

1980-81 Men's • Pro/Am Racquetball Tour



SEAMCO-LEACH

**NATIONAL RACQUETBALL
CLUB INC.**



ROBERT W. KENDLER

Racquetball Classic

**Charlie Club Resort Hotel & Fitness Center
Palatine, Illinois • November 19-23, 1980**

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COORS LIGHT



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CHALK UP ANOTHER SHUT OUT.

A man with wet, reddish-brown hair is smiling broadly, his eyes closed in a happy expression. He is wearing a light blue t-shirt and has a white towel draped over his shoulders. In his left hand, he holds a classic glass Coca-Cola bottle. The background consists of red lockers, with a padlock visible on the left and a handle on the right. The overall scene suggests a post-game refreshment.

**Have a Coke
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We Play Around. Racquetball

Meet this year's Catalina Racquetball Team. Be first with the one who is first. Catalina.
The original Racquetball Company. Profit from our experience.



Catalina®

**PRESENTING THE ONLY
RACQUET THAT CAN GIVE
MARTY HOGAN 100%.**



Leave it to Leach to deliver 100%. And more.

Back in the fall of 1978, we gave Marty Hogan something he couldn't get from anyone else in the industry.

A Leach Graphite 100. The world's first 100% graphite racquetball racquet.

Since then, Marty and his Graphite 100 have teamed up to turn the pro tour upside down. With wins in every major tournament—including the 1978 Pro Championship.

And with back-to-back wins to kick off this year's tour.

Why Marty won't go to court without graphite.

Graphite is probably the perfect racquet frame material. Ounce for ounce, it's several times lighter than aluminum. Yet, even stronger and stiffer.

And that translates into extra power and speed for any player's game. Including Marty Hogan's.

What's more, no one's been able to copy Leach's innovative technology. So the Leach Graphite 100 is still the world's first and only 100% graphite racquet.

There's more than one way to win with graphite.

Obviously, not everyone needs the awesome power of 100% graphite. So Leach created three other racquets that harness graphite's winning ways.

Like the Leach Graphite Competitor. An ingenious

combination of maple, ash, bamboo and graphite laminates make it Leach's lightest racquet. Strong and stiff, it's a hybrid that packs tremendous power.

A brand-new breed of Bandido.

Then there's the new Leach Graphite Bandido. We took one of the winningest designs and—without altering its shape a single millimeter—beefed up its glass-filled frame with graphite.

The result is, quite possibly, our most dangerous glass-filled design.

The Performer still is.

The Leach Graphite Performer was

one of the sport's first composites to successfully marry the awesome power of graphite and the flex of glass. Dark and deadly, it features a modified head, narrow throat and one of the biggest sweet spots in the sport.

There's not a single imitator that's its equal anywhere.

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Collectively, our Leach racquets are the winningest graphites on the pro tour. Bar none. With the largest selection of graphite racquets available from any single source.

But then, when it comes to graphite, only Leach can give you 100%. And more.

Because only Leach can give you a choice.



Leach Graphites: The Competitor, Bandido and Performer.



NUMBER ONE BY DESIGN™

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Seamco, Leach Aid NRC Tour

The National Racquetball Club (NRC) Pro/Am Racquetball Tour is sure to be a huge success, largely due to the tremendous support by its co-sponsors Leach Industries and Seamco Inc.

In addition to the fine support of these two firms, all sponsors who put their names to events a year ago are back in the fold for this current season. Those include Coors, Catalina, Kunnan Industries, Leach, and Seamco.

Seamco is the NRC's oldest pro tour sponsor, having been the first firm to donate funds for the prize money and promotion of the tour, dating back to 1975. Seamco continues to boost the NRC and USRA in every way imaginable.

Walter H. Eichelberger, Vice President of Marketing and all from the new Seamco, Inc. are looking forward to carrying on the fine tradition established by Al Mackie and the previous Seamco Sporting Goods Co.

The new Seamco group will be visiting and meeting with as many of the touring professionals and amateur players, to become acquainted and learn from them.

Walter H. Eichelberger helped to develop and market the famous green 70+ squash ball. This ball has taken over and dominated practically 100% of all squash play in America in the past 7 or 8 years because of its exceptional quality and excellent playing features. This same company worked with Robert W. Kendler and Bob Peters to perfect and develop the Bob Kendler family handball which has established a new era and a new group of players to handball.

Edward Marshall is the owner and President of the new Seamco, Inc. and their manufacturing plant. The Seamco, Inc. headquarters is located in Hatfield, PA a suburb of Philadelphia.

The new Seamco, Inc. is delighted to have Art Orloski as National Sales Manager, Marvin Konowitz as National Accounts manager and James Amick as Racquetball Promotion manager. All three were formerly with Seamco Sporting Goods.

Leach Industries, the third member of this triumvirate, is in its fourth season of sponsorship and was instrumental in the organization of the sponsorship structure the past two years.

"Charlie Drake (president of Leach) was able to help us increase the prize money nearly 110% this season," said Kendler, "just by a reorganization of the format. It took a lot of hard work and negotiating, but he got the job done."

The tour's final dollar figure will fall over \$300,000 in actual prize money distributed, along with nearly equal amount for promotion, publicity and implementation.

Ranking The Players

The NRC has devised an elaborate system of ranking the professional players. This system is based on a number of criteria, all of which are directed toward obtaining the most accurate reflection of the current skills of each player.

From this ranking the official draw for each tournament is conducted. Therefore, the key to a player's position in the draw in each tournament is largely dependent on his current ranking.

One of the goals of the NRC's ranking system is to accurately reflect the *current* abilities of each player. This conforms to the NRC's feeling that to allow players to build up tournament credentials over months and years would be unfair to those new players attempting to break into the higher ranks.

There are five categories, each counting 20% of the total from which the rankings are determined. These categories are labeled as follows: "Prize money," "Total Points Earned," "Average Points Earned," "Percentage of Victories," and "Current Season." Let's explore each one.

Prize Money

This category is self explanatory. The amount of prize money earned by each player is added up after each event, and this cumulative total then represents each player's amount. The players are then ranked within this category, from highest amount of prize money earned to lowest, and each player is given his or her corresponding number, i.e. 1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc. depending on how much money has been earned.

Total Points Earned

The NRC awards points based on performance, per round, in each tournament. The tournament winner receives 12 points, the runner-up 9, semi-finalists 7, quarter-finalists 5, round of 16 losers 3, and round of 32 losers 1. These points are then accumulated by each individual, similar to prize money and each player is given his corresponding number depending on where he ranks within his category.

Average Points Earned

In this category points are awarded similar to the "Total Points Earned" category except that the points are taken as an average per tournament played, rather than a cumulative

total. In this way players who are forced to miss tournaments due to injury or illness are not treated totally without mercy by the system.

Percentage of Victories

Similarly, this category is an average as all percentages are. Here the total number of matches played by each player (beginning with the round of 32 for both men and women) is tabulated with the number of victories. These totals are then added together and the percentage is taken.

In each of the above criteria, only the most recent five NRC tour events are tabulated.

With this in mind the overriding regulation concerning the ranking system is that only the most recent five tournaments are counted. In this way, a five tournament rotation system is established whereby those players currently playing well will be justly rewarded by a better ranking than those not doing as well.

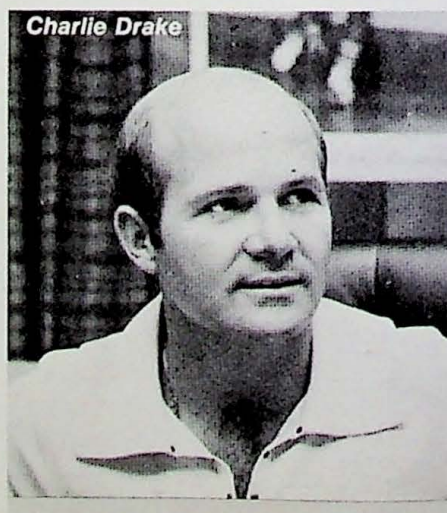
For an example, if Mr. Ace Serve was to win the first tournament of the season, he would be credited with that win throughout the first five events. When tournament number six rolls around, however, the credentials from tournament number one are not counted.

Current Season

The final category is a total of the first four, and is the only category not based on a five tournament rotation. Rather this category serves to put some weight on past performance and is a cumulative total of the first four categories throughout the season. After each event, the totals of each category are entered onto a master category which keeps a running total of each.

Finally, then, after each player is ranked within each category, the categories are then cross-added. For example, a player may be ranked 5 in "Prize Money," 4 in "Total Points Earned," 6 in "Average Points Earned," 5 in "Percentage," and 4 in "Current Season." This player's final ranking number (add them all together) is 24. All the players are added in this way, and wherever 24 falls in relation to the other players is the ranking.

The lower the number, the higher the ranking. For example, a perfect total would be 5. That player would be first in all categories and a series of 1's would add to 5.



Pro Rankings

Mike Yellen

Marty Hogan

(as of Coors Grand Prix I
Omaha, NE • Oct. 8-12)

1. Mike Yellen • Southfield, MI
2. Marty Hogan • St. Louis
3. Jerry Hilecher • St. Louis
4. Dave Peck • El Paso, TX
5. Don Thomas • Mesa, AZ
6. Steve Strandemo • San Diego
7. Lindsay Myers • San Diego
8. Craig McCoy • Riverside, CA
Rich Wagner • San Diego
10. Bruce Christensen • Nashua, NH
11. Ben Koltun • St. Louis
12. Dave Bledsoe • Kingsport, TN
13. Doug Cohen • St. Louis
14. Bob Bolan • Tempe, AZ
15. Gregg Peck • El Paso, TX
16. Charlie Brumfield • San Diego
17. Mark Morrow • Los Angeles
18. Scott Hawkins • Santa Clara, CA
19. John Egerman • Boise
Jeff Bowman • San Diego
21. Larry Meyers • Oceanside, CA
22. Dave Fleetwood • Memphis
23. Steve Serot • St. Louis
Gary Berberet • Buena Park, CA
25. Ross Harvey • Montreal
Mike Levine • Rochester, NY
Jerry Zuckerman • St. Louis
Kyle Kakalu • Provo, UT
Keith Dunlap • Memphis
30. Dennis McDowell • Bloomington, IL
31. Beaver Wickham • Oceanside, CA
32. Steve Mondry • San Diego



Residence: Southfield, MI **Sponsor:** Ektelon **Birthdate:** 2/3/60

Yellen was runnerup for the National championships for the second straight year to Marty Hogan last June, but prior to that he had two straight wins preceded by two semifinal showings . . . those wins included two straight victories over Hogan, in the finals at Beverly and the semis at Atlanta, an unprecedented feat in Hogan's five-year career . . . Yellen was the Rookie of the Year in 1977-78, was in the top ten most of his sophomore season and never out of it last year . . . known as a control player with a now considerable power game, Yellen stayed close to most of his victims last season, wore them down and finally out with his mistake free play and consistent pressure.



Hometown: St. Louis **Residence:** San Diego **Sponsor:** Leach Industries **Birthdate:** 1/22/58

This June won an unprecedented third straight National Championship . . . was the National runnerup in 1977 and '76, making him the only player to appear in five straight National championship matches . . . has been ranked one virtually without challenge from three straight years . . . has won 29 of the last 36 pro tour events he has entered, as well as more than a dozen non-tour events . . . the sport's all-time leading money winner, he won \$54,600 at tour events alone this season, more than double the second money winner . . . won five of eight events this year, was a finalist once and semifinalist twice . . . placed fifth in the U.S. Superstars competition this year after winning his preliminary round with a near-record score, then captured third in the World Superstars event . . . has played the game for 14 years after learning it from his mother at the St. Louis Jewish Community Center, which also developed players such as Hilecher, Koltun and Serot . . . his sister Linda, 17, is a five-time Junior National Champion . . . Hogan has almost single-handedly changed the nature of the game from control to power based on his overwhelming success with his assortment of highspeed shots and a serve which has been clocked at 142 m.p.h.

Jerry Hilecher



Hometown: St. Louis **Residence:** Solana Beach, CA **Birthdate:** 7/20/54

In five of nine events in 1979-80, Hilecher was runner-up or semifinalist . . . that, together with three second place finishes in the previous season, makes him one of the most consistent on the tour over the last two seasons . . . he has just one career victory in his seven years on the tour, but ranks third behind Brumfield on total money winnings . . . with Yellen had the most tie-breaker wins through the last season, 10, and the second-best tiebreaker win percentage, .692 . . . started playing racquetball with Hogan in suburban St. Louis more than 10 years ago . . . has done writing and television commentating on the game . . . Hilecher is known for his power game, the drive serve and the forehand being his main weapons.

Dave Peck



Residence: El Paso **Sponsor:** Ektelon **Birthdate:** 11/21/56

Peck highlighted his second year on the tour with two tour victories, at Memphis and San Francisco . . . Peck started the season ranked sixth, but after the first tournament he never fell below third . . . he also was runnerup to Hogan in three other events . . . he developed a reputation as a crowd pleaser by playing to the crowd and winning through the middle part of the season . . . Peck was Rookie of the Year in 1978-79 . . . the affable Texan was once an all-District schoolboy wrestler and played freshman football at UTEP . . . a noted teacher at home and on the road, he has several pupils who won National junior titles . . . Peck is an outstanding power player for whom shot selection and placement are also important.

Don Thomas



Hometown: Mesa, AZ **Residence:** San Diego **Sponsor:** Leach Industries **Birthdate:** 3/9/57

Now in his second year on the pro tour, he jumped from 19th to fifth this season, the greatest improvement in position among players on the tour a year or more . . . three semifinal and four quarterfinal finishes this season firmly established him among the top eight touring pros throughout the year . . . finished the season in money winnings with \$8,425 . . . a top-flight all-around high school athlete, he picked up racquetball only four years ago as opposed to an average of almost 10 years for most other pros . . . Thomas is a power player who places emphasis on shot selection, a hedge toward the control game . . . "power with a purpose" is his name for it.

Steve Strandemo



Hometown: Kenyon, MN **Residence:** San Diego **Sponsor:** Head **Birthdate:** 3/4/48

The most consistent performer on the NRC tour last season, Strandemo chalked up seven semifinal showings in nine outings . . . he was ranked either fifth or sixth through the entire season . . . he lost just one match all year to a player ranked lower than he was, a feat matched only by Peck . . . a charter member of the pro tour, he was runner-up to Brumfield in the '75 Nationals and won the first stop of the '77-'78 season after beating Hogan in the quarters . . . perhaps the busiest off-season racquetball instructor on the circuit, he has also written extensively on the game . . . Strandemo is one of the few control players left in the game, and his experience gives him a decided advantage against most of the younger but stronger players.

Lindsay Myers



Hometown: Vancouver, British Columbia **Residence:** San Diego **Sponsor:** Leach Industries **Birthdate:** 2/11/59

The dominant player in Canada, Myers has won six National titles there since 1977 . . . now in just his second year on the pro tour, he finishes the year ranked 19th, a sixplace improvement over the close of his rookie season . . . his best tour showing was a semifinal appearance at the Catalina Classic East in Atlanta . . . he won the 1979 Voit Pro-Am title and the 1978 IRA championship . . . a versatile natural athlete, he finished third in the Canadian Superstars event last year . . . currently on his way toward a business degree at Mesa College in San Diego . . . a serve and shoot player whose hustling retrieving game makes him a threat every time out.

Craig McCoy



Residence: Riverside, CA **Sponsor:** Leach Industries **Birthdate:** 2/20/57

McCoy struggled through a disappointing year yet lost only one spot on the rankings through the course of the season, finishing 11th on the list . . . a four-year veteran of the tour, the game's most effective lefthander made the quarterfinals once and the Round of 16 six times . . . a back injury slowed him early through the first half of the season . . . last season was his best, when he placed in the semis three times and lost to Hogan there in the Nationals . . . in his first year as a pro, he teamed with Brumfield to take the National doubles title . . . he also won the '74 California doubles title with Keeley . . . a power player who began as a control player years ago, his strength is in his service game.

Rich Wagner



Hometown: Patterson, NJ **Residence:** San Diego, CA **Birthdate:** 2-11-56

Rich Wagner is back. After experiencing a terrible 1979-80 tour season Wagner has regrouped his "cat" like quickness and retrieving ability as well as his superb serve and shoot game. Although plagued by an inconsistent first serve Wags seems to make up for it with his retrieving ability and his deadly backwall forehand kill. He's come a long way in his six years on the tour and will be a factor for time to come. Currently in the top 10 Wagner hopes to be a consistent semi-finalist. Just how much further he can go than that is a function of his desire and concentration. He has the skill to do both and the support of virtually every audience.

Bruce Christensen



Hometown: Nashua, NH **Residence:** San Diego, CA **Birthdate:** 4-29-61
Sponsor: Leach Industries

Known as the "New Hampshire Cannon," Christensen blasts like no other on the tour. His game marked by an extremely powerful serve, this southpaw presents fits to everyone he comes against. Working on agility and quickness to enhance his overall game will prove advantageous in months to come. Having come from an unranked position to a number 10 spot indicates he is on the move. In his second full year on the tour, Christensen is a force to be reckoned with.

Ben Koltun



Hometown: St. Louis **Residence:** St. Louis **Sponsor:** Leach Industries
Birthdate: 2/3/58

Ranked seventh after the close of the 1979-80 season, Koltun hasn't slipped from the top ten in two full years . . . a consistent quarter-finalist this season despite being hampered with an ankle injury early in the season . . . Rookie of the year in 1976-77 . . . won the National Amateur championship in 1976 and the first-ever Junior National title in 1975 . . . began playing with Hogan, Hilecher and others in suburban St. Louis nearly 10 years ago . . . has partially completed business degree program at Meremac College . . . known as one of the fearless shooters in the game today, and has a good serve and retrieving game.

Dave Bledsoe



Hometown: Kingsport, TN
Residence: Aurora, CO **Birthdate:**
 3-7-51 **Sponsor:** Wilson

Now in his sixth year on tour, this former 1977 National Champion is trying to shake off some discouraging and disappointing seasons. His game, marked by quickness and speed as well as convincing power is on a comeback. Currently ranked among the top 12, Bledsoe is capable of going all the way however inconsistencies plague him. If he will be able to regain the intensity and drive reminiscent of 1977 remains to be seen. Looking for his first pro tour stop victory in several seasons—Bledsoe still remains a threat.

Doug Cohen



Residence: St. Louis **Sponsor:** Head
Birthdate: 2/20/60

The 1979-80 Rookie of the Year, Cohen jumped 23 places to finish the season ranked ninth, the greatest improvement on the tour . . . he also earned the Leach/Seamco Scholarship Award . . . the righthander made the quarter-finals twice, beating Bledsoe in Los Angeles and Hilecher in Beverly . . . also played the 16's three times . . . graduated from high school last spring . . . like Hogan, Hilecher and Koltum, he started playing in St. Louis JCC . . . like those others, Cohen is a serve and shoot player with good hustle and power.

Bob Bolan



Hometown: Tempe, AZ **Residence:**
 San Diego, CA **Birthdate:** 11-7-58
Sponsor: Leach Industries

This 1979 USRA National Open Champion, pound for pound is one of the hardest hitters in the game. Bob possesses natural ability and skill helping bring him to the quarter finals in his first two outings of his new 1980-81 season . . . The winner of the Leach-Seamco Scholarship award, realizing his potential is playing with more desire and intensity hoping to improve his current number 14 ranking. His game is predominantly a serve and shoot style, however he knows how to play under pressure with impressive tie breaker performances.

Gregg Peck



Hometown: El Paso, TX **Birthdate:** 9-28-63 **Sponsor:** Leach Industries

This younger brother of the current number 4 ranked player in the world, the 1980 USRA National Junior Champion is now ranked number 15. Coming from virtually an unranked position Gregg, though qualifying at numerous pro stops, has been able to do in a short period of time what so many others have been unable to—beat the Champion. Young Peck in the Coors Grand Prix I event not only qualified but beat Bledsoe, McCoy and Hogan (11-10 tie breaker) in that order to help catapult him to his newly acquired position. Current champions not presenting him with a problem. Gregg also upset the current 1980 USRA Mens Open Champion Brett Harnett to win the Junior Crown . . . His game is strong with powerful forehands and serves keeping his opponent off balance. More improvement in his stamina and agility will only make him more and more of a threat as Gregg continues to improve with each performance.

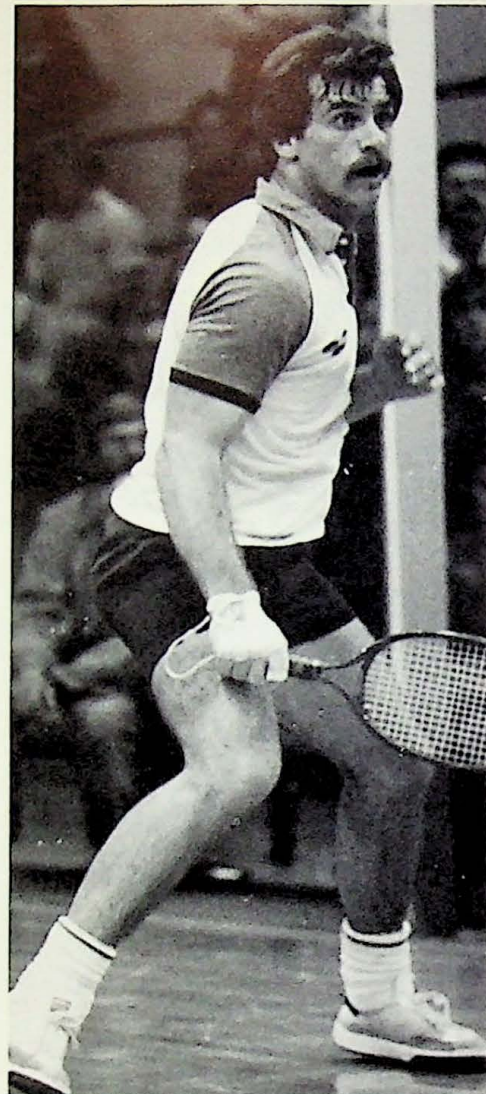
Charlie Brumfield



Residence: San Diego, CA **Sponsor:** Leach Industries **Birthdate:** 6/9/48

One of the only three pro players who finished the season in the same position he started, eight, in Brumfield's case . . . the five-time National champion is truly one of the dominant players in the history of the game . . . he's the only player to win major pro events in three decades . . . he made the switch from paddleball to racquetball when the latter rose in popularity in the late '60s, and deserves credit for developing many of the shots and strategies still used in the game today . . . his best showing this year was in the King's Bank of Newport semis where he lost to Peck in three games . . . holds a law degree from the University of San Diego . . . a popular columnist and television commentator on the game . . . Brumfield is the master control player and has stayed with that style despite the popular shift from control to power.

Mark Morrow



Residence: Hawthorne, CA
Birthdate: 6-21-52

Hard hitting righty who displays desire and intensity each time out. Game has shown improvement in recent events with some narrow losses keeping him from breaking into the top ten. This four year tour veteran displays an aggressive and entertaining game style. He could use a break to reach the quarters.

Scott Hawkins

John Eggerman

Larry Meyers



Residence: Santa Clara, CA **Birthdate:** 12-14-60 **Sponsor:** Ektelon

Scott Hawkins the 1978 National Juniors champ currently enjoying the Number 18 position shows the promise and skills of becoming a top 10 contender with the help of the draw. He's had to face Hogan and other top 4 players many times out, making it difficult to be able to generate the much needed confidence to progress. Crisp accurate forehand kills and hard serves mark his over all convincing game style. Having been the recipient of scholarship funding as a result of his racquetball talent, this college student poses a threat to anyone he faces on the court.



Hometown: Boise, ID **Birthdate:** 7-25-62 **Sponsor:** Ektelon

Like others before him this former National Junior Champion possesses the skill and desire to be a future superstar. Poise and control as well as his shooting and retrieving ability are impressive chemicals bonding Eggerman into a complete professional. Continued experience and a break should raise his current number 19 rank to consistent quarter final performances. He's had close encounters with those he's ranked above him. Confidence in his own ability the only ingredient needing work.



Hometown: Oceanside, CA **Residence:** San Marco, CA **Birthdate:** 11-7-59. **Sponsor:** Wilson

This deceptive 1977 National Junior Champion, currently ranked Number 21 is looking to break back into the top twelve, as he enjoyed this position last season. In the eyes of many, one of the most underrated pro players in the game Larry's picture perfect execution and surprising quickness has proven to be the nemesis to many above him in rank. Although he's played brilliantly against the likes of Hogan, Yellen, Bledsoe and Brumfield, Meyers needs more consistency to help develop his own confidence. Entering his fourth season Meyers is still looking for a pro tour victory.

The National Racquetball Club, governing body of professional racquetball, is best known for organizing the annual professional tour from September through June.

The tour, which began in the fall of 1973 with no sponsor and a total of \$20,000 in prize money, now has the support of eight sponsors and over \$300,000 available to pro tour winners.

A wide geographical range of tour locations gives racquetball fans around the country a chance to see live professional play, with special consideration given to those areas recognized as "racquetball hotbeds." Each year facilities in all parts of the country offer their racquetball centers as pro tour stops. Once chosen the host facility puts in months of preparation to guarantee that the event is well attended and is hospitable to players and spectators.

Although the tour is highlighted by the professionals, the tournaments are open to any player who desires to try his or her game against the best. Such players go through a qualification event prior to the tournament, and those who reach the pro level can match their shots, on the court, with the greats of the game.

In 1973 Bob Kendler organized the United States Racquetball Association to govern amateur racquetball in this country. The USRA publishes the official rules, puts out its monthly magazine—*National Racquetball*, aids affiliate groups in all 50 states and sponsors more than 500 tournaments ranging from local events to the National Championships held each June.

The USRA rule book, which is revised annually, is free to all Association members and is available through state affiliates or at USRA headquarters.

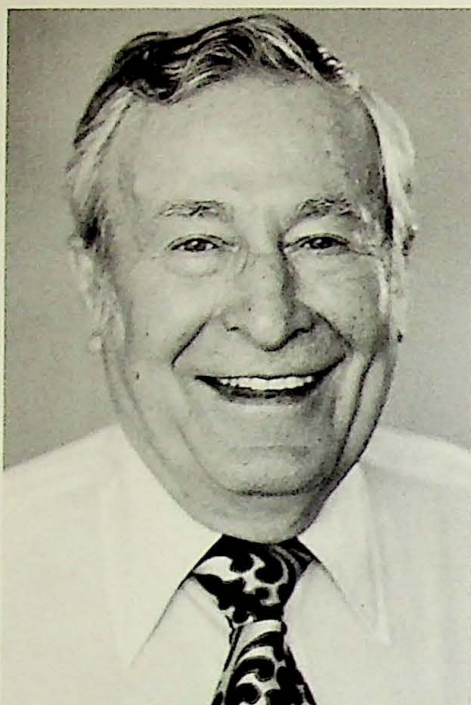
National Racquetball magazine, also free to USRA members, each month provides instruction by top pros, amateur and professional tournament results, news of state affiliates, court club features and stories about celebrities and other newsworthy people who play racquetball.

USRA affiliates, run by volunteers in each state, sanction tournaments for men, women and juniors. Players and officials at USRA sanctioned tournaments are eligible for free balls, shirts, draw sheets, rule books and other materials in the USRA tournament package.

The USRA sponsors 15 Regional Championships each year, and pays the full air fare round trip to the Nationals for the men and women Open Singles Regional winners.

In the summer of 1979 the USRA began sponsoring 15 Junior Regionals with winners advancing to the National Juniors Championships in August.

The USRA is an amateur organization, with no player who has accepted more than \$1,000 or more in prize money in the previous 12 months eligible to play in USRA events.



Bob Kendler, President and founder of both the United States Racquetball Association and the National Racquetball Club, is the one person most responsible for the growth and improvement of racquetball.

A multimillionaire Chicago real estate developer Kendler began his court career before racquetball ever was imagined, forming the United States Handball Association in 1951. Kendler paved the way for the original racquetball players by encouraging handballers to let the new players on their courts. Recognizing the potential of the young sport Kendler formed the first racquetball association in 1968, then five years later organized the USRA and NRC.

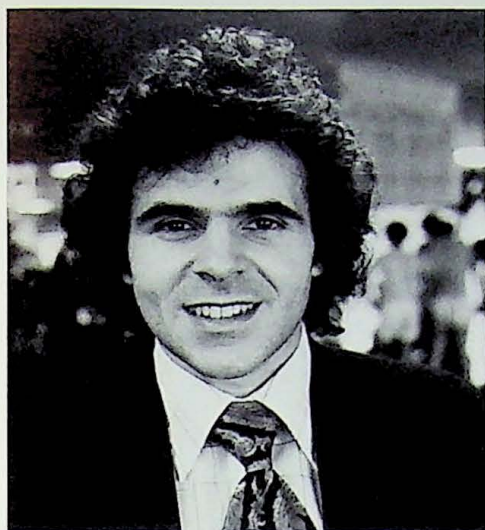
Though often involved in high finance Kendler finds no question or idea too small to consider. He enjoys talking with USRA members and professional players. If you want to speak to the person who gets things done in racquetball, dial 312-673-4000 and ask for Bob Kendler.



Joe Ardito, Business Manager of NRC and National Commissioner of the USRA, is the man who hands out the checks after each money match.

A person who knows how to make a tournament run smoothly Ardito began his work in handball over 20 years ago and moved over to racquetball in 1973 to help operate the new NRC. Ardito is advertising director of *National Racquetball* magazine and liaison between the USRA and NRC and the racquetball industry.

Ardito's focus on the people end of racquetball ranges from being the firm enforcer of NRC rules and policies to helping develop a strong Juniors program that has produced some of the game's top pros.



Dan Bertolucci, National Director of the NRC, first joined the NRC/USRA team as Associate Coordinator in 1977. His primary duties include the organization of the annual professional tour, serving as chief liaison between NRC/USRA headquarters and the clubs hosting tournaments. He also referees at pro tour stops, where he's a regular competitor.

Bertolucci learned to play racquetball at Northern Illinois University, where he earned degrees in psychology and biology. His PROfiles and "What's the Call? Ask an Expert" are popular features of *National Racquetball* magazine.

. . . and what they mean

New spectators to racquetball matches often hear words and terms either unfamiliar to them, or confusing, especially if such terms are not found in the rule book. Additionally, certain rituals occur during a racquetball game that whether covered by the rules or not — are an integral part of any match.

Here then, are a collection of such terms and situations, to help you racquetball spectators better enjoy yourselves.

When the referee calls . . .

Hinder! It immediately stops play at that moment, voiding any occurrence thereafter, including the ball hitting an opponent. A hinder rally is re-played in its entirety with no penalty.

Screen! A screen is a serve which passes so close to the server's body that in the referee's opinion, a fair opportunity to return the serve was not given to the receiver. No penalty, re-played.

Skip! A shot that hits the floor before it hits the front wall ending the rally and causing the player hitting the shot to lose the rally.

Down Ball! A skip that hits close to the hitting player's feet usually in deep court.

Two! Synonymous with double bounce pick-up, but a lot easier to say. It's the referee's call.

Check The Ball! Whenever the referee believes the ball has become wet, accidentally or not, during the course of play or after a rally. The referee will ask *check the ball, please* and the server will then toss the ball to the receiver for inspection. If the ball is wet, the receiver will dry it and toss it back to the server. The referee may also ask for the ball to be checked if it leaves the court or if he believes that the ball might be broken. All *check the ball calls* by the referee occur after the rally while the ball is not in play.

Broken Ball! If the ball should break during the rally, the rally is re-played. If the rally is over and the ball is found to be broken the previous rally is re-played. If however, the ball is put in play, beginning another rally, no broken ball replay may be awarded for the previous rally. Also if the ball is struck by a player after the rally, causing the ball to break, the previous rally is not re-played.

Racquet Up! Rather than a call, this is a signal from the receiver that he requests the full 10 seconds the rules allot him to prepare to receive serve. If the receiver has his racquet up prior to the beginning of the serve any served ball at that juncture is re-served without penalty. However, if the score has been called by the referee and the server has visually checked the receiver's readiness and no racquet is up, the serve is legal and must be returned by the receiver.

Short! A serve which strikes the floor before passing the short line. Normally a referee will say, *Short, take one*, or *Short, second serve*, because the server is allowed two chances to serve the ball legally (there are exceptions, check the rule book).

Avoidable! An avoidable is short for avoidable hinder, a hinder that in the referee's opinion could have been avoided had the offending player either moved out of the way, or not moved in the way of his opponent of his opponent's shot. One of the more controversial calls in racquetball, an avoidable hinder loses the rally for the offending player.

When you hear . . .

Air Horn! When the air horn is blown by either of the two linesmen, it signals a foot fault on the part of the server. The serve is then treated as if it was short, allowing the server one more chance to serve legally. Either linesmen or the referee may call a foot fault and it is not appealable.

Appeal! Any player can appeal certain calls during a match, if in his or her opinion the referee was in error. Those certain calls are skip, short (or long — a serve that hits the back wall on the fly), or double bounce.

The tiebreaker . . .

A few rule differences occur when a match enters the third game (tie-breaker), made necessary if the players or teams each win one of the first two games. Those rules are:

1. The third game (tie-breaker) is played to 11 points.
2. The player or team having scored more points in the first two games combined serves first in the tie-breaker.
3. If the number of points scored in the first two games is equal, a coin is flipped to determine first service.
4. Two time outs per player or team.
5. As in 21 point games a single point is all the margin of victory need be (11-10).

For more information write the National Racquetball Club, 4101 Dempster St., Skokie, IL 60076 or phone 312-673-4000.

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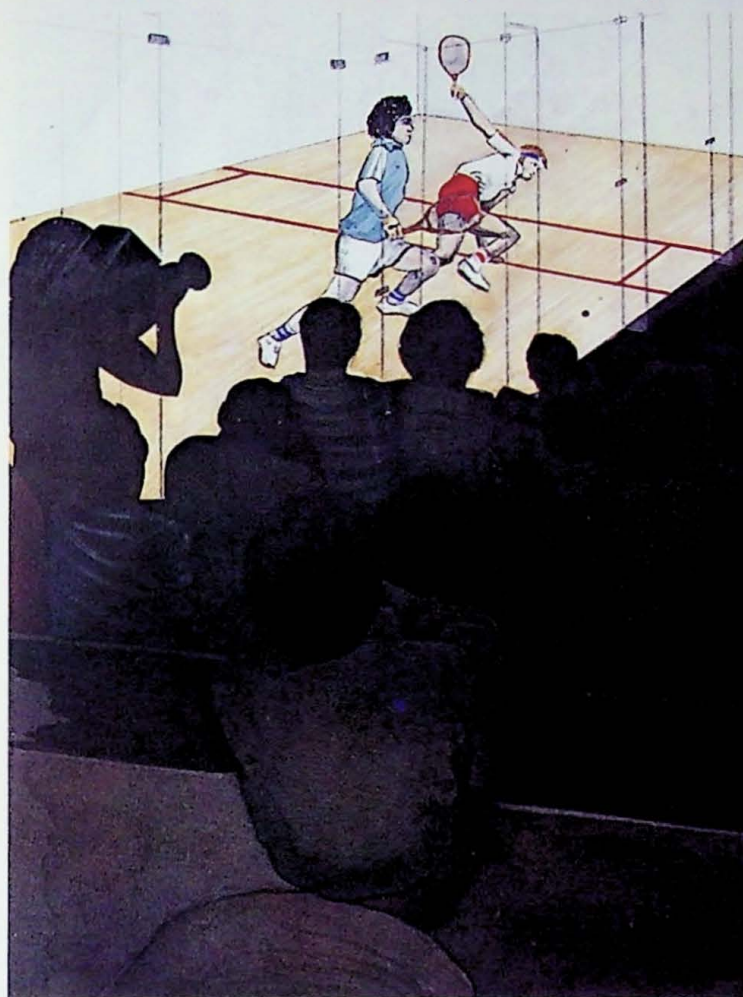
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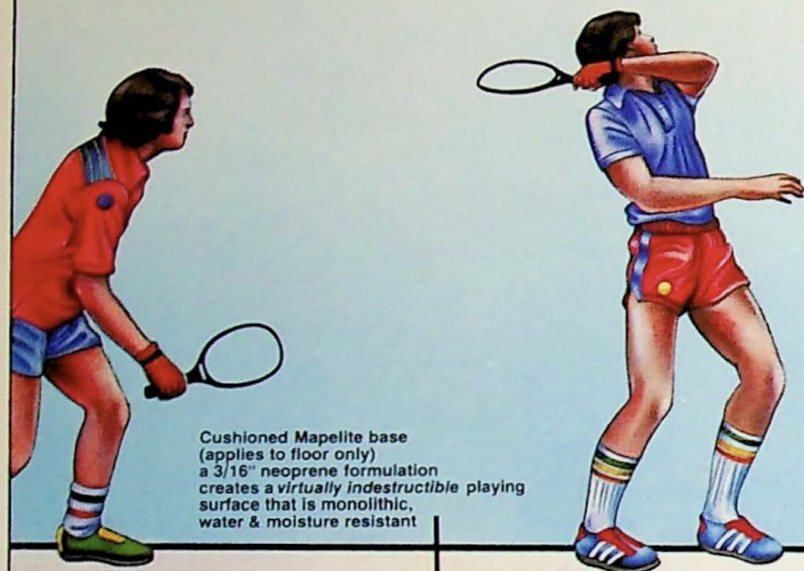


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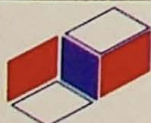
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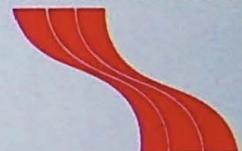
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