

RACQUETBALL

MAGAZINE

November
December
1993
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1994
Olympic
Festival
Doubles
Qualifiers!

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Photo: John Foust

FROM THE EDITOR

By Linda Mojer

Each year at this time, I'm forced to look back and ask myself — where did the time go? Remember when Christmas (and birthdays, and summer vacation) took absolutely forever to roll around, and you were sometimes convinced that you'd

never get to open those presents (eat that cake, run through that sprinkler)?

Now that the years are "quantum leaping" away faster and faster, I've begun to feel that every other month gives me a chance to open those presents (when each of these issues is "put to bed...") and I have to confess that it's still a bit too much fun. Not that I'll be having a breakdown from exhilaration anytime soon, mind you, but that having a year's worth of *RACQUETBALL Magazine* to look back on each holiday season gives me a whole new outlook on the coming year.

Already in '94, we're looking at change. One serve in the open division metro regional qualifiers. Pan American Trials. A national skill-level championship. A membership rate hike (yes, the rumors are true). A new format for the rulebook and media guide. Ongoing improvements to the magazine (you're looking at one already ...). All good changes, we're certain, and things we think you'll enjoy as well.

So, it's time to frame the year's covers and find a place for the '93 chronicle on the walls of our new office. Again, I ask, where has the time gone? Looking at those covers, I see that it's passed through our 25th anniversary, two outstanding celebrity stories, a Hall of Fame retrospective, and a couple of national champion pictorials. Not a bad haul for our third full year.

Now, if I could just get a volunteer (or two) to do my cards and shopping while I start on the January/February issue. C'mon, pleeeese...

Happy holidays!

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ON THE COVER

**1994 U.S. Olympic Festival Doubles
teams qualify in Phoenix (see page
22 for "who's who"). Photo: Rick
D'Elia.**

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reader forum

OVER THERE

Greetings from Germany! I have eight months to go in Europe and then I will be returning to the states. So, I would like to renew my AARA membership. I also want to tell you that I read the USA Today and a few weeks ago while I was in Greece their coverage of the Olympic Festival in San Antonio finally included racquetball to my surprise. I want to extend my gratitude to your organization for paving the way for this exciting sport we all love. Hopefully, racquetball will be added as a full sport to the Olympic games. Keep up the good work and thanks again.

Kory B. Duarte
AFLEM NATO AWACS

MORE RATING SUGGESTIONS

Interest in a numerical rating system has prompted the following proposal. The purpose of an improved rating system is to make sure tournament players are well matched and to provide motivation for increasing a player's rating. I have adapted the following from the respected chess rating system.

Let the C rating be below 1200; the B rating below 1600; the A rating below 2000.

A winning player gains rating points and the losing player loses the same number of points. The number of points depends on the difference in rating between the players but is always less than 50. A table of "win expectancies" is the key. A difference of 100 points

means the higher rated player should win 2 out of 3 times; 200 points - 3 out of 4 times; 400 points - 9 out of 10 times. This fraction multiplied times 50 gives the number of points changing hands in an upset.

For example, an average A player, rated 1800, beats an A player with a 1900 rating. The winner's rating increases by $2/3$ of 50 or 33 points. The loser loses 33 points. Had the favored player won instead, his rating would go up to 1917, adding $1/3$ of 50 points. The loser's rating would be 1783.

An 1800 player competing with a 1600 player could win 12 points or lose 37. The lower rated player could win 37 or lose 12 points, depending on the outcome.

An over-rated player will drop as quickly as an under-rated player will rise. A consistent player will gain points steadily or stay the same.

An average player winning four matches in one tournament and then four in another, could win two trophies and earn a higher playing bracket (moving up 25 points for each match).

There are more details to be worked out. Sex and age divisions could be kept or replaced by special prizes. Will doubles play count?

A rating system would aid tournament directors in setting up matches. Until the system has had a chance to provide all players with accurate ratings, it would

still be better than what we have today.

I would be glad to hear players' suggestions and incorporate them in my proposal.

Borys (Bob) Browar
Utica, New York

BUMPER CROP

I am writing to ask for your assistance and guidance in helping to solve a problem we (and no doubt many, many other clubs) are having in keeping court walls clean. Our court walls are constructed of white paneling five feet by ten feet.

We spend many man-hours at considerable cost to keep them clear of marks made when racquets come in contact with the walls during normal play (and sometimes when a hothead takes out his frustration on the wall). The marks are primarily black, but with the advent of brightly colored racquets, the marks now come in all colors.

It has been my observations that both the racquet and the "bumper" are the culprits. Balls make marks, but they are not as unsightly as the racquet marks. How could we get information such as this to the various racquet manufacturers and ask their research and development sections to work on formulas that could eliminate this problem the markings are causing?

I know there are millions of racquets in use, and it would take a long time for a "nonmarking"

racquet to replace the ones that mark up the walls, but then you've got to start sometime. Could you steer us in the right direction to initiate some action?

Bob Luder
Georgetown Racquetball & Fitness Center

[We passed this note along to Brad Patterson of the Racquet Sports Committee of the Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association, who is soliciting comment from manufacturers. If the response is interesting, we will print selections at a later date. - Ed.]

SHOE RELIEF

I have been playing racquetball competitively for about two years now, at about the "C" level. I have all of the standard equipment, including a pair of court shoes. The problem is, I have wide feet, and wear a double "E" shoe, but none of the major racquetball manufacturers make a court shoe in double "E." Virtually every time I play, I end up with cramps and blisters, and it often distracts me from the game. I have unsuccessfully visited and called countless sporting goods stores looking for such a shoe. Do you know of any company that makes a court shoe in double "E?" I would be very grateful if you or any of your readers can help.

Dan Kaplan
Greenville, Delaware

READER FORUM: COLLECTOR'S CORNER

I have been a collector of racquetball cans and racquetballs for over 17 years and am interested in trading (or buying) any cans or balls that your readers may have that I don't. Below are some of the items I need...

... Cans

- A Penn can which held a black Court One ball
- A Penn can which held a blue Court One ball
- A Vittert V-50 can
- A Regent 4 Wall can
- An Ektelon can which held the 9th Belgian Open 1991 Brussels ball
- The "Other Ball" can which had the green ball inside
- A 21 Zip Mikasa can with the blue ball inside
- A 21 Zip Mikasa can with the green ball inside
- A High Skore can with a black ball inside
- A High Skore can with a blue ball inside
- A High Skore can with a green ball inside
- A Dunlop can that holds two balls
- A Dunlop can that holds three balls
- A Sportcraft standard can
- An official Sportcraft can
- A Killshot can
- A Z44 can (or box)
- A Seamco 600 can made of cardboard
- A Z ball box that holds four balls
- A Seamco 558 can that has IRA on it
- A Pro-One can
- A Sportcraft box that holds three balls

... and Balls

- A Regent 4 wall blue ball
- A Regent 4 wall green ball
- A blue Streck TB blue ball
- A Seamco Club green ball
- A Taiball green or blue ball
- A 21 Zip Mikasa green and blue ball

I'd be interested in talking to other collectors -- even if they don't have any of the balls or cans I need -- so we can exchange information about our collections. I can be reached at home at 517/887-0459, or by mail.

Jim Easterling
321 Village
Lansing, Michigan 48911

EKTELON INTRODUCES THE NEW ALUSION RTS LITENING SERIES RACQUET



Ektelon "storms" the market with its new RTS Litening Series racquets. The Alusion RTS Litening, with an elongated quadriform head shape that lengthens the string bed to enlarge the sweet spot, is the flagship frame of the new racquet line. Other RTS Litening Series racquets developed by Ektelon for expert and advanced racquetball players include the Cirrus, Astra and Quantus.

"RTS handlaid composition is at the foundation of each frame," said Kerry Lynch, the firm's product manager responsible for the development of the new RTS

Litening Series. "The signature power, feel and playing comfort of an Ektelon RTS racquet is still there...but in a lighter frame." For dealer information, Call 800/2 TEAM EK.

PENN NAMED OFFICIAL BALL

Penn Racquet Sports has been named the "official ball" of the American Amateur Racquetball Association for the 1993-94 season. In addition to its sponsorship of regional and national competition, Penn will continue its support of state associations and their major events. For states that wish to participate, Penn Racquet Sports will provide twelve cases of balls for use in conducting annual state singles, doubles and junior championships.

ProKENNEX INTRODUCES 1993-94 PRODUCT LINE

ProKENNEX introduced its sleek new product line, as well as competitive new promotional, merchandising, and grass roots player programs for 1993-94. The new product line features nine racquets, ranging from the \$225 Asymmetric 110 in the four-model professional series, to the \$25 Pro Saber 105 in the recreational series. The overall racquet line has been reduced 30 percent since last year, but "in this case, less is more," said ProKENNEX vice president John Weaver. "We've downsized the line since last year, but improved the playing characteristics of each racquet."

For retailers, ProKENNEX Racquetball offers all-new creative ad slicks, strategic advertising material and tournament programs. Racquet recycling, trade-in and other incentive programs are also being developed.

ProKENNEX Racquetball has also aggressively joined the effort to elevate racquetball's Olympic status. ProKENNEX is a Gold Patron contributing sponsor of the new U.S. Olympic Training Center in San Diego. For more information, please call 800/854-1908.

E-FORCE SPORTS CHANGES HANDS

E-Force Sports, manufacturer and distributor of racquetball racquets, clothing and accessories, was recently bought by an international holding company, headed by Mr. Michael C. Case.

Egan Inoue, two-time world champion and founder of the company, will remain as a key member of the organization in the role of player representative and ambassador of public relations. Egan's wife Alice will continue as sales manager and sponsorship/promotions coordinator, and Joe Sullivan has been promoted to general manager. With these changes, E-Force will continue to look to the future and provide its customers with the highest level of quality merchandise and service.

POWERADE ENERGIZES ATHLETES AT AARA NATIONALS

Earlier this year, PowerAde signed on as the exclusive sports drink of some of the nation's highest-profile sports properties, including the Olympic Games, World Cup '94 and the National League Champion Atlanta Braves. PowerAde also is the official sports drink of the U.S. Cycling Team and the U.S. Canoe and Kayak Team, and was featured at the recent U.S. National Doubles Championships in Phoenix.

"The National Governing Bodies form the backbone of our Olympic effort," said Dennis Kelly, vice president and general manager, New Beverages Group, Coca-Cola

USA. "By providing a superior sports drink to these NGBs, we hope to energize our aspiring Olympic athletes to gold medal performances."

NEW DOUBLES RANKING SOFTWARE

RANK2 is new software for ranking each of the four players in a racquetball or tennis doubles match. Player ranks are shown on screen in nine report formats, including player addresses and phones, participation points and won/lost statistics, dates of last matches played (to find inactive players), and player momentum. Reports of the match/game results can be made for any one player, for all players, or for any two players as a doubles team. RANK2 stores player names and addresses, the results of all matches/games played (including scores), and can produce mailing labels. Menu-driven, easy-to-use, and very fast, RANK2 runs on IBM-PC compatible computers; hard disk not required. For more information, call Win at 714/894-8161, or write to WIN SPORTS, 15892 Redlands St., Westminster, California 92683-7612.

FINAL THREE WINNERS IN EKTELON'S EMINENCE SWEEPSTAKES

For Steven Lytwyn of Easthampton, Massachusetts, it was a surprise birthday and anniversary gift all in one. Ken Albertsen's letter of congratulations took more than a month to find him in Anchorage, Alaska - thanks to the U.S. Mail. And Sherwin Tanner of Caldwell, Idaho, has a

brother who really covets his prize. What do they all have in common? These three lucky racquetball enthusiasts are the final winners in Ektelon's Eminence Sweepstakes!

From September 1992 through June 1993, ten racquetball players won a free Eminence Graphite RTS oversize racquet from Ektelon - one each month - to celebrate the introduction of the firm's new flagship frame.



BEWARE OF THE PYTHON!

Network Marketing introduced its new Python racquetball grip — thinner, lighter and offering better traction and gripping power. "After over 10 years of selling racquetball grips we know what the players want...and it's the new Python," said Doug Smith, president of Network Marketing.

The Python grips will be available in 12 colors and will be sold through major distributors, clubs, pro shops and stringers. For more information call, fax or write: Network Marketing, 205 Aston Court, Roswell, GA 30076, phone 404/751-9463, fax 404/751-9469.

WINTERS JOINS TRANSITION STAFF

Transition Racquet Sports president John Hooghe recently announced that Scott Winters will be leading the T.R.S. national sales staff. Hooghe is extremely pleased with the addition of Winters, who is expected to make a major contribution to Transition. Widely known within the industry as an individual with outstanding qualifications and integrity, Winters will take over the national accounts manager role as well as being the western regional sales manager. Winters, a skilled player in his own right, resides in Seattle, Washington with his wife and two children.

SPALDING RE-SIGNS LEADING STARS

Spalding Professional Racket Sports has re-signed Mike Ray, one of the world's top ranked professional racquetball players to a multi-year contract, the company announced. Terms of the agreement were not disclosed, but Ray will play with the Spalding Thunder Heat, a racquet he helped design. "Besides his stature as a perennial top-ranked pro, Mike is a great ambassador for the sport and is instrumental in new product development ideas," said Dave Reinhart, director of marketing. "We are extremely pleased Mike has chosen to continue his association with Spalding."

Along with Ray, Spalding Professional Racket Sports has signed the world's #7 ranked women's player, Marcy Lynch of North Wales, Pa.; U.S. Olympic Festival doubles champion Todd O'Neil of Dallas, Texas; Jason Waggoner of Ft. Myers, Fla.; former junior national champion Jason Mannino of Staten Island, N.Y.; Mike Brady of La Jolla, Calif.; and former collegiate champion Brian Rankin of Lakeland, Fla.

NEW VALUE & COOLER PAKS FROM PENN

A new racquetball value pak contains two cans of Penn's Ultra Blue racquetballs and an exclusive Penn racquetball towel. The towel, made from

RACQUETBALL MAGAZINE

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100% heavy weight terry cloth cotton has "Kick-Dive-Scream" printed on it. The Ultra blue racquetballs come with Penn's double performance guarantee that if any Penn ball should fail before the label wears off, Penn will replace it with two new balls. A great gift for the holiday season, the Pak has a suggested retail value of \$14.95.

Great looking Cooler Paks - perfect for taking soft drinks, snacks and lunch to the courts - are the newest innovation from Penn Racquet Sports. Fully insulated and made from 210 denier nylon with a heavy duty zipper and adjustable shoulder strap, these 9"x7" racquetball cooler paks come with six cans of Penn's ultra blue new racquetballs. The pak is vibrant blue with "Kick-Dive-Scream" silkscreened on one side and "Speed Kills" on the other.

All Penn's top quality products can be purchased at pro shops, sporting goods, stores and sports specialty shops. Or, for more information call 800/BUY PENN.

ERGOMED COLD PACK FITS THE TREATMENT TO THE TRAUMA

An innovative new cold therapy method has just been made available from New Hampshire-based ErgoMed Inc. ErgoForm Cold Packs, developed by healthcare professionals in conjunction with specialists at the Massachusetts General Hospital, are designed to fit the body's most complex contours. Multiple, independent cells hold a cryogenic gel contained in soft, leakproof material and



Kaepa Nitro

fitted with easy-to-grasp Velcro straps that free the user from having to hold the pack through each therapy session. Because the gel remains flexible even after being in the freezer, the reusable cold pack provides comfortable, maximum contact with the body.

There are four individually configured models designed for specific parts of the body - knee and elbow, foot and ankle, wrist and forearm, shoulder and neck - plus a fifth, multifunctional pack. Since their development last year, the packs have been used by hospitals, physical therapists, and professional sports teams. Starting in late 1993, they will be available to consumers nationwide. For more information, call 800/452-3827.

KAEPA SHOES HIT THE RACQUETBALL COURT

Kaepa has hit the racquetball court with the debut of their indoor court footwear line. Complete with the highly technical features Kaepa is known for, the San Antonio-based manufacturer is experiencing tremendous success in the indoor court category.

"Kaepa has always been known for custom fit," said Frank Legacki, President and CEO of Kaepa, Inc. "Every shoe features the Action-Hinge®, which means that the shoe, at the vamp, is split in half and the Stabilizer (LMS®) system is incorporated into the top of the line models. This patented feature provides excellent support and lateral stability, which in turn helps to prevent ankle injury — especially meaningful for the racquetball player, due the amount of lateral motion during a typical game."

All Kaepa Indoor Court models have gum rubber outsoles for excellent traction, removable sockliners for players preferring orthotics, and a compression-molded EVA midsole, which provides for excellent shock absorption. Kaepa offers a low- (Gold Medal) and mid-top (Nitro) for men. For women, Kaepa offers a low- (Killer Dig), mid- (TeamCourt) and high-top (Killer Dig Hi). For a dealer in your area, call Kaepa Customer Service at 800/880-9200.



EKTELON REVAMPS PROTECTIVE EYEWEAR LINE

Ektelon has revamped its entire protective eyewear line for the 1993-1994 season. "our six models - two of them new this year - offer the most comprehensive eyewear line available," said Jay McGregor, vice president of sales for the San Diego-based firm.

McGregor also noted that Ektelon eyewear is supported by solid, proven technology. Specifically designed to perform, Ektelon provides the game's most advanced features including anti-fog, scratch-resistant lenses; contoured frame design for better fit; tough, lightweight construction; and padded, absorbent brow bridges. Ektelon's new Spector, features an oversized wraparound piece with state-of-the-art design for multi-sport use. The Spector is available in black or bright blue, with a suggested retail price of \$29.95. The Odyssey has a flexible, lightweight nylon frame to minimize distraction and add comfort, in a choice of charcoal or navy frames, with a suggested retail price of \$24.95.

Suggested retail prices for the complete Ektelon 1993-1994 eyewear line range from \$10.95 to \$34.95. For dealer information, call 800/TEAM EK. San Diego-based Ektelon is a member of the Benetton Sportsystem.

SPALDING "SPORTS REFRESHER"

Spalding Sports Worldwide has introduced a 16 ounce, naturally flavored, non-carbonated, new age sports drink for those with an active lifestyle, as well as for casual sports participants. Distributed by the Beverage Group, Inc. of Atlanta, Georgia, the Spalding Sports Refresher is low in sodium, vitamin C fortified, and available in four great tasting flavors: Honey-Lemon, Citrus Cooler, Cherry-Raspberry and Fruit Punch.

Sports Refresher comes in a reusable, clear, soft plastic bottle with a tamper-proof, recloseable push/pull cap. "Unlike traditional designs, the Spalding Sports Refresher bottle is designed with an active look that will provide health conscious, on-the-go users with versatility, convenience and breakage resistance," said Craig McGonigle, President of the Beverage Group. "We're pleased with the uniqueness of the packaging involved in the Spalding Sports Refresher."

NEW INSTRUCTIONAL TAPE

America's Most Wanted Racquetball Camps is proud to announce a state-of-the-art instructional videotape titled "Play Like the Pros." Designed to help all players, from beginner to the A/Open level, the tape covers all aspects of the game with emphasis on strategy. The tape features Jack Newman, head instructor of the America's Most Wanted Camps, and number two ranked professional Andy Roberts. Produced and directed by Jerry McKinnis, producer of

numerous broadcasts for ESPN, "Play Like the Pros" will sell for \$19.95 and can be ordered by calling 800/ROLLOUT.

PRESCRIPTION EGGSERCIZER SPONSORS NATIONAL DOUBLES

Eggsercizer sponsored the 1993 Ektelon/AARA National Doubles Championships by presenting each finalists in every division with "the world's smallest exercise machine" for their continued training.

The Prescription Eggsercizer® is a hand/arm exercise device for improving finger, hand/arm strength and dexterity. Unlike ball shaped devices, it's unique egg shape matches the natural contour of the hand. The material is designed and patented to simulate the physics of human skin, weight and elasticity and can be heated or chilled for hot/cold therapy. The Eggsercizer is recommended by orthopedic surgeons and therapists as an aid in exercising and rehabilitating weakened or injured hand, finger, wrist and arm muscles. It has also been found by the American Arthritis Foundation to aid in the treatment of certain types of arthritis

FRELONIC INTRODUCES NEW LINE OF COMFORT INSOLES

Frelonic Corporation introduced a new line of sport specific comfort insoles. Utilizing the latest in state of the art materials, the line was designed to meet the performance and protection needs of active consumers' specific sports needs.

Frelonic's Court Comfort insoles are orthopedically designed for superior comfort and support during high impact activities where you're on your toes more than usual. The insoles meet the performance requirement of the most demanding athlete, with its Impactek heel pad and fore-foot pad to insure the maximum shock absorption required in a wide range of high impact activities. The choice for basketball, tennis, volleyball and racquetball, Court Comfort is also the perfect insole for high impact aerobics.

The new group of insoles retail for \$12.95 to \$18.95. For more information write or call Frelonic Corp., 63 Grove Street, P.O. Box 169, Salem, MA 01970, 508/744-0300, fax 508/741-0698.

DAILY DISPOSABLE CONTACT LENSES FROM BAUSCH & LOMB

Bausch & Lomb will soon ask athletes to throw away their contact lenses - every night. The company has announced that it will introduce a soft contact lens designed to be worn for one day and then discarded. The lens is currently scheduled for consumer introduction at the end of this year. Unlike traditional contact lenses, daily disposables will not require cleaning, rinsing and disinfection each night. Instead, they are thrown away.

"We know that frequent replacement of lenses offers tremendous health benefits and ensures top visual acuity," noted Harold O. Johnson, Bausch & Lomb senior

corporate vice president and president of its contact lens division. "... until now, Bausch & Lomb did not have the manufacturing technologies to produce a truly disposable lens. Today, I am happy to say that we do."

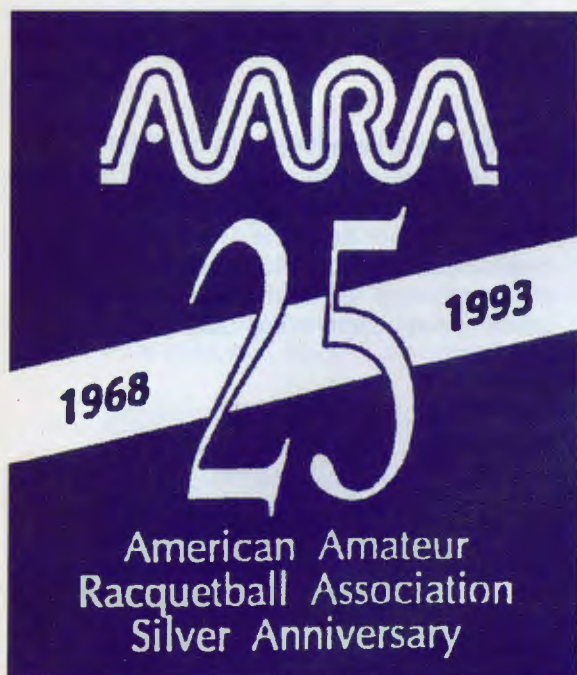
OFFICIAL STRINGERS

The AARA is seeking stringers to participate in its Approved Stringer program for 1993-94 to expand awareness of the stringing profession among racquetball enthusiasts.

Benefits to participating stringers include: •Rights to use the AARA logo in all stringing business advertising and promotions •Use of "Approved Stringer of the AARA" in all stringing business advertising and promotions •One free quarter page, black & white ad in *RACQUETBALL Magazine* (stringer must supply camera-ready ad and adhere to all published policies of the magazine) •Official stringers at AARA events will, ideally, be selected from this pool, if qualified candidates for each event exist. (Selection is done in coordination with the host site for each event and is not solely controlled by the AARA.)

Applicants must be USRSA Certified (Certified Racquet Technician status preferred) and pay a \$300 annual fee. To date approved stringers for AARA include Keith Shaffer, John Boudman and Rex Fisher.

To apply, fax or mail your letter of intent with a copy of your CRT certificate to the AARA, 1685 West Uintah, Colorado Springs, CO 80904-2921 or fax: 719/635-0685.



TIME CAPSULE: 1988 - PRESENT

By Rebecca Maxedon

1988

Celebration was the order of the day throughout this 20th anniversary year.

The year opened with the premier of the "AARA In Review" section in National Racquetball magazine. The section contained columns, features, instructional material, rankings and tournament schedule. Linda Mojer, now editor of *RACQUETBALL Magazine*, was named the editorial coordinator for the section. What a long way we've come from there!

Executive Director Luke St. Onge announced in that publication that for the first time all those planning on playing in the national singles would be required to compete in a regional qualifier. Undaunted, over 1,200 entered the national singles which, according to St. Onge, "ushered racquetball into a new stage of development, clearing a major status hurdle between the minor and major sports."

The highlight of that year's banquet was an appearance by the "Father of Racquetball" Joe Sobek who presided over the award ceremonies. The President's Award went to Sherry Armstrong, the Regional Director's Award to Jack Sorenson, Male Athlete of the Year to Jim Cascio and the Female Athlete of the Year award to Diane Green. The John Halverson award went to our own Linda Mojer.

This year also marked the advent of televised finals, with plans for future airing of national events. In their broadcast debuts, the men's open title was captured by Andy Roberts with the women's competition taken by Toni Bevelock.

Roberts defeated opponent Jim Cascio in the finals 15-2, 15-2. Roberts' strategy proved worthy as he held his secret weapon in check until the final round. The secret was his second serve.

In what would become the last final loss for current reigning queen of the court Michelle Gilman (now Gould), Toni utilized a powerful backhand game to take the title in straight games of 15-8, 15-7.

Racquetball was invited to become the 38th Olympic Festival sport, after being promoted to a Class A Olympic Sport ... once again making the 20th Anniversary unprecedented in the history of the AARA.

The U.S. National Team traveled to Hamburg, Germany in August to the World Championships where they were victorious for the fourth consecutive time. The U.S. team dominated a field of twenty-three countries, winning three out of four individual gold medals, plus bringing home the women's team title and the combined team overall World Cup.

The country was given its second chance to view nationally televised racquetball with the national doubles at the Merritt Athletic Club in Baltimore, Maryland.

Men's open winners in a tiebreaker were Bill Sell and Brian Hawkes, downing the team of Tim Hansen and Sergio Gonzalez 15-5, 8-15, 11-10. On the women's side, the team of Toni Bevelock and Malia Bailey beat Diane Green and Trina Rasmussen in two straight 15-3, 15-8.

1989

Racquetball became the youngest sport to gain full medal status in the Pan American Games and Group A membership in the United States Olympic Committee. Although racquetball did not make the final cut for competition, the stage was set for future competition and was added to the program for the 1995 Pan Am Games!

Television coverage expanded to include juniors, and kicked off with over 1,000 racquetball players turning out for this year's national singles event. The Downtown Houston YMCA, the now familiar singles venue, filled to the rafters for the televised final matches.

Tim Doyle claimed the men's open crown, beating Andy Roberts 15-10, 8-15, 11-5. The women's open title started a legacy for Michelle Gilman. The first of her five consecutive wins began with her defeat of doubles partner Cindy Doyle, 5-15, 15-3, 11-3.

Three were inducted into the

Hall of Fame during the Board Meeting in Houston. The three racquetball pioneers selected were Charles Garfinkel, William Schmidtke and Luzell Wilde. The John Halverson award went to Gary Mazaroff, and the Athletes of the Year were Andy Roberts and Toni Bevelock.

The weekend of July 28-30 marked an historic turning point for the sport. The finest players in the country showcased racquetball at the Olympic Festival in Oklahoma City as a full medal sport!

International travel was becoming commonplace as the U.S. National Team competed in the IV Tournament of the Americas held at the San Jose Indoor Club in Costa Rica. Sixteen countries were represented, with the U.S. bringing home the lion's share of medals.

The Burnsville Racquet, Swim & Health Club in Minnesota was the site of the national doubles, where the Ohio/Pennsylvania team of Doug Ganim and Dan Obremski were successful in knocking off their opponents Tim Doyle and Egan Inoue in two straight 15-4, 15-12. In women's open, Michelle Gilman and Cindy Doyle defeated the team of Malia Bailey and Toni Bevelock, with their match going to a tiebreaker, 15-11, 9-15, 15-12.

1990

October of the previous year had marked the demise of "National Racquetball" magazine, in which the AARA's section had been its

only means of communication with its membership. But 1990 ushered in the preview issue of *RACQUETBALL USA*. The premiere issue came out in September and we haven't looked back since (except to change the name)! The publication was, and is, completely generated from within the organization and produced solely in the Colorado Springs national office.

No surprises in the women's

RACQUETBALL USA

VOL. I, PREVIEW
FEBRUARY - MARCH 1990



1989 US NATIONAL DOUBLES COVERAGE
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open at national singles. Michelle did it again, beating Toni Bevelock in two straight 15-5, 15-2. On the men's side Tim Doyle out-served Egan Inoue in a quick match of 15-5, 15-5.

At the annual awards banquet, the John Halverson award went to Jo Kenyon, and the Athletes of the Year were Tim Doyle and Michelle Gilman.

Wheelchair racquetball was on the rise and competition in

that division saw Gary Baker defeat John Foust 15-12, 15-1. As the national singles was a designated qualifier for team appointment, Baker earned a trip to the World Championships in Venezuela that summer.

The Olympic Festival was held in Minneapolis and once again Michelle struck gold, while Egan Inoue was successful in defeating the up-and-coming Chris Cole. Their match went to a tiebreaker, despite the fact that the very agile Cole was outweighed and overpowered. Inoue took the tiebreaker 11-9.

The Tournament of the Americas came stateside and was hosted by Racquetpower in Jacksonville, Florida. The U.S. Team earned enough points and gold to retain the Cup of the Americas.

The team then traveled to the Cocodrilos Racquet Park in Caracas, Venezuela for the V

World Championships, where they captured six gold medals and their fifth consecutive World Cup.

National doubles athletes traveled to the Sports Mall in Salt Lake City, where the top men's open team of Jim Floyd and Tim Hansen defeated opponents Mike Guidry and Drew Kachtik 6-15, 15-10, 11-6. Women's winners were the team of Michelle Gilman and Jackie Paraiso over Malia Bailey and Toni Bevelock 15-6, 15-12.

1991

A new program finally became a reality. Under the direction of Associate Executive Director John Mooney, the Club/Recreational membership program offered players an opportunity to become involved with the AARA on a recreational level. For a nominal fee, one could join the AARA and receive, among other benefits, *RACQUETBALL Magazine*, which afforded them instructional tips and up to date news of their sport.

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"The best I've ever worked with!!" - Michelle Gould, four times National Pro Champ, on Pro's Choice

"I'm crushing the ball!!!" - Sudsy Monchik, World Junior Champ, on The Boss

"Such controlled power, I love it!!" - Craig Rappaport, US Jr. Olympic Team, on Pro's Choice

- John Boudman



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Television recognition was the motto of 1991. In an ambitious move, AARA contracted to televise seven events! Nearly all national and international competition for the year was slated for television coverage from the World Intercollegiates to the National Doubles. Also included in the schedule was the National Singles, the Penn Pacific Rim International Games, the Ektelon Junior Olympics, the Penn National Outdoor Championships, and the Penn World Challenge. The Tournament of the Americas, held this year in Santiago, Chile saw the U.S. Team once again bringing home the Americas Cup.

It was obvious that the eager young junior players of the '80s were emerging as the wave of the '90s. Among those familiar to junior watchers ... now coming to the top of their class were Sudsy Monchik, Jason Mannino, Elkova Icenogle, Dawn Peterson, Eric Muller, Allan Engel and a host of others!

A result of the growing junior programs and competition across the country was the formation of the first ever Junior Team U.S.A. Fourteen of the nation's top youngsters made the final cut following a week of training and evaluation at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs.

Those named to that first team were Andrea Beugen, Brett Beugen, Heather Dunn, John Ellis, Allan Engel, Shannon Feaster, Rachel Gellman, Elkova Icenogle, Rusty

Icenogle, Sudsy Monchik, James Mulcock, Eric Muller, Dawn Peterson and Craig Rappaport. Some of those originals remain on the junior squad, while others have moved on to intercollegiate and adult competition.

Tim Sweeney emerged victorious at the national singles. His win over Egan Inoue in two straight, 15-4, 15-5, kept him on track from his win at the World Intercollegiates earlier in the year.

The women's open title went to - guess who??? - Michelle Gilman! Once again she met Toni Bevelock in the final match and won in two straight 15-10, 15-5.

Hall of Fame inductees in 1991 were Ed Remen and Cindy Baxter, the Halvorsen award went to Fran Davis, the Presidential award to Doug Ganim, and the Athletes of the Year were Andy Roberts and Michelle Gilman. For the first time, a new award for male "age group" athletes of the year was given to Dave Kovanda.

In June, members of the U.S. team traveled to beautiful Hawaii for the first Pacific Rim Racquetball Championships. The United States won the overall team championship, followed by Canada, Japan and Mexico.

In its third year as a U.S. Olympic Festival Sport, racquetball played to a standing room only crowd at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles.

For the first (and last) time the Penn U.S. National Three-Wall Outdoor Championships were hosted. The outdoor variation is played in warmer climes and the championships were held in Gainesville, Florida at the Lee-McCachren outdoor facility in June. Long-time outdoor champions Brian Hawkes of California and local Floridian Martha McDonald each won the singles.

In mid-August the Penn World Challenge was held at Lynmar Health & Racquet Club in Colorado Springs. The event featured the top singles competitors in the sport from the U.S., Canada and Mexico. The national doubles competition was played at the City Square Athletic Club & Hotel Resort in Phoenix, Arizona.

John Ellis and Eric Muller pulled out an impressive win over the newly paired team of veteran Doug Ganim and Jeff Evans. The match went to a tiebreaker with scores of 15-10, 13-15, 11-8. The top women's team consisted of none other than Michelle Gilman and Jackie Paraiso-Gibson. They were successful in defeating opponents Malia Bailey and Toni Bevelock in two straight 15-8, 15-12. The mixed team taking home the gold was Michelle Gilman and Jeff Evans who beat Malia Bailey and Mike Bronfeld 15-8, 15-12.

The year closed with Junior Team USA taking their first world title at the IRF World Junior Racquetball Championships at

*Continued on
Page 64 ...*

Airborne Sudsy Monchik gives John Ellis plenty of clearance for his shot in their semi-final match. All feature photos: Steve Lerner.



THE PLACE WAS JUMPING

Sunny skies, balmy breezes and walls where none had been before greeted returning national doubles teams to Phoenix in late October. Major renovations on both the host club and the adjoining hotel were welcome changes from last year, making the facility all the more "tournament friendly" for the AARA. But the side wall glass of the exhibition court held its same charm — depending on the time of day, the right sidewall becomes a panorama of bodies, light, color and motion, from which players attempt to pick out their tiny blue target. Only those with outstanding focus and concentration were winners on the glass.

No Fluke

After a disappointing loss in early rounds last year, the team of John Ellis and Eric Muller were back in Phoenix to try to regain their 1991 title and prove a point. The former juniors, seasoned with a national singles crown for Ellis and a world doubles title for Muller, had to work hard to reach the finals, then even harder to win it.

For the new team of three-time world doubles champion Doug Ganim and three-time intercollegiate champion Tim Sweeney, it seemed that — after several straight game wins — Ganim's quest for a right side partner was finally over. Ganim had been desperately seeking a partner, and another national title, since his last win in 1989 and said of Sweeney "He's just such a great all-

around athlete, it doesn't matter that we haven't played together that much. He's quick and I can count on him to make great shots."

Just last year, Ganim held the same opinion of Muller, who had been paired with him to defend the U.S. world doubles title at the 1992 championships. Ellis had been injured at the time, leaving Muller to make the cut for the world team on his own. Although not the likely choice, the youngster was teamed with the veteran and they easily retained the title. But for Ganim, and just about any new partner he chooses, getting into national finals hasn't been a problem. Winning them has.

In contrast, Ellis and Muller began playing doubles several years ago, but still found it hard to win decisively as they struggled through three close tiebreakers leading up to the finals. Even their first match against Jack Fries and Dale Valentine went 15-14, 15-5 and it got a good deal tougher from there.

New U.S. Team member Mike Engel and '84 national doubles champion Kelvin Vantrease made an impression in their 11-10 tiebreaker, even going so far as to win the final point, then lose it on appeal. After regaining serve, John and Eric were pressured by the very real need to earn a big point, and did.

Just under 600 teams flocked to the City Square Sports Club in Phoenix to compete in the Ektelon AARA U.S. National Doubles Championship, sponsored by Penn Racquet Sports, in late October. The 25th annual event, held in Phoenix for the third consecutive year, was also a qualifier for the U.S. National Racquetball Team and the 1994 U.S. Olympic Festival. The winning pairs in Men's and Women's Open were appointed to the U.S. Team and the top four men's and women's open teams (pictured on our cover) qualified to compete at next summer's U.S. Olympic Festival in St. Louis.

For the second consecutive year, Dave Peck earned dual titles, successfully defending with '92 partner Evan Terry in Men's 30+ and again with new teammate Don Thomas in Men's 35+. Matching that feat for the women was Gerri Stoffregen, who won in Women's 40+ with Eileen Tuckman and in 45+ with Shelly Ogden. Other successful defenders from last year were: Jim Bailey/Davey Bledsoe in Men's 40+; Johnny Hennen/Ed Remen in 45+; Ron Galbreath/Fred Letter in 50+; Don Alt/Don Woodington in 60+; Nick Sans/Lake Westphal in 70+; Mary Lyons/Susan Morgan-Pfahler in Women's 30+; Jo Kenyon/Kathy Mueller in 55+; and Malia Bailey/Mike Bronfeld in Mixed Open.

In other news, two members of the U.S. National Racquetball Team announced varying stages of pregnancy in Phoenix. Malia Bailey is leading the baby race with Jackie Gibson coming in a close second. Malia and husband Jim Bailey are expecting their first child in March of 1994, with Jackie and husband Tom Gibson also expecting their first a month later. While Malia enjoyed the congratulations of her peers throughout the weekend, Jackie's news was a well-kept secret until after the finals. Then, she "scooped" us with the surprise announcement as she left the court. Our congratulations and best wishes to

U.S. Olympic Festival doubles champions Jeff Evans and Todd O'Neil were the next to put a scare into Ellis and Muller, after splitting the first two games 15-12 each and losing the third by a slim 11-7 margin in their quarterfinal.

The semi was no easier against fellow junior Sudsy Monchik and Olympic Festival singles champ Tony Jelso, who had eliminated defending champions Joel Bonnett and Bill Sell in the preceding round. With a big serve from Jelso and quick reflexes by Monchik, another 11-10 tiebreaker was forced from Ellis and Muller.

On the bottom half of the draw, Ganim and Sweeney raced from the #6 spot with scores of 0,3 against Mark Bustos/Chris McDonald, 6,10 over B.J. Gruber/Eric Storey, 13,6 with Allan Engel/Derek Robinson and a surprising 4,4 against Mike Bronfeld/Bobby Rodriguez in the semi-final. It seemed that the two had "clicked" as a team.

But if practice makes perfect, Ganim and Sweeney might have done better to go to a tiebreaker or two. In their final, the otherwise quiet Muller was pumped and rarely missed a forehand reverse pinch kill when he went for it.



Muller puts up a lob to Sweeney along the glass, while Ellis looks on.

He earned the first game winner with a diving forehand save that cracked out in front of Ganim for a 15-12 win. In the second, it was Sweeney who delivered a blazing forehand pinch kill for the 15-10 win.

The first rally of the tiebreaker was prophetic. Ganim got screened out and trapped in the rally, then had to give up the first point when the ball hit him. Jumping to a 4-0 lead from there, Ellis and Muller stalled while all four abused the ball and Ganim's backhand started to earn points toward their only lead of the game at 5-4. After breaking one ball, Ellis cranked up one of his big drive serves into the floor and thought about it for awhile, skipping two more easy shots for a sideout and a point before recovering. Aiming a little higher, John went with a crosscourt return to regain serve, then hit a high backhand overhand rollout to get back in tune. With both Sweeney and Ganim trapped on the left, John chose the smart shot with a solid, but not too low, forehand to take it to 7-5.

Taking his turn, Muller flicked a forehand into the corner, then followed up with a big backhand pinch on a high wraparound set up to



Laura Fenton preferred the drive to start.

bring the lead to 9-5. A last push by Ganim regained the serve and a skipped backhand pinch by Eric left it at 9-6, but that was as far as it went. Regaining the serve, Ellis once again found himself on the right side of the court and chose a forehand cross court for point 10, then killed a backhand on the next rally for the match.

In the tiebreaker, Ellis and Muller made more than twice as many unforced errors (7 skipped shots) than Ganim and Sweeney (3 skips total), but they made them on offense...

New Heights

At just under six feet, Michelle Gould always towers over her opponents, but pairing her with 5'8" Laura Fenton made an even more marked impression in Phoenix. Although the height advantage was one thing, the opportunity to play with the best women's open player on the circuit today had a definite impact on Fenton's game.

"She has the ability to help you stay up, even when you make one mental mistake," cited Fenton. "Her confidence in me made me play better... and want to work harder. It's a real honor to be her partner."

Make no mistake, Fenton is a skilled player in her own right, as she demonstrated at last year's national doubles, where she got Gould's attention by defeating her with then-partner Jane Greene in the quarterfinals. "I decided at that moment that Laura was definitely somebody I should be interested in playing with the next year," recalled Gould.

The third of the four finalists to regain a lost '91 doubles

crown, Gould couldn't have been more pleased with her choice. And Fenton couldn't be in better company. Michelle started her doubles winning streak in 1989 with Cindy Doyle (now Conine), then teamed with Jackie Paraiso (now Gibson) for back to back titles.

Starting at the #4 spot, the new team advanced in straight games over former world doubles champion Marianne Cluess and Lorraine Galloway, then past current U.S. Olympic Festival singles champion Cheryl Gudinas and former Festival doubles champion Kim Russell. To get into the final, they bested a pair of past intercollegiate singles champions in Elaine Hooghe and

Cindy Conine, who had beatem top-seeded defending champions Mary Lyons and Susan Pfahler in the previous round.

Coming off their own U.S. Olympic Festival doubles win, twin sisters Jackie Gibson and Joy MacKenzie had a more difficult time after their two-game first round against Stacy Sour and Charlie Renken. Returning 1984 champions Julie Pinnell and Diane Green took the pair to a tiebreaker in the quarterfinals, followed by another three-game match against Malia Bailey and Robin Levine in the semi's. The twins closed out each of the deciding games with low scores, but didn't get the opportunity to repeat the comebacks in the final.

Preceding round warm-ups had given Gould and Fenton the confidence they needed to go up against very long-time partners Jackie and Joy. "The first time we had ever played together was our first match here," said Gould "It was a pretty scary experience."

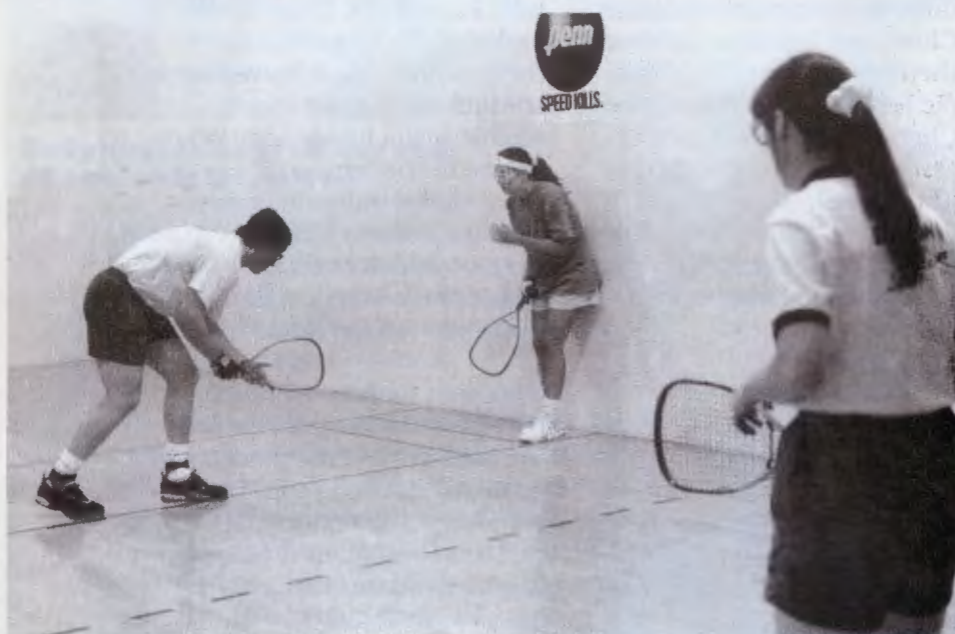
What began to rattle Jackie and Joy was the accuracy of Fenton's shots from backcourt, and Michelle's trademark determination. When Gould skipped only one shot in the entire first game, the "lob-z into the glass" strategy came out of the trick bag. But Michelle promptly stepped to the right and short-hopped it. Chasing a big 7-1 lead in the second game, Jackie and Joy



The mixed divisions welcomed fully-recovered new mom Lynn Adams Clay, playing with husband Rich Clay (left) in the Mixed 25+ and with ex-husband Jim Carson (right) in the open. Daughter Kristen got to watch mom from the stroller outside each match, with Jim babysitting during the 25+ rounds, and dad Rich on the sidelines of open. Not to play favorites, Lynn reached the finals in both divisions, and brought home silver medals in each.



Jeff Conine, outfielder for the Florida Marlins, and new bride Cindy Doyle Conine were married on October 9 and were on unofficial honeymoon in Phoenix, where they attracted the attention of Sports Illustrated. After an all-day photo shoot at City Square the two were featured in the November 1 issue of SI. Below, Jeff prepares to serve to Lynn Adams Clay in their semi-final mixed open match. The newlyweds finished third.



went to the air, keeping balls out of Michelle's hitting zone, and trying to jam Laura and put both players out of position. After a point run of backhand winners by Michelle, Joy's perfect forehand pinch shots came out briefly, while Laura had a case of the skips and pushed the score to 12-8. A pair of forehand pinches, a reverse by Michelle and a regulation version by Laura made it match point and the pressure proved too much. A skipped forehand by Jackie on the return of serve ended the match, 15-3, 15-11.

FINAL RESULTS

MEN'S DIVISIONS -- OPEN: John Ellis (Stockton, Calif.)/Eric Muller (Kansas City, Kansas) def. Doug Ganim (Columbus, Ohio)/Tim Sweeney (Chicago, Ill.) 15-12, 10-15, 11-6; **Men's A:** Mark Spangenberg/Brian Mirich (Los Altos, Calif.) def. Jeff Fetterman (Hillsborough, Calif.)/Corey Cecchini (Phoenix, Ariz.) 15-10, 15-1; **Men's 19+:** Kelly Gelhaus (Riverside, Calif.)/Robin Dixon (Grand Terrace, Calif.) def. Jeff Bell (Tucson, Ariz.)/Darin Wright (Mesa, Ariz.) 15-11, 10-15, 11-8; **Men's 25+:** Hart Johnson/Todd Stead (St. Paul, Minn.) def. Gus Farrell (El Paso, Texas)/Alfonso Garcia (El Paso, Texas) 15-3, 15-12; **Men's 30+:** Dave Peck (Austin, Texas)/Evan Terry (Phoenix, Ariz.) def. Jerry Hilecher (Los Angeles, Calif.)/Tom Neill (Albuquerque, N.M.) 15-13, 11-15, 11-7; **Men's 35+:** Dave Peck (Austin, Texas)/Don Thomas (Phoenix, Ariz.) def. Craig McCoy (Riverside, Calif.)/Robin Dixon (Grand Terrace, Calif.) 15-11, 11-15, 11-6; **Men's 40+:** Jim Bailey (Norfolk, Va.)/Dave Bledsoe (Atlanta, Ga.) def. Dave Kovanda (Worthington, Ohio)/Ron Woolard (Columbus, Ohio) 8-15, 15-4, 11-6; **Men's 45+:** Johnny Hennen (Chattanooga, Tenn.)/Ed Remen (Sterling, Va.) def. George Deluca (Lafayette, Calif.)/Craig Kunkel (Pleasant Hill, Calif.) 15-9, 9-15, 11-6; **Men's 50+:** Ron Galbreath (New Wilmington, Pa.)/Fred Letter (Warren, N.J.) def. Jack Ross (Miami, Fla.)/Jerry Davis (Shaker Heights, Ohio) 15-6, 15-7; **Men's 55+:** Art Johnson (Denver, Colo.)/Jerry Stoltman (Mequon, Wis.) def. Don Alt (Dublin, Ohio)/Don Woodington (Lakeland, Fla.) 15-11, 7-15, 11-2; **Men's 60+:** Don Alt (Dublin, Ohio)/Don Woodington (Lakeland, Fla.) def. Joe Goldman (Framington, Mass.)/Joe Lambert (Dallas, Texas) 15-7, 15-3; **Men's 65+:** Russell Carruth (South Ogden, Utah)/Norman Skanchy (Ogden, Utah) def. Jack Gushue (Horseheads, N.Y.)/Dick Kincade (Woodland Park, Colo.) 14-15, 15-2, 11-9; **Men's 70+:** Nick Sans (Garden Grove, Calif.)/Lake Westphal (Sun City West, Ariz.) def. Francis Lose (Big Sandy, Mt.)/Les Skelton (Carson, Calif.) 15-11, 15-11

WOMEN'S DIVISIONS -- OPEN: #4 Laura Fenton (Leominster, Mass.)/Michelle Gould (Boise, Idaho) def. #2 Jackie Gibson/Joy MacKenzie (San Diego, Calif.) 15-3, 15-11; **Women's A:** Barbara Goodman/Linda Mojer (Colorado Springs, Colo.) def. Leah Lantis/Lynea Seal (Boulder, Colo.) 15-6, 15-6; **Women's 19+:** Laura

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Dawn Evans (Kirkland, Ore.)/Debbie Geiger (Seattle, Wash.) 15-3, 15-9; Women's 25+: Marianne Cluess (West Hempstead, N.Y.)/Lorraine Galloway (Jamaica Estates, N.Y.) def. Mae Chin-Varon (North Hills, Calif.)/Debra Tisinger (Simi, Calif.) 15-7, 15-14; Women's 30+: Diane Green/Julie Pinnell (Orlando, Fla.) def. Lisa Hjelm/Kari McDonough (Rancho Cordova, Calif.) 15-12, 15-12; Women's 35+: Mary Lyons/Susan Pfahler (Jacksonville, Fla.) def. Jane Greene (Topeka, Kan.)/Linda Moore (Lincoln, Neb.) 15-2, 15-12; Women's 40+: Geri Stoffregen (Cincinnati, Ohio)/Eileen Tuckman (Boynton Beach, Fla.) def. Renee Fish (Dunedin, Fla.)/Elizabeth Sotelo (Tallahassee, Fla.) 13-15, 15-4, 11-9; Women's 45+: Geri Stoffregen/Shelley Ogden (Cincinnati, Ohio) def. Nidia Funes (Novato, Calif.)/Merijean Kelley (Novato, Calif.) 15-7, 15-2; Women's 55+: Kathy Mueller (St. Cloud, Minn.)/Jo Kenyon (Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.) def. Annabelle Kovar (Lincoln, Neb.)/Margaret Ogden (Lincoln, Neb.) 15-6, 15-0.

MIXED DIVISIONS -- OPEN: #1 Malia Bailey (Norfolk, Va.)/Mike Bronfeld (Sacramento, Calif.) def. Lynn Adams (Chicago, Ill.)/Jim Carson (Irvine, Calif.) 15-5, 15-14; **Mixed A:** Kevin Weston/Shar Jhan (Allen, Texas) def. Ken Van Zandt/Bridgett Barron (The Woodlands, Texas) 15-9, 15-11; **Mixed 25+:** Mark-o Perez (Visalia, Calif.)/Jody Zogg (Stockton, Calif.) def. Lynn Adams Clay/Rich Clay (Chicago, Ill.) 15-4, 15-2; **Mixed 30+:** Stu Hastings (Clarkston, Mich.)/Caryn McKinney (Atlanta, Ga.) def. Chris Evon (San Diego, Calif.)/Bill Lyman (Berwyn, Ill.) 4-15, 15-6, 11-8; **Mixed 35+:** Jim Bailey (Norfolk, Va.)/Molly O'Brien (Souderton, Pa.) def. Fran Davis (Middlesex, N.J.)/Stu Hastings (Clarkston, Mich.) 9-15, 15-10, 11-2; **Mixed 40+:** Donna Carpenter (Merino Valley, Calif.)/Richard Chabolla (Corona, Calif.) def. May Boland (Seaside, Calif.)/Mary Warburton (Salinas, Calif.) 15-6, 15-13; **Mixed 45+:** Agatha Falso (Boca Raton, Fla.)/Leo Marsocci (Tampa, Fla.) def. Shelley Ogden (Cincinnati, Ohio)/Michael Stephens (Ada, Mich.) 15-6, 15-12; **Mixed 50+:** Denis Lose (Palo Alto, Calif.)/Nidia Funes (Novato, Calif.) def. Bob Hvistendahl (San Jose, Calif.)/Trish Moore (San Jose, Calif.) 15-10, 13-15, 11-9; **Mixed 55+:** Jo Kenyon (Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.)/Ron Maggard (Blue Springs, Mo.) def. Annabelle Kovar (Lincoln, Neb.)/Howard Moss (Phoenix, Ariz.) 15-2, 15-13.



PHOTO: RICK D'ELIA

"Now listen closely ... your instructions are to 'Close your eyes and don't look at the camera!' ... Perfect!"

Our sixteen cover personalities all qualified to compete at the 1994 U.S. Olympic Festival in St. Louis next summer. They are, left to right and top to bottom —

Top row: Bobby Rodriguez, Laura Fenton, Sudsy Monchik, Michael Bronfeld, Michelle Gould, Tony Jelso.

Second row: Doug Ganim, Jackie Gibson, Joy MacKenzie, Tim Sweeney.

Third row: Cindy Conine, Robin Levine, Eric Muller, Malia Bailey.

Grounded: Elaine Hooghe and John Ellis.

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First you take your three-day Labor Day weekend and stretch it into a ten-day excursion out west. Good enough. Then you happily face grueling preliminary round-robins where every point counts for you, or against someone else. Fine for day one.

Off the court, you grab the nearest calculator to determine your position after your last round of earned points, then check the draw sheets every half hour or so to see if any of your opponents have knocked you out of the running. Okay for day two.

Depending on how well you've fared, or how bad a week the top seeds are having, you're "in the hunt" and every point counts. You could qualify for the medal round by as slim a margin as 1/100th of a point. Could be a point you won, or one that an opponent failed to make, it's that close. By day three, you know exactly where you stand - in or out of the medal round.

By Saturday no one knows how to act in a single elimination quarterfinal round, but those who qualify adjust quickly. It's the road to the final just when you thought it should be over. You've played 2-3 matches a day for three days of preliminaries and come out at the top of your flight. Sure you're tired, but you've got

another three to go before you can claim this one little world title. And you love it!

Mature racquetball fanatics just can't get enough of the annual World Senior Championships in Albuquerque...

Although newcomers dominated the World Seniors winner's circle, claiming victories in eleven out of nineteen divisions, at least a few had been there before and were back to reclaim past titles. A much smaller number of the '93 winners were able to successfully defend titles earned at the World Seniors last year, with eight repeaters rising to the top.

Bobby Corcorran of Phoenix, Arizona continued a long-time winning streak in the Men's 35+ division, claiming a third consecutive title with a win over local star Tom Neill. Along with Corcorran, Phoenix neighbor Paul Banales moved up to the Men's 60+ bracket and came away with a win over Don Alt of Dublin, Ohio. In Men's 70+, Nick Sans of Garden Grove, California also kept his title with a victory over Lake Westphal.

The fifth International Racquetball Federation World Senior Racquetball Championships drew over 300 seasoned athletes to Albuquerque, New Mexico in early September. After hundreds of preliminary and medal round matches were held at Tom Young's Athletic Club and the Midtown Athletic Club, eighteen world titles were awarded to winners of age divisions between 35+ and 75+.

The five-day international event is hosted annually by the New Mexico Racquetball Association, the American Amateur Racquetball Association and the International Racquetball Federation. This year thirteen countries fielded teams, including Argentina, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Czech Republic, Egypt, Israel, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Puerto Rico, and the United States.

In the preliminary qualifying matches, you keep the points you score, then add 3 points for a game win and 7 points for a match win, for a possible 49 grand total (11+11+11+3+3+3+7) if you win all three games to 11. All three games are played out, even if you lose the first two. The scoring remains the same in the quarterfinal of the medal round, then becomes "traditional" for the semis and finals.

For the women, Louisiana's Gail Woods moved into the Women's 40+ bracket, but carried over her winning ways from 35+, defeating another new division entrant, Joanne Pomodoro. Sharon Hastings-Welty and Kathy Mueller continued their domination of the Women's 50+ and 55+ divisions, respectively, followed by Mary Low Acuff in Women's 70+ and local player Zelda Friedland in Women's 80+.

Circumstances sideline rematch

In the Men's 40+ division, things were shaping up nicely for a rematch between last year's finalists Dave George and Gary Mazaroff, with each player steadily advancing toward the medal round when the fates intervened. First, defending champion Dave George began to show a decline in points, as Mazaroff continued to log undefeated "49s" after each match. Although both finished in the top spots of their flights and qualified for the medal round,

George was forced to withdraw when back spasms immobilized him on Friday evening. Even later that evening, Mazaroff received unfortunate news of his father's passing and quickly arranged to be with his family in California the following morning.

Seeds in the division were re-positioned and the next highest point winners were added to fill the quarterfinal round, where the new top seed lived up to his billing. Jose Carlos Flores of San Luis Potosi, Mexico saved his tiebreaker for the final, taking the third game over Garrett Parks of Studio City, California, 15-12, 7-15, 11-5 before a packed house.

The largest field for the men was in the 45s, where six flights of nine-person round robins were played out for medal round positions. The top two from each flight were selected and

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Gold Medalists (top photo, front row) Phyllis Melvey, Zelda Friedland, Jo Kenyon, Kathy Mueller, **(back row)** Agatha Falso, Debra Tisinger, Mary Low Acuff. **(Bottom photo, front row)** Jose Carlos Flores, Earl Acuff, Joe Lambert, Paul Banales, **(back row)** Bobby Corcorran, Art Johnson, Skip Deal, John Pearce.



The largest women's draw opened with three flights in the 40s, and a not-unexpected advance by two strong new players in the division. Last year's 35+ winner Gail Woods and semi-finalist Joanne Pomodoro each gave up a game in the preliminary round, but only one faced a tiebreaker going into the final. Denverite Deb Gridley gave Pomodoro a scare in their semi-final, going to a third game before the left-hander pulled out the 11-4 win. Woods had an easier time of it, keeping low scores in three straight game wins, including the 11-7, 11-6 final.

Award Ceremonies

In what has become a welcome tradition at the World Seniors, the Saturday night banquet offered a much-appreciated rest for the weary, with the exception of the victory marches of the top four in each division. This year's award ceremony was a special one for local organizers as well, who were able to boast their own brand of tradition. Local youngsters Rachel Gellman and James Mulcock, both members of the U.S. National Junior Team, were tapped to present medals along with Olympic Festival champion and former Albuquerque native Tony Jelso.

placed into a round of sixteen to begin. One of only two winners to advance from anything less than a #2 seed position, Skip Deal of Woodland Hills, California alternately breezed and battled to his title. In his first match against Tom Ochoa, it was straight games. Against #2 seeded Barry Berger of Scottsdale, Arizona, it took a tiebreaker, followed by another straight game win over fellow Californian Michael Wolfe for the title.

Tough New Standard

In her first world senior appearance, California's Debra Tisinger quickly impressed her opponents by losing only one game in her entire preliminary round. The Simi Valley mother of three then proceeded to run through the medal rounds without allowing her challengers to score doubles digits – as a group. A total of nine points were scored against Tisinger in the three matches leading to her title.

WORLD SENIOR RESULTS

MEN'S DIVISIONS -- 35+: Bobby Corcorran (Phoenix, Arizona) def. Tom Neill (Albuquerque, N.M.) 15-8, 15-5; **40+:** Jose Carlos Flores (San Luis Potosi, Mexico) def. Garrett Parks (Studio City, Calif.) 15-12, 7-15, 11-5; **45+:** Skip Deal (Woodland Hills, Calif.) def. Michael Wolfe (Huntington Beach, Calif.) 15-3, 15-10; **50+:** Jerry Davis (Shaker Heights, Ohio) def. Mike Aubrey (Phoenix, Ariz.) 13-15, 15-12, 11-8; **55+:** Art Johnson (Denver, Colo.) def. Dario Mas (Wilmington, De.) 15-4, 15-4; **60+:** Paul Banales (Phoenix, Ariz.) def. Don Alt (Dublin, Ohio) 15-9, 15-10; **65+:** Joe Lambert (Dallas, Texas) def. Robert Henley (San Bernadino, Calif.) 15-8, 13-15, 11-1; **70+:** Nick Sans (Garden Grove, Calif.) def. Lake Westphal (Sun City West, Ariz.) 11-6, 11-8, 2-11; **75+:** Earl Acuff (Asheville, N.C.) def. Jerome Singer (Anaheim, Calif.) 11-3, 11-0, 11-0; **80+:** John Pearce (Waco, Texas) def. Howard Hesse (Mohave Valley, Ariz.) 9-11, 11-2, 11-5.

WOMEN'S DIVISIONS -- 35+: Debbie Tisinger (Simi Valley, Calif.) def. Rita Hinton (Ontario, Canada) 15-2, 15-1; **40+:** Gail Woods (Meraux, La.) def. Joanne Pomodoro (East Boston, Mass.) 15-7, 15-6; **45+:** Agatha Falso (Boca Raton, Fla.) def. Pat Tarzon (Oak Park, Ill.) 15-3, 15-12; **50+:** Sharon Hastings-Welty (Corvallis, Ore.) def. Mildred Gwinn (Matthews, N.C.) 11-1, 11-3, 11-2; **55+:** Kathy Mueller (St. Cloud, Minn.) def. Jean Tull (Annandale, Va.) on total points 46.3 to 46.1; **60+:** Jo Kenyon (Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.) def. Lola Markus (Park Ridge, Ill.) 11-4, 11-5, 11-8; **65+:** Phyllis Melvey (Fargo, N.D.) def. Dorothy Vezetinski (Edmond, Wash.) 11-9, 11-7, 10-11; **70+:** Mary Low Acuff (Asheville, N.C.) def. Eleanor Quackenbush (Salem, Ore.) 11-1, 11-0, 11-0; **80+:** Zelda Friedland (Albuquerque, N.M.) unchallenged.

AND RAFFLE WINNERS ...

Congratulations to raffle winners whose names were drawn at the World Senior Racquetball Championships in Albuquerque. The donated prizes totaled \$8443 and went to 246 winners including Jessica DeTora of Warwick, RI, who came away with the grand prize of two United Airlines tickets to anywhere in the continental United States. All who participated were winners because every dollar raised goes toward the Olympic Dream. Thanks to all! Numbers in parentheses indicate multiple winners.

Terry Albright, MO; Marilyn Anderson, WA; Mary Arin, NM; Kevin Armbrrecht, NC (2); Mike Arnolt, IN; Jim Barrett, CA; Grant Beatson, CA; Dr. Bob Lucero, NM (2); Sol Brandt, CA; Dick Brix, CA; Bruce Bryant, NC; Anthony Buccino, CA (3); Mike Bugel, CA; M. Busche, NM; Smitty, CA; Peggine Callahan, CA; Jack Casper, CA; Art Cohen, CA (2); Lynn Corbridge, UT (2); Lou Cotton, IL; Jack Crowther, CA; Larry Daub, CO (3); Jerry Davis, OH; Skip Deal, CA (6); Earl Dixon, NM; Peyton Dorsett, TX; Chris Doyle, MA; Helen Dunsmoore, ID; Chris Eaton, FL; Dick Evans, WV; Thomas Evans, TX; Jamie Fagan, CA; Jodie Fagan, CA (3); Christine Feistel, CA; Jerry Feldman, CA; Joe Fernandez, NM; Patricia Fernandez, CA; Rosemary Ferris, CO; Mike Feyen, IN; Josh Frankel, CA; Nidia Funes, CA; Lisa Gaertner, NJ; Carol Gellman, NM; Dave George, CA; Andee Glansberg, NY (2); Erwin Goldbloom, CA; Art Goldstein, CA; Alan Golombeck, MD (2); Mike Gomez, CA; Greg Grausnik, MN; Gary Green, AZ (3); Kenneth Green, CA; Gregg Guenther, CA; Jaime Guerra, TX; Charles Gurgis, CA; Mario Gutierrez, CA; Gil Harari, CA; Tom Harding, NM (1); Guy Hart, CA; Scotty Hendricks, NM; Bob Henley, CA; Paul Hepner, NM (2); Rick Herrera, CA (3); Rob Hershey, CA; Vicky Hilliard, TN; David Hinton, Can; Don Hirsch, IN (2); Karen Holden, CA; Jerry Holly, CA; Lori Horn, CA; Keith Hubbs, CA; Bill Hughes, MI; Don Irving, CA (2); Gary J. Knapick, CT; Betty Jane Scarrano, NM; Damian Jelso, NM; Joanne Jelso, NM (2); John Jelso, NM (2); Laura Jelso, NM; John Jendrychowski, MI (2); Steven Jacoby, NJ; Art Johnson, CO; Len Kaiser, CA; Adam Kanter, CA (2); Gary Kanter, CA (2); Tim Keaveny, AK (2); Tom Kennedy, CA (3); John Killer, NM (3); Bob King, NM; Kelly King, AK; Drex Kisner, NM; Peter Kochis, OK; J. Koppel, CA (2); Arthur Krenz, NM; Ron Lachman, CA; Bernie LaFianza, CA; Howard Lambert, OH; Joe Lambert, TX; Terry Lauritzen, NM; Renee Law, CO; Irwin Lazar, CA; Kevin Lee, NY; Avra Levine, NM (2); Steve Lipsky, CA; Rich Lopez, IN; Carl Loveday, CA; Eric Luke, MD; Bernie Luna, CA; Dennis Lundquist, TX (3); Jim Luzar, WI; Kathy Matson, CO; Jack Mazaroff, CA; John McCallum, OH; Oswaldo Melchor, Mex.; Glenn Melvey, ND (2); Phyllis Melvey, ND; Lloyd Messineo, CA; Naomi Morgan, TX; Ron Morris, TX; David Murray, CA; Cecilie, NM; Jerry Northwood, AZ (4); David Nowack, MO; Manny Organista, CA; John Osborne, AZ; Tom Pappas, TN; Cara Pellowski, WI; Kathy Peterson, WI (2); Steve Pollack, CA; Joanna Raida, PA (2); Jim Railey, TN; Gary Rasmussen, NM (2); Leslie Rehak, CA; Andy Reiff, CA (2); Diane Renton, WA; Jeff Reyes, NY; Jim Rohan, CA; Dorn Romig, GA; Joann Rudd, AZ; Charlie Russell, CA (2); Sylvia Sawyer, UT; Eric Schmidt, CA; Dave Shelburne, CA (2); Alan Shepherd, MD (12); Mitch Smith, PA (4); Rex Smith, CA; Allan Soken, CA; Chad Solter, CA (2); Erik Solter, CA; Jack Sorenson, AL; Vic Soule, CA; Paula Sperling, NM (2); Jon Strelma, NM; Pat Tarzon, IL; H. Thomas, NJ; Warren Thomas, WY; Phil Tocco, AZ; Andy Trozzi, MA; Bob Vahz, NM; Joe Varon, CA; Dave Walker, CA; Darryl Warren, CA; Jan Warren, NV; Al Weinell, NE (2); Fred Weitzberg, CA (2); Leonard Wexler, CA; Khara Williams, NM; LaVonne Wilson, CA; Joe Wittenbrink, NM (2); Jasper Woosley, NM.

IRT STOP # 4: SWAIN WINS ANOTHER IN STOCKTON

By Jack Newman

Westlane Racquet Club in Stockton, California hosted the IRT's longest running annual Labor Day event and as usual, the action was as hot as the weather outside.

The round of 32 produced no surprises as all of the top seeds advanced, but some injuries and no-shows produced forfeits from Bret Harnett, Dave Johnson and Jason Krikorian.

Round of 16

As the true action began in this round, Mike Ray and Egan Inoue staged a classic battle between power and control. Egan looked sharp as the power player, winning the first two games 17-15 and 11-4. But as he has all season, Ray fought back and won the next three games 11-6, 11-6, 11-6. The biggest upset in the 16's was a Mike Guidry win over Ruben Gonzalez. Guidry, who signed with E-Force before the

event, also looked sharp in beating Gonzalez in four games. Another interesting match found John Ellis from Stockton against Cliff Swain. Ellis and Swain had played in the finals the previous week in Mexico. Swain against Ellis is power vs. power, but right now Swain has the better all-around game as he proved in taking out Ellis in four games.

Quarterfinals

The quarterfinals saw Team E-Force move ahead. In the first match Woody Clouse looked the best he has in a long time, defeating Mike Ray in three straight. The next match saw new E-Force player Tim Doyle

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ADVANCING IN STOCKTON

Round of 16

Cliff Swain def. John Ellis 11-7, 11-6, 10-12, 11-0
 Drew Kachtik def. Jeff Evans 9-11, 11-8, 11-6, 11-7
 Woody Clouse def. Sean Graham 11-2, 11-5, 11-6
 Mike Ray def. Egan Inoue 15-17, 4-11, 11-6, 11-6, 11-6
 Tim Doyle def. Mike Ceresia 11-9, 11-2, 11-8
 Jack Newman def. Todd O'Neil 11-4, 11-5, 11-5
 Mike Guidry def. Ruben Gonzalez 8-11, 11-2, 12-10, 11-5
 Andy Roberts def. Tim Sweeney 7-11, 11-5, 11-7, 13-11

Quarterfinals

Cliff Swain def. Drew Kachtik 11-2, 5-11, 11-5, 7-11, 11-3
 Woody Clouse def. Mike Ray 11-8, 11-3, 11-6
 Tim Doyle def. Jack Newman 4-11, 12-10, 9-11, 12-10, 11-8
 Mike Guidry def. Andy Roberts 11-5, 7-11, 11-9, 7-11, 11-4

Semifinals

Cliff Swain def. Woody Clouse 12-10, 7-11, 11-5, 5-11, 11-9
 Tim Doyle def. Mike Guidry 11-1, 11-9, 10-12, 11-9

Finals *Cliff Swain def. Tim Doyle 8-11, 12-10, 11-7, 11-4*

go up against Jack Newman. This was another classic control against power match-up. In five close games, power prevailed 4-11, 12-10, 9-11, 12-10, 11-8 as Doyle moved to the semi's. Mike Guidry held his position as giant killer by defeating Andy Roberts for the second straight time. This match went up and back but Mike's quickness gave him the win in five games. The last quarterfinal match



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was a Cliff Swain defeat of Drew Kachtik in five games. Drew looked good at times with his usual scrappy style, but Swain proved too tough in the end, winning 11-3 in the fifth game.

Semifinals

The semi's featured three lefties and three new E-Force players. The first match saw Doyle defeat Guidry in four games, with Tim serving well and looking quick. Swain vs. Clouse was a battle of two good friends and two lefties.

Clouse was looking for his first career final, and almost got what he hoped for. Swain who had already won two events in a row was not to be denied as he closed out five hard fought games 11-0.

The finals pitted two of the most feared servers in the game, Swain and Doyle. Doyle jumped out to the first game victory by winning 11-8.

The second game was neck and neck with Doyle having his chance with the score 10-10. But Swain won the second game 12-10 and from there the momentum seemed to switch. Swain won games three and four to win the match and his third straight title of the year.

PRO STOP GOES INTERNATIONAL

The Transcoastal IRT really lived up to its name by having an international event at Club Deportivo Potosino in Mexico in late August. This special event featured eight of America's pros against eight top players from Mexico, drawing excellent crowd support and three hours of live local television coverage each day.



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ADVANCING IN SAN LUIS POTOSI, MEXICO

Round of 16

Cliff Swain def. J. Martinez 11-5, 11-5, 11-2
 Mike Engel def. A. Alvarez 11-4, 11-1, 11-8
 Drew Kachtik def. G. Garcia 11-5, 11-0, 11-0
 Ruben Gonzalez def. F. Vasilakos 11-6, 11-3, 11-2
 Mike Ray def. R. Martinez 11-3, 11-1, 11-1
 Todd O'Neil def. F. Bremer 11-3, 11-2, 11-1
 John Ellis def. P. Vasilakos 11-2, 11-7, 11-7
 Tim Doyle def. P. Larn 11-5, 10-12, 11-6, 11-6

Quarterfinals

Cliff Swain def. Mike Engel 11-5, 11-5, 11-2
 Drew Kachtik def. Ruben Gonzalez 11-8, 11-7, 11-5
 Todd O'Neill def. Mike Ray 11-8, 11-4, 11-2
 John Ellis def. Tim Doyle 11-1, 11-6, 0-11, 11-5

Semifinal

Cliff Swain def. .. Drew Kachtik 11-2, 9-11, 11-5, 5-11, 11-7
 John Ellis def. ... Todd O'Neil 11-9, 2-11, 5-11, 12-10, 12-10

Final Cliff Swain def. John Ellis 12-14, 11-8, 11-5, 11-6

The round of 16 went true to form as the American players defeated the Mexican players with Tim Doyle losing the only game. The Mexican crowds were very vocal for their local heroes, which created a fun playing atmosphere.

Quarterfinals

The quarterfinals produced three upsets in the four matches. The only match that went as expected had Cliff Swain dispatching Mike Engel in three quick games 11-5, 11-5 and 11-2. The first upset of the day found Drew Kachtik eliminating Rube

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Gonzalez. Ruben, who ended last season by dominating Drew in four straight matches, was the obvious favorite in this match, but Drew had different ideas as he dominated three straight games 11-8, 11-7, 11-5. The next match was between two lefties, Todd O'Neil and #3 ranked Mike Ray. These players split two close matches during the last season and Ray, who seems to be in a season slump, was hoping to get revenge for his last loss to Todd. But the match wasn't even close as Todd dominated in three straight games 11-8, 11-4 and 11-2 to advance to his first career semi-final.

The power players took the court next with big servers John Ellis vs. Tim Doyle. Ellis looked sharp in this match as he jumped on Doyle early to win the first two games 11-1 and 11-6. The third game found Doyle giving Ellis the donut as he tried to even the match. But Ellis was not to be denied as he closed out the match with a fourth game win 11-5.

Semifinals

The semi-finals saw two close five game matches as the players battled it out for a shot at first prize. The first match saw two first time semi-finalists in Ellis vs. O'Neil. Todd jumped out to a 2-1 game lead and had match point in the fourth. Ellis held O'Neil off and came back to even the match with a 12-10 victory. The fifth game was a



Swain and Ellis warm up in Mexlco. Photo: Courtesy Killshot.

seesaw battle which tied at 10-10. With a finals appearance on the line, Ellis was able to prevail and won 12-10.

The next semi-final match had Swain vs. Kachtik. Cliff seems to have Drew's number based on their past performances, but Drew seemed primed for an upset. Swain jumped ahead with a 2-1 game lead. Drew then came back strong to win game four 11-5 and push the match to the limit. The fifth

and final game was tight but in the end Swain pulled ahead for good to win 11-7.

Finals

The finals featured Swain vs. first timer Ellis in a battle of power. The first game was the best in the match, going to a super tiebreaker that Ellis grabbed 14-12. After that loss Cliff elevated his game to win another tournament by sweeping the next three games 11-8, 11-5, 11-6.

IRT RANKINGS

1. Cliff Swain, SC
2. Andy Roberts, TN
3. Mike Ray, SC
4. Ruben Gonzalez, NY
5. Tim Doyle, OR
6. Jack Newman, IL
7. Bret Harnett, NV
8. Drew Kachtik, TX
9. Mike Guidry, TX
10. Dave Johnson, CA

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MOLLY O'BRIEN PRESENTS NEW EKTELON CHAMPIONSHIP RACQUETBALL SERIES



Ektelon and Molly O'Brien, one of the top tournament promoters in the East, have joined forces to create the new Ektelon Championship Racquetball Series for the 1993-1994 season. The kick-off tourney will be held at the King George Racquetball Club in Greenbrook, New Jersey, and other tournaments are scheduled at clubs in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Delaware and Maryland.

"We're really excited about doing this series of tournaments," said O'Brien, who has played racquetball for 12 years and been a member of Team Ektelon for nearly that long. "I think where most racquetball competition is lacking is in providing championship-quality events. All the tournaments seem the same, with nothing to distinguish them. But working with Ektelon, we have developed a premier circuit of racquetball tournaments that offers more to men and women of all playing levels."

Ektelon approached O'Brien to develop the tournament series because of her reputation as an outstanding event and tournament promoter. Her primary focus has been on the Women's Professional Racquetball Association (WPRA) – she's currently ranked seventh among the nation's professional women players, and has successfully arranged and coordinated pro stops, clinics and other events for WPRA for many years.

A unique aspect of the championship series is the Ektelon Bonus Pool. "No other tournament series offers this type of point program with incentives," O'Brien explained. For participating in each tournament, players receive 20 points per division entered. Winners add 30 points, finalists add 20 points and semifinalists add 10 points. O'Brien will post everyone's current point standing at each event to "spark interest." Prizes include Ektelon t-shirts, gloves, warm-ups, shoes and even new Ektelon RTS Litening® Series racquets. The man and woman who receive the most Ektelon bonus points will each win a grand prize for travel in the U.S.

"Under the Ektelon prize pool concept, participants will be able to reach the second or third level without being top players," O'Brien added. "It will encourage players to play more events and



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4. Jackie Paraiso-Gibson, CA
5. Lynne Coburn, MD
6. Kaye Kuhfeld, IN
- 7T. Toni Bevelock, CA
- 7T. Molly O'Brien, PA
9. Chris Evon, CA
10. Caryn McKinney, GA

TOUR SCHEDULE

January 13-15

Highpoint Athletic Club, Philadelphia, PA

January 27-30*

Sporting Club at Tysons Corner, VA

February 17-20*

Racqueteer's Fitness & Health Club
Mayfield, PA

March 17-20

Sports Barn, Chattanooga, TN

April 7-10

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create a positive incentive for players when choosing between tournaments."

O'Brien is also working to develop free racquetball clinics with top pros in conjunction with the Ektelon Championship series. The clinics will be offered at no extra charge as part of the tournament fee.

For more information about the Ektelon Championship Racquetball Series, contact O'Brien Sports Marketing Inc. at 215/723-7356.

GOULD TAKES FIRST PLACE ON WPRA PENN PRO SERIES

Michelle Gould took top honors for the 1992-93 season on the Women's Professional Racquetball Association Penn Pro Series. Malia Bailey garnered second place honors followed by Marci Drexler and Kaye Kuhfeld.

The Penn Pro Series was established during the 1990-91 season. It rewards players who consistently finish at the top of the five events on the WPRA schedule that have been designated as the "Penn Pro Series Events." To be eligible for the Penn Pro Series, a player has to finish in the quarterfinals or higher on four out of five events. Players earn points in the series based on the ranking points they get for their tournament finishes. At the end of the season, the top two players in the group receive a cash prize donated by Penn.



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DECEMBER

December 2
Holiday Classic
Southern Athletic Club
Lilburn, GA
404/923-5400

13th Annual Freezeout
Auburn YMCA
Auburn, NY
315/255-1242

December 3
Cincinnati City Doubles
Mid-Town Athletic Club
Cincinnati, OH
513/351-3000

December to Remember
South Hampshire Athletic
Club — St. Louis, MO

Greater Portland Open
Racket & Fitness Center
Portland, OR
207/775-6128

Holiday Invitational
Mariner Square Athletic
Club, Alameda, CA
510/523-8011

Holiday Magic Tourney
Westerville Athletic Club
Westerville, OH
614/882-7331

Lehigh Valley Open
Allentown Racquetball Club
Allentown, PA
215/821-1300

Mistletoe Matchup
Downtown Athletic Club
Norfolk, VA
804/625-2222

New Year Roll Out
West Allis Athletic Club
West Allis, WI
414/321-2500

Return of the Crackshooter
Fitness Plus
Cheyenne, WY
307/638-7587

Seminole County 4-Wall
Regional at Sanlando Park
Altamonte Springs, FL
407/869-5966

Superstars of R/B Classic VI
Northeast Racquetball Club
Colonial Heights, MN
612/572-0330

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

The Christmas Classic
Classic Athletic Club
Lyndhurst, NJ
201/444-0859

The Connecticut Cup
Fairfield Racquetball Spa
Fairfield, CT
203/248-6634

1st Annual Real Deal Open
Sports Courts - Lincoln
Lincoln, NE
402/475-5686

INSRA State Doubles
Keystone Fitness Center
Indianapolis, IN
317/846-1111

Santa Claus Classic
Merritt Ath. Club/Security
Baltimore, MD
410/298-8700

December 7
Utah State Masters
Cottonwood Heights Rec Ctr
— Salt Lake City, UT
801/974-6923

December 9
Coors Light All Doubles
Solon Athletic Club
Powell, OH
614/548-4188

VCI Pro-Am Racquet
Championships at the
Landmark Club—Dallas, TX
214/392-1500

December 10
AFRC at Courts Plus
New Bern, NC
919/633-2221

New York City Series #1
BQE Fitness & R/B Club
Woodside, NY
718/726-4343

North Platte Tournament
North Platte Rec. Center
North Platte, NE
308/532-4357

Pro Am Open Tournament
Prairie Athletic Club
Sun Prairie, WI
608/837-4646

Quadrangle Winter Classic
Quadrangle Athletic Club
Clearwater, FL
813/535-4901

Winter Classic
Gold River Racquet Club
Gold River, CA
916/638-7001

2nd Annual Christmas
Classic at Bally's Holiday
Spa — Falls Church, VA
703/573-0660

December 12
Jr. Jack Frost Tourney
Lincoln Racquet Club
Lincoln, NE
402/423-2511

December 17
2nd Annual Northbay
Health Care at Solano
Athletic Club—Fairfield, CA
707/429-4363

JANUARY

January 4
Year Opener at Alta Canyon
— Sandy, UT
801/942-2582

January 6
Dyna-Jet Towers
Campbell County Rec.
Center — Gillette, WY
307/682-7406

16th Annual Coors Light
Open at Sports Courts
Omaha, NE
402/339-0410

January 7
Cherokee Open
Cherokee Country Club
Madison, WI
608/249-1000

Coors Light All Doubles
Mid-Town Athletic Club
Powell, OH
614/548-4188

North Park Open
North Park Racquet & A/C
Spokane, WA
509/467-5124

Pittsburgh Open
Racquet Club of Pittsburgh
Monroeville, PA
412/856-3930

Rochester Athletic Club Pro-
Am at Rochester Athletic
Club — Rochester, MN
507/282-6000

January 8
Off the Wall New Years
Celeb. at Natomas Racquet
Club — Sacramento, CA
916/649-0909

January 12
Alaska Athletic Club Open
Anchorage, AK
907/562-2460

January 14
Chilly Open
Lifecenter Plus
Hudson, OH
216/655-2377

Christiana Chiropractic
Open at Sundown Liverpool
Liverpool, NY
315/451-5050

NATIONAL CALENDAR

Jim Backus Open
Health Works
Wallingford, CT
203/265-2861

Lander Open
Wind River Racquetball
Lander, WY
307/332-2811

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

Shadowbrook Resort
Doubles Open
Tunkhannock, PA
717/836-2151

Snowflake Pro-Am
Northeast Racquetball Club
Colonial Heights, MN
612/572-0330

The Big Chill
Center Court Fit. & Athletics
— Pennington, NJ
201/444-0859

WPR Grand Slam
Highpoint Athletic Club
Chalfont, PA
215/723-7356

Pro/Am Cash Tourney
Southlake Athletic Club
Morrow, GA
404/968-1792

9th Annual Ball Buster
Tournament at Capitol
Courts — Carson City, NV
702/882-9566

January 15
16th Indy Open
Noblesville Athletic Club
Noblesville, IN
317/776-0224

January 18
January Thaw
Town & Country Hlt & Fit
Woodcross, UT
801/298-3232

January 21
Best of the West
Club Green Meadows
Vancouver, WA
206/256-1510

Cottonwood Club Open
Cottonwood Club-Lincoln
Lincoln, NE
402/475-3386

East Coast Open
The Club at Woodbridge
Woodbridge, NJ
908/634-5000

Frostbite Shoot Out
Pottstown Health Club
Pottstown, PA
215/326-6216

Iron Range Open
Supreme Courts R/B &
Fitness — Virginia, MN
218/749-8318

January Jubilee
The Court House Racquet
Club — Florence, AL
205/764-0034

Marty Hogan Winter Open
Continental Athletic Club
Powell, OH
614/548-4955

Metroplex Championships
Maverick Athletic Club
Arlington, TX
817/275-3348

New York City Series #2
BQE Fitness & R/B Club
Woodside, NY
718/726-4343

Special K Series #3
Parma Courts
Chesterland, OH
216/729-8032

St. Clair Racquet Club Open
St. Paul, MN
612/690-0600

Winter Classic
Southridge Athletic Club
Greenfield, WI
414/421-5770

2nd Annual Balls & Walls
Open at the Health
Connection—Richmond, IN
317/935-9191

January 22
Smash and Splash
Green River Rec. Center
Green River, WY
307/875-4772

January 25
Orem Fitness Center Open
Orem, UT
801/224-7158

January 28
Ball Breaker at Kourt House
Laramie, WY
307/742-8136

Bell Socialization Services
Wynfield Club — York, PA
717/848-5767

Coors Light Series
Heights Health & Racquet
Powell, OH
614/548-4188

Coors Light Winter Open
The Royal Court of Kearney
Kearney, NE
308/236-5110

Country Oaks R/B Classic
Country Oaks Racquet Club
Woodland, CA
916/666-2444

Erie County Farms
Nautilus — Erie, PA
814/868-0072

Hall of Fame Pro-Am
Northeast Racquetball Club
Colonial Heights, MN
612/572-0330

Icefog Classic at Alaska Ath.
Club — Fairbanks, AK
907/456-1914

LA/Rollout
Hilltop Community Center
Lewiston, ME

Sanlando Winter Classic
Sanlando Park
Altamonte Springs, FL
407/869-5966

12th Summit City Open &
AARA Junior Regionals
Summit City Court Club
Ft. Wayne, IN
219/485-1671

FEBRUARY

February 1
Jordan Valley Open
Jordan Valley Athletic Club
Kearns, UT
801/969-9911

February 4
Blue Ball at Teton Athletic
Club — Riverton, WY
307/856-5424

February Fever
South Hampshire Athletic
Club — St. Louis, MO

Harbor Winter Open
Harbor Athletic Club
Middleton, WI
608/831-6500

Icicle Open
Allentown Racquetball Club
Allentown, PA
215/821-1300

Mid-Winter Open
Hall of Fame Fitness Center
Canton, OH
216/455-7788

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

The Best in the East
Riverview R/B & Nautilus
Center — New Milford, NJ
201/444-0859

Waycross Winter Open
Waycross Athletic Club
Cincinnati, OH
513/742-1700

Winter Carnival Pro-Am
River Valley Athletic Club
Stillwater, MN
612/439-7611

13th Annual T&R Open
Track & Racquet Club
Fayetteville, NY
315/446-3141

ORA Intercollegiate Doubles
Baldwin-Wallace College
Berea, OH
216/723-5086

Texas State Singles
Rac/Fit Clubs of San Antonio
— San Antonio, TX
210/349-2781

February 9
Pro-Am at Alaska Ath. Club
Anchorage, AK
907/562-2460

February 11
Alpha Double Trouble
Alpha Racquetball Club
Mechanicsburg, PA
717/533-4554

CALENDAR

*Decathlon Invitational
Decathlon Athletic Club
Bloomington, MN
612/854-7171*

*Fitness Barn Open
The Fitness Barn
Valparaiso, IN
219/762-3191*

*Harbor Square Pro-Am
Harbor Square Athletic
Club — Edmonds, WA
206/778-3546*

*Silver Bullet Bash
Rawlins Rec. Center
Rawlins, WY
307/328-4573*

*St. Valentine's Massacre
Sports Courts-Lincoln
Lincoln, NE
402/475-5686*

*Valentine Classic
North Hills Athletic Club
Menomonee Falls, WI
414/251-1420*

*Valentines Tourney
Racquetball International
N. Winham, ME
207/892-3231*

*NY State Singles & Doubles
Colony Court Club
Albany, NY
518/459-4444*

*February 12
MN State High Schools
98th Street R/B & Health
Club—St. Louis Park, MN
612/377-5779*

*February 15
Valentine's Day Massacre
Redwood Multi-Purpose
Ctr—West Valley City, UT
801/974-6923*



JANUARY 28-29

**U.S. National Women's
Senior/Master Championships
Jacksonville, Florida**

FEBRUARY 01-05

**U.S. National Masters Singles
Invitational, Las Vegas, Nevada**

MARCH 04-06

**Ektelon AARA U.S. National
High Schools, St. Louis, Missouri**

APRIL 06-10

**Ektelon AARA U.S. National
Intercollegiates, Phoenix, Arizona**

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Portland, OR Multnomah Athletic Club <i>Instructors:</i>	Jan. 15 - 16 503-223-6251 Newman/Gonzalez	Colma, CA What A Racquet <i>Instructors:</i>	Apr. 9 - 10 415-994-9080 Newman/Adams
Atlanta, GA Sportslife - Club Cobb <i>Instructors:</i>	Feb. 12 - 13 404-952-2120 Gonzalez/Roberts	Houston, TX Northwest Sports Center <i>Instructors:</i>	Apr. 9 - 10 713-895-8688 Gonzalez/Roberts
Norfolk, VA Downtown Athletic Club <i>Instructors:</i>	Feb. 12 - 13 804-625-2222 Newman/Adams	Ann Arbor, MI One On One <i>Instructors:</i>	Apr. 23 - 24 313-761-4440 Newman/Gonzalez
Denver, CO Lakewood Athletic Club <i>Instructors:</i>	Feb. 26 - 27 303-989-5545 Newman/Roberts	Manchester, N.H. Executive Health Club <i>Instructors:</i>	Apr. 30 - May 1 603-627-4552 Newman/Roberts

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PLAYING SMART

EKTELON'S TOP PROS AND AMATEURS TALK RACQUETBALL

Want to improve your racquetball game? Nationally-recognized racquetball instructor Connie Martin and junior champion Sudsy Monchik reveal the secrets to advancement – a must-read, whether you're a club player or on the national pro circuit.

LESSONS ... OLD AND NEW

By Connie Martin
PARI Commissioner

Ektelon-sponsored Connie Martin has been a nationally-recognized player and teacher for more than 20 years. In her "off" hours Connie is the commissioner of the Professional Association of Racquetball Instructors (PARI). Much of her time is spent coordinating, directing and producing clinics throughout the United States for racquetball instructors. She's program director and racquetball pro at Cascade Athletic Club in Gresham, Oregon.



It's frustrating: you want to beat that one person in the league who always beats you — after all, you know you are the better player. Maybe it's time you took a lesson or two.

Taking a racquetball lesson, or series of lessons, can improve your game in a variety of subtle ways. Your game will become more consistent, your strokes more precise. Lessons can even change your game dramatically enough to win a club championship or a national title. Just remember that a good instructor will give you the necessary information for you to improve your game, but it's up to you how you use that information.

If you're taking a lesson for the first time, it's important for you to know why you want to take a lesson, and what you hope to get out of

it. If you're not sure, check with your local club pro and ask him or her to go onto the court with you for five minutes, or observe you playing for a few minutes. A good instructor will be able to pick up on your immediate problem areas and let you know what it is you need to work on. Many times, a player will want to concentrate on kill shots. But if your stroke is not correct, you may need to work on the mechanics of the stroke before learning the specifics of the shot.

If you don't have a club pro, you can check with the AARA for a listing of PARI teaching professionals in your area.

Lesson "Plans"

There is no "typical" lesson, but the following are examples of the various types of lessons you might consider:

Private Lesson: one-on-one with an instructor, ideal for people who are serious about their game.

Semi-Private Lessons: two or three people with an instructor, great for those players who are of the same level.

Group Lessons: four or more people taking a series of lessons. Approach group lessons from the viewpoint that you can learn not only from your own mistakes, but from others, as well.

Drill classes: an excellent format for those who already have sound strokes. You might just need work on a specific shot or stroke for consistency or coaching, especially if you're involved in higher levels of competition.

Other Options

But, you don't have to limit yourself to the above types of instruction, especially if they are not available in your area. Other ways you can take lessons are:

- 1) attend a clinic
- 2) observe well known top players in the

local and state tournaments – observe what they do differently than you, and try to work on it

3) attend an "Ektelon Night" (available at many clubs throughout the U.S.), featuring top touring pros. They can give you some excellent pointers. Even if you just work on one or two things that they cover, it can make a big difference in your game

4) play people that play better than you

5) practice what you need work on, not what you already know how to do. If one of your weak areas is hitting cross court pass shots, first practice by yourself on the court, then hit them during a match – attempt to hit more cross court shots so you become more comfortable with hitting them and your accuracy improves

6) play in leagues and tournaments

Racquetball is a great sport. Take a few lessons, and you'll find out just how much fun it really can be!



CHOOSING THE RIGHT EQUIPMENT

By Sudsy Monchik

1993 Ektelon AARA Junior Olympic Champion

In his last year of junior eligibility, Sudsy Monchik set an unprecedented record at the 1993 Ektelon AARA U.S. Junior Olympic Racquetball Championships. With his upset win over long-time doubles partner and defending champion Jason Mannino, the Staten Island, N.Y. resident became the only racquetball athlete to earn national titles in every singles and doubles division over the course of his junior career — from a win in the 8 and under division in 1983, to his 18 and under title ten years later. A "veteran" at age 19, Monchik has seen, and used, his share of equipment.

Whether you've been playing racquetball for 20 years or two years, you're probably aware of all the changes happening in the sport. Technology has hit racquetball and hit it big – racquets are larger, frames are lighter, and the game is much faster. So if your game is in a rut, maybe it's time

you looked at some new equipment. Try a lighter racquet, or court shoes with more traction — it could be just the advantage you need in your game!

Start with the Basics

But how can you choose the racquet, footwear, or eyewear that's right for you when you don't really know what you want? Start with the basics: determine how much you want to spend, the type of equipment that's best suited for your playing style, and how often you play. This will narrow down the choices, and make it less overwhelming.

If you can, have your club pro watch you play. He or she knows the latest in equipment and brands, and may be able to make recommendations based on your performance. Watch other players and ask around: what's hot, what's not?

Go with the Trends ... or not?

I'm not saying that you should buy whatever the trend is at that particular moment. But I've found in racquetball, if there is a new racquet technology introduced, it usually makes my game that much better. Racquetball has come a long way in 25 years. Today's space-age materials and state-of-the-art designs offer the finest equipment the game has ever seen. So I don't think new products like mega-sized frames and lightweight

racquets are a fad. They're here to stay, and for good reason.

It's hard to change to a new racquet, especially when you've won a lot of tournaments with the old one. But when I decided to switch to a lighter racquet (Ektelon's new Cirrus) I ended up playing some of the best racquetball in my career. I found that with a lighter racquet, there's more power without a lot of work.

Lightweight racquets were designed for younger, more aggressive players who play the power *and* speed game. These racquets offer increased swing speed, more control and accuracy, and quicker reaction time. Personally, I think the newer, lighter racquets could help everybody's game. I used to think the heavier the weight of the racquet, the more work it does. Wrong! Now I'm not swinging as hard, but I have more power. And I'm not bothered nearly as much by arm problems.

Test Drive

To find the racquet, footwear, even eyewear that's going to work best for you, try them out. Most clubs and sporting goods stores offer demo equipment for rent. It's like test driving a car ... check out all your options before you buy. Some racquetball equipment manufacturers also present demo nights at various clubs across the

country. With an evening full of product demonstrations, clinics, equipment displays and more, it's a great way to get to know what's new, and have fun, too.

And Shoes ...

In this sport, I think the equipment on your feet is as important as the racquet in your hand. No running shoes! I don't know how many times I tell that to people. Running shoes are designed for forward motion. In racquetball, you need stability to prevent ankle rollover, and added traction as you go side to side on the court. If you want to break an ankle, wear running shoes. Otherwise, wear footwear specially made for racquetball. Find a pair that's comfortable and lightweight, with ultimate traction.

Then there's accessories. Like grips and racquet cords, get what you like — of course, it doesn't hurt to look good, too. If I look good, I feel good ... then I play good. Don't overlook stringing, either. A very important part of your game is your stringing and tension. It helps to find a stringer who specializes in, or one that at least understands, racquetball.

I think your racquetball game is only as good as the equipment you play with. Maybe it's time you checked out the latest ... you'll be amazed at the improvement in your game when you update your equipment!



PARI TIP: FORMULATING A GAME PLAN — PART I

By Fran Davis

Assistant U.S. National Team Coach

In the last two issues of the magazine we've begun to discuss the mental part of the game. "Don't Sit on a Big Lead" and "Don't Play Your Opponent, Play the Ball" addressed the phenomenon of getting too emotionally involved in the match and letting our opponents distract us.

Now that the Fall/Winter tournament and league season is underway I want us to take a look at a topic that is often ignored or overlooked on formulating a game plan. A game plan is a pre-determined strategy of how you will play a particular match, against a particular opponent, at a particular time. In essence a game plan is a plan of attack. Imagine these following scenarios:

Going in to work without a routine for the day.

Going on a long trip without a road map.

The President addressing the nation without preparing or planning his speech in advance.

Going food shopping without a list.

Being able to reach your sales quotas without a plan of attack daily/weekly/monthly.

The Toronto Blue Jays defeating the Atlanta Braves in the '92 World Series without a game plan.

The Chicago Bulls defeating the Phoenix Suns in the '92 NBA Championships without a game plan.

The Dallas Cowboys defeating the Buffalo Bills in the '92 Super Bowl without a game plan.

You can see from these examples that a game plan is essential in order to be a successful performer in any walk of life. Your game plan is your road map to victory.

A good philosophy is: you need to know where you are (point A), where you want to be (point B) and how you plan on getting there (point C). It's the road to success.

REMINDER TIP

Stay focused and play the ball, not your opponent, because the ball ...

... is always round and blue

... never changes

... doesn't have a personality

... doesn't talk back

... doesn't give you dirty looks

... doesn't have an attitude

... doesn't manipulate the referee

In my travels, I have found that a majority of racquetball players are guilty of just getting out there and winging it. They have no thought behind what they are doing, let alone why they are doing it.

Ask yourself these questions:

Are you the type of player who just goes out there and bangs the ball around and whoever hits the ball lower and harder or whoever cracks it out just wins the rally/game/match?

Do you play really well one match or one day and then poorly the next match or the next two weeks?

Do you win the first game with a particular strategy that's working, and then go out in the next two games and

lose because you didn't stick with what was working because you really didn't know what was working to begin with?

Are you out on the court just going through the motions and not thinking?

Are you a reactive player who waits and reacts to what's hit (defensive) rather than a proactive player who creates the opportunities (offensive)?

Are you frustrated with your game because you haven't improved in years, or your game is getting progressively worse, or you are bored with your game, or you are getting beat by people who shouldn't beat you?

If your answer to any or all of the above questions is yes, you have come to the right place. I will help minimize your frustration level by teaching you how to develop a game plan. You need to approach your game as you do life - methodically and systematically, not

haphazard and in disarray. You need a direction - a plan to follow so you can answer all of the above questions with a "no."

The following are some key tips to consider when developing a game plan that will work, the foundation:

A) A game plan is determined by your strengths and weaknesses as well as your opponent's strengths and weaknesses. In other words, if your strength is a drive serve, but your opponent's best return of serve is off a drive, it probably means you might need to adjust your game plan. If you know who your opponent will be, then the game plan is pretty straightforward. However, if you do not know your opponent, develop a game plan that suits your game, but use the first 10-15 points to make adjustments as necessary.

B) Have one or two back up game plans just in case your first one isn't working - adjust, adjust, adjust.

C) Play who you are that day. There will be days that you are on and more consistent than other days. When you are on you can be more creative and aggressive, but when you are off be more patient and shoot higher percentage shots.

D) The major areas of concern when developing your game plan should be: 1. Serve; 2. Return of Serve; 3. Racquet Prep; 4. Shot Selection - tendencies/predictability; 5. Court Position; 6. Power vs. Control; 7. Righty vs. Lefty; 8. Stroke - mechanics/footwork/ready position; 9. Emotional State - Body Language; 10. Quick or Slow; 11. Healthy or Injured.

In this article there is a lot of food for thought. The main objective today was to plant seeds and give you an overview of one of the most important parts of the game, *the Game Plan*. This will not only separate the pros from the amateurs, but the levels of play as well. So give this topic some attention, and you'll be ready for "Formulating a Game Plan - Part II" when we delve into specific game plans and strategies that have proven to work match after match.

Enjoy this mental reorganization. Good Luck!

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AMERICAS MOST WANTED: SERVING STRATEGY - YOUR FREE SHOT!

By Jack Newman

As we continue our ongoing series on strategies of the game, we must include a discussion of the most important shot in the game, the serve. As a racquetball player you need to understand that the serve is the only free shot we get. It is the only time in a racquetball match when you can drop and hit the ball. It is also the easiest shot for changing the pace of the match. Before we go any further it is important that you understand what the actual goal of the serve is.

The goal of the serve is to force your opponent into a defensive or weak return in order to give yourself an offensive shot on the third shot of the rally. With two serves, you don't necessarily have to achieve this goal on your first try. There are two acceptable options for your first serve: 1) achieve your goal with an effective first serve, or 2) hit a short serve. It might sound strange at first, but it is better to hit your first serve short than to hit an ineffective serve that comes off the back wall allowing the receiver to hit an offensive shot. If you hit your first serve short, you still have a second chance to hit an effective serve. By improving your first serve effectiveness, you can add 2-5 points to each game.

Another important tip I would like to share with you is how to hit better drive serves. One of the biggest weaknesses I see at the amateur level is that players hit too many drive serves that carom to the middle of the court. (Figure 1) You need to keep your drive serves from hitting the side wall. Your goal on hitting the drive serve is to have your serve angle toward the corners. (Figure 2)

By keeping your drive serves in the corner, it will allow you to stay in better center court

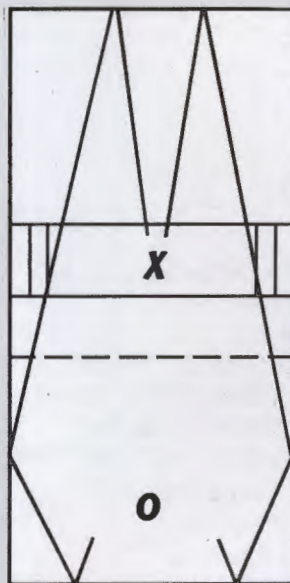


Figure 1

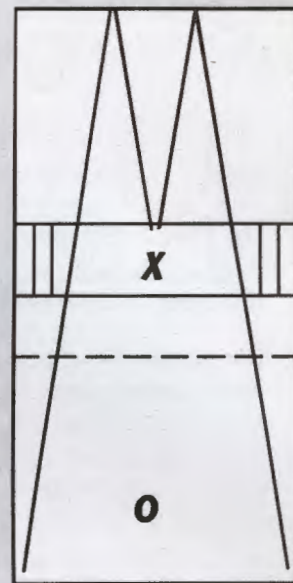


Figure 2

position. It will also force your opponent to a deeper position in the back of the court.

These are just a fraction of the tips and strategies that are discussed at every "America's Most Wanted" camp. For further strategy and tips call 800/ROLLOUT.

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THINKING BETWEEN POINTS TO WIN!

By Del Villanueva

PARI Advanced Instructor & Head Coach - The University of California at Davis

For many players, the added burden of *thinking* about strategy, shots and serves during breaks in a game can be quite overwhelming. But more often than not, evaluating your game can mean the difference between victory and defeat!

Often we are caught between points or during time-outs in a pumped-up, adrenalin rush or in an anger dilemma, flustered because of a recent string of bad shots, or other circumstance. In any case, it is beneficial to condition yourself to continuously evaluate your game to: 1) plan changes in a losing game; 2) recall strategies

and shots that have been successful so far, and 3) think of "tasks" will help keep you in focus or help return your focus faster.

Learning to think and evaluate spontaneously during breaks in a game, during time-outs or in between points need not be an arduous task. Start your thinking by putting yourself "within a framework" of answering three sets of questions:

I. Should I change anything now?

Ask yourself ... What are the factors that make the difference? (In winning/losing, how is he beating me? Am I beating myself?!) ... Am I forcing my shots on an off day? Maybe I should just try some clean passes instead, which might get me into a better offensive groove. ... Is my opponent in the "groove" of returning my serves? (See III) ... Have I been too sluggish (late) getting to center court and lost rallies as a result?

II. What's working?

What have been the serves and tactics that have been earning points for me or have kept me winning so far? (Mustn't forget these!) And don't forget to breathe! Most players only take unconscious shallow breaths between points. Breathe normally, oxygen helps nourish the intensity needed to win!

III. How should I vary my serves?

I know I need to frequently vary *my* most important shot (the serve), so I should now choose which serves have been most effective for me and serve them from different locations in the service box while changing their height, speed and direction. Also, I should try new serves and occasionally serve to my opponent's forehand to keep them guessing and honest. Huh, now I've got to go back with this new serve strategy? Just do it, *concentrate!*

These pointers will help you develop a capacity to think and evaluate more spontaneously during breaks, time-outs or whenever you can take a moment to re-group. Remember, the process must be preceded by a one word command to yourself, "Think!"

RACQUETBALL 1994

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VILLANUEVA



PHELPS

SAQ TRAINING: HIT AND REST FOR ADVANCED PLAYERS ONLY

By Scott Phelps

U.S. National Racquetball Team Speed Coach

For the next few issues of this column, I would like to address several major characteristics of top level players and how these characteristics affect their game. Many of these strengths or flaws may be very slight but extremely important in court mobility and the success or failure of their game. Although there are as many different techniques and training tips as there are players, I will try to limit these topics to things that deal with improving your court mobility. Hopefully you will not only get to more balls, you will be able to play them effectively when you get there.

I have observed many of the top players in the game over the past year either on video or during matches. The one trend I find common is the "hit and rest" process. I call this the "Wow, did you see that?" phase of the game. It goes like this: a player makes a shot then stands up and admires it like something that goes off on the 4th of July. Meanwhile, their opponent dashes across court and returns the beautiful shot, leaving the admirer unable to continue the rally. Actually, this trend is common in many sports, such as basketball,

tennis, squash and even baseball. Athletes need to get into the frame of mind that when they play a ball it is the start of something new. Therefore, they need to make the next move to get ready for their opponent's retaliation. On more than one occasion a boxer has been knocked out cold while admiring the last great combination he just threw. To hit and rest is to put your guard down and allow your opponent a clean shot at the killing blow.

When I started training Tim Doyle on a regular basis, we

sat down and analyzed his game and any glaring problems that were costing him valuable time on the court. We found that he was a great spectator of his own game. So good, in fact, that if he continued to work at it he could get more time spectating off the court than playing on it! Tim had to drastically change a habit that had been with him for the past 17 years. Habits often die hard, but they can be broken. Just one year later, Tim has got a good feel for the hit and recovery, and is able to move in for that winning shot while others watch – sometimes from the other side of the glass.

Here is the formula we used to improve Tim's game. Every time he hit a ball, he had to move to a spot on the court marked by a piece of tape or a cone, and prepare to hit again. The focus here was to get ready for the next return. An important factor includes staying low and not raising up after the hit. This will allow better quickness because your center of mass is already in a position to move. It eliminates wasted movement.

The second drill I used with Tim was to play racquetball with him while requiring him to immediately move and touch the five foot line on the court after each ball he hit. As we continued to hit, he would have to move and touch (with his foot) the *center* spot of the line before he could go hit his next shot. You may have to

make some modifications like allowing the ball to bounce a couple of times before the next stroke, but remember you are working on your movement, not your stroke.

Hitting and resting is a negative practice to get started. In order to improve your game, you are going to have to practice hitting and moving while staying low and on the front of your foot. You want to stay in the optimal position for the next series of actions. Remember when you hit the ball that is a start of the chaos we call racquetball. The more you can control your movements, the better your opportunities and your game will become.

WHAT'S THE CALL?

By Otto Dietrich
AARA National
Rules
Commissioner



Q: In view of the new penalty, isn't it time to explain the readiness rule once again – especially the point in time when the server should check the receiver and the time limit the receiver has to give the “not ready” signal?
John Varrill, Concord, NH

A: Before I respond to John's request, I'd like to personally thank him for questions that are always thought-provoking and have been the basis for changes made to several rules over the past few years. In his most recent letter, John says that during a match, just before the referee called “second serve,” he raised his racquet to test everyone's awareness of the new rule change. As expected, John's opponent served without checking John's readiness, creating what is now one of the classic violations of the readiness rule. The right call in this case would have been “fault” and since it would have been the second fault, a “sideout.”

The rules allow both players 10 seconds to get ready after the score or “second serve” has been called by the referee. It's essential that the referee call the score or “second serve” so the players know exactly when the 10 seconds begin. It is not until this point in time that the server must check the receiver's readiness. If the receiver wants to take some or all of the 10 seconds, an appropriate signal must be given (either holding the racquet overhead or turning away from the server). Timewise, the receiver must signal (i) before the server “checks” the receiver's readiness and (ii) before the service motion begins.

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If the receiver makes no signal or doesn't comply with either of the signaling requirements, then the serve counts.

If the receiver makes a proper "not ready" signal, but the server serves the ball anyway, then it's automatically a fault.

Whenever I sense that timing may become critical, I tell the receiver to start his signal before I've completed calling the score or "second serve" and I tell the server to make the "check" very obvious to me by physically turning the head instead of using peripheral vision.

All the preceding may seem rather complicated, but the rule formalizes a simple courtesy that we all should honor, which is not to serve until the opponent is ready.

THE FINAL SHOT! In May 1994, the Board will consider adopting a "one serve" rule for open singles events. To provide a basis for player evaluation, the AARA has approved state experimentation with the proposed rule at their upcoming tournaments. However, if the "one serve" rule is used in open division play, the tournament entry blank must announce it or else a dispute could result. Also please assess the impact of this change and write to me at the AARA National Office to express your opinion on adopting it.

PARI NEWS

By Connie Martin
PARI Commissioner

Lots of people completed the PARI Clinic/Exam in the past few months. Congratulations to Nancy Luyando-NJ, Rick Folger-NJ, Tom Myers-PA, Helen Thomas-NJ, Glenn Garrison-NJ, Ted Pittinaro-NY, Don Mayer-NY, Fred Klemperer-NY (Teaching Professional), Jeff Hanno-NY (Teaching Professional), Marion Crawford-NY (Teaching Professional), Herve' Bony-FL, Gerald Bird-FL, Matt Fontana-FL, Claudia Andrade-FL, Tom Vann-FL, Mitch Cofman-FL, Robert Lee-NM, Kenneth Lukanki-NM, Raymond Maestas-NM, Jerry Spangler-NM, Joddy Stahl-NM, Robert Paul Sullivan-NM, Jeff Wilson-NM (Teaching Professional), Cord Everetts-NM, Dale Knotts-OH, Donna Mann-OH, Steve Lerner-OH, Shelley Ogden-OH, Rob Swindell-OH, Lee Spangenberg-OH, Stephen Drake-OH, Jessica Hedler-OH, John Mercedes-CT, John Lewis-MA, Michael Walsh-NJ, Joel Sicheman-PA, Lisa Calitri-NJ, Kyle Buehler-CA, Gene Pare'-CA (Teaching Professional), Dave Garcia-CA, David Lamb-CA, Roger Owen-NM, Drake Morehouse-CA, Mark McSherry-MA, Michael Tullar-CA, Liz Lyon-GA, Chris Baker-MS, David Houser-GA, John Wallace-GA, Jack Ely-GA, Donny Moore-AL, Oscar Lewis-NC, Eugene Ferris-LA.

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KUNG FU MENTAL CONDITIONING

By Bob Book

PARI Certified instructor, North Carolina

"Master, I'm afraid I have failed. I lost my match and did not even score a point. I was nervous and played very poorly."

"Ahhhhhh, Grasshopper ... You thought you had prepared for the match, yet you were disappointed by the results."

"That is right, Master."

"Did you not enjoy the planting and care of the young silver willow?"

"Well, yes, Master. We eagerly await its fragrant blossoms in the spring. But what's this got to do with the price of tea in China?"

"Ahhh, Grasshopper. But do not its buds often yield to the first frost?"

"Yes, Master, but the tree itself is beautiful as well. But what about the 42 shots that I skipped in my racquetball match?"

"Ah, yes ... perhaps I can not help you, Grasshopper."

Yes, it's true! A new and improved "Kung Fu" is back on the airways! The guy's like a walking fortune cookie, and while your willow may have bloomed, have you ever driven three hours to a big tournament and been sure you were going to play well? As you warm up for your first match, you realize you are really nervous and try to relax, but before you know what happened, the match is over! You hardly scored a point and lost to a player you should have easily beaten! Sadly, a bad case of tournament over-anxiousness got the best of you and it looks like you might have to clean the house on Saturday after all!

Like most of us, you probably spent most of your time and energy on shots, serves, power and conditioning, but overlooked the importance of mental preparation and conditioning

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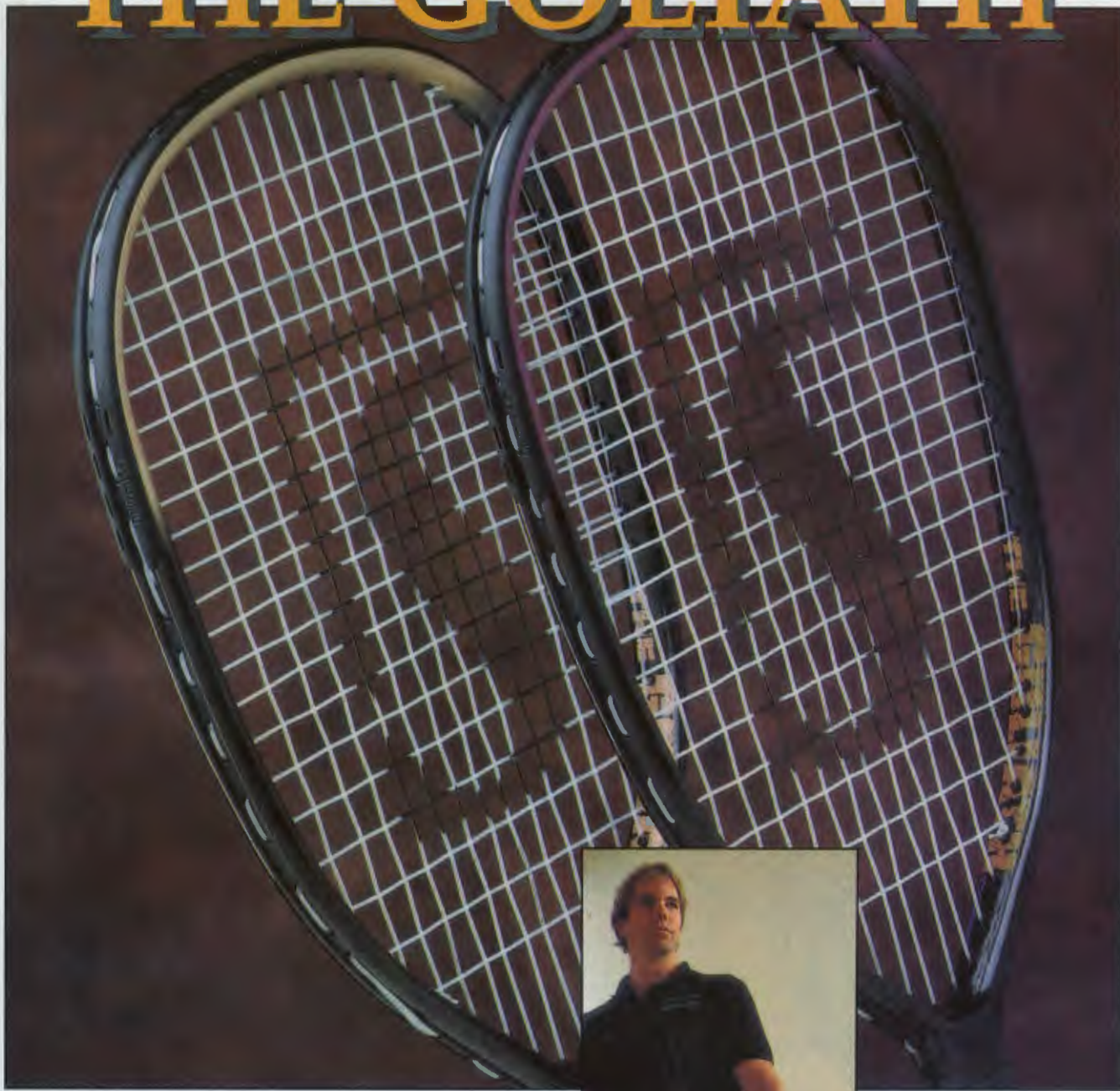
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... Grasshopper! Unfortunately, our mental state can prove disastrous and cause us to play far below our real capabilities in tournaments.

So, what does it really take to relax before a match? The most common reason for the "tournament willies" comes from our fear of failure, or that of playing poorly and losing. We are so worried about this that we can never really relax, having put such tremendous pressure on ourselves to win that we are a nervous wreck!

Your heart is pounding, your adrenaline is pumping at warp nine, and your palms may be sweating. Thoughts begin running rampant through your mind like, "Oh no, this court's nothing like the one at my club, this guy looks too good to be in my division, maybe I

shouldn't have played last night, maybe I should have eaten something different today, I can't believe I forgot to bring my favorite glove, please lord, let me just once get past the first round! ..." Sound familiar? It's probably happened to us all at some point in our playing careers.

I remember reading all of *Racquetball Magazine's* numerous "relaxation technique" articles in the '80s, and to my surprise, the *tips never worked for me!* I guess I was just too nervous for them to work! The real change occurred when, believe it or not, I finally stopped caring about winning. Instead, I went to the tournament to learn from my experience, have a great time, meet some fun people, see some old friends, and watch some awesome racquetball! Obviously, winning would have been great, but I was going to have fun even if I lost! I stopped worrying about winning or losing and, like magic, began playing well — free of the "tournament willies!"

Playing your best in competition first means freedom from self-destructive tension and nervousness. While our self-esteem and egos tell us that winning makes or breaks us, there are many other important aspects of the tournament experience which need to be kept in mind. Only then, by de-emphasizing the importance winning, can we take the self-defeating pressure off ourselves, relax and play up to our real potential!

Each of us has the ability to play far better than we ever thought possible — one of those weekends when our friends say, "John was playing out of his mind," or "Sue just couldn't miss all weekend." The first step comes from the mind enabling the body to perform at its peak. If you can play well at your club, you can play even better in a tournament with the proper perspective.

*Reprinted from The Wall Nut Journal
April/May/June 1993*

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INSIGHT

By Luke St. Onge

I would like to close out our 25th anniversary year by announcing a major change that promises to affect the AARA membership in a positive manner. But first, some background ...

At the AARA Leadership Seminar last January, a lengthy and lively discussion took place regarding a possible dues increase. In addition to this spirited review by state directors and industry leaders, a questionnaire was distributed to all state organizations, outlining the major points of the dues proposal. An unprecedented number of responses came back offering a broad outlook, yet it became overwhelmingly clear that *RACQUETBALL Magazine* should remain a membership benefit. At the May board meeting, a Blue Ribbon Committee was appointed to make a recommendation for action to the board in October.

At that October board meeting, the issue was discussed again — at length. That the current dues structure doesn't begin to cover the cost of the competitive license benefit package became a moot point. The reality of restructured

USOC funding in 1994 and the re-allocation of funds away from membership, programs and development took center stage. A 25% reduction in USOC contributions in a single fiscal year, plus restricted use of those funds, places the major financial obligation for continued membership services with the AARA. At the same time, the AARA Board felt very strongly that they did not want to reduce those services, the most tangible being *RACQUETBALL Magazine*. Options which proposed eliminating the magazine as part of the membership package were rejected. But just as important as our publication is the AARA's major obligation to the sport as a whole, including increased support to the recreation program, juniors, intercollegiates, and other extremely important developmental programs. Quite clearly, we want to do *more* for our members, not less.

It should be noted that out of the 12 board members present, seven are current or past state presidents and the majority continue to compete actively in the sport. The decision to increase dues was *not* an easy one, but it will ensure that the future of the AARA and its goals to develop the sport will not be in jeopardy.

After extensive research, intense number-crunching, and plans for even more follow-up discussion at the January Leadership Conference, the following dues changes were passed, to go into effect January 1, 1994:

Competitive license membership dues are raised \$5 to \$20.00. Of these dues, states receive a \$7.00 share to provide localized services, and the national office retains \$13 to cover all current benefits, including major expenses for *RACQUETBALL Magazine* and athlete insurance.

If a competitive licensed member (CLM) does not want to renew his/her membership, but wants to continue receiving the magazine, a subscription may be purchased independently for \$15.00. In such cases of "non-renewal," \$5.00 of the subscription cost would be shared with the state. This revenue-sharing is restricted to CLMs only. If a state can show that a former CLM has subscribed to *RACQUETBALL Magazine* after they have let their membership lapse, the state will receive the same \$5.00 rebate. If a state generates a subscription for the magazine, by its efforts, it would also receive the same \$5.00 portion. If a *subscriber* participates in a sanctioned event, they must become a competitive licensed *member* by joining for the full \$20.00 fee.

Junior memberships will be offered at \$15.00 *with the magazine*, and \$10 *without the magazine*. State rebates on a \$10 junior membership will be \$4/state, \$6/AARA and on \$15 membership, \$6/state, \$9/AARA.

Two-year, five-year and "family" memberships will no longer be offered. Lifetime memberships have been increased to \$500.

AARA NEWSBRIEFS

In other actions taken by the AARA Board of Directors at its meeting, the following items were addressed and acted upon:

- The "one serve" rule will be in effect, only in the open singles divisions, of the 1994 regional qualifiers and national singles championships.
- The "one serve" rule for open singles divisions will be brought forward as a potential rule change for 1994.
- Accepted the audit report made by Waugh and Associates - AARA's CPA.
- Removed the tournament commissioner position from the AARA constitution, modifying it to a contract labor position.
- Male and female open and age group awards will now include all national and international

events from national doubles through world championships.

- Approved contracts for an official licensing firm, travel agency, and AARA Foundation.
- Approved the Blue Ribbon Technical Committee report that will govern all national events to ensure tournament standards.
- Approved national sites for High School Nationals (St. Louis in '94 and '95); National Intercollegiates (Phoenix '94); National Doubles (Jacksonville '94).
- Established objective criteria for all future Hall of Fame inductees. The new procedure will be that a player will be accepted into the AARA Hall of Fame after age 35 if he/she has attained 20,000 Gold Points or a total of 20 points accumulated according to the following formula: National Championship titles in singles and doubles will earn 2 points for open divisions, and 1 point for age group divisions (including juniors). Mixed open doubles titles earn 1 point.

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- Denied Michelle Gould's request to compete in men's divisions. It was felt that the current rule covers the situation adequately.
- Approved the Scholarship Committee's report, recommending four (4) \$500.00 scholarships be awarded. See "RB:PEOPLE" on page 68 for the winners.
- Approved the Women's Seniors/Masters National Championship as a qualifier for the National Singles Championships.
- Integrated the Seniors Council with the Masters Council, which will now be named the AARA Seniors/Master Council
- Due to an insufficient pool of board candidates, the Election Committee was given an extension until November 15, 1993 to come up with a slate of candidates. Three positions on the AARA board are open.
- Final selection of an official ball for 1994 was delayed until Penn exercises its right to meet all bids under its right of first refusal clause. At press time, Penn had exercised that right, and been named the official ball (see industry update).
- Adopted the Olympic Format (red, white, and blue divisions) for the Skill Level Nationals which will allow players who have entered the wrong skill division to be moved either up or down after play begins dependent upon their playing ability.

RB : GLOBAL

PAN AM QUALIFYING PROCEDURE

The procedure for selection to the United States Racquetball Team competing in the 1995 Pan American Games is as follows:

Singles: Three (3) Men and Three (3)

Women. The first and second place finishers in the men's and women's open divisions at the 1994 U.S. National Singles Championships, plus the men's and women's singles champions at the 1994 Olympic Festival.

Doubles: One Men's Team and One Women's Team. The first place men's and women's open doubles teams at the 1994 U.S. National Doubles Championships.

Singles Alternates. The third place singles

finisher at the 1994 National Singles competition in both men's and women's open competition.

Doubles Alternates. The first place doubles teams in both men's and women's competition at the 1994 Olympic Festival.

INTERNATIONAL WHEELCHAIR RACQUETBALL

By David Hinton

The Americans were there, the English were there, the French were there and so were the Greeks, Irish, Norwegians, Polish and as usual, the Canadians. And where was "there?" At the 1993 International Wheelchair Games racquetball demonstration held as part of the games in Stoke Mandeville, England in early August. Staging events at the historic Stoke Mandeville

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site has always been a problem since there are no courts. But through the interest of Ms. Karen Walker of Great Britain (who is now in charge of the British Program and Team) courts were found at nearby High Wycombe on a U.S. Navy base and access for any and all interested participants and spectators was arranged.

As a late addition to the sport format of the games and in light of the aim of these games (developmental - for athletes, sport and countries) it was decided that racquetball would consist of a demonstration, education and training phase for the first few days followed by a competition.

The first phase was, to say the least, very popular with athletes, coaches and administrators immediately passing on word about the

speed of the game and how easy it was to "get the hang" of hitting the ball after their brief introduction to the sport. Players, having been to the courts only once were coming back again and again resulting in longer and longer sessions at the base day after day.

With the preliminary session out of the way, we got down to the second reason for being part of the games - the competition. Athletes had the choice of entering either the "A" (experienced) or the "B" division (novice - in time only, on the court).

The "A" division final saw two Canadians, Mark Cormack and Ken Michaylenko, square off against one another. Cormack had narrowly defeated Michaylenko only two months earlier in their national championships to take the gold medal so Michaylenko was out for revenge.

In the one and a half hour match that ensued Cormack barely edged out a 15-13 victory in the first game. The second game was a classic with neither player getting more than a two point lead until they were tied at 14-14. There Cormack had four different attempts to serve for the winning point only to be turned back by Michaylenko. In the final rally of the game, one that lasted at least twenty shots with players scrambling all over the court, Michaylenko hit the perfect "roll-out" to win the game and send the match to a tiebreaker. Having struggled so hard to get the match even took its toll on Michaylenko, and in some what of an anti-climactic final game. Cormack breezed to an 11-5 victory and the gold medal.

The "B" division competition was just as interesting with players of varying levels of talent and skill. Through the double pool round robin phase four players advanced to the medal round: George Simons (Great Britain) and John Finn (Ireland) from one side with Dennis May (Ireland) and Rune Lorentsen (Norway) from the other. Based upon the standing in their respective pool Lorentsen

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faced Finn for the bronze medal. Speed and skill easily gave Lorentsen the bronze medal with scores of 15-7, 15-7 and added to the ones he already had from Table Tennis.

The following day would see May and Simons battle for the gold and the interval gave them time to scout out some coaching. The game as it turned out was not what was expected from the level of the early round play with May easily capturing the gold with scores of 15-2 and 15-8. It was only after the match that it was discovered that Simons had injured his arm the previous day but there was no way he would let May win the gold in a "walk-over" – he had to earn it.

From these matches the seed has been planted when Simons was overheard telling May that "You had better be ready because I am going to knock the wheels off you at the World Championships next year." Could this be the start of a rivalry?

For more information on wheelchair racquetball please contact David Hinton, 1653 Meadowbrook Road, Gloucester, Ontario, Canada, K1B 5N4 or telephone 613/744-0215.



Top: "B" division winner Dennis May of Ireland (left) congratulates runner up George Simons of England.

Middle: "A" division winner Mark Cormack (left) and fellow Canadian runner up Ken Michaylenko.

Left: "B" division bronze medalist Rune Lorentsen of Norway demonstrates good form.

Photos: Courtesy David Hinton.



**Photo of Gary Baker
by Silver Dreams.**

WHEELCHAIR RACQUETBALL - A GREAT WAY TO STAY FIT

*By Geno Bonetti
Director, Spinal Cord Program
Greater Pittsburgh Rehab Hospital*

Wheelchair racquetball has been around for the past 10 years, but more promotion is needed to encourage individuals with various disabilities to enjoy the game. In the past four years, wheelchair racquetball has soared in popularity and more and more athletes confined to a wheelchair are taking to the courts to learn this new and exciting game. The rules have been modified to suit anyone.

There are many benefits to participating in wheelchair athletics. Physical activity is an essential stimulant in maximizing both mental and physical development after an injury. The mental component helps individuals develop self esteem, provides an outlet for release of stress, provides interaction with peers, and in

some situations, with able-bodied individuals in the same environment. It's a fun way to work out, provide competition and the physical advantages are endless.

Wheelchair athletes tend to achieve a higher level of physical and emotional well-being than those who only participate in conventional therapy. Active people have a tendency to care for themselves much better than sedentary individuals. Studies have shown that the physical benefits of wheelchair athletics help the individual maintain and control weight, increase endurance, enhance strength, balance, coordination, plus improves wheelchair skills and increases cardiorespiratory fitness.

Studies have shown that degeneration of cardiovascular fitness is extensive in spinal cord individuals due to the sedentary lifestyle. Without exercise, the risk of developing cardiovascular weakness is higher because of poor diet, abuse of tobacco and alcohol, stress, lack of exercise and medical complications associated with spinal cord injuries. Wheelchair athletes have a tendency to avoid these problems due to increased body awareness.

Many degenerative changes occur following a spinal cord injury, particularly an increase in percentage of body fat and edema, and a decrease in lean body mass due to muscle atrophy. In addition to these changes, normal degenerative processes related to sedentary lifestyles are common, including bone demineralization leading to osteoporosis.

In order for a spinal cord injured individual to benefit from an aerobic exercise they must participate in an aggressive activity such as wheelchair sports, swimming or road racing. Without continued physical activity, cardiovascular fitness will not be maintained. This is why wheelchair sports play such an important role in the physical well being of anyone in a wheelchair.

Before participating in any sports activity, there are many nutritional and training considerations that need to be explored and discussed with your doctor or therapist. To avoid injury, have proper hygiene and skin care, empty the bladder, examine exposed skin, maintain proper equipment and training, monitor fluid intake in hot climates and during long sessions, allow sufficient warm up and don't overdo it. Learn your body and its limitations.

As you can see, physical activity in the form of wheelchair sports is important in rehab programs, by helping with adjustments, enhancing mental and physical deficiencies, reducing medical complications and preventing deterioration of the body. It is also a means for stress release, provides an environment for competition, increases self esteem which carries over in everyday life, and is fun and self rewarding.

To help get you started, Chip Parmelly, the #1 ranked wheelchair racquetball player in the world, the Greater Pittsburgh Rehab Hospital and the NWRA have produced a videotape filled with instructions and rules of the game. Actual game footage of Chip in tournament matches, with pointers along the way, will teach you the basic rules, how to serve, wheelchair positioning, back wall shots and how to

keep the ball in play. The video is for everyone, both beginners or advanced players, coaches, therapists, and racquetball pros. It is intended to teach new players and coaches the game, while improving the skills of the more advanced players. According to Bonetti, "The video is intended to promote the sport, encourage new players of any level of injury, sex or age, and to show that wheelchair players can play the game with anyone, even able-bodied people."

To learn more about wheelchair racquetball, contact Geno Bonetti, Director, Spinal Cord Program, Greater Pittsburgh Rehab Hospital, and President of the National Wheelchair Racquetball Association. To order your videotape (\$45.00, including shipping/handling), call 412/856-2468.

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U.S. Team Coaching Staff

Interested candidates for the following positions are invited to submit an official application to the U.S. Team Committee by February 1, 1994:

Head Coach/U.S. National Racquetball Team
Assistant Coach/U.S. National Racquetball Team
Head Coach/U.S. Junior National Team
Assistant Coach/U.S. Junior National Team

Qualified applicants will then be interviewed at the U.S. National Singles Championships in Houston, May 26-31.

The U.S. Team Committee will also be accepting applications for the positions of Team Leaders and Team Managers for both the adult and junior national teams (interviews at national singles are optional for these positions). For more information, or to obtain an official application, please call Jim Hiser at 719/635-5396. Forward completed paperwork to: U.S. Team Committee, 1685 West Uintah, Colorado Springs, CO 80904-2921, by February 1, 1994.

Tournament Desk Staff

Experienced tournament desk staff are invited to apply for positions at AARA National Championships by submitting a letter of interest, resume and one letter of recommendation to: Margo Daniels, National Tournament Commissioner, 1528 Salinas Highway, Monterey, CA 93940.

National Championship Sites

The AARA is seeking new facilities at which to host its national championships events. Potential hosts must have at least 10 courts available for up to six days of competition. If your club is interested in hosting an AARA National Championship, please send a letter outlining your facilities and requesting a bid package to: AARA National Sites, 1685 West Uintah, Colorado Springs, CO 80904-2921

Excess Computer Inventory?

The AARA is seeking donations of personal computer systems to fully equip its new office. Primarily needed for text processing and clerical functions, donated PCs, monitors, modems and networking facilities would all be most welcome and appreciated by the national office staff. If you have any questions regarding tax deductible donations of equipment, or need shipping information, please contact Linda Mojer at 719/635-5396.

Wheelchair Instructional Video

The National Wheelchair Racquetball Association [NWRA] offers an instructional videotape for wheelchair racquetball for \$45.00 (shipping and handling included). To order, send check or money order to Geno Bonetti, NWRA President, at the Greater Pittsburgh Rehab Hospital, 2380 McGinley Road, Monroeville, PA 15146, or call 412/856-2400 for more information on ordering.

Women's Sports Foundation Grants

The Women's Sports Foundation recently released a summary of its annual and ongoing grant programs, including research grant opportunities from the Bausch & Lomb Contact Lens Division and the Evian Research Division. Individual grants and scholarships include the Linda Riddle/SGMA Scholarship (12/01 deadline), the Dorothy Harris Scholarship (12/01 deadline), the Jackie Joyner Kersee/Ray Ban Minority Internship (ongoing) and the Zina Garrison/Visa Minority Internship (ongoing). For more information, contact the Women's Sports Foundation at 516/542-4700.

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TOP GUN VII ATTRACTS MIDWEST'S FINEST

By Buz Sawyer

Over 200 racquetball enthusiasts invaded Blue Springs, Missouri for *TOP GUN VII*, the midwest's most exciting tournament of the year.

With open players competing for a \$1000 first prize in a 3 out of 5 to 11 scoring format, this tournament has made for some intense racquetball over the last few years. The depth of the draw and the caliber of players is enough to make any tournament director jealous. Many players feel that it is a who's who of

racquetball players in the midwest, with players such as Andy Roberts, Jack Newman, Tim Sweeney, John Ellis, Doug Ganim and Scott Reiff competing in past years.

This year's tournament had international flavor, with Tim Sweeney from Chicago, and Simon Roy from Quebec City, Canada heading up the field. These two players are veterans of their national teams, and a showdown between the USA and Canada was expected in the final.

Last year's Top Gun saw many upsets, but this year all top four seeds advanced to the semifinals. The quarters did however provide some of the most exciting racquetball of the weekend. In an unusual match-up, 20 year-old Allan Engel took on 30 year-old Rob French. Allan has been one of the best in the nation in his age group since diapers, and Rob was a finalist in the 30+ division at Houston this past May. Allan's game plan was obvious right from the start - grip it and rip it! Engel overpowered French, forcing him to dive on nearly every rally, but French stayed in the match with his uncanny style of off-speed shots and slice serves. It took everything Allan had to pull out the first two games 11-10, 11-10. At 9-9 in the third the boisterous crowd was starving for a tiebreaker, but Allan and his backhand splat would not allow it. Allan closed out the match with two paint-peeling versions. Asked to comment on the power of Allan's shots, French simply replied, "I was 20 once myself."

The two semifinal matches completely contrasted each other. Power and speed were the order of the day in the Sweeney-Engel match, and control and strategy dominated the Simon Roy vs. Brian Rankin match.

Allan saved a few splat rollouts from his previous match and was able to take the first game from Sweeny. Half-way through the second game Sweeney got his wake-up call, and his crack-serve started kicking in. Sweeney advanced with scores of 9-11, 11-6, 11-4, 11-3.

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Simon put on a passing shot exhibition. For those of you not familiar with Simon's game, he is a classic control player with some of the best hands in the game. Simon has been one of the top three players in Canada for the last five years, and at 24, he is only getting smoother. Former Southwest Missouri State star Brian Rankin is usually the kind of player to give Simon trouble, but Brian looked slightly weary from his quarterfinal battle with Billy Perrone, which had lasted until 2 a.m. the night before. Simon sensed Brian was a half a step slow and had him wrong-footed on nearly every rally. Simon advanced 11-2, 11-2, 11-3.

The stage was set for a great final as two of the best players in North America squared off. The crowd started grabbing seats early, in anticipation of a long and exciting final. But three-time intercollegiate champion Sweeney had other ideas and started out red hot, with devastating first serves that, if they didn't ace outright, gave him front court set-ups. Thirty minutes later the match was over, with low scores of 11-1, 11-1, 11-3.

The men were not the only show in town. The women's draw was very competitive and featured the best women players in the midwest. Two-time winner Laura Fenton, who usually dominates women's open draws in the midwest, had moved to



Simon Roy delivers his patented backhand slice serve to Sweeney in the finals.

Massachusetts, leaving the title up for grabs. The semifinals featured four players, each from a different state. To earn a spot in the finals, Minnesota's Dana Sibell defeated Jane Greene of Kansas, while Linda Moore from Nebraska defeated former SMSU star Jen Yokota from St. Louis in four competitive games. In the finals, Dana used hard drive serves and dominated center court against Linda to take the title.

Other divisions of interest were the men's 35s and 45s. Three divisions started out in the round of 16, and each was as tough as it gets without being a national championship. In the finals of the 35s it was number one seed Tim Armstrong from Overland Park, Kansas defeating Doug Dickman from Sedalia, Missouri.

The 45s was the most interesting draw of the tournament.

It was stacked with all the best 45+ players in the midwest, but unseeded, unknown Richard Bocanegra from Topeka, Kansas stole the show. Bocanegra took out the first seed in the first round and then went all the way, defeating Craig Olsen from Nebraska in the finals.

A great time was had by all as Jerry Ellis and his staff at All American Fitness put on a first rate tournament. The Top Gun tournament has made a name for itself over the last few years and promises to be the midwest's most exciting event for years to come.

Buz Sawyer is a senior, communications management major at Southwest Missouri State University, who is making his first contribution to RACQUETBALL Magazine. Buz plays for SMSU's three-time Intercollegiate World Championship team and is a two-time Intercollegiate All-American.

TIME CAPSULE

Continued from page 15...

Racquetpower in Jacksonville, Florida. The youngsters took the gold over junior players from Canada and Mexico.

1992

Tim Sweeney once again captured the World Intercollegiate title, as did Cindy Doyle. It was the second gold medal for both college players in as many years. Played at the Hall of Fame Fitness Center in Canton, Ohio, Southwest Missouri State University took its second victory over long-time champs Memphis State.

At the South Hampshire Racquet Club in St. Louis, Missouri, Elkova Icenogle and James Mulcock took the city and Prime Sports Network by storm as they captured national high school gold. Both were members of Junior Team USA, and this win guaranteed them another year on the squad.

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Elaborate plans were in the making for the 1992 World Championships in Montreal, Canada. The event would be held in August, but travel arrangements and planning began early.

The "Metro Regional" system went into effect this year in an effort to accommodate and qualify more competitors for national singles.

Chris Cole and ... you guessed it ... Michelle Gilman took the men's and women's open titles at National Singles. In a preview of his Houston final, Cole had faced opponent John Ellis at the Tournament of the Americas in Honduras, and had clinched his first international title there. In Houston, Cole again edged out Ellis in a tiebreaker with scores of 8-15, 15-10, 11-9, to take his first national singles title.

Michelle Gilman dispatched opponent Jackie Paraiso-Gibson in two straight 15-6, 15-3, for her fourth title ... how far will she go?

Jim Austin of Texas was inducted into the Hall of Fame, the John Halverson Fair Play award went to David Hunter, the Joe Sobek Contributor award to Alfredo Lamont of the USOC, the Presidential award to Annie Muniz, the Peggy Steding award to Kathy Mueller, and the Male Age Group Athlete of the year to Paul Banales. Athletes of the Year were Tim Sweeney and Michelle Gilman.

Junior Olympic competition at the SportsMall in Salt Lake City, Utah saw Elkova Icenogle continue her winning ways, taking the 18- title with a win over Letisha Bussell 15-8, 15-12. On the boy's side of the coin a new champion was crowned as Jason Mannino beat Javad Aghaloo 15-3, 15-5.

The Junior Team traveled abroad for the first time this summer. Allan Engel, Sudsy Monchik, James Mulcock, Heather Dunn, Rusti and Elkova Icenogle, along with "Team Mom" Carol Pellowski journeyed to Holland...to Zoetermeer, (about 30 miles from Amsterdam to be exact) where they played, offered instructional clinics and generally had a good time while acting as exemplary ambassadors for their country and their sport.

The U.S. Team took its sixth consecutive world title this August in Montreal, enjoying a clean

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sweep of the individual world titles and an impressive 7-1 record in head-to-head team competition.

Michelle Gould (now a married lady) finally broke her jinx in world competition and captured the gold, beating long-time rival Canadian Heather Stupp in two straight 15-8, 15-8.

The men's finals ended up being a three-gamer against two rival Americans. Chris Cole managed to upend Tim Sweeney going to a tiebreaker with scores of 15-2, 10-15, 15-6. The team standings ended on the familiar note of U.S., Canada, Mexico. Although for the first time in international competition the rising power and growth of racquetball in Japan was brought to everyone's attention as they finished a strong 4th!

National Doubles at the City Square Club & Lexington Hotel in Phoenix, Arizona boasted

600+ entrants. Transforming 1991 open division bronze medals into gold ones in 1992 was quite a Halloween trick for the teams of Joel Bonnett/Bill Sell and Mary Lyons/Susan Morgan Pfahler, who turned the prior year's third place finishes into national gold medals against considerable odds.

Bonnett and Sell met Jim Floyd and Todd O'Neil in the finals and dispatched them in two, although close, straight games of 15-14, 15-14.

Lyons and Pfahler came up against seasoned veterans Jackie Paraiso Gibson and her sister Joy MacKenzie in their final round. The Florida team successfully defeated the California twins in two straight 15-13, 15-13.

And with that, we come full circle to our 25th Anniversary year. In future issues, we'll recap our continuing history.

Authors Note: It has been my pleasure to research and bring the history of the AARA to the pages of RACQUETBALL Magazine. I have found the process enlightening, educational and most enjoyable. When we began the section last January I was but a babe in the woods when it came to knowing our illustrious and sometimes tumultuous past, but by this writing, I feel that I have an understanding of our development and the potential our future brings. In my research I have been privileged to speak with or at least correspond with the founding fathers and many great players of racquetball. I hope that you have enjoyed the section as much as I've had bringing it to you. Until the next anniversary...

CORRECTION: In the last "Time Capsule" we incorrectly cited the 1985 women's open national doubles final. Malia Kamahoahoa (now Bailey) and Toni Bevelock defeated Connie Peterson (now Martin) and Michelle Gilman (now Gould) in that final.

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BLOOMS RETIRE

Lenny and Gayann Bloom are retiring after an unprecedented period of over twelve years of defining racquetball in New Hampshire. Over the summer Bill Gargan assumed the role of President of the New Hampshire Racquetball Association.

The Blooms were the originators of organized racquetball in New Hampshire, where many remember the entire Bloom family (Gayann, Lenny, Troy, Cal and Noal) always participating in virtually every tournament. The kids have grown up and the senior (but still young) Blooms are now free to pursue a more diversified lifestyle. They spend virtually every summer weekend touring the country (both U.S. and Canada) on the Harley they both love. The dedication of the Bloom family to racquetball will always be appreciated and will never be forgotten.

MICHELLE GOULD IS SUDAFED® SPORTSWOMAN OF THE YEAR FINALIST

At age 22, Michelle Gould dominates both the women's amateur and pro ranks in racquetball. And after many years of nomination by the AARA, Gould was recently named as a finalist in the Sudafed® Sportswomen of the Year Awards. As a finalist, she is in good company – other nominees for the prestigious award include tennis pro Steffi Graf and Olympic speedskater Bonnie Blair. Jackie Joyner-Kersey and Mary Lou Retton have been past recipients of the honor.

On October 4, at the Sudafed® Women's Sports Awards Dinner benefitting the Women's Sports Foundation at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York, jockey Julie Krone was named as the winner in the individual sport category. But Gould was more than thrilled to have been invited to

attend the gala as the Foundation's guest, and rub shoulders with the many outstanding female athletes who were in attendance.

RACQUETBALL LOSES HOOSIER CHAMPION

Champions, though they choose different forums, distinguish themselves. Simply put, Pierre Harold Miller was a champion. He was a contributor, a competitor and an accomplished professional. The long-time Hoosier racquetball champion and member of the Indiana State Racquetball Association Hall of Fame passed away at his home in Terre Haute on August 30.

Miller, who began playing racquetball in the mid-70's, earned dozens of state, regional, and national titles, which in turn, earned him the INSRA Racquetball Athlete of the Year title in 1989, and subsequent induction into the INSRA Hall of Fame. His most recent competition was the



JUBIN



KOPPEL



MEYER



MULLER

National Singles Championships in Houston where he finished third in the 65+ division.

Long-time doubles partners - wife Linda and good friend Rex Lawler, will miss him, along with a wealth of Indiana racquetballers who were touched by him on and off the court. The INSRA Board will commemorate Pierre by presenting a special award in his name each year at the annual banquet, beginning this April.

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Congratulations to these young students, who each earned an AARA scholarship for the 1993-94 academic year, and best wishes for continued success in racquetball and undergraduate work!

Eric Jubin, age 20, is a junior computer engineering major at the University of Cincinnati who boasts a 3.5 GPA and is placed in the top 5% of his

class. The Akron, Ohio youngster started playing racquetball in 1991 and progressed from Novice to age divisions in regional and national competition this year. He is the secretary of the University of Cincinnati Racquetball Club and has been instrumental in the formation of their first intercollegiate team.

In his scholarship application, Eric stated "April marked my two year anniversary in the sport of racquetball. So far, I am pleased with my progress. My plans of moving up one level per year are falling into place." His goal is to be playing in A/Open divisions by the time he graduates.

Joel Koppel, 18, is a freshman at the University of San Francisco, after graduating in the top 15% of his high school class and receiving the Presidential Academic Fitness Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement in 1993...his senior year. He began studies at the University of San Francisco this fall as an "Honors Admit." Not new to racquetball, Joel has achieved a lot in the sport, including a



Tulsa University racquetball coach Chris Brinkley (left) and university vice-president Christopher Small talk about the new TU racquetball program.

bronze and gold medal at World Junior Championships.

"Throughout my racquetball career, I have had the pleasure of also being a teacher. Both young and old, I enjoy showing willing students how to improve and make racquetball a more fun sport to play. Besides helping with weekly junior camps, I have the opportunity to work with the handicapped," Joel indicated in his application essay.

Jennifer Anne Meyer, 18, maintained a 3.5 GPA during her high school years and just started her college career as a freshman at the University of Northern Colorado. She has played racquetball since she was a youngster and has worked throughout her own growing sport career giving lessons to juniors.

In her scholarship application, Jenny cited "One sport that I have always loved is racquetball. I am a member of the USA Junior Racquetball Team and have traveled to many places to participate in tournaments...This is a chance of a lifetime and not many people get the chance to travel around the world to play a sport that they truly love."

Eric Muller is a familiar face in the world of racquetball and a familiar applicant to the AARA scholarship program. At 21, the Boston University junior has been awarded AARA scholarships in each of the past three years since the program began. In that same period, he has also earned two national doubles championships and one world doubles title.

In the top 1% of his class, Eric has impressed his advisor, Patti L. Slovenski who said "This is a remarkable achievement for a student who is also involved with other activities outside of academic work." Eric defined sportsmanship in his essay as... "the ability to play with passion and feeling and a desire to win while still maintaining composure. We must all be able to give 100% effort but still be able to say "nice shot" or even "nice match" when our opponents deserve it."

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- 4T. Doug Ganim, OH
- 4T. Sean Graham, CT
6. Todd O'Neil, TX
7. Jimmy Lowe, KY
8. Dan Llacera, DE
9. Sudsy Monchik, NY
10. Dan Fowler, MD

MEN'S A

1. Steve Kalal, IL
2. Bryan Stanley, TX
3. Eric Harper, FL
4. Scott Grunin, MA
5. Thomas Evans, TX
- 6T. Rick DeCastro, MA
- 6T. Brad Jackson, WA
8. David Murillo, CA
9. Tim Vesevick, IL
10. Peter Appel, NY

MEN'S B

1. Mike Petrin, TN
2. Shishir Mohan, NJ
3. Gabe Gose, NM
4. David Cifelli, ND
5. Vic Horton, MA
6. Wally Miller, TX
7. Sal Acosta, TX
8. Walt Charlton, OK
- 9T. Mark Harder, PA
- 9T. Vern Schmitz, NY

MEN'S C

1. Jim Conlon, NY
- 2T. Steve Barnhouse, NM
- 2T. Lawrence Flores, TX
4. David Bartscher, NE
5. John Smith, IN
6. Clint Ashby, OK
7. Jong Chandrickson, CA
8. David Smith, GA
9. Mike Ginn, NC
10. Robert Richards, CA

MEN'S D

1. Mike Walsh, NJ
2. David Kersten, AR
3. Rhett Collins, TX
- 4T. Dan Ames, NJ
- 4T. Jordan Fought, NM
6. Preston Gaster, NC
7. Noel Farmer, CA
- 8T. Bill Morrell, CT
- 8T. Bruce Pietsch, UT
10. Raul Arteaga, IL

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- 2T. Pierce Buller, NY
- 2T. Tom Cerniello, NY
- 2T. Frank Dispenza, FL
- 2T. Jason Dyer, CO
- 2T. Shef Emani, TX

- 2T. Miguel Figueredo, NC
- 2T. Denny Kupferman, NY
- 2T. Chris Lancaster, AR
- 2T. Ricardo Rivas, FL

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- 1T. Jeff Evans, WA
- 1T. Tim Sweeney, IL
3. Brian Fredenberg, TX
4. Grant Giles, GA
5. Jeff Stark, CA
6. Jason Thoerner, FL
7. Adam Anderson, UT
8. David Hunter, TN
- 9T. Joel Bonnett, MI
- 9T. H.R. Coe, WY

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1. Chris Wright, MO
2. Dave Cardillo, NY
3. Jim Hamilton, MI
4. Ron Hendren, MD
5. Brad McCuniff, IA
6. Jim Jeffers, IL
- 7T. Tony Boscia, CO
- 7T. Alan Sheppard, NC
9. John Negrete, IL
10. John Davis, LA

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1. Jimmy Lowe, KY
2. Armando Alonso, FL
3. Rob French, IA
4. Scott Worthy, MI
- 5T. Bill Lyman, IL
- 5T. John Mack, CA
- 5T. Bill Serafin, NJ
- 8T. Chuck Muller, GA
- 8T. Kevin Thiessen, AR
10. Mike Anderson, MI

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2. Scott Worthy, MI
3. Howard Walker, TX
4. Dave Peck, TX
5. Jim Young, PA
- 6T. Bobby Corcoran, AZ
- 6T. Keith Tidd, OH
8. Robin Dixon, CA
9. Dane Crisp, TX
10. Rick Lansing, NJ

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2. Walter McDade, TN
3. Jim Bailey, VA
4. Glen Withrow, MN
- 5T. Stu Hastings, MI
- 5T. Dave Kovanda, OH
- 5T. Mike Robinson, TX
- 8T. Issac Laughinghouse, MA
- 8T. Gary Mazaroff, NM
10. Steve Chapman, FL

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1. Bill Wolfe, NY
2. Barry Berger, AZ
3. Jay Schwartz, FL
4. Johnny Hennen, TN
5. Ray Huss, OH
6. Paul Redelheim, TN

- 7T. Stan Lemon, TX
- 7T. Craig Olsen, NE
- 7T. Jim Winterton, NY
10. R.O. Carson, CA

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1. Ron Johnson, IL
2. Jerry Davis, OH
3. Tom Chodosh, TX
4. Ron Galbreath, PA
5. Brad Parra, CA
6. Charlie Garfinkel, NY
7. Lynn Corbridge, UT
8. Jerry Rand, FL
9. Jim Pruitt, PA
10. Luis Guerrero, CA

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2. Dario Mas, DE
3. Art Johnson, CO
4. Ron Adams, CA
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- 5T. Terry Lauritsen, NM
- 5T. Ron Rainey, WI
8. Hank Gates, MI
- 9T. Don Alt, FL
- 9T. Paul Banales, AZ

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1. Don Alt, FL
2. Paul Banales, AZ
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4. Max Fallek, MN
- 5T. Jim Railey, TN
- 5T. Walter Shur, NY
7. Don Maxey, MO
- 8T. Red Horton, CO
- 8T. Fintan Kilbride, Canada
10. Bill Reese, TX

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2. J.D. Driver, MI
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5. Mal Roberts, FL
6. Earl Dixon, IN
7. Fintan Kilbride, Canada
8. Tony Duarte, CA
9. Earl Acuff, NC
10. Pierre Miller, IN

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1. Nick Sans, CA
2. Earl Acuff, NC
3. Cam Snowberger, PA
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- 4T. Luzell Wilde, UT
6. Robert McAdam, TX
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- 7T. Allen C. Shepherd, MD
- 9T. Bernard Cramer, RI
- 9T. Bob Keough, NJ

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2. Luzell Wilde, UT
- 3T. Jack Daly, VA
- 3T. Charles Russell, CA
5. Andy Trozzi, MA
- 6T. Earl Acuff, NC
- 6T. Ed Hagen, AZ

- 6T. Daniel Lyons, LA
- 9T. George Drake, MN
- 9T. Ralph Greco, FL

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2. John Pearce, TX
3. Howard Hesse, AZ

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4. Rachel Gellman, NM
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6. Tanya Spangler, CA
7. Michelle Gould, ID
8. Lynne Coburn, MD
9. Molly O'Brien, PA
10. Kersten Hallander, FL

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5. Laura Rogers, TX
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- 7T. Sue Patterson, GA
9. Mary Kucel, CA
10. Kim Brady, MA

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3. Jan Nick, LA
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5. Pat Harder, CT
6. Karen Green, MI
7. Mandi McClure, GA
8. Sherry Fahey, NY
- 9T. Wendy Chesters, NE
- 9T. Candy Masson, GA

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2. Martha Allen, NM
3. Krista Moyle, NE
- 4T. Nancy Page, FL
- 4T. Barbie Wilson, TN
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- 7T. Paula Burns, CA
- 7T. Cheri Prickett, AR
- 9T. Bettina Beveney, NY
- 9T. Carrie Landry, LA

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1. Erin Burns, NM
2. Teresa Plaza, OH
3. Bobbie Ross, NC
4. Virginia Corcoran, MA
5. Jen Mayadas, NY
6. Jean Staley, IN
7. Jana Moore, AR
8. Sharlene Henry, FL
9. Barbara Limehouse, SC
10. Lizzette Bonachea, FL

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- 2T. Chris Levitt, NJ
- 2T. Jenn Sulim, NY
6. Rosa Sanchez, NM
- 7T. Ana Barraza, NM
- 7T. Julie Giuffridi, NY
- 7T. Jane Gray, DE
- 7T. Kelly Griffiths, AR

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- 1T. Amy Kilbane, OH
- 3T. Cheryl Gudinas, IL
- 3T. Tanya Spangler, CA
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- 9T. Diane Gronkiewicz, IN
- 9T. Tracy Warton, TN

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- 5T. Kelli Peifer, MN
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10. Donna Beldring, NM

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- 4T. Janet Tyler, FL
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- 6T. Tracey Smith, TN
- 6T. Marianne Walsh, UT
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10. Shawn Williams, CO

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10. Vicki Hillard, TN

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- 6T. Betty Gilliland, MI
- 6T. Karen SanFilippo, NJ
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- 6T. Gerri Stoffregen, OH
10. Mildred Gwinn, NC

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- 6T. Mary Willerscheidt, MN
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- 8T. Kathy Mueller, MN
- 8T. Jean Tull, VA

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2. Kathy Mueller, MN
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- 3T. Jean Tull, VA
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- 8T. Susan Embry, CA
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- 7T. Reta Harring, WI
- 7T. Mary Jo Kreie, AR
- 7T. Rita Turner, FL
10. Rosemary Ferris, CO

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3. Dorothy Vezetinski, WA
4. Elsie Cobb, TX

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2. Eleanor Quackenbush, OR
3. Pete Jones, CT

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1. Zelda Friedland, NM

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1. Brandon Shoemaker, OH
- 2T. Jack Huczek, MI
- 2T. Steve Klaiman, TX

4. Jon Hellner, OR
5. Ben Weaver, AL
- 6T. Jim Gooden, TX
- 6T. Geoffrey Mora, CA
8. Ryan James, WI
9. Chris Meyer, OR
10. Evan Honigsfeld, TX

MULTIBOUNCE

1. Brandon Shoemaker, OH
2. Evan Honigsfeld, TX
- 3T. Steve Klaiman, TX
- 3T. Matthew Schulman, FL
- 5T. Clay Burris, FL
- 5T. Ryan James, WI
- 7T. Jon Hellner, OR
- 7T. Tyler Hollingsworth, OR
- 7T. John Miller, FL
- 7T. Brent Schulenberg, MN

BOYS 10-

1. Jack Huczek, MI
2. Jim Gooden, TX
3. Shane Vanderson, OH
4. Bart Crawford, OR
- 5T. Paul Heathman, FL
- 5T. Juan Martinez, IL
- 5T. Dan Thompson, WI
8. Richie Williamson, OH
9. Adam Marmurek, AL
10. Josh Epstein, NY

BOYS 12-

1. Gabe Gose, NM
2. Jeffrey Garner, AL
3. Shane Vanderson, OH
4. Ryan Staten, KS
5. Willie Tilton, CO
6. Brandon Friend, NY
7. Jason Jansen, ND
8. Justin Carey, NY
9. Seth Taylor, IN
10. David Liakos, NE

BOYS 14-

1. Jed Bhuta, AL
- 2T. Rocky Carson, CA
- 2T. Bucky Freeman, TX
- 2T. Mark Hurst, FL
- 2T. Ben Williams, NY
6. Brent McDade, TN
- 7T. Josh Healy, UT
- 7T. Sam Ryder, WI
- 9T. Brit Berkey, IN
- 9T. Trevor Larson, MN

BOYS 16-

1. Eric Storey, UT
2. David Hamilton, OH
3. Erik Ekman, MA
4. Chris Choukalas, AZ
- 5T. Mark Hurst, FL
- 5T. Shane Wood, MA
7. John Stanford, Jr., FL
8. Drew McElwee, PA
- 9T. Aaron Granberg, WI
- 9T. Evan Pellowski, WI

BOYS 18-

1. Sudsy Monchik, NY
2. Jason Ambrecht, NC
3. Jason Mannino, NY

4. Craig Rappaport, PA
5. Toby Lepera, IN
6. James Mulcock, NM
- 7T. David Hamilton, OH
- 7T. Shane Wood, MA
9. Shane Dodge, ID
10. Andy Gross, MN

GIRLS

GIRLS 8 & UNDER

1. Kimberly Irons, OH
2. Molly Law, CO
3. Kimberly Markins, AZ
4. Jeni Fuller, NM
5. Leslie Luna, NM
6. Jesi Fuller, NM
7. Melissa Jones, FL
- 8T. Nicole Steketee, MI
- 8T. Khara Williams, NM

MULTIBOUNCE

1. Kimberly Irons, OH
2. Melissa Jones, FL
3. Kimberly Markins, AZ
4. Molly Law, CO
5. Jesi Fuller, NM
- 6T. Leslie Luna, NM
- 6T. Feliciano Moreno, WI
8. Jeni Fuller, NM
9. Suzy Corgiat, CA
10. Ashley Mora, CA

GIRLS 10-

1. Molly Law, CO
2. Malanie Mueller, CO
3. Rebecca Dolloff, NM
4. Kristen Walsh, UT
5. Kristina Matchett, OR
6. Kimberly Irons, OH
7. Eve Bateman, PA
8. Kimberly Markins, AZ
9. Margo Rainey, AZ
10. Crystal Winfrey, OH

GIRLS 12-

1. Sara Borland, IA
2. Lindsay Sears, IN
3. Kristen Walsh, UT
4. Brooke Crawford, OR
5. Katie Gould, MO
6. Sharon Lacher, MD
- 7T. Brittany Morris, AL
- 7T. Katie Thompson, WI
9. Megan Bals, NE
10. Eve Bateman, PA

GIRLS 14-

1. Vanessa Tulao, TN
2. Rhonda Rajsich, AZ
3. Melisa Boyd, UT
- 4T. Erin Frost, OR
- 4T. Sadie Gross, MN
- 6T. Debra Derr, FL
- 6T. Katie Gould, MO
- 6T. Bobbie Ross, NC
9. Colleen Maginn, WI
10. Erin Burns, NM

GIRLS 16-

1. Shannon Feaster, DC
2. Sadie Gross, MN

3. Debra Derr, FL
4. Tammy Brockbank, ID
- 5T. Erin Burns, NM
- 5T. Andrea Luque, GA
7. Karri Rogers, WY
- 8T. Adrienne Bennett, DE
- 8T. Andrea Beugen, MN
- 8T. Melisa Boyd, UT

GIRLS 18-

1. Kerri Stoffregen, OH
2. Tammy Brockbank, ID
3. Elkova Icenogle, CA
- 4T. Andrea Beugen, MN
- 4T. Jenny Meyer, CO
- 6T. Kristi Hale, NC
- 6T. Stephanie Torrey, MA
- 8T. Mindy Duff, IN
- 8T. Shannon Feaster, DC
- 8T. Rachel Gellman, NM

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2. Gary Baker, IN
3. David Kiley, CA
4. Les Gorsline, WI
5. Steve Kuketz, MA
6. Audie Kemp, IN
7. Marc Fenn, IN
- 8T. Wayne Dake, WI
- 8T. George Norton, MA
10. Joe Soares, FL

DEAF

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2. Joseph Valentine, OH
3. Frank McDonough, IL
4. Wayne Delatte, WA
5. Scott Kramer, CA
6. Michael Russo, CT
7. Frank Coenen, NY
8. Richard Nell, WI
9. Greg Brown, AZ
10. Mike Novak, IL

WOMEN

1. Karen Rubenzer, IL
2. Barbara Cassin, CT
3. Mindy Hopper, NY
4. Tara Miller, WI
5. Debra Nell, WI
6. Laura Salvato, IL
7. Lynn Kizner, NY
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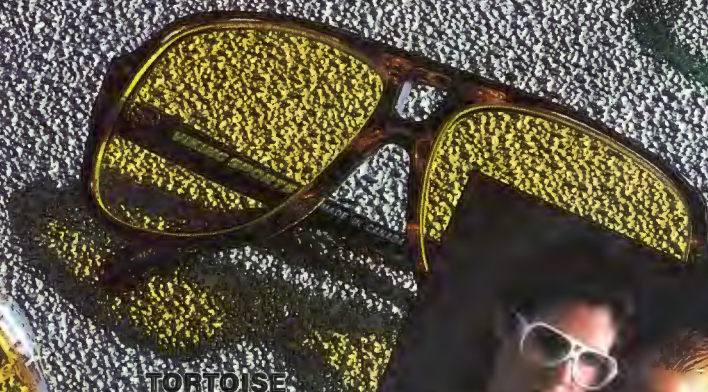


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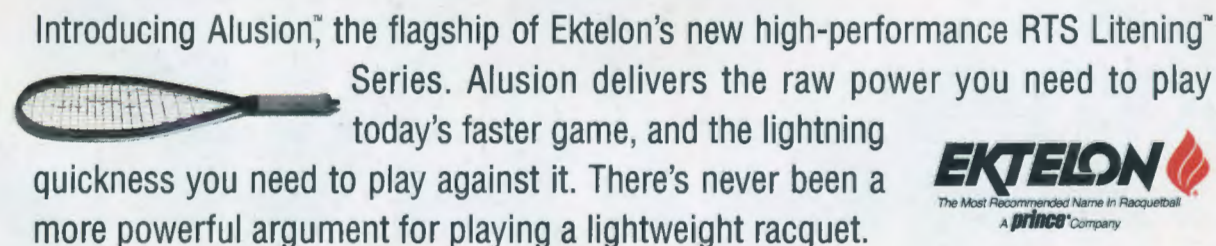
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