. R. C. pro events this season, one with an impressive win over Mike Zeitman. Dan is a Michigan native and currently makes his living playing and teaching racquetball.

**RICH WAGNER** — This 17 year old youngster has resided in San Diego with the intent to learn the game from the best. Being tutored by Steve Keeley, he has improved his game to the point where Keeley says, "he can beat all but the **very best.**"

**GORDON KELLY** — This Grand Rapids, Michigan native is a pilot for United Air Lines. His game is marked by consistency and strategy. He doesn't impress many at first glance, but he always gives a good account of himself.

**PAUL IKIER** — Now helping to run a Minneapolis court club, Paul has been under the tutelage of former champ Bill Schmidtke. He's young (20) and fast and can give any player a threat at any time.

**RANDY STAFFORD** — This 20 year old from Memphis State University is one of the fast rising stars on the racquetball scene and he is capable of beating any player at any time.

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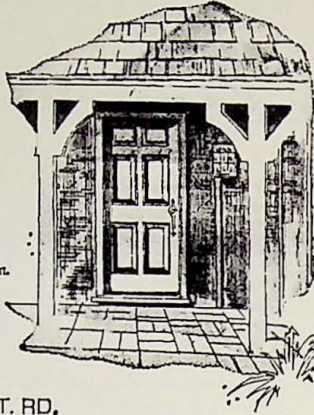
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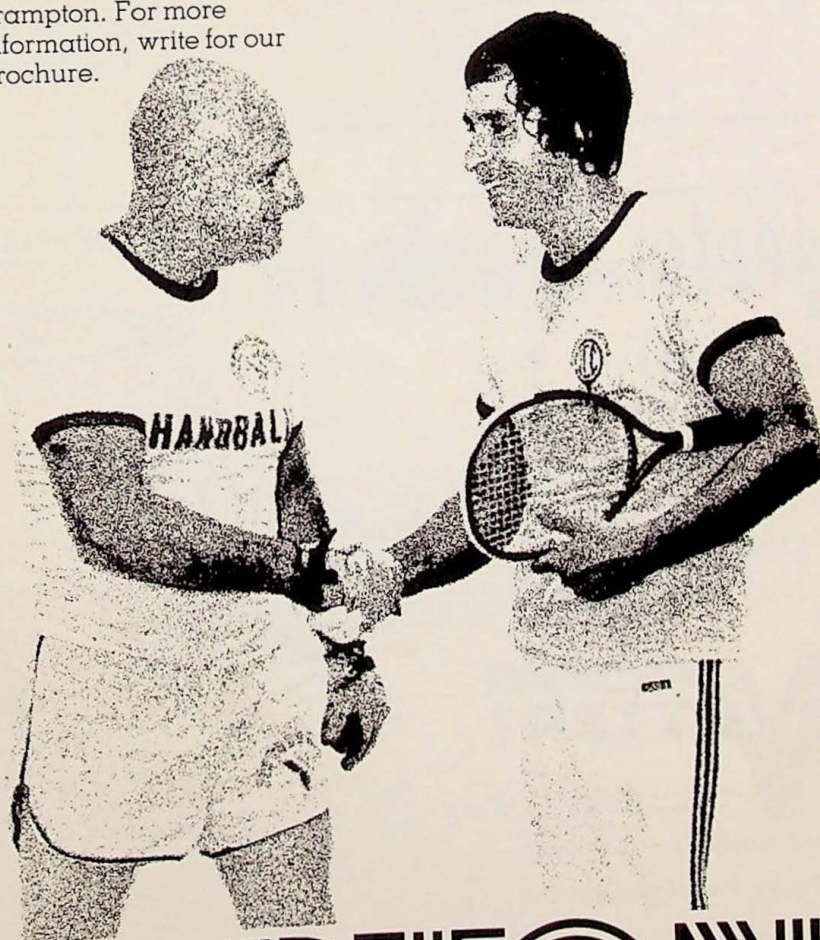
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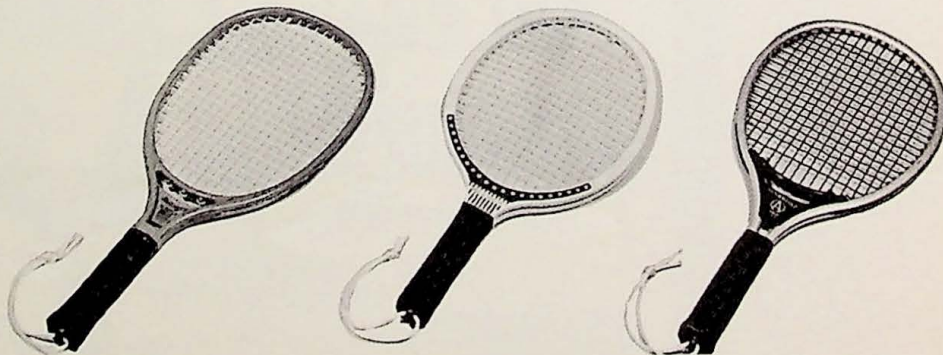
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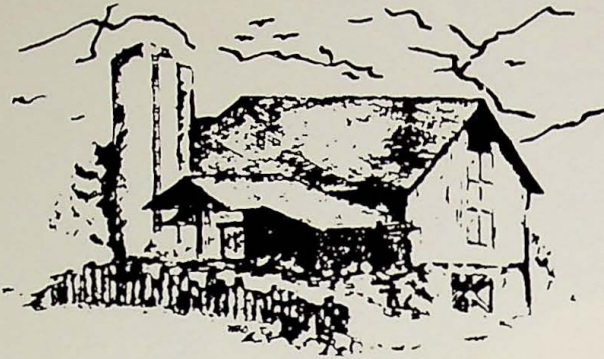


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## Meet The N.R.C.

### ROBERT W. (BOB) KENDLER

Bob Kendler, at age 70 still a dynamo on the court, is the father of all the court sports. Before racquetball was ever imagined, this Milwaukee born real estate giant was wowing the spectators on the handball court. And if you've been following handball or racquetball for a few years, then you know the story of court sport success that has followed Bob.

In 1951, at the urging of his fellow players, and in an attempt to right what were then and still are inconsistencies in the amateur code, Bob formed the U.S. Handball Association. At that time the Amateur Athletic Union (A.A.U.) had total jurisdiction over the sport of handball, but not for long. Within two years, virtually every player of stature had joined the U.S.H.A.

Under Kendler's leadership, the U.S.H.A. grew to a strong and healthy body, the true voice of handball. Its publication **ACE** magazine (since changed to **HANDBALL**) has become the recognized Bible of the sport.

In 1968 Kendler culminated what had been a several year study and monitoring, and formed the International Racquetball Association. As President Bob led the I.R.A. to four and one-half years of unbelievable growth, both in memberships and income. During his term of office, **RACQUETBALL** magazine was born.

Then, in April of 1973 he became disenchanted with some of the policies set down by the I.R.A.'s Board of Directors, policies which he felt were not the natural evolution of the game and that organization. He resigned as I.R.A. President and organized the National Racquetball Club (N.R.C.), in an effort to promote racquetball on both the professional as well as amateur level.

He succeeded in signing the game's foremost 14 players to N.R.C. contracts and began organizing a pro-am tour for the 1973-74 racquetball year. This tournament is one of those pro-am stops.

As President of the N.R.C., and like all N.R.C. personnel, Bob would like to hear your comments about racquetball. You'll see him all over the club this weekend. If something's on your mind about the sport, stop and let him answer your questions.

### JOE ARDITO

The newest member of the staff of the National

Racquetball Club is business manager and national commissioner, Joe Ardito. Another "refugee" from handball lore, Joe brings with him limitless court sport experience, in both racquetball and handball.

Joe was on hand at both the Houston and Long Beach N.R.C. tournaments and has played a key role in the growth and success of the pro-am concept. A Chicago native, Joe has been instrumental in organization of the Illinois Handball Association and currently has begun to take an active role in racquetball happenings not only nationally, but locally as well.

As business manager, he has been involved in finding sources of income for the new-born N.R.C. Joe was the key figure behind the endorsement and subsequent contract between the N.R.C. and Champion Glove Company. As National Commissioner he has earned the respect of all the pro players as a fair, but firm enforcer of N.R.C. policies.

### CHUCK LEVE

The one man who has ridden herd on the rise of racquetball is Chuck Leve. Signed by Bob Kendler as Executive Secretary of the I.R.A. upon his graduation from college, Chuck quickly assimilated his talents to this babe of a sport.

Racquetball and Leve became synonymous. At his encouragement, and anxious to put to use his journalism degree, **RACQUETBALL** magazine was okayed by Bob Kendler and in November of 1973 it came off the presses. As Executive Secretary of the I.R.A., Leve saw the membership increase 1000 per cent in three years. One could never attend a major tournament without seeing Chuck there, on the job, taking notes, photos, refereeing matches, taping interviews, and quietly seeing to it that each tournament was a total success.

When Bob Kendler left the I.R.A., Chuck was offered the directorship of both organizations and he chose to remain with Kendler and the new N.R.C. Feeling that the future of the sport was in the pro-am concept, Chuck has put all his efforts into making the N.R.C. go.

**NATIONAL RACQUETBALL** magazine is his creation, and the present format of pro-am play, with a large emphasis on amateurs, is also his brainchild.

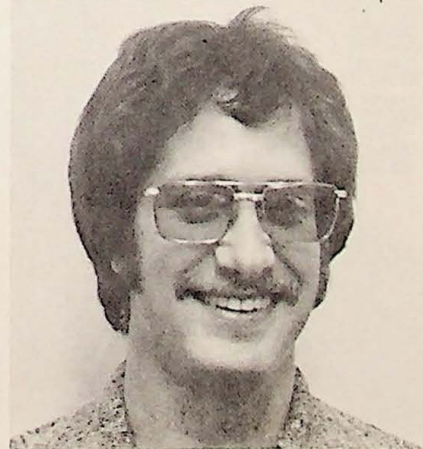
As for his playing ability, Chuck says, "I consider my entry fee a donation."



KENDLER

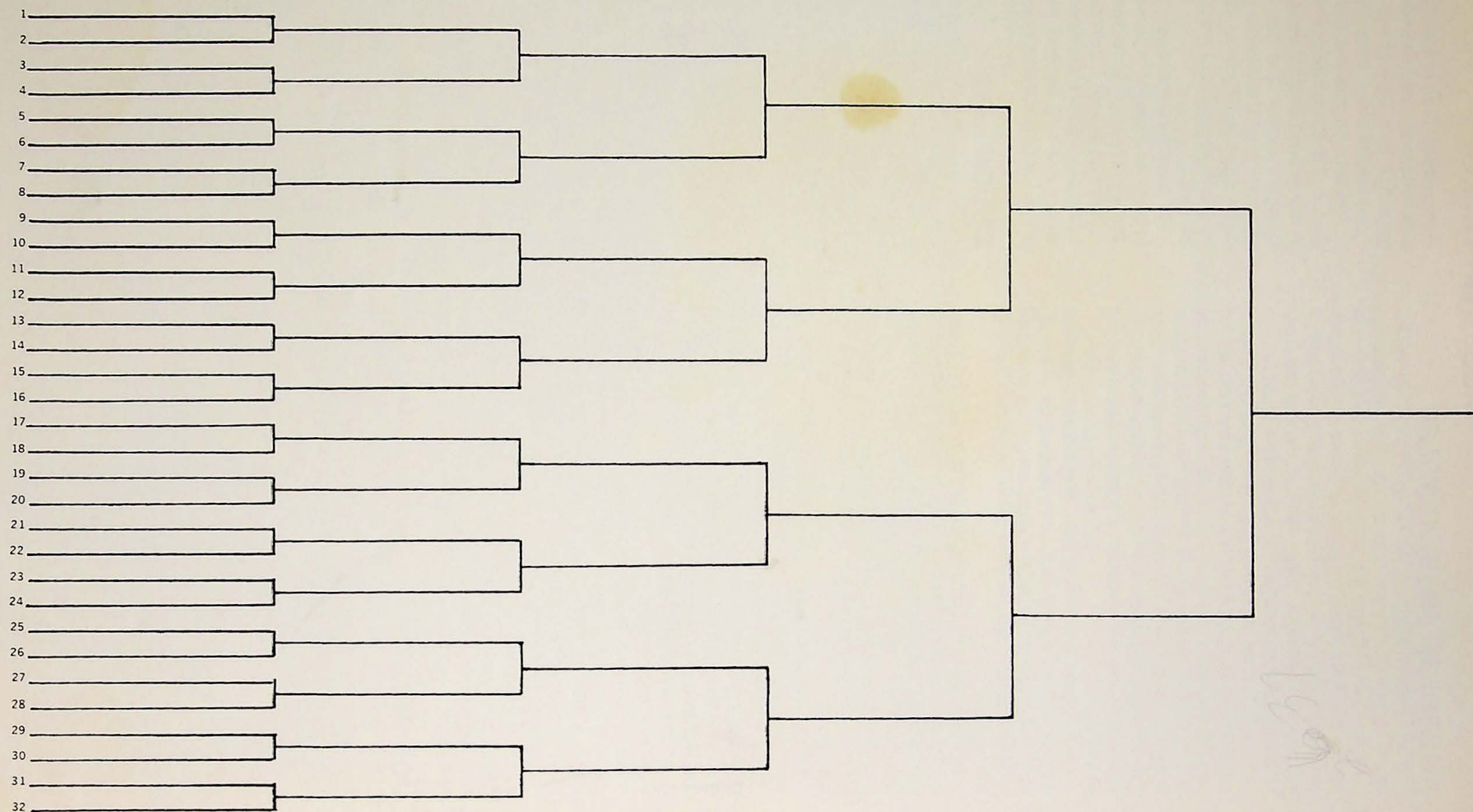


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