

National Racquetball®

Vol. 10 No. 1
January, 1981
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It was Standing Room Only as Chicago fans jammed the Charlie Club gallery at the November Robert W. Kendler Classic. To see how the pros gave the crowd their money's worth turn to page 66.

— Lauren and Arthur Shay photo



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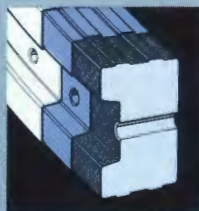
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Opinions

From Bob Kendler



A New Thought for the New Year . . .

Do you give as much thought to spiritual conditioning as you do to physical conditioning? You should, and there can be many benefits. The same qualities that develop a great man or a great woman also develop a great athlete. Factors that determine good performance include confidence, concentration, courage and faith. These factors are mental, not physical. They enhance one's performance, whereas fear, lack of concentration and belief in one's self will detract from and interfere with performance.

Modesty and unselfishness strengthen the athlete's character because they bring out the might he reflects from God. They stifle fear and bring the assurance that God is fully in control. Man reflects the activity of Mind in intelligence, harmony and order. He is innocent of seeking personal glory, honor or power. The athlete who understands there is only one power, one glory . . . God's . . . is the best athlete—win, lose or draw.

So much more can be achieved when we add the divine dimension. Spiritual conditioning can give us strength we never knew we possessed. With it we can exceed our ordinary capacities and perform without fear, injury or physical limitation.

One of the most amazing plays I ever saw on a football field was a pass thrown by Quarterback Vince Evans in a bitterly fought game between the Chicago Bears and the Detroit Lions. The Bear season was at stake and the quarterback's career hung in the balance. Although the pass was nearly 70 yards, this was not the highlight of the game.

When the TV camera turned back to pan the passer, there was Evans on one knee, head bowed and deep in prayer. All the team members crowded around him, but nothing could disturb this solemn moment. In a later interview he was asked what he did after the touchdown, and his reply touched many a viewer. He said simply *"My mother and I went to church this morning and prayed that I would do well. I went down on my knees because I wanted to thank God for his help and for answering my prayer."* All this right out in the middle of the field during the game, with millions of TV viewers and spectators watching him. There was the silent strength that comes from spiritual conditioning.

The Lord summarized the requirements of the Old Testament in two enormously unselfish commands. When a lawyer asked *"Master which is the great commandment in the law?"* Jesus replied *"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto the first . . . Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."* These laws must be obeyed on the field of play as well as in our lives. Whether on a team or competing as an individual the athlete can view his sport as a team sport if he unites himself with God. It will be very apparent that the best person is the most unselfed.

The person devoted to practicing the *"first and great commandment"* will master a false sense of self which appears as selfishness and pride. Self-love and self-glorification are forms of idolatry. Serving and trying to build up a mortal sense of selfhood will only thwart the athlete's goal and leave him feeling empty, estranged from a satisfying sense of closeness with God. However to love God with all one's heart, soul and mind is to glorify Him, and only this can bring real fulfillment. The Lord's prayer concludes *"For thine is the kingdom, the power, and glory forever."* Jesus understood the allness and omnipotence of God and consequently the futility and hollowness of self-importance, self-will and self-indulgence. He said *"If I honor myself, my honor is nothing."*

By expressing the divine goodness native to God's man we provide an example for others. This virtue will be more keenly seen and appreciated to the extent the athlete respects his fellow competitor as himself and helps him on that basis.

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God's man is never motivated by hatred or retaliation; and Jesus, who so fully illustrated that fact, gave us this guideline on how to regard anyone who appears to be our enemy. "Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbor and hate thy enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies; bless them that curse you; do good to them that hate you; and pray for them which despitefully use you and persecute you."

The enemy is never a person or an opposing team, but the belief that man is material and existence is competitive. The unselfed thinker loves his fellowmen because he reflects the God who loves all. This quality of thought elevates the athlete above discord and chance, and adds confidence to his or her performance. Unselfish consideration and love for others also subdue the craving for personal recognition that so often blocks success.

We can rule out hatred and anger by refusing to accept any evaluation of another as being something contrary to the loving man of God's creating. Doing this we preserve the eighth commandment "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor." The athlete who refrains from a mortal condemnation of others will find that others are less apt to hold a mortal finite estimate of him.

We must see others as we would like to be seen . . . Godlike, spiritual, flawless and unselfed. Then we are spiritually conditioned because unselfed love encourages and brings out the best in everyone. ●

Evie & Bob Kendler

Evie and Bob Kendler

Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Proverbs 3:5, 6

From the National Commissioner



Happy New Year, Fans

We at the USRA wish you all a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

At this time of the year most of us look back over the past year and try to determine what we have accomplished. I thought I'd go one step further and for the benefit of all—especially racquetball's newcomers—review the figures on the fantastic growth of our sport.

In 1970 there were 50,000 players and no new court clubs of the type we have today; 1972—170,000 players and two court clubs; 1974—750,000 players and 80 clubs; 1976—three million players and 510 clubs; 1978—eight million players and 900 clubs; 1980—14 million players and 2,000 court clubs.

In 1970 tournaments were hard to find. In 1980 I don't think anyone could come up with an accurate count. NRC and USRA alone sanctioned over 600 tournaments throughout our 50 states, just in the past year. Now if you add tournaments that are run through other sources and the house tournaments, which are a weekly activity in many of the 2,000 clubs and 1,000 Y.M.C.A.s, JCCs and colleges, the number of tournaments could add up to an astounding 200,000 a year.

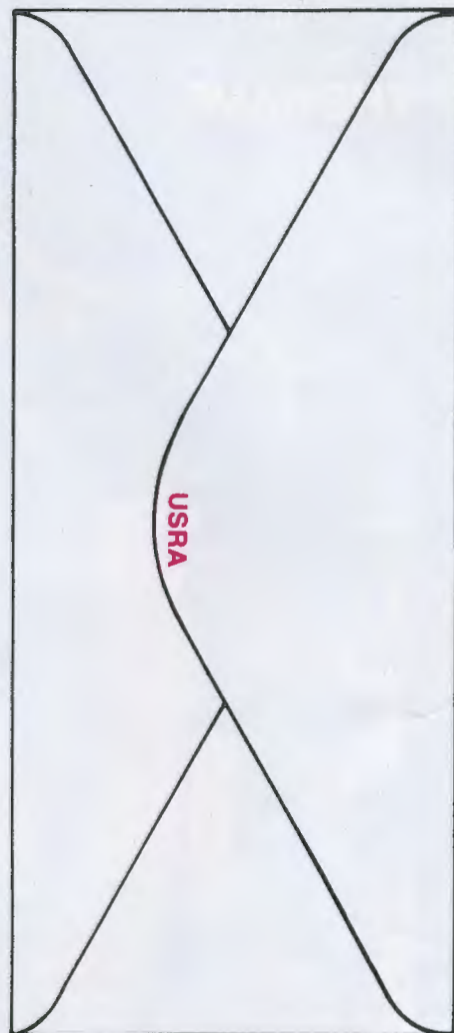
In 1970 when we talked about racquetball, we had to explain to people what it was. Now it's common to see a TV commercial in which players in a racquetball court attract attention to products having nothing to do with equipment for the game.

Yes racquetball is here to stay—and so are we. The NRC and USRA will continue to take the lead in this great sport from which we expect even better things in the future.

Joe Ardito

Joe Ardito

From our Readers



More than Ever

Dear Editor:

You have a great magazine. I just turned 51 and playing more than ever.

Joe U. Nathan
Sepulveda, CA

Ricochet Invited Lonnie

Dear Editor:

On page 47 of your November issue you list Lonnie Allgood (New Jersey Most Improved Player) as receiving a bid to play in the Ricochet Invitational. Then you said the tournament was at a club that doesn't exist. It was held at Ricochet Racquet Club, South Plainfield, NJ.

Richard Telofski
South Plainfield, NJ

We stand corrected. ED

A WHOLE PAGE OF EXCUSES FOR SPENDING CLOSE TO \$100 ON YOUR NEXT RACQUET.

AMF Voit introduces the Pacer. At close to \$100, the price tag is not expensive. The racquet is.



HANDMADE OF PURE FIBERGLASS.

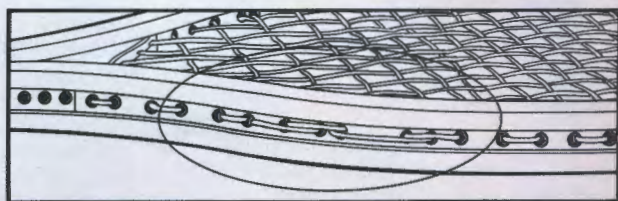
It's the first pure fiberglass racquet. It's also handmade to exacting standards. By Charlie Smith. Or

Pam Osserman. Or one of a dozen other specially selected craftsmen who shape and string the lightweight Pacer.

The Pacer's design is light years ahead of the competition. A unique variable width frame puts reinforcement precisely where computers show most players put stress.

Our floating throat-piece and polyurethane foam handle are two more patented exclusives.

They reduce vibrations from the strings. So the racquet feels extraordinarily smooth in your hand.



EXTRA STRENGTH ADDED TO STRESS AREA.

Just as innovative is our quadraform head shape. We developed and perfected the slightly squarish shape that gives our racquet

flexibility.
And kill power.

The Pacer may easily cost twice as much as the racquet you're now playing with. But once you play with pure fiberglass, handmade no less, the Pacer won't seem expensive.

Other racquets will seem cheap.



Santa Ana, California 92704

THE NEW PACER

Entertaining Job

Dear Mr. Kendler:

I would like to congratulate you and your organization on the fine job you are doing in developing the sport of racquetball. As manager of the Klubhaus in Bloomington, IN I have a first hand opportunity to witness the growth of the sport. The USRA has made my job easier and much more entertaining as well as establishing racquetball as a fun, family sport in the eyes of my members. Congratulations on a job well done!

Scot Winter
Bloomington, IN

Happy Critic

Dear Mr. Kendler:

You must be complimented for your honesty and forthrightness. You accepted my strong letter of criticism with graciousness and an open mind and I believe you must be a "big man." Some day I hope I have the pleasure of meeting you.

My criticism of the Assassin is not in its quality control, but in its design. I have tried many Seamco products and, currently, my favorite ball is the Seamco 600.

Again thank you for your fairness.

Frank P. Maldonado, M.D.
Hobbs, NM

Leave Scoring as Is

Dear Editor:

I would like to make a comment about your possible new formats to be used in tournament play. I, myself, enjoy the game going to 21 with an 11 point tie-breaker. For one thing it gives the player with the ability to make a "comeback" the chance to do it, if he or she is behind in a game. Also, within a 21 point game, certain strategies can be used throughout, if the original game plan doesn't work. Plus the fact that I just enjoy a longer game. But if the format were going to be changed I would much rather have the 3/5 to 11, or no change at all. The 3/5 gives the same effect almost as tennis does, and each player would have a considerable amount of time to make adjustments, but also, each player would not be able to have mental lapses, as you suggested. The other formats leave much to be desired, particularly serving in quadrants of the court and scoring on every point. The server should have the advantage of being on the offense with the serve, and gain points for doing so.

But . . . I don't see why you just leave it the way it is. Other sports have been set up with the same two out of three principle, and have survived just fine. Why can't racquetball?

JoAnn La Pointe
Jackson, MS

Will It Replace Ping Pong?

Sir Dan Bertolucci:

Maybe my letter is a great surprise to you. Excuse my introducing myself. I am Chinese and a sports fan. My name is Yu Kewang, a teacher of a school.

I received a copy of *National Racquetball* (March, 1980) not long ago. It interest me very much. There isn't racquetball in our country. My comrades and I haven't seen the game. I want to understand it, so I went over the magazine carefully. I know a little about the game now, but there are some things I don't know. Such as: the measurements of the court and location of lines, size of racquet and ball, history of the game, rules and how to referee.

For resolving these doubts I write you boldly. In order to introduce the game to Chinese people and promote the friendship between the people of our two countries, I am going to translate and write some articles on the game.

Would you be so kind as to answer my questions? I am very sorry for giving you a lot of troubles. Goodbye.

Yu Kewang
Zhanjiang, Jiangsu
The People's Republic of China

It's been no trouble at all—in fact a pleasure—to send you the information you need, including our new rule book. We're glad to see racquetball building new bridges of international friendship, just as it's done in many other parts of the world.
ED

High on New Games

Dear Editor:

Your October story, "New Games in Court," has inspired new action in our racquetball courts. I got in touch with the various people you mentioned in your story, and we now are playing soccer and Volleyball here at the Keatington Racquetball Club. We're high on both games. I'm now trying to figure out how to set up the court for basketball. Your story was a real service to the court clubs.

Erik Erikson
Lake Orion, MI

Tiny Town Racquetball

Dear Editor:

Along with many of your readers racquetball has become a part of our lives.

We live in a very small mountain town in North Carolina and have just finished building a racquetball court. Everyone in our family plays. Our 10-year-old son, Jamie, is an excellent player and we would love to have him properly coached because he has good potential. My question is how do I find someone, since we live in such a small, out-of-the-way place? Jamie is already tournament material and we believe that the younger you are when you enter tournaments, the better.

We enjoy your magazine and look forward to it arriving monthly.

Honey, Chester, Cristie and Jamie Whittle
Creston, NC

First please check with Jim Adams our North Carolina state chairman, listed in our USRA amateur section. He'll help you find facilities near your town. Second watch National Racquetball for information on our USRA juniors competition—both regional and national. We'll be looking for Jamie Whittle's name among the winners of those spring and summer tournaments. ED

He Has Heart

Dear Joe Ardito:

Sorry we were unable to attend the Junior Nationals, especially since we've heard so many nice things about it. As you know, it was the first time Hart has missed a USRA Junior National. God willing he will be able to compete in 1981. Keep up the good work with the junior program and send our good wishes to the Kendlers and the staff.

I'm enclosing an article that describes Hart's progress after his baseball injury last June.

Marvin Johnson
St. Paul, MN

Turn to page 21 for the heartening racquetball story. ED



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OF THE U.S. RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION
AND THE U.S. HANDBALL ASSOCIATION.

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a *virtually indestructible* mono-
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creates a *virtually indestructible* playing
surface that is monolithic,
water & moisture resistant

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Urethane color coat
(applies to floor only)
floors are available in a
handsome combination of colors

Game stripes (floors only)
are embedded to eliminate wear

Urethane clear sealer
(floor only) the final seal
for the Mapelite base,
tough & easy to clean

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resistant. Approved for indoor or outdoor
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Leave it to Leach to deliver 100%. And more.

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

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

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

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

Why Marty won't go to court without graphite.

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

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

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

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

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

Like the Leach Graphite Competitor. An ingenious

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

A brand-new breed of Bandido.

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

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

The Performer still is.

The Leach Graphite Performer was

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

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

Number One by process of elimination.

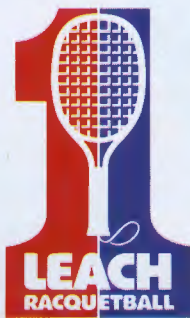
Collectively, our Leach racquets are the winningest graphites on the pro tour. Bar none. With the largest selection of graphite racquets available from any single source.

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

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NUMBER ONE BY DESIGN™

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Sun Belt Racquetball



Omega 40's 10 air conditioned courts in Ormand Beach are open for play to guests of two Daytona Beach hotels.

Resorts Build Courts for Vacationers

Feature

by Ivan Fuldauer

Soft tropical breezes blow across the white sand beach and there you are beneath a gently swaying palm tree. You close your eyes. You start to relax. But something's not right . . . There's no place to play racquetball.

Wrong!

Racquetball has become an important facet of the total recreational program at resorts throughout the Sun Belt. Many hotel/resort facilities, such as those at the Marriott Hotel Corporation chain, are incorporating racquetball in plans for new facilities or adding courts to existing hotels and resorts.

For example Marriott's newest, the Ft. Lauderdale Marriott Hotel, which opens this month, includes racquetball along with a marina for 55 yachts, tennis courts, pro shop, game room and an outdoor pool. Five time zones west racquetball courts are being included in the plans for the Kauai Marriott now under construction in Hawaii.

As Sam Huff, Marriott's Vice President of Special Marketing, puts it: *"We believe that people vacation to ease the tensions of today's stressful lifestyle. Sitting on a beach no longer does it. Our guests enjoy the activity of participant sports like golf, tennis, sailing and racquetball."*

To prove the point, Huff, best remembered as one of the all time great linebackers during his NFL career with the New York Giants and Washington Redskins, noted that 95 percent of Marriott's hotel and resorts—Sun Belt or Frost Belt—have fitness facilities.

Florida is a Sun Belt state that belatedly realized the recreational potential of racquetball facilities during the past year, new ones have included racquetball. Many resorts have added racquetball courts and now racquetball clubs are offering week or month long memberships tailored to the needs of the winter vacationer.

Orange Juice Land

Racquetball players going down to Daytona Beach during the February and March Speed Weeks '81 can find plenty of their game when they're not watching the car and cycle races. The Omega 40 Racquetball/Handball/Nautilus Center in nearby Ormond Beach has 10 air conditioned courts, a heated pool, saunas,

steam room, whirlpools and a jogging track. Omega 40 has an arrangement with the Holiday Inn, Surfside and the Surfview Motel, both in Daytona Beach, which gives guests full use of Omega 40's facilities at attractive discounts.

Just south of Daytona Beach, only a few miles from Cape Kennedy, the Cocoa Beach Holiday Inn offers tennis and racquetball courts, a swimming pool and a two-minute drive from several championship golf courses.

In Pompano Beach the World of Palm-Aire, which spreads over 1,500 acres, has five 18 hole championship golf courses, 37 tennis courts, and four brand new racquetball courts. There's also a jogging track and the usual south Florida amenities, including shimmering pools, sun decks, ocean swimming, and extensive health spa facilities—both indoor and outdoor. Racquetball court time is complimentary to hotel guests.

In Ft. Lauderdale Fred Blaess, a transplanted Chicagoan, runs The Courtrooms, which has 20 racquetball courts, a Nautilus Health Center, and facilities for basketball, volleyball, handball, swimming and jogging. There's also a whirlpool, steam room and sauna. To accommodate Frost Belt racquetballers The Courtrooms offers two plans. The first is a \$10 one week membership plus court time. For \$25 guests can have unlimited court time during any seven day period.

In Miami, just south of the county line dividing Broward from Dade, the Turnberry Isle Country Club & Inn has 19 tennis courts watched over by Fred Stolle, a regular on the "Legends of Tennis" circuit, two championship golf courses presided over by Julius Boros, one time U.S. Open winner, and four newly constructed indoor, air conditioned racquetball courts.

Around Disney World near Orlando, racquetball has gained in popularity. Omega 40's sister club, the Orlando Tennis & Racquet Club, just opened 10 USRA-approved racquetball courts to go with their 18 tennis courts. Expansion plans call for a complete Nautilus Health Center, jogging track, Olympic-size pool and an indoor gymnasium.

The Dutch Inn in Lake Buena Vista, which is on land that's part of Disney World, just opened two racquetball courts. Court time is complimentary to hotel guests. Equipment is available for rental.

On Florida's west coast racquetball has finally established a solid foothold. In

A Daytona Beach press agent writes: "There's four wall racquetball, there's three wall racquetball and now Janice Brown has come to Daytona Beach to invent 'sea wall' racquetball." *The press agent did not list Janice's rules of the game.*



addition to its 23 tennis courts the Naples Bath and Tennis Club has all the usual amenities plus one new outdoor, three wall court.

The Racquet Club on Marco Island, one of the southwest Florida's most popular destinations, has the only two air conditioned indoor racquetball courts on the island. Though membership is required for tennis, racquetball play is much easier. Just turn up and play, paying only for the court time.

The Clamshell Beach & Racquet Retreat, a townhouse condominium resort, has a heated pool, hot tub and Sanibel Island's only indoor racquetball courts.

Deep in the Heart

Located within the Dallas-Ft. Worth Airport Boundaries, and just 25 minutes from either city, Amfac Corporations' Bear Creek Golf & Racquet Center offers a complete sports/recreation complex, including racquetball, golf, tennis and jogging. Interestingly, Bear Creek is one of the few resorts where racquetball courts outnumber tennis courts—ten to eight.

Sun worshippers who can switch to racquetball at Amfac Corporation's Bear Creek Golf & Racquet Center in Dallas-Ft. Worth will be able to enjoy the same variety at the Waiohai, which Amfac will open in Hawaii in August.

Amfac is also planning to include racquetball courts at the Waiohale, a resort it is building on the island of Kauai, in Hawaii, which is scheduled to open August 1.

In Houston The Houstonian includes indoor and outdoor running tracks, swimming, tennis, racquetball and handball, basketball volleyball, and a fully equipped exercise room. Situated in an 18 acre estate the "Do It All, Or Do Nothing At All" resort is just five minutes from Houston's famed Galleria shopping center, 10 minutes from downtown and 35 from the city's intercontinental airport.

Cactus Country

"The goal of Canyon Ranch," says Mel Zuckerman, owner, with his wife, Enid, of America's first total vacation/fitness resort, "is to create a vacation experience that combines the best of Arizona's climate and surroundings, recreational facilities, fitness programs and diet. There is an increasing awareness of the relationship between fitness and health but, unfortunately, many guests at spas have had to make the decision to invest their time and money in their health at the expense of foregoing a vacation. Canyon Ranch provides its guests with both."

More than \$6.5 million has been invested in Canyon Ranch, the centerpiece of which is a new 28,000 square foot Spa Building housing four air conditioned racquetball courts, three carpeted exercise rooms, a weight room, beauty salon, indoor and outdoor massage areas, herbal wrap and facial rooms; separate spa facilities for men and women featuring jacuzzis, cold dip, individual therapy tubs, sauna, steam and inhalation rooms, sunbathing areas; and a co-ed sauna and jacuzzi. Adjoining the Spa Building are six tennis courts and indoor-outdoor aquatic exercise pool with a motorized roof for all weather enjoyment.

One in the Valley

Further west California's Palm Desert Tennis Club recently added an indoor, air conditioned racquetball court, the only one in the Coachella Valley, to go with the eight tennis courts, six swimming pools, six jacuzzis, sauna, gym and volleyball court. Accommodations are privately owned condominiums available for rent. The racquetball court and other recreational facilities, available only to guests staying at the club, are complimentary.

Racquetball Players' Resort Directory

Tucson's 28 acre Canyon Ranch offers visitors four air conditioned racquetball courts.



Here are some Sun Belt resorts with courts, resorts with court club arrangements and clubs that cater to vacationers.

Marriott Hotel & Marina
1881 S.E. 17th St.
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33316
305-463-4000

Omega 40
1 So. Old Kings Rd.
Ormond Beach, FL 32074
904-672-4044

Holiday Inn Surfside
2700 No. Atlantic Ave.
Daytona Beach, FL 32018
904-672-3770

Surfview Motel
401 So. Atlantic Ave.
Daytona Beach, FL 32018
904-253-1626

Cocoa Beach Holiday Inn
1300 No. Atlantic Ave.
Cocoa Beach, FL 32931
305-783-2271

World of Palm-Aire
Palm-Aire Drive North
Pompano Beach, FL 33060
305-972-3300

The Courtrooms
750 W. Sunrise Blvd.
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33311
305-764-8700

Turnberry Isle Country Club & Inn
P.O. Box 630578
Miami, FL 33163
305-932-6200

Orlando Tennis & Racquet Club
825 Courland St.
Orlando, FL 32804
305-644-5411

Dutch Inn Resort Hotel
1850 Preview Blvd.
Lake Buena Vista, FL 32830
305-828-4444

Naples Bath & Tennis Club
4995 No. Airport Rd.
Naples, FL 33942
813-261-5777

Racquet Club
P.O. Box 518
Marco Island, FL 33937
813-394-7284

Clamshell Beach & Racquet Retreat
1800 Middle Gulf Dr.
Sanibel Island, FL 33957
813-472-4442

Palm Beach Polo & Country Club
13198 Forest Hill Blvd.
West Palm Beach, FL 33411
305-793-1113

Miami Lakes Inn & Country Club
14340 N.W. 60th Ave.
Miami Lakes, FL 33014
305-821-1130

Doral Country Club
4400 N.W. 87th Ave.
Miami, FL 33166
305-592-2000

Hyatt Sarasota
1000 Blvd. of the Arts
Sarasota, FL 33577
813-366-9000

Bear Creek Golf & Racquet Center
P.O. Box 61025
Dallas/Ft. Worth Airport, TX 75261
214-453-8400

The Houstonian
111 No. Post Oak Lane
Houston, TX 77024
713-680-2626

Canyon Ranch
8600 E. Rockcliff Rd.
Tucson, AZ 85715
602-749-9000

La Posada
4349 E. Lincoln Dr.
Scottsdale, AZ 85253
602-952-0420

The Pointe
7677 North 16th St.
Phoenix, AZ 85020
602-997-2626

Palm Desert Tennis Club
48-249 Alamo Dr.
Palm Desert, CA 92260
714-346-5683

Mission Valley Inn
901 Hotel Circle S
San Diego, CA 92138
714-298-8281

Marina City Club
4333 Admiralty Way
Marina del Rey, CA 90291
213-822-0611

Snap . . . Now Hart Johnson Rebuilds

by Rick Preiss



Hart Johnson pumped his arms vigorously. His 16-year-old body moved rhythmically up and down on the treadmill running machine. His straight black hair flopped to the beat.

From the waist up Johnson looked too healthy to be in the physical therapy room at the St. Anthony Orthopaedic Clinic. But his right leg is narrower than his left, and his right foot drags when planted on the belt.

Beginning at the right knee's outer edge a three inch scar runs towards his calf. The calf is encased by a white plastic brace, which enables Johnson who is paralyzed in his lower right leg and foot, to walk with a limp and to run on the machine.

Until June 11 Hart Johnson's life had a story book quality. The words "*happily ever after*" were tacked on to the end. He was beginning a promising athletic career.

Johnson was named the outstanding athlete in his freshman class at St. Paul Highland Park Junior High in 1979 for his basketball and baseball performances. It was his true athletic love, racquetball, however, in which Johnson excelled.

He was three times the state champion in his age group. He was half of a doubles team which finished second in the nation's 17 and Under classification last year and is the defending Midwest Region champion.

But on June 11 a freak injury to his right knee while playing American Legion baseball changed Johnson's life.

With a teammate on first base Johnson, a left handed batter, tapped the ball back to the pitcher, who looked to second before throwing to first.

Hart Johnson was eight years old when his father, Marvin, brought him along from St. Paul, MN to Milwaukee for the NRC's first pro tour stop, and, National Commissioner Joe Ardito recalls, "*he was the sweetheart of the tournament.*" Hart, now 16, has continued to make his mark on racquetball, though he was temporarily out of the game, as this story explains. *National Racquetball* is reprinting this article from the Oct. 9, 1980 issue of *MetroSports* with permission of the publisher.

"I knew it was going to be a close play, so I was running full speed and looking straight ahead," Johnson said. *"I felt my foot catch under the bottom of the base but my body kept going forward. I felt like my knee cracked in half. I had no feeling in my right foot and up the side of my leg. I knew it was serious, but I didn't know what was wrong."*

The outside of Johnson's right knee literally was torn apart, said Johnson's physician, Dr. John Dowdle, who described the injured knee as one of the worst he had ever seen. The hamstring muscle and the ligaments which stabilize the outside of the knee were ripped, and the sheath of the knee was dislodged.

The most serious damage was a badly bruised peroneal nerve. The nerve begins behind the knee and runs downward. Consequently while Johnson's knee is now structurally intact, the nerve damage is causing the paralysis, Dowdle said. If the nerve dies, Johnson may not regain sensation in that area. He may need a brace to walk.

"It's too early to tell what will happen," Dowdle said. *"The nerve is structurally intact but it heals slowly—about a millimeter a day. The strands within the outer covering of the nerve dissolved because of the injury and are now trying to grow back."*

Johnson is in the ninth week of a rehabilitation program. He cannot move his foot up or to the right. He strengthens his leg in a therapy program he performs three days a week. The other four days he swims for about an hour at the St. Paul Jewish Community Center.

The right leg now is 77 percent as strong as his left, said Johnson's therapist Tim Carr. The leg must be 90 percent as strong before he can begin regular activities.

"I know there's no guarantee the leg will be 100 percent again," Johnson said. *"But I'm sure the nerve will grow back. If not there are other things. I won't let it ruin my life."*

After eight days in the hospital Johnson returned home with a cast from hip to toe.

Crutches in hand Johnson began his rehabilitation program by propelling himself two houses down and back from his residence in Highland Park.

"It took all the wind out of me," Johnson said. *"My goal was to increase my distance by one house each day. One day I felt really pumped up and went five extra houses."*

Johnson also returned to Southview Racquet Club in West St. Paul where he is a teaching professional. He gave lessons, watching his students and telling them what they were doing wrong. Eventually Johnson took racquet in hand and, using a crutch on his right side as a brace, played by himself.

After seven weeks the cast came off. Johnson, on crutches, went to the community center pool to discover the answer to an important question. With the aid of two therapists, Johnson walked across the pool in water up to his waist.

"It wasn't painful," Johnson said. *"It was scary, yet exciting. I took little steps, putting a little more weight on my foot as I went along. Finally I realized I could walk."*

Johnson is not used to falling short of his goals. Last year, as youth ambassador for the state's American Heart Assn., Johnson raised more than his goal of \$1,000 in donations for completing the association's 10-kilometer (6.2 mile) run.

Ironically running is again the means to his ends. Now he runs the treadmill on the long road back.

In a phone call with *National Racquetball* on Nov. 12, the day after Hart Johnson played his first singles match since the accident, his mother, Carol, reported: *"It was marvelous. He played with a brace and we didn't know how it was going to turn out. But he wanted to give an exhibition and clinic with Paul Bakken at the St. Paul Athletic Club—and he did . . . The Mayo Clinic in Rochester just confirmed our doctor's opinion—the knee is approaching the 90 percent mark in strength and the nerve is healing slowly. Hart plans to compete in the Junior Nationals next summer."* ●

An Optometrist's

— All photos, except Action Eyes, by James Gregg



The Action Eyes frame allows you to insert prescription lenses. Wearing a headband is the best way to keep perspiration out of any eyeguards.

Eyeguard Guide



Did you ever stop to think of the force of a hard rubber ball traveling at more than 100 miles per hour and what it can do to ordinary spectacles or an unguarded eye?

by James R. Gregg, O.D.

Gregg is Professor, Southern California College of Optometry, Fullerton, CA

Racquetball can be hazardous to your eyesight. That really doesn't need proving, though the odds of having an accident and the possible seriousness of eye injuries might come as a surprise.

There is no systematic record keeping system that is all inclusive but what evidence there is suggests the risk is great. The US Consumer Product Safety Commission's National Electronic Surveillance System (NEISS) collects information on product related injuries from the emergency departments of some 121 hospitals. NEISS recorded 4,699 players with eye injuries in 1977. Those are only the ones serious enough to require hospital emergency attention.

The November, 1979 issue of the *Medical Tribune* carried a report that there are probably over 9,000 eye *serious* injuries from racquet sports each year. This was based upon a survey of nearly 800

physicians who had patients with such injuries. Out of 847 specific cases reported, there were 10 cases in which the patient lost an eye.

Total blindness could result from a racquetball in a head-on collision with an eye. Detached retinas, retinal hemorrhage, damage to cornea, iris and lens can all occur. Even laceration of the lids and ocular area are painful enough to make you racquetball shy. The trauma of a near miss can cool even the most enthusiastic player.

But you really don't need statistics to prove there is a risk of injury to unprotected eyes. Look around you. Chances are you know someone injured by racquet or ball in the head or face area. The odds may be small you'll receive a hit in the eye, but they are greater than in any other sport and when injury occurs, it can be *really* serious.

Built for contact sports this frame provides as good as there is in safety and comfort and is nearly tough enough to be run over by a truck.



This eyeguard of soft plastic is made for wear in industry but can afford protection and comfort for racquetball players.



Most eye injuries can be eliminated. (Not all because there is always chance of some freak accident or product failure.) There are well engineered protective devices available that would reduce the statistics to near zero. But why aren't they worn by every player? Common reasons are:

Excuses

1. *It isn't going to happen to me.* It does happen to somebody and the consequences can be loss of vision in an eye. Even those who know better sometimes have to learn from bitter experience.

An optometrist and experienced racquetball player was playing with his regular glasses (metal frame and glass lenses). Hit by his opponent's racquet frame and lens smashed into his eye area. Vision itself suffered no damage, but he had a tough time explaining a badly bruised black eye to his patients.

Though it happened playing tennis, an ophthalmologist learned how vulnerable eyes are. Trying to return a hard volley at the net with his backhand, the ball flicked off the racket edge into his eye. When hemorrhages and swelling cleared, he was back on the court—wearing safety glasses.

2. *Glasses, or eye protective devices, are a nuisance to wear.* Some of them are, but generally the reasons are: (a) wrong size, (b) poor fit, (c) inferior quality, (d) not kept in adjustment.

The solutions to those problems are simple. Select a high quality device in the first place—more about this later. The secret, however, is to have them precisely fitted. Some can be heated, bent, angled and adjusted, but not all of them. Sponge pads can be put on bridge and temples that press too hard. Attachment to head can be fixed to hold on just right.

Steaming up can be minimized by adjustment and angling so there is ventilation behind them. Wear a head band, if necessary, to cut down perspiration. Plastic fogs less. There are compounds to put on lenses to reduce steaming up.

Prescription lenses will fit and be adjusted but they, too, can steam up. The pads can cause injury to your nose, though eye sight will be protected. Tell your optometrist about playing racquetball. Select a frame and lens type for that purpose. Attach whatever will provide maximum comfort and hold the frame in place.

3. *Any kind of eyewear cuts down on visibility.* It only seems that way, particularly to the person who doesn't wear glasses and just hates to put on a frame for protection.

People who wear glasses all the time don't actually "see" the frame edge. Oh at first yes, but soon they are scarcely conscious of it.

The way to minimize that is to have a large enough frame. There is a problem. If it is a protective device with no lenses, the open space cannot be large enough to let the ball through. The ball is only two and three-eighths inches in diameter. Traveling over 100 miles per hour, as the ball can do, it flattens out and will go through an opening smaller than two and three-eighths inches.

In fact there have been several instances of eye injuries occurring while wearing devices made for protection—result of a head-on hit. Why bother then? Chance of that is very small and even then injury would probably be less severe.

Frames made for prescription lenses can provide good visibility, if they are selected with that thought in mind. The trouble is they are generally designed for style rather than protection.

But is the frame edge a blind spot that would interfere with performance? There have been no studies to prove the point but probably not. Sharp vision is only central and you don't turn your eye far enough where frame edge would block that. The ball covers the few degrees of frame edge in an instant and then, too, your head moves to get the frame out of the way. One way to minimize is to move your head more to reduce "seeing the frame."

4. *Just seems to be in the way.* That's a matter of getting used to them. That may be hard to do because of the rapid action of a game and the desire to win. It's a matter of weighing the benefits.



Photo A



Photo B

No Protection

First of all remember that you get *no* protection at all from contact lenses. Racquet or ball can bang into the ocular region and the eyeball itself.

As for regular glasses though all lenses must be made break resistant according to an FDA regulation, they are not necessarily break proof. Glass could shatter and cause injury—though chances are probably less than wearing no glasses at all. Scratched lenses lose safety value. Plastic lenses which aren't likely to shatter, though they can break, provide better protection than glass. Most regular wear frames are too fragile for racquetball impact. Besides that they don't hold lenses in place as they should.

Included in this group, too, are plain sun glasses or light tinted lenses sold over the counter for fashion and/or glare reduction. They certainly aren't in the eye protective category required for racquetball. The lenses do have to meet certain break resistant standards, but many of the frames are far below what is necessary.

What then is the best kind of eye protection?

Caution: No manufacturer guarantees absolute safety and neither does this article imply, if you follow its advice, no accident could ever occur. You could be hurt using any of the devices mentioned. But, certainly, the risks are reduced when wearing them.

Eye protectors only

This type designed solely for protection does not have a solid surface of glass or plastic in front of the eye. These are shown in the illustrations. Photos A and B are of protectors made of plastic with narrow openings to see through. Photos C and D show those made like a catcher's mask, but only covering the upper part of the face.

Manufacturers rarely provide information on quality and testing standards and there is little to go on for any particular protective device. That does not mean none are safe. Most are made of polycarbonates that are tough enough if the material has adequate thickness, if manufactured properly and there aren't weak spots at corners or hinges. Open space must be small enough to reject the ball at high speed.

These are widely used eye protective devices made especially for racquetball.

Best advice for those who wear ordinary glasses is to use a protective mask for maximum safety.



Photo C

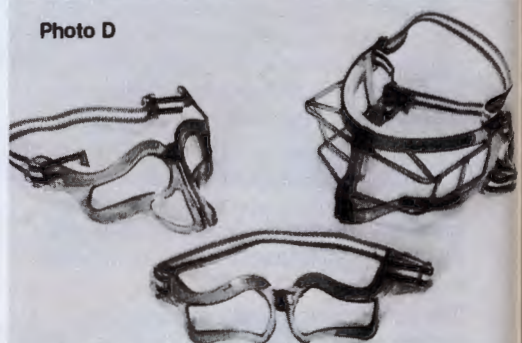


Photo D

These three models of all plastic eyeguards illustrate the variety that is available. Two of these also protect the nose.

Some eyeguards can be worn over ordinary glasses. That provides double protection though the bulk and weight can be annoying. There is no doubt face masks of metal are the strongest. Carefully inspect any eyeguard you consider buying. Note the precision of its finish and smoothness of the edges.

Complete lens eyeguards

These, if properly designed, are the best of all because a complete shield in front of the eye eliminates chance of ball coming through. The complete lens provides the best visibility since the frame can be large and the edge out of the way; and in plastic three millimeters thick it meets the strictest industrial safety standards.

The frame must also be designed for safety. It should have more material in the high stress areas. The eye wire grooves should be deep with extra material on the inside to prevent lenses from being pushed out backward. (Photo E) The temples should have a metal core, and have extra thickness to provide protection from impact at the side.

Some eyeguards are made with a bubble-like plastic lens to cover the complete eye area. (Photo F) If the plastic is adequate, protection is probably good. However looking through such a surface produces distortions and discomfort for some wearers. This is most likely to occur if the surface is curved in both the horizontal and vertical direction. So a surface which curves only in the horizontal direction is more likely to be distortion-free.

A frame called Action Eyes produced by Bausch and Lomb meets many desirable specifications. There may be other frames as well, but Action Eyes can also be fitted with plastic prescription lenses—these should be three millimeters at the thinnest point. The front surface of plastic can be coated to make the lenses scratch resistant.

One drawback of Action Eyes is that it comes in only one size. However it is made of material that is adjustable (don't try it yourself, it needs to be heated just right), and will fit most faces with reasonable comfort. Whatever you choose look for the desirable qualities outlined above.

Greatest Risk

There are certain times when risk of being hit in the eye by the ball is greater than others.

1. *Playing doubles* More people on the court tend to block your view and interfere with your judgment of ball speed and direction. Obviously danger from racquets is greater the more of them there are. With the court floor surface only 20 by 40 feet it can get crowded.

2. *During practice sessions* (especially with more than one ball going at a time) If this falls into the just-gooing-around category, the risk goes up.

3. *Ball hit in frustration or anger* Too bad, but it does happen. Look away if someone does that while you're on the court.

4. *Turning to look at the ball* It doesn't matter whether it's hit by partner or opponent, behind you or when it is coming off the backwall.

Any kind of frame like this should have three millimeter thick plastic lenses for maximum safety and it's even better if the frame edge has extra deep grooves to hold lenses in place.

Photo E



Photo F

Some people experience visual distortion with "bubble" glasses with a front surface that curves both vertically and horizontally. It is best to try this type out first if you can.

Do bad things only happen to novices?

One study in Canada of eye injuries from playing squash led to the conclusion that the amount of experience apparently had nothing to do with it. Ages of players ranged from 18 to 51, and the average amount of experience was 5.6 years.

One unlucky player was playing his first game. Another had been playing for 32 years. Eye injuries apparently favor no particular kind of player. But they can be stopped if you take the trouble to properly protect yourself.

To avoid steaming: angle the eyeguards up so there's ventilation behind, wear a head band, remember that plastic fogs less than glass, apply an anti-steaming compound.



Solid plastic eyeguards generally need adjusting and some sponge padding at facial pressure points to be comfortable and reduce chances of cutting the face if hit.

Better Play with Eye Protection

Secure in the knowledge that eye injury is remote or impossible you can:

1. Watch the flight of the ball off the wall or the opponent's racquet in close quarters that might otherwise be risky.
2. Stay closer to your opponent in certain key situations that will aid in making a return shot yet not create a hinder with little fear of injury from his or her racquet.
3. Look directly at the opponent as he addresses and hits the ball to determine his body/foot position as an aid in judging where the shot is likely to go.

All that beats ducking, turning, flinching in certain high risk of eye injury situations. That should be worth the "nuisance" of wearing eyeguards which is more imaginary than real anyway.

Eye Protection Recommendations for Racquet Sports Players

Racquet sports players suffer large numbers of eye injuries. These result from being struck by either the racquet, ball, the shuttlecock or other object being hit. The National Society to Prevent Blindness has been receiving increasing numbers of requests for guidance on what type of eye protection should be worn by racquet sports players to reduce the threat of eye injury. Thus these recommendations have been developed and are in effect until a standard now being prepared has been completed. The standard will contain performance requirements that such protectors must meet before being sold to the public. In absence of such a standard these recommendations can only be considered as interim guidelines. Any eye protection device is designed to reduce significantly the risk of an injury. However it does not provide a guarantee against all injury possibilities.

For Individuals Who Require Corrective Lenses

1. Industrial quality safety glasses with plastic* lenses that meet all requirements of the American National Standard Practice for Occupational and Educational Eye and Face Protection, Z87.1, 1979. Cable type temples curving around the ear or spatula temples with a headband should be utilized as well as a frame without adjustable nose pads. These glasses can usually be obtained through an eye doctor or optician and represent the type of eye protection required for use in occupational settings.
2. "Sports Eye Protectors"—Some eye protectors incorporate prescription lenses. Their cost is generally higher than industrial-quality safety glasses. Lenses in "sports eye protectors" should be plastic.* These protectors are available through many eye doctors and opticians.

For Individuals Who Require No Corrective Lenses—Two options are available:

1. Industrial quality safety glasses—"Plano" or non-corrective safety glasses with plastic* lenses. Cable temples curving around the ear or spatula temples with a headband to help hold glasses in place should be used as well as a frame without adjustable nose pads. These are available through eye doctors, opticians and suppliers of safety equipment.
2. "Sports Eye Protectors"—These plastic*, often goggle-type eyeguards are available with or without lenses. They can be purchased from many opticians, eye doctors, sporting goods stores and racquet clubs.

* Polycarbonate plastic lenses—available in many sports eye protectors and industrial quality safety glasses—provide substantially greater impact resistance than other types of lens material according to recent studies. ●



National Society to Prevent Blindness

79 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10016 212-684-3505

Racquetball in New Jersey — Lots of It

by Dick Squires

National Racquetball East Coast Editor

Racquetball is, indeed, alive, well and flourishing in New Jersey . . . so far. The growth of commercial facilities in the Garden State since 1976 has been phenomenal. As a matter of fact, according to USRA State Chairman Doug Clark "There are now more clubs per square mile in New Jersey than any other state in the Union."

On Nov. 20 Don Burke and Leon Dwulet celebrated the fourth anniversary of Kangaroo Courts, New Jersey's first racquetball/handball club in the obscure south shore hamlet of Bricktown. Burke had visited his partner's son, Jimmy, in California, had played racquetball and came back with the idea of introducing the sport in the east.

"We went all out," Burke says. "Most of the clubs at that time had only 10 courts—we put in 16. We promoted the club with fliers, radio ads and open house in the trailer that stood outside of the construction. Eleven months after I got back we were open—with a thousand members. We were surprised at the number of people who knew handball and racquetball from college or the service."

Soon another complex went up in nearby Wall, with the somewhat strange name of What's Your Racquet Club. Due to the instant success of these rather modest, pure racquetball facilities, an avalanche of far larger and posher racquetball establishments have been constructed in key population centers all over the state . . . 83 of them to be precise.

In upstate New Jersey 50 (count 'em, 50!) clubs have been jammed into Bergen County and the Passaic area, another 20 in the Point Pleasant, Atlantic City and the so-called "shore area" and the remaining were built in Marlton and Cherry Hill, near Philadelphia.

USRA State Chairman Doug Clark has won the Men's Open state championships for the last four years.



For Sale

As might be expected a few clubs in the northern part of New Jersey are either in Chapter 11 or up for sale. "Most people would blame the failure of these facilities on poor management, but that is not the entire story," Clark says. "I personally believe it is the age-old story of over-expansion. It is certainly not the fault of the game per se."

One of the "older," more successful facilities bears one of the most famous names in sport, but the sport is *not* racquetball. It is baseball. The Yogi Berra Hall of Fame Club is situated in Fairfield, and the ex-Yankee coach and catcher must know what he is doing. His club is one of the most active and prosperous in the state.

The average number of courts per club is 12. None of the clubs to date has gone the "clubby" route; that is an expensive dues structure, but no hourly court fee. They are still all nominal to join, and courts rent by the hour for around \$9 to \$12.

Presently another five clubs are going up in the state, but there are two that are head and shoulders above the rest in their amenities and lavishness.



New Jersey's racquetball pioneer, Don Burke, built the state's first club with his partner, Leon Dwulet.



Steve Kass, vice-president of Strongwall Systems, Inc., admires the photo of the owner that hangs in the Yogi Berra Hall of Fame racquetball club. Other Strongwall installations in New Jersey include the company's own Westwood Racquetball Club and the new King's Court in Lyndhurst.

Arthur Hillman just added the Elmwood Racquetball and Spa, the building on the right, to the golf center he's been running for 28 years near Paterson and Clifton. This sketch shows the jogging and skate track surrounding the nine hole, par three golf course, behind the Spa.



Two Giants

The Elmwood Racquetball and Spa, located near major cities such as Paterson and Clifton and only 12 minutes from the George Washington Bridge, opened in December. Its owner, Arthur Hillman, is justly proud of what he calls a "First Class" operation.

"We have been running a golf center right here for 28 years," he says. "We think we know what the public wants when they join a recreationally oriented sports facility. Between the 16 racquetball/handball courts, the Nautilus center, a full fledged bar and restaurant, indoor jogging track, an outdoor, and a floodlit one-third mile jogging and skating track, we feel there will be no finer or more complete athletic center in the East." It's a \$2,500,000 investment.

King's Court, in Lyndhurst, near the Meadowlands where the football Giants play at home, is another extravagant, 27 court (!) racquetball and squash facility. It has a championship court made out of the latest generation Twin-Vue "White Glass" on the back and two side walls, plus permanent seating for 500 spectators.

It also houses a large, indoor swimming pool, full health club, a gymnasium, complete bar/restaurant with a catering capability to handle parties, wedding receptions, etc.

Mimi Turco, club manager, advises "Our investment of around \$4,000,000 is indicative of our strong faith in the future of racquetball."

Karen Borga won the most recent New Jersey Women's Open title by beating Cira Nickerson in the finals.



These two clubs are also representative of the current trend all across the country toward larger, more diverse and grandiose athletic facilities. Racquetball alone is no longer enough. People desire all the other ancillary activities such as running tracks, the entire line of physical fitness equipment, swimming pools, and—yes—even a bar/restaurant is looking more appealing than a simple juice/snack counter.

Doug Clark concedes that all the prime population markets in New Jersey are, for the most part, gone. "It does not seem possible that the meteoric expansion of racquetball facilities has now ended after only a few years. It's had all the excitement of a gold rush, but now it is over. Everything is getting settled and back to order."

With this tremendous growth there is obviously a need for a good deal of planned competition. The State Championships took place in October, and there's at least one USRA sanctioned tournament each and every month during the year that counts toward a player's year-end ranking. Such outstanding New Jersey competitors as Francine Davis, Ray Capitinelli and Willie Wang will be on the courts vying for top honors. Oh yes one other will most assuredly be in the thick of things—Doug Clark, who just won his fourth straight New Jersey State Championship!

New York born Fran Davis, who now lives in New Jersey, is among the country's top touring pros.



Three Walls of Twin-Vue in Lyndhurst

"We spent two years visiting clubs around the country, and we've used many of their best features," says Mimi Turco, whose family built and owns the four million dollar King's Court, recently opened in Lyndhurst.



The Turcos also have come up with a first by installing an exhibition court that has three walls of Twin-Vue glass, the new material that looks clear to spectators, but like a solid white wall to players. Five hundred spectators are able to sit around the white glass courts while they watch tournament play.

King's Court facilities also include 26 other racquetball courts, a restaurant and cocktail lounge and an indoor pool. The Turcos' next project is a yacht dock on the Passaic River, which the club overlooks. ●

USRA/NRC National Commissioner Joe Ardito will discuss opportunities for USRA/National Racquetball tie-ins at a booth at the National Court Clubs Association 1981 convention and trade show Jan. 17-20 at the Tropicana Hotel in Las Vegas. . . CompuSport, Inc. has designed the "Great Houston Challenge" for local players who want to know how they rank relative to other competitors in the area. . . Among new products are the Dynamics Health (South Houston, TX) bicep curl machine, Ektelon's Eye Sentry™ and Court Specs™ eyeguards, Wigwam Mill's Sport Roll and Miss Sport Roll low cut socks, the Suzi Stone Enterprises, Inc. (Cincinnati, OH) "Back to Health" cassette of exercises for back pain and SURGRIP® (Modesto, CA) gel



to keep hands dry under stress or heat. . . AMF Inc., which makes equipment for racquetball and other sports, is diversifying into industries unrelated to leisure time activities. Among the company's expanded interests are oil pipes, medical products and filtration devices. . . Norm Peck, former men's squash and tennis coach at Princeton University, is new player manager at Ektelon. The San Diego based



company just put out a new catalogue featuring the BlueLite™ racquet and the Tournament Model racquetball glove. . . David Bernstein, president of Module Mobile, Inc., of Atlanta, GA, has developed a wood sided, hand built modular unit that meets USRA requirements and includes lighting, heating and air conditioning. Module Mobile, which can install the Racqueton within six weeks after it takes an order, is designing a coin operated Racqueton for use in Tennessee. . . The U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force have selected Fibersin Court Panels for 100 modular type racquetball court buildings to be installed in Europe. Fibersin panels also went into Hamburg's Racquetball Center—Jenfeld Club featured in a *National Racquetball* story in the December issue. . . After Manager Debby Matthews and Club Pro Gene Couch of the Ft. Worth (TX) Athletic Club left the challenge court where they were married Sept. 13, friends



showered them with racquetball balls instead of the traditional rice. . . The Spaulding Racquetball Clubs, Inc. are now managing Castle Oak center in Missouri and Saugat Racquetball Clubs in Belleville, Alton and Granite City, IL. That brings to 15 the number of clubs Spaulding operates in the greater St. Louis area. Spaulding's new member benefit plan went into effect Nov. 1 at close to 30 Spaulding clubs around the country. . . Court Management Co., Inc. of Miamisburg, OH has produced a brochure on the racquetball development and franchising business. . . The franchiser added Robert P. Kleinmann, Jr. to its staff as director of physical fitness and director of the Southern Ohio Fitness Center. . . Racquetball shoe manufacturer, the Charles Eaton Company of Brockton, MA, has changed its name to Etonic Inc. . . Sheraton hotels are including racquetball, handball and squash courts in the Eilat-Sheraton, the chain's third property in Israel. ●

Court Clubs

Renovated for Racquetball

Keeping the Best of Carter's Ink

This summer the Back Bay club received an award of excellence from the New England Regional Council of the American Institute of Architecture.

Where do you put a racquetball club in downtown Boston—where vacant land is almost non-existent? Boston Racquetball Associates, a partnership between one of the architects—Gary Graham—and Paramount Development Corporation—a subsidiary of Perini Land and Development Corporation, solved the problem by converting a 94-year-old factory building into a sophisticated racquetball club with a town house atmosphere.



Architect Gary Graham's determination to save a 94-year-old building and his faith in an inner Boston neighborhood were behind the conversion of this old Carter Ink plant into the Back Bay Racquet Club.



Designers replaced an awkward wooden storefront with stylized Doric columns and installed a glass first floor exterior which allows passersby to glimpse exhibition court action.



The dining room, popular for business lunches, is part of a staggered floor plan that allows for more viewing into racquetball courts.

Boston Racquetball Associates preserved the Victorian industrial building's terra cotta detailing and metal oriel window.

The five story mid-Victorian industrial structure was originally built as a factory and store for Carter's Ink. More recently the University of Massachusetts used the building for offices and classrooms. Located on the fringes of Boston's fashionable Back Bay neighborhood—in an area both residential and commercial—the building had the size and structure to accommodate 12 racquetball courts and the necessary support facilities—exercise and locker rooms, sauna, whirlpools and nursery. Architects Graham and Don Meus preserved the building's exterior with terra cotta detail and metal oriel windows, and replaced an awkward wood and glass storefront with stylized Doric columns. Then they gutted the interior and installed a warm and contemporary setting, using materials and colors that contrast with the intense white environment of the courts. ●

New Court Club Listings

Hillsborough Racquet Club
Amwell Road
Belle Meade, NJ 08502

Off The Wall
3932 Baymeadows Rd.
Jacksonville, FL 32217

Racquet South
1225 Cedar Shoals Dr.
Athens, GA 30605

Riverview Racquet Club
111 Henley Ave.
New Milford, NJ 07646

Security Court Club
2076 Lord Baltimore Dr.
Baltimore, MD 21207

Southlake Racquetball Club
1792 Mt. Zion Rd.
Morrow, GA 30260

Stadium Racquetball & Athletic Club
5885 Rancho Mission Rd.
San Diego, CA 92108

Ask the Champ

by Marty Hogan

Three Time and Current Champion Marty Hogan, a Leach player who won the \$30,000 first prize in the June Nationals in Las Vegas, answers questions about improving your game in this exclusive *National Racquetball* series. Send your questions to Marty Hogan, c/o Ask the Champ, Managing Editor, *National Racquetball*, 4101 Dempster, Skokie, IL 60076.

Marty Tells a Left Hander How to Hit a Z Serve

Question: I have a few questions about Z serves. I'm left handed and when I serve a Z to a right hander, I tend to be out of position for a return of serve. I usually take three steps to the left, just to the left of center court, then hit the ball into the right front corner, leaving me in an awkward position.

Where should I be in the server's box when hitting a Z serve to a right hander? Should I eliminate my three step approach just for the Z serve? Moving from right to left, then serving into the front right corner seems to go against the flow, as far as getting power on the serve. But I still can get decent power. I'd really appreciate your advice to clear this problem up. Thanks Marty.

James Podraza, South Holland, IL

Hogan: The Z serve is one of the most effective serves used in racquetball. I would recommend that you continue to walk into your Z serve for two reasons. One for the added velocity you will achieve because of your momentum moving into the ball, and second because in walking into your serve it is easier to camouflage your serve and possibly change it from a Z.

The trouble that most people get into in hitting a Z serve is turning themselves completely around in center court and then being out of position for the service return. This can be corrected by remembering one thing. Do not continue to watch the ball at all times. Once you hit the Z serve as the ball comes behind you,

instead of following it and turning yourself completely around, leave the ball with your eyes for a split second and catch the ball again by looking quickly over your other shoulder. An example of this would be like the defensive back in football who always looks over his shoulder. Once he gets turned around he gets burned. The same applies in racquetball. (A friend tells me that dancers do the same thing as they twirl across the stage.)

Also I believe you should start your serve from the right side wall because of the wider angle. It is this angle that allows the ball to develop the necessary spin for the ball to grab the side wall in deep court and come out parallel to the back wall, making for a more effective serve.

When hitting the Z serve from the center of the service box the angle is not great enough to develop the needed spin, therefore making it more likely for the ball to come off the back wall.

Coaching Compliment Thanks

Dear Marty,

As the coach of Mike Levine and other junior players I have followed your career closely. Videotape and film clips of you in action have greatly influenced my teaching and knowledge of racquetball. That is why I am deeply flattered by your mention of my coaching in the December, 1980 *National Racquetball* "Ask the Champ" column.

Your championship play and character set positive examples for the kids I work with and make my job easier.

Thanks again.

Jim Winterton, Poughkeepsie, NY

Question: Would you please advise me of the correct call on the following play. My opponent hits the ball to the front wall which travels on a fly to the back wall. It comes off the back and bounces once and then hits the front wall again. I then hit it before it bounces. Is my shot good or out? Must I hit the ball before it hits the front wall a second time or is the fact that it only bounces once the only deciding factor?

Irwin Sapenoff, D.P.M. W. Palm Beach, FL

Hogan: I bow to Dan Bertolucci when it comes to calls, though I may not always agree with him. I acknowledge him as the expert. Please turn to his "What's the Call?" column in this issue for your answer.

Hogan: What do you think about changing the racquetball rules so there's a single serve? (asked in the October, 1980 "Ask the Champ" column)

Denis Ramaciare: I don't think that it would be a good idea because when you miss your first serve the second serve gives you a chance to correct your mistake in height, speed or position. (Hope I'll have the pleasure of meeting you one of these days, partner.)

Denis Ramaciare, Lacey, WA

Question: I have been playing about a year and a half and I was wondering about all these new stringing systems that are coming out. Will the new Interlocking and the Omega Galaxy 21 help the power shots more? And can you tell me if they will be legal in tournaments?

Norman McNutt, Charlestown, IN ●

Watch for: The answer to Norman Butt's question about new stringing systems.

Reading Your Opponent

by Mike Yellen

In this exclusive *National Racquetball* series Mike Yellen, second place winner at the 1980 Nationals, discusses topics that come up in clinics he runs for his sponsor, Ektelon.



Figure 1: Foot placement is the hottest clue your opponent gives you as you try to to guess where the ball will land. Here I am shooting down-the-line against Jerry Hilecher. I lined up for the shot with my feet perpendicular to the side wall and they are still more or less perpendicular as I step into my shot. Were I to go cross court, my lead foot would be more toward the right and my stance slightly more open before my shot. The same rule holds true on the forehand. It is very difficult to line up right and shoot left or vice versa, so few players will risk sacrificing form and shot execution for the sake of some deceptive maneuver.

Watch the Warm-up

Then get to know your opponent. Start while he or she is warming up. In order to avoid confusing themselves most players will shoot the same shot the same way every time.

You're looking for little stylistic peculiarities that go along with the different shots prior to ball contact and, particularly, your opponent's foot placement.

A right handed player hitting a backhand down-the-line will line up with toes pointing toward the side wall. If he opens up his stance, moving his lead foot toward the right, he is going cross court. The same is true on forehands.

There are some players who are able to change the direction of the ball just by making adjustments in the racquet's face. One of the things which makes Marty Hogan so dangerous is that he is able to generate his power on the run without getting properly set up.

Likewise Dave Peck's hula hoop rekill style enables him to shoot from midcourt in a straddle leg stance. But that's only good with rekills.

I have to assume that 90 percent of the opponents you will face won't be able to shoot across their bodies just by a wrist snap adjustment, and so foot placement should give you a clue at least to the ball's general direction.

The next question is which shot will he choose? There are a lot of factors involved

Compared to most sports racquetball is really pretty simple. For example the average college or professional football team can present more than 100 different offensive formations to the other team.

By contrast your racquetball opponent only has six or seven different shots to throw at you and only has a choice of two or three for most situations.

You can read your opponent like an open book, if you take the trouble to learn his or her language.

If you watch any player for very long, you'll begin to notice peculiarities about his game. He may be a shooter, passer or retriever.

Your opponent may have a great ceiling ball, a lousy pinch shot, favor the right side of the court or like to go down-the-line on the backhand.

Although there are many styles of players, we all tend to be pretty consistent within our own style and, therefore, open to analysis. What you would like to know is what shot your opponent is likely to go to in any given situation.

Reading your opponent by another name is anticipation. But you can't read anything if you don't look at it. That's the first step.

Too often amateur players will serve or shoot and then plant themselves in center court staring at the front wall. They can't judge where the ball is headed until it has left the front wall and, by then, it's too late.

Admittedly it's a little uncomfortable facing an opponent who is shooting behind you, but the only real danger is to your eyes. Get a pair of eyeguards and don't let the ball out of your sight all the while it is in play.



Figure 2: On occasion players in the upper levels of the sport will try a little deception by lining up one way and shooting another. Here I have lined up for a down-the-line shot in an attempt to draw Hilecher to the right rear corner. I then opened my stance and shot left front corner pinch which will die in the forecourt. Note that I have still had to open my stance because of the near impossibility of shooting across my body. Players can get away with these kinds of tricks only rarely during a match, so you should be safe in playing the percentages and keying off an opponent's foot placement.

in his choice during the game. Primarily his concern should be where you are and what his own scouting report has told him about your strengths and weaknesses.

If you are playing up, he might try a down-the-line pass. If you're back, he'll try to pinch it or kill it in the corner. If he knows you've got bad wheels, he might try to run you around with passes. But if you're a jackrabbit who retrieves and rekills everything he leaves up, he'll start trying to put away every shot.

Consider Tendencies

Then there are his own tendencies to consider. He may have a lousy backhand and go to the ceiling or to an easier cross court pass every time the ball comes to his left. On the other hand a Karin Walton-Trent is just waiting for you to serve something up to her backhand, in which case the ball will either end up dead or very low and moving very fast.

Strong side or no, some players just have favorite shots like a roll-corner kill on their forehands or down-the-line pass on their backhands.

You have to take these various factors into consideration, determine what would be the highest percentage shot for your opponent and cover it. Your opponent could go for one of the tougher options or mis-hit the ball but, since you can't cover everything, play the percentages.

Naturally you have to keep analyzing your opponent's game throughout the match and make adjustments in case, for

example, his killshot warms up. Things are always in flux and no one says you will be right all the time.

By reading your opponent throughout the match, though, you should be able to guess right more times than not.

One more clue to your opponent's return is what kind of shot he is trying to handle. For example if you've wacked a pass so hard that it's gotten a little behind him, you can figure that the shot will probably be either down-the-line or off the side wall for an easy pick-up.

Very few players are going to be able to go cross court while running toward the back wall but, of course, it does happen from time to time. Once again play the percentages.

So far we have been discussing what to do when your opponent is shooting, but you also have to be reading him when you have the ball. As always the first rule is to keep your eyes focused on the ball at all times. Much of the time, though, you will still be able to follow your opponent in your peripheral vision.

Even in those instances when you can't "see" your opponent, you should have a pretty good idea of where he is and where he is headed if you've been reading him right along.

You know his tendencies, you know where he shot from and, after every shot, he should be heading for center court. Send the ball in some other direction than the one in which he is heading.

For example, sometimes I'll be setting up for a pinch or kill, but I'll hear or just feel my opponent sneaking in behind me to cover it. So I'll switch to a wide angle pass instead.

So much for reading your opponent during rallies. You'll notice that we haven't yet discussed how to read your opponent during his serves.

That's best handled from the perspective of the server, so we'll cover how servers and receivers analyze each other next month in "How To Keep Your Opponent From Reading You." ●

What's In Your Opponent's Script?

- Foot placement
- Your court position
- Past performance
- Your shot

Jump Rope Drills for Racquetball Speed

by Steve Mondry

I remember the days when my sister and her friends would be jumping rope on the sidewalk and singing, "*Cinderella, dressed in yella, went upstairs to kiss a fella,*" etc.

"*What sissy stuff that jumping rope is,*" I would say to my friends, as we walked off to the ballfield. Well my sister doesn't jump rope anymore, but I sure do. I consider jumping rope an important part of my racquetball training program.

In one 10 minute session of jumping rope (which is cardiovascularly equivalent to 30 minutes of jogging) we are able to strengthen our calves, thighs and abdomens. The development of these muscles is important in improving our movement on the court. Jumping rope also improves our stamina, quickness and agility, which are all needed to raise our overall level of play.

I have put together a rope jumping routine for you to follow. The routine is made up of five parts. Each part consists of three sets of between 50-100 repetitions, taking a 30 second rest between each set.

There are three important things to remember when jumping:

- When jumping—only touch the ground *once* per rope revolution. (Exception: Part 5, The Double Jump.)
- Do not jump too high off the ground. Jump only enough for the rope to pass under your feet.
- Each part of the routine should be built up progressively. For example don't start with doing three sets of 75 each the first day, and then do three sets of 50 each the following day. Don't overdo it at first—build *up*, not down.

Now here are the five parts of the rope jumping routine:

1. *Regular Jump.* Jump rope, feet together.
2. *Run Jump.* Jump rope, moving feet as if you were running in place.
3. A) *Right Leg Jump.* Jump rope on right leg only.
B) *Left Leg Jump.* Jump rope on left leg only.

Run jump



Left and right leg jumps



Regular jump





Hop jump



Double jump

4. *Hop Jump.* Jump rope, feet together, hopping to the right and left as you jump through the rope.

5. *The Double Jump.* Jump rope, allowing the rope to pass under your body twice before landing on your feet. This exercise is extremely difficult and should be done with caution. The Double Jump should be done for only one set, building up to 30 times.

In four weeks you will be able to play hard paced racquetball all day and never get tired. You will be able to move about on the court like a cat. The jumping rope will not take more than 15 minutes to do, but the benefit you receive is long lasting. If you think you are fast now—wait until you get through a month of these jumping rope exercises. You will go from as fast as lightning—to as fast as greased lightning! ●



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Racquetball Breaks That Improve Your Game

by Karin Walton-Trent

I've always enjoyed a variety of sports. I was one of those typical California girls who was into bike riding, body surfing and racquet sports.

Paddle tennis and ping pong were two of my favorites. In fact I won the Poche Beach Club (San Clemente, CA.) championship three straight years playing against men. I also used to win the neighborhood ping pong tournaments.

Tennis was one of my favorites, as was badminton. In fact I went to Utah State to play badminton. But when they cancelled the sport, I took up racquetball.

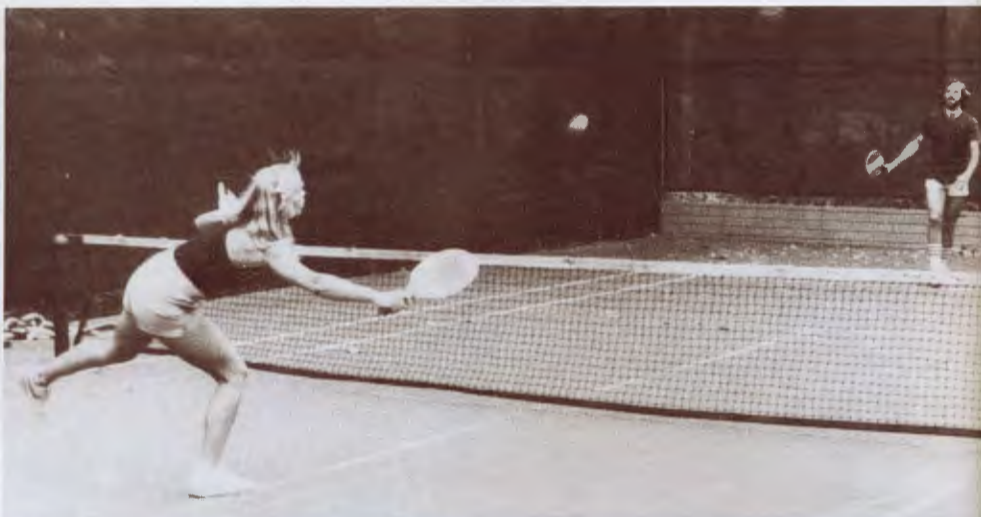
Though some racquetball players are afraid to play other sports because they think it will throw off their main game, I enjoy playing other sports as a diversion. Other sports present me with a new challenge, help keep me in shape and help develop hand-eye coordination. Sometimes I even find a stroke that applies directly to my racquetball game.

But the main advantage, to my way of thinking, is mental. After spending time with paddle tennis, ping pong and body surfing I'm excited and eager to get back on the racquetball court.

Paddle Tennis

Paddle tennis, a game which originated at the beach clubs in California, is a cross between tennis and platform tennis played on what looks like a miniature tennis court. You use a heavy, wooden paddle, but you don't play the ball off the surrounding fence as you do in platform. Paddle tennis is probably one of the least known racquet sports, but it's fun and easy to learn.

Since I moved to San Diego, I've gotten many of the racquetball pros into paddle tennis. Sheryl Ambler tries to use her racquetball stroke and sends the ball flying out of the court. Charlie Brumfield and Rich Wagner got into a big fight during a match. Marci Greer is allegedly practicing up for the state championships next year and Carl Loveday plays net better than anyone.



Paddle tennis and ping pong give 1979 National Pro Champ Karin Walton-Trent and her husband, Steve Trent, some diverting ways to improve their racquetball games.



Paddle Tennis for Your Racquetball Game

What

Strengthens your wrist
Tunes up accuracy

How

Paddle is heavier.
No walls box in
the ball.

Ping Pong for Your Racquetball Game

What

Speeds reactions
Builds eye-hand
coordination

Improves control

How

Play area is small.
Floating action of the
ball enables you to
follow its flight.
There are fewer oppor-
tunities to smash the
ball.

Playing Tips for Women

Mistake: Hooking to the Ceiling

The mistake of hooking resembles a hook shot in basketball. In overhand ceiling ball play many women tend to rotate their shoulders to face the side wall, then arc the racquet up to meet the ball, usually off the wrong (back) foot. The hooking motion comes at this point because the player feels that it is the only way to get the ball up to the ceiling and on to the front wall.

Hook shots put undue strain on your arm because they force your body to swing twice as hard to reach around and get the ball to the front wall. Moreover, if you hook your ceiling balls when you are in a ceiling volley with a competent player who doesn't hook, you will lose the volley most of the time. This is because you will tire first and, uncoordinated, will probably make the first mistake.



Correction: Using Throwing Motion

Ideally overhand play (especially ceiling play) is best done with a throwing motion of the arm, not a round-the-world hooking motion. Practice "unstiffening" the arm by using the elbow joint in practice swings. This improves flexibility down through the shoulder, elbow and wrist; takes the strain off a "stiff-arm" shot, and divides the power of your shot fairly equally among shoulder, elbow and wrist. If you practice the throwing motion, you will soon need less power to hit ceiling balls and other overhand shots. Some women practice by making an overhand baseball throw to the wall—15 or 20 in a series as they warm up. This motion is then extended through the racquet.



Not many women bring basketball experience to their racquetball games, yet the "basketball hook" is a common error. Jean Sauser and Arthur Shay have included it in the stroke chapter of their mistake-correction book that is becoming a classic among racquetball instruction aids.

With permission of the publisher, Contemporary Books of Chicago, *National Racquetball* is running excerpts from the volume by Touring Pro Jean Sauser, who nows teaches at the Milwaukie (OR) Racquetball Club, and *National Racquetball* Photographer Arthur Shay, whose pictures appear often in *Time Inside Racquetball for Women* is available at pro shops and at sporting goods and book stores. ●

I think it's easy for a racquetball player to do well at paddle tennis because you're moving to a shorter handle and a smaller court with a 31 inch high net.

The basic equipment starts with a paddle approved by the American Paddle Tennis League headquartered in Beverly Hills, CA. A paddleball paddle is too light, but a platform paddle will work. A punctured tennis ball is used to accommodate the smaller court. (Our dog, Pepsi, bit into ours, but the APTL recommends using a hypodermic needle.)

The paddle is heavier than a racquetball racquet so it really strengthens your wrist, which you use in both the forehand and backhand as in racquetball. Because of the boundary lines you also have to become more accurate than in a racquetball court, where the walls keep everything in play.

The strategy is similar to tennis and has some parallels to racquetball. Basically you want to keep your opponent on the run from side to side so that you can eventually take offensive control, rush the net and put the ball away for a winner. Because the court is so narrow there is only a 10 foot reach to either side so the person at the net can pretty much cover the whole court unless the opponent gets smart and lobs over the player at the net.

Ping Pong

I realize that table tennis is a serious, competitive sport, especially in China. But I play "ping pong," which is the casual California version that people play in their garages on summer nights. My husband, Steve, says I never move my feet once they're planted and my left arm dangles lifelessly, but ask him who wins most of the time! I love to play ping pong because it forces me to react quickly, helps hand-eye coordination, is challenging and above all, it's fun.

The nice thing about ping pong is that you can set up a table almost anywhere. You can usually pick up a used table and accessories for about \$30. Or better yet—persuade your club manager to keep one in storage so you can set it up when there's an hour of unfilled court time. ●

Winning with Time Outs

Let Us Bow

by Carole C. George

Time-out: A legal, short (30 seconds or 1 minute) interruption in play called by one player or team usually for the purpose of regrouping physically or mentally.*

In team sports time outs are essential for making player substitutions, to regroup and formulate a change in strategy or to promote team morale. However most individual sports allow for no similar break in play. Even in squash and tennis, the two racquet sports which racquetball is most often compared to, play is continuous except for a brief breather between games.

Why are there time outs in racquetball? One could argue that 21 point racquetball games are much longer, so time outs are necessary. A game in tennis could be won after only four rallies (Game - Love) and squash games are only to 15 points, scoring on each rally regardless of who served. But a tennis game, in theory, could go on forever, since the winner must have an advantage of two points. And rallies in squash generally last longer than they do in racquetball because the tin on the front wall eliminates the offensive kill shot from the game, so the ball stays in play more.

If the length of the game isn't the reason behind the time out in racquetball, does it revolve around a question of conditioning? Are tennis and squash players in better shape than racquetball players?

Heather McKay is a racquetball-squash player who has been ranked number one in the world in both sports. She's in terrific shape, especially for her age, thanks to 20 years of competitive squash.

When to Call Time Out

"I very rarely call time out because of physical need," explains McKay. "I do call time out when either my opponent has a run of shots going or when I have a reasonable lead and then all of a sudden my opponent starts to catch up."

Though McKay doesn't like to give advice because she's only played racquetball a few years, her success with the shorter handled sport qualifies her as a player to listen to.

Our Heads

— Carole George photos



Shannon Wright

"In the back of my mind I say 'As soon as I get to a certain stage I'm going to call a time out.' If I'm leading, say 16-10, then I tell myself 'if this opponent gets to 13 or 14 and is still serving and getting quite a good run, then I'll call a time out and try to break that run'." But that doesn't mean that Heather would ever let up because she had a lead.

"No. I get the serve back as soon as I can."

But sometimes you can't do anything about it. They get a couple of good serves. You make a couple of bad returns and they roll it out or hit winners. No I'll get that serve back as quick as I can, but if they do run three or four points, then it's a time out."

For Vicki Panzeri, a pro out of Seattle, WA, the "no time out" rule of a new scoring system used at the W.P.R.A. Boise Tournament (See page 62) was a welcome change because it saved her from the

* Steve Keeley's Complete Book of Racquetball



Lynn Adams

responsibility of calling time outs. *"I know I'm not really very good at calling time out,"* says Panzeri. *"I don't kill the ball, so I have to run a lot more than the other pros. So I'll usually take a time out because I'm tired, even though I know that shouldn't be the reason. If I do try to take a time out to stop the other player's momentum, I usually wait too long. If they score seven or eight straight points it's usually too late for me to make a comeback or switch the momentum to my favor."*

Stopping the opponent's momentum is the most common use that women touring pros make of a time out. Janell Marriott, W.P.R.A. president and veteran pro tour player, will stop the game whenever her opponent hits a hot streak, *"no matter how early or late in the game it is. Especially when I used to play Shannon (Wright) all the time, I knew it was really critical to stay with her because once she'd get a good lead it would be all over."*

Vicki Panzeri pulls up her socks during a time out.



With anyone else I'm more likely to call time out when the score is up in the teens because then a few points either way might mean the game."

Bonnie Stoll, who zoomed to number seven spot in six months on the tour, calls a time out for several reasons: *"Number one if I'm tired. Number two if my opponent has just scored three or four points in a row. Number three just to think, or number four because my opponent will wonder what I'm taking a time out for."*

Explaining her fourth—and unique—reason for calling a time out she says, *"I don't think it's right for somebody to call time out if the score is 20-3 and I'm serving, just to prolong the agony. I think that's ridiculous. But if I know I'm not tired and my opponent's not tired, nothing is going wrong, the match is going fine—time out—just to give everybody time to think about something."*

Shannon Wright uses her time out to confer with her brother, Pat Sweeney.



From a spectator's point of view, Stoll says, the men appear to indulge in more deliberate stalling and using their time outs to psych out the opposition, one of the elements that Charlie Brumfield includes in "playing the gray areas of the rules."

"I go on the court to play racquetball," says Marci Greer, "not head games or grudge matches. I would never stop myself from calling a time out just because my opponent was tired and might also benefit from my time out. I usually call time out after a long, hard rally where I've been diving. I'll need a few seconds to gain a second wind. Sometimes I'll have too much nervous energy in the beginning of a match, like I did in Escondido against Heather in the finals, so I might call all my time outs early in the match. Once I get that second wind I don't need to rest."

What to Do

Knowing when to take a time out is one thing. It's another thing to know what to think about during a time out. The pros' answers to this question were not as definite as their answers to when or why they call time out.

Vicki Panzeri says she doesn't think about anything. Bonnie Stoll confesses that she probably doesn't think about the right things. "If I'm concentrating well, I'll probably think 'what am I going to do now? This isn't working, this is working . . . so stick with this and get away from that.' Then there are the times

like yesterday when my head's just not in the right frame of mind. Those are usually the times I lose."

Rita Hoff goes through a quick analysis during a time out. If the other player has run a few points, Hoff tries to figure out what caused the streak. "Did I screw up and give away the points or did she earn them? I'll usually consider changing the tempo or look at my serves and figure out what's working."

Marriott thinks about one of two things. "First—'Why am I not winning the game?' (But even if I am winning, I may call a time out if I feel that I'm not playing well.) I'll try to figure out what strategy they're using against me. Second—'How can I get myself psyched up.' I really have to work on motivation and guard against letting up when I'm ahead in points."

Karin Walton-Trent admits to having no system for calling time outs, other than stopping to collect her thoughts. "If Steve (Trent) is there I listen to what he has to say. I usually need to think about what serves are working. If my opponent is the one to call time out, I try to figure out why, but usually it is to stop my momentum . . . and it usually works."

The time out—one of the important distinctions between racquetball and its tennis and squash court cousins—might be obsolete if the rule makers adopt one of the new scoring systems under consideration. Bonnie Stoll says she'd opt for a compromise.

Stepping into the hall for a time out Marci Greer adjusts the towel she always wears at her waist during matches.

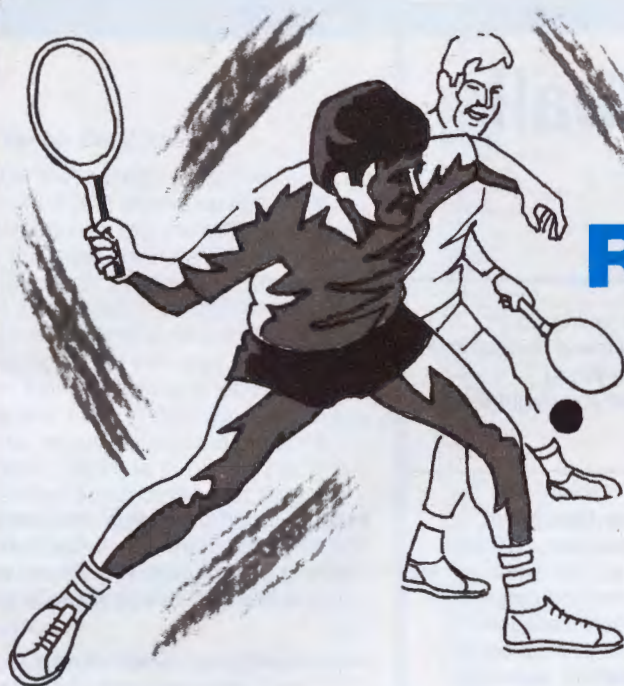


Rita Hoff uses time outs to analyze her game and to consider changing key elements like her serve or the tempo of the rallies.

"If they are going to use this scoring system, they should allow two time outs per set. You don't necessarily have to take a time out between games because sometimes you don't need it in between games. But you do need it after a tough point."

Marci Greer agrees—not only because she missed stopping for a drink in Boise after a long rally, but also for a more basic reason. "I don't feel we should eliminate the time out," she says. "It's one more weapon the smart player can use against the opposition." ●

Coming next: The top men pros on the NRC tour tell how they use time outs to win.



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Beginner's Racquetball

Center Court Strategy

by Jack Kramer

For the benefit of the millions of men, women and children who are taking up racquetball for the first time *National Racquetball* is serializing *Beginner's Racquetball* by Jack Kramer, copyright 1979, with permission of the publisher—World Publications, Inc., Mountain View, CA. If you're an experienced player you might like to pass these articles along to a friend who's just starting the game.

Playing the court means playing as many balls as possible while conserving energy. Especially for the older player the strategy of covering the court is vital.

There is little sense in making racquetball a tough strenuous game—if you know how to hit the proper strokes and know your court and how to play it, the game will be a pleasurable and winning experience. I am sure you have seen players scurrying like mice on a court during a fast game. Don't play like that. There are ways to make the game come to you.

Center Court

The importance of center court position has already been discussed. When your movements are focused in center court position, the game comes to you. If you can cover an area about 15 feet behind the back service line and to within two feet of the side walls, you can retrieve rally shots into the back seven or eight feet of the court and cut off passing shots within two to three feet of the side walls. You will rarely venture into front court unless retrieving a weak shot by your opponent. Your offensive hitting range from the center court position is what I am talking about.

The Front Wall

Assuming you have a good center court position here are some tips to help you determine where the ball will travel after rebounding straight off the front wall without hitting a side wall—and how to handle the ball:

- An opponent's shot traveling at a reasonable speed striking the front wall no more than one foot off the floor will result in the ball falling into the front court.

- If the ball hits higher than a foot, but not higher than, say two feet, and with good speed, the ball will bounce once and carry into or near center court area. You must cut off the ball here because if it gets past you it will die in deep court. Remember that any ball hit reasonably accurately and with speed will take a second bounce well beyond the service line. Don't make this mistake of moving into the service zone area for this ball. It will leave you wide open.

- When a ball hits high on the front wall, say three feet, it will rebound at knee level, so use a volley return. Don't back up to get the ball and don't allow the ball to get past you—it will draw you away from center court position.

- A ball that hits high on the front wall, say four feet or more, is really welcome. Allow it to pass you and hit the back wall on one bounce or in the air. The ball will then rebound into the center court where you will be waiting for it.

Preparing for a Shot

Anticipating the shot and being ready for your opponent's return is a natural part of most racquet sports. More so with racquetball. You want to reach as many balls as possible with enough time to set up properly.

Again staying within the center court area, start preparing for your next hit when you complete your follow through stroke. Move to that center court position where the ball is traveling and where your opponent is located.

As soon as the ball comes off your opponent's racquet, position yourself where you think the rebound will be—if you see a ball strike a side wall, stay near the middle of the center court position because this is where the ball should rebound in that area.

In center court position you will be taking one long step or stretch to reach a ball traveling along a side wall. Or you will be hitting a ball that is fairly close to your body.

Always keep your weight evenly distributed and your heels on the floor as you wait to see the direction of your opponent's shot. Most balls will come to you in center court position with good velocity, so be braced and ready. Keep your feet about two feet apart so you have a strong foundation when waiting for the ball. This position allows you to really stretch out or move toward a ball.

Anticipation

Anticipating where your opponent's shot will land is a mental skill that comes with time. There are some hints to help you know where a ball might strike, however.

- If your opponent is hitting off to one side, turn slightly so you can see the ball making contact with his racquet. Study the positioning of his body now—this will be the tipoff clue to just where that ball might land. If he is going to use a ceiling ball, his racquet will be traveling an upward arc.

- If he is looking to kill the ball or use a pass ball, the racquet head will be downward from its ready position around the head. Most players signal their shots with the position of the racquet. Disguising strokes is difficult and not many players can do it.

- While you cannot determine exactly where your opponent is going to hit the ball, you can anticipate when he is going to hit it so you can be ready. Footwork is another clue to where an opponent's shot might land. Watch your opponent's feet as well as his body position and his racquet swing. If this threefold observation technique seems difficult, it really is not. After a time you will do it routinely, but the main thing to learn is to do it.

Getting Center Court Position

Remember that nobody owns the center court position; it is always up for grabs depending on who has the best anticipation and the most accurate strokes. Both players have a right to the area. Generally if you hit a ball down the sides of the court you will be able to stay in the center court and move into that area as your opponent runs to get your shot. But if you bring the ball to the middle, you will have to move far enough to one side to allow your opponent sufficient room to hit. This does not mean you must vacate center court completely—move two to three feet away to the perimeter. When your opponent moves, get right back to the middle, unless of course his shot forces you elsewhere.

When possible use kill shots into front corners or straight into the front wall. These shots, when they rebound, will force your opponent to the perimeter. A good pass shot will do this, too. In either case when your opponent goes to get the shot, you will control center court.

Strike your passing shots low on the front wall to keep them from rebounding off the back wall and giving your opponent an easy setup.

Keep your position in center court by volleying every ball that comes your way in the air or about waist level or below. If you let the ball go by you, a smart opponent will take over center court control as you are forced into back court.

Center Court Psychology

Psych yourself to play center court as much as possible. Consider it the home base and always try to get back to it. After almost every shot try and return to the home base. If your opponent is already there, move in as close as good sense allows. Remember that although some shots down the side walls and into corners may elude you, in the long run it pays to stand right in the middle of that center court position. This way you are playing percentages because most balls are going to come off the wall into the middle of the court—and to you.

For practice, tape an "X" directly in center court and this will give you visual reference while playing a practice match with a friend. This will go a long way in teaching you how and where to position yourself for good racquetball play. ●

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Birmingham
The Racquet Place

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Phoenix
Metro Athletic Club
Tucson
Tucson Racquet Club

CALIFORNIA

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The Sports Gallery
Burlingame
Burlingame Racquetball Club
Diamond Bar
Diamond Racquetball
Fresno
Four Walls West
Fresno Racquet Time
Fullerton
Sunny Hills Racquet Club
Irvine
The Irvine Clubhouse
Rancho San Joaquin Athletic Club
Los Angeles
Squash Club International
West Hollywood
Manhattan Athletic Club for Men
North Hollywood
The Racquet Centre
Port Hueneme
Marina West Racquetball & Nautilus Center
Sacramento
Riverside Racquetball Club
San Diego
The Perfect Racquet
Santa Ana
Santa Ana Athletic Club
San Francisco
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ILLINOIS

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Toledo Racquet Club

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Medford Superior Courts
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Beware of the Wheel

How to Avoid Ecchymosis

by James Sylvis

Sylvis, a program consultant at the Boulevard Mall Racquetball Club in Buffalo, NY, holds an Ed.D. in physical education and is associate professor at Canisius College in Buffalo. He is author of *Racquetball: Learning without a Pro*, published by Amherst Bee, Williamsville, NY.

Ecchymosis runs rampant in most racquetball clubs. It strikes both the novice and the professional player. It can occur in isolated areas of the body or in epidemic proportions on various body segments. Depending upon your point of view it can be the mark of distinction signifying that you have arrived in the world of racquetball or it can be the reason that you have moved to a more humane sport such as tennis.

You may have already figured out that ecchymosis is the welt or "wheel" which is left after a racquetball has been peeled off or dug out of your body following a vigorous stroke initiated by an ex-friend and/or opponent. Stedman's Medical Dictionary defines ecchymosis as "a purplish patch caused by extravasation of blood to the skin; a black and blue mark." Racquetball players are aware of the fact that this ball mark is not only purple and black and blue but every other color of the rainbow as it goes through the healing process and finally disappears. Not only is this wheel colorful but it also hurts—ALOT!

The *wheel*, although aesthetically displeasing and painful, can be an aid to those who are interested in rating their opposition. Intricate racquetball rating scales have been developed to classify players into novice, C, B, and A categories. Utilization of these scales requires the rater to observe a player for several hours in a competitive situation. This is time consuming and frequently inaccurate. I believe you can rank players accurately and quickly according to the number and anatomical location of their wheels. Beginning players will have more wheels per capita and they will usually be found on the upper parts of their bodies. As the players improve and they begin to hit the ball harder and closer to the floor, the number and location of their wheels will be lowered. No intelligent human would stand in front of one of Marty Hogan's 142 mph bullets!

Hinders Are Wheel Makers

The player who understands and implements the rules regarding hinders will not be wheeled. The rule book clearly defines a hinder as any unintentional interference which prevents an opponent from having a fair chance to see or to return the ball. It further states that it is an *avoidable* hinder if (1) you do not move sufficiently to allow your opponent his shot; (2) you move into a position to block your opponent as he attempts to return the ball; (3) you move into the ball and are struck by the ball after your opponent has played it. A hinder results in a replay and an avoidable hinder causes an automatic loss of serve or a point. These hinders, along with causing ill feelings and arguments, are also all wheel makers.

Avoidable hinders usually occur because the player does not understand or implement the rule. He makes what he feels is an intelligent move in order to take away his opponent's options on a given shot. Consider the following situations:

1. Player A is ready to hit a perfect shot on which she can easily score a point, and as she hits the ball, Player B steps in front of her and is hit by the ball.
2. Player A is in perfect position and is ready to hit one of several possible shots, i.e., straight in kill, down the line pass, cross court pass or a reverse pinch, when Player B moves into the shooting lanes and eliminates several of these options, forcing Player A to hit an easily anticipated shot (Figure one).
3. Player A is ready to hit a given shot and Player B moves so close to her that he intimidates her and forces her to change her shot.

In order to take these movements out of the repertoire of the well wheeled player you need a good referee for every game and/or a course in sportsmanship. (And you can hope your opponent didn't take Charlie Brumfield too seriously in his November 1980, *National Racquetball*

Jim Sylvis, in the light shirt, is ready to be wheeled by John Moshides

Figure 1



Figure 2



article on "playing it close.") In order to avoid being wheeled the elimination of hinders must become an automatic part of the game for all players. A good guideline which can help in this endeavor is to attempt to give the opponent a clear shot from his racquet face to both corners of the front wall on all shots. (Figure two) To stay out of this triangular area, thus avoiding hinders and wheels, you must be able to see your opponent when he hits the ball.

Hit and Watch

Watching the ball is another antiwheeling measure. In every sport which calls for manipulation of an object it is essential that you keep your eye on the object so that you may hit it, kick it, strike it, etc. In racquetball it is also very important that you watch the ball *after* you hit it. Unfortunately many racquetball players (usually those having the most wheels) do not watch the ball following their strokes. They hit the ball and then back up into the center of the court with their eyes riveted on the front wall and every muscle in their body tensed in anticipation of the impending collision. The ball ricochets around the walls to a position which is usually behind them. The opponent has eyes fixed on the ball in preparation for the hit and never sees the opponent. As a result of not visually tracking the ball, the person who initially hit it usually winds up unintentionally planted in the shooting lane. (Figures three and four) The result—a giant wheel! This could be avoided by simply watching the ball.

To become adept at watching the ball you must force yourself to do it in warm-up and game situations, wearing eyeguards, of course. You can also set up drills in which you serve the ball to a partner, move to the appropriate position of the court (your feet on one side of the triangle formed by your partner's racquet face and both corners of the front wall) take a half or quarter turn and sort of look over your shoulder at your partner. (Figure five)



Figure 3

Figure 4

Figure 5

(Never turn and fully face your opponent as this is a very vulnerable position. Anyone who has a wheel on the front part of the body should be immediately placed at the bottom of your rating scale) Repeat this drill using two and three hit rallies until you feel comfortable moving into position and watching the ball. The use of eyeguards makes this a safe and easily learned skill. If, however, you insist on watching the front wall, you should wear your eyeguards on the back of your head!

Visual tracking of the ball, besides reducing wheels, leads to better anticipation, correct court position and movement and advanced stroking patterns. The player who has perfected these skills is well on his way to the top of the A ladder and to the bottom of the Sylvis Ecchymosis Rating Scale.

The next time that strangers or unranked players challenge you to a friendly game and you want to assure yourself of an enjoyable afternoon, apply the ecchymosis ranking scale before you accept. Look them over in the locker room to check their wheels. If it appears that someone has taken a ball on a rope and has maliciously beaten them about the arms, back, buttocks, and legs, you should politely decline to play and suggest lessons.

Never play an individual who is wearing protective clothing, i.e., a sweat suit from neck to toe. These individuals have decided that it is easier to be well padded than it is to change or to explain their game. Under all of that clothing you can bet that ecchymosis lurks. If, on the other hand, this individual has only one or two wheels and they are on the lower and upper leg, you can probably rest assured that the games will go smoothly and not be interrupted by constant cries of "Ouch" and "Hinder." ●

What's the Call?

by Dan Bertolucci



A few interesting rule violations and questions that came up during the recent Robert W. Kendler Pro/Am Racquetball Classic co-sponsored by Leach and Seamco will be "What's the Call?" subjects in coming months.

We'll start with a question that is manufacturer oriented and presenting some problems to players across the country. It deals with the racquet specifications. Just what is recognized as legal? Rule 2.4 - Racquet reads "The official racquet will have a maximum head length of 11 inches and a width of 9 inches. These measurements are computed from the outer edge of the racquet rims. The handle may not exceed 7 inches in length. Total length and width of the racquet may not exceed a total of 27 inches . . ."

The problem that seems to be arising is that various manufacturers are producing racquets which supposedly have a longer racquet head length and/or width by some fraction of an inch or so, thereby elongating the overall stringing effect hoping to generate a bigger "sweet spot" for contact purposes and creating better control — or so they say. So you might have a racquet that measures $11\frac{1}{2} \times 7\frac{1}{2} \times 7$ or $12 \times 7\frac{1}{2} \times 7$, etc. The important thing to remember is that as long as the overall racquet specification dimension of 27 inches is maintained, the companies manufacturing these products will be doing so within the official specifications set forth by the USRA. Any tournament player choosing to use such a model of racquet also is playing by the rules and therefore eligible to play in sanctioned events as far as his or her selection of equipment goes.

Irwin Sapenoff, D.P.M., West Palm Beach, FL writes "Would you please advise me of the correct call for the following play. My opponent hits a ball to the front wall which travels on a fly to the back wall. It comes off the back wall and bounces once and then hits the front wall again. I then hit it before it bounces. Is my shot good or not? Must I hit the ball before it hits the front wall a second time or is the fact that it only bounces once the only deciding factor?"

Your specific question can be best answered by Rule 4.7- Return of Serve (d) Legal return — *After the ball is legally served, one of the players on the receiving side must strike the ball with his racquet either on the fly or after the first bounce before the ball touches the floor a second time to return the ball to the front wall either directly or after touching one or both side walls, the back wall or the ceiling or any combination of those surfaces. A returned ball may not touch the floor before touching the front wall . . .* (2) *If the ball should strike the front wall, then back wall and then the front wall again without striking the floor, the player whose turn it is to strike the ball may do so by letting the ball bounce after hitting the front wall a second time.* (3) *If the ball strikes the front wall, then back wall and then front wall again after striking the floor, the player whose turn it is to strike the ball must do so by striking it before it hits the floor a second time."* ●

Dan Bertolucci is director of the NRC, governing body for professional racquetball, and is a longtime racquetball referee. Send him your questions about rules c/o *National Racquetball*, 4101 Dempster, Skokie 60076.



Who's Playing Racquetball?

Mayor Lawrence Kramer, Jr.:

Fighting Crime and Corrosion

Longterm Paterson, NJ Mayor Lawrence Kramer plays racquetball in the state that's number one in courts per capita, as reported in a page 27 feature story.



For 14 years Lawrence Francis Kramer, Jr. has been mayor of Paterson, NJ, the state's third largest city, with a population of 150,000. He also has served as New Jersey's Commissioner of Community Affairs.

And being the only Republican mayor of a major New Jersey city has put him in the right place at the right time as he contemplates his state's 1981 gubernatorial race.

"I love a challenge," Kramer says noting that all too often what may seem to be a problem is simply that, a challenge, and not a problem at all.

Kramer put this theory to work when he relocated one of the first submarines built in this country. The underwater vessel had been relocated for 52 years in West Side Park where it had begun to corrode and was the target of vandalism. So Kramer moved the 19 ton Fenian Ram to the more protected quarters of the Rogers Locomotive Building in the Great Falls National Historic District in Paterson, and the 31 foot submarine soon had a safer berth, and, in Mayor Kramer's words, "we preserved this valuable historic and engineering artifact, as well as honoring the memory of the Paterson school-teacher who invented the submarine, John Philip Holland."

Kramer has also regarded big city crime as a challenge. He set up the first office of Crime Victim Advocate because he

Enjoying the PR end of his job Kramer, left, poses with Richie Dietz, Passaic County Poster Child, and Grayson to promote Cystic Fibrosis Week.



Paterson, NJ Mayor Kramer serves to Robert Grayson, the city's Crime Victim Advocate.



believes that "while millions of dollars are being spend on the rehabilitation the the criminal, little is done to rehabilitate the crime victim."

It was because of this program that Kramer met the challenge of racquetball.

Kramer appointed Robert Grayson to the office of Crime Victim Advocate, and Grayson taught Kramer the game.

A former newspaper reporter Grayson was the victim of a mugging five years ago that left him blind in his right eye. Grayson explains that "Because of my injuries I could no longer play tennis, so a friend suggested I try racquetball. I found I could play racquetball at my own pace."

"With the four wall enclosure insuring the ball stays within the confines of the allotted space, I was able to teach myself to play the game, and to enjoy it," says Grayson, who has written several books, including *Crime Victims Assistance Network Directory*.

Grayson liked the game so much he persuaded Kramer to try it, and the mayor became his chief competitor at the Paterson YMCA.

"I find myself looking forward to the stimulation an hour of racquetball gives me," says Kramer. The 47-year-old mayor plays second base on the City Hall softball team and enjoys tennis, but turns to racquetball "to relieve the tensions, especially after a busy day." ● — S. Hart

If you know a man or woman who plays racquetball and whose job or hobby would make him or her a good subject for this series, send the name, address and phone number to Carol Brusslan, *National Racquetball*, 4101 Dempster, Skokie, IL 60076.

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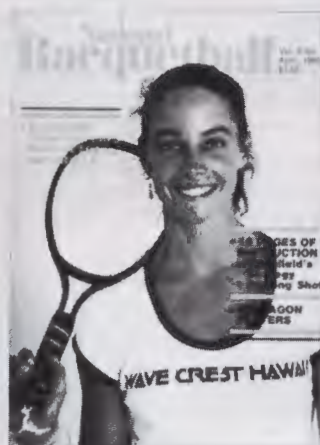
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New Guide for Special Kids' Racquetball



Bob Van Tuyle, a special education teacher in the Chicago public schools, has assembled 23 pages of instruction on teaching racquetball to the handicapped.

Van Tuyle prepared the manual for the Special Olympics, Inc. Sports Skills Program. Topics include basic racquetball teaching methods—with diagrams and drawings—plus ways to modify the game for various handicaps (for instance he suggests using a brightly colored larger ball for the

visually impaired) and ideas for letting racquetball skills aid in academic areas (the game is a math aid when it teaches students to understand angles). Van Tuyle also put together seven progress assessment charts that instructors can fill out for each pupil.

To receive a copy of the racquetball curriculum send a check for \$2 to cover costs to Robert J. Van Tuyle, 11013 S. Mayfield, Chicago Ridge, IL 60415.

Eyewear Focus at National Conference



Paul F. Vinger, M.D., and Sherry LeVine were among speakers who drew attention to eye safety in sports at the September National Society to Prevent Blindness conference in New York City.

During a panel discussion Vinger, clinical instructor in ophthalmology at Harvard Medical School, reported on the frequency of eye injuries and showed the audience some of the eyeguards available to players. In another session LeVine described a racquetball tournament that the Wisconsin Society to Prevent Blindness held as a fund raiser. The local chapter required all competitors to wear eyeguards.

See page 22 for a five page story on eye protection for racquetball.



Dick Squire's

Racquetball Resolutions for the New Year

by National Racquetball's East Coast Editor

Our favorite sport, racquetball, a small child when compared to other paddle and racquet games, is presently at a critical and pivotal period of its upbringing. At this time of year it is a custom to review certain aspects of our lives and how we live.

Whether racquetball does, in fact, eclipse its venerable forefather, tennis, in number of faithful, ardent participants, will, to a great extent, depend on whether or not certain changes are caused to occur. They won't just happen either. People make events and results. It is, therefore, time for talk to end and action to take place.

Here is my list of suggestions or, if you like, New Year's resolutions that, if implemented, will most assuredly guarantee the widespread, immense popularity that recreational experts have been forecasting for racquetball.

The resolutions are not set forth in any particular order of priority. Some are more important and weighty, many rely on and relate to others, but all are definitely significant and doable.

1. Revised scoring system. "Hand In," "Hand Out" methodology is as antiquated as spats and bustles. When only the server can score during the course of a 21 point game, a racquetball match takes on the yawning ennui of witnessing paint drying on a cloudy day. There's a real need for more crucial, exciting points if the sport is ever to enamour the guys who decide what goes on national television. Which brings me to my second resolution.

2. National television. We now all know what precipitated the mushrooming of interest in regular tennis. It was that sham of a contest in the fall of 1974 between Bobby Riggs and Billie Jean King. Subsequently many large corporations pumped a prodigious number of promotional dollars into the pro tour and the

television media finally decided after all that they should air many of the tennis tournaments across the country and around the world. Without television our sport will have a difficult, if not impossible, time cajoling major sponsors into supporting racquetball and realizing a kinship with the game. Without widespread exposure, why should they?



3. Corporate "Angels." A couple of years ago Colgate supported a multi-city pro tour. For some reason(s) they decided not to renew. At this critical moment in the game's growth racquetball needs continuing endorsing and financial clout that only enormous, money-sound American companies can provide.

My three first wishes, though, are inextricably entwined—sort of a horse and buggy, chicken and egg situation. Continued talk about changing the scoring must be replaced by action, so that television is intrigued to cover it. With nationwide video exposure the business community will invest in the sport and attain a solid, image promoting relationship with a participatory activity that sweeps the country. What "made" tennis? Philip Morris, with their support of the Open game back in the late 1960s. When you think of women's tennis, what product immediately comes to mind? Virginia Slims, of course.

4. One governing body for amateur racquetball. Nothing is accomplished by having both the USRA and AARA. It's confusing, stultifying and serves no good purpose. As a matter of fact the age old "Battle of the Initials" has done much to hurt the game and image of tennis. In this particular instance America's penchant for competition does not lead to free enterprise, but to frivolous enterprise.

It is now beginning to happen to racquetball and, sadly, in its embryonic stage of development. People are jockeying for position and power. The newly formed groups such as WPRA and PRA should merge their respective goals and interests into a single association. It would be called simple "PRO," for Professional Racquetball Organization.

"A house divided against itself cannot stand," said Abe Lincoln. He had a pretty good idea when he uttered that axiom. The pros ought to give very serious and sober thought to what Bob Kendler has bequeathed to them before they are so ready to cast themselves adrift.

5. A paid referees association. It is absolutely ridiculous that part of the tradition of racquetball—probably a holdover from handball—is that, win or lose, a player *must* (under the threat of being defaulted) referee a contest immediately following his or her match. No shower, and hardly time for a soft drink.



Dick Squires acquired his overview and his opinions while researching and writing *The Other Racquet Sports*.

Most of us are blatantly inept at controlling a match, and quite ignorant when it comes to racquetball's official rules. Many of us are probably rightfully shy. A referees association could easily get started at the individual club level, then advance to regional and, ultimately, become national in scope. A strong, knowledgeable referee would also do much to eliminate time consuming, frequently unjustified bickering.

6. Improved on-court demeanor. I have competed in practically all the racquet sports, and there is none that allows (even sometimes encourages) such displays of unsportsmanlike behavior on the court than racquetball does. It is one thing to be "macho," colorful or flamboyant, but there should be absolutely no room for vulgarity or flagrant rudeness. Obscenities, unrelenting, irresponsible, unprovoked belittling of referees and the like merely disparage and demean the innate beauty of a racquetball match. Such distasteful manners should be banned. A system of penalty points, even to the point of defaulting a persistent violator, should be instituted and assessed when necessary.

7. Protective glasses mandatory. Aren't our eyes worth \$10, or whatever the present price is for a good pair of safety glasses? And it all should start with the touring pros. We all view them with awe. We ascertain what sneakers they wear, what racquet they play with, what clothing line they endorse. Then we emulate. If they all wore protective glasses, we also would.



The ball zips around the court at such high speeds, and at times unpredictably, so the chance of an opponent's racquet or ball flying into one of our precious eyes is about as inevitable as death and taxes. The price of protection is nominal when compared to the price we could pay without it!

8. A slower ball. This really goes along with the resolve to revise the method of scoring. The game's emphasis is presently on "kill," "kill." There is little subtlety, change of pace or artistry. The ball has, plainly and simply, become too lively. There is no room for forgiveness. This eventually leads to spectator boredom.

9. Single serve. What is the point of permitting two serves? This to me is one of the truly worthless rules of racquetball. At higher skill levels the serve has already become an omnipotent, frequently insurmountable, weapon. By limiting players to just one delivery a match would move along a great deal faster, and the serve would become just one more effective stroke in a player's arsenal rather than the ultimate weapon.

10. Portable court. The eventual success in the engineering of an up-and-down court replete with perfected one-way glass will do for racquetball what the computer did for IBM. It is difficult to tell people—especially potential sponsors—that racquetball is a great spectator's sport when a comparatively minuscule handful of fans can be accommodated in present confined gallery setups. Today the typical viewing area comfortably allows about 20 individuals to see the action. Some court clubs have full glass on their backwalls and even sidewalls which "balloons" viewing capability to all of 350 to 1,000 max.

With a portable court, however, one that could be installed and dismantled in much the same way as a boxing ring, several thousand people could see major racquetball matches in leading sports arenas all over the U.S. And there wouldn't be a bad seat in the house. Such firsthand exposure to the thrills and grace of the game, plus its physical and emotional moments, (especially after some of our suggested resolutions have been adopted) would do much to enrapture the

audience—perhaps even motivate some of them to try it. Such a structure would also facilitate the sport for the limited scope of a television camera lens.

11. Suitable opponents for Marty Hogan. Every racquet sport seems to have its outstanding player who is head and shoulders above all other competitors; i.e. Bjorn Borg, of tennis fame, squash's Shariff Khan, and Court Tennis' Pierre Etchebaster, who reigned supreme and undefeated for 29 years! But how much more interesting a tournament match becomes when two great titans battle toe-to-toe on fairly even terms.

I have always had the feeling that Hogan is more than head and shoulders above his nearest rivals, although Mike Yellen and a few other pros have given him some stiff competition lately. When Marty decides he really wants to win, there isn't anyone I've seen who can stay on the same court with him. Let's hope for an increasing number of worthy opponents to stimulate the three time champ's game.

12. Miscellaneous, mini resolutions. How about resolving to allow fewer time-outs during the course of a game, or to rule that a ball that is hit higher than the 12 foot backwall line or into the netting on the fly ought to be a *lost* point rather than merely a hinder, or a ball *obviously* not going to reach the front wall but still makes contact with the opponent should also not be a hinder, but a lost point against the hitter. Or a better dress code for players at all levels, an expanded Junior Development Program, a collared sports shirt costing \$3, a slowdown—even moratorium—of commercial clubs being built in certain geographical areas, a U.S. President who plays racquetball, no more awarding of third and fourth place trophies, more "individuals" like Steve Keeley, more articulate spokesmen like Charlie Brumfield, more chances to watch the women pros, more "professional" club managers, an active Intercollegiate Association, the tidal wave spread of the sport to Europe and Asia, more social fun connected with the game, and, finally, many more years of good health and continued happiness for Bob Kendler and his entire staff in Skokie, IL. ●



Meet Your State Chairman

Bill Stewart, Oklahoma

Bill Stewart questions a recent report in his local newspaper.

"They said that racquetball was 90 percent of my life."

A phone conversation with the Oklahoma state chairman on his 32nd birthday Nov. 11 gives that newspaper estimate a ring of truth.

"My boys (David, 12, and Michael, eight) have been asking me 'How many times are you going to watch those matches, Dad?' when I play and replay the tapes I make of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation racquetball classic that's being televised here in Tulsa," says the American Airlines senior programmer



analyst who's headed his state's USRA activities for more than a year. "It's true that I've watched rallies three or four times. I get a lot out of Charlie Brumfield's comments and Marty Hogan's playing tips."

When Stewart isn't watching racquetball on TV, he's probably playing the game with his friends or wife, Vickie, at Benien Courts in Tulsa or at the Broken Arrow Racquetball and Fitness Center, a quarter mile from his home in suburban Tulsa.

Or he might be in front of his house with his sons playing Jokari, a new game Stewart describes as *"racquetball without walls—a game in which the ball zings out to the end of a band and then zaps back—good for eye-hand coordination."*

Or he might be working on the system he hopes will computerize Oklahoma tournament rankings and administration, including the printing of score cards and draw sheets.

A four year player who gave up other sports, such as soccer, because *"racquetball is THE sport,"* Stewart likes the game because of the people who play. And he enjoys traveling around the state running tournaments—*"being an insider in the sport I love."*

Now all that racquetball might not add up to 90 percent of Bill Stewart's life. But would he settle for 80?



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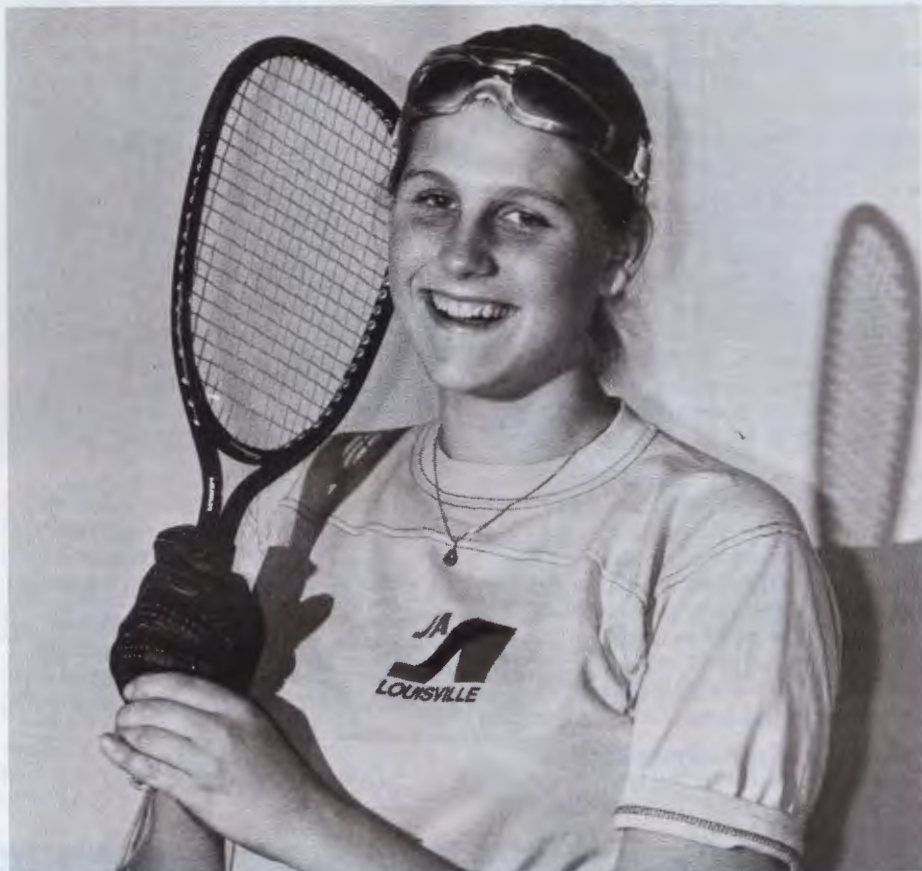
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Iowa Pianist among Most Improved Players

So Are Kentucky and New Hampshire Winners



At 17 John Schellenger, Iowa's Most Improved Player for 1980, refuses to narrow his interests. To prove it he played in a racquetball tournament in his home town of Davenport one weekend and in between matches he attended a piano concert—as a duet performer! Greg Steger, Iowa USRA chairman, one of many who recommended John for the award, sent no word to *National Racquetball* on how John did in that tournament. But the record of the young man who is also a high school baseball player speaks for itself. John, who has a part time job at North Courtside Racquet Club where he practices with Touring Pro Judy Thompson, went from a second in the Men's C division in the 1979 USRA Iowa singles championships to a Men's A third in the same tournament a year later.



Kentucky's Missy Stober was especially pleased to be chosen her state's Most Improved Player in *National Racquetball's* second annual contest because "Your contest gave me a challenge with myself, unlike any tournament." The 15-year-old, who plays at the Jewish Community Center in Louisville, was a consolation winner in the C division of the Jefferson Racquetball Tournament in June of 1979, and won a consolation title a year later, competing in her first Women's Open against top players from Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky.



From the start Debbie Wilber was a standout at the 500 member four court Racquet Club of Concord, NH, and by the end of 1979 she was playing in tournaments. Those first state competitions in the women's division were painful for the shy 15-year-old, but Debbie picked up tournament experience—and confidence—and on June 15, 1980 she found herself a second place winner in the Women's A and B combined division at the First Concord Invitational tournament, coming in behind Deb Waldruff, New Hampshire's number one woman. Debbie also teamed up with Dennis Ordway to win the mixed doubles.

Are You Saving Your Records?

Now is the time to be stashing away scorecards, press clips and club newsletters that are recording your racquetball progress so you can enter *National Racquetball's* Third Annual Most Improved Player contest next summer. You'll be competing with other players in your state who've tracked their improvement from June of 1980 to June of 1981. Each state's winner receives a lifetime subscription to *National Racquetball*, with its built in membership to the USRA, and other valuable gifts.



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Collegiate Team Racquetball at New Paltz State

by Timmy Hale, Co-Captain

For the first time in its history the State University of New York, College at New Paltz has developed and adopted a racquetball team.

Formed by student-captain Robby Kanter the team got its origin in the spring semester of 1980 when both New Paltz and R.P.I. (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute) put together pick-up teams for a school competition. That match, which turned out so successfully, later spurred the development of teams in both schools in September of 1980.

Holding tryouts in the second week of September New Paltz students were required to display their skills in a mini-game and were rated accordingly on their ability. Out of 60 aspirants 13 men and 5 women made the team. Captain Robby Kanter then secured transportation and publicity rights for the team and obtained court time from the school's physical education chairperson.

Practices have been scheduled for every Tuesday and Friday and all team members have been held to strict requirements: All members are required to wear eyeguards at all times, compete against other team members and go through clinics, drills and game evaluation.

Progress has been excellent for the New Paltz State Racquetball Team. After obtaining a sponsor for team uniforms and getting the team members primed for tournament play New Paltz played its opening match against the All-Sport Fitness and Racquetball Club, coming away with 40 victories out of 57 games.

Other matches were against West Point, R.P.I., Cortland, S.U.N.Y. at Buffalo and other area clubs.

Hopes are high that the racquetball team will be a varsity team, but whether or not this occurs, it is possible that for the school year of 1981-82, a Collegiate Team Racquetball Conference will be formed in New York State.

Any school or club team interested in competition or anyone in need of information in forming a team should contact either Captain Robby Kanter or Coach Doug Sheppard at the Physical Education Department at the College of New Paltz.



Still Improving

Gene Fitzpatrick, the 1979 *National Racquetball* Most Improved Player from Maine, thinks the four months he spent in San Diego last winter "gave me 10 times the improvement that I had in the other three and a half years I've been playing."

Fitzpatrick, who's 21, moved to San Diego last January with \$5,000 that USRA State Co-chairman Dave Travis helped raise at a Falmouth Racquetball Club benefit. When the money for airfare, room and board ran out, Gene returned to Maine. At the



Kendler Classic, his first pro play in the 80-81 season, he said he's saving money for another stint in San Diego by doing construction work and teaching racquetball.

"In San Diego I lived with Bruce Christensen and Don Thomas, who took me along when they trained at Lance Allworth's. Don gave me unbelievable experience—he played with me every day."

"What were the most important things I learned? The drive serve, shooting down the line and to eliminate the thing you can get away with back east—the junk shot."

Illinois

The Robert W. Kendler Pro/Am Racquetball Classic co-sponsored by Leach and Seamco was held Nov. 19-23, 1980 at the Charlie Club II in Palatine, IL.

Results

Men's Open

Quarters: Brett Harnett d. Dan Factor 14-21, 21-5, 11-3; Don Constable d. Gene Fitzpatrick 21-5, 21-16; Gari Tate d. John Slazas 21-18, 21-3; Ed Andrews d. Gary Merritt 21-14, 20-21, 11-5

Semis: Constable d. Harnett 21-18, 21-10; Andrews d. Tate 9-21, 21-8, 11-4

Finals: Andrews d. Constable 21-13, 21-20 Cons: Dan Murray

Men's A

Quarters: Dan Mohr d. Neal Scheyer 21-13, 21-19; John D'Amico d. Randy Ashton 21-7, 21-7; Doug Peterson d. Bill Lyman 21-13, 21-10; Jim Thompson d. Bill Kane 21-18, 21-20

Semis: Mohr d. D'Amico 21-12, 21-17; Peterson d. Thompson 21-19, 21-14

Finals: Peterson d. Mohr 21-18, 21-14 Cons: Mike Frintner

Men's B

Quarters: Vince Del Guidice d. Jim Jeffers 21-16, 14-21, 11-6; Tom Hillis d. Scott Pufahl 21-18, 21-18; Jesse Valera d. Al Oliphant 21-16, 6-21, 11-8; Wayne Herrick d. Jerry Fronsak 21-17, 9-21, 11-7

Semis: Hillis d. Del Guidice 21-13, 8-21, 11-7; Valera d. Herrick 21-13, 18-21, 11-8

Finals: Hillis d. Valera 21-19, 20-21, 11-10

Men's C

Quarters: Ken Slok d. Tom Casterton 21-13, 21-18; Steve Smith d. Mike Merkel 21-13, 21-14; Jose Ortiz d. Platt Hill 21-18, 21-8; Graham Moore d. Mike Hall 19-21, 21-11, 11-5

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Charlie Club Pro Colleen Shields, left, took first in the women's Open at the Robert W. Kendler Pro/Am Classic, and Julie Jacobson was second place winner.



—Arthur Shay photo

Semis: Jacobson d. McCarthy 16-21, 21-13, 11-8; Shields d. McKinney 21-20, 9-21, 11-7

Finals: Shields d. Jacobson 21-20, 21-20

Women's A

Quarters: Grace Touhy d. Barb Edelstein 8-21, 21-15, 11-4; Beth Crawley d. Pat Mickesh 21-19, 17-21, 11-0; Hope Schwartz d. Gay Kenna 21-11, 21-11; Peggy Woods, forfeit

Semis: Crawley d. Touhy 21-4, 21-7; Schwartz d. Woods 21-14, 21-14

Finals: Crawley d. Schwartz 21-15, 21-8 Cons: Shirley Preikstas

Women's B

Quarters: Kim Cooling d. Pam Ziegert 21-12, 17-21, 11-7;

Kathy Roskopf d. Jean Huff 21-8, 21-9; Mona Bibb d. Karen Minsky 21-20, 21-4; Diana Chisam d. Willy Hancock 21-7, 21-11

Semis: Cooling d. Roskopf 21-7, 21-17; Bibb d. Chisam 21-18, 21-16

Finals: Bibb d. Cooling 21-9, 21-8 Cons: Willy Hancock

Women's C

Quarters: M.J. Hellum d. Donna Radeke 21-19, 20-21, 11-10; Jenny Pyne d. Wendy Monje 21-8, 13-21, 11-4; Judy Eckleberry d. Linda Nesci 7-21, 21-8, 11-9; Sue Yates d. Cathy Schmitt 21-1, 21-12

Semis: Pyne d. Hellum 21-17, 21-4; Yates d. Eckleberry 21-19, 21-13

Finals: Pyne d. Yates 21-17, 21-14 Cons: Debbie Gardner

Semis: Siok d. Smith 21-6, 21-19; Moore d. Ortiz 21-6, 21-19

Finals: Siok d. Moore 13-21, 21-14, 11-3 Cons: Ray Servin

Men's Veteran Open

Quarters: Joe Wirkus d. Ron Clapman 21-2, 21-1; Wil Mulvaney d. Jim Cartwright 17-21, 21-4, 11-3; Gary Loizzo d. Dan Bertolucci 21-11, 21-4; Roy White d. Herb Grigg 21-12, 21-17

Semis: Wirkus d. Mulvaney 21-7, 21-6; White d. Loizzo 21-15, 21-7

Finals: Wirkus d. White 19-21, 21-12, 11-4 Cons: Jim Visco

Men's Veteran Senior

Quarters: Don Mohr d. Art Rundell 21-1, 21-3; Doug Christianson d. Charles Wolford, forfeit; Dan Glanzer d. Thomas Michael 21-1, 21-12; Norman Lech d. John Jeffers 21-11, 21-4

Semis: Mohr d. Christianson 21-14, 21-3; Glanzer d. Lech 21-3, 21-3

Finals: Mohr d. Glanzer 21-9, 21-11 Cons: John Greene

Men's Seniors

Quarters: Ron Johnson d. Killshot Carpenter 21-9, 21-13; Al Shetzer d. Barry Seigle 11-21, 21-15, 11-8; Ron Johnson d. Harold Huff; Marshall Waldo d. John Dolby 21-1, 21-11

Semis: Shetzer d. Johnson 21-9, 7-21, 11-8; Waldo d. Johnson 21-16, 21-18

Finals: Waldo d. Shetzer 19-21, 21-16, 11-5 Cons: Fred Maben

Men's Veteran Masters and Masters

Quarters: Jim Harper d. Tony Buckun 21-9, 21-13; Frank Nev d. Fred Zitzer 21-18, 21-16; Gibson Kurtz d. Tony Lang 21-9, 6-21, 11-9; Tom Murray d. Jack Moskwa 21-7, 21-5

Semis: Harper d. Nev 21-6, 21-3; Murray d. Kurtz 21-17, 21-20

Finals: Harper d. Murray 21-14, 21-18 Cons: Herman Herkert

Women's Open

Quarters: Camille McCarthy d. Donna Meger 12-21, 21-15, 11-8; Julie Jacobson d. Judy Sawicki 21-18, 21-16; Colleen Shields d. Joan Azeka 21-8, 21-16; Caryn McKinney d. Tamara Kennedy 21-5, 21-15

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Rigby's Heroes

"Brumfield used his body, Yellen kept his cool," observed Erich Rigby, an 18-year-old from Indianapolis attending his first pro tournament—the Kendler Classic co-sponsored by Leach and Seamco.

"I read National Racquetball every month and I really enjoyed watching the pros do what they talk about in their articles. And it's been a thrill



seeing Hogan play after following all the scores and description of the matches."

Rigby was part of an Indianapolis contingent that included Referee Ron Johnson, Camille McCarthy, Peter Sakon, Howard May and Scott Pufahl, a 15-year-old who got the group off to a happy start by winning his first match at a pro/am tournament before he was beaten in the quarters in the men's B division.



Tournament Results

Please send tournament results and clear black and white action photos to Bob Keenan, USRA, 4101 Dempster, Skokie, IL 60076. Type your results double spaced, including name of tournament, dates and place with scores listed in style you see on these pages. Use first and last names the first time you mention a player (in doubles matches, too) and last names only after that.

Allow two months or more for your tournament writeup to appear here.

Wisconsin

Doug Cohen and Karin Walton-Trent captured top honors in the second annual Don Simon Realtors Pro-Am Tournament Sept. 12-14 at the Sun Prairie Racquetball Club.

Results

Men's Pro

Quarters: Ben Koltun d. Paul Ikier 21-15, 21-19; Steve Mondry d. Bill Schmidtke 21-16, 21-9; Doug Cohen d. Dennis McDowell 21-19, 21-8

Semifinals: Koltun d. Mondry 21-15, 21-10; Cohen d. Brumfield 21-13, 21-17

Finals: Cohen d. Koltun 21-18, 21-14, 11-5

Men's Open

Quarters: Bob Kinney d. Dave Negrete 21-18, 14-21, 11-8; Ed Lindfors d. Tim Walsh 21-8, 21-9; Gari Tate d. Sean Moskow 21-10, 21-15; Jack Newman d. Dave Trautmann 21-14, 21-7

Semifinals: Bob Kinney d. Ed Lindfors, forfeit; Jack Newman d. Gari Tate 20-21, 21-18, 11-9

Finals: Newman d. Kinney 21-8, 21-4

Women's Open

Quarters: Julie Jacobsen d. Nola Ward 21-19, 21-11; Diane Singler d. Betsy Koza 21-5, 21-5; Nancy Kronenfeld d. Lori Muenzenberger 21-3, 21-19; Laura Sidello d. Tina Heath 11-21, 21-7, 11-4

Semifinals: Singler d. Jacobsen 18-21, 21-5, 11-3; Kronenfeld d. Sidello 21-15, 15-21, 11-10

Finals: Singler d. Kronenfeld 15-21, 21-11, 11-1

Women's B

Quarters: Sally Dearborn d. Ann McGannon 21-9, 21-7; Kim Cooling d. Mary Peterson 21-8, 21-8; Nancy Freyer d. Darcy Hostetler 21-16, 19-21, 11-2; Sandi Farr d. Susan Jeannero 21-19, 19-21, 11-9

Semifinals: Farr d. Freyer 21-15, 21-20; Dearborn d. Cooling 21-8, 21-6

Finals: Dearborn d. Farr 21-10, 21-14

Women's C

Quarters: Sheryl Edgerton d. Jody Pedersen 21-15, 21-16; Kim Swedberg d. Kathy Obrien 21-1, 21-0; Wendy Monje d. Debbie Quamme 21-17, 21-19; Alta Littell d. Sherry Appledorn 21-17, 21-4

Semifinals: Swedberg d. Edgerton 21-5, 21-10; Littell d. Monje 21-5, 19-21, 11-9

Finals: Swedberg d. Littell 21-9, 21-16

Men's B

Quarters: Jay Griffin d. Leo Goldopski 21-10, 21-8; Steve Anacker d. Duane Appledorn 7-21, 21-8, 11-7; Rob Edgerton d. Steve Lindenau 21-11, 21-8; Gary Tanko d. Tim Walsh 17-21, 21-14, 11-3

Semifinals: Griffin d. Anacker 21-12, 21-15; Tanko d. Edgerton 20-21, 21-10, 11-8

Finals: Griffin d. Tanko 21-20, 21-20

Men's C

Quarters: Todd Dallman d. Jeff Semenas 21-8, 21-10, 11-7; Jim Fuerstenberg d. Bob Kortkamp 21-8, 19-21, 11-5; Rob Corcoran d. Mark Monje 21-20, 21-17; Jim Jeffers d. Peter Pie 21-17, 21-12

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For information regarding the camp March 16-18, and the Tournament of Champions March 19-22, write Arlene Dean, Tournament Productions, Sportrooms, 1500 Douglas Road, Coral Gables, Florida 33134.

Limited enrollment.

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Semis: Dallman d. Fuerstenberg; Jeffers d. Corcoran 21-17, 21-12

Finals: Jeffers d. Dallman 17-21, 21-4, 11-4

Men's Seniors

Quarters: Bill Schmidtke d. George Polrier 21-8, 21-12; Art Guenther d. Jim Lucht 17-21, 21-9, 11-5; Mike Gorman d. Rob Edgerton 21-12, 21-10; Daniel Klyvewood d. Bob Keenan 21-11, 21-10

Semis: Schmidtke d. Guenther 21-13, 21-14; Gorman d. Klyvewood 21-18, 21-17

Finals: Schmidtke d. Gorman 21-8, 19-21, 11-9

Women's Pro

Quarters: Rita Hoff d. Nancy Kronenfeld 21-7, 21-10; Sue Carow d. Theresa Gnewich 21-5, 21-1; Pat Schmidt d. Cheryl Kraus 21-10, 21-16; Karin Walton-Trent d. Tina Heath 21-8, 21-7

Semis: Hoff d. Carow 21-7, 21-7; Walton-Trent d. Schmidt 21-9, 21-12

Finals: Walton-Trent d. Hoff 21-17, 21-15

Consolation Winners: Men's Open—Bob Kohl, Men's B—Bruce Skaggs, Men's C—J. Wright, Men's Seniors—Steve Nicks, Women's Open—Laura Merkel, Women's B—Kim Swedeberg, Women's C—Debby Quamme

Ohio

The 1980 Ohio State Racquetball Tournament took place Sept. 12-14 at Hall of Fame Racquetball Center in Canton.

Results

Men's Open Singles: 1st-Kelvin Van Trease, 2nd-Lee Van Trease

Men's B Singles: 1st-John Heintschell, 2nd-Greg Smith

Men's C Singles: 1st-Rick Weiner, 2nd-Ernie Quinn

Men's Novice Singles: 1st-Ed Davidson, 2nd-Mike Strack

Men's Veteran Singles: 1st-Rick Mathers, 2nd-Denny Stitsinger

Men's Senior Singles: 1st-Kent Fusselman, 2nd-Bobby Sanders

Men's Masters Singles: 1st-Fred Zitzer, 2nd-Ken Mitchell

Men's Open Doubles: 1st-Kelvin Van Trease/Lee Van Trease, 2nd-Rob Abrams/Tom Moore

Men's B Doubles: 1st-Don Hyde/Ron Yannocci, 2nd-Tom Wucinich/Ed Murphy

Men's C Doubles: 1st-Ken Bussell/Jerry Leshner, 2nd-Ernie Quinn/Mavrick Sweet

Men's Senior and Veterans Doubles: 1st-Rod McKinley/Elijah Helton, 2nd-Jim Marsh/Ray Huss

Men's Masters Doubles: 1st-Ken Mitchell/Otis Chapman, 2nd-Paul Haering/Gerry Lappierre

Women's Open Singles: 1st-Karen Peric, 2nd-Trish Morpew

Women's B Singles: 1st-Brigitte Hartz, 2nd-Joan Trenchard

Women's C Singles: 1st-Vickie Foeller, 2nd-Holley Mallet

Women's Novice Singles: 1st-Linda Robertson, 2nd-Darlene Sparks

Women's Senior Singles: 1st-Cookie Wachtel, 2nd-Joyce Underwood

Women's Open Doubles: 1st-Shirley Strickland/Laurie Thomas, 2nd-Joyce Swell/Barb Young

Women's B Doubles: 1st-Margaret Gray/Brigitte Hartz, 2nd-Jodi Kujama/Angie King

Women's C Doubles: 1st-Tammy Cooper/Virg Rogers, 2nd-Ryka Shaffer/Jeanne Lesniewicz

Boys 16-17: 1st-Dave Rosenblum, 2nd-Brooke McCarter

Boys 14-15: 1st-Jim Leone, 2nd-Pete Salvatore

Boys 13 and Under: 1st-Jim Hausserman, 2nd-Ken Stearn

Illinois

3,000 regional participants out of more than 50 competitors remained to play in the third annual National Court Clubs Association national amateur championships Sept. 12-14 at the Glass Court Club in Lombard.

Results

Men's A: Greg Maloley d. Jeff McDowell 21-17, 21-10

Women's A: Round Robin: Janet Ceglinski, Debbie Erhart, Teresa Parker

Men's B: Dave Rodriguez d. Jerry Brody 11-21, 21-14, 11-5

Women's B: Debbie Adams d. Pat Evanitski 21-17, 21-10

Men's Novice: Barry Lipson d. Dave McElroy 21-10, 21-13

Women's Novice: Robin Cunningham d. Bertha Menendez 21-7, 21-14

Florida

The First Annual Muscular Dystrophy Association Racquetball Tournament took place Sept. 19-21 at the Suncoast Courthouse in Clearwater.

Results

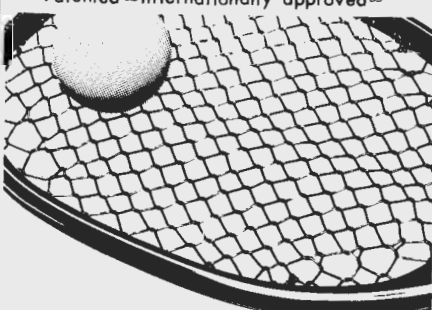
Women's C: 1st-Doreen Holliman, 2nd-Bebe Rodriguez, 3rd-Cindy Wilkie

Women's Open: 1st-Diane Green, 2nd-Nancy Hamrick, 3rd-Donna Furlong

Men's C: 1st-Robert D. LaPorta, 2nd-Chris Buckner, 3rd-Jerry Austin

Men's Open: 1st-Bob Owens, 2nd-Terry Fluharty, 3rd-Van Dubolsky

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Men's Seniors: 1st-Steve Squire, 2nd-Jeff Leon, 3rd-Lee Duda and Sonny Marcus

Juniors: 1st-Chris Buckner, 2nd-Jeff Ball, 3rd-Shane Brown

Women's B: 1st-Linda Castellano, 2nd-Kim Beecher, 3rd-Gail Filinn

Womens Jr. Vets: 1st-Cheryl Lee, 2nd-Kim Beecher, 3rd-Renee Fish

Men's B: 1st-Ronnie Roan, 2nd-Joe Sylvester, 3rd Bill Greaney

Men's Jr. Vets: 1st-Bob Owens, 2nd-Carson Tullington, 3rd-Van Dubolsky

Masters: 1st-Sonny Marcus, 2nd-Tom Vann, 3rd-John Saltzgauer

Missouri

The West James Courts hosted the Steinhoff Fall Racquetball Classic Sept. 25-28.

Results

Men's Open: 1st-John Bowles, 2nd-John Warkenthien, 3rd-Brad Morse, Cons-Jim Moehl

Women's Open: 1st-Rosie Epps, 2nd-Pat Deck

Men's B: 1st-Asif Manzoor, 2nd-Jeff Derrington, 3rd-Rich Doty, Cons-Mike Merrill

Women's B: 1st-Barb Buehrle, 2nd-Pam Collier

Men's C: 1st-George Huelsmann, 2nd-Bob Frazier, 3rd-Darrin Tessmer, Cons-Don Perez

Women's C: 1st-Debbie Skaggs, 2nd-Linda Craft, 3rd-Ola Patty, Cons-Carolyn Conner

Men's D: 1st-Clarence McKinzie, 2nd-Dave Dalton, Jr., 3rd-Ed Wheatley, Cons-Scott Smith

Women's D: 1st-Barb Danielwicz, 2nd-Kim Thompson, 3rd-Pam Skeeters, Cons-Sheila Schaeffer

Men's Novice: 1st-Tom Kayser, 2nd-Kevin Laughlin, 3rd-Omar White, Cons-Charles Mingus

Women's Novice: 1st-Doris Kochera, 2nd-Pat Leahy, 3rd-Lisa Bergland, Cons-Barb Thompson

Pennsylvania

The 1980 White Rose Classic took place at the Sawmill Racquetball Club in York Sept. 26-28.

Results

Men's A-A

Round Robin: Dennis McDowell d. Jim Cascio, Al Plummer, Tom Whipple; George Vierra d. Craig Guinter, Art Diemar, Ira Miller; Mike McDonough d. Eric Foley, Jim Bailey, Jerry Yee; Reuben Gonzalez d. Tom Ranker, Steve Ginsburg, Jeff McDowell.

Semis: McDowell d. Gonzalez 21-9, 18-21, 11-8; Vierra d. McDonough 21-17, 21-15

Finals: McDowell d. Vierra 21-12, 21-14

Women's A

Quarters: D. Fischl d. C. Baxter 20-21, 21-17, 11-8; P. Dorshelmer d. J. Farrell 21-13, 21-3; M. Nieves d. L. Zarfos forfeit; C. Dalton d. T. Hajjar 21-17, 21-10

Semis: Fischl d. Dorshelmer 21-13, 5-21, 11-10; Nieves d. Dalton 21-14, 21-16

Finals: Fischl d. Nieves 21-17, 21-18

Women's B

Quarters: J. Stadler d. J. Heckman 21-8, 21-3; L. Ranker d. S. Kimbrough 21-8, 21-10; B. McGonigal d. I. Castles 18-21, 21-15, 11-9; M. Reuben d. M. Gulon 21-8, 21-3

Semis: Stadler d. Ranker 21-8, 21-5; McGonigal d. Reuben 9-21, 21-12, 11-5

Finals: Stadler d. McGonigal 21-8, 21-4

Women's C

Quarters: J. Gilbert d. G. Rutzebeck 21-13, 21-18; C. Cascio d. L. Gray 21-13, 21-13; D. Baxter d. J. Jones 21-7, 21-4; L. Wright d. M. Lee 21-16, 21-8

Semis: Cascio d. Gilbert 21-12, 21-7; Baxter d. Wright 21-12, 21-12

Finals: Baxter d. Cascio 21-18, 10-21, 11-1

Men's Seniors

Quarters: J. Krevsky d. K. Baron 21-19, 21-17; P. Rowe d. T. Gentile 21-17, 21-19; C. Sullivan d. G. Ruckno 21-17, 21-5; J. Powell d. B. Scroggs 21-8, 21-4

Semis: Krevsky d. Rowe 21-14, 21-16; Powell d. Sullivan 6-21, 21-17, 11-9

Finals: Powell d. Krevsky 21-17, 21-12

Men's A

Quarters: J. Cascio d. A. Nieves 21-4, 21-4; J. Krevsky d. D. Hernjak 21-18, 21-10; D. Obremski d. J. Yee 21-18, 15-21, 11-3; J. McDowell d. F. Avelos 21-9, 21-15

Semis: Cascio d. Krevsky 21-9, 21-1; McDowell d. Obremski 21-4, 21-12

Finals: Cascio d. McDowell 21-6, 21-9

Men's B

Quarters: G. Martinez d. J. Parsons 21-10, 9-21, 11-9; T. Adams d. J. Rogolino 21-17, 21-13; C. Gilmore d. B. Lucas 21-15, 8-21, 11-8; B. Redcay d. P. Overton 21-10, 21-20

Semis: Adams d. Martinez 21-15, 14-21, 11-4; Redcay d. Gilmore 21-9, 21-20

Finals: Adams d. Redcay 21-18, 21-5

Men's C

Quarters: M. Smith d. G. Frizzell 21-10, 18-21, 11-3; M. Vanore d. D. Rosenberg 21-9, 17-21, 11-0; J. Miller d. C. Hussey 21-20, 21-20; M. Heckman d. C. Sword 18-21, 21-12, 11-7

Semis: Vanore d. Miller 21-10, 21-17; Heckman d. Smith 21-15, 21-18

Finals: Heckman d. Vanore 19-21, 21-13, 11-3

Colorado

Pro Ross Harvey beat Two Time Colorado Champ Jack O'Connor in the Men's A division of the Autumn Leaves Racquetball tournament Oct. 3-5 at the Aspen Club. Gary Sanchez and Tom Zirkle took first in men's doubles, beating

Alden Bock and Dirk Douglas in the finals, and Lydia Emerick beat Janice Brown in the Women's A finals.

South Dakota

The Austed Pro-Am took place Oct. 3-5 at Racquetball of Sioux Falls, with merchandise prizes of \$500 and \$300 going to the top players in the Men's Open.

Results

Men's Open: Tony Upkes d. Paul Bakken

Men's B: Doug Schneider d. Lee Hansen

Men's C: Phil Blum d. Chuck Janowsek

Men's Novice: Rick Lunn d. Gary Theobald

Men's Seniors: Craig Olsen d. Mike Gorman

Men's Masters: 1st-Dan Robar, 2nd-John Peckham

Men's Open Doubles: Frank Lockridge/K. Halgerson d. Tony Upkes/Mark Domangue

Men's C Doubles: Tom Foeguer/Tom Gills d. Sam Spears/Schuetzle

Women's Open: Laurie Ogden d. Peggy Clark

Women's B: Finley d. Jane Buche

Women's C: Sue Gunderson d. Midge Stengle

Women's Novice: Wendy Gunderson d. Vel Harger

Women's Open Doubles: Cathy Ogden/Peggy Clark d. Laurie Ogden/Myrta Hansen

Mark Hegg defeated Joe Socco to win the \$250 merchandise first prize at the Natural Light Yankton Open Oct. 31 - Nov. 2 at the Yankton Court House.

Louisiana

The Louisiana State Singles Championships were held October 3-5 at the Louisiana Racquetball and Health Club in Kenner.

Results

Men's Open: 1st-Lance Lacour, 2nd-Wallace Hardy, 3rd-Cliff Zeairs, 4th-Steve Ledford, Cons-Jack Jones

Men's B: 1st-Gordon Stuntz, 2nd-George Heidelemer, 3rd-Steve Rogers, 4th-Don Maxey, Cons-Steve Higgins

Men's C: 1st-Jay Anthony, 2nd-Mike Wallace, 3rd-Jerry Rodasti, 4th-Rowley Sewell, Cons-Scott McNeill

Men's D: 1st-Michael Leveque, 2nd-Wayne George, 3rd-Cory Omand, 4th-Don DeGabrielle, Cons-James Wernike

Women's Open: 1st-Gail Woods, 2nd-Renee Hebert, 3rd-Kristen Swigart, 4th-Pat Froeba, Cons-Gina Salemi

Women's B: 1st-Shirley Craig, 2nd-Judy Lynch, 3rd-Rhonda Grimm, 4th-Bonnie Bozant, Cons-Sue Anne Stuntz

Women's C: 1st-Joan Dipalo, 2nd-Cissie Texada, 3rd-Alledia Laird, 4th-Laura Haney, Cons-Tammy Landry

Women's D: 1st-Susan Evans, 2nd-Carol Williams, 3rd-Diane Pecnik, 4th-Darla Normand, Cons-Margaret LeBeouf



Upcoming Events

Jan. 22-25

USRA Texas State Championships; Fort Worth Athletic Club, 3900 Benbrook Hwy, Fort Worth, TX 76116; Deadline Jan. 10, Tournament Director Rick Coyne; 817-244-0076 (no phone entries)



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\$15,000 In Prize Money

February 18-22, 1981— Co-sponsored by LEACH/SEAMCO



SITE: Chancellors Racquet Club, 6535 Dumfries, Houston, Texas, Phone: 713-772-9955, 11 courts, 7 full glass backwall, restaurant and bar, pro shop, spacious locker facilities.

ELIGIBILITY: All participants must be USRA members in good standing. Membership applications and renewals should accompany entry fee at time of mailing. Membership fee is \$12.00. Proof of membership will be required at registration desk or may be purchased at tournament.

ENTRY FEES: \$30 in professional event, \$20 in amateur event. Limit one amateur event per player. Players may enter one pro event and one amateur event. No refunds after February 12, 1981.

ENTRY DEADLINE: Thursday, February 12, 1981. Entry fee must accompany entry form. Entries postmarked later than February 12, 1981 will be returned. No entries accepted without payment or by phone.

SANCTION: By United States Racquetball Association and National Racquetball Club as part of the NRC Pro/Am Tour Co-sponsored by Leach/Seamco.

OFFICIAL BALL: Seamco 600 (blue) in all amateur events and Seamco 559 (green) in professional event.

AWARDS: \$15,000 in prize money in professional event. Awards to 1st, 2nd, semi-finalist. Consolation award.

STARTING TIMES: Players should check in 1 hour before scheduled match play. Amateur events may start as early as 12 noon Thursday, February 19, 1981. Please write your earliest available starting time on your entry. For starting times call 713-772-9955 on Tuesday, February 17, 1981.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Chancellors Racquet Club, 6535 Dumfries, Houston, Texas 77096 Attention: Mike Keel— Tournament Director.

ACCOMMODATIONS: Dunfey's Royal Coach Inn, 7000 Southwest Freeway, Houston, Texas 77074, Phone 713-771-1311. Flat room rate of \$40 per day per room. Occupancy limited to a maximum of 4 persons. For reservation information call the reservations office at 713-771-1331.

GENERAL INFORMATION: USRA rules on bracket eligibility apply. Tournament Director reserves the right to change players brackets in accordance with these rules. The director reserves the right to reclassify or deny any amateur entrant. Participants will be expected to observe good sportsmanlike conduct. All players should be prepared to play Wednesday, February 18, 1981 in the pro qualifying rounds and Thursday, February 19, 1981 in amateur events. Twelve players are necessary to complete a bracket and each bracket is limited to the first 64 entrants. In the event of an incomplete bracket the Tournament Director reserves the right to move players into next youngest applicable bracket. In all amateur events, winner must referee the next match on the same court, or provide a substitute, or be subject to disqualification.

PLEASE ENTER ME IN THE FOLLOWING EVENT/S: \$30 for pro event— \$20 for each amateur event— USRA membership \$12.00.

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|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|---|
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| ☐ Open | ☐ C | ☐ Masters 45+ |
| ☐ A | ☐ D | ☐ Golden Masters 55+ |

WOMEN

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ☐ Open | ☐ D |
| ☐ B | ☐ Senior 35+ |
| ☐ C | |

Name (Print) _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (work) _____ Phone (home) _____ USRA Exp. _____

WAIVER: I understand that it is your intention to have my participation hereunder recorded on videotape for presentation on television and elsewhere, and I expressly agree that you shall have the unlimited right and authority to use and exploit your coverage of the series, the videotape and any and all forms of reproduction thereof in any and all media in perpetuity in whatever manner and by whatever means and wherever you may desire without any obligation to pay any monies to me except as hereinabove expressly provided. Such recordings shall without limitation be the sole property of the NRC/USRA to deal with, broadcast, sell, exhibit and otherwise use or reuse in whole or in part as the NRC/USRA sees fit.

I also hereby for myself and my agents waive and release any and all rights and claims for damages I may have against the U.S. Racquetball Association, the National Racquetball Club, the Chancellors Racquet Club, Adolph Coors Company, Seamco, Inc. Leach Industries and any of their agents, for any and all injuries received by me in connection with this tournament.

Signature _____ Date _____
(Parent, if under 18)

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Entrants free.

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\$1.00 Wednesday, Thursday, Friday
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Three Women Pros Face

The Arms Issue . . .

—Arthur Shay photos



Rita Hoff: "I like a sleeve because I have wide shoulders."



Sarah Green: "I always wear sleeves to cover up my huge shoulders."

Continuing its discussion of practicality in racquetball clothes (see November's fashion story) *National Racquetball* this month asks a fundamental question: should the shirt have a sleeve?

The answer depends on the state of the shoulder the sleeveless shirt reveals. If you're a man who wants to display your deltoid muscles, you'll shun the sleeve.

If you're a woman athlete, you might side with pros who prefer to cover their broad shoulders. Rita Hoff and Sarah Green, photographed at last season's pro stop at the Glass Court in Lombard, IL, "always wear sleeves."

"I have huge shoulders from being a swimmer," says Green, who also opts for shorts without a pocket ("pockets look masculine") and without side slits ("they fold up on me when I bend down to receive a serve.")

Rita Hoff, who likes "bright colors and basic styles," agrees that "sleeveless shirts aren't flattering if you have wide shoulders." Then there's Karin Walton-Trent, 1979 NRC Women's Pro Nationals winner who was also interviewed at the Lombard event. Says Walton-Trent: "I like bright colors—pink looks good against a tan—and tops without sleeves. To me—sleeveless is feminine." ●



Karin Walton-Trent: "Sleeveless is more feminine."

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—Carole Charfauros George photos

Shannon Wright heads for a win against Marci Greer in the finals of the W.P.R.A. pro stop in Boise.

Wright Beats Greer in Boise

After Marci Upsets Top Seed Heather McKay in Semis of W.P.R.A. Tournament

by Carole Charfauros George

Lynn Adams moves out from under a Wright drive in the semis.

It's funny how being on national television can affect different people. Take Shannon Wright, for instance. All you have to do is televise a tournament and she's almost a sure bet to win in the finals. It's happened five times already and in a sport like racquetball, which so seldom ends up on national television, that's a pretty impressive record.

Now let's look at Marci Greer. She's beaten Wright twice on her way to the finals, even as recently as the W.P.R.A. Escondido Pro-Am in September. In fact at the Women's Professional Racquetball Association stop at the Court House Nov. 12-16 in Boise, ID Greer upset the top ranked Heather McKay in the semis. So it wasn't intimidation by another player that caused Marci to choke in the finals against Shannon. But it was the first time she had to contend with the thought of being televised. Public Broadcasting System cameras were recording the tournament for distribution in the U.S. and Canada.

"I just wasn't psychologically prepared for TV," revealed Marci Greer on her way back to San Diego. *"I think I played well, clean up until today."* Greer has since moved to Baton Rouge, LA, where some of her friends from Kansas live, mainly *"for a change of environment."*

Wright, on the other hand, could do no wrong in the finals. Each succeeding win seemed to prepare her better for her television performance. It was obvious that Wright really wanted this one, after finishing fourth in Escondido. *"If I have a weakness, it's that I'm not gung ho for every tournament . . . but every time I lose it spurs me to try harder,"* declared Wright.

The W.P.R.A. initiated a trial scoring system to add more excitement to the matches. All pro matches played games to 11 in which a point would be awarded on each rally, regardless of who served. First player to win three games would win a set. If a player won both sets she would also win the match. However in case of a split the players would play one 11 point tie-breaker.

Wright was able to finish off Greer in straight sets, 3-0, 3-1. Right from the start Wright set the mood of the match by tallying up seven straight points before Greer could score. Greer got into the game, but only as far as five points.

In the second game of the first set Greer kept a narrow lead until 9-7. Then it was Wright who won the next rallies, winning 11-10 on a Greer skip return. The third and final game of the first set was similar to the first. Wright led 10-1. Greer made a late comeback to five before losing the set point.



Marci's only game was the first of the second set. The two played point for point until 10-10, which is game point for either player. An avoidable hinder on Wright gave the game to Greer.

Wright clearly dominated the rest of the second set, winning 11-4, 11-7, 11-7 while the crowd kept cheering Greer on for a closer match, which never seemed to quite materialize.

The finals were anti-climatic after two thrilling semi-finals. In her third match-up with McKay Marci finally found the consistency which she had lacked earlier. After Greer won the first set 3-1, McKay came back stronger than ever, pushing the second set to its five game limit. While many spectators were preparing themselves for a tie-breaker, Greer pulled out the fifth game to win the match.

Wright defeated Lynn Adams with identical scores 3-1, 3-2, in the other semis match. The new scoring system kept Adams fans on their feet, since the outcome was in the air until the last point was scored. Had Adams pulled out that fifth game in the second set, the match would have gone to a tie-breaker where anything can happen in 11 quick points.

Adams, who has consistently held the number three spot on the tour this season, was not up to her usual level of play. As early as the first round she squeaked past Linda Forcade of Canada 3-2, 3-2. Forcade served set point, but lost the rally and the match to Adams. In the 16s Lynn was pushed to the tie-breaker by Vicki Panzeri 1-3, 3-1, 11-6. Then in the quarters she met fellow southern Californian, Peggy Gardner. The 3-1, 3-0 scores are no indication of how close that match was, as every game was either 11-10 or 11-9.

Karin Walton-Trent, 1979 Nationals champ who is considering giving up professional racquetball for nursing training, had an excellent match in the quarters before she lost to Greer 3-2, 3-1. Even though Greer has consistently been ranked higher than Walton-Trent, Karin is still ahead on their match-ups. But this time she didn't quite have it. McKay met Martha McDonald in the quarters, winning 3-0, 3-0. It wasn't until after the match that McKay found out that her opponent was three months pregnant with her second child. In the 16s McDonald had an excellent match against

First TV Winner

Marci Greer takes over center court and beats Heather McKay in the semi-final matches in Boise.



Carole George's photo of Jennifer Harding, appeared in the full page opener of a story on the Oregon pro in *Women's Sports* December issue. Harding and Jean Sausser were on the magazine cover.



—Carole George photo

Though Harding lost in the round of 16s in this latest PBS broadcast, she made racquetball history in November of 1977 by winning the women's pro finals in the first nationally televised TV matches at the NRC stop at King's Court in Westminster, CA. ●

Francine Davis, winning the tie-breaker 11-7. But remember that Martha always seems to do better when she's playing for two. In the 1979 Nationals she was five months pregnant when she went to the tie-breaker with Shannon in the quarters.

In the final quarters match two Texans faced each other: Wright vs. Susie Dugan, the 1980 USRA amateur champion. Pete Wright missed watching the pair up between his exwife and his current girlfriend which Shannon won 3-1, 3-0. Pete has coached both of these champions.

The Idaho *Statesman* ran the headline "Five Seeded Players Upset" after the first round matches. Some feel that the new scoring system helps even out the competition. Whatever the reason five of the top 16 never got past the first round. Susie Dugan, who had to qualify, upset 10th ranked Linda Prefontaine. Bonnie Stoll, at number five, was the highest ranked player to be eliminated on Thursday. Stoll was defeated 3-2, 3-1 by her doubles partner, Mary Dee. Peggy Gardner topped W.P.R.A. President and sixth seed Janell Marriott 3-2, 3-1.

Kippi Bishop-Boatright dropped number 11 Rita Hoff 3-2, 3-1. The fifth upset was actually a mistake. Jennifer Harding, the 16th seed, upheld her spot against Jean Sausser 11-10 in the tie-breaker.

Round of 16: McKay d. Harding 3-1, 3-0; McDonald d. Davis 3-0, 3-2; Walton-Trent d. Dee 3-0, 3-0; Greer d. hometown favorite Sheryl Ambler 3-2, 3-1; Adams d. Panzeri 1-3, 3-1, 11-6; Gardner d. Bishop-Boatright 3-0, 3-1; Dugan d. Elaine Lee 3-0, 3-2; Wright d. Hope Weisbach 3-0, 3-0

Round of 32: McKay d. Laura Martino 3-1, 3-1; Harding d. Sausser 0-3, 3-2, 11-10; Davis d. Terri Gilreath 3-0, 3-2; McDonald d. Caryn McKinny 3-0, 2-3, 11-4; Dee d. Stoll 3-2, 3-1; Walton-Trent d. Peggy Steding 3-0, 3-0; Ambler d. Mona Mook 3-1, 3-0; Greer d. Barb Faulkenberry 3-0, 3-0; Adams d. Forcade 3-2, 3-2; Panzeri d. Brenda Poe 3-1, 3-1; Bishop-Boatright d. Rita Hoff 3-2, 3-1; Gardner d. Marriott 3-2, 3-1; Lee d. Betsy Koza 3-0, 3-1; Dugan d. Prefontaine 1-3, 3-0, 11-6; Weisbach d. Joyce Jackson by forfeit; Wright d. Melanie Taylor 3-0, 3-0

W.P.R.A. Rankings as of Jan. 1, 1981

1. Heather McKay 660 points
2. Shannon Wright 580 points
3. Marci Greer 340 points
4. Lynn Adams 300 points
5. Bonnie Stoll 170 points
6. Karin Walton-Trent 150 points
Martha McDonald 150 points
8. Janell Marriott 140 points
9. Linda Prefontaine 130 points
Fran Davis 130 points
11. Elaine Lee 120 points
12. Sarah Green 100 points
Vicki Panzeri 100 points
Peggy Gardner 100 points
15. Jennifer Harding 90 points
16. Rita Hoff 80 points
Sheryl Ambler 80 points
Laura Martino 80 points
19. Hope Weisbach 70 points
Mary Dee 70 points
Kippi Bishop-Boatright 70 points
22. Jean Sausser 60 points
Peggy Steding 60 points
Joyce Jackson 60 points

Next month: How does a new scoring system work at a pro stop? Pros and spectators at the Boise W.P.R.A. matches give their views.

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—Tournament photos by Arthur Shay and Lauren Shay

Peck's Crowd

Dave Gives Himself a Win for His Birthday as He and Marty Hogan Play a Match that's a Gift to the Gallery.

Muscle meets muscle as Dave Peck, in blue, emerges the winner over Marty Hogan in the Kendler Classic tie-breaker finale.

by Tom Morrow

For awhile it looked as if the third annual Robert W. Kendler Classic Nov. 19-23 would be a replay of the King's/Bank of Newport classic, this season's opener for the National Racquetball Club tour co-sponsored by Leach and Seamco.

The nation's top four racquetball players were pitted against each other with Mike Yellen and Marty Hogan defending their top rankings against the hungry Jerry Hilecher and Dave Peck. But Hilecher and Yellen stumbled, leaving Hogan and Peck in the Palatine, IL finals and it was El Paso's favorite racquetball player outlasting the three time national defending champ.

For Peck it was sweet victory and a sensational come-from-behind win against both Yellen, the game's new top seed, and Hogan, the most feared and respected racquetball player in the history of the game.

For Hogan it was the second time as in as many tournament stops that he would be felled by a Peck. Young 17-year-old Gregg, a high school senior and brother of Dave,

Thriller



eliminated Hogan from the quarter-final round of the Coors Grand Prix I in Omaha in October.

For Yellen the 20-year-old ice man from Southfield, MI who took the top seed position from Hogan after winning the Omaha tournament, it was the second time in a row that he had lost to Dave Peck. (Peck defeated Yellen in the semi-final round of the Westminister, CA tournament.)

The Palatine tournament began rather routinely with the seeds dropping by the wayside in their order. The quarter-finals produced no real surprises as they had in Omaha. Yellen defeated Doug Cohen of St. Louis 21-13, 21-6; Dave Peck ousted seventh ranked Lindsay Myers of Vancouver, BC 21-11, 21-17; Hilecher downed fifth ranked Don Thomas 21-14, 21-9; Hogan eliminated sixth ranked Steve Strandemo 21-12, 21-12.

Cohen proved to be a stubborn foe for Yellen, who is developing a reputation as a player who wears the opponent down before putting him out. Cohen, however,

gave Yellen all he wanted during the first half of each game, but seemed to fade halfway through, allowing the consistent 20-year-old to pull ahead and cap the game and match.

The quarter-final play of Myers-Peck was not the best match of the tournament, with each player stalling at times and playing to the crowd. It cost Myers the final game and match point when he refused to lower his racquet on defense after more than 10 seconds. The referee gave the match to Peck as he stood waiting for Myers with the score 20-17.

Thomas did not display the outstanding play during the Palatine tournament that took him in to the final round at Omaha. Hilecher, 26, one of the game's most exciting and potent players, methodically put Thomas away 21-14, 21-9.

The quarter-final match between Strandemo and Hogan was one of the closest played. The 21-12, 21-12 score to Hogan's favor does not do justice to the game Strandemo played against the champ.

The tournament held in the posh Charlie Club II in the northwest Chicago suburb was one of the best organized ever, with more than 500 entries in the pro-am event. The chill of November was no threat to many participants and daily spectators, who stayed inside for four days using the Charlie Club II's Best Western Motel, restaurant, disco, two lounges and olympic-size indoor swimming pool.

It was evident from the capacity crowds starting with quarter-final play to the final match that Chicago is racquetball country. Charlie Club staffers were continually urging spectators to move close together so that more people could be seated. An estimated 400 racquetball fans viewed each of the semi-final and final games.

For sports fans who think three hours of sitting at a football game can be rough on the posterior, try five straight hours—that's how long the Hogan-Hilecher, Peck-Yellen play went, beginning at 5 p.m., ending at 9:15 p.m. Saturday. But no one left the arena because of boredom—on the contrary men and women, boys and girls were standing, squatting, lying,



The glass wall reflects the attentive crowd watching the high pitched semi-final match between Mike Yellen and Dave Peck.

Many in the capacity crowd gave the two players a standing ovation for this brilliant rally, which proved to be just the first of several during the match.

Hogan ended the first game allowing Hilecher only three more points to take the lead 21-12.

It was as if the first game were a mere warm-up for both players as they came back at each other in the second game trading point for point.

Hilecher jumped to a 5-2 advantage, but allowed the champ two good shots with his deadly forehand that produced a kill rollout and a right corner-side wall-front wall pinch.

The score see-sawed again until it was 11-9 Hilecher. Then the Solana Beach, CA professional ran another five unanswered points on Hogan to 15-9 before the champ began his catchup run. Hogan outscored Hilecher 6-1 before being slowed down. With the score 16-15 Hilecher the game became a duel between two of the fastest and most powerful hitting racquets in the sport. Rallies of 10 to 12 exchanges became the norm and it was only when the slightest mistake was made by one of the players, the other would take

kneeling anywhere they could find to catch the action of professional racquetball's four top players.

And no one was disappointed.

Hogan sought and received sweet revenge from his Westminster loss to long time playing rival, Hilecher. Hilecher had ousted the champ in the season's opener and Hogan was determined not to let it happen again.

The first game of the Hogan-Hilecher matchup saw Hilecher jumping to a 6-2 advantage, grabbing an ace and two kills from Hogan. Racquetball's all time money winner added more points to the Hilecher scoring column with three skips, including one from the ceiling.

Then it was Hogan's turn. The 22-year-old champ outscored Hilecher 15-2 during a series of typical Hogan power pinch-pass and kill shots with an ace thrown in for good measure. With the score 9-8 Hilecher Hogan scored on a pass after a marathon 16 exchange rally that had the two players diving, leaping and running to return the ball.

Avoiding Chest Pains



"I would have been hysterical . . . I would have had chest pains," says Martha Peck, contemplating the possibility that she might have been only a pane of glass away when her sons faced each other at the November Kendler Classic.

The mother of seven was home in El Paso when 18-year-old Gregg lost in the 16s to Dave, who became the tournament winner just two days after he'd turned 24.

Martha Peck's premise that "it's hard for them to get psyched up against each other" might have been half the reason for the brothers' lackluster match, which Dave won handily. The other might have been the case of flu that almost made Gregg lose in the round of 32s.

"After Gregg lost, he helped Dave," their mother says. "In the last tournament after Dave was knocked out in the 32s, he helped Gregg, who had his big win over Marty Hogan."

"They both work terribly hard on their racquetball, this time especially . . . They work out together—in the afternoon and evening when Gregg's through with school . . . Even when Dave's out-of-town he's helping—last September for his birthday he gave Gregg earphones to use when he's jogging or practicing on court."

Gregg Peck, a round of 16 victim of his brother's perfect tournament play, watches Dave go on to win the Kendler Classic title.

In the semis Jerry Hilecher reacts to a left side pass that helps make Marty Hogan the winner.

advantage with either a point or the serve.

Hogan had a 20-18 advantage but let three serves go by without a score, during which time Hilecher tied the game 20-20. Hilecher ended the 70 minute match with a killshot.

Hogan, who had played throughout the tournament with unusual calmness and determination, began in the tie-breaker to look as if he wanted to end the match as quickly as possible. Two Hogan serves produced no points. On Hilecher's second serve Hogan skipped a return. Hogan quickly regained the offensive and drove a forehand kill shot into the front wall.

Each player then traded serves for a total of seven times before any more points were added. Hogan finally got a kill for his second point. Hilecher quickly had his second point on a Hogan skip. Then a third with a pass shot. But no more for Hilecher.

Hogan went on a nine point scoring run with three passes, two killshots, a right corner pinch and a service winner to cap the match 11-3.

At 7:15 p.m. the standing room only audience thought it had seen the best racquetball had to offer—but Messrs. Peck and Yellen hadn't walked onto the court yet.

Anyone in the audience who knew anything about professional racquetball and these two players was ready for another marathon match. They were not disappointed.

Yellen had lost a tightly played semi-finals match to Peck in August at the King's Court in Westminster, CA, but came into the Kendler Classic the profession's top seed and tournament favorite after his Omaha win.

Peck, who turned 24 the day before the semi-final round, celebrated by outscoring the 20-year-old Yellen 9-3 before the new top seed could lock into his solid usual scoring play. Peck scored two aces, three kills and two backhand right corner pinch shots to get the jump on Yellen.

Yellen began his scoring thrust, outscoring the former University of Texas-El Paso Linebacker 7-2. With the score at 11-9 the two players began a see-saw battle, trading points on killshots, corner pinches and defensive skips.



It was Peck 16, Yellen 13, when the top seed made his final scoring drive, with six unanswered points. At 18-16 Peck made two beautifully delivered pinch shots in each front corner to tie the score 18 all. Each player lost a serve and then Yellen scored the final two points on a pinch and pass to take the first game 21-18.

In the second game anyone wanting to place a wager would have picked Yellen because Peck lost a point to a technical before he got off the ground. It was 9 to negative 1 before Peck began to put points on his side. NRC referee Larry Lee called Peck for kicking the door after Yellen had scored his fourth straight pass shot. (There is a \$50 fine for a technical).

At 10-2 Peck began what has to be one of the phenomenal comebacks this season. Peck outscored Yellen 21-2 to take the second game 21-11.

And Peck continued his scoring assault on the top seed by shutting him out 8-0 in the tie-breaker. It was as if Peck had been using the first game to warm up. Peck was playing Yellen's game—wearing down the opponent before putting him

out. Peck put Yellen out, but not before the Michigan pro ran nine points with a series of kills, three aces and two pass shots on Peck. At 9-9 Peck slammed a sensational rollout pinch shot in the front wall right corner while running away toward the rear wall for the side out and the offense.

Peck quickly scored two corner pinch shots giving him the match and the match-up with Hogan in the final round. Peck, who was ranked fourth going into the Palatine tournament, outscored Yellen 30-2 in the last half of the second game and the first half of the tie-breaker. This offensive thrust by Peck was simply too much for even the seemingly tireless Yellen.

During the tournament players and spectators had prepared themselves to expect a finals clash between Yellen and Hogan. After all Yellen had taken away racquetball's top honor from a man who had owned it for longer than many of the pros could remember. It was as if Hogan was gearing himself to face Yellen so that he could settle the matter of who is really number one.



Peck's impeccable backhand is a factor in his quarter-final win over Lindsay Myers.



Steve Strandemo, a consistent contender in the quarters, bows to Hogan's power.

Mike Yellen, the tournament's number one seed, outclasses Doug Cohen, who continues to show promise as he progresses to the quarters.



Yellen had the top seed position, but it was Hogan who spectators and the news media still recognized as being the best racquetball player in the world. Yellen guarded his new found honor cautiously and unassumingly. A news reporter from the *Daily Herald* of suburban Chicago asked him who was the best racquetball player in the world.

"*This week, I am,*" Yellen answered with a slight smile.

But as the week ended a different answer emerged. Peck faced Hogan with all the determination he could muster. He had been embarrassed in Omaha, being eliminated in the round of 32 by Gary Berberet of Fullerton, CA, then a 26th seed player. And there was the matter of younger brother Gregg downing Hogan in Omaha. It took three weeks for little brother to come down from the clouds, according to Dave.

Hogan's unchallenged dominance of the game was being seriously challenged—just as he predicted—from everywhere, especially the younger players who have been idolizing and copying his style of play for the past five years.

And though Dave Peck is two years Hogan's senior, he is still one of those players Hogan would rather not play in a final round.

But it was Dave Peck who the champ faced in Palatine in one of the best displays of professional racquetball ever seen. Peck and Hogan, who admire, respect and like each other, performed their art before a capacity audience. They played their hearts out.

In the first game Peck jumped to an early 9-1 lead before Hogan could get anything on his ball. Then Peck allowed Hogan to smash a series of forehand killshots that brought the score to 9-8. It was back and forth in the scoring until the score was 18-16, Peck's favor.

However well Peck had played the evening before against top seeded Yellen he was playing even greater racquetball against Hogan. Peck ended the first game with three killshots and match advantage 21-18.

In the second game Peck, again jumped to an early lead 4-0 and had the crowd buzzing that Hogan would be finished in two. But Hogan quickly taught everyone, especially Peck, not to count him out too soon. Hogan began a scoring run that went to 16 points, whereas Peck was only able to grab two more points.

With the score standing at 16-6, Hogan's favor, Peck began to show the crowd his come-from-behind play he had so brilliantly displayed the night before against Yellen.

With Hogan still ahead at 20-8, Peck slammed four unbelievable pinch shots, a pass and three killshots to come within four points of the champ.

The second game was loaded with a number of nearly impossible gets with Hogan and Peck diving as if their lives depended on returning the ball. Hogan finally ended the second game with one of his 140 plus mph forehand killshots into the front wall—score: 21-16.



Jerry Hilecher's accurate drives in the quarters dash Don Thomas' hopes of repeating the trip to the finals he made at the previous NRC pro stop.

Robert W. Kendler Classic
Nov. 19-23

The tie-breaker was the closest of the three games with each player giving a better performance than he had in the previous two games. Hogan grabbed an early 3-0 lead before skipping two points to Peck. With the score at 5-3, with Peck in the lead (after he scored two quick pass shots), a rally which had more than 18 exchanges awed the crowd. Hogan grabbed the point after this marathon rally with a beautiful right corner pinch rollout that brought the audience to its feet, applauding both players for a magnificent display of class racquetball.

With the score tied at 6-6 Peck shot a right corner pinch with his forehand and then slammed a series of four backhand killshots to take the match and the tournament honors—which included a check for \$4,500.

"It was great," said Peck afterward. "Marty's a great player. Just because I beat him today, doesn't mean he's any less the champion that he is."

Peck said he realized he'd better take his game a little more seriously after being ousted in the first round in Omaha.

"I've done a lot of playing since Omaha," he said. "I wasn't prepared for that tournament mentally or physically. I had just come off a lot of clinics and I was out of shape. Gregg helped me a lot in preparing for the match with Marty." Peck said he won this one for himself—"It's my birthday present," he beamed.

First Round: Mike Yellen d. Dave Fleetwood 21-9, 21-10; Charlie Brumfield d. Steve Mondry 12-15, 21-4; Doug Cohen d. Mark Morrow 21-2, 21-13; Craig McCoy d. Mike Levine 21-9, 21-12; Lindsay Myers d. Garry Merritt 21-14, 21-17; Rich Wagner d. Ross Harvey 21-20, 21-20; Gregg Peck d. John Amatulli 21-16, 21-19; Dave Peck d. Larry Meyers 21-11, 21-9; Jerry Hilecher d. Scott Hawkins 21-15, 21-5; Dave Bledsoe d. Beaver Wickam 6-21, 21-19, 11-5; Ben Koltun d. Gary Berberet 16-21, 21-5, 11-10; Don Thomas d. Joe Wirkus 21-6, 21-15; Steve Strandemo d. John Slazas 21-9, 21-3; John Eggerman d. Bruce Christensen 21-8, 21-11; Dennis McDowell d. Bobby Bolan 21-17, 21-9; Marty Hogan d. Steve Serot 21-12, 21-15

Second Round: Yellen d. Brumfield 21-4, 21-18; Cohen d. McCoy 21-17, 21-19; Myers d. Wagner 17-21, 21-15, 11-7; D. Peck d. G. Peck 21-10, 21-7; Hilecher d. Bledsoe 21-7, 16-21, 11-4; Thomas d. Koltun 17-21, 21-18, 11-6; Strandemo d. Eggerman 16-21, 21-16, 11-5; Hogan d. McDowell 21-7, 21-13

Quarters: Yellen d. Cohen 21-13, 21-16; D. Peck d. Meyers 21-11, 21-17; Hilecher d. Thomas 21-14, 21-9; Hogan d. Strandemo 21-12, 21-12

Semis: Peck d. Yellen 18-21, 21-11, 11-9; Hogan d. Hilecher 21-12, 20-21, 11-3

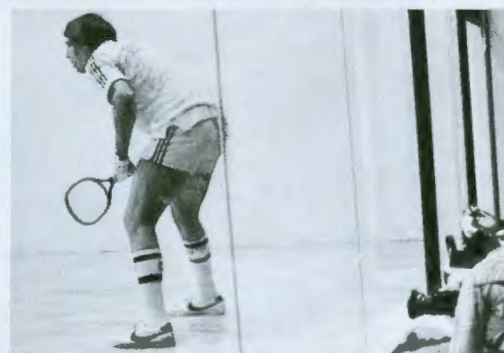
Finals: Peck d. Hogan 21-18, 16-21, 11-7

During check presentation ceremonies Marty Hogan, jokes that he's "up and coming—I lost in the quarters in the last stop, now I made it to the finals," and Tournament Winner Dave Peck, far right, counters with "Well I got beat in the 32s at the last tournament." Looking on are, left to right, Seamco's National Marketing Manager Art Orloski and President Walter Eichelberger, Club Owner Charlie Vavrus and NRC National Commissioner Joe Ardito.



Notes of the Tournament . . .

Food, drink, fitness and fun—the elements that are selling the new Charlie Club Resort Hotel & Fitness Center to members all around its Palatine IL location—turned a racquetball tournament into a holiday for amateur and pro participants. Late on the day of the pro rounds of 32 and 16, for example, the tour's youngest contenders were down on the basketball court with racquetball match winners and losers mixed together in "shirt" and "bare chest" teams . . . Other tournament players took their pick of the pool, indoor/outdoor track, exercise rooms, the disco, where there was dancing to records and live music, and the Charlie Club Training Table restaurant . . . The excellent food at the club dining room was echoed in the hospitality room, where Jim Williamson reigned over a lavish spread of sandwiches, salads, fruit and beverages. Jim is Charlie Club food and beverage director. Other department heads in command were Steve Heilig, the hotel manager who tended to the out-of-town guests staying at the hotel that adjoins the club, as well as Maureen ("Reenie") Turek, John Milano, Colleen O'Reilly, and Michelle Zordon. Club Manager Garry Deetjen pulled it all together . . . Channel 2 mini-cam Charlie Club Manager Garry Deetjen



The local CBS mini-cam crew caught a low angle shot of Marty Hogan's kill as seen through the legs of his opponent, Steve Serot, in the 16s.

USRA Illinois State Chairman Jim Stotz directed a team of USRA members who worked from eight in the morning to one at night helping run the Robert W. Kendler Classic Nov. 19-23. Thanks go to:

- Team Captain Jim Cartwright and his team members Fred Street and Dave Prym
- Team Captain Bob Peters, USHA director, and team members Jim Harper, Milt Presler, Jim Babbitt and Jack Moskwa
- Team Captain Clyde Senters and members Sam Silva, Dave Kammerer and Barry Buske, regional representative for Seamco.
- Team Captain Renee Coplan, USRA administrator, and her staff—Bev Franks, Gail Klein, Gay Kenna, Pat Mickesh, Terry Cubberly and JoAnn Ritza, representing Wagner's Thirst Quencher

Ref Tony Peronne, wearing glasses, follows a match from the linesman's spot.



- Referees and linesmen for pro matches—Larry Lee; Ron Johnson, Ph.D.; Tony Perrone; Pete Gundy; Pat Braunstein; Dave Negrete; Gary Merritt; Jack Moskwa; Sean Moskwa; Bobby Blackshear; Bob Champagne, and John Greene

units were out to film the matches and Johnny Morris stopped at the club to interview Marty Hogan for a segment that aired on the CBS station's 10 o'clock news. Thanks for excellent media coverage go to Norb Leib, of the Kendler Company, and to Tom Morrow, of San Diego's Irv Grossman and Associates . . . Colleen Shield pleased club members by winning the Women's Open at the club where she's pro. She beat Julie Jacobson of Madison, WI. Ed Andrews' trip from California was worthwhile, as he won the finals of the Men's Open, defeating Don Constable of New Britain, MN . . . The four were among 500 amateur entries . . . Consolation round players gave their stamp of approval to the new scoring format they were testing. They all liked playing three out of five point games to 11 . . . Distinguished guests included Ray Mulligan, president, and John Old, executive vice president of the Liggett Group in Montvale, NJ; NRC/USRA President Bob Kendler and his wife, Evie; Leach's John Weaver and Susanne Ambler and Seamco's Walter Eichelberger and Art Oloski.



National Racquetball Graphic Designer Milt Presler showed his daughter, Cristi, around her first pro tournament.

The Other Big Blonde

Bruce Christensen spent seven hours in the Charlie Club basketball court after the 6'3" 19-year-old from Nashua, NH lost a Thursday noon first round match to John Egerman at the Kendler Classic.

Like Gregg Peck—the other tall, blonde, teenage power hitter—Christensen is a pro tour novice. And his November, 1980, loss in the first round, his first since last spring in Atlanta, had knocked him out of the top 10 in the NRC rankings. (He slipped to 14.)

So Christensen found solace on the basketball court. *"Going down and shooting baskets relaxes me,"* says Steve Strandemo's daily basketball opponent in San Diego, where Christensen now makes his home. *"Strandemo's good,"* he adds, *"he played basketball in college."*

It takes some prodding for the modest Christensen to admit that he, too, was a more than casual basketball player. He played varsity for four years in high school, as guard, and *"yes—I was the star of the team. But basketball was never the obsession that racquetball is."*

Christensen grins as he blames his poor showing in Chicago on the fact that *"my dad wasn't here."*

Frank Christensen introduced his 13-year-old son to racquetball, and two years later, *"the first day I beat my dad, I knew racquetball was for real."* Frank, who's 49, usually plays in the masters division at pro stops he goes to with Bruce, but business was so good at

Pro Rita Hoff, a spectator at the Kendler Classic, greets Bruce Christensen, a new face on the pro tour.



the senior Christensen's American Inn hotel, disco and lounge complex, Frank couldn't leave Nashua for the Kendler stop.

Bruce has put his easy, outgoing manner to work at the front desk of the American Inn. That's a job he picks up when he leaves San Diego for a break back home. He first moved to San Diego after the 1978 Nationals, fresh out of high school, came home the following fall, played every day at the Executive and Manchester court clubs in Manchester and Off the Wall in Nashua, then competed in the NRC Bangor, ME invitational, where *"Larry Myers killed me seven-seven. That convinced me I wanted to start playing pro racquetball."*

So it was back to San Diego for this affable kid who doesn't let his losses get him down.

"I've always loved competition. When I lose it just makes me try harder next time." ●

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Pro/Am Tour • 1980-81

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Catalina RB Classic

Jan. 10-18

The Honolulu Club, Honolulu, HI
Open

Coors Grand Prix II

Feb. 18-22

Chancellors, Houston, TX
Open

Kunnan/Leach Tournament of Champions

March 18-22

Sportrooms, Miami, FL

Seamco RB Classic

April 8-12

To be announced
Open

Coors Grand Prix Final

May 6-10

Town & Country Racquet Club, St. Louis, MO
Open

USRA National Amateur Championships

June 6-13

To be announced
Open

NRC Professional Championships

Late June or early July

To be announced
Top 32

USRA Regionals

April 2-5

USRA Junior Regionals

July 9-12/July 15-19

USRA Junior Nationals

Aug. 10-15

CBC Racquetball Classic

To be scheduled late April or May

*Format for T.O.C. will include top eight based on year ending '79-80 results along with '80 USRA Men Open Winner, '80 Canadian Open Winner and two at-large sponsor choices.



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