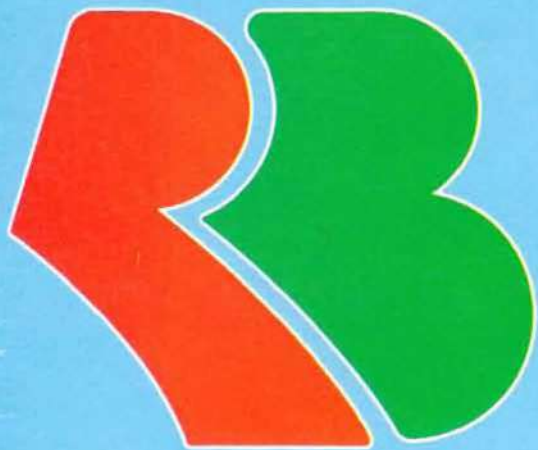


INTERNATIONAL

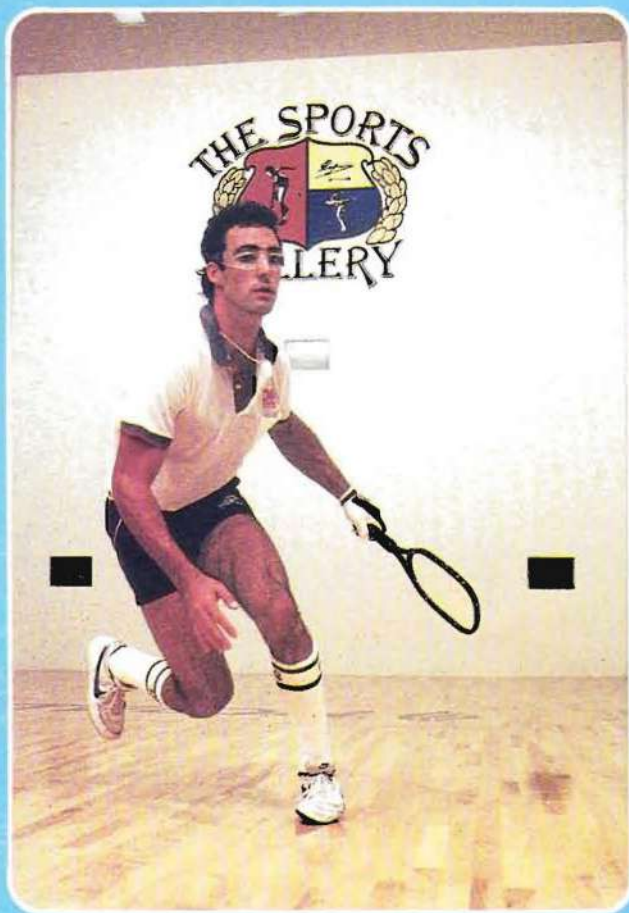


RACQUETBALL

SUMMER 1984 VOL. 2 NO. 6 \$2.00



THE CHAMPIONS OF 1984



DEMOLITION EXPERTS



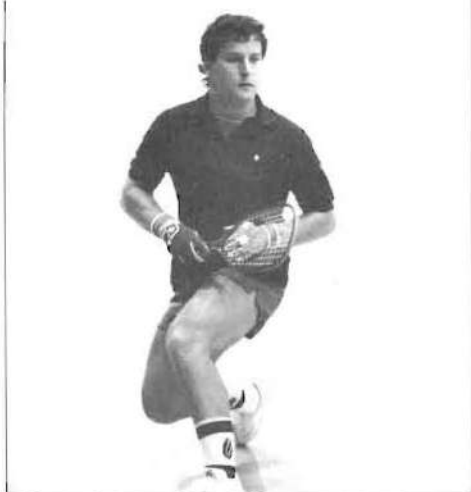
Demolish your opponent's game with the newest, most advanced racquet in the game—the DP Boron Graphite.

The unique combination of light but powerful boron and durable graphite results in a supremely efficient frame with little vibration. Boron fibers provide increased strength in the areas of greatest stress, and the sun-burst string pattern maximizes racquet performance.

The DP Boron Graphite. To demolish, to crush, to kill...To *win*.



Diversified Products
Opelika, Alabama
Compton, California



VOL. 2 NO. 6

Table of Contents

Summer 1984



A Championship Season	The publisher's column	Page 4
The Editor's Notebook	The editor's column	Page 6
News		Page 5
New Products		Page 8
Ektelon's New Maxum and Contra		Page 10
Interview: Greg Eveland	The RMA President speaks	Page 11
WPRA Nationals:		
Heather Notches The Big One		Page 13
WPRA Tour Talk		Page 17
Ektelon Nationals:		
Bret Is Back!		Page 18
DP Nationals:		
Against the Odds		Page 24
AARA Nationals Singles:		
Ferris and Drexler Win		Page 30
Canadian Nationals:		
Myers Wins Canadian Nationals		Page 36
The Greatest Backhand of All-Time	by Jerry Hilecher	Page 34
Advanced Racquetball: The Forehand	Bruns & Strandemo	Page 39
Tournament Schedule		Page 44
Rankings		Page 46

SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, AND ADDITIONAL ENTRY POST OFFICES.

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO: INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL, P.O. BOX 7548, RENO, NEVADA 89510

INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL (ISSN 0746-6145) is published monthly from our editorial offices at 575 Mill Street in Reno, Nevada. Subscriptions for the U.S. and territories are \$24 a year for 12 issues. Foreign subscriptions are \$36 a year in U.S. currency payable in advance. Please mail your subscriptions to P.O. Box 7548, Reno, Nevada 89510.

Editor: Drew Stoddard; Managing Editor: Advertising: Jason Holloman; General Manager: Bill Stoddard; Circulation/Office Manager: Valoy Stoddard; Assistant Office Manager: Gina Holloman; Contributing Editors: Carol George, Kyle Kamalu, Sandy Genelius, Jerry Hilecher, Luke St. Onge, Steve Strandemo. Advertising inquiries should be sent to Jason Holloman, International Racquetball, 575 Mill Street, Reno, Nevada 89502, or call (702) 329-4511 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. weekdays.

Copyright 1984 by International Racquetball. Reproduction in whole or in part without permission is prohibited. Opinions expressed by authors and claims asserted by advertisers in International Racquetball do not necessarily reflect the policies of the publishers.

A CHAMPIONSHIP SEASON



Jason Holloman
Publisher

My phone's been ringing off the hook. My desk is piled high with correspondence and it's all from subscribers and non-subscribers wondering about the results of this summer's championship races. Looking back on all that has happened in the last 45 days, it's surprising we kept up with the pace, but, it's all down on paper now, and you hold in your hands the chronicle of one of the most spectacular championship finishes in racquetball's history.

It was spectacular because there were more people in the audiences, more people in the tournaments, more prize money in the purses and more fiercely competitive and polished players. Racquetball has lost its baby fat. It's a lean and mean sport now, and the electricity in the air at the tournaments is tangible.

The first tournament we covered for our summer issue was the Ektelon National Championships. As you will see from the write-up, it was full of upsets, which seems to be a regular occurrence at the Anaheim stop. With all the pros jostling to boost their ranking before the end of the season, Ektelon set the stage for the men's last pro stop, the DP Industries National Championships in Atlanta.

The DP National was not the big event for the women pros, however, it was their own WPRAs nationals in Ft. Worth, Texas. The WPRAs nationals was held a week before the DP tournament and was the last ranking event of the season with the largest purse ever for the women. The DP nationals was not a ranking event for the women.

Sandwiched between the Ektelon nationals and the WPRAs nationals was the intense AARA Singles National Championships in Houston, Texas. Probably the most important and exciting of all the amateur tournaments, the AARA Singles nationals presented an incredible array of talent. Men and women age 16

to 96 showed their stuff and let it all hang out. Winners for the U.S. Team (which compete internationally) were picked, and up and coming talent that will soon enter the pro ranks was showcased. The Wheelchair Division was fascinating.

The DP National Championships in Atlanta, Georgia, was the last stop of the pro season for both the men and women. It was a grand finale. It was a show stopper. The men's rankings were all knotted up in ties and something had to give. The continuing saga of McKay versus Adams was to add another chapter. There were new faces up from the amateurs, like Lance Gilliam, that would make their presence felt. There were seasoned pros that would show that the fire had not died from their guns. And, there was Yellen and Hogan.

International Racquetball was there at each of the tournaments. We were behind the scenes, too. Read our interview with Greg Eveland, President of the Racquetball Manufacturers Association. Read about our visit to San Diego where Ektelon unveiled their new oversized Maxum and Contra racquets. Read about the Canadian Nationals and the men's Austin pro stop.

There's another installment of "The Greatest" from Jerry Hilecher that is wonderfully informative. And, of course, check out the new rankings, the new tournament schedule, the new Strandemo instructional and the News. Oh, yes. Don't forget to stop at Drew's column on the next page. He was the one at all of the tournaments, and I think you'll find his insights well worth reading, too.

It's been quite a championship season, but, it's not quite over yet! Next month there is the AARA Junior Nationals, the Outdoor Championships and the World Games in Sacramento. What a summer!

RMA Hires Marlboro

The Racquetball Manufacturers Association has hired The Howard Marlboro Group of New York to assemble and run the upcoming Men's Pro Tour to begin this fall. (See related story: Interview with Greg Eveland on page 11.)

Yellen, Adams Win DP National

Mike Yellen defeated Marty Hogan in the finals of the DP National Championship in Atlanta to win his second consecutive National Championship. Yellen and Hogan were tied for the #1 position going into the Atlanta event. Lynn Adams avenged two earlier losses to Heather McKay by winning their final battle in three games. A list of the final standings in the men's and women's pro rankings appear on page 46. (Story on page 24.)

IARF Announces 1985 World Games

The International Amateur

Racquetball Federation has announced the itinerary for qualification in the World Games to be held in London in July of 1985. The American Zone Championships will take place in Quito, Ecuador, on November 28 through December 8, 1984. The European Zone Championships will occur in Antwerp, Belgium, on November 16-18, 1984. The Asian Zone Championships will be in Japan on a date yet to be determined in 1984. The World Games is an invitational tournament of the highest world class. Contact the AARA for information on qualifying for the World Games in London.

McKay Gains #1 Ranking in WPRA

On June 3, at the RiverBend Athletic Club in Ft. Worth, Texas, Canadian star Heather McKay outlasted her nemesis, Lynn Adams of Costa Mesa, California, in the WPRA National Championships to gain

the #1 ranking and women's pro crown for 1984. McKay nudged out defending champion Adams in five games. (Story on page 12.)

Ganim & Bevelock Win U.S. Junior Nationals

Doug Ganim of Ohio and Toni Bevelock of Pennsylvania were the Boy's and Girls champions in the prestigious 1984 U.S. National Junior Championships held at the Davison Racquet Club in Davison, Michigan, on June 23-27. Complete coverage of the tournament will appear in next month's issue of International Racquetball.

Harnett Wins Ektelon

Bret Harnett of Las Vegas, Nevada, defeated Jerry Hilecher of St. Louis, in the ESPN televised final of the Ektelon National Championships at The Sports Gallery in Anaheim, California, on May 6. (Story on page 18.)

Peck Faces Price in Autin Stop

Dave Peck, playing before

his home town crowd in Austin, Texas, defeated Gerry Price of Castro Valley, California, in the 3rd Annual Supreme Court Pro-Am to show that he has made a complete recovery from his leg injury incurred almost a year ago in a match against Mike Yellen. Mr. Peck upset number one ranked Yellen in the semifinal. (Story on page 37.)

Ferris & Drexler Win U.S. Team Berths at U.S. Singles National

Dan Ferris and Marci Drexler took the Men's and Women's 1984 U.S. Singles National Championships in Houston, Texas, on June 27, and won positions on the U.S. Team. The U.S. Team will compete in the World Games in Sacramento this July. Players in age brackets from 19 up competed in the national event. (Story on page 30.)

Continued page 8

Eye safety starts before you swing a racket or bat. To prevent serious eye injury, wear Rec Specs.

Rec Specs feature a lifetime guarantee, a large viewing area, extra wide temporal safety groove, and a fog prevention vent.

Lenses are made of shatterproof 3mm polycarbonate material. You can have an optometrist replace these lenses with prescription lenses.



unique
sports
products inc.

Your eyes deserve the best protection. We are proud to tell you that Rec Specs passed the recent Johns Hopkins University Safety Tests.

Available at leading pro shops nationwide, and at K-Mart, Oshmans, J.C. Penney, Marjax, Morrie Mages, or you can order direct (add \$2.00 for handling).

ORDER TOLL FREE

1-800-554-3707 (404) 451-2800

5687 New Peachtree Rd., Atlanta, GA 30341

REC SPECS™

pass every test!
best protection
available
at a reasonable
price...\$19.95



THE EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



Drew Stoddard
Editor

Since I haven't been able to write this column for a while, I need to use this month's to go through some of the "stuff" that has been piling up on my desk, and in my mind. So this is likely to be one of those rambling columns—you know the kind.

As you're probably aware by now, this is a combined summer issue. When we laid out our publishing schedule at the first of the year we never planned to combine the months of June, July, and August. But by the time we got into late April, it became obvious we were going to have a serious problem meeting our deadlines for the next 90 days, because of the extremely tight tournament schedule. In the period from early May to mid-June, a span of only seven weeks, five major national tournaments were held; the Ektelon Nationals in Anaheim, the men's pro-stop in Austin, the AARA Nationals in Houston, the WPRA Nationals in Ft. Worth, and the DP Nationals in Atlanta.

Those are all major tournaments, and

most of them were week-long events. Because of the mangled logistics, we had the choice of either covering the tournaments first-hand, or meeting our monthly deadlines in May and June. Since it has become obvious that people depend on us for on-site tournament coverage, we chose the former. What you hold in your hands is the result of 10,000 air and road miles, 113 rolls of film, an exhausted editor, and a seriously depleted travel budget.

And things haven't slowed down yet. We'll cover three more major events next month; the Junior Nationals, the Outdoor Nationals, and the World Championships in Sacramento. So this is the sport that dies in the summertime?

Many of you are wondering, I'm sure, about next season's pro tour. Later in the magazine there's a brief interview I did with Greg Eveland, president of the RMA, while I was in Atlanta. That should answer a lot of questions, but briefly here's where it stands; the RMA has hired the Howard Marlboro Group of New York to contract a sponsor and assemble the tour, hopefully by October 1. All indications are that it will happen, and the RMA hopes to announce sometime in August.

It may seem like things are moving slowly, but putting together a tour of this size is an incredible task—given the size of the job, the RMA is moving at a lightning pace.

While I was sweltering in Atlanta, Jason was being wined and dined in San Diego at a special reception where Ektelon introduced a radical new product—an oversized racquetball racquet called the Maxum. Now, before you start laughing, let me remind you that the Prince tennis racquet is largely credited with opening up the sport of tennis to millions of lower level players. It is estimated that Prince now controls as much as 40% of the worldwide tennis market.

I must admit, at first I was skeptical about the logic of an oversized racquet for racquetball. But when I got back from

Atlanta and played a few games with it, I changed my mind. The increase in control with this racquet is so evident that I would guess it will instantly add 5 or 6 points to the game of a beginning or intermediate player. This racquet is going to cause a big stir in the sport.

The Maxum also presents quite a dilemma, because it is illegal for tournament play according to the current AARA specifications, and in some areas of the country every tournament is AARA sanctioned. Ektelon says that isn't a problem because the racquet is targeted for the 90% of players who don't play tournaments. But I'm not sure that makes sense.

It seems to me that most racquetball players enter tournaments because they are excited about their game. If the Maxum gives them a dramatic improvement, but they are then locked out of their club tournament, what you have done is shut down the entire system.

The AARA has promised to consider changing the specifications. I hope they do—soon. The specs are arbitrary anyway, and I believe the oversized racquet could be a real boon to the sport.

Finally, I want to address a subject that is a little bit sensitive. In fact, some here at the magazine are not sure it's something I should talk about at all. But I feel I have no choice but to go on the record about some things that have recently been printed by my counterpart at National Racquetball, Chuck Leve, with which I strongly disagree.

In his column of April issue, in an article titled "Portable Glass: Why?" Leve expressed his opinion that the construction and use of a portable glass court to exhibit racquetball outside of the court club was unnecessary, unworkable, and futile.

"I guess I can't see the connection," he said, "between the court and the throngs who will flock to the courts and clubs as a result." Chuck must be the only person I

know who can't see that connection.

He then questioned racquetball's ability to draw spectators by saying, "The best I've ever seen is about 1,000 people in a gallery and... many of them were in free." He then went on to say, "And who would buy the (tickets)?," adding later, "I wouldn't."

When I first read that column I disagreed so strongly that I came close to sending him a rebuttal. I'm glad I didn't, because two months later Chuck published a rebuttal from Cal James, the president of Diversified Products, which made the opposing argument with much greater force than I could have done.

I consider that letter perhaps the most eloquent assessment of racquetball's potential I have ever read, coming from a man who I believe may be one of the first truly progressive leaders in the racquetball industry. If you haven't read his letter, I encourage you to pick up that June issue and do so. (That line should send my publisher into convulsions).

I would like to add a couple of things to what Cal James said. I believe the portable court is not only feasible, it is the best hope we have for the future growth of racquetball. And I say that we could take

that court into any of 10 cities in this country today and, with the help of a good promotion firm, draw a paying crowd of 5,000 people. And I would buy a ticket.

When I walked into the Downtown YMCA in Houston for the AARA nationals in late May, the first thing I heard was, "Did you see what Leve said this month?" I hadn't because I'd been on the road. I'm sure my lower jaw dropped when I finally read it.

In an editorial titled "Tournament Time," Chuck stated that the Ektelon and DP nationals were "the events of the year... the unquestioned two major tournaments of the year." He made that claim in an issue that was delivered within six weeks of the AARA nationals, the WPRAs nationals, the Junior nationals, the Military games, the outdoor nationals, and the IARF World Championships.

Putting aside the sheer mass of players that were justifiably offended by that statement, (and I'm not sure that's something the editor of a major magazine should put aside), for the majority of those who play this game, Leve's claim is simply not true.

Continued on page 35

Racquet Custom Products



The RCP-1 (shown above) comes complete with instructions and all accessories: vise grip speed clamp, start clamp, long nose pliers w/ cutters, stringer's awl and practice string.

This machine, designed by stringers, is constructed by American craftsmen. At its low cost, your investment can be recovered quickly. The typical payback is 25 racquets. The RCP-1 and RCP-1P are ideal for racquetball and badminton, where lower tensions are required.

For tensions over 54 lbs., the RCP-2 and RCP-2P will fit your needs perfectly and handle even oversized frames. These two models come with a no-flex bar to prevent frame distortion and damage.

We also handle the Mark 10 stringing machine and accessories.

Strings— Leonora, Gamma Gut, Bow Brand, Gut
Grips— Leather, Synthetics

Supplies & Tools— Tubing, Power Pads, Tape, Pliers, etc.
EVERYTHING you need to be a stringing professional!

ORDER YOUR MACHINE TODAY!!

RCP-1	up to 54 lbs. tension	\$225.00
RCP-1P	portable, up to 54 lbs.	235.00
RCP-2	up to 102 lbs. tension	235.00
RCP-2P	portable, up to 102 lbs.	245.00

PRICE INCLUDES FREIGHT

PHONE ORDERS RECEIVE FREE GOODS

Call or write today for your catalogue and price list.

Racquet Custom Products

P.O. Box 5091 - Rockford, IL 61125
(815) 398-5779



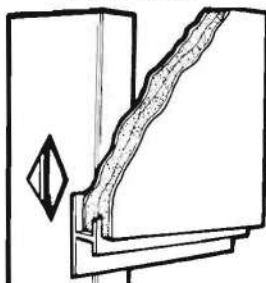
T.M.

SPORTS

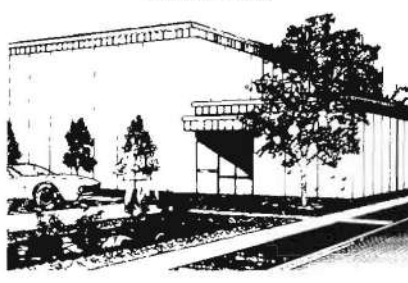
UNLIMITED

(Specialists in Racquetball/Handball/Squash Court Construction)

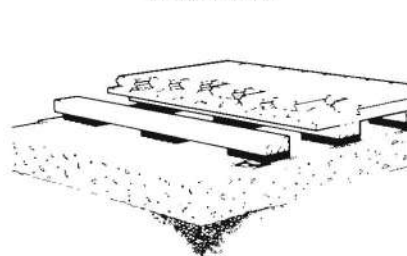
PRE-FINISHED PANEL SYSTEMS



MODUCOURT BUILDING SYSTEMS



HARDWOOD FLOOR SYSTEMS



Largest contractor of
racquetball courts in the U.S.A.

★ Commercial Buildings
★ Racquetball Courts

★ Racquetball ★ Floor Refinishing
★ Gymnasium Floor

IN CANADA:

CRS SPORTS, LTD.

10021 - 169 Street
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
T5P 4M9

Phone: (403) 483-5149
Telex: 03742560

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL
1-800-654-6810

(OKLAHOMA CALL (405) 624-1252)

SPORTS UNLIMITED

P. O. Box 1207

Stillwater, OK 74076

NEWS from page 5

AARA Board Adopts New Proposals

The AARA Board of Directors adopted the American Handicap Ranking System (AHRS) as the official ranking system of the AARA. The objective of the program is not only to give national, state and regional events a ranking system, but to establish a valid method of ranking in A, B, C, D and Novice skill levels with the elimination of sand-bagging sanctioned AARA tournaments.

Also adopted was the long-awaited Referee Certification Program. This Certification Program will go far in alleviating one of the most serious problems in the sport of racquetball. Three different levels of certification will be administered through the state associations. The new rule changes will be incorporated in the program by mid-summer. The program was developed by Michael Arnolt and Jim Hiser.

Four individuals were elected to three-year terms on the Board of Directors for the AARA: Mike Arnolt of Indiana, Garner White of South Dakota, Van Dubolsky of Florida and Jim Hiser of Michigan. Paul Henrickson of Massachusetts was elected to a two-year term as President. Also elected to serve two year terms were Al Seitelman of New York for Vice President, Ali Swofford of Tennessee for Secretary-Treasurer, Van Dubolsky of Florida as National Commissioner and Mike Arnolt of Indiana as National Rules Commissioner.

The Board also approved a four-year contract with Diversified Products as a major sponsor of all AARA National and Regional Championships.

Boise Site Chosen for U.S. Doubles

The Court House in Boise, Idaho, has been selected as the location for the 1984 U.S. National Doubles Championships to be held on October 24-28. The Court House has long

been known for its excellent facilities and hospitality and was chosen from five cities bidding for the honor. The Wilson TruBlue racquetball was named the official ball of the tournament. Special rates have been arranged through Western Airlines for the tournament presented by Miller Lite Beer for the AARA.

DP Announces Major Expansion

Diversified Products, one of the world's largest manufacturers of physical fitness and recreational equipment, has announced plans to expand its Main Plant and General Offices in Opelika, Alabama. DP also has sister plants in Compton, California, and Southern England, and is a major force in racquetball world-wide.

Ektelon Develops Oversized Racquets And New Fitness Clothing Line

On June 11, Ektelon unveiled two new oversized racquets, the Maxum and the Contra, and introduced a new colorful clothing line. Information about the racquets appear in our New Products column. The clothing line is innovative and versatile and will compete more closely with current trends in fitness wear. All products will appear this fall.

Free Pamphlet About Eye Care & RB

The National Society to Prevent Blindness is offering a free pamphlet entitled "What's Your Game" about eye injuries in racquet sports to anyone interested. Almost one-third of all sports-related eye injuries are suffered by racquet sports players between the ages of 25 and 64. To receive your pamphlet, send a stamped, self-addressed business-sized envelope to: National Society to Prevent Blindness, 79 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10016. ●



Kennex Adds "Blaster" Racquets to Line

Pro Kennex, the world's largest racquet manufacturer, has introduced a new series of racquetball racquets that integrate sophisticated features and performance with affordable prices. There are three racquets and they are named the "Blaster" Value Line.

Retailing below \$40, the Blaster Value Line includes the Blaster 46, the Blaster 05 and the Graphite Blaster. The Blaster 46 and 05 are manufactured from Alcoa aluminum-zinc-magnesium alloys to insure impact-resistance and durability

in play plus lightweight construction. Both racquets have "Wishbone" shaped heads and both have foam handles and leather grips. Each have custom racquet covers.

The Graphite Blaster combines 20 percent graphite with 80 percent fiberglass in a nylon matrix for strength and flexibility, providing an excellent "step up" racquet for the aspiring racquetball player at aluminum racquet prices.

Additional information on the Pro Kennex "Blaster" Value Line is available by calling 619-271-8390 or 800-854-1908. ●



Faster Model for RPM

R.P.M. Distributors has announced an improved model of their famous Racqueteer practice machine. The machine can deliver any shot you want to practice—floating lobs, z serves, drive serves and more, as many times as you like. The new model can shoot the ball at 95 mph and comes with an optional radio remote control device. A "must" for those who want to

get ahead!

For more information, please contact:
R.P.M. Distributors
1107 Rivara Road
Stockton, CA 95207
209-957-3542 ●

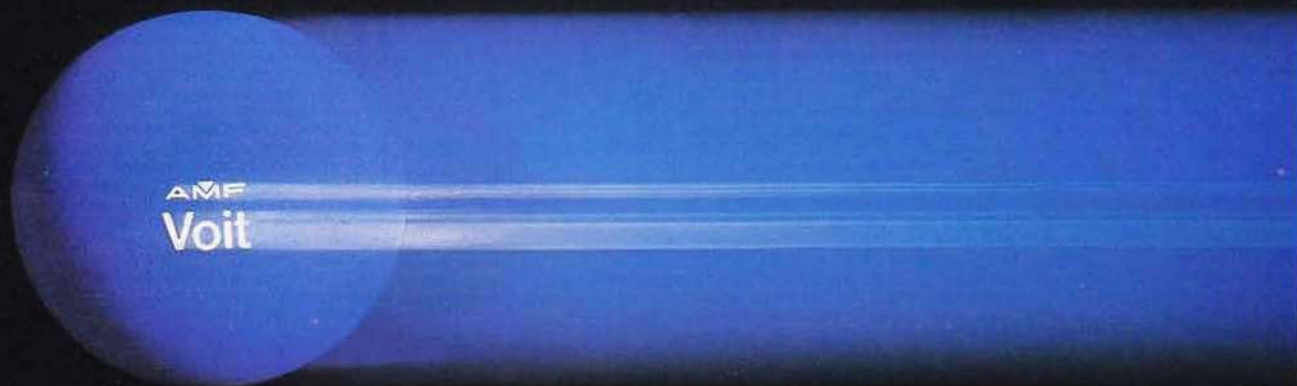
"Play It Cool" Fabric Developed

The Manhattan-Miami Corporation is introducing a new line of action sports accessories with the development of a new fabric that cools itself when wet. Designed to be worn wet, Play It Cool products actually help the active sports player to stay cooler the more he perspires. The products include tennis hats, runner's caps, biker's caps, sports visors, headbands, wristbands and sports towels. The Play It Cool line is available with custom

Continued page 45

THE NEW ROLLOUT BLUR.

OFFICIAL BALL OF THE WPRA TOUR



AMF VOIT INTRODUCES A MUCH LIVELIER ROLLOUT® BLEU™ RACQUETBALL.

Wham. Rollout Bleu's just got faster. Wham. Much faster. Now the game's original blue ball is even better. A special rubber compound gives it a new zing that'll out-perform any other racquetball we've ever



made. And we did it without giving up any of its unbeatable durability or consistency of bounce.

The new improved Rollout Bleu Racquetball. Wham. Clearly a better ball.

Buena Park, CA 90621



EKTELON'S NEW MAXUM & CONTRA

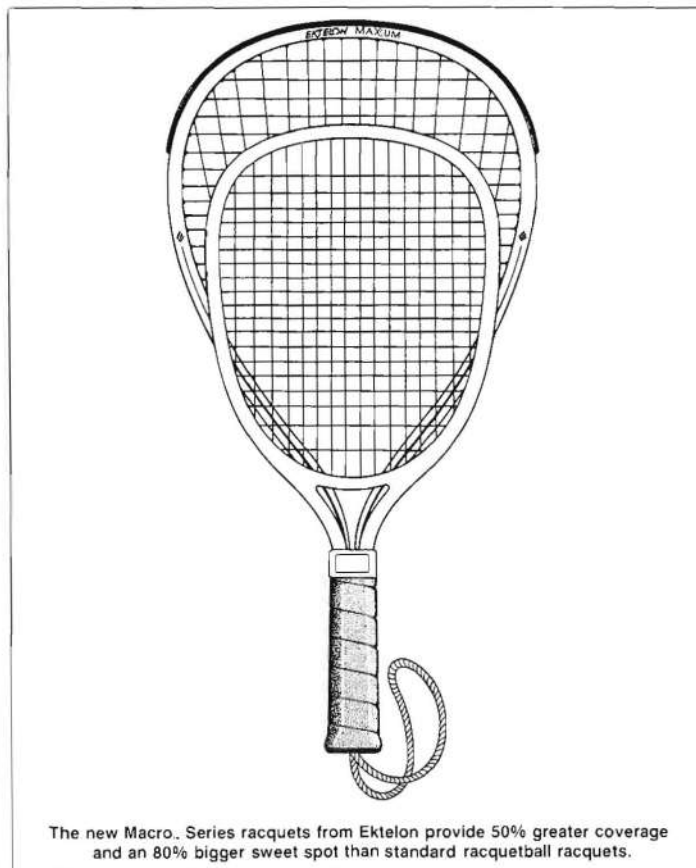
On June 11 in the plush conventional hall of the Intercontinental Hotel in San Diego, Ektelon presented two radically new products that are bound to send shock waves through the industry. In a flash of pyrotechnics before a cheering crowd of over 400 Ektelon employees, sales reps, and reporters from all the major racquetball media, two new oversized racquetball racquets were introduced: the Maxum and the Contra.

The two racquets have tubular aluminum frames, and are similar in construction to Ektelon's standard aluminum designs except for a greatly enlarged hitting surface. Production of the racquets required development of an entirely new aluminum extrusion that was not only strong enough to support the 45 pound string tension, but was light enough to keep the oversized racquet's weight at a featherlight 245 grams.

The introduction of the two oversized racquets was received well, and as one sales representative put it, "This is the first major development in racquetball in three years (since the CBK was introduced). It's going to cause quite a stir."

Each sales rep and reporter received a Maxum and Contra racquet, and, later in the day, Ektelon provided racquetball facilities so everyone could try out the new racquets. After the testing session, the reporters were treated to a special tour of the Ektelon factory where that very same day the first production models of the new racquets were being made.

"This whole project has been very hush-hush from the beginning," stated National Sales Manager Barry Marassi during the tour. "Only a handful of people even knew of the existence of our new racquets until today." The reason for this secrecy was fear of piracy. There were many jokes floating around



The new Macro Series racquets from Ektelon provide 50% greater coverage and an 80% bigger sweet spot than standard racquetball racquets.

that within six weeks after the introduction of the new racquets there would be a flood of "duplicates" from the Far East. To counter any such action from taking place, Ektelon has a patent pending for the new design.

"We put a lot into developing this technology and have applied for a patent," commented Bob McTear, Vice President and General Manager for Ektelon. "This should minimize the knock-off (duplications from other companies) factor. You can always speculate that you'll receive opposition from parties with vested interests in their own product lines. We might expect opposition from other manufacturers, through organizations, who have not developed this technology and must try to protect their market shares. We hope this doesn't happen, because we think these racquets are in the best interest of the

sport."

After the factory tour, the reporters were given yet another pleasant surprise. They were ushered into a conference room where they were met by Vice President Bob McTear, Products Manager Norm Peck, Director of Research and Development Ray Mortvedt and National Sales Manager Barry Marassi. It was a first for many (if not all) of the reporters and they took advantage of the opportunity to ask many questions about the Maxum and Contra.

The first thing everyone wanted to know was how much bigger the macro racquets were compared to regular racquets. 40-50% is the estimate. The average racquet is 18.5" by 9", so the Maxum and the Contra exceed the average length by 2 inches and the width by 1.5 inches. This increases the hitting surface by about 32.5 square

inches.

The next question was, why? Why would one want a larger racquet for racquetball? Ray Mortvedt, the Director of Research and Development, answered that question:

"The objective when we started back in July of 1982, was to develop a racquet that made it easier to play the game. So we threw away the rule book and experimented with long racquets, skinny racquets, wide racquets and heavy racquets. We experimented with bent handles and bent shafts and ran through quite a large matrix of variables. But, just like we would develop a conventional racquet, it was a matter of taking measurements, testing prototypes, getting back test reports and selecting the configuration that worked best."

"Being an occasional player myself and displaying all the bad habits inherent in one, we went for a larger hitting area with a larger sweet spot. That compensated better for my inaccuracies and timing and I got more balls back to the front wall. With the larger racquet we don't have as much mobility in terms of the ability to accelerate the racquet head faster, but we have these long, sweet strings that give us better response to the ball when it does get there. Also, we can't get as much frame stiffness into the racquet because the extrusion, in order to keep the weight down, has to be lighter."

Another concern brought up by the reporters was the question of whether the racquet would be considered legal in tournament play. Amateur rules state that the length and width of an official racquet may not exceed 27 inches.

"Those rules govern amateur tournaments only," explained Bob McTear, "and by far the

Continued page 45

INTERVIEW: GREG EVELAND

Greg Eveland is head of the racquet sports division of Diversified Products, and also serves as the President of the Racquetball Manufacturers' Association. Among the goals the RMA has set for itself is the creation of a highly-visible professional tour for the 1984-85 season.

Who makes up the RMA, and why was it formed?

The Racquetball Manufacturers' Association is currently made up of individuals representing five of the major manufacturers in the racquetball industry: DP, Penn, Ektelon, AMF Voit, and Wilson.

The RMA was formed for the purpose of doing whatever is necessary to make both the industry and the sport of racquetball grow.

Specifically, is the RMA putting together a pro tour?

As I said, the RMA is a conscious, realistic effort by five major manufacturers to make racquetball grow, and to start reaching out to attract that part of the public we are not reaching now. The only way to do that is to find new marketing avenues to reach those people. One such avenue, we feel, is the pro tour. It's not the only way, or perhaps even the best way, but right now it's the most visible part of the game.

So, yes, we are committed to putting together a highly visible professional tour for the coming season.

Where does the tour stand right now?

We are proceeding as fast as we can, but we feel it is important that we do it in the right way. We have now hired a full-service marketing firm, The Howard Marlboro Group, to work on putting the tour together and to help in securing sponsors for the tour. They're doing that right now.

Are they having any success finding sponsors?

The early results have been very encouraging. They have several major, non-racquetball sponsors they're now talking to. They expect to be able to come to us with a firm proposal by mid-August.



Greg Eveland

If everything goes as planned, we hope to be able to announce the tour by late summer.

Can you give us any specifics on the makeup of the tour itself?

What we'd really like to see is an eight-stop tour that would run from October to April in two phases; four stops in the fall and four in the spring, with a break during the December holidays. We'd like to wind it up in April so that the amateurs can hold their events in May and June without any conflict.

So what is your answer to the pro player who wants to know if he will have anyplace to play next season?

My answer would be that we, as a manufacturers' organization, are doing everything in our power to create a highly visible pro tour, but we are going to do it the right way. Right now things look very good. The only real problem we have is the short time frame.

How does the RMA feel about the efforts of other groups or individuals in putting together separate pro events?

Some people have gotten the idea that we don't want to see anyone else involved with running a separate event or tour. That isn't true at all—we think that would

be great. We'd like to see a pro event every weekend of the year. That presents no threat to us whatsoever.

Does the RMA plan to become involved in any other areas?

Certainly. After the pro tour is established, we want to work on a number of other areas. That's the reason we tied ourselves in with the SGMA (Sporting Goods Manufacturers' Association). We want to use their programs, and that's what they're designed to do—to help manufacturers increase the sporting goods industry.

One area we want to go to work on is the junior market, perhaps by tying in with the Athletic Institute. You know, the booster club in every high school has its headquarters right there at the SGMA. We feel that may be one of the best vehicles for getting racquetball into the high schools.

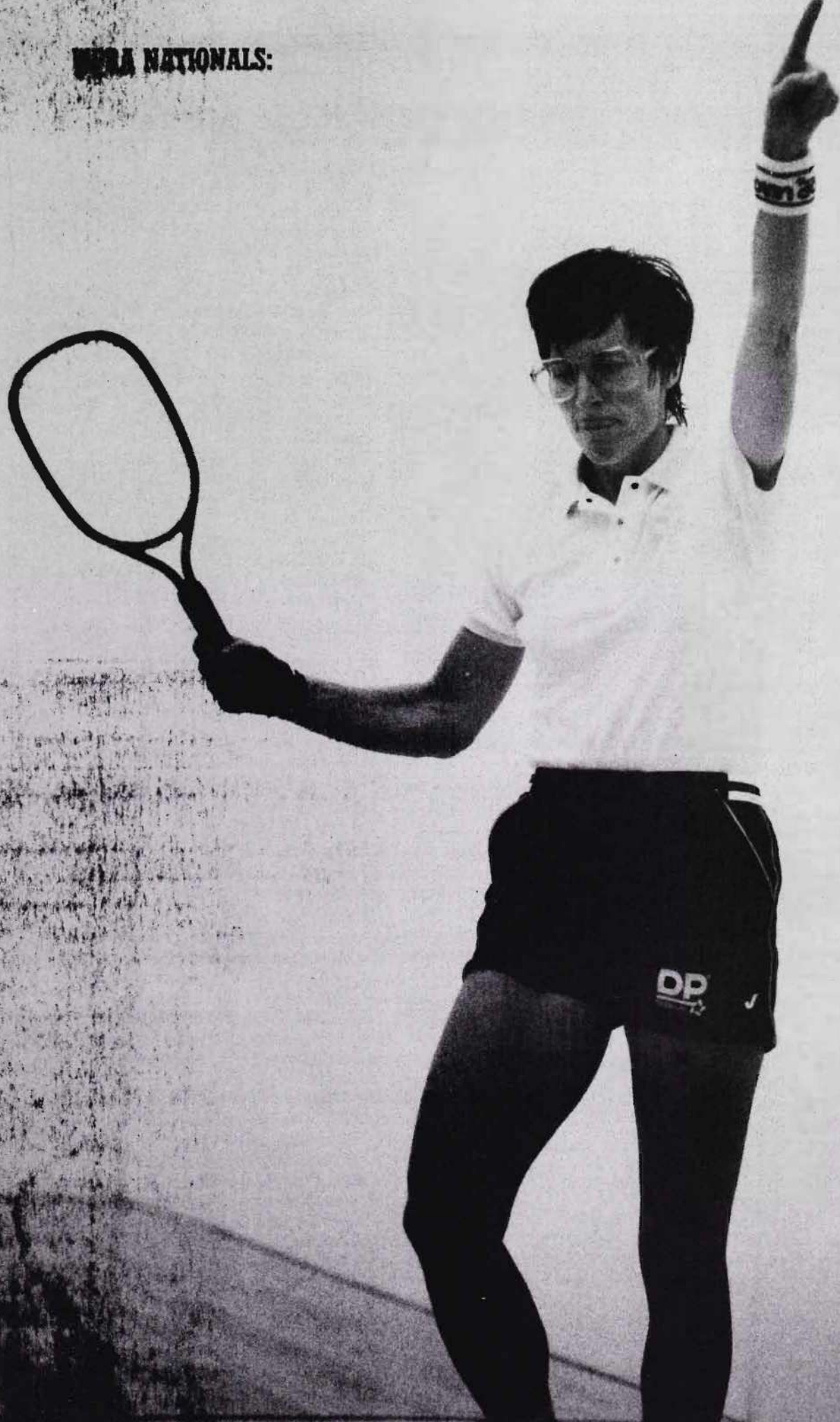
Another area we want to address is the very large number of non-tournament players. One reason we feel that the long-range outlook for this sport is so good is that so many people use this sport as a means to physical fitness. Racquetball is one of the few sports that can really offer both.

Has it been difficult getting competing companies to work together within the RMA?

I don't think many people realize what an accomplishment the RMA has been. I would like to personally recognize the five members of the RMA for what they're doing. Because those companies are putting down their marketing shields for just a little while for the overall betterment of the sport.

We look at it this way. There are eight million or so people playing the game, and we all know that many of those are playing infrequently. We look at that and have to wonder what it would mean if fifteen million people were playing. Obviously, everyone would benefit. Sometimes I feel like we've been beating each other up trying to get a greater share of the existing market, when it makes more sense to simply enlarge the size of the pie.

WIRA NATIONALS:



Heather Notches The Big One

Heather McKay Wins The WPRA Nationals And Takes Back The Number One Ranking

If, as some will tell you, Heather McKay is in the twilight of her career, then Lynn Adams is probably somewhere right now praying for the blessed dark of night.

After coming within a hair's breadth of being eliminated in the quarterfinals, Heather McKay, the grand lady of women's racquetball, stubbornly outlasted defending national champion Lynn Adams in the final to win the WPRA National Championships at the Riverbend Athletic Club in Ft. Worth, TX. With the victory, the 42-year-old legend regained her status as the #1 ranked women's racquetball player in the world, a distinction she held in 1980 and 1981, but lost to Adams in both 1982 and 1983.

The WPRA nationals in Ft. Worth was the final women's ranking event of the 1983-84 season, and was the largest money tournament in the history of women's professional racquetball—\$23,000, of which \$5,250 went to McKay for the victory.

McKay required all of five games to dispose of Adams, 21-17, 21-16, 18-21, 11-21, 15-10, in a match that looked like a co-authored textbook of tactical and psychological racquetball.

For Adams, the loss was a bitter pill, and capped one of the most disappointing seasons of her remarkable career. Although she dominated everyone except McKay during the season and never failed to reach a final, she won only three tournaments, and lost four times to the resurging Canadian who is 16 years her senior.

But Lynn did not play poorly in 1984. To the contrary, her play was consistent and strong, and improved throughout the season. She simply progressed at less of a breakneck speed than McKay, who has made no secret of her desire to win back the WPRA crown. The two continue to be locked in a fascinating struggle to



Adams: too many mistakes from deep court

"C'mon Heather"; Adams frustration against McKay turns into a smile





McKay locks Adams out of center court in final

McKay averting near disaster against red-hot McKinney



Fran Davis powers a forehand during loss to McKay



outdo each other, and in the process they keep redefining how women's racquetball is to be played.

Now, if this were the story of any other tournament, the next line would read something like, "The two dominant players breezed into the finals virtually untouched by their opponents." For Lynn Adams that was true. In fact, she breezed through Carol Pranka, Trina Rasmussen, Brenda Barrett, and third-seeded Shannon Wright Hamilton without losing a single game.

Such was not the case, however, with Heather McKay. After routing Diane Bullard, and Bonnie Stoll, Heather strolled confidently into her quarterfinal match with eighth-seeded Caryn McKinney of Atlanta, perhaps the most improved player on the women's tour this season. Before a stunned standing-room-only crowd, that had shown up primarily to see the McKay magic show, Heather found herself immediately on the ropes, facing her strongest pre-final challenge in memory. McKinney was on fire, and by the time McKay squeaked through one of the tightest tie-breakers on record, the two had staged what many agreed was the most exciting match of the season—a five-game war; 21-16, 9-21, 17-21, 21-10, 19-17.

The thrilling tie-breaker was the best showcase yet for the unique scoring system that is used in the women's pro game: score on every rally, and win by two. The required two-point margin is known in tennis as "lingering death," and the system lived up to its name as McKay and McKinney nervously scored a combined 36 points in a game that is supposed to end at 15.

With Heather serving for the match at 14-11, Caryn took back control and tied the game at 14-all, with the help of a seldom-used serve known as the "jam-

and-fly," which McKay whiffed. Heather returned a McKinney drive with a perfect backhand reverse pinch, and then committed an incredible error; serving for the match at 15-14, she attempted a standard ceiling ball and hit it four feet short of the front wall. The game was tied at 15, again at 16, and again at 17. Finally, McKay put two strong rallies together and took the game and match, 19-17. A great match was over; Heather was still in, Caryn had served notice, and the players were not the only ones who were exhausted.

It is not uncommon at the upper levels of racquetball for a player who has been severely tested in the early rounds to be virtually unbeatable later on. McKay easily overcame her semifinal opponent Fran Davis (21-13, 21-13, 21-17), who was herself playing one of the best tournaments of her career, upsetting Janell Marriott and Heather Stupp en route.

Both Heather and Lynn were rolling. It was clear that the final match—a one-shot battle for the top spot in the women's game—was going to be a good one.

Perhaps the most interesting aspect of watching a McKay/Adams match is the mental maneuvering that takes place on the court. Both are intelligent players, and they know each other's game extremely well. It is not unusual to see two or three complete changes in game plan in the course of a match, as each sizes up the other's strengths and weaknesses on that particular day.

As they came out of the blocks in this all-important match, their initial strategies appeared standard. Lynn was the aggressive shooter, and Heather the percentage pass-and-pincher. But after the early nerves faded, two visible differences became apparent: Lynn was blatantly trying to isolate Heather's forehand, and Heather was putting the ball away from

both sides with consistency, effectively eliminating her greatest weakness.

McKay's shooting quickly took its toll on a surprised Adams, in the form of pressured errors. Heather came back in the first game from an 8-3 deficit to win 21-17, and continued to roll on the strength of pinpoint passes and flat-dead kills. She won game two, 20-16. Adams was clearly in trouble—an adjustment had to be made. She made it.

When Lynn came out for game three, she was determined to shift the pressure back to Heather. With hard, deep serves she began to lock McKay in back court, playing as aggressively as possible from center court. It was the classic defense against the shooter: if they're going to shoot, make them do it from back court and then pounce on the errors.

The game plan worked. It not only produced more errors from her opponent, but it allowed Lynn to get back into her aggressive game. At 20-18 Lynn cracked a backhand kill down the left wall and she was back in the match. More importantly, her timing was back.

In the fourth game, Adams pulled away from McKay by scoring an amazing nine straight points to win, 21-11, on the strength of six flat kills. The match was going five, and the title was now up for grabs.

"I honestly felt that we were dead even going into the tie-breaker," Lynn observed later. "Unfortunately, a few things happened that changed the course of the game drastically for me."

Those "things" were two crack-outs by McKay, the first coming on the first point of the game. "When she hit (a crack-out) on the first point, I got a little down mentally," said Adams. "But when she did it again, I have to admit that it did affect my play. I started missing set-ups, and that was the end. I think they got Heather

going, too."

McKay agreed. "Those kinds of shots can easily serve as a boost to the person who hits them, and they seem like easy points. The other player has to try very hard to pull herself together, which isn't easy when there is so much pressure there to begin with."

In the end, the top seed won the tie-breaker on the strength of a single shot—the pinch. Heather scored seven of her last eight points on pinches. She won the tie-breaker going away, 15-10.

"I was able to serve well, hit hard shots and play my game," said a buoyant McKay when it was finally over. "Beyond that, I think that I played a little better at the right times."

The Ft. Worth tournament was a special one for Shannon Wright Hamilton. Although Hamilton currently resides in Las Vegas, she is originally from Ft. Worth, and played the tournament in front of her husband, father, brother, and grandmother. Prior to the start of the event, Hamilton announced that she was officially "semi-retiring" from WPRA competition to devote full time to medical school.

No complete history of women's racquetball can ever be written without a large chapter devoted to Hamilton. Shannon, who is now 27, ruled the world of women's racquetball for many years, and has never fallen lower than #3 in the WPRA rankings during the four years of the association's existence. She finished in the semifinals in Ft. Worth, where she lost to Lynn Adams, 22-20, 21-14, 21-13.

In a repeat of last year's WPRA National Doubles Championship match, top-seeded Adams and Terri Gilreath disposed of second seeds Vicki Panzeri and Bonnie Stoll, 15-10, 15-11, 15-12.



Canadian Heather Stupp

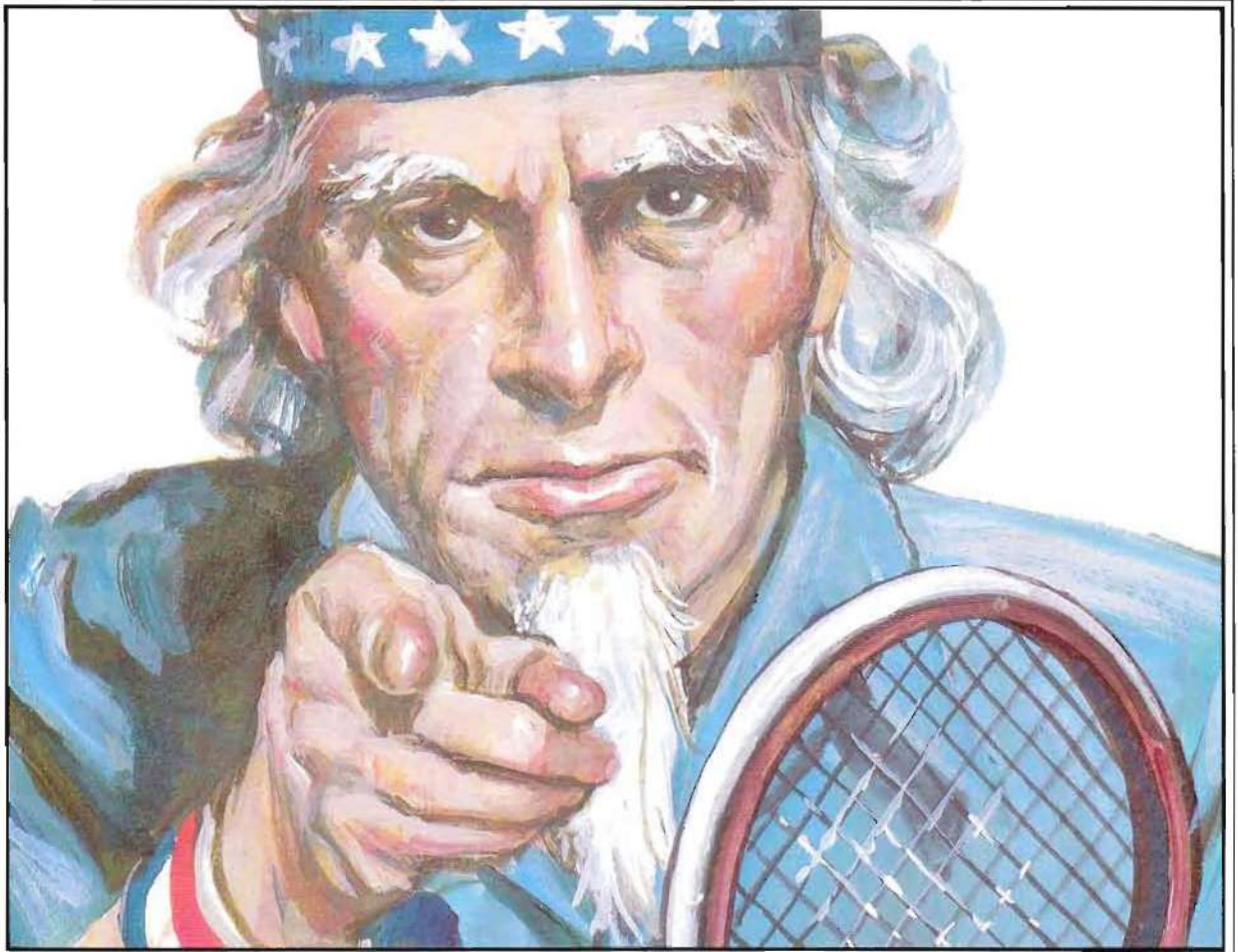
Newly installed WPRA President, Caryn McKinney



The patented Adams backhand has Wright-Hamilton on her heels



JOIN THE PROS



INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL WANTS YOU!

- We want you to join professional racquetball in its exciting 1984-85 season. Racquetball like you've never seen it before!
- We want you to join the pros behind-the-scenes interviews, in-depth instruction written by the pros themselves, and superb photographic tournament coverage.
- We want you to join the pros as they battle in cities from coast to coast and beyond in the world of **International Racquetball**.



WPRA National Championships

Round of 32:

Heather McKay (1) d. Diane Bullard; 12, 15, (16), 17

Bonnie Stoll d. Tamara Low; 17, 12, (17), 17
Peggy Gardner d. Monique Parent; 18, 14, 17

Caryn McKinney (8) d. Rita Hoff Scott; 13, 11, 13

Janell Marriott (5) d. Martha McDonald; (14), 16, 21, (17), 11

Fran Davis d. Marci Drexler; 19, 19, 15

Heather Stupp d. Liz Alvarado; 18, 16, 15

Vicki Panzerri (4) d. Marcy Lynch; 7, 12, (18), 8

Shannon Wright Hamilton (3) d. Brenda Young; 8, 9, 18

Jennifer Harding d. Mary Dee; 19, 20, 18

Joyce Jackson d. Karen Powers; 8, 7, 15

Terri Gilreath (6) d. Molly O'Brien; (19), 17, (16), 14, 10

Babette Bell d. Laura Martino (7); 13, 12, 19

Brenda Barrett d. Val Paese; 17, 9, 7

Trina Rasmussen d. Leslie Clifford; 18, 19, 14

Lynn Adams (2) d. Carol Pranka; 10, 14, 16

Round of 16:

McKay d. Stoll; 12, 8, 16

McKinney d. Gardner; (15), 14, (19), 13, 10

Davis d. Marriott; (14), 16, 12, 15

Stupp d. Panzerri; (16), 19, 20, 15

Hamilton d. Harding; 9, 17, 13

Jackson d. Gilreath; 19, 20, (20), 10

Barrett d. Bell; 20, 17, 13

Adams d. Rasmussen; 16, 10, 15

Quarterfinal Round:

McKay d. McKinney; 16, (9), (17), 10, 17

Davis d. Stupp; 21, 14, (16), (12), 9

Hamilton d. Jackson; 21, 13, 16

Adams d. Barrett; 20, 11, 9

Semifinal Round:

McKay d. Davis; 13, 13, 17

Adams d. Hamilton; 20, 14, 13

Final Round:

McKay d. Adams; 17, 16, (18), (11), 10 ●

The final was televised on local TV in Ft. Worth



TOUR TALK FROM THE WPRA

New Board, Award Winners Announced

The WPRA held its annual year-end banquet at the RiverBend Restaurant in the Club on Saturday, June 2. The new Board of Directors was announced, as well as the winners of the three annual WPRA Awards. All Board positions and awards were voted on by the membership at the General Membership Meeting the previous day. The 1984-85 Board of Directors includes: Caryn McKinney, President; Lynn Adams, Vice President; and Terri Gilreath, Marcy Lynch and Molly O'Brien, Board Members.

The AMF Voit Most Improved Player award went to Molly O'Brien, whose general level of play increased dramatically throughout the season. This upsurge of skill was clearly demonstrated at the Nationals by her tiebreaker loss to the gifted and sixth-seeded Terri Gilreath. Molly received a \$500 check and a trophy for her well-deserved award.

The Steding Cup, an annual award bestowed upon the WPRA member who has contributed the most to the sport of racquetball, both on and off the court, went to Heather McKay. The 42-year-old wonder who was the women's world champion in squash for 18 years and who was chosen as the Australian Athlete of the Year in 1967, is a primary reason that the level of play in the WPRA has been raised to such a great extent over the last four years. Heather adds a very unique touch of class to the tour and to the WPRA and is a deserving recipient of the Steding Cup.

The Sportsmanship Award was presented to Jennifer Harding, the outgoing President of the WPRA, who has single-handedly been responsible for much of the progress that has been made by the Association over the past 4½ years. In accepting the award, Jennifer stated that she was proud to win the award and felt that she deserved it because, since her first WPRA match with Heather McKay, whom she defeated in that meeting, she has been an extremely good sport, having not taken a match from the WPRA's number one player since that encounter.

Dr. Hamilton?

An impressive fact which is not known by most racquetball followers is that Shannon Wright Hamilton, one of the sports greatest players, is currently a jun-

ior in the pre-med program at University of Nevada-Las Vegas. Shannon was recently awarded the Marie Barbara Woolrich Scholarship, a continuing, full scholarship annually bestowed upon an outstanding academic student. The WPRA's third-ranked player also received the Award of Achievement for general chemistry at UNLV and, upon graduation, plans to apply to medical school at the University of Nevada-Reno. Shannon wed Jim Hamilton, a minister at Sunrise Community Church, almost two years ago, and the couple resides in Las Vegas.

RMA Recognizes WPRA

The Racquetball Manufacturers Association recently nominated the Women's Professional Racquetball Association as an "honorary" member of the RMA. An honorary member is selected on the basis of "rendering distinguished service in public, business, athletics or has promoted the interest of racquetball."

"The WPRA is pleased to be recognized by the RMA for its service to racquetball," stated WPRA President Jennifer Harding. "We believe that the WPRA, since its inception almost five years ago, has been instrumental in the development of opportunities for women players as well as the overall professionalism of the conduct of our side of the game. We appreciate that a group such as the RMA has seen fit to publicly acknowledge our efforts. We also very much appreciate the substantial contribution of our tour sponsors, AMF Voit, Kanga-ROOS and Tecnifibre, manufacturers without whose concrete support we could not grow."

"General Hospital"

The Player List for the WPRA Nationals could more appropriately have been called the Disabled List. Consider: Diane Bullard has only recently recovered from an eye injury; Peggy Gardner was suffering from a rotator cuff injury; Caryn McKinney checked out with various shoulder and knee problems; Joyce Jackson broke a bursa sac in her elbow; and Laura Martino bowed out in the first round, more a victim of a lower back ailment than of her opponent, Babette Bell. Perhaps pre-med student Sharon Wright Hamilton, who played injury-free, knows something that the rest of the players do not. . . . ●

THE SPORTS GALLERY



EKTELON NATIONALS:

Bret Is Back!

Harnett and McKay take the Ektelon Nationals

Playing the tournament of his career, 19-year-old Bret Harnett, of Las Vegas, Nevada, maneuvered his way through a minefield of upsets to win the \$40,000 1984 Ektelon National Championships. The title, which is considered one of the top two honors in professional racquetball, was Harnett's biggest ever and his second in a ranking pro event. Before the blazing lights and ESPN television cameras on center court, the powerful left-hander narrowly defeated Jerry Hilecher, the veteran of the men's tour, in five games, 11-4, 10-11, 11-6, 3-11, 11-8.

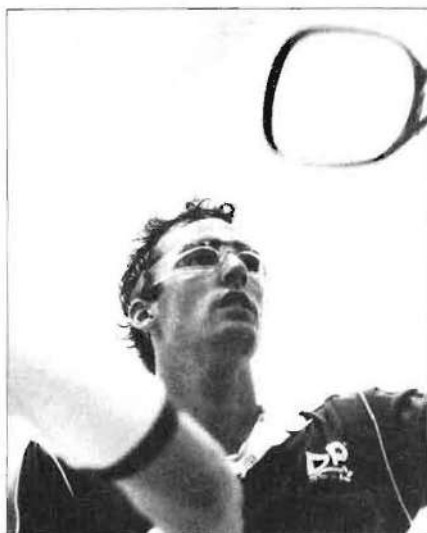
Heather McKay, the world's top-ranked women's professional, stole her third straight Ektelon crown at the expense of her archrival Lynn Adams. For Adams, it was the third consecutive year she has been denied the only major title she has never held. McKay defeated Adams in four games, 19-21, 22-20, 21-13, 21-16.

Both the men's and women's finals of the prestigious Ektelon event, which was again staged at the lavish Sports Gallery in Anaheim, CA, were taped for rebroadcast on ESPN.

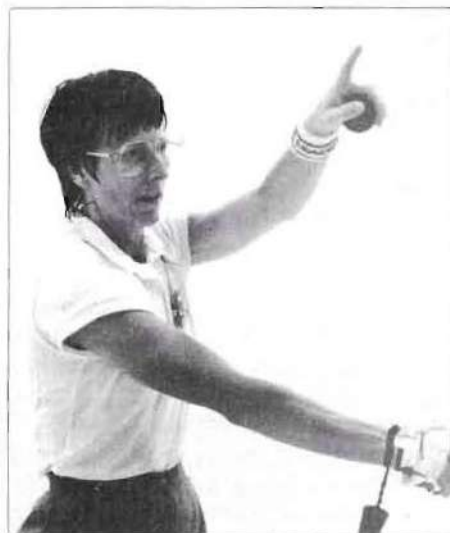
While the McKay/Adams final was almost a foregone conclusion, Harnett and Hilecher were thrust into the limelight on the heels of an almost unbelievable series of upsets. Although no one is quite sure why, the Ektelon Championships has become infamous in the last few years as a tournament of upsets, particularly among the top seeds.

This year the upsets started early—in fact, before the first round. Craig McCoy, who for years has been a top-10 player, didn't even make it through the qualifying rounds, where he was blitzed by Dave Johnson.

The round-of-32 was brutal, sending no fewer than seven of the top 16 players to the showers. Corey Brysman, currently one of the hottest players in Southern California, destroyed eighth-seeded Scott Oliver, 11-1, 11-6, 11-10. Stever Lerner did the same to #11 Jack Newman, 11-7, 11-9, 11-6. Rich Wagner, who last year lost to Mike Yellen in the finals, forfeited



A victorious Bret Harnett



Heather McKay

his match to Andy Gross because of a previous-day injury. Dave Johnson of Huntington Beach, who earlier had beaten McCoy, routed #11 Ed Andrews in three games. Lindsey Myers took out #14 John Egerman in four. And Bill Sell stopped #10 Don Thomas with ease, 11-10, 11-5, 11-8.

But the biggest story of the 32s was the astonishing elimination of the defending

national and Ektelon champion (along with almost everything else), Mike Yellen, at the unlikely hands of an unseeded 17-year-old rookie from St. Louis named David Gross.

Yellen is known for starting sluggishly, frequently using the early rounds to warm up and then rapidly raising the level of his game toward the finals. Usually it works. But Gross, who comes from the Hogan

The incredible Hogan backhand couldn't stop Harnett in the semis



school of power racquetball, came out blasting like a rookie who had nothing to lose, which of course he was. Mike started slow, and got slower. The savvy but stunned crowd watched silently as Gross thrashed the popular Yellen in a four game match that was never really a contest: 11-8, 5-11, 11-5, 11-6.

Yellen made a quick exit from the tournament leaving open to speculation exactly what had happened. The most logical explanation was that Mike had simply been caught off guard, a suspicion he confirmed later by saying, "I never really thought I was in trouble."

True to the Ektelon tradition, after one round of play, both of the previous year's finalists were gone.

With the potential for upsets now somewhat diminished, the round-of-16 was played without too many surprises. All of the top seeds advanced.

The most interesting matchup was between David Gross and Brian Hawkes, as everyone gathered to see if Gross could capitalize on taking over the coveted spot of the #2 seed. It may have been that Gross was spent from his match with Yellen, but no one will ever know—Hawkes never let him get anywhere near the ball. On the strength of an awesome serving game, Brian, who is a three-time national outdoor champion, obliterated Gross, 11-1, 11-5, 11-4.

Interestingly, the quarterfinal matches were all routs—none went more than three games. Hogan stopped Gerry Price, Harnett scored his easiest victory ever over his former nemesis Gregg Peck, and Hawkes was no match for the methodical Hilecher.

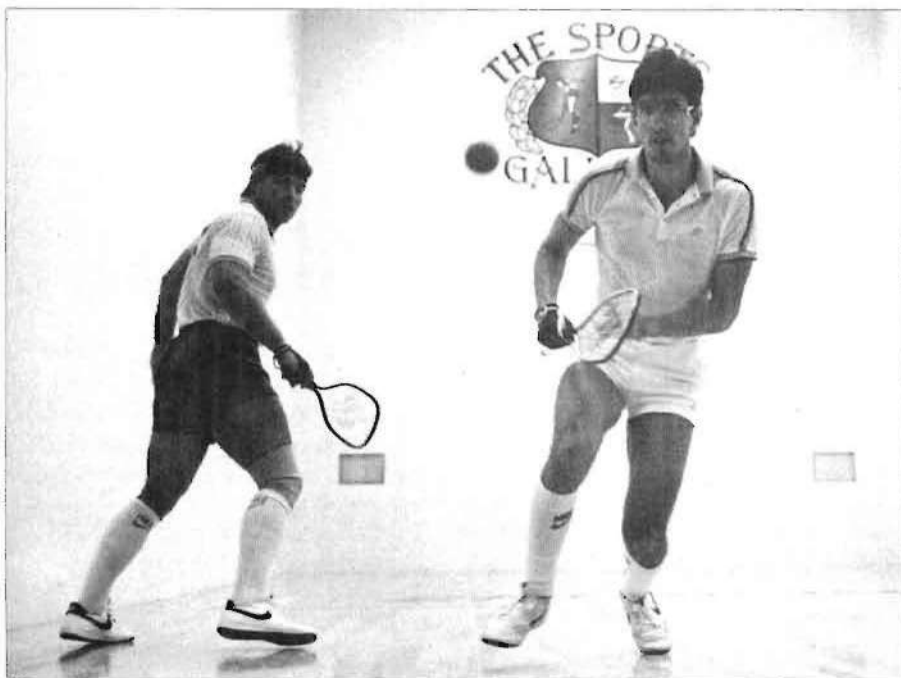
Most noteworthy was Dave Peck's trouncing of the talented #6 seed, Ruben Gonzalez, a player who is seldom beaten easily. Peck had claimed that his leg was back to 100%, and Ruben seemed determined to help him prove it. Peck moved and shot flawlessly, and downed Gonzalez in the most lopsided match of the tournament, 11-1, 11-1, 11-5.

Three of the top four seeds were in the semifinals, and it was time for the Ektelon curse to begin taking its toll once again.

Coming into the semis, Marty Hogan looked like the man to beat. His game was ultra-sharp, and he had gone through three rounds without dropping a single game (or cracking a single smile). But Bret Harnett is always trouble when he gets to the final rounds. Bret and Marty quickly became locked in an air-tight struggle to out-blast each other. As the momentum shifted back and forth, the two swift shooters swapped every other game, with Hogan taking the first and third, 11-7, 11-8, and Harnett winning

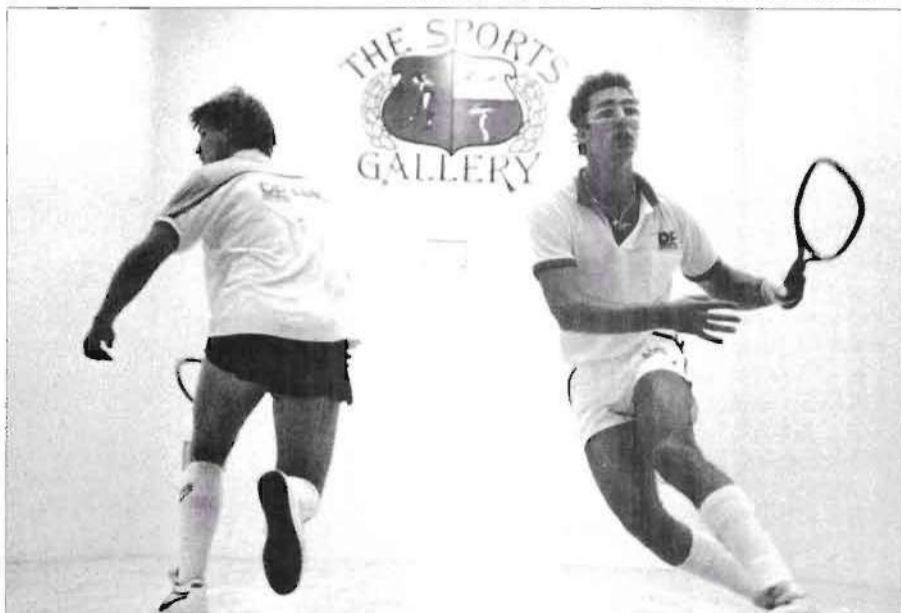


Bret Harnett and Jerry Hilecher in the Ektelon finals



Jerry Hilecher upset still ailing Dave Peck

Harnett turns to crank on a forehand against Gregg Peck



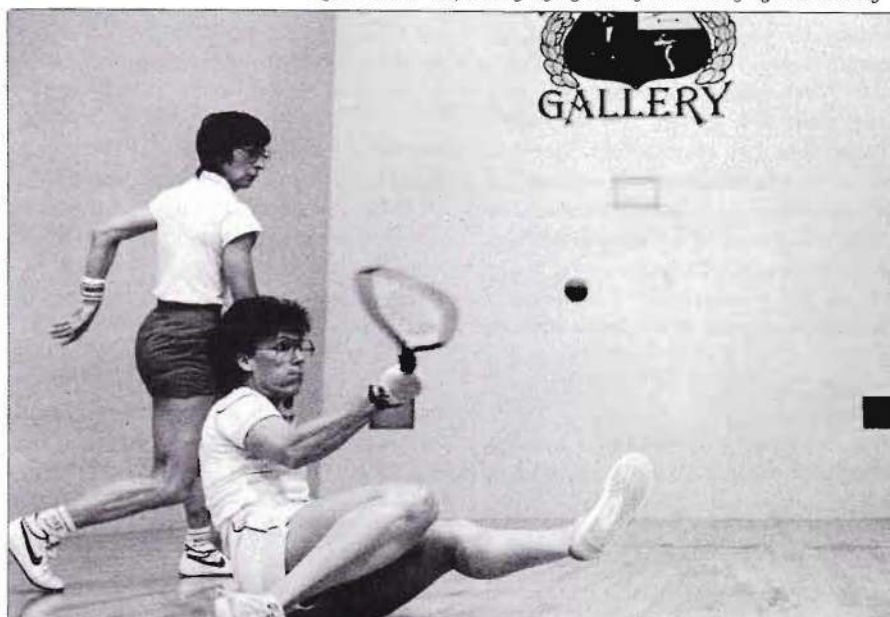


Heather McKay and Lynn Adams in the women's final



Dave Peck runs as Ruben Gonzalez sets up

Lynn Adams desperately trying to stay in the rally against McKay



the second and fourth, 11-4, 11-6.

Like the rest of the match, the tie-breaker was locked up for nearly a half-hour. It was Harnett who finally broke the 4-4 tie, and Hogan's back, by ripping three blazing aces, and six unanswered points. Marty held off match point four times before Bret stepped into the service box and ended the match with style—an ace to the most powerful backhand in racquetball. Game, Harnett; 11-5.

The other semifinal was a battle of experience; Hilecher and Peck. It was a match that was both exciting and repulsive. The two dualed for five games, trying to out-smart and out-bully each other in one of the worst exhibitions of sports-manship of the year. Twice, the otherwise well played contest was marred by shoving matches at center court. When Hilecher finally emerged with his 11-10, 11-6, 5-11, 5-11, 11-3 victory, one spectator voiced what almost everyone felt: "I'm glad that match wasn't put on TV!"

In terms of strategy, Hilecher had clearly noticed something about Peck's movement that Gonzalez had not; Dave was having trouble thrusting forward and left, and it got worse with fatigue.

The final was the predictable battle of experience and youth everyone expected—Hilecher tried to out-think, and Harnett tried to out-play. For four games Hilecher would change the pace, while Harnett would adjust and surge ahead only to find his timing thrown off again by another game plan. As in the Harnett/Hogan semifinal, the two finalists traded every other game; Harnett got the first and third, 11-4, 11-6, and Hilecher took the second and fourth, 11-10, 11-3.

The tie-breaker was a great one. The two stayed close throughout, constantly trading the lead until Hilecher found himself up 8-6, and appeared ready to take home his first major title since 1981.

It was at that moment that Bret Harnett reached down as deep as he could and found enough inside to complete his rite-of-passage into racquetball's inner circle. It was a breathtaking moment for those who had followed Bret since he was a 15-year-old prodigy. After playing for four days, and being on the court for three hours in front of a packed house and TV cameras—exhausted and losing—Bret Harnett did not fold. The nervous swings of fatigue disappeared, and were replaced with the swift sure strokes of a man with absolute knowledge that his moment had come.

Harnett stepped into the service box and rifled five straight points, leaving Hilecher sprawled on the floor as Bret thrust his racquet to the air in victory;

11-4, 10-11, 11-6, 3-11, 11-8.

"I feel great," Bret said, and then gave his own explanation for the victory. "I came into this tournament a little hungry. I really wanted to win because it is a big tournament, but also to prove that I'm still around. You know, I'm 20 years old and people are already saying that I'm a has-been. There's just no way."

"I feel good about the tournament," said a drenched Jerry Hilecher, "but I didn't have the intensity I wanted today. The only thing that really kept me in the match was my concentration. I was out-thinking him and that kept me close, but he really out-played me in every facet of the match."

It was a good, albeit disappointing, finish for Hilecher, who holds the distinction of having been in the top eight players in the world for every year that professional racquetball has existed.

The win was worth \$10,000 for Harnett, while Hilecher took home \$3,100 for second.

While the men's division was being ravaged, the women's proceeded through the tournament with only one noticeable upset.

In the round-of-32, fifth-seeded Laura Martino fell in an extremely hard-fought match to Jennifer Harding, 21-19, 16-21, 21-16, 19-21, 15-13. Martino's defeat was not entirely unexpected, however. Harding is always a tough opponent, and Laura has been suffering from an aggravating back injury for most of the season.

Not only did all of the seeds hold during the 16s and quarterfinals, but only one match was particularly close—fourth ranked Vicki Panzerri required five games to stop sixth ranked Janell Marriott, 21-18, 16-21, 20-21, 21-15, 15-8. Marriott, who is one of the veterans of the women's tour, was continuing a particularly good season that has seen her ranking move back up from #8 to #5.

The two semifinal matches saw the top four seeds square off for a chance to play in front of a national television audience in Sunday's final.

Third seeded Shannon Wright Hamilton of Las Vegas chalked up her third semifinal finish in as many tries this year as she bowed to Heather McKay, 16-21, 21-17, 21-17, 21-16. Hamilton, a former national champion who remains a formidable opponent, simply succumbed to Heather's superior play despite taking the first game.

The other semifinal pitted Lynn Adams against #4 Panzerri. Vicki, who scored two upsets over Adams last season, pushed the second seed to the limit, finally dropping the match in a fifth-set tie-

breaker, 12-21, 21-15, 10-21, 21-7, 15-9. The match was noteworthy, not because of its outcome, but because of what it said about Adams' play. Lynn was visibly nervous, inconsistent and pushing hard during her battle with Panzerri. It was a problem that would eventually cost her the title.

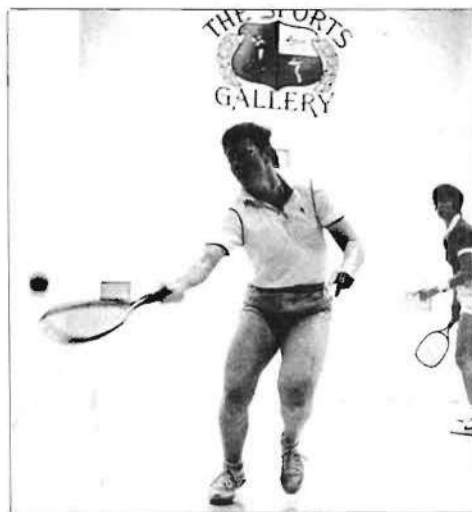
Prior to their final contest at Ektelon, Lynn Adams and Heather McKay had met in the finals of 18 of the last 22 WPRO tournaments in which they had both played. Over that period, their records against each other stand fairly even. But Anaheim has proven to be Lynn's Waterloo. In 1982 she lost the championship match to McKay, and last year was beaten in the quarterfinals by unseeded Brenda Barrett.

On this day, McKay's game was in top form. But the match was more a contest of cool than anything else, as Adams later admitted: "I can't fake myself out. I

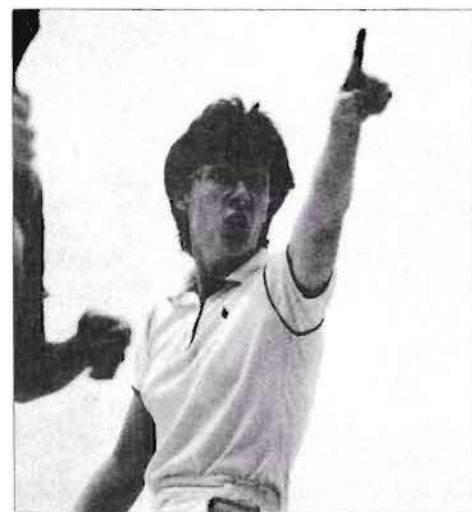
away from her bread-and-butter pinch shots, opting instead for hard serves and drives down the line, a game plan which seemed to take Adams by surprise.

Heather, who is the master of the pinch, said, "I really concentrated on passing Lynn and only used a pinch to keep her honest. I managed to keep her in the back court a lot, primarily with my serve, which I spent a lot of time practicing before the tournament."

Lynn's nerves were so evident when she walked on the court for game four, it was obvious that the match was over. McKay bore down relentlessly. Serving for the match at 20-16, McKay shot a forehand setup—an outright winner—into the right corner, only to see her apparent victory stalled by a broken ball. The point was replayed, and this time Adams did herself in by skipping a backhand. Heather had her third Ektelon title; 19-21, 22-20, 21-13, 21-16.



Wright-Hamilton against McKay



was nervous and, after missing some setups in the first two games, my concentration and confidence were shaken. I didn't deserve to win the match. Heather was mentally tougher and responded to the pressure well."

The first game was the only one Adams was able to win, and she barely did that. The two stayed virtually even, until at 19-all, Adams hit a forehand kill and followed up with a controversial ace to take a 1-0 lead in the match. McKay vigorously protested the last serve, but to no avail.

It was in game two where McKay began to capitalize on Lynn's self-imposed pressure. Heather played brilliantly, as Lynn's game began to dissolve.

Lynn skipped a backhand to lose the second game, 20-22. She was never in the third, which McKay won, 21-13.

McKay's strategy was becoming obvious. She was staying completely

"The last time I played her," said McKay, "I left a lot up and she just killed me (in Seattle). With this fast ball, I wasn't confident pinching so I decided to pass a bit more, and that kept her off balance. And, I think Lynn puts a lot of pressure on herself in this tournament."

Adams was dejected, but as always, gracious. "I had game point (in the second game) and skipped it in. That took a little bit out of my sails and really pumped her up. I just never got it together after that. I missed a few, and the more I missed the worse it got. She played very nice—she kept me off balance a lot. It's hard...what can I say?"

McKay earned the first place prize money of \$4,600 for the victory, and moved well into the lead for the #1 ranking. Adams received \$3,000 for second.

In the amateur divisions, Jim Cascio and Marci Drexler were both first time winners. Cascio, from Lancaster, PA,

defeated Cliff Swain, of Braintree, MA, 15-7, 15-7. Drexler, playing just a few miles from her home in North Hollywood, downed AARA champion Cindy Baxter, of Lewistown, PA, 14-15, 15-7, 15-11.

Ektelon Racquetball Championships

Women's Pro Singles

Preliminary Round

Tracy Phillips d. Karen Clark

Cindy Donnelly d. Lydia Hammock

Round of 32 - Women's Pro Singles

Jennifer Harding d. Laura Martino 21-9, 16-21, 21-16, 19-21, 15-13

Shannon Wright Hamilton d. Marci Lynch 21-7, 21-11, 21-13

Peggy Gardner d. Gail Woods 21-12, 21-16, 21-8

Marci Drexler d. Mary Dee 21-10, 21-8, 21-18

Molly O'Brien d. Leslie Clifford 21-14, 21-19, 21-18

Janell Marriott d. Cindy Donnelly 21-19, 21-14, 21-18

Vicki Panzeri d. Kippi Bishop 21-19, 21-16, 21-17

20, 5-21, 21-9

Lynn Adams d. Bonnie Stoll 21-15, 21-14, 21-10

Terri Gilreath d. Joyce Jackson 21-13, 21-15, 21-13

Women's Quarterfinals

Heather McKay d. Caryn McKinney 21-7, 21-17, 21-15

Shannon Wright Hamilton d. Peggy Gardner 21-13, 21-11, 21-7

Vicki Panzeri d. Janell Marriott 21-18, 16-21, 20-21, 21-15, 15-8

Lynn Adams d. Terri Gilreath 21-15, 21-16, 21-11

Women's Semifinals

Heather McKay d. Shannon Wright Hamilton 16-21, 21-16, 21-17, 21-17

Lynn Adams d. Vicki Panzeri 12-21, 21-15, 10-21, 21-7, 15-9

Women's Finals

HEATHER MCKAY d. LYNN ADAMS 19-21, 22-20, 21-13, 21-16

David Gross d. Aaron Embry

Andy Gross d. Mark Plotkin

Corey Brysman d. Stu Appel

Dan O'Bremski d. Mike Romo

Cliff Swain d. Jack Nolan

Dave Johnson d. Craig McCoy

Round of 32 - Men's Pro

Gregg Peck d. Guy Texeira 11-0, 11-9, 5-11, 11-3

Steve Lerner d. Jack Newman 11-7, 11-9, 11-6

Andy Gross d. Rich Wagner - Injury forfeit

Bret Harnett d. Pete Britos 6-11, 11-1, 11-4, 6-11, 11-5

Lindsay Myers d. John Egerman 11-4, 4-11, 11-5, 11-4

Dave Johnson d. Ed Andrews 11-8, 11-9, 11-5

Ruben Gonzalez d. Mark Martino 11-5, 11-7, 9-11, 11-4

Dave Peck d. Cliff Swain 11-4, 11-9, 11-5

Brian Hawkes d. Mike Levine, forfeit

Bill Sell d. Don Thomas 11-10, 11-5, 11-8

Jerry Hilecher d. Dan O'Bremski 11-10, 11-8, 11-9

David Gross d. Mike Yellen 11-8, 5-11, 11-5, 11-6

Marty Hogan d. Mike Ray 11-9, 11-7, 11-7

Gerry Price d. Evan Terry 11-0, 11-3, 11-7

Doug Cohen d. Scott Hawkins 11-2, 11-9, 11-8

Corey Brysman d. Scott Oliver 11-1, 11-6, 11-10

Round of 16 - Men's Pro

Marty Hogan d. Doug Cohen 11-8, 11-9, 11-4

Gerry Price d. Corey Brysman 11-6, 11-7, 11-7

Gregg Peck d. Steve Lerner 11-6, 8-11, 9-11, 11-10, 11-6

Bret Harnett d. Andy Gross 11-9, 9-11, 11-9, 11-4

Dave Peck d. Lindsay Myers 11-3, 10-11, 11-4, 11-3

Ruben Gonzalez d. Dave Johnson 11-5, 11-4, 11-2

Jerry Hilecher d. Bill Sell 11-6, 4-11, 8-11, 11-2, 11-2

Brian Hawkes d. David Gross 11-1, 11-5, 11-4

Quarterfinals - Men's Pro

Marty Hogan d. Gerry Price 11-4, 11-7, 11-6

Bret Harnett d. Gregg Peck 11-9, 11-4, 11-10

Dave Peck d. Ruben Gonzalez 11-1, 11-1, 11-5

Jerry Hilecher d. Brian Hawkes 11-3, 11-6, 11-2

Semifinals - Men's Pro

Bret Harnett d. Marty Hogan 7-11, 11-4, 8-11, 11-6, 11-5

Jerry Hilecher d. Dave Peck 11-10, 11-6, 5-11, 5-11, 11-3

Finals - Men's Pro

BRET HARNETT d. JERRY HILECHER 11-4, 10-11, 11-6, 3-11, 11-8



A concerned Jim Carson watches Lynn Adams



David Gross

MEN'S PRO SINGLES

Preliminary Round

Earl Thibault d. Paul Olson

Brian Laughter d. Clay Ballard

Bob Wilhelm d. Mickey Bellah

Norm Akau d. Jay Schwartz

Mark Antes d. Kevin Johnson

Mike Alderson d. Steve Fey

Bubba Gautier d. Craig Davidson

Chris Greck d. Steve Pearce

Lance Gilliam d. Phillip Brown

Aaron Embry d. Steve Jenkins

Mark Plotkin d. Don DiPalma

Stu Appel d. Tom Neill

Jack Nolan d. John Britos

Dave Johnson d. Bob Siebert

Pro Qualifying

Scott Hawkins d. Earl Thibault

Evan Terry d. Brian Laughter

Peter Britos d. Bob Wilhelm

Brian Hawkes d. Norm Akau

Mike Ray d. Mike Alderson

Mark Martino d. Bubba Gautier

Steve Lerner d. Chris Breck

Bill Sell d. Lance Gilliam

Guy Texeira d. Egan Inoue

Brenda Barrett d. Kaye Kuhfeld 18-21, 21-13, 21-19, 21-18

Terri Gilreath d. Trina Rasmussen 21-9, 21-12, 21-12

Joyce Jackson d. Tracy Phillips 21-11, 21-10, 21-13

Bonnie Stoll d. Dot Fischl 21-16, 21-12, 21-17

Lynn Adams d. Cindy Baxter 21-12, 21-11, 14-21, 21-11

Heather McKay d. Val Pease 21-5, 21-5, 21-5

Caryn McKinney d. Babette Bell 21-14, 21-8, 21-16

Liz Alvarado d. Rita Scott 21-16, 21-13, 21-6

Fran Davis d. Carol Pranka 21-17, 21-14, 21-17, 21-10

Round of 16 - Women's Pro Singles

Heather McKay d. Liz Alvarado 21-12, 21-12, 21-10

Caryn McKinney d. Fran Davis 21-10, 20-21, 21-10, 21-8

Peggy Gardner d. Jennifer Harding 21-18, 21-18, 21-14

Shannon Wright Hamilton d. Marci Drexler 13-21, 21-14, 21-20, 21-15

Vicki Panzeri d. Molly O'Brien 17-21, 25-23, 25-23, 21-15

Janell Marriott d. Brenda Barrett 21-13, 21-



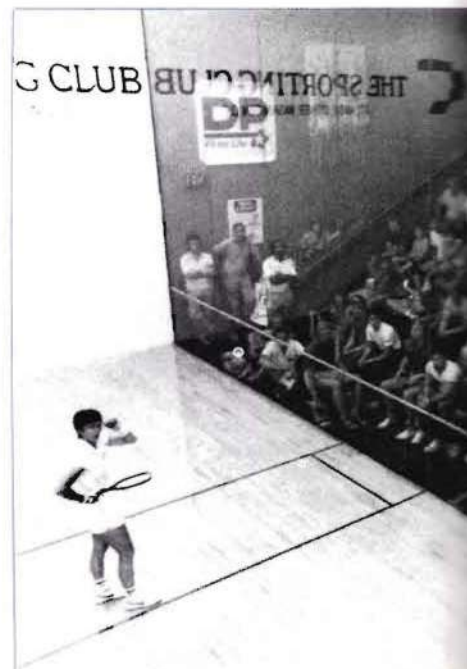
DP N

AGAINST

Mike Yellen stuns Marty Hogan in the final of the DP National Championship and Lynn A

The formula for writing your name into the history books of men's professional racquetball is a simple one; win the national championship, and beat Marty Hogan in the process. Do that once, like Bledsoe or Peck, and you earn yourself an honorable mention. But do it twice, particularly in consecutive years, and you're likely to get an entire chapter.

On Sunday, June 17, at the Atlanta Sporting Club, Mike Yellen seared his name into the annals of professional racquetball with a hot poker, by defeating Marty Hogan in the final of the DP National Championships and earning the title of national champion for the second consecutive year. No man has accomplished that feat since Hogan began his

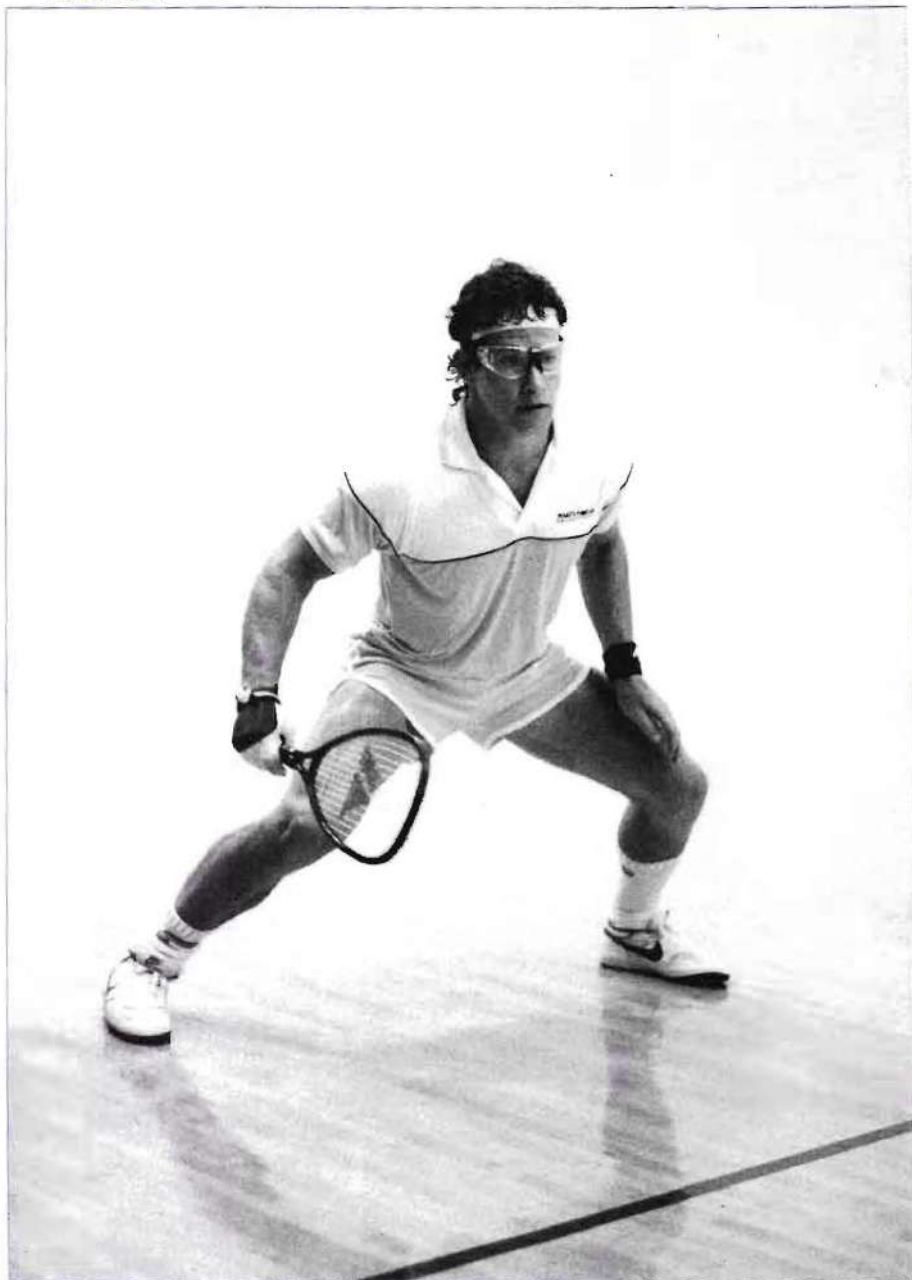




NALS:

THE ODDS

again for the 1984 National
ms takes the Women's title



domination of racquetball nearly a decade ago.

In a near-replay of last year's shattering upset, Yellen downed Hogan in a three-hour, five-game struggle to win, 6-11, 11-1, 10-11, 11-8, 11-6, after coming back from near-disaster in the early rounds.

In the women's professional final, Lynn Adams found her own form of retribution as she crushed WPRA national champion Heather McKay, 21-15, 21-13, 21-17, to avenge the loss of her national crown and her twin debacles in Anaheim and Ft. Worth.

With a total purse of \$60,000 in the two pro divisions, the DP National Championships was the richest combined tournament of the 1983-84 season, and



Hogan powers a wicked forehand by Ed Andrews



Ed Andrews during his upset of #3 Dave Peck

Lynn Adams and Heather McKay in the women's final



the final ranking event for the men. The DP tournament was not a ranking event for the women.

The men's pro draw at the DP tournament was marred by the last minute withdrawal of #4 seed Bret Harnett because of an infection in his left hand. Harnett was considered one of the favorites in the event following his recent victory at the Ektelon nationals.

Yellen's victory over Hogan came as a much greater surprise this year than last. In 1983 Mike rode into Atlanta on the steamroller of three consecutive national victories at Toronto, Anaheim, and Chicago—it would have been anti-climatic had he not won. But this year saw him trying desperately to pull himself out of one of the worst mid-season slumps of his career; three consecutive losses, in the quarters at Beaverton, the 32's at Anaheim and the semi's at Austin.

In fact, the only way that Yellen managed to draw the #1 seed in Atlanta was that Hogan was having his own problems; 2nd at San Francisco, semi's at Anaheim, and quarters at Austin. Though still far ahead of the rest of the pack, the two came into Atlanta deadlocked for the #1 spot in the rankings.

The Yellen/Hogan matchup was the final for which everyone in Atlanta had been drooling. Despite their contrasting game styles, these two players are so evenly matched that the statistics are almost unbelievable. In their five previous meetings, Yellen won three (Chicago, Atlanta, and San Francisco), and Hogan won two (Davison and Bangor). Every one of those matches was decided in five games, and most lasted over three hours. In those five contests, the total number of points scored by each player differs by only 14 (Yellen 219, Hogan 205), and average spread of less than 3 points per match, or .6 points per game!

As expected, this contest was no different.

Marty set the tone for game one early; two quick aces to the left—no question, no appeal. Yellen took the serve and surprised everyone by powdering an ace of his own. Nearly everytime the two have met, Yellen has at least started the match with lob serves. This was going to be a server's game. Hogan always wins serving contests, and he won this one, 11-6.

Marty had a game, but he came on the court for game two without his eye-guards, a sure sign that he was already being pushed by Yellen. Mike quickly began to shift strategies, playing power with power until Hogan would begin to groove, and then rapidly changing tempo. Hogan's timing went to pieces, and Yellen tied the match, winning with ease, 11-1.

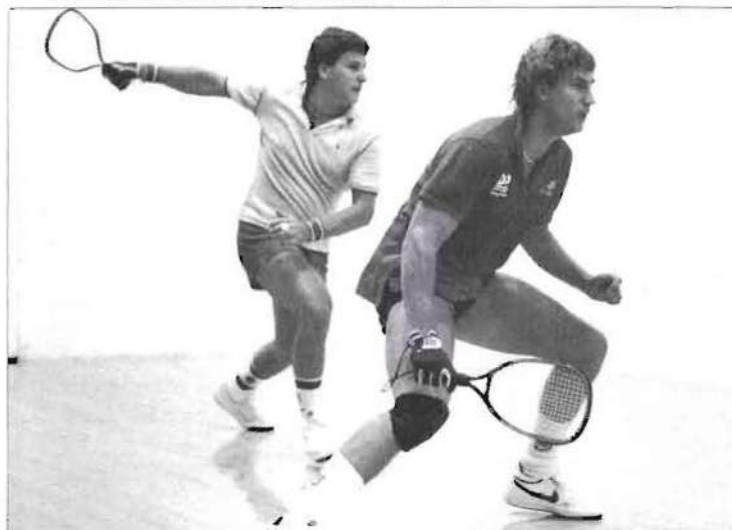
By game three both players had hit stride—Hogan was drilling the ball from everywhere with good accuracy, and Yellen was passing and pinching with perfection. Marty went up 3-0, Mike came back 6-3, Marty tied it up, and it remained deadlocked at every point from 6 on. After saving three game points, Hogan tied the game at 10 on a hotly disputed ace serve, and then went out with a backhand splat, 11-10.

It would seem that in a best-of-five-game match it would be a great advantage to win the third game, and that's usually so. But not with Yellen and Hogan; only once in their five previous meetings (Chicago) had the winner of the third game gone on to win the match. And this was going to be no exception.

It was now nearly two hours into the match, and fatigue was starting to set in. And once again it was time for the pure superiority of Mike Yellen's meticulous control game to begin exheriting itself.

Watching Yellen and Hogan play is a lot like watching a long race between a

Mike Yellen devastated Gregg Peck in the semifinals



quarterhorse and a thoroughbred. Coming out of the gates there's simply no match for the powerful thrust of the quarterhorse. But down the line, when the exhaustion and the pressure begin to take their toll, the quarterhorse will always lose out to the sleek, controlled strides of the less powerful, but more refined, thoroughbred.

Marty managed to keep the fourth game tight, but Mike consistently outplayed him on the big points. With Yellen serving at 9-8, the huge crowd was thrilled by one of the longest, most spectacular rallies of the tournament. And, they saw something very few have ever seen—Mike Yellen performing two exquisite prone dives that brought the crowd to their feet, followed by a backhand pinch to end the rally and go up 10-8. Hogan handed Yellen the game by skipping game point.

The match was tied. But Marty Hogan's horsepower was gone.

The tiebreaker was an exact duplicate of the 1983 match, right down to the score. Yellen was brilliant. He broke a 6-6 tie with a rocket ace and never looked back. Three hours and forty minutes after they had begun, Mike Yellen sealed his second national championship, 11-6.

"I'm very happy," said an unusually jubilant Yellen. "I've been a little sluggish over the last couple of tournaments and haven't played all that well coming in here, so it means so much more. I'm glad it was Marty. Winning nationals is great, but beating Marty in the finals is the best way to do it."

Mike commented on his game plan; "I had to mix it up quite a bit because some things were working against Marty and others weren't. Once I felt he was getting comfortable with what I was doing, I changed my game. I felt I had to break his rhythm."

"Even then I went down 1-0 and lost that tight third game. It wasn't the position I wanted to be in. But you have to stick with your game plan and hope things turn around."

Hogan said he didn't deserve to win. "I simply didn't play good enough. I had plenty of opportunities, but I didn't play the way I'm capable of playing."

"I'm getting real good at losing. I'm working on perfecting it, that's my art."

Hogan had been visibly pushing himself hard throughout the tournament, and it showed in the scores. With the exception of his three-game quarterfinal trouncing of Jack Newman, Hogan dropped at least a game to everyone he faced; Sergio Gonzales, Mike Ray, Ed Andrews, and Yellen.

But if Hogan sputtered a bit through the tournament, Yellen nearly stalled out completely. After getting by Steve Lerner with ease in the 32's, Yellen came up against Mike Levine, the tour's #14 player, and Levine had come to play racquetball. The powerful right-hander from New York quickly took advantage of the right wall glass, as he aced Yellen again and again. Almost before the crowd had settled down to watch, Levine had taken two games from his bewildered opponent, 11-10, 11-5.

Something that Levine was doing had shattered Yellen's timing so badly that he looked like a B player, at times leaving as many as eight shots up in a single rally for Levine to climb all over. It was only through sheer tenacity, and a few errors on Levine's part, that Yellen was able to erase a 4-8 deficit in the third game and eventually come back to win, 10-11, 5-11, 11-9, 11-3, 11-4.

Yellen was drenched following the match. "Mike was putting a lot of pressure on me. He hit some incredible serves down the right that I couldn't even get my



Lynn Adams



Drexler moves to pick off a backhand against Adams

Hogan spent much of the match diving for Yellen's perfect passes



Mike Levine nearly pulling off the upset of the year



racquet on. I'll tell you what, I was fortunate to sneak out that third game, and I was never in total control."

The strong test from Levine may have been a blessing in disguise for Yellen. He went on to overwhelm Rich Wagner, and devastate Gregg Peck in the semifinals in one of the weirdest matches of the tournament.

Gregg is one of those players who is always hard to beat because he does his homework—he plays each opponent with an intelligently structured game plan. And Gregg has beaten Mike before. So it was with some surprise that Gregg came out playing Yellen's backhand, which is generally considered the most dangerous single shot in the game. Yellen has no weaknesses, but his forehand has always been less effective than his backhand, particularly when he has to play it into the glass as in Atlanta.

Mike was delighted. He proceeded to roll out shot after shot, not making a single error until he missed a backhand in the third game. Never one to miss the obvious, Gregg turned to Mike and said, "That's the first backhand you've missed today." He then proceeded to hit every remaining shot to Yellen's backhand. Match, Yellen—11-7, 11-2, 11-3.

All was not lost for Peck, however. His semifinal finish gave him enough ranking points to pass Bret Harnett and move into the top four for the first time in his career. Peck finished the season with a lead over Harnett of less than two tenths of a point.

Yellen's victory over Hogan in the final understandably overshadowed two surprising earlier upsets. Just moments after arriving in Atlanta, eighth-seeded Gerry Price, who was winding up his best season ever, was soundly beaten by a powerful rookie from Texas, Lance Gilliam, 11-4, 11-10, 11-9.

Just three weeks after winning his first

ranking event in over a year, #3 Dave Peck was shocked in the quarterfinals by another Veteran, Ed Andrews, 0-11, 11-6, 11-10, 11-4. The upset was due primarily to the rock-solid play of Andrews, who, when he is playing well, can be one of the fiercest competitors in the game. Andrews was later taken out by Hogan in the semi's.

Although the women had completed their season of ranking events at the WPGA Nationals in Ft. Worth nearly two weeks prior to the Atlanta tournament, Lynn Adams still had a score to settle. For the first time in three years she was forced to relinquish her WPGA crown and the #1 ranking to Heather McKay, and wanted very much to get another shot at the Canadian before the long summer layoff.

Also, money can be a great motivator. And the DP National Championships at \$20,000 was the second richest event of the season for the women, ranking or not. As Lynn might say, "Ranking points are nice, but I'll take mine in twenties."

While McKay had clearly outplayed Adams in their two previous meetings, the Atlanta final was all Adams. In a match that was reminiscent of their Seattle meeting in April, Lynn was totally dominant. She took early leads in the first two games and held on to win with ease, 21-15, 21-13, as McKay committed a surprising number of errors particularly with her forehand.

The third game was tighter. McKay briefly held a 10-6 lead, only to see Adams tie it up at 10-all. With nothing else in her game working well, Heather started to put the ball to the ceiling on nearly every shot. She was challenging Lynn to shoot—Lynn shot and connected on everything she tried. A frustrated McKay started talking to herself and the referee while Lynn ran out the game, 21-

17, and took the match.

"I didn't particularly want to go into summer losing three matches to her," said Adams. "I was patient today, which is a change from how I play normally. And, I played her weakness which is her forehand side, particularly here. She hates playing on glass. I wish we'd played the WPGA nationals on a court with side wall glass."

McKay confirmed the glass problem. "I thought she used the glass wall well. She did what she tried to do to me at the nationals (WPGA) which was play to my forehand. It didn't work there, but with this glass wall it payed off. I really felt I gave her the game with skips. I'm disappointed, but two out of three... that's OK.

Adams' win brought her even with McKay in head-to-head competition for the year, 4-4. Adams won \$5,100, and McKay took home \$2,500.

In the earlier rounds of women's play, three strong upsets rocked the round-of-16. Jennifer Harding, continuing her strong late-season run, upset #6 seed Terri Gilreath in four games, 10-21, 22-20, 21-15, 22-20. Harding went on to nearly take out #3 Shannon Wright-Hamilton in the quarterfinals, finally losing that match in a 15-4 tiebreaker.

Molly O'Brien, voted the most improved player in the WPGA for the season, put a cap on Vicki Panzeri's disappointing season by winning the tightest match of the women's division, 21-14, 13-21, 21-18, 16-21, 15-9.

Perhaps the biggest story of the women's pro division was the astonishing finish of Marci Drexler of North Hollywood, CA. Drexler, who earlier won the national amateur championships, was completing her rookie season on the tour, and came into the Atlanta event tied for #30 in the rankings. The powerful left-hander upset #4 Janell Mariott in the

The fast serve competition was a very popular part of the DP event

Jennifer Harding and Terry Gilreath



round-of-16, then then went on to take out O'Brien in the quarter's in five games, 19-21, 18-21, 21-16, 21-15, 15-9.

Drexler was finally stopped by her good friend Lynn Adams in the semifinals, 22-20, 21-11, 21-19. Reaching the semifinals of a national tournament is an amazing accomplishment for any rookie, and nearly everyone on the women's tour agrees that Drexler is going to go far, fast.

One of the lighter moments of the DP tournament occurred during the coin-flip preceeding Caryn McKinney's ousting of Bonnie Stoll in the 16's. The referee flipped a quarter into the air, which landed and rolled around the players' feet for 30 seconds and then finally stopped—still standing on edge.

McKinney beat Stoll, and then lost to Adams in four games in the quarterfinals.

In the amateur divisions, Mike Ray, of nearby Athens, GA, downed Jim Cascio of New York to win the men's open. Marci Drexler (who else?) won the women's open over Kay Kuhfeld.

One of the more interesting sidelights of the tournament was the radar-timed fast serve competition which was open to all players. The fastest shot ever recorded was Marty Hogan's 146 mph blast with the fast Seamco ball back in the mid 1970's. Hogan's record did not fall in Atlanta, but it was not for want of trying.

The fastest shot timed was not a pro; it was men's open player Gary Tyler who was clocked at 126 mph. By contrast, touring pro Ed Andrews was only able to hit 114 mph.

The fastest women tested was, you guessed it, Heather McKay at 110 mph. Lynn Adams, along with a number of other pros, was not on hand for the test.

At the huge banquet for the tournament's participants, Dave Peck gave a surprise award, a "good guy" white cowboy hat, to Cal James, President of

Diversified Products. Why was Peck, who plays for Ektelon, giving an award to the head of DP? As Peck explained, it was Cal James who last year came to Peck's rescue by taking him to the hospital in the early hours of the morning for emergency surgery on his leg. Peck had suffered an injury earlier in that day during his semifinal match with Mike Yellen, but was unaware how serious it was until it was almost too late.

DP Nationals

Round of 32:

Mike Yellen d. Steve Lerner; 0, 4, 7
Mike Levine d. David Gross; (7), 7, 2, (4), 9
Rich Wagner d. Dave Bledsoe; 6, 5, (5), (6), 2
Lance Gilliam d. Gerry Price; 4, 10, 9
Ruben Gonzalez d. Doug Cohen; 5, 6, 3
John Egerman d. Earl Thibault; 0, 3, 4
Bill Sell d. Scott Perry; 2, 5, (5), 0
Gregg Peck d. Jim Cascio; (0), 3, 9, default
Dave Peck d. Corey Brysman; 4, 8, (10), 4
David Simonette d. Cliff Swain; forfeit
Ed Andrews d. Brian Hawkes; 9, 1, 6
Jerry Hilecher d. Bruce Christensen; 9, (8), 7, 2
Scott Oliver d. Andy Gross; 1, 8, 10
Jack Newman d. Sean Moskwa; 10, 1, 6
Mike Ray d. Peter Britos; 9, 5, 3
Marty Hogan d. Sergio Gonzales; 4, 3, (5), 9

Round of 16:

Yellen d. Levine; (10), (5), 9, 3, 4
Wagner d. Gilliam; (6), 7, 10, 8
Gonzalez d. Egerman; 2, (9), 10, 8
G. Peck d. Sell; 3, 4, 4
D. Peck d. Simonette; 8, 9, 6
Andrews d. Hilecher; 4, 9, (6), (5), 6
Newman d. Oliver; (3), 4, 9, 2
Hogan d. Ray; 0, (5), 5, 7

Quarterfinal Round:

Yellen d. Wagner; 9, 4, 6
G. Peck d. Gonzalez; 1, (5), 4, 0
Andrews d. D. Peck; (0), 6, 10, 4
Hogan d. Newman; 5, 1, 8

Semifinal Round:

Yellen d. G. Peck; 7, 2, 3
Hogan d. Andrews; 10, (5), 6, 7

Final Round:

Yellen d. Hogan; (6), 1, (10), 8, 6

Continued on page 35



Shannon Wright-Hamilton



Bonnie Stoll (front) and Caryn McKinney

One motley crew: Scott Oliver, Ruben Gonzalez, and Jack Newman with friends

Dave Peck presenting Cal James with a "good guy" white hat



AARA NATIONAL SINGLES:



AARA Champion Dan Ferris and Ken Kaihlanen in the finals

FERRIS, DREXLER WIN AMATEUR NATIONALS

Dan Ferris, of Hopkins, MN, continued his dominance of United States amateur racquetball by sweeping to a virtually uncontested victory at the 1984 AARA U.S. Singles Championships, held at the cavernous Houston Downtown YMCA, May 24-28. While Ferris was defending his 1983, title, Marci Drexler, of North Hollywood, CA, made a spectacular run to the women's open title by dethroning two-time defending national champion Cindy Baxter of Lewistown, PA.

The U.S. Singles Championship is the season's culmination and preeminent event

for the nearly 10 million amateur players in the United States. This year's event, which was sponsored by Lite Beer from Miller, DP, and Penn, topped the scale as the largest national amateur singles event ever held. Entering 28 divisions, 968 participants from age 19 to 70 vied for the coveted national singles titles, with six positions on the United States National Team up for grabs in the men's and women's open divisions.

Ferris, who was the tournament's top seed, devastated every opponent he faced, winning every game he played and giving up no more than 16 points in any single

game. Surprise finalist Ken Kaihlanen, of San Antonio, TX, was totally overwhelmed by Ferris, 21-8, 21-8. Ferris dominated every phase of the match, controlling center court throughout, and using his highly-aggressive playing style and accurate shooting to keep the left-handed Kaihlanen continually off balance.

En route to the finals, Ferris ousted Fielding Snow in the quarterfinals, 21-11, 21-16, and Tim Hansen in the semifinals, 21-13, 21-10.

The surprises in the men's open division began when Mike Ray, of Athens, GA, routined U.S. Intercollegiate Cham-

pion Andy Roberts in the round-of-16, 21-13, 21-5. Ray very nearly got his shot at Ferris when he took Tim Hansen to the wire before losing, 21-15, 13-21, 11-9, in the quarters.

The biggest upset was Ken Kaihlanen's breathtaking tiebreaker upset of heavily favored Jim Cascio, of New York, 18-21, 21-15, 11-6, in the semifinals.

Ferris, Kaihlanen, and Cascio (who defeated Hansen for third place) each earned a spot on the men's U.S. Team.

While Ferris' victory was expected by nearly everyone, Marci Drexler's was not. Drexler, who also won the amateur division at the Ektelon Championships, is the unquestioned rising star of women's racquetball, in both the amateur and professional ranks. (Three weeks after her Houston victory, Marci gained the semifinals of the women's pro division at the DP Nationals in Atlanta.)

Playing surprisingly strong racquetball, Drexler required only two games to defeat top seeded Cindy Baxter, 21-19, 21-16. Like Ferris, the left-handed Drexler has an extremely aggressive game style characterized by overhead drives and equally effective splats from both sides. Her short powerful build, the type so common among top racquetball players, allows her to set up quickly, and, more importantly, to hit effectively on the run.

Baxter was able to do little more than occasionally threaten Drexler. She put up a determined fight to come from behind and tie the first game at 18-all, only to see Drexler, efficiently exploiting the right-wall glass, string together three quick points to take the game.

Cindy built a lead in game two, but then could only watch as Drexler kicked on the afterburners once again. In a furious display of kills and drives many of which were directed to Baxter's strong forehand, Marci scored nine unanswered points to earn her first ever national singles crown, 21-19, 21-16.

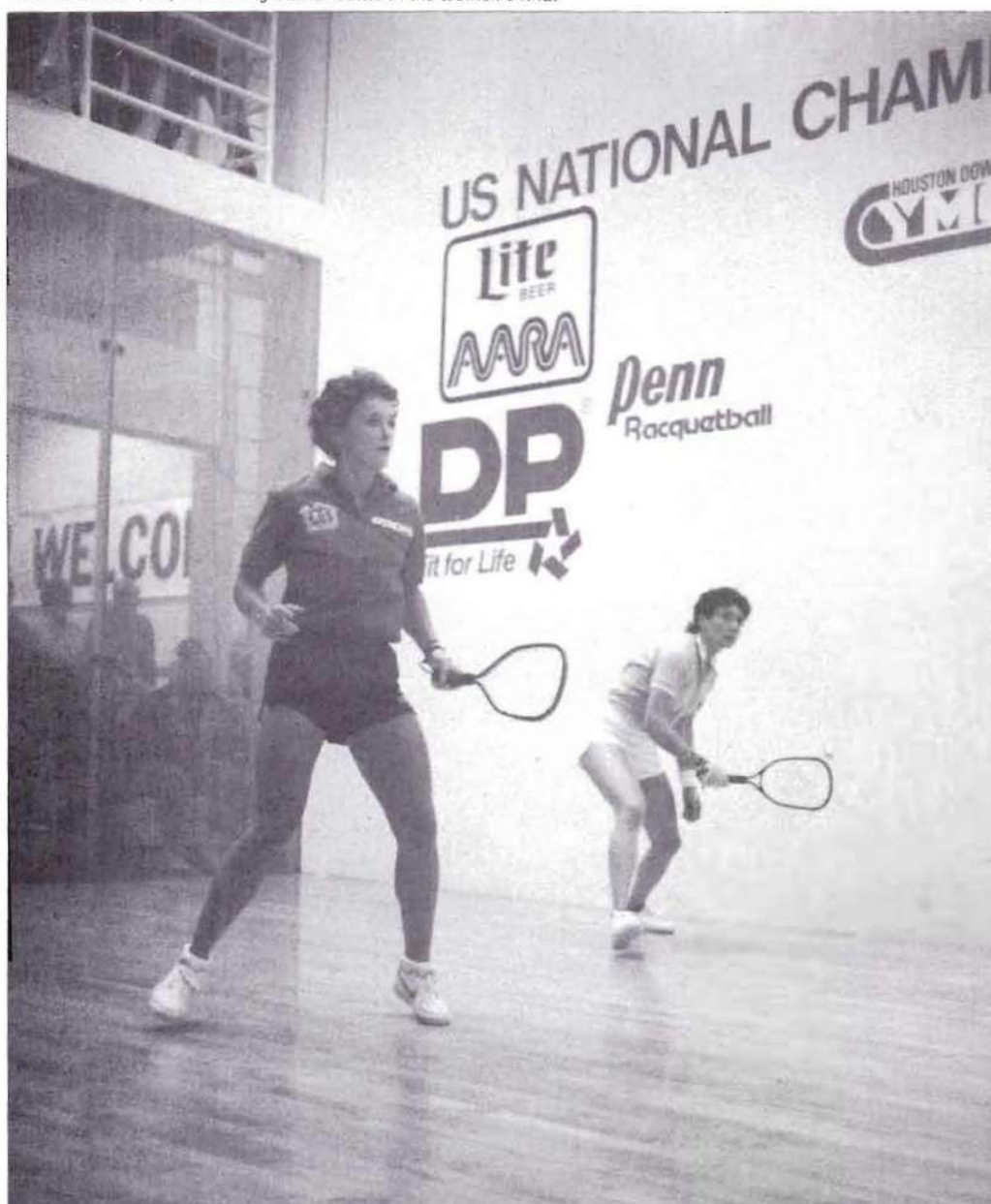
Drexler, Baxter, and Mary Dee each earned births on the U.S. Team. (The new team will travel to Sacramento, CA, in July to participate in the World Championships, and to the Regional Games scheduled for Quito, Ecuador later this year.)

One of the most impressive accomplishments of the Houston tournament was that of Jay Schwartz, of Pensacola, FL, who continued his awesome domination of the men's 30+ divisions by winning both the 30+ seniors and the 35+ seniors.



Wheelchair division champion Chip Parmoloy

Marci Drexler (left) and Cindy Baxter battle in the women's final



U.S. NATIONAL SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP



HOUSTON YMCA
SPONSORED BY LITE BEER

Lite



Greg Eveland of DP addresses the players' banquet



Former pro quarterback Bert Jones during exhibition match



Marci Drexler

The amateurs try their hands at blackjack, Las Vegas style

Schwartz, who has to be considered one of the fittest and most talented men over 30 years old to ever play racquetball, also won the seniors division of the Ektelon Nationals. (He repeated again in Atlanta). There is no truth to the rumor that Jay will be required to produce a legitimate birth certificate before competing in future AARA events.

For the last three years, a very popular event at the AARA National Singles has been the playoffs of the wheelchair division. Wheelchair racquetball is fascinating to watch, not only because the feat itself is an admirable accomplishment, but because the enclosed space of a racquetball court seems to be particularly suited for the restricted movement of a wheelchair. Spectators are often amazed at the almost graceful flow of wheelchair play, in contrast with the halting movements of the regular game.

This year, two-time defending wheelchair champion, Jim Leatherman of Maryland, was upset by Chip Parmaloy, of California, in the men's final.

As one might expect, wheelchair athletes tend to have well-developed arms and shoulders from propelling themselves around the court at breakneck speed. That's probably an understatement. As one reporter once said, Chip Parmaloy's upper body looks like he got stuck in a Nautilus machine.

The U.S. Singles Championships is not only the premier tournament of amateur racquetball, but it is also the social gathering of the year for hundreds of tournament players from around the country. The Houston event wound up with a lavish banquet at the Hyatt Regency, followed by a rousing Vegas-style party that saw fortunes won and lost in a matter of hours—all, fortunately, with play money.

AARA Executive Director Luke St. Onge announced at the banquet that the AARA and the Downtown YMCA of Houston had agreed to co-stage the event again in 1985.

**1984 United States National Singles
Racquetball Championships
Presented by Lite Beer**

Final Results

Men's Open

- 1st Dan Ferris, Hopkings, MN
- 2nd Ken Kaihlanen, San Antonio, TX
- 3rd Jim Cascio, Lancaster, PA

Men's Junior Veterans 19+

1st Tim Hansen, Palm Beach, FL
 2nd Pete Chardavoyne, Shrub Oak, NY
 3rd Mike Coleman, Worchester, MA

Men's Junior Veterans 25+

1st Bill Land, Lafayette, LA
 2nd Skip Merrill, Dallas, TX
 3rd Dennis Aceto, Hyannis, MA

Men's Seniors 30+

1st Jay Schwartz, Pensacola, FL
 2nd Bob Wilhelm, Flint, MI
 3rd Joe Wirkus, Madison, WI

Men's Seniors 35+

1st Jay Schwartz, Pensacola, FL
 2nd Fielding Snow, Seattle, WA
 3rd Johnny Hennen, Chattanooga, TN

Men's Seniors 40+

1st Jim Austin, Houston, TX
 2nd Bob Riley, W. Palm Beach, FL
 3rd Harold Powell, Mifflintown, PA

Men's Masters 45+

1st Dario Mas, Wilmington, DE
 2nd Donald Costleigh, Sr., Long Island, NY
 3rd Joseph Jackman, W. Pittsburgh, PA
 Consolation Larry Barclay, Ft. Bragg, CA

Men's Masters 50+

1st Pat Colombo, Scarsdale, NY
 2nd Bob Folsom, Portland, ME
 3rd Al Ferrari, St. Louis, MO

Men's Golden Masters 55+

1st Fintan Kilbride, Toronto, CANADA
 2nd Pierre Miller, Terre Haute, IN
 3rd Dub Freshwater, Wrightsville Beach, NC

Men's Golden Masters 60+

1st Earl Acuff, Blacksburg, VA
 2nd Carl Wickham Loveday, San Diego, CA
 3rd Art Goss, Colorado Springs, CO

Men's Golden Masters 65+

1st Earl Acuff, Blacksburg, VA
 2nd Marvin Simkins, York, PA
 3rd Luzell Wilde, Cneterville, UT

Men's Golden Masters 70+

1st I.R. Gumer, Louisville, KY
 2nd John Pearce, Waco, TX
 3rd J. Frank Douglas, San Angelo, TX

Men's B Division

1st Aaron Metaj, Ypsilanti, MI
 2nd Drew Kachtik, Brownsville, TX
 3rd Geoff Hunter, Miami, FL

Women's Open

1st Marci Drexler, N. Hollywood, CA
 2nd Cindy Baxter, Lewistown, PA
 3rd Mary Dee, Weare, NH

Women's Junior Veterans 19+

1st Mona Mook, Sacramento, CA
 2nd Cathie Nichols, Niagara Falls, CANADA
 3rd Val Pease, Bronx, NY

Women's Junior Veterans 25+

1st Molly O'Brien, Sellersville, PA
 2nd Babette Bell, Pensacola, FL
 3rd Chris Evon Lawrence, Oak Park, IL

Women's Seniors 30+

1st Lucy Zarfes, York, PA
 2nd Donna Henry, Novi, MI
 3rd Gail Troxell, Orlando, FL

Women's Seniors 35+

1st Barb Tennesen, Elk River, MN

2nd Kathy Huban, St. Cloud, MN
 3rd Mildred Gwinn, Matthews, NC

Women's Seniors 40+

1st Susan Kraft, Wichita, KS
 2nd Barb Smith, Boise, ID
 3rd Kathy Mueller, St. Cloud, MN

Women's Masters 45+

1st Susan Busch, St. Louis, MO
 2nd Kathy Mueller, St. Cloud, MN
 3rd Nancy Harrer, Minneapolis, MN

Women's Masters 50+

1st Colleen Slaon, Aptos, CA
 2nd Sue Graham, Ft. Carson, CO
 3rd Cleata Ching, Philadelphia, PA

Women's Masters 55+

1st Janet Kettman, Fairfield, CT

Women's Golden Masters 60+

1st Mary Lou Acuff, Blacksburg, VA

Women's Golden Masters 65+

1st Lucille Douglas, San Angelo, TX

Women's B Division

1st Jane Bonine, Blaine, MN
 2nd Robin Rodriguez, Alaska

Wheelchair Division

1st Chip Parmaloy, CA
 2nd Jim Leatherman, MD

Introducing "THE RACQUETEER" A Racquetball Practice Machine



How often have you said to yourself "I wish I could have that shot over again?!" Now with the Racqueteer, racquet ball instruction has been revolutionized. You can have that *identical* shot hundreds of times if you like. This amazing consistency allows you to concentrate on footwork, form and timing in order to groove those shots. • "The Racqueteer" can give you virtually any shot in the game from floating lobs to 95 m.p.h. drive

serves, from ceiling balls to "Z" balls at your choice of speed and angle. • "The Racqueteer" is battery powered, very quiet, easily portable and virtually maintenance free.

Radio Remote
 Control Optional

Write for illustrated brochure

RPM Distributors

1107 Rivara Road,
 Stockton, California 95207
 (209) 957-3542

THE GREATEST

by Jerry Hilecher

Editor's Note: Jerry Hilecher (the world's #7 player) started his series of "The Greatest" in our last issue. It was such a popular article with our subscribers that we're more than glad Jerry has another installment for us here.

Greatest Backhand Of All Time

1. Marty Hogan
2. Steve Serot
3. Bret Harnett
4. Gerry Price
5. Lyndsey Meyers

When I first started playing racquetball 19 years ago, players were allowed to switch hands during the volley. Obviously the backhand wasn't used very often. Around five years later, a safety thong became necessary to prevent throwing the racquet accidentally during the stroke. The backhand quickly became an important aspect in everyone's offensive arsenal.

Choosing the players with the best backhands seemed to be much easier than picking the greatest forehands. Everyone in professional racquetball has a strong forehand, but players with exceptional backhands really stand out. All the players on the greatest list except for Steve Serot are currently on the tour. They all hit with considerable power and have mastered the splat shot. This shot is very difficult to read and strikes fear in their opponents.

In the days of the slower ball, backhand shot selection was different than today's. Since the ceiling ball was virtually unknown until the '71 nationals in Salt Lake City, lobs, mis-direction shots, and undersliced kills were all most players could master. Many players, including myself, went to the extreme of hugging the left wall to avoid their backhand and continually use our stronger forehand. Paul Lawrence and Craig Fingers really perfected their soft backhand shot into the

left corner. Since the ball was so slow, the shot was hit with an open stance, and the racquet would slice under the ball. On his way to his victory in the '70 national finals in St. Louis, Craig Fingers hit ten straight backhand serve return winners against Charley Brumfield. The ball seemed to just float to the left corner, but Brumfield couldn't make any return.

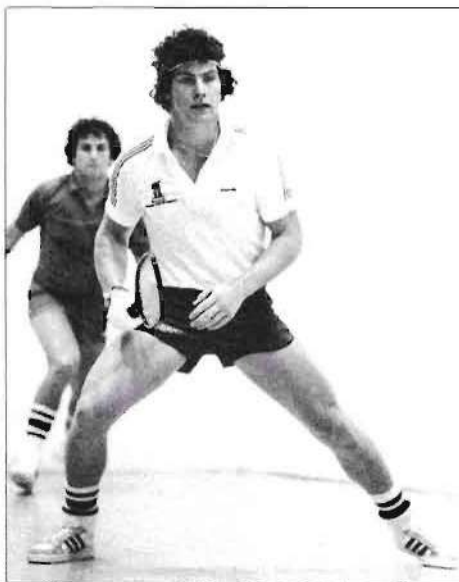
Ken Porco had the most unusual backhand I ever saw. Ken was one of the most physically solid players in racquetball. He would swing with his elbow inverted causing him to hit his backhand

and precise in the history of the game. While his strokes probably shouldn't be duplicated by most aspiring players, his mental aspects concerning his shots are vital to players of all levels. Since the game was so young, Steve couldn't look to anyone for guidance concerning his strokes. At 15 years of age he was ripping backhand winners and defeating most of the top players. Steve's philosophy of the backhand was basically mental. "Once you're in the flow, you want to continue to use it." "We didn't have people to teach us, so we did what came natural."

Steve's stroke was extremely unorthodox. He would set up properly but his point of contact was generally on his back foot and his weight would usually fall back after the stroke. He hit the ball with a great amount of arm movement but not much wrist snap. The ball really didn't explode off his racquet as you may see in Hogan's shots, but his timing was so perfect that he was still able to maximize his power. He would rotate fully into his shots with his back leg almost buckling from the weight being put on it.

His best shots came from the very deep right hand corner. He would rotate so his back would be facing the front wall. Then throw his weight back into the ball and crash into the backwall with his arms spread out. His kill shots would follow a familiar pattern. They would hit the right side wall a few feet from the front wall and about a foot off the ground, move into the front wall a few inches high then back into the right side wall. His shots were so accurate, opponents would stand close to the front wall anticipating his shot yet be unable to return it.

When trying to pass Steve with wide angle shots, he was able to lunge to the right and hit the ball back as it was passing him. He would actually be facing the back wall when he would sweep at the ball hitting into the right wall for a perfect pinch. For years I thought he was just



Marty Hogan

with the same side of the racquet as his forehand. I wasn't about to go up to him and tell him he was wrong. Obviously no one else did either.

Steve Serot was the first player to add power and offense to his backhand. In fact his backhand was much stronger than his forehand. Steve rode the crest of his all-out hustling style of play to rise to the top. Only Charley Brumfield stood in his way of becoming number one.

The Steve Serot Backhand; Steve's backhand shot was the most consistent

lucky as he would do it time and time again for winners. This morning, I played him a friendly game of Squash and guess what—he was still hitting that same lucky shot.

Steve feels his strengths to the right were based on his right side dominance. Not many people knew that Steve was actually right-handed. He throws, bats, and writes right handed but would play racquetball as a lefty. Even though he played with his off hand, he felt that his eye hand coordination favored the right side.

When asked what were key points to the stroke he mentioned, "hitting the ball with a closed stance, concentrating on hitting the ball in the middle of the racquet and visualizing the ball exploding off the racquet." When asked how his backhand compared to the great backhands of today he felt that because of the speed of the ball, "Players get away with many missed shots that still end up as winners. The slower ball forced the player to hit a better shot."

To discuss the optimum power backhand, you must involve Marty Hogan. Marty is another descendent of the St. Louis J.C.C.A. power racquetball tradition. Marty's physical frame allows him to generate much more racquet speed than Serot's. Marty is shorter with considerably stronger legs and forearms, and hits his backhand with a more conventional stroke. His contact point is inside his front foot, and his weight is thrust forward through the ball.

I feel Marty's strength is in his forearm. After his pronounced shoulder rotation, Marty is able to generate tremendous racquet speed through the ball. Since racquet speed means power, Marty is able to generate a great deal of power. His weight drives so hard into the ball that his back foot often comes high off the floor on his follow through. In fact, in one match we had, his back foot came all the way up and hit me in the chest during his shot!

While I don't feel Marty's shot making is as accurate as Serot's, his range of shots and power have to make his backhand the greatest of all time. Marty's bread and butter shot is the splat in the left corner. Since he contacts the ball further forward than Serot's, the ball picks up a

different spin. The ball contacts the front wall around five feet from the front wall and seems to explode and gain speed into the front wall. This counter clockwise spin causes the ball to jump off the front wall at a greater angle than that which it entered.

Marty has tremendous early racquet preparation, which is the ability to get the racquet back into the ready position. On shots driven to Marty's left, he is able to set up quickly and return with power. No other player sets up faster. There seems to be many attempts to clone Marty's backhand. Bret Harnett has a very similar stroke but is left-handed. Another lefthander that will be a major force to contend with in the near future is Andy Gross. Andy is the most recent descendent of the St. Louis J.C.C.A. power game. Andy already generates comparable power to Hogan, and he is only 16 years old. The confident serve and shoot philosophy of the St. Louis Jewish Community Center calls for a very aggressive style of play. As mentioned earlier in my last article and also in this month's, the most important aspect in hitting a shot is confidence. You must have absolute certainty that your shots will be winners.

One of the biggest questions about the backhand is whether to change grips or not. Hogan doesn't change his grip, while many pros do. I played for fifteen years with the same grip and decided to change at the suggestion of some other players. Most pros agree that the important mechanics of the stroke are (1) point of contact—contact point should be away from the body and inside the lead foot, and (2) body rotation—rotating the upper body back then through the ball. The backhand stroke has truly evolved over the years from a defensive sliced shot into a powerful offensive weapon equal in importance to the forehand. You can't win in the pros today without a consistent backhand.

My choices of the greatest backhands of all time are fairly consistent with the rest of the pros. My only addition would be Paul Lawrence in the top five.

My choices of the greatest backhands of all time:

1. Marty Hogan
2. Steve Serot
3. Bret Harnett

DP from page 29

Women's Results

Round of 32:

Heather McKay d. Dina Pritchett; 10, 9, 9
 Marcy Lynch d. Martha Adams; 13, 12, 11
 Malia Kamahoahoa d. Lori McWain; 13, 11, 11
 Kathy Givuna d. Francine Davis; (11), 19, 13, (18), 12
 Terri Gilreath d. Susan Sanders; 9, 12, 8
 Jennifer Harding d. Marie Copley; 5, 5, 13
 Rita Hoff-Scott d. Kaye Kuhfield; 7, 11, 19
 Shannon Wright-Hamilton d. Jayni Goodwin; 5, 9, 11
 Janell Marriott d. Monique Parent; 19, 12, 11
 Marci Drexler d. Carrie Healy; 12, 13, (21), 17
 Molly O'Brien d. Vicki Lague; 10, 11, 22
 Vicki Panzeri d. Babbette Bell; (18), 17, 11, (18), 7
 Caryn McKinney d. Chris Lawrence; 8, 17, 19
 Bonnie Stoll d. Jan Curtis; 11, 9, 14
 Liz Alvarado d. Joan Walters; 15, 10, 9
 Lynn Adams d. Martha McDonald; 11, 14, 10

Round of 16:

McKay d. Lynch; 14, 9, 16
 Kamahoahoa d. Givuna; 19, (16), 18, 19
 Harding d. Gilreath; (10), 22, 15, 20
 Wright-Hamilton d. Hoff-Scott; 8, 16, 14
 Drexler d. Marriott; 12, 17, (19), 18
 O'Brien d. Panzeri; 14, (13), 18, (16), 9
 McKinney d. Stoll; 12, 11, 19
 Adams d. Alvarado; 13, 16 (16), 12

Quarterfinal Round:

McKay d. Kamahoahoa; 11, 14, 8
 Wright-Hamilton d. Harding; 18, (16), (19), 10, 4
 Drexler d. O'Brien; (19), (18), 16, 15, 9
 Adams d. McKinney; 13, (16), 6, 12

Semifinal Round:

McKay d. Wright-Hamilton; (21), 15, 17, 10
 Adams d. Drexler; 22, 11, 19

Final Round:

Adams d. McKay; 15, 13, 17

EDITOR'S from page 7

While the Ektelon and DP nationals are indeed prestigious events, and the season's apex for about 60 men pros, 30,000 amateurs competed this year for the privilege of playing in Houston, Davison, or Sacramento, not Anaheim and Atlanta. Every woman pro in the country looked to Ft. Worth for their prestige—for the WPRA, Atlanta wasn't even a ranking event. The military has the largest organized group of racquetball players in the world, and they were in North Carolina.

At a time when we are all trying to unify the different factions in racquetball into one strong body, the last thing any of us should be doing is playing the importance of one group or event against another.

That's the way game used to be. We just don't need it anymore.

CANADIAN NATIONALS:

MYERS WINS CANADIAN NATIONALS

Six-time Canadian national champion Lindsey Myers completed a 12 month odyssey to regain his status as Canada's top racquetball player by defeating Ross Harvey in the final of the 1984 Canadian National Championships at Club le Bourgneuf, in Quebec City, May 15-20. Myers, who is arguably the greatest racquetball player Canada has ever produced, reached the final by defeating 1983 national champion Brian Valin, the man who last year put a temporary end to the Myers dynasty.

This year's Canadian Nationals took on added significance by crowning both amateur and professional champions for the first time in its history. In the past the event has been staged solely by the amateur Canadian Racquetball Association (CRA), but was joined this year by the Canadian Professional Racquetball Organization (CPRO) which was concluding its debut season after staging its first 8-tournament pro tour.

The Myers/Harvey final was preceded by two thrilling five-game semifinals, the first of which saw Sherman Greenfeld, seeded third, and Ross Harvey, seeded second, take each other right down to the wire.

After taking a 2-games-to-1 lead, Greenfeld was blessed with a near perfect forehand setup for the match at 10-8 in the fourth game. Attempting to lay a forehand pinch into the glass wall, one of the highest percentage shots in the game, Greenfeld amazingly put the ball into the floor. Harvey quickly took advantage of the opportunity by tying the match at 2-games-all, and then used his vast experience-edge over Greenfeld to win the final game 11-8.

To the 500+ spectators who assembled to watch the Myers/Valin semifinal, there was little doubt the two players would put on a great show. Myers had made it very



Lindsey Myers

clear that he had waited long enough to avenge his upset loss to Valin in 1983, and in the intervening 12 months the two had split victories in their only meetings at events in Edmonton and Windsor.

In characteristic form, Myers and Valin split the first two games, with Valin coming from behind to win the first, 11-9, and Myers storming to a quick win in the second game, 11-3. While Valin was in the process of taking game three, however, the large crowd became increasingly vocal in support of Myers. Lindsey broke a stubborn 4-4 tie in the fourth game and worked the crowd's support to run out the game and then blast to an 8-2 lead in the fifth, before Valin was able to stall him for even a few moments.

But after a side-out at 8, Myers appealed his serve at the urging of the

crowd, the call was overturned, and Lindsey was back in the service box. It was a blatant act of support for Myers that Valin was unable to overcome. Myers held off a last minute charge by his opponent to win the match in 2½ hours, 11-9.

The final match between Lindsey Myers and Ross Harvey was not an unexpected matchup. The two have competed for years, and although the win-loss record is heavily in Myers' favor, in the last two years they have beaten each other three times.

But Lindsey Myers was now too close to victory to be stopped. He broke a 1-1 tie in the first game and charged to an 11-3 victory, before smoking seven aces past Harvey to win 11-5 in the second. Ross Harvey put up his best fight in the third and final game, moving his score to 8, but Myers bore down and rifled one final cross-court pass into the glass to earn his seventh national Canadian title in eight years.

To the surprise of absolutely no one, Heather McKay, of Toronto, won the Women's national title, further establishing herself as the unquestioned #1 woman racquetball player in the world for 1984. McKay's win in Quebec City was sandwiched between her twin professional victories at the Ektelon Championships in Anaheim, and the WPRA National Championships in Ft. Worth.

At the dinner banquet, Lindsey Myers presented a recap and news of CPRO's first year of operation. As acting vice-president of CPRO he thanked the tour's main sponsors, CP Air and AMF Voit, and all eight tournament sites that hosted CPRO events during the 1983-84 season.

Myers and Greenfeld, CPRO's top two players for the season, were awarded Systems Passes from CP Air, good for a round-trip anywhere in CP Air's world.

PECK TAKES AUSTIN

Former national champion Dave Peck, currently the world's third ranked professional player, won his first ranking pro tournament in over a year by downing Gerry Price in the final of the 3rd Annual Supreme Court Pro-Am in Austin, Texas, May 10-13. Peck, who recently moved to Austin from his home in El Paso, has spent much of the last 12 months recovering from a serious leg injury he suffered in a match with Mike Yellen at last year's DP Nationals. Peck earned the victory over Price in four games, 11-6, 8-11, 11-8, 11-9.

Both Peck and Price appeared in the final on the heels of impressive earlier round victories.

Dave defeated David Gross in the 16s, and Ruben Gonzalez in the quarters, before he outlasted defending national champ Mike Yellen in a very tight semifinal, 11-5, 11-10, 6-11, 7-11, 11-9.

Gerry Price, who has had a number of impressive outings this season, played the best tournament of his young career. After eliminating Jack Newman in the 16s, Price upset Marty Hogan in the quarterfinals, 7-11, 11-10, 11-9, 11-8, his first victory ever over the powerful Hogan in a ranking event. He then followed with another strong upset by taking out fourth-ranked Bret Harnett in the semis in three games, 11-10, 11-4, 11-2.

Harnett was playing just one week following his stunning victory at the Ektelon Nationals in Anaheim. Bret reached the semifinals by defeating Gregg Peck in the quarters, 11-4, 11-8, 11-9. It was his second consecutive three-game defeat of the younger of the Peck brothers, a player against whom he had a great deal of trouble last season.

The major-event win was an important one for Dave Peck, who had come perilously close



to dropping out of the top three after Harnett's win in Anaheim. The victory assured Peck of finishing third for the season.

Price's strong finish brought him within one-half point of passing Jerry Hilecher for the #7 rank, going into the DP Nationals in Atlanta.

3rd Annual Supreme Court Pro-Am Supreme Court - Austin, Texas Round of 32:

Lance Gilliam def. Scot Perry; sna
Jack Newman def. Jeff Kwartler; default
Corey Brysman def. Mike Ray; (10),(9),7,5,1
Ed Andrews def. Joe Botello; 5,9,2
David Gross def. Ken Kaihlenen; (3),8,7,(9),6
Mark Antes def. Scott Hawkins; forfeit
Doug Cohen def. Kelvin Van Trease; 4,(0),2,8
Andy Gross def. Bill Land; 8,10,(3),7

Round of 16:

Marty Hogan def. Lance Gilliam; sna
Gerry Price def. Jack Newman; sna
Gregg Peck def. Corey Brysman; 4,3,(2),(9),9
Bret Harnett def. Ed Andrews; sna
Dave Peck def. David Gross; 7,2,6
Ruben Gonzalez def. Mark Antes; 9,10,1
Doug Cohen def. Jerry Hilecher; (9),7,10,5
Mike Yellen def. Andy Gross; sna
Quarterfinal Round
Price def. Hogan; (7),10,9,8
Harnett def. G. Peck; 4,8,9
D. Peck def. Gonzalez; (7),8,4,3
Yellen def. Cohen; 8,8,10

Semifinal Round:

Price def. Harnett; 10,4,2
D. Peck def. Yellen; 5,10,(6),(7),9

Final Round:

D. Peck def. Price; 6,(8),8,9

HARNET AND DREXLER WIN APRIL FOOLS

Bret Harnett didn't fool around in the Wilson sponsored April Fool's Tournament at the Riverside Tournament House in Riverside, California, April 5-8 as he defeated Bill Sell soundly in a 15-9, 15-10 final. Marci Drexler, a top amateur women's player and rising pro star, found opponent Theresa Nunn's weak spot in a three game final 13-15, 15-13, 11-6 to take the women's A division. Brian Hawkes and Bill Sell teamed up to take Craig McCoy and Steve Lerner in doubles action.

The hometown crowd at the April Fools Racquetball Tournament at Riverside's Tournament House was a little disappointed after the men's open semifinals, because, the local fans expected at least one of the club's professionals, Rich Wagner or Steve Lerner, to win his semifinal match so he could play in the championship match. Both were put out in the semis.

Even the championship match was a little surprising since the crowd expected a powerful shooting duel from the two left-handed players. But, both games were actually yawners. The singles final was Sell's third match of the day. The fatigue from playing back-to-back matches showed midway through the first game after Sell gave up a 9-7 lead. Harnett then came back to score the last seven points to win, 15-9.

In the second game, Sell was half a step behind the ball in many rallies. This allowed Harnett to take command, 12-6. Sell came back with four more points to make the score respectable, 15-10.

"I'm hitting the ball really solid," said Harnett after the match. "I hit a lot of good drive serves across the court. That is one of my stronger serves. I had a little more zest in the match. This was his third match and he still had one more to play (the doubles final). He was a little



fatigued, but I'm not saying that was an excuse for me to win."

In the women's singles division Marci Drexler came through her bracket by defeating Trish Leppa and Linda Donnelly while her opponent, Theresa Nunn, took care of Becky Burt and Kathy Lewis. Meeting in the final, Theresa put on the pressure by taking the first game 15-13. Marci matched that score in her favor in the second game, then went on to take the third game 11-6.

Harnett had little problem with his first round opponent, Mike Leppa, 15-12, 15-0. He encountered an early challenge from Brian Hawkes in the quarterfinals. Hawkes led 11-7 the first game before Harnett took control, 15-11, 15-5.

In the semifinals, Harnett defeated Lerner, the local favorite, despite the partisan crowd, 13-15, 15-7, 11-1. "The crowd didn't have too much effect," said Harnett. "They weren't too vocal or rude. Of course, they cheered for Steve when he made a good shot, but that doesn't bother me. I have the same support for me sometimes."

Sell had no problem beating his early round opponents including Terry Lynch, Brian Laughter and John Mack.

In the semifinals, fourth seeded Sell upset second seeded Wagner. He trailed the local favorite early in the first game, but shook off the initial jitters to

Continued next page

win, 15-13.

Wagner evened the match with a 15-9 win the second game, but Sell's backhand overpowered his opponent in the tie-breaker, 11-5. Harnett said he was not surprised to see Sell in the championship match.

"I know Bill has been playing well for the past year. I wasn't surprised because I had watched both Rich and Bill play recently. It really didn't matter to me who

I played in the finals, but I had a feeling Bill would win the semis.

The level of competition at the open level was especially tough since the professional tour has not had many events this year. "Any tournament with \$1,000 or more for first prize is going to have the high level of competition we've had here," said Harnett. "You can't really get better competition unless there is a larger number of top level players."

HAWKES AND SELL WIN 1984 DOUBLES CROWN

Brian Hawkes and Bill Sell defeated Scott Oliver and Gerry Price 15-13, 15-9 to win top honors in the 1984 Double Championship Racquetball Classic hosted by Arcadia All Pro Athletic Club, Arcadia, California, on May 17-20. The tournament was sponsored by Sports and Fitness, Solana Tanning Centers, Leonard's Guide, WESPAC Business Systems, Private 1 Records and Leader Eyeguards.

Hawkes and Sell went home with \$1,200 for their winning effort, while Price and Oliver took home \$600. The final match was close throughout with so many great dives and unbelievable gets that the court looked

like an aviary. The first game started quickly for Oliver and Price who led 6-0 before Hawkes and Sell decided to play. Then, Sell's bad back loosened up and Hawkes' powerful forehand splats countered the equally strong forehand of Price and backhand of Oliver. The score evened out at 9-9 where the two teams traded points until Hawkes and Sell took the advantage at 15-13.

It was all Hawkes and Sell in the second game that ended 15-9. Hawkes and Sell defeated Jim Carson and Bill Chadwick and Price and Oliver defeated Mark Martino and Ed Andrews in the semifinals.

AIR FORCE BEATS ARMY, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

The armed forces toked up their respective banners and squared off in a four-way battle for the 1984 Armed Forces Racquetball Championships May 14-18 at Fort Jackson, North Carolina. After five days of brutal competition, the Air Force team triumphed over Navy to take the coveted number one position. Army and the Marine Corps finished third and fourth.

Spearheading the Air Force victory was Captain Dave Bernacki (Texas) who took the Men's Open title and Second Lieutenant Barbara Faulkenberry (Georgia) who won the Women's Open title. Captain Bernacki and Second Lieutenant Faulkenberry were also victorious in their doubles tournaments

where they were teamed with Alaskan Staff Sergeant Tony Alcala (Men's), and Californian Staff Sargeant Tonya Grunder (Women's).

In the Men's Senior Singles division, Ensign Ralph Worthington of the U.S. Navy beat fellow Navy officer Commander George Crown. Both of them teamed up to win the Men's Senior Doubles title over Captain Larry Washington and Master Sergeant John Stevenson of the U.S. Army.

The final team standing was Air Force 66, Navy 49, Army 42 and Marine Corps 12. Racquetball in the Armed Forces represents the largest organization of racquetball in the world.



BENEFIT DRAWS TOP NAMES

The 1st Annual Newport Cup Benefit Invitational on April 29 drew some of the nation's best players in a successful effort by the California Racquetball Association to provide funds for the Southern California Junior Racquetball Team. Mike Yellen, Bret Harnett, Ruben Gonzalez and Ed Andrews played a tense round robin tournament for the cheering spectators who were treated to racquetball at its finest.

The benefit also showcased the Southern California Junior

Team's youngest players, Grah Turner and Brian Wilbur (both 8 years old) in a "no-bounce" rally, brothers Ariel and Ivan Labra (ages 10 and 12), and the team's top players Brent Russell and John Gonzalez.

GILREATH AND LERNER WIN HAWAIIAN TRIP

Being the best has its rewards. In this case, the reward was a trip to Hawaii for Women's Open winner Terri Gilreath and Men's Open winner Steve Lerner. What they won was the 3rd Annual Continental Racquetball Club Pro/Am on June 4 on Oakland, California. Both champions will stay at the Hilton Hawaiian Village on Oahu.

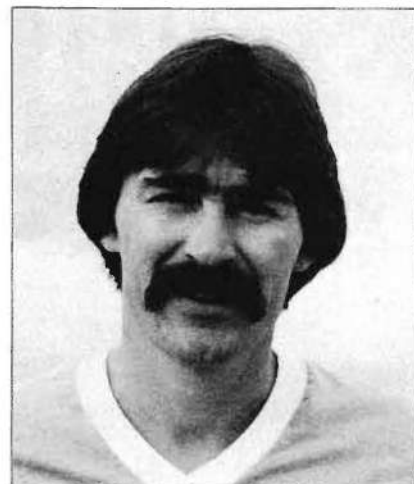
According to Continental president, Ted Jablonski, more than 220 players, men and

women, competed in the event. Competitive divisions were offered at all levels of play, including doubles and mixed doubles. The tournament was sponsored by Coors Light, Hilton Hotels Corporation and Leisure Travel Service. All proceeds will benefit Children's Hospital Branches, Inc. in Oakland. Jim and Connie Tench of Alameda, served as tournament directors.

BY STEVE STRANDEMO AND BILL BRUNS

ADVANCED RACQUETBALL

PART 2: THE FOREHAND



INSTRUCTION:

Introduction:

Steve Strandemo and Bill Bruns proved to be a winning team with their best-selling *The Racquetball Book*, a comprehensive guide to playing the game. They followed this up with the popular *Advanced Racquetball*, which provides expert advice for any player who takes the sport seriously. In both books, Strandemo drew on his years of experience as one of the game's most renowned players, as well as the insights gained from teaching the game to thousands of players around the country.

Both Strandemo books were published by Wallaby Books, a division of Simon and Schuster, and are available at most book stores. For an opportunity to have Steve give your game his personal attention, write to him about his instructional camps: C/O Strandemo Racquetball Camps, P.O. Box 24445, San Diego, CA 92124.

The Forehand

Win or lose, most experienced racquetball players are pretty comfortable with their forehand stroke. It's their most frequent offensive weapon, the stroke they use when serving low drives and "Z's," and the stabilizing part of their game. "My forehand is reliable; I know where it's going," is what I commonly hear. Yet I also know that most players are looking for increased power—with control—as they strive to develop a more total game. So before you try to skip past this chapter, let's be objective. Just how effective is your forehand when you have a chance to set up? Can you consistently pound it into your low zone—as a straight-in kill, a pinch, or a passing shot—and keep your opponent on the move? Or does the ball constantly come back to him around the middle of the court, where he cuts it off or lets it come off the back wall? Is your

forehand a scoring threat at 25 feet? At 30 feet? At 35 feet? Or does it simply keep the rally alive the farther back you're pushed? On reflection—and by having your own matches charted—do you find yourself hitting more skips than winners?

However your forehand checks out, this chapter can help you refine the stroke that you have as we work toward an ultimate goal: a sound, repetitious swing that enables you to hit with power and control all the way back to 38 feet, and that will

THE BASIC GRIPS

This is the conventional forehand grip (1), with the "V" formed by the thumb and index finger lying on top of the racquet handle as you look down.

For the conventional backhand grip (2), the "V" shifts slightly to the left, directly on top of the left diagonal bevel on the racquet handle.

To hold one grip for both strokes (3), have the "V" lie between the conventional grips.



STRANDEMO/HEAD

1984 INSTRUCTIONAL SERIES

Aspen, Colorado

June 25-June 29

July 2-July 6

July 9-July 13

July 16-July 20

July 23-July 27

Sessions Monday—Friday

Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania

August 1-August 5

August 8-August 12

August 15-August 19

August 22-August 26

Sessions Wednesday—Sunday



Each participant will receive a personal video tape of his play during the session.

Sponsors: **HEAD** *penn* adidas

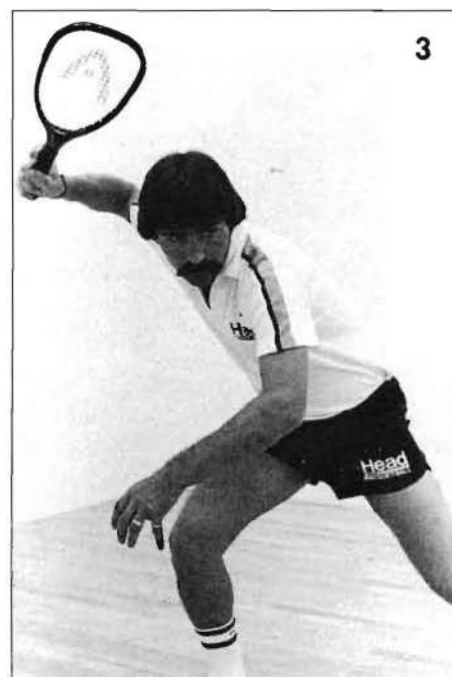
For free brochure call or write:

STRANDEMO RACQUETBALL CAMPS

P.O. Box 24445

San Diego, California 92124-0445

(619) 268-8707



SETTING UP ON THE FOREHAND

The hitter has his knees comfortably bent and will hit from an open stance because the ball is coming to him quickly (1). He tries to carry his racquet at around knee to midhigh height.

His feet remain planted (2) as he begins to draw the racquet up to a set position, with his hips and shoulders starting to rotate.

The racquet is up (3), ready to come down into the ball, and his hips and shoulders are prepared to uncoil into the shot from this solid position.

come through for you under pressure. There's an overall racquetball swing that we can emulate, with five or six fundamental elements that need to be grooved within that swing. Contrary to a common myth, this is not a forgiving game at the advanced level if you wildly miss your target areas against a smart opponent. Agreed, your high misses will remain in play and can even work to your benefit if the ball angles away from your opponent or comes directly into him, forcing a difficult "reflex" return. Yet basically you're simply prolonging the agony with consistently inaccurate shots, for eventually an efficient opponent is going to hit too many winners off your setups.

make good solid contact. But if you're having trouble keeping the ball low, the likely culprit could be your grip; it will cause the racquet face to be tilted back slightly at impact—thus raising your shots—when you fail to make adjustments in your swing. Instead of making those adjustments, which demand greater timing in the contact zone, try to master two conventional grips. Practice changing grips, on and off the court, and eventually this will become a second-nature reaction when you see the ball coming.

KEY ELEMENTS OF THE SWING

Set Up Early and Quickly

The earlier you can take your racquet up to a

Therefore, don't underestimate the importance of accurate stroking technique off both sides, forehand and backhand, in making everything you learn about shot-selection tactics meaningful.

THE GRIP

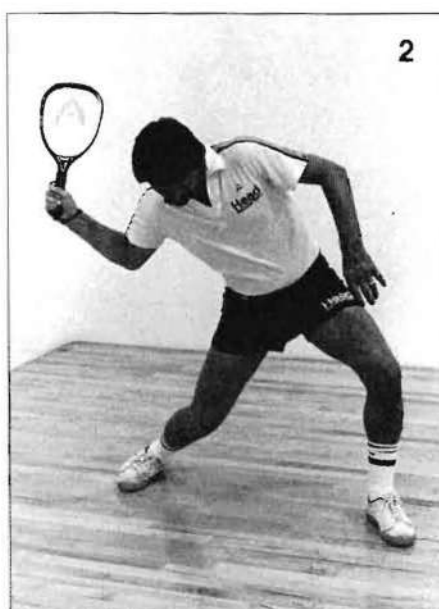
Personally, I favor switching between conventional forehand and backhand grips as I move to the ball. Changing grips now comes reflexively and I find that it facilitates a more natural wrist-snapping motion in the contact zone and a flat swing coming through the ball.

Two reminders if you're switching grips: (1) learn to keep the racquet relatively loose in your hitting hand as you make the change with your fingers, and (2) don't let the opposite hand "help" out. Interference by the off-hand can develop into a bad habit that limits your quickness in setting up properly, especially during fast-action exchanges. Try holding a ball in your nonhitting hand to help avoid or break this habit when you're practicing.

If you've learned to hold one grip for all your strokes—in between the two conventional grips—stay with it, providing the racquet is comfortable in your hand as you swing and you



The standard setup position (left) is highly effective in advanced play. However, power hitters—men and women alike—take the arm higher, with the elbow actually above the shoulder (right). This setup generates greater power by lengthening the arc of the stroke, but it requires strength and an efficient motion down into the ball.



solid set position on the backswing—with your hitting arm bent and raised to around shoulder level—the easier it will be for you to groove a synched swing that utilizes the power in your body. The game will seem much less of a panic from shot to shot and you'll have more time to move down through the ball with good body action.

Even if you're confident that you're setting up early, have a friend watch your next match (or videotape part of one game) and look for two key checkpoints:

First, do you pull your racquet back and up quickly as the ball approaches? Or, are you waiting until the last possible moment, even when there's ample time to set up earlier? If you discover that you're late—a universal problem for aspiring advanced players—then the ball is always going to be on top of you, forcing you into a rushed, ineffective "punch" swing in order to get the racquet through in time. When you don't have time to use your entire body to generate power (and to absorb most of the load), you must compensate by swinging harder with your arm, and this constant trauma can lead to a throbbing elbow and a sore arm that grows weary in a tough match.

Second, is your non-hitting hand touching the racquet handle as you're switching grips or setting up? This is a common flaw—and an unnecessary movement—that can cause you to be late on your backswing, yet only videotaping with slow-motion may convince you that you're actually doing it.

A Higher Setup for More Power

An important development in forehand technique since my first book was published (in 1977) has been the evolution to a higher racquet setup, with power hitters now raising their hitting elbow parallel to shoulder level or slightly higher. This helps generate greater racquet speed in the contact zone—and thus greater power—by lengthening the downward arc of the racquet and facilitating more of a whipping motion on the

swing. However, be warned that getting to this set position quickly, throughout a two-hour match, is directly related to the flexibility and strength in your hitting arm and shoulder.

If you've mastered a reliable stroke out of the traditional set position, with the elbow just below shoulder level, you can certainly hit with good power. But if you're serious about playing *power* racquetball, try moving to a higher setup off your basic foundation, while remembering your body limitations. I find that many younger players can crank their arm up easily, but as you age, you may need to do some moderate weight lifting and special flexibility exercises several times a week in order to take your arm and shoulder through the desired motion. (See photos of special drills in Chapter 11.)

When working on a quicker setup and/or the transition to a higher setup, be patient; it's going to take time to break ingrained habits and adjust to this new, foreign feeling. Since you'll tend to slip back into old comfortable patterns when you're playing a match, concentrate on this new motion in practice and off the court until it becomes a natural part of your overall swing. One helpful method is to get in front of a mirror and practice going back up and then down out of your set position (as compared to the photos in this book), so you can see the motion and get used to how it feels.

The Hitting Motion

You'll see top players with individual quirks on their setups and follow-throughs, but don't be misled: in between a full backswing and a complete finish—as they actually come down through the contact zone—they've all mastered the uncoiling, whipping action that generates maximum racquet speed as they contact the ball on as flat a plane as possible. The result is a velocity shot that travels low and straight to the front or side-wall target.

Try to visualize two basic concepts that must play off each other as you swing: (1) a solidness of setup and (2) a suppleness of stroke. First, you

want to have your knees comfortably bent and your feet planted, providing a sturdy base and leverage for your swing. Then take your racquet back up to a solid position—with the wrist cocked—and simultaneously start your downward motion, exploding into the ball. Drive the right side of your body into the shot, dipping the hitting shoulder, while the left side pulls through with the shoulder and hip rotating around and clearing the way for a clean, uncluttered stroke. Your goal is to have a fluid motion as you come down into the ball, but working against a solid lower body so the racquet can have a whiplike action.

Another useful image is provided by Ben Hogan (the golfing great, not a member of the racquetball-playing family). He advises golfers to visualize themselves swinging inside a barrel so that they pivot their body over their power base and avoid lunging into the ball. This is a sound analogy for racquetball, since the forehand stroke is analogous to a golf swing. After you've stepped into the ball, strive to get good body rotation over your solid base—as though you were inside Hogan's imaginary barrel.

Contacting the Ball

Coming into impact, your swing should be leveling off so you can hit the ball on a flat plane toward your low-zone target area, resulting, ideally, in a shot that stays low when it hits and doesn't jump up after it takes its first bounce. Equally important, the wrist should still be cocked, the arm bent, and the racquet laid back. Then, in about the last 12 inches, there's an almost simultaneous sequence with the arm extending, the wrist snapping hard, and the racquet ripping through at impact. Concentrate on your wrist snap and the other desired actions in the contact zone will tend to fall in place.

When you have time to step into the ball as you go to hit (such as when you're given a "plum" off the front or side wall) give yourself leverage by planting your front foot and then starting down



HITTING THE BALL

The hitter's wrist is cocked (1) and the racquet remains set as he starts coming down into the ball.

With the elbow still bent, the hitting shoulder dips to help get the racquet low into the shot (2). Notice the hip action and how the left arm is comfortably leading the way, helping to pull the body through the swing.

Now the hitter is getting into a side-arm-type swing (3), with the back knee bent and the hips pulling through.

The racquet is still laid back and the wrist is cocked an instant before impact (4). The hitter will now execute a natural whipping action through the contact zone.

This shows a typical follow-through, which may be shorter or longer depending upon the situation (5). The wrist has snapped through and the left arm has with his hitting motion.

with the right side of your body. Ideally—when you step into the ball—try to make contact in that power gap off your front foot. But in a typical rally, of course, you're forced to contact the ball at different points between your two feet and, occasionally, even behind your back foot.

With experience, you'll learn to position your body against shots coming off a side wall or the back wall so that you can contact the ball at a prime height between calf and knee level. You may think you're hitting your setups at ankle height, but videotaping shows that we rarely contact the ball that low.

The Follow-Through

By completing your stroke with a full and forceful follow-through, you help insure that you come through the ball aggressively—the end result of a power forehand. In doing so, you also keep from letting your swing fizzle out of turn into a jabbing type of effort or end abruptly (which can possibly strain the arm). Instead, you're encouraged to develop a full swing, where you pick the ball up in the middle of that swing and drive it into your low-zone area without trying to "aim" it at a specific target.

In terms of how high you should actually finish with your racquet, just be flexible according to the basic stroke you develop. What counts is having the racquet go through the contact zone on a flat plane so that you maximize your chances of driving the ball low; then let the racquet come up naturally, between waist and shoulder level.

The Non-Hitting Arm

When you start down into the ball, full body rotation is crucial to what follows in utilizing the power in your body. You want to open up on the ball and hit through with nice freedom of motion by your right side, and this is made easier when you clear the left arm out of your way as you rotate the shoulder around. When your left arm is leading the way as you swing, the left shoulder can pull through freely, allowing the right side plenty of clearance to drive into the ball. You must

get this body motion going—the left shoulder turning, the hip rotating—so that the forearm, the wrist, and the racquet face can come through in the right sequence.

So as you're analyzing your stroke (on your own, with the help of a friend, or by having yourself videotaped), check not only where your left hand is when you are setting up, but what your left arm is doing as you swing. Make sure it's not limiting the basic motion you seek. (Although this arm should lead your swing when you have time to set up and step into the shot, many times it will be tucked in against your chest to help provide balance when you're hitting while stretched out or on the run.

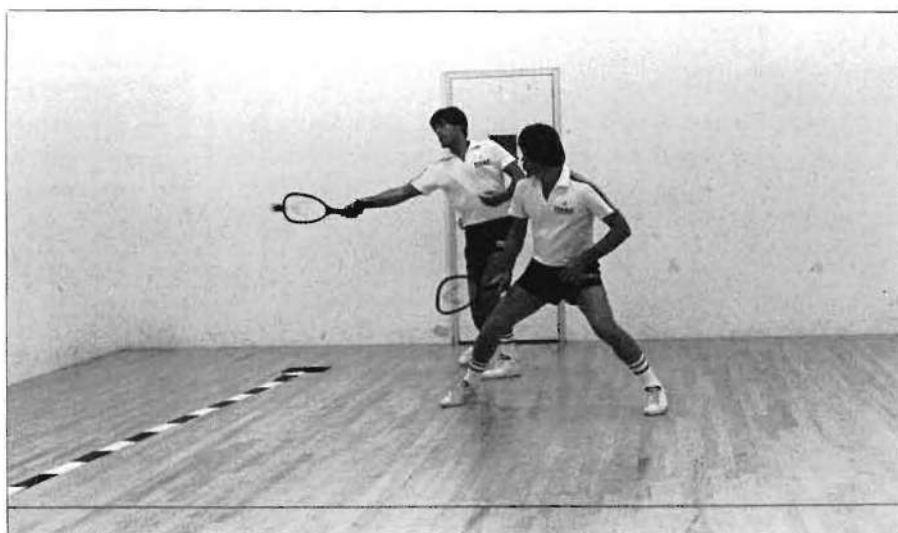
PULLING THE BALL DOWN FROM CHEST LEVEL

A refined skill among power hitters and advanced players is their ability to bring the ball

down from around chest level into their low zone. Basically, this stroke is used against an opponent's ceiling-ball shot that comes in short and allows you an offensive shot. Instead of playing defensively by going back to the ceiling, top players take the offensive, either with a kill attempt or a passing shot that can put pressure on their opponent. This is definitely a power-type shot, requiring a solid base for leverage and a good swing with shoulder rotation, but it's one that should be tackled as your overall skill level rises.

You may already be thinking, "All the pros are pulling the ball down from around the chest and shoulder—I'd better work on that." Ideally, this will be a logical evolution in your game, but first prove yourself at lower contact levels, working your way up from calf and knee level to waist level. When you can hit the ball efficiently from these levels into your low zone, then you're ready to go after higher shots.

Pulling the ball down from chest level and hitting your low-zone area is a difficult skill, but one you'll need in advanced play, especially when you want to take the offensive against a short ceiling ball. Your opponent will have time to move into excellent coverage position, so work on stepping into the ball and having an efficient upper-body stroking motion.



Master Tournament Schedule

Professional Tournament Schedules

MEN'S PROFESSIONAL EVENTS

Aug. 23-26	Natural Light Pro-Am Davison Racquet Club Davison, Michigan Jim Hiser 313-653-9602	\$12,000
Sept. 10-16	Grand Masters Pro-Am Southern Athletic Club Atlanta, Georgia Pete Capo 404-923-5400	\$25,000
TBA	RMA Men's Pro Tour Contact: Don Bushor 305-842-4100	

WOMEN'S PROFESSIONAL EVENTS

The Women's Pro Tour is yet to be announced. Please contact Sandy Genelius at the International Management Group (IMG) at 216-522-1200 for more information.

Moving?

Make sure International Racquetball travels with you to your new location. Fill in the information below and send it in to:
International Racquetball, P.O. Box 7548, Reno, Nevada 89510.

OLD ADDRESS:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

State _____

NEW ADDRESS:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

State _____ Phone _____

AMATEUR EVENTS SCHEDULE

AUGUST

Aug. 4-5
Alabama State Doubles *4
Court South
100 Olde Towne Rd.
Vestavia Hills, AL 35216
Bob Huskey

Aug. 17-19
WRA #5 *3
Tyrone Racquetball Club
6690 Crosswinds
St. Petersburg, FL 33710

Aug. 24-26
Alabama Special Olympics
and 10K Race *3
500 Gadsden Hwy
Birmingham, AL 35235
Gerald Cleveland

Aug. 24-26
Florida State Doubles *4

Aug. 31-Sept. 3
Annual Pro/Am Labor Day Tourney to
Benefit Muscular Dystrophy
13 Stoney Hill Rd.
Bethel, CT 06801
Alison Sharrett 203-797-1244

SEPTEMBER

Sept. 7-9
Bellevue Open
Bellevue RB Club
Bellevue, WA

Sept. 7-9
Kentucky Racquetball Association
Tour Stop
Athenian Spa
Louisville, KY

Sept. 12-16
6th Annual Western Cookout/Shootout
Irvine Clubhouse Racquetball
17850 Sky Park Blvd.
Irvine, CA 92714
714-754-7500
Scott Winters

Sept. 21-23
Budlight Open
Pennyrile Racquet & Fitness Center
Hopkinsville, KY

Sept. 21-23
WRA *6
Tyrone Racquetball Club
6690 Crosswinds
St. Petersburg, FL 33710

Sept. 28-30
Southeast Regional Doubles *5
Racquet Power
3390 Kori Rd.
Jacksonville, FL 32223

OCTOBER

Oct. 1-4
Advance Supply Open
Royal Spa & Court Club
2101 E. Bloomfield Highway
Farmington, New Mexico 87401

Oct. 5-7
5th Annual Lite Beer

Columbus Day Weekend Shootout *3
21st Point Club
McKown Rd off Western Avenue
Albany, NY 12203
518-489-3276
Vince Wolanin

Oct. 11-14
2nd Annual Juniors Only Open
Royal Spa & Court Club
2101 E. Bloomfield Highway
Farmington, NM 87401

Oct. 13-15
Oktoberfest Open *3
Colony Court Club
444 Sand Creek Road
Albany, NY 12211
518-459-4444

Oct. 12-14
Gleneagles 5th Annual Open
Sacramento, CA 95841
916-338-1850
Pat Hoffman

Oct. 19-21
Clyde Bartlett M/S Open *3
Manchester Court Club
1 LeClerc Cr.
Manchester, NH 03101
603-688-8375

Oct. 19-21
Kentucky Racquetball Assoc. Tour Stop
Autumn Open
YMCA Downtown
Louisville, KY

Oct. 25-28
National Doubles Championships *4

Oct. 25-28
National Doubles Championships *6
The Court House
Boise, ID

NOVEMBER

Nov. 2-4
Budweiser Open *3
Tacoma RBC
Tacoma, WA

Nov. 2-4
Lions Club/Coke Singles Classic
Lovers Lane Racquetball Club
Nautilus Center
Bowling Green, KY

Nov. 9-11
WRA #7 *3
Tyrone Racquetball Club
6690 Crosswinds
St. Petersburg, FL 33710

Nov. 15-18
Academy Awards
Academy Court Club
5555 McLeod NE
Albuquerque, NM 87109

Nov. 16-18
4-Wall Outdoor State *4
Recreation Center
202 W. Park St.
Auburndale, FL

Nov. 16-18
Long Island Open *3
Sports Set RB & Fitness

Nov. 30-Dec. 2
Cascade Open

Eugene, OR

Nov. 30-Dec. 2

Kentucky Racquetball Assoc. Tour Stop
1984 Bluegrass Open
Northpark Racquetball Fitness Center
Lexington, KY

DECEMBER

Dec. 6-9

Santa Fe Holiday Classic
Santa Fe Courthouse & Spa
1931 Warner
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Dec. 7-9

Kentucky Racquetball Assoc. Tour Stop
Greentree Racquetball club
Clarksville, IN

Dec. 7-9

Holiday Classic *3
Burlen RBC
Burlen, WA

JANUARY

Jan. 10-12

New Mexico Invitational
Tom Young's Athletic Club & Spa
2250 Wyoming Blvd. NE
Albuquerque, NM 87112

Jan. 18-20

Cancer Society Open *3
Manchester Court Club
1 LeClerc Cr.
Manchester, NH 03101

Jan. 18-20

Kentucky Racquetball Assoc. Tour Stop
Lovers Lane Racquetball Club
Bowling Green, KY

Jan. 24-27

New Mexico State Juniors Championships
Rio Grande Sports Club
2500 Yale Blvd. SE
Albuquerque, NM 87106

FEBRUARY

Feb. 7-10

Supreme Courts Open
Supreme Courts Racquet & Health Club
4100 Prospect Ave. NE
Albuquerque, NM 87110

Feb. 8-10

Kentucky Racquetball Assoc. Tour Stop
Racquetball Plus
Fern Valley Road
Louisville, KY

Feb. 14-17

New Mexico State Intercollegiates

Feb. 28-March 3

2nd Annual Bud Light Ultimate
Rio Grande Sporting Club
2500 Yale Blvd. SE
Albuquerque, NM 87106

MARCH

March 22-24

4th Annual Endless Mountain *3
Shadowbrook Racquetball & Fitness
Route 6
Tunkhannock, PA 18657
717-836-6336

EKTELON from page 10

majority of racquetball participation is outside of tournament level. Racquetball's popularity is in its appeal as a recreational sport and a sport of physical fitness. It's also relevant to note that pros have no such restrictions to size. Size is a matter of fact, not legislation. It's self-limiting. Ideally, a racquetball racquet can only be so large or it's not racquetball anymore."

Still, Ektelon was very concerned about how the AARA would view their new oversized racquets and had planned to

meet with AARA Executive Director Luke St. Onge later that week. International Racquetball called Mr. St. Onge and found out that the AARA and Ektelon had indeed met, but that "the amateur governing body would not have a decision about the oversized racquets until they met again at the World Games in Sacramento."

The Maxum and the Contra will be in the clubs and pro shops this September and demos are being provided by Ektelon should anyone want to try out the new racquets.

PRODUCTS from page 8

printed messages or company logos. For more information contact: Play It Cool, Manhattan-Miami Corporation, Box 3136 Keystone Route, Rapid City, SD 57702, or call, 605-574-2637.

from our direct mail campaign. We will be offering the Glute-Ham Developer in a package with our other outstanding equipment line or by itself."

For more information, please contact:

POLARIS
5334 Banks Street
San Diego, CA 9211
619-297-4349



Polaris introduces Glute-Ham Developer

The Glute-Ham Developer was created by Dr. Michael Yessis, Ph.D. who is a recognized specialist in biomechanics and sports training. It was created to prevent hamstring and lower back injuries that occur frequently as a result of sports activity. Greatly enhancing performance, it is presently the only apparatus that works the lower back, buttocks and hamstring muscles in one continuous action.

The Glute-Ham Developer is being sold through Polaris who stated, "We are having a lot of inquiries about the developer

Marty Hogan Bronze Racquet Makes Debut

Marty Hogan Racquetball, a division of Pro Kennex, has added to its high-performance line of graphite racquets the **Marty Hogan Bronze**, a 60/40 blend of graphite and fiberglass. Marty personally contributed to the racquet design and play testing of the prototypes.

Like its counterparts in the Marty Hogan line (the Marty Hogan 100% Graphite and the Hogan comp, an 80/20 composite), the Marty Hogan Bronze features the patented Pro Kennex foam core to dampen vibration, a calfskin leather grip and thin-gauge synthetic strings. The racquet has an exaggerated teardrop head shape and a "step down" frame construction that affords stiffness, flexibility and strength where those characteristics are desired. It comes with a thermal cover for protection.

For more information, call 619-271-8390 or 800-854-1908.

Why you should be a member of the American Amateur Racquetball Association!

Over 800 tournaments annually — Ranked nationally with all AARA players — Uniform rule book — Recognized amateur governing body.

TO JOIN AARA · MAIL THIS COUPON

YES! I would like to be a member of the AARA, eligible for tournament play. Please send me the membership kit, which includes—the membership card, official rule book and discount coupons worth \$20. I am enclosing ☐ \$6 for one year.

Name

Address

City State Zip

Mail to: American Amateur Racquetball Association
815 North Weber, Suite 203
Colorado Springs, CO 80903

Rankings

MEN'S PRO RANKINGS SEASON END

THIS MO.	PLAYER	POINTS
1	Mike Yellen	94.00
2	Marty Hogan	84.00
3	Dave Peck	64.44
4	Gregg Peck	58.00
5	Brett Harnett	57.78
6	Ruben Gonzalez	54.00
7	Jerry Hilecher	46.00
8	Gerry Price	43.33
9	Scott Oliver	36.67
10	Ed Andrews	36.00
11	Jack Newman	34.44
12	Rich Wagner	31.67
13T	Don Thomas	30.00
13T	Mike Levine	30.00
15	Bill Sell	27.14
16T	Doug Cohen	26.00
16T	Brian Hawkes	26.00
18	John Egerman	25.56
19	Lindsay Myers	25.00
20	Steve Lerner	24.29
21T	Corey Brysman	20.00
21T	Craig McCoy	20.00
23	Andy Gross	16.40
24T	Mike Ray	15.71
24T	David Gross	15.71
26	Mark Antes	15.50
27T	Ben Koltun	15.00
27T	Mark Martino	15.00
27T	Lance Gilliam	15.00
30	Guy Texeira	12.50
31	Brian Valin	10.25
32T	Cliff Swain	10.00
32T	Peter Britos	10.00
34	Scott Hawkins	8.40
35T	Dave Johnson	8.00
35T	Joe Sacco	8.00
37T	Larry Fox	7.50
37T	Dan Ferris	7.50
37T	Allen Lee	7.50
37T	Ralph Hackbarth	7.50
37T	David Simonette	7.50
37T	Mitchell	7.50
43	Jack Nolan	5.25
44T	Kyle Kamalu	5.00
44T	Dave Negrete	5.00
44T	Evan Terry	5.00
44T	Jim Cascio	5.00
44T	Craig Davidson	5.00
44T	Scott Perry	5.00
50	Jeff Conine	2.50

WPRA RANKINGS SEASON END

THIS MO.	PLAYER	POINTS
1	Heather McKay	306.13
2	Lynn Adams	290.25
3	S. Wright Hamilton	165.00
4	Janell Marriott	100.07
5	Vicki Panzeri	99.38
6	Terri Gilreath	90.50
7	Laura Martino	87.33
8	Caryn McKinney	74.86
9	Marci Greer	69.25
10	Brenda Barrett	66.25
11	Francine Davis	64.13
12	Joyce Jackson	60.75
13	Peggy Gardner	56.67
14	Heather Stupp	50.50
15	Jennifer Harding	46.13
16	Stacey Fletcher	37.50
17	Bonnie Stoll	37.13
18	Diane Bullard	28.83
19	Molly O'Brien	24.57
20	Marcy Lynch	21.71
21	Carol Pranka	20.36
22	Liz Alvarado	19.67
23	Martha McDonald	15.71
24	Mary Dee	14.67
25	Val Paese	13.00
26	Leslie Clifford	12.86
27	Rita Hoff Scott	12.50
28	Marci Drexler	11.67
29	Kay Kuhfeld	10.00
30	Elaine Riley	9.67
31	Jean Sauser	9.33
32T	Babette Bell	8.33
32T	Trina Rasmussen	8.33
34	Susie Carlos	8.00
35T	Monique Parent	6.67
35T	Peggy Steding	6.67
37	Gail Woods	5.00
38	Suzanne Robert	4.67
39T	Cindy Baxter	3.33
39T	Kippi Bishop-Thulin	3.33
39T	Lynn Farmer	3.33
39T	Karen Powers	3.33
39T	Sandy Robson	3.33
44	Donna Myer	3.00
45T	Diane Adams	1.67
45T	Ellen Campbell	1.67
45T	Pam Clark	1.67
45T	Lisa Devine	1.67
45T	Cindy Donnelly	1.67
45T	Carol Dupuy	1.67

CANADIAN CPRO RANKINGS MAY 24, 1984

RANK	PLAYER	CPRO RATING
1	Lindsay Myers	2487
2	Sherman Greenfeld	2440
3	Cliff Hendrickson	2394
4	Ross Harvey	2384
5	Wayne Bowes	2377
6	Rick Gartel	2360
7	Brian Valin	2358
8	Wendell Talaber	2355
9	Manny Gregario	2355
10	Dwayne Kohuch	2348
11	Roger Harriersad	2347
12	Allan Lee	2345
13	Gus Koumarelis	2338
14	Jean Francois Lindsay	2338
15	Bob Daku	2331
16	Haydn Jones	2317
17	Marc Kilbreath	2315
18	Charles Friedman	2315
19	Shawn Ng	2315
20	Serge LaLonde	2315
21	Martin Gervais	2314
22	Bill Birch	2311
23	Joe Kirkwood	2309
24	Daryl Foreman	2307
25	Brian Thompson	2306
26	Larry Greene	2306
27	Ron Khanna	2303
28	Dwayne McKnight	2302
29	Sylvain Robillard	2302
30	Mike Ceresia	2300
31	Marc Arsenault	2300
32	Daryl Labach	2299
33	Michel LeBeau	2298
34	Bob Burbridge	2298
35	Glen Collard	2297
36	Alphonse Doucet	2297
37	Jean Archambault	2297
38	Jerome Trail	2297
39	Kevin McCarroll	2297
40	M Frechette	2297
41	Bill Sleeth	2297
42	Steve McLennan	2297
43	Mark Braydon	2297
44	Claude Charbonneau	2297
45	Woody Clouse	2296
46	Warren Hart	2295
47	Remi LaRochelle	2295
48	Jacques Picher	2295
49	Greg Starodub	2295
50	Rick Komistek	2295



EQ ENTERPRISES INC.

17871 N.E. 19 Ave. NMB FL. 33162 305-944-4549

ATTACKWEAR®

100% Guaranteed

ATTACKWEAR® QUALITY RACQUETBALL CLOTHING AT AFFORDABLE PRICES!

Rollout Maroon, Kill Shot Yellow, Ace Black, Winner White, Crackit Green, Rally Red, Z Ball Blue, Navy Blue

T Shirts **\$6.95** Shorts **\$10.95** Sets **\$16.95**

High Quality 50/50 T's Look Great, Wear Great, Absorb Moisture 100% Nylon Shorts Feature Full Line Brief & Internal Key Pocket

*Please Make 2nd Color Choice *Allow 2-3 Weeks Delivery

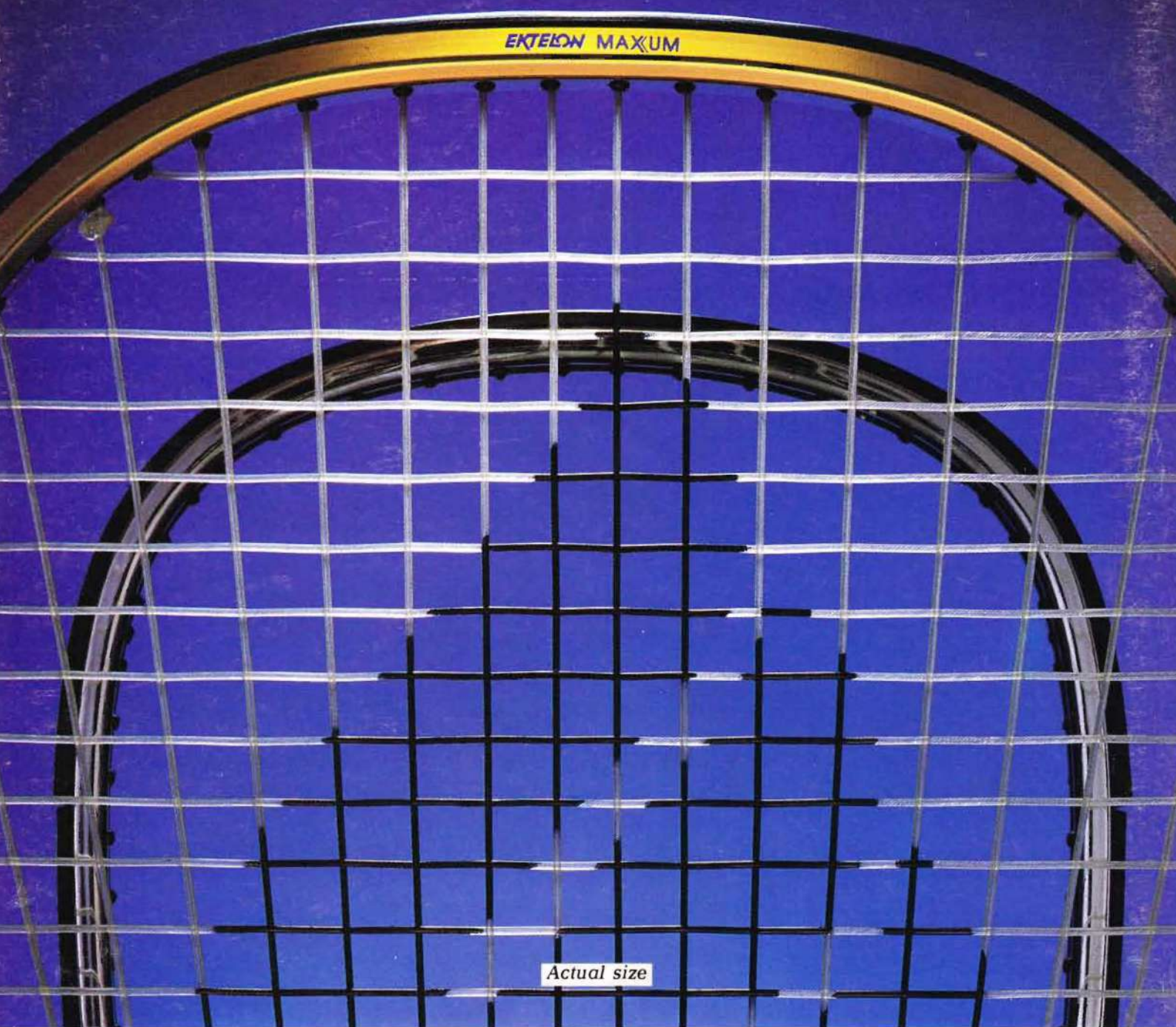
COLOR	SIZE	SHIRT	SHORT	\$ AMOUNT
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
\$1.50 P&H Per Item/Set				
*FL Residents Add 5% Sales Tax				
TOTAL				

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Tel _____

*Once in every player's lifetime,
something comes along that changes everything.*



Actual size

50% Greater Coverage

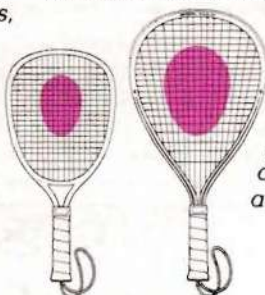
In the same way that "oversized" tennis racquets dramatically changed the game for millions of tennis players, Ektelon's new "oversized" **MACRO™** SERIES racquets are going to change the game of racquetball for you.

From the moment you pick it up, you'll hit winners on balls you're not even getting to now.

80% Bigger Sweet Spot

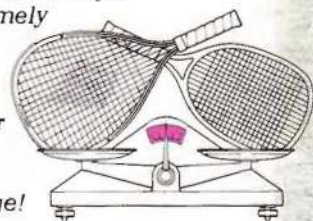
Longer. Wider. And located further from your hand than with standard-sized racquets—out where tests prove you hit balls the most.

It means more powerful, more accurate shots a lot more often.



Actually Lighter Than Many "Standard-Sized" Racquets

As a result of exclusive new high-strength, aerodynamic aluminum alloys, the **MACRO** is extremely easy to swing and weighs only 245 grams. Which is, very possibly, lighter than the racquet you're using now. It's time for a change!



The
MACRO
Racquets Patent pending

The Most Recommended Name in Racquetball

EKTELON
another BROWNING company