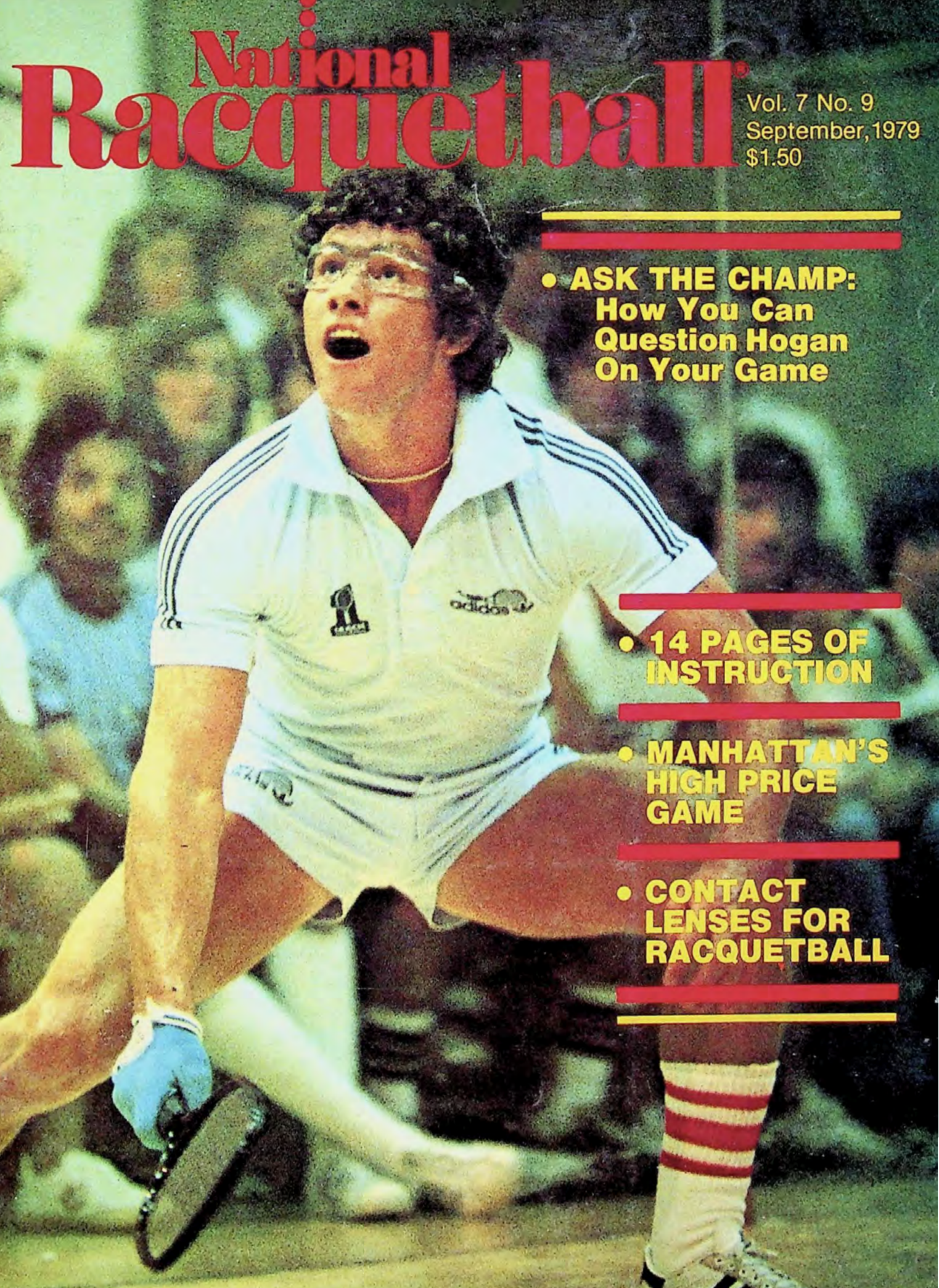


National Racquetball



Vol. 7 No. 9
September, 1979
\$1.50

-
- **ASK THE CHAMP:
How You Can
Question Hogan
On Your Game**

-
- **14 PAGES OF
INSTRUCTION**

-
- **MANHATTAN'S
HIGH PRICE
GAME**

-
- **CONTACT
LENSES FOR
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**When you're backed up against the wall
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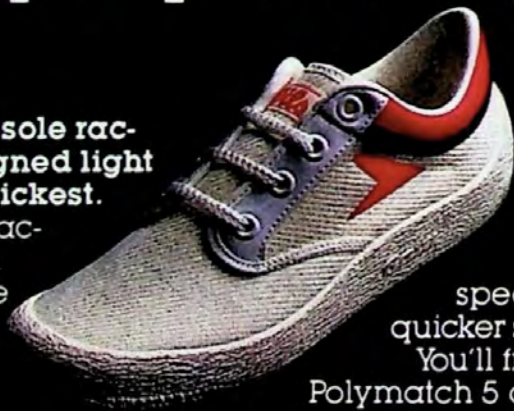
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National Racquetball®

Vol. 7 No. 9
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On The Cover . . .

Marty Hogan, seen here as he successfully defended his national professional championship, will be starting an exclusive instructional series for National Racquetball. For full details, see page 16.

— Photo by Arthur Shay

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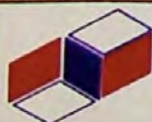
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What Have You Done For Racquetball Today



I suppose every player has the will, wish, and desire to do something for racquetball in return for the good he has derived from it. Sad though it may seem, the inescapable fact is that there are both Givers and Takers in what I like to think is the noble task of making more attractive alternatives available to inner city youth. Not everyone does his share even though everyone of us has been blessed in one way or another by the sport of racquetball, by what we have given of ourselves, or by what the game has given us. Years before Charles M. Schwab had become head of one of the nation's largest steel companies, he worked for the legendary Andrew Carnegie. The little Scotsman taught his young employee the hard lesson of the commercial world: *"One day's laurels are of little use on the next."* *"All records broken yesterday,"* Schwab once wired his chief. In reply to that message Carnegie telegraphed back *"But what have you done today?"*

Charles Schwab's success in life was the direct result of learning one of life's most important lessons: But what you done *today*? Not just what have you done for the known, but also what have you done for the unknown, the unfortunate the underprivileged? What are you and I doing today to help our fellowman?

We can look back with pride . . . considerable pride. When we think of the sum total we have spent equipping orphanages, helping handicapped children, donating courts, awarding scholarships,

financing promising Juniors, supporting deserving tournaments and general contributing products and funds to State Associations as well as to striving neighborhood groups. We feel we have made an honest effort to devote encouragement and material assistance to the welfare of the community. More than one million dollars has found its way back to the sport because we believe we should do something for racquetball *everyday*! You can help us do even more if you will just volunteer to help your State or Local Association promote tournaments.

The many personal deeds that are a regular part of our daily life have always gone unsung, but it is certainly no secret that the modern game, the miracle of glass, the current rules, the whole structure of both amateur and professional tournaments for men and women alike are the product of our labor. The small fortune that we spent on research, on experiments, on promotion and club development is truly a great and continuing contribution to this sport. It is what we are doing *everyday*!

When I think of the millions of hours and the millions of dollars that went into the development of the United States Racquetball Association and the National Racquetball Club, you can't help but be inspired by the part every one of you played. For without you — the thousands of unpaid volunteers — there would be no national racquetball structure. What

we have, we can boast about, and I — for one — am very grateful. But we must continue to support them to the best of our abilities. What we do today and tomorrow is even *more* important!

There are millions of players who share our racquetball moral and ethical values. In your own community there are young people who would be grateful to you for the rest of their days if they could benefit from your experience in racquetball. What are you doing to help them discover what racquetball can do for their lives? What are you doing to give your fine state and local organizations the leadership they need and deserve? What all of us are doing today, through our daily activities, will influence *more* people to join our racquetball fraternity and extend its lifetime benefits.

Charles Schwab's success in life was the direct result of learning one of life's most important lessons: But what have you done *today*?! This reminds me of the memo pads printed with these words: *"Write it down, follow through, do it now!"*

Our strength today comes from what we built yesterday. But remember . . . Andrew Carnegie said it first . . . *"What have you done today?!"* ●

Evie & Bob Kendler

Evie and Bob Kendler

There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all, and in you all.
Ephesians 4, Verses 4 to 6

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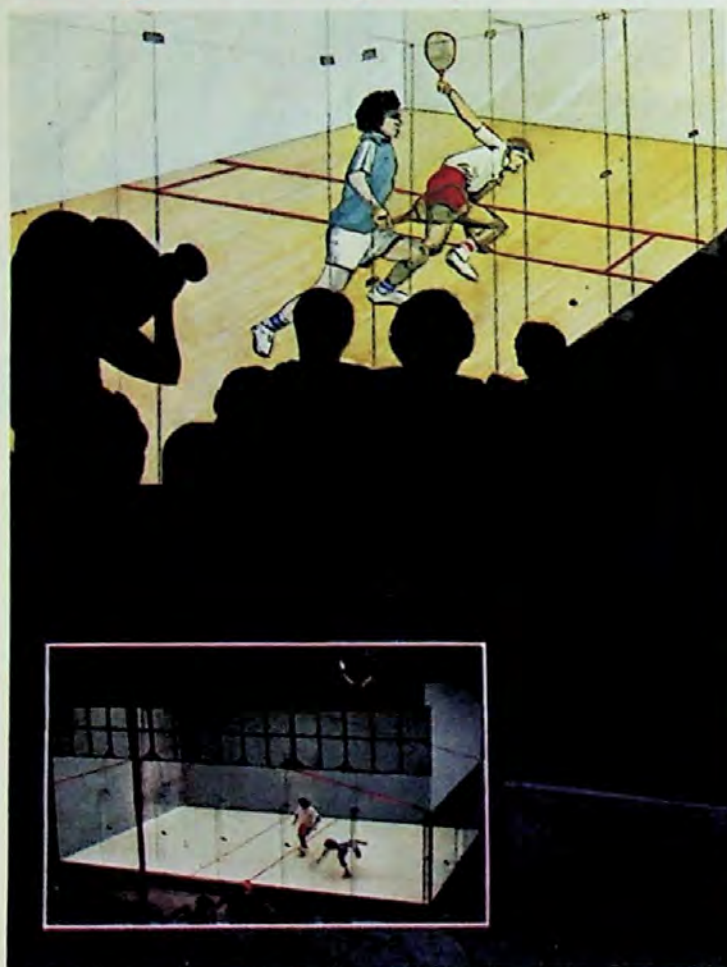
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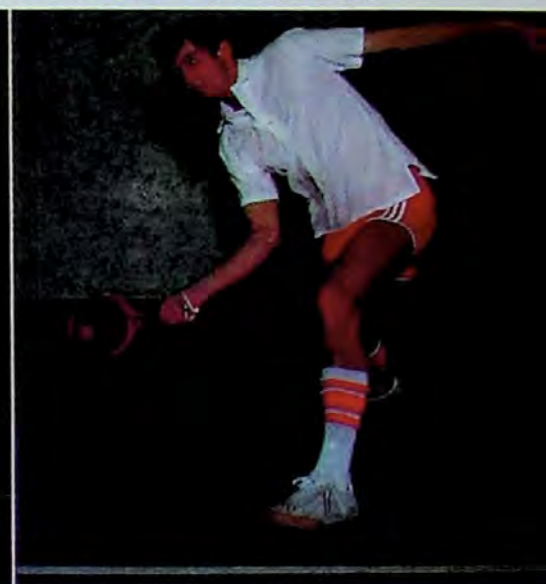
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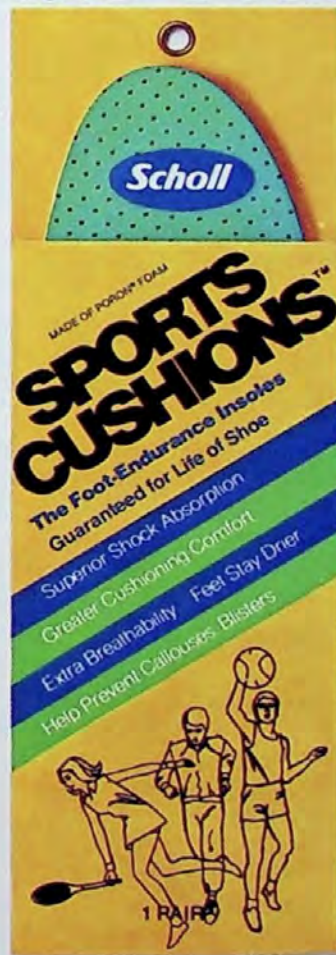
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THEY FINISH THE JOB YOUR SHOES ONLY START.



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Rule Changes In Effect Now

Rule changes are the order of the day. After months of consultation and on the court examination, plus the recommendations of key people within the industry, the USRA and NRC have implemented a number of rule changes.

These changes are explained below in generally layman's language, although the official rule book will carry them in slightly different verbiage.

Probably the most significant change is: *it will no longer be legal to "rush" the serve.* That's the situation when the receiver races toward the short line and blasts the ball on the fly as it barely crosses the short line. Safety is the primary factor here, and even the professional players have little control over their shot when they rush the serve.

To prohibit this shot *it will be illegal to strike a return of serve on the fly in front of the receiver's five foot restraining line.* (As before the receiver must wait until the ball is served before he or she crosses the five foot line.)

The practical application of this rule change will be as follows. When the serve is struck, the receiver may then cross the five foot line as long as he strikes the serve on the first bounce. If the ball has not bounced, he may not hit it. The receiver may strike the ball on the short hop or retreat and take it in deep court.

Any serve which passes the five foot line in the air may be hit on the fly, such as deep lobs or Z's.

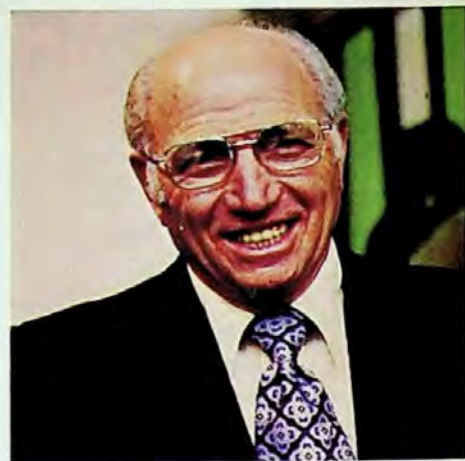
The second change is one that has been a long time coming — the *elimination of the glove change as a "free" time out.* From now on a glove change will be counted as one of the player's three time outs per game.

The previous situation caused a decided advantage to those players who elected to wear gloves, and the truth is that there is plenty of time in normal stoppages of play for a player to put on a new glove.

The third change is a *shortening of the forfeiture time in tournaments from 20 minutes to 10 minutes.* From now on, if a player does not show by 10 minutes after the scheduled time of the beginning of the match, a forfeit may be awarded by the tournament director.

A fourth change will henceforth prohibit the calling of time outs after the referee has called the score. In other words, once the player's concentration has been turned to the next serve or reception, no time outs will be allowed. This may force players to think a little more in advance than they're used to, but I'm sure they'll be able to handle it.

Change five is legal adoption of a rule change that was implemented toward the end of the pro tour and used in the National Championships — *allowing either linesman to call foot faults.* In any match where linesmen are used either linesman (as well as the referee) may call a foot fault. Foot fault calls are not appealable.



The last change made involves the *color of a player's uniform.* The wording in the rule book will be altered from "white or bright colors" to "Color is optional provided, in the judgment of the referee, it does not affect the opposing player's view of the ball."

Cases where a player's view of the ball may require a change of uniform would be a green shirt and/or shorts that match the green ball; an all black uniform for black ball events, or a uniform with a distracting symbol or pattern.

The penalties for violations of these new rules will be as follows:

- Any receiver who returns the serve on the fly in front of the five foot line will automatically lose the point.
- If a player attempts to take a glove change without having the time out left, he is subject to a technical foul.
- A technical foul will also be in line if a player tries to call a time out after the score is called by the referee.
- A player whose uniform must be changed (in the opinion of the referee) will be subject to forfeiture (the 10 minute rule) if he does not comply.

I feel strongly that each of these changes are improvements in our game, for safety or just for better play. They are all effective immediately. ●



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Shannon Wright



Davey Bledsoe



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and practice, practice, practice.**

Mike Yellen



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Take it from Mike Yellen and Jennifer Harding. They've earned their place at the top through talent, a love of the game, good equipment and a lot of



sweat. But it pays off. Mike went to the National Men's Semi-Finals in 1978 in only his second year on the tour, and Jennifer made it all the way to the Women's Finals!

Mike and Jennifer wear Lotto because they know how important it is to have

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Try Lotto. It'll bring you a step closer to the finals.



Jennifer Harding

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Ask The Champ Series To Start Next Month



National Racquetball is proud to announce that two time and current national professional champion Marty Hogan has agreed to an exclusive series of instructional articles.

The series, to be called "Ask The Champ," will be a question and answer format utilizing questions sent in by readers and answered by Hogan.

"We'll take the best questions each month and put them to Hogan," said National Racquetball Managing Editor Carol Brusslan. "Marty's responses should make interesting and helpful reading."

The object of the series is to allow players throughout the country to ask Hogan anything about their game, with an emphasis on instruction.

"We feel that our readers deserve a direct communications line with the world's premier player," said Brusslan. "Marty Hogan will answer the questions honestly and directly."

Some suggested questions would be "How can I keep my concentration with a big lead?" "When is it best not to use power?" "What are the proper warm-up exercises?" "What shots can I use to keep my opponent in deep court?"

These questions are examples of the type that readers should send in. But feel free to ask anything about fundamentals, strategy, psychology or preparation for your matches.

Perhaps you have a particular opponent with a particular shot that gives you trouble. Tell Marty about it and let him steer you to victory. ●

Readers should send their questions to:

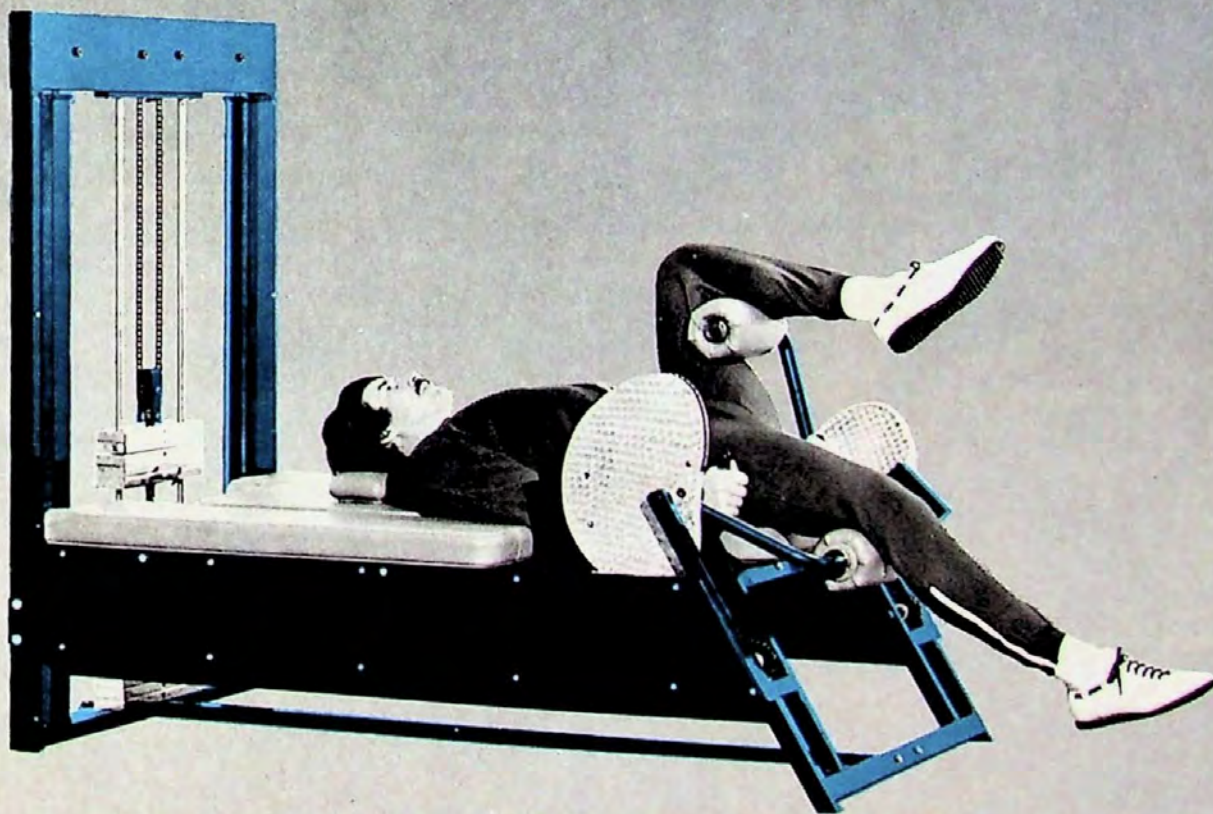
Ask The Champ
c/o National Racquetball
4101 Dempster St.
Skokie, IL 60076 ●

The series will start in the October issue of *National Racquetball*, with answers to some of the 2,000 questions players already have asked Hogan. It will continue with the questions you send to Ask The Champ.



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Bobby Bolan —

The hustle and determination of the championship match is shown here as Bolan goes to the floor to retrieve one of Handley's down-the-line drives.



Home Town Winner

Z Serve works for 20-year-old who spent a year climbing from runner-up to winner.

When 20-year-old Bobby Bolan walked off the center court at the end of the 1978 Nationals, he was the loser.

Beaten in the amateur finals 11-10 in the tie-breaker by Jeff Bowman Bobby knew he had been within inches of victory. But Bowman's part time pro background had given him the edge in experience.

But the skinny kid from Tempe, AZ promised himself that the next year things would be different.

And they were . . . 12 months later Bolan was back, this time acknowledging the applause from the packed crowd at the Arizona Athletic Club in Tempe, and holding the winner's cup in his hands.

Bobby battled to the top of the heap, scrapping and powering his way through the biggest entry ever in a U.S. national racquetball tournament.

Two hundred and thirty-five entries, more than ever before, and without exception the toughest tournament ever held.

On the basis of his last year's performance Bolan was seeded number one, but as he cruised down the draw sheet toward the finals, he could see the confidence sapping sight of other high seeds falling by the wayside.

First down was the number two seed, John Egerman. He was pulverized by number 15 seed, Keith Dunlap, 9 and 13 in the round of 16's. Number five seed, Gary Stephens of Memphis, fell six points short in his tie-breaker against Portland's Dave Retter.

Larry Fox, seeded seven, made it all the way to the quarters, beating Steve Dunlap, who failed to repeat his giant killing win over Egerman. That earned him a semi-final berth against Rich Handley.

Playing in the top-quarter Bolan took Darwin Lunn of Boise 2-8, then Doug Cohen of St. Louis was next 2 and 14 before he came up against the tough seasoned Bruce Radford of Los Angeles, who gave him a hard time. Radford went down 14 in the first, put up more of a fight in the second making it to 19 before the game was over.

Jim Owen was next. The number eight seed was no match for Bolan and that game ended 21-13, 21-10 in the quarter.

Fellow finalist Rich Handley from Los Angeles took out Las Vegas Brett Harnett 9-11 to start his climb to the top.

Floridian Gary Zetrouer was next to go under the Handley hammer 18-9 and Bob Adams from Minneapolis followed 21-11, 21-17. Then it looked like the end of the road for Rich as he crumbled in the first game of his quarter final match against Larry Meyers 12-21. Game two was close and exciting and Rich had to dig deep to come up the winner of that one 21-19. That gave him his first tie-breaker of the tournament and he scraped in the winner 11-5.

So to the semi. Bolan facing Scott Hawkins in one and Handley meeting Larry Fox in other.

It was Hawkins who took an early lead, pulling out to 9-4 before Bolan started to come together.

At 5-10 he trundled in an ace serve for 6, and pinch for 7 and another ace for eight. Hawkins saw the service box two more times without adding on any points, then Bolan caught a string which only ended with the game at 18-10.

The two scored to and fro until 20-18 when some unruly on court behavior by Hawkins, which included a flying

racquet — disputed as to whether it was thrown or slipped, resulted in a technical against him. His 18 points became 17 and Bolan found two more to take the first 21-17.

Game two saw Hawkins play to his high ability level. He pulled out to 5-0, then 9-4, then 13-6 helped with a handful of cracked ace serves. At 15-6 Bolan got back in, rolled his score out to 11 before Hawkins tacked on four more.

Bolan could only muster up two more points before Hawkins got 20, then aced his opponent for the game.

In the tie-breaker Hawkins again pulled out a considerable lead, 5-2 then 6-3, before Bolan took over the box.

An ace made it four, a crack ace made it five, six came with a Hawkins' skip, and Bolan playing front court aggressively made a couple of desperation pinches which demoralized his opponent and earned him two more points.

He got stopped at 8-6, but Hawkins' tenure was limited to the next rally; he won it back again from Bolan, lost it, then got it back and picked up one more point before a series of swaps ended with Bolan taking the tie-breaker 11-9.

Handley had a considerably easier time, taking Larry Fox 21-18, 21-13.

Handley pulled out an early lead in the first game of the finals, going ahead 8-3. Then the two came together at 10-10 before Bolan caught a solid string of points which gave him command of the game.

A backhand kill off a back wall setup gave him 11, and a soft pinch which barely made it to the front wall gave him number 12. Soft pinches accounted for 13 and 14 and 15 and

16 came the same way. Handley got back for one rally with a cross court pass which had Bolans' racquet swinging in air, but next time around Bolan ran up again to 17 when a Handley mis-hit gave Bolan a gift down the line pass for 18. At 13-18 Bolan got airborne with a flying get left up for Handley to roll out.

That got Handley the service box and he added two more points to build his score to 15. He skipped the next one and said goodbye to the game as Bolan turned on the pressure and ran out to 21 with only one more break of service.

Game two saw a motivated Handley try to recapture the initiative. He opened the serving and cranked out to 7-0 before relinquishing the box. Out one rally he came back in and upped his score to eight before Bolan could get onto the scoreboard with a Z ace to make it 8-1. At 6-8 he gave it back and conceded two more points before he got a chance to score again. Another Z ace gave Bolan 7 and a Handley skip made it 8. Then things changed. Handley, up one point, ran his score from 9-8 to 17-8 in one string.

A Bolan backhand rollout gave him 9 points and he followed that with a hard drive into back court that Handley could get to for 10, a pinch into the left hand corner for 11, another pinch for 12, rollout off the back wall for 13 and a reverse pinch which found the sidewall crack for 14. Even after a time out Handley continued to see his lead slip away as Bolan went back to his Z serve, rolling out a weak service return for 15 and watching Handley miss a down the line pass in the glass for 16. Another brief scoreless swap saw Bolan back on the road to victory.

Jumping in the air to avoid getting hit by his down the line pass gave Bolan 17. His next drive serve was short so he went back to his Z serve, which was fine because he aced Handley with it for 18 and the lead.

Just to mix things up a bit he cracked in a drive serve to Handley's forehand and that came up ace, too, for 19 and a short low sidewall Z made it 20. And the game might have ended there had he not skipped his next shot.

Handley found one more point with his name on it after another time out, but Bolan passed him next time around for the final service change . . . two points later he had his racquet held high in victory. *"After last year's defeat I swore that I would do my best to win the title this year. I have been working singlemindedly towards this . . . and it paid off."* explained Bobby after the match.

"I had been working hard on my game, especially on my serves. I got a lot of aces with my drive serve and got a great deal of confidence out of knowing that my Z serve was so strong. It's a good serve and it gave me some aces as well as some easy setups."

"In the second game I was slipping way behind: I tried to relax and just concentrate on getting back into the game because I knew that my serve was going to give me the edge if I could only get it on."

"Playing on my home court helped, too. I use the court a lot and I am used to it, but playing in front of that audience, — wow, the pressure was intense. There were so many people rooting for me, and all my family sitting there in the front row, I knew that I couldn't lose." ●



First Quarter

(First round): Bolan, bye; Lunn d. Gift 21-17, 21-16; Negrete d. Underwood 21-8, 21-6; Hartnett d. Smith, forfeit; Hicks d. Malowitz, forfeit; Ball d. Peters 21-5, 21-13; Ke. Williams d. Avalos 21-14, 21-13; Cohen d. Stoker 21-13, 21-7; Radford, bye; Blystone d. Ochroch 21-0, 21-5; Georges d. Diaz 21-11, 21-6; M. Sayes d. Shapiro 21-8, 21-9; Scheyer d. Jirrells, forfeit; Darnell d. Sorrentino, forfeit; Scales d. S. Silva 21-5, 21-8; Foley d. Larson 21-3, 21-1; Christensen, bye; Roberts d. Stirtz 21-6, 21-19; Florence d. Arias 21-0, 21-3; Weisman d. Wood 21-5, 21-8; Colbert d. Ramos 21-10, 21-10; Bilty d. Mooney, forfeit; Ricketts d. D. Ochoa, forfeit; Bush d. Randolph 21-4, 21-6; Kaihlanen d. Globman 21-1, 21-1; Altmeyer d. Zeig, forfeit; Preston d. Biernier 21-4, 21-13; Wittenbrink d. Romano 21-15, 10-21, 11-7; Loveday d. Deaton 21-15, 21-7; Clossen d. Katz 21-11, 21-8; Dowd d. Hernandez 21-6, 21-6; Owen, bye

(Second round): Bolan d. Lunn 21-2, 21-8; Hartnett d. Negrete 13-21, 21-17, 11-5; Ball d. Hicks 21-14, 21-13; Cohen d. Ke. Williams 21-14, 14-21, 11-3; Radford d. Blystone 21-6, 21-14; M. Sayes d. Georges 21-13, 21-17; Darnell d. Scheyer 21-5, 21-17; Foley d. Scales 20-21, 21-13, 11-9; Christensen d. Roberts 21-4, 21-12; Florence d. Weisman 21-15, 21-16; Colbert d. Bilty 21-6, 21-20; Bush d. Ricketts 21-1, 21-6; Kaihlanen d. Altmeyer 21-9, 21-12; Wittenbrink d. Preston 21-6, 21-8; Loveday d. Clossen 10-21, 21-17, 11-10; Owen d. Dowd 21-14, 21-20

(Third round): Bolan d. Hartnett 21-2, 21-14; Cohen d. Ball 21-10, 21-11; Radford d. M. Sayes, injury default; Darnell d. Foley 21-5, 14-21, 11-10; Christensen d. Florence 21-8, 21-7; Bush d. Colbert 21-10, 21-8; Kaihlanen d. Wittenbrink 21-12, 20-21, 11-10; Owen d. Loveday 21-6, 21-16

(Fourth round): Bolan d. Cohen 21-13, 21-10; Radford d. Darnell 17-21, 21-18, 11-10; Christensen d. Bush 21-17, 21-9; Owen d. Kaihlanen 9-21, 21-20, 11-4

(Fifth round): Bolan d. Radford 21-14, 21-19; Owen d. Christensen 21-17, 11-21, 11-8

(Quarters): Bolan d. Owen 21-13, 21-10



With exaltation Bolan gives the victory salute along with USRA president Bob Kendler with (l. to r.) Handley, USRA's Dan Bertolucci and Bolan's sponsor Neil Asprea looking on.

All photos of Colgate Pro/Am National Championships '79 at Arizona Athletic Club, Tempe, AZ by Arthur Shay

(Semi-finals): Bolan d. Hawkins 21-17, 13-21, 11-9; Handley d. Fox 21-8, 21-13

(Finals): Bolan d. Handley 21-15, 21-18

Second Quarter

(First round): Stephens, bye; Christian d. Jerry Smith 21-1, 21-6; Sword d. George Fonseca 10-21, 21-15, 11-7; Merrill d. Tessler 21-6, 21-9; Harper d. Michael 21-11, 21-15; Gross d. Strong 21-12, 21-12; Grisz d. Shales 21-6, 21-12; McAuliffe d. Levine 21-7, 21-11; Gibbs d. Huber, forfeit; Stuart d. Lerner, forfeit; Pulliam d. Maffei 19-21, 21-19, 11-2; Cox d. Sutton 21-4, 21-9; Seigel d. Rowberry, forfeit; Nieves d. Charfouros 13-21, 21-12, 11-8; Riehl d. Wilson, forfeit; Retter, bye; R. Dern, bye; Kessing d. Brennan 21-6, 21-7; Fleishman d. Kamalu, forfeit; Moshides d. Hammond 21-2, 21-2; Capitanelli d. Markins 21-6, 21-3; Rezentes d. G. Silva, forfeit; Brown d. Singh 21-17, 21-11; Boss, bye; Wickham d. Lee 21-1, 21-4; Elia d. J. Sturm 21-9, 21-16; Romo d. Guiliano 21-3, 21-7; Bertolucci d. Schmidt, forfeit; Ki, Williams d. Campbell 21-8, 21-7; Henry d. Kellis 21-4, 21-3; Pat McAvin d. Gary Sterns 21-7, 21-9; Hawkins, bye

(Second round): Stephens d. Christian 21-5, 21-7; Merrill d. Sword 21-8, 21-13; Harper d. Gross 21-11, 21-6; McAuliffe d. Grisz 15-21, 21-10, 11-6; Gibbs d. Stuart 21-3, 21-5; Cox d. Pulliam 21-9, 21-13; Siegel d. Nieves 21-14, 20-21, 11-8; Retter d. Riehl 21-6, 21-2; R. Dern d. Kessing 21-19, 21-9; Fleishman d. Moshides 21-14, 21-4; Capitanelli d. Rezentes 21-6, 21-1; Boss d. Brown 21-11, 21-8; Wickham d. Elia 21-1, 21-6; Romo d. Bertolucci 21-4, 21-3; Ki Williams d. Henry 21-15, 21-9; Hawkins d. McAvin 21-8, 21-9

(Third round): Stephens d. Merrill 21-16, 21-6; McAuliffe d. Harper 21-6, 6-21, 11-5; Gibbs d. Cox 21-12, 21-14; Retter d. Siegel 21-3, 21-14; Fleishman d. R. Dern 21-14, 19-1, forfeit; Boss d. Capitanelli 21-9, 21-8; Wickham d. Romo 21-8, 21-7; Hawkins d. Ki Williams 13-21, 21-20, 11-2

(Fourth round): Stephens d. McAuliffe 21-17, 21-16; Retter d. Gibbs 21-15, 16-21, 11-4; Boss d. Fleishman 21-9, 21-12; Hawkins d. Wickham 21-12, 7-21, 11-4

(Fifth round): Retter d. Stephens 21-18, 18-21, 11-5; Hawkins d. Boss 14-21, 21-13, 11-2

(Quarter): Hawkins d. Retter 21-6, 21-17

Third Quarter

(First round): Handley, bye; Harnett d. Whalen 21-8, 21-7; Hanst d. Bock 14-21, 21-18, 11-10; Zetrouer d. Rosales 21-16, 21-11; Adam d. Johnson 21-2, 21-5; Benavides d. Turner 21-4, 21-5; Fehrenkamp d. Kleaman, forfeit; Mazaroff, bye; Glenn Townsend d. Yeomans 21-2, 21-13; Doyle d. Wolfenbarger 21-12, 21-11; Freeman d. Picayo 21-18, 21-2; Phillippy d. Allen Swanson 21-1, 21-5; Luciw d. Miller 21-8, 21-12; Thompson d. Carley, forfeit; S. Wright, bye; Deuster, bye; Oates d. R. Sturm 21-10, 21-4; Zurborg d. Keefe, forfeit; Remen d. Ramirez 21-10, 21-9; O'Connor d. Groves, forfeit; Felts d. Walmsley, forfeit; Scott d. Jeff Smith, Scottsdale 21-11, 21-3; Lujan, bye; Levine d. Price 21-8, 21-9; Tepe d. Walsh 19-21, 21-11, 11-2; Podgorny d. Hogan 21-7, 21-6; Clark d. Wootan 21-4, 21-4; Dollinger d. Raby 21-7, 21-15; Hoonan d. Bill Varner 21-2, 21-4; Wester d. Lowery 18-21, 21-13, 11-6; Meyers, bye

(Second round): Handley d. Harnett 21-9, 21-11; Zetrouer d. Hanst 21-1, 21-12; Adam d. Benavides 21-11, 21-14; Fehrenkamp, forfeit; Mazaroff d. Doyle 21-20, 21-15; Doyle d. Freeman 15-21, 21-6, 11-3; Phillippy d. Luciw 21-21, 21-8, 11-7; S. Wright d. Thompson 21-1, 21-1; Deuster d. Oates 21-8, 21-14; Remen d. Zurborg 21-7, 21-8; O'Connor d. Felts 21-3, 21-6; Lujan d. Scott 21-2, 21-6; Levine d. Tepe 21-1, 21-6; Podgorny d. Clark 12-21, 21-8, 11-1; Hoonan d. Dollinger 21-15, 21-3; Meyers d. Wester, 21-1, 21-7

(Third round): Handley d. Zetrouer 21-18, 21-7; Adam d. Fehrenkamp 21-3, 21-0; Mazaroff d. Doyle 21-20, 21-15; Phillippy d. S. Wright 15-21, 21-15, 11-4; Deuster d. Remen 21-11, 21-11; Lujan d. O'Connor 17-21, 21-15, 11-10; Prodgorny d. Levine 21-20, 21-18; Meyers d. Hoonan 21-5, 21-7

(Fourth round): Handley d. Adams 21-11, 21-17; Mazaroff d. Phillippy 21-11, 21-9; Deuster d. Lujan 21-18, 21-13; Meyers d. Podgorny 21-12, 21-4

(Fifth round): Handley d. Mazaroff 21-14, 21-15; Meyers d. Deuster 21-14, 16-21, 11-4

(Quarters): Handley d. Meyers 12-21, 21-19, 11-5

Fourth Quarter

(First round): Fox, bye; Childs d. Huleman 21-17, 19-21, 11-10; Merritt d. Johnson 21-4, 21-19; Deskins d. Davolos 21-1, 21-4; Sulli d. Murray 21-6, 21-4; Lovell d. Macias 21-9, 21-17; T. Ochoa d. Page 10-21, 21-19, 11-7; P. Wright d. Davis 21-7, 21-5; Marsocci d. Mathews 21-18, 21-5; Boman d. Manson 21-8, 21-5; Kamalu d. Chris Ripplinger 21-2, 21-2; Lau d. Mark Kaplan 21-6, 21-6; Caskey d. Hank Marcus, forfeit; Mark Martino d. Larry Pristo 21-6, 21-11; Jack Nolan d. Robert Blacksher 21-8, 21-9; Kwartler, bye; Dunlap d. Steger 21-7, 21-19; Sandler d. Gutowitz 21-1, 21-3; Rich Flewellyn d. Brooks 21-2, 21-13; Davidson d. Greenbaum 21-11, 21-6; Champagne d. Flanagan 21-8, 21-8; Stoddard d. Bigelow 21-10, 21-19; Peck d. Fiore 21-11, 21-17; Lusk, bye; Schmitt d. Nittishin 21-16, 21-5; Dreyer d. Bill Austin 21-13, 21-9; Sanford, d. T. Dern 21-16, 19-21, 11-7; T. Sayes d. Cadwalaher 21-6, 21-5; Barrett d. Schatz 17-21, 21-7, 11-8; Tarrantino d. Autry 21-2, 21-4; Andrews d. Stanger, Tempe, 21-11, 21-1; John Egernan, bye

(Second round): Fox d. Childs 21-7, 21-17; Merritt d. Deskins 21-18, 21-15; Sulli d. Lovell 21-7, 21-10; P. Wright d. T. Ochoa 7-21, 21-10, 11-3; Boman d. Marsocci 21-15, 21-8; Kamalu d. Lau 10-21, 21-17, 11-10; Martino d. Caskey 21-5, 21-4; Kwartler d. Nolan 21-18, 17-21, 11-5; Dunlap d. Sandler 21-14, 21-15; Davidson d. Flewellyn 21-11, 21-10; Champagne d. Stoddard 21-4, 21-8; Peck d. Lusk 21-20, 21-17; Dreyer d. Schmitt 21-16, 21-7; T. Sayes d. Sanford 21-13, 21-13; Barrett d. Tarrantino 21-13, 21-12; Egernan d. Andrews 21-12, 21-8

(Third round): Fox d. Merritt 21-15, 21-14; P. Wright d. Sulli 21-7, 21-10; Boman d. Kamalu 21-16, 20-21, 11-6; Martino d. Kwartler 21-19, 21-19; Dunlap d. Davidson 16-21, 21-5, 11-3; Champagne d. Peck 16-21, 21-15, 11-4; T. Sayes d. Dreyer 21-2, 21-16; Egernan d. Barrett 9-21, 21-16, 11-7

(Fourth round): Fox d. P. Wright 20-21, 21-2, 11-5; Boman d. Martino 19-21, 21-12, 11-8; Dunlap d. Champagne 16-21, 21-17, 11-9; Egernan d. T. Sayes 21-11, 21-4

(Fifth round): Fox d. Boman 21-11, 21-19; Dunlap d. Egernan 21-9, 21-13

(Quarters): Fox d. Dunlap 21-20, 21-18

Youth, Experience Bow to Heather

She had played racquetball less in her whole career than the time some tournament players spend on the court in a week, but that didn't stop a 37-year-old Canadian from sailing unhesitatingly to the finals of the womens' amateur division of the Nationals.

She might have been giving away years to her youthful opposition . . . but Heather McKay didn't give away points.

Heather is an internationally recognized squash champion, and her performances in previous racquetball tournaments were enough for her to be given the second seed in the draw.

And she quickly proved that she deserved it.

She got a bye in her first game, then Kay Trepanier found herself in the way of the Canadian comet. She could only score six points in two games before the wipeout.

Next time around it was Joyce Jackson biting the dust in 2 and 6 and paving the way for Barb Faulkenberry, whose skill could only coin nine points in the first game and four in the second.

Playing in her home town didn't help Hope Weisbach who, contrary to her name, had no hope in the quarter-finals clash. She turned in a creditable 11 and 13 points before she, too, followed the rest. Vicki Panzeri was next; she held up strong in her first game trading points to 15 all, before McKay killed for 16, passed her right for 17 passed her again for 18, found a crack to end a

pinch for 19, and a hard serve made it 20. Then 21 just came naturally.

Then a disputed referee's call, followed by a technical one point penalty, had Panzeri demoralized in the second game. That one ended quickly on a 21-6 requiem.

While all this was going on in the lower bracket of the 96 entry tourney, Lynn Adams was making her way to the finals. She got an energy sapping 11-8 tie-breaker victory over Top Seed Susie Dugan to win her place against California player, Laura Martino, in the quarters.

That also was decided in her favor 11-8 in the tie-breaker and she went on to the semi-finals against Peggy Gardner.

Peggy wasn't finding the tournament a bed of roses either. She went three games for a win against Collen Shields before another three next time around against Sheryl Ambler, then again three against Judy Thompson before she got to Glenda Young, who also obligingly lost in the tie-breaker 11-7 in their quarter-final match.

But that's where the winning streak left Peggy. She went down to Lynn Adams 14 and 10.

Which gets us to the finals where McKay, playing for the first time on glass soon found herself in difficulties in back court with visibility problems.

Lynn Adams, number nine seed, opened up with a couple of quick points, before Heather got back into the box and quickly pulled out four

points with a combination of hard serves and well timed passing shots.

They were equal at 8-8 before McKay caught a string which took her to 16-8 before Lynn could get back in. Two more service box changes with only one point for McKay were followed by a three point run which got the score to 17-10. McKay's 17 and 18 points were topped with a crack ace for 19 and it looked like the end was near. Lynn mustered up her opposition to put her score up to 13 before she lost a ball in the glass, conceding the 20th point, and found herself passed for 21.

A mistimed racquet stroke cost McKay a sharp crack on the ankle, which temporarily took away her concentration. She tried to get it back with a time out when she found herself down 7-0 but, back in, she could only pop on two points before she found herself down 2-9. Then she started a string of scoring shots which took her to 8-9 before she relinquished control.

Then with the score at 10-10 Heather began to pull away, using control shots from her squash background. She conceded only one more point before taking the game 21-11.

She explained after the game "My experience on glass is very limited and I was having a lot of problems taking the ball off the back wall, especially in the corners. Several times I mis-hit the ball and gave away easy setups. And I still can't kill the ball; it's hard to forget so many years of squash where all the balls go into the front wall 18 inches up."

Adams, in her first trip to the finals, upset top seed Susie Dugan en route. Note Lynn's eye contact — that's the way to hit the ball!



McKay

Canadian wins
Open the first
time she plays
in Nationals.



Intensity is the
name of the game
and McKay shows hers
in her championship victory
over Adams.

Womens Amateur Results

Upper Bracket

(First round): Dugan, bye; Dalton d. Freitay 21-2, 21-1; Fischer d. Remen, forfeit; Nunn, bye; Peterson d. Khan 21-18, 21-10; Chausauros d. Witzig 21-13, 21-5; Ripplinger d. Sterling 21-9, 21-6; Adams, bye; Martino, bye; Woods d. Fletcher 21-14, 5-21, 11-9; Johnson d. A. Thompson 21-3, 21-5; Hogan, bye; Mougham, bye; Hodson d. Schulte 21-15, 21-6; Iverson d. Loeper 21-13, 21-13; McCarthy, bye; Dee, bye; Kellar d. Brennan 21-11, 21-17; Glaze d. Bell 21-7, 21-18; Nelson, bye; Finkelberg, bye; Paletsos d. Noguchi, forfeit; Rudesill d. Gross 21-15, 21-6; Young, bye; Ambler, bye; Tillotson d. Lanfri 21-1, 21-7; Gardner d. Bohling 21-18, 21-18; Shields, bye; Drury, bye; Mackstaller d. O'Connor 17-21, 21-5, 11-5; Ayala d. Olson 21-3, 21-3; J. Thompson, bye

(Second round): Dugan d. Dalton 21-2, 21-3; Nunn d. Fischer 21-10, 21-9; Peterson d. Chausauros 21-11, 21-14; Adams d. Ripplinger 21-6, 21-3; Martino d. Woods 21-9, 21-6; Johnson d. Hogan 21-10, 21-10; Mougham d. Hodson 21-17, 14-21, 11-9; McCarthy d. Iverson 21-2, 21-3; Dee d. Kellar 21-2, 21-13; Nelson d. Glaze 21-9, 21-16; Paletsos d. Finkelberg 21-20, 21-14; Young d. Rudesill 21-6, 21-5; Ambler d. Tillotson 21-13, 21-1; Gardner d. Shields 14-21, 21-9, 11-2; Drury d. Mackstaller 21-6, 21-9; J. Thompson d. Ayala, 21-14, 21-17

(Third round): Dugan d. Nunn 21-0, 21-3; Adams d. Peterson 21-18, 21-16; Martino d. Johnson 21-5, 21-13; McCarthy d. Mougham 21-16, 21-5; Dee d. Nelson 21-11, 21-10; Young d. Paletsos, 21-6, 21-8; Gardner d. Ambler 6-21, 21-17, 11-4; J. Thompson d. Drury 21-12, 21-16

(Fourth round): Adams d. Dugan 21-13, 17-21, 11-8; Martino d. McCarthy 21-6, 21-12; Young d. Dee 21-17, 20-21, 11-6; Gardner d. J. Thompson 17-21, 21-16, 11-8

(Quarters): Adams d. Martino 21-9, 11-21, 11-8; Gardner d. Young 19-21, 21-17, 11-7

(Semis): Adams d. Gardner 21-14, 21-10

Lower Bracket

(First round): Davis, bye; Jacobson d. Lucas, forfeit; Sawicki d. Constantino 21-0, 21-7; Merrill, bye; Hertz, bye; Folkertsma d. Hendricks 21-13, 21-19; Visser d. Taylor, forfeit; Lee, bye; Panzeri, bye; Woodall d. Stirtz 21-11, 21-15; Ferguson d. McSwain 21-3, 21-6; O'Sullivan, bye; Hornack, bye; Kemp d. Dumont 21-5, 21-5; Burkett d. Smith 21-9, 21-19; Stoll, bye; Oeschger, bye; Brokaw d. Wall, forfeit; Goodman d. Ingle, forfeit; Alvarado, bye; Kronenfeld, bye; Schoonover d. Olbu 21-19, 21-12; Whitehead d. Joseph 11-10; Weisbach, bye; Falkenberry, bye; Bishop d. Lantz 21-8, 21-1; Ackerman d. Ganster 21-8, 21-4; Lewis, bye; Jackson, bye; Ortiz d. Gratto, forfeit; Trepanier d. Prina, forfeit; McKay, bye

(Second round): Davis d. Jacobson 21-10, 21-4; Sawicki d. Merrill 21-19, 21-11; Hertz d. Folkertsma 21-14, 21-7; Lee d. Visser 21-11, 21-3; Panzeri d. Woodall 21-7, 21-4; Ferguson d. O'Sullivan 21-2, 21-11; Hornack d. Kemp 21-17, 16-21, 11-9; Stoll d. Burkette 21-18, 21-16; Oeschger d. Brokaw 21-8, 21-12; Alvarado d. Goodman 21-7, 21-6; Schoonover d. Kronenfeld, forfeit; Weisbach d. Whitehead 21-1, 21-12; Falkenberry d. Bishop 21-18, 21-14; Ackerman d. Lewis 21-17, 14-21, 11-6; Jackson d. Ortiz 21-1, 21-6; McKay d. Trepanier 21-1, 21-5

(Third round): Davis d. Sawicki 21-10, 21-18; Lee d. Hertz 21-13, 21-9; Panzeri d. Ferguson 21-2, 21-10; Stoll d. Hornack 21-1, 21-6; Alvarado d. Oeschger 21-19, 21-3; Weisbach d. Schoonover 21-9, 21-1; Falkenberry d. Ackerman 21-9, 21-14; McKay d. Jackson 21-8, 21-6

(Fourth round): Davis d. Lee 21-16, 21-13; Panzeri d. Stoll 21-3, 21-12; Weisbach d. Alvarado 21-7, 21-10; McKay d. Falkenberry 21-9, 21-4

(Quarters): Panzeri d. Davis 17-21, 21-8, 11-6; McKay d. Weisbach 21-11, 21-13

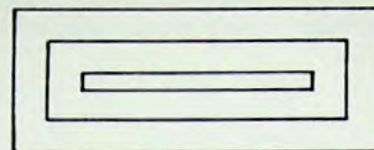
(Semis): McKay d. Panzeri 21-15, 21-6

(Finals): McKay d. Adams 21-13, 21-11

See Nick Longhurst's profile on Heather McKay in this issue's feature section.

Inside the Master's Mind

by Charlie Brumfield



With this article Charlie Brumfield, four time national champion and touring pro for the Sportrooms Racquetball Clubs, continues his exclusive series for *National Racquetball*.

Conditioning with the Baby Ox Theory



Bicycles

Of all of today's popular sports racquetball is the most strenuous on the cardiovascular system. This means that even though the fast pace makes the game itself great conditioning for heart, lungs and circulation, a serious racquetball player will have to do more than just play in order to be able to be in top shape for a tournament.

Agility, strategy, flexibility, speed and strength are all required if you want to improve your game. While the first two factors can be developed and improved primarily by playing the game itself, it's necessary to train off the court in order to develop flexibility, speed and strength.

Cardiovascular fitness may be achieved by performing a variety of exercises, some of which may be done right at home. Bicycling, running, short sprints and flexibility exercises not only benefit your cardiovascular system, but also improve your foot speed, balance and court sense.

Pat Brumfield, Charlie and Charlie Siddle



Cross leg,
toe touch



Achilles tendon stretch

A well rounded off court conditioning program for racquetball should represent a time investment of approximately two to three hours a week. Of this time 50 percent should be spent in strength conditioning, 33 percent spent in speed training and 17 percent spent in flexibility exercise. Here's the conditioning routine I try to follow every week:

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| Monday | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 10 minutes of stretching exercises followed by ● 30 minutes of strength conditioning ● 20 minutes of speed training (including warm-up and cool-down) |
| Tuesday | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 5 minutes of stretching ● 55 minutes of racquetball |
| Wednesday | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● repeat Monday's routine |
| Thursday | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● repeat Tuesday's routine |
| Friday | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● repeat Monday's routine |
| Saturday | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● repeat Tuesday's routine |
| Sunday | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● swim or relax |



Groin stretch

Stretching

For flexibility and warm-up I recommend the following exercises to be done either on the court or at home:

Arm circles - Gradually increase your arm circles from small to large while increasing the speed.

Torso twists - 10 to each side, twisting as far as your body will go.

Cross leg toe touches - Standing with your legs crossed touch your toes 10 times slowly.

Leg overs - Lie on your back on the floor with your arms stretched out to the sides. With the right leg cross over your body and try to touch your left hand. Hold for five seconds and release. Then do the same with the left leg over to the right hand. Repeat five times to each side.

Groin stretch - Also known as leg lunges to the sides. Gradually you will be able to get lower and lower to the floor.

Achilles tendon stretch - Face the wall, standing a few feet away. Place your hands on the wall for balance while stretching one foot behind you. Try to get your heel flat against the floor so that you can feel the tendon stretching.

Jumping jacks - Start with 20, remember to keep your arms straight as you move them from the sides of your body to above your head.

Backward running - Once around the court.

Side shuffle - Once around the court normally, once around with knees bent and hips low to the floor.

Skiping - Once around the court with the knees high.



Now for what is known as the "ABC Loveday System of Agility Exercise" or more simply, the pan exercise. The equipment needed is a good flat place to run and six objects. The Official ABC Loveday frisbees are excellent for this purpose, but empty Seamco cans will do.

(The official ABC — Always Believe Carl — Loveday frisbees are available for \$10 including postage and handling for a set of six frisbees. Mail check or money order to: ABC Loveday Frisbee Offer, c/o Lance Alworth's Sports Center, 7620 Balboa Ave., San Diego, CA 92111.)

Place the frisbees in a straight line, approximately four and a half feet apart, depending on your height. Start to the right of frisbee #1 and do a continuous series of figure eights in between the frisbees. When you reach #6 turn around and go back. The important thing is to take short steps on your toes as you weave in and out. Go as quickly and for as long as you can until you feel a slight pain, known as the "burn". The burn is your signal to do one more lap and quit.

As soon as it hurts, you know the exercise is doing you some good. The pros coach Carl Loveday has doing the pans are up to sets of 30 laps up and back, but don't try to outdo anyone else. Only do what you can handle. This exercise is great for agility and endurance, but work up gradually. Remember - push yourself until you feel the burn and then quit after the next lap.

There are many variations to the pan drill and all of them are beneficial. Try the same pattern, but bring your knees high or jump laterally over the row of frisbees. Try running over the frisbees as if you were a football player running through tires or do the exercises backwards. Better yet invent your own!

Now for the main part of your cardiovascular conditioning - *Strength Training*.

1. Basic Leg and Back Strengthening Exercises

Monster walks - also known as lunge squats because you start with your feet together and lunge out on your right foot. Then push off your right foot and return to your original upright position. After a four week program monster walks should be attempted with a weight on your shoulders.

Half squats - on vertical squat machine. The angle formed with the upper and lower leg at the bottom of the squat should be 90 degrees.

Heel raises - on vertical squat machine also. (If you don't have use of a machine, do a series of toe raises.)

Single leg hops - just what it sounds like: hop around the court on one foot.

Back hyperextensions - on the Roman Chair. Start with your hands behind your back. Place your hands behind your head for a more advanced exercise.

2. Exercises to Improve Strength for Racquetball Swing

Side twisting situps - Use a slant board and work up to a steeper angle.

Side hyperextensions - an advanced technique for well conditioned athletes only. Work up to 15 repetitions on each side.

Pullover torso machine - Find a weight with which you can perform no more than 12 repetitions. Reps should remain the same, and weight should be increased weekly.

Forehand arm swing - On the high pulley station. As I described in the July issue of *National Racquetball*, page 24 in "Drills for the Muscles."

3. Exercises to Improve General Arm Strength

Triceps extensions - on high pulley station. Find a weight with which no more than 12 repetitions can be performed. Resistance should be increased weekly.

Parallel bar dips - advanced training technique, two sets to exhaustion.

Alternate dumbbell curls - Find a weight with which no more than 10 repetitions can be performed. Increase the resistance weekly.

Burpies - (1) standing, (2) squat down with hands on the floor in front of you, (3) kick your legs out straight behind you, (4) do one push up, (5) return to position #2, (6) return to position #1.

Now you are ready for Speed Conditioning

Warm up by walking and jogging slowly until you feel your body temperature rise.

1. Jogging - Begin with whatever you think you can handle. Gradually build up the distance and the pace. Six minute miles are ideal for an advanced program, while some players may start out with two 10 minute miles and work up from there.



Wrist curls



Bunny hops

2. Sprints in Sand - All sand training should be done in intervals of 20 yards, and at 90-100 percent effort for each interval. Because the effort will be maximal, be sure to warm up thoroughly prior to each training session.

3. Squat Jumps - one leg forward, one leg back; one in the sand if possible: one set of 20 jumps at half effort, followed by two to five sets of 20 reps at full out effort.

4. Bunny Hops - just like it sounds. Squat at one end of the court and hop to the other end as quickly as a jack rabbit. Race your doubles partner. Cool down by jogging slowly, walking and then taking a shower.

Mini Program

Not everyone has the time for this program. So I'm suggesting a mini program that should take only 20

minutes a day. Even with this shortened routine you should swim or relax one day a week to let your body rest.

Push-ups - Start at three-quarters capacity and increase one a week with your goal being three sets of 100 push-ups. (To find your capacity do a test run - as many as you can with maximum effort.)

Sit-ups - Start at three-quarters capacity and increase one a week with your goal three sets of 100 push-ups.

Pull-ups - Start at three-quarters capacity and increase one every three weeks with three sets of 15 your goal.

Parallel bar dips - Start at three-quarters capacity and increase one every two weeks with your goal three sets of 25 dips.

Cardiovascular training will be a great asset to your racquetball game and is the key to continued health and vitality.

The average person's heart beats 60-72 times per minute. After working out on a program like this your heart rate should drop to 49-56 beats per minute. Therefore your heart will be beating less times per minute, but it will be doing the same amount of work.

Also players who suffer occasionally from arthritis, bursitis or rheumatism will be happy to know that improved circulation should alleviate a lot of these problems.

Still it's one thing to talk about the benefits of conditioning and it's another thing to put the theories into practice. No conditioning program is going to get you in shape until you are willing to put the time and effort into.

The best way to keep from getting discouraged is to utilize the "Baby Ox" theory. If you can't lift a full grown ox, you should still be able to lift a baby ox. Lift it every day, and by the time the baby ox is a full grown ox you will be able to lift it. In other words start with a goal that you know you can achieve and work toward that goal until you are in better shape than you ever thought possible.

Special thanks to Charlie Siddle, assistant manager of Lance Alworth's Sports Center in San Diego, who we affectionately call "The Hulk." Charlie is the one who set me up on my conditioning program. Charlie is six feet tall, weighs less than I do and can lift 895 pounds on the inverted leg press. That's nearly five times his weight!

Also Pat, my wife, deserves some thanks for posing for the photos and an apology for my off target frisbee throw which rebounded off her beautiful bod.

Carl Loveday, my coach, was the one who originated the stepovers and pan drills. It's Carl's job to make sure I stay in peak condition so that my feet won't fail me in the finals.

Good luck in your own conditioning program! ●

No Second Chance in Doubles

You Have to Put the Ball Away

by Steve Strandemo

There are not very many long rallies in good racquetball doubles. It is not the nature of the game. When you have two people covering the court instead of just one, the ball is not going to bounce around loose for very long, before somebody is in position to jump on it.

It doesn't take long at all to learn that doubles is an offensive game. At tournament level many rallies last no longer than four hits, because both sides are thinking "Kill!" from the moment the server strikes the ball. You can't lay back at a time like that. All four players must constantly keep in mind good position, good stance, good shot strategy — everything pointed to offense, to an aggressive desire to put the shot away.

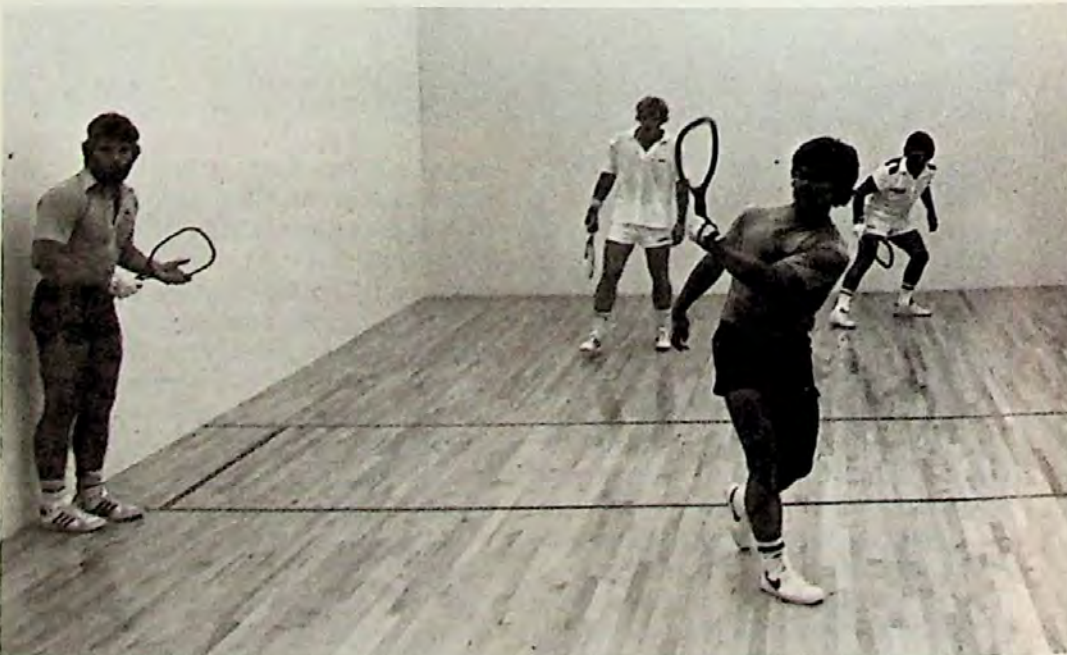
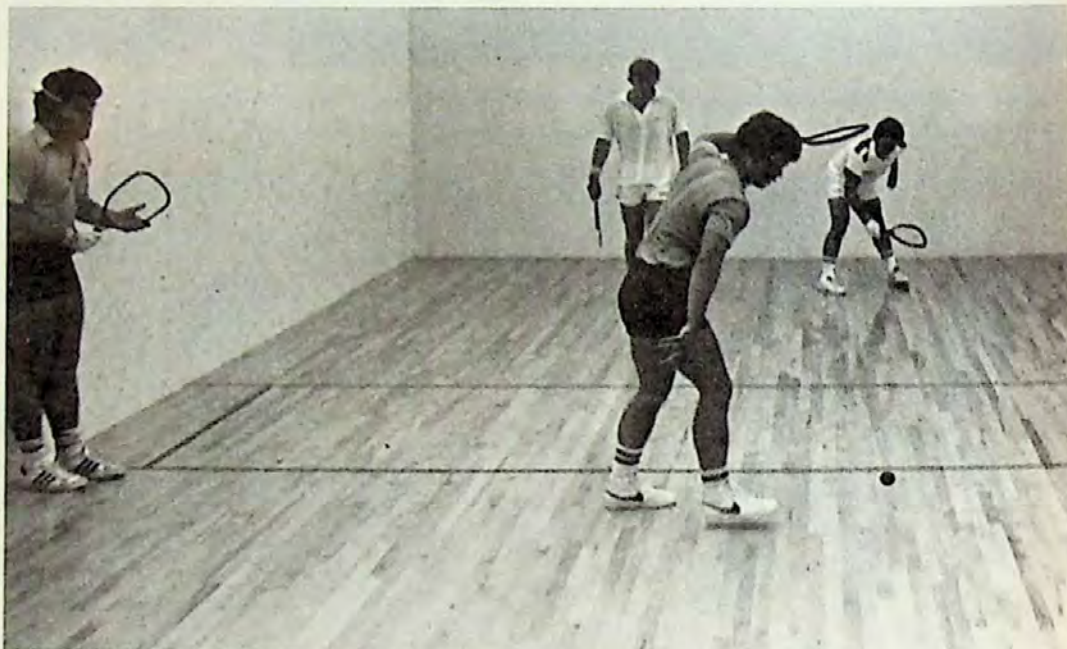
Generally the sequence of play will follow one of three patterns: server hits, returner rips a winner (a two hit sequence); server hits, returner mis-hits the return, server or his partner jumps on it in center court for a winner (a three hit sequence); the serving team's second shot is off a little bit and stays up for the receiving team, which by now has moved up into good center court position and goes for the kill (a four hit sequence).

Each of these sequences is illustrated in the accompanying photographs. If the serving team appears to be cheating by serving from in front of the serving box, it is because they have turned the play around, making the all-glass back wall the "front wall" for photographic purposes. We might have "flopped" the box by using tape on the floor, but the tape pulls up the paint on the lines, and messes up the floor, so we just made believe, as the reader is asked to.

Obviously accuracy is crucial, particularly on shots from the back part of the court, which naturally gives the serving team a little advantage.

Two Hit Sequence

Server, a left hander, is ready to hit as defender in left corner, anticipating a low drive serve to the corner, cheats with his stance a little to the backhand side. Players are, left to right, John Manson, Jeff Bowman, Jimmy Harper and Strandemo.



The server hits a Z serve; returner watches the serve determining if he should step up and make contact before the ball hits the left wall or stay back and let it carom off the side wall; thus determining if it will go to his forehand or backhand side.



Returner sets up to hit a backhand as the ball comes off the side wall. The serving team is moving to center court.



Returner hits down-the-line kill attempt as the server leaves the proper hitting lanes open.

— Jack Miller photos



Returner's shot is accurate, coming straight back to the corner, out of reach of the server for a winner.



Three Hit Sequence

Server hits a low drive serve to the left back corner. Receiver, a left hander, sets up for forehand return.



Server's full and extended follow through demonstrates the maximum power a server wants to get behind a low drive serve.



The serving team is moving into center court position and watching the ball as the receiver sets to hit it.

Receiver's down-the-line attempt is off a little bit and coming to server's backhand in center court. Server will cut it off and go for the rekill straight to the left front wall or a pinch into the left corner.



Four Hit Sequence

Aim for Corner Box

The server makes it even tougher by aiming his serve into a three-by-three foot box in the back corner. If the receivers both are right handed, the serve will probably go to the backhand corner, where the better backhand on the receiving team should be playing.

In these photos one team is lefty-righty and has a forehand return opportunity from either corner. Most serves still will go to the corners, into the three-by-three box, but a lefty-righty team should always be aware of a serve into the middle of the back court, in backhand territory. It will probably be a modified Z serve that hits front wall, side wall, and then splits the receiving team about chest high, where it is difficult to get any power on a backhand return.

Meanwhile, in the photos, notice how a right handed receiver will cheat around a little bit on his stance, getting ready for the backhand return he knows he'll have to make.

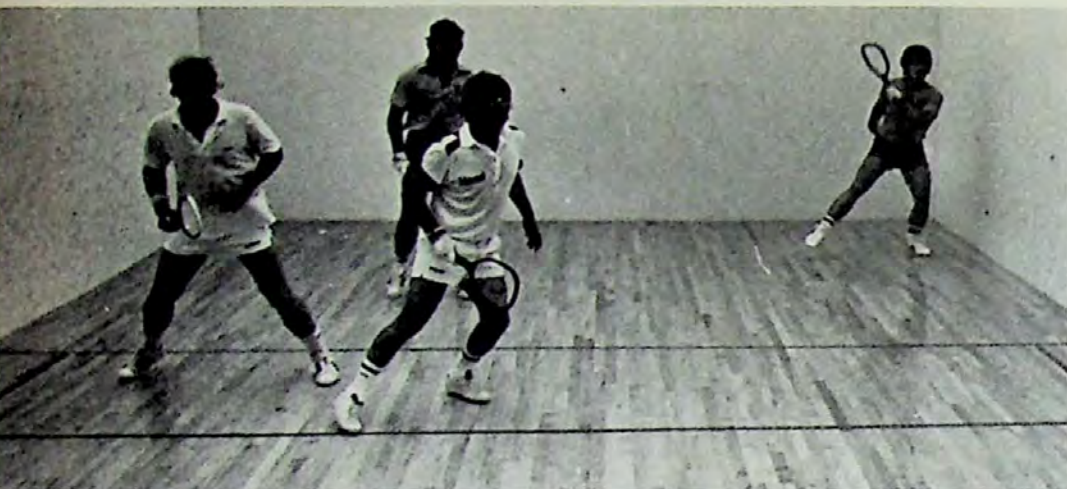
The server hits from the middle of the court, then moves quickly, as his partner does, over and back into good center court position so that each is ready to cover his half of the court. They are expecting, even hoping, that when the receiver goes for an offensive return, his shot will error and carom back to the middle so one of them can immediately go for the rekill.

Doubles is a game where the ball must be put away. You don't want to hit passing shots continually. You want to go for the rollout or the pinch. If you go for the pass, and it gets past the one defender, his partner can generally move to cover the shot in the back court and keep the ball in play.

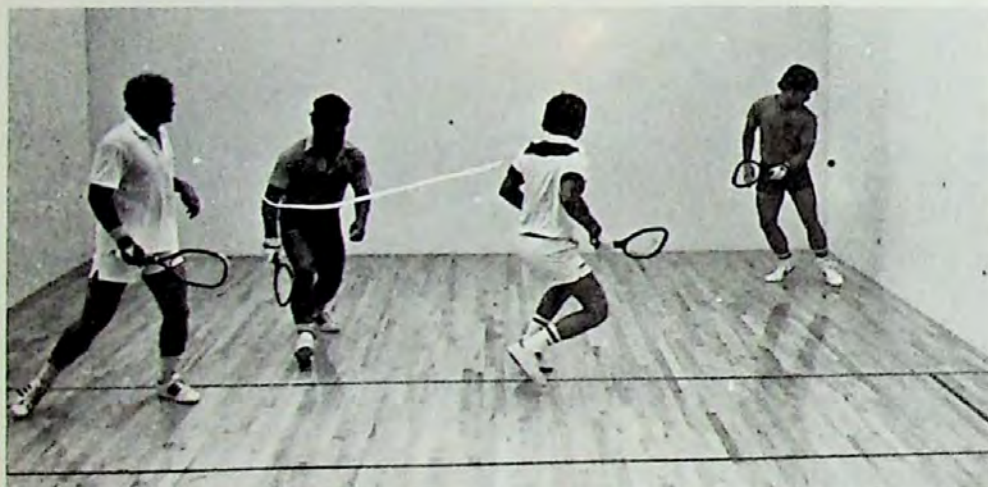
Server is preparing to hit a low drive serve to the left back corner.



As the server follows through, the receiver, a lefty, is moving to hit a forehand return.

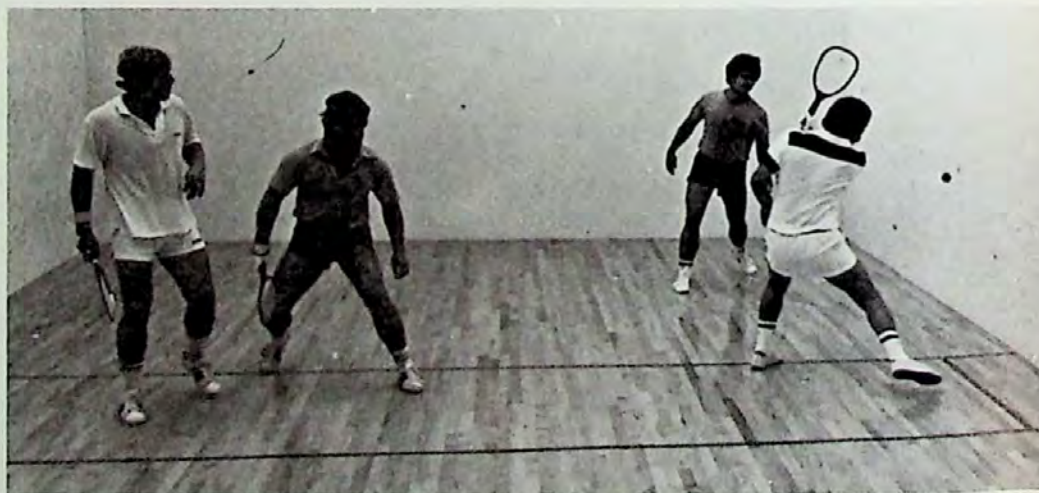


Receiver chooses to go for a down the line kill attempt as serving team drops into center court position, keeping open stances.



Receiver's shot, hit a little too high, caroms toward the back wall. Server waits for the rebound off the back wall.

The rebound comes all the way to center court, where server sets up for the backhand kill attempt.



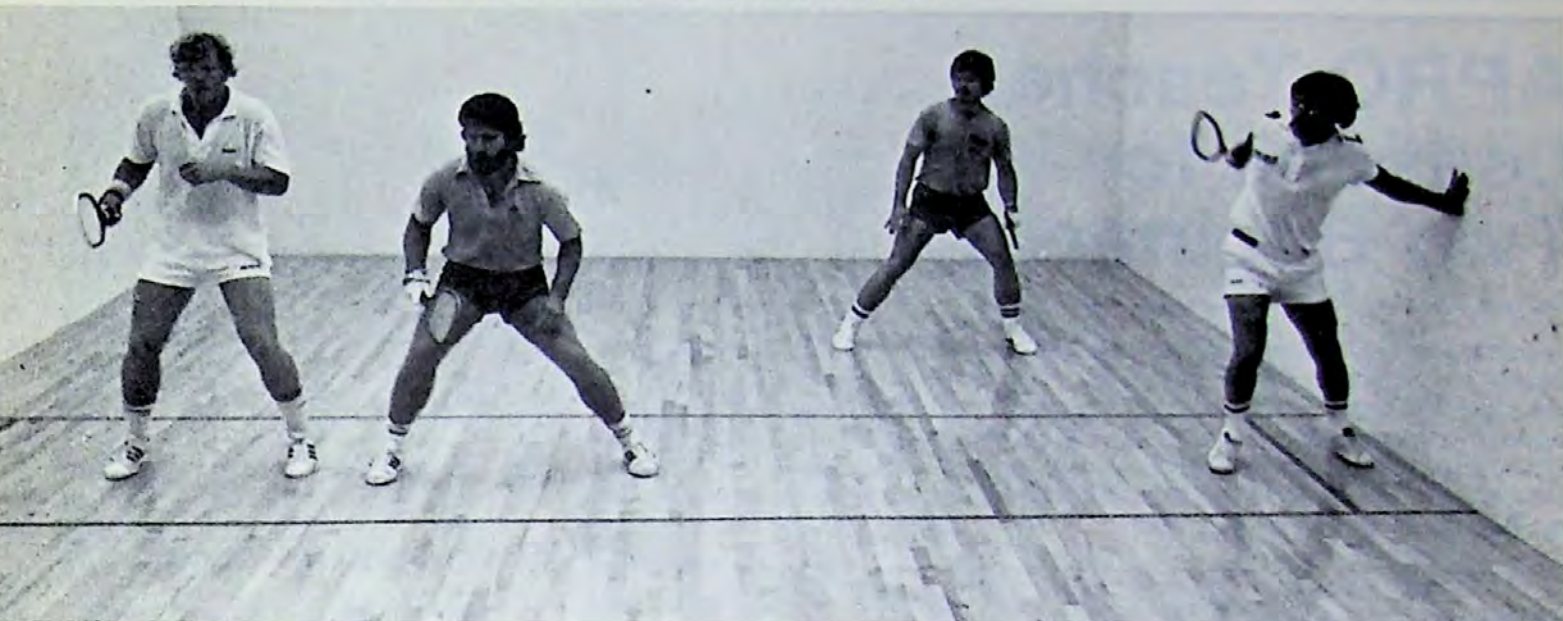
Split the Serving Team

It is important for both the server and his partner to watch the ball as they are moving to center court position. The returner's partner is also watching the ball as the returner hits it. The partner then wants to move up, splitting the serving team in center court, getting ready to cover the serving team's second shot.

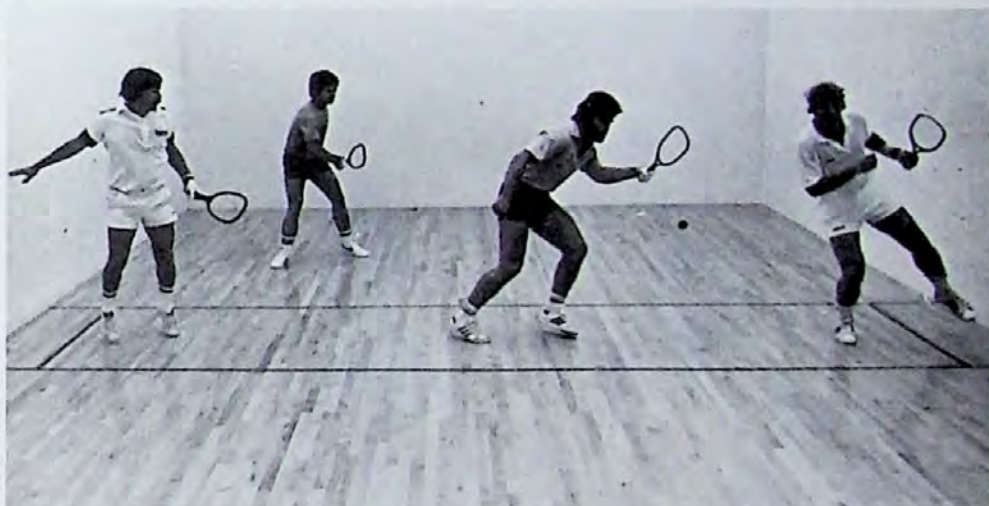
The photos show how the serving team stays in an open stance as it moves into center court position. The open stance is very important here, because it allows the partners to assume a good reflexive hitting position very quickly, to hit the volley or cut the ball off in the front court for the kill. It's sort of like the serve-volley in tennis, where the server, moving to the attack behind his serve, sets up for an immediate kill.

The importance of this strategy can't be over emphasized. When the receiver goes for an offensive shot — a down-like-line kill or pass, a pinch shot, or a crosscourt kill or pass — the serving team should be in center court, anticipating that the receiver's shot will be mis-hit slightly and will come to one of them in center court. They should have body and mind in a "ready" position to cut the ball off and go for the rekill.

Receiver's partner, watching the ball, has come up into good offensive center court position, splitting the serving team and positioning himself to cut off serving team's second shot.



Serving team's cross court kill attempt stays up and comes back to center of court where receiver's partner is waiting. He cuts it off, hits a rollout for a winner.



Expect Mistakes

The biggest mistake players make, in doubles or singles, is to anticipate a perfect shot by the opponent. There are so few perfect shots hit in racquetball that it doesn't make any sense to tense yourself to chase after them, hoping to kill them. The percentages make it clear that it is more important for you to anticipate a mis-hit shot. You have to be ready mentally and strategically — good position and stance — to pounce on an opponent's mistakes.

What to Practice

Doubles is a lot of fun, a good social game and a little less fatiguing than singles. To really enjoy it you need to practice certain things.

Work on hitting a good low drive serve that hits in the three-by-three box in the backhand corner. You can also practice the modified Z serve that splits a lefty-righty team down the middle. It hits the front wall, the right side wall and goes to the middle of the back wall so that it is about chest high when it reaches the receiving team.

The server and his partner should work on moving quickly from the serve position into good center court position. Move quickly, but keep the stance open. Don't turn your back to the front wall. You must be ready to cut off the return as it comes into the center part of the court. Be quick, watch the ball, anticipate the rekill opportunity.

Of course both sides have to work on accuracy. Practice reflex forehands and backhands in center court, and accurate and powerful forehands and backhands from deep court. The down-the-line kill attempt from the back left corner is crucial. Remember when you're practicing cross court kill attempts from the corners, they must be very accurate. A good cross court kill in doubles will come low off the front wall and hit the side wall behind your opponent. Otherwise it will carom into center court where the serving team has anticipated it will go. And a two-hit rally becomes a three-hit one. Doubles seldom gives you a second chance. ●

APRO Teaches . . . Lessons for Two Beginners

Reprinted from Contemporary Racquetball with permission of Contemporary Books, Inc., Chicago. Copyright© 1978 by Chuck Sheftel and Arthur Shay. The American Professional Racquetball Organization, which provides a feature each month in *National Racquetball*, is devoting its space to excerpts from the book APRO President Chuck Sheftel wrote with *National Racquetball* photographer, Arthur Shay. This one-hour drill and play suggestion is part of a series of lessons two beginners can try on their own.



Review and Advanced Play

1. Review of the past seven lessons (15 minutes)
2. Drills
 - a. Side-wall control test (5 minutes)
 - b. Serve and center play (10 minutes)
3. A touch of advanced play: Z serves and ceiling shots (10 minutes)
4. Play (15 minutes)
5. Final wrap up (5 minutes)

Warm up for five minutes.

Review of the past seven lessons

Each partner tries three of each shot: lob serve, drive, backhand return, forehand return, overhand shot and so on. Stop play each time going down the checklist. Work your way across the court once in the "across and hit" exercise. Take three shots off the back wall with both your forehand and backhand.

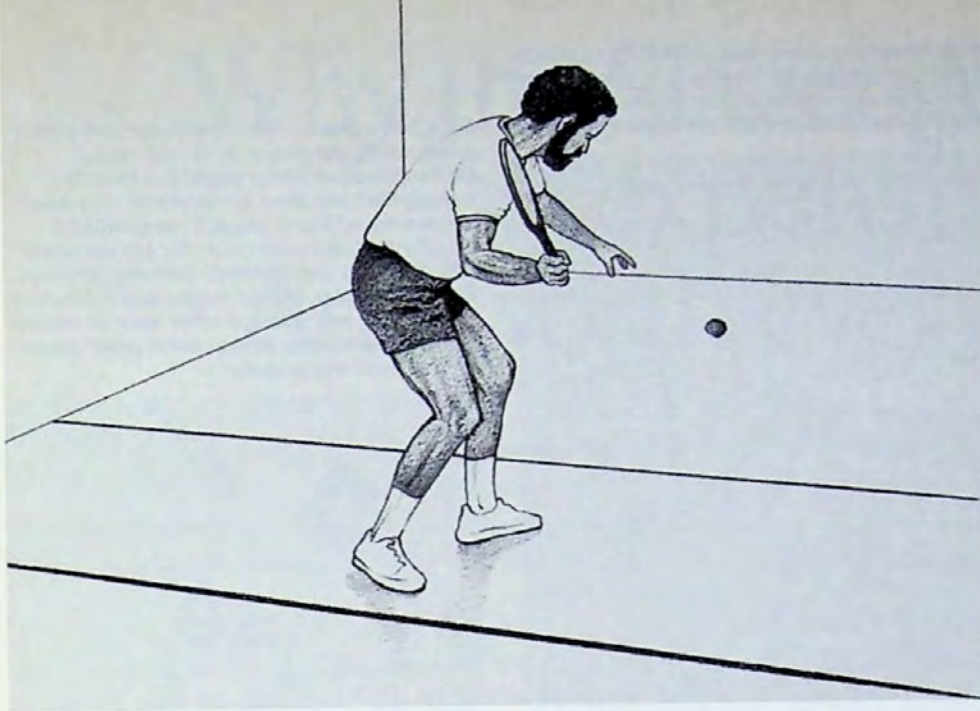
Drills

Side wall control test

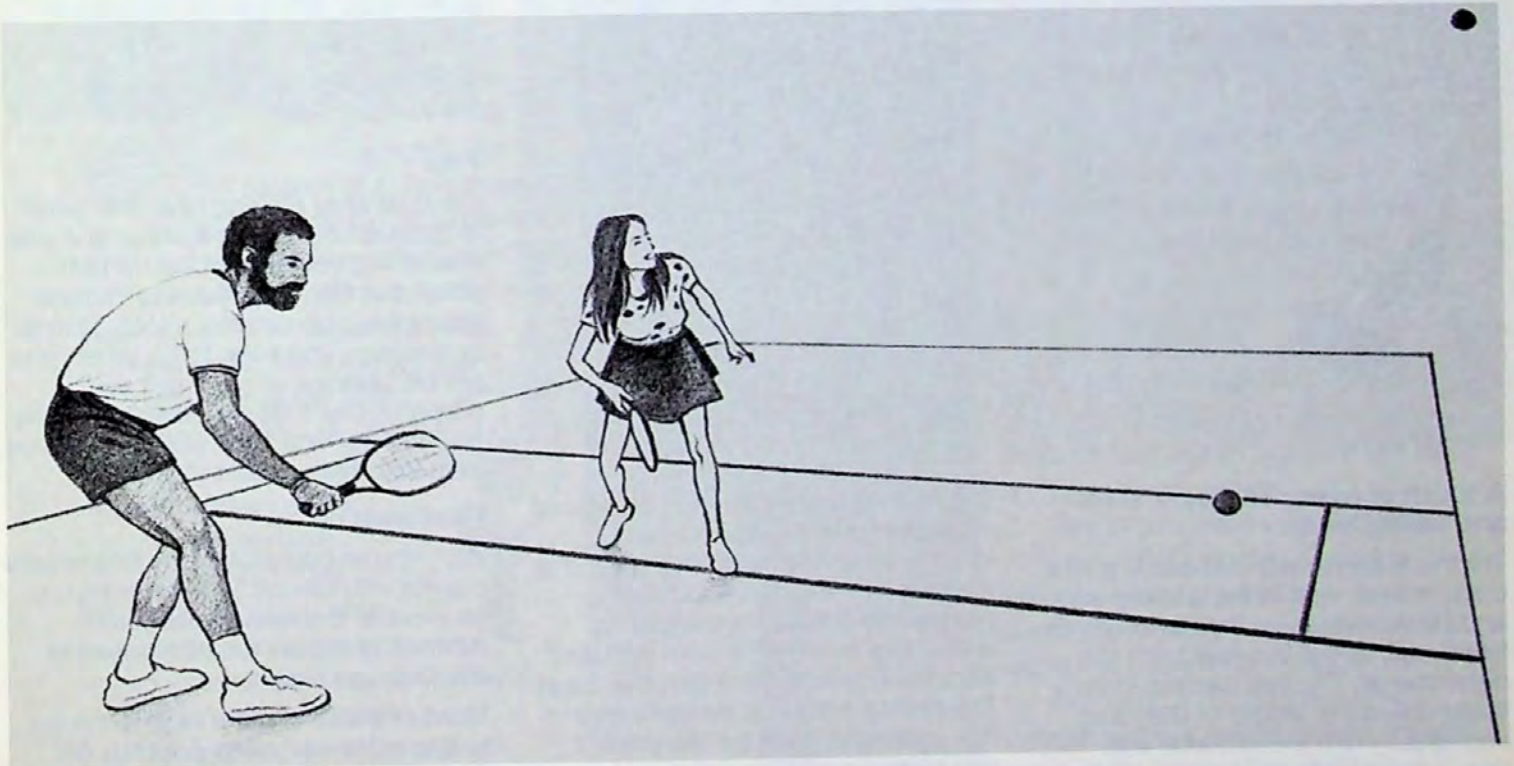
In lesson one you used the side wall to familiarize yourself with the feel of ball on racquet. Perhaps you were able to hit two or three in a row without a miss. See how many you can do now without missing. It should be a big improvement!

Serve and center play

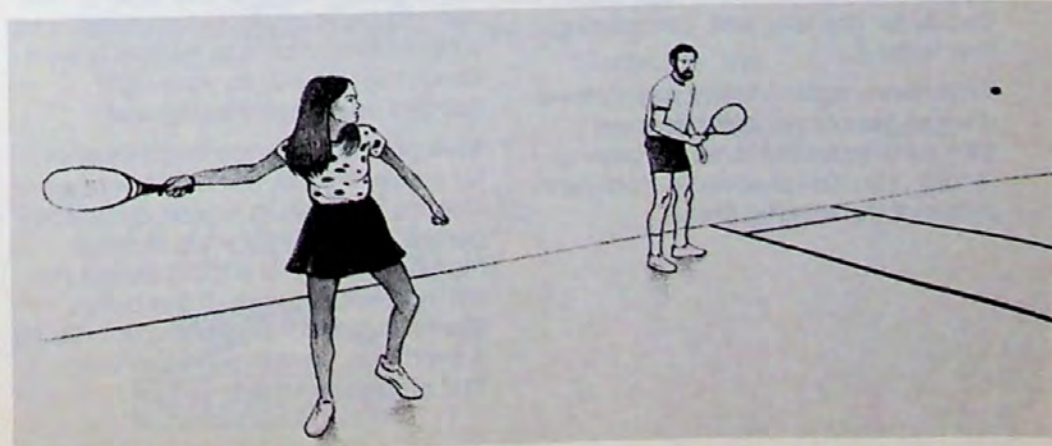
A taste of future advanced play can be had by continuing to work on your serve for accuracy and speed and to work on your defense by racing back to the center court position after each serve.



*Drive serve starts lower than lob serve.
Forceful swing is used.*

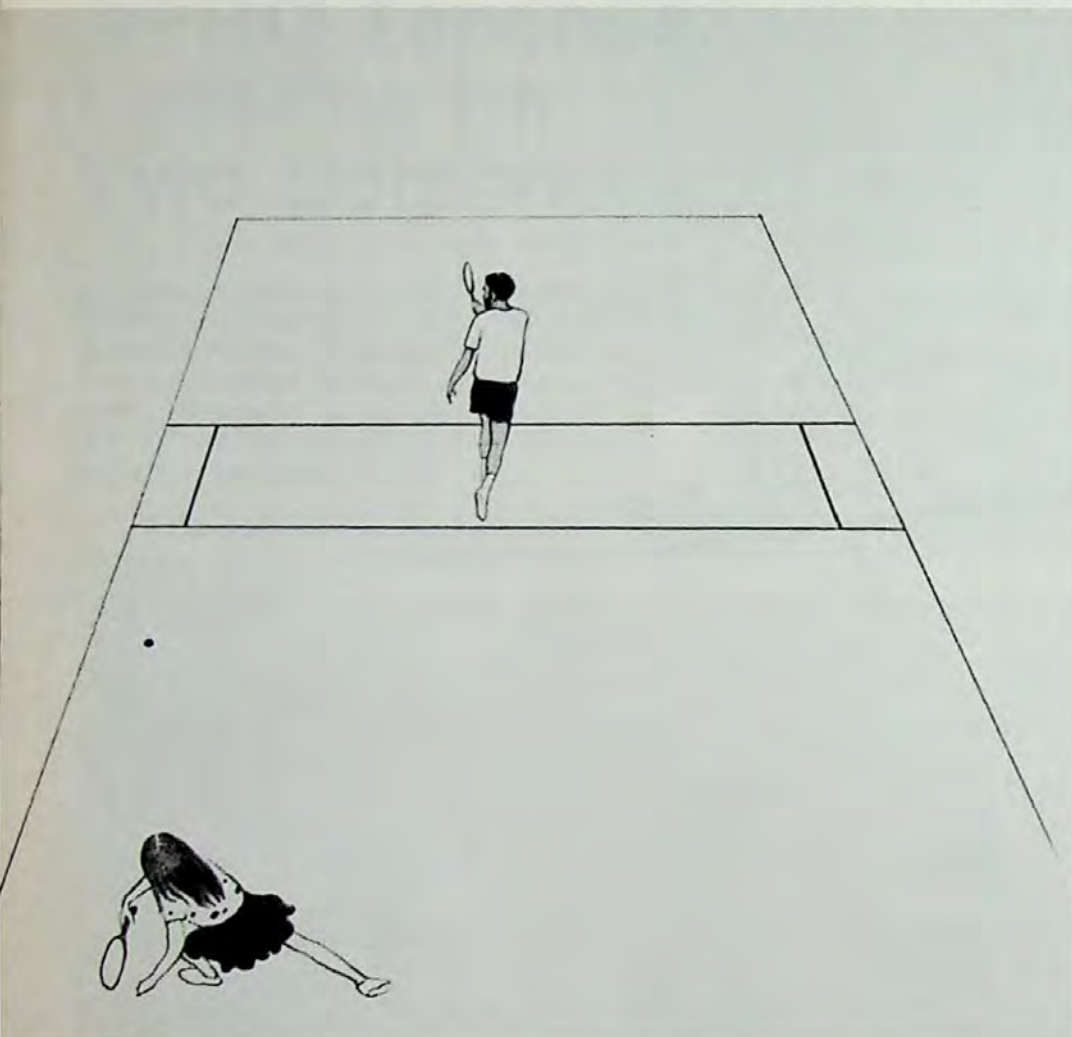


*This is a ball control drill.
Each player hits his or her own ball and
tries to keep going as many shots as
possible against the side wall.
This drill is alternated with backhands,
and finally, in a "pepper" game between
the players using one ball.*



*Ready to hit position could have been
improved by having racquet angled
towards ceiling, not pointing to back wall.
This would leave wrist in better position
to "snap" as the ball is hit.*

The backhand part of the forehand backhand drill. Surprisingly many new players have better natural backhands than forehands. Some pros feel this is because the necessity of moving the racquet across the body before unleashing it in a stroke gives the arm an easier groove to follow than a forehand that doesn't have the body's support.



A touch of advanced play: Z serves and ceiling shots

Try the Z serve: stand about five feet from the left wall in the serving area and hit a drive serve that lands on the front wall, about five feet from the right corner. The ball caroms from there down the length of the court and ideally hits the left side wall about five feet from the rear, then heads for the rear wall, completing the letter Z.

This serve, again ideally, sometimes dies in the corner and becomes almost impossible even for pros to return. You can practice it from both sides of the serving area.

The ceiling shot is another advanced maneuver you will encounter in intermediate and advanced play. It is a stroke or even overhand that causes the ball to hit the ceiling within five feet of the front wall and thus bounce way back into the court. The ceiling shot has recently been a fine defensive shot for the pros. It can sometimes give you time to rest and get back into good position from a fall or bad shot. It is generally sent down the left wall to your right handed opponent's backhand.

Men pros are abandoning this shot for power hitting, but some women players have incorporated it into their games. If the ball comes in chest high or lower, you should stroke the ceiling shot sidearm. If the ball is above shoulder height, you should hit it overhand, remembering to keep that elbow well back.

To achieve good contact with the ball during a late swing the player is forced into a lurching motion and a slight backwards leaning that will tend to decrease his power. (Observers of Marty Hogan, racquetball's wonder boy, will point out that Hogan often hits from this unbalanced, lurching position. The justification is that Hogan practices four hours a day and does another hour of weight training, permitting him to exert great power from almost any position.)



Play

Creative shot making is a new trend in racquetball. Be a beginner and use everything you've learned up to this point, but don't be afraid to "create" your own, coordinated shots. That is sometimes you have to hit when you are off balance or can't get set properly. Don't let the rules keep you from trying. You can't do much worse than lose the point!

Final wrap up

Well you've completed the beginner's course that Chuck Sheftel designed for several thousand successful novices at the six Court Houses in the Chicago area.

Most of those players have gone on to the more advanced courses or have been working on the various aspects of their game as they go along. By now you should have a fine foundation for becoming a good racquetball player.

The secret word is PRACTICE!

Good luck. ●

This ends our APRO Teaches series of excerpts from Chuck Sheftel's book. Coming next to meet many reader requests: simplified racquetball rating system.

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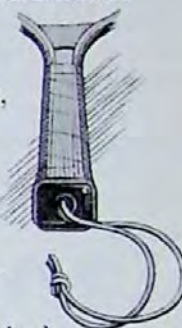
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What's the Call?

Ask an Expert

by Dan Bertolucci



Referee's Technical

The referee's technical is the single most powerful weapon a referee can use to control a singles or doubles match.

Usually a referee in his prematch duties will give warning to both players or teams that referee's technicals will be called — in the referee's judgement — when the contestant during the course of the match is overtly and deliberately abusive beyond a point of reason. When this happens, the referee has the power to deduct one point from a contestant's or team's total score.

Examples of situations in which players can bring about the referee's technical are when a player gestures or calls out an obscenity — no matter to whom it was directed — and excessive striking of the ball after the rally (especially when this striking threatens injury to another player.)

Is there a limit to the number of technicals that can be awarded? No — the referee's technical can be invoked as many times during the course of a match as the ref deems necessary. However a match (not just a game) may be forfeited as a consequence of a referee's technical. Forfeiture as an outgrowth of one or more technicals should be used sparingly and only in the most extreme cases. Usually after a technical foul the players will cooperate.

The important point to remember is that if a referee doesn't use the technical to control a match, he or she is open to intimidation and the players are confused. A match out of hand does not lead to good racquetball and could lead to injury. ●

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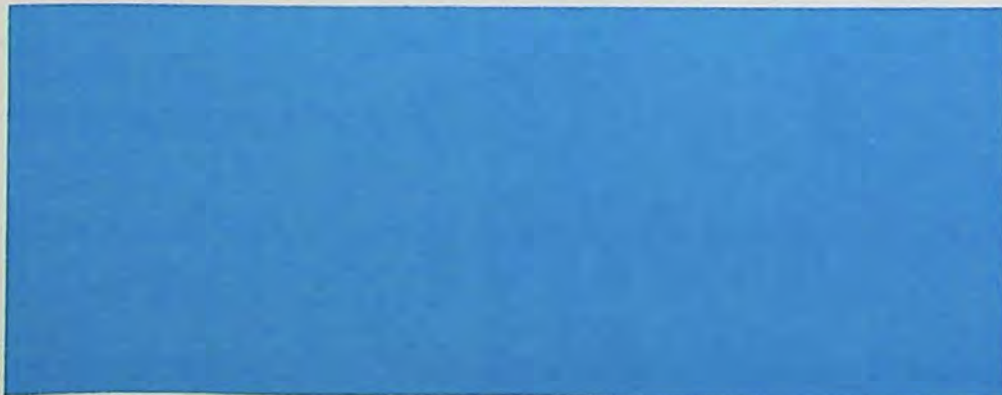
SPALDING

USRA/NRC: Business Pros Working for the Players

by Robert W. Kendler



**The United States Racquetball Association/
National Racquetball Club president gave this speech
at the Nationals last June in Tempe.**



There is a lot to talk about in racquetball, and this means I won't be able to go into great detail. My talk is going to be like Sally Rand's fans, designed to get you interested in the subject without giving away too many details.

You will notice that we are still hanging in there, like the guy who fell off a cliff above a rocky beach 2,000 feet below. As he fell, he grabbed a little branch that was sticking out of the cliff. He looked down at the rocks, then up to the cliff and yelled "Is there anybody up there?"



A voice thundered "I am here," and the man replied "Who's that?"

"It's the Lord," said the voice, "What shall I do, Lord?" he asked. "Let go." The man looked down at the rocks below; he looked to the top of the cliff and said "Is there anybody else up there?"

Now there isn't anyone here but us, and I believe that if we all work together, we can save the cliff hanger. I use the term cliff hanger only because I hope the pro players don't make the same mistakes that other pro athletes have made, pricing themselves right out of sports.

Trying to make it on their own is perfectly natural. But I must caution them that without good business management their efforts will be doomed to hang by a limb — or to fall. Now I wouldn't blame them for thinking that a good player can also be a good manager. History proves otherwise, however. The record shows we have done a remarkable job of managing racquetball. We also have a remarkable record in the even tougher world of business.

You know building a racquetball organization is kind of like building a house. For those of you who are not familiar with my personal background I have been building homes for over 50 years, and the similarities are striking. To build a solid house you must have a solid foundation. In our structure that foundation is our voice, *National Racquetball* magazine. We value *National Racquetball* as a sounding board for ideas, and it is regarded as the Bible of the sport. Everyone knows we wrote the book on racquetball, and we freely share it with all our competitors through our magazine. We don't keep secrets from anyone.

As you begin building on that solid foundation, you must build steadily, and in phases. The next phase we added was the State Affiliate program . . . taking two years and a lot of sweat to make that program a model for amateur governing bodies.

In order to build for the future we began our National Juniors program to instill a lifelong interest in our sport in our youngsters, whose enthusiasm and dedication continue to amaze me. A record entry for our juniors program was again set this year, with 10 Regional events in July and the National Championships in August at the Tucson Athletic Club.

But if you want that house you build to be really something special, you need some window dressing — a showcase. In our situation it's the pro tour where the elite do battle with the elite and the rest of us marvel and enjoy. The professional game gives racquetball an opportunity to strut its stuff, to bring the sport from leisure time to big time.

Pro racquetball brings attention; attention brings new players; new players buy court time and products; clubs sell time; investors build more clubs which attract *more* players and the cycle continues on and on. Our organizational function in this cycle cannot and must not be minimized. Our dedication to racquetball is to consider the sport *first* and ourselves *last*.

Pro racquetball brings attention; attention brings new players; new players buy court time and products; clubs sell time; investors build more clubs which attract more players . . .

And we are the only people, other than the amateur players, who can make that statement.

The pros, in general, care mostly about the prize money. If good prize money is there, they'll compete for it. The club owners are in it for profits and they make no bones about it. The manufacturers likewise. The promoters and agents are constantly looking for their percentage points, and the sponsors (thank goodness for our sponsors!) naturally seek product identification.

Only the USRA and NRC seek success for them *all* unselfishly. Do you have any idea of how much money it costs to run a pro tour stop?

To do these shows right requires a staff of five people, on the average, and their travel and per diem expenses alone come to about \$5,000. Photography costs \$2,000 because we want only the best — usually Art Shay. Publicity is another expense. The souvenir program, a magazine in itself, costs an average of \$5,000 per tournament, often more. In all an average pro tour stop, including the prize money, costs in the neighborhood of \$50,000 — an expensive neighborhood. But I learned very early that the best houses deserve the best neighborhoods.

A sincere acknowledgement of a job well done by Kendler to Carl Porter (c.) may have slightly embarrassed Porter, but Mrs. Porter (r.) seems pleased.



Despite a few losses we manage an abundance of victories. Our victories are your victories. When racquetball is shown on television, exposing it and its healthful aspects to the public, that's a victory. (What you saw recently on the CBS sports spectacular is just the beginning. Charlie Brumfield loves his new role as movie star and Marty Hogan is up for an Oscar.)

When young kids and old men equally enjoy the exercise and physical fitness that racquetball affords, that, too, is a victory.

You see our victories come not in dollars and cents; our victories are measured in "good," and the more good we can achieve through racquetball, the more meaning our lives will have. The sole purpose of our business is to promote good, clean competition. In sports competition is what it's all about. But in business the man who thinks he must defeat his competitors is wrong. His competitors are not his enemies. They happen to be workers in the same field of endeavor. The wise man looks upon his competitors as cooperators, and that is the position we will take with the new pro groups.

In sports competition is what it's all about. But in business the man who thinks he must defeat his competitors is wrong. His competitors are not his enemies.

Now I know there are some among you who are puzzled by our concern for competition at a time when we really have none. Truthfully we are *not* as much concerned as we are interested. We think there should be some competition, for this will bring about healthy progress, and all of us will be the beneficiaries.

Take the new men's professional organization. If they can get the kind of money they are asking, *all* of us can get more. Then there is the new women's professional organization. They have set their standards so high that you can't help but admire them. I hope they make it. I hope the men make it. And if they do, it will be "togetherness" that makes it all possible.

There is no question that we will be talking to the same sponsors. We already have. Do not doubt that we will try hard to sign them. But not at your expense. Under no circumstances will we undermine a pro player sponsorship, for either men or women. When you stop to think of it, in all our years of publishing, you have never seen criticism, in any form, of an outside group or an outside player. We are too big for such practice. We let others talk about us without a response because we believe our actions speak for us. We just go along running the finest tournaments we can, serving the players as well as we can, knowing you cannot fool the sponsors.

All of a sudden everyone wants to be in the racquetball business. The manufacturers want to be promoters, the players want to be business managers. Most everyone is a consultant.

Have you heard what a consultant *really* is? He is the man who knows 48 different ways to make love . . . but what he doesn't know is any women!

A few months ago at the Harvard Club in Boston a symposium considered "The Future of the Racquetball Industry . . . Traveling the Road to Doom or Prosperity?" The sponsor was the New England Racquet Sports Association which is, in fact, a group of 60 commercial tennis, racquetball and squash clubs. Its primary purpose is the dissemination of industry data to financiers to help mitigate the boom-bust cycle that has characterized previous ventures in commercial recreation, notably bowling, billiards and ice skating. The inclusion of racquetball was based on the hope that it might avoid some of the disasters that overtook its older brother, tennis, on the way to becoming a stable and growing commercial enterprise.

At the Boston symposium the Court Club Associations talked about the roller coaster life cycles of many products, along with unrealistic market estimates by prophets, pyramiders, syndicators,



Charlie Drake, president of Leach Industries hands out the Colgate Bonus Pool checks to the men . . .

. . . and to the women who qualified for the \$75,000 in cash.



manufacturers and consultants. To this they add the media and its role in what they call *"The Myth of Success and its Distorted Vision of Profitability."* This, they say, has brought about an influx of amateurs and glamour business hunters.

I particularly noted that the National Court Club Association was one of the consultants. I can readily understand why they would not want to over saturate the market. They are a very astute group with substantial investments in court clubs, and we should make them a part of our *"togetherness."*

All racquetball needs, now or at any other time, is more togetherness and understanding between the players and the business managers. Please note that I do not use the word *"promoter."* I am not sure that all the unique promotions I hear about are good for the sport. I'd like to keep racquetball in its purest form, and then I am sure we won't have to worry about killing the golden goose.

So let me say again that we will listen to any group of players or manufacturers and, if there is not conflict of principle, give them our wholehearted cooperation. I want you all to know that our door will always be open to those who need us, or even want to come back home. We'll always be at the players' side just as we have for 50 years in handball.

You know we are really more concerned about the amateurs than we are the pros. There are about 70 pros. There are five million amateurs. That's why we planned a court that could seat many thousands of spectators. Developing a glass that would help television follow the ball was next. Interesting more sponsors in underwriting the high cost of staging tournaments came next. Providing scholarships for deserving players and encouraging intercollegiate competition was next. And so was putting together a library of films to educate and entertain for worldwide distribution.

(It should be obvious to the unhappy pros that there are also unhappy amateurs who feel that more of the funds we generate should be diverted to their programs. After all they represent more than 99 percent of the market.)

As we are all aware this is the culmination of the 1978-79 season, a great one at that. For the first time in our history — thanks almost entirely to the hard work of Charlie Drake and Dave Armstrong — we have been able to secure individual sponsors for individual events, thereby adjusting the pro tour format to attract more sponsors and more prize money into racquetball.

Our good friends at JACK IN THE BOX, Catalina, Coors, Kunnan/Kennex and, of course the big three — Leach, Seamco and Colgate — to all of you a big *"thank you."* Without your support there would be no pro tour. We not only owe you a million thanks; many of us owe you our careers.

Our amateur program has reached record heights, as it does each year.

The USRA sanctioned over 600 tournaments. For the third consecutive year we sent more balls free of charge to tournaments than we were allotted. And for the third consecutive year the USRA picked up the tab because Terry Fancher felt the states deserved this help.

The Juniors (Joe Ardito's pride and joy) continue to flourish. Our new open format this season brought thousands to the courts, where a year ago we had only hundreds. Marty Hogan looks more worried than ever. He's the Grand Old Man of the Juniors!

You have all seen the age categories begun at this tournament. They will be offered around the nation at all sanctioned events next season. The success of these "veteran" classifications has been overwhelming, and we intend to continue the program.

Colgate, our primary sponsor this season, will be with us again next year. They have donated \$50,000 in prize money to this National Championship. They have also donated \$75,000 in Bonus Pool money. That's \$125,000 directly to the players. Do you know what NRC's share of that \$125,000 was? Absolutely nothing! One hundred percent of Colgate's sponsorship funds went directly to the players. I challenge anybody to find any professional sport in which 100 percent of the sponsorship went to the players. There are none.

Colgate, our primary sponsor this season . . . has donated \$125,000 directly to the players . . . NRC's share . . . was absolutely nothing.

I remember when I began the NRC back in 1973. We held four tournaments that season for a total purse of \$20,000. Certainly nobody was getting rich playing pro racquetball in 1973.

The following season of 1974-75 we held eight events for \$5,000 each and a National Championship for \$15,000, a total of \$55,000 in prize money to the players - more than double the previous season.



During the banquet this display of next year's championship rings was shown. That's real loot!

In 1975-76 we held 11 events at \$8,000 each, and a Nationals of \$15,000 for a total of \$103,000 again over *double* the previous season.

Each tournament in 1976-77 had \$15,000 prize money and the prizes nearly reached \$170,000, another jump, this time of over 60 percent.

Last season was our most successful ever, with the prize money increasing to \$20,000 per stop and the Nationals a dazzling \$30,000 totaling over \$200,000.

And this season with the addition of the Colgate Bonus Pool the prize money amounted to \$270,000 actual dollars distributed to professional players.

I think that's progress and *good* progress, and it comes from good business management. The NRC and our sponsors can be proud of the solid financial foundation under our racquetball house. Those who seek to take advantage of our years of work will find that it's not all that easy, but we wish them well anyhow.

We will again promote and publicize a pro tour next season for both men and women. I am proud to announce that every single one of our sponsors will return - Coors Beer, Catalina Sportswear, Kunnan/Kennex, JACK IN THE BOX, Leach, Seamco and Colgate. It is another strong indication that the people who know what is going on in this sport support those they know can get the job done.

The challenge is there. The NRC and the USRA will go forward, as we always do. We'll do everything we did last year, and more if we can. Those who wish to be a part of a winning team with a tradition of progress and performance — we invite you. Those who prefer to strike out on their own in search of the golden goose — good luck!

Speaking of prize money did you know that this past season the ladies played for an average of \$10,000 per tournament? That's right. Including the Bonus Pool and all the prize money distributed, it amounted to \$80,000 on the head for their eight tournaments . . . an average of \$10,000 per event. Just four years ago, the ladies were playing for \$500 a tournament. I think *that's* pretty good progress, too!

Need I remind you that brightly colored racquetballs first appeared as a result of NRC initiative? Need I remind you that glass walls first appeared as a result of our efforts? Need I remind you that the concept of pro racquetball was really hearsay until I went out and did it in 1973?

The 11 point tie-breaker, a Chuck Leve idea; linesmen, our idea; paid referees, our idea; the first televised tournament, ours.

Before I close I would like to say a few words about our latest "*first*," and the one invention that will have the greatest impact on racquetball's future. I speak of the remarkable new "*white glass*."

Hogan gets serious as he accepts his first Kendler Cup, the permanent award for the professional national champion.



Racquetball had hit a stalemate with television, as you all know, due to the combination of three factors. First was the speed of the play. The 140 miles per hour that the ball sometimes traveled made it next to impossible to cover. Secondly the glass walls produced such a glare that coverage was hampered due to the reflections. Third was the problem of lighting, or rather the lack of adequate lighting, because the court light sifted through conventional glass walls.

White glass has cured all that. The players will see white walls when they play; yet the spectators will see clearly through walls, even *better* than you can see now. Light will actually be reflected by these walls back into the court, making far better lighting and better camera coverage.

Not only will the cameras be able to see the ball, the players will no longer have to fight two balls coming out of the side wall — reflections of players and fans or fan movement. They will be able to see clearly again; in fact everybody will be able to see clearly.

White glass will have a revolutionary impact on racquetball. It may add years to a player's career. It might even bring back the control game so many of you have wanted.

It is really not fair for me to monopolize the limelight when others here deserve far more credit than I. Our host, Carl Porter in particular, and his staff in general, are my choice for racquetball's "Academy Award." If there is a more capable club owner in America, I have not met him. Everyone sings this man's praises, and the way his staff opened their arms to the players has been absolutely heartwarming.

Al Mackie, whether you know it or not, has contributed far more to the building of this sport than you could possibly imagine. Seamco, the firm he heads, provided us MOST generously with prize money and racquetballs at a time when we could not have made it without him. We can all thank Al for many of our blessings.

Wright takes a few minutes to discuss her second straight Kendler Cup.

Our spark plug is Charlie Drake of Leach Industries who generates ideas a mile a minute. Some of the best thinking to come out of our organization really begins with Charlie. Not only does he have great players and a great product, but he has a great heart as well. He isn't going to like me telling this, but when I asked him for a couple of hundred racquets for the handicapped children's orphanage in East Africa, Leach Industries gave them without hesitation. And that's not the only time he showed that he has a heart as big as a racquetball court.

Colgate has been far more than a sponsor for us. They put us in the big league. It was their faith in us, plus their great name, that brought us to the attention of other business giants. A lot of the success we enjoy comes from the company we keep. Colgate is one of those admirable companies and Jack Grimm reflects their spirit. Just the kind of a guy you'd expect to find spending a good part of his life and substance in behalf of the Better Boys Foundation.

Finally I am proud to be in the company of such wonderful men and women, and very grateful to all of you for participating in the sport we all love so much. Participation is the key to life, for it gives life meaning. The fact that you came hundreds or thousands of miles, at great cost, to take in a week of racquetballing is a tribute to you. All of us at USRA and NRC thank you with all our hearts and we hope and pray everyone of you will be back again next season. Your faith in us means a great deal to me. ●

All photos by Arthur Shay

Squashing Her Competition

Can Heather McKay — Surprise Amateur Champ — Switch Her Skills to Racquetball on a Pro Level?

by Nick Longhurst



... But despite her lack of competitive racquetball experience, McKay let her bombshell burst in the hot sun of Tempe, AZ when she scrapped her way to the national amateur title and through the qualifying rounds of the women's professional bracket before running out of steam against the eventual pro runner-up, Janell Marriott, in the quarters.

Heather is just starting out on her racquetball career and is planning to play in professional events in the coming season.

And that's not bad for someone who just celebrated her 37th birthday.

Heather is a tough player, and she proved how tough by easily putting down the aspirations of fellow finalist, Lynn Adams from San Diego, 21-13, 21-11 to take the amateur crown.

So where does all the skill come from?

She lives in Toronto, Canada, and for those of you who are clued in to racquet sports, it's no secret that the Canadian city is the North American mecca for squash.

Heather is a squash player "Par excellence", and she has built up the incredible reputation of never having lost a squash game against another woman player since 1962.

Her weekly workouts of tennis and field hockey in her home town ended in 1959 when she played her first game of squash in Queanbeyan, which is a small town 200 miles from Sidney. After only 12 months of learning she started playing in tournaments. Three years later she lost her last game.

Fit for Field Hockey

"Originally the squash playing was to get fit for field hockey," she explained to *National Racquetball* after her win in Tempe.

"But then I liked it so much, I just stopped playing the other games," she added.

And that decision set her on a career in the OTHER closed court racquet sport which took her to England and Scotland in 1962, where she was runner-up to the world's best and saw her final defeat.

Then Heather married professional squash player, Brian McKay, and the pair moved to Toronto where they both took jobs as professionals at the Toronto Squash Club. And she still teaches there, taking anyone, from rank beginners to experts, and helping them with their game.

So why racquetball?

Her first tournament was in the Coors All Pro competition where she met athletes from all sports competing for a big purse.

"I played for six weeks prior to that and went to Las Vegas to compete. I didn't win the tournament, but I picked up \$2,000 prize money and I could see that there was a chance I could become competitive in the sport."

Then there was a long layoff because Heather had to prepare for her own national championships — which, in case you didn't guess, she won.

So there was very little preparation for the racquetball National.

She explained "I played a total of seven weeks last year until November. Then I didn't pick up a racquet again until April. From then I played two or three times a week until the National Championships."



— Arthur Shay photo

Too Far Back

"And also squash players tend to come back farther. I have been beaten several times on points because I was waiting too far back in the court and they punched in up front."

And she added with a smile *"Once you start going backwards in this game — you're in trouble."*

Heather first qualified in New Haven at the pro stop, but faced much tougher opposition in the Nationals, where everyone is out for victory.

In the pro bracket she took San Diego's Susie Khan in the first round.

She did that in 3 and 9, following up that win with a 21-8, 21-8 crushing of Cheryl Ambler. That got her into the pro draw proper and she proved her mettle with another crushing 21-9, 21-1 win over Jean Sauser from Portland.

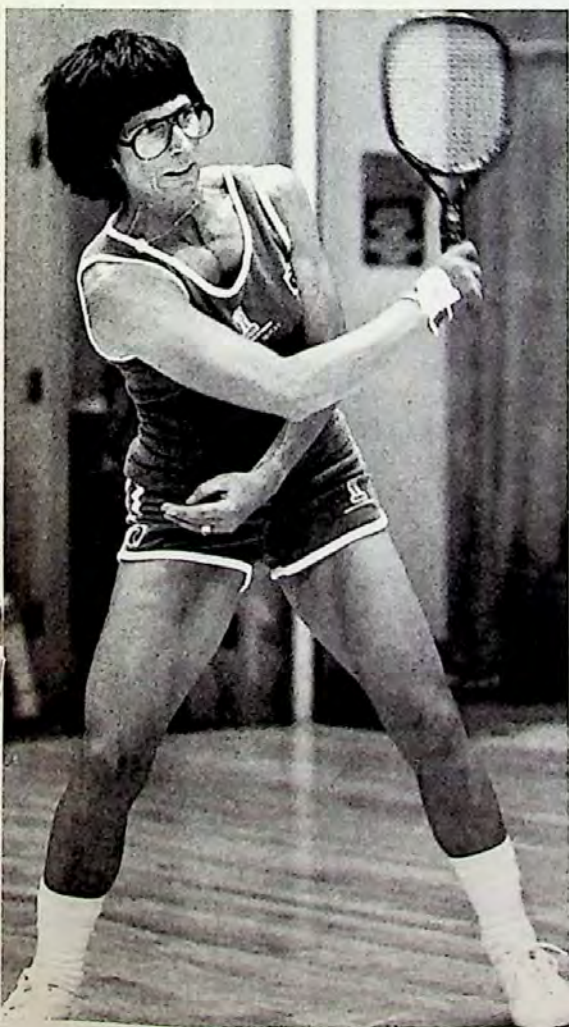
It was in the next round, the quarters, that she crumbled to a determined Janell Mariott who outshot her for a narrow 21-18, 21-17 victory.

But not bad for a beginner.

"Squash is certainly a harder game physically and since I stay very fit I don't find that endurance is any problem in racquetball. But playing the extra dimension of the ceiling is tough for me, and when I played on glass, I found myself missing a lot of easy shots off the back wall because I wasn't used to it."

But Heather McKay is a competitive woman, and racquetball is where it's at.

"I'm tired of squash in a sense because the competition isn't there, so I'm going to take up racquetball as a new career . . . who knows, I might become national champion at this one, too." ●



— Arthur Shay photo

So how can a woman who knows so little about racquetball suddenly burst onto the scene and monopolize the winning points?

She explained *"I still think squash is a lot harder than racquetball to play because there is a great deal more thinking involved. That doesn't mean that all my squash knowledge is perfect, or for racquetball, but I do think that once you have mastered one racquet sport like this, the ability to think and perform in another is never very far away."*

"Having such a deep knowledge of squash has its problems because it is hard to break the habit of 20 years of hitting the ball 17 inches up the wall. I find it very difficult to roll out a shot because of that."

"There are also other things which are difficult for me to tune into. The scoring up to 21 is tough, I can't maintain my concentration for so long because I am used to squash where the competitive performance is exercised over much shorter game periods."



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High Price Game In a High Price Town

New York City's New Vertical Club Hits the Top

by Dick Squires

"When my dad moved into the City from the suburbs, he really missed belonging to a country club. So he decided to build his own," says Elie Hirschfeld, son of a man who once ran for mayor of New York City. After five years of planning and construction Elie and Abe Hirschfeld just opened the doors to their "own" country club which is located right in the midtown heart of America's biggest city. And what a Club it is!

The opening line of their slick looking, four color brochure reads: *"The Vertical Club Philosophy. The management of the Vertical Club believes, above all, that quality is attention to detail."* Later on in the copy the Club is billed as *"the most luxurious sporting Club in New York . . . with an ambiance of tasteful elegance."* Are you getting the picture?

There is no doubt about it, the Vertical Club is one of the poshest, most expensive and extravagant sports complexes in N.Y.C. — perhaps even in the country. It could even be accused of being one of the snobbiest as well. Everyone who joins must first be reviewed and interviewed by the *"Admissions Committee."* It is anticipated that membership will be limited to around 1,500.

The Vertical Club is a father-son enterprise. Abe Hirschfeld, and son, Elie.



One of racquetball's most prestigious addresses: 333 E. 60th St., New York City

If name dropping is one of the games at the Vertical Club, you can start with some of the members of the board of directors including, left, John Lindsay and Frank Gifford.

Who is involved on the Board of Governors? Get ready for some pretty impressive namedropping. Frank Gifford and Roger Grimsby (sports and newscasters respectively), Dave DeBusschere (former basketball star), John V. Lindsay (former N.Y.C. Mayor), Bruce S. Nevins (President of Perrier Water), William Talbert (former tennis great who has run the U.S. Open for most of the last 10 years), Kelso Sutton (publisher, *Sports Illustrated*), George Plimpton (participatory journalist extraordinaire), Philip Beekman, (President, Joseph E. Seagram & Sons), and Mrs. Rachel Oliver (the Club's "menu consultant," creator of New York's famed "Lady Oliver Cheesecake" — and Abe Hirschfeld's daughter).

The Frank Lloyd Wright (name dropping again!) inspired architecture was actually designed and directed by the talented Eugene N. Ho, who created the China Pavilion at the last World's Fair in the Sixties. This elegant edifice's address is 330 E. 61st St., the heart of the fashionable East Side brownstone area. It is a rather unusual looking structure in that there are only five stories above the ground and two below; but with each level being tantamount to four floors compared to other skyscrapers, it is actually equivalent in height to a 20 story building.

Everything is truly 'First Class' — all the way. The Vertical Club facilities include eight Elastaturf tennis courts which are spotted vertically atop one another. "There is no more room in the heart of Manhattan," explains Elie Hirschfeld, "so we built in the only direction we could. Up!"



The building features a futuristic retractable siding on the courts, so the members can enjoy "fresh air tennis" in all but the coldest of months — plus a high level, scenic view of the City. (What about those Vertical members who might have vertigo?)

There are also six squash courts, a glass walled, elevated Courtside Restaurant and Bar, a lounge offering juices, snacks and backgammon, a totally stocked pro shop, spacious, carpeted dressing rooms (same as locker rooms), reserved parking right in the Clubhouse (for members only), a sophisticated Sports Medicine Center complete with the latest exercise equipment and cardiovascular stress testing, swimming pool, jacuzzis, saunas, and, oh yes, three *racquetball* courts!

Strangely Sluggish

One of the racquetball cubicles is constructed out of glass on three sides. There is space around it to seat 1,500 (!) spectators. What a fantastic showcase for our favorite game — one that has, heretofore, been incongruously and strangely sluggish in its arrival to this country's largest metropolis.

In any event racquetball has, at last, "arrived" when it finds a home in a racquet complex whose facilities, staff, and clientele will be as swank as anywhere in the world. It is rather

ironic that racquetball is now traversing the *reverse* evolutionary route of most other racquet and paddle sports. Tennis, squash and platform tennis all began many years ago in private, privet hedge surrounded country clubs, and are only recently, spreading out and down to the so called masses. As everybody knows, racquetball's origins can be traced to the more humble environs of Jewish Community Centers, YMCA's and, now, at a burgeoning number of commercial clubs. It has always traditionally been the most *democratic* of all racquet games.

With its tremendous growth of late, however, racquetball is not only called "*America's fastest growing participation activity*," but it is also taking on an aura of "*in-ness*." Movie stars, prominent athletes, politicians and the renowned "*Beautiful People*" are flocking to the racquetball courts.

So the sport which originally became associated with suburban, blue collar workers has now been installed in the most elite of all settings — the Vertical Club, where the official right after Labor Day opening coincided with the prestigious U.S. Open Tennis Championships out in nearby Flushing Meadows.

One wonders how Abe Hirschfeld's \$8,000,000 dream can ever become a

What Does It Cost to Play?

Down at the other end of the scale from the Vertical Club are the YMCA-YWCA operations like the one in Rochester, MN, where some courts are free to players who've paid a nominal membership fee.

As for private clubs an individual pays an average of \$50 a year and shares an average \$10 an hour prime time court fee. It all depends where the club is — small town or big city — east, west, north or south.

If you want to play in a private club for the least amount of money, move to a small town in the south.

profitable commercial venture with only eight tennis, six squash and three racquetball courts. The wonder ceases, however, when you see the Club's schedule of initiation fees, monthly dues and the additional hourly court fee for play.

The best way to appraise Vertical's prices is to compare them with other clubs that offer racquetball. In general hourly court fees across the country range from \$5 to \$6 to \$8 and \$14 for prime time. Individual memberships vary from \$25 to \$75 per year to \$40 on up to \$130 for a family membership. Some "unlimited court play" facilities charge a flat fee of \$1,000 annually, which includes no additional charges for court time or use of amenities.

Some of the plushier racquetball operations are:

Courtiers Club, Park Ridge, IL \$1,000 initiation charge plus \$60/month.

The Sports Gallery, Los Angeles. \$250 per individual, \$350 per couple plus monthly dues of around \$35. No extra for playing racquetball on their 20 courts. Tempe's *Arizona Athletic Club* has a similar setup.

Las Vegas Sporting House, which is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, offers 21 racquetball, two squash, and four platform tennis courts, Nautilus exercise equipment, basketball gym, volleyball, Olympic-sized swimming pool, restaurant, bar, saunas, steam, and jacuzzis — all for an initiation fee of \$400 per individual, \$600 for a couple, with monthly rates of \$50 for men, \$40 for women and \$70 per couple. Again there is no additional charge for court time.

\$5,000 a Family

The Vertical Club's fee schedule has a one time initiation charge of \$2,500 for an individual member, plus \$75 per month dues. A couple is \$4,000, plus \$125 a month. A couple with children under 18 is \$5,000, plus \$125 a month, plus \$20 each child per month. Junior members (ages 18-25) pay \$1,500 initiation plus \$50 a month. There are also two types of corporate memberships. One includes three individuals from the same firm for \$7,000 and the other is for five executives at the "bargain price" of \$10,000. Oh yes there are still the monthly dues tacked on of \$200 and \$300 respectively.

Then, on top of these rather steep costs there is a \$5 per person hourly court fee — whether for singles or doubles play. So if you are a tennis fanatic who enjoys playing, say, three times a week, it will cost you in the neighborhood of \$4,150 for the first year — a pretty fancy neighborhood! These prices are *not* inordinately out of line for private tennis clubs in New York City.

If you do not happen to play tennis, you can save a lot of money. The Vertical Club offers a special membership for the squash and racquetball players which has a one time initiation charge of "only" \$750 and monthly dues of \$40, plus, of course, the \$5 per person per hour for the court rental.

Other commercial squash clubs in New York City (there are very few racquetball courts to date) will range from \$16 to \$20 per hour for prime time down to \$5 to \$6 for non-prime. But these clubs can be joined for a nominal \$40 to \$50 annually. Whether squash and racquetball players are willing to commit themselves to an initiation fee of \$750, plus another almost \$500 annually in monthly dues, plus \$5 per hour for the privilege and pleasure proffered to them as members of the Vertical Club is, at this point, a real off-the-cuff conjecture.

The Vertical Club has obviously been planned and built for executive types and the elite set. The middle class and blue collar workers will not be able to afford to belong. So "The First Country Club in Manhattan" will, indeed, be "strictly limited" in its ultimate number of members. The advertised luxury and leisure will be available for a minuscule enclave of affluent persons which, in a way, is rather sad and too bad. On the other hand, hasn't this always been true of practically all private "country clubs?"

At any rate the rest of the racquetball population, in the rest of the country, will be watching the Vertical Club to see if Abe and Elie Hirschfield's "dream" turns into a financial "nightmare." And ordinary players will be curious to know what will happen to their workingman's sport when it turns elegant in an exclusive city-country club. ●

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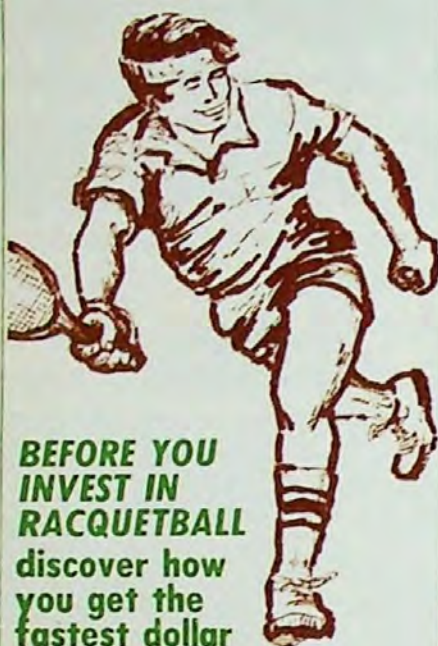


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Beyond the Open

The Older He Gets, the More He Wants to Win

Burt Morrow Takes Two National Titles

by Nick Longhurst



Burt Morrow

Today they have both carved a well established niche for themselves in the game. The son, Mark Morrow is a professional and constant player on the pro tour.

And his dad . . . Well Burton Morrow, who's 57, just drops into the 1979 Nationals and cleans up in the Golden Masters division, taking both the singles and doubles titles and handing out donuts and defeats to the cream of the crop.

Most of the time Burton Morrow can be found behind his dentist's drill, practicing his profession in Lakewood, CA, a suburban area just south of Los Angeles.

. . . That is when he is not massaging his competitive instincts on his local racquetball court.

Burt and son started playing the game at the nearby Long Beach City college, making an inauspicious start on an open ceilinged court that was an interestingly non-standard 46 feet long and 25 wide.

And just to make sure that the ball didn't get out of hand and out of the court too often, there was a 30 foot high front wall.

"Mark and I learned to play the game there, and the dimensions of the court gave us some training which has turned out to be very good today. No ceiling — so not much in the way of defensive play, and we learned to place the ball and kill it. That was the only way to end some of those rallies," he explains.

Burt's love of racquetball grew out of handball, which he took up in the middle west while at dental school. Most of his formative on court experiences took place in the Town Club in Chicago, a club once owned by Bob Kendler which was the nursery for handball champions.

Six years ago a father and son walked onto an enclosed court in Long Beach, CA, clutching a couple of paddles and an old tennis ball.

It was the first time the pair of them had ever tried to play a newfangled game called "racquetball" and after a hour of strenuous play, they were both bitten by the bug.

They graduated from paddles to old wooden racquets and then, for a birthday present, the son bought his father a shiny new aluminium racquet.

Beginning with Old Sponge Ball

Burt's background begins even farther back, almost 50 years ago when, as a kid in Brooklyn, he used to play against one wall with an old sponge ball.

And when he was a 14-year-old at Montauk Junior High, he played in his first tournament.

"The teachers used to organize a tournament in lunch hours. We would go off and play each other, then go back to school and tell the teachers who won the game."

Then he picked up the game again while studying in the old University of Illinois Dental School in Chicago.

"I was lucky, I never so much as hurt a finger while I played there, my hands never hurt and I never had an injury."

"Then I moved out to California to practice dentistry and didn't play again for 10 years."

Then he played a game against one of his daughter's boyfriends.

"And after that game my hands must have swollen up to twice the size. That was the writing on the wall — I waited to find something with a racquet."

In 1973 Burt and Mark entered their first tournament, again at the Long Beach Athletic Club, and got creamed.

"Those guy down there made us look like beginners."

But Burt kept playing.

"I enjoy the competition more than anything else. What else is there in a sport other than the exercise and the competition?"

To prepare for a tournament he trains a few weeks before, two or three nights a week. He went into the nationals ready to do his best.

"I really did try to psych myself up to win, especially in the semi-final match I played against Carl Loveday."

"I normally have a tendency to go into the court and take it easy for a bit. That's good if I think I can beat the guy because I can toy with him for a bit and finesse the ball. But with Carl, I really went in there to win."

Serving Low Shots

"I'm not much of a server but I really tried hard. I decided that in that particular game against Carl, who is tough, that I would ace serve him. I went in there and served a lot of low shots. They just dropped over the short serve line and went into the wall."

"Then every so often I would mix that up with some cross courts and some Zs and before I knew it it was six, eight, 10, 12 to nothing. . ."

Burt has a strong philosophy about the way he plays racquetball.

"I play an offensive game. I will only play defensively when I have no offensive shot to make." And unlike most people he never prepares before a game.

"I never practice before a game. If I work on my shots for two minutes before I play someone, I have done a hell of a lot. I just don't have the patience to do that. I just get out there and try to win the game."

He believes that a lot of his success is due to the amount he thinks on the court. *"And that's the experience of years and years of handball and racquetball."*

The reigning Golden Master is also very emphatic about the duration of his competitive playing life.

"I'll be playing forever," he says. "They keep extending the age group through 60 and 65. And as long as there is competition, I'll play. If there is no competition for me, I'll go down in a lower bracket and try out against the youngsters."

"I like to win — but I like the competition even more." ●

Any club that would like a free "Eyeguards Are Recommended" sign to post on their bulletin board or court door can write to Richard D. Bakke, c/o Pro-Tec Inc., 11108 Northrup Way, Bellevue, WA 98004 or call him at 206-828-6595 . . . *National Racquetball* pictured seven eyeguards in the recent story, "Products that Protect Your Eyes." Ektelon also makes



eyeguards, including the eye and nose bridge protector shown here . . . Chuck Spaulding, head of Spaulding Racquetball Clubs, Inc., was cover man and "Sportsman of the Year" in the February edition of *Tennis Press*, a St. Louis publication dedicated to racquet sports and running . . . The Spaulding clubs recently bought Don Kessinger's Racquetball Club in Little Rock, AR . . . Dan Bertolucci, USRA associate coordinator, is a new member of the board of directors of the Youth Hall of Fame, which honored high school athletes and teams. Marty Hogan received special recognition at the event . . . Du Pont has come out with Lucite® SAR, a super abrasion resistant acrylic sheet that clubs are using for transparent court walls . . . *Women's Sports* is the new monthly publication put out by the Women's Sports Foundation . . . Thomas O'Brien is director of sales for Omega Sports, St. Louis based producer of racquets and equipment . . . R.P.M. Distributors in Running Springs, CA, is holding beat the ball machine contests to introduce its new practice device, "The Racqueteer" . . . DBI Books, Inc., Northfield, IL, is running a special promotion to clubs on Steve Keeley's *The Complete Book of Racquetball* and on their newly issued *Physical Fitness Digest*.



Racquetball



Terry Fancher

USRA will extend 1980 Regional Championships

In order to accommodate the ever increasing numbers of amateurs the USRA has decided to expand the annual Regional Championships from 10 to 14. The increase in the number of these tournaments will cut down on the amount of travel necessary to attend these events and will distribute tournament play in cities and population centers, rather in arbitrary regions by states.

Having become the largest single set of tournaments to occur on the same weekend in the country the USRA Regional Championships bring together the finest in area competition and provide the means for the best open men and women singles players to win trips to the National Championships. However the largest numbers of players in these tournaments are aspiring B and C competitors who are seeking to win titles gain experience and enjoy themselves in both singles and doubles play.

Eventual plans include securing a sponsor for each of these tournaments in addition to our regular support from our official product manufacturers. The goal is to further enhance the tournaments so they are the finest events in each region, comparable to pro tour stops. With the smaller breakdown in terms of area and cities regional sponsorship should be easier to secure.



Intercollegiate Players Wanted; \$10,000 Reward

Now that our first — and successful — USRA Intercollegiate Championships are behind us, we are encouraging even more college men and women to send their names and address to my attention at our office. In this way we can notify you in advance of the information concerning the Intercollegiate and add you to our mailing list for the upcoming season. With a minimum of \$10,000 in scholarship funds awarded by Leach and Seamco this tournament can mean a great deal to the participants in terms of financing their education. The main purpose of this competition, however, is to determine the team championship and award the Joseph G. Sobek team cup to the winning school. If your college has a racquetball program, they should be encouraged to compete preferably as a team. But individuals are, of course, eligible for the same benefits. Below is the list of the first ever USRA All Americans. Why not add your name to this honor roll?

1st Annual USRA All America List (Award to the first four finishers in each division)

Men's #1 Singles:

1. Bob Bolan, Scottsdale Community College
2. Keith Dunlap, Memphis State University
3. Larry Fox, University of Michigan
4. Bob Phillip, University of Texas-Austin

Men's #2 Singles:

1. Dan Cohen, Memphis State University
2. Bill Kane, University of Illinois-Chicago Circle
3. John Feldman, University of Colorado
4. Barry Allen, University of Illinois

Men's Doubles:

1. Pete Tashie/Mike Gora, Memphis State University
2. Doug Sheperdigian/Mike Kaufman, University of Michigan
3. Tom Stanger/Roger Show, University of Illinois
4. Gary Morrison/Ken Koehn, University of Colorado

Women's #1 Singles:

1. Barbara Faulkenberry, Air Force Academy
2. Michelle Busaca, UCLA
3. Elena Mildenberger, Canisius College
4. Julie Fremder, University of Illinois

Women's #2 Singles:

1. Amy Gudbransen, College of Lake County
2. Terry Harrington, University of Nebraska
3. Jeanine Toman, University of Illinois
4. Jean Tapas, Lake Forest College

Women's Doubles:

1. Dawn Kell/Maureen Biermingham, University of Illinois
2. Carol Weisbacker/Lois Wiesbrook, Lake Forest



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National Racquetball's Most Improved Players Worked Hard for Their Achievements

Our response to National Racquetball's Most Improved Player Award was overwhelming. It was also difficult to choose the most deserving player in many states because there were so many accomplishments over the past year. Those who were not chosen, but who had made significant improvement, were given Honorable Mention to officially mark their progress.

Of those who submitted evidence and support of their achievements there was no typical player. All age groups, skill levels, and both sexes were represented equally. It was amazing to read the letters from new mothers who took up the game to lose weight or from tennis converts or from fast rising junior stars. Many of these players started as novice players and are full or part time instructors at the very club where they learned to play. Many had also received publicity from their accomplishments from local news media and some will no doubt eventually become touring pros.

One of the most noticeable aspects which stood out in practically every case tends to dispel the current myth that being successful in the sport of racquetball is less difficult than in most sports. Quite the contrary — we found that a tremendous amount of time and effort went into the improvement of all the contestants. While racquetball is easy to learn, it is not easy to excel in.

To the winners in each state we are sending a lifetime subscription to *National Racquetball*, Steve Keeley's *The Complete Book of Racquetball* and a pair of Leach eyeguards, as well as a Most Improved Player certificate.

Congratulations to the players who won, thanks to everyone who participated — and start saving the records that will make you a candidate for *National Racquetball's* Most Improved Player next year.

The Winners

National Racquetball's First Most Improved Player Contest

California

Bob Holcomb, 18 • Buena Park • Plays at Anaheim Athletic Club

Colorado

Peggy Haddon, 31 • Arvada • Plays at Colorado Court Sports, Arvada

Connecticut

John Cassese, 32 • Guildford • Plays at Downtown Racquet Club, New Haven

Florida

Richard W. Smith, 17 • Hollywood • Plays at The Courtrooms, Ft. Lauderdale

Georgia

Caryn McKinney, 21 • Atlanta • Plays at Atlanta Sporting House

Hawaii

Pat McMican, 31 • Pearl City • Plays at Pearl Harbor Naval Station

Illinois

Sean Moskwa, 16 • Downers Grove • Plays at Glass Court, Lombard

Iowa

James E. Woolcock, 25 • Des Moines • Plays at Des Moines YMCA

Kansas

Scott Perry, 15 • Hutchinson • Plays at Hutchinson YMCA

Louisiana

Mark Bregenzer, 26 • Lafayette • Plays at Red Lerille's, Lafayette

Maine

Gene Fitzpatrick, 19 • Falmouth • Plays at Downeast Court Club, Falmouth

Massachusetts

Gregg J. Maloley, 25 • Waltham • Plays at Racquetball International, Burlington and Norwood

Michigan

William E. Pilkey, 28 • Warren • Plays at The Backwall Racquetball Club, Madison Heights

Minnesota

Gordon E. Allen, 37 • Minnetonka • Plays at the Court House, Minneapolis, and Northwest Racquet and Swim, St. Louis Park

Nebraska

Joseph Sacco, 16 • Omaha • Plays at Racquetball of Omaha

Nevada

Ann E. Young, 26 • Las Vegas • Plays at Las Vegas Racquetball Club and Sporting House

New Jersey

Evelyn Thomas, 25 • Lakehurst • Plays at Toms River Racquetball

New York

Elena Mildenerberger, 19 • Lancaster, NY • Plays at Racquet Club of Eastern Hills

Oregon

Momi Lee, 15 • Salem • Plays at The Courthouse, Salem

Pennsylvania

Roberta Diamond, 39 • Ft. Washington • Plays at Ft. Washington Racquetball Club

Vermont

Cathy Brown, 31 • Colchester • Plays at Racquet's Edge, Essex Junction

Washington

Leilani Olbu, 27 • Seattle • Plays at University of Washington, Seattle

West Virginia

Jack Boyles, 27 • Morgantown • Plays at Coliseum, West Virginia University, Morgantown

Wisconsin

Jeff Plazak, 14 • Brookfield • Plays at Downtown Athletic Club, Milwaukee

Photos of *National Racquetball's* Most Improved Players from Washington and Wisconsin begin the photo series you'll find in this USRA amateur section during the coming months. Watch these pages to learn more about the people whose better racquetball made them 1979 winners.



Leilani Olbu, Washington

Leilani Olbu, a University of Washington graduate who's now taking physical education courses, placed second in the women's C division in September of 1978 at the Ice Cream Open in Beaverton, OR. By May of 1979 she was first place winner in the Bs and consolation winner in women's open doubles in the Husky Open in Seattle. She even competed in the women's open at the Nationals in Tempe. One of her instructors is Doug Wilson, USRA state chairman, who submitted her name to the National Racquetball contest.



Jeff Plazak, Wisconsin

Two of the state's veteran players — USRA State Chairman Bob Keenan and Joe Wirkus — have worked with Jeff Plazak and watched him improve. Jeff has progressed from juniors divisions (he won the 13 and under last January in the USRA state championships) to being a consistent contender in the men's Bs (he was a semi-finalist in the May SMASH tournament in Menomonee Falls).

Honorable Mention Awards

The following players made outstanding progress from June, 1978, to June, 1979. Most of them narrowly missed the winners' titles in their states — in some cases because the Most Improved Player had racked up a more spectacular record. In other cases it was simply that the honorable mention player had already achieved racquetball fame, (including *National Racquetball* coverage) while the winner in that state was an unsung hero.

Joseph L. Billhimer, Jr., 15 • Beachwood, NJ • Plays at Toms River Racquetball and Kangaroo Courts, Bricktown

Scott Casady, 15 • El Cajon, CA • Plays at Helix Court House, Spring Valley

Mary Ann Cluess, 25 • West Hempstead L.I., NY • Plays at Olympic Court Club, Pt. Washington

Fran Cummings, 25 • Riverside, CA • Plays at Riverside Tournament House

Al Freedman, 46 • Voorhees, NJ • Plays at Voorhees YMCA

Karen Kimerling, 28 • Bronx, NY • Plays at Court Sports and Pelham Racquet Club, Pelham Manor

Margo Knittel, 29 • Smithtown, NY • Plays at Blue Point Racquet Club and Off the Wall, Hauppauge

Judy B. Leerer, 25 • Hollywood, FL • Plays at South Broward Racquet and Sports Club

Mike Levine, 14 • Rochester, NY • Plays at Winton Racquet Club, Rochester

Simon Lightman, 13 • Downsview, Ontario, Canada • Plays at Jewish Community Center

Jack Newman, 15 • Morton Grove, IL • Plays at Four Flaggs Court Club, Niles

Cira Nickerson, 25 • Bricktown, NJ • Plays at Racquet Forum, Little Silver, NJ

Karen Paice, 14 • Inverness, IL • Plays at Court House and The Right Tennis and Racquetball Club, Schaumburg

Joe Peinado, 24 • Santa Barbara, CA • Plays at Santa Barbara YMCA

Kelly R. Rasmussen, 18 • Jacksonville, OR • Plays at Medford Superior Courts

Bettie Richards, 42 • Penfield • Plays at Penfield Racquet Club

John Sears, 29 • Springfield, OH • Plays at Springfield Court Club

Phil Simborg, 34 • Homewood, IL • Plays at Tinley Park Racquetball

Merrisue Soutor, 29 • Owatonna, MN • Plays at Faribault YMCA Owatonna Racquet Club and Apple Valley Courts

Shad Thayer, 14 • Denver, CO • Plays at Tennis World's Racquet World

Ray C. White, 32 • Grand Rapids, MI • Plays at Grand Rapids Racquet Club

John Weaver, 27 • San Diego, CA • Plays at Lance Alworth's Sports Center, San Diego



Illinois State Racquetball Association Referees Committee Test

Part II:

Circle the correct answer or answers.

42. After the ref calls the score, and the server hits a short serve, the ref must call the second serve — a. true — b. false —

43. The referee may not award a technical without giving the player "due warning." — a. true — b. false —

44. Any ball which passes between the legs of a player is a hinder — a. true — b. false —

45. If the player believes he may hit his opponent, he should — a. swing easy — b. try to swing in a way that won't hit his opponent — c. hold up and call a hinder — d. hold up and request the ref to award a hinder —

46. Players in the court are not allowed to make comments — a. during the rally — b. from the time the score is called until the rally ends — c. at any time or in any way that might distract the opponent —

47. The first serve is short, and the second serve is good, but during the rally, the ball breaks. After replacing the ball the server gets — a. one serve — b. two serves —

48. The first serve is short, then the server hits a very soft lob serve whereby the ball is immediately discovered to be broken; after replacing the ball the server gets — a. one serve — b. two serves —

49. The referee calls a screen serve and the ball goes on to hit the back wall on the fly. The ref should — a. revise the call to a fault serve — b. allow the screen serve call to stand —

50. In a match with linesmen the referee is partially blocked and is not completely sure of the call. The ref should — a. make the best guess and stick to it — b. make the best guess and if there is an appeal, inform the players

of the uncertainty and require the rally to go over — c. inform the players about the blocked view and request that the rally go over —

51. The player or team that wins the toss — a. must serve first in game 1 — b. has the option of serving or receiving in game 1 —

52. If a player requests that a linesman be changed, the ref should — a. replace the linesman — b. replace the linesman if the other player does not object — c. replace the linesman if the referee feels there is an adequate replacement available —

53. In order to replace the ball — a. it must be broken or clearly defective — b. both players must agree to do so — c. the referee must determine that the ball should be replaced —

54. Player "A" steps on player "B's" foot just as player "B" is about to hit the

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ball, but the ref does not see it or make any call. Player "B" should — a. continue playing and ask for a hinder if he misses the shot or loses the rally — b. hold up and call a hinder immediately — c. hold up and ask the ref for a hinder —

55. You are the ref in the situation above, and you did not see the contact, but player "B" chooses to hold up and informs you there was contact before the swing. You should — a. ask player "A" if there was contact, and if player "A" agrees, award a hinder — b. ask player "A" if there was contact, and if player "A" agrees, award an avoidable hinder — c. award the rally to player "A" and inform player "B" that the only call to make is a back swing hinder —

56. In doubles if the served ball passes between the server's partner and the wall, it is an automatic hinder — a. true — b. false —

57. If the server hits the ball on the handle of the racquet while serving — a. there is no penalty — b. it is a fault serve — c. it is an out serve —

58. The server may start moving with part of one foot outside the service zone so long as both feet are completely inside the service zone when the server bounces and strikes the ball — a. true — b. false —

59. Anytime both players agree to do so, they can overrule the referee — a. true — b. false —

60. If a player wants to call a back swing hinder, the player must do so — a. before striking the ball — b. as soon as possible — c. before the rally ends —

61. If there are no linesmen, the only call the player can appeal is — a. an avoidable hinder — b. a back swing hinder — c. a fault serve — d. none of the above —

62. If a serve is *obviously* going long and the receiver catches it before it hits the back wall, the ref should — a. award a point to the server — b. call a fault serve — c. allow the serve to go over —

63. The referee calls the score, and then the receiver raises his racquet; the ref should — a. say "hold it" — b. say nothing — c. award a technical or technical warning and inform the player that he must raise his racquet before the score is called —

64. The ref awards a hinder on the basis that player "A" was hit by player "B's" shot. Player "A" claims that the ball hit the floor before it hit "A", and requests to be awarded the rally. In a match with linesmen can player "A" appeal the ref's call? — a. yes — b. no —

65. The ref calls a hinder, but player "A" wants to be awarded the rally because the shot "rolled out" and there was no way player "B" could have gotten to it. In a match with linesmen can player "A" appeal? — a. yes — b. no —

66. Player "A" hits an ace serve, and the referee calls it a point. Player "B" believes that it was a fault serve because player "A" foot faulted. In a match with linesmen can player "B" appeal? — a. yes — b. no —

67. If the server's partner is out of the box when the serve is hit, but the opponent hit a perfect kill shot on the return, the ref should — a. call a hand out — b. call a fault serve — c. call a lawyer —

68. The players are entitled to linesmen when — a. it is a semi-final or final match — b. when they both request it — c. when the referee believes it is necessary — d. when the tournament director determines —

Answers on page 66.

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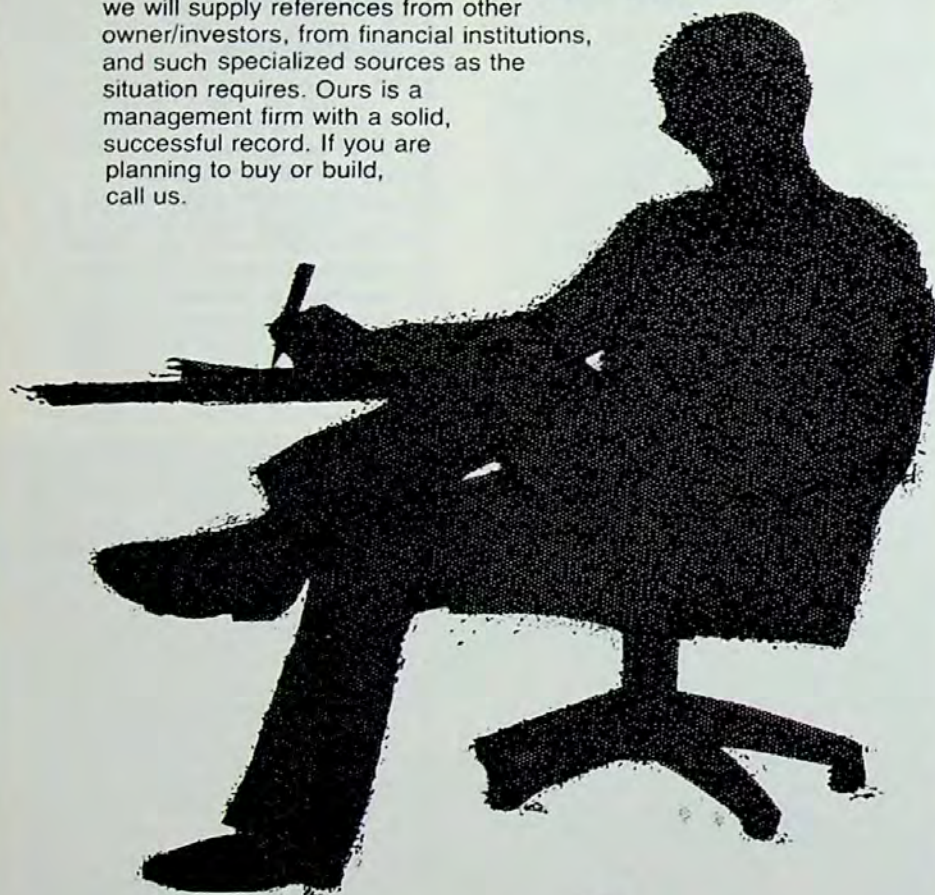
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Oct. 19-21

Fourth Annual Des Moines Open Racquetball Tournament, Des Moines Central Y.M.C.A., 101 Locust, Des Moines, IA 50309, Tournament Director Bob Albright 515-288-0131



Tournament Writeups Pared Down

National Racquetball condenses tournament writeups when space restrictions make it necessary to print shorter reviews. Since we can't predict *when* we'll be heavy with tournament writeups, we suggest that you continue to send us full results. The best way to draw attention to your tournament at any time is to send clear black and white photos of the action. A reminder, too, to include the place where the tournament was played, the date when it took place and the person (with phone number) to contact if we need more information.



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Wisconsin

The brother team of Ken and Dan Frank pulled an upset win in the third Annual USRA Wisconsin State Doubles Championships June 22 - 24 at the Supreme Court in Madison.

Results

Quarters: Paul Ikier/Brad Armstrong d. Don and Mark Forrer 21-9, 21-13; Art Guenther/Billy Bilty d. Brian Parrot/Bill Schultz 21-17, 21-17; Ken and Dan Frank d. Dan Murray/Jim Lucht 21-14, 21-18; Joe Wirkus/Dave Hulst d. Pappy Johnson/Tom Phillips 21-3, 21-18

Semis: Ikier/Armstrong d. Guenther/Bilty 21-13, 21-13; Frank/Frank d. Wirkus/Hulst 16-21, 21-20, 11-10

Finals: Frank/Frank d. Ikier/Armstrong 21-20, 7-21, 11-5

Women's Open

Quarters: Julie Jacobsen/Karen Finkelnburg d. Sharon Telander/Lisa Brickson 21-12, 21-11; Sue Bechard/Laura Sidello d. Theresa Gnewuch/Debbie Corliss 21-13, 21-16; Nola Ward/Sheryl Krause d. Dyanne Singler/Sue Joy Sabota 21-15, 21-14; Pat Hulst/Sandy Middleton d. Janice Lucht/Barb Sowinski 21-12, 21-6

Semis: Bechard/Sidello d. Jacobsen/Finkelnburg 9-21, 21-16, 11-5; Ward/Krause d. Hulst/Middleton 21-15, 21-17

Finals: Ward/Krause d. Bechard/Sidello 21-14, 21-19

Men's B

Quarters: Bob Tercek/Jay Griffin d. Wally Plazak/Jeff Plazak 19-21, 21-18, 11-1; Dick Weis/Larry Zanoni d. Steve and Scott Lindenaue 16-21, 21-20, 11-0; Hank Steinkiller/Jerry Fisher d. Schneider/Wilson 9-21, 21-9, 11-5; Frank Neu/Dave Anderson d. Ben Wirkus/Dennis Ryan 21-15, 21-11

Semis: Tercek/Griffin d. Weis/Zanoni 21-19, 21-13; Neu/Anderson d. Steinmiller/Fisher 21-13, 14-21, 11-1

Finals: Neu/Anderson d. Tercek/Griffin 21-13, 21-11

Seniors

Quarters: Tim Lattimer/Frank Neu d. Jerry Hoff/Bob Keenan 2-21, 21-9, 11-8; Ivan Bruner/Chet Howard d. Merrill Norvell/Jack Palmer 21-10, 21-9; Dan Klyve-Wood/Dick Kinney d. Claude Manning/Wally Plazak 21-18, 21-13; Jim White/John Fazio d. Don Isabelli/Martin Cook 21-10, 21-14

Semis: Lattimer/Neu d. Bruner/Howard 21-14, 21-12, Klyve-Wood/Kinney d. White/Fazio 21-19, 21-14

Finals: Klyve-Wood/Kinney d. Lattimer/Neu 21-16, 21-12

Women's B (Round Robin)

1st — Carol Colletti/Joan Schallern, 2nd — Joann Pruitt/Dorothy Bergmann, 3rd — Barb Swetlik/Diane Wirkus

JUNIORS 17 and Under (Round Robin)

1st — Dan Murray/Dino Piscione, 2nd — Bob & Brian Kohl, 3rd — Mike Manning/Mark O'Donnell

JUNIORS 15 and Under (Round Robin)

1st — Bob Kinney/Sheryl Krause, 2nd — Brian Kohl/Jeff Plazak, 3rd — Bryan Cassidy/Brad Hulst

JUNIORS 12 and Under (Round Robin)

1st — Larry Gnewuch/Steve Maasch, 2nd — Alex & Stephanie Weis, 3rd — Paul Kreuger/Bill Erso

Connecticut

The 1979 U.S.R.A. Wallingford Open, directed by Kathy Perez and sponsored by Hawthorne Inn in Berlin, CT, took place May 25-27 at the Wallingford Clubhouse.

Results

Men's Open

Quarters: Rob McKinney d. Dave Yurgaitis 21-12, 21-13; Jack Fruin d. Paul Wicha 21-17, 21-4; Ed Castillo d. Dick Wells 21-13, 21-9; Dave Luft d. Howard Packer 21-13, 21-11

Semis: McKinney d. Fruin 21-13, 21-12, Luft d. Castillo 21-13, 21-9

Finals: McKinney d. Luft 21-4, 21-15

Men's B

Quarters: Dave Mackelcan d. Joe Barbino 21-12, 21-5; Harvey Adler d. Bill Welaj 21-11, 21-16; Jerry Terracino d. Barry McDermott 15-21, 21-7, 11-2; Larry DeMaida d. Al Lewis 21-13, 21-10

Semis: Mackelcan d. DeMaida 21-7, 21-3; Terracino d. Adler 16-21, 21-11, 11-6

Finals: Mackelcan d. Terracino 21-16, 21-10

Men's C

Quarters: Jack Mushin d. Steven Weiss 21-13, 21-7; Ira Kroopneck d. Rober Pouldier 21-10, 21-15; Mike Clifford d. Martin Rubin 21-9, 21-17; Tony DiNicola d. Joe Demaida 21-14, 21-9

Semis: Mushin d. DiNicola 21-6, 21-14; Kroopneck d. Clifford 21-13, 12-21, 11-8

Finals: Mushin d. Kroopneck 20-21, 21-12, 11-4

Men's Open Doubles

Quarters: Howard Packer/Jack Nocera d. Ira Kroopneck/Martin Rubin 21-5, 21-8; Jerry Yee/Dave Luft d. Dave Mackelcan/Don DeFralf 21-11, 21-18; Ed Castillo/Tom Waltz d. Dick Wells/Larry Skaff 19-21, 21-3, 11-9; Jack Fruin/Scott Anderson d. Bruce Daly/Dick Wolverton 21-17, 21-15

Semis: Nocera/Packer d. Fruin/Anderson 21-6, 21-13; Yee/Luft d. Castillo/Waltz 11-21, 21-17, 11-8

Finals: Nocera/Packer d. Yee/Luft in a forfeit by injury to Luft

Ohio

The Middletown Racquetball Club in Franklin held its Second Annual House tournament June 1-3.

Results

Women's C: 1st — Kathy Zumbahlen, 2nd — Barb Barker, 3rd — Joni Earach, Cons. — Karen Robinson

Women's B: 1st — Debbie Constantine, 2nd — Nancy Chapman, 3rd — Marsha Curtis, Cons. — Peggy Bimschleger

Women's Open: 1st — Lori Heidtman, 2nd — Janet Snider, 3rd — Nancy Chapman, Cons. — Margie Farkas

Men's C: 1st — John Michael, 2nd — Greg Lloyd, 3rd — Steve Wood, Cons. — Dan Long

Men's B: 1st — Doug Barker, 2nd — Jerry Arnold, 3rd — Gregg Smith, Cons. — Len Stahl

Men's Open: 1st — Denny Stilsinger, 2nd — Jack Dalton, 3rd — Roy McKay, Cons. — Early Heidtman

Ohio

Two of the five Dayton area Circuit Court racquetball clubs held the Third Annual Dayton Area Tournament June 8-10 as a fund raiser for the Children's Medical Center in Dayton for purchase of equipment for the hospital's Pulmonary Function Lab.

Results

Men's Open Singles:

1st — Mike Sipes, 2nd — Bob Ellis

Men's Senior Singles:

1st — Jim Marsh, 2nd — Elijah Helton

Men's B Singles:

1st — Gary Harrison, 2nd — Tony Berkemeier

Men's C Singles:

1st — John Marinich, 2nd — Brooke McCarter

Men's Novice Singles:

1st — Ed Myers, 2nd — Felix Guerra

Men's Open Doubles:

1st — Sipes/Clifford, 2nd — Helton/McKinley

Men's B Doubles:

1st — Kent Fusselman/Ron Yanucci, 2nd — Randy Frees/Dave Miller

Women's Open Singles:

1st — Becky Callahan, 2nd — Sandy Brickley

Women's B Singles:

1st — Deb Shartle, 2nd — Rosie Maxwell

Women's C Singles:

1st — Joyce McKinney, 2nd — Sandy Hyre

Women's Novice Singles:

1st — Cathy Mapes, 2nd — Shirlene Leonard

Women's B Doubles:

1st — Hyre/Wolff, 2nd — Maxwell/Diane Reitz

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California

Over 100 entrants from the Bay Area, northern California and Nevada played in the Third Annual Womens Racquetball Classic May 4-5 at Sacramento Handball Racquetball Club.

Results

Open Singles

Quarters: Cindy McGovern d. Mary Ellen Camilli, Adele Morar d. Dana Miller, Connie Johnson d. Judy Brandt, Sharon Ferra d. Maria Hyne

Semis: Morar d. McGovern, Ferra d. Johnson

Finals: Ferra d. Morar

Open Singles Consolation

Semis: Miller d. Camilli, Hyne d. Brandt

Finals: Miller d. Hyne

B Singles

Quarters: Liz Anderson d. Kathy Poe, Donna Whitmore d. Jayne Presnell, Sandy Palmer d. Peggy Twedt, Peggy Wayte d. Nancy Reed

Semis: Anderson d. Whitmore, Wayte d. Palmer

Finals: Wayte d. Anderson

B Singles Consolation

Quarters: Bettye Swart d. Pam Cross, Nancy Fowler d. Kathy Schmidt, Vicki Craig by forfeit, Pearle Woodall d. Sandy Robinson

Semis: Swart d. Fowler, Woodall d. Craig

Finals: Swart d. Woodall

C Singles

Quarters: Kim Kittilsen d. Raye Thomas, Donna Parilo d. Irene Miyasato, Preston Shackelford d. Kathleen Hultman, Terri Ulloa d. Alicemarie Hughson

Semis: Parilo d. Kittilsen, Shackelford d. Ulloa

Finals: Shackelford d. Parilo

C Singles Consolation

Quarters: Di Marshall d. Ruth Bayer, Panda Ray d. Shannon Harden, Terry Harwood by forfeit, Lori McKannay by

Semis: Marshall d. Ray, Harwood d. McKannay

Finals: Marshall d. Harwood

D Singles

Quarters: Regina White d. Holly Ferris-Elliott, Linda Russell d. Donna Steward, Jan Tucker d. Kathie Sabato, Janet Marcotte d. Tracy Bass

Semis: White d. Russell by default, Marcotte d. Tucker

Finals: Marcotte d. White

D Singles Consolation

Quarters: Kathi Tschida d. Linda Powell, Joy Evans d. Lori Guillen, Carolyn Felker d. Kat Menton, Barbara Weiglein d. Krissa Anderson

Semis: Evans d. Tschida, Felker d. Weiglein

Finals: Felker d. Evans

Seniors (Round Robin), Order of Finish, won-lost: Karen Machado 5-0, Sharon McQueen 4-1, Donna Betz 3-2, Angie Fischinger 2-3, Kathleen Holland 1-4, Barbara Van Gundy 0-5 (Injury default from tournament)

Open Doubles (Round Robin): Cindy McGovern/Bettye Swart 4-0, Adele Morar/Sharon Ferra 3-1, Connie Johnson/Vicki Craig 2-2, Maria Hyne/Karen Machado 1-3, Judy Brandt/Peggy Twedt 0-4

B Doubles

Quarters: Presnell/Wayte d. Harris/Wright, Baruck/Yard d. Miyasato/Parilo, Kittilsen/Marshall d. Morrow/Harden, Whitmore/Reed d. Bryant/Felker

Semis: Presnell/Wayte d. Baruck/Yard, Whitmore/Reed d. Kittilsen/Marshall

Finals: Whitmore/Reed d. Presnell/Wayte

B Doubles Consolation

Quarters: Tucker/Blehm d. Betz/Fischinger, Heiner/Walker by, Calvin/Taylor by, Ulloa/Bayer d. Stromberg/Tschida

Semis: Tucker/Blehm d. Heiner/Walker, Ulloa/Bayer d. Calvin/Taylor

Finals: Tucker/Blehm d. Ulloa/Bayer

New Jersey

Racquettime of Waldwick held its First Annual Racquettime Tournament June 23-24.

Results

Men's A

Quarters: Larry Sheridan d. Steve Liepold 21-4, 21-9; Don Ryan d. Dan Skelton 21-19, 21-17; Ed Denning d. John Landgraf 21-13, 21-4; Julio Torres d. Dave Scattergia 21-12, 21-9

Semis: Sheridan d. Ryan 21-2, 21-9, Torres d. Denning 21-10, 21-4

Finals: Torres d. Sheridan 21-20, 21-16

Men's B

Quarters: Nick Gallo d. Fred Tonetti; Charlie O'Neill d. Bill Hammer 4-21, 21-9, 11-8; Joe Bischoff d. Dave Lewis 21-15, 21-16; Arthur Sakowitz d. Mike Mastrogiacomo 21-16, 20-21, 11-8

Semis: Gallo d. O'Neill 17-21, 21-7, 11-10, Sakowitz d. Bischoff 21-15, 21-16

Finals: Sakowitz d. Gallo 21-10, 21-6

Men's C

Quarters: Tom Reinig d. Vinnie Saputo 20-21, 16-21, 11-10; Joe Guariglia d. Bill Madormo 21-7, 21-11; Don Auld d. Frank LoRusso 21-9, 21-20; Robert Coogan d. Tom Batewell 21-12, 21-15

Semis: Guariglia d. Reinig 21-17, 21-14, Auld d. Coogan 21-17, 21-10

Finals: Auld d. Guariglia 21-14, 21-19

Women's B

Quarters: Melanie Hammer d. Jeanne Reinig 21-4, 21-9; Trudy Buis d. Barbara Adamski 21-6, 21-11; Amy Smith d. Maryanne Hammer 21-12, 18-21, 11-3; Candy Hooley d. Renee Barbagallo 11-21, 21-13, 11-3

Semis: Hammer d. Buis 21-12, 21-13, Hooley d. Smith 21-8, 21-7

Finals: Hammer d. Hooley 21-10, 21-16

Women's C

Quarters: Debbie Van Saud d. Judy Denning 21-9, 21-13; Leeanne Barbagallo d. Grace Annichiarico 21-6, 21-5; Sue Behringer d. Jayne Minger 21-2, 21-12; Pat Semenza d. Lynn Lewis 21-3, 21-9

Semis: Barbagallo d. Van Saud 21-11, 21-16, Semenza d. Behringer 21-16, 21-11

Finals: Barbagallo d. Semenza 21-16, 21-11

Juniors

Quarters: Jim O'Connor d. Julio Torres Jr. 21-10, 21-9; Steve Schmidt d. Joe Flagello Jr. 21-10, 21-12; Brian Greenspan d. Scott Kenedy 21-8, 21-6; Michael Mammolito d. Leeanne Barbagallo 21-7, 21-7

Semis: O'Connor d. Schmidt 21-5, 21-11, Greenspan d. Mammolito 21-7, 21-14

Finals: O'Connor d. Greenspan 21-6, 21-4

Indiana

Racquetball East and South held the 1978-79 Club Championships April 6-8, with a notable increase in women participants over last year.

Results

Men's A Consolation: Jerry Lachat d. Charlie Gordon

Men's B: Greg McCall d. Chan Frothingham

Men's B Consolation: Kent Schnack d. Leo Fang

Men's C: Truman Evans d. Jerry Armstrong

Men's C Consolation: Charles Tudor d. Jeff Glassley

Men's D: Russ Zurawka d. Joe Jones

Men's D Consolation: Rusty Mason d. John Roessner

Women's B: Patia Horan d. Lori Fisher

Women's C: Carol Taylor d. Barb Pritchard

Women's D: Robin Streets d. Kim Huser

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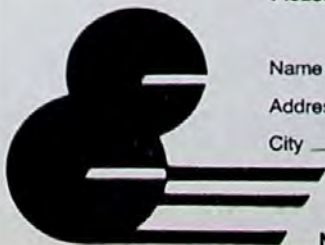
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Michigan

Twenty-nine contestants participated in first round qualifying matches at Livonia Racquettime Center in Livonia for the National Court Clubs Association Amateur Racquetball Championships June 29 - July 1.

Winners advanced to the national finals in Southfield, MI in August.

Results

Men's B

Semis: Chris Kindred d. Tony Salvatore 21-5, 16-21, 11-5; Steve Jeziorski d. Carl Patterson 11-21, 21-10, 11-10

Finals: Jeziorski d. Kindred 18-21, 21-5, 11-1

First round qualifying matches drew 94 entries at Southfield Racquettime Center in Southfield for the N.C.C.A. tournament.

Results

Men's A

Semis: Matt Richardson d. Marty Kaufman 21-14, 21-17; Gerald Green d. Bill Csarati 21-13, 12-21, 11-3

Finals: Green d. Richardson 16-21, 21-20, 11-5

Men's B

Semis: Kevin Hayes d. Ernest Franklin 21-20, 13-21, 11-7; Richard Erikson d. Pierce Ward 21-11, 21-9

Finals: Erikson d. Hayes 6-21, 21-3, 11-9

Men's Novice

Semis: Alfred Wright d. Howard Berlin 21-13, 21-6; Mark Erikson d. Dan Dutcher 12-21, 21-18, 11-2

Finals: Erikson d. Wright 21-12, 21-15

Women's A

Semis: Karen Miller d. Sharon Wright 21-14, 21-17; Lynn Bernadett d. Barb Swaab 21-13, 21-3

Finals: Miller d. Bernadette 21-18, 21-16

Women's B

Semis: Pat Boumansour d. Pam Csarati 21-20, 12-21, 11-7; Joyce Franklin d. Hilary Lee 21-20, 21-13

Finals: Franklin d. Boumansour 21-19, 21-13

Women's Novice

Semis: Laura Glaser d. Lisa Raymo 12-21, 21-16, 11-10; Lois Priebe d. Pat Remondino 21-1, 21-0

Finals: Priebe d. Glaser 6-21, 21-18, 11-7

Sixty-one contestants took part in the first round qualifiers at N.C.C.A. matches at Taylor Racquettime Center in Taylor.

Results

Men's B

Semis: Joe Fusco d. Bob Cardone 21-2, 19-21, 11-4; Richard Doty d. Mark Young 21-15, 21-18

Finals: Doty d. Fusco 21-4, 21-19

Men's Novice

Semis: Todd Bedenis d. Greg Keresi 21-2, 21-7; Dennis Prickett d. Patrick Lacey 21-9, 21-12

Finals: Prickett d. Bedenis 15-21, 21-12, 11-8

Women's Novice

Semis: Diane Missler d. Luisa Colasanti 21-4, 21-4; Lois Hammer d. Denise Ostendorf 21-5, 21-8

Finals: Hammer d. Missler 21-10, 21-5

ISRA Referee Quiz Answers Sheet

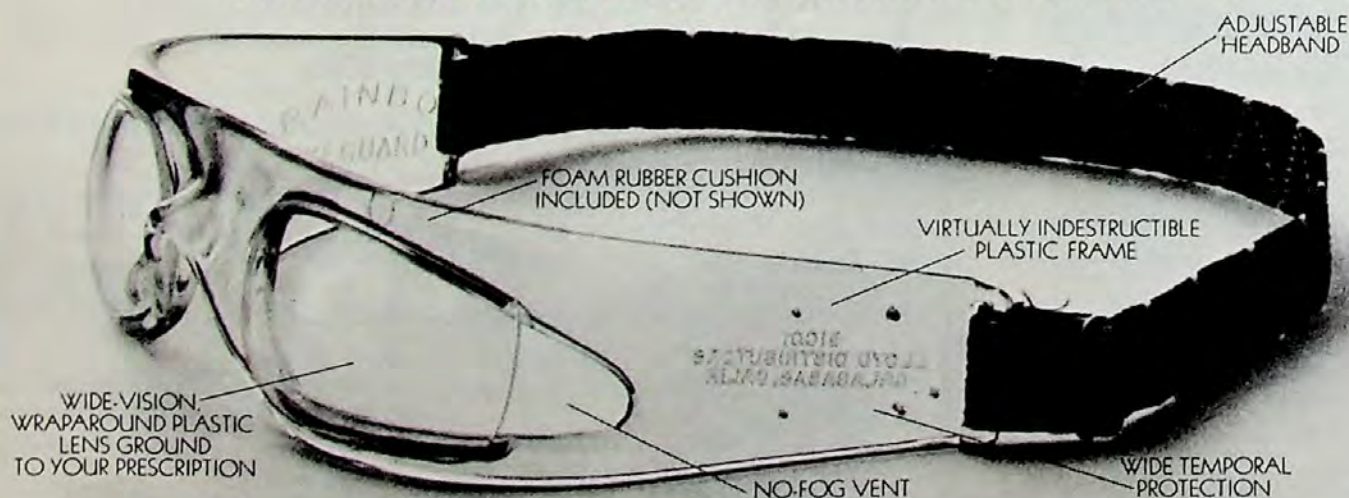
Answers to questions on page 59 - 60.

- | | |
|-------|-------|
| 42. a | 56. a |
| 43. b | 57. c |
| 44. b | 58. b |
| 45. d | 59. b |
| 46. c | 60. b |
| 47. b | 61. d |
| 48. a | 62. a |
| 49. a | 63. b |
| 50. a | 64. a |
| 51. a | 65. b |
| 52. c | 66. a |
| 53. c | 67. b |
| 54. c | 68. d |
| 55. a | |



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EXTRA!

Staff Expands

Dick Squires New National Racquetball East Coast Editor



As racquetball invades the eastern part of the country — even pulling some players away from their traditional squash games — so does *National Racquetball's* coverage expand geographically.

With Dick Squires new *National Racquetball* east coast editor readers can expect to be entertained and informed by a writer whose charm and good humor match his expertise.

Squires is best known to *National Racquetball* readers for the three part excerpt on racquetball from his book *The OTHER Racquet Sports*, published by McGraw-Hill. Since *National Racquetball* reprinted Squires' observations on "Racquetball — The Word Kill," readers have enjoyed Squires' report of the New Haven CT, pro

tour stop and, in this issue, his view of Manhattan's new Vertical Club.

Squires, who hails from Bronxville, a New York City suburb, was captain of the tennis and squash teams at Williams College and New England Intercollegiate singles and doubles tennis champion. He even took part in the 1968 Olympics — captaining the U.S. Fronton Team (two racquet-paddle sports played on a variation of a Jai alai court).

Now racquetball is his game — and his business.

When he researched all the racquet sports for his book, he found racquetball was the sport with a future. That led to his current career directing operations at the Downtown Court Club in New Haven.

Nick Longhurst writing out of California and Squires writing out of Connecticut will give *National Racquetball* readers first hand accounts of the people, trends and events making racquetball news from coast to coast.

TANK MCNAMARA

by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds



Racquet Research

When scientists put sports under their microscopes, there's no telling what wisdom will emerge. Among information researchers and instructors from around the world shared about badminton, racquetball, squash and tennis at a National Symposium on Racquet Sports last June in Champaign, IL:

- What a player says to himself or herself during play can influence control under pressure, concentration and how the player visualizes sequences.
- High speed movies and radar readings of an experimental group showed that A players hit the ball 38.4 percent lower than B players, who in turn hit the ball 30.9 percent lower than C players; stride lengths for the A players were 12.3 percent longer than those of B and C players; A players hit with a closed racquet face, while B and C players hit with open racquets, and higher level performers consistently hit the ball between 104 and 123 miles per hour, with velocities dropping 36.9 percent for lowest level performers.
- The anatomical nature of the human hand is capable of operating a racquet whereas the hand of the other primate is incapable of swinging a racquet as in a game situation.

An Eye for the Grotesque?

National Racquetball Photographer Arthur Shay — who's been taking pictures professionally since 1951 and has well over 15,000 published photos, including *Time* covers to his credit — recently showed his work for the first time in an art gallery, Pallas Photographica in downtown Chicago.

Shay's fans flocked to the opening, asking for his autograph (see photo) and admiring some of his famous shots, including Teamster Harry Davidoff pointing at Shay and yelling "I can have you killed."

Chicago art critics called Shay's best work "*Cartier-Bresson out of Weegee*" (two acknowledged photo masters) and said that "*long before Diane Arbus turned from fashion to freaks, Shay had an eye for the grotesque*" (a comment that seldom applies to Shay's racquetball player photos in the pages of this magazine.)



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Plan before You Promote

Racquetball, as a form of exercise — as fun — is here to stay, and racquetball facilities, as an investment and as a business, are probably here to stay.

Without one you're not going to have the other.

One of the most severe problems plaguing racquetball facilities in selected markets throughout the country, such as in Chicago, has been market saturation. In reality the real bottom line problem has been *oversaturation* of racquetball facilities, and the inability to utilize basic marketing techniques to counter the problem.

One of the keys to the success of racquetball facilities, both in saturated and relatively new markets that are "into" racquetball for the first time, has been the effective use of organized, coordinated marketing, merchandising and promotional programs.

The majority of racquetball facility owners' promotional efforts continue to be hit or miss, without substance, without organization and without an overall marketing plan.

Marketing is a generic term. Merchandising and promotion and publicity/public relations are specific components of marketing. In a racquetball facility and for the owner or owners of the facility marketing racquetball is presenting on a *continuing* basis the facility — and initially, the game — to the area in which the facility is located.

The size and scope of this geographic area is going to vary depending upon the size of the facility and the potential number of racquetball players in the area.

The arrival of a new racquetball facility in a particular area is going to generate a certain amount of enthusiasm and initial interest, but with more and more racquetball facilities arriving in that same area the novelty will quickly wear off . . . and the competition for the player begins.

The novelty of a new facility and of the new game of racquetball will wear off, and then, various marketing techniques become almost mandatory if a facility is to maintain its "market share," continue to grow and remain profitable.

Advertising

Advertising can continue to be at the base of any promotional effort. While the Chicago market, for instance, has a tendency to be seasonal, advertising at any time of the year can promote special rates, special membership programs or special weekend or monthly promotions that may be planned. Pre-planning, scheduling, budget and artwork are mandatory.

Many advertising programs for racquetball facilities will be handled using local newspapers. Good, solid advertising programs are available on a limited budget, but once again, the planning or pre-planning becomes almost mandatory.

Publicity

Publicity announcing special promotions to local media can also be helpful. The presentation of the release in a proper, editorial format is not only mandatory, but vital to any publicity effort. Home grown, editorial copy may or may not be used on a regular basis, but professional, well written material will almost always have a better chance for pick-up.

One item to note in local media relations. Many times the quantity of editorial coverage is going to be directly tied in to the advertising dollar that is extended by that facility to the local publications. It's important to keep this in mind. Smaller newspapers in almost all communities across the country are also in the business to make money. In many cases they will be very outspoken about the tie between the advertising revenue provided by the racquetball facility and the amount of editorial coverage the facility will receive in that particular newspaper.

During special promotions or special events opportunities always exist to solicit special editorial coverage by local press. A phone call or a short note with a follow up call are all that should be necessary to determine if there's any interest in covering a special event by the local paper, and to make arrangements for coverage.

Special Events

Special events are created by the facility to keep things happening and "alive" at a facility. Activities including newcomers leagues, Friday afternoon and Friday evening promotions, holiday parties, challenge ladder tournaments, leagues for local firemen and special weekday rates, for example, are all part of the marketing package.

Caution: Avoid getting into *too* many projects, superficially, which prevents you from doing an effective job of planning, implementing and communicating the events.

Newsletters

In addition to posting signs around the club and handing out announcements, consider publishing a newsletter on a *regular* basis. It can be one of the most effective techniques in drawing attention to racquetball facility news and activities and sustaining member interest. But the key to the newsletter is the regularity of publication.

A newsletter might include upcoming events at the facility, special promotions, a monthly schedule of special days at special rates, information about club members and information on policy or policy changes within the club. Or use your membership list four to six times a year to promote leagues and other programs, a special or monthly activity or a clothing and equipment sale.

Groups

What about marketing a racquetball facility to *groups*? Local hospitals, industrial and commercial facilities, fire and police departments . . . just about any organization that has the

by Robin F. Pendergrast

New Court Club Listings

capability of communicating to a large group would be interested in the values of physical exercise and a corporate racquetball program.

Often special rates can be structured or special programs, parties, mailers put together to zero in on a large — or at least controlled — group of people.

The important thing to remember in any merchandising or marketing or promotional activity is that pre-planning and/or organization are the only way that a budget will be controlled and the effectiveness of the effort can be determined.

Last minute decisions on new programs, unrealistically small budgets and general disorganization will result in second guessing and dissatisfaction by facility owners as well as the players/participants.

In some parts of the country the game of racquetball is going to continue to sell itself, but not indefinitely. The owners must extend themselves, they must extend the game, they must continue to sell the sport. A well run, clean facility is a highly merchandisable product, and word-of-mouth will undoubtedly carry this message to many, many people.

But marketing, merchandising and promotion are going to be vital to the long term success of any well run racquetball facility. ●

National Racquetball for Members

One way to get members to play more is to include a subscription to *National Racquetball* as a club benefit. The subscription helps two ways: It gets members into the club to try out the instructional tips in each month's issue and it brings members in to practice for tournaments run by the USRA, in which *National Racquetball* subscribers automatically become members. Clubs receive a substantial discount on *National Racquetball* subscriptions for 100 members or more.

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Longmont, CO 80501

Bellingham Athletic Club

110 N. Samish
Bellingham, WA 98225

Camarillo Courthouse

500 E. Pickwick Dr.
Camarillo, CA 93010

Carolina Courthouse

1 Courtclub Dr.
Columbia, SC 29208

Center Courts Ltd.

7667 Day Dr.
Parma, OH 44129

Cherry Creek Sporting House

500 S. Cherry
Glendale, CO 80222

Conditioning Spa

2640 11th Ave.
Greeley, CO 80631

Edison Racquet and Health Center

U.S. 1 at Old Post Road
Edison, NJ 08817

Family Fitness Center

1505 140th Ave. N.E.
Bellevue, WA 98005

First Serve

24228 76th Ave. W.
Edmonds, WA 98020

Glenwood Racquet Club

4400 Glenwood Rd.
Brooklyn, NY 11203

Greenville Racquet Club

Congaree Rd.
Greenville, SC 29607

Laconia Racquetball Club

O'Shea Industrial Park
Laconia, NH 03246

Lake Shore Athletic Club

2401 N. W. 94th St.
Vancouver, WA 98665

Lilac City Courts

W. 440 Sharp
Spokane, WA 99210

Lompoc Courthouse

201 W. College Ave.
Lompoc, CA 93436

Niagara Falls

Racquetball Club

1342 Military Rd.
Niagara Falls, NY 14304

Off the Wall Racquetball

230 Oser Ave.
Hauyspange, NY 11787

Olympic Racquetball Handball Club

5301 Leary Way N. W.
Seattle, WA 98109

Rampart Athletic Club

254 Victoria St.
Costa Mesa, CA 92627

Rollout Racquetball Club

2003 N. 22nd St.
Decatur, IL 62526

San Luis Obispo Courthouse

1020 Southwind Dr.
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Skagit Valley Athletic Club

Memorial Highway
Mt. Vernon, WA 98273

Spaulding Racquetball Club

500 New Circle Rd. N. W.
Lexington, KY 40505

Spaulding Racquetball Club

2707 Brooktree Ln.
Gladstone, MO 64118

Spaulding St. Joseph Club

2808 Pembroke Ln.
St. Joseph, MO 64506

Sun Coast Court House

2147 Pine Forest Dr.
Clearwater, FL 33516

Sunshine Racquetball Club

3534 E. Sunshine
Springfield, MO 65804

The Sports Connection

2929 31st St.
Santa Monica, CA 90405

Tournament House Rialto

1243 S. Riverside Ave.
Rialto, CA 92376

Tournament House Riverside

6250 Brockton
Riverside, CA 92324

Westlake Courthouse

31425 Agoura Rd.
Westlake Village, CA 91361

Contact Lenses Make Sense

Tighter Lens or Soft Contact Best for Racquetball

by James R. Gregg, O.D.

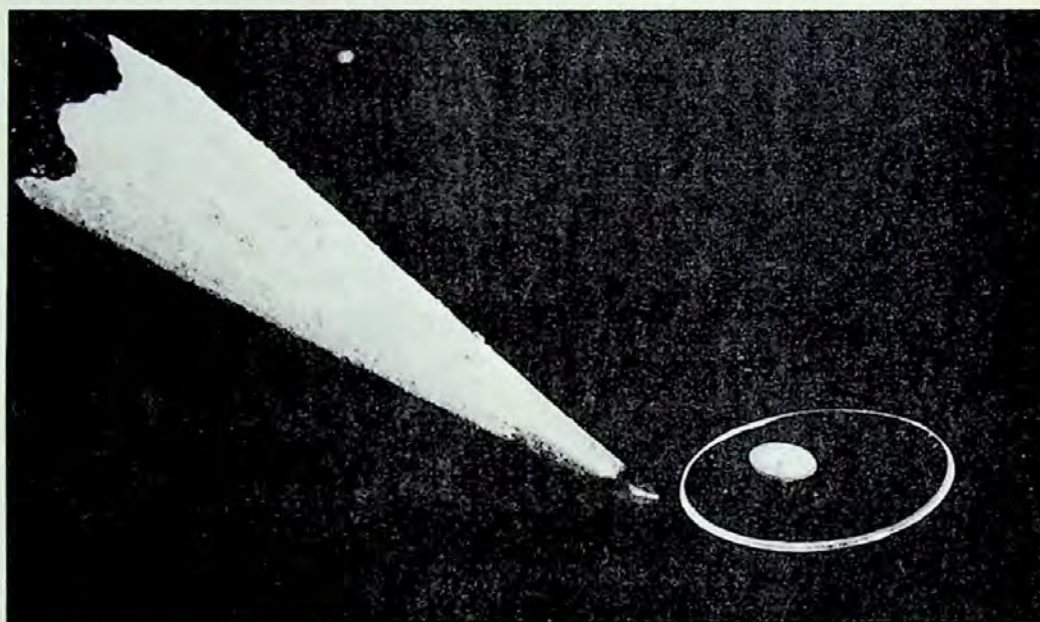
If you must have a visual correction to play racquetball, contact lenses are probably the best solution. But don't rush right out and get some, because there are vital points to consider.

First of all I am by no means recommending you replace protective goggles or face masks with contact lenses. There is considerable risk of eye injury on the racquetball court. Beginning Sept. 1, 1978, Canadian law required some type of eyeguard when playing the sport.

Contact lenses offer no ocular protection from a blow to the eye from ball or racquet. There are a number of eye protective devices especially made for racquetball and you should never step on the court without them whether you wear contact lenses or not. *

Then why bother with contact lenses? Why not just wear a protective device with a correction in it? One of the problems is putting prescription lenses in the face form eyeguards. The lenses must be curved to fit the frame, there must be a deep groove to hold the lens edge and an efficient way to get the lens in and out. Lens size presents some difficulties in producing a wide field. All of that can be done, but there are some complications as compared to eyeguards with no lenses.

A lot of sight in a little space is provided by a contact lens, shown here in a size comparison with a pencil.



The frequent and rapid eye movements essential in playing racquetball also create a problem in using conventional lenses. The optics of any spectacle lens are only perfect at a single point on the lens — the optical center. This is placed so your line of sight passes through it when you look straight ahead. Anywhere else you look through the lens does not produce a perfect correction and the farther from the center, the worse it is.

So with spectacle lenses on the court, much of the time you are not using the most accurate part of the lenses. How significant that is depends upon how strong the lenses are. This suggests the stronger your prescription must be, the more likely you should wear contact lenses. Weight is a factor too, especially in glass — a strong lens in large size can be uncomfortably heavy. Plastic is a better bet for safety reasons anyway, and is considerably lighter.

Contact lenses move with the eye, or at least they should, and so the line of sight is always right through the lens center or very close to it. Because of that contacts may produce sharper vision than regular lenses, particularly in higher lens powers.

Eyes Working Together

If you only require a mild lens correction and you can see quite clearly without it, you may not need it on the court. You should not judge this for yourself, because lenses that do not actually make vision clearer can improve the coordination of the two eyes together. Nowhere do you need that more than when playing racquetball.

Whether you wear contacts or glasses, be certain to tell your optometrist you play racquetball. That may make a difference in what he prescribes for you. Certainly you should discuss whether you need your corrective lenses on the court.

* As a result of my article in the January, 1978, issue of *National Racquetball*, I received a large number of letters from readers mostly wanting to know where to get the protective devices. Several reported eye injuries even though they were wearing an eye protector. I have heard of several other instances since then. The ball can actually go through the opening if it is too wide and the ball is perfectly centered. This does not mean it is useless to wear an eyeguard. Be certain the one you select is well made. I know of one that is rather fragile plastic and constructed in such a way that if broken, the plastic could become a spear. Check the size of the opening to determine if a ball could go through. No manufacturer guarantees safety.

Eye protection — in any style — is a must even with contacts.

— James Gregg photos

By all means also seek his or her consultation about what form of eye protective device is likely to work best in your case.

Is it practical to get contact lenses just to play racquetball? That depends upon how serious you are about the game. Chances are that if you have a rather severe visual problem, you should wear contacts all of the time if you can. But if your condition is such that you don't mind spectacles for general use, or you are unable to wear contacts full time, it may be possible to be fitted for use on the court only. It would have to be determined what kind of lens would be best for you.

But what about hard or soft lenses for racquetball? There are a great many and very rapid eye movements when playing, along with a lot of blinking. This creates some problems. Hard lenses do not move perfectly with the eye and there is always some "lag." The amount depends upon how tight the lens fits and that, in turn, depends upon each person's eyes. Better vision results if a lens stays in place, but if it fits too tightly, discomfort and even blurring can occur. Some eyes tolerate tight fit better than others.

The other problem created by eye movements during fast action is that the conditions are very conducive to the lens popping out. Hard lenses are removed by tensing the lids and turning the eye to the side. You've seen it happen on the basketball courts when the whole team gets on hands and knees looking for a lost lens. Contact lens wearing racquetball players are likely to spend a good deal of time feeling around on the floor unless their lenses hug the eye exceptionally well.



If you wear hard lenses, you may have no trouble from displacement or loss if you have a tight fit. Otherwise you may need to keep your eyelids squinted down to prevent the lenses from popping out. Another precaution is to be careful about sudden and extensive eye movements and compensating by moving the head more than usual. Neither method is very efficient as far as maximum visual performance is concerned but might avoid lens loss.

A far better solution is to wear a tighter lens, generally a hard contact lens. This may be possible with no discomfort during the relatively short time of a few games. Many athletes have contacts especially fitted tight to hold in place during active sport play. Some wear glasses at other times and use the tight fitting contacts only during practice or a game.

Scleral contacts can be used to hold better in place. They are large and extend beyond the cornea and out on to the sclera (the white part of the eyeball). They stay on well but are generally not as comfortable as micro lenses. However it is sometimes necessary to use them when playing extremely active sports.



Before deciding contact lenses are what you should have to play racquetball, weigh carefully the pros and cons. If you will use them for other purposes, that's fine, but be certain that eyeglasses are enough of a nuisance to justify the trouble and expense of being fitted with contacts.

Contact lenses require considerable care in handling. That is especially true of flexible lenses. They can be torn if not handled carefully and must be sterilized each time they are used.

It's not hard to do but must be done faithfully to avoid some problems including possible infection. Even hard ones can irritate the eyes if not cared for properly.

Many people decide the pros outweigh the cons by a big margin. For racquetball players that may be particularly true. The nuisance of prescription eye glasses is far greater on the court. But don't forget that even with contacts, you must wear an eyeguard. It's okay to let a contact lens "contact" your eye but for the sake of your sight never let the ball do so.

Less Dislodging

Still better is wearing soft contact lenses. They hug the eye and are not likely to become dislodged by eye movements, though it is not impossible. They can wrinkle and blur vision momentarily but that would only happen in one eye at any given time and the racquetball player could get along with just the other eye until the lens reseated itself properly.

Soft lenses are very thin and pliable. They conform to the shape of the cornea on which they rest. That is both an asset and liability. The advantage is that there is very little lens lag with eye movement, as is characteristic with hard lenses. The liability is that because it conforms to the shape of the eye, the soft lens cannot fully compensate for certain visual defects created by the irregular curvature of the cornea.

Astigmatism is not adequately corrected by soft lenses in their present form. New ones are being developed that may compensate for astigmatism but as it stands today, soft lenses are generally not fitted to eyes with more than a small amount of astigmatism. For wear when playing racquetball only it may not matter if your astigmatism is fully corrected or not and a soft lens might be just what you want. The entire subject should, of course, be discussed with your optometrist.

Soft lenses have one big advantage. They are very easy to adapt to. Hard lenses take much longer and generally require regular wear in order to maintain adaptation. You could probably wear soft lenses a few hours now and then with no problems of discomfort. This does not mean you could wear just any soft lens and not feel it. The fit must be proper but when it is, the wearer hardly knows the lens is on the eye. But it is likely you could use soft lenses for racquetball and nothing else.

For those athletes who can achieve adequate vision with soft lenses, they are generally a better choice than hard ones. They certainly are best for the fast moving action on a racquetball court. You might find it best to use soft lenses for play and hard ones for work or perhaps all the rest of the time. ●

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Racquetball — 18 Pints Later

Undercover Drug Agent Rehabilitates on Court

by Nick Longhurst



The undercover agent turns his face from the camera to retain his anonymity.

The deafening crash of a .357 Magnum was still echoing and rolling around the small Chicago apartment as Gus Vasquez, one hand clutching the gaping hole which had once been his neck, tried to run.

But he was too late. Seconds later the huge bullet from a .45, fired from only a few feet away, ripped into his leg and tore the femur in two.

And by all the rules which govern the silhouette world of drugs and guns, Gus ought to have died there and then.

Robbed of the \$56,000 he carried in his pocket to make a "buy" of four pounds of heroin Gus had been set up and wasted.

But that night, the last day of May two years ago, things didn't turn out quite the way they should have.

The "sellers" turned out to be killers.

The heroin turned out to be mud.

And Gus, an undercover agent for the Drug Enforcement Administration, didn't die.

The five suspects fled and six agents who had been waiting next door stormed the apartment to find only Gus, lying in an ever widening pool of blood on the floor. They could see there was no time for the niceties of accident procedure. Within minutes Gus was carried out without a stretcher and laid on the floor of a passing paddy wagon which had been flagged down, and he was on his way to the hospital.

Not any hospital, but the emergency center of St. Mary of Nazareth hospital, where the staff treated gunshot wounds almost as often as road accidents.

Police cars, alerted over the citywide police radio network, blocked every intersection on the route and a young surgeon, who'd operated in Viet Nam, Dr. Robert Yario, heard the plea for help on his car radio as he headed for home, turned around and drove hell for leather for the hospital.

And Gus still could have died.

When he was wheeled into the operating room, he had lost 18 pints of blood, and Yario knew it was pointless to operate without fresh blood.

Another call went out over the police radio, this time for cops with the same blood type, a rare AB Negative, to head for the hospital in all haste. The response was so good they finally had to turn cops away.

And Yario, who had sat down and drunk a couple of cups of coffee while waiting for the blood, started work.

First he assessed the damage.

The huge .357 bullet had done a devastating amount of damage. The carotid artery, which carries blood to the brain was gone, and along with it most of the nerves serving muscles in Gus' chest and right arm.

Dr. Yario, who had seen worse in Viet Nam, used a well tried technique. He took a length of vein and transplanted it in the place of the artery. He performed some repairs to the jugular, which had also been damaged, and with the blood transfusions, Gus Vasquez's life had been saved.

Alive and Breathing

Gus lay in the hospital, as doctors reviewed his body's balance sheet. He was alive, breathing and improving.

But on the debit side, the bullet was still in his leg, which was being stretched back to length with traction; his right arm, the nerves gone, was beginning to atrophy — it was wasting away to the bone.

The months he lay in the hospital Vasquez, who turned down a permanently disfiguring operation which doctors said would give him a limited amount of movement in his right arm, gradually began to rehabilitate himself.

He wasn't going anywhere; the chest to ankle cast he was cased in took care of that.

Gus Vasquez plays with his son for National Racquetball at the Atlas Health Club in San Diego.

He learned to needlepoint, working on a three foot replica of the D.E.A's official badge.

Now Gus is a fighter, which is probably why just a few months after the cast was cut away from his body, he was skiing, even though he couldn't lift his right arm by himself.

And that's why he now plays racquetball three or four hours a week, slipping away from his job — you guessed it — as supervisor of a small group of undercover agents monitoring drug shipments in northern Mexico.

Doctors who told him he might never walk again, and that he would never again use his right arm, also told him he would never regain his full strength.

But they had never expected him to play an hour of racquetball against his 16-year-old son or some of his fellow agents who use racquetball regularly to ease out of the intolerable pressures of their undercover work.

Admittedly he's not difficult to beat, but try getting satisfaction out of scoring the winning point.

Gus is still an agent, that's why you don't see his face in this picture, and that's why there is a pistol tucked into the bottom of his racquetball bag.

Gus started off playing handball in 1971 and he figured that some on court activity would help him get back into shape.

"That's why I wanted to transfer to San Diego. The weather here means that I can swim in my pool most of the year, and there is a racquetball club right next door to my office."

"And racquetball is the most successful thing I have in my rehabilitation program. If I don't exercise regularly, my right hand and arm will just start to atrophy all over again."

Every morning Gus' wife has to massage his hand and arm. *"Except when she's mad at me. Then I have to do it myself."*



—Mick Longhurst photos

Gus had a total of five months in the hospital to work out what had gone wrong, with his "bust."

"It seems that the five people were connected with a group we had busted earlier. They were just using the business rules of the drug world. They needed money so they set up a buy with me, I brought the money and they had mud — just ordinary mud, laced with a little heroin — as the come on."

Deadly Scheme

"The whole success of the scheme depended on me being dead."

Four of them received long jail terms in the ensuing court case, and, ironically, the man who pointed the gun at Gus' head and pulled the trigger himself died at the end of a gun, shot as a fugitive in New York just weeks before the trial.

"I know I was very lucky. The bullet had to have been only a fraction of an inch towards the middle of my throat and I would certainly have been very, very dead."

One of the biggest problems Gus has had is with shaving. There is still one area under his left jaw which requires extra effort and dexterity. But racquetball is helping that, too.

"I don't have a good backhand and I probably could improve if I started to play with my left hand, but that defeats the object of why I am using racquetball. I need it to build up my endurance and strength."

"It was a tough decision to make to get onto a racquetball court."

"I didn't play with my son the first time," he explains. "I was having a hard time playing pool. I got out there and I began to realize that I wasn't as bad as I thought I would be. I also have a problem with my left leg. After the traction was over, it was an inch longer than my right leg. But I started playing and I began to notice a big improvement in my arm and shoulder. Racquetball was just what I needed."

Throughout his ordeal Gus never entertained the thought of dying.

"I knew I was hurt bad, but I never thought that I would die. I knew from the pain I felt after the bullets ripped into me that I might never walk again, but I think that the people who helped me were more scared of me dying than I was."

"They did explain later to me that I did die once on the operating table but they brought me back again. I think that if I ever had any doubts about my will to live I never would have made it." ●

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Women In Racquetball



Carol Brusslan

Save Women's Sports in September

Unless you let Washington policy makers know you're behind Title IX, women athletes might lose their passport to participate in school sports.

In 1972 Congress passed Title IX, the bill some call the Magna Carta of women's sports, forbidding sex discrimination in any program or activity that receives federal money. Since then hundreds of thousands of high school girls and college women have been free to compete in sports instead of standing by as spectators, hero worshippers or cheer leaders.

Title IX has worked. You, yourself, may have been able to take part in sports in ways that your mother never could. In fact many of today's young women racquetball pros were able to realize their potential as athletes in newly offered high school or college sports.

But when an institution takes money from its budget to develop athletic programs for women, the school no longer has those dollars to spend on the men. So as soon as Congress passed Title IX, the National Collegiate Athletic Association started campaigning against the bill.

Title IX is under its severest siege right now because the NCAA has hired a high power lobbyist to convince senators and representatives that the American people have had enough of Title IX benefits. The NCAA is pressing for changes ranging from exempting revenue producing sports from Title IX to exempting athletics from Title IX to killing Title IX entirely.

What all of us have to do is prove that a lot of Americans are still in favor of equal opportunities for men and women athletes that Title IX guarantees.

Here's how to be heard:

(1) Write, phone, wire or visit your senator or representative telling him (or — in a few cases — her) that we should retain Title IX as it's written.

(2) Join the Women's Sports Foundation (\$10) at 195 Moulton, San Francisco 94123, so the organization can enlarge its membership enough to impress the people in Congress with the voting power the Foundation represents.

The bills to cripple Title IX are due to be voted on in September.

Act now.

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Big Leap into Business

Ali Swofford Takes Her Ph.D on the Road

Modeling Ladies First fashions at the Vic Tanney Racquet Club are, left to right, Kerry Smith, Ladies First racquet sports advisor; Candy Finley, daughter of Ladies First Co-owner Harold Finley; Ali Swofford; Hal Frincke, Knoxville racquetball player, and Laura Hahn, Ladies First seamstress.



Ladies First will design racquetball outfits for your team or league in quantities of six or more, and they'll make them in any style, color or fabric and with any trim you choose. Ask your pro shop to send a description of what you'd like to Ali Swofford, Ladies First, 3919 Holston Dr., Knoxville, TN 37914. The phone is 615-522-5312.

Ali Swofford makes it her business to back Title IX (see the preceding page). Half of her business depends on it.

Swofford's business is Ladies First, clothing manufacturer for women athletes, and about 50 percent of her orders come from colleges, universities and high schools buying custom uniforms for their women's teams.

So far business has boomed at Ladies First, which also furnishes stock and custom clothing to groups ranging from recreation departments to professional teams. Annual sales for the two-year-old company are up to a quarter of a million dollars, and Ladies First already has designed uniforms for basketball teams at the universities of Cincinnati, Indiana and Tennessee and for Michigan State's volleyball players, among others.

And, Swofford reports with pride, *"we're in the process of expanding. We've formed a corporation and we're offering 30 percent of our stock to the public."*

Before Swofford took what she calls her *"big leap"* into business in August of 1977, her achievements had been confined to ivy covered walls.

Her achievements had also been impressive. The 29-year-old native of Englewood, CA, had reached her ultimate career goal by the time she was 25, when the University of Nebraska named her women's athletic director.

"I'd been planning a long time for that," Swofford says. *"At the University of Southern California I tailored a program for myself that would lead to a Ph.D. in athletic administration. I included courses in law and finance."*

So it might have been *that* taste of business theory that gave Swofford the courage to give up her promising and secure career in the ordered world of academics and to venture into the unknown.

Actually it wasn't the unknown. What she wanted to do had a lot to do with what she'd been doing.

"As athletic director at Nebraska I ran into all kinds of problems about clothing for our women's teams. The waiting, for one thing. The men would get their orders filled in two weeks. The women's came through in two months — if you were lucky. You could understand, of course. The companies would be dealing with my 15 volleyball uniforms, compared with a hundred football jerseys. Football is a multimillion dollar business. They'd always make it 'rush' for the Big Red football coach."

Uniforms that Didn't Fit

"And when our uniforms arrived, they didn't fit. The small size men's clothes didn't do the job. Women's bodies are a different shape." (Remember how women racquetball pros looked playing tournaments in "Men's Small" shirts? Then you know what Swofford means.)

"The market was obvious to me — and my feelings were confirmed when I wrote to manufacturers proposing a fashion program. They were very cordial, but said making women's athletic clothes was a couple of years away."

That did it. Swofford said to herself "You've made it — you're athletic director at a major university — now what?"

"I like challenges, I wasn't getting younger and I wasn't getting riskier. I knew I had to take a chance before I had responsibilities.

"Besides that the timing was right. Title IX was getting more and more females into school athletics. The women would be needing uniforms."

Swofford first realized she might be the one to supply those uniforms when University of Tennessee Women's Athletic Director Gloria Ray put her Nebraska colleague in touch with Harold Finley, purchasing agent for Standard Knitting Mills in Knoxville.

"Harry and I decided to find out if we were pipe dreaming."

After Knoxville bankers, lawyers and accountants gave them "very positive feedback," the new partners rented space in a former lumber warehouse, bought sewing machines and other equipment and hired a crew. Their business was off the ground.

Ali Swofford, second from left, goes for the shot in a game with, left to right, Kerry, Laura and Candy.



Today Ladies First is still the only company in the country making clothes exclusively for women athletes. Swofford is Ladies First national sales director, a natural for the tall, self-assured blonde who believes in and knows women's sports. (She was in charge of 200 athletes and nine sports at the University of Nebraska.) And believes in her product. As she and Designer Margaret Dixon put together more Ladies First outfits, they discover new ways to make clothing more comfortable and appealing for women athletes.

"We cut our patterns for women," Swofford explains. "We do things like tapering the side of the shirt, making the sleeve just a bit shorter, narrowing the arm, putting in a smaller armhole in tank tops."

"And we're careful about our fabrics. We pick a material that's practical — absorbent and washable — and that feels good."

Women are conscious of the 'hand' of the material," Swofford says, enjoying the jargon of her new trade.

Hip Flair

"In shorts we make a narrower, softer waistband and put in a slight hip flair. That wide waistband in men's shorts is because men tend to thicken at the waist — the wide band holds the stomach in. Women tend toward broader thighs, so we put in more space there. Then we make the back of the shorts longer than the front — to take up that extra roundness. And we always have a rounded leg or a V notch."

"So you don't have a bind when you're stepping into a racquetball shot."

Racquetball? Yes it's the personal favorite of this former collegiate volleyball, basketball, softball and tennis player, who went to Oregon State after growing up "very sports oriented in southern California."

Swofford started playing racquetball in 1973, the year she became assistant P.E. professor and volleyball and tennis coach at Texas Womans University in Denton.

"The first time I played I loved it — the exercise and the fact that it makes you think."

"Texas Womans had no courts, but they had an indoor swimming pool. North Texas State had no pool, but they had courts. I made a deal so that professors could swim if we could play racquetball."

Packed between her four traveling racquets are the saleswoman's samples, this a warm-up suit that Ladies First designed for the University of Tennessee's Lady Vol basketball team.



— Charlie Brooks photos

— photo courtesy Knoxville News-Sentinel

When Swofford moved to Lincoln, she found that the University of Nebraska restricted women's playing hours because the courts were in a male athletic facility and the men didn't want women imposing on their privacy.

"I just suggested that they put in doors so women could walk right to the courts. From then on I played every day — in fact there was a picture of me playing racquetball in a University of Nebraska brochure."

Swofford had to stay away from racquetball for 10 months after the 1978 Nationals, when she hurt her knee retrieving a pass shot to her backhand in a preliminary match with Women's Open Amateur Winner Alicia Moore. A team of orthopedic surgeons, led by University of Tennessee's Bill Youmans, did a total knee reconstruction in two operations and now Swofford jogs every day and uses an orthotron weight machine.

And though her knee still hurts when she plays (*"they hope the pain will go away eventually"*), Swofford is at the game a minimum of three times a week. She plays at the Vic Tanney Racquet Club when she's at Ladies First headquarters in Knoxville, now her home. On the road — where she spends more than half of her working time calling on athletic directors and displaying her line at every sports event and sporting goods show she can find — she plays racquetball, too.

In fact Swofford always packs balls, shoes, gloves and four racquets in her car along with her Ladies First samples. Then when someone asks her to play, she goes out to her car, chooses an outfit and in minutes Ladies First has a living model on the racquetball court.

It's a nice way to clinch a sale.



Harold Finley and Designer Margaret Dixon consider a new design.

Playing Tip Number 18

In *Inside Racquetball for Women* Top Pro Jean Sauser and Sports Photographer Arthur Shay lead off their chapter on strokes with scoop shooting, an error that's so common you might be guilty of it now and then even if you're better than a beginner. Sauser and Shay's mistake-correction technique makes it easy to spot what you're doing wrong.

National Racquetball is printing excerpts from *Inside Racquetball for Women*, published by Contemporary Books and available at pro shops as well as sporting goods and book stores.

Mistake: **Forehand Scoop Shooting**

Some women just taking up the sport of racquetball may have had more experience with frying pans than with racquets. If you allow the racquet head to fall below the level of your wrist, you have less ball control. When the racquet head is in this position, the ball often goes down to the floor if it is contacted slightly behind the lead foot and often scoots up, out of control, if it is contacted slightly ahead of the lead foot.



Correction: **Bring up Racquet Head**

When stroking the ball keep your racquet head at or above wrist level. This increases your margin for error so that if you are slightly off in your striking zone (a little ahead of or a little behind the ball) you can still execute a level shot. The ball does not fly up or slam down into the floor.

Five Routes to the Nationals

Practicing, Lifting Weights, Running, Jumping Rope . . . or Doing Nothing

It's a big tournament, the showcase event of the racquetball year. It's a time for victory and a time when the pressures on each professional player are the hottest and toughest of any time in the pro tour calendar.

There are big prizes to be won, recognition to be earned and the magical thought of an upset victory over a top seed to be considered. Here's how some of the top women pros prepared for the June Nationals.



Martha McDonald
(lost in first round)

"I couldn't do any extra special training because I was pregnant by six months when I got to the Nationals."

"I talked to my doctor before because I thought I would work out with some light weights to help strengthen my back, but he banned that idea. He told me I was a strong athlete, but I should just do the things I was used to."

"So I played outdoors my customary three hours a day and threw a few newspapers. My husband and I have five paper routes and I get up at 2:30 and throw papers — it's great training."

"I walk maybe seven miles every morning and there are some six story buildings on the route. I walk up and down those and a 12 story building, too. I ride up that one on the elevator and run down delivering the papers. If I walked, I would never get finished."

"In fact when I got to the Nationals, being pregnant really helped. I'm a hyper person and playing outdoors you tend to rush the ball, but when I played Shannon Wright in the tie-breaker 11-5 in our round of 16's game, I knew I had played well. I was pregnant, and I had to wait on the ball a little more. It really improved my game."



Jean Sauser
(lost in first round)

"I didn't train at all because I was traveling most of the time before the tournament. I was moving from Los Angeles to Portland and I didn't get any time to get on the court and work on my game."

"It showed. That won't happen next year, though."



Linda Prefontaine
(lost in quarter-finals)

"The only thing I did differently for the Nationals was to run a little more than I normally do. I also practiced a little bit more and played a little bit less for the two weeks prior to the tournament. I was doing my normal running routine, two or three miles a day. I wanted to be a little tougher, in just a little bit better shape because I know that when you get tired, that's it . . . the points don't come."

For 10 hours each week I practiced shots and I cut down on my playing. I don't think it's a good thing to go into a tournament exhausted before you get there."

"I also tried to improve my diet before the tournament. I always try to eat better, but I tried to eat a little more protein before the Nationals for a little extra strength."

by Nick Longhurst



Marci Greer
(lost in semi-finals)

"I worked out and jump roped daily and I also got into a routine of lifting light weights. I also practiced more by myself every other day for two months before the Nationals. I had started thinking about the tournament three months before, mentally trying to build myself up to it slowly. I also played two matches a day, six days a week mostly against men. They hit the ball a lot harder and that experience improved my reaction time."



Janell Marriott
(lost in finals)

"I prepared for it just the same way as I did all my other tournaments. I have been running three miles a day, then I do wind sprints a couple of days a week. I have also worked on jumping rope to increase my endurance and I play maybe two hours a day."

"I didn't see the Nationals as an extra special tournament. I treat every tournament now like it is a big one, and I have been on a strict training routine. I didn't have any need to break the regimen."



Karin Walton
(took first place in the tournament)

"I didn't prepare for the tournament at all. Actually I was so sick for the two weeks before Tempe that I seriously thought about not going at all. I was so sick it seemed I was on my death bed. I had a strep throat which I didn't get treated until just before the tournament and even during the week at Tempe, I would wake up each morning with a very, very sore throat."

"So in the preceding two weeks beforehand I hadn't trained at all. I didn't even play racquetball once, because I had a heavy cold as well. I normally don't train hard; I play a little each day and I either body surf or ride my bike."

"When it came to playing, I felt the best I have ever felt. I was so rested, I never got tired, I didn't think I was hitting the ball as hard as I normally do, but my game seemed to work. The fact that I had left my purse in the locker room — and it was stolen — the day before the finals didn't affect me. I was so happy to be there playing on the last day nothing could have stopped me."

Who's Playing Racquetball?

Penny Reeves: Country & Western D.J.

Penny Reeves is one of those people who just doesn't stop. It starts at 7 a.m. when she jumps out of bed, jogs four miles, plays two hours of racquetball and goes for a ride on her horse. "Actually I stay dirty and smelly for a good five hours a day," she says half jokingly. "I'm just a potpourri of odors."

And by 1 p.m. she's finally loose enough to go to work at country & western station, KVET-AM in Austin, TX, where she D.J.'s from 3 to 7 during afternoon drive time and also serves as promotion manager. "My play time is important to me, I guess, because it makes a successful worktime," she says of her strenuous morning habits. "That way I feel real laid back when I get to work."

Penny has always known a lot about country & western sound. "I grew up in Springfield, MO, home of the original Ozark Mountain Jubilee," she says. She began her career in the broadcast biz at KBOX-AM in Dallas while a senior at Southern Methodist University. "I started out in news," she recalls. "But I'm more geared to doing on-air personality." Eventually the station teamed her up with a man and let her go on the air from 6 to 10 p.m. "We were the first country & western team show with a man and a woman in the country," she says. "And people didn't know if the audience would be receptive."

Needless to say Peck & Penny was a tremendous hit. And when Penny left for KVET ("I felt I needed a chance to try to do it on my own"), the station went out in search of another woman to fill her spot.

At KVET Penny sees her job as more than four hours on the air. "Part of the job is to do things in the public interest. You want to get into the surrounding communities one-to-one. You want to feel like friends, so it's harder to turn off a voice on the box."



It was through the station that Penny became seriously interested in racquetball. The Royal Court Club was doing some advertising on the station, and having played a little in college, she decided to try it out. She now plays on the women's championship ladder four days a week. "When I discovered competition it was a whole new world to me," she says. "At first I was really scared, but now I try to channel the nervous energy into playing well."

Penny also plays twice a week with her husband, Kerry Kahn, who once swore he would never be seen on a court and now beats her consistently.

The jogging, Penny says, makes her racquetball all the better. "I have much more energy on the court," she says. As far as getting in shape is concerned, though, she feels her hours on the court are more effective than her miles on the "In jogging you can go as slow as you want and it only affects you in certain areas. With racquetball it tightens you up everywhere, and if you're playing with the right person you never slow down."



Between 7 a.m. and 1 p.m. Penny Reeves thinks about her horse and racquetball (she's playing her husband, Kerry Kahn). Until 7 at night she's equally caught up in her job as D.J. and promotion manager at KVET.



Not surprisingly Penny spends a good deal of air time talking about her favorite sport. Several of her listeners have started playing at her suggestion. And the court club and KVET are even running a joint ad campaign with her doing a demonstration day at the Club.

This ad campaign, in fact, is not Penny's only experience plugging a product. She also does local commercials and is spokesperson for the Texas Veterinarian Society. "This is what's so fun about Austin. A person is only limited by saying no."

Which is a word you never hear from Penny.

— Jennifer Alter

Announcing an aluminum racquet with the advantages of lightweight fiberglass.



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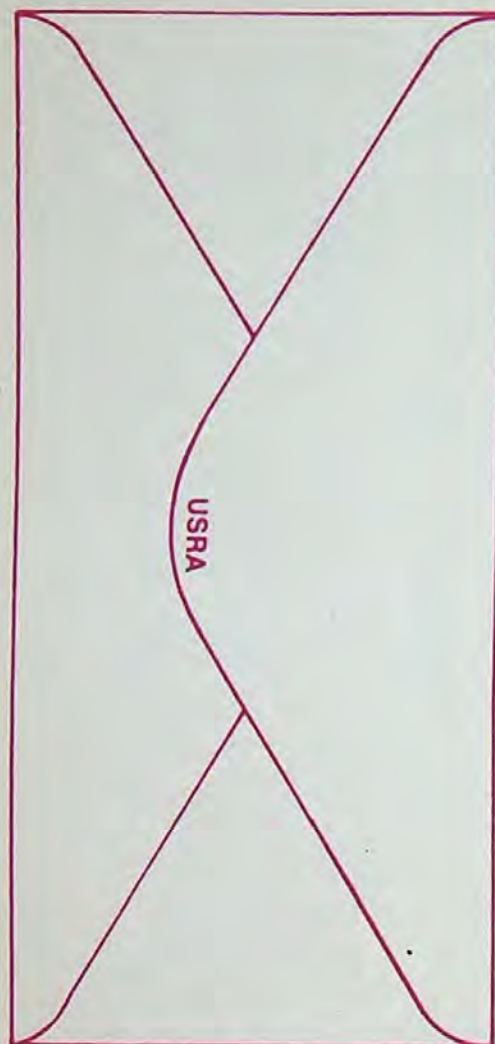
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Left Handed Strategy on Its Way

Dear Editor:

Would you print an article on strategies for playing a left handed racquetball player? What are their weaknesses? What is the best serve for a right handed player to send a leftie on the courts to throw him or her off and gain points?

Thank you.

Mary Frances Howard
Cedar Rapids, IA

Thank you for the suggestion. Steve Strandemo will talk about playing lefties in an upcoming story in National Racquetball. ED

Surgery Story Benefits

Dear Carol:

Just want you to know how helpful the story you ran some time ago on playing racquetball after breast surgery was. The two people I heard from after the story appeared really made it worthwhile to write about my own experiences.

Pat Greig
Omaha, NE

Feeling Secure

Dear Mr. Kendler:

It was an extreme pleasure to once again rub elbows with the man who is so successfully guiding the handball and racquetball tours.

It's a very secure feeling for club owners and operators to know that a staff such as yours is constantly striving to make both sports grow on the amateur and professional levels. To us your efforts mean more players, and in turn, the demand for more clubs. Keep up the good work!

Thanks again for your gracious compliments and coming out and making the 1979 Colgate Racquetball Championships complete.

David Micheal
Tempe, AZ

Bag Slinging Warm-up

Dear Ms. Brusslan:

You probably hear of a lot of racquetballers who have used various other activities to get and stay in shape for racquetball. You probably haven't heard until now of *racquetball* getting someone in shape for a *strike*!

I started playing racquetball almost two years ago when a friend needed someone to fill out a corporate membership group. Since I had paid, I thought I might as well try it once. But it grew on me, and I took a keener interest after my first tournament.

My job is the typical administrative/staff position: as assistant to the Director of Personnel I spend a lot of time on the phone, in meetings, reading and writing correspondence, in discussions: in other words, *sitting*! To offset the effects of this occupational hazard I try to play at least half an hour every day before work. My court, Forest View Racquet Club, is just a mile or two from my home and office, so it is easy to scoot over there for an earlybird workout before going in to the office in the morning. Since I am a commuter (Chicago is my home-away-from-home), I try to get some time in on weekends at the Midtown Racquet Club in St. Paul, Minnesota, also only a mile from my house up there. I have participated in three tournaments for United Airlines employees, my claim to fame there being as one-half of the first place winner in mixed doubles this last March in Medford, Oregon! All of this learning time I never dreamt my racquetball activities would pay off at work!

March 31 saw our airline paralyzed by a strike of the mechanics and ramp service employees. In some of our cities we were obligated by contract to provide ground handling to other carriers not on strike. So the company's task became how to substitute labor for the striking employees. That meant tapping all of us desk-jockeys for our yet-uncalled-for physical skills.

My strike assignment was to the Mpls.-St. Paul International Airport — loading and unloading

baggage, freight and mail, parking and pushing back airplanes, cleaning the "blue rooms," doing overnight maintenance, driving ground equipment and any other task that came up in the course of our ten plus hour days. The real test of my racquetball conditioning came in the "pits": squatting in the belly of a DC-9 because there is no room to stand, we slung bags out the door and onto the loader (and vice versa), always with an eye on the clock. We were aware of the waiting passengers and the schedule — we were proud of getting our trips out on time, even if we were greenhorns at the job!

Many of the other temporary "rampees" with whom I worked took turns using the heating pad, begged for sore muscle massages and collapsed onto the couch between trips. Much to their dismay those of us who ran or played racquetball prior to the strike spent our breaks throwing the frisbee and playing badminton. We then got up early the next day for more racquetball at the local courts, including 98th Street Courts in Bloomington. If we appeared a little smug, perhaps we could be excused; we were able, in our middle-ages, to work as hard and as long as any of the youngsters who had done that job for years!

I think I have racquetball to thank for that, and for getting me through the strike literally in fine shape!

Jan Meyer
Chicago, IL

Dog People Praise Hogan and Dobermans

Dear Sir:

I thoroughly enjoyed your feature, "The Sun and the Moon and Marty Hogan," in the June issue. Even though I was already aware that Mr. Hogan was the proud owner of that "aristocrat of dogdom", the Doberman Pinscher, I found his comments on his dog and the breed most enjoyable. Just as we have already witnessed and are continuing to witness the day of Hogan in racquetball, I don't doubt, for one minute, that we'll someday also see the day of the Hogan Dobermans. As for his message — "Beware of all Dobermans" — I hope your readers didn't misinterpret it. It's not beware in the sense of fear for this breed, but, rather, be aware that this magnificent, but wrongly maligned, breed is just intelligent enough to, as Hogan puts it so aptly, "take over the world".

You can understand why we "Dog People" of the Doberman Pinscher Club of Greater Kansas City are as dedicated to our "sport" as you all are to racquetball.

Susan York
Kansas City, MO

National Racquetball Gift

Dear Sirs:

I am a member of your association and a subscriber to your excellent magazine. I'm enclosing a subscription for a friend and racquetball buddy, the third gift subscription I've given. Could you develop an announcement to go along with the first magazine? I think a lot of other readers will want to give a subscription if there's an announcement that the gift is on its way.

Keep up the excellent content of the best magazine for racquetball nuts.

Dick Franklin
Orange, CA

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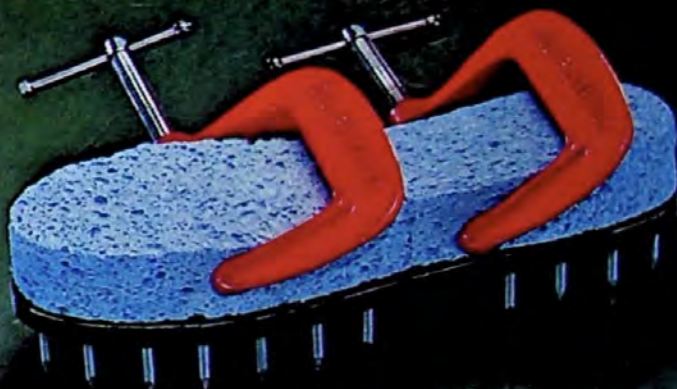
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Moving Forward

Moving the prestigious Robert W. Kendler Classic to Sept. 26-30 kicks off the 1979-80 pro tour in high fashion, with \$30,000 in prize money and what promises to be an outstanding tournament at Lombard's Glass Court just outside of Chicago.

This season's tour will reflect the continued support of the NRC's sponsors, as virtually every firm is back. JACK IN THE BOX, Kunnan, Leach, Seamco, Coors, Catalina are among them, and a few newcomers should be added by the season's end.

Nov. 14-18 will be JACK IN THE BOX's event scheduled for the Arizona Athletic Club in Tempe, site of the June National Championships.

Both the Robert W. Kendler Classic and the JACK IN THE BOX Classic will offer men and women's professional divisions, as well as a variety of amateur categories of play.

Also in November (28th to Dec. 2) will be an invitational tournament of smaller proportions (\$10,000) to test the new white glass. That tournament, being jointly sponsored by Leach Industries and Alex Guerry, owner of a new facility in Chatanooga, TN, will give the racquetball world the first true indication of the playability of white glass.

There's a good chance the William B. Tanner Pro-Am, long an outstanding event in Memphis, will again be on the tour schedule, this time as part of the NRC's program. Awaiting final confirmation the Tanner Pro-Am would be Dec. 12-16.

January, 1980, will find the tour back to the Sportrooms of Coral Gables for the second consecutive year with the Kunnan/ Leach Tournament of Champions. Probability is that there will again be amateur events with the pro divisions, again in a 12 man invitational.

And negotiations are under way for sponsorship of a women's division in that tournament, one of the best on tour. Dates are Jan. 31 to Feb. 3.

February is Coors month and our brewery friends will again be sponsoring the event in Denver. Coors involvement in racquetball continues to be one of the sponsorship highlights of the industry with the pro tour (men and women) as well as the acclaimed Coors All Pro series. Dates for the Coors Racquetball Classic are Feb. 20-24.

Catalina Sportswear will again sponsor their Catalina Classic in March (19-23), and we'll announce that site in the October issue. Catalina's tournament, like Coors, will be for professional men and women, with an abundance of amateur events.

April looks like a month with at least one event, and possibly two. Seamco Sporting Goods will sponsor the Seamco Classic in a major northeast market and by next issue we should have the specific site and date for that stop, too.

There's also the possibility of another major event the same month in Akron, OH, but details have to be confirmed. Also in the works are plans for a stop in May.

June, of course, will be the National Championships, with tentative dates of June 1-7. There has been a great deal of discussion about the site for the Nationals in 1980 and many people seem in favor of a return to the 1979 site — the Arizona Athletic Club.

The NRC has yet to make a final decision on the Nationals, but as soon as one is made, it will be announced in *National Racquetball*.

Players, spectators and sponsors are cautioned that these sites and dates are tentative. As each is confirmed notification to that effect will be published in these pages.

Contact the NRC for information on how to obtain entry forms or tickets or to ask any other questions about the 1979-80 tour. ●



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