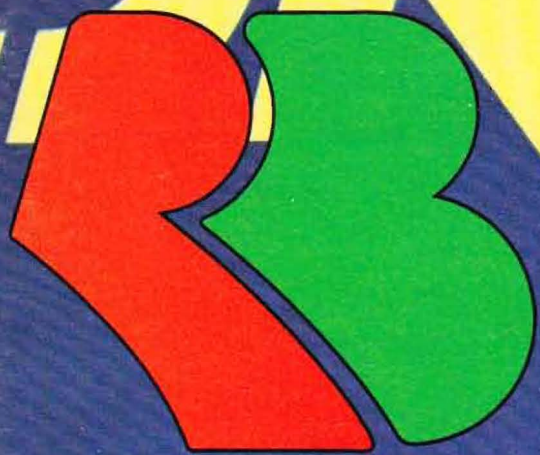


INTERNATIONAL



RACQUETBALL

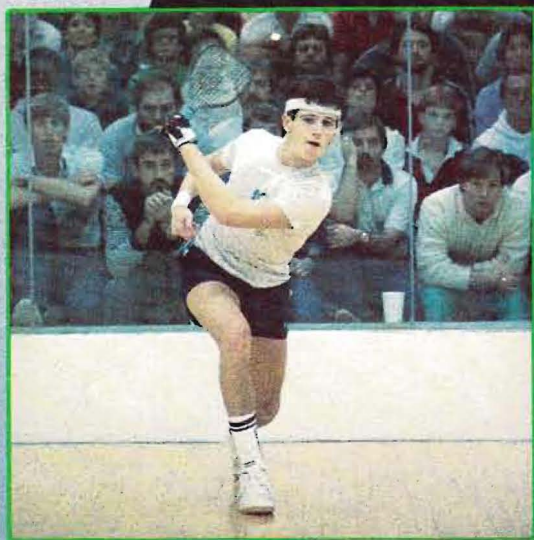
March 1985 Vol. 3 No. 3 Issue #20 \$2.00

Mike Yellen

Racquetball's Million
Dollar Man

CLIFF SWAIN:

WINS IN TULSA
VAULTS TO #10



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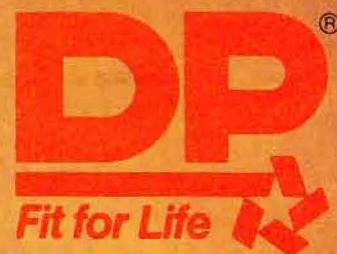
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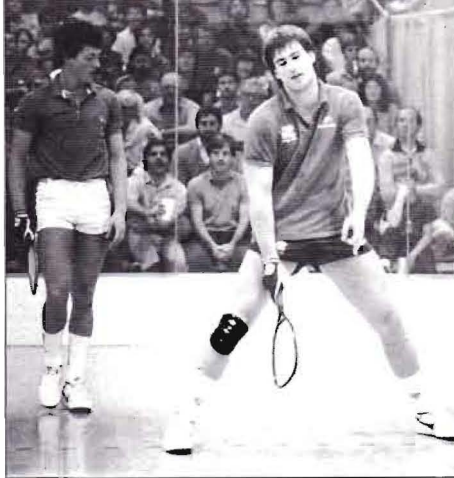
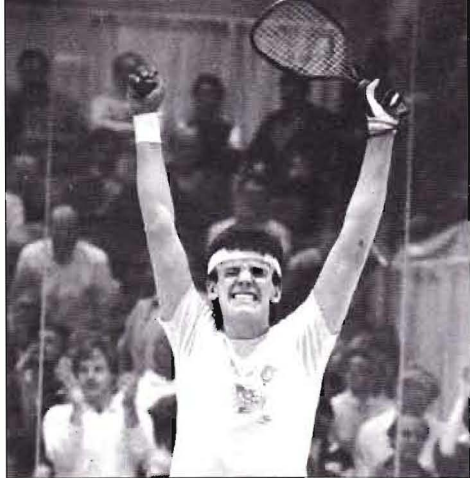
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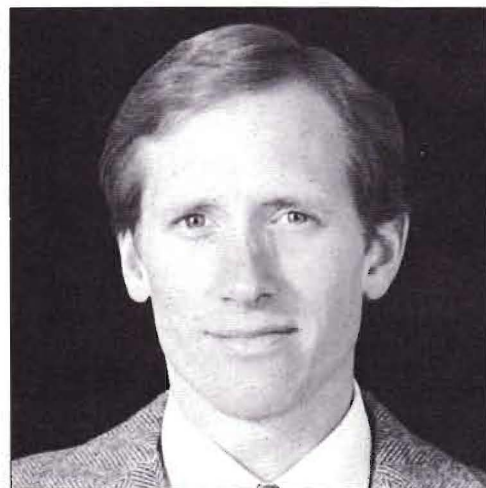
VOL. 3 NO. 3 ISSUE #20

Table of Contents

March 1985



**INTERNATIONAL
RACQUETBALL**



Important Changes	The Editor's Column	Page 4
A New Challenge	by Drew Stoddard	Page 6
In The News	Familiar Faces and New Products	Page 8
Cover Story: Million Dollar Man	Mike Yellen Signs Historic Contract	Page 12
Tournament: Hogan Shines In Arizona	Pro Tournament Coverage	Page 14
Lerner Grabs Winter Shootout	Tournament Coverage	Page 20
A Fresh Start	Views From The New Commissioner	Page 22
The Greatest	by Jerry Hilecher	Page 24
Cover Story: Swain Thinks Oklahoma Is O.K.	Swain Wins In Tulsa	Page 26
Instruction: Shots For An All Around Game	Strandemo & Bruns	Page 33
Schedule of Events		Page 36
Current Rankings		Page 38

Second class postage paid at Reno, Nevada and additional offices. POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO: INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL, P.O. BOX 7548, RENO, NEVADA 89510.

International Racquetball (ISSN 0746-6145) is published September through May and August (Summer issue) from our editorial offices at 575 Mill Street in Reno, Nevada - 89502. Subscriptions for U.S. and Territories \$24 for 12 issues. Foreign subscriptions, \$30 U.S. currency for Canada and Mexico and \$36 U.S. currency for 12 issues. Mail your subscriptions to our P.O. Box.

Editor/Managing Editor—Jason Holloman; **General Manager**—Bill Stoddard; **Associate Editor**—John Barlow; **Contributing Editors**—Jerry Hilecher and Steve Strandemo. Advertising inquiries should be sent to Jason Holloman or call (702) 329-4511 during business hours. All rights reserved. Copyright 1985 International Racquetball. Opinions expressed by authors and claims asserted by advertisers do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the publishers.

Jason Holloman

An Important Change



As you can see by the banner at the top of this column, I am now the Editor of International Racquetball Magazine. Of course, if you look at it from my point of view, not only am I the Editor, but the Managing Editor/Publisher/Get Everything Done Yesterday Man. "What," you may ask, "happened to Drew Stoddard," your fabulous Editor of issues past?" Yes. What did happen to Drew? It's a very good question and one I'm going to answer right now.

Racquetball happened to Drew Stoddard. It happened to him in a very big way, and you and I should be very thankful that it did. You see, Drew has just been hired through the RMA (Racquetball Manufacturers Association) to be the Commissioner over men's professional racquetball. His official duties began

February 4th and, of course, everybody was on his case by the 5th. Seems like there hasn't been anyone in that particular position for a couple of years now and there is a "small" backlog of things to get done.

Obviously, there is a conflict of interest for Drew to be an Editor of International Racquetball Magazine and a Commissioner at the same time.

Something had to give and it was IRB. So, Drew is doing a lateral soft-shoe into the Commissioner's office. I've lost one heck of an Editor and sports writer, but the sport of racquetball has gained a very experienced and diplomatic leader.

I wish you could have been here to see how fired up Drew has been. In his proposal to the RMA about how to organize his office and the men's pro tour, I beheld what I believe to be a manifesto of racquetball's future and it is exciting. I believe that within 18 months you are going to see some super changes. Oh, I don't think you're going to see much change as far as the game is concerned, but you will see a drastic difference in the way racquetball is presented to the public, in the attitude of its professional players, in the prize money available, and more.

I got a call from a well-known champion, Dr. Bud Muelheisen and he told me, "You know, Jason, you should put Drew on the cover." I mulled that over and I came to the conclusion that even though Drew deserves a cover for his hard work and loyalty to the sport, he has really only just begun. I remember what he told me the other day. We were discussing the future of the sport and he mentioned that he was a little nervous about the responsibility of his office. He said, "People in a few years are going to look back on what I have done for racquetball. I want my involvement to make a positive effect on racquetball's future." The position of Commissioner is just that, a position. Unless he has cooperation with all his decision-making peers, it is an empty title. So, in considering a cover spot for Drew, I think I'll give him a chance to give the story a little more depth and a few more successes.

The staff here at International Racquetball wishes Drew all the luck in the world. And, though we will miss his administrative capabilities, we will continue to see him in our pages in our new Commissioner's Column. It will appear, as usual, just after my column. That's the status quo anyway—I have always had the first word and Drew, bless his little Machiavellian soul, has always had the last.

* * * * *

There are two great tournament coverages in this issue—the Arizona Pro-Am and the Tulsa Open. The Arizona Pro-Am was held in Phoenix and, from what I understand, no one complained about the weather. Hard duty, huh? All that sunshine when the rest of the country is freezing. . . . As you will see from the photo coverage, the Arizona Athletic Club had an excellent exhibition court.

The Tulsa stop had a little colder weather but the play was just as hot as in Arizona. A very surprising tournament and one of historical interest as you will see when you read the coverage. Our compliments to the tournament director from both these events—they put on a first class show. Both stops will probably return next year.

Our News page has undergone a face-lift and will now be called In The News. If you happen to hear a story like some of the ones that appear in In The News, send 'em in.

Congratulations from IRB to Mike Yellen! The story on Ektelon's historical contract on page 12 is a historical marker for racquetball and it couldn't happen to a better athlete. I have always thought that Mike has not received the media coverage he earned with his National Championships. Perhaps that will change now.

Check out Jerry Hilecher's "The Greatest" for a run-down on who is the player with the greatest desire to win and read Strandemo's latest tips on shots for an overall better game. The new rankings for the men pros and amateurs are in, too.

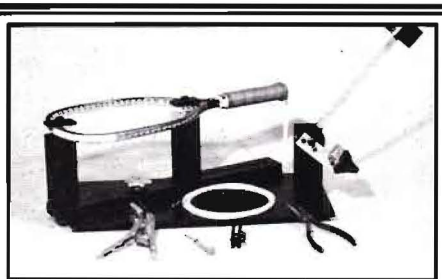
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Drew Stoddard

A New Challenge



It is with great pleasure, and more than a little humility, that I address you for the first time as Commissioner of men's professional racquetball.

I want to take this opportunity to talk to you about the current state and future direction of the professional game. In the last year or so, there has developed a perception in the sport of racquetball that the pro game has gone stagnant. That is far from true, but the perception is understandable because there has been precious little information available in the racquetball media about the confidential maneuverings and negotiations that have been taking place behind the scenes.

That dearth of information has been as frustrating for me as it has been for many of you. As one of those who was responsible, in my past position, for keeping the sport informed, I assure you that trying to do my job well, and yet help racquetball develop at the same time, has given me a new appreciation for the dilemma faced by every journalist.

But now that difficult transition period is passed. Professional racquetball has been successfully restructured, and I am

convinced that the predictions you've heard about the imminent rebirth of the pro game are about to become a reality.

In May of 1983, at a spirited meeting in Anaheim, California, the nucleus of a new organization was formed by representatives of Ektelon, Diversified Products, Penn, Voit, and Wilson, that would become known as the Racquetball Manufacturers Association. The purpose of the RMA was to provide for a forum wherein the giants of the racquetball industry could correlate their efforts to generally promote racquetball to the world, and to give direction to the growth of the sport.

One of the first priorities of the RMA was to bring order to the professional arm of the sport which, at that time, was headed at frightening speed into a period of total chaos.

Over the past 18 months the RMA Board of Directors has met numerous times to discuss how best to structure the pro game. Late last year they decided to establish an Office of the Commissioner at the RMA headquarters in Florida, and to hire a Commissioner to administrate the pro tour under the direction of the RMA Board. They asked that I resign from my then current position and serve in that capacity, and I agreed.

As Commissioner, I have been charged with three general responsibilities:

1. Assemble and administrate the RMA Pro Racquetball Tour for the remainder of the 1984-85 professional season, and the entire 1985-86 season.

2. Bring order to the technical operation of the pro game by working with the players to establish and put on paper virtually every procedure and rule by which the pro tour will be run, and the pro game will be played.

3. Work as quickly as possible to expand the pro tour in terms of prize money and visibility by soliciting national sponsorship, and securing national television contracts.

Obviously, the RMA would not spend the amount of time and money they continue to direct into professional racquetball if they did not feel those three goals

were attainable. And had I not been absolutely certain that the job was doable, I would never have accepted it.

The spring schedule for the remainder of this pro season is set, and that schedule will be published regularly in the racquetball news media. I am currently working with the players to firm up the rules and procedures for pro tournaments, and that effort should be complete within a couple of months. (Incredible as it seems, pro racquetball has been played for nearly four years without a printed set of rules!)

Much of the work has already been done for next season's schedule. While the actual sites and dates have not yet been assigned, the 1985-86 RMA Pro Racquetball Tour will consist of eleven ranking stops; nine tournaments combined with the existing Ektelon and DP National Championships. Total prize money will amount to approximately \$230,000, compared to about \$175,000 this year.

All ranking tournaments will be open to all players. It is a great pleasure to tell you that the members of the RMA unanimously agree that henceforth, the only factor determining how high a player can go in pro racquetball will be his ability to play the game.

Much of the RMA Pro Tour itself is being constructed of independently organized and funded pro events. Since the schedule will be finalized around the first of May, I strongly urge any group or club interested in securing one of the nine ranking spots on the schedule to contact me immediately at the following address:

Drew Stoddard
Commissioner, RMA Pro Tour
200 Castlewood Dr.
North Palm Beach, FL 33408

In the coming months I will keep you informed of the progress and direction of the pro tour in this column. It is an honor to serve in the one area of racquetball that I have always loved the most. It is a pleasure to work with a group of individuals as dedicated and farsighted as the RMA. I ask for your assistance, suggestions, and support as we go forward. ●

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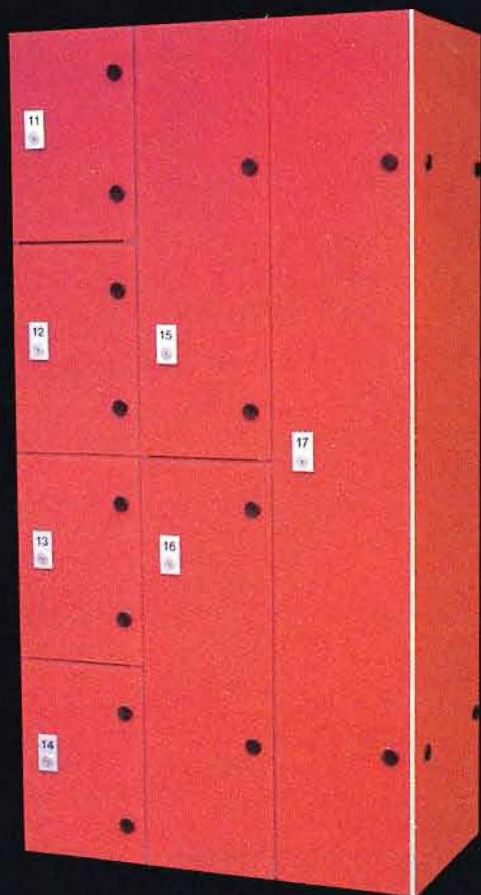
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In The News

\$19,700 Toyota/Head Pro-Am Scheduled for Baltimore

The Merritt Racquetball and Fitness Center in Baltimore, where Pro-Am stop is scheduled for April 17-21, has just announced that the top prize in the pro division will be a Toyota Mini-van. Including cash awards down through the 16's, that means the total purse has been raised to an estimated \$19,700, making it the third largest men's pro stop of the 1984-85 season.

Head Racquet Sports will be supplying personalized monogrammed Head Team racquet bags to all qualifying amateur players which are estimated to be between 250 to 275 players. The official ball for the tournament will be the RAM ball.

For more information about the 1985 Toyota/Head Pro-Am, contact Mr. David Pivec (301) 532-2250. ●

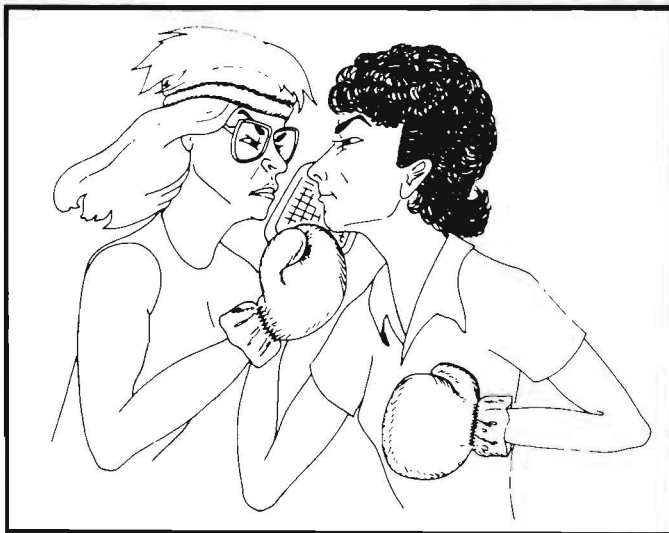


Take a Bet with "The Brum"

Whatever happened to Charlie "The Brum" Brumfield? Well, according to Dr. "Bud" Muelheisen, the perennial National Champion is still up to his old tricks. Mr. Brumfield is a lawyer now (a very busy one, too, says Bud) but he still finds time to bat a few around the court. The trouble is, he can't find any good competition.

"He's still real hard to beat," commented National Champion Bud Muelheisen, "and in order to give himself a good game, he's taken to handicapping him-

Washington Stop Hosts Doubles Grudge Match



It's being billed as an "exhibition" match, but in the minds of at least two of the players, the term "grudge" is a more appropriate adjective. In the last few years, when the WPRA has had a doubles competition, all too often the participants in the final consist of Lynn Adams and Terri Gilreath against Vicki Panzeri and Bonnie Stoll. That has certainly been the case in the last two WPRA National Doubles Championships, and every time these four have gone into the court in doubles competition, Lynn and Terri have emerged the victors, a fact that has ever irritated Vicki and Bonnie. For months, maybe longer, this irritation has festered until they could stand it no longer. Consequently, on March

self with some pretty weird schemes."

First, so the story goes, Charlie switched to the old wooden paddle racquets as a way to handicap his game. When no one could beat him that way, he switched hands. Now, he's taking bets on anyone who would like to beat him at his new handicap—he plays with a regular racquet, yes, but, it still has the racquet cover on it! ●

11, 1985 Vicki Panzeri and Bonnie Stoll have announced the "Grudge Match of the Century," starring (drum roll please) Vicki Panzeri and Bonnie Stoll against their formidable opponents, Lynn Adams and Terri Gilreath.

According to Vicki, Bonnie wanted to be ranked #1 in doubles this year and to do that they need to practice. Even though this won't count as a ranking WPRA doubles event, if they can win, it will certainly be an injection of confidence for future matches.

"If we can beat Lynn and Terri, we can beat anyone," Vicki said. She also indicated that they might have a slight edge in this event—Vicki will be playing in front of a home town crowd. They also have a name—"The Head Team"—since both are sponsored by Head. At a slight disadvantage in that department, Lynn and Terri will be using only their own names since their sponsors' names, Ektelon and DP, don't really conjugate into quite the athletic poetry as "The Head Team."

This match will be played concurrently with the WPRA's pro stop in the Seattle Club in Seattle, Washington. ●

1985 Intercollegiate Tournament Scheduled

The thirteenth annual AARA Intercollegiate Racquetball Championships will take place April 12-14, in Memphis, Tennessee. According to Intercollegiate Commissioner, Larry Lyles, this amateur stop will host between 250 and 300 students from over 50 colleges around the country all competing for their share of the yet to be determined scholarship fund. Also, first place winners in the men's and women's open divisions will join the USA National Team.

A formal banquet will be held Saturday night where players and coaches will be treated to, of course, dinner—they will also enjoy talks and encouragement from tournament sponsors. Sponsors will also be supplying door prizes and other give-aways. An awards ceremony will be held Sunday after the finals.

Applications will be furnished through the AARA. For further information contact:

Luke St. Onge
303-635-5396 ●



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In The News

Power and Control in Ektelon's New Hand-Laid Composite Optima Graphite

Ektelon has introduced the powerful and lightweight hand-laid composite Optima Graphite to the most comprehensive line of racquetball racquets on the market today.

The Optima Graphite contains specially-oriented graphite fibers wrapped around a solid graphite core to generate power and snap on impact. The Optima Graphite's teardrop headshape, Wishbone frame and Sunburst String Pattern combine to enlarge the "sweet spot" resulting in increased control and racquet responsiveness. The 240 gram, head-light racquet is geared toward the intermediate through tournament level player who desires extra power in a racquet.

Ektelon's Optima Graphite, which comes with a full-cover carrying case, is available in

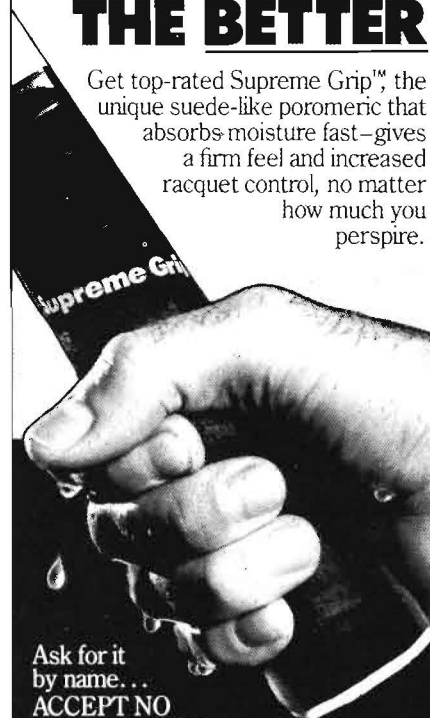


four handle sizes: super small (3-11/16"), extra-small (3-15/16"), small (4-1/8") and flared. The racquet features a full one-year warranty and is covered by Ektelon's 90-day string warranty.

Ektelon, headquartered in San Diego, is a subsidiary of Brown-ing, Morgan, Utah. ●

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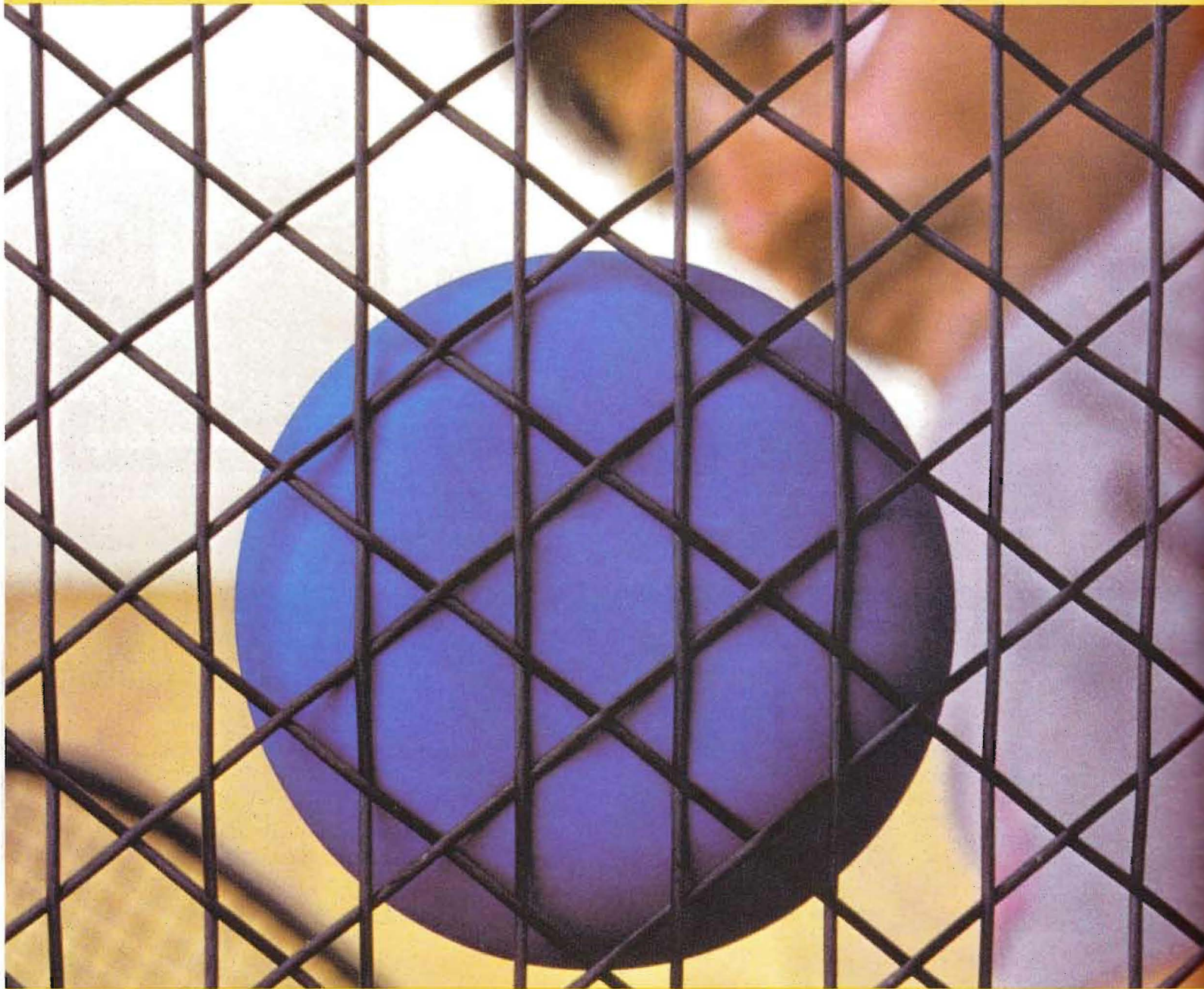
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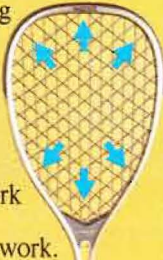
Six strings give greater ball bite and bite time than four strings.

Larger "holes" in the Mad Raq stringing pattern, six gripping edges rather than four, and a rougher surface pattern, give greater surface ball bite as well as up to 15% greater bite time than conventional stringing for greater control, finesse, top-spin and slice than conventional stringing.



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Mad Raq. It looks different. It plays with a difference.

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In The News

Marty Plays Squash

Top ranked squash player Mark Talbot and #1 ranked racquetballer Marty Hogan squared off in an exhibition Squash vs. Racquetball match in Pittsburgh just a few weeks ago. Everyone thought Marty would cream Mark in racquetball and Mark would powder Marty in squash. Not so.

According to the sponsor of the tournament, Ram Racquetballs, it was nip and tuck all the way. "Marty thought it would be a 'blowaway' match with Mark," said Ram spokesman Sean O'Connor, "but both are supremely conditioned athletes and the games were both very close. I think they earned a lot of respect for each other."



Universal Gym Equipment Introduces the AEROBICYCLE

The new AEROBICYCLE by Universal Gym Equipment is an advanced aerobic conditioning system which provides a variety of cycling experiences for fitness and testing.

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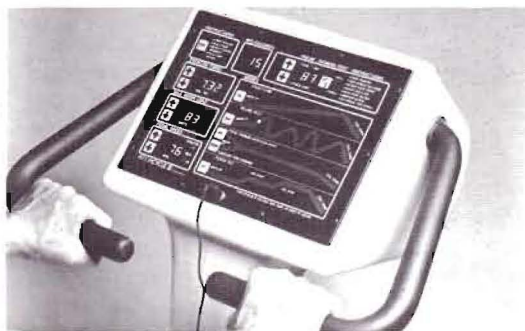
Four-constantly adjusts pedal resistance to maintain a designated RPM rate.

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Norm Peck, Mike Yellen, Fred Lewrenz and Bob McTear at the historic press conference

Million Dollar Man

Mike Yellen Signs Racquetball's First Multi-Year Seven Figure Contract With Ektelon

Texas, the land of oil millionaires, was an appropriate place to announce that Mike Yellen, racquetball's 1983 and 1984 National Champion, was entering that elite quorum of sport superstars who command million-dollar-plus contracts. Ektelon's Vice President and General Manager, Bob McTear, presented the contract information to a Dallas press conference on January 31 like a proud papa announcing his first child. In many ways Mike Yellen is racquetball's First Born. Why? Because this is the first time a racquetball

player has signed a million-dollar contract and, as Bob McTear stated, it bodes well for racquetball's future.

"This contract tells you a little about our optimism for the long term potential of racquetball. It's going to be around and we've just put our money on that statement."

Mr. McTear went on to say that racquetball's quarter of a billion dollar a year market has twelve million participants, ten million who play on a weekly basis and that the ranks of racquetballers are increasing by about a half of million play-

ers a year.

"Racquetball is a fundamental part of the national ground swell of interest in fitness and personal well-being," continued McTear. "And anyone who doesn't think that racquetball doesn't bring on fitness need only go to a professional tournament and watch Mike Yellen fly around the court!"

Twenty-four year old Mike Yellen from Southfield, Michigan, has been playing for Ektelon since he was 14 when he was a "lower player program person" who "just received their equipment." Two

years later, when Mike was sixteen, he entered the pro tour where, for the next seven years, he bounced up and down the pro ranks until 1983. Whether it was through the patient and brilliant coaching of his agent/coach Fred Lewrenz, or the tempering influence of playing in the crucible of the pro tour, is now a moot point. Mike's game came together. In 1983, no one could stop his hot hand as Mike proceeded to win racquetball's "Grand Slam"—the Ektelon Nationals, The Catalina Championship and the Diversified Products Nationals—to become the National Champion. He repeated his domination of the sport in 1984 and holds, as one Ektelon poster of Mike proudly displays, "Back to Back National Championships."

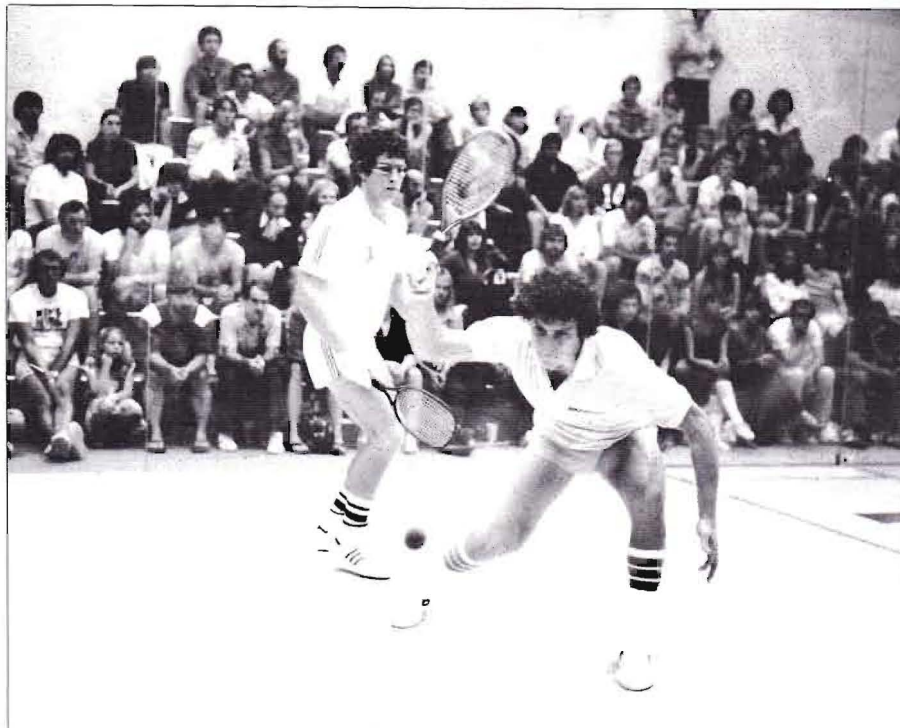
Ektelon's Product Manager, Norman Peck, who negotiated the contract with Mike Yellen and his coach Fred Lewrenz, spoke to the press conference about the contract.

"It is a multi-year contract," Mr. Peck explained, "and it is in excess of ten years. The contract is broken into two phases. The first phase covers Mike's professional playing career and is open ended. Mike can play until he feels he is no longer competitive at which time he will very graciously announce his retirement. The second part of the contract welcomes Mike into the Ektelon corporate family as a promotional figure and company spokesman for Ektelon and our parent company Browning."

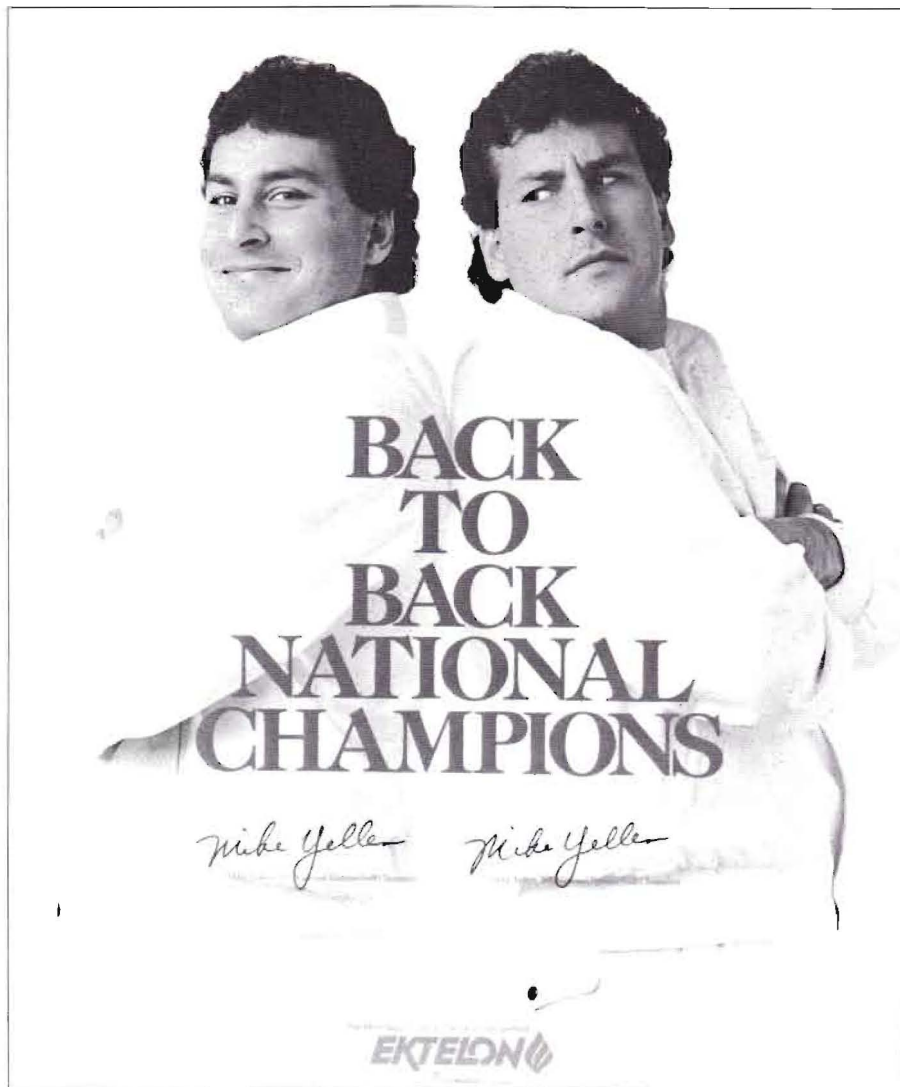
At this point in the press conference, Mike took the microphone and expressed what an honor it was for him to have such a superlative sponsor like Ektelon.

"I have been with Ektelon for ten years and have seen them go from a few small offices spread around San Diego to a strong corporate company. During all that time, I have been proud of their philosophy of being the best—of offering the best products and making new, innovative racquets. I'm glad that I'll have an opportunity to finish my playing career and then continue with the company. Many players finish their professional careers and then that's the end. I'm pleased to be able to play a major role for Ektelon in their development of racquetball in the years ahead."

Indeed, the years ahead will be interesting for all of us. Thanks to Ektelon, the new generation of pros-to-be can look up to Mike Yellen and say, "If I work hard, I too can be a millionaire playing the sport I love—racquetball." ●



Yellen against Hogan in 1978



HOGAN SHINES IN ARIZONA

In team sports a great deal of attention is given to what is known as the "home court advantage." Usually it is not a factor in individual sports like racquetball. But for one pro racquetball player—Marty Hogan—certain courts just feel like home. And, as his peers know all too well, for Marty Hogan the "home court advantage" is very real.

The sprawling Arizona Athletic Club in Tempe, Arizona, is a thousand miles from his San Diego home. And yet when Marty walks onto the legendary AAC exhibition court, it must seem to him as if he's stepped into his own back yard. Three times in the past (twice for National Championships) the pro tour has found its way to Tempe, and three times Hogan has breezed to victory with all the apparent effort of a stroll through the family garden.

The fourth Tempe pro stop is now history, and his record remains intact. Looking again like the teenage phenom who nine years ago revolutionized his sport, Marty Hogan sailed to victory in the 1985 Arizona Pro-Am by drilling second-seeded Mike Yellen in the final, 11-7, 11-8, 8-11, 11-7.

The Arizona tournament (January 24-27) was the fourth stop on the 1984-85 RMA Pro Racquetball Tour, and the victory marked Hogan's third win of the season. Surprisingly, the final—a replay of the 1981 Nationals final—was the first meeting of pro racquetball's top two ranked players in a ranking event this season.

Hogan encountered little resistance along the way to his Tempe victory. Only unseeded Tom Neil of Albuquerque was able to extend Hogan to five games, and even that round-of-32 match was not as close as the 2-11, 10-11, 11-4, 11-5, 11-4 score indicated. Armed with a drive serve that was frequently untouchable, Marty rolled over Andy Gross, Gerry Price, and

fifth-seeded Bret Harnett, all in four games, before downing Yellen in the title match.

Hogan's seemingly effortless victory over Yellen was, in itself, a milestone of sorts. The previous six times they had met, of which Marty had won only two, had all gone five full games, and most were three-hours-plus marathons. But this time Mike Yellen's methodical game was simply riddled by Hogan's massive firepower.

Relying heavily on his power drive serve into the left-side glass wall, Hogan rolled to quick leads in the first two games, ending the first with an ace, 11-7, and taking advantage of a Yellen error at game point in the second, 11-8. Marty moved out to an 8-4 lead again in the third, but Yellen found his killing range and burned Hogan with his only good scoring streak of the match, seven straight points, winning, 11-8.

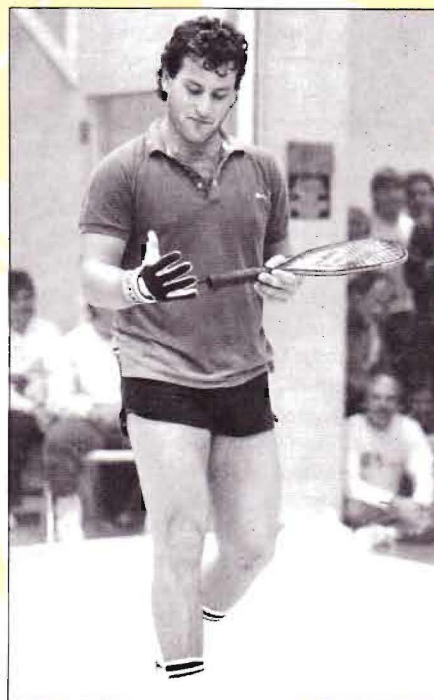
But Yellen's third-game surge was too little, too late. In the fourth game Hogan came alive; he shattered a 3-3 tie to bolt ahead 9-4 and win the match going away 11-7.

"Mike is always a tough opponent," commented Marty during the awards ceremony following the match, "but I think I'm playing better racquetball right now than I have since I was fifteen."

Few players on the tour could argue that point. At the age of 26, Marty Hogan is dominating the 1984-85 pro tour—in four outings he's notched three wins and one second. His place solidly atop the men's rankings going into mid-season puts him in excellent position to take his first national championship since 1981.

Despite the lopsided score, the Hogan-Yellen final was an absolute delight to watch. The two titans of men's professional racquetball have great respect for each other, and they go to battle in a way that is intense, yet fair, and genuinely lighthearted. Marty and Mike have become

*The Weather
Was Fine And
Competition
Was Fierce As
Hogan Stormed
Through To A
Spectacular
Finish*



Mike Yellen seemed to sense that for Hogan it was just "one of those days"





Dave Peck was unable to stop the charge of Bret Harnett in the quarters

Gerry Price was only able to take one game from Hogan in the quarterfinals

John Egberman drills a backhand during quarterfinal loss to Mike Yellen

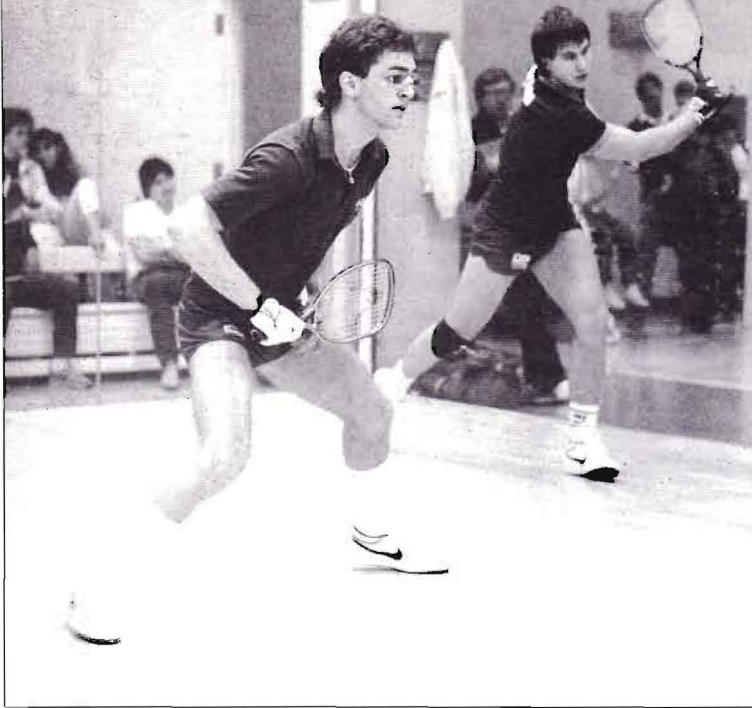


two of the best ambassadors for pro racquetball, because they seem to understand that what spectators want most to see is athletic excellence displayed by people who enjoy what they do.

All of the top five seeds—Hogan, Yellen, Gregg and Dave Peck, and Bret Harnett—advanced into the quarterfinals with ease. Others in the top ten, however, were not as fortunate. Kelvin Vantrease of Ohio, a reigning AARA national doubles champion, handed #10 Ed Andrews his second first-round loss in a row in a five-game squeaker, 11-6, 7-11, 11-7, 9-11, 11-10. And sporting a reworked stroke, John Egberman came out of his year-long slump with style, taking out #11 Brain Hawkes in the 32's and then stunning #8 Scott Oliver in a round-of-16 thriller, 6-11, 11-4, 11-4, 6-11, 11-5.

Doug Cohen of St. Louis ousted #6 Ruben Gonzalez in the 16's with surprising ease, 11-4, 11-10, 11-2. Cohen and Egberman have been fighting it out on the pro tour in parallel careers since they split national junior titles in 1979, and Tempe marked the first appearance for each in the quarterfinals in quite some time. Although they were both stopped in the quarters—Cohen fell to Gregg Peck and Egberman to Mike Yellen—most agreed that it was good to see two of the tour's best-liked players back in good form.

The most exciting match of the quarterfinals was Bret Harnett's come-from-behind victory over fourth-seeded Dave Peck. After losing the first two games, 6-11, 5-11, Harnett wore down the former national champion with his powerful drives down the two glass side walls to win the last



Doug Cohen holds center court against Gregg Peck in the quarters



Hogan returns a backhand and locks Harnett out of position at the same time

three games, 11-9, 11-5, 11-5.

Judging by the recent past, the semifinal matchups should have provided for two close matches. And had it not been for sterling performances by Marty Hogan and Mike Yellen, they might have been.

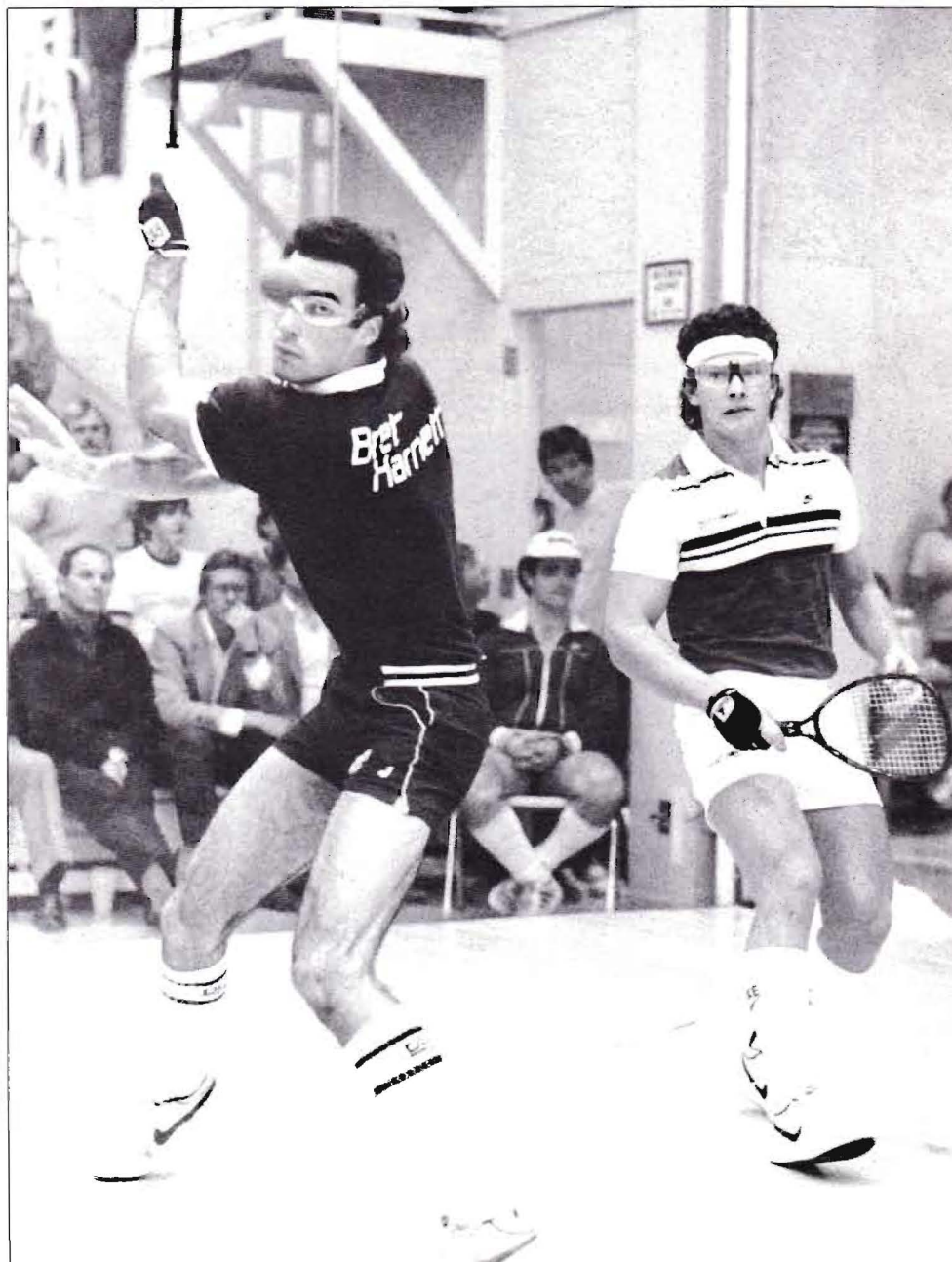
Through all four games of their match, Bret Harnett was able to stay close to Marty Hogan for the first five or six points. But only in the second game, which he won 11-8, was Harnett able to shut Hogan down. The other three games were clearly "no contest." Marty simply moved and played brilliantly, winning the contest in under 90 minutes, 11-9, 8-11, 11-6, 11-7.

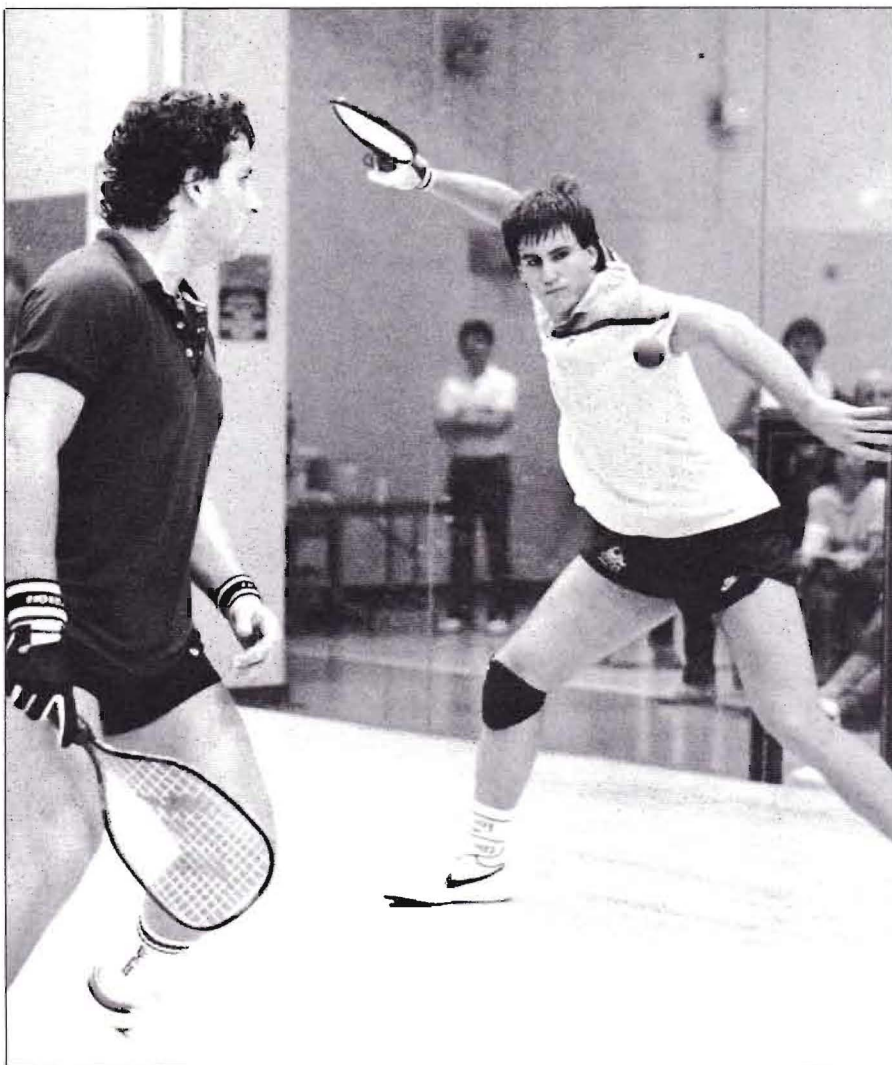
Mike Yellen's win over Gregg Peck was similar, but the significance was much greater than Hogan's thumping of Harnett. Gregg Peck is having a terrific season, and is in fact pushing very hard to take over Mike Yellen's #2 position in the men's rankings. Also, it was Peck who ousted Yellen in the semi's at the previous stop in Pleasanton.

This time Yellen put tremendous pressure on Peck. Utilizing the glass to make his pinpoint passing shots even more troublesome than usual, Mike won the first and third games, and then literally blew Peck away in the fourth, 11-7, 9-11, 11-10, 11-1.

The victory gave Yellen a little breathing room in his frantic rankings race with Gregg Peck. But Mike is on the hot seat. Because Peck has notched at least a semifinal in every event this year, and because the computer is dropping off tournaments that Mike won, it would seem that Yellen has to win at least some of the remaining seven tournaments if he is going to stay in

The patented Harnett backhand against Hogan in the semifinals





*Gregg Peck couldn't repeat his previous upset of second-seeded Mike Yellen
Mike Yellen's accurate forehand wasn't enough to stop Hogan in the final*

second position.

No account of a Tempe pro stop would be complete without paying some respect to the outstanding facilities of the Arizona Athletic Club. Besides having an almost mystical place in pro racquetball history, the AAC houses one of the finest exhibition racquetball courts in the world—three walls of sparkling glass, each with gobs of seating capacity, and VIP boxes above the back wall to boot. No one seems to really know how many bodies can be comfortably seated around Court One, but the number is certainly in excess of 1,000.

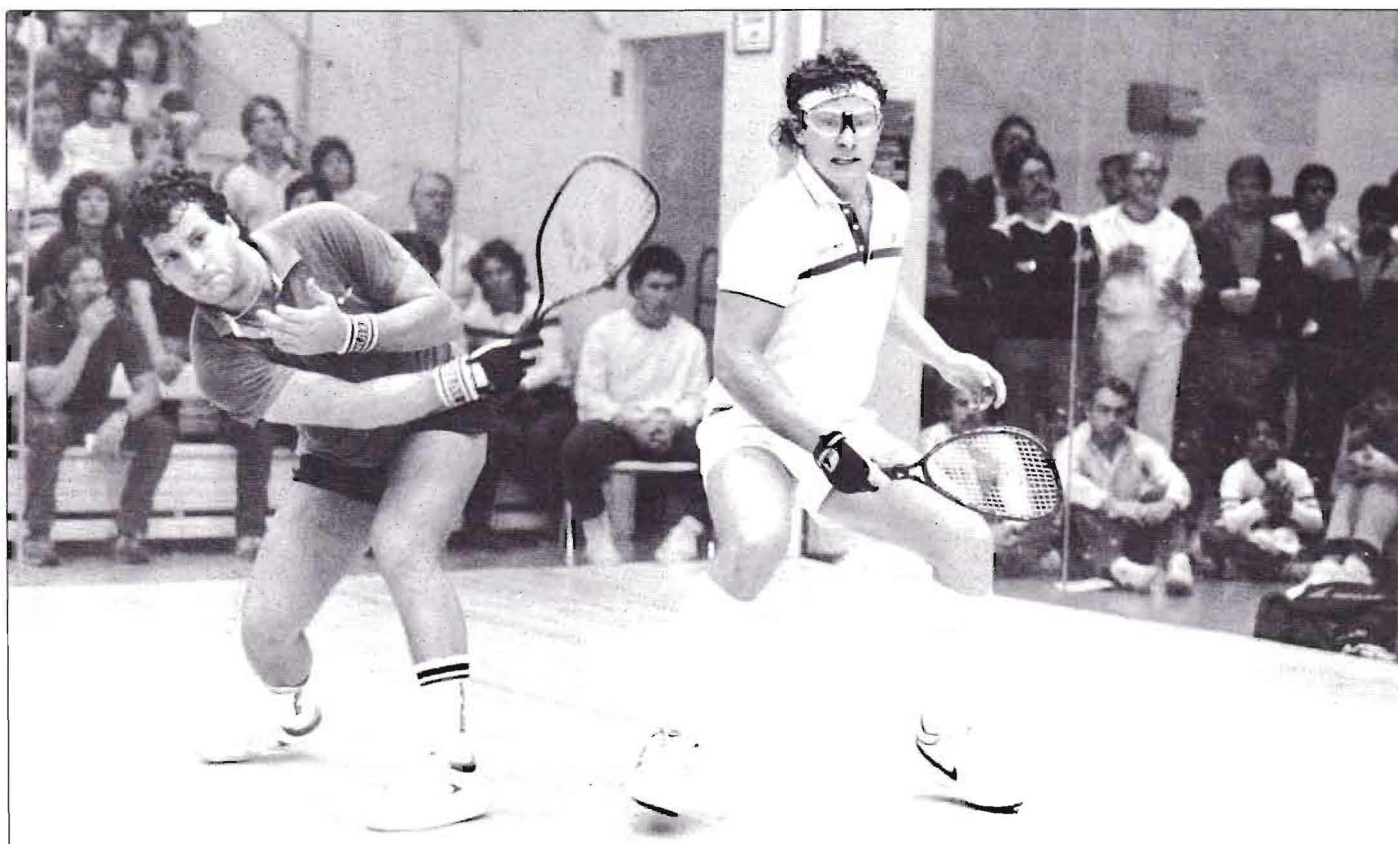
Tempe is also one of the few pro stops actually run by a professional player. Jack Nolan (who learned what it's like to run and play in your own tournament) deserves much of the credit for the immense popularity of the Arizona event.

(By the way, here's a neat little tip for you neophyte tournament directors. Jack discovered, quite by accident (?), that if you mix up a few days and AM's and PM's in the first and second round match times on the draw chart, and then leave the club early on Thursday afternoon, you stand a good chance of returning Friday morning to find your tournament running well ahead of schedule!)

Even Jack Nolan can't take all of the credit for the large turnout in Tempe, though. After all, there are worse things in the world than traveling to Phoenix, Arizona, in the middle of January.

Qualifying Rounds:

G. Maifield d. L. Pristo; G. Boland d. D.



Dipalma; G. Bargas d. J. Christensen; D. Gonzalez d. A. Abadini; M. Gelb d. D. Bennett; E. Fuentes d. T. Frankel; M. Lowe d. Maifield; T. Niel d. Boland; B. Corcorran d. S. Armandez; M. Romo d. Bargas; P. Marino d. Gonzalez; W. Snead d. Gelb; K. Garigus d. t. Hansen; E. Inoue d. Fuentes.

Round of 32:

M. Hogan d. Neil; (2),(10),4,5,4
A. Gross d. D. Green; 9,3,8
K. Vantrease d. E. Andrews; 6,(7),7,(9),10
G. Price d. Lowe; 10,6,1
B. Harnett d. Romo; 6,2,2
J. Newman d. E. Terry; (0),(6),6,7,4
D. Gross d. C. Brysman; 4,2,10
D. Peck d. Corcorran; 0,4,1
G. Peck d. Snead; 3,2,2
D. Thoams d. J. Nolan; (7),10,6,7
D. Cohen d. M. Plotkin; 2,4,3
R. Gonzalez d. Marino; 3,7,0
S. Oliver d. Inoue; 2,2,(6),5
J. Egberman d. B. Hawkes; (7),6,4,6
M. Ray d. D. Ferris; 8,7,7
M. Yellen d. Garigus; 1,3,2

Round of 16:

Hogan d. A. Gross; (9),5,5,5
Price d. Vantrease; 6,9,7
Harnett d. Newman; 5,3,7
D. Peck d. D. Gross; 3,(10),8,10
G. Peck d. Thomas; 10,5,0
Cohen d. Gonzalez; 4,10,2
Egberman d. Oliver; (6),4,4,(6),5
Yellen d. Ray; sna

Quarterfinal Round:

Hogan d. Price; (9),5,4,1
Harnett d. D. Peck; (6),(5),9,5,5
G. Peck d. Cohen; 6,8,8
Yellen d. Egberman; 3,9,7

Semifinal Round:

Hogan d. Harnett; 9,(8),6,7
Yellen d. G. Peck; 7,(9),10,1

Final Round:

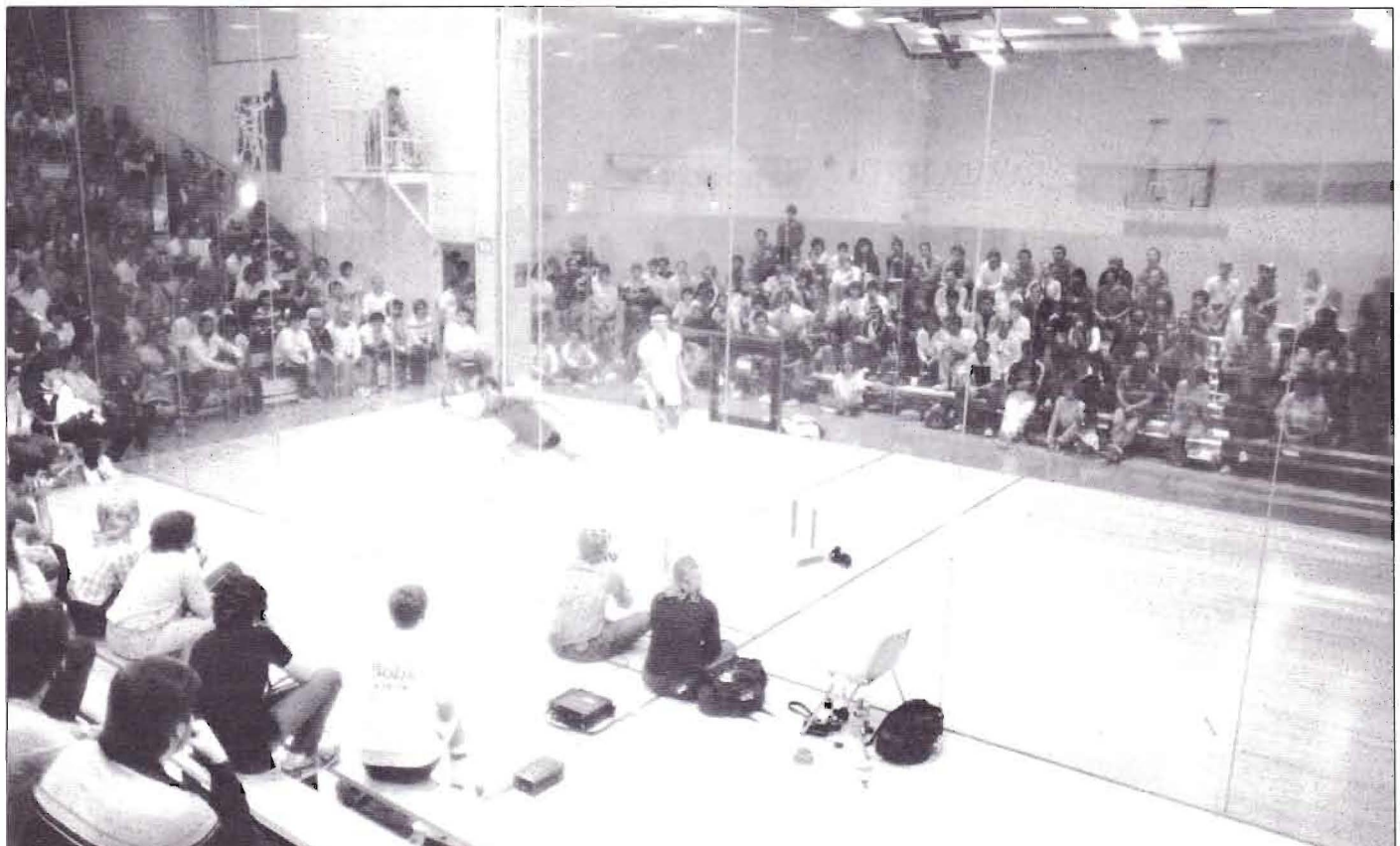
Hogan d. Yellen; 7,8,(8),7

Total Purse: \$10,000



The crowd enjoys a typical Hogan backcourt rip

The exhibition court at the AAC; note that seating on the left side can extend back 100 feet.



Lerner Grabs \$6000 Winter Shootout



Steve Lerner

By the time Steve Lerner played his doubles final, he did not have many kill shots left in his repertoire. But, anything less than a spectacular shooting performance would have been disappointing after he rolled by Corey Brysman 15-7, 15-7 in the finals of the Newport Beach Sporting House Winter Shootout in California.

The Ektelon and Sports Promotions sponsored tournament drew over 200 entries. Other sponsors of the January 10-12 event included Sport Grip, Nike, Ripe Plum, International Racquetball, Beverly International and Economic Printing Center.

Brysman was only in the championship match during the early moments of the first game when he held a 4-2 lead. After this Lerner totally dominated by drilling shot after shot.

Highest-quality leather reinforces the toe, and it gives the instep extra support. In fact, with more leather than the leading indoor court shoe, the Express is extremely durable throughout.

The Express is an incredibly light 12 ounces of cool comfort. A contoured sole and breathable nylon mesh are the reasons why.

High-traction gum rubber sole is designed to take the stress with reinforced pivot points.

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He scored a string of seven straight points while killing balls from anywhere and everywhere. Lerner consistently hit with his shoulder up to the back glass wall.

While he was putting on an offensive extravaganza, Brysman was frustrated in his attempt to play his usual nimble-footed defensive game. He dove and stretched, but Lerner powered shots just out of his reach as he easily controlled the first game, 15-7.

Brysman could not find any serve to effectively counter Lerner's shooting domination. He switched from lobs to drive serves and back to lobs in the second game.

But, nothing deterred Lerner as he killed his way to a 7-0 advantage in the second game. The following rally was typical of the entire match when Brysman made a diving save only to result in a point for Lerner as he quickly drove a backhand down the line.

Lerner went ahead 11-1 before Brys-

man scored his second point when Lerner made a rare shooting mistake. Brysman exclaimed in disbelief, "He finally missed one." Brysman did score four straight points, but this was not enough to offset Lerner's 15-17 victory.

Brysman did have one consolation when he and Brian Hawkes defeated Lerner and Jim Carson in the doubles final, 15-11, 15-13.

Lerner also overcame Hawkes 15-13, 15-13, Phil Panarella, 15-5, 15-8 and Steve Jenkins 15-11, 15-2 to take home the \$500 first place singles prize.

Brysman made it to the finals by defeating Guy Texiera 15-3, 15-7, Greg Sheffield 15-6, 15-3 and Art Rios 15-1, 15-6.

In other action, Elaine Riley overcame Dee Ferreira in women's open and Bob Wetzel dropped Vance Lerner who is the current national champion in men's master.

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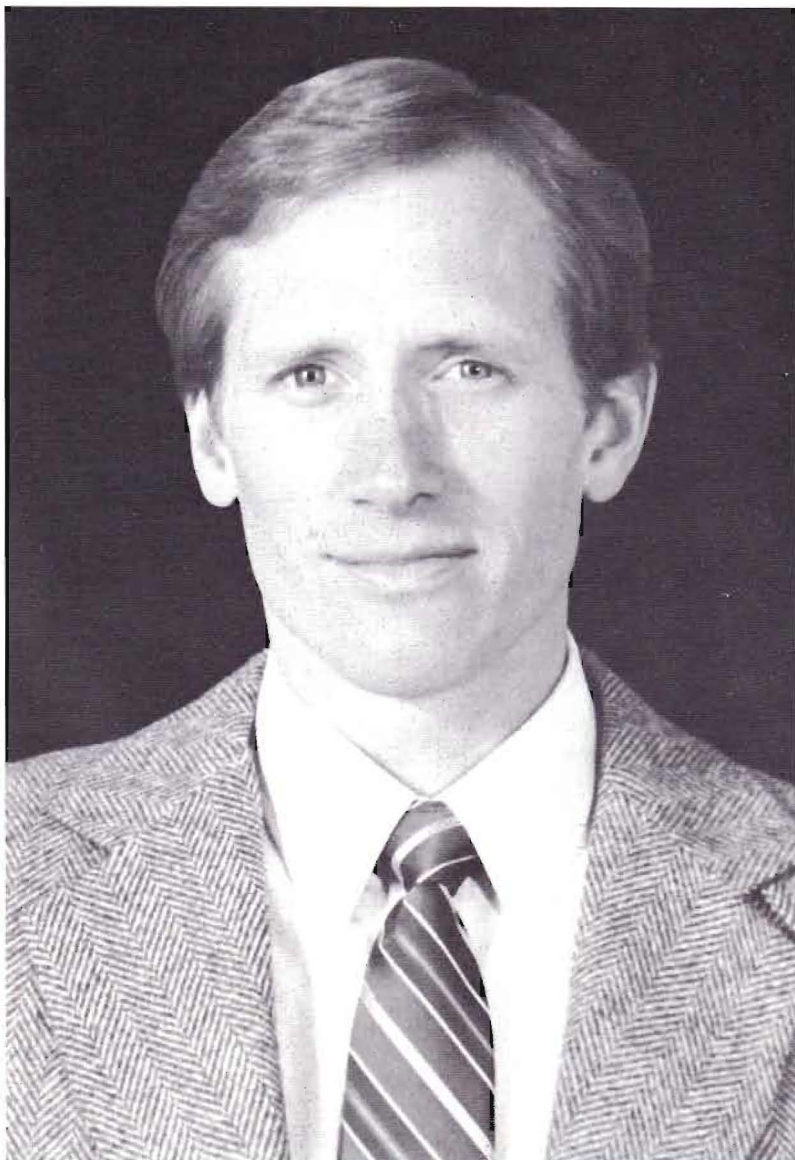


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A FRESH START

A NEW COMMISSIONER BRINGS SOLID DIRECTIONS TO THE MEN'S PRO GAME

On February 8, the Racquetball Manufacturers Association announced their appointment of a racquetball commissioner. The newly-created position is titled Commissioner of Professional Racquetball and Drew Stoddard, Editor of International Racquetball Magazine for the past two years, was tapped for the job. The Commissioner's first task, according to the RMA press release, will be to finalize the RMA Professional Racquetball Tour schedule for 1985.

Though no longer the Editor of IRB, Mr. Stoddard still resides in Reno, Nevada, where our offices are located and, naturally, we took advantage of the opportunity to sit down and ask Drew

about himself and his new position as Commissioner.

The RMA stated that your first task would be finalizing this year's pro tour. Do you see that as your major concern?

Yes. There are many parts to my job and many things which the RMA has given me to accomplish. Obviously, the first thing to do is to finalize the tour for the rest of this spring and then as quickly as possible, put together the 11 stops for the 1985-86 pro season. That's the first order of business and once that is in place, we have a lot of other details to take care

of that have not been attended to for the last couple of years.

You had a meeting with the men pro players in Tulsa. Is that one of the responsibilities of the Commissioner—to work with the players?

My job is to put together the tour, standardize procedure and pretty much bring order to the game. After that, I'm responsible for helping the pro game grow. Of course, in trying to put together a tour and draw up rules and establish procedures for running tournaments, the players should have a voice. That's my first choice as to the way to go about my

The Commissioner's office was established halfway through the season, so, we're going to end up with 12 ranking stops between September 1984 and June 1985. There are six stops remaining in the season with a potential for one more, so, seven possible stops including the Beaverton stop.

When will this 1985 season end?

It ends with the D.P. Nationals on the 16th of June, and that should be fairly regular every year.

The National Champion then will be determined after the D.P. Nationals, then?

The National Champion is the #1 player at the end of the year regardless of which tournaments he's won. Whoever is ranked #1 following the D.P. Nationals will be the National Champion, not because of the results of the D.P. Nationals, but because it is the end of the pro season.

How does the next year look for the men's pro game?

Next year looks extremely good. After this season, the pros will have played 11 or 12 stops for a total purse of roughly \$175,000. Next season we will see a substantial increase. As it looks now, we shouldn't have any tournaments under \$15,000 and a good portion of the stops will be well above that. We're a little uncertain as to what will be the total prize money, but we estimate that it will be around \$230,000 over the 11 event season. Plus, there are more tournament directors and clubs that want tournaments than we are able to accommodate in that 11 stop formal ranking tour, so we will be attempting to organize them into a type of non-ranking satellite tour. I suspect, then, that there might be another \$80,000 to \$100,000 in non-ranking events.

Where will next year's pro stops be held?

We're basing the tour on independent tournaments who raise the bulk of their money on a local basis, promote themselves locally and essentially, run their own tournaments. They're autonomous in every way except that we, as an organized tour now, have certain procedures and rules that they need to follow in running their event. We like having inde-

pendent clubs running tour events because they do a good job in their area and it also gives an independent flavor to each one of the events. Frankly, a system of independent stops raising local money has been the best way for professional racquetball to build. Their efforts collectively have been more than we have been able to do with one larger national sponsor. We are still courting national sponsors and we expect that within the next 6 to 8 months we probably will be able to sign some type of contract—probably small at first, but then increasing as the years go by.

The tour, as it stands now, is based on independent events and most of them happen to be located in fairly large cities. We don't have complete control over the geographical areas of the tour because we are depending on where those independent promoters are. However, next year the tournament locations are spread fairly evenly across the country with stops on both coasts and many in the central part of the U.S.

Do you encourage anyone who would like to have a pro stop to give you a call?

Yes. We have certain criteria on which a ranking tournament is selected and it is not necessarily the largest geographical area or the largest amount of prize money, although those things do come into play. We're interested in looking at any area where the people are interested in having the professionals come and who have the capability of raising prize money in the area of \$12,000 to \$15,000. The correct procedure for anyone who is interested in staging a pro stop is to write the Commissioner's Office. The address is Pro Racquetball Commissioner, 200 Castlewood Drive, North Palm Beach, FL 33408. (Phone: 305-842-4100)

Is that where you should be contacted at this time?

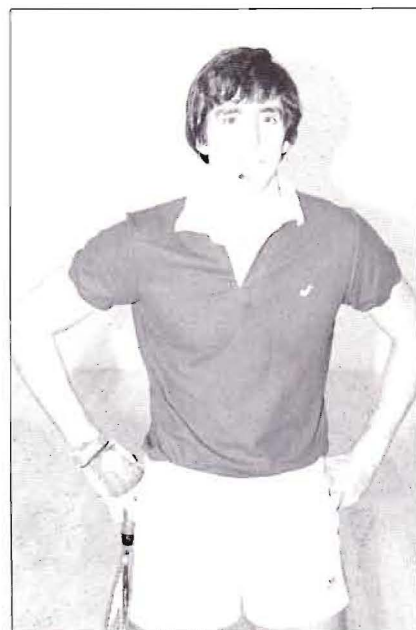
Yes, it's also where I should be living, but I'm not. I may be living there before long, but it's difficult to break away from Reno right now. The Florida address is where the head offices of the RMA are located and technically, that is where I work. ●

job—to allow the players to make many of the decisions in the things that we have to do, if they can do that. We are all aware that the players have had a difficult time uniting in the past and speaking with one voice. We're hoping that they do that now. My job is not specifically to organize the players, but I want to work with them and let them make as many of these decisions as is practical. The players are now in the process of trying to make some initial decisions.

As far as the tour schedule for this year, how many stops are left on the official RMA tour?

THE GREATEST

by Jerry Hilecher



The pros pick the players with the greatest desire.

1. Jerry Hilecher
2. Dave Peck
3. Marty Hogan
4. Charley Brumfield
5. Rich Wagner

Desire is the fuel, victory the flame." That thought came to me a few years ago, while I was trying to come up with a unique autograph which said something about me. Something that may inspire someone else to become a winner. I have always felt that desire is the most important aspect in becoming a champion. It's the major difference between the winners and the losers, the greats from the almost greats. Desire can allow a player with just average skills to reach levels much higher than expected. Desire provides the inner fire that makes a champion ache for victory, which drives them to hours of pain and suffering, and gives them the courage to succeed.

Funk and Wagnall's dictionary defines desire, "to wish or long for, to crave." Just what are athletes longing for? Desire is the invisible force which pushes certain athletes? Desire is the invisible force which pushes certain athletes past complacency, toward much higher expectations. These gifted athletes are willing to do whatever it takes to get to the top.

A player's desire can be expressed in a variety of ways. Steve Strandemo would spend hour after hour in painful court

"Steve Strandemo would spend hour after hour in painful court drills to keep his body in shape. Pain was a small price for him to pay for a championship."

drills and procedures to keep his body in shape. Pain was just a small price for him to pay for a championship. Charley Brumfield would go into a type of rage at crucial points in a match. His eyes seemed to get larger and bulge out as his concentration level reached a peak. While playing Charley during this rage, it seemed as though he could actually control the path of the ball through his mind. He could will a crack serve or guide the ball away from the outstretched arm of his opponents. Hogan, right before important points,

would grit his teeth, tighten all his facial muscles, and clench his fists. A cue to his body that it must now perform at a much higher level.

Desire has been the main reason for my own success on the pro tour. My own personal motivation to become a champion has led me to train harder than most other athletes, and do whatever it takes to win. Even after a loss, my desire gives me the motivation to train even harder, so I can win the next tournament. My court retrieving is definitely related to my desire to win. As I mentioned in my last article, retrievability and desire go hand in hand. There have been situations in my career where I have felt a condition similar to Brumfield's rage. I felt like I had some power over the ball that could slow it down or change the angle just enough for me to get a racquet on it. Too bad it couldn't happen more often.

The greatest evidence in my career of how increased desire can affect play occurred early in the 1981-82 season. The pro tour was being strangled, allowing only twelve players to tour the country. At the time, I was ranked third yet not one of the twelve chosen players. The first tour stop was held in Los Angeles. I was allowed to play as an amateur only because the tournament was held in my region. Even though I was the defending champion of the event, I was forced to qualify a week before, just to get into the draw. While playing Hogan in the semis, I found myself down two games to none, and losing the third. All of a sudden I

started imagining myself winning the tournament and during the acceptance speech telling the spectators the injustices of the tour. At that moment, I felt a surge of power in my body, giving me greater speed and strength. I ended up winning the next three games with the tie-breaker 11-10.

The second great example occurred just a week later at the C.B.C. championships in Winnipeg, Canada. I was playing Hogan again in the semis, losing 15-14 in the first and down 6-0 in the second. I called a time out and while off the court getting a drink I heard Marty telling someone how great he was and that the match wasn't even close. That my last victory over him was a fluke. That same strength and desire I felt a week earlier surged through my body and I didn't want to just win, I wanted to go right through him. Down 0-6, I won the second game 15-7 and 11-10 in the tie-breaker.

Desire to win can originate from a variety of sources. Renewed motivation to win can come by playing a close rival, playing someone else with a competitive spirit, if you feel you are being cheated, or in my earlier example, wanting to express my own credibility and individuality. The true greats don't need reasons for desire, they possess it in every shot of every match in any situation. A few years ago, Hogan was competing in the 440 yard dash of the Superstars competition. As he neared the finish line, he was a foot out of first. He dove headlong across the line to win the race by a hair. He had the desire to win so bad, he risked injury by diving

Charley Brumfield



Steve Strandemo

on an asphalt track. One of the greatest displays of desire I have ever witnessed in racquetball, occurred at the 1983 D.P. Nationals in Atlanta. Dave Peck was playing Mike Yellen in the semis when Mike accidentally bruised Dave's quadricep. I went into the locker room with Dave as trainers tried to work out the huge knot that developed in his leg. Dave turned to me and sighed, "I've got to get back out there." I saw the pain in his face but he wouldn't let that stop him. When they resumed the match, Dave changed his entire strategy to conform to his lack of mobility. It was obvious to everyone but himself that he couldn't win but painfully

moved for every shot. Although he came back and made the game close, Mike had too much this day and went on to win the match and later the championship. After the match and in the months that followed, Dave set his sights on the next championship. He didn't take the loss and injury as a negative, rather it instilled in him a renewed desire to train even harder and become even better.

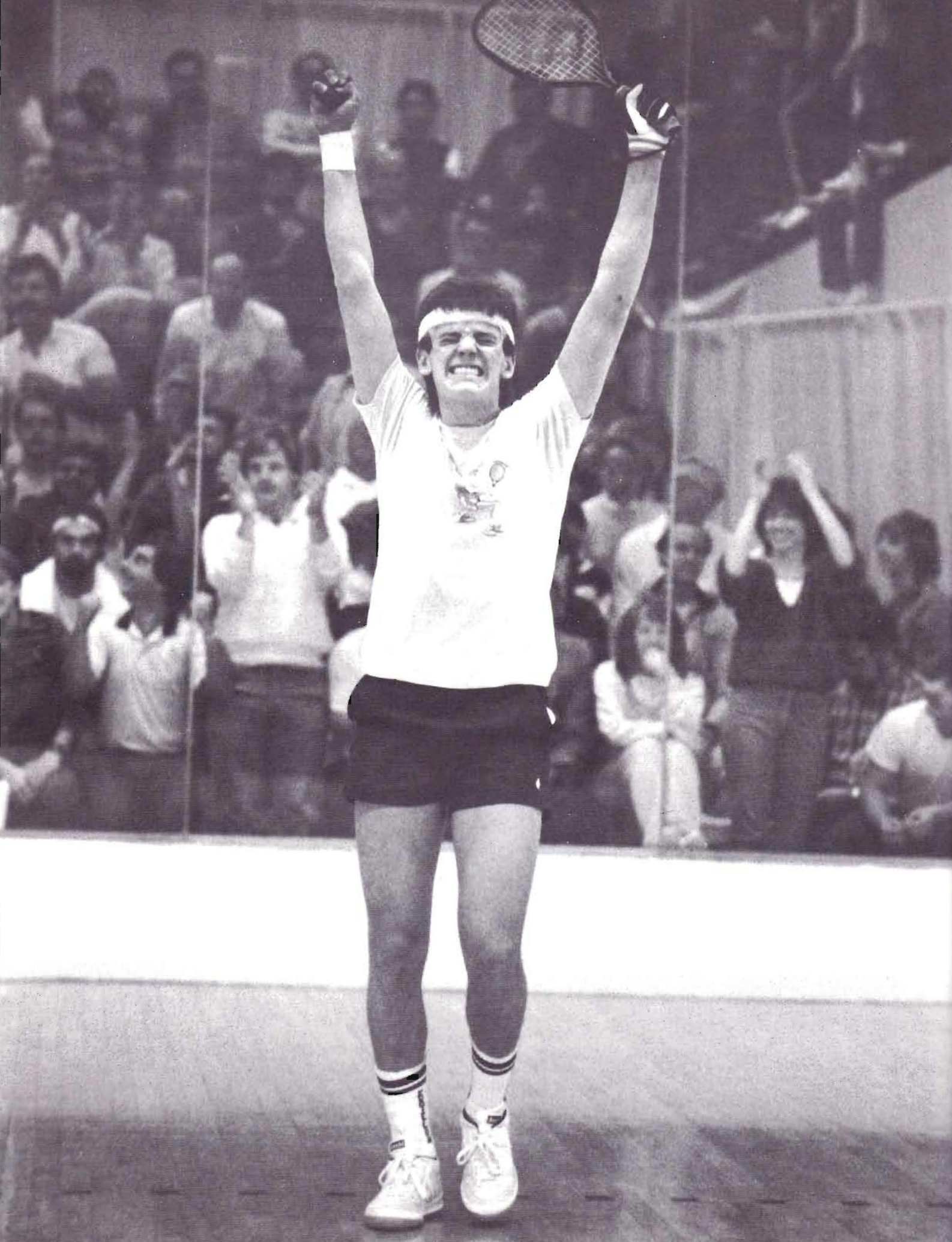
Desire is the most important building block in any champion. It pushes you to train harder off the court and makes you go 110 percent on it.

Charley Brumfield probably had more desire to win than any other racquetball pro. He would set himself a goal and let nothing stand in his way of achieving it. If he needed to get in better shape, he would train harder. If he needed to hit the ball harder, he would develop a new stroke. He would size up his major competition and develop an overall strategy specifically to beat that individual. His mind was filled with thoughts of winning, on and off the court. He lived and breathed racquetball.

Brumfield, along with many of the champions that followed, realized that to become a winner, you had to have an intense burning desire. "Desire is the fuel, victory the flame.

My choices of players with the most desire

1. Charley Brumfield
2. Marty Hogan
3. Steve Strandemo



SWAIN THINKS OKLAHOMA IS...



Cliff Swain Toughs-Out The Tulsa Open And Takes Out Four Of The Top Ten Pros

In one of the most remarkable performances in memory, 18-year-old Cliff Swain made a mockery of the men's professional rankings by upsetting four of the game's top ten players and winning the \$10,000 Tulsa Pro-Am Racquetball Championships. Riding on the strength of a ferocious drive serve, the #24-ranked Swain stunned heavily-favored Scott Oliver in the final, 11-10, 9-11, 6-11, 11-5, 11-10, to become the only unseeded player in the history of professional racquetball to ever win a ranking professional tournament.

The Tulsa event, which was sponsored by Clark Resources and Michelob, was played at the Tulsa Racquetball and Aerobics Club in Tulsa, Oklahoma, February 6-10, as the fifth stop on the newly created Racquetball Manufacturers Association (RMA) Pro Racquetball Tour. It was the first pro stop ever for the state of Oklahoma, and the location was at least partly responsible for the surprising outcome. The tournament was played on two unusual exhibition courts which sported both full back and front-wall viewing, making it the first front-wall glass pro competition since 1979. The unusual playing characteristics, combined with the absence of both Marty Hogan and Mike Yellen, made Tulsa a time-bomb just waiting to explode.

Enter Cliff Swain—a quiet college student from a town just outside Boston, MA, called Braintree. Swain, a lanky

lefthander, had hardly built himself a fearsome reputation prior to Tulsa; in a sporadic 18-month career as a pro, his highest finishes have been in the round-of-16.

So while the Peck brothers were salivating at the prospect of their first meeting ever in the finals of a major event, no one noticed when the youngster from the Northeast outlasted Steve Lerner in five games in the 32's. They weren't even too concerned when he came from behind to take out a sputtering #5 Bret Harnett in the 16's; after all, Harnett frequently struggles in the early rounds.

But when Swain drubbed #7 Jerry Hilecher, 11-4, 11-8, 7-11, 11-4, in the

quarters, most of the top seeds were there to watch. What concerned them was not that he won, but how he won—untouched aces. Swain is a die-hard power drive server straight out of the Hogan mold, and he was consistently firing his rockets into a corner of the front-wall glass that made them virtually invisible to the receiver.

In fact, the quarterfinal matches left no doubt that Tulsa was a server's tournament. Fifth-seeded Scott Oliver, one of the fiercest servers in the game, had little trouble taking out #4 seed Ruben Gonzalez, 11-9, 1-11, 11-9, 11-2. Dave Peck couldn't get his drive serve cranking, and fell easily to Gerry Price, 11-3,

Cliff Swain does a little acrobatic retrieving against Scott Oliver



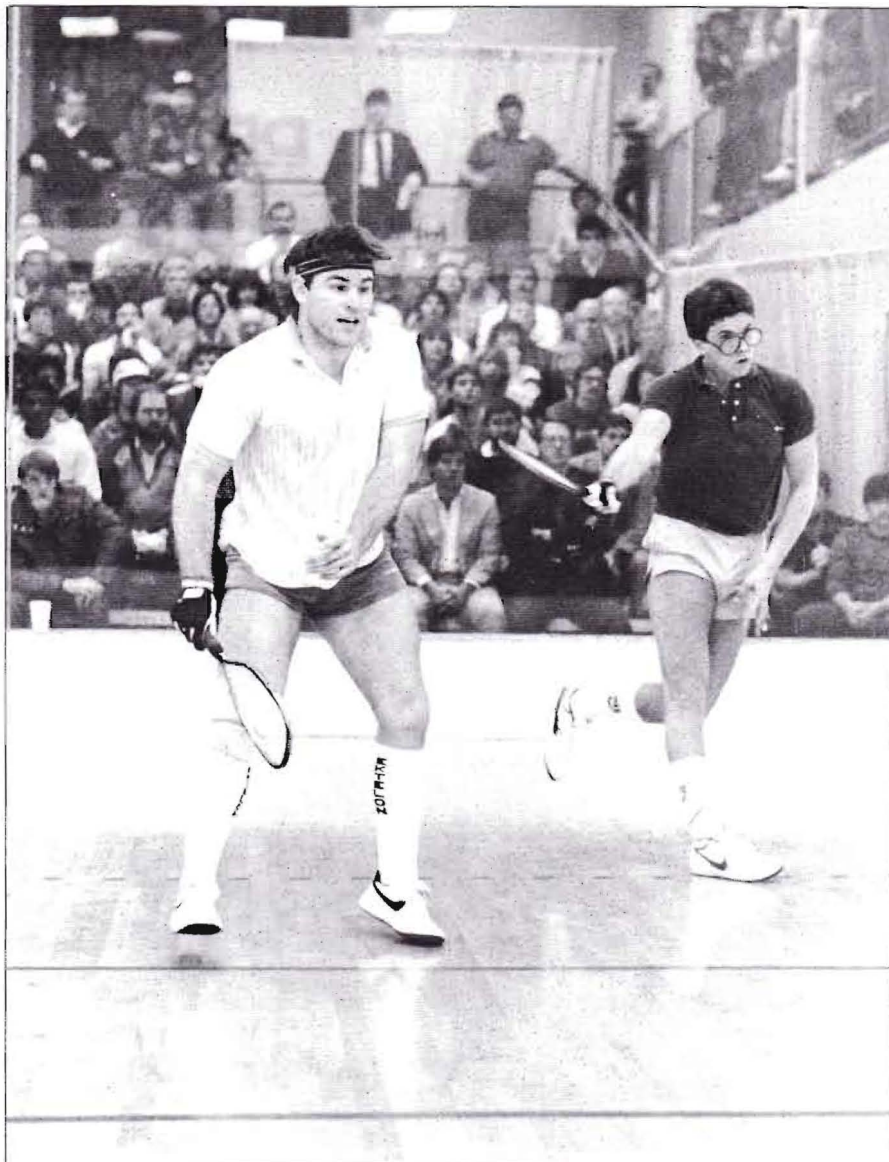
ALL PHOTOS—Copyright 1985 Racquetball Manufacturers Association

11-5, 11-9. And top-seeded Gregg Peck needed every ounce of concentration he could muster to fight off a strong serving challenge by a resurgent Doug Cohen, 11-3, 11-3, 9-11, 5-11, 11-3.

If there had been wagering in Tulsa, the bookmakers would have closed their windows for the semifinal matchups. The line said that Gregg Peck, who is by far the hottest player in pro racquetball today, was a cinch to take out Scott Oliver. And Gerry Price was a prohibitive favorite over the upstart Cliff Swain playing in his first semifinal. That was the line; and had it not been for two incredible serving exhibitions, the line might have been correct.

Scott Oliver made no attempt to conceal his game plan against Gregg Peck. He took a quick 6-0 lead in game one on three outright aces. Unlike Cliff Swain's hard drives, however, Oliver made judicious use of what had become the most popular serve of the Tulsa tournament; the hard Z. Because the ball became more difficult to pick out of the glass the higher it went, the hard Z—which hits the front wall about six feet up—simply vanished until the receiver had already committed himself far in the wrong direction. Peck guessed wrong nearly every time.

Oliver breezed through the first game 11-4. Gregg reached down and found some aces of his own to win 11-1 in the second. But after Peck moved to a 3-0 lead in game three, Oliver turned it on and broke Peck's back with 11 straight points on six aces, adding four more aces in the fourth to upset the number-one seed, 11-4, 1-11, 11-3, 11-6.



Gerry Price and an off-balance Dave Peck square off in the quarterfinals

Oliver runs down Ruben Gonzalez's cross court in the quarterfinals





Cliff Swain lunges during his quarterfinal defeat of Jerry Hilecher

Despite the loss to Oliver, Gregg Peck's semifinal finish further established him as one of the tour's most consistent players; in the five events this season he has chalked up three semi's, one second, and one win. The Tulsa finish brought him within one point of overtaking Mike Yellen for the #2 position in the men's rankings.

Unlike the Oliver-Peck semifinal, the Swain-Price matchup featured two players who were gunning for their first trip to the finals of a major tour stop this season. The intensity was palpable, and the result gave the Tulsa fans a match to remember.

It didn't take long for Cliff Swain to find out on Saturday night that he wasn't the only great server in the club. Gerry Price is one of the best, and the two squared off so evenly that neither player was able to build any lasting momentum. Swain took the first game, Price stole the next two, and Cliff tied it up in the fourth.

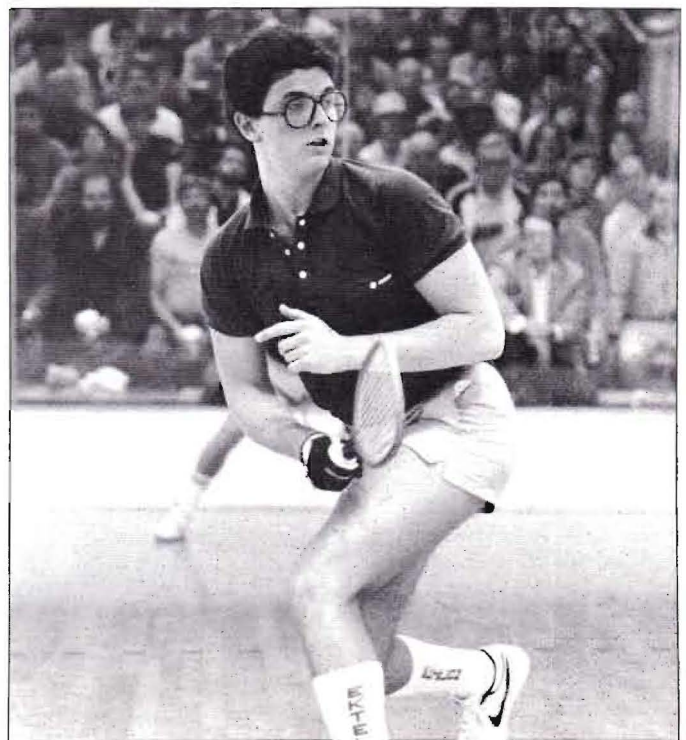
With both players matching each other on the serve ace-for-ace (and about 30% of the serves were aces), the tie-breaker came down to who could score in the precious few rallies that came along. Price took control early, and zeroed-in his backhand to build what appeared to be an insurmountable 10-4 lead. But Gerry failed to score at match point, and watched in despair as Swain stubbornly fought his way back into the match. With the help of three untouched drive serves and a pair of errors by his opponent, Cliff heated the walls and stopped Gerry cold as he scored seven straight to win by an eyelash, 11-7, 5-11, 1-11, 11-8, 11-10.

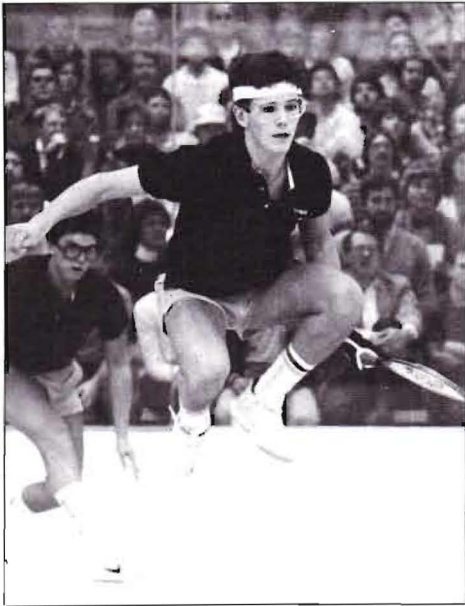
Swain was ecstatic, but his last-second

Doug Cohen concentrates on his power drive serve during quarters loss



Gerry Price watches his own serve during semifinal loss to Swain





Swain leaps in the air and looks the wrong direction for Price's drive

comeback shattered Price. The following afternoon, Gerry told a local newspaper reporter: "My heart is still broken. It hasn't healed, but I can't get it (the loss) back."

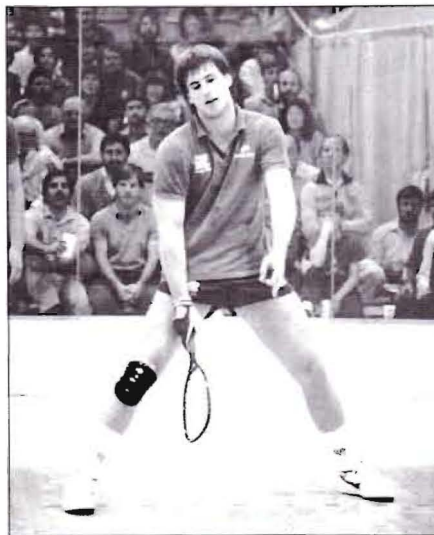
The odds were stacked so heavily against Cliff Swain in Sunday afternoon's final, that only a handful of the 200+ spectators on hand gave him any chance at all of winning. His opponent, Scott Oliver, seemed primed for a win; he was playing in his third final of the last twelve months (he fell to Hogan in the finals of Beaverton and Davison). Swain was playing his first, and no pro player had ever won a title match on his first try. No unseeded player had ever won a ranking pro stop. And only twice in history had anyone under 19-years-old gone all the way.

To no one's surprise, the final turned out to be one of the most flawlessly played and exciting matches of the season. Both Oliver and Swain served, moved, and shot with perfection. Scott came out hot, serving up a pair of aces while rolling to an 8-1 lead in the first game before Cliff was able to shake off the initial butterflies. The youngster fired-up his arm, and gave Oliver his first taste of the giant-killer serve. With five aces, four of which were rifled to Oliver's forehand, Swain nailed the first game, 11-10.

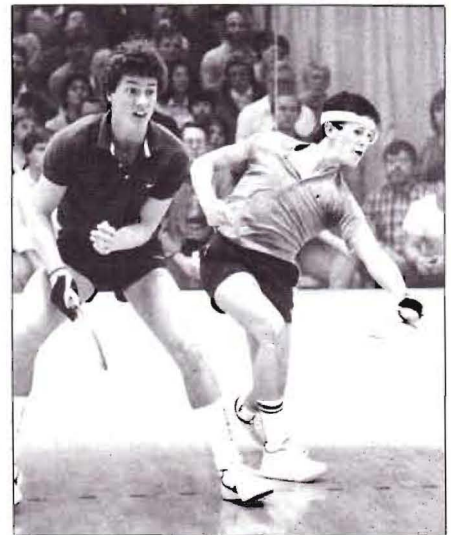
Despite sputtering a bit on his own serve, Oliver was able to put Cliff on the defensive in the rallies and won a tight second game, 11-9. Scott's drive serve to the right (Swain's backhand) was back in game three, and he won going away, 11-6. Swain returned the favor and



Scott Oliver takes advantage of Peck's position to drive down the wall



Gregg Peck points to the spot where the ball should have been



Scott Oliver strains to see Cliff Swain's forehand blast



A view through the two glass walls of the TRAC exhibition court

breezed through the fourth game, 11-5.

Scott Oliver is recognized by his fellow players as one of the best "clutch" players in the game; it's widely accepted that if you don't beat him before you go into the tie-breaker, you've got a big problem on your hands. But Cliff Swain apparently hasn't been around long enough to know that.

Swain's game caught fire in the tie-breaker. He dominated every phase of the game and rolled to a 9-1 lead, while Oliver desperately groped for something, anything, that could cool the challenger down. Surprisingly, he found something; a high lob Z serve that is common in most pro tournaments, but had been almost unseen in the matches at Tulsa.

For the first time in a week, Cliff Swain's inexperience proved almost fatal. His timing went haywire as he impatiently went after Oliver's perfectly-placed "balloon ball" serves, and Scott brilliantly turned a 1-9 deficit into a 10-9 lead. Twice he served for the match, and twice Swain denied him with sprawling fore-hand kills to the right corner.

Standing in the service box at 9-10, Cliff Swain had no choice but to rare back and let fly with his most potent weapon. As Scott Oliver set himself in backcourt, and glued his eyes to the transparent front-wall, Swain lifted his sleek CBK into the air and rifled two perfect drives into the crotch of the right side wall that sent Oliver to his knees, and brought the already frenzied crowd to their feet. Match—Swain; 11-10, 9-11, 6-11, 11-5, 11-10.

So appreciative was the Tulsa audience of the racquetball exhibition they had seen, that when Swain and Oliver came back on the court for the award ceremony they were treated to a long—and emotional—standing ovation.

"I lost two games 11-10 that should have been mine," said Oliver of his loss. "I was obviously favored to win and I didn't. His serve was just better than mine—better in the clutch.

"I've been to the finals three times now and haven't won. This is the first time he had even reached the quarterfinals and he beat me. I guess it's fate—God's gift."

"My serve pulled it out in the end," said a proud yet humble Cliff Swain. "I thought I played well today except for that bad streak of nine points in the tiebreaker. Overall I was pretty consistent. I've dreamed about winning, but I didn't know if it was really possible. Dreams do come true once in awhile, I guess."

The rankings of both players were given a big boost by the surprising outcome in Tulsa. Oliver, who went into the tournament tied for seventh, passed Ruben Gonzalez for the #6 position (commonly known as "best of the rest"). Swain, who collected \$3,000 for his victory, moved his ranking from 24th to 10th.

To be sure, Cliff Swain's miracle in Tulsa rewrote some of the chapters of pro racquetball history. But Swain's greatest challenge lies ahead. Young players on

the tour have flashed across the sky before, only to fall quickly back to earth. His next few performances will determine whether Cliff Swain is just a passing meteor, or whether he is truly a rising star on the pro tour.

Tulsa Open Pro Racquetball Championships
Tulsa, Oklahoma
February 6-10, 1985

Qualifying Round:
K. Kaihlanen d. S. Hutchinson; 2,6,3

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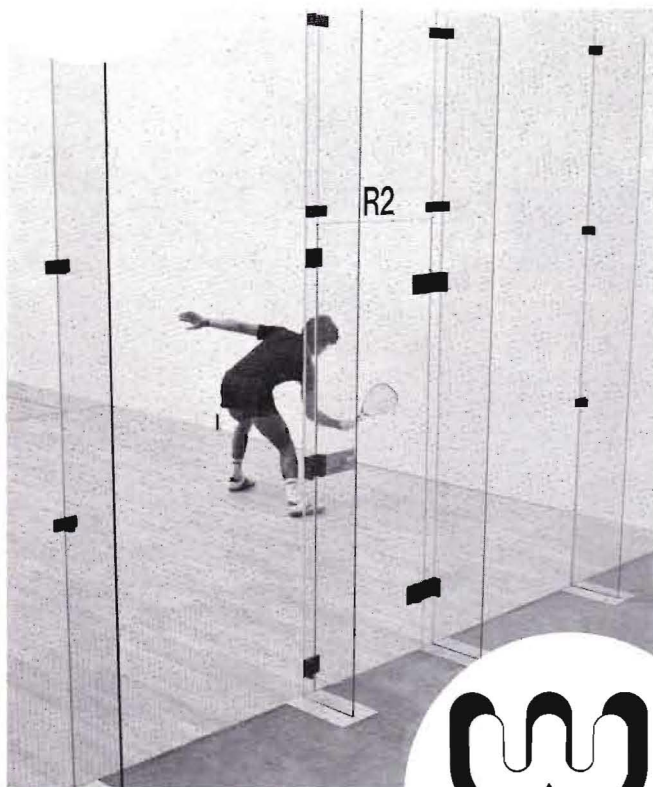
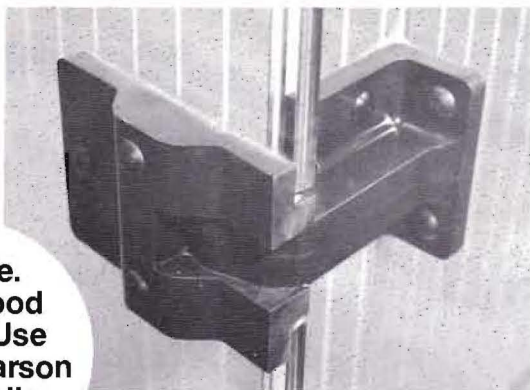
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J. Hammock d. K. Smith; 6,10,3
M. Fairbairn d. B. Wimpia; 1,5,(9),3
K. Atwell d. C. Williford; 6,(9),9,9
J. Botello d. D. Watson; 2,(7),7,6
T. Norris d. R. Matlock; (1),9,7,9
R. Arnovitz d. F. Rhoades; 3,3,8

Round of 32:

M. Fairbairn d. M. Yellen; forfeit
C. Swain d. S. Lerner; 10,(9),4,(4),1
E. Andrews d. L. Gilliam; (10),2,4,5
G. Price d. K. Kaihlanen; 6,9,3
R. Gonzalez d. K. Smith; 3,5,9
M. Ray d. D. Obremski; forfeit
A. Gross d. M. Plotkin; 1,(6),(7),4,3
B. Harnett d. T. Norris; forfeit
D. Peck d. J. Hammock; 1,2,1
D. Green d. E. Terry; (1),(8),9,1,9
J. Egerman d. J. Nolan; 7,8,9
S. Oliver d. J. Botello; (10),9,5,1
J. Hilecher d. R. Arnovitz; 10,3,10
D. Cohen d. E. Inoue; 6,1,(6),7
D. Gross d. D. Negrete; 4,7,(7),6
G. Peck d. K. Atwell; 4,4,4

Round of 16:

G. Peck d. Fairbairn; 2,8,4
Cohen d. Andrews; (6),10,4,10
Oliver d. A. Gross; 4,4,(2),9
Gonzalez d. D. Gross; 9,7,6
Swain d. Harnett; 3,(1),4,10
Hilecher d. Ray; (10),2,0,6
Price d. Egerman; (10),7,9,0
D. Peck d. Green; 9,3,1

Quarterfinal Round:

G. Peck d. Cohen; 3,3,(9),(5),3
Oliver d. Gonzalez; 9,(1),9,2
Swain d. Hilecher; 4,8,(7),4
Price d. D. Peck; 3,5,9

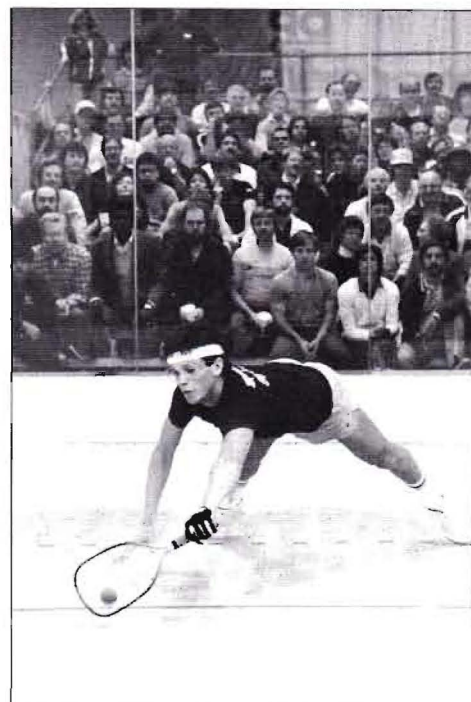
Semifinal Round:

Oliver d. G. Peck; 4,(1),3,6
Swain d. Price; 7,(5),(1),8,10

FINALS:

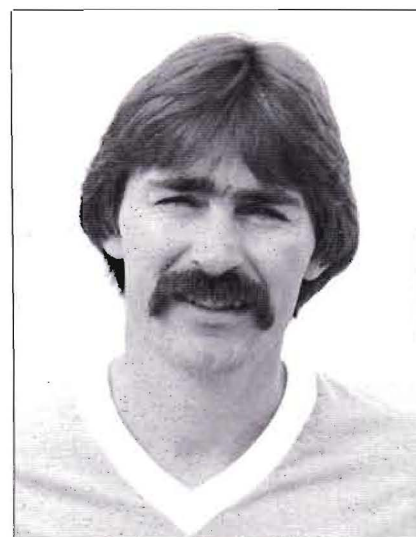
Swain d. Oliver; 10,(9),(6),5,10
Total Purse: \$10,000

Swain shows his ability to retrieve



BY STEVE STRANDEMO AND BILL BRUNS

ADVANCED RACQUETBALL



PART SEVEN-B: SHOTS FOR AN ALL-AROUND GAME

THE OVERHEAD

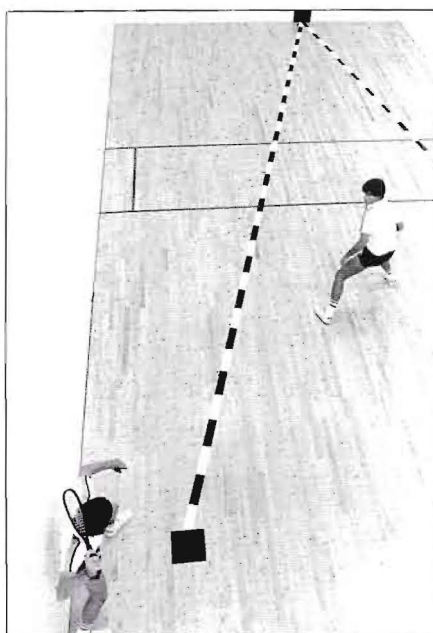
Even if you have an excellent ceiling shot, the overhead drive—used judiciously—can enable you to play a more versatile, aggressive game.

First of all, the overhead should be viewed primarily as a combination shot to set yourself up for a better scoring opportunity, not as an all-or-nothing winner (which is a rarity even in the pro game). An overhead passing shot, low and away from your opponent, can force him to hit while on the move or stretched out, thus increasing your chances of getting a weak return.

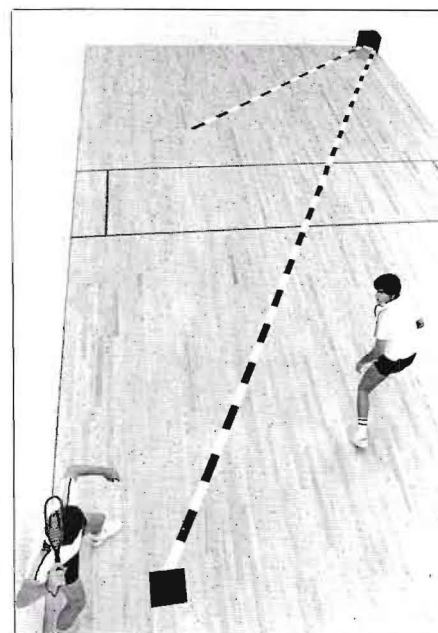
Second, a controlled overhead gives you flexibility against an opponent's ceiling balls and high-lob "Z" serves that are only slightly mis-hit. You can step up and take the ball down low, instead of automatically going up to the ceiling because you fear the efficiency of your overhead.

Third, you can initiate a low-zone type rally even against the seemingly perfect ceiling ball or lob-"Z"-type serve. If you have little patience for ceiling-ball rallies—and perhaps a weak ceiling shot—the overhead can force your opponent to play a faster-paced game more to your liking.

Having taken this stand for the overhead's *potential* virtues, I must stress its definite drawback: you're hitting down at such an angle that it takes great accuracy to make the ball bounce twice before the back wall. Moreover, when you're deep and you leave the overhead up off the back wall, your opponent can easily move over and be



The overhead drive, generally hit off a short ceiling ball, is aimed into the front wall as a passing shot away from your opponent—and low enough to stay off the back wall as a setup.



The overhead kill is pinched low and tight into the opposite front corner, a difficult feat (and an unreasonable expectation) when you're trying to bring the ball down from above your head, low enough to bounce twice before the service box.

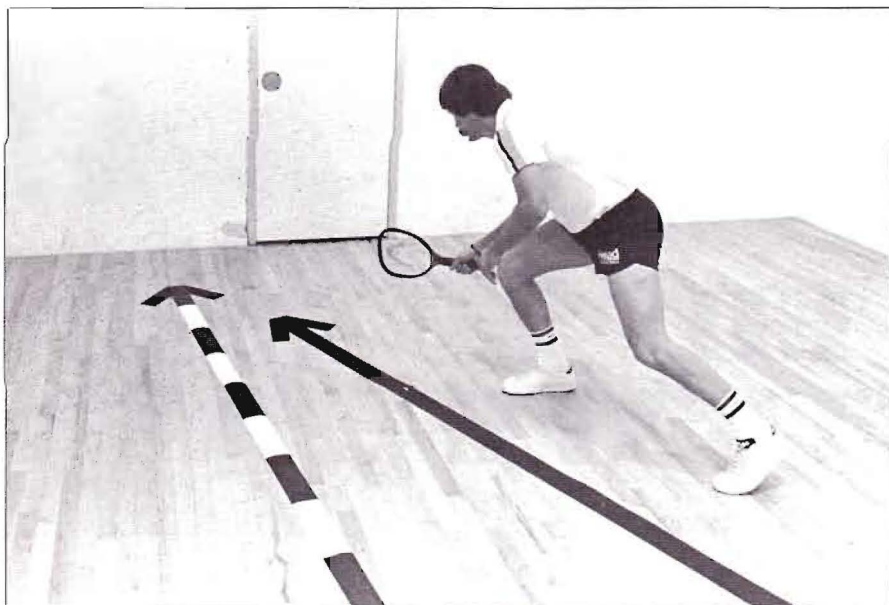
THE OVERHEAD

offensive with his shot as you scramble for a coverage position.

The Overhead Kill

Trying to deliberately end the rally with an overhead kill is such a risky, sometimes foolhardy ploy that you should attempt it

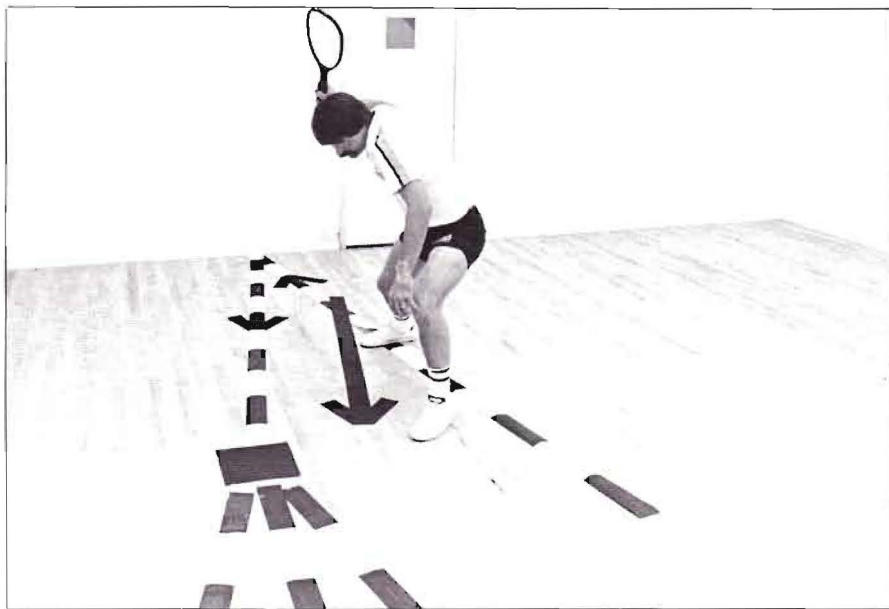
only infrequently—when you have a high-bouncing setup well short of the back wall, and especially if your opponent is caught deep. If he knows you have some skill with this shot and that you're not afraid to gamble at an opportune time, then he can't afford to always lag deep when you set up



SHOTS OFF THE BACK WALL

The player is retreating with the ball as it heads for the back wall, and he's anticipating how far it will carry out.

He wants to be far enough back so that he can move out with the ball as he sets up in a power-hitting position. He must shoot a variety of kill attempts from this area to keep his opponent from anticipating a particular shot.



for an overhead. Give him something to think about, but remember: this is still a low-percentage shot, and very seldom can you beat opponents of equal ability with low-percentage shots. I also find that a player's overhead efficiency tends to go down as he gets closer to game point. He may feel comfortable going for the kill at 5-all, but his execution seems to suffer when the pressure's on at 10-all.

In going for the overhead kill, try to pinch the ball tightly into either corner and hope that it bounces twice before your

opponent can get up to cover it.

SHOTS OFF THE BACK WALL

Taking the ball off the back wall should be one of your easiest and most reliable scoring shots, since you're setting up on a ball that's dropping low and is already headed for the front wall. However, if you realize that you're less efficient with this shot than many of your opponents, or that you're not putting it away as consistently as you want, here are some key fundamentals to review:

1. Go back with the single purpose of shooting the ball, even from 35 to 36 feet. The better players today are always thinking *offensively when they retreat* for this shot, even against a cross-court pass that is going to travel deep, nick the side wall, and barely come off the back wall. You may be happy just to get a shot like this back up to the front wall, but your tougher opponents, in the same situation, may be thinking, "If the ball comes off the back wall just enough to give me room to swing, I'm going to score."

2. The key to this shot is your movement with the ball, so don't get lazy. Make sure you're getting back quickly, and close enough to the back wall, so that you can come out with the ball as it rebounds forward.

3. As you move out with the ball, have your racquet in its set position and use whatever footwork style is comfortable. Let the ball drop low to your power zone as you stride in, then take a whipping jai-alai-type stroke, striving to have your body going totally into the shot at impact.

4. In practice, hit a variety of shots off the back wall and work on your movement so that you feel confident and competent in a match. Also diversify your low-zone shots, mixing up pinches, straight-in kills, and passes to keep opponents from playing off your tendencies.

THE AROUND-THE-WALL BALL

This is a shot you should incorporate into your game as an occasionally useful alternative to the ceiling—either to throw a different hitting angle at your opponent or to recover defensively.

A good around-the-wall ball (ARWB) is directed high and with moderate speed into a side wall, so that it carries across the court and strikes the opposite side wall above the service box. The ball is still in the air as it then caroms diagonally across the court, while slanting downward. If your opponent is aggressive and has a solid stroke, he should be able to fly-kill the ball before it bounces. However, this shot is tougher to put away than it looks, especially if your opponent has ignored it in practice and is now trying to execute under pressure, knowing that you're ready to cover any miss. Also, if he's grooved into returning ceiling balls, he's familiar with that ball pattern and he may now error as he tries to hit a ball that's coming diagonally off a side wall. Of course, he can let the ball bounce and then take it up to the ceiling, but here again he's contacting the ball at an unfamiliar angle.

I also use the around-the-wall ball when

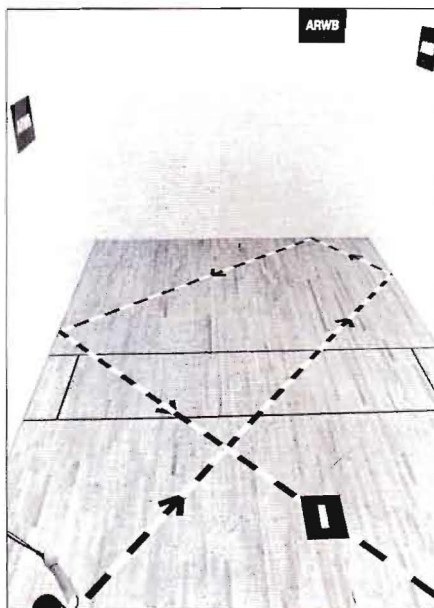
I'm stretched out of position and I need to buy time to get back in the rally. This is an automatic decision when I feel I don't have a good angle to flip it to the ceiling, so I drive it up into the side wall.

THE "Z" BALL

You're not going to fool anybody in advanced play with the "Z" ball, but you may find it useful as a tactic to either change pace or to retrieve when you're unable to hit a ceiling or an around-the-wall ball.

The "Z" ball resembles the around-the-wall ball, except that it hits the front wall first and then the side wall before caroming to the opposite side wall in the back 10 feet of the court. This pattern can confuse a novice, but the experienced player simply drifts over and, depending on how well the shot has been hit, either goes defensively to the ceiling or sets up for an offensive shot as the ball rebounds off the side wall and/or back wall.

You can pick up an occasional point with this shot if it's hit perfectly, with the ball coming off the side wall and getting tight against the back wall. Also, when things aren't going well, you may draw a weak



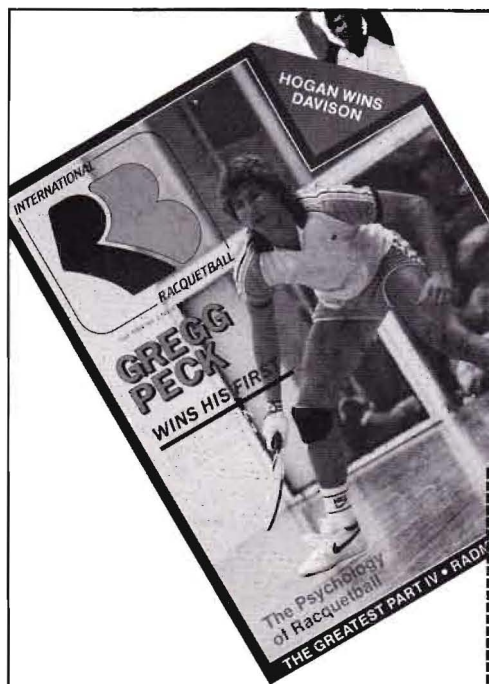
THE AROUND-THE-WALL BALL

This particular around-the-wall ball strikes the right wall quite high, then traces a path shown in the photograph, hitting the left wall about 10 to 12 feet high and taking its first bounce near the middle of the court. It will carom into the side wall and then angle toward the back wall, ideally not coming off as a setup.

return by forcing your opponent to respond to a different type of shot during the rally. Yet basically the "Z" ball is a fringe shot that should be used infrequently, at best. Even though it will buy time when you're desperate on defense, this is a lingering-death situation if your opponent is efficient at putting the ball away from deep court and your "Z" ball doesn't have perfect accuracy.

HITTING INTO THE BACK WALL

In the course of a rally, when your opponent's shot is threatening to get past you deep in the court, hitting into the back wall should be a last-resort option. Unless you're able to really drive the ball hard, this shot tends to rebound weakly off the front wall, enabling your opponent to move up and go for the fly-kill. Of course, when you can make the back wall shot carry high into the front wall with reasonable velocity, it will at least carry back and force your opponent to set up from beyond 30 feet. Given the choice, however, I try to flick my desperate retrieving shots directly up to the ceiling or front wall because it's a little easier to make the ball go high and rebound deep.



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MEN'S PROFESSIONAL TOURNAMENTS

DATE	LOCATION	PRIZE MONEY
MARCH 13-17 RANKING	LaBatts Pro/Am Griffith Park Athletic Club 4925 SW Griffith Drive Beaverton, OR 97005 Devri Doty 503-644-3900	\$10,000
MARCH 27-31 RANKING	Big C Athletic Club Concord, CA Bob Solorio 415-671-2110	\$15,000
APRIL 12-14 Non-ranking	Starting Gate Open The World of Sports Club 7400 Woodspoint Dr. Florence, KY 41042 (Cincinnati area) 606-371-8255	\$5,750
APRIL 17-21 RANKING	Toyota Lite Classic Merritt RB & Fitness Baltimore, MD Dave Pivec 301-532-2250	Toyota Mini-Van +\$7,200
MAY 1-5 RANKING	Ektelon Nationals The Sports Gallery Anaheim, CA Jim Carson 714-968-4313	\$22,000
MAY 15-19 RANKING	Crack Shooter Open Rocky Mountain Health Club 1880 Westland Road Cheyenne, WY 82001 Steve Galassini 307-634-8884	\$10,000
JUNE 12-16 RANKING	DP Nationals Site Undetermined	\$40,000

WOMEN'S PROFESSIONAL TOURNAMENTS

MARCH 8-10 RANKING	Pacific West Sport and Racquet Club 19820 Scriber Lake Road Lynwood, WA 98036 Bruce Hartley 206-852-9500	\$10,000
MAY 1-5 RANKING	Ektelon Nationals The Sports Gallery Anaheim, CA Jim Carson 714-968-4313	\$18,700
MAY 17-19 RANKING	Sports World P.O. Box 6676 Lawton, OK 73506 Contact: Judy Smith 405-536-9963	\$10,000
JUNE 6-9 (date tentative) RANKING	WPRA Nationals Riverbend Athletic Club Ft. Worth, TX Ken Newell 817-284-3353	\$22,000

1985 OUTDOOR SCHEDULE—CALIFORNIA

DATE	LOCATION	PURSE
MARCH 1-3	Santa Ana College Contact: Carol Herd 714-892-5821	\$1,300
MARCH (MID)	Orange Coast College Contact: Bob Wetzel 714-241-9075	
MAY 24-26	Santa Ana College Contact: Carol Herd 714-893-5821	\$1,300+
JULY (END)	OUTDOOR NATIONALS Contact: Barry Wallace 714-241-9075 or Jim Carson 714-968-4313	
AUG. 30- SEPT. 1	Santa Ana College Contact: Carol Herd 714-893-5821	\$1,300+
NOV. 22-24	Santa Ana College Contact: Carol Herd 714-893-5821	\$1,300+

MARCH

Mar. 13-16
Tri-City Supreme
551 East State St.
American Fork, UT 84003
Ron Peck

Mar. 15-17
3rd Annual Killshot for Cancer *3
Waverly Oaks Racquet Club
411 Waverly Oaks Rd.
Waltham, MA 02154
Ralph Dente
617-894-7010

Mar. 15-17
Cancer Society Open *3
Off the Wall Fitness Club
596 West Hollis
Nashua, NH 03060
Rosenfeld Turner
603-889-5520

Mar. 15-17
Capitol Courts
1013 Dearborn
Helena, MT 59601

Mar. 15-17
Cystic Fibrosis Open *3
Grand Blanc
Lee Fredrickson
616-672-7736

Mar. 15-17
Idaho State Singles *4
Sports World
Pocatello, ID

Mar. 15-17
Intercollegiate Florida *6
The Club
825 Courtland St.
Orlando, FL 32804

Mar. 15-17
Irish Fund Festival *3
Racquet Club of Meadville
Corner Poplar & French Sts.
Meadville, PA
Nancy Manny
814-724-3524

Mar. 15-17

Lucky Leprechaun Open *3
Sundown Liverpool
7455 Burgen Road
Liverpool, NY 13088
315-451-5050

Mar. 15-17
State Juniors *4
Sheridan YMCA
417 N. Jefferson
Sheridan, WY 82801
Jay McGinness

March Mid Month
Kansas State Singles *5
STBA

Mar. 20-23
Cottonwood Heights
7500 South 2700 East
Salt Lake City, UT 84121
John Packard

Mar. 21-24
AARA Regional, Region 10
Indiana Athletic Club
411 South Harbour Dr.
Noblesville, IN 46060
Mike Arnolt
317-776-0222

Mar. 21-24
New Mexico State Singles Championships
Academy Court Club
5555 McLeod N.E.
Albuquerque, NM 87109

Mar. 22-24
4th Annual Endless Mountain *3
Shadowbrook Racquetball & Fitness
Route 6
Tunkhannock, PA 18657
717-836-6336

Mar. 22-24
Cedardale Festival of Champions
Haverhill, MA
Joan Morrison
373-1596

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Mar. 22-24

Mountain Valley Court Club
Rt. 16
North Conway, NH 03860
Susan Rowan
603-346-5774

Mar. 22-24

South Dakota State Tournament *4
Russell Courts
817 West Russell
Sioux Falls, SD 57104

Mar. 27-30

Ogden Athletic Club
1221 East 5800 South
Ogden, UT 84403
Ed Dillback

Mar. 28-31

AARA Region 8 Championships *5
The Charlie Club
2701 Rd.
Joliet, IL 60435
Alvin Barasch
312-673-7300

Mar. 28-31

Adult Regional
Sports Plex
500 Gadswn Hwy
Birmingham, AL 35235
Gerald Cleveland
205-838-1213

Mar. 29-31

AARA Region 13 Championships
Billings Racquetball Club
777 15th St. West
Billings, MT 59102

Mar. 29-31

3rd Annual Ridge Racquet Club Open
710 West St.
Braintree, MA 02184
Jim Bove
617-848-0800

Mar. 29-31

Humbolt Y Open *3
3880 E. Robinson St.
Amherst, NY 14120

Mar. 29-31

State Doubles Junior Championships
STBA Idaho

APRIL

April

Region 6 Regionals
STBA

April 3-6

Towne & Country Tournament
2250 South 800 West
Woods Cross, UT 84087
Mike Vandegrift

April 4-7

Durango Racquetball Classic
Court Club of Durango
1600 Florida Road
Durango, CO 81301

April 5-7

Full Court Club Singles
1111 E. 40th St.
Anderson, IN 46014
Donna Lewellen
317-649-7387

April 5-7 (Doubles)

April 12-14 (Singles)
Milk Open Pro/Am *4
Spa 23 Racquet & Health Club

Pompton Plains, NJ
210-839-8823

April 12-14

AARA Region 1 Championships *5
STBA

April 12-14

Adult Regionals, Region 3 *5
Bethlehem Racquetball Club
Bethlehem, PA
Bernie Howard

April 12-14

6th Annual Tiger Open *3
The Racquet Club
467 N. Dean Rd.
Auburn, AL 36830
Ginna Vinson
887-9591

April 12-14

Montana State Singles *4
STBA

April 12-14

Wyoming State Singles *4
Casper WRC/YMCA
315 E. 15th St.
Casper, WY 82601

April 13-15

Region 4 Singles
The Complex
Suwanee, GA
404-945-8977

April 13-15

Adult Regionals, Region 6 *5
Olympian Health & Racquetball
2120 N. Woodlawn
Wichita, KS

April 13-15

1985 AARA Northeast Regionals
STBA
Paul Henrickson
617-754-6073

April 17-20

YMCA Tournament
737 East 200 South
Salt Lake City, UT 84102
Ruth McGovern

April 18-21

Adult Regionals, Region 15
STBA
Seattle, WA

April 18-21

Illinois State Doubles *4
STBA
Chicagoland, IL
Art Michaely
312-647-8222

April 19-21

RAM State Singles *4
Mt. Clemens Racquet Club
Michigan
Jim Hiser

April 19-21

Region 2 Championships *5
Al Seitelman
73 Babylon
Sound Beach, NY 11789

April 19-21

Adult Regionals, Region 7
San Antonio RB & Handball
849 Isom
San Antonio, TX 78216
Bruce Hendin

April 19-21

Region 11 Adult Regionals *5
Russell Courts
817 W. Russell
Sioux Falls, SD 57104
605-338-9902

April 24-27

Feeling Great Tournament
1194 South Main
Springville, UT 84663
Judy Watkins

April 25-28

Region 12 Adult Regionals
Tom Young's Athletic Club & Spa
2250 Wyoming Blvd. NE
Albuquerque, NM 87112

April 26-28

Adult Regionals, Region 14
STBA
San Francisco, CA

April 26-28

Men/Women Open, Novice, Doubles,
Juniors
Grand Junction Athletic Club
2815 Foresight Cr.
Grand Junction, CO 81501
Gary Scogin
303-245-4100

April 27-29

Asheville Circuit Ct.
Asheville, NC
Colon Wood
704-252-0222

April 29-31

AARA Region 2 Championships *5
STBA

Al Seitelman

73 Babylon
Sound Beach, NY 11789

MAY

May 1-4

Racqueteer Tournament
615 East 9800 South
Sandy, UT 84070
Randy Goodsell

May 2-5

Junior Regionals, Region 8 *5
STBA
Chicagoland, IL
Alvin Barasch
312-673-7300

May 3-5

East Coast Women's Championships
Racquetball International
Dave Isso
617-336-5600

May 3-5

Junior State Championships
Indiana Athletic Club
411 South Harbor Dr.
Noblesville, IN 46060
May 3-5
One Last Shot
Grand Rapids, MI
Jim Hiser
313-653-9602

May 3-5

Region 2 Juniors *5
73 Babylon
Sound Beach, NY 11789
Al Seitelman

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

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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 DECEMBER 10, 1984

RANK	PLAYER	POINTS
1	M. Hogan	96.66
2	M. Yellen	70.00
3	G. Peck	69.00
4	D. Peck	63.00
5	B. Harnett	60.00
6	S. Oliver	52.22
7	R. Gonzalez	50.00
8	G. Price	48.00
9	J. Hilecher	47.50
10	C. Swain	42.50
11	D. Cohen	34.00
12	E. Andrews	32.00
13	J. Newman	27.77
14T	J. Egerman	27.14
14T	B. Hawkes	27.14
16T	M. Ray	25.00
16T	R. Wagner	25.00
18	A. Gross	22.44
19	B. Sell	21.42
20	C. Brysman	21.11
21T	D. Gross	18.00
21T	M. Antes	18.00
23T	L. Gilliam	17.50
23T	M. Levine	17.50
25	E. Terry	16.40
26T	S. Lerner	15.00
26T	D. Thomas	15.00
26T	S. Moskwa	15.00
26T	L. Myers	15.00
30T	K. Vantrease	12.50
30T	D. Obremski	12.50
32	D. green	10.66
33T	J. Nolan	10.00
33T	M. Griffith	10.00
33T	P. Britos	10.00
33T	D. Simmonette	10.00
37	D. Johnson	8.50
38	M. Plotkin	8.40
39T	M. Fairbairn	7.50
39T	E. Inoue	7.50
39T	B. Valin	7.50
39T	S. Fitzpatrick	7.50
39T	C. McCoy	7.50
44	M. Lowe	6.00
45T	W. Snead	5.50
45T	G. Exeria	5.50
47T	J. Botello	5.00
47T	K. Kaihlanen	5.00
47T	M. Martino	5.00
47T	D. Negrete	5.00
47T	D. Ferris	5.00
47T	S. Perry	5.00
53T	P. Marino	3.00
53T	W. Beardsley	3.00
53T	C. Scott	3.00
53T	S. Morey	3.00
53T	S. Hawkins	3.00
58T	R. Arnovitz	2.50
58T	K. Atwell	2.50
58T	J. Hammock	2.50
58T	T. Norris	2.50
58T	K. Smith	2.50
58T	T. Neil	2.50
58T	K. Garigus	2.50
58T	B. Corcorran	2.50
58T	M. Romo	2.50

WPRA RANKINGS OCTOBER 22, 1984

THIS MO.	PLAYER	POINTS
1	Heather McKay	322.00
2	Lynn Adams	302.50
3	S. Wright Hamilton	127.50
4	Terri Gilreath	117.75
5	Vicki Panzeri	109.50
6	Caryn McKinney	97.00
7	Francine Davis	93.00
8	Janell Marriott	88.50
9	Joyce Jackson	79.00
10	Brenda Poe-Barrett	67.50
11	Jennifer Harding	49.50
12	Peggy Gardner	41.25
13	Bonnie Stoll	40.00
14	Molly O'Brien	31.00
15	Heather Stupp	29.25
16	Marcy Lynch	28.00
17	Liz Alvarado	23.00
18	Marci Greer	21.75
19T	Martha McDonald	20.00
19T	Carol Pranka	20.00
21	Mary Dee	18.00
22	Laura Martino	16.50
23	Trina Rasmussen	16.00
24	Stacey Fletcher	15.00
25T	Diane Bullard	13.00
25T	Val Paese	13.00
27T	Marci Drexler	12.50
27T	Rita Hoff-Scott	12.50
29T	Babette Bell	10.00
29T	Monique Parent	10.00
31T	Suzie Carlos	7.50
31T	Leslie Clifford	7.50
31T	Cathie Fredrickson	7.50
31T	Sandy Robson	7.50
35	Jean Sauser	6.00
36	Suzanne Robert	5.50
37T	Elaine Riley	3.00
37T	Donna Meyer	3.00
39T	Diane Adams	2.50
39T	Cindy Baxter	2.50
39T	K. Bishop-Thulin	2.50
39T	Ellen Campbell	2.50
39T	Lisa Devine	2.50
39T	Cindy Donnally	2.50
39T	Carol Dupuy	2.50
39T	Chris Evon	2.50
39T	Dot Fishl	2.50
39T	Melody Fox	2.50
39T	Terri Graham	2.50
39T	Kay Kuhseid	2.50
39T	Robin Levine	2.50
39T	Tamara Low	2.50
39T	Cathy Nichols	2.50
39T	Tracy Phillips	2.50
39T	Theresa Pitts	2.50
39T	Karen Powers	2.50
39T	Joyce Robertson	2.50
39T	Beth Slade	2.50
39T	Tanya Spangler	2.50
39T	Peggy Steding	2.50

AARA/ARHS NATIONAL MEN'S RANKINGS JANUARY 23, 1985

1	Fred Calabrese	365
2	Charlie Nichols	270
3	Tim Hansen	260
4	Mark Hegg	225
5	Andy Roberts	225
6	Jim Cascio	215
7	Cliff Swain	215
8	Doug Ganim	205
9	Bruce Christensen	190
10	Dave Bennett	180
11	Tom Fournier	180
12	Sergio Gonzalez	180
13	Mike Ray	180
14	Bubba Gautier	173
15	Mitch Campbell	145
16	Stu Hastings	140
17	Dan Obremski	130
18	Lee Stocks	130
19	Jim Synhorst	120
20	Mike Love	110
21	Al Wright	110
22	Steve Miragliotta	108
23	Dan Ferris	100
24	Danny Green	100
25	Charles Horton, Jr.	100
26	Ken Kaihlanen	100
27	Bob Piper	100
28	Chuck Ransum	100
29	Mike Reynolds	100
30	Rick Smith	100
31	Steve Villis	100
32	Haydon Jones	95

AARA/ARHS NATIONAL WOMEN'S RANKINGS JANUARY 23, 1985

1	Cindy Baxter	340
2	Molly O'Brien	180
3	Leesa Smith	180
4	Cindy Doyle	175
5	Kam Higgins	150
6	Pam Clark	145
7	Sheri Anderson	140
8	Kathy Gluvna	140
9	Joetta Hastings	140
10	Robin Levine	140
11	Mona Mook	130
12	Angela Uyble	130
13	Diane Bullard	120
14	Crystal Fried	100
15	Mary Lou Holrudd	100
16	K. Randanzo	100
17	Karen Walton-Trent	100
18	Dot Fischel	90
19	Fran Davis	80
20	Lisa Ecker	80
21	Joy Eon	80
22	Debbie Erhart	80
23	Chris Evon	80
24	Robin Rodriguez	80
25	Paula Truman	80
26	Marcy Lynch	75
27	Elaine Mardas	70
28	Cathy Nichols	70
29	Julie Ginsburg	65
30	Donna Henry	65
31	Debbie Mackell	65

CPRO RANKINGS (Canadian Professional) DECEMBER 10, 1984

RANK	PLAYER
1	Lindsay Myers
2	Ross Harvey
3	Sherman Greenfield
4	Brian Valin
5	Roger Harripersad
6	Haydn Jones
7	Rick Gartel
8	Woody Close
9	Wendell Taliber
10	Wayne Bowes
11	Bob Daku
12	Cliff Hendrickson
13	Brian Thompson
14	Manny Gregorio
15	Martin Gervais

MEN'S JAPANESE RANKINGS DECEMBER 10, 1984

RANK	PLAYER	POINTS
1	Y. Hirasaka (DRC)	367
2	S. Naoi (KRBC)	300
3	S. Ohyama (B-BANG)	250
4	M. Ishimoto (DRC)	227
5T	Y. Furuta (B-BANG)	215
5T	T. Minato (DRC)	215
7	M. Kiuchi (OAKS)	207
8	S. Zaima (B-BANG)	175
9	T. Nirazuka (B-BANG)	160
10T	K. Okuyama (OAKS)	148
10T	T. Yoshiwara (DRC)	148

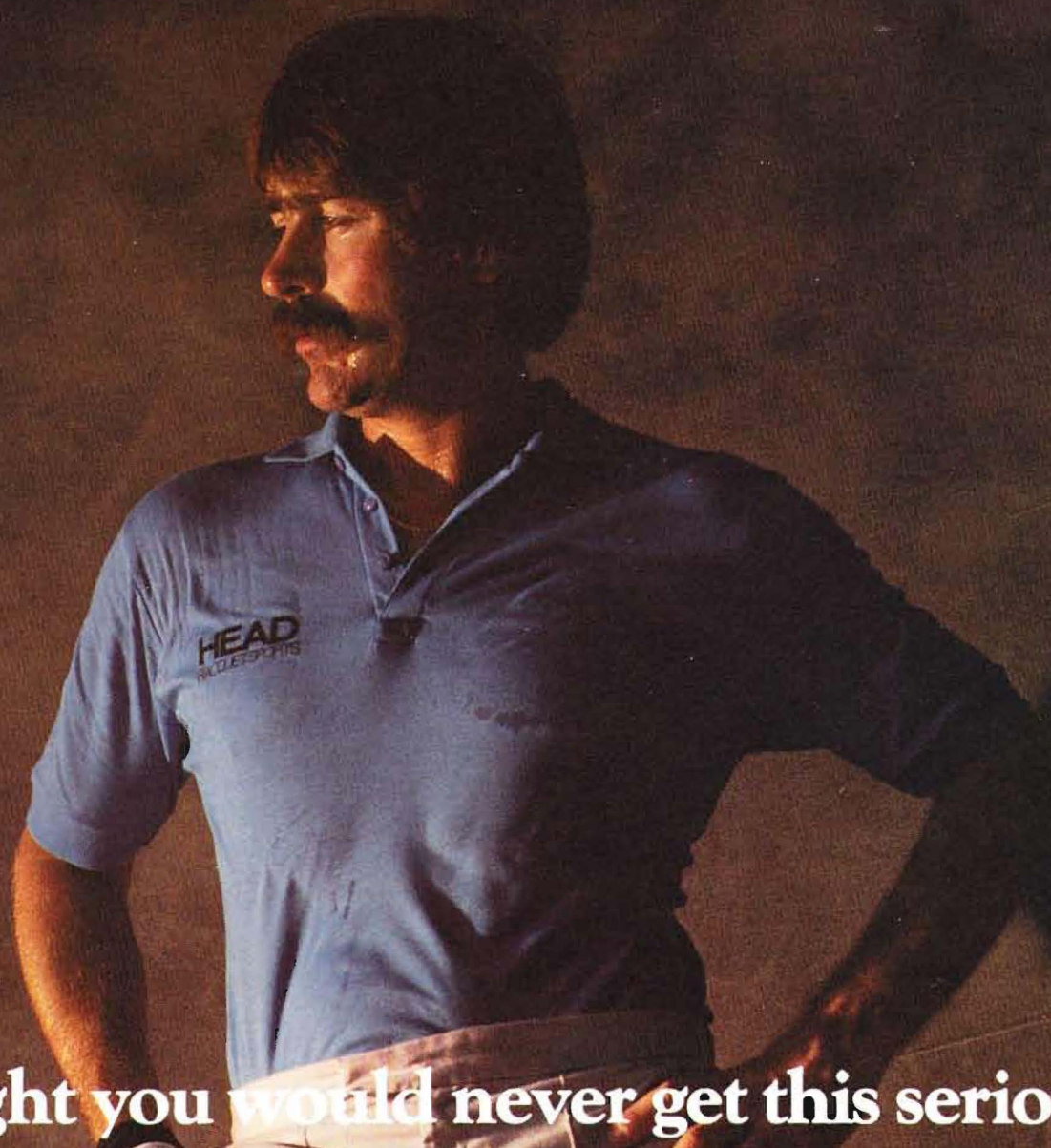
WOMEN'S JAPANESE RANKINGS DECEMBER 10, 1984

RANK	PLAYER	POINTS
1	M. Kurimoto (XAS)	368
2	S. Tozawa (DRC)	301
3	E. Watanabe (XAS)	225
4	M. Kobayashi (MSH)	196
5T	M. Sekiguchi (MSH)	189
5T	E. Kiuchi (DRC)	189
7	M. Hataya (B-BANG)	185
8	S. Ohki (EVEN)	170
9	S. Sagawa (BRC)	168
10	Y. Ohta (KRBC)	161

The women's rankings are the official rankings of the Women's Professional Racquetball Association (WPRA).

The amateur rankings are the official rankings of the American Amateur Racquetball Association (AARA).

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June 19-23 CA July 17-21

July 24-28 Dallas, TX August 7-11 Chicago, IL
July 31-Aug. 4 August 14-18

August 21-25 Philadelphia, PA
August 28-Sept. 1

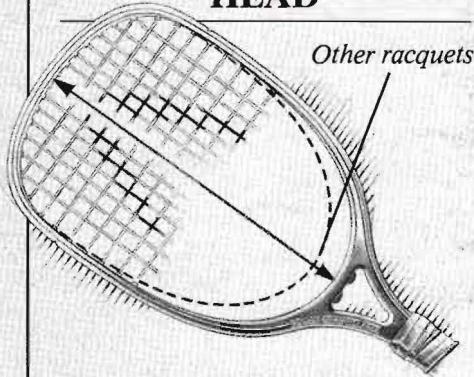
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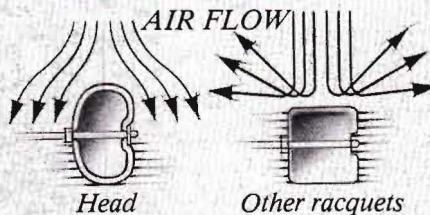
Pure power is great stuff. And power is what Head's Apex and Vector are designed for. Their enlarged hitting areas provide Head's biggest sweet spots ever. So you get more power, less vibration and absolutely no mercy on the kill.

But pure power is not always enough to win the match, the game, or even the point. You need perfectly-placed pinches, controlled ceiling balls and well-timed cut-offs.

To make those shots you need control and maneuverability as well as power. That's why Head made the Apex and Vector not

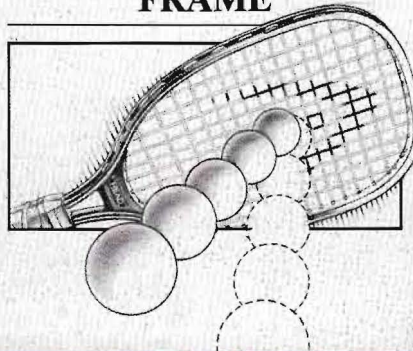
only bigger, but faster, stiffer and stronger as well.

WITH A QUICKER PROFILE



See how air flows easily around Head's aerodynamically slick frame. That reduced wind resistance gives you split-second responsiveness and maneuverability. So you can surprise your opponent with a drive, a pinch, or an unexpected cut-off. And nothing overpowers like a surprise.

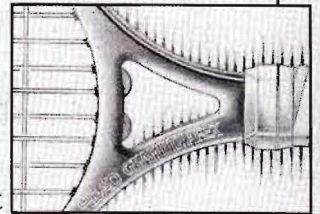
WITH A STIFFER FRAME



Head's stiffer frames help you overpower your opponents with accuracy. You see, the ball follows a truer, more accurate path as it rebounds off the face of a stiff racquet. So you get great placement control. That means more drives go right down the line and more pinches end up as winners, time after time.

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You're looking at Head's integrated throat design. It provides built-in reinforcement



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