

RACQUETBALL

Magazine - September/October 1995 - \$4.00

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MEN'S PRO TOUR PREMIERES ON ESPN

**Tom Slear looks at the IRT as it faces an
exciting new season ... on the courts and
over the airwaves!**

**Also inside ... U.S. Olympic Festival '95,
Junior & Skill Nationals, Pro tour coverage,
More regional results, Guest features,
Tournament Updates, Instructional ...
and much more!**

Have You Ever Seen the Kind of Bruise a 180 mph Serve Can Leave, On Your Ego?

"Nice Serve Cliff!"
[Wow!]

"Nice Serve Cliff!"
[Was that a serve or a missile!]

"Nice Serve Cliff!"
[Had to be a wetball serve!]

"Nice Serve Cliff!"
[Maybe the video caught it?]

"Nice Serve Cliff!"
[This is getting old fast!]

"Nice Serve Cliff!"
[Okay, I'm just gonna guess!]

"Nice Serve Cliff."
[Guess again!]

"Nice Serve Cliff."
[Hey got a piece!]

"Nice Serve Cliff."
[Is this double elimination!]

"Nice Serve Cliff."
[This Sucks!]

"Nice Serve Cliff. "
[I suck!]

"Nice Serve Cliff."
[Great, I choked one back!]

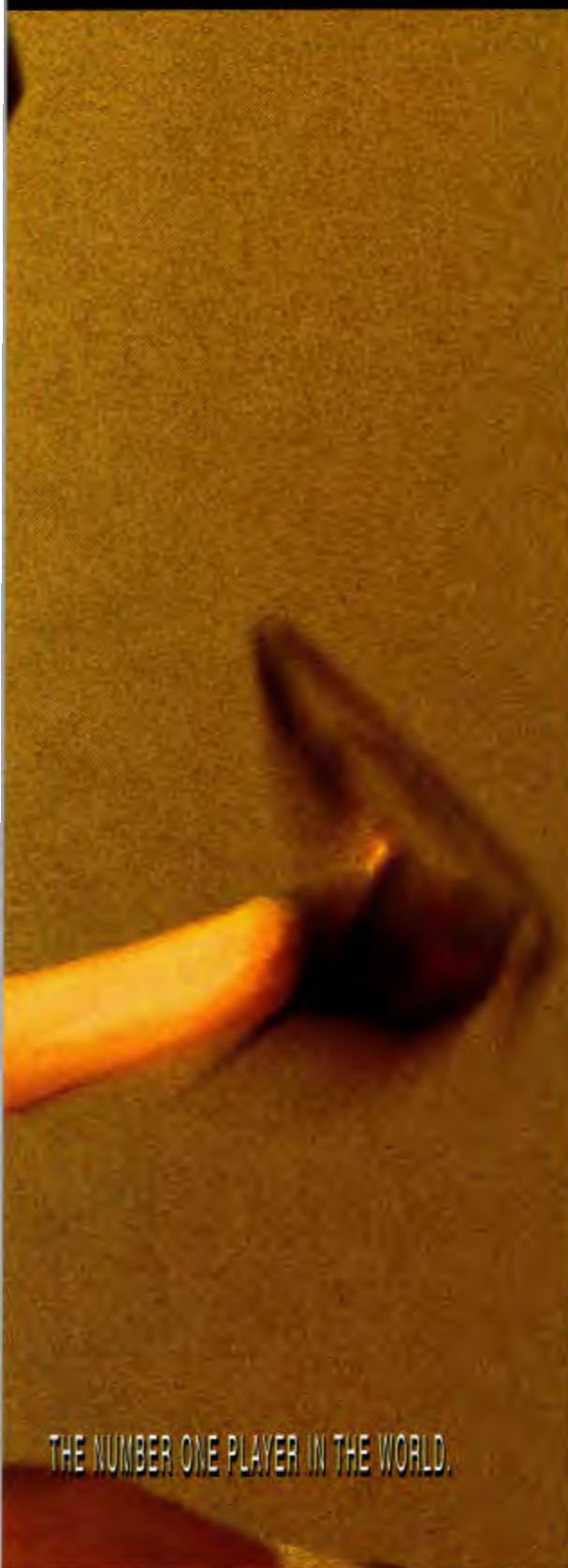
"Nice Serve Cliff."
[This just eats the big one!]

"Nice Serve Cliff."
[I must even gonna get to serve!]

"Nice game Mr. Swain."
[Jerk!]

CLIFF SWAIN

Leave an Impression. The "G" Series and The New Pyramid Series from Head.



THE NUMBER ONE PLAYER IN THE WORLD.



The 175 "G" Racquet

The New Big Bang Racquet

The Head 175 "G" is one of six racquets in the "G" Series. Arguably, six of the lightest most powerful racquets you can find anywhere in the world today. And that is precisely why Cliff Swain plays with one. With shots that alternate between serves in excess of 180 mph to lightning fast stabs at volleys, he needs a racquet that is super quick, and super powerful. After all if you're going to stay at the top you have to dish it out a lot faster than it gets served up. And this year Head Racquetball introduces a whole new generation of high performance racquets called The Pyramid Series. Six exciting new frames that incorporate our Revolutionary New Pyramid Technology. This dynamic new racquet construction transfers more power directly to the ball than most conventional frame designs. Giving you the extra edge on the competition.

The "G" Series and The Pyramid Series.
The New Power From Head!


HEAD
SUPERIOR QUALITY. SUPERIOR PERFORMANCE.



FROM THE EDITOR

Well, if the last issue didn't kill me, I don't know what will. The number of errors was downright embarrassing, but luckily our freelance spotters out in the field were able to help pinpoint them immediately. Being the near-

perfect person that I am (*join me in some throat-clearing sounds, will you?*) it's not my habit to make mistakes, but here are a few that merit your attention.

Thanks to Larry Mullen of Colorado, please note that Rule 4.9 (a) should have been deleted when the board passed the new fault serve revision — making the ball hitting the partner in doubles a fault — as correctly cited in new rule 4.10 (k). So, DELETE 4.9 (a) from your memory banks, and from your hard copy of the rules.

Thanks to Jim Easterling of Michigan, note that the change in Rule 4.5 regarding delays was also omitted. The revised first line of the new rule 4.5 should read: "Except as noted in Rule 4.5 (b), referees may call a technical foul for delays exceeding 10 seconds." So, ENTER into your memory banks that taking too much time to serve, or receive, can now cost you a point.

Thanks to several early-bird entrants to national doubles ... where the heck is it? And when? The first-run of the doubles application neglected to provide those minor details. Oh sure, the information could be found a few pages later in the national calendar, but the updated version on page 64 of this issue fills in the blanks all in one place! How novel ...

And Michelle Gould is so picky about having that last "e" put in her name ...

I'm so sure there are more errors lurking around in the pages of the last issue that I've had all the extras destroyed. (*I know where they're stored, I can do that...*) What I can't do is join the Time Cop police force and alter the past to my liking, so I hope we're all in agreement that we can move forward ...

Making mistakes. If you haven't made any lately, I highly recommend them — in moderation. For my money, it's one of the fastest ways to learn ... and it keeps you honest.

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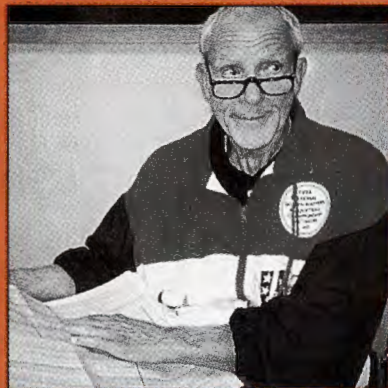
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Top: This motley crew is trying to show off its collective bruises from competition at the U.S. Olympic Festival.

Middle: Rookies Mike Johnston and Britt Engel smile for the camera. [Photos: Luke St. Onge]



Left: National Master's athlete Jack Gushue plans his strategy. [Photo: Ron Pudduck]

ON THE COVER

Taken from preview footage supplied by J.M. Associate's Angie Thompson, this shot is a sample of the type of graphic treatment the IRT broadcasts will receive this season. Check your listings for showtimes!

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READER Forum

FROM RACQUETBALL MAGAZINE ...

In response to the many calls and letters to our offices regarding the recent ad placed by Ektelon and its parent company, Benetton, in the July/August issue of RACQUETBALL Magazine, the AARA Executive Board met to review the situation.

Acting on this unprecedented situation, the AARA Executive Board moved to establish a procedure to be implemented immediately, which would address any similar situations that might arise in the future. Based upon staff recommendation, any such future advertising which may be highly offensive or detrimental to the sport of racquetball will be reviewed by the Executive Board and the AARA's ethics committee prior to publication. The Executive Board will then decide whether or not any ad in questionable taste will be published.

The AARA does not wish to censor or in any way infringe on the first amendment rights of its membership or advertisers, but it does recognize its responsibility to the sport and to the readership of RACQUETBALL Magazine - particularly where potential offense and/or detriment to the sport might be construed.

The AARA apologizes to any of its membership and subscribers to RACQUETBALL Magazine who were offended by the published ad in question. We believe that the procedure now instituted will prevent similar occurrences in the future.

Sincerely,
Luke St. Onge
AARA Executive Director

THE CRUX OF IT ...Not surprisingly, we've received more than the usual number of "letters to the editor" regarding the now-infamous "condom ad" in the July/August edition of RACQUETBALL Magazine. While many contained the terms "in poor taste," "disgusting" and "offensive," we've tried to select a broad sampling of points of view that are not redundant, enabling us to publish as many of the edited responses as space permits. And, unless subsequent letters offer a wildly different perspective, we will limit this "print discussion" to this issue only — and move on to more positive topics in the holiday season.

I received my copy of Racquetball and Total Racquetball recently. The condom ad was totally tasteless and unacceptable. ... The message given here was not one of safe sex ... That aside, I believe it is my responsibility and job to deliver this information to my daughter, not yours! This is a responsibility I take very seriously. •David L. MacArthur — New Bern, NC

The "Colors of Benetton" series of ads has, of course, been very successful in some cases and has created some very creative and interesting pictures as an essential part of their ad campaigns in the past. However, I feel that this one not only missed the mark, it will ultimately create ill will for both Benetton/Ektelon and those on your magazine who are responsible for screening and accepting ads ... Please remember that is the ultimate goal of an ad - to sell the product. In this case someone will probably claim that this was more of a public service message. The players that I have heard discuss this ad aren't buying it. •Terry C. Wells — Tomball, TX

What is society coming to? How in the world did the AARA agree to publish the Ektelon and Head advertisements? In Texas I have always assessed a technical for anyone saying the word "sucks." To me ... it is not any better than any other cuss word. The "condom" ad is unbelievable. If anyone wore a shirt with that same advertisement they would be forbidden to participate in the event ... With these advertisements the AARA has now made every state president's and tournament director's job much more difficult. I'm not sure how we can ever assess a technical for profanity or ever tell anyone that their attire is inappropriate. •Annie Muniz — TARA President

I recognize the need for condoms, and have no problem with them being advertized in your magazine. However, the particular condom ad (the spiked, weirdo one) is offensive. •Joseph P. Behler — Medina, OH

I am absolutely appalled at the Ektelon advertisement in our beloved magazine ... I agree that kids should be made aware of the prac-

tice of safe sex, but why in this way? And safe play? This is nothing but garbage that belongs in some pornography magazine ... I have given my life and my time to an organization that was felt to be worthy of my commitment. Maybe I was wrong all this time ... Maybe, just maybe you guys did not realize that this would be offensive to your readers. This is the only reason I give you benefit of the doubt. •Joe Woods — Humble, TX

I just received your magazine and was skimming through the pages, when I came across an advertisement with a condom on it. And it was not any ordinary condom. How inappropriate! Needless to say, not only was I quite shocked by this, but very appalled ... As a parent, it is a shame that I have to go through a magazine ... and make sure there is nothing in there I do not want my children to see ... I am also a junior instructor, and am embarrassed to think these juniors, many of them 8, 9 and 10, have to be exposed to these types of ads ... As for myself, I have been a long time player, supporter and member of the AARA (over 17 years) ... I do not feel this type of advertising is appropriate or necessary for this magazine. •Elaine Hooghe — Columbus, OH

From the top in the industry to the very lowest ... Your point could have been made with a condom in the package or something. I can't imagine what's next from Ektelon ... Tasteless, very tasteless ... What do you think people just picking up the magazine who may not really be involved with racquetball may think!? •Jack Healy — Salt Lake City, UT

I do not like the fact that my money was spent on such a bad example of advertising ... The implied message appears to be that it is safe to play racquetball with glasses and it is safe to have sex using a condom. I do not feel it is the place of a racquetball magazine to encourage young people or older people to have sex with or without a condom ... Your magazine needs to teach things pertaining to racquetball (period). •Robert E. Boatman — Clovis, NM

Please keep this kind of crap out! • **Don McFadyen – Fernandina Beach, FL**

Please extend my "thanks" to Ektelon for the truly offensive advertising! From what I've heard...your hands were tied in this matter. I hope that in the months to come you will arm yourselves with enough sponsors so that you can tell Ektelon to go jump!!! ... If Ektelon wanted to promote a "safe sex" message ... why not just simply show an unopened condom, still in its package? And of course there's the other stance to be argued as well—abstinence! But, that's not very PC, is it? • **Leann Johnson – New Bern, NC**

As an employee, I understood the reasoning behind placing the ad. As a member, I was appalled. As a mother, I was embarrassed by having to explain it to my daughter. Surely, the AARA can control future ads and print things with taste that can still get the point across. • **Melody Weiss – Colorado Springs, CO**

In the three-part ad for Ektelon ... I find the one part extremely offensive and inappropriate. I am no prude, yet this disgusts me. In addition does anyone there really think this could be appropriate for children? We do have children who play our sport and who read this magazine ... I sincerely hope someone both in their organization [Ektelon] and in ours [AARA] will have the good sense to not run this ad again, even through they obviously have not shown it in the decision to run it in the first place. • **Tawn Wolfe – Huntington Beach, CA**

I sat down the other day and opened up the newest issue ... As I was reading I came across the [ad]. I am in a state of shock that such a well respected magazine would permit such a display. As a mother of three I have always tried to instill a sense of morals and responsibility in my children. It was quite an embarrassing situation for me because I saw Kerri and a few of her friends making negative and surprising statements concerning the condom picture. I hope in the future you and your staff will no longer permit an advertisement like that again. • **Gerri Stoffregen – Cincinnati, OH**

For years I have enjoyed reading your magazine until your recent issue. I cannot begin to describe how disgusted and angry I am over your ad ... From the little I know, this ad belongs in a Penthouse

or Hustler magazine, but never, ever in a sports magazine. How could you ever lower yourself and the magazine to this level of filth? What on earth has racquetball and eyewear to do with a condom? • **Rudy L. Merz – Riverwoods, IL**

After seeing [the ad], it's almost impossible to express how "proud" I am to have spent 16 years of my life promoting a sport I love. How can we allow our sport to be tarnished by an insulting, tasteless, tacky and offensive advertisement? How far must we go to obtain the finances we need to survive? • **Julee Nicolai–Erie, PA**

I am disappointed about [the ad] comparing the appropriateness of wearing eye protection on a racquetball court with using a condom when one "wants to have sex." This has significantly influenced my perception of the maturity level of AARA and Ektelon management. To be frank, not only was the ad distasteful it also makes a strong morality statement. The act of physical union within a marriage is very special and should be referred to in proper context with respectfulness. Please do not encourage young people to think otherwise. Thank you. • **George Lentini – Ossining, NY**

Leo Burnett, the head of one of the world's greatest advertising agencies once said, "Let's gear our advertising to sell goods, but let's recognize also that advertising has a broad social responsibility." This seems to be a viable criteria to work from, however it seems your organization lacks this moral foundation. You either lack it or feel you must succumb to a few certain companies that are perhaps controlling our sport from behind the scenes. Bottom line if you can't or for whatever reason? not stand up to the Ektelons of the world it is time you step aside and allow the sport to move forward. I have been involved in racquetball for over 20 years and have continued to see the sport be diminished under your watch. After competing in the National Doubles, observing the state organization here in North Carolina, receiving no support in running our events and watching your private club unfold in the magazine I have come to one conclusion you are certainly living up to your name – *amateur*. • **Charles Hauser – Wilmington, NC**

Your decision to run the [ad] ... was a disappointment to me and my family,

FROM EKTELON ...

This letter to RACQUETBALL Magazine is in response to the magazine's preceding editorial statement and the few calls and letters Ektelon has received regarding our latest eyewear advertisement.

Ektelon did not create this ad with the intent to disturb or offend this magazine's readers or racquetball players in general. We did, however, create the ad to get people's attention, because if an ad fails to do that first and foremost, the money spent for the ad is wasted. In addition, the second goal of the subject ad was to communicate a relevant message (safety) to racquetball's target audience, which happens to be primarily male, aged 18 to 34. We understand that the target audience also extends to juniors under the age of 13, and that the ad created some issues for the readers. Please accept or sincere apologies if any uncomfortable situations arose due to the ad.

Ektelon has tried some new ways to market the sport of racquetball this year - the thrust of which one can notice in looking through the brand new *Total Racquetball and Fitness*, our latest video, *The Racquetball Workout-A Total Body Fitness Program*, and our grass-roots programs designed to attract new players. A fresh, new approach to the sport is needed to stimulate renewed attention to racquetball. Sometimes however, in looking for new ways to market racquetball or our products, not everyone agrees with the creative approaches that are used. That seems to be what took place with the execution of the eyewear ad.

As a leader, we believe it is incumbent upon us to listen to our customers and be responsive to the racquetball community whenever possible. We appreciate the fact that some of you took the time to give us your input, and your comments will be recognized through our future Ektelon eyewear media placements (advertising).

On behalf of all of us at Ektelon, I want to wish you a happy, healthy and fun racquetball season!

Sincerely,
Rob Ahrens Dorf
Director of Marketing, Ektelon

including my two racquetball-playing daughters, aged 9 and 11. Please immediately cancel my subscription to your magazine and my membership to the AARA. • **James W. Dimond – Rochester Hills, MI**

I must tell you that I found the [ad] to be highly offensive. The words and innuendo accompanying this ad, and especially the picture, are in such poor taste that I cannot believe that Ektelon chose to use it and I am also disappointed that your magazine would run this ad ... It is beyond my imagination why they would advertise in this manner. And, shame on you for accepting the ad! • **Gray Norris – Columbia, SC**

I am not preaching morality and I am not a recruiting officer for any religious group, however, the [ad] was startling. I also advocate all our cherished freedoms and I do not want to deny anyone from printing any materials. But when I read a racquetball magazine I expect the contents to be racquetball related. When I want to read sex I read PLAYBOY and PENTHOUSE, and when I want to read about racquetball I read your publication. I know that Ektelon supports racquetball, funds racquetball activities, and also contributes to your magazine, so you are probably in a "Catch 22" situation. • **Thomas Gallagher – Levittown, NY**

I find distaste in your acceptance of political advertising from Benetton Sportsystem. To run [this] advertisement in a sport magazine in my view is very distasteful. This surely doesn't help the sport of racquetball and I can see where the new Ektelon owners are headed. • **Fred Morrill – Houston, TX**

I thought the [ad] was a little risqué although innovative, and in my opinion not appropriate for Racquetball Magazine. I have to admit I am on the conservative side of things, but most parents and others might agree with a similar viewpoint. • **W.T. Blakeslee – Mt. Clemens, MI**

It seems that form is overtaking content, as represented in your last issue. It seems a shame that a single page of provocative advertisement has overshadowed the entire publication. It's unfortunate that 71 pages of articles and information will be overlooked by the irate who, as Ektelon no doubt intended, lingered on that page. One page out of 72. I have fewer cable channels on my television to choose from, and when I don't like what's on one, I move on to the next. • **Michael Topping – Colorado Springs, CO**

I am not a professional racquetball player or a major sponsor, so this letter may not carry much weight. But I do enjoy the game of racquetball, play daily, and enjoy your magazine...until yesterday ... As a professional counselor I understand the need to educate adolescents (and adults) in responsibility. But I doubt that was Ektelon's purpose in the advertisement. Their purpose, I suppose, was to get a reaction and sell their product ... My point is this - "stick with racquetball or take the social problems we face seriously!" ... I am not going to threaten to drop my subscription or to boycott Ektelon equipment — it wouldn't matter anyway, but I would ask that you show more responsibility in what advertisements you choose to print. • **Eric J. Staples – Branson, MO**

I understand that advertising revenue is extremely important to your magazines'

livelihood. However, I feel that this ad is in very poor taste and a sad reflection on your organization and publication staff for allowing that type of advertisement to be published! You state in your magazine that you screen your advertising...I question your process. While AIDs and safe sex is an important issue, utilizing the analogy of eye safety to safe sex (displaying a condom no less...) in a racquetball magazine is ... uncalled for. • **Anne A. Holtz – Urbana, OH**

As racquetball is my favorite sport, I look forward to receiving my RACQUETBALL Magazine every couple of months. Although I understand the frustration you must have experienced in not being able to acquire the quality of stock you are used to, I didn't mind the more flimsy paper. Even if the change were permanent, you wouldn't hear a complaint from me. One change I do object to, however, is the apparent decline of standards in your advertising screening. Please remember the purpose of your hard work each issue, and keep RACQUETBALL Magazine an asset to those it is meant to excite, inspire and educate — racquetball's players and fans. • **Denise Schairer – Arvada, CO**

AND NOW FOR SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT ...

BYU PHOTO ID

That's a great looking racquetball team on page 22 of the May/June 1995 issue. One would assume that since the picture is in the middle of the article on the inter-collegiate championships that they are probably the team that took first place. It's unfortunate that there is no caption saying that the team pictured is the BYU Racquetball Team - the #1 racquetball team in the nation! The trophies pictured are the Women's Team 1st Place Championship Trophy, the Traveling Trophy, and the Overall Team 1st Place Championship Trophy.

BYU's combined team deserves the recognition they worked so hard to earn. They all played extremely well. It was evident to all in attendance that it really was a team effort as they consistently cheered each other on toward the championship. Way to go - BYU #1 Champions. • **Sylvia Sawyer, BYU Racquetball Team Coach – Provo, UT**

RACQUETBALL Magazine is the official publication of the American Amateur Racquetball Association. AARA memberships are available for \$20.00 per year (foreign=\$35.00 U.S.) and include a one-year subscription to RACQUETBALL Magazine and other AARA related publications. The AARA is recognized by the U.S. Olympic Committee as the national governing body [NGB] for the sport. All ideas expressed in RACQUETBALL Magazine are those of the authors or the Editor and do not necessarily reflect the official position of the AARA. Articles, photographs and letters are welcome and will be considered for inclusion. Although advertising is screened, acceptance of any advertisement does not imply AARA endorsement of the product or service.

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A professional racquetball player, Cliff Swain, is shown from the chest up, wearing a light blue shirt and a black wristband. He is holding a racquetball racket with a black frame and a white mesh head. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

tacki-mac.[®]

racquetball grips

You Wouldn't Expect
#1 Ranked Cliff Swain
To Use Just Any Grip, Would You?

As the #1 ranked professional player, Cliff Swain knows the advantages of having a good grip on the racquetball court.

That's why he switched to tacki-mac, the official grip of the I.R.T. available in both knurled and serrated textures and a rainbow of colors.

Get a grip on your game.

Get tacki-mac.



tacki-mac[®]

grips



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(702) 252-4799 / FAX: (702) 252-4763



THE IRT: ON TELEVISION AND ON THE MOVE

The men's professional tour can boast of ESPN coverage and a major corporate sponsorship. Some people go so far as to characterize the IRT as downright healthy. Maybe, maybe not. Still, it's been a long, arduous climb out of the ash heap created in 1988.

by Tom Slear

Jerry McKinnis feels he can make just about any sport appealing to watch on television. After all, the independent producer has supplied ESPN with a steady diet of the "Stihl Timbersports Series" over the last ten years. Hairy arms and flannel shirts chopping wood while viewers sit transfixed? Who would have thought?

Racquetball, in comparison, should have been an easy sell. An avid player, McKinnis was convinced of the sport's inherent allure. Granted, prior telecasts by other producers had gone over like a political debate on MTV, but McKinnis hasn't survived the hyper-competitive world of freelance television production by being shy or insecure. HE could make it work. Put cameras everywhere except in the ball, throw in some music, add a few computer graphics, and viewers would be unable to resist.

But the people at ESPN were — how shall we say? — underwhelmed. One executive responded to a McKinnis pitch with a laconic, "Yuk!" McKinnis was discouraged ... for all of two minutes. As he says, "I was going to produce something that would make their socks go up and down."

That was two years ago. In the interim, McKinnis has had two, one-hour shows on ESPN featuring the men's professional International Racquetball Tour, or IRT. From October 18 through November 7, four, one-hour shows will appear on ESPN2. On November 11, one of the four will be shown on ESPN. It would be premature, however, to say that any socks at the all-sports network have begun to move. All five broadcasts, which will feature made-for-television competition among the top IRT players, accompanied by player profiles, will air at the distinctly un-prime time of one o'clock in the morning, EST.

Still, tube time is tube time. The five hours on ESPN and ESPN2 are four more than last year. "It's not a giant leap, but a nice, average step forward," says Mike Ray, who is ranked No. 6 on the tour and is a member of the IRT's executive board.

Whether these forward steps will continue through 1996 and beyond remains very much in doubt. ESPN allocates air time only. Sponsors supply the bulk of McKinnis' income, and to date they are more scarce than good singers at a rock concert.

"(IRT Commissioner) Hank Marcus has always scraped enough money together to keep this from going down the tubes," says McKinnis from his office in Little Rock, Arkansas. "But at some point, sponsors will have to come through."

It's the story of professional racquetball in microcosm. The players are better than ever. The IRT presents a more polished front than any of its predecessors. Yet there are still no corporate initials (GM, IBM or AT&T), to provide the deep-pockets, big-time sponsorship that has become a rite of passage in modern sport.

"It's getting that one key sponsor, someone like Anheuser-Busch, to come in to the tune of \$1 million," says Ron Grimes, president of E-Force. "Then everyone else jumps on board."

Whether leading or following the pack, there's a simple logic to sponsors' largess, a thread of reasoning no different from what the rest of us use when selecting a bank: They want positive sniff tests and returns on their investments. Show them you can help sell their products—or at least enhance name recognition—while conducting yourself professionally and they will sign checks.



HANK MARCUS (PHOTO: JOHN FOUST)

"A lot of people say certain companies have an 'obligation' to support the tour," Marcus says. "I don't believe that at all. You have to prove to them that a partnership will work, that both sides will benefit. We (the IRT) have to say to them, 'Let's give them what they expect and more.'"

But that's precisely the rub. Men's professional racquetball has a history of giving considerably less. The

aborted attempt to resurrect the tour in 1988 serves as perhaps the clearest example. The Racquetball Manufacturers Association had recently cast the tour adrift. Tom Cavallaro, a New York City club owner who had hosted a number of professional tournaments, jumped in with seed money, convinced as he was that the tour could eventually make money for both the players and the sponsors. Cavallaro provided the financial backing and Jim Hiser, currently the AARA's programs director, provided the administration. The plan was for 10 stops over the course of the 1988-1989 season, all covered by a cable television network.

"Cavallaro was good to his word," Hiser recalls. "He hired a public relations firm and arranged for the first two stops, one in Michigan and the other in Virginia, to be carried over Prime Network. To that point he had paid about \$50,000 dollars out of his own pocket. He was prepared to pay out another \$50,000 until sponsors starting kicking in."



But Cavallaro's generosity halted abruptly after the second stop on the nascent tour. Marty Hogan, still claiming the highest profile in the sport though his best playing days were fading, had his own ideas for the tour. He, along with Charlie Drake, formerly of Leach Industries, John Delaney, CEO of TransCoastal Mortgage, and Mike Yellen, Hogan's peer on the court, met in Virginia with Hiser and Cavallaro. As Hiser remembers, Hogan and Drake did most of the talking. In essence, they wanted control of the tour. They also wanted to restrict the number of players to a handful, much as Drake and the Catalina tour had done in the early 1980s.

Hiser couldn't believe the gall. Cavallaro had already signed checks. Just a few days earlier he had covered a \$3,000 shortfall in prize money for the tournament going on as the meeting took place. He was a known quantity and, in Hiser's opinion, a straight shooter. Hogan, Drake and Delaney, on the other hand, brought only promises of money to the table. Hogan's history of alienating potential sponsors was well documented. The proposal was laughable, except Hogan was serious and, as Hiser concedes, "He had a lot of power with the players back then."

Cavallaro, likewise, was incredulous. He walked out of the meeting. Firmly believing that the best thing ever to happen to professional racquetball was about to leave town, Hiser quickly followed. But the damage was irreparable. No way was Cavallaro going to front any more money if there was even a trace of doubt about whether he had the support of the top players. And there was also the issue of Hogan's interpersonal style.

"I don't need someone talking to me like that," Cavallaro told Hiser. (For his part, Hogan doesn't remember the meeting or the two tournaments. "I don't recall any of that," he says. "Who played in



FAR LEFT: CLIFF SWAIN (FORE-GROUND) VS. TIM DOYLE; JOHN ELLIS; ANDY ROBERTS; CLIFF SWAIN.

ALL PHOTOS ACROSS THESE TWO PAGES BY JOHN GILLOOLY.



those?" In fact, Hogan played in both, losing to Harnett in the final of the Michigan stop, and to Ruben Gonzalez in a quarterfinal of the Arlington event. "I did the color commentary for television," says Marcus. "... in Michigan he played Bret Harnett in the finals.")

Desperate for sponsors, professional racquetball had just shot itself near a vital organ, nonetheless. To get a feel for the magnitude of the damage, imagine you're a corporate suit. Someone walks into your office asking for money to underwrite a professional racquetball tour. You nod politely and say you will get back with them. Then you make a few phone calls. The Cavallaro story surfaces. The next thing you do is direct your secretary to never again let anyone representing racquetball into your office.

Ironically, it was Hogan who helped to bring the men out of the ash heap by hiring Marcus to run the tournaments for the post-Cavallaro tour, subsequently dubbed the IRT. Marcus was Oregon's state racquetball director and had staged a number of well regarded tournaments. "I was convinced that he ran the best tournament in the country," says Hogan.

The honeymoon didn't last long. According to Marcus, Hogan, and to a lesser degree Delaney, wanted the ultimate investment prize: profits with no money down, which can only happen with an appreciating asset. But the IRT was hemorrhaging value. Tour stops were not raising the prize money they had promised. Bridges to traditional sponsors had been burned nearly beyond repair. During his first year and a half on the job, Marcus had to purchase balls for the tournaments.

"I mistakenly thought that Marty and John were going to invest dollars to make it work," Marcus recalls. "Fortunately, I still had my job as the state director to

fall back on because after the first month I didn't get paid. I was scheduling what I was doing for the pro tour around what I was doing for the state association."

Something had to give. Hogan and Delaney were still directing policy, but with an underpinning of sand. Delaney had put up some money; Hogan no more than pocket change. Tour schedules had about as much permanence as a patch of snow in July. Hogan's credibility with the players had eroded.

"It was always in doubt about who was in control, Marty or the players" says Ray. "We had to shape our own destiny."

Marcus kindly concedes that Hogan and Delaney had "positive goals," but beyond that, "they were business people creating an institution to benefit themselves."

The tour was fast approaching meltdown. Prize money was so meager that all but a handful of players faced the possibility of making less money from a tournament than it cost them to get there. After the 1990-1991 season, Marcus did some soul searching. His entire adult life had been involved with racquetball. Now he was at the sport's Holy Grail and it turned out to be a puff of smoke. Players were bickering, sponsors were staying at arm's length, and Marcus wasn't getting paid.

"I think what motivated me was that it was the job I always wanted and I wondered what would happen if I left," he says. "I could get by financially because I had other income."



HOGAN THEN & NOW



Just as it seemed that the situation couldn't get any worse, chunks of manna fell from the sky.

During a tour stop in Stockton, Calif., in 1991, the players mounted a palace coup and voted Hogan off the executive board. The old guard was history.

Marcus' stature rose considerably. He had no political base among the players; therefore, he was free from partisan politics. For the first time in memory, someone was running the men's pro tour who didn't have an interest in taking it over. Most important, potential sponsors had a point of contact whom they could relate to on business terms.

Also in 1991, *Killshot* magazine made its debut. It's coverage was, and is, devoted strictly to professional racquetball, thereby granting the IRT its own identity. The magazine's coated stock and newsstand distribution bespoke of major-league status, though circulation after the initial complementary issues has remained at roughly 13,000, according to Managing Editor Marvin Quertermous.

Then in 1992, VW Credit, Inc., or VCI, promised \$100,000. VCI was no Anheuser-Busch, but its sponsorship pointed the IRT in the right direction. As far as outsiders knew, a major corporate entity with no connection to racquetball viewed the game as a viable means of promotion.

In fact, the national marketing director of VCI at the time was Ed Ray, Mike's father and an long-time player. As he explains, "We had an extra \$100,000, which wasn't enough to go the conventional routes of promotion. It wouldn't have gotten us far if we had tried through television or newspapers. But we felt racquetball could be a mechanism to get our name before the public."

Despite the nepotism, the VCI sponsorship cloaked the IRT in respectability. Other business opportunities arose and Marcus was ready. The IRT now has an entire line of official equipment and service sponsors, and advertising at tour stops makes the courts look

like minor league baseball parks.

When the agreement with Ektelon for the official ball ended in 1993, Ektelon was lukewarm to the idea of renewing. Penn stepped in with a green-colored ball that would be tested by the IRT for a year before being sold to the public. The IRT now collects royalties.

"All of our (recent) increases in sales have been because of the ProPenn ball," says Amy Wishingrad, Penn's national promotions manager for tennis and racquetball. "The deal was a risk, but I could see the writing on the wall. The IRT had gotten a ton of credibility from a sponsor (VCI) outside the industry. It seemed that the IRT was finally coming together."

Together, yes, but successful? Well ... there's the expanded television coverage, the new connections with sponsors and, as Marcus says, "players who are no longer viewed as complete asses."

In addition, more clubs are taking a chance with a pro stop.

"They say they don't make money," says Marcus. (At this point, all prize money, with the exception of the VCI tournaments, is raised by local sponsors.) "I don't see their books, but I don't believe that's true. In '91-'92 we had eight stops. Now we are up to 26 stops and 50 satellite tournaments. Somebody must be making money."

Including, to some degree, the players. Aaron Katz, ranked No. 7 on the tour, puts it this way: "After Cliff (Swain, No. 1) and Andy (Roberts, No. 2), the drop-off is dramatic. No. 3 through No. 8 make in the \$40,000 to \$60,000 range. It's not top dollar, but it's decent."

And perhaps that says it best. The IRT may not be rock solid, but at least it has some muscles to flex. In a year or two it may even have a major sponsor in a headlock.

"I remember talking to Sudsy Monchik (No. 8) in the spring of '94," says Katz, a law school graduate whose days on the tour date back to 1988. "He had a scholarship to Memphis State and he wanted to know what I thought he should do: go to college or go on the tour. I told him to go on the tour. College would be there in a couple of years but the tour may not. Now I wouldn't tell him that because the tour will be bigger in two or three years."



Tom Slear has been freelancing since 1978 and has been writing for Racquetball Magazine off and on since 1980. He plays racquetball regularly at a club near his home in Annapolis, Maryland "I play," he says, "but I am not a player. I just love the workout."

THE WOMEN'S TOUR: BLEAK by Tom Slear

The scene last January at a stop in Virginia pretty much captured the status of the Women's Professional Racquetball Association.

"The tour's health was on everyone's mind," says ninth ranked Marcy Lynch. "It was the absolute low point. Everyone had good ideas, but no one would step forward and say, 'I'll do it.'"

The women's tour had fallen off precipitously since it parted ways with the International Management Group in the mid-1980s. Only the efforts of Caryn McKinney and Lynn Adams kept the tour alive, but as Lynch notes, "They were also playing, which was a tremendous distraction. It was a case of survival. If they didn't do it, we wouldn't have had a way to make a living."

McKinney and Adams retired and by last season the WPRA was down to four stops, ostensibly at \$6,000 each in prize money. No way, as Lynch points out, to make a living. So she volunteered to become WPRA's president, thereby inheriting a considerable workload and no financial compensation.

"It's a step-by-step process," she says. "My goals this season are six pro stops, some with prize money of \$10,000, and two official sponsors."

"But all I'm doing is trying to keep the tour together," she adds. "What we really need is an executive director like Hank Marcus to bring in television and sponsors. I can do it, but not for long without any money. Also, I'm still a player."

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LEFT, ADAM KARP,
RIGHT: DAN FOWLER

THE OLD AND THE NEW ...

Rookie Adam Karp joined three-time Festival singles champion Cheryl Gudinas on the gold medal platform at this year's U.S. Olympic Festival in Colorado Springs. In doubles, another pair of three-time winners in Jackie Gibson and Joy MacKenzie were joined by a first-time team made up of rookie Mike Locker and former doubles champion Todd O'Neil on the top platform. Of the six Festival gold medalists, the three women extended current appointments to the U.S. national team, two of the three men earned their first team uniforms, and one got back on the squad after a two-year layoff.

Karp breaks into the Winner's Circle

In his first year as a qualifier for an Olympic Festival, Adam Karp won the men's singles gold with a crucial career victory over recent national open finalist and current U.S. national team member Dan Fowler. In a one hour and twenty minute match, Karp and Fowler imitated another sport — offering spectators the “diving finals” with incredible retrievals to keep the ball in play.

“I’m going to prepare myself for a tough match by really concentrating on moving and retrieving the ball ... that’s my best attribute,” said Karp, “I learned a little bit in my previous game with Dan. It was a tight match that could have gone either way. I’m going to have to keep the pressure on.”

Early in the first game of their final, Adam gave notice of his intention to win by jumping out to a 5-1 lead before tagging himself with the ball on his own drive-z

serve for a sideout. Fowler followed up with a series of forehand winners and back-to-back ace drives to the right to even things up, and the pair stayed within two points until Karp fell to the ground to avoid being hit by another of his own drive z’s. At 14-14 and game point for Adam, referee Brian Rankin called an avoidable on a backswing hinder in center court against Adam, returning the serve to Fowler, who closed out with a forehand down the line rollout off a backwall setup.

Although the point spread stayed about the same in the start of game two, Karp soon broke away to gain a 9-5 lead, then a 15-5 win, helped by unforced errors on the part of a clearly leg-weary Fowler. But Fowler never lost his humor. After one particularly tight rally, Dan wanted a hinder call from Rankin “somewhere ... anywhere” and reasoned “I took the shot, but I didn’t want to...” Later he enlisted the aid of the crowd in backing up Rankin on a skip ball. “Did it skip? Really? Bad?” Good natured groans accompanied the bid for a break, but skips turned out to be Fowler’s downfall as he nailed several of them to finish the match at 11-4. The win puts Karp on the U.S. national team for a term of one year — his first appointment to the squad.

Gudinas earns three-peat

Defending champion Cheryl Gudinas was motivated to pull out a tough tiebreaker victory over women’s touring pro Chris Evon to earn her third consecutive U.S. Olympic Festival singles gold medal. “I had heard the rumor that it was going to be the last Festival and I wanted to be the one to win it, plus it was my chance to go for three.”

Although Gudinas had emerged from the preliminaries undefeated against pros Marcy Lynch, Molly O’Brien and Robin Levine (who dropped out of the competition due to injury), she still hadn’t felt up to her usual standard all week. “I keep having to come back from behind to win” she observed, but the devout Bulls fan never lost her drive. “Since I started playing, I would always lose to Chris. She’s a great player and really deserves to be on the team, but I’m not going to give up the gold medal to get her there.”

From the outset of their final, it appeared that Cheryl would stay true to form for the week, as she struggled to stay even with Chris as they each approached game point. At 14-all, Chris held serve and put the ball into play, where an overhit pinch shot popped up into



**Gudinas listens
intently to East
Team coach Neil
Shapiro between
games. [Photo:
John Foust]**

center court. Although it was less than a foot away, Cheryl seemed completely unmotivated to retrieve it, and instead let it drop and headed for the door.

Prior to their match, Chris had formulated a plan based on experience. "Cheryl and I have a long history. She's beat me in the last few tournaments so she's favored, but it's nothing that's out of my reach. It's a matter of who is more consistent and executes. With Cheryl it's important to stay aggressive and keep her off balance with my serves and return of serves."

But it was a re-focused Gudinas who came back into the court for the second game, with steady shotmaking that brought on "the shrug." On the women's pro tour, Cheryl has a reputation for having an on-court intensity that borders on the hard-edged. Habitually, she'll make a great shot, roll her eyes in apparent disgust, shrug and raise her hands to the heavens as if to say "see how easy that is?" But sideline commentary from Bobby Rodriguez during the match put another slant on the gesture. After several occurrences, the crowd was mystified and Bobby offered the explanation "it just means ... 'all gone.'" And most of the shots were "all

gone" as Cheryl took the second game in earnest, 15-6. In the tiebreaker, Cheryl left the starting gate first, but stalled at her third point then watched as Chris doubled up the lead. An avoidable hinder call against Cheryl gained Chris a 7-4 advantage, but it would be the last point for the challenger. After switching to a z-serve, three perfect forehand pinch shots by Cheryl evened up the score, and seemed to confuse Chris who batted away her last appeal on a light hinder, then took a "swing and a miss" at a waist high pass that might have been played successfully off the backwall. A clean cross-court by Cheryl and two skipped backhand pinch attempts by Chris ended the match at 11-7 for Gudinas and her lucky socks. "I wear socks with the number 23 on them for Michael Jordan. If the Bulls could win three in a row, I can win three in a row."

Twins take three-peat too!

After being pressed to a close 15-11 win in their first game, defending champions Jackie Gibson and Joy MacKenzie succeeded in holding onto their Festival doubles title. A second quick game win, 15-4, over the newly paired Kerri Stoffregen and Holly Gray put them on the medal platform for a third straight year, and extended their terms on the U.S. team for an additional twelve months.

"They don't get easier because the more you win the more pressure you have on yourself ... like people gunning for you, people rooting against you, it's hard to keep consistent." said Jackie. "And it's harder mentally because of the pressure of having to maintain that gold. But as far as the players, there weren't that many teams that had been playing together for as long as we have."

Joy agreed. "This one (USOF gold medal) was a little tougher, just because we were favored and it could have gone either way for us as far as having that pressure

AROUND THE OLYMPIC FESTIVAL

Coach Neil Shapiro was heard to say when he saw the Air Force Academy chapel - "Looks like a radiator." • Coach Steve Strandemo, on trying to coach on two courts at the same time - "How do you put out two disastrous fires at the same time!?" • During one of Otto's many introductions - the finals - Otto lost his notes and kept saying over the P.A. system - "I lost my notes. I lost my notes!" • Francisco Campo of the Canadian Olympic Committee and the Winnipeg Organizing Committee for the Pan American Games for 1999 visited the venue. • Other visitors included Alfredo Lamont, Dr. James Smith, Rick Mack, all of the U.S.O.C.; and Dick Wolf and Bill Mills of the local organizing committee. • The players were housed at the Air Force Academy in Vandenberg Hall. This is usually a restricted area for civilians, so it was a special honor and treat for all of us. • On Sunday, the club was struck by lightning, knocking out all the lights and phones in the club except those in the racquetball area. We were lucky that we didn't lose the entire club! • The Best Shot Award goes to Doug Ganim who took two full shots to the leg, and one to the top of his head. Doug didn't say much, but he was still hurting a week later. • The rookies (first timers) serenaded the veterans at Wednesday night's finals party. • Special recognition was given to Otto Dietrich, Jim Hiser, Linda Mojer, Pete Dean, Gregg Olson, Dalene Werner, Sue Graham, Rufi, our trainer, and the entire staff of Lynmar. • The Opening Ceremonies were the best of any that we have been involved in since 1989. The spirit continued throughout the Festival.

U.S. OLYMPIC FESTIVAL - '95

By Jason Thoerner

Being selected as one of racquetball's top 16 male players to participate in this year's U.S. Olympic Festival was the greatest honor in my life. I didn't know what to expect in the weeks leading up to the opening ceremonies in Mile High Stadium in Denver, Colorado. On the bus to the opening ceremonies everyone was having fun reminiscing and talking about the week ahead. I just kept trying to imagine myself walking into the stadium with thousands of people applauding for the athletes.

After being guided to the correct place from which we were to enter the stadium I really got nervous and excited all at once. I tried to follow the more experienced people that were with me and tried to take in everything that was surrounding me. Not being nervous enough already, Prime Sports decided to interview me as I was walking into the stadium! I couldn't believe they picked me out of the thousands of athletes and I tried to get someone else to do the talking.

Following that, we were starting to walk into the stadium with patriotic music playing in the background. I was in such awe of the events going on around me that I didn't know where I was supposed to be going. Finally I sat comfortably in my seat in the middle of the stadium for the official opening of the Festival.

Next a couple of dignitaries wished everyone luck and then the torch was carried into the stadium. At the moment I saw the torch my eyes began to water and I knew this was the moment I had dreamed about since I was very young. I had always imagined what it would feel like when I was finally sitting amongst the athletes watching the torch being lit, but it could never have been close to the feelings I experienced at that moment. With the torch being lit it was time to kick off an hour (and one minute) long concert by Kenny Loggins.

The concert and the fireworks display started and I don't think I have ever seen so many fireworks, but they were perfectly timed to patriotic music. My pride for my country and fellow athletes has never been bigger than it was at that moment. I told one of the coaches, Gary Mazaroff, that when racquetball made it into the Olympics some day that I would be there to carry the torch.

All of this excitement and I still hadn't played a match yet!



DOUBLES CHAMPIONS (ABOVE): JACKIE GIBSON & JOY MACKENZIE; MIKE LOCKER & TODD O'NEIL (PHOTOS: JOHN FOUST)

there. But winning this took a little bit of pressure off of us for making the national team ... but our real goal is to go to the world championships by winning the gold at the national championships (in October)."

Veteran & Rookie pair up for Gold

Southpaw Todd O'Neil and new partner Mike Locker rose to the challenge of "gelling" into a formidable doubles team — although the two had never played before — to win the men's doubles gold medal. O'Neil, who won the '93 Festival gold with Jeff Evans,

was pleased with his newfound partner. Locker, a former junior athlete and avid hockey player, was the second Festival rookie to be assigned to the U.S. national team for the first time in his career.

O'Neil couldn't have been happier with his luck in drawing Locker as a partner, "Our game styles worked very well together. We're both high percentage control players and we put a lot of pressure on the other teams by playing high percentage ball."

For Locker, the experience was all new again, after a junior career that has been spotty at best. "I don't get out in the racquetball world as much as I'd like to. I play hockey a lot ... this year I decided that I wanted to get back to racquetball and knew that the caliber of competition is very intense." And that intensity blew him right off his feet. "I knew that I was going to be intense when I dove for a ball in our first or second preliminary match. It was the first dive I've ever done in my life."

All but one of the eight doubles teams were faced with the challenge of a new partnership. But veteran doubles athlete O'Neil knew the score, "You really have to be unselfish to be a good doubles player. You can't be a hog, get in the way and take every shot. To play good doubles you have to be able to call your shots and really work as a team."

It had been anyone's guess earlier in the week when the preliminary rounds had been played, but O'Neil and Locker rose to the top when it

counted, with a 15-8, 15-0 victory over Alan Engel and Jason Armbrecht for their gold medal.

Team Standings

From the start, even rookies had been working the numbers, figuring out who they had to beat — and by how much — to advance into the medal rounds. Team coaches were just as busy with the calculations, watching carefully to see which team would pull ahead in the standings. In the end it was the South Team, coached by Hart Johnson of St. Cloud, Minnesota, that edged out the East squad, coached by Neil Shapiro of Albany, New York, for the overall title. The third place spot went to North Team coach Steve Strandemo of Encinitas, California, followed by the West team coached by Gary Mazaroff of Albuquerque, New Mexico.

A Fond Farewell

The rookies made it just under the wire. Four, five and six time veter-

ans knew what they'd be missing. When the announcement came of the cancellation of the '97 U.S. Olympic Festival, accompanied by doubts about a '99 event, many had been forewarned. Still, the news put a sad spin on the competition, particularly to racquetball athletes to whom the Festival had become a premiere event.

Arriving at the Lynmar Health & Racquet Club bright and early, after an incredible opening ceremony at Mile High Stadium in Denver the night before, five-time Festival

athlete Lynne Coburn said "It's a shame we'll lose such an important competition. It's meant so much to me, not only to take part in my own sport, but to watch athletes in other sports compete."

Rookie Jimmy Lowe felt fortunate. "I've been looking for this Festival spot since 1992 and each year I've fallen short by a couple of points," said Lowe "This year I've finally made it ... it's too bad this could be the last one."

U.S. OLYMPIC FESTIVAL '95

MEN'S SINGLES		WOMEN'S SINGLES	
GOLD	Adam Karp (Santa Ana, Calif./North)	Cheryl Gudinas (Lisle, Ill./East)	
SILVER	Dan Fowler (Wheaton, Md./South)	Chris Evon (San Diego, Calif./South)	
BRONZE	Derek Robinson (Muncie, Ind./North)	Kersten Hallander (Jacksonville, Fla./East)	
4TH	Brian Rankin (Hazelwood, Mo./West)	Molly O'Brien (Annapolis, Md./South)	

MEN'S DOUBLES

GOLD	Todd O'Neil (Dallas, Texas/West)	& Mike Locker (Duluth, Minn./West)
SILVER	Alan Engel (Bradenton, Fla./North)	& Jason Armbrecht (Winston-Salem, N.C./South)
BRONZE	Bobby Rodriguez (Denver, Colo./East)	& James Mulcock (Albuquerque, N.M./East)
4TH	Doug Ganim (Columbus, Ohio/North)	& Mike Johnston (Davison, Mich./North)

WOMEN'S DOUBLES

GOLD	Jackie Paraiso Gibson	& Joy Paraiso MacKenzie (San Diego, Calif./South)
SILVER	Holly Gray (Phoenix, Ariz./East)	& Kerri Stoffregen (Cincinnati, Ohio/East)
BRONZE	Susan Morgan Pfahler (Jacksonville, Fla./West)	& Kim Russell (Atlanta, Ga./West)
4TH	Britt Engel (Bradenton, Fla./North)	& Dawn Peterson (Eau Claire, Wis./North)

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MILE-HIGH SKILL NATIONALS

By Kevin Joyce

The 1995 Wilson AARA U.S. National Skill Division (ABCD) Racquetball Championships hit the stage for the second go around at the Lakewood Athletic Club in Lakewood, Colorado in mid July. At stake were title championships in the A, B, C and D skill divisions for men and women in singles, doubles and mixed doubles play.

The 100 plus competitors who comprised the draw were rated by AmPRO instructors before the competition began to insure proper division placement. Despite the small draw, the Olympic format guaranteed all players at least three matches of play, with medals awarded to the top four finishers of the Gold, Blue, Red and White brackets of each skill division.

In the Men's A final, local favorite Mike Nigro of Greeley, Colorado advanced through four rounds to the finals and held off the strategic attack of Sheridan, Wyoming's Ryan Braley 15-10, 15-11. Nigro fought hard to advance to the finals and was given a scare from Brian Pointelin of Springfield, Missouri when their quarterfinal match was decided by an 11-10 tiebreaker. The 24-year old student then squared off with Ryan Staten of Dodge City, Kansas. Nigro dropped the first game 15-12 rallied back 15-10 and 11-4 in the tie breaker and advanced to the finals.

On the women's side of the A final, Esmeralda Berrich of Pagosa Springs, Colorado was crowned champion only after Candy Masson of Alpharetta, Georgia forced the match to a 11-10 tiebreaker. Berrich also came away with gold in the Women's B division with a win over Angela Burth of Alexandria, Virginia, 15-5, 15-9.

In a tough Men's B draw, Robert Teren of Beachwood, Ohio defeated Bill Groombridge of Turlock, California 9-15, 15-6, 11-9. Teren's advance was almost halted during quarterfinal play when Bruce Burgess of Littleton, Colorado surrendered to Teren only at the close of an 11-10 tiebreaker.

Men's C singles champion Glen Childers, Jr. of Bridge City, Texas defeated Adam Buchanan, 15-7, 15-10 to earn his victory. Childers moved up a notch after winning the Men's D championship in the 1994 Skill Nationals.

From top left: Mike Nigro, Jacquellne Duprey, Mark Sandoval, Gina Fulner, Todd Richmond, John Lee - To top right: Yolanda Groombridge. [All photos: Kevin Joyce]

Battling her way through a five woman round robin, Anita Antony of Denver, Colorado earned the Woman's C championship title over Lorene Stadig of Morrison, Colorado. Gina Fulner of Ft. Worth, Texas and Maria Shelby, Albuquerque, New Mexico rounded out the top four finishers in the bracket.

Marc Schnittker of Aurora, Colorado earned the Men's D singles gold medal after stealing a tiebreaker from Jodie Hittle of Biddiford, Maine 15-11, 14-15, 11-2. On the women's side, round robin play determined Gina Fulner as the first place finisher.

In women's doubles play, it was all Virginia when Carmen Alatorre-Martin of Reston teamed up with Angela Burth of Alexandria to come away with a pair of golds in round robin play. Candy Mason and Concepcion Prat, both of Georgia, and Joanna Boyte of North Carolina and Linda Demro of California rounded out the field.

In the Men's A Doubles showdown Brian Pointelin of Springfield, Missouri, and Ryan Staten of Dodge City, Kansas defeated Andy Sharpe and Jerry Turley, both of Colorado, 15-7, 15-11. Staten earned a third place bronze medal later in the day in the Men's A division.

Bill Groombridge and David Perry, both of Turlock, California served up a team victory in the six team Men's B doubles round robin without losing a match. Colorado's Bruce Burgess and Dennis Ringor earned the silver with Tim Franklin and Robert Teren of Ohio and Lee Lindenberg and John Lee of California, finishing third and fourth respectively.

In the Men's C doubles final, Arizona residents Chuck French of Thatcher and Merlin Rowley of Mesa forced the Santa Fe, New Mexico duo of John Odell and John Cotoia to accept silver once again in a 12-15, 15-11, 11-8 match. Cotoia and Odell were served up a chance to earn the gold but missed the opportunity and had a repeat performance of last year.

Offered for the first time was the mixed doubles division, where finding gold in the Rockies of the Mixed A division were Californians Nancy Abram of Aptos and Charles Yaqub of Watsonville. In the Mixed B division Candy Masson and David Perry, double silver and gold medalists, respectively, claimed a pair of golds to add to their take home cache.



From top: Terri Graham and Margo Daniels at the tournament desk; Concepcion Prat and Candy Masson; Mike Nesser; Lorene Stadig. [Photos: Kevin Joyce]

Behind the Glass Wall...

Avid skier Roger Anastasio, Louisiana, couldn't pass up the opportunity for Spring skiing in the Rockies and took to the slopes of Arapahoe Basin on the morning of his first match ...

Joanna Boyte, North Carolina, Candy Masson, Georgia, and Concepcion Prat, Georgia never caught a glimpse of the roaming buffalo herd near Lookout Mountain, Colorado ... John Lee, California, and Lee Lindenberg, California caught a ride to Lynmar Racquet Club in Colorado Springs to watch a few matches of the U.S. Olympic Festival competition before their flight departed on Sunday ... Outstanding Trooper Award to David Perry, California for his late night mission in securing prescription lensed eyewear approved for racquet sports ... Heading into the semi-finals, Mark Sandoval, Colorado went 8 for 9 on the softball field and advanced into the medal round of the Men's C Singles on the racquetball court - in the same day ... Guest appearances were made by Terri Graham of Wilson, title sponsor for the event and Larry Daub of Penn Racquet Sports ... Jenny Meyer, former national junior team member, was also spotted at the club.

One more time ... These athletes participated in the AARA U.S. Skill Nationals in Phoenix last year and gave it another go around at the Lakewood Athletic Club: Roger Anastasio, Mandeville, Louisiana; Robert Arroyo, Largo, Florida; Esmeralda Berrich, Pagosa Springs, Colorado; John Buck, Richland, Washington; Glen Childers, Jr., Bridge City, Texas; Michael Cohen, New York, New York; John Cotoia, Santa Fe, New Mexico; Gregory Cotton, Liverpool, New York; Tim Franklin, Akron, Ohio; Chuck French, Thatcher, Arizona; Lance Hodgkinson, Cleveland Heights, Ohio; Darin Lahaderne, San Jose, California; Lee Lindenberg, Martinez, California; Candy Masson, Alpharetta, Georgia; Mike Nesser, Reno, Nevada; John Odell, Santa Fe, New Mexico; Concepcion Prat, Atlanta, Georgia; Brett Ragar, Ridgecrest, California; Mark Sandoval, Lakewood, Colorado; Aaron Schwartz, Ridgecrest, California; Robert Sellers, Farmington, New Mexico; Maria Shelby, Albuquerque, New Mexico; Jason Thompson, Avon, Colorado; Richard Wells, Ames, Iowa; and Jim Wilcox, Napavine, Washington.



LEFT: LORENE STADIG & TERRY LARREW (ON CRUTCHES) HAD PLANNED TO PLAY MIXED DOUBLES TOGETHER, BEFORE THE ACCIDENT. ABOVE: ESMERALDA BERRICH (WITH DOTTING DAUGHTER). TOP OF PAGE: (LEFT) LARRY MULLIN, (RIGHT) MARIA SHELBY. [PHOTOS: KEVIN JOYCE]



1995 WILSON AARA SKILL NATIONALS — FINAL RESULTS

Men's A Singles — Mike Nigro (Greeley, Colo.) def. Ryan Braley (Sheridan, Wyo.) 15-10, 15-11. **Men's B Singles** — Robert Teren (Beachwood, Ohio) def. Bill Grommbridge (Turlock, Calif.) 9-15, 15-6, 11-9. **Men's C Singles** — Glen Childers (Bridge City, Texas) def. Adam Buchanan (Arvada, Colo.) 15-7, 15-10. **Men's D Singles** — Marc Schnittker (Aurora, Colo.) def. Jodie Hittle (Biddiford, Maine) 15-11, 14-15, 11-2.

Women's A Singles — Esmeralda Berrich (Pagosa Springs, Colo) def. Candy Masson (Alpharetta, Ga.) 15-13, 12-15, 11-10. **Women's B Singles** — Esmeralda Berrich (Pagosa Springs, Colo) def. Angela Burth (Alexandria, Va.) 15-5, 15-9. **Women's C Singles** — Anita Antony (Denver, Colo.) def. Lorene Stadig (Morrison, Colo.) 15-11, 15-3. **Women's D Singles** — Gina Fulner (Ft. Worth, Texas) def. Linda Demro (Merced, Calif.) 6-15, 15-11, 11-10.

Men's A Doubles — Brian Pointelin (Springfield, Mo.)/Ryan Staten (Dodge City, Kan.) def. Andy Sharpe (Golden, Colo.)/Jerry Turley (Littleton, Colo.) 15-7, 15-11. **Men's B Doubles** — Bill Grommbridge/David Perry (Turlock, Calif.) def. Bruce Burgess/Dennis Ringor (Littleton, Colo.) 13-15, 15-8, 11-5. **Men's C Doubles** — Chuck French (Thatcher, Ariz.)/Merlin Rowley (Mesa, Ariz.) def. John Odell/John Cotoia (Santa Fe, N.M.) 12-15, 15-11, 11-8.

Women's A Doubles — Carmen Alatorre-Martin (Reston, Va.)/Angela Burth (Alexandria, Va.) def. Candy Masson (Alpharetta, Ga.)/Concepcion Prat (Atlanta, Ga.) 15-7, 15-8.

Mixed A Doubles — Nancy Abram (Aptos, Calif.)/Charles Yaqkub (Watsonville, Calif.) def. Susan Wyka/Andy Sharpe (Golden, Colo.) 15-8, 15-5. **Mixed B Doubles** — Candy Masson (Alpharetta, Ga.)/David Perry (Turlock, Calif.) def. Lorene Stadig/Ron Krohm (Morrison, Colo.) 13-15, 15-9, 11-8.

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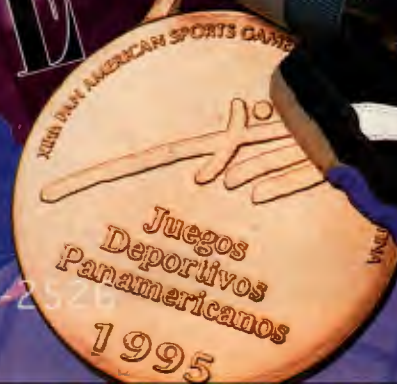
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WOOD AND GROSS CAPTURE JUNIOR OLYMPIC CROWNS

After five days of high-level junior competition at the 1995 Ektelon AARA 22nd U.S. Junior Olympic Racquetball Championships in Fountain Valley, California, twenty-nine national titles were awarded to singles and doubles champions. Held at the Los Caballeros Sports Village, this year's event drew over 300 players from coast to coast, including back-to-back winner and current intercollegiate champion Shane Wood and up and coming 18 and under athlete Sadie Gross.

Wood is in his final season as a junior competitor this year, and became only the second athlete to retain consecutive titles in the Boy's 18 and under division in the 22-year history of the event (Texan Mike Guidry held the 1988 & '89 titles). To earn the top spot, Wood defeated Eric Storey, who last year held the Boy's 16 and under crown. Earlier in the season, Wood made the transition into adult ranks with an intercollegiate national title and a rookie appearance at the adult national singles.

In her first year in the Girl's 18 and under division, Sadie Gross brought winning ways with her, earning a tiebreaker victory over '94 finalist Shannon Feaster. Gross won her final in a close tiebreaker, then earned a second gold medal in doubles with partner Willie Tilton with a win over Larry Peek and Feaster in straight games of 15-7, 15-9.

At its annual banquet, the AARA also named its Junior Athletes of the Year, with '95 honors going to Shane Wood and Girl's 16 and under champion Vanessa Tulao. In state team competition, "Team Oregon" came in first place, followed by Ohio in second place, and California in third. Over forty additional athletes were also selected to attend the '94 U.S. National Junior Team Trials in Colorado Springs in August.

Triple Gold Winners

Veteran U.S. Junior Team member Vanessa Tulao went to a tiebreaker against Erin Frost in the Girl's 16- singles final to begin a "Sweep Sixteen" winning streak that ended with not just one, but three gold medals!



TOP: SHANE WOOD AND ERIC STOREY.
BOTTOM: SADIE GROSS AND SHANNON FEASTER. [PHOTOS: JIM HISER]

Vanessa then teamed with long-time partner Rhonda Rajsich to defeat Shannon Feaster and Christy Gould in a straight-game doubles final, then earned another two-game win in Mixed 16- with partner Jed Bhuta to secure her "triple gold" performance. A steady winner, Vanessa claimed the 14- title in 1993, and the 12- in 1991.

Jack Huczek of was the second junior athlete to successfully "go for three" with a sweep of the 12 and under divisions, after winning his first 12- singles title in

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straight games over Trevor Crowe. Huczek and teammate Matthew McElhiney earned a second win for Huczek, over Brandon Shoemaker and partner Adam Taylor in the doubles final. A straight game win in Mixed 12- with partner Crystal Winfrey earned the tri-medal performance by Huczek. Jack has advanced steadily in the junior ranks, holding back-to-back singles titles in the 10 and under division in 1993 and '94, a in the 8 and under in 1991 and '92.

Double Gold Winners

Ryan Staten brought home his first 14- singles title after a tiebreaker win over Shane Vanderson then took a second win over Vanderson and partner Jason Jansen in the 14-doubles final. Ryan and teammate James Ford won a close tiebreaker to secure Staten's "dual gold" performance.

Kristen Walsh won her first Girl's 12 and under national title in straight games over Molly Law, 15-4, 15-12. Walsh also took a second gold medal with another straight game win over the Ohio team of Kimberly Irons and Crystal Winfrey in the Girl's 12 and under doubles final. Kristen and teammate Jeni Fuller took the second final for Walsh with scores of 15-6, 15-9. A third final for Walsh, with partner Joel Worthington ended with a silver medal finish in the Mixed 12 and under doubles division.

Steven Klaiman earned his first 10- title in straight games over Brandon Shoemaker before taking a second win over Shoemaker and partner Kimberly Irons in the Mixed 10- doubles final. Steven and teammate Lindsay Deutsch took another straight game win, for Klaiman's second gold medal.

Kelley Fisher defended her Girl's 8 and under national title in straight games over Brandie Hanson 15-9, 15-8. Fisher also took a second win in the modified "multi-bounce rules" 8 and under division with another straight game win over Dominique Winfrey 15-1, 15-4, to secure her "double gold" performance for the weekend.

Matthew Hammond won his first Boy's 8 and under "regular rules" national title in straight games over Andrew Grisson 15-5, 15-5. Hammond also took a second win in the modified "multi-bounce rules" 8 and under division with another straight game win over Sean Baker with the same scores, to secure his "double gold" performance for the weekend.



Left to Right: Sudsy Monchik congratulates Kelley Fisher; Tim Storey with Timmy Tilton; Jeffrey Brittain; Storey with Molly Law. [Photos: Jlm Hlser]

Moving Up ...

Rocky Carson won his first Boy's 16 and under title in straight games over Abe Valdez. Moving up into the Boy's 16 and under division for the first time this year, Carson brought winning ways along after holding back-to-back titles in the 14 and under division in 1993 and '94, a 12- in 1992, and a 10-victory in 1990. In late May, Rocky won the always-tough Men's A division at national singles.

Junior Team Doubles

In the 18 and under doubles finals, it was a Junior Team finish all the way, with David Hamilton and Eric Storey overturning the outcome of a rematch of last year's final with a narrow tiebreaker win over the Massachusetts team of Shane Wood and Justin Bell 10-15, 15-2, 11-10.

Both Hamilton and Storey are well-established competitors in singles and doubles, as well as being members of the U.S. Junior National Team. Hamilton is the defending adult mixed open doubles champion, and held the Boy's 16 and under title in '93. Storey is the current U.S. Open singles champion, plus held the Boy's 16 and under title in '94, and the 12- title in '90.

For the Girl's 18- final, long-time partners Rhonda Rajsich and Vanessa Tulao earned straight game victory over Shannon Feaster and Christy Gould 15-11, 15-12. Both Rajsich and Tulao are also well-known competitors in singles and doubles, as well as being members of the U.S. Junior National Team. The pair are the current world junior doubles champions in Girl's 16 and under, and held the '94 national 16- doubles title. Rajsich earned the '94 National Skill Level "A" champion, and Tulao is a two-time junior national singles champion.

SINGLES FINALS — Boy's 18-: Shane Wood (Auburn, Mass.) def. Eric Storey (Indianapolis, Ind.) 15-7, 15-7; 16-: Rocky Carson (Santa Maria, Calif.) def. Abe Valdez (Eugene, Ore.) 15-10, 15-6; 14-: Ryan Staten (Dodge City, Kan.) def. Shane Vanderson (Dublin, Ohio) 14-15, 15-13, 11-6; 12-: Jack Huczek (Rochester Hills, Mich.) def. Trevor Crowe (Portland, Ore.) 15-6, 15-7; 10-: Steven Klaiman (Houston, Texas) def. Brandon Shoemaker (Findlay, Ohio) 15-4, 15-5; 8-: Matthew Hammond (New Lebanon, Ohio) def. Andrew Grissom (San Jose, Calif.) 15-5, 15-5; 8- multi-bounce: Matthew Hammond

(New Lebanon, Ohio) def. Sean Baker (Longview, Texas) 15-5, 15-5. **Girl's 18-:** Sadie Gross (Yankton, S.D.) def. Shannon Feaster (Bolling AFB, D.C.) 14-15, 15-9, 11-6; 16-: Vanessa Tulao (Hixson, Tenn.) def. Erin Frost (Monroe, Ore.) 5-15, 15-12, 11-5; 14-: Sara Borland (Bettendorf, Iowa) def. Brooke Crawford (Klamath Falls, Oregon) 15-11, 15-6; 12-: Kristen Walsh (Salt Lake City, Utah) def. Molly Law (Denver, Colo.) 15-4, 15-12; 10-: Kimberly Irons (Dublin, Ohio) def. Adrienne Fisher (Centerville, Ohio) 15-3, 15-10; 8-: Kelley Fisher (Centerville, Ohio) def. Brandie Hanson (Klamath Falls, Ore.) 15-9, 15-8; 8- multi-bounce: Kelley Fisher (Centerville, Ohio) def. Dominique Winfrey (Powell, Ohio) 15-1, 15-4.

DOUBLES FINALS — Boy's 18-: David Hamilton (Mansfield, Ohio)/Eric Storey (Indianapolis, Ind.) def. Shane Wood (Auburn, Mass.)/Justin Bell (Sutton, Mass.) 10-15, 15-2, 11-10; 16-: Mark Bloom (Metairie, La.)/Bucky Freeman (Longview, Texas) def. Tyler Siggins (Diamond Bar, Calif.)/Christopher Crowther (Riverside, Calif.) 15-8, 15-11; 14-: Ryan Staten (Dodge City, Kan.)/James Ford (Riverton, Wyo.) def. Jason Jansen (Fargo, N.D.)/Shane Vanderson (Dublin, Ohio) 10-15, 15-10, 11-9; 12-: Jack Huczek (Rochester Hills, Mich.)/Matthew McElhiney (Bradenton, Fla.) def. Brandon Shoemaker (Findlay, Ohio)/Adam Taylor (Shelbyville, Ind.) 12-15, 15-12, 11-4; 10-: Clay Burris (Brandon, Fla.)/Jon Hellner (Klamath Falls, Ore.) def. Geoffrey Mora (San Jose, Calif.)/C.J. Nelson (Tracy, Calif.) 15-10, 15-11. **Girl's 18-:** Rhonda Rajsich (Phoenix, Ariz.)/Vanessa Tulao (Hixson, Tenn.) def. Shannon Feaster (Bolling AFB, D.C.)/Christy Gould (Ellisville, Mo.) 15-11, 15-12; 16-: Jill Brittain (Keizer, Ore.)/Liana Kerwood (Beaverton, Ore.) def. Sara Borland (Bettendorf, Iowa)/Katie Gould (Ellisville, Mo.) 11-15, 15-4, 11-7; 14-: Davina Bloom (Metairie, La.)/Meghan Guardiani (Marlboro, Mass.) def. Megan Bals/Leisa Marquart (Lincoln, Neb.) 15-8, 15-4; 12-: Jeni Fuller (Albuquerque, N.M.)/Kristen Walsh (Salt Lake City, Utah) def. Kimberly Irons (Dublin, Ohio)/Crystal Winfrey (Powell, Ohio) 15-6, 15-9; 10-: Adrienne Fisher (Centerville, Ohio)/Jesi Fuller (Albuquerque, NM) def. Melissa Holden (Gold River, Calif.)/Taryn McDonough (Rancho Cordova, Calif.) 15-5, 15-3. **Mixed 18-:** Sadie Gross (Yankton, S.D.)/Willie Tilton (Colorado Springs, Colo.) def. Shannon Feaster (Bolling AFB, D.C.)/Larry Peek (Sarasota, Fla.) 15-7, 15-9; 16-: Vanessa Tulao (Hixson, Tenn.)/Jed Bhuta (Pike Road, Ala.) def. Davina Bloom/Mark Bloom (Metairie, La.) 15-4, 15-11; 14-: Lindsay Sears (Lafayette, Ind.)/Seth Taylor (Shelbyville, Ind.) def. Meghan Guardiani (Marlboro, Mass.)/Matt Gehling (Annapolis, Md.) 15-9, 12-15, 11-9; 12-: Crystal Winfrey (Powell, Ohio)/Jack Huczek (Rochester Hills, Mich.) def. Kristen Walsh (Salt Lake City, Utah)/Joel Worthington (Overland Park, Kan.) 15-7, 15-8; 10-: Lindsay Deutsch/Steven Klaiman (Houston, Texas) def. Kimberly Irons (Dublin, Ohio)/Brandon Shoemaker (Findlay, Ohio) 15-10, 15-5.

PROfile

INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL TOUR

IRT PLAYS COLUMBUS

By Woody Clouse

VW Credit, Inc.'s involvement with the International Racquetball Tour has elevated pro racquetball to a new level. This new level was displayed beautifully by tournament host Doug Ganim at the VCI World Championships in Columbus, Ohio.

After all the players hacked around a Spalding sponsored golf day the serious competition was ready to begin.

The first rounds produced some great matches that had the crowds in a "frenzy!" Mike Ray dodged a bullet by coming back from 9-1 in the tiebreaker to edge out a stunned Dave Sable. Adam Karp was left shaking his head in wonder as Canadian crowd favorite Mike Ceresia escaped the jaws of defeat by digging out of a 0-2 hole, winning the next three 11-10, 11-13, 11-7. Ceresia fought off seven match points to earn this victory.



The second round saw only one upset with John Ellis holding off a frustrated Drew Kachtik in a close four games.

The quarterfinals began with the Las Vegas finals match-up between Tim Doyle and Sudsy Monchik. This day was all Doyle's as he stayed on his game to beat Monchik in a solid three games. The second quarter had the "Katz and mouse" match-up between Aaron Katz and Mike Guidry. The Katz won a thrilling four game match that ended with a 15-13 cliffhanger. Cliff Swain looked sharp in disposing of a tired Mike Ray in three quick games. In the last quarterfinal, Andy Roberts came up with the big points when he needed them most, against a game John Ellis. Ellis couldn't buy a break as he lost in three close games.

The semis began with Roberts winning the key points against Doyle, who couldn't generate any momentum as Roberts rolled into the finals in three straight games.

The second semi paired Aaron Katz, the only pure control player on the tour against who else? Cliff Swain. Swain was a little off balance as Katz kept him guessing, splitting the first two games, but Katz eventually ran out of tricks and Swain resumed his dominance, beating him 11-0 in the fourth.

The final was the classic match-up of #1 and #2. Roberts drew first blood as he killed every set-up he had, to win game one 11-5. The second game was a see-saw battle that Swain uncharacteristically let slip away 13-11. Smelling victory, Roberts picked up his game a notch, closing the match in three impressive and stunning games to capture the first VCI Worlds.

ADVANCING IN COLUMBUS

Round of 16

Cliff Swain def.	Todd O'Neil 11-1, 11-4, 11-1
Mike Ray def.	Woody Clouse 11-3, 11-13, 11-5, 11-9
Aaron Katz def.	Louis Vogel 11-1, 11-6, 9-11, 11-0
Mike Guidry def.	Mike Ceresia 11-2, 11-9, 11-8
Tim Doyle def.	Dan Fowler 11-6, 12-10, 11-7
Sudsy Monchik def.	Brian Rankin 11-9, 11-8, 11-6
John Ellis def.	Drew Kachtik 11-9, 11-5, 6-11, 11-9
Andy Roberts def.	Eric Muller 11-4, 11-2, 11-3

Quarterfinals

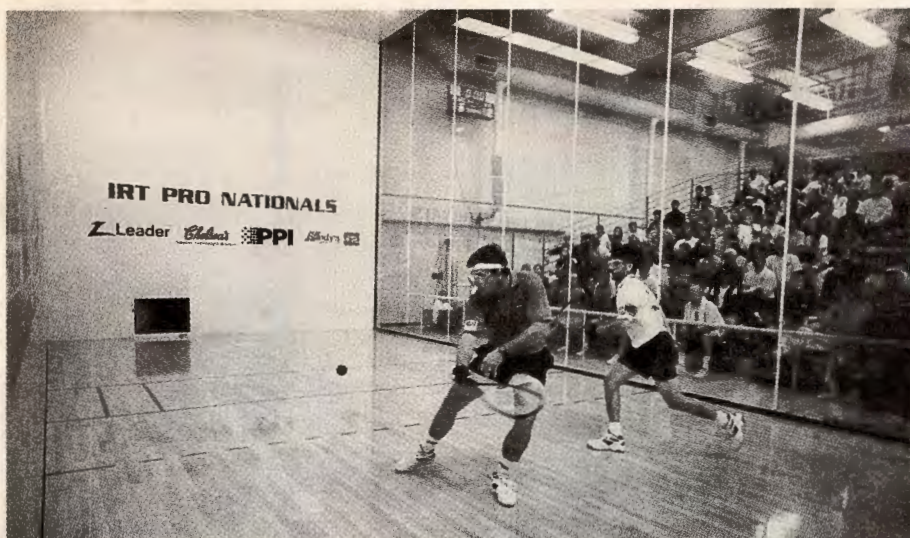
Cliff Swain def.	Mike Ray 11-6, 11-4, 11-4
Aaron Katz def.	Mike Guidry 11-13, 11-6, 11-8, 13-11
Tim Doyle def.	Sudsy Monchik 11-6, 11-3, 13-11
Andy Roberts def.	John Ellis 12-10, 11-5, 11-9

Semifinals

Cliff Swain def.	Aaron Katz 11-7, 9-11, 11-8, 11-0
Andy Roberts def.	Tim Doyle 12-10, 11-1, 11-4

FINAL

Andy Roberts def.	Cliff Swain 11-6, 13-11, 11-4
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Far left: In Columbus, Andy Roberts dodges a John Ellis forehand in the quarterfinals. Immediate left: Roberts (left) versus Cliff Swain (left) in the final of the Pro Nationals. [Photo: Shane Reeves]

CHAMPIONSHIPS ROCK PORTLAND

The '95 Nationals at the Multnomah Athletic Club in Portland capped the longest season in pro racquetball history, as IRT Director Hank Marcus teamed up to show Portland and the Rose Festival just how much the sport has come of age.

Hosting the tournament at M.A.C., which has over 10,000 members, was the ideal way to prove racquetball's worth in today's sports world. The next step was the first class airport transportation for the pros via limousine service. It was nothing less than the best, as the pros were delivered in style to the front door step of an event with over 500 entries. The weekend was topped off with the very classy banquet and the handing out of the IRT year end awards. But, by far the best indicator of the sport's growing significance was the support of the fans and crowds of 400 people per match screaming for their favorite pros. As a grand finale to drive home the point, the finals were broadcast on local television.

From a player's standpoint this was the final opportunity to move up in the year-end rankings. The tour-

nament began with intense play that saw the top 15 advance to face one another. In this round, only one upset went against hometown favorite Tim Doyle, who was bushwhacked by this year's runner-up to "most improved," Kelly Gelhaus.

The quarters began with Mike Ray stopping Gelhaus's run in three quick games. Drew Kachtik avenged his Vegas whipping against Mike Guidry in a gruelling see-saw battle. Andy Roberts squeaked out the first game, then controlled the four game match against this year's most improved player, Aaron Katz.

The last quarterfinal played was supposed to be the best. Sudsy

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SWAIN CELEBRATES VICTORY OVER ROBERTS
IN PORTLAND. [PHOTO: SHANE REEVES]

ADVANCING IN PORTLAND

Round of 16

Cliff Swain def. Tony Jelso 11-1, 11-6, 11-6
Sudsy Monchik def. John Ellis 9-11, 11-5, 11-9, 11-8
Drew Kachtik def. Brian Rankin 11-4, 11-6, 10-12, 11-7
Mike Guidry def. Adam Karp 11-6, 11-1, 11-3
Kelly Gelhaus def. Tim Doyle 13-11, 12-10, 6-11, 11-8
Mike Ray def. Louis Vogel 11-6, 11-7, 11-3
Andy Roberts def. Aaron Katz 12-10, 11-7, 8-11, 11-3

Quarterfinals

Cliff Swain def. Sudsy Monchik 11-5, 11-5, 11-1
Drew Kachtik def. Mike Guidry 11-2, 11-8, 3-11, 7-11, 11-5
Mike Ray def. Kelly Gelhaus 11-6, 11-7, 11-3
Andy Roberts def. Mike Ray 12-10, 11-7, 8-11, 11-3

Semifinals

Cliff Swain def. Drew Kachtik 11-6, 11-6, 11-4
Andy Roberts def. Mike Ray 12-10, 11-7, 8-11, 11-3

FINAL

Cliff Swain def. Andy Roberts 11-6, 2-11, 12-0, 12-10



Monchik, last year's champ and newest kid on the block against the "Best Player of All Time" Cliff Swain. Unfortunately the face-off couldn't equal its hype, with Sudsy skipping the match away.

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The semis began with Roberts maintaining his mental toughness by beating Ray 11-9 in the first. Ray seemed to be having an off day as Roberts breezed by the next two, 11-5 and 11-6. The next semi began for Cliff Swain the same way all of his other matches had — with the powerful but unassuming presence of his father, "Red," beaming in the background to make sure his son did the job he came to Portland to do. Kachtik just simply was in the wrong place at the wrong time, losing three quick ones 11-5, 11-5, 11-1.

The last match played was a dream final between #1 vs. #2. Roberts was ready after winning the World Championships and beating Swain for the first time in recent memory. Swain was dialed in with the advantage of his father's presence. Both players displayed their brilliance until Swain's attacking style just became too much for Roberts. The event is another stake in Swain's quest as the best ever!



INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL TOUR

Supports Fibromyalgia Research

IRT UPDATE

By Hank Marcus

IRT has established three annual awards that were presented at the banquet at the IRT Pro Nationals in Portland. The following awards were voted on by the IRT's top 16 players. Player of the Year: Cliff Swain
Rookie of the Year: Sudsy Monchik
Most Improved: Aaron Katz

SPECIAL THANKS: A spectacular event to conclude the VCI Challenge Cup Series was hosted by Sawmill Athletic Club and Doug Ganim and his top staff. The tournament was a fitting end for the series with a first class event for players and spectators.

The IRT Nationals finished off the season with a huge event held in conjunction with the Oregon State Championships at the beautiful Multnomah Athletic Club in Portland. A great job by Vince Kelley and Matt Hanners shuffling over 500 pros, amateurs, and juniors through the courts from Tuesday to Sunday.

ONLINE UPDATE: The U.S. Professional Racquetball Association, headed by Glenn Carlson, is now maintaining online information about the men's and women's pro tours. The site contains generalized information about racquetball, current IRT and

WPRA rankings, tour schedules, player profiles, stringing tips and other hints for the everyday player. You can access the site at <http://emporium.turnpike.net/~cyberguy/uspra.html>.

IRT FINALIZES OFFICIAL PRODUCTS FOR 1995-96 SEASON: The International Racquetball Tour begins its fourth year of corporate partnerships with the top manufacturers in the sport. The following are the official products of the IRT for the 1995-96 season:

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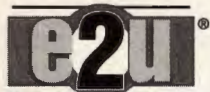
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9. John Ellis1106
10. Woody Clouse1076
11. Louis Vogel.....751
12. Brian Rankin714
13. Adam Karp.....623
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15. Eric Muller.....531
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18. Tony Jelso.....446
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1995-96 TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

September 13-16

Charles E. Smith Crystal City Pro-Am
The Skyline Club
Arlington, Virginia

Sept. 27-Oct. 1

Splat Shot Pro-Am
The Tournament House
Riverside, California

October 18-22

VCI Challenge Cup Series
#1 – presented by VW
Credit, Inc. @ Nautilus
Plus, Montreal, Canada

October 25-29

HEAD Halloween Pro-Am
Woodfield Racquet Club
Schaumburg, Illinois

November 1-5

Strong Funds Pro-Am
West Allis Athletic Club
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

November 8-12

VCI Challenge Cup Series
#2 – presented by VW
Credit, Inc. @ Ridge
Athletic Club
Boston, Massachusetts

December 6-10

Holiday Pro-Am Classic
Lakewood Athletic Club
Lakewood, Colorado

January 17-21

Hampton Inn Pro Classic
Racquet Club of Memphis
Memphis, Tennessee

RANKINGS & CALENDAR

January 31-Feb. 4
VCI Challenge Cup
Series #3 – presented by
VW Credit, Inc. @
Southern Athletic Club
Atlanta, Georgia

February 14-18
Shop n' Save Pro-Am
Racquet Club of
Pittsburgh–Monroeville,
Pennsylvania

March 6-10
CCFA Pro-Am Shootout
Downtown YMCA
Houston, Texas

March 13-17
Saskatoon MetLife
Classic @ River Racquet
Athletic Club
Saskatoon, Canada

March 27-31
Samba Pro-Am @ Planet
Fitness–Phoenix, Arizona

April 10-14
VCI World Doubles
Championships –
presented by VW Credit,
Inc. @ Schoeber's
Athletic Club
Pleasanton, California

April 24-28
U.S. Open IRT
Professional Nationals
The Sporting House
Las Vegas, Nevada

May 1-5
Cameron Springs
Indianapolis Open
Greenbriar Athletic Club
Indianapolis, Indiana

May 15-19
World Championships
at the Bay @ Bayhill
Athletic Club
Milpitas, California

June 5-9
IRT Tourney of
Champions @
Multnomah Athletic
Club – Portland, Oregon

IRT SPALDING SATELLITE TOUR

September 8-10
Atlanta, Georgia

September 22-24
Tri-City Elite 8
Kennewick, Washington

October 6-8
Top Gun
Kansas City, Missouri

October 13-15
\$4,000 Indiana Super
Series Event
Noblesville, Indiana

November 10-12
Long Island Open
Long Island, New York

November TBA
Baltimore, Maryland

November TBA
Ektelon Pro-Am Doubles
Portland, Oregon

January 26-28
\$3,500 Indiana Super
Series Event
Fort Wayne, Indiana

January TBA
Billings Open
Billings, Montana

January TBA
Lover's Lane Open
Bowling Green,
Kentucky

January TBA
Parkland Open
Manchester, New
Hampshire

February 2-4
\$3,500 Indiana Super
Series Event
Indianapolis, Indiana

March 1-3
\$4,000 Indiana Super
Series Event
Schereville, Indiana

March 15-17
St. Louis Super Series
St. Louis, Missouri

March TBA
Paducah Open
Paducah, Kentucky

March TBA
Tournament House Pro-
Am–Riverside, California

May TBA
Intergalactic Open
Lyndhurst, New Jersey

June 14-15
Elite 8 – Mountain View,
California

Dates TBA
Buffalo, New York
El Paso, Texas

CANADIAN PRO/AM IRT SATELLITE TOUR

September 15-17
Oakville, Ontario

October 12-15
Calgary, Alberta
October 27-29
Whitby, Ontario

November 17-19
Ottawa, Ontario
Nov. 30 - Dec. 3
Montreal, Quebec

January 18-23
Edmonton, Alberta

February 2-3
Toronto, Ontario
February 8-11
Winnipeg, Manitoba
February 29 - March 3
Brandon, Manitoba

April 19-21
Chatham, Ontario

May TBA
Toronto, Ontario–TBA
Edmonton, Alberta–TBA
Vancouver, B.C.

IRT INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

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December
San Luis Potosi, Mexico
January
Paris, France
January
Hamburg, Germany
July
Tokyo, Japan

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WPRA SCHEDULE

October 12-15
Racquetball World
Canoga Park, California

November 2-5
Allsport Championships
Merritt Athletic Club
Baltimore, Maryland

**November 30-
December 3**
The Sports Barn
Chattanooga, Tennessee

January 12-14
Executive Health & Sports
Manchester, New
Hampshire

February 1-4
Chancellor's
Houston, Texas

March 18-21
TBA
Syracuse, New York

May 2-5
National Championships
Merritt Athletic Club
Baltimore, Maryland

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WHAT ABOUT PROTEIN?

By Marcy Lynch,
C. N. C.

I believe that there are as many misconceptions about the use of protein in relation to performance as

just about any food or nutrient source.

The "Rocky" philosophy of consuming large steaks and drinking raw eggs before training or performing is not only unhealthy but can actually hinder performance. Lower fat sources of protein such as chicken, tuna and egg whites are healthier but the role of protein and how much we need is still misunderstood.

The structure of the body is totally protein – not only the muscles, but vital organs, brain cells, genes, and enzymes. Bits and pieces of all structures are constantly being replaced. In six months the entire body, from muscles to blood to enzymes is entirely replaced. Your body literally is built from what's been eaten over the last six months. You can see why significant structural changes take time!

The RDA (Recommended Dietary Allowance) for protein was designed for sedentary individuals and has little relevance for athletes. Exercise increases the need for protein because it causes the body to use protein at a faster rate. In fact, too little protein and the body will cannibalize muscle to provide its needs.

So how much do we need? The answer depends on the type and duration of the activity. We can classify sports very generally into three categories:

- I. Strength
- II. Speed
- III. Endurance

These categories are not exclusive but relate to the predominant need in the

sport. The chart below gives the protein requirement for each class.

Racquetball is a class II sport. Strength and endurance are certainly necessary but speed and speed training predominate.

You can adjust the chart for length of training time. The chart assumes three hours a day or more of intense training. If you put in only 1-2 hours a day, move one class to the right.

Not everyone will fit this chart exactly. It's important to experiment. If you're getting too little protein, your strength and muscle mass will decline. If you're getting too much, your body will create excess ammonia, a toxic by-product of protein metabolism. Lower back pain and sluggishness are symptomatic of excess protein as the kidneys are overloaded filtering the toxic waste.

What are the best sources of protein? The body can make most of the 21 amino acids except the nine essential amino acids which must be supplied by diet. The degree to which a food provides these essentials is measured by PER (Protein Equivalency Ratio). The most efficient sources are lactalbumin (whey protein) and egg albumin (egg white protein). These provide almost 100% of the amino acid mix needed by the body. Fish and meats provide 80%, soy 75% and plant foods below 50%. Vegetarians can combine plant foods (such as legumes and grains) to provide the aminos lacking in the bean or grain by itself.

It's often difficult for athletes to get sufficient high quality protein without a supplement. Beware of false claims about supplements, however. Despite what the ads imply, it is not protein intake that controls muscle growth. It is exercise which creates the demand for protein. Protein without the demand for it does not create lean muscle mass!

For further information about protein needs or related nutritional topics, call the Nutrition Help Line at 800/473-9743.

Body Weight (lbs.)	Sport/Training Category [protein requirements-grams]		
	Class I	Class II	Class III
88	80	68	56
110	100	85	70
132	120	102	84
154	140	119	98
176	160	136	112
198	180	153	126
220	200	170	140
242	220	187	154
264	240	204	168

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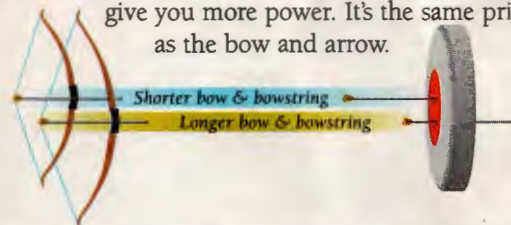
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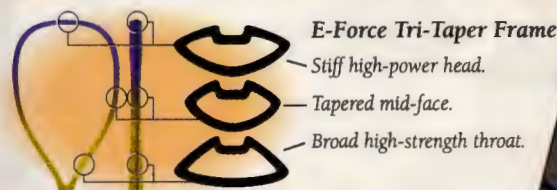
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When I was asked to write this article, I thought 'no problem, it'll be a piece of cake.' But as I sat down to start writing, I realized it wasn't going to be so easy. I thought it would be a breeze since I planned to describe exactly how so many of us play our matches against those who use their other hand to perform necessary racquetball skills (the politically correct way to refer to lefties).

What I mean by this is that often times we play lefties without giving it much thought. If we realize that our opponent is a lefty, we usually either play them just as we would play a right-hander or we totally freak out because we don't know what to do.

As a pro tour southpaw, I've had plenty of opportunities to see the things that work and the things that don't. Playing a lefty takes a different approach to every aspect of your game — from your serve, service return, and shot selection during the rally, right to your mental game.

First, check to see which hand your opponent will be using to hold the racquet. I know this sounds obvious, but I've lost count of how many times somebody has told me that they didn't realize their opponent was a lefty until the middle of the first game. Once you know that, it's time to formulate a game plan. Here are some things that you may want to do to change your game when you play a lefty.

The Serve

If you are a right-hander who normally plays other right-handers, you probably hit a majority of your serves behind your body to your receiver's backhand and very few to the forehand. When playing a lefty, the major change to be made is to hit more of your serves down the right side wall to their backhand, as opposed to cross-court. Playing a lefty can actually make your drive serve more effective, since a drive serve down the right wall is an easier serve to execute as well as more difficult to return than one hit cross-court. Another very good serve is a drive-Z to the lefty's backhand. Even though your primary serves are different for the lefty, don't neglect your cross-court serve to keep your opponent honest.

Service Return

Returning a serve from a lefty is going to be different for two reasons. First, the serve will be coming at a different



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PERFORMANCE SERIES: How to Play a Lefty by Mike Guidry

angle and from a different side of the court. Since this is something that takes a little getting used to, we'll need to focus on what to do with the return of serve. Just as when you receive from a right-hander, the majority of the serves will still come to your backhand. Your primary return is still going to be a cross-court pass to the lefty's backhand.

If you have to hit a defensive return, the best choice is a ceiling ball cross-court to the right corner. A down the line return is your second option, but make sure it get deep in the court and doesn't catch the side wall or you give your opponent a forehand setup. Use the pinch sparingly, since it's more difficult to execute and if you don't hit it perfectly it puts you out of position. It will be a tough adjustment, but try to remind yourself to think about your shot selection. You can still return serves to your forehand down the line or cross-court, but make sure to mix it up to keep them guessing.

Rallies

Just as on your serve and service return, you'll want to do things differently than you're used to, yet the same principles of the game will apply. You still want to make your opponent hit from their weak side (usually the backhand) and from deep in the court. With your backhand, you'll want to hit more cross-court passes. And when you have a plum, hit a few more pinches into the left wall so the shot travels to their backhand. You can still hit down the line to mix it up.

With your forehand, your number one shot is going to be a down the line pass and if you have a setup, a down the line rollout will be your best bet. Just as when you play anyone else, make sure you hit different shots to keep your opponent off balance. Try to avoid hitting too many pinches and use passes to set up the pinch.

Mental Game

You have probably heard (if not said it yourself and believe it to be true) that a lefty has the advantage

when playing a right-hander. I don't necessarily agree. The reason for this perception is because most people just aren't used to playing lefties. You still have the same goals and principles against a lefty. The only difference is going to be your serve and shot selections.

Remember, a right-hander has all the same advantages over a wrong-hander as the southpaw has over the northpaw — they're just reversed. All it takes is a little practice and a mental adjustment.

We lefties may think we have the edge, but with these tips, you just might be able to prove us wrong!



AMPRO TIP: CREATING YOUR RACQUETBALL DREAM THROUGH THE ART OF GOAL-SETTING

By Fran Davis, U.S. Assistant National Team Coach & Diana McNab, U.S. National Team Sports Psychologist

Can you guess what all of these fine elite athletes and teams share in common ... Michelle Gould, Michael Bronfeld, Sudsy Monchik, John Ellis, Andre Agassi, the San Francisco 49'ers, the Houston Rockets, and the U.S. National Racquetball Team?

That's right! They all set clear and precise goals for themselves at the start of their careers as well as before the beginning of each season. Then they each developed a detailed road map (training schedule) and followed it as closely as possible (making minor adjustments along the way, if necessary) to reach a predictable end result — goal accomplished!

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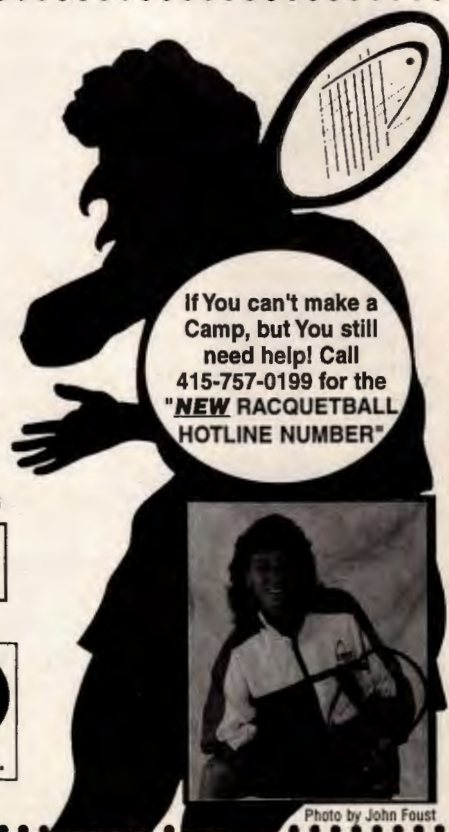
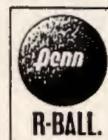
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Photo by John Foust

The cited players/teams are prime examples to support the theory that goal-setting, with appropriate guidance and training, is a key ingredient in helping athletes reach and accomplish their goals and become true champions.

You can become a true champion in your own right by going through the same goal-setting process as these elite athletes have done. At this point we will take you through this step by step process of setting your goals and working toward the end result of achieving those goals.

Before we begin, let's define what we mean by the term "goal." A goal is a desired end result that is process oriented. These are several goals that you want to include when going through this goal-setting process to make you a complete person. They are: Personal self-development goal; Career or academic goal; Relationship goal; Sport/athletic goal; Community/spiritual goal.

For the purpose of this article, we will only study the Sport/athletic goal, but the others are equally important to achieve balance in your life, which in turn generates positive end results. Athletes have a tendency to become "unbalanced" by obsessing on training, working out, thinking of nothing but their sport/athletic goal and neglecting the others. Don't be a victim of this one-dimensional behavior because balance in our life is what really leads to success.

Subgroups

Within the sport/athletic goal, there are several sub-groups, for which you will need to go through this goal-setting process as well. They are: Physical skills; Mental skills; Nutritional skills; Footwork skills; Physical conditioning skills; and Stretching & flexibility skills.

Time Table

Now you need a time table and time frame in order to reach these goals. Here's how it's done: Ultimate athletic goal - 3-5 years; Long term goal - 2-3 years; Short term goal - 6 months-2 years; Immediate goal - 3 months-6 months; 30 day goal; Two week goal; One week goal; Today's goal - Now!

Guidelines

You need to know that you have a 50% chance of success or else you will sabotage yourself. So here are some of the guidelines to make your goals work for your ... not against you. Your goals must be: realistic and believable; achievable; dated; challenging; congruent with your other life style goals; specific; measurable; process-oriented with an end result always in mind; tangible (see the difference); and visual - see it, affirm it, have passion toward it and then manifest it.

Most athletes don't set goals for several reasons — they do not understand their importance, they don't know how, or they're afraid of failing. But in reality, all great achievements are attained through a goal-setting process.

Remember this "Man is a goal-seeking animal, in constant pursuit of his dreams. All feats of greatness begin with a vision — and you must work

Method

Finally, here is your 10 step method to goal-setting:

1. **Write down your sports goal!**
"To have a more consistent serve."
"To be the #1 A player in my club."
"To get into better shape."
2. **Write down all the benefits of achieving goal!**
"My self-confidence will improve" ... "I will be the top-gun and the one to beat" ... "I won't get winded in the tiebreaker"
3. **What are the obstacles in your way?**
 a) Technique/skill/progress
 b) "My negative belief system"
 c) Importance/over-trying, etc.
4. **What knowledge and support do you need?**
 a) Lessons on technique
 b) Coaching
 c) Video work
5. **What is your action plan?**
 a) When - Starting now
 b) Where - Practice at club
 c) How - Coaching/Lessons/Drilling
 d) Why - "I want a better serve." ... "I want to be a #1 A player at my club." ... "I am tired of being tired."
6. **Visualize the entire process!** (see May/June '95 issue) — Can you see yourself serving more consistently?... Use every sense - color, sound, smell, feel ... Visualize outside of yourself - like a video camera ... Visualize from the inside out... "are you seeing it from your own eyes?"
7. **Write an affirmation statement.**
"I am a dynamic, strong and consistent server."
8. **What resources do you need to achieve this goal?**
 a) Find a coach
 b) Obtain lessons from an AmPRO teacher
 c) Practice, practice, practice
9. **Can you see yourself achieving this goal?**
10. **CONGRATULATIONS ... You did it!**

your way one step at a time toward that vision."

In closing we'd like you to be aware that the player list in the beginning of this article is only partial ... and that you, too, can create your dreams through the art of goal-setting by starting now, not tomorrow.

Good luck in your quest for making your dream a reality and accomplishing those goals that are important to you.

For further information call the Racquetball Hotline at 415/474-0199.

GAME PLAN



Strategy from the Wilson Racquetball Elite Staff



FEETS DON'T FAIL ME NOW!

By Lynn Adams

A critical area of play that is rarely focused on is proper footwork. How we approach a shot usually dictates the outcome of the shot, so

pay attention to those "boats" that stick out from the bottom of your legs. There are two areas to concentrate on for improving footwork. One is footwork speed and the second is setting up correctly when you approach a shot. Let's take a look at both areas.

Footwork Speed

Racquetball is a quick game. Notice I didn't use the word fast. When I think of fast, I think of someone running a 50-yard dash. It doesn't matter if you are the last one out of the starting blocks, as long as you cross the finish line first. Quickness is another matter. Quickness is your first 2-4 steps. Quickness is a reaction that seems to happen before you need it. The nature of racquetball requires quickness, and you can improve yours.

1. Keep moving: When I was competing on the tour, my coach, Jim Carson, and I watched other sports to learn skills to add to my racquetball game. One of the games we learned a lot from, especially in terms of footwork was tennis. Tennis players are constantly in motion. Because they have so much ground to cover, they must stay moving, or risk not getting to the shot. Tennis players will hit their shot, move back to center quickly and bounce on their toes while waiting to move to the next shot. It makes perfect sense. Are you going to get to a ball faster from a dead stand still, or if your muscles are already firing because you're up bouncing on your toes? The answer is the latter, of course.

For some reason, racquetball players sometimes get lazy. We tend to hit our shot, stand there and watch it, and

then remember – 'Oh yeah, I've got to move now.' Unfortunately, by then it's often too late and we can't quite reach the next shot.

An excellent drill to change the bad habit of standing around to a good habit of constant motion, is the "Hit and Move" drill. Mark off center court with colored electrical tape. This is your target area to return to after you've hit a shot. Play a normal rally – except the goal isn't to win the point, but to hit your shot, immediately move back towards center court, and stay in motion until it's time to go get the ball again. Hit and move, hit and move.

If you have a lot of time in center court before your opponent hits a shot, don't just stand there flat-footed while you wait. Stay up on your toes and bounce slightly. No, not big, bouncing bunny hops. In fact, you don't really even come off the ground very much. Just flex up and down with your toes to keep your muscles ready to spring into action. You are training your body for quickness with this drill. You will get to more balls and get set up faster for shots.

2. Speed training: Because racquetball is a quick game, burst speed is very important. It's your first 2-4 steps that are the most important. In other words, training for a marathon won't necessarily help your racquetball. I would suggest sprint training if you want to improve your quickness for racquetball. Stair sprints, bike sprints, Versa Climber sprints and court sprints are all excellent drills for speed. Sprint all-out for 15-20 seconds, then rest for 15-20 seconds. Do sets of 10 and work up to three sets. It's a tough work-out. If you do bike or Versa Climber sprints, use enough resistance so you have to bear down and pump hard to create a sprint.

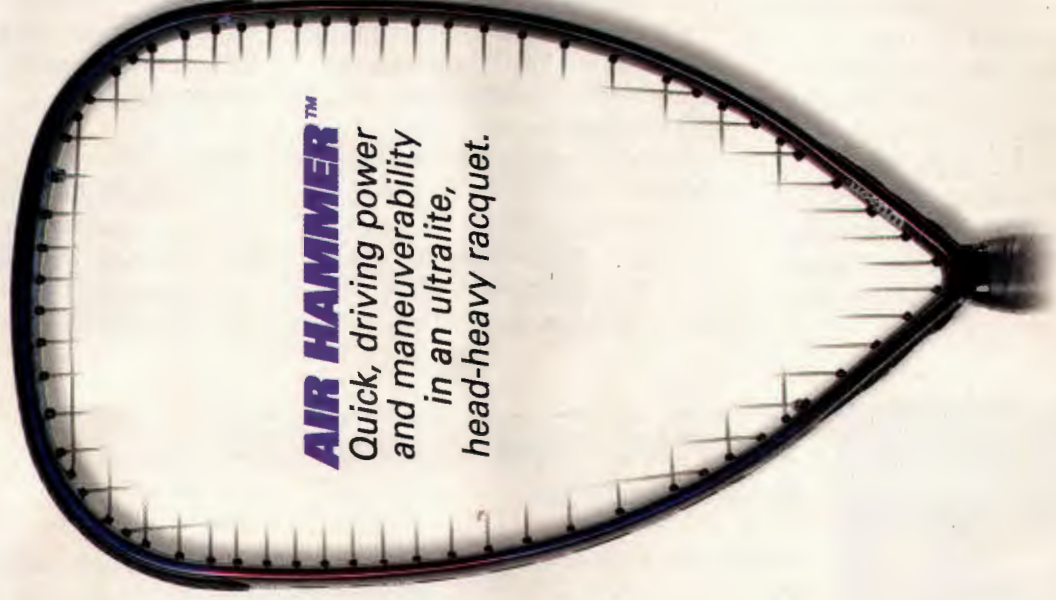
3. Weight training: You can weight train for speed and endurance. In racquetball, strength and power doesn't necessarily come from big bulky muscles. You want muscles that can pull fast through a shot and do it at the same speed whether it's your first match or your fifth. You can achieve this by lifting less weight and completing more reps. Better to burn out your set by doing 15-20 reps instead of only completing eight. You know that shaky feeling you get in your muscles when you can

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only complete a few more reps? Get that feeling on your 15th or 16th lift, not your 6th.

Approach it Properly

The second area of footwork that is important is your approach. Where the ball is in relation to our body dictates the shots we are capable of hitting. For instance, if a ball gets back deep behind my stance, it will be almost impossible to hit my shot cross-court, difficult to hit it down, and I will very likely hit the side wall first on some type of pinch. While there is nothing wrong with a pinch shot, it might not be the best strategic shot for that particular moment. I believe the best place to make contact with the ball is out around your front foot. This contact point gives you an abundance of shot options. Not only do you want the ball out in front so you can come in from behind it, but you also want the ball out away from your body so you can swing with full extension.

Imagine a home run hitter in baseball. A pitcher can negate his power by throwing the ball inside. If the batter can't get full extension, he loses power. It's the same in racquetball. Once you get too close to the ball, you get jammed and end up poking and pushing the ball.

So what footwork approach is needed to accomplish your goals? Your first motion should be away from the ball, chest facing the proper sidewall, in a backwards diagonal motion. Use a shuffle step (or step-together-step) to get away from the ball, then come back in from diagonally behind the ball. Use this motion on set ups coming at you off the front wall, such as a ceiling ball that drops short, or a ball that hits the front wall, side wall and is heading back somewhat towards center court. This "back-and-in" motion will do three things for you. First, it will get you away from the ball, so you have less of a tendency to get jammed up.

Secondly, it clears your opponent out of the way to one side or the other, making it easier for you to choose the proper shot to take. Lastly, because you are moving your feet as you come back into your shot, you will have a chance to make any last second adjustments and have more power in your shot.

Again, think in terms of a batter in baseball. You want to plant your back foot and come in swinging from behind the ball with all your momentum going forward. It is the same in racquetball. Quickly get back so you can move forward in behind your shot. Don't stand flat-footed and reach back to hit a ball that got by you quicker than you anticipated.

Proper footwork takes a lot of initial effort that might fatigue you quickly when you first start working on it. But your body will adjust and your shot consistency will improve! Isn't that what practice is all about?



SERVING: THE EQUALIZER

By Jack Newman

In my many years of both playing and teaching racquetball, there is always one common element that separates the top players at each level ... the serve. I consider it the "equalizer" because the serve

allows a weaker player to compete with players of higher ability levels. I also feel that most players do not practice their serves enough, which is neglectful since a good serve can cover so many other weaknesses. This article will describe ways in which we can improve on our serving strategy as well as keep our opponents more off balance.

The first thing that we have to realize when serving is that it is the only free shot in racquetball that we get. We have the ability to speed up or slow down play with

this free shot. We also can easily get the ball to an opponent's weakness by having accurate serves. The average racquetball rally only lasts between four and five shots. This means that the serve is responsible for 20-25% of each rally. But in reality the server is probably responsible for about 50% of the rally since the serve dictates who is in control.

I want to use baseball as an example when I talk about the serve. I think that a baseball pitcher is the perfect athlete to compare to a racquetball server. The pitcher in baseball also has control in that he is the only one who knows what pitch is on the way, similar to a server in racquetball. Where most of us are weak in our approach to the serve is in how we can keep the receiver off balance like a pitcher does to a batter. A pitcher can keep a batter off balance by changing pitches (like a server changes angles) or by changing speeds. A server can do the same by mixing up a series of serves like drives, z-serves, and jam serves. This will



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keep your opponent guessing as to what angle the serve will be coming in at. It is important that you cluster your serves so that from one spot in the service box you are able to hit lots of different serves. This is similar to a pitcher using the same motion to throw all his pitches to help keep his opponent guessing.

Changing speeds with your serves is another useful way that you can keep your opponent off balance. Nolan Ryan did not get a lot of strikeouts because he only threw fast balls. Ryan also had a great change-up to help keep the batter guessing. If you are a pure power server it is important that you develop a different speed on your serve. If you hit all your serves at one speed, eventually your opponent will get used to the speed of your serves. You will see a lot of matches where a big server will dominate the first game only to see their opponent adjust and win the next two.

Another great serving tip is how to serve to a power player. In baseball you will always see the home-run hitter get pitched inside. This inside pitch does not allow the batter to extend on the ball and hit a home-run. In racquetball we have the jam serve to keep the power player from extending on the ball and hitting a rollout. By mixing a jam serve with our drive we can keep the power player off balance. Changing speed is another way to keep power players from getting the timing they need.

The bottom line is to practice your serves so that you have many different versions at your disposal and be able to keep your opponents guessing so you can control the rallies. By having good serves you can equalize a much better opponent and move on in any tournament.

MAINS & CROSSES

STRING GAUGE: THE BASIC CHOICE

By Steve Crandall

From the last issue, you may recall the assertion that racquet string plays a critical role in how you play. In this column, we're going to look at string and stringing from the player's point of view.

The most important variable in racquetball string is its gauge, also known as diameter or thickness. Tournament players may boast about using super-responsive 18-gauge string, but what does that mean, and how does string gauge affect play?

String gauge is designated numerically, with thicker strings having lower numbers, as shown in the table.

Gauge designations were originally based on standard industrial wire gauge sizes, but as manufacturers began developing racquet string in a variety of different sizes, the industry agreed that the numbers would represent a range of allowable diameters, rather than a single, exact size. All consumer string packaging indicates size, at least as a gauge designation. Some packages include the diameter in millimeters as well.

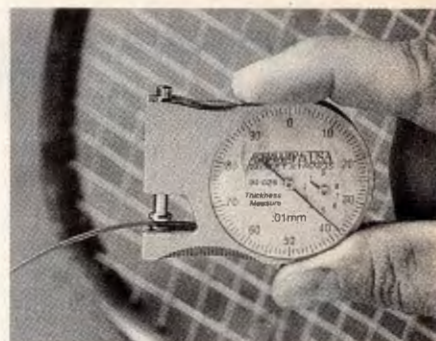
The "L" in the 15L gauge stands for "light." Note how 15L and 16 gauge overlap, so that diameters of 1.33 mm and 1.34 mm can be properly called either one. Within that overlap, the only difference is a question of marketing.

A note of caution: if you're going to measure string thickness with a wire gauge or a micrometer, make sure you do it with the string off the racquet, under no tension — in other words, before the racquet is strung. String thickness decreases when stretched at 25 lb. to 50 lb. of tension, and a reading taken under those conditions can be misleading.

As you would suspect, thick and thin strings perform differently in the racquet. No one size is best for all players. Different playing styles lead players to choose different combinations of performance characteristics. We'll take up just one of the properties here — that of durability.

Thick string lasts longer than thin string. Assuming that two strings are made of the same materials, and use the same construction, the thinner one will break more easily. Simple, huh? This doesn't necessarily apply if you're comparing a thin, premium-quality string with a thick junk string, but as a rule of thumb, it's pretty reliable.

There are two main causes of string breakage. The first is notching. As you hit the ball, the cross strings (or "crosses" - the short, "horizontal" ones) are



Professional stringers use a micrometer to measure racquet strings. This string measures 1.38 mm (notice the small secondary dial) -- which makes it 15L gauge.

RACQUET STRING DIAMETERS	
Gauge	Diameter
15	1.41 - 1.49 mm
15L	1.33 - 1.41 mm
16	1.26 - 1.34 mm
17	1.16 - 1.26 mm
18	1.06 - 1.16 mm



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pounded against the main strings (or "mains" - the longer, "vertical" ones) several hundred times in the course of a game. The crosses slowly cut notches into the mains, and eventually they cut right through. Obviously, a thicker string will stand up to deeper notching before it breaks. By the way, it's almost always the mains that break first.

The second major cause of breakage is over-stretching, which can occur during a particularly hard or off-center killshot. This is especially true if you hit the ball near the head of the frame instead of in the sweet spot. The string wants to stretch equally on both sides of the ball, and on a miss-hit, there's not much string to work with on one side: it tries to stretch too much, and it breaks.

So, is a thicker string necessarily preferable? Of course not. Durability is just one desirable characteristic. Thinner strings, for example, give a player better response. There's also power, cost, control, "feel," and a few other properties to consider and balance against one another when you're replacing your strings. We'll get to all of these in future columns.



If you have questions on any subject that I fail to cover, please feel free to direct them to me via the editor of this magazine, and I'll try to address them in print.

Steve Crandall is Vice President of Sales & Marketing for Ashaway Racquet String.

PAPER, ROCK, SCISSORS

By Tim Tucknott

In the schoolyard game "paper, rock, scissors" paper covers rock, rock breaks scissors, scissors cut paper. Each selection has a form and function, asset and liability. Winning and losing is determined by how your particular asset or liability matches up against your opponents. The racquetball variation goes like this ... Passer, Runner, Shooter — Passer beats runner, runner beats shooter, and shooter beats passer.

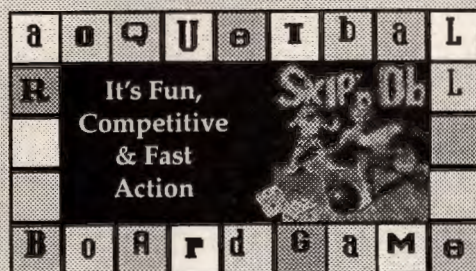
Passer: Prefers to win a rally with a passing shot or ceiling ball. Cuts off some balls for killing purposes but prefers to wait on the ball until his opponent commits to the front and then executes another pass. Court coverage is a little too deep to cover kill shots. Loves to play runners because the passer is in control forever.

Runner: Retrieves any and all shots. Uses speed to extend every rally until the ball is re-killed. Covers court too close to the front wall in order to utilize re-killing ability. Can be passed relentlessly. Loves to play shooters, to "get" the impossible "get."

Shooter: Thrives on the boomer. Anytime, anywhere, anyshot, rolled out. Even overhead! Lacks court coverage skills. "Doesn't need 'em, there isn't going to be another shot!" Loves to play the passer who keeps providing one more shooting opportunity.

The passer beats the runner because they won't allow the runner an offensive opportunity.

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The runner beats the shooter because they are swift enough to re-kill even excellent shots.

The shooter beats the passer because the passer provides too many shooting opportunities.

In "paper, rock, scissors" form and function provide inescapable strengths and weaknesses. In racquetball, form and function also provide strengths and weaknesses. Assess your game. Do you win most often with the pass, the kill or the get? When you lose did your opponent shoot great, pass you to death, or get everything? Are you a passer, a runner, or shooter? Write it down and admit it.

To improve in racquetball's "passer, runner, shooter" game, find opponents who will use your strength against you.

Passers find shooters: You will improve your front court coverage and kill shot ability.

Runners find passers: You will be forced to shoot and pass from the back court.

Shooters find runners: You will be forced to run and pass.

Make a list of these opponents and play them exclusively. Necessity, or the "mother of invention" will force you to develop another strength to avoid losing. Really.

Tim Tucknott, a player since the early 70's, teaches youth racquetball at the Sports Courts in Lincoln, Nebraska.

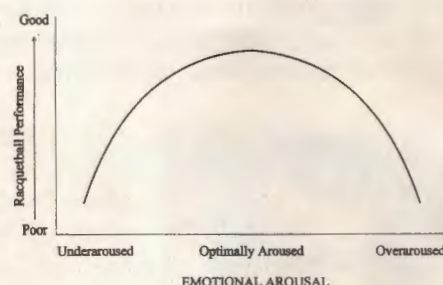


THE YERKES-DODSON MODEL OF AROUSAL AND RACQUETBALL PERFORMANCE

By Richard Krinsky, Ph.D.

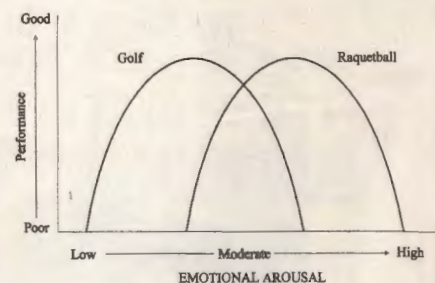
Professor of Psychology and Sport Consultant, University of Southern Colorado

Robert M. Yerkes (pronounced Yer-keys) and John D. Dodson were not famous racquetball players, but what they discovered in 1908 is important for racquetball players today. The major finding published by these Harvard researchers was that physiological arousal and performance are curvilinearly related. That is, athletic performance will usually peak at some intermediary level of arousal. This simple inverted-U shaped relationship is described in this figure.



For some athletic tasks, like running the 100 meters, the performance peak may be radically shifted to the high end of the arousal continuum.

For other athletic tasks, like putting in golf, the performance peak may be radically shifted to the low end of the continuum. Therefore, some athletes try to get super "pumped" (high arousal) both before and during competition, while other athletes try to maintain a more relaxed demeanor during competition. For example, in football, arousal differences are most readily observed during the volatile physical and emotional warming up routines for offensive and defensive linemen, compared to the relaxed warming up routines for quarterbacks and kickers. Theoretical differences in arousal between racquetball players versus golfers is depicted in the following figure.



It is important to keep in mind that non-optimal arousal may have adverse affects on both motor and perceptual performance. For example, very little arousal can be tolerated without a decrease in performance of skills which demand precision and steadiness. A racquetball player (like myself) who relies on finesse and touch during competition needs to be able to regulate momentary changes in arousal more than a power player who relies primarily on passing shots. Also, perceptual processes tend to narrow during high levels of arousal and broaden during lower levels of arousal. Therefore, under-aroused racquetball players may be attending to more irrelevant racquetball cues (like comments made by observers), while over-aroused players may not be attending



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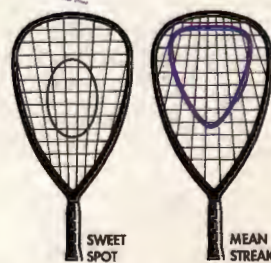
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to relevant racquetball cues (like awareness of where your opponent is positioned during a point).

The following will inform readers about several important ramifications of the Yerkes-Dodson Law as it applied to the coaching, training and development of racquetball players.

Old Habits are Tough to Break

Learning new racquetball skills and strategies probably occurs best in a relaxed environment. Students of the game take lessons from skilled players and coaches in primarily non-competitive situations in which play can be discontinued abruptly, and instruction given. As is often the case, racquetball instructors are attempting to modify previously conditioned or spontaneously generated motor responses in their students.

In either case, previous responses are not erased from the brain as new responses become encoded. New motor responses must be drilled into memory during practice so as to more favorably compete with prior responses. Any athlete or instructor will tell you that

old, ineffectual habits are hard to change. It is important to remember that during high pressure situations, the probability of falling back on those older, more established motor patterns increases. Therefore, when coaching and training racquetball players, expect that relapses will occur, especially during tough competitive matches. An instructor or player should not be surprised nor disappointed by these less effective responses. However, attention to the more appropriate responses should occur during a time out or when analyzing the game.

Be the Master of your Arousal

When training racquetball players, most instructors provide feedback on technical performance, but not about psychological performance. So, in a series of lessons for beginning and intermediate players, it is expected that basic hand grips, forehand and backhand strokes, and court position will be covered. It is less likely that instructions for rhythmic breathing, and visualization will be included in those lesson formats. Today, it is not uncommon to attribute outcomes of athletic performance to psychological variables. The

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winning player wanted the victory more than the losing player. The winner was more focused during the match than the loser. While belief in these motivational and perceptual aspects of sport are regarded as important, training in these regards is often neglected. One of the important goals of sport psychology is to train athletes to relax and maintain focus in the face of stressful situations. Sport psychological training in momentary relaxation, rhythmic breathing, visualization and self talk are some of the techniques which are used today to control arousal. Racquetball players should be taught to become aware of their breathing during competition. They certainly should be aware of, and able to manage, counterproductive thoughts which occur during a match. Racquetball players should also think about appropriate time out strategies to either decrease their level of arousal or perhaps to increase their opponent's level of arousal.

Putting it all Together

Improving racquetball play requires both technical and psychological instruction. It goes without saying that appropriate technical instruction is necessary as players move from one level of competence and competitiveness to another. Technical instruction is important for increasing power, shot selection, and movement in the court. However, psychological training may be necessary for maintaining composure and heightening skill level during competitive play. Racquetball is a fast game which causes instantaneous changes in arousal which in turn require bodily adaptation. For example, passing shots may require maximal muscle tension, but ceiling

shots may require less tension. In addition, learning to control one's breathing during a match helps to conserve needed energy, and learning to image the path a racquetball will travel immediately before you hit it may improve your accuracy. In tight matches, a strategic time out during a tie breaking game may make all the difference in the outcome.

I find it hard to imagine that players engaging in 10 to 20 hours of racquetball per week do not engage in any psychological training. It is only recently that psychological skills are being systematically included in the training of elite level athletes. It is my belief that both technical and psychological skills training should be taught to racquetball players at all ability levels. While the ability to transfer technical racquetball instruction to other athletic situations may be of limited value, the transfer of self-regulating arousal training is general to all situations which evoke anxiety and fear.

Technical training for racquetball requires hours of disciplined practice in the racquetball court, yet psychological training for regulating arousal can be practiced in your home, and does not require any mechanical gadgets. In fact, for progressive relaxation training, only four training routines a day are recommended, each routine consisting of three to four minutes. Look for a more detailed description about these self-regulating techniques in an upcoming issue.

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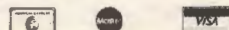
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CHANGING TIMES

By Luke St. Onge

Well, it seems that the last United States Olympic Festival has been held, after the U.S.O.C. executive board voted to cancel the 1997 Festival due to

time constraints and hinted that the '99 Festival will take on a whole new look if it is held at all. Various reasons have been given for the event's demise, but basically it comes down to allocation of funds and priorities for programs.

Begun in 1978 in Colorado Springs, the U.S. Olympic Festival added racquetball to its schedule in 1989 in Oklahoma City. Our sport was present in the Twin Cities, Los Angeles, San Antonio, St. Louis and finally Colorado Festivals. The AARA has always looked upon the Olympic Festival as one of its premier events and we will sorely miss it in the years to come. Interestingly enough, although our venues have been small in comparison to the gymnastics and figure skating venues, we sold out 90% of our sessions in all six years. Who says people won't pay to see racquetball? Our sincere thanks to all those from the U.S.O.C. and the local organizing committees who always treated racquetball athletes as first class citizens in the events and always made us feel welcome. We will all long for the competition, camaraderie, excitement and fellowship generated by the Festivals in the summers to come. It is a sad farewell ...

Elsewhere

As times change, so must the AARA. We must be prepared to react to these changes and conduct ourselves in a prudent manner when faced with adversity (see this issue's Reader Forum).

We are most proud to announce that over 1000 court clubs are now active participants in the AARA Court Club program. For those not familiar with the program it is designed to promote racquetball in all clubs and show club owners/managers how racquetball can be profitable. There are still 2000 more clubs to sign up, but we are greatly encouraged by the participation and the support of IHRSA.

The Racquetball Industry Initiative project continues to move forward with \$50,000 raised towards the club video and workbook. Look for details in an upcoming issue of *RACQUETBALL Magazine*.

GOING "STRAIGHT" IN MILWAUKEE

By Katherine Grill

One Month Before

"Let's go to a tourney in West Allis."

I look up from my computer and blink at my friend, boss, and coach, Bob Graf. We often discuss tournaments. He is, after all, club pro at The Fitness Center in Champaign, Illinois, and I am his assistant. But this time, he's asking if I want to play.

Being a brilliant and silver-tongued employee, I quickly seize the opportunity to suck up by showing my enthusiasm for the sport. *"Uh...I dunno,"* I say.

"Yeah, right," he answers. *"Bump up to Women's A."*

One Week Before

I survive two sleepless nights, three doctor visits, a broken muffler, and a fist fight over a Hershey bar. By Thursday night, I'm packed and ready to go. All I need do is kiss the children and try to fake wrenching grief as I leap into the car to escape chaos for Wisconsin.

Mission accomplished. I pull out of the driveway. Uh ... Wisconsin's west of Illinois, right?

Day One

I arrive at the tournament carrying a bag that weighs more than an average family can eat in a week. My stomach feels squeezed against my ribs, and I'm about as quick as a bull moose retaining water.

"No problem," says Coach Bob, *"you're not playing today anyway. Your five matches are tomorrow. First thing in the morning, then back to back all afternoon."* Then to *"pump up,"* we watch pro matches on video until 2 a.m.

Somehow this makes sense to me. I have entered The Tournament Zone.

Day Two

I wake up ready to play. I'm pumped. I'm hot. I've got PMS. And I'm awake at 5 a.m.

Unable to sleep, I eat bananas until it's time to leave. Then I'm on the court, warming up, dashing around, feeling good. My first opponent doesn't know what hit her. I win the match in less than twenty minutes.

Then I referee. And referee. And referee. It's great fun. I'm energetic, I'm compassionate, I call the score with authority. At 1:30, I decide to take a nap.

Did I mention that I had a doubles match at 2:00? Neither did my brain. Fortunately, my partner Bette reminds me. She's discovered that partners often wear matching garments, and we spend the remaining time analyzing our wardrobes.

TOURNAMENT UPDATE

"What do you mean you don't have leopard pants? Everybody has leopard pants!"

Finally, well-coordinated in matching headbands, we win our match with grace, style, and only three near-death experiences. Bette grins and says, *"Ain't doubles grand?"*

The afternoon progresses as I stumble and push my way through two more matches. By eight, I'm sucking enough air to do a Hoover proud. I'm exhausted, my legs are trembling, but Bette and I strut as we walk off the court to accept our Women's Doubles award: an acrylic paperweight. We stroke it as if it's a mystical orb.

The director shakes my hand, wipes the sweat off on his pants, and smiles benevolently. *"Court one,"* he says. *"Singles finals. She's already waiting."*

"I'm there," I say as I flex my wrist. After all, what's a little exhaustion when I could win another mystical orb paperweight?

I find the court, stretch once, then blink my eyes. I wake up, down in the second game, 10-14, facing match point. Taking my last time-out, I look up in desperation to Coach Bob, searching his face for clues. He says four words. *"Hit the ball straight."*

Straight? As in, not curving? I hastily dredge up everything I know about physics. It takes less than a second. I was an English major.

Inspiration comes a moment later as I miss-hit what should have been a beautiful pinch. It flies straight down the side wall. Side out.

My brain clicks. *"Straight"* means swerving around a pinch set-up to make it a down the line shot. In The Tournament Zone, even that makes sense.

Four rallies later, it's 14-14, my serve. I look up for inspiration, but can't see Coach Bob. Then I spot him calmly stuffing a t-shirt into Bette's mouth.

Did you know that players can get penalized for their fan's overly-enthusiastic support? Bette does now.

I win the point and the game. Now comes the tiebreaker. No problem, I think. I'm hitting the ball straight, I'm running like a fiend, I'm serving like a pro. So what if I'm losing my vision from lack of oxygen. I'm in The Tournament Zone.

The tiebreaker begins. At 2-6, her favor, I call a time-out, feeling completely hopeless. My legs are the consistency of warm

yogurt, and Coach Bob is imitating the Sphinx. So I lean against the wall and take my last resort.

"Dear, God," I pray. "I know it's a stupid racquetball game. It's nothing compared to gang wars, nuclear proliferation, or Amanda's orthodontia. But, I like racquetball. It's important. Help me, please, please!"

The response comes loud and clear: "Wake up! Time-out's over."

Then an amazing thing happens. I smile. I don't know where the joy comes from - tapping my endorphin reserves, giving over to a higher power, or because I can still understand Bette even with a T-shirt in her mouth. But I finally realize that I can be focused, competitive, and still have a great time.



I actually like exhaustion, smelly courts, refs who never see what I see, and bruises that look like body tattoos.

Five minutes later, I win, 11-6. The Women's A paperweight is mine. An when I wake up from my shock-induced coma, I buy a dollar glass of water and ask one thing: "Did the ball go straight?"

Katherine Grill isn't a pro or a coach or anything other than a woman who likes to play racquetball and write. She works as assistant to Coach Bob Graf, Court Sports Director and Pro at the Fitness Center in Champaign, Illinois. Her first novel, Oracle, will be released in early 1996 under the name Katherine Greyle.

U.S. NATIONAL SENIOR SPORTS CLASSIC V THE SENIOR OLYMPICS *San Antonio, Texas: May 17-24* *By Jack & Helen Dunsmoor*

For approximately 8,500 senior athletes, mid-May was a time to meet old and new friends and enjoy some famous Texas hospitality. San Antonio was a great place to have the Senior Olympics, where the weather, venues and activities were super.

One hundred and eighty-five racquetballers enjoyed over a week of fun, wonderful facilities and much improved tournament direction, thanks to Kathy Blake and her staff. The tourney was well-planned, organized, on time and run by a very friendly and courteous group. The only negatives were that the eight day format is too long (five days should be maximum) and that the tournament director needs access to better seeding information.

This was only the second time that racquetball was offered in the Senior

Olympics and it seemed to draw a somewhat different crowd than other national tournaments. Many of the players have very little racquetball experience, but their level of enthusiasm is definitely tops! The number of players in some age groups was just outstanding. The men's 60+ had 49 players, 65+ had 36, and 70+ had 24. Jack Dunsmoor of Boise, Idaho says, "I had the time of my life playing matches with fellows from nine different states. Each of these men were good sports and gentlemen on and off the court."

We heartily recommend that more of you elderly kids get out there and qualify in your State Games so you can play in Tuscon in 1997. When you browse through the names of the medal winners you'll see some of the "big guns" of racquetball - Jo Kenyon, Lola Marcus, Earl and Mary Low Acuff and John Pearce. But you'll also see other names that are not familiar in the national rankings. It's inspiring to see this many of the over-55 crowd out there competing. Just being there makes you a winner.

The more experienced players did a lot of PR work and answered lots of rules and playing questions. The Senior Olympics

seem to be an excellent vehicle to promote senior racquetball. How can we encourage these players to go home and involve others?

RESULTS/MEN — Men's 55+: Chuck Moorman, West Chester, OH def. C.R. Rydberg, San Diego, CA 15-7, 15-12; Thomas Wilson, Rosenberg, TX def. Thomas Poppas, Kokomo, IN 8-15, 15-14, 11-6. Men's 60+: Terry Lauritsen, Albuquerque, NM def. Roy Rudichuk, Tulsa, OK 15-7, 15-10; Jack Dunsmoor, Boise, ID def. Richard Pacula, Winston-Salem, NC 8-15, 15-6, 11-10. Men's 65+: Irvin Roselman, St. Louis, MO def. Richard Kincade, Woodland Park, CO 15-1, 15-5; Don Menke, Long Beach, CA def. Lou Lalli, Tarpon Springs, FL (NSA). Men's 70+: Jack Gushue, Horseheads, NY def. Jay Kaplan, San Diego, CA 9-15, 15-2, 11-9; Jack Coombs, Littleton, CO def. Alfred Storey, Ann Arbor, MI 15-4, 15-8. Men's 75+: Earl Acuff, Asheville, NC def. Henry Naegeli, Waller, TX (NSA); 3. Ned Lockwood, Tulsa, OK. Men's 80+: John Pearce, Waco, TX def. Virgin Woodford, Cedar Rapids, IA 15-8, 15-2. **WOMEN** — Women's 55+: Helen Dunsmoor, Boise, ID def. Carol Taylor, Indianapolis, IN (NSA); Helen Puccini, Kerrville, TX def. Deloria Jacobs, Fairborn, OH (NSA). Women's 60+: Jo Kenyon, Tallahassee, FL def. Lola Markus, Park Ridge, IL 15-9, 15-4; Pat Greig, Sun Lakes, AZ def. Polly Williams, Longview, TX 15-4, 13-15, 11-0. Women's 65+: Ann Drake, Cincinnati, OH def. Elsie Cobb,

Things I learned:

- Ten seconds is a lifetime, especially when you're sucking air like an industrial vacuum with a clogged hose. Use your time between serves.

- Play one point, one bounce, one hit at a time. You haven't the brain-power to go beyond that without forgetting something important ... like how to straighten out a pinch.

- Remember that racquetball is fun. You're pushing yourself to the limit, testing your skills, and meeting lots of sweaty people. Win or lose, what could be more fulfilling? And besides, you might even get a brand new paper-weight!

Kerrville, TX 15-7, 15-8; Diane McCue, Missoula, MT def. Pat Schneider, Dallas, TX 15-8, 4-15, 11-10. Women's 70+: Catherine Ouiment, E. Longmeadow, MA def. Betty Prather, Pryor, OK 15-4, 15-0; Neidra Newberry, Kalispell, MT def. Virginia Yezbick, Waterford, MI 14-15, 15-13, 11-6. Women's 75+: Mary Low Acuff, Asheville, NC def. Ruth Crosson, Golden, CO (NSA); 3. Martha Swasey, Signal Mountain, TN. Women's 80+: Gladys Slinkard, Prior, OK.

1995 NATIONAL GOLDEN MASTERS INVITATIONAL

Pittsburgh: April 20-22

By Ron Pudduck

A strong contingent of 55+ players assembled at the beautiful Racquet Club of Pittsburgh for three days of intense competition, and got just what they came for. In fact, most division championships were settled by margins of only a few points in total scores.

In the men's 55+ singles, Charlie Garfinkel won his bracket with a slim 25-23 win over Jerry Davis. Charlie then defeated Bobby Sanders in the final match by an equally close score. Charlie went undefeated in the tourney. Another undefeated player was Jay Krevsky who won the men's 60+ division. Jay took on every opponent and always emerged victorious in chalking up a nine point advantage over second place Don Alt.

Joe Lambert scored victories in all eleven matches in men's 65+ singles to give the Texan a first place award. While Joe was "cruisin" in the 65+ bracket, Jack Gushue went undefeated in the men's 70+ singles. In men's 75+ singles, Earl Acuff proved what a kid he really is, besting all his fellow competitors to finish first, with Luzell Wilde in second.

A small draw in the women's bracket, witnessed Lola Markus emerge the winner of a combined age group.

Oh, but the real fun was only just beginning - because the doubles matches were to provide some of the most interesting battles of the entire tournament.

In men's 55+, the winning team at the end was not the same team that started. Lee Graff and Tom Penick started out strong, but part way through, Tom got hit on the knee by an opponent's racquet.



75+ Doubles (left to right): Ralph Greco, Earl Acuff, Luzell Wilde and Charlie Russell.

This put Tom out of action but Jim Weeks proved a very able substitute. Although the winners lost two games (25-18; 25-24) and two teams; Berger/Felicetti and Davis/Sanders each lost only one game (25-13), Graff/Pennick/Weeks squeaked out a 210, 209, 209 win. Second place went to Marty Berger and Carmen Felicetti because of their head-to-head win over Jerry Davis and Bobby Sanders.

Speaking of close finishes, the men's 60+ doubles will be remembered by the main combatants for many years to come. In a double round-robin format, the team of Otis Chapman and Don Alt defeated the top seeded team of Paul Banales and Ron Pudduck in the sixth round by the convincing score of 15-4. Alt/Chapman remained undefeated for the next five rounds, as did Banales and Pudduck. Miraculously the second meeting of the teams resulted in Banales/Pudduck winning the game and bracket, when they pulled some magic out of their racquets and defeated Chapman/Alt.

Tournament hosts Gene Grapes and Al Schattner were as gracious as always - but not once they got on the courts. In 65+ doubles they went undefeated, winning by 18 points over the second place team. Sal Lesser and Vic Sacco were winners in the 70+ doubles to live up to their #1 seed. Mixed doubles was won by the undefeated team of Bill Baker and Lola Markus.

Final thanks for making all of the above possible, goes to our hosts Gene Grapes, Al Schattner and to the great staff who ran the tournament: John Pushak, Suzy Klingensmith, Gary Pancurak, Janet Lewandowski and Dan Obremski. Thanks - it was fun!

RESULTS/Men's

Singles — 55+:

1. Charlie Garfinkel, NY; 2. Bobby Sanders, OH; 3. Jerry Davis, OH; 4. Carmen Felicetti, PA. 60+: 1. Jay Krevsky, PA; 2. Don Alt, FL; 3. Otis Chapman, OH; 4. Ron Pudduck, MI. 65+: 1. Joe Lambert, TX; 2. Jack Bogasky, VA; 3. John O'Donnell, IL; 4. Dick Kincade, CO. 70+: 1.

Jack Gushue, NY; 2. Nick Sans, CA; 3. Carlton Appleby, CA; 4. Jack Pillar, FL. 75+: 1. Earl Acuff, NC; 2. Luzell Wilde, UT; 3. Charles Russell, CA; 4. Brud Turner, OH. **Men's Doubles — 55+:** 1. Lee Graff, OR/Jim Weeks, GA; 2. Marty Berger, PA/Carmen Felicetti, PA; 3. Jerry Davis, OH/Bobby Sanders, OH; 4. Joe Jackman, PA/Jim McPherson, OK. 60+: 1. Paul Banales, AZ/Ron Pudduck, MI; 2. Don Alt, FL/Otis Chapman, OH; 3. Jay Krevsky, PA/Dan Llacera, FL; 4. Gene Flick, MD/Mel Goldstein, MD. 65+: 1. Gene Grapes, PA/Al Schattner, PA; 2. Russ Carruth, UT/Norm Skanchy, UT; 3. Phil Dziuk, IL/Don Grieve, PA; 4. Joe Lambert, TX/Joe Goldman, MA. 70+: 1. Sal Lesser, NY/Vic Sacco, NY; 2. Luzell Wilde, UT/Earl Acuff, NC; 3. Carlton Appleby, CA/Nick Sans, CA; 4. Ralph Greco, OH/Brud Turner, OH. **Women's Singles (combined ages) —** 1. Lola Markus, IL; 2. Joanna Raida, PA; 3. Mary Low Acuff, NC; 4. Dorothy Vezetinski, WA. **Mixed Doubles —** 1. Lola Markus, IL/Bill Baker, CA; 2. Dorothy Vezetinski, WA/Jim Weeks, GA; 3. Mary Low Acuff, NC/Ivan Bruner, WI.

NMRA INTERNATIONAL

Minneapolis: July 27-29

By Ron Pudduck

For three days in July, 110 of the world's finest masters players gathered at the magnificent Northwest Racquet, Swim and Health Club in Minneapolis, Minnesota, for the 1995 National Masters Racquetball Association International Invitational. This round-robin tournament offered play in both singles and doubles brackets for players 45 years and over.

Players came from as far away as Japan and from over 30 states in the U.S. Great matches were held in all age divisions - all the way from 45+ to 80+. Tournament directors Les Dittich, Bob McNamara and Amos Rosenbloom organized a first-class event, which included all breakfasts and

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lunches, a lakeside picnic and a wonderful Saturday evening awards banquet. A competitive and fun time was had by all.

Many states produced world champions. World champions in men's brackets came from Minnesota, Illinois, Arizona, Virginia, New York, North Carolina, California, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania. In women's events the world champs came from Florida, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Tennessee and North Carolina. Mixed doubles championship teams came from Florida and Idaho. So, a large variety of states have developed players of championship calibre.

Repeat winners from the 1994 World event were, in men's singles: 45+, Gary Peterson, Minnesota; 50+, Ron Johns, Illinois; 60+, Paul Banales, Arizona; 75+, Earl Acuff, North Carolina; 80+, Steve Ordos, Minnesota.

In women's singles only Mary Low Acuff (pictured at right) of North Carolina in the 75+ division repeated victory.



In doubles competition, Paul Banales of Arizona and Ron Pudduck of Michigan were repeat winners. Paul and Ron have won nine of the last 10 NMRA national and world championships in doubles. They defeated Otis Chapman and Don Alt, both of Ohio, in the final match of the tournament to post a six point victory in 60+ doubles. In 70+ doubles, Ivan Bruner and Chet Howard, both of Wisconsin were also repeat winners but they had to share first place with the team of Les Skelton of California and Sam Caiazza of Pennsylvania.

The next NMRA event will be the National Masters Singles, held in Tempe, Arizona on February 15-17, 1996. If you want to enter this round-robin, "referee yourself" tournament, contact: Carole Stoll or Paul Banales, c/o NMRA, 4201 N. 83rd Dr. Phoenix, Arizona 85073 or phone Carole 602/849-6288 or Paul at 602/849-6298.

RESULTS — Men's Singles—45+: Gary Peterson (Minn.) def. Doug Dickman (Mo.); 50+: Ron Johnson (Ill.) def. Tom Rearden (Wis.); 55+: Lee Rients (Minn.) def. Jim Wilking (Utah); 60+: Paul Banales (Ariz.) def. Don Alt (Ohio); 65+: Jack Bogasky (Va.) def. Max Fallek (Minn.); 70+: Jack Gushue (N.Y.) def. Bob McAdam (Texas); 75+: Earl Acuff (N.C.) def. Charlie Russell (Calif.); 80+: Steve Ordos (Minn.) def. Harry Steinman (Md.). — **Women's Singles—35+:** Kelly Kirk (Minn.) def. Ann Staton (Minn.); 40+: Renee Fish (Fla.) def. Nancy Iskander (Wis.); 45+: Kelly Kirk (Minn.) def. Charlene Luckman (Mont.); 50+: Nancy Butts (Wis.); 55+: Kathy Mueller (Minn.) def. Helen Dunsmoor (Idaho); 60+: B.G. Bailey (Tenn.); 65+: Reta Haring (Wis.); 70+: Marilyn Cuneo (Minn.); 75+: Mary Low Acuff (N.C.). — **Men's Doubles—45+:** Mike Wolfe (Calif.)/Frank Rusch (Ill.) def. Jim Brane (Mo.)/Doug Dickman (Mo.); 50+: Rex Lawler (Ind.)/Ray Huss (Ohio) def. Tom Moore (Calif.)/Gerald Winterburn (Calif.); 55+: Les Dittrich (Minn.)/Rex Lawler (Ind.) def. Tom Moore (Calif.)/Gerald Winterburn (Calif.); 60+: Ron Pudduck (Mich.)/Paul Banales (Ariz.) def. Don Alt (Ohio)/Otis Chapman (Ohio); 65+: Jack Bogasky (Vir.)/Jim Keenan (Calif.) def. Gene Grapes (Penn.)/Al Schattner (Penn.); 70+: Ivan Bruner (Wis.)/Chet Howard (Wis.) def. Les Skelton (Calif.)/San Caiazza (Penn.); 75+: Charlie Russell (Calif.)/Earl Acuff (N.C.). — **Mixed Doubles—35+:** Renee Fish (Fla.)/Reuben Triplett (Fla.) def. Merjean Kelley (Calif.)/Bill Bond (Mont.); 55+: Helen Dunsmoor (Idaho)/Jack Dunsmoor (Idaho) def. B.G. Bailey (Tenn.)/Jim Bailey (Tenn.).

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National racquetball champion and fitness consultant looking for business partners to capitalize on trends in fields of fitness, prevention and sports nutrition. Entrepreneurial athletes, business people, medical professionals and others can benefit without capital risk or geographic limitations. Interested? Call Marcy Lynch at 1-800/473-9743.

BOARD NOMINEES SOUGHT

Four persons will be elected to the AARA Board of Directors in May of 1996. Interested candidates can get on the ballot in two ways: by committee nomination (contact a board member) or by petition (with the signatures of 100 licensed AARA members). To obtain

petition forms, write the AARA at 1685 West Uintah, Colorado Springs, CO 80904-2921. Signatures must be obtained between October 1 and December 1, 1995 — with completed forms submitted to the national office by December 15 for verification. The term of office is three years and includes the commitment to attend two annual meetings (in September or October, and May), serve responsibly and take a leadership role on committees.

SEEKING DEAF ATHLETES

Barry Strassler, editor of "Silent News" is conducting a survey of elite level deaf and hearing-impaired athletes for a feature story planned for the January 1996 edition. To be included in the listing of athletes and accomplishments, contact Barry Strassler, Sports Editor, Silent News, 2726 Gingerview Lane, Annapolis, Maryland 21401. TTY/weekdays: 202/653-7698, TTY/eves & weekends: 410/266-3280, FAX: 410/266-3576, E-MAIL: barry@clark.net.

FOR THE MATURE PLAYER ...

Two "special interest" organizations offer competitive opportunities for men and women over the age of 35. The National Masters Racquetball Association hosts four events annually for both men and women, and the Women's Senior/Master Racquetball Council conducts the Women's Senior/Master National Championships in February of each year. Both organizations generate newsletters and maintain special mailing lists to keep their members informed. If you would like to join either association, or would like more information, please contact: Paul Banales, National Masters Racquetball Association (NMRA), 4201 North 83rd Drive, Phoenix, AZ 85037 [602/849-6298] or Kendra Tutsch, Women's Senior/Master Racquetball Council (WSMRC), 110 South Midvale Blvd., Madison, WI 53705 [608/233-5865].

WHEELCHAIR INSTRUCTIONAL

If you need to sharpen your skills, you may want to pick up a copy of the National Wheelchair Racquetball Association's instructional videotape for wheelchair racquetball. The action packed videotape features world champion Chip Parmelly and other top wheelchair athletes, and is available for \$45.00 (shipping and handling included). To order, please send check or money order made payable to NWRA, to Geno Bonetti, Director/Spinal Cord Program at HealthSouth of the Greater Pittsburgh Rehab Hospital, 2380 McGinley Road, Monroeville, PA 15146.

ORLY

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**WHAT IS
THE MEDIA
SAYING ABOUT
ORLY?**

The Phil Donahue Show

"Orly is a unique personal matchmaker..."

Ron Reagan Show

"Orly, born a matchmaker..."

Sally Jesse Rafael Show

"Orly's service is designed for the professionals..."

AM Los Angeles Show

"two of Orly's clients were married live on the show...The wedding of the year"

Eyewitness News (ABC)

"Orly, world renowned matchmaker..."

KTLA Morning News

"Orly, matchmaker in action..."

Jewish T.V. Network

"Orly is a real marriage broker..."

Montel Williams Show

"Orly's clients are the cream de la cream..."

AM Philadelphia Show

"Orly's clients are simply top of the line..."

Cleveland Tonight Show

"Orly, a touch of class..."

Orange County News Channel

"Orly is champagne wishes..."

AM Northwest Show, Oregon

"Orly the one and only matchmaker..."

Good Evening Seattle Show

"Orly is an investment in your future..."

The Dimi Petty Show, Canada

"Orly has a sixth sense..."

National Enquirer

"Orly has a dream date for you..."

Orange County Register

"Orly has a match for the sincere singles..."

The Heritage Weekly

"Orly is nationally and internationally known..."

Los Angeles Times

"Orly matches the rich and successful..."

Dallas Morning Newspaper

"Orly made countless introductions..."

Beverly Hills Today

"Orly is the Rolls Royce of matchmaking..."

KFI Talk Radio

"Orly, a matchmaker with a sixth sense..."

WLAC Nashville Radio

"Orly is a celebrity matchmaker..."

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CHRIS THOMAS CAPTURES ATLANTIC COAST OPEN

Chris Thomas (Gastonia, North Carolina) defeated Clay Griffin (Florence, South Carolina) to win the Atlantic coast Men's Open Singles Title. Over 150 players from

six states competed May 19-21 at the Wilmington Athletic Club, Wilmington, North Carolina. The men's open doubles was won by Steve Dayvault (Wilmington, North Carolina) and Ed Remen (Cary, North Carolina) over Chris Thomas and Charlie Hauser (Wilmington, North Carolina). The women's top spot went to Holly Desportes (Cary, North Carolina) winning over Maria Della-Santi (Virginia Beach, Virginia).

RESULTS/Men's Singles — A: 1. Ben Thompson, Cary, NC; 2. Bill Ward, Goldsboro, NC. B: 1. Steve Show, Newport, NC; 2. Preston Gaster, Sanford, NC. C: 1. Claude Atkins, Petersburg, VA; 2. Tom Gallagher, Wilmington, NC. D: 1. John Cobb, Rocky Mount, NC; 2. Thomas Wade, Fayetteville, NC. 35+: 1. Leo Jolly, Whispering Pines, NC; 2. David Steiger, Burlington, NC. 45+: 1. Robert Graves, Fayetteville, NC; 2. Claude Atkins, Petersburg, VA. **Women's Singles** — B: 1. Pam Hurley, Wilmington, NC; 2. Cyndi Quay, Wilmington, NC. C: 1. Pam Avery, Jacksonville, NC; 2. Traci Gariss, New Bern, NC. 35+: 1. Becky Cassell, Winterville, NC; 2. Martine Dormer, Cashiers, NC. **Men's Doubles** — A: 1. Charlie Hauser/Tim Wayt, Wilmington, NC; 2. Wayne Murphy, Rocky Mt., NC/John Vaivo, Fayetteville, NC. B/C: 1. Steve Kozlowski/Doug Oates, Charlotte, NC; 2. Larry Crawmer/Roger Graves, Fayetteville, NC. **Women's Doubles** — A/B: 1. Becky Cassell, Winterville, NC/Cheryl Gentile, Greenville, NC; 2. Catherine Land, Ayden, NC/Merobel Lirio, Greenville, NC. **Mixed Doubles** — O/A: 1. Holly Desportes & Ed Remen, Cary, NC; 2. Debbie Bryant/Ivey Powell, Sneads Ferry, NC. B: 1. Judy Balwanz/Eric New, Wilmington, NC; 2. Cheryl Gentile/Randy Stallings, Greenville, NC.

INDIANA STATE SINGLES PLAGUED BY INJURIES

Some 150 of the best racquetball players in the state finished up play in the finals of the State Singles Racquetball Tournament at the Keystone Fitness Center, although some players couldn't finish their finals due to injuries sustained on Saturday.

Rich Bowman of Carmel injured a knee and had to forfeit to Chris Gallagher of Indianapolis in the Men's 30+ final. Evansville's Bruce Fulkerson injured his back and couldn't play Steve Lynch of Indianapolis in the Men's 40+ playoff. And Brit Berkey of Fort Wayne ended up with a bloody nose in his final match of the Men's A against Don Ott of Mishawaka.

Diane Gronkiewicz of Schererville claimed her fifth state singles title in the Women's Open, while Pan American Games athlete Derek

Robinson of Muncie won the Men's Open crown for the first time in Indiana, after moving to the state from Washington last year.

The Taylor brothers, Seth, Adam and Dain of Shelbyville all won their respective junior age divisions, while mom Diane also competed and finished second in Women's B/C.

RESULTS; Men's Open: Derek Robinson (Muncie) def. John Amatulli (St. John) 15-7, 15-9; Men's A: Don Ott (Mishawaka) def. Brit Berkey (Fort Wayne) 15-11, 15-7; Men's B: John Garcia (Indianapolis) def. Don Herald (Mishawaka) 8-15, 15-13, 11-8; Men's C: Tim Austin (Michigan City) def. Manny Rodriguez (Terre Haute) 15-11, 15-12; Men's D: Dennis Darné (Indianapolis) def. Lou Hansell (Elkhart) 12-15, 15-2, 11-6; Men's 19/25+: Amatulli def. Keith Berry (Indianapolis) 15-8, 15-1; Men's 30+: Chris Gallagher (Indianapolis) def. Rich Bowman (Carmel) by forfeit; Men's 35+: Scott Phillips (Schererville) def. Joe Ault (Franklin) 15-13, 15-13; Men's 40+: Steve Lynch (Indianapolis) def. Bruce Fulkerson (Evansville) by forfeit; Men's 45+: Vince Griffin (Indianapolis) def. Doug Miller (Fort Wayne) 15-9, 15-10; Men's 50+: Ron Hutcherson (Warsaw) def. Mike Amolt (Indianapolis) 5-15, 15-10, 11-6; Men's 55/60+: Rex Lawler (Terre Haute) def. Hutcherson 15-7, 0-15, 11-7; Men's 19+B: Mark McNabney (Peru) def. Herald 15-6, 15-4; Men's 19+C: Steve Lange (Schererville) def. Brian Nash (Terre Haute) 15-4, 5-15, 11-2; Men's 35+B: Steve Wright (Mishawaka) def. Charles Dinwiddie (Muncie) 15-8, 15-14; Men's 35+C: Doug Hayworth (Huntington) def. Gary Beitel (Indianapolis) 15-7, 15-8; Men's 45+ B/C: Ollie Matthews (Indianapolis) def. Gene Vaal (Celestine) 15-4, 15-12; Women's Open: Diane Gronkiewicz (Schererville) def. Mary Pomeroy (Chersteron) 15-6, 15-8; Women's A: Jeannie Dinwiddie (Muncie) def. Dede Freeman (Fountaintown) 15-6, 14-11; Women's B/C: Mindy Jackson (Terre Haute) def. Diane Taylor (Shelbyville) 15-7, 15-6; Women's 35+: Gloria Hammer (South Bend) round robin; Junior's 15/18 & Under: Bryan Berkey (Fort Wayne) def. Mark Bailey (Haubstadt) 15-2, 15-5; 14 & Under: Seth Taylor (Shelbyville) round robin; 12 & Under: Adam Taylor (Shelbyville) round robin; 8/10 Under: Dain Taylor (Shelbyville) round robin; 8 & Under multi bounce: Adam Valintez (Indianapolis) def. Eric Wodrich (Mishawaka).

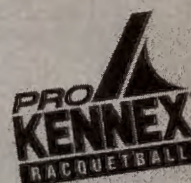


Diane Gronkiewicz readies a return against Mary Pomeroy in the Women's Open Final. [Photo: Bill Madden]

International Racquetball Federation World Junior Championships

December 16-20

Los Caballeros Sports Village
Fountain Valley, California 92708
714/546-8560



ENTRY FORM

Please Print . . .

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Country _____ Zip _____

Phone (Day) _____ (Evening) _____

Birthdate _____ Age _____

Partner's Name(s) _____

_____ Need a doubles partner _____ National Ranking

_____ Division in National Championships _____ Finish

Other Seeding Information _____

**To play in three divisions, the third division must be mixed doubles.*

WAIVER: I hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors, and administrators, waive and release any and all rights and claims that I may have against the IRF, Los Caballeros Sports Village, event sponsors or their respective agents for any and all injuries. By registering to compete in this event, I consent to be subject to drug testing as administered according to the IRF/USOC guidelines.

Participant Signature & Date _____

LIABILITY: I agree to be liable for all costs for damages for which my child is responsible and to pay for all costs arising from any disciplinary action imposed as stated in the Junior Code of Conduct, as adopted by the IRF.

Parent/Guardian Signature & Date _____

BOYS SINGLES

____ 18 and under
____ 16 and under
____ 14 and under
____ 12 and under
____ 10 and under
____ 8- multi-bounce
____ 8- regular rules

GIRLS SINGLES

____ 18 and under
____ 16 and under
____ 14 and under
____ 12 and under
____ 10 and under
____ 8- multi-bounce
____ 8- regular rules

BOYS DOUBLES

____ 18 and under
____ 16 and under
____ 14 and under
____ 12 and under
____ 10 and under

GIRLS DOUBLES

____ 18 and under
____ 16 and under
____ 14 and under
____ 12 and under
____ 10 and under

MIXED DOUBLES (Third event only)

____ 18 and under
____ 16 and under
____ 14 and under
____ 12 and under
____ 10 and under

OLYMPIC PLAY-OFF FORMAT: Each entrant is guaranteed three matches in singles. Please review the section explaining the new format for individuals who lose. Awards will be presented to winners in each play-off bracket.

MAIL COMPLETED ENTRY AND FEES TO:
IRF WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS
1685 WEST UINTAH
COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO 80904-2921

ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY DECEMBER 1
(Postmarked by November 28, 1995)

ENTRY FEES AND PAYMENT

First event. (\$50.00) _____
Second event (\$25.00) _____
Mixed Doubles. (\$15.00) _____
AARA Membership fee . . (\$15.00) _____

TOTAL DUE: \$ _____

Make checks payable to AARA. Entry form is not complete, nor is entry accepted, unless check for correct amount is enclosed and all information is provided.

ADULT METRO REGIONAL CHAMPIONS

CORRECTION: In the May/June issue, regional results from Aurora, Colorado indicated the Men's 65+ division winner as being Michael Martin. But after a good-natured phone call from the "real" winner we apologize to Dave Gray, who was actually victorious in the Men's 65+ division.

Stockton, CA: March 31-April 2

MEN'S Open: Joe Paraiso, CA; A: Ryan Silacci, CA; B: Bill Groombridge, CA; C: Ismael Aldana, CA; 19+: Franco Palmer, CA; 25+: Dale Milhollin, CA; 30+: Brad Carter, CA; 35+: Steve Wattz, CA; 40+: Steve Dunn, CA; 45+: Mike Palmer, CA; 55+: Ron Adams, CA; 60+: Ken Moore, CA. WOMEN'S Open: Jackie Gibson, CA; C: Mary Malone, CA; D: Toby Brandtman, CA; 25+: Cheryl Rauch, CA; 30+: Lisa Hjelm, CA; 35+: Kim Perry, CA; 40+: Terry Rogers, CA; 45+: Terry Rogers, CA; 50+: Nidia Funes, CA.

Fountain Valley, CA: April 7-9

MEN'S Open: Adam Karp; A: Damian Zamorano; B: Yasunori Sugiyama; C: Dave Lum; 19+: Bill West; 25+: John Ivers; 30+: Greg Freeze; 35+: Greg Freeze; 40+: Steve Mitchell; 45+: Mike Murphy; 50+: Ron Combs; 55+: Jack Howard; 70+: Tony Duarte. WOMEN'S Open: Holly Gray; A: Monique Flaherty; C: Marquita Molina; 19+: Monique Flaherty; Womens' 80+: Debbie Tisinger; 35+: Debbie Tisinger; 50+: Jennette Williams; 55+: Sue Embry; 60+: Mary Walker.

Arlington, TX: April 21-22

MEN'S Open: Chris Cole, TX; A: Ed Fink, TX; B: Dimitri Stein, TX; C: Louis Garcia, TX; D: Scott F. Green, TX; Novice: John Lindsey, TX; 19+: Steve Perry, TX; 25+: John Davis, LA; 30+: Dave Peck, TX; 35+: Jesus Moctezuma, TX; 40+: Jesus Moctezuma, TX; 45+: David Pearson, TX; 50+: Tom McKie, TX; 55+: Dirk Stronck, TX; 60+: Rex Benham, AR; 65+: Dick Davis, TX; 70+: Simon Wiederman, TX; 80+: John Pearce, TX. WOMEN'S Open: Joann Slater, TX; A: Cheryl Gistand, TX; B: Sandra Eppert, TX; C: Gale Mills, AR; Novice: Sarah Wells, TX; 19+: Jo Shattuck, TX; 25+: Tina Sturgeon, TX; 30+: Phyllis Morris, TX; 35+: Teresa Mays, TX; 40+: Marcia Richards, LA; 45+: Gwen Benham, AR.

Jacksonville, FL: April 21-23

MEN'S Open: Jason Thoemer, FL; A: Phil Harris, FL; B: Armando Fuster, FL; C: Donald Clark, FL; D: David Leon, GA; Novice: Mark Lentz, FL; 19+: Aaron Metcalf, FL; 25+: Mike Reynolds, FL; 30+: Curtis Winter, FL; 35+: Randy Pfahler, FL; 40+: Mitt Layton, FL; 45+: Mitt Layton, FL; 50+: Ron Halloran, VA; 55+: Frank Shumer, FL; 60+: Milas Turney, FL; 65+: Herb Nathan, FL; Deaf: Chris Andrews, GA. WOMEN'S Open: Kim Russell, GA; A: Kay McDaniel, TN; B: Kim Yedinak, FL; C: Chris Fouts, FL; D: Camille Hatcher, SC; Novice: Kassi Herr, FL; 25+: Kim Russell, GA; 30+: Kersten Hallander, FL; 35+: Mary Lyons, FL; 40+: Susan Pfahler, FL.

Manchester, NH: April 21-23

MEN'S Open: Rob DeJesus, RI; A: Rob Connelly, MA; B: Bernard Pucci, CT; C: Paul Bilodeau, NH; D: Jay Retkevicz, NH; Novice: David Gagnon, NH; 19+: Rob DeJesus, RI; 25+: Damon Currier, ME; 30+: Jim Grant, MA; 35+: Randy Olson, ME; 40+: Isaac Laughinghouse, MA; 45+: Ken Bailey, ME; 50+: Robert Siemiatkowski, CT; 55+: Don Harrington, RI; 60+: Christopher Doyle, MA; 70+: Mike Friedman, ME; 75+: Andy Trozzi, MA. WOMEN'S Open: Robin Paris, NH; A: Cindy Hamilton, NH; B: Ann Doucette, ME; C: Andrea Dietrich, MA;

D: Robin Paris, NH; Novice: Yvonne Ghilardi, NH; 19+: Heather Dunn, MA; 25+: BJ Ehr Gott, CT; 30+: BJ Ehr Gott, CT; 35+: Roz Petronelli, MA; 40+: Joanne Pomodoro, MA.

Chalfont, PA:

April 21-23

MEN'S Open: Dan Fowler, MD; A: Joe DeVanney, PA; B: Ken Fairchild, NJ; C: Ralph Marino, DE; Novice: Scott Granat, NY; 19+: Leon Priole, PA; 25+: Dan Fowler, MD; 30+: Tom Delledonne, DE; 35+: Mitch Smith, PA; 40+: Ed Garabedian, PA; 45+: Russ Montagus, PA; 50+: Warren Riecke, MD; 55+: Ed Smith, VA; 60+: Luis Fuentes, PA; 75+: Allen Shepherd, MD; 80+: Allen Shepherd, MD. WOMEN'S Open: Lynne Coburn, MD; B: Carmen Alatorre-Martin, VA; C: Gail Schaffer, MD; 19+: Amy Roehler, PA; 25+: Tracy Ingram, PA; 40+: Lynn Ricca, PA; 50+: Gail Schaefer, MD; 60+: Cleata Ching, PA.

Anchorage, AK: April 26-30

MEN'S Open: Vince Kelly, OR; A: Dennis Allen, OR; B: Stephen Lewis, WA; C: Enrique Elexpuru, AK; D: Edwin Negron, AK; 19+: Telon Bremont, AK; 25+: Edmundo Baca, WA; 30+: Rabbit Rogers, ID; 35+: Steve Neighbors, ID; 40+: John Lockridge, WA; 45+: Dennis O'Brien, ID; 50+: Dennis O'Brien, ID; 55+: George Sherman, ID; 60+: George Sherman, ID; 65+: Verlyn Dunn, ID. WOMEN'S Open: Karin Sobotta, WA; A: Beth Neff, WA; B: Rivodell Eppenoek, AK; C: Julie Dale, AK; D: D'Lynn Wynne, AK; 30+: Karin Sobotta, WA; 35+: Robin Rodriguez, AK; 40+: Patti Nishimura, WA; 45+: Patti Zachery, AK; 50+: Helen Dunsmoor, ID.

Houston, TX: April 28-30

MEN'S Open: Chris Cole, TX; A: Kevin Sendrey, TX; B: Jim Diamantides, TX; C: Joseph Austin, TX; D: Lee Taylor, TX; 40+: Bibb Comelius, TX; 45+: Terry Wells, TX; 55+: Duane Hendricks, TX. WOMEN'S A: Ann Fangmeier, TX; B: Regina Jenkins, TX; D: Judy Woods, TX.

JUNIOR REGIONAL CHAMPIONS

Ft. Wayne, IN: January 28-29

BOY'S 18-: Bryan Berkey, IN; 16-: Brit Berkey, IN; 14-: Phillip Hammond, OH; 12-: Adam Taylor, IN; 10-: Brandon Shoemaker, OH; 8-: Matthew Hammond, OH; 8- multi-bounce: Matthew Hammond, OH. GIRL'S 14-: Lindsay Sears, IN; 12-: Kindra Sears, IN.

Congress Park Athletic Club, OH: February 24-26

BOY'S 18-: Eric Storey, IN; 16-: Paul Strike, OH; 14-: Jack Huczek, MI; 12-: Jack Huczek, MI; 10-: Peter Oakes, OH; 8-: Justin Erdman, OH; 8- multi-bounce: Justin Erdman, OH. GIRL'S 14-: Becky Bowman, IN; 12-: Crystal Winfrey, OH; 10-: Kimberly Irons, OH; Girls' 8-: Kelley Fisher, OH; 8- multi-bounce: Kelley Fisher, OH.



ALL IN THE FAMILY: KRIS (LEFT) AND MOM CARMEN ALATORRE-MARTIN EACH BROUGHT HOME A MEDAL FROM THEIR REGIONAL. KRIS TOOK SECOND IN GIRLS 12- AND CARMEN WON THE WOMEN'S B.

Vestavia, AL: April 8-9

BOY'S 18-: Hobie Hobart, FL; 16-: Jed Bhurta, AL; 14-: Jeffrey Garner, AL; 12-: Jon White, GA; 10-: Ben Weaver, AL. GIRL'S 16-: Vanessa Tulao, TN.

Chalfont, PA: April 21-23

BOY'S 18-: Ben Williams, NY; 16-: Cliff Wolf, PA; 14-: Matt Gehling, MD; 12-: Joe Roth, PA; 10-: Seth Parker, PA; 8-: Andrew Ortiz, MD. GIRL'S 18-: Shannon Feaster, D.C.; 14-: Jennifer Swallow, PA; 12-: Eve Bateman, PA.

Houston, TX: April 28-30

BOY'S 18-: Jack Long, TX; 16-: Mark Bloom, LA; 14-: Elan Levy, TX; 12-: Evan Honigsfeld, TX; 10-: Jeremy Robbins, TX; 8-: Sean Baker, TX; 8-multi-bounce: Alex Petak, TX. GIRL'S 14-: Davina Bloom, LA; 10-: Lindsay Deutsch, TX; 8-: Lindsay Fuller, TX; 8-multi-bounce: Jamie Lipman, TX.

Gresham, OR: May 5-7

BOY'S 18-: Andrew Lewis, WA; 16-: Abe Valdez, OR; 14-: Stephan Lewis, WA; 12-: Trevor Crowe, OR; 10-: Jon Hellner, OR; 8-: Charley Pratt, OR; 8-multi-bounce: Charley Pratt, OR. GIRL'S 18-: Theresa Larsen, OR; 16-: Erin Frost, OR; 14-: Brooke Crawford, OR; 12-: Keely Brannigan, ID; 10-: Deral Darling, OR; 8-: Brandie Hanson, OR; 8-multi-bounce: Diana Meyer, OR.

Bloomington, IL: May 6-7

BOY'S 18-: Evan Pellowski, WI; 16-: Jeff Townsend, WI; 14-: Bran Jantz, WI; 12-: Cory Martin, WI; 10-: Andy Klibowitz, WI; 8-: Cameron Leiting, WI. GIRL'S 18-: Dawn Gates, IL; 16-: Colleen Maginn, WI; 14-: Sara Borland, IA; 12-: Krystal Csuk, IL; 8-: Alison Bertagnoli, WI.

RB:PEOPLE

Three Men inducted into Kentucky Hall of Fame
Ike Gumer (deceased), Ken Porco and Irv Zeitman were honored April 8 at a banquet held in their honor at the downtown Holiday Inn in Louisville, Kentucky and named charter members of the Kentucky Racquetball Association Hall of Fame. These three gentlemen from Louisville have earned 22 national singles and doubles racquetball championships among them since 1971.

Ken Porco founded the Kentucky Racquetball Association in 1971 and won the national doubles championships in 1971 with Irv's son Mike Zeitman as his partner. Ken was named Executive Secretary of the American Amateur Racquetball Association (AARA) in 1969, the first year the sport held a national championship tournament. Ken was first active in paddle ball before a strung racquet was produced and saw the popularity of the game explode as a result of other new racquet and improved balls. Courts were built at the Jewish Community Center in Louisville under Ken's supervision well before the sport caught on around the country.

Ike Gumer, who passed away in 1993, owns 18 AARA national singles and doubles titles and was named to the AARA Hall of Fame in 1982. Most recently, Ike and partner Allen Shepherd won the Men's 75+ national doubles



[LEFT TO RIGHT] IRV ZEITMAN, IKE GUMER'S GRANDSON AND KEN PORCO AT AWARD CEREMONIES.

SKIPnDb

BY RICK DAHL



championship in 1991. Because of his innovative style, Ike helped shape the rules that govern the game, particularly the rule that now makes a three wall serve illegal.

Irv Zeitman won three AARA national doubles championships between 1983 and 1991, most recently the Men's 70+ national doubles championship with Don Goddard. Ike Gumer was his partner for the other two. He has also won many other regional and Senior Olympic championships during his career. Irv also served as floor manager for several tournaments on the professional racquetball tour in the 1970's.

ANNUAL INSRA RACQUETBALL AWARDS

The Indiana State Racquetball Association presented its annual awards for the '94/'95 season. Named were: Male Player of the Year, John Amatulli, St. John; Female Player of the Year, Linda Miller, Terre Haute; Junior Male Player of the Year, Eric Storey, Indianapolis; INSRA Hall of Fame, Debbie Chaney, Indianapolis; Most Improved Player of the Year, John Cole, Indianapolis; Outstanding Contributor, Keith Berry, Indianapolis; Sportsmanship, Mark McNabney, Peru; \$500 scholarship, Bryan Berkey, Fort Wayne, and Mark Bailey, Haugstadt.

PENN "NEWSLETTER OF THE YEAR" CONTEST HEATS UP AGAIN ...

At the AARA's annual Leadership Conference in January, Penn announced "Racquetball Around Ohio" as the winner of its "Newsletter of the Year" award for publications in 1994. Designed to recognize those states that have a high commitment to communication with their membership, the Penn award was presented to editor Steve Lerner, recognizing the publication as the best of a group of six bi-monthly state newsletters. Other contenders for the award were publications from Florida, Illinois, Indiana, New Mexico and Washington. Review of the 1995 newsletters will begin in November and a new award presented in January of 1996.

"It is an honor to be selected by Penn for this award. We are a 110% volunteer run organization and 'Racquetball Around Ohio' takes an incredible amount of effort to produce six times a year. It is great for all our volunteers to receive this kind of national recognition for their hard work," said Ohio Racquetball Association President Doug Ganim.

In conjunction with the Penn award "The Racquetball Reporter," edited by Sandy Conlen and published by the Racquetball Association of Michigan, was recognized as the "Best Quarterly" by the AARA national office. Based on timely publication, design, content and overall function as a public relations tool for state and national programs, the Michigan newsletter edged out honorable mentions "Minnesota Racquetball" and Texas' "Racquetball in Review." Other nominees were publications from California, New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania.

Outstanding Bi-Monthlies
Racquetball around Ohio (Penn Award winner)
Florida, Illinois, Indiana, New Mexico & Washington

Outstanding Quarterlies
The Racquetball Reporter (AARA winner)
Minnesota Racquetball (honorable mention)
Racquetball in Review (honorable mention)
California, New Jersey, New York & Pennsylvania

1995 Ektelon AARA 28th U.S. National Doubles Championships – Phoenix, Arizona, October 18-22

TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

U.S. TEAM: All finalists (first and second place finishers) in the men's and women's open will be appointed to the U.S. National Racquetball Team for one year.

ENTRY FEE: \$60.00 first event per player (includes referee fee), \$30.00 second event per player. Two division limit.

ENTRY DEADLINE: October 6, postmarked no later than October 3, 1995. IF any entries are accepted after the deadline an additional \$15.00 late fee will be assessed. All entries are FINAL, with absolutely no refunds after the deadline date.

STARTING TIMES: Will be available after 5:00 pm on Monday, October 16. Call 602/285-2929.

PLAY BEGINS:

Mens Open•A•19•25•30+	Wed. 10/18
Men's 35•40•45•50+	Wed. 10/18
Men's 55•60•65+	Thu. 10/19
Women's Open•A•19•25+	Thu. 10/19
Women's 30•35•40•45+	Thu. 10/19
All Mixed Divisions	Thu. 10/19
Mens 70•75•80+	Fri. 10/20
Womens 50•55•60•65•70•75•80+	Fri. 10/20

OFFICIATING: \$5.00 will be paid for every match you referee. Director of Referees: Otto Dietrich, AARA National Rules Commissioner. Tournament Director: Margo Daniels, AARA National Tournament Director.

DRUG TESTING: Random testing will be performed. For more information about specific medications call the Drug Hotline at 1-800-233-0393.

LODGING: The Lexington Hotel offers a room rate of \$75.00 per night for up to four persons per room. To receive special tournament rates, be sure to mention the National Doubles when you make your reservations by calling 602/279-9811. The hotel is in the same building as the tournament facility. Deadline to receive this rate is October 2, 1995.

UNITED AIRLINES FARE DISCOUNT: United offers you 5% off any published United fare regardless of cost. Phone Uniteds toll-free number at 800/521-4041, daily between 8:30 am and 8:00 pm EST and use AARA account number 578 ES.



**American Amateur Racquetball
Association 28th U.S. National
Doubles Championships
City Square Sports Club
Phoenix, Arizona • October 18-22**

ENTRY FORM ... Please print

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State/Zip _____
Phone (Day) _____ (Evening) _____
Birthdate _____ Age _____
Regional Competed In _____
Division in Regional _____ Finish _____
Partner _____ Division _____
Partner _____ Division _____

EQUIPMENT SURVEY

My racquet is _____
My glove is _____
My eyeguards are _____
My shoes are _____
I am sponsored by _____

AARA MEMBERSHIP: An AARA competitive license membership is required to compete in this event ... please add your fees if necessary. [Note: If you have recently joined the AARA at a sanctioned event and have not yet received your membership card, you must present your receipt copy of the membership application or a cancelled check upon registration.]

WAIVER: I hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors, and administrators, waive and release any and all rights and claims that I may have against the AARA, Ektelon, Penn Racquet Sports, City Square Sports Club, the Lexington Hotel or their respective agents for any and all injuries. By registering to compete in this event, I consent to drug testing as administered according to AARA/USOC guidelines.

Participant Signature & Date _____

DIVISIONS ... Two event maximum

	MEN'S	WOMEN'S	MIXED
.....	Open	Open	Open
Jr. Veteran	19+	19+	19+
Jr. Veteran	25+	25+	25+
Seniors	30+	30+	30+
Seniors	35+	35+	35+
Seniors	40+	40+	40+
Masters	45+	45+	45+
Masters	50+	50+	50+
Golden Masters ...	55+	55+	55+
Golden Masters ...	60+	60+	60+
Golden Masters ...	65+	65+	65+
Golden Masters ...	70+	70+	70+
Golden Masters ...	75+	75+	75+
Golden Masters ...	80+	80+	80+
.....	A	A	A

ENTRY FEES AND PAYMENT :

First event (per player) (\$60.00) _____
Second event (per player) (\$30.00) _____
AARA Membership fee (\$20.00) _____
Tax deductible donation
to U.S. Team \$ _____

TOTAL DUE: \$ _____

Use your AARA MBNA credit card to charge your entry, and receive an additional 10% off your fees. Only MBNA charges are eligible for this discount!

MC/Visa # _____

Expiration Date _____

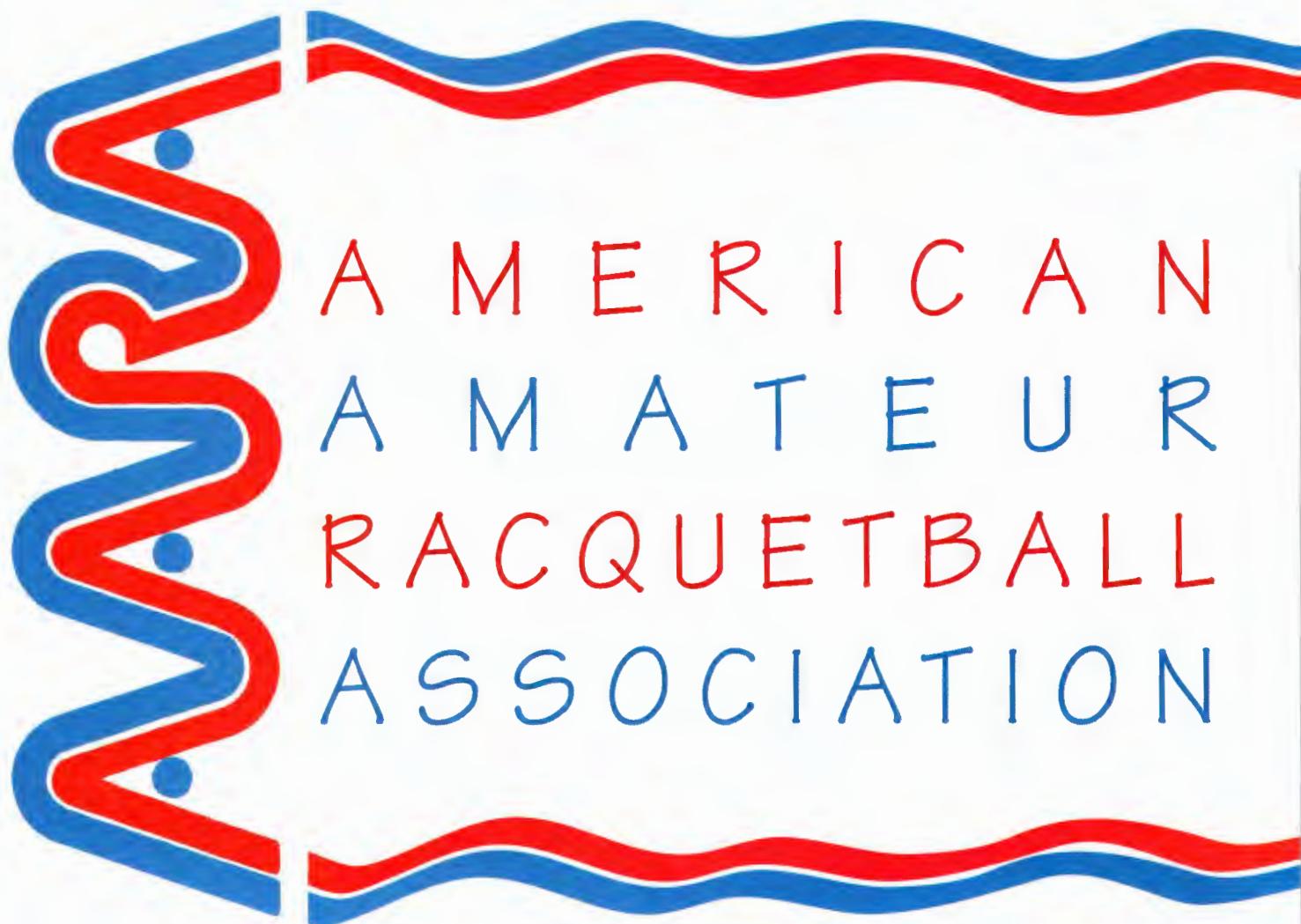
Cardholder (please print) _____

Signature _____

MAIL COMPLETED ENTRY WITH FEES TO:
AARA NATIONAL DOUBLES
1685 WEST UINTAH
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO
80904-2921

DEADLINE: OCTOBER 6TH
ENTRIES MUST BE POSTMARKED BY
OCTOBER 3, 1995





TO ORDER ...

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State/Zip _____

Telephone _____

Date Ordered _____

Order with MasterCard or VISA by calling 719/635-5396, or send your completed order form to: AARA Sportswear, 1685 West Uintah, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80904-2921. Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.

Item Description	Size/Color	How Many	Price
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

_____ Check/\$ order enclosed, or _____ Visa/MasterCard
Number _____

Exp. Date _____ Signature _____

Order Total _____
Postage _____ **\$ 4.95**
Enclosed _____

OFFICIAL SPORTSWEAR

U.S. RACQUETBALL WORLD TEAM LOGO T-SHIRT

100% cotton pre-shrunk Hanes Beefy-T with gold National Team eagle logo on front encircled by 16 international flags. Black. [S,M,L,XL,XXL] \$12.00.



USA RACQUETBALL POLO SHIRTS

All cotton, with tri-color embroidery. [S,M,L,XL] Colors: Navy, Coral, Turquoise & White. \$29.00



U.S. RACQUETBALL TEAM SWEATSHIRT & TEE

50/50 Fruit of the Loom, with National Team eagle logo on front, USA on back, AARA on sleeve. White. [S,M,L,XL,XXL] \$20.00.

T-shirt (not shown) has same design as sweatshirt, without sleeve logo. White. [S,M,L,XL] \$12.00



INSTRUCTIONAL VIDEOTAPE SERIES

Learn your Lessons III - Advanced Racquetball

(shown left) offers much more than the typical instructional video, investigating the psychology of winning athletes, speed training tech-

niques of world champions and the on- and off-court preparations required to maintain peak performance. \$35.00, plus shipping/handling.

... PLUS ... Learn your Lessons I

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AMPro practice drills help you improve every aspect of your game with individual, paired and group examples. Great for the instructor looking for new ideas, or for intermediate players who want more out of their practice sessions. \$19.95 + s/h.

MEN

Men's Open

1. Dan Fowler, MD
2. Doug Ganim, OH
3. Jimmy Lowe, KY
4. Mike Locker, MN
5. Michael Bronfeld, CA
6. Tony Boscia, CO
7. Chris Cole, TX
8. Rich Baer, NY
9. David Hamilton, OH
10. Dan Llacera, DE

Men's A

1. Ed Fink, TX
- 2T. Rocky Carson, CA
- 2T. Ralph Cuesta, FL
- 2T. Mike Nigro, CO
5. Alex Spaeth, IL
6. Ryan Staten, KS
7. Brannon Hertel, KS
- 8T. Ryan Braley, WY
- 8T. Rob Connelly, MA
- 8T. Andrew Haywood, TX

Men's B

1. Bill Groombridge, CA
2. Robert Teren, OH
3. Stephen Lewis, WA
4. Ken Fairchild, NJ
5. Jeffrey Gal, NY
6. Dave Dettel, CO
7. Rich Book, IL
8. Tim Franklin, OH
- 9T. Rich Behrens, CO
- 9T. Tom Ogden, NY

Men's C

1. Mark Sandoval, CO
2. Glen Childers, TX
3. Adam Buchanan, CO
4. Preston Gaster, NC
5. Bill Hodges, OH
6. Ken Linger, AK
- 7T. Frank Senger, NY
- 7T. Freling Smith, NY
9. Michael Brister, TX
10. Tim O'Neil, NH

Men's D

1. Marc Schnittker, CO
2. Jodie Hittle, ME
3. Jay Retkevich, NH
4. Edwin Negron, AK
- 5T. David Leon, GA
- 5T. Jim Lucci, IL
- 5T. Mike Matheson, CO
- 8T. Terry Ahearn, AK
- 8T. Augusto Gonzales, FL
- 8T. John O'Dell, NM

Men's Novice

1. Scott Granat, NY
2. Stephen Mykalcio, NY
3. Gennaro Izzo, NY

4. Gary Perkins, FL
5. Michael Myers, MO
6. David Gagnon, NH
- 7T. Alfi Azpiazu, FL
- 7T. Mark Lentz, FL
- 7T. John Lindsey, TX
- 7T. Jeff Rhodes, OH

Men's 19+

1. Shane Wood, MA
2. Matt Fontana, FL
3. Brian Fredenberg, TX
4. Brian Pointelin, MO
5. Scott Grunin, MA
- 6T. Matt Adesso, OH
- 6T. Jason Armbricht, NC
- 6T. Aaron Metcalf, FL
9. Ray Maestas, NM
10. Allan Engel, FL

Men's 25+

1. James Lorello, FL
2. Jeff Bell, AZ
3. Rob French, IA
- 4T. Damon Currier, ME
- 4T. Thomas Miller, Jr., MD
- 6T. John Davis, LA
- 6T. Michael Kord, VA
8. Oscar Alvarez, FL
- 9T. Brad McCuniff, IA
- 9T. John Negrete, IL

Men's 30+

1. John Amatulli, IN
2. Dave Peck, TX
3. Dave Cardillo, NY
4. Bobby Haab, NY
5. Jim Jeffers, MN
- 6T. Bruce Erickson, MO
- 6T. Rob French, IA
- 6T. Sam Wasko, VA
9. Steve Hachey, NY
10. Curtis Winter, FL

Men's 35+

1. Mitch Smith, PA
2. Bill Lyman, IL
3. Joe Hassey, AZ
4. Troy Stallings, MN
5. Tim Armstrong, KS
6. Mike Martinez, CA
7. Gene Couch, FL
8. Dave Peck, TX
9. Mitch Posner, NJ
10. Walter Schramm, NY

Men's 40+

1. Gary Mazaroff, NM
2. Ed Garabedian, PA
3. Philip Parker, PA
4. Gene Couch, FL
5. David Nowack, MO
6. Sal Perconti, FL
7. John Marinich, OH
- 8T. Issac Laughinhouse, MA
- 8T. Mitt Layton, FL
10. Tim Lavoij, MN

Men's 45+

1. Mitt Layton, FL
2. Greg Hastly, IL
3. Jim Bailey, VA
4. Johnny Northern, MI
- 5T. Tim Lavoij, MN
- 5T. Dominic Palmieri, OH
7. Frank Ciociola, NY
8. Frank Rusch, IL
- 9T. Doug Dickman, MO
- 9T. Herb Grigg, IL

Men's 50+

1. Ray Huss, OH
2. Ron Johnson, IL
3. Horace Miller, IL
4. Tom McKie, TX
5. John Mootz, NY
6. Erhard Gruenwald, IL
7. William Copeland, CO
8. Russ Deegan, FL
9. Craig Olsen, NE
10. Les Barbanell, NJ

Men's 55+

1. Ron Hutcherson, IN
2. Rex Lawler, IN
3. Dario Mas, DE
- 4T. Charlie Garfinkel, NY
- 4T. Bobby Sanders, OH
6. Michael Jackson, CT
7. Joe Shanahan, FL
8. Richard Valleroy, MO
- 9T. Ron Adams, CA
- 9T. Ron Johnson, IL

Men's 60+

1. Jerry Holly, CA
2. Art Johnson, CO
3. Louis Berson, NY
- 4T. Don Alt, FL
- 4T. Paul Banales, AZ
- 4T. Otis Chapman, OH
- 4T. Jack Dunsmoor, ID
8. Charlie Gunn, IN
9. Bert Shulimson, IL
10. Rex Benham, AR

Men's 65+

1. John Bogasky, VA
2. Joe Lambert, TX
- 3T. Barney Friesth, SD
- 3T. John O'Donnell, IL
- 5T. Herb Nathan, FL
- 5T. Mai Roberts, FL
7. J.D. Driver, MI
- 8T. Verlyn Dunn, ID
- 8T. Victor Sacco, NY
10. Richard Davis, TX

Men's 70+

1. Richard Davis, TX
2. Victor Sacco, NY
- 3T. Glenn Melvey, ND
- 3T. Simon Wiederman, TX
5. Tony Duarte, CA
6. Arpad Toth, NH

- 7T. Earl Acuff, NC
- 7T. Chuck Bellos, NC
- 7T. Cedric Dennett, FL
- 7T. Mike Friedman, ME

Men's 75+

1. Earl Acuff, NC
2. Allen C. Shepherd, MD
3. Luzell Wilde, UT
4. Charles Russell, CA
5. Andy Trozzi, MA
6. George Spear, FL
7. Cam Snowberger, PA
8. Charles Estram, MA
9. Henry Ponowy, MO
10. Fred Felton, TX

Men's 80+

- 1T. John Pearce, TX
- 1T. Allen C. Shepherd, MD
3. Jack Daly, VA
4. Harry Steinman, MD

WOMEN

Women's Open

1. Laura Fenton, MA
2. Amy Kilbane, OH
3. Lorraine Galloway, NY
4. Malia Bailey, VA
- 5T. Holly Gray, AZ
- 5T. Cheryl Gudinas, IL
- 7T. Michelle Gould, ID
- 7T. Karin Sobotta, WA
- 7T. Kerri Stoffregen, OH
10. Martha Bailey, CO

Women's A

1. Erika Juhl, DE
2. Sadie Gross, SD
3. Karen Green, MI
4. Esmeralda Berrich, CO
5. Beth Neff, WA
6. Linda Leasure, FL
7. Donna McGatha, MO
8. Cindy Hamilton, NH
9. Candy Masson, GA
10. Kathy Burns, NY

Women's B

1. Esmeralda Berrich, CO
2. Camen Alatorre-Martin, VA
3. Rhodell Eppenger, AK
4. Angela Burth, VA
5. April Settell, CO
6. Carol Zimlinghaus, CO
7. Ann Doucette, ME
- 8T. Sandra Eppert, TX
- 8T. Karen Morris, AR
10. Kim Brackett, NH

Women's C

1. Anita Antony, CO
2. Cheri Prickett, AR
3. Angela Burth, VA
4. Megan Bals, NE

5. Lorene Stadig, CO
6. Julie Dale, AK
7. Gale Mills, AR
8. Mary Flynn, NY
9. Janet Hicks, FL
10. Marquita Molina, CA

Women's D

1. Gina Fulner, TX
2. Crystal Winfrey, OH
3. Robin Paris, NH
4. Vicki Leetch, AR
5. Linda Demro, CA
6. Camille Hatcher, SC
7. Kassi Herr, FL
8. Pam Potter, FL
- 9T. Toby Brandtman, CA
- 9T. Jacqueline Duprey, KS

Women's Novice

1. Sarah Wells, TX
2. Jean Biggs, NY
- 3T. Melissa Daniie, MI
- 3T. Yvonne Ghilardi, NH
- 3T. Kassi Herr, FL
6. Joan Weiss, NY
7. Alanna Sultar, CT
8. Jennifer Dunn, AR
9. Rhonda Kopf, NY
10. Jennifer Annett, NY

Women's 19+

1. Tammy Brockbank, ID
2. Kerri Stoffregen, OH
3. Rachel Gellman, NM
4. Jen Yokota, MO
5. Aimee Roehler, PA
6. Mami Shute, WY
- 7T. Britt Engel, FL
- 7T. Amy Kilbane, OH
- 7T. Julie Taylor, UT
10. Catherine Basa, NC

Women's 25+

1. Kim Russell, GA
- 2T. B.J. Ehrgott, CT
- 2T. Doreen Fowels, MD
4. Michelle Wiragh, MD
5. Sandee Roach, UT
- 6T. Rosemary Anderson, NC
- 6T. Kelley Beane, NH
- 6T. Jozette Boone, UT
- 6T. Kathy Bowden, NE
- 6T. Peggy Clark, MN

Women's 30+

1. Karin Sobotta, WA
2. B.J. Ehrgott, CT
3. Kersten Hallander, FL
4. Lorraine Galloway, NY
5. Kim Machiran, MO
- 6T. Kelly Kirk, MN
- 6T. Phyllis Morris, TX
8. Linda Leasure, FL
- 9T. Stacy Sour, CO
- 9T. Debbie Tisinger, CA

NATIONAL RANKINGS

Women's 35+

1. Debbie Tisinger, CA
2. Mary Lyons, FL
3. Janet Tyler, FL
- 4T. Carol Bastien, IL
- 4T. Linda Moore, NE
- 4T. Marianne Walsh, UT
7. Roz Petronelli, MA
8. Carol Kriegler, MN
9. Val Shewfelt, UT
10. Carol Frenck, VA

Women's 40+

1. Susan Pfahler, FL
2. Laura Patterson, MI
- 3T. Debbie Chaney, IN
- 3T. Janet Myers, NC
- 5T. Mary Bickley, PA
- 5T. Brenda White, IL
7. Joanne Pomodoro, MA
- 8T. Karen Bouchard, FL
- 8T. Deb Gridley, CO
- 8T. Marcy Lynch, PA

Women's 45+

1. Linda Miller, IN
2. Shelley Odgen, OH
3. Terry Ann Rogers, CA
4. MeriJean Kelley, CA
5. Donna Ebner, MO
6. Grace Touhy, IL
7. Judy Sands, IL
8. Mary Jo Murray, FL
9. Agatha Falso, FL
10. Jean Heckman, NY

Women's 50+

1. Sharon Hastings-Welty, OR
2. Nancy Butts, WI
3. Nidia Funes, CA
4. Gerri Stoffregen, OH
5. Mildred Gwinn, NC
6. Rose Stoltmann, WI
7. Rose Hernandez, UT
8. Kendra Tutsch, WI
- 9T. Helen Dunsmoor, ID
- 9T. Gail Schaefer, MD

Women's 55+

1. Kathy Mueller, MN
2. Helen Dunsmoor, ID
3. Jo Kenyon, FL
4. Marion Crawford, NY
5. Annabelle Kovar, NE
6. Sylvia Sawyer, UT
7. Sue Embry, CA
8. Sue Carow, IL
- 9T. Norma Carlisle, UT
- 9T. Mary Walker, CA

Women's 60+

1. Jo Kenyon, FL
2. Mary Walker, CA
- 3T. Cleata Ching, PA
- 3T. Lola Markus, IL
- 5T. Mary Low Acuff, NC
- 5T. Reta Harring, WI

7. Jane Graham, GA
8. Rebecca Dixon, OH

Women's 65+

1. Reta Harring, WI
2. Mary Low Acuff, NC
3. Rebecca Dixon, OH
4. Dorothy Vezetinski, WA
5. Phyllis Melvey, ND

Women's 70+

1. Mary Low Acuff, NC
2. Eleanor Quackenbush, OR

Women's 75+

1. Mary Low Acuff, NC

BOYS

Boy's 8 & Under

1. Matthew Hammond, OH
2. Andrew Grissom, CA
3. Jeremy Robbins, TX
4. Sean Baker, TX
5. Jonathan Dawson, OR
6. Charlie Pratt, OR
7. David Lewis, CO
- 8T. Andrew Ortiz, MD
- 8T. Diego Robles, Mex
10. Justin Erdman, OH

Multi-Bounce

1. Matthew Hammond, OH
2. Charlie Pratt, OR
3. Jeremy Robbins, TX
4. Connor Wheeler, CO
5. Sean Baker, TX
6. Jonathan Brittain, OR
7. Scott Reiders, OR
- 8T. Cody Drago, OR
- 8T. Alex Petak, TX
10. Sam Basta, MO

Boy's 10-

1. Steven Klaiman, TX
2. Brandon Shoemaker, OH
- 3T. Jon Hellner, OR
- 3T. Jack Huczek, MI
5. Clay Burris, FL
- 6T. Geoffrey Mora, CA
- 6T. Dain Taylor, IN
- 8T. EJ Basta, MO
- 8T. Bernard Dorman, CA
- 8T. Blake Vonkaenel, NE

Boy's 12-

1. Jack Huczek, MI
2. Trevor Crowe, OR
- 3T. Ashley Conway, NC
- 3T. Shane Vanderson, OH
5. Matthew McElhiney, FL
6. Joel Worthington, KS
7. Adam Taylor, IN
- 8T. Grant Barker, MO
- 8T. Nathaniel Dehmer, MN
10. Patric Mascorro, TX

Boy's 14-

1. Ryan Staten, KS
2. Justin Carey, NY
3. Shane Vanderson, OH
4. Willie Tilton, CO
5. Jeffrey Garner, AL
6. Matt Gehling, MD
- 7T. Lee Hammons, CA
- 7T. Stephen Lewis, WA
- 7T. Blake Silha, MT
10. Brandon Henline, GA

Boy's 16-

- 1T. Bucky Freeman, TX
- 1T. Abe Valdez, OR
3. Rocky Carson, CA
4. Hal Spangenberg, CA
5. Willie Tilton, CO
6. Ben Williams, NY
7. Mark Bloom, LA
- 8T. Jed Bhuta, AL
- 8T. Matt Davenport, MO
- 8T. Shawn Fry, NC

Boy's 18-

1. Eric Storey, IN
2. Shane Wood, MA
3. David Hamilton, OH
- 4T. Jason Mannino, NY
- 4T. John Stanford, Jr., FL
6. Bucky Freeman, TX
7. Jed Bhuta, AL
- 8T. Brandon Cuaresma, AK
- 8T. Craig Donaldson, MO
10. Brian Berkey, IN

GIRLS

Girl's 8 & Under

1. Kelley Fisher, OH
2. Brandi Hanson, OR
3. Adrienne Fisher, OH
4. Lindsay Fuller, TX
5. Ashley Mora, CA
6. Abigail Hobart, FL
- 7T. Katie Lyons, FL
- 7T. Molissia Martin, WI
9. Nikki Winfrey, OH
10. Braun Jacobson, CO

Multi-Bounce

1. Kelley Fisher, OH
2. Adrienne Fisher, OH
- 3T. Molissia Martin, WI
- 3T. Kimberly Walsh, UT
- 5T. Dianne Meyer, OR
- 5T. Dominique Winfrey, OH
- 7T. Alison Bertagnoli, WI
- 7T. Elizabeth Ferguson, OR
- 7T. Jamie Lipman, TX
- 7T. Ashley Murphy, MO

Girl's 10-

1. Kimberly Irons, OH
2. Adrienne Fisher, OH

3. Crystal Winfrey, OH
4. Lindsay Deutsch, TX
5. Derai Darling, OR
6. Jesi Fuller, NM
7. Melissa Holden, CA
8. Melissa Jones, FL
9. Brandi Hanson, OR
10. Trinity Garcia, CA

Girl's 12-

1. Keely Brannigan, ID
2. Molly Law, CO
3. Melanie Mueller, CO
4. Kristen Walsh, UT
5. Eve Bateman, PA
- 6T. Heather Holden, CA
- 6T. Crystal Winfrey, OH
8. Krystal Csuk, IL
9. Jeni Fuller, NM
10. Natasha Elmore, MN

Girl's 14-

1. Sara Borland, IA
2. Brooke Crawford, OR
3. Leisa Marquart, NE
4. Davina Bloom, LA
5. Melanie Mueller, CO
- 6T. Meghan Guardiani, MA
- 6T. Lindsay Sears, IN
- 6T. Jennifer Swallow, PA
9. Katie Olsson, OR
10. Megan Bals, NE

Girl's 16-

1. Vanessa Tulao, TN
2. Erin Frost, OR
- 3T. Katie Gould, MO
- 3T. Sadie Gross, SD
5. Colleen Maginn, WI
- 6T. Melisa Boyd, UT

- 6T. Meadow Krantz, MN
- 8T. Jill Brittain, OR
- 8T. Liana Kerwood, OR
10. Dionna Brown, CA

Girl's 18-

1. Sadie Gross, SD
- 2T. Shannon Feaster, DC
- 2T. Rhonda Rajsich, AZ
4. Christy Gould, MO
5. Vanessa Tulao, TN
6. Kori Grasha, NY
7. Aimee Chastain, MN
8. Theresa Larsen, OR
9. Tammy Brockbank, ID
10. Dawn Gates, IL

WHEELCHAIR

1. Steve Kuketz, MA
- 2T. Chip Parmelley, CA
- 2T. Donna Cline, TX
4. Rick Slaughter, TN
5. Gary Baker, VA
- 6T. Bob Nichols, MA
- 7T. Eric Engstrom, MA
- 7T. Ken Medeiros, MA
9. Audie Kemp, IN
10. Mark Fenn, IN

RANKINGS

DATED:
8/14/95

AARA Official Event Sponsors

Ektelon • Penn • Wilson • ProKennex

AARA Official Products

Ashaway • Official String
Hi-Tec • Official Shoe
Leader • Official Eyeguard
Penn • Official Ball
Powerade • Official Sports Drink
Python • Official Grip
Transition • Official Racquet

AARA Approved Balls

Official Ball — Penn
Approved Balls — Dunlop • Ektelon •
ProKennex • Spalding • Wilson

SEPTEMBER

September 15

Blast It 1995
The Sports Center
Fayetteville, NC
910/864-3303

Fall Racquetball Champ
@ Maverick AC
Arlington, TX
817/275-3348

Pennbriar Open
The Pennbriar Club
Erie, PA-814/825-8111

Pete Peterson Classic VI
@ Northeast RB Club
Columbia Heights, MN
612/572-0330

Spalding/IRT Fall Kick-
off @ King's Court
Lyndhurst, NJ
201/444-0859

California State
Doubles @ Gold River
Racquet Club
Gold River, CA
916/638-7001

Georgia State Doubles
Southern AC-Lilburn,
GA-404/923-5400

6th ISU Open
Indiana State Univ.
Terre Haute, IN
812/235-3701

September 16
Fall Open @ Fayetteville
AC -Fayetteville, AR
501/750-9871

September 20
When the Service
Kidneys Singles
The Alaska Club
Anchorage, AK
907/337-9550

September 22

Aloha Open
Omni Sports Club
Winston-Salem, NC
919/760-3663

Midwest Seniors
Masters Open
Keystone Fitness Ctr.
Indianapolis, IN
317/346-1111

Pro-Am & Calcutta
Doubles @ Tri-City
Court Club-Kennewick,
WA-509/783-6503

California State Singles
Los Caballeros Sports
Village-Fountain Valley,
CA-714/546-8560

Connecticut State
Doubles @ NEHR/Bristol
Bristol, CT
203/248-6634

Kentucky State Doubles
@ American Fitness
Louisville, KY
502/425-4471

Virginia State Doubles
The Tysons Club
McLean, VA
703/442-9150

September 26
Utah State Doubles
Deseret Gym
Salt Lake City, UT

September 29
Fall Valley
Championships
Merced Sports Club
Merced, CA
209/722-3988

Ft. Wayne Cardiology
Open Heart @ Summit
City Court Club
Ft. Wayne, IN
219/485-1671

Mad City Classic
Supreme Health &
Fitness-Madison, WI
608/274-5080

Magic City Classic
Courtsouth Fitness
Club-Vestavia Hill, AL
205/922-3172

Miller Lite Massacre V
Ozark Sports Club
Ft. Smith, AR
501/646-4338

Open Tournament
Riverside Wellness &
Fitness-Newport News,
VA- 804/875-7525

Spalding/IRT Warren
Open @ Racquets Club
of Warren-Warren, NJ
201/444-0859

Splat Shot Pro-Am
The Tournament
House-Riverside, CA
909/682-7511

Louisiana State
Doubles @ LSU Rec Ctr
Baton Rouge, LA
504/468-2813

OCTOBER

October 4
Lamex Fall Kick Off
Alaska Athletic Club
Anchorage, AK
907/562-2460

October 6
Fort the Love of the
Game @ Pro Sports
Club-Bellevue, WA
206/885-5566

Hurricane Classic
Courts Plus
Jacksonville, NC
910/346-3446

Optimist Racquetball
Open @Kentucky State
Univ.-Frankfort, KY
502/695-6845

Racquetpower Cash
Classic-Racquetpower
Jacksonville, FL
904/268-8888

Season's Opener
Sports Barn
Chattanooga, TN
615/266-1125

AARA Regional Doubles
@ Indiana State
University
Terre Haute, IN
812/235-3701

1995 Atlanta Classic
Cars @ Concourse AC
Atlanta, GA
404/424-1140

Ektelon/Penn Adult
Doubles Regional
Robious Sports &
Fitness-Richmond, VA
804/330-2222

Pennsylvania State
Doubles @ The Racquet
Club of Pittsburgh
Monroeville, PA
412/856-3930

8th Annual Solano
Open @ Solano Athletic
Club
Fairfield, CA
707/429-4363

October 13
Clayton Valley Open
Clayton Valley Athletic
Club-Concord, CA
510/682-1060

MTSU Open @ Middle
TN State University
Murfreesboro, TN
615/898-2104

Noblesville Doubles Fall
Classic @ Noblesville
AC-Noblesville, IN
317/776-0224

Old South Classic
Fitness USA
Raleigh, NC
919/832-5595

Spalding/IRT NJ State
Doubles @ King George
Racquetball
Club-Greenbrook NJ
201/444-0859

6th Annual Central
Heating Co. @ Central
City YMCA-Tampa, FL
813/229-9622

October 18-22
Ektelon AARA
U.S. National
Doubles @
City Square
Sports Club
Phoenix, AZ

October 20
American Fitness Fall
Classic @ American
Fitness-Louisville, KY
502/425-4471

Central YMCA Open
Charlotte, NC
704/333-7771

Fairbanks Racquetball
Classic @ Alaska
Athletic Club
Fairbanks, AK
907/456-1914

Halloween Open
Cocoa Court Club
Hershey, PA
717/533-4554

Halloween Shootout
Court South Merchants
Center-Knoxville, TN
615/688-3600

NATIONAL CALENDAR

Sierra Shootout
Auburn Racquet Club
Auburn, CA
916/885-1602

Thunderbolt Open
Dan Gamel's Racquet
Time-Fresno, CA
209/227-8405

October 25

Autumn Singles Classic
The Alaska Club
Anchorage, AK
907/337-9550

October 26

Halloween Classic
New England Health &
Racquet-Warwick, RI
401/732-2413

October 27

Great Pumpkin Open
Midtown Athletic Club
Sacramento, CA
916/441-2977

Jack-O-Lantern Open
Yakima Family YMCA
Yakima, WA
509/248-1202

Northeast Doubles
Championships
Stratford Athletic Club
Stratford, CT
203/248-6634

NOVEMBER

November 1

Anchorage Racquetball
Classic @ Alaska
Athletic Club
Anchorage, AK
907/562-2460

November 3

"ICAART" @ Ft. Smith
Racquetball Club
Ft. Smith, AR
501/7875-2580

Centra Health R/B
Tournament-Courtside
Athletic Club
Lynchburg, VA
804/237-6341

Doran East Classic
Greenville Athletic Club
Greenville, NC
919/756-9175

Music City Open
Downtown YMCA
Nashville, TN
615/254-0631

Omni 41 Fall Open
Omni 41 Sports &
Fitness Center
Schererville, IN
219/865-6969

Penn State Fall Classic
Intramural Bldg. @
Penn State
State College, PA
814/861-7217

Racquetball Plus Open
Racquetball Plus/Royal
AC - Burlingame, CA
415/697-9162

United Way Classic
Somerset/Pulaski Co.
YMCA-Somerset, KY
606/679-7428

November 10

Autumnfest Doubles
Wenatchee Swim &
Tennis Club
Wenatchee, WA
509/662-3544

Cross Court Open
Cross Court Athletic
Club-Woodland, CA
916/666-1319

Erie Paint Open
Nautilus Fitness &
Racquet Club-Erie, PA
814/868-0072

Holiday Classic @ The
Orlando Fitness &
Racquet Club
Orlando, FL
407/645-3550

Racquets Four Classic
Racquets Four Sports
Center-Indianapolis,
IN-317/783-5411

Tar Heel Classic
Omni Sports Club
Winston-Salem, NC
919/760-3663

Turkey Gobbler
Alpha Racquetball Club
Mechanicsburg, PA
717/763-7800

November 17

Fairbanks Turkey Trot
Alaska Athletic Club
Fairbanks, AK
907/456-1914

Fowl Frolic @ North
Hills Athletic Club
Menomonee Falls, WI
414/251-1420

Kernal Klassic @ The
Fitness Barn
Valparaiso, IN
219/762-3191

Pennbriar Holiday
Classic @ The Pennbriar
Club-Erie, PA
814/825-8111

ProKennex Grand Prix
Series-Courtesy
Sports/Schoebers
Los Altos, CA
415/968-7970

Turkey Open
Downtown Health &
Racquet-New Haven,
CT-203/248-6634

Turkey Shoot @ Sports
Club of Asheville
Asheville, NC
704/252-0222

Turkey Splat @ Harbor
Squarer Athletic Club
Edmonds, WA
206/778-3546

YMCA Thanksgiving
Open @ YMCA/Central
Lexington, KY
606/254-9622

Minnesota State
Doubles @ Highway
100 RS & HC
Brooklyn Center, MN
612/920-6652

November 18

Lehigh Valley Open
Allentown Racquet
Club-Allentown, PA
610/821-1300

NATIONAL CALENDAR

OCTOBER 18-22

Ektelon U.S. National Doubles Championships @
City Square Sports Club: Phoenix, Arizona

DECEMBER 16-20

IRF World Junior Championships @ Los Caballeros
Sports Village: Fountain Valley, California

1996

JANUARY

AARA Leadership Conference @ U.S. Olympic
Training Center: Colorado Springs, Colorado
U.S. National Women's Senior/Master
Championships @ Royal Athletic Club: Burlingame,
California

JANUARY 25-28

FEBRUARY 15-17

U.S. National Masters Singles Invitational @ Planet
Fitness (formerly Arizona Athletic Club): Tempe,
Arizona

MARCH 01-03

ProKennex U.S. National High School
Championships @ South Hampshire Racquet Club:
St. Louis, Missouri

APRIL 01-07

APRIL 10-14

APRIL 18-21

Tournament of the Americas in Cali, COLOMBIA
Wilson U.S. Intercollegiate Championships - TBA
Ektelon AARA Metro Championship Series (&
National Qualifiers) - Nationwide

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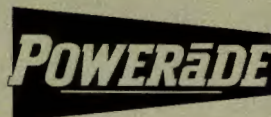
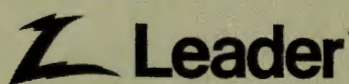
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Powerade • Official Sports Drink
Python • Official Grip
Transition • Official Racquet



September/October Ad Index

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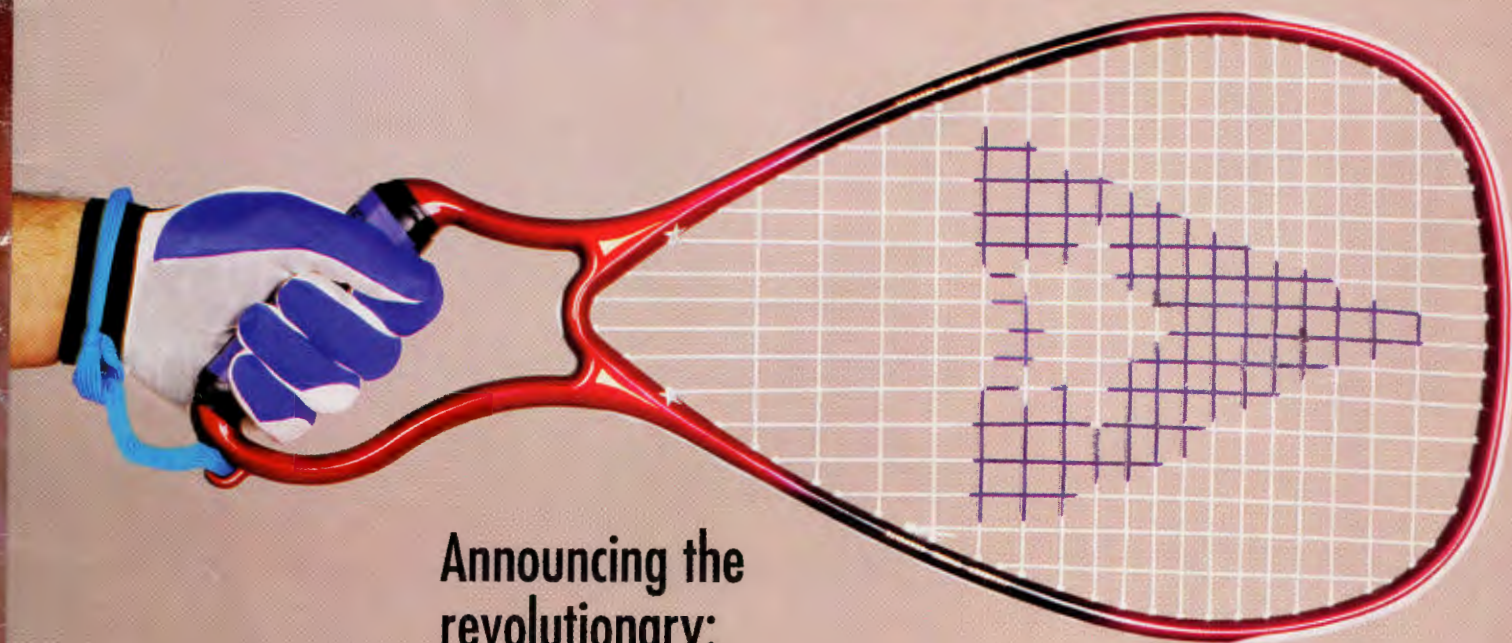
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