

National Racquetball®

Vol. 7 No. 8
August, 1979
\$1.50

• **KARIN
WALTON'S
STUNNING
NATIONALS WIN**

• **HOGAN
COASTS TO
2nd TITLE**

• **21 COLOR
PHOTOS OF
NATIONALS
ACTION**



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On The Cover . . .

Karin Walton, who shocked the National Championships with her stunning victories over Shannon Wright and Janell Marriott, became the professional champion June 16. The amazing story begins on page 15.

—Photo by Arthur Shay

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The tornado at Tempe must have broken every tournament record we ever set. To begin with we had more players, more matches, more spectators, and more prize money than ever before. And that's only part of it.

We flew in our largest staff, expertly putting together the best from our state chairmen, tournament coordinators, the Arizona Racquetball Association and our people from USRA/NRC headquarters.

And did we ever need them all! From early in the morning to early in the morning the matches ran — always on time — always smoothly as only the USRA/NRC can run tournaments.

Over 1,000 matches all refereed, many linejudged and, you say, what more could we want?

The "more" is what we did have, in the person of Carl Porter and with the perfect accompaniment of his staff. All together nearly 100 people worked the week on the tournament to ensure the best possible experience for all the players.

I really don't know how our people did it. I know I was really beat by the time it was all over. And our guys do it over and over each month of the season, either the pro tour, or the regionals or juniors. Something is always taking them out of town.

What few people realize is that it takes painstaking planning for many months *before* the tournament to make it run as smoothly as it did at the Arizona Athletic Club. There must be a thousand little things that go into making the one big National Championships. Thank goodness we're used to it and take everything in stride like professionals should.

I can't close my book on the '79 Championships without telling you about two really wonderful families. They were so much alike that it fascinated me. In each case it was a mother and her racquetball son along with some of the sisters and brothers.

In each case the mother was a beautiful inspiration to the player and the player was a most devoted son. Besides they were about the same size, the same age and pretty much the same temperament. They couldn't have been more competitive — ferociously competitive.

Now I saw these two play and believe me — it was an awesome display. It was so unbelievably fierce that I couldn't believe my eyes. There is no other sport that could possibly duplicate such an exhibition of skill, dexterity and power. It was a show that should have been recorded for history because never before and perhaps never again will two gladiators meet in more deadly combat.



Then it was over. Marty went to St. Louis with Goldie Hogan and Mike went to Detroit with Lenore Yellen. Both adoring mothers and both devoted sons. And although the Hogans may have gone home a little happier than the Yellens, there will be other days and other championships.

The whole scene reminded me of something I heard just prior to my journey to Tempe. My daughter Kim had her first baby a few days earlier and naturally Evie and I were at the hospital along with Kim's in-laws when the baby was delivered.

As we all looked through the window into the incubator at this miracle of birth, my son-in-law was quite emotional. His mother finally put her arm around his neck and said "*There lies half of your heart and all of your life.*"

As I watched the emotional scenes following the championship match in Tempe, the truth of her statement seemed so appropriate. It made me think of Marty Hogan and Mike Yellen. Like our new little baby, they too are half of their mother's hearts and all of their lives. ●

Evie & Bob Kendler

Evie and Bob Kendler

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, for as much as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

Deuteronomy II, Chapter 10, Verse 12

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Memories

I remember the fall of 1973 when Bob Kendler told me, "Joe, why don't you work on racquetball full time. We're going to start a pro tour and Chuck Leve's going to need some help. You're the guy who can do the job."

So there I was. We had no sponsors, no host facilities, no state chairmen, no official ball, no referees, no prize money, no public relations firm and what seemed like no nothin', except a magazine which we sometimes got out.

Having just witnessed our 1979 Colgate Pro/Am National Championships at the Arizona Athletic Club in Tempe, which our USRA and NRC ran with the special help of co-sponsors Seamco and Leach, I can now relive those "pleasant" memories of the 1973-74 season with the knowledge that those early efforts were well worth it.

We used to tell the first pros that they were pioneers and if any financial reward would come their way from racquetball, it would be at the twilight of the careers of the youngest pros like Brumfield, Keeley and a few other kids.

We were barely able to fill a round of 32 in our first efforts, which make the 829 entrants in Tempe (the largest ever) even more rewarding. The 17 divisions of play, mostly in the amateur sector, provided hours and hours of stimulating competition and entertainment for players and spectators.

The new five year age categories allowed a more even competition and larger number of entries and I'm sure we'll hit that magic 1,000 mark next season, no matter where the tournament is held.

Sponsorship, the key to the success on the professional level, has certainly come a long way. Colgate-Palmolive gave away \$125,000 during the week — \$50,000 in prize money and \$75,000 in their Bonus Pool, and that was just this week. Sponsors so generous with their money and their support are difficult to find and we're fortunate indeed to have Colgate.

Seamco, the first company within racquetball to go the prize money sponsorship route, is still with us, co-sponsoring the Nationals as well as taking a stop on their own, as they continue to provide the official ball, lending consistency to all USRA/NRC competition.

Paid referees were another first time National event, although successfully tested along the tour this season. We will continue our efforts to upgrade and make consistent referees at all levels of play, and paying the first group of good referees is just the start.

Irv Grossman and Associates, particularly Billy Zavestoski, have lined up good coverage every place we go, and the Nationals was no exception, as front page coverage of local papers was a daily habit, as well as wire service coverage, local television reporting of matches and countless interviews.



Fondly I can recall trying to call in scores in 1973 and having newspaper people ask me "what's racquetball?" Today it's the fastest growing sport in the nation and nobody asks that question.

You sometimes hear people talk about racquetball peaking out, and I tell them that racquetball has barely scratched the surface. If the progress we have attained in the first six years of our efforts is continued for the next six, then I see no reason why the success of racquetball shouldn't be worldwide for the next 60 years at least!

And what a host the Arizona Athletic Club was! They had something for everybody, from friendly atmosphere, to bar and lounge, to full amenities, to huge galleries and swimming pool. To make it all perfect Owner Carl Porter must have ordered up the weather just for the racquetball players!

It truly was a wonderful week. Eight days of fun, sun and racquetball making the National Championships the premier event in the racquetball world. If you didn't make it this year, I urge you not to miss the time of your life next season.

We've come a great distance in a short time. But don't worry, we're not nearly out of breath. In fact we're in the best shape of our lives. ●



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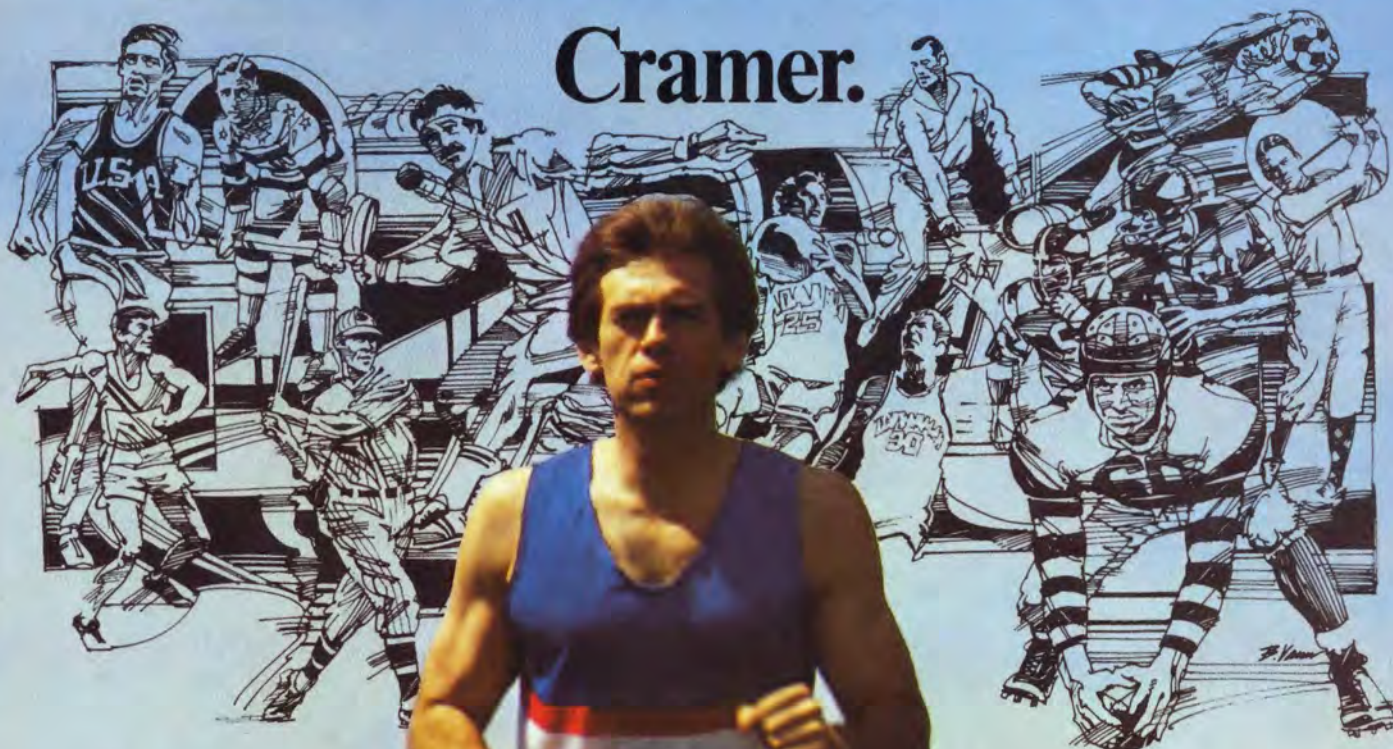
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Walton's Win



In what has to be the greatest upset victory in racquetball's history 10th ranked Karin Walton sizzled her way to the National professional championship by eliminating defending champ Shannon Wright in the semi-finals and third seed Janell Marriott in the finals.

Walton, 23, barely survived the first round, losing her first game to Rita Hoff, and coming from an 18-20 deficit to pull out the second game 21-20 before capturing the tie-breaker 11-6. The 21-20 win turned out to be the first of three for Walton, who thanked her lucky stars as well as her skills.

"It's like a dream come true," said the newly crowned champ. "I didn't think I could win the tournament, but you never know what's going to happen when you walk onto the court. Truthfully I just wanted to get past the first round."

The former National amateur champ (1977) was playing in her first championship match on the pro tour, and she handled the situation like a veteran. In fact both Marriott and Wright seemed to play tense as opposed to the relaxed and smooth strokes of Walton.

A large portion of this can be attributed to the fact that as the underdog Walton had nothing to lose, with all the pressure on the shoulders of the favorites. But the favorites had been there before.

Another key factor was Rich Handley, Karin's new found coach (see page 20) whose low key advice and calming effect kept Walton on the up beat.

Walton is all concentration as she follows through with a forehand en route to her impressive and unexpected victory.

Shocks Nationals



Walton goes cautiously to the ceiling in the championship match as Marriott readies to retrieve.

Walton rips a pass court as Wright vainly searches the front wall for a possible return.



"There's no question in my mind that I couldn't have done it without Rich," said Karin. "He was the difference."

Handley may have made the difference psychologically, but it was Walton who made the difference on the court, as she heated up both her serves and her backhand to play racquetball deserving of a National title.

She survived comeback attempts by opponents; she survived as the underdog; she survived as the favorite; she came from behind; she played with a lead; she shot; she passed; she played offense and defense.

Perhaps we should begin with the semi-final match between Walton and Wright, for to that point there were only two "stories" in the women's division. The first was that unranked Vicki Panzeri, playing out of Seattle, came through qualifying and then defeated fourth ranked Jennifer Harding in the first round 21-19, 21-17 in a stunning upset.

The other proved to be an omen, as Wright had trouble getting by first round opponent Martha McDonald 13-21, 21-8, 11-5 despite the fact that Martha is in her sixth month of pregnancy. Those who didn't see the match figured Wright was coasting. Those who did see it saw her struggling.

After Walton disposed of Panzeri and Wright did likewise with Pat Schmidt, the semi-final stage was set.

"I thought that was the best I'd do," said Walton. "After I saw the draw I figured to get to the semi's and lose to Wright."

Wright figured the same thing, so what happened to turn it the other way?

Game one was one of those tight battles throughout, as never more than three points separated either player. Walton opened the match playing superbly, taking 6-3 and 9-6 leads. But Wright on the strength of her serves tied it at nine and took a slight 12-10 advantage.

It was Walton's serves with a little bit of luck (*"I think I hit every crack"*) that kept her in the game, with Wright unable to extend her lead to the point where she could relax.

"I felt great going into the match," said Karin. "I concentrated on her serves. If she's serving well, she could blow me out."

Wright stretched her lead to 15-12, but no more as Walton refused to go down, never losing her concentration, and the longer she kept it close, the longer her confidence held up.

"Rich kept me relaxed," said Karin. "I'd just talk to him during timeouts. He's such a relaxed person that it helped just by his being there."

A flurry of points followed. An ace on a drive left gave Walton another point to 13-15, followed by two forehand kills and a perfect backhand pass down the line left for a 16-15 lead. After a hinder Karin aced again, hitting the crack left

and Wright helped the cause with an uncharacteristic 38 foot backhand skip to make the count 18-15 Walton's favor.

But you don't become two time national champ without the skills, and Wright showed them next. A forehand back wall kill got her a point, and an inning later she tallied four more, almost taking the game.

A beautiful forehand pinch kill while on the run scored her 17th; a forehand ceiling error on a Z serve to the right by Walton was Wright's 18th; a forehand off the back wall kill was 19, and a backhand pinch kill left made 20.

But Wright was unable to get the 21st, with Walton hitting a forehand kill into the right corner to regain the serve. She never gave it back.

Shannon skipped the next serve, a drive left, making it 19-20. Karin then hit two winners for the game — a backhand pinch kill left to right and a backhand V pass right for the 21-20 first game win.

The atmosphere between games was like the 1977 championship match between Davey Bledsoe and Marty Hogan. Everybody still figured Wright to bounce back and take game two and most likely the tie-breaker.

"She had everything to lose," said Walton. "I had nothing to lose. I kept the pressure on her and she went under."

She really went under in game two. Walton's backhand was near perfect and her serves still extremely tough, as Karin raced out of the box for a 6-0 lead, forcing a quick Wright time out.

Walton didn't stop there. She got seven on a forehand kill, eight on a backhand V pass, nine on a forehand pass down the line left and when 10 came on an avoidable hinder, it was time out number two for Wright.

"My God, I can be in the finals," Walton thought. "And then I quickly tried to block it out of my mind. I had to block everything out except Rich."

Walton extended her lead to 14-4 including an ace for 14 and finally missed a backhand, with the skipped shot giving Shannon the serve.

Like the champion she is — Wright came roaring back, proving that if she was "under" she hadn't gone under for the third time, not yet, anyhow.

Three quick points made it 7-14 and Walton immediately called her second time out. Three series of scoreless innings, followed by each player adding one, gave Wright the serve at 8-15.

This time Shannon displayed some of the power that had been lacking from her shots all day. The harder she hit, the better she got. Ripping forehand kills like she was expected to Wright scored three more the third on a gorgeous fly kill into the right corner, making it 11-15 and suddenly a game again.

When Walton skipped in her forehand kill attempt Wright immediately aced her on a drive left and another Walton error made it 13-15. The tide had definitely turned.

Back and forth they battled 14-16, 15-16, 16-15, 17-15, 15-17 and then, just like game one, Wright made a run at 21. A forehand V pass left was 16-17 and a backhand pass right tied the score at 17-all, an incredible comeback from 10-1 and 14-4! Neither player could add to their 17 for an inning until Wright continued her seemingly relentless march toward the game.

A forehand reverse pinch kill into the left corner gave her her first lead of the game 18-17. Next she hit a backhand back wall kill cross court to the right for



her biggest lead of the game 19-17. But Walton was up to the task, hitting a forehand V pass that cracked out at the left wall to regain the serve.

"I didn't want to go three games," said Karin. "I had to concentrate."

Serving at 17-19 Walton won the next rally on an avoidable hinder called when Wight moved from the left wall directly in front of a Walton set up making it 18-19. The next rally ended

with a Walton backhand dump reverse pinch into the right corner, an amazing shot to knot the score at 19.

When Wright left a kill attempt three feet high, Walton was there at the short line to rip a kill cross court with her forehand and take the 20-19 lead. And then, one shot into the rally, Wright did finally go under, mis-hitting a routine ceiling ball with her backhand, and as the ball fell short of the front wall, her reign ended 21-19.

Greer finds herself out of the play in deep court as Marriott drives one down the opposite line in their semi-final battle.

Greer was able to entice Marriott into an early second game serve and shoot battle, which kept the initial going close, with ties at seven and nine. In fact Greer's 9-7 lead was the closest she got.

Marriott turned the game around with a solid six point inning including two kills, two passes and two Greer skips before an unnecessary between the legs attempt skipped in causing Marriott to lose the serve.

But Greer, who played miserably from here out, returned the favor by skipping in a backhand, and Marriott began adding points again.

A forehand pass, backhand pass, complete whiff by Greer, back wall kill, and another forehand kill made the tally 18-9 before Marci finally hit a winner to regain the serve.

But Janell could smell the finals now. She immediately hit a backhand winner to take the serve and made a bee line for 21.

A forehand V pass left made it 19-9; a forehand kill into the right corner was 20-9; and the finale was a forehand pass cross court left, 21-9 and on to Karin Walton.

Never could you ask for more. Janell Marriott, always the bridesmaid because Shannon Wright has always been the bride, found herself in the finals without Wright. But this was not to be her wedding.

"I'd rather have played Marci," said Walton. "I've beaten Marci. Marriott has more control, she's always been tough for me."

Both were tough in the finals, with Marriott taking the first sizeable lead. After some early jockeying which ended at 7-7 Janell ran four straight (skip, pass, ace, kill) to take the 11-7 lead which she nurtured to 14-9.

It was Walton who then made the comeback, matching it with four of her own (kill, skip, ace, kill) to pull to within one at 13-14.

Neither player could manage a string from there as they inched toward 21. Scores read 15-15, 16-16, 17-17 (four times) until lady luck smiled on Janell.

Serving at 17-all Janell went for bottom board with her forehand toward the left corner, but mis-hit so badly that Walton, who was on her way in to cover the kill attempt, was passed. Karin momentarily lost her concentration and skipped the ensuing serve (Z left)

McKay gave Marriott all she wanted in their superb quarter-final match. Here Heather goes cross court from center court.



On the other side of the draw Marriott survived a stirring challenge from squash champion Heather McKay (rhymes with "sky") 21-18, 21-17 in the quarters, while second seed Marci Greer, who had to stop former champ Peggy Steding in the first round, ended Linda Prefontaine's hopes in the quarters 21-20, 21-9.

Thus the anticipated Marriott-Greer semi-final emerged. Greer came into the match flailing and left the match flailing, as her shoot everything forehand found as many splinters as it did concrete rebounds.

Game one found the two playing evenly early until Marriott put a string together to grab a 13-9 lead, which she extended to 15-10 largely on her fine passing game.

Greer seemed to lack the concentration and intensity that marked her early season successes. It was shown vividly enough when at 10-15 she served her first serve into the side wall, totally blowing whatever cool she still had.

As a result Marriott ran four quick points — a forehand kill into the right corner, a forehand skip off a near ace on a drive to the right, a backhand pass down the line right and another forehand kill into the right corner. Now it was 19-10, and although Greer regrouped enough to force a few side outs, she never seriously challenged in the game again.

For the record with the score 20-14, Marriott on her third attempt at 21, finally got it, a forehand pass cross court to the left to take game one.

giving Marriott a solid 19-17 lead. A V pass to the right gave Walton little to shoot at and Karin's skip made the score 20-17, normally next to the game, but against Walton the sure kiss of death.

Karin rolled one in off the back wall taking the serve back and Marriott promptly skipped in a shot at her feet to make it 18-20. But Janell did get one more shot at the game, when she hit a winning pass cross court right for the serve. But Walton survived with a cross court pass of her own and then called time out, with the serve, to think out her strategy.

Her strategy worked, for she hit a backhand kill then a forehand kill and then Marriott hit an absolute setup into the floor to make the first game Walton's 21-20.

"I seem to win the games I don't think I'm going to win," said Walton. "I thought for sure she had me in the first game."

It looked like Marriott was going to have her the second game, too, as Janell shook off the bitter first game win and grabbed a quick 6-0 lead in the second, forcing a Walton time out.

Wright approaches a forehand setup as Schmidt attempts to get back in the play during their quarter-final encounter.



"I kept thinking that getting there (the finals) isn't good enough," said Karin. "Nobody looks at number two."

But Marriott's aggressive play enabled her to hold her lead to 13-8 and based on her booming kills and forceful play, many were looking toward a tie-breaker.

Those many didn't include Walton. Serving at 8-13 she connected for seven straight points to completely turn the table on the game, match and national title. Marriott's offensive strategy seemed to become more defensive and Walton, taking the first shot, was hitting.

Kill, ace, kill, kill, skip, skip, kill, and Walton now held a 15-13 advantage, six points from the championship.

Marriott's second time out came at 16-14, Walton's lead, which she made 17-14 with a forehand pinch kill right.

Marriott's third time out couldn't stop the tide either. At 18-15 Walton added a forehand pass, and when Marriott skipped the serve with her backhand, it was 20-15. Valiantly Janell held off the impending doom — once, twice, until the third time.

Walton's drive serve to the left was a difficult one and Marriott attempted to go to the ceiling but hit it too solidly. The ball came off the back wall on the fly and Walton was ready. Taking it with her forehand she ripped a kill shot cross court to the left for the 21-15 victory.

"It's a dream come true," said Karin Walton.

"I'm especially happy because this victory is a gift to my father, who's celebrating his 50th birthday today."

Most of the quarter-finals were uneventful, especially the upper bracket, although the true story of the quarters was who got there, not what happened when they did.

Of the four women who qualified for the main draw (top 16) three won their first match — a record, putting them into the

Walton: Coach Handley Made Difference

"See that guy over there?" said Karin Walton pointing to a slender, good looking man in a player's racquetball outfit. "I wouldn't be here without him."

"Him," is Rich Handley, Karin's new found and first coach, and "here" is the first few minutes after Karin won the 1979 pro championship.

Who is Rich Handley and what did he do that helped Karin to the championship?

First Handley is himself an accomplished player, finishing second in the grueling and prestigious amateur championships, as well as being a steady pro qualifier all season. Second there is more to the relationship between him and Walton than just racquetball.

"We got together at the Kendler Classic in Connecticut," said Walton, acknowledging the irony of two racquetball players from Southern California needing a tournament in Connecticut to bring them together. "My life hasn't been the same since."

Walton had always been an individual on tour, playing for herself. She's sponsored by Leach, but it's tough to compete within that company for attention against the likes of Hogan, Brumfield, Wagner, Koltun, McCoy, Serot and Keeley, to name a few.

"It's tough to play for yourself," said Karin. "I never had anybody to help me out, to root for me, to make me want to win for somebody else, or to point out my mistakes."



Panzeri gets one of her infrequent setups against Walton in the quarters. Note the perfect positioning and point of contact.

Prefontaine readies a forehand with Greer behind her in their good quarter-final match.



'I finally found out what it's like to be able to play for someone else, not just myself and to have that person in my corner.'



"Now I not only have that, but I have somebody else's matches to watch, and somebody else to root for."

"I lost in the first round in Connecticut, but it was the most enjoyable tournament I ever attended to that point."

Handley did not see her first round loss to Peggy Steding in Connecticut because he was on another court playing one of his matches, a constant hazard in the coach/player relationship. But he made his mark at the Nationals.

"He showed me how to relax and stay relaxed," she said. "He helped me with my serves, too. I knew that if I blocked everything from my mind except my shots and Rich, that I'd be all right."

Against Shannon Wright in the semi-finals Handley was of particular help, since he had spent nearly three months in Las Vegas prior to the Nationals, working on his game and playing Wright almost daily.

"I think it made Shannon nervous seeing Rich coach me," said Walton. "She knew that he knew her game as well as anybody could."

Handley positioned himself behind the back wall in the deep (backhand) corner of the championship court at the Arizona Athletic Club during Karin's matches. It helped that from the quarters on those matches were on the glass.

"I felt good on the glass court," said Walton, "and Rich was easy to see. If I got shook I just had to catch his eye and I immediately felt better. If not, I'd call a time out and just walk around the corner for a few seconds."

So in an era when racquetball coaches are becoming the "in" thing on the pro tour, you can add Rich Handley to your list. All he did was bring home the national champ. ●

Women Pro Results

(Qualifiers): Schmidt, Panzeri, McKay, Moore.

(First Round): Wright d. McDonald 13-21, 21-8, 11-5; Schmidt d. Green 21-5, 21-10; Walton d. Hoff 14-21, 21-20, 11-6; Panzeri d. Harding 21-19, 21-17; Marriott d. Williams 21-14, 21-12; McKay d. Sauser 21-9, 21-1; Prefontaine d. Moore 19-21, 21-6, 11-3; Greer d. Steding 20-21, 21-11, 11-5.

(Quarter-finals): Wright d. Schmidt 21-4, 21-6; Walton d. Panzeri 21-12, 21-7; Marriott d. McKay 21-18, 21-17; Greer d. Prefontaine 21-20, 21-9.

(Semi-finals): Walton d. Wright 21-20, 21-19; Marriott d. Greer 21-14, 21-9.

(Finals): Walton d. Marriott 21-20, 21-15.

quarter-finals. Pat Schmidt easily stopped Sarah Green 21-5, 21-10 as Green cited knee problems as her difficulty; McKay blitzed Jean Sauser 21-9, 21-1 in the rudest awakening of the match, played around 11 p.m., and Panzeri surprised Harding 19 and 17 to quickly end Jennifer's dreams of repeating her final round appearance of 1978.

Only qualifier Alicia Moore was unable to win her first round match, losing to Prefontaine 19-21, 21-6, 11-3. Moore had topped Prefontaine for the 1978 amateur title and the irony of the two fighting for a first round pro win wasn't missed.

Wright then whipped Schmidt 21-4, 21-6, while Walton put away Panzeri 21-12, 21-7 in the upper bracket no contests.

McKay had a 15-11 lead over Marriott in game one before Janell scored five straight points for a 16-15 lead, then the final three after Heather had pulled even at 18-18. Marriott pulled out to an 18-7 advantage in the second game, but McKay scored 10 of the next 11 points to make the final score tight.

Greer spurted to 11-0 and 14-1 leads against Prefontaine, but Linda put on her own spurt with the longest streak of points in the tournament. She reeled off 18 in a row for a 19-14 lead, but Marci countered with five to tie it at 19-19. Linda scored again and had a game point before Greer regained the serve and scored the final two points to win. In the second game Marci scored 10 in a row for an unbeatable 16-6 advantage.

So Who's The Best?

Karin Walton's upset win in the National Championships has rightfully earned her the title as *the* 1979 National Champion. She will hold that title until next June when she will either successfully or unsuccessfully defend it.

However based on the official ranking system of the National Racquetball Club Shannon Wright is still the number one ranked player in racquetball. Shannon will retain that ranking until her tournament credentials are surpassed by another pro.

If Wright regains her form and continues winning pro events next season as consistently as she did this past year, then racquetball will have a dual championship situation. It won't be the first time.

The most recent similar situation was 1977, when Davey Bledsoe, ranked third going into the Nationals, upset Marty Hogan, far and away the top ranked player. Bledsoe was the National Champ for a year, although Hogan was always ranked number one during the same period.

In 1976 Peggy Steding captured the national title, defeating Wright in the championship match. Yet by early in the next season Shannon had emerged as the number one ranked player, despite not having the national title.

That's why the Nationals mean so much more than all the other pro events. The Nationals rewards its winners with more than cash or trophies — they are truly the champions. The ability to win the big one, when the pressure's on, when you have to win, is the essence of professional or top amateur competition.

A dual championship is not an uncommon occurrence. It's sure to happen again. That's what it's all about.

All photos of Colgate Pro/Am National Championships '79 at Arizona Athletic Club, Tempe, AZ by Arthur Shay

National Championships '79 • Men's Pro

Awesome Hogan

A ferocious Hogan rips through another forehand on his way to the title.



Captures Nationals

Turning the devastation on and off at will Marty Hogan successfully defended his National professional championship with an awesome display of dominating racquetball June 9-16 at the Colgate Pro/Am National Championships in Tempe, AZ.

The 21-year-old St. Louis native never lost a game. In fact he never came close to losing a game as his opponents averaged an inflated 12.3 points per game. It could easily have been an average of nine or 10 points per game.

Hogan's final round opponent was the rapidly improving Mike Yellen, who came through the difficult bottom bracket to emerge in his first national championship match. But this was not Yellen's time, and he was completely overmatched by a possessed Hogan who knew what he wanted and went and got it.

No hesitancy was evident in any of his shots. His power was brutal, his strategy precise and his mood serious. Only in the first round, when he carried Gary Stephens 21-15, 21-14, and the semi's when he did the same for Craig McCoy 21-17, 21-16, was Hogan even within 10 points of a loss.

He blew out Steve Keeley in the 16's 21-10, 21-8; dominated a blasting Davey Bledsoe in the quarters 21-11, 21-8, and stopped Yellen in the finals 21-10, 21-14. At no point in any of these matches was there ever any doubt as to the outcome. Marty Hogan was awesome.

The tournament for the remainder of the players was exciting and balanced with enough upsets, three gamers and entertaining matches to keep spectators wondering who Hogan's opponent would be.

First choice and second seed Jerry Hilecher lasted only through the first round, when four time champ Charlie Brumfield nailed him but good 21-6, 21-12 in the round of 16. Brumfield, whose mystique is still around, caused enough adrenaline rushes around the tournament to lead the believers to the land of Good and Plenty.

When Brum's expected quarter-final opponent, Ben Koltun, sprained his ankle and lost to Jerry Zuckerman in the 16's, Brum's easy win over Zuck put him in the semi's against Yellen, just a win away from a rematch against Hogan.

But as you will see, Brum let that one get away, or depending on your point of view, Yellen took it away to set up the eventual championship match.

Richard Wagner, seed three, also went down in the 16's, to nemesis Dave Peck, whose power and shots were blocked only by his poor strategy this tournament. Wagner won the first game 21-12, but couldn't win the game or half game tie-breaker.

Seed four Steve Strandemo lasted to the quarters, where McCoy put together his third straight superior match 21-11, 21-17 to earn his shot at Hogan. McCoy was playing so well that some people were actually getting excited over the prospect of a good battle between him and Hogan in the semi's. No way.



Yellen maneuvers Hogan to the floor and prepares to hit a winner in the championship match. This was not an infrequent scene as Hogan went all out for the victory.



Of the rest of the names — Morrow, Serot and Lindsay Myers — all went out in the first round, with Fleetwood (to McCoy), Zeitman (to Strandemo) and Jones (to Yellen) all stopped at the 16's.

Only Yellen's lucky win over Peck in the quarters made that round worth watching as not a single match went three games from that round through the remainder of the tournament.

So, how did it all happen? The championship court at the marvelous Arizona Athletic Club was wall to wall spectators the afternoon of the finals as a full 900 people crowded around the three glass walls to see if Yellen could put Hogan to the test.

What they saw made them shake their heads in amazement and affirmation that Marty Hogan is without doubt the best player in all the land — and by a wide margin.

To give you an indication of Hogan's awesomeness consider these facts. In the quarter-finals against Bledsoe Marty held a lead in the first game of 14-11 and then ran the final seven points for the win. In game two he was ahead 13-7 and finished 21-8.

In the semi-finals against McCoy Hogan led 13-4 and 20-13 in the first game. In the second his leads were 15-4 and 19-5.

Against Yellen in the championship match Hogan held 18-5 advantages in both games before the 21-10, 21-14 final count.

No one can doubt that there is Hogan, and then come the rest.

"I trained extra hard for the tournament," said the champ. "The last six weeks I was playing two or three hours a day and running at least six miles. The last three weeks I concentrated on my serves. By the time of the tournament I could hit any serve anywhere I wanted."

A noticeable reduction in short serves proved his point as Hogan's drives, Z's and garbage offerings continually resulted in aces or the returns he wanted.

It was Yellen who took the initial lead in the first game, that of 3-1 before Hogan tied the score at 4-4 on a backhand skipped serve. Then in the fifth inning Hogan's game exploded.

An ace on a drive to the left started the frame. It was followed by a backhand kill, three forehand kills, a forehand pass left, a pass right and finally an exasperated Yellen skipped in another backhand before regaining the serve at 12-4. From even to dominance in a fantastic flash of brilliance.

"I wanted to come out strong and totally dominate him," said Hogan. "I wanted to shake his confidence early."

Yellen never recovered from the eight point onslaught. In each of Hogan's next two trips to the service zone he tallied three times, including an ace each time to take an overwhelming 18-5 lead.

Marty ended the game a few innings later on his second attempt at 21 with a forehand pinch kill from right to left, his 19th winning shot of the game, a statistic that proves his tremendous ability.

Game two put an end to all dreams Yellen may have had of making the match close, and certainly ended any fantasy about taking the title.

Hogan jumped to a 5-1 lead, built it to 12-4, 18-5 and then sat back and watched Yellen reach double figures before ending it.

Hogan's defensive prowess became evident in this game. In nine of the first 14 innings of the second game Hogan held Yellen scoreless. Mike's biggest rally was two points.

Over the same span Marty was unable to put together the big inning as in game one, but was able to tally bunches of twos and threes (one four point inning) to continually slide farther and farther away.

"I think that my psychological advantage over Yellen is so great that he may never get over it," said Hogan. "After I beat him in L.A. [where Yellen held an 8-0 tie-breaker lead and lost] he knew there was no way. I've played him twice since then and he hasn't come close in any of the four games."

If Hogan does have the whammy on Yellen, then Yellen has it on the rest of the tour, including his semi-final victim, Brumfield. Probably the most controversial call in the professional division began a series of events that found Brumfield blow an 18-7 lead and eventually lose the first game 21-19.

The largest galleries in racquetball's history were on hand the last three nights of the tournament to witness the excitement of the National Championships. Both side walls, and the back wall stands were full with nearly 1,000 spectators viewing the matches.







Still a master at fundamentals, Brumfield draws a bead on a forehand kill attempt against Yellen in the semi's.

Those following Brumfield's excursion through the bottom bracket during the week couldn't help but notice the former champ's progress and his support from the gallery each round. Brumfield is a certain crowd favorite, and the fans had their hearts on a Brumfield-Hogan final.

"I was praying for Brumfield to win," said Hogan. "I wanted to play him so bad. I knew I could destroy him with ease. Brumfield will look back on this tournament and be thankful he didn't play me."

Brumfield, who was nearly perfect against Hilecher in the 16's and very good against Zuckerman in the quarters, played most an entire first game flawlessly against Yellen in the semi's. But he let his showmanship get the best of him.

A lesson in control from master to pupil was the game of the day as Brumfield used a variety of wide angle passes, a supreme mixture of serves and subtle changes of pace to grab a seemingly insurmountable 18-7 lead.

With Brumfield serving the next rally was a fierce one with a couple of near hinders that referee Chuck Leve, the USRA's national director, let go. Ten or 12 shots into the rally Brumfield thought he was hindered and Leve did not. Brumfield, with the ball still in play, waved his arms about, and shouted for a hinder. The distraction caused Yellen to skip the shot and referee Leve awarded the rally to Yellen on the verbal avoidable hinder on Brumfield for a side out.

Instead of taking his penalty Brumfield decided to play the gallery, many of whom, unaware that the correct ruling was made, were vocal in his defense. Brumfield came out of the court, and in his subsequent argument was assessed a technical foul and loss of point.

To say Brumfield could have used that point later is the understatement of the year. To say the entire incident broke his concentration may be unfair to Yellen, but the match was never the same after that.

For the next six innings Brumfield was unable to score, while Yellen ran up consecutively one, two, three and four, one and two points per inning to take the score to 20-17.

"I know I'm a professional and a professional shouldn't let those things bother him," said a dejected Brumfield after the match. *"But the whole thing drained me of my intensity. I did a slow burn for 10 points and then couldn't get back into the match."*

Brumfield did seem to regroup at 20-17, stalling Yellen and taking two points on kills to serve at 19-20 twice. But on Mike's fourth attempt at the game winner he did it himself, hitting an ace that cracked in deep left court on a drive serve for the 21-19 game.

"Sure I'd like to have had that point back," said Brumfield. *"I'd have been serving game point and when you do that anything can happen."*

Whether Brumfield tired badly in game two (his health still may not be 100 percent) or whether it was his lack of intensity, the facts found Yellen in total control of the game.

Mike hit constant winners up and down both lines as Brumfield was able to cover laterally only about 17 feet of the 20 feet wide court.

Yellen kept driving the balls down the lines and mixed in a variety of serves and wide angle passing shots to move on to the finals. A 3-2 lead blossomed to 6-3 and 12-3, and from 13-8 it was over. There would be no more miracles for Charlie Brumfield. Yellen ran out the string 21-8.

McCoy races into deep court for a desperation into the back wall attempt against Hogan in the semi's.



Hogan played Mr. Nice Guy in his semi-final match with McCoy, allowing Craig back into both games after holding huge leads.

In the first game it was 13-4 and 20-13 before McCoy made a belated comeback bid. A quick four points got him back into the game as Hogan hit three shots into the dirt around one winning pass by McCoy, causing Marty to call a time out.

After the 30 second pause Hogan rolled out a forehand in the right corner and on his serve hit a forehand V pass to the right to take the game 21-17.

Hogan was even more generous in the second game. He blazed his way to dramatic leads, taking a 3-3 tie to 10-3 with a barrage of offensive racquetball. From a 10-3 it went to 15-4 and then 19-5 to sew up the match.

At 5-19 McCoy added five to his side of the ledger, three were Hogan skips and two passing winners, forcing Hogan to take another time out. When it reached 20-12 McCoy finally hit a kill shot and regained the serve.

Racquetball's Big Mac proceeded to run four more, on an ace, two kills and another Hogan 39 foot skip making it 16-20. But the end came next as Hogan regained the serve with a pinch kill into the left corner and took the match when McCoy skipped the serve with his forehand on an attempted fly return 21-16.

"I don't know why I let up against McCoy," said Hogan. "Of all the guys he plays me the toughest. I guess I just lost my concentration."

Only Yellen and Peck had a match worth shouting about in the quarter-final round. Peck was up in confidence after his rousing three game win over Wagner in the 16's and Yellen was in top form besting Jones easily in their 16's match 21-12, 21-4.

After some early jockeying in game one Peck emerged with a solid 12-8 lead which he extended to 14-8 and 17-9 using his massive power in both serves and rallies.

But the cool and calm Yellen started to inch back, taking three points to 12-17 and then running five more to wrest the lead 18-17 from the rookie Peck. Dave was unable to regain the momentum and Yellen went on to a 21-18 victory.

In the second game the play was just as close, only throughout, as Yellen's leads of 6-0, 9-3 and 15-10 disappeared to ties at 15, 16, 17, 19 and 20.

The play was with abandon and the retrieves and shots excellent as the two burlies battled it out. Twenty-seven rallies covered the final six points before Peck took the 20-19 lead. To the amazement of almost everybody he issued a lob serve, despite his great power. The rally was won by Yellen on a backhand pass cross court and Mike never gave Dave another shot.

A forehand skip was 20-20 and Yellen killed a forehand cross court left to take the second game 21-20.

"My coach (Bud Muehleisen) told me the lob might surprise him," said Peck. "I guess when you get to 20 you should go with your best. I should have been smarter."



Peck races cross court to retrieve a Yellen pass in the best match of the quarters.

"I was in shock when he hit me a lob," said Yellen. "But with the lob there's lots of time to recover. I just put it to the ceiling, which is my game anyhow, and controlled the rally. I'm sure glad he didn't blast the serve."

While Peck has all summer to relive his lob serve, Davey Bledsoe has all summer to figure out what went wrong in his quarter-final loss to Hogan 21-11, 21-8. Bledsoe did not play that poorly, yet the scores certainly are painful.

Bledsoe reverted to the strategy that won him the '77 Nationals, shooting as much as he could (almost everything), hoping to get the first offensive shot of the rally, and if connecting, taking a solid run at Hogan.

Hogan scoffed at the philosophy.

"Bledsoe's got to be the stupidest player on tour if he thinks he can shoot with me," said Marty. "Davey's one of those guys I can beat by any score whenever I want."

Bledsoe's main problem was errors, which coupled with Hogan's game being on, forced the big scores. Game one's closest point was 14-10 Hogan's advantage and he was invincible from there, running out 21-11.

Bledsoe played an excellent first third of the second game, which was even to 7-7. Then his kills abandoned him and a rash of skipped attempts boosted Hogan to 14-8 and out 21-8.



Bledsoe uses his body to force Hogan out of the play in their fast paced shootout in the quarters.



Strandemo follows through with a backhand as McCoy avoids the racquet in their quarter-final battle.

Strandemo was constantly battling from behind in the second game as well, with McCoy shooting well and taking a big 9-1 initial advantage. There were many side out rallies along the way, but Strandemo was unable to dent the scoreboard consistently, pulling to within 8-10 at best. From there some key Strandemo errors and a final rush of kills gave McCoy the 21-17 win.

Brumfield was as surprised as everybody else to find his quarter-final opponent Jerry Zuckerman, instead of seventh seed Ben Koltun.

But in the last match of the night Koltun had sprained his ankle severely enough to be on crutches the rest of the week, and still gave a valiant effort before losing to Zuck 19-21, 21-12, 11-4.

Brumfield took advantage and held control of the match with Zuckerman, the stringbean southpaw from St. Louis, whose forehand kill game can be difficult to cope with when hot. But Brumfield was able to cope 21-5, 21-17.

"I was totally intimidated in the first

McCoy's best effort of the tournament came in his quarter-final victory over Strandemo, the fourth seed (three of the top four seeds didn't make the semi's and five of the top eight didn't make the quarters), in a 21-11, 21-17 win.

Each reached the round with tough round of 16 matches, Strandemo an ugly 21-13, 21-19 win over Mike Zeitman, whose bush league shenanigans help no one, least of all himself, and McCoy a superb and thrilling 21-9, 21-20 win over fifth seed David Fleetwood.

McCoy's game was on against Strandy as Craig dominated the first game with a well rounded and efficient arsenal which included aces, passes, kills and actually very few Strandemo errors. A 4-0 lead went to 8-3, 14-5 to 17-9 en route to the win.

Brumfield in the classic follow through with his forehand kill against Zuckerman in the quarters.



Never can enough be said about the superb job the Arizona Athletic Club did as the host facility of the Colgate National Championships. From the very beginning, when the USRA's Chuck Leve and Dan Bertolucci met with owner Carl Porter months prior to the tournament, the AAC was as cooperative and helpful as anybody could want. Club Manager David Micheal, his great staff (and thanks again Denny Porr for the use of his office as tournament control room) and everybody associated with the club just was tremendously congenial and hospitable. The players surely felt welcome at the AAC . . . Likewise to all of the people who staffed the tournament, including Chuck Hallock, Mike Grisz and Bill Raby of the Arizona Racquetball Association, one of the USRA's best; and our imports: Jim Stotz, Ken Strong, Dennis Wood, Tom and Fred Street, Al Shetzer and Bob Peters. Our teams were strong and the tournament was run on time over 95 percent of the hours . . . The 829 official entries was another record — the largest tournament and largest Nationals ever held in the same place at the same time . . . The weather was a boring 100+ degrees virtually every day of the tournament — as lily white Northerners went home a variety of shades of brown. The players crowded the pools at the AAC, and all the local hotels which served as tourney headquarters . . . the annual awards banquet (details and photos next month) was highlighted by USRA/NRC prez Bob Kendler's annual address. The overflow gathering necessitated a second room to hold all the people. Prime rib was the order of the day . . . Other highlights included the Seamco/Leach Scholarship Award to Tempe's Bobby Bolan who went on to win the Amateur title . . . Hogan and Wright collecting their Kendler Cups, permanent mementos of their 1978 National Championships . . . Leach's Charlie Drake and Seamco's Al

Men Pro Results

(Qualifiers): Wickham, Thomas, Hawkins, Bowman, Retter, Myers, Rish, Bush.

(First Round): Hogan d. Stephens 21-15, 21-14; Keeley d. Wickham 21-20, 21-4; Thomas d. Morrow 21-8, 21-5; Bledsoe d. Campbell 21-16, 21-9; Fleetwood d. Ikier 21-19, 21-3; McCoy d. Hawkins 21-8, 20-21, 11-0; Zeitman d. Chase 21-14, 21-8; Strandemo d. Bowman 21-20, 21-5; Wagner d. Meyers 21-14, 21-18; Peck d. Retter 21-11, 21-4; Jones d. Serot 16-21, 21-16, 11-8; Yellen d. Myers 21-13, 12-21, 11-4; Koltun d. Mondry 21-6, 21-11; Zuckerman d. Rish 9-21, 21-19, 11-5; Brumfield d. Bush 21-14, 21-13; Hilecher d. Wirkus 21-14, 21-3.

(Second Round): Hogan d. Keeley 21-10, 21-8; Bledsoe d. Thomas 18-21, 21-7, 11-6; McCoy d. Fleetwood 21-9, 21-20; Strandemo d. Zeitman 21-13, 21-19; Peck d. Wagner 12-21, 21-17, 11-2; Yellen d. Jones 21-12, 21-4; Zuckerman d. Koltun 19-21, 21-12 11-4; Brumfield d. Hilecher 21-6, 21-12.

(Quarter-finals): Hogan d. Bledsoe 21-11, 21-8; McCoy d. Strandemo 21-11, 21-17; Yellen d. Peck 21-19, 21-20; Brumfield d. Zuckerman 21-5, 21-17.

(Semi-finals): Hogan d. McCoy 21-17, 21-16; Yellen d. Brumfield 21-19, 21-8.

(Finals): Hogan d. Yellen 21-10, 21-14.

game," said Zuckerman, "but I settled down and played pretty well in game two. But Charlie was just too good."

The round of 16 proved to be the boot hill for most of the top seeds who went nowhere. Hilecher never got into his match against Brumfield, who orchestrated a work of art that had players and spectators marveling. The 21-6, 21-12 scores are solid indicators of the match.

Peck, who ousted Wagner at the Denver Coors Classic in February, had Richard's number again as a promising season ended in a flop for Wagner, whose quickness has just not been enough to offset the major power players.

Bledsoe had one of the round's most difficult matches, stopping locally grown Don Thomas (who knocked out Mark Morrow in the 32's) 18-21, 21-7, 11-6. Thomas had the advantage of playing on his home court, but Bledsoe had the advantage of better shots.

McCoy over Fleetwood was another excellent match, as the 16's proved to be the most entertaining round of the tournament.

The tension of the Nationals was evident as four of the round of 32 matches went three games. Zuckerman stopped Chicago's Charlie Rish in a good battle 9-21, 21-19, 11-5; Yellen ousted Lindsay Myers 21-13, 12-21, 11-4; Jones stopped Steve Serot 16-21, 21-16, 11-8 in a super comeback; McCoy beat qualifier Scott Hawkins 21-8, 20-21, 11-0, the donut in the tie-breaker for good measure; and Strandemo came from way back to take Jeff Bowman 21-20, 21-5. ●

USRA president Bob Kendler makes a point in his speech to the overflowing crowd at the annual USRA Awards banquet.

Coming up next month: Full details and photos of the amateur divisions at the National Championships.



Mackie showing off the new designs for men's and women's championship rings . . . Colgate Bonus Pool qualifiers picked up their loot and amateur winners and finalists were introduced to the 500+ in attendance making for an enjoyable evening . . . Huge galleries all week including 900+ for the semis and finals made exciting play. Ticket prices were scaled from the \$250 per seat V.I.P. tables in the club's lounge overlooking the championship court to \$3 per day general admission, allowing everybody who wanted to a chance to watch at reasonable prices . . . Porter, along with partners Doug Clark, Gerry Wood and Ron Gardine, requested the event next season and are under strong consideration . . . Hospitality for the tournament was excellent provided by JACK IN THE BOX including hamburgers, burritos and more, every day . . . Nice to see all our friends from the industry including Ken Konkol of Champion Glove and John Fabry of Saranac Glove with his lovely wife, Sandy, who claims she's finally going to kick the smoking habit . . . Players were outstanding in their cooperation of the winner must referee rule . . . Grisz, Strong, "Tiger Bill" Holden and and Phil Simborg aided, as did so many others in calling the tougher matches . . . All in all it was a fantastically successful National Championship and our thanks go out to all of the players, spectators, sponsors and staff members who did so much to make it successful . . . and a special thanks to Colgate-Palmolive for their sponsorship of the tournament — to the tune of \$50,000 in prize money, as well as the additional \$75,000 in Bonus Pool distributed! . . . Little Josh Leve made his first appearance at the Nationals and the two and a half month first child of Barb and Chuck Leve will be eligible for his national juniors event in 1993. Some say he's already a better referee than his dad. ●

Prize Money Breakdown

Men

Marty Hogan	\$12,000*
Mike Yellen	\$7,000
Charlie Brumfield	\$3,200
Craig McCoy	\$3,200
Jerry Zuckerman	\$1,400
Steve Strandemo	\$1,400
Davey Bledsoe	\$1,400
David Peck	\$1,400
Steve Kelley	\$500
Jerry Hilecher	\$500
Larry Meyers	\$500
Don Thomas	\$500
David Fleetwood	\$500
Mike Zeitman	\$500
Richard Wagner	\$500
Jay Jones	\$500
Ben Koltun	\$500

Women

Karin Walton	\$4,500*
Janell Marriott	\$2,500
Shannon Wright	\$1,400
Marci Greer	\$1,400
Pat Schmidt	\$700
Vicki Panzeri	\$700
Heather McKay	\$700
Linda Prefontaine	\$700
Martha McDonald	\$300
Sarah Green	\$300
Rita Hoff	\$300
Jennifer Harding	\$300
Kathy Williams	\$300
Jean Sauser	\$300
Alicia Moore	\$300
Peggy Steding	\$300

* Largest single prize for first place in this division in racquetball history.

Final Results of the Colgate Bonus Pool:

Men	Points	Bonus
1. Marty Hogan	300	\$15,000
2. Jerry Hilecher	190	10,000
3. Richard Wagner	150	7,000
4. Steve Strandemo	110	6,000
5. Davey Bledsoe	80	5,250
(Tie) Mike Yellen	80	5,250
7. David Fleetwood	70	4,500
8. Craig McCoy	60	2,000
(Tie) Ben Koltun	60	2,000

Women	Points	Bonus
1. Shannon Wright	260	\$7,000
2. Jennifer Harding	130	5,000
3. Marci Greer	110	3,000
4. Janell Marriott	100	2,000
5. Sarah Green	70	1,000

At the annual awards banquet Bobby Bolan receives the Seamco/Leach Amateur Player of the Year Scholarship Award from Seamco president Al Mackie (l.) and Leach president Charlie Drake (second from r.) as Carl Porter, owner of the Arizona Athletic Club looks on.



Results of the 1979 Colgate National Championships Amateur Divisions

Men Amateur Singles:

Bobby Bolan d. Rich Handley 21-15, 21-18.

Women Amateur Singles:

Heather McKay d. Lynn Adams 21-13, 21-11.

Men Amateur Doubles:

Wright/Trent d. Fleming/Garrigus 21-8, 19-21, 11-9.

Women Amateur Doubles:

Stoll/Dee d. Ackerman/Fletcher 21-10, 13-21, 11-9.

Men Senior Singles (35+):

Bill Schmidtke d. Jim Austin 16-21, 21-8, 11-2.

Women Senior Singles (35+):

Sue Carow d. Linda Siau 21-12, 21-13.

Men Senior Doubles (35+):

Muehleisen/Peterson d. Aubrey/Lankford 21-7, 21-12.

Men Veteran Senior Singles (40+):

Charlie Garfinkel d. Bob Peterson 21-12, 21-9.

Women Veteran Senior Singles (40+):

Geri McDonald d. Colleen Sloan 21-12, 21-12.

Men Masters Singles (45+):

Bud Muehleisen d. Jay Krevsky 21-17, 21-9.

Men Masters Doubles (45+):

Daley/Banales d. Schaub/Mancione 21-5, 21-12.

Men Veteran Masters Singles (50+):

Bob Troyer d. Sam Koanui 21-8, 21-9.

Men Golden Masters Singles (55+):

Burt Morrow d. Carl Loveday 21-0, 21-13.

Men Golden Masters Doubles (55+):

Morrow/Skelton d. Divito/Rizzio 21-16, 21-18.

Men Veteran Golden Masters Singles (60+):

Ed Lowrance d. Alex Guerry 21-12, 21-10.

Wilson develops Custom Power Balancing to give you the special power you need, where you need it.

Wilson teams up with 2 national champions to give men and women fiberglass racquets with the crucial power they need to win.

The Shannon Wright Autograph

Designed by Wilson for Shannon Wright, Women's National Racquetball Champion, 1977, 1978

"The 'W' on this racquet stands for Wilson, Wright, and Win. Whether women know it or not, we do need special design elements in a racquet to help make up for the natural handicap we have—the lack of momentum in our swing. I'm proud to say that the Shannon Wright Autograph does that. Thanks to Wilson's Custom Power Balancing, Wilson redistributes weight through the frame and places it in the crown to actually get the racquet to do some of the work for us. That extra weight helps put more power in your swing. In my opinion, it's the most powerful racquet I've ever used."

The Davey Bledsoe Autograph

Designed by Wilson for Davey Bledsoe, Men's National Racquetball Champion, 1977

"Men have a lot of natural power in their swing. But most racquets are designed to give men the momentum they already have. Working with Wilson engineers, I expressed the concern that where power is needed most is in the wrist snap through their swing. They answered with Custom Power Balancing. That is, they redistributed weight through the frame to the throat of the racquet. That headlight balance gives men incredible racquet speed through the power zone of their swing. It helps the racquet snap quicker and cleaner at ball impact for a powerful, yet controlled shot. When I play with the Davey Bledsoe Autograph I feel like I've got the most powerful racquet you can use on the court."



Shannon Wright



Davey Bledsoe



*The Wilson
Autographs*

Wilson

The Godfather of Racquetball

Sporting Life

This story is reprinted from *Saturday Review*, Feb. 3, 1979; with the publishers permission.

by Jonathan Evan Maslow

Robert Wilhelm Gustav Kendler, wizard of Skokie, czar of handball, godfather of racquetball, prelate of the Knights of the Red Cross of Constantine (33rd degree), multimillionaire real estate developer, Christian Scientist, Citizen of the Year, etc., etc., is a kindly, white-haired septuagenarian whose wardrobe runs to Scotch plaid sports coats and silk ties with an anchor-imbedded-in-wreaths motif. Judging by the absolute tranquility of the expression with which he informs you that *"we intend to make racquetball the most popular sport on the face of the earth,"* he is a man of boundless determination and the most intense self-assurance imaginable. He believes without a scintilla of doubt that he will see racquetball played on the seven continents, watched by the masses on TV, welcomed into the Olympic Games, and ultimately accepted as the sport of the century — in grimy ghetto as in sylvan suburb. *"I don't believe in the power of error,"* Kendler says flatly, stating a proposition you must seriously entertain if you are to understand the man's singular crusade. And since Bob Kendler has committed no serious gaffes thus far, the Force may actually be with him.

This sports promoter extraordinaire grew up in Chicago, where his widowed mother was a housemaid. He played handball in the hayloft of an old fire station and quit school at 12 to work as an office messenger. For Kendler, that was a smart move. He learned during the Great Depression that he had an affinity for toil and the potential for astounding success. After World War II Kendler was among the first to see that the suburbs were the wave of

the future. He drained and developed Skokie, and built the nation's largest home remodeling business. His personal fortune has been estimated at well over \$75 million. He bought the Rockefeller and Swift estates in Lake Forest. They named a street after him, Kendler Court; it bisects Rockefeller Road.

Kendler was written up in *Fortune's* book of self made men. He won the National Doubles Championship in handball five times, eventually wresting total control of the sport away from the stodgy AAU. He continued to work 16 hours a day, seven days a week, with no Sabbath and none of your winter getaways to the Bahamas. Kendler does not have to tell you that he does not believe in the power of creative idleness. His favorite reading, apart from the Bible, is *Newsweek* magazine. Late in life reflection has not dented Kendler's moral armor with doubts. *"Social welfare kills initiative,"* he states bluntly. *"The reason I am where I am today is because I don't have any partners, stockholders, or loans, and I'm not beholden to anyone. I don't ask anybody for anything. I am fiercely independent."*

In 1968 Kendler first saw racquetball, a game known at that time as paddle racquets, which sounds like

The growth of racquetball is not only phenomenal but seemingly limitless, and Kendler presides over it all.

something three-year-olds play in the bathtub. After investigation Kendler decided that playing racquet sports

could keep men like himself on the handball court 15 years longer — though it's interesting to note that he personally never considered giving up his daily handball game; he has never indulged in racquetball to this day. Kendler says he did not realize at that time that converting handball into a racquet sport would create a simple game, undemanding from the proficiency point of view; practically anyone could become decent at it in a relatively short time. A sport, in other words, accessible to secretaries, salesmen, dentists, mothers, families, people who stay up all night working or swinging, pimply adolescents, and especially all those lonely singles, isolated by modern suburban living and bloody desperate to kick out the jams every now and again in the company of their peers.

Kendler was sold. He renamed the game, took over the United States Racquetball Association by invitation, edited the magazine *National Racquetball*, and signed exclusive promotion contracts with equipment manufacturers. *"I didn't want to read history,"* declares Mr. K. *"I wanted to make it."*

And make it he has. Within the last few years 900 private racquetball clubs have opened coast to coast, every club making money and hard pressed to accommodate the estimated eight million Americans who have taken to the game. Eighteen million balls were sold last year, not to mention the carloads of racquets, sneakers, gloves and other paraphernalia. A lucrative pro tour of racquetball tournaments has developed, with prize money already at \$260,000 and doubling each year.

Kendler was appointed to President Nixon's Business Council. On one side of him sat Coors Beer; on the other, Colgate-Palmolive. Between the gravamen of debates Bob Kendler talked up his sport, and both companies have signed on as tournament sponsors. *Sports Illustrated* has opened a chain of racquetball clubs. Now Japan has a 20-court racquetball facility. The Israelis are nuts about the game, so, of course, the Saudis are interested in establishing themselves as the Persian Gulf racquetball power. The growth is not only phenomenal but also seemingly limitless. Kendler presides over all — the ever greater offers, deals, negotiations, contracts; there is even a multi-million-dollar lawsuit charging Bob Kendler with restraint of trade, the very symbol of success in today's litigious sports scene.

No modern day uncertainty, no sense of confusion, anxiety, missed opportunity, or dread afflicts Robert Kendler. He remains calm and optimistic, like Mao's helmsman, navigating the firm course through turbulent waters. Every move is planned to the last detail, every minute accounted for, each project executed with professional competence and total single mindedness. One imagines Kendler waking up each dawn with the roosters, studying the Bible, and racing off to another morning of watering and fertilizing the flowering racquetball empire. In the editorial he writes each month for *National Racquetball* ("We are the Bible of the sport. Everything we write is gospel. We feel we should be above criticism."), Kendler has said:

It is good for us to think that no grace or blessing is truly ours till we are aware that God has blessed someone else with it through us. Each of us is bound to make the little circle in which we live better and happier . . . I hope I really have changed the quality of life for many, and that one day every one of you will understand that I have no other physical, financial or material purpose. Throughout my building career I have worked to improve the quality of life in our community. Racquetball has given me the opportunity to improve the quality of life throughout the country.

He is, you see, the tycoon who has courted grace. Yet I wonder if Bob Kendler has ever caught the irony of a world where Kendlerian righteousness is put in the service of games, while, in his own Chicago, the heirs of Mayor Daley take bread from the mouths of the poor and the Nazis want to march in the streets of Skokie?

Bob Kendler runs racquetball from the homey executive office of his rambling colonial headquarters about 10 miles by cab from downtown Chicago. Tipping back in his Hitchcock rocker, peering benignly over the prow of his monumental mahogany desk, Kendler offers the visitor Pepsi Light and a chance to sit in on the weekly meeting of his staff. He summons five young men — scrubbed, sober, dedicated, zealous. Compared to other sports staff meetings I have attended a decidedly devotional atmosphere prevails. At least there are no trace elements of stale cigar butts, and when I light my pipe, a woman wonders through sniffing for fire. The young missionaries make their progress reports, and now and then Bob Kendler commends them, chides them, or makes a decision, a process as free of friction as a perpetual motion machine.

"We're making good progress on the *Celebrity Racquetball Show*, Bob. The idea will be to have two new celebrities playing on TV every week."

"That's marvelous, Chuck."

"Bob, we're almost set on the London trip. But we're thinking this is our chance to talk Germany and Italy into forming one regional European racquetball association."

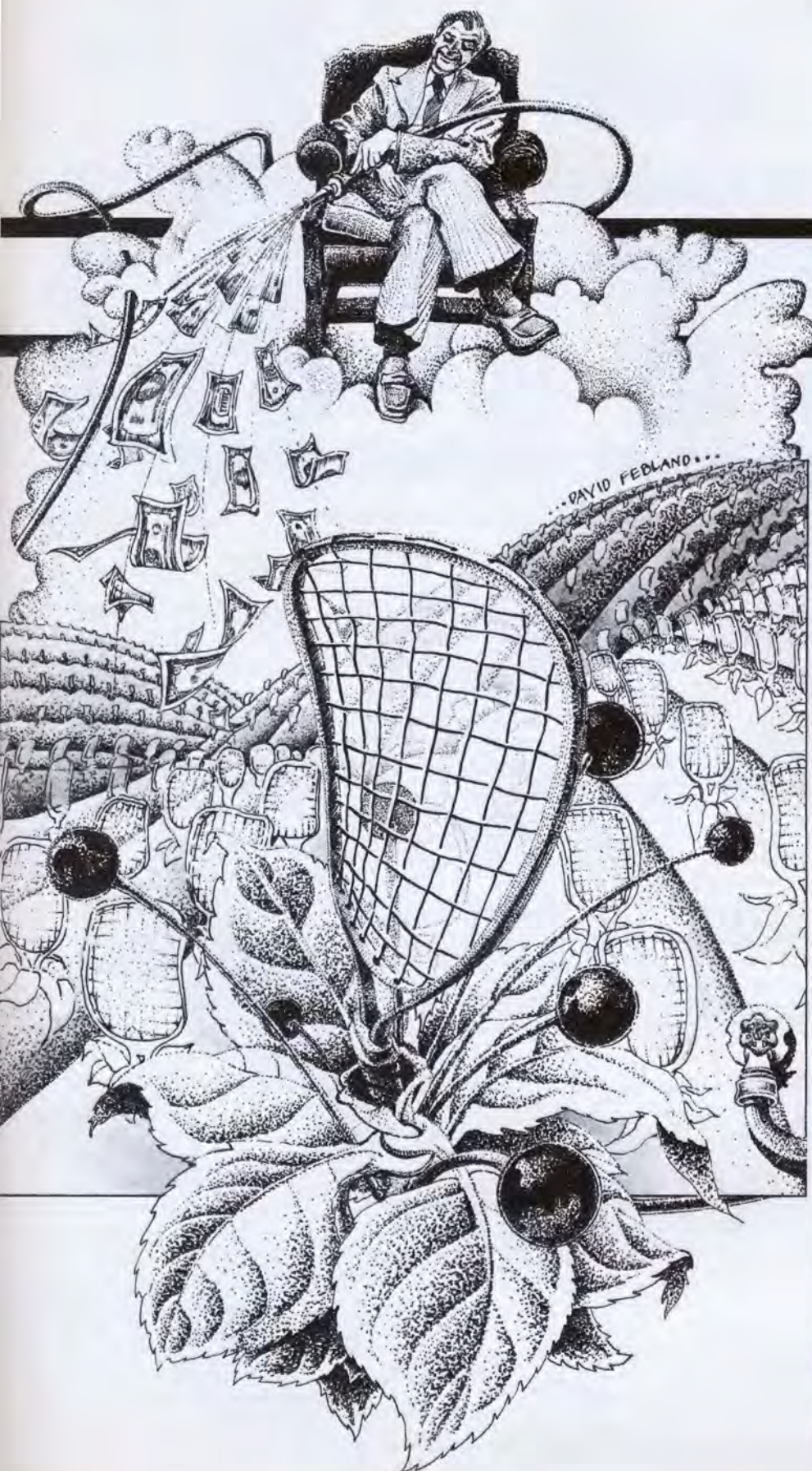
"That's great, Dan, great idea. I want you to go along to London to test out the court they've put up. You've got good business sense, and I'd like to test that court from a player's standpoint."

"We're just wondering whether Terry should go to New York for the tournament next week. It's a new club, Bob, and maybe having one more expert staff person would set the proprietors at ease and make things run perfect."

"Fantastic. Our guy from Colgate is going to be there, so it's very important that things go well. I want you to be there, Terry."

"I've prepared your response to the *Sports Illustrated* editorial, Bob. [An SI columnist had recently leveled a broadscale attack on racquetball.] I think we've got to hit back at them. I pointed out that the guy who made the criticisms never saw more than one tournament. I said he should stick to lawn croquet, which is about his speed."

"Rewrite it, making it as polite as you can, and then bring it to me before you send it out. Remember: I don't want any harangues going out of this office. You kill your enemies with kindness, O.K.?"



"But did you read what they wrote, Bob?"

"I said 'with kindness.' You'll see the virtue of that approach when we win them over to our side."

"Well, whatever you say, Bob."

So it goes from day to day, as racquetball booms. I doubt there is a man in sports who derives as much satisfaction as Kendler does from nurturing his game. Yet grandiose as the plan is, Kendler is restless. "I have in the back of my head a system of building glass-module racquetball courts and dropping them by the tens of thousands into ghettos and underprivileged areas," he said. "I'm glad to see all these plush clubs spring up. But I won't be happy until I see racquetball in black and poor areas. We're getting to the point where we can throw these units out to park departments and playgrounds. If I could just develop something as popular as baseball. . . ."

And so a journalist may some day make his way through the rubble of the inner-city streets, across the lunarscape of vacant lots and abandoned buildings, to the concrete slab playgrounds by the projects, where unemployed guys goof and shoot up, and kids smash bottles for kicks. There, amid the nation's greatest anxieties, where doubts and fear run like open sewers and the power of error reigns supreme, the visitor will find a cubical, glass walled vision of heaven on earth, perhaps watched over by a giant memorial mural of an elderly man with snowy hair and kind eyes.

Mr. Kendler, I presume. ●

National Racquetball

EXTRA!

Saranac, USRA Sign Glove Endorsement Contract

The United States Racquetball Association and Saranac Glove Company have announced the signing of an endorsement contract in which the USRA exclusively recognizes the Saranac line of racquetball gloves as the official gloves of the USRA.

In a statement from USRA headquarters in Skokie, IL, USRA president Robert W. Kendler, indicated that the agreement carried on a fine working relationship between the two companies that goes back 15 years.

"Saranac has been the official glove of the U.S. Handball Association since 1962," said Kendler, "and we've been extremely pleased with the way the endorsement has worked. The endorsement by the USRA on the Saranac line is really just an extension of an already outstanding relationship."

U.S. Racquetball Association personnel tested the Saranac gloves during the spring and summer and upon the approval of those tests Business Manager Joe Ardito

and Saranac president John Fabry signed the contract at the Green Bay (WI) offices of the glove firm.

Fabry, an avid racquetball and handball player who once took third place in the National Racquetball Doubles championships, indicated his pleasure with the new arrangement.

"There's no question in my mind that the endorsement of the USRA lends that seal of approval in the consumer's mind," said Fabry. *"We've felt the same*

way about the U.S. Handball endorsement in that sport."

Saranac has been a leader in the field of sporting gloves, from the huge ski glove business, to baseball batting gloves, and a myriad of other gloves, including racquetball and handball.

"We're very happy to be able to welcome Saranac to the USRA team," said Kendler. *"John Fabry has been a long supporter of USRA programs and we value the integrity and class with which he conducts his business."*

Welcome aboard, Saranac!

Most Americans Don't, But Think They Should

Racquetball players — like other Americans who exercise regularly — may be out-numbered by sedentary citizens, but a Louis Harris poll shows that even those who don't exercise recognize the health benefits of moving around with a purpose.

Recently the President's

Council on Physical Fitness & Sports Newsletter printed some highlights from a Harris poll done for the Pacific Mutual Life Insurance Company:

- Most (92 percent) Americans believe that if they lived healthier lives (including exercising

regularly), they would do more to improve health than they would consulting doctors and taking medicine.

- Of those exercising regularly 81 percent think their dieting is successful, as compared to 63 percent who do not exercise regularly.

- Only 37 percent of the American public — but 51 percent under the age of 30 — takes part in regular exercise.

- Of those with incomes over \$25,000 56 percent are regular exercisers, as compared with 24 percent earning under \$7,000.



Youth Award to Hogan

Racquetball great, Marty Hogan, receives the Joe Ardito award from the USRA/NRC commissioner at the annual Youth Hall of Fame banquet in Elmhurst, IL. Among other notables honoring young athletes from more than a dozen sports were USRA/NRC President Bob Kendler, Leach Industries President Charlie Drake, McDonald's Corporation Founder and Chairman of the Board Ray Kroc, Chicago Bulls Coach Jerry Sloan, Chicago Bears Coach Neil Armstrong and Sid Luckman, former pro football star.

Time to Break a Record

Racquetball players around the country are getting their legs, arms, equipment and clothes ready for Labor Day weekend, the traditional time for marathons that raise money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

And the marathon men and women are lining up the doctors, nourishment, fans and streams of opponents that backed up every record breaker from Gerry Corcoran (100 hours in Phoenix) to the latest 150 hours that Keith Kubik and

Tommy Petersen played in Las Vegas.

Though marathoners make their attempts at any time of the year and play for any number of worthy causes, many choose muscular dystrophy and the Labor Day weekend because of the tie-in with the Jerry Lewis Labor Day Telethon on national prime time TV.

Phil Ciarco, who was a 102-hour marathoner, put together a list of rules that the New Jersey player says conform to Guinness Book of World Record

requirements. Ciarco says racquetball will be part of a new American edition of the Guinness Book. Here are Ciarco's rules:

1. The player is allowed a two minute break after each game. This time cannot be accumulated and is for changing sneakers, etc.
2. The player is allowed a five minute rest period after each hour. This time can be accumulated and used for eating, sleeping or adding onto the final elapsed playing time.

3. Each opponent must personally sign a register with the starting and ending time as well as game scores.

To plan a marathon that benefits MDA through pledges for hours played (and/or money from each opponent) contact your local MDA office listed in your phone directory. Or write to the National Court Club Association, 441 N. Wabash Ave., Chicago, IL 60611, for a complete list of MDA offices and for additional fund raising ideas.



Belushi's Racquetball Scene

Jim Belushi invents his own pregame stretch in this racquetball locker room scene from *Sexual Perversity in Chicago*, David Mamet's play that had a long run at that city's Apollo Theater Center.

You'll see Belushi this fall in *Working Stiffs* on the CBS network. And yes — he is John's brother — And no — he doesn't play racquetball, but now that he's living in southern California, it's just a matter of time.

—Jennifer Guard photo

Come Help Us Celebrate The Child

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital continues its search for life-saving knowledge about childhood diseases. And this search continues because people care. Help us celebrate the child by sending your tax-deductible check or request for further information to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 539 Lane Ave., Memphis, TN 38105.



ST. JUDE CHILDREN'S RESEARCH HOSPITAL
Denny Thomas, Founder

It's a Hit

Racquetball — the Game For Cubs • Sox Managers

The managers of the two Chicago major league baseball teams are opposite yet highly distinctive personalities. But Herman Franks (Chicago Cubs) and Don Kessinger (Chicago White Sox) share one great passion outside of baseball, and that, as you may suspect, is RACQUETBALL.

by Judith Neisser

Herman Franks



he had racked up six years in the majors with the St. Louis Cardinals (1939), the Brooklyn Dodgers (1940-41), the Philadelphia Athletics (1947-48) and the New York Giants (1949).

As a team manager Franks has had an impressive record. Although he was unable to capture the National League pennant, he skillfully guided the San Francisco Giants (1965-68) to the second place spot all four seasons. After he was beckoned to the Cubs in 1977 by Vice President-General Manager Bob Kennedy, Franks spiked the disheartened team with new vitality and its best record (81-81 total) since 1972.

A managerial mavin off the field as well as on Franks is a true entrepreneur. His many lucrative holdings include real estate developments, an investment management firm (Manivest Corp.) and a mobile home business. And as one Cubs spokesman points out, Franks takes an almost paternal delight in advising his players on their business dealings. "He probably has done more for the great Willie Mays on and off the field than any other individual."

On first meeting one sees that Herman Frank epitomizes the stereotype of a major league catcher-turned-manager. He looks like a benign Broderick Crawford, sports a noticeable paunch and talks to his friends in a running banter — locker room style. His relationship with the press has been known to be rocky, and his slightly gruff, monosyllabic responses early in this interview reflect a certain cautiousness.

Six Days a Week

But he soon warms up when asked to share his views on the sport he enjoys six days a week off season ("I'm too busy to play much during the baseball season") in his hometown of Salt Lake City, UT.

Herman Franks originally got hooked on racquetball six years ago, because, he explains, "at my age I thought it would be a better sport for me than handball." According to his sometime opponent and friend, Ed Whalen, the 65-year-old baseball manager is "a control player. He's got a garden serve — a slop serve. It's pretty good. And he's one of the few fellas I've ever played with who can take something off the ball. It's very hard to control. He's got you in the back there, and he'll drop it. You run up on him, and he'll hit it hard."

It also has been reported that this veteran major leaguer is a fierce competitor. In a recent profile in the *Chicago Tribune Magazine* "a traditional foe" is quoted as saying "He's something. He plays like it's the seventh game of a World Series. But beating him is something I'll remember all year. I only do it once a year."

Because Franks thrives on strong competition, he would like to see the Coors All Pro Tournament include a competition for "senior citizens. At my age, you know, it's getting tough to play these young kids. I can't get in there and compete with Al Oliver (Texas Rangers power hitter-outfielder and winner of the 1978 Coors Tournament for major league baseball) and those fellows. But if they get a senior citizen group I'd like to be involved in it."

A native of Price, UT, Herman Franks has moved in and out of professional baseball for 47 years. He started his playing career as a 17-year-old catcher in 1932 for the Hollywood Club in the Pacific Coast League. And by the time he hung up his catcher's mask in 1949,

Don Kessinger

Only with the Other Hand

The spunky manager is convinced that racquetball is a great conditioning game for his players, particularly during the off season. However he is quick to point out that General Manager Bob Kennedy (who also plays racquetball) strongly objects to the game for baseball players, particularly the pitchers, because he is convinced that *"they could hurt their (throwing) arm."* (According to Kennedy if they insist on playing racquetball, *"they should play with the other hand."*) But since Franks disagrees with Kennedy, he has on occasion challenged such team mates as Outfielders Bobby Murcer (recently traded to the New York Yankees) and Gene Clines (now a Cubs coach) to a game of racquetball. Did he beat them? *"Yep!"* he responds matter-of-factly, *"I beat 'em both."*

Another frequent opponent back home in Utah is Frank's younger son, Herman Jr., who is the only other member of his family who plays racquetball. But Franks cannot resist mentioning his older son, Dan. *"You know my son is the number one handball player of Utah."* Does he ever play racquetball? *"Naw, he wouldn't stoop to playing racquetball. You know handball players are like that."* Yet Franks, who thinks that he is too old to play handball, plans to continue playing racquetball for a long time. *"At least as long as I'm able. And,"* he continues with a puckish half smile seen only once before during the interview, *"I think I'm pretty able."*

Don Kessinger



Don Kessinger is the Chicago baseball community's fairhaired boy. For 11 years the starring shortstop played for the Chicago Cubs during which time he was a two time "Golden Glove" winner and led the National League shortstops in putouts (1973, '74) and double plays (1973). He shut out the National League shortstops in every defensive department in 1969 and set a league record at that time by playing 54 consecutive errorless games. A six-time member of the National League all-star team he was traded to the St. Louis Cardinals in 1975 (more than a few Cubs fans still consider this an outrageous blunder) and was

acquired by the Chicago White Sox in 1977. In October, 1978, Sox owner, Bill Veeck, dubbed Don Kessinger playing manager of the team.

Over the years sportswriters have described the popular infielder as courtly, sweet, a Jim Nabors look-and-sound-alike, folksy, strong, stubborn, homespun, Godfearing, non-swearing, non-drinking, non-smoking, . . . indeed, the all-American boy. During an interview with the *Chicago Tribune* in the fall of '78, Veeck summed it up: *"Don Kessinger is a nice man, but he is not a nice man in the Caspar Milque-toast sense. He is a very determined man. He is a bright man. It isn't bright to be nice and lose. It's bright to be nice and win."*

All Pro Finalist

And Kessinger appears to be almost as successful in racquetball as in baseball. For the last two years the 37-year-old Sox playing manager has reached the finals of the Coors All Pro Racquetball Championship Tournament for major league baseball. In January, 1978, he lost in the finals to Al Oliver. Can he beat Oliver this year? *"I think that I can beat him, but that doesn't necessarily mean that I will."* He goes on. *"I think that I could have beaten him last year, to be very honest, if I had been in shape. Now I don't mean to make excuses, but I took this job the first of October, and it was a hectic period. And between that time until I played Oliver in January, I probably didn't play 10 times. He's a fine player, and he beat me there, and I don't know if I would have beaten him anyway. But I don't think I gave myself a good chance."*

Kessinger was introduced to racquetball about six years ago by Dick Motta, former coach of the Chicago Bulls basketball team, at the Northbrook Court House in Northbrook, IL. Since that first time on the court Kessinger has turned his whole family on to the sport. His wife, Carolyn, is an excellent player, who plays six days a week year-round, and both of their sons, Keith, 12, and Kevin, nine, participate. In fact when Keith was Kevin's age, he finished second in the Tennessee 12-and-under tournament.

Carolyn Kessinger rarely beats her husband at racquetball. "He's just too good," she says with apparent good humor and pride. "He has unbelievable hand-eye coordination and a great reach. He doesn't play enough, however, to be a great shooter. But his strength is that he is able to do things with the ball that the

rest of us aren't able to do because we just don't have his God-given ability - specifically the hand-eye coordination and the fact that he is so long and tall, there is just very little that gets by him."

No Racquetball Pros

Kessinger, who by most standards is an A player, modestly ranks himself "a decent amateur racquetball player." As owner of two court clubs both bearing his name (one in Little Rock, AK, the other in Memphis, TN, where he presently lives) he has many opportunities to play with the pros. But he avoids doing so. "I am a good racquetball player for baseball players. But I certainly wouldn't say I was a great racquetball player when it comes to racquetball players. We have some really fine players in Memphis, pros like David Fleetwood and Mike Zeitman. I can't play with them. And I appreciate that; I understand that," he admits earnestly.

The rookie manager is so busy in his new job that he rarely can find time to play racquetball during the baseball season. And although he feels that the sport is "a fine conditioning program for ball players," he discourages most of his regulars from playing racquetball during the season. "Although injuries are not commonplace in racquetball, a sprained ankle or something like that can happen. And since the White Sox are paying us a good salary to play baseball, it would be unfortunate for one of us to go out and get hurt. Now" . . . he continues in his soft southern drawl . . . "I don't agree with Bob Kennedy that players shouldn't play off season. (I respect Bob Kennedy. I love the man.) But I think that racquetball is very good for the players including the pitchers. In fact it's the finest off season conditioning program that we could put them in for quickness, hand-eye coordination, agility and leg work. I don't worry so much about them hurting their elbow or arm. If you play properly, you don't do that. There is far more chance of hurting your elbow playing tennis than racquetball."

In fact Don Kessinger thinks that racquetball is not only a superior physical conditioner but also the supreme mental balm. "Very often I play racquetball as a release from the other pressures. It's a complete release for me. I just go out and beat my frustrations and anxieties into that ball." ●

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Tank McNamara Lumbers into Racquetball

Starting with this issue and continuing for five more months
National Racquetball is presenting the Tank McNamara series on our game
with permission of Universal Press Syndicate.



Artist Bill Hinds and Writer Jeff Millar each top six feet and weigh close to 230 pounds, just like the comic strip hero they create in Houston, TX, for 200 newspapers around the country.

Since October, 1973, Millar's script and Hind's pen have put Tank McNamara into football, baseball, golf, tennis, skiing, soccer, jogging, women's basketball, motorcycle jumping and — for six days in April — on the racquetball court.

Getting Tank to play racquetball was the 29-year-old artist's idea, probably because his June marriage to Dixie Reid began as a "racquetball romance."

"We had dated for a year, then broke

Bill Hinds, right, faces racquetball opponents Jeff Millar and Dixie Reid at the West University, TX, municipal courts.



TANK McNAMARA

by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds



up and hadn't seen each other for six months," Hinds says. "Dixie called me and said 'want to play racquetball?' and I said 'yes.'"

Now Millar's wife, Lynne, is taking lessons, and mixed doubles might be the next athletic challenge for Tank McNamara's creators.

Neither Hinds nor Millar, who's 38, consider themselves athletes, despite the fact that their strip lands in the sports pages of hundreds of major American newspapers.

"I think our not being in sports gives us a good viewpoint," Hinds says. "Tank McNamara shows men playing children's games and getting lots of money."

Hinds says his most serious commitment to athletics was his baseball card collection — 10,000 player photos. "And Jeff played football in elementary school."

Though "we're both huge," Hinds explains, "we lack the killer instinct."

"The only trouble about our playing racquetball with each other is that we both hate to see the other guy feel bad. We're both good losers."

National Racquetball's Comic Strip Contest

Can You Put the Words in These Players' Mouths?





The photos of Jeff Millar and Bill Hinds playing an intense, highly skilled game looked like photos of pro matches seen often on the pages of this magazine. So *National Racquetball* decided to run, instead, the pictures you see here.

What do you think Hinds and Millar are saying in each of these frames? Mail your entries — the remarks of each player designated for the appropriate photo — by Oct. 15 to Tank McNamara Contest, % Managing Editor, *National Racquetball*, 4101 Dempster, Skokie, IL 60076.

The reader who, in the opinion of the USRA staff, submits the funniest and most complete entry will receive a free Leach racquet, and his or her winning entry will appear in *National Racquetball*. ●



Racquetball



Terry Fancher

Referees Committee Helps Solve a Big Problem

The problem that creates most animosity among players in racquetball relates to refereeing. This applies especially to tournament matches, but — as pointed out quite accurately in Phil Simborg's article in this section — the majority of the matches in racquetball are played without an official presiding. Therefore this situation regarding rules of the game and their application has become a major topic of discussion.

To help get rid of this dilemma the Illinois State Racquetball Association, under the direction of Tom Street and Alan Shetzer, appointed a true devotee of the rules to head up a committee to tackle this problem. Phil Simborg, who had helped draft some rule changes for the United States Handball Association while a student at the University of Texas, is chairman of the new committee and has made remarkable progress in one short year.

Beginning with some able volunteers from the general membership Simborg called several meetings to organize, educate, and create a general understanding of the rules so this nucleus of workers could supervise the vast number of matches at sanctioned ISRA tournaments. The plan was to always have capable people to make rule interpretations to take some of the burden off of the tournament director and generally assist the quality of refereeing for all players in these events.

The committee members took a multiple choice examination, dealing specifically with the rules in terms of general as well as exact knowledge. (We're including a copy of the test in this section.) Many were surprised to find that they did not know as much as they thought they knew about the rules. After the exam all answers were explained and discussed in detail and the entire rule book was dissected. The USRA even discovered some mistakes and contradictions to be corrected in future printings of the rule book.

To distinguish themselves and become recognizable at tournaments the referee committeemen had colorful visors designed with the ISRA insignia. In this way all participants can find a person with the ISRA visor for an official, on-the-spot ruling. After matches referees who were tentative in their calls, or who needed some friendly critiquing, were free to discuss certain topics with officials. Also signs repeating the interpretation of troublesome rules or common misinterpretations were posted at the floor manager's desk for all to see at each event.

The person who attended the most tournaments and spent the most time instructing people was none other than Phil Simborg. Every week you could observe him discussing rules and interpretations with countless people. The end result is that Illinois has a more educated referee and player who can not only protect himself to some degree from incorrect calls, but who can also teach others what he or she knows instead of sulking after a loss and claiming "there were too many bad calls!"

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How to Ref When There Is No Ref

by Phil Simborg

Statistics: According to latest estimates there are between eight and 10 million racquetball players in the U.S. today. Using that estimate as a base I have made some estimates of my own: if nine million players play an average of 1.5 times per week, playing doubles 20 percent of the time, cutthroat 15 percent of the time and singles 65 percent of the time, playing an average of one hour per outing, completing an average of 3.2 games per hour, there will be approximately 26 million games of racquetball played per week. I estimate there are 24,000 games played per week with a referee at tournaments and leagues. That means that the remaining 25,976,000 games (99.907 percent) are played without a referee. In spite of that statistic Not a Single rule book has been written that tells the players how to apply the rules when there is no referee. I concluded that it's time someone did something about this, and, since I'm someone, here goes: (Please note that "him" or "himself" in all cases refers to "her" or "herself," etc. These suggestions are for both sexes.)

Rule 1 — Safety: Safety is the primary and overriding responsibility of every player who enters the court. At no time should the physical safety of the participants be compromised. Players are entitled and expected to "hold up" without penalty, anytime they believe there might be a risk of physical contact; even if they were wrong or over cautious, they will be awarded a hinder.

Rule 2 — Scorekeeping: The server is required to call out his score and the receiver's score before every first serve. This will help eliminate questions about the score and make the game more interesting for any spectators.

Rule 3 — During Rallies: During rallies it is generally the *hitter's* responsibility to make the call. If there is a possibility of a skip ball, double bounce, or illegal hit, *play must continue* until the hitter makes the call against himself. Any time the hitter is unsure or the shot is "too close to call," the hitter is obligated to make the call in favor of his opponent. If a player does not make the call, and the nonhitter believes the shot was no good, play must continue; when the rally is over, if the "hitter" won the rally, the opponent

may then "appeal" to the hitter by pointing out which shot he thought was not good. The hitter then has the option of changing his call in favor of his opponent, or, if the hitter is still confident his shot was good, the rally is played over.

Rule 4 — Service:

A. Fault Serves. (long, short, ceiling and three wall) and Out Serves (non-front or swing and miss): The server has the primary responsibility to make these calls, and like other calls that are his responsibility, he is obligated to give the benefit of any doubt to his opponent. However if the server fails to call a short serve (or long, etc.), the receiver may make the call *before he swings at the ball*. If the server disagrees with the call, the serve goes over. If neither player makes a call before the ball is returned, *the ball is in play*.

B. Screen Serves. When there is no referee, the screen serve becomes an "option play" for the receiver. *Only* the receiver can call a screen, and he can do so whenever he feels his sight of the ball was greatly limited by the server's body. However he must call the screen before swinging at the ball, and he may choose to play a screen serve if he feels he can still make an effective return. The server must simply be prepared in case the receiver determines to make the return.

C. Footfaults, 10-second violations, receiving line violations, and service zone infringements. These are calls that a player can and should make *against himself*. If one player feels his opponent is abusing these rules, he should be informed, so that understanding the rule will result in stopping the error or enabling the player to call the error on himself.

Rule 5 — Hinders: Generally the hinder will work like the screen serve — as an option play for the hindered party. Only the person going for the shot can stop play by calling a hinder, and he must do so before attempting to make a return. If the hindered party believes he can still make an effective return without risking physical contact, he can simply keep quiet and continue playing. However any other player may stop play if there is risk of injury or physical contact.

Rule 6 — Avoidable Hinders: After a player calls a hinder, the "hinderer" should consider whether or not he

should have been able to reasonably avoid being in his opponent's way, and, if so, he should award the rally to his opponent. (It is important to remember that most avoidable hindes are *not intentional*, and are usually the result of fatigue, misjudgement or even accidentally falling in front of the opponent and taking away a setup. There should be a better way to make up for this error than saying "I'm sorry," and the avoidable hinder is that way.) If a player feels that his opponent was guilty of an avoidable, and the player did not call it on himself, the offended player may "appeal" by asking him to reconsider. The "hinderer" may then stick to or change his call, but the player must rely on the sportsmanship and fair play of the opponent to make the call on himself.

Rule 7 — Court Hinder: Anytime the ball takes a bad bounce off of any part of the court, the hitter should stop play immediately and call a hinder. It is not an option play, since continuing to play could easily catch someone off guard and result in an injury.

Rule 8 — Disputes: If either player, for any reason, desires to have a referee, it is considered common courtesy for the other players to go along with the request, providing a satisfactory referee is available. If playing without a ref, there is a question about a rule or rule interpretation, seek the advice of the club pro, manager, or a more experienced player. Further the Illinois State Racquetball Association Referees Committee is available at all times to answer questions, and provide information on the rules at 312-371-2150.

I would like to see the above posted at all racquetball facilities, as I believe these rules and procedures will stop a lot of arguments and misunderstandings on the court, and may even prevent injuries. I am a firm believer in the use of referees for all tournament, league and other important matches, but I also believe that even without a referee basic rules of the game should be followed, and a reasonable procedure for following those rules should be observed.



Illinois State Racquetball Association Referees Committee Test

Part I:

Circle the correct answer or answers.

1. In an 11-point tie-breaker each player is entitled to — a. 1 time out — b. 2 time outs — c. 3 time outs —
2. All time outs are for a period of — a. 15 seconds — b. 30 seconds — c. 1 minute —
3. Between the first and second game players are given — a. 3 minutes — b. 5 minutes — c. 10 minutes —
4. Between the second and third games players are given — a. 3 minutes — b. 5 minutes — c. 10 minutes —
5. If the server steps on the short line before the ball passes the short line — a. it's a footfault — b. it's an out — c. there is no penalty —
6. If the served ball hits the short line, the serve is — a. good — b. a fault —
7. A serve which hits the front wall and the floor at the same time is — a. a short serve — b. an out serve — c. a dead ball serve —
8. A serve which hits the front wall and a side wall at the same time is — a. a short serve — b. an out serve — c. a dead ball serve —
9. A serve which hits the back wall and the floor at the same time is — a. a long serve — b. a good serve — c. a dead ball serve —
10. A screen serve is — a. a fault serve — b. an out serve — c. a dead ball serve —
11. Any serve which passes within 18 inches of the server is a screen serve — a. true — b. false —
12. If a screen serve is also short, the ref should call — a. a screen serve — b. a short serve — c. an out serve —
13. A serve which rolls out off the back wall is a. an ace — b. a long serve — c. a crotch ball —
14. The server has 10 seconds to hit the ball from the time — a. he steps into the service zone with the ball — b. the referee calls the serve — c. his opponent is ready to receive — d. the previous rally ended —
15. If the server fails to hit the ball within the required 10 seconds, it is — a. a fault serve — b. a side out — c. a dead ball —
16. In doubles the server's partner must be in the service box with — a. both feet on the floor — b. his back to the wall — c. both feet within the service box — d. standing still —
17. In doubles if the server's partner leaves the box before the ball passes the short line, the ref should call — a. an avoidable hinder — b. a foot fault — c. a side out —
18. Any ball that goes out of court results in a hinder — a. true — b. false —
19. If a player breaks a racquet in the middle of a rally, the ref should — a. immediately call a hinder — b. allow play to continue —
20. If a player loses eyeguards in the middle of a rally, the ref should — a. immediately call a hinder — b. allow play to continue — c. call a hinder only if the eyeguards were strapped on —
21. Spectators are not allowed to give verbal advice to players — a. at any time except during time outs and between games — b. from the time the ref calls the serve until the rally ends — c. while the ball is in play —
22. If a ball breaks just as the kill shot is hit — a. the shot is good — b. the point is replayed —
23. The ref calls a "receiving line violation" and the player tells you there is no such rule and wants a ruling. The ref should — a. find the rule in the rulebook and read it out loud — b. get an official to come and make a ruling — c. inform the player that there is no appeal on judgement calls — d. tell the player to check the rule after the match —
24. If the ball hits a designated court hinder but does not take a bad bounce, the ref should — a. allow play to continue unless either player stopped or hesitated — b. allow play to continue and expect the players to continue — c. call a hinder immediately — d. allow play to continue unless either player calls a hinder —
25. Body contact is an automatic hinder — a. true — b. false —
26. A player who makes a diligent effort to get out of the way cannot be called for an avoidable hinder — a. true — b. false —
27. The ref calls a hinder on player "A" just as player "B" hits a perfect kill shot. The ref should — a. award player "B" the rally — b. change his call to avoidable hinder — c. play the rally over —
28. Player "A" hits a perfect kill shot, but makes no attempt to get out of player "B's" way. — a. it is a hinder — b. it is an avoidable hinder — c. "A" wins the rally anyway —
29. The ref calls a skip ball, but immediately realizes it was the wrong call, and that it really was a good kill shot. The ref should — a. stick to the original call — b. play the rally over — c. change the call immediately to what is believed to be the right call —
30. If player "A," on the service return, attempts to hit the ball into the back wall first, but instead hits the ball out of the court into the gallery — a. player "B" wins the point — b. the point should be replayed —
31. The referee calls a double bounce, the player appeals and one linesman disagrees with the ref's call, and the other linesman did not see the play. — a. the ref's call stands — b. the ref's call is overturned — c. the rally should be replayed —
32. The server hits an ace serve, but the ref calls it short. The server appeals, and both players signify they disagree with the ref's call. — a. the ref's call stands — b. the server is allowed to take the serve over with no penalty — c. the server is awarded the point —
33. Injury time outs are allowed for which of the following? — a. being hit by a racquet — b. a sore arm — c. being hit by the ball — d. excessive fatigue — e. muscle cramps —
34. An injured player is allowed — a. a single time out not to exceed 15 minutes — b. a single time out not to exceed 30 minutes — c. a total of 15 minutes worth of time outs during the match —

35. After awarding three technical fouls the referee may forfeit the game — a. true — b. false —

36. The ball may be legally struck by any part of the racquet — a. true — b. false —

37. The ref calls a screen serve, the player asks "Why was that a screen?" The ref should — a. give a brief explanation — b. say that a judgement call cannot be questioned — c. award a technical for arguing —

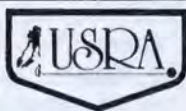
38. The receiver may not cross the receiving line until — a. the ball crosses the short line — b. the ball is hit by the server — c. the ball hits the front wall — d. the score is called —

39. A serve that hits the front wall first, and then the ceiling is — a. an out serve — b. a fault serve — c. a dead ball serve —

40. Player "A" stamps his or her feet just as player "B" is about to hit the ball. The ref should — a. make no call — b. call an avoidable hinder — c. call a technical on player "A" for unsportsmanlike conduct —

41. The server bounces the ball on his foot; the ref should call — a. a fault serve — b. an out serve — c. nothing —

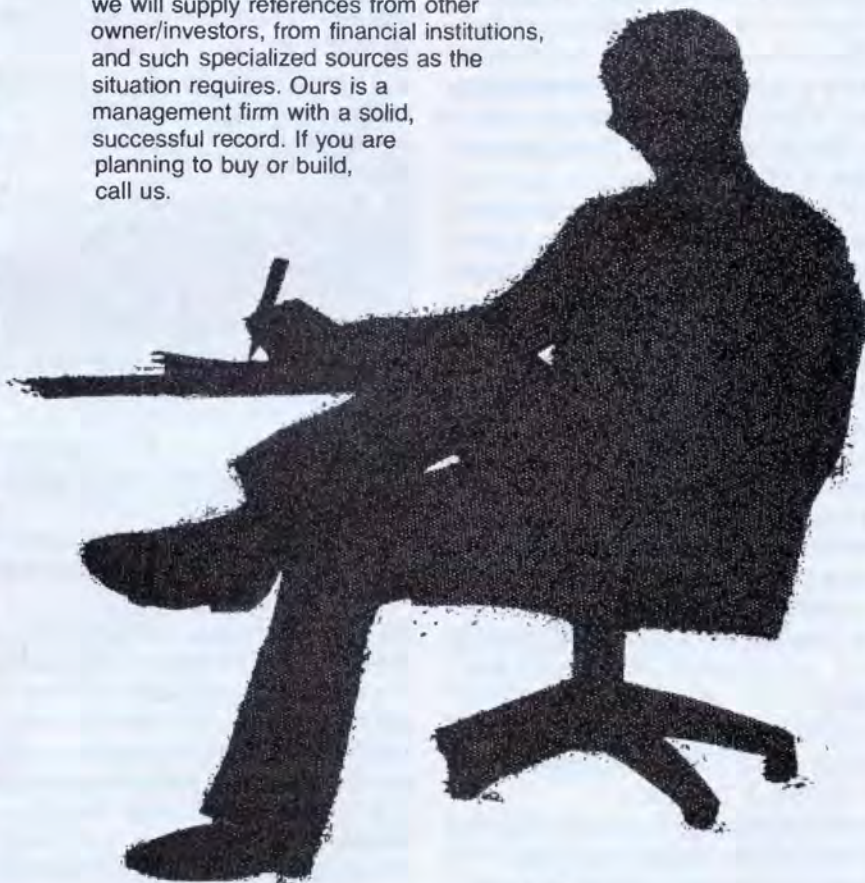
Answers on page 57.



You'll find Part II of the referee's test in this section next month.

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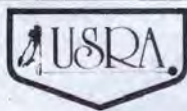
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Tournament Writeups Pared Down

Starting this month *National Racquetball* will be condensing tournament writeups when space restrictions make it necessary to print shorter reviews. Since we can't predict when we'll be heavy with tournament writeups, we suggest that you continue to send us full results. The best way to draw attention to your tournament at any time is to send clear black and white photos of the action. A reminder, too, to include the place where the tournament was played, the date when it took place and the person (with phone number) to contact if we need more information.



Tournament Results

Please send tournaments results (and clear black and white action photos) to Terry Fancher, USRA, 4101 Dempster St., Skokie, IL, 60076. Type your results double spaced using the form you see on these pages. Use first and last names the first time you write about a player (in doubles matches, too) and last names only when you mention the player again. Allow two months or more for your tournament writeup to appear here.

Missouri

Courtside Racquetball Club of Aurora held its amateur open tournament April 27-28.

Results

Men's A

Round Robin: 1st—Glen Walls, 2nd—Brian Ahern, 3rd—Steve Tucker, 4th—Jack Markward

Men's B

1st—Tom Evans, 2nd—Jack Palmer, 3rd—Joe Woodcock, 4th—Mike Hilton

Men's C

1st—David Murphy, 2nd—Ken Dryer, 3rd—Chris Fuldner, 4th—Harold Harris

Women's C

1st—Carol Smith, 2nd—Cathy Woodcock, 3rd—Barb McDonald, 4th—Dara White

Kentucky

During the Kentucky State Singles Championships April 27-29 at Racquetball of Lexington the Board of Directors of the Kentucky Racquetball Association (KRA) ruled that in all future KRA sanctioned tournaments eye protection will be mandatory.

Results

Men's Open

1st—Bob Dabney, 2nd—Bill Bauer, 3rd—Tom Shivel

Men's B

1st—Doug Layne, 2nd—Nick Thurman, 3rd—Frank Brohm

Men's C

1st—Billy Fouch, 2nd—Robert Varney, 3rd—Gary Taylor

Men's Novice

1st—Charles Hinkle, 2nd—Bill DeMarse, 3rd—Mark Campisano

Seniors

1st—Dave Fleischaker, 2nd—Len Wilson, 3rd—Bob Adkins

Women's Open

1st—Holly Rentz, 2nd—Beth Mowery, 3rd—Lynn Simon

Women's B

1st—Christie Dunham, 2nd—Betty Matthieu, 3rd—Mary Cole

Women's C

1st—Nita Mekus, 2nd—Mary Pidgeon, 3rd—Karin Adkins

Women's Novice

1st—Monareia Wyatt, 2nd—Dottie Steinhauer, 3rd—Benita Cummins

Masters

1st—Leigh Jones, 2nd—Lew Whipple, 3rd—Don Detjen

Indiana

Tamas Kutas and Patricia Foltz successfully defended their titles in the Open division of the 1979 Indiana State Racquetball Championships held May 4-6 at the Full Court Clubs of Anderson and Muncie.

Both final games were won by thrilling 21-20 scores as Kutas defeated two time State Champion Ron Johnson, and Foltz bested newcomer Cate Davis. It was the second straight singles title for both Kutas and Foltz.

Other Indiana State Racquetball Champions crowned in this year's tournament, which drew a record 282 contestants in 12 divisions, were: Bob Barrett and Janibeth Goodwin in the B division; Ted Champion and Patsy Graham in the C division; Jack Eckman, Junior Boys 17-Under; Jeff Zipes, Junior Boys 14-Under; Jeff Solomon, Junior Boys 11-Under; Chuck Solomon, Senior Men's; Earl Dixon, Masters, and Karl Schmidt, Golden Masters.

Team championship honors went to the *Greenbriar Racquetball Club* in Indianapolis, followed by the *Court Club*, also of Indianapolis, and the *Sports Illustrated Court Club* of Mishawaka. The *Court Club of Indianapolis* also won the Team Participation Award for the most number of contestants.

Sportsmanship plaques were awarded to Gerald Beauchamp, in the Men's division, Jane Pritchett, in the Women's division and Erich Rigby, in the Juniors.

Illinois

The Court Club of Champaign was the site for the Hot'n Juicy Open April 20-22, co-sponsored by Wendy's Old Fashioned Hamburgers and WK104-FM radio.

Results

Men's Open

Quarters: Dave Bennett d. Sean Moskwa 11-21, 21-13, 11-7; Phil Simborg d. Bob Schwab 21-16, 21-12; Mike Suppan d. George Gracevich 21-2, 21-10; Andy Witt d. Duane Mulvaney 21-6, 21-7

Semis: Simborg d. Bennett 21-4, 21-15; Witt d. Suppan 21-10, 17-21, 11-4

Finals: Witt d. Simborg 21-11, 21-6

Women's Open

1st—Barb Larrain, 2nd—Julie Simon, 3rd—Diane Gabrisco

Men's B

Semis: Tom Stanger d. Dave Perkowski 21-11, 21-16; Barry Allen d. Tom Weinrich 21-10, 21-11

Finals: Allen d. Stanger 21-7, 21-4

Women's B

1st—Kay Chiaravalle, 2nd—Patti Tobias, 3rd—Kathy Roberts

Men's C

Quarters: Bill Karolich d. Brad Harrison 21-15, 21-16; Kerry Moore d. Doug Wilson 21-8, 21-6; Paul Gelburd d. James Smith 21-18, 16-21, 11-9; Tim McClearn d. Ron Clapman 20-21, 21-14, 11-4

Semis: Moore d. Karolich 21-4, 21-12; Gelburd d. McClearn 9-21, 21-19, 11-0

Finals: Moore d. Gelburd 21-10, 13-21, 11-1

Women's C

Semis: Marilyn Misner d. Frances Braun 21-19, 21-18; Karen Smith d. Euline Eilbracht 21-12, 21-17

Finals: Smith d. Misner 4-21, 21-3, 11-2

Men's Seniors

Semis: Bill Williamson d. Ron Hinchey 21-8, 21-8; Don Webb d. Frank Hinds 21-20, 21-20

Finals: Williamson d. Webb 21-14, 21-12

Juniors

1st—Kerry Moore, 2nd—Jeff Bennett, 3rd—Gordon Babbs

California

King's Racquetball Court was the site for the Ronald McDonald House Tournament April 26-29 in Westminster.

The Southern California Ronald McDonald House will be a home away from home for the families of children being treated for cancer at Children's Hospital of Los Angeles.

Winners

Men's Open — Gary Berberet, Men's B — Sol Wrocawsky, Men's C — Don Ott, Men's Novice — Barry Martin, Men's C Doubles — Armando Preciado, Armando Yepes

Women's Open — Deb Wall, Women's C — Ann Pendley, Women's Novice — Ginnee Doo, Women's C Doubles — June Ayres, Cathy Mays

Minnesota

Kings Court, Roseville, once again hosted the Women's segment of the State Championships May 4-6, while Blaine Racquet Club was the host for the Men's division.

At this first tournament in the area where eyeguards were mandatory players reacted favorably, especially since there were two instances where the eye protection prevented possible serious injuries. Pro-tec, co-sponsor with Leach, provided eyeguards for all players.

The Minnesota State Racquetball Association adapted the Computer Rating System. Performance in this tournament will govern the ranking of the new system. The system will soon be used for all players nationwide.

Results

Women's A: 1st — Ev Dillin, 2nd — Carol Osterberg, 3rd — Mary Hannes, Consolation — Martha Corwin

Women's A Doubles: 1st — Hannes/Dillon, 2nd — Nancy Harter/Jan Mahoney, Consolation — Elaine Weiss/Debbie Day

Women's B: 1st — Carol Bennett, 2nd — Marta Croess, 3rd — Peggy Clark, Consolation — Judy Franke

Women's B Doubles: 1st — Jean Krusemark/Groess, 2nd — Franke/Edie Kittelsen, Consolation — Bev Stirtz/Kindra Stirtz

Women's C: 1st — Merrisue Soutor, 2nd — Ann Maruska, 3rd — Rita Christenson, Consolation — Bev McDonnell

Novice: 1st — Chris Amundson, 2nd — Bonita Haneca, 3rd — Bonnie Madland

Men's Open: 1st — Ron Strom, 2nd — Don Constable, 3rd — Dan Ferris, Consolation — Scott Broughton

Men's A: 1st — Gus Farrell, 2nd — Bob Gastuch, 3rd — Bill Franke, Consolation — John Certzmeier

Men's B: 1st — Rocky Cashman, 2nd — Lee Hickerson, 3rd — Dave Harsha, Consolation — Greg Hayenga

Men's C: 1st — Lee Rients, 2nd — Jim Host, 3rd — Ron Knutson, Consolation — Jim Aune

Seniors: 1st — Bill Hall, 2nd — Bob Adam, 3rd — Tom Satterdalen, Consolation — Cesar Farrell

Masters: 1st — Bob McNamara, 2nd — Ralph Stillman, 3rd — Bruce Anderson, Consolation — Ken Rosland

Juniors 17 & Under: 1st — Hart Johnson, 2nd — Paul Bakken, 3rd — Craig Stirtz, Consolation — Steve Warfield

Juniors 14 & Under: 1st — Paul Rosland, 2nd — Tim Buhrt, 3rd — Stu Schipman, Consolation — Scott Capan

Men's Doubles: 1st — Tom Grady/Sparky Corwin, 2nd — Steve Nosek/Joe Kordowski, 3rd — Terry Daniels/Bob Miller, Consolation — Greg Gouette/Greg Wagner

Minnesota State doubles finalists, left to right: Bob Adam, Al Stock, Mike Sladky and Pat Page.



Men's Open Doubles: 1st — Bob Adam Jr./Pat Page, 2nd — Mike Sladky/Al Stock, 3rd — Gary Peterson/Ferris, Consolation — Greg Johnson/Farrell

Men's Senior Doubles: 1st — McNamara/Ron Hasuavitz, 2nd — Bob Riggs/Ward Pfeifle, 3rd — Bill Hall/Bob Adam, Consolation — Tom Anderson/Tom Satterdalen

Minnesota

98th Street Racquet and Swim Club, a 14 court facility in Bloomington, was the site for the Kahlua Tournament May 18-20.

Results

Men's A: 1st — Paul Ikier, 2nd — Bob Adam Jr., 3rd — Don Constable, Consolation — Tom Gonser

Men's B: 1st — Tom Grady, 2nd — Mark Kellar, 3rd — Jon Edwards, Consolation — Mike Bukovich

Men's C: 1st — Chuck Bauer, 2nd — Dave Garber, 3rd — Mike Olson, Consolation — Toby Foster

Women's A: 1st — Martha Corwin, 2nd — Mary Hannes, 3rd — Sue Grady, Consolation — Darcy Chastain

Women's B: 1st — Marsha Liss, 2nd — Mary Strei, 3rd — Gail Hitzman, Consolation — Linda Smith

Women's C: 1st — Jill Anderson, 2nd — Nancy Boyum, 3rd — Deanna Rients, Consolation — Chris Fagnan

Texas

The 1979 National YMCA Racquetball Tournament May 18-20 at the Houston Downtown YMCA attracted 350 entrants.

Results

Men's Open Singles: 1st — Jeff Kwatler, 2nd — Marc Auerbach, 3rd — Mark Malowitz, Consolation — Ron Rids

Men's Open Doubles: 1st — Kwatler/Malowitz, 2nd — Jim Austin/Auerbach, 3rd — Gary Merritt/Bob Merritt

Men's B Singles: 1st — Bill Taliferro, 2nd — Larry Gautreaux, 3rd — Jay Spolinger, Consolation — Rufas Martinez

Men's B Doubles: 1st — Tom Chadosh/Ed Fink, 2nd — Mike Tuminiello/Larry Stucky, 3rd — Andy Guidry/Jon Rowell

Men's C Singles: 1st — Howard Walker, 2nd — Terry Creekmore, 3rd — Tom Sikorski, Consolation — Tony Rivas

Masters: 1st — Joe Hero, 2nd — Richard Lydens, 3rd — Bill Reese, Consolation — Tom Hastings

Seniors: 1st — Jim Austin, 2nd — Ken Kachitk, 3rd — Larry Bobbitt, Consolation — Rufas Martinez

Women's Open Singles: 1st — Gail Woods, 2nd — Neysa Buckley, 3rd — Sandy Hunter

Women's Open Doubles: 1st — Buckley/Michelle Narcisso, 2nd — Janice Segall/Sandy Hunter, 3rd — Nancy Maples/Beverly Branch

Women's B Singles: 1st — Michelle Narcisso, 2nd — Sarah Russell, 3rd — Barbara Young, Consolation — Charlotte Griffin

Women's B Doubles: 1st — Dianne Folk/Candy Lee, 2nd — Suzanne Storey/Carolyn Villarubia, 3rd — Amy Schreider/Brenda Wyatt

Women's C Singles: 1st — Dottie Wofford, 2nd — Dianne Folk, 3rd — Jenni Sasser, Consolation — Karen Certe

Michigan

The second annual Gratiot County closed Racquetball Tourney took place March 5-7 at Alma College. Co-sponsor was Ithaca Community Education.

Results

Men's A: Vic Beard d. Jack Raducha 21-7, 21-11

Men's B: Vic Guajardo d. Dave Backensto 21-4, 21-7

Women's: Pam Bauer d. Kathy Betts 21-8, 21-1

Juniors 17 & Under: Bill Wideman d. Todd Thum 21-8, 11-21, 11-5

Men's Doubles: John and Jack Raducha d. Vic Beard/Jack Mellinger 21-14, 21-7

Women's Doubles: Pam Bauer/Kathy Betts d. Connie Morrow/Mary Stack 21-4, 21-0

North Carolina

The USRA State Championships took place April 20-22 at the Carolina Courts in Raleigh.

Sponsor was WRAL-TV and Radio, tournament director was Marv Monfre and floor manager was Harry Ronan.

Results

Men's Open

Quarters: Ron Dicke d. Herb McKim 21-3, 21-0; Bill Leonard d. Brent Sexton 18-21, 21-11, 11-7; Dave Hardison d. Bob Anderson 11-21, 21-12, 11-6; Sonny Harmon d. Ed Falcone (forfeit)

Semis: Dicke d. Leonard 21-11, 21-9; Harmon d. Hardison 21-9, 0-21, 11-9

Finals: Dicke d. Harmon 21-5, 21-9

Men's B

Quarters: Herb McKim d. Dave Bartlett 10-21, 21-15, 11-6; Jim Slate d. Henry Duncor; Tim Nussman d. Marv Monfre 21-18, 21-9; Andy Hartsfield d. Sevgi Yang 21-14, 21-12

Semis: McKim d. Slate 21-19, 21-16; Hartsfield d. Nussman 21-18, 21-17

Finals: Hartsfield d. McKim 21-14, 21-14

Men's C

Quarters: Frank Anthony d. Eric Davis 21-6, 20-21, 11-0; Jim Padgett d. Jim Heffner 21-17, 6-21, 11-5; Emmett Wood d. Don Ip 21-9, 21-18; Don Morrow d. Herb Schwartz 21-1, 15-21, 11-1

Semis: Anthony d. Padgett 21-14, 21-1; Morrow d. Wood 21-8, 21-15

Finals: Anthony d. Morrow 21-18, 21-12

Men's Senior

Quarters: Harmon d. Jim Buchholz 21-4, 21-12; Ted Freshwater d. Willie Henderson 21-2, 21-0; Eugene Hindle d. Norm DeRossett 21-6, 21-8; Bill Luttrell d. Carl Wiles 21-9, 21-11

Semis: Harmon d. Freshwater 21-10, 21-14; Luttrell d. Hindle 21-12, 21-5

Finals: Harmon d. Luttrell 21-8, 21-8

Men's Masters Singles

Quarters: Larry McGee d. Sheldon Yingst 21-5, 21-7; Dick Lane d. Fred Howard 21-14, 21-13; Luther Green d. Dub Freshwater (forfeit); Mike Wyman d. Jack Hogan (forfeit)

Semis: Lane d. McGee 11-21, 21-10, 11-10; Wyman d. Green 18-21, 21-17, 11-4

Finals: Wyman d. Lane 21-19, 21-11

Women's Open

Semis: Caroline Brown d. Sue Vickery 21-3, 21-13; Mildred Gwinn d. Lucy Hardison 21-8, 21-16

Finals: Caroline Brown d. Mildred Gwinn 21-9, 21-16

Women's B

Semis: Maria Moll d. Sherry Dendy 21-9, 21-4; Betty Harlan d. Sissy Weil 21-11, 21-9

Finals: Maria Moll d. Harlan 21-14, 21-10

Women's C

Quarters: Becky Isenhour d. Eleanor Hoover 21-11, 21-4; Beverly Peoples d. Carol Simmons 21-1, 21-0; Dendy d. Irene Drage 21-12, 21-8; Pat Banko d. Bobbie Battista 21-1, 21-1

Semis: Peoples d. Isenhour 17-21, 21-18, 11-6; Banko d. Dendy 21-10, 21-12

Finals: Banko d. Peoples 21-1, 21-2

Juniors

Quarters: Carl Wiles, Jr. d. Steve DeRossett 21-8, 21-10; Kent White d. Jim Doherty 21-15, 21-14; Phil Wiles d. Steve Peak 21-10, 21-8; Scott Coulter d. Sheila King 21-3, 21-3

Semis: Wiles d. White 21-0, 21-4; Coulter d. Wiles 21-13, 21-14

Finals: Coulter d. Wiles 21-18, 21-12

Men's Open Doubles

Quarters: Anderson/Dicke d. Turney/Dacus 21-2, 21-5; Yang/Duncor d. Bartlett/Davis 21-13, 15-21, 11-8; Leonard/Nussman d. Hardison/Bambrick 21-17, 10-21, 11-3; Hartsfield/Sexton d. McLean/Thomas 21-1, 21-2

Semis: Anderson/Dicke d. Yang/Duncor 21-1, 21-2; Hartsfield/Sexton d. Leonard/Nussman 21-19, 21-17

Finals: Anderson/Dicke d. Hartsfield/Sexton 21-7, 21-10

Men's Senior Doubles

Semis: Wiles/Freshwater d. Howard/Luttrell 21-18, 17-21, 11-2; Hogan/Lane d. Buchholz/DeRossett 21-16, 21-18

Finals: Wiles/Freshwater d. Hogan/Lane 21-12, 21-8

Women's Open Doubles

Semis: Hardison/Gwinn d. Harlan/Moll 21-12, 21-13; Vickery/Crane d. Hill/Brown 18-21, 21-14, 11-8

Finals: Hardison/Gwinn d. Vickery/Crane 21-12, 21-9

Maine

Holiday Health & Racquet Club in Bangor was the site of the 1979 Holiday Racquetball Classic April 27-29

Results

Men's A: Winner A. Hess, Runner-up D. Flewelling; **Women's A and B Round Robin:** Winner B. DeWitt, Runner-up S. Belanger; **Men's B:** Winner D. DeVamey, Runner-up G. Bradford; **Men's C:** Winner M. Borque, Runner-up M. Townsend; **Women's C:** Winner L. Smith, Runner-up D. Christiansen; **Men's Novice:** Winner S. Stupinski, Runner-up A. Miller; **Women's Novice:** Winner P. McDonald, Runner-up F. Campbell; **Men's Senior Singles Round Robin:** Winner M. Donoghue, Runner-up R. Chaplin

Maine

The USRA sanctioned Maine Vacationland Open was held May 18 and 19 at Merrymeeting Racquet Club in Topsham.

Results

Men's A: Winner — Norm Bernier, Runner-up — Reb Brown, Consolation — Dertnis Weeks

Men's B: Winner — Joel Hawkes, Runner-up — Herb Warden, Consolation — Dale Weeks

Men's C: Winner — Marc Bourque, Runner-up — Scott Stupinski, Consolation — Alex Fava

Men's Novice: Winner — Steve Reichel, Runner-up — Larry Andrews, Consolation — Bruce Dow

Men's Doubles: Winners — Reb Brown/Bruce Lewis

Women's Novice: Winner — Lora Demers, Runner-up — Donna Giroux, Consolation — Goldie Bundy

Nebraska

Sports Courts of Lincoln hosted over 200 participants in the Nebraska State Racquetball Championships May 3-6.

—Sid Spetts photo



Mark Domangue, left, regained his second Nebraska State Championship from Keith Freeman, last year's champ.

Results

Men's Open: Mark Domangue d. Keith Freeman 21-8, 21-8; Consolation — Irv Rodin d. Hal Smith 21-10, 21-12

Men's A: Scott Dworak d. Harry Meginnis 21-8, 21-13; Consolation — Smith d. Greg Pazderka 21-11, 21-8

Men's Upper B: John MacLean d. Wayne Nelson 21-21, 21-9, 11-2; Consolation — Corny Bibb d. Dave Evans 21-19, 21-9

Men's B: Gene Kidder d. Tom Phillips 21-12, 16-21, 11-10; Consolation — Terry Morrison d. Dan Cass 21-13, 21-10

Men's Upper C: Gordon Larsen d. Jack Irons 21-20, 21-2; Consolation — Dan McNulty d. Marty Stovie 21-12, 21-9

Men's C: Gregg Allen d. Z B Mayo 21-20, 19-21, 11-6; Consolation — John Tomjacek d. Jim DeCamp 18-21, 21-11, 11-10

Men's D: Erik Runge d. Lenard McGiboney 21-15, 21-9; Consolation — John Swanson d. William Minier 21-11, 21-16

Men's Senior: Rick Harley d. Al Paterson 21-12, 21-3; Consolation — George Flock d. Al Quick 4-21, 21-17, 11-5

Boys 17 & Under: Joe Sacco d. Greg Young 20-21, 21-10, 11-7

Boys 15 & Under: Young d. Roger Lindwa 21-11, 21-11; Consolation — Tom Kahn d. Rich Bezousek 21-7, 21-7

Girls 17 & Under: (Round robin) 1st — Laurie Ogden, 2nd — Shereen Smith, 3rd — Fae Spittler

Women's Open: Anita Bahe d. Carla Hiatt 21-12, 21-17; Consolation — Barb Davis d. Myrta Hansen 18-21, 21-19, 11-9

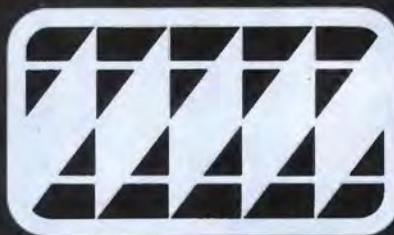
Women's B: Ogden d. Kathy Dworak 21-17, 21-5; Consolation — Trudy McVay d. Louise Gonsolin 21-15, 21-19

Women's C: Carolyn Foster d. Gloria Abe 17-21, 21-15, 11-4; Consolation — Smith d. Judy Nolloth 21-2, 21-6

Women's D: Nancy Tourek d. Donna Pett 21-5, 21-7; Consolation — Diane Marsh d. May Wieck 21-12, 21-8

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Iowa

April 20-22 were the dates of the Iowa State Open at Beyer Hall, Iowa State University campus in Ames.

Results

Men's Open

1st — Gary Davidson, 2nd — Charlie Drewes, 3rd — Jim Woolcock, 4th — Terry Elgethun

Men's B

1st — Cornie Bibb, 2nd — Dave Kramer, 3rd — Dave Nowack, 4th — Rich Boyan

Men's C

1st — Gary Daters, 2nd — Bruce Davis, 3rd — Tom Lane, 4th — Dick Lowry

Women's Open

1st — Cindy Mahstede, 2nd — Laura Doak, 3rd — Janet Borks, 4th — Anne Smith

New York

Boys and girls competed May 18-20 in the Bank of Auburn Junior Racquetball Tournament at the Auburn YMCA-WEIU.

Results

Boys 13 & Under: Sam Battaglia d. Jeff Lattimer 21-2, 21-12; **Boys 15 & Under:** John Negast d. Battaglia 21-16, 21-7; **Girls 15 & Under:** Jessica Rubin d. Lucy Taylor 21-6, 21-7; **10 & Under:** Tim Doyle d. Mike Daniel 21-1, 21-5

Nevada

The USRA Southwestern Regionals were held April 5-8 at the Las Vegas Racquet Ball Club.

Results

Men's Open

Quarters: Bobby Bolan d. Gary Berberet 9-21, 21-19, 11-6; Bruce Radford d. Beaver Wickham 21-17, 10-21, 11-7; Scott Hawkins d. Ed Andrews 12-21, 21-19, 11-2; Rich Handley d. Gary Mazaroff 21-13, 21-15

Semis: Radford d. Bolan 21-19, 21-15; Handley d. Hawkins 19-21, 21-7, 11-3

Finals: Handley d. Radford 21-10, 21-13

Men's Seniors

Quarters: John Langford d. Mike Karas 21-4, 21-15; Daryl Krugman d. Robert Moericke 10-21, 21-10, 11-7; Bill Masucci d. Dan Seaton 20-21, 21-11, 11-10; Dennis Lose d. Spencer Johnston 21-19, 10-21, 11-10

Semis: Langford d. Krugman 21-8, 21-8; Lose d. Masucci 21-16, 20-21, 11-8

Finals: Langford d. Lose 21-16, 21-11

Men's Masters

Quarters: Lee Pretner d. Dick Kunze 21-17, 21-18; John Paulette d. H. Eckardt 21-19, 21-13; Burt Murrow d. Bob Davies 21-5, 21-10; Vance Lerner d. Rod Campbell 21-18, 21-13

Semis: Pretner d. Paulette 21-5, 21-3; Murrow d. Lerner 17-21, 21-12, 11-10

Finals: Pretner d. Murrow 21-7, 21-8

Men's B

Quarters: Bret Harnett d. Wayne Wolfenbarger 21-18, 21-9; Jeff Jensen d. Richard Picazo 21-15, 21-20; Daren Weckerly d. Rick Lewis 21-19, 21-20; Ross Alger d. Charles West 21-14, 21-12

Semis: Harnett d. Jensen 21-15, 21-14; Alger d. Weckerly 21-16, 20-21, 11-2

Finals: Alger d. Harnett 21-16, 21-15

Men's C

Quarters: Paul Salerno d. Chris Hybarger 21-8, 21-7; Rich Picazo d. Paul Martino 21-10, 21-14; Joe Peinado d. Bill Kristinat 21-14, 12-21, 11-7; Jim Flannery d. David Castillo 21-14, 21-11

Semis: Salerno d. Picazo 21-12, 21-10; Flannery d. Peinado 21-12, 8-21, 11-0

Finals: Salerno d. Flannery 21-20, 21-20

Men's Open Doubles

Quarters: Bruce Radford/Scott Hawkins d. Don Norquist/Tommy Petersen 21-18, 21-16; Keith Fleming/Ken Garrigus d. Bobby Bolan/Bobby Stocker 21-16, 21-10; Rich Handley/Rob Baruck d. Evan Terry/Matt Stanger 21-4, 21-9; Dave Bush/Larry Meyers d. Bret Harnett/Chris Barnbeck 21-8, 21-8

Semis: Handley/Baruck d. Bush/Meyers, Fleming/Garrigus d. Radford/Hawkins

Finals: Fleming/Garrigus d. Handley/Baruck

Men's Senior Doubles

Quarters: Daryl Krugman/John Langford d. Lee Pretner/Jerry Monell 21-8, 21-8; Dennis Lose/Bill Masucci d. Tiger Bill Holden/Phil Waldman 17-21, 21-9, 11-5; Len Robinson/Jack Holmes d. Gary Hayes/Don Watt; F. Ricardo de Seracho/Mike Karas d. Ron Ryneal/Cary Walker 21-19, 21-18

Semis: Krugman/Langford d. Lose/Masucci 21-16, 21-16; de Seracho/Karas d. Robinson/Holmes 21-5, 21-7

Finals: Langford/Krugman d. de Seracho/Karas 21-12, 21-20

Men's Master Doubles

Semis: George Brown/Carl Loveday d. Bob Davies/John Paulette 21-13, 21-15; Burt Murrow/Gibson d. Vance Lerner/Gene Stull 21-5, 21-4

Finals: Murrow/Gibson d. Brown/Loveday 21-11, 21-11

Women's Open

Quarters: Laura Martino d. Michelle Brusacca 21-13, 21-15; Peggy Gardner d. Kippi Bishop 21-15, 21-7; Linda Brokaw d. Kerry Young 21-18, 8-21, 11-8; Sheryl Ambler d. Kathie Jones 21-11, 21-9

Semis: Martino d. Gardner 21-2, 21-13; Ambler d. Brokaw 21-8, 21-8

Finals: Martino d. Ambler

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THE STRATFORD COURT DOOR PACKAGE.



Linda Siau, second from left, and Paula Pizzifred, right, beat Linda Seymour, far left, and Greta Marler in the quarters of the Women's Open Doubles of the Southwestern Regionals.



Women's B

Quarters: Belinda Alcantara d. Darlene Langford 21-12, 21-20; Wendy Ayala d. Nan Mackstaller 21-4, 21-11; Sue Swoape d. Paula Pizzifred 21-14, 18-21, 11-9; Cathy Brokaw d. Yvette Di Giacinto, forfeit

Semifinals: Ayala d. Alcantara 21-19, 21-8; Swoape d. Brokaw 21-12, 21-8

Finals: Ayala d. Swoape 21-2, 21-17

Women's C

Quarters: Belinda Alcantara d. Linda Seymour 21-5, 21-14; Christine Aguilera d. Mary Gluckman 9-21, 21-18, 11-10; Myra Karas d. Susan Cassidy 21-9, 21-4; Greta Marler d. Donna Quan 21-3, 21-3

Semifinals: Aguilera d. Alcantara 21-14, 21-6; Karas d. Marler 21-10, 17-21, 11-0

Finals: Aguilera d. Karas 12-21, 21-13, 11-2

Women's Open Doubles

Quarters: Linda Siau/Paula Pizzifred d. Linda Seymour/Greta Marler; Mona Mook/Lauri Burks d. Betty Weed/Laura Martino 21-19, 20-21, 11-5; Peggy Gardner/Gina Villa d. Lynn Wojcik/Ruth Wojcik 21-7, 21-8; Susie Khan/Kippi Bishop d. Elizabeth Loeper/Ina Leffler 21-2, 21-4

Semifinals: Mook/Burks d. Siau/Pizzifred 21-8, 19-21, 11-5; Gardner/Villa d. Khan/Bishop 21-9, 21-14

Finals: Gardner/Villa d. Mook/Burks 21-16, 21-19

Arkansas

A record 171 entries marked the third annual Arkansas Racquetball Championships March 29-April 1 at the Spaulding Racquetball Club in Little Rock.

Results

Men's Open

Quarters: Mike Ray d. Fred Aylett 21-19, 21-11; Bill Sell d. Tom Cravens 21-16, 10-21, 11-9; Robert Herreich d. Jim McCoy 21-19, 21-16; Bob Daniel d. John Greer 21-13, 21-8

Semifinals: Ray d. Sell 21-1, 21-16; Daniel d. Herreich 21-3, 21-8

Finals: Daniel d. Ray 21-18, 21-8

Men's B

Quarters: Steve Stevens d. Bing Priest 21-20, 21-13; Jim Young d. Danny Martin 21-16, 21-16; Paul Bergant d. Chris Lane 21-8, 21-14; Fred Aylett d. Pat Sheehan 21-6, 21-17

Semifinals: Young d. Stevens 21-16, 21-16; Aylett d. Bergant 21-20, 21-16

Finals: Aylett d. Young 21-3, 19-21, 11-7

Men's C

Quarters: Chris Laux d. Ray Schult 21-20, 13-21, 11-7; Ron Mott d. Richard Pierce 21-8, 21-20; Chris Lane d. Mitch Satler 21-7, 21-17; Robert Skelly d. Brent Roberson 21-5, 21-10

Semifinals: Mott d. Laux 9-21, 21-12, 11-5; Skelly d. Lane 21-16, 21-8

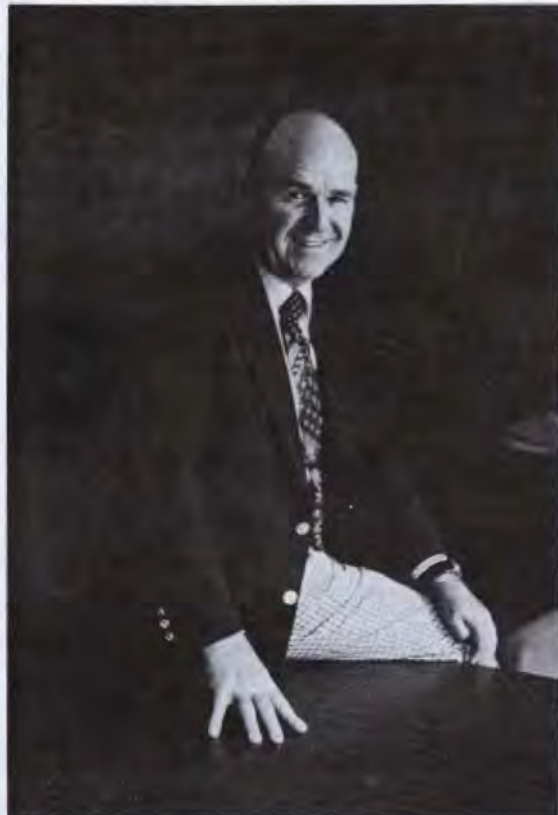
Finals: Skelly d. Mott 21-8, 21-16

Men's D

Quarters: Tad Lowery d. Larry Hagerich 7-21, 21-20, 11-2; Eugene Townsend d. Dan Gilmore 21-6, 21-5; Dick Bean d. Tom Ruff 21-16, 21-19; Dean Priest d. Richard Pierce 21-16, 21-9

Semifinals: Lowery d. Townsend 21-20, 13-21, 11-5; Priest d. Bean 21-4, 21-13

Finals: Priest d. Lowery 21-16, 21-9



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Bob Daniel, right, beat top seed Mike Ray in the Men's Open finals.

Bill Sell, left, beat Robert Hemreich to take Men's Open third place in the Arkansas Singles Championships.



—James L. Bixler photos

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Men's Novice

Quarters: Gary Couch d. K.C. Cashen 21-8, 21-9; Dave Bockleman d. Cecil Ward 21-13, 21-15; Bill Taylor d. Mark Bullock 21-10, 21-14; John Barden d. Chuck Boyd 21-15, 21-5

Semis: Couch d. Bockleman 21-4, 21-14; Taylor d. Barden 21-16, 21-5

Finals: Couch d. Taylor 21-20, 21-11

Men's Senior Masters

Quarters: Gary Mills d. Fallon Davis 21-2, 21-10; Jerry McKinnis d. Jim Hunt 21-8, 6-21, 11-5; Jim McCoy d. Oscar Mack 21-15, 21-17; Hugh Groover d. Jimmy Baskin 21-19, 21-19

Semis: Mills d. McKinnis 21-11, 21-6; McCoy d. Groover 13-21, 21-12, 11-7

Finals: McCoy d. Mills 21-17, 21-10

Women's Open

First Round: Linda Bockleman d. Martha Roberson 21-17, 21-18; Suzan Utley d. Debbie Rabe 21-14, 21-7; Cheryl Rutledge d. Terry Layne 21-3, 21-6

Semis: Lisa Collins d. Bockleman 21-16, 21-7; Rutledge d. Utley 21-9, 21-18

Finals: Collins d. Rutledge 21-9, 21-18

Women's B

First Round: Suzan Utley d. Judy Nosari 21-11, 21-1; Kim Gibson d. Gwen Young 21-15, 7-21, 11-7; Suzan Utley d. Shala Schult 21-11, 21-18; Marlene Crowell d. Debbie Rabe 21-17, 15-21, 11-8; Kim Gibson d. Brenda Caulder 21-15, 21-14; Penny Petway d. Nona Douglas 21-10, 17-21, 11-0

Semis: Utley d. Crowell 21-7, 21-14; Petway d. Gibson 5-21, 21-10, 11-8

Finals: Utley d. Petway 21-8, 14-21, 11-6

Women's C

First Round: Claudia Garrigus d. Linda Joslin; Jane Parsons d. Teena Tucker 21-4, 21-9; Jeannie Weir d. Robin Harrison 21-17, 21-8

Semis: Garrigus d. Carolyn Smith 21-4, 21-8; Parsons d. Weir 21-16, 21-3

Finals: Garrigus d. Parsons 21-1, 21-9

Women's Novice

First Round: Donata Mott d. Connie Daniel 21-11, 21-16; Jane Parsons d. Jay Storey 21-8, 21-9; Mott d. Karen Bullock 21-14, 21-12; Debbie Wellington d. Nila Turpin 21-8, 21-1; Claudia Garrigus d. Tomine Agre 21-1, 21-0; Parsons d. Robin Harrison 21-8, 21-4

Semis: Wellington d. Mott 21-9, 21-18; Garrigus d. Parsons 21-12, 21-9

Finals: Garrigus d. Wellington 21-0, 21-7

Men's Open Doubles

First Round: Mike Ray/Gary Mills d. Terry Baskin/Chris Laux 21-11, 21-7; Ted Berry/Fred Aylett d. James Bixler/Jerry McKinnis 21-13, 21-9; Jim Hunt/Carleton Ferguson d. Bill Sell/Dewitt Shotts 20-21, 21-12, 11-10; Bob Daniel/Jim McCoy d. Robert Porter/Robert Plante 21-1, 21-3

Second Round: Ray/Mills d. Berry/Aylett 11-21, 21-11, 11-10; Daniel/McCoy d. Hunt/Ferguson 11-21, 21-17, 11-3

Finals: Ray/Mills d. Daniel/McCoy 21-18, 21-13

Men's B

First Round: Bill Sell/Dewitt Shotts d. Dean Priest/Richard Pierce 21-9, 21-7; Gary Mills/Lisa Collins d. Terry Baskin/Laux 21-10, 21-2; James Bixler/Jerry McKinnis d. Karyl Bailey/Larry Curtis 21-6, 21-6; Steve Stevens/Marty Smith d. Joe Pullam/Lee Morgans

Second Round: Sell/Shotts d. Mills/Collins 21-10, 21-19; Stevens/Smith d. Bixler/McKinnis 21-16, 21-7

Finals: Stevens/Smith d. Sells/Shotts 21-7, 7-21, 11-6

Men's C

First Round: Hank Wade/Ed Smith d. Ken Porter/Gerald Staley 21-14, 21-17; Dean Priest/Richard Pierce d. Joe Miller/Mike Kranz 21-11, 21-11; Bob Butler/Ray Watkins d. Dan Gilmore/Steve Wilkerson 21-5, 21-0; Bob DeClerk/David Wood d. Greg Jones/Andy Wilkins 21-1, 21-1

Second Round: Bobby Combs/Bing Priest d. Wade/Smith 21-6, 21-8; Priest/Pierce d. Pat Sheehan/Chris Lane 10-21, 21-8, 11-10; Butler/Watkins d. Karyl Bailey/Larry Curtis 21-7, 21-4; Tim Marvin/Wick Marvin d. DeClerk/Wood 15-21, 21-15, 11-2

Third Round - Semis: Combs/B. Priest d. D. Priest/Pierce 21-12, 16-21, 11-7; Marvin/Marvin d. Butler/Watkins 10-21, 21-9, 11-10

Finals: Combs/B. Priest d. Marvin/Marvin 21-0, 21-11

Women's Open

Round Robin: 1st — Lisa Collins/Kathryn Graves; 2nd — Cheryl Rutledge/Suzan Utley; 3rd — Debbie Rabe/Suzanne Rogers

Women's B

Round Robin: 1st — Rabe/Rogers; 2nd — Lou Balcom/Shala Shult; 3rd — Dianne Campbell/Sally Faulkner

Mixed Open

First Round: Fred Aylett/Jo Lynn Fletcher d. Dewitt Shotts/Kathryn Graves 21-20, 17-21, 11-6; Ray Watkins/Suzan Utley d. Bob Combs/Lou Balcom 21-19, 21-16; Jerry McKinnis/Debbie Rabe d. Chris Laux/Sally Faulkner 21-11, 21-18

Second Round: Bob Daniel/Lisa Collins d. Aylett/Fletcher 21-16, 21-18, 11-3; Watkins/Utley d. McKinnis/Rabe 14-21, 21-18, 11-3

Finals: Daniel/Collins d. Watkins/Utley 21-16, 21-5

Mixed B

First Round: Wick Marvin/Suzanne Rogers d. Mike Kranz/Marchelle Jones 21-6, 18-21, 11-10; Roger Moone/Kathy Johnson d. David Boone/Judy Lancaster 21-6, 21-13

Second Round: Marvin/Rogers d. Larry Curtis/Claudia Curtis default; Karyl Bailey/Marcella Bailey d. Moore/Johnson 21-14, 21-19

Finals: Marvin/Rogers d. Bailey/Bailey 21-17, 21-9

Hawaii

The USRA Men's singles tournament took place April 5-11 and Women's April 6-9 at the Central YMCA in Honolulu.

Results

Men's

Second Round: Randy Lau d. Les Moon; Mel Tom d. Manny Rezendes; Lloyd Walalae d. Tim Geary; Nelson Moku d. Paul Roeper; Owen Lovell d. Robert Ubasa; Kevin Dorr d. Norman Akau; Skippy Kealoha d. Norman Lau; Marvin Wong d. Les Skelton

Quarter-finals: Tom d. Lau; Moku d. Walalae; Lovell d. Dorr; Kealoha d. Wong

Semi-finals: Tom d. Moku; Lovell d. Kealoha

Finals: Lovell d. Tom

Women's

First Round: Carol Lohmann d. Cheryl Lorch; Carol Leiban d. Rene Allan; Rachel Halli d. Cheryl Zarbaugh

Quarter-finals: Lohmann d. Phyllis Gomes (forfeit); Shizu Takayasu d. Leiban; Malia Nieves d. Halli; Dancetta Feary d. Jane Wetzel

Semi-finals: Takayasu d. Lohmann; Feary d. Nieves

Finals: Takayasu d. Feary

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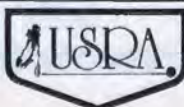
3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0

ISRA Referee Quiz Answers Sheet

Answers to questions on page 49.

1. b
2. b
3. b
4. b
5. c
6. b
7. b
8. b
9. b
10. c
11. b
12. b
13. b
14. b
15. b
16. a, b, c
17. b
18. b
19. b
20. c
21. b
22. b
23. b
24. c
25. b
26. b
27. c
28. c
29. a, b, d, g
30. c
31. c
32. b
33. a
34. c
35. c
36. a, c
37. c
38. b
39. b
40. b
41. a

See next month's *National Racquetball* for more questions and answers.





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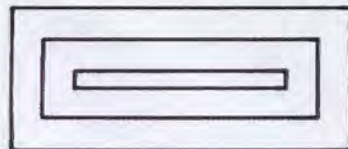
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Inside the Master's Mind

by Charlie Brumfield



With this article Charlie Brumfield, four time national champion and touring pro for the Sportrooms Racquetball Clubs, continues his exclusive series for *National Racquetball*.

Blasting the Old Center Court Theory

In this and future articles I want to discuss the rapidly changing components of today's racquetball game. I shall evaluate new style footwork and court coverage in the light of the classic ideas of footwork which came into the game via tennis and some of the other racquet sports.

In previous articles I explained that early racquetball players — my contemporaries — came in from other sports, so the techniques they used were primarily those handed down to them in their first sport — whether squash, tennis or, as in my case, paddleball.

I am going to show you in this article that some changes in court coverage and hitting techniques can be very beneficial — both to open and novice alike.

First of all court coverage. In racquetball this essential part of the game has thus far derived most of its dynamics from tennis where the classic idea is that you are always taught to step TOWARDS the ball. The purpose of this is to get the body parallel to the net so that the racquet head will also be parallel to the net.

Now let's examine the traditional concept of center court position as it applies to racquetball. Basically every player's theory is that if you can obtain center court position and maintain it, you hold all the advantages. By definition center court is equidistant from all points on the court and is the most efficient place to be in because from wherever you are, you have the fewest number of steps to reach the ball.

Also your accuracy from mid court is alleged to be far superior than from the back. Look at the English game of darts; the dart player who throws from nine feet is going to be more accurate than one who throws from 15.

But I believe that with the advent of the faster ball, the stronger player and glass court walls which drastically cut down visual perception, that center court theory is obsolete.

You may be able to get to the ball with the least number of steps from center court, but you probably won't have a great deal of choice about what to do with it if it comes flashing at you so fast it's no more than a blur.

Racquetball nowadays is primarily an execution type sport. It's no longer the all out retrieving sport where you are simply trying to get the ball back to the front wall to keep it in play — like squash. What you want to be able to do is play as close to the front wall as possible for accuracy — but still get a viable shot at every ball so that you can execute.

The problem with getting too close into what was once considered the prime real estate of racquetball — that floating amorphous zone about two feet behind the short serve line — is that when someone like Marty Hogan hits the ball and goes for a kill, you can't cover it. And if he hits it a foot high it's too hot to handle — a hot potato to which you generally overreact, which gives him another setup.

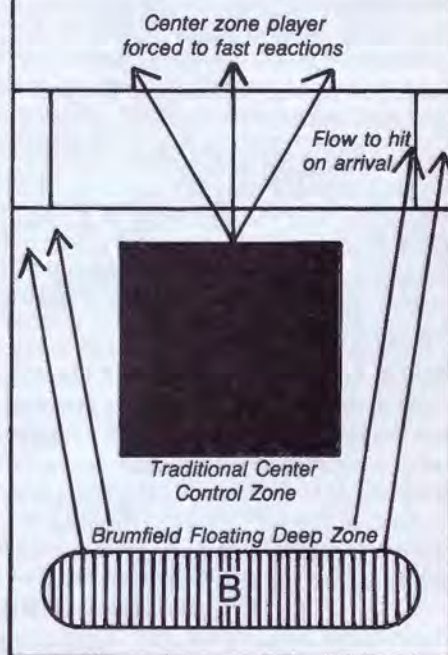
That way if you adopt the classic center court theory, a powerful player is able to control the rallies and stroll around the court while you are running or diving yourself into the ground.

And this is true of more or less every pro player. Nobody is quick enough to effectively stay where the old center court position used to be.

I feel that nowadays the zone has moved back to the point where it is worthless to call it the center court position. It is almost a deep back court zone in the general area where you normally receive serve. (See Diagram 1.)

Diagram 1
Brumfield Deep Court Theory with Arrival Hit Time

B is able to hit ball harder with less wear and tear on body



Tantamount to this theory is the mental attitude of the player — you.

The good waiters and hitters from the deep zone come into the rally with the intention of *ending* it there and then. Hogan never comes to the ball with the thought of keeping it in play, he is out to execute, and even if he doesn't succeed every time, his mental attitude is going to win him the game anyway.

So how can you adapt and structure that theory and mental set to provide you with a good defense for whatever shot your opponent tries on you?

For that we have the **MOVING POCKET DEFENSE.**

(See Diagram 2.)

Attacker or Waiter?

There are two sorts of players, the attackers and the waiters. The attacker gets up front, cuts off the ball at the earliest opportunity, his mind working on the principal that the sooner you cut off the ball the less time your opponent has to react. You have all done it, taken a weak return in front court, pushed your racquet to it and watched it die on the front wall as your opponent come stampeding past in a vain attempt to get to it.

Fine. But against a powerful player, it won't work anymore.

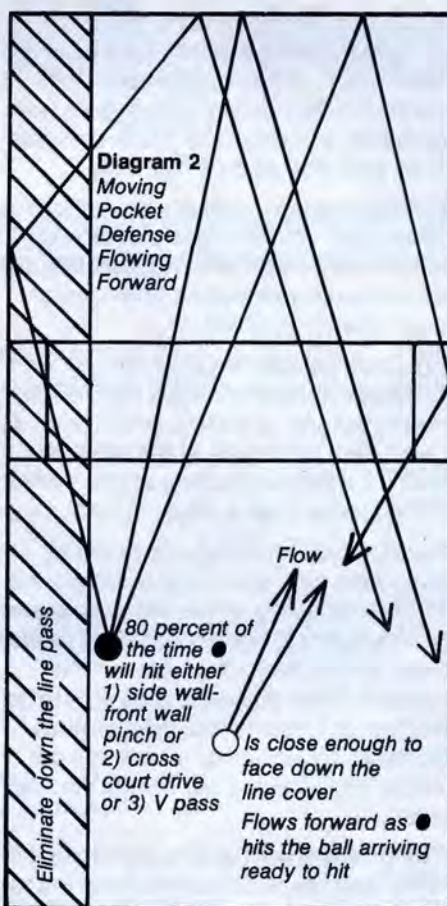
It requires cat-like reflexes, acute vision and, actually from my own years of doing it, a lot of luck.

So the attacker is generally becoming less efficient in pro racquetball where the waiter — and Marty Hogan is a prime example — will play deep court, wait on the ball and hit it at the last possible moment.

The key to playing the deep zone is flowing forward as your opponent hits the ball. Take the example of a relay race changover. The runner who receives the baton has broken his inertia by starting to run before the handover is started.

And in that way I believe that coming from a deep position, already moving on the ball is far superior to the player who is supposedly more aggressive in running up to front court, stopping and poking at the ball. He is in the end not able to move as gracefully or efficiently as someone coming from the back who can move **ONTO** the ball, ready to hit it hard every time.

This is the theory of the **DEEP ZONE WITH AN ARRIVAL HIT TIME.**



To understand this we start off by admitting that a racquetball court is just too darned big to be able to cover it adequately for any shot which happens to get cranked at you. That applies to everyone, no matter how fast you are and how selectively you cover.

When I am playing, I eliminate certain shots from my cover. One of this is the down the line, which I feel is the single most difficult shot to execute in the game.

Virtually no one can hit that shot with consistency without having it pop off the side wall or carry off the back wall, which gives you plenty of time to cover anyway wherever you happen to be on the court.

No Down the Line Alley

So first of all eliminate the down the line alley, a lane around three feet wide stretching from front to way back. Already you have considerably decreased the amount of court you are going to cover.

What you should primarily concentrate on covering are the cross court shots, because during a normal match 75 percent of all shots go to a cross court coverage pattern either by a pinch or the cross court drive.

When you rush a shot, which happens all the time when you're under pressure, you go cross court. When you're late on a ball, which happens when you're being beaten, you will invariably go side wall front wall.

So by eliminating the down the line, I am reducing the amount of running I have to do and I can put myself in the position where I am **FLOWING** down on the ball almost 90 percent of the time.

That way I can start moving much sooner than the player who stops, and waits to see where each ball is going. While he is standing there, I have probably flowed five feet, which makes me look quicker even though I may be physically slower.

This restricting of the amount of court you play in can be a very valuable tool. The main problem with the desperation covers up front are that when they are made, the author of the shot has nothing more on his mind than continuing the rally by retrieving the ball.

What you should do is to use the arrival hit time.

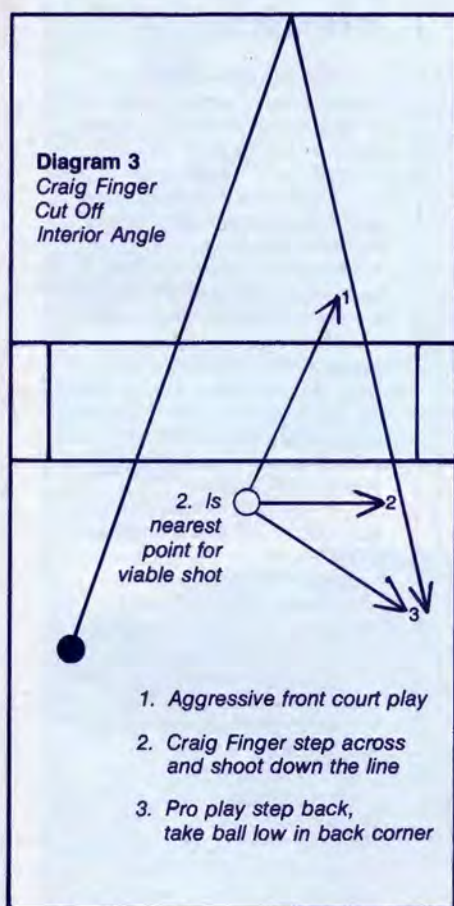
Work out where the ball is going to go, move down on to it, timing your arrival — racquet ready — with the ball and proceed to hit **THROUGH** it. The power of that play will have your opponent scrambling. Most players in front court can only scoop the ball towards the front court; there just isn't enough time to set up with a good swing. The majority of players up there faced with a drive will panic.

They panic and try to hit the ball as soon as possible. Watch someone like Hogan play and you begin to realize the difference. He always seems to have all the time in the world to hit shots, because he *waits* on the ball until the last possible moment. It's almost like he is in slow motion.

So come forward, flowing on to the ball and try to hit on arrival rather than panicking and reaching forward and flicking or popping the ball into the air.

Now — **CUTTING OFF THE ANGLE.**

One way to hit on arrival is to cut off the angle on your opponents shots. There are normally three places to hit the ball. (See Diagram 3.)



One is the desperation cover, shortest possible time theory, and three is the way most pros will play, back pedalling and hitting on the run ending up in back court trying to shoot the ball.

Now the shortest distance to the ball is where you step in on the **INTERIOR ANGLE.**

A great player who did that was Craig Finger, 1970 national champion.

Craig would watch me go cross court, and rather than going back and allowing me to come in, he would step into where the shot was going to go, while I was still swinging, cut the ball off and hit it down the line.

Intercept Two Wait Two

Now I am convinced that the ideal form of play is a random combination of selective coverage from deep zone flowing forward, versus intercept, because then you keep your opponent completely off balance. He can't relax when the ball is going back knowing that you are going to wait on every ball. So use this as a rule of thumb: for two points intercept early in the ball's passage. For two more points wait on it, powering it around the court to keep your opponent out of the flow.

Now an important facet of court coverage is anticipation.

You can anticipate what your opponent is going to do and you can move your body to make your follow up shot as easy as possible. We know that in racquetball three out of four shots will go cross court.

We can further delineate that figure to the point where we are virtually certain 85 to 90 percent of the time where the ball is going to go. How?

1. Position yourself during the rally to dictate where your opponent is going to hit the ball.

Now that doesn't mean by standing out of position and it doesn't mean positioning yourself to block his shot. It means by being close to him, showing him a look, he will know that you're covering for the down the line pass.

You don't have to be there, you will be flowing forward for his cross court plum, but just ease in enough to prevent him from passing you down the wall.

By making it look like it is going to be extra difficult for him to get a down the line past you, you can force him to cross court which is exactly what you want.

Now if he does go down the line and kills, then it's goodnight; if he goes down the line and leaves it up, then you will have to rely on quickness to get back and recover. But take my word for it — people who constantly cover for the down the line rollout are doing themselves a disservice because they are making 80 percent of the game more difficult for themselves.

2. Prepare for the Sunday shot.

Every player in the pros has a Sunday shot, his favorite that he is confident in executing. This is even truer if your opponent is under pressure, because the more he has to run for a return, the less time he is going to have to think about his options and the more certain you can be that he will go for the Sunday shot. Know them and cover for them. In a lot of cases your shotmaking before this can dictate the Sunday shot and you can react accordingly. Remember the key is not to get to the ball, it is to get to the ball ready to hit.

3. Analyze the swing.

It's easy for a beginner. Normally if the ball is out in front of a player he will tend to go cross court.

If the ball is behind him he will tend to go side wall front wall.

What fatigues most is the constant jerking of your body with stops and starts like that experienced by the one who plays up front. The one who waits has further to go, but does it in a smoother fashion, extending endurance in that game, and minimizing injuries.

- Another factor is to back out of the service box after the serve.

You should never stay in the box after you have served, or virtually never, and when you back out get as deep as you possibly can according to the type of serve used.

The big question is whether you should look at the ball. For years we have been advocating turning and looking sideways. With the slower ball and paddleball — where it came from — it's fine, but with the faster ball there is the **FLINCH FACTOR**.

You see the man swing, flinch at the thought of getting hit by the ball, so instinctively you stiffen then turn and try to pick up the ball as it comes past you. The whole thing looks like a kaleidoscopic blur. I have found that on the glass court it is best to watch the player momentarily to make sure he is not going to cut the ball off, then watch the spot on the front wall where you expect the ball to arrive, calling on three deciding factors and the serve which you used.

If you don't do it that way and you turn your eyes quickly you don't have a line on the ball, so you actually lose reaction time rather than gain it.

So don't ever watch your opponent hit the ball, wait up to the point that he is about to hit it — where he has committed his shot — then turn. You gain nothing by becoming an extra member of the audience watching HIM.

So to sum up alertness is the key. You want to think before you ever hit the ball where his likely return will be so that you are already programmed and have intentionally begun to move in that direction — flowing toward the spot where you will make contact with the ball. ●

So those are the three points to successful determination of where the likely return will be. Now we shall look at some examples.

- You hit a good drive serve to your opponent's backhand. A really good serve. You are proud of it and it could be an ace. What do you do . . . you stand and watch it.

Most players have a tendency to relax after a good serve because they immediately expect a weak return if they don't get the ace. That is something you shouldn't do because then your opponent has to shoot the ball and he is likely to go side wall front wall.

So instead of relaxing, take two steps forward and to the side where you expect the ball to go after side wall front wall and flow.

That's the one time when you want to be in front court because you have reduced his options to nothing — really with any degree of success he can't do anything else.

- We have discussed in previous articles that one of the purposes of the serve is to dictate the return.

For instance a Z serve to the backhand, if it is deep, will either result in a pop up in the air or a side wall front wall, so it's not real difficult to cover for those shots, unless you play the ostrich game and wait with your head in the sand until the ball is hit, in which case it will always become a struggle for you to get the ball and you will end up lifting every shot.

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Feeling Free

When You Settle For Reality

by Steve Strandemo

Books, magazine articles and clinics on racquetball tend to concentrate very closely on the right way to do things.

For example we will take the proper forehand swing apart, and put it back together again, stressing how important it is for all the parts to mesh perfectly. We never tire of reminding you of all the awful things that can happen to your shots if you do the smallest thing wrong.

And so it goes throughout the book or the hour, doing the same things to position, shot selection, and strategy, trying to get it all down "right" in the eyes of the instructor, until the student may well start to believe that the pros never take a bad swing, are always in perfect position and hit all their shots with awesome velocity and pinpoint accuracy.

No one can argue against the advantages of being perfect. And yet nobody is. Sure to be a good player you must be proficient in all the areas of the game. But there comes a point in the game, usually when you step through the door onto the court, when the ideal of perfection gives way, and reality takes over.

Pro racquetballers, the best players in the land, sometimes make real bloopers, awful ones, as bad as the first baseman who lets a pop fly hit him in the head, or the football punter who slips as he kicks and misses the ball completely.

Racquetball players do have an advantage, in that their bloopers are lost in the fast flow of the play. If a guy falls on his face, he's usually up again and making a shot before the crowd has time to laugh.

Real boners, of course, are rare at the tournament level, as rare as the truly perfect rally. Usually racquetball at this level goes on as a struggle somewhere between the real and the ideal. Perfect form is never out of the back of a good player's mind, but he doesn't stop to worry about form when he's bending himself into a pretzel to reach a ball, or getting out of the way of one.



Here the hitter, going for a forehand from the back court, has let himself get off balance at the point of contact. He took a good swing and followed through nicely, but lack of balance will cost him power and accuracy. At the time, at the pace of the game, he probably thought he was under perfect control. The defender is not in a good "ready" position; he needs to spread his stance and bend his knees.



The hitter here is in pretty good position, basically, and exhibits good form - with one exception. He probably, having hustled to cut off a low drive, to his right, isn't even aware that his off arm is thrown across his chest, impeding his swing. But because it is there, he has limited the freedom and potential power of his swing. The defender, meanwhile, is maintaining good center court position. The rally is still alive, in spite of the arm that got in the way.



Here the hitter is in center court, standing up too straight, and his off arm is in the way. The best shot here would be a hard drive down the left wall, but hitting it like that he could not have had much velocity on the shot. It may not have made much difference, though, since the defender is out of position to the right and the shot would have been a winner anyway. The defender's left arm is tucked in, avoiding the ball, and his feet, right together, show that he is frozen in place until the ball is past him. He'll have very little time to react.



The hitter apparently has gotten out of balance on his backhand follow through, though in fact he may have hit a pretty good shot. Neither player is in particularly terrible position; both are a little bit off balance. The defender's feet are too close together to allow him to move quickly to cover the shot.



Not only one, but sometimes both, players find themselves stuck in a back corner. They themselves might not be able to say how they got there; it's a fast game. The hitter has gotten off a backhand that was something less than perfect form, but very serviceable given the circumstances. He may have hit a winner, though he had no shoulder rotation and not much of a follow through, because the defender is pretty much at the hitter's mercy. He can't move at all until the hitter has completed his swing, and by then it looks like it'll be too late.



The hitter, bent from the waist, looks like he's put hands on knees to take a little breather. Actually he has pushed a drive down the left wall, or maybe gone for a pinch attempt in the left corner. He is not in position to get much velocity on a shot to the left, but he appears in good position to maintain an acceptable level of accuracy. The defender is in good center court position and should be able to cover easily any missed scoring attempt by the hitter.



The hitter appears to be in good offensive position to hit a backhand with velocity and accuracy, but because he is leaning over so much from the waist he won't be able to generate his potential velocity. He should be bent more at the knees, where so much power comes from. The defender is in a good defensive coverage position, with his eyes on the ball, knees bent and feet spread.

The hitter is up on one foot; he's off balance; there's no bend in his knees at all; there's no forceable follow through with either shoulders or legs. He may be accurate with this shot, but it will have very little velocity. The defender is in pretty good position, though he his knees could be farther apart for a more balanced stance, and his left arm need not be tucked into his chest.

That's the way it should be. The best form is good form that has become second nature to the player. A player who is preoccupied with form, like the old British redcoats who marched straight up into battle, lose some freedom of movement. You can't play a good game of fast racquetball without a certain amount of reckless abandon.

Actually players sometimes are surprised at the extent of the abandon with which they play. There is a marked difference between the game as it was actually played, and the way the players thought it was played. To prove it all you need is a camera, which freezes a split second in the break-neck pace of the play, frequently with startling results.

Players who can't remember being forced to the deep back corners look at themselves not only driven to the corners, but with their backs to the front wall. A player will swear that his off arm never got in the way of his swing, but the camera will catch him doing it three or four times a match.

The point is, he didn't know at the time that he was doing it; he may have been glad just to get his racquet on the ball. Is that bad form? Not at all. It's not perfect form, but it was the best possible form under the circumstances. He may even have gotten off a pretty good shot while wound up like a top.

The point is he wasn't worrying about how he looked. That is a good point to remember at all levels of the game.



Play the game the best way you know how, but don't concentrate on form at the expense of freedom. Be willing to "go for it," even if you miss and wind up looking a little foolish. You'll get another opportunity to look great in the next couple of seconds. Even the winner looks funny more often than he or she realizes. Those are the realities of the game.

The accompanying photos were taken during the course of actual practice matches. The players didn't know when the photos were being taken or from what angles. They were told only to go out and play to win.

There are no posed shots. What you see are some rather interesting moments in a good, fast, real game of racquetball. ●

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Back at You

by Jerry Hilecher

In this exclusive *National Racquetball* series top ranked pro, Jerry Hilecher, answers your questions on specific aspects of the game. Send questions to Hilecher % managing editor, *National Racquetball*, and one of the sports best teachers will bounce the answers back at you every month.



One of the dangers of returning corner shots is that the ball will hit the side wall, back wall and bounce right into you, jamming your shot.



In positioning yourself to return a corner shot stay close enough to the back wall so that you can reach over and touch it with your racquet to prevent the ball from getting behind you. Stay more than a racquet and arm's length away from the side wall, though, to prevent the ball from bouncing out too close to your body.

The Corner Shot

Question: Like most people, I guess, my backhand is the weakest aspect of my game. I don't have that much trouble with low, hard serves on that side; I've learned how to handle them pretty well. What really gives me fits, though, are those above-the-waist drives into my backhand corner during rallies. I always seem to end up in the wrong place to return them. How do you judge those kinds of shots?



As in all other situations on the court when returning corner shots, keep your eye on the ball. Because you will not have a full range of motion, it is easy for your stroke to miss the ball when it is in a corner.

Answer: The corners are everyone's nemesis for several reasons. When you are returning a shot from a corner, especially your backhand corner, it's often hard to determine what the ball is going to do. For one thing you are usually moving backwards and to your weak side. Then, too, the rebound possibilities increase. Will the ball hit the side wall or back wall first? Will it hit two walls and stay in the corner or only one wall and bounce out. Will it come off the walls hard or skim them and drop? For all racquetball shots there is an ideal position to be in relation to the ball. You want to be just the right distance and contact it at just the right height. But the variety of angles at which a ball can approach the corner and the variety of directions it can take after it leaves make it extremely difficult to position yourself correctly. The solution is to assume an optimum position in relation to all the different possibilities just as you assume center court as the optimum position for most other situations during a game. Basically there are two things to watch out for when returning a corner shot. The first is getting too close to the side wall so that if the ball hits the side wall and then the back wall, it will bounce out into you and you will get jammed up without room to swing. Stay more than a racquet's length away from the side wall to avoid this, and position yourself close enough to the back wall so that you can reach over and touch it with your racquet. The other possible danger is that the ball will hit the back wall and bounce way out along the side wall without ever touching it. If this happens, you will just have to be quick and jump out to reach it. You can't get too far from the back wall anticipating this kind of rebound or you run the risk of letting the ball get behind you.



When returning shots that do not contact the side wall, you must jump out quickly from your position in the corner because these will usually rebound far down the side wall.

Unless you are set and have a good shot, your return should be to the ceiling. A good drill might be to have a

friend hit to your backhand corner from different angles so that you can determine the best position and get used to it. ●

Doubles Talk

Don't Just Think It — Say It

by Ray Helmcamp



Ray Helmcamp, second from right, yells "hard" to his partner, Dennis Stewart, after Ray sees their opponents rushing front court.

Simply stated verbal communication between doubles partners before during, and after a match can lead to better doubles play and ultimately may erase any deficit in shot making ability.

Before the Match

By communication before a match I am not talking about the usual "Hi, how are you? What court are we playing on?" routine. Rather the communication should include a review of the game plan taking into account your opponents' strengths and weaknesses, as well as those of you and your partner. For example: Against a righty-lefty combination, you should verbally reinforce the serve down the middle *before the match* so as not to be 12 points down and then realize with shocking insight, that the serve down the middle is the best serve to use.

Reviewing the game plan verbally allows your team to become conscious of the opponents' strengths and weaknesses and you can alter your play accordingly.

Verbal communication before a match should definitely include the actual words to be used as communicative devices during the match. My partner and I use one word statements for simplification. Words such as *mine*, *yours*, *right*, *left*, *hard*, *soft*, *high*, *shoot*, *wall*, etc. are graphically sufficient and leave little room for error.

During the Match

Verbal communication should pervade throughout the match. Most teams utilize time outs and between game periods to effectively review their game strategy, but more often than not the communication stops there. Many teams act as if communication between partners during a rally is taboo. As a result their game may suffer.

When to say what depends, of course, on the specific game situation. Since both my partner and I are righties, and since my partner plays the left side, a ceiling ball down the middle of the court can be more effectively taken by my partner, who can use his forehand. As soon as I perceive that our opponents' shot is a ceiling ball down the middle of the court, I shout *yours* to my partner. Likewise, as soon as my partner perceives the ceiling ball down the middle, he shouts *mine*. At any rate at least one of us and most of the time both, will verbally communicate whose shot it is by the words *yours* or *mine*.

Consider another situation. When our opponent presents us with a *dying quail* in the midcourt area, we communicate the *corner* that will produce the likely kill shot with no rekill. If our right sided opponent is lagging deep, I will yell *right* as my partner readies to hit. Similarly if our left sided opponent is behind my partner, I will yell *left* to allow my partner the knowledge that the left corner shot, either straight kill or pinch, is the best shot to take.

If our opponent's shot caroms off the back wall and presents for us a front court shot, I will yell *hard* to my partner if both opponents rush front court or *soft* if one or both opponents stay back. Both opponents deep in front court will

Dennis Steward, left, calls out "left" to let his partner know that he should shoot to the left front corner because their opponent in the dark shirt has lagged behind in back court.



more than likely not be able to handle a *hard* kill or pass shot. On the other hand opponents in deep back court will not react quickly enough to retrieve a *soft* front wall shot.

At times my partner will have a fairly good set-up at $\frac{3}{4}$ court. However our opponents are often in excellent center court position for a return shot and rekill. In that case I'll yell *high* and alert my partner to the necessity of hitting a ceiling ball to get our opponents out of center court.

My partner and I have tried new words recently and to our satisfaction, have reaped the benefits: In one case we were playing a team in which the left sided player almost always played around his backhand in favor of his forehand which was more than adequate. In other words his backhand was horrendous, but he was extremely adept with his forehand shot from left back court. Since we were not used to our opponents forehand "*screaming bullets*" from left back court, we had to adjust. Whenever I saw that he would curl around and shoot with his forehand, I yelled the word *forehand* to my partner. We would then move a few steps closer to the front wall and be in a much better position to rekill. Also whenever our opponent had to shoot with his backhand, I would yell *backhand* to alert my partner that more often than not, the resulting shot by our opponent would be a "*plum*" off the front wall.

In another match our opponents had trouble returning our midcourt around-the-wall and Z shots. They had great difficulty returning the shot to the front wall. Whenever I perceived this, I would yell *trouble*, meaning that they were likely to have problems with the shot. We were then alert to "*plums*" off the front wall and also missed or ricocheted shots on the fly which did not make the front wall but in which we could easily dodge so as to avoid being hit.

Needless to say we hit a lot of appropriate shots to their weaknesses, and they played right into our game plan. The significant aspect here is that the communication was developed during the match and not before and took into account one of our opponent's strengths and weaknesses. We became aware of the strength and the weakness of that one player and adjusted our game plan accordingly.

I think at this time it is appropriate to talk about "*negative communication*." *Never, never put down your partner, either his shot or his shot selection.* If he skips a kill shot from midcourt, don't say a word. He's experiencing enough anguish as it is. Whenever he makes a mistake, *let it ride*. That, in effect, is a form of reinforcement in itself. Remember if your partner makes a mistake, *silence is golden*. On the other hand, if he rolls out a backhand from 35 feet, let him hear you. A simple "*Good shot*" or "*Way to shoot, partner*" is enough to let him know you are behind him. The above is just basic behavior modification; you are reinforcing the positive and not the negative.

After Match

A great emphasis should be put on a post match review. You and your partner should verbally communicate after the match the following: Did the game plan work? If not then why? Did you make any modifications during the match? If so what? In essence you need to discuss what went right or what went wrong. A review of your match strengths will build your confidence and allow you to use those strengths at the next appropriate time. A review of your match weaknesses and/or mistakes will allow you to learn from them and you may not duplicate them when presented with the same match situation.

The positive effects of verbal communication are many. First of all it relieves the pressure of decision making, of who will hit the shot and what shot he will hit. Since the decision is made at the earliest moment, the hitter is allowed "*extra time*" to set up for and develop the shot. This, in effect, eliminates court confusion. Once verbal communication is made, there is simply no room for error. Verbal communication also keeps you mentally alert. You are not as easily lulled into complacency, especially on long ceiling rallies. Verbal communication tends to "*psyche your team up while psyching your opponents out*." It reinforces a "*court closeness*" or a "*team togetherness*" concept. Verbal communication has helped many a lower rank team defeat a higher ranked team with greater shot making ability.

In summation verbal communication between doubles partners is an extremely effective tool to eliminate "*court confusion*" and can remove many advantages your opponents may otherwise possess. Best of luck in your doubles play and *keep communicating*. ●

APRO Teaches . . . Lessons for Two Beginners

Getting Set for Forehands and Backhands

Reprinted from Contemporary Racquetball with permission of Contemporary Books, Inc., Chicago. Copyright© 1978 by Chuck Sheftel and Arthur Shay. The American Professional Racquetball Organization, which provides a feature each month in *National Racquetball*, is devoting its space to excerpts from the book APRO President Chuck Sheftel wrote with *National Racquetball* photographer, Arthur Shay. This one-hour drill and play suggestion is part of a series of lessons two beginners can try on their own.



Seventh lesson

1. Briefly review the backhand (2 minutes)
2. Forehand or backhand? (8 minutes)
3. Drills
 - a. Across and hit (15 minutes)
 - b. Mandatory forehand and backhand (15 minutes)
4. Play (15 minutes)
5. Wrap-up (5 minutes)

You should, of course, still be warming up before entering the court, but now you and your partner should both hit some balls around the court to loosen up. If you're going to play much racquetball, you will probably work out your own regimen of stretches, jogging in place, wall-pushing and warm-up practice of various shots on court.

Review backhand

A short, brisk review of the backhand in action: favor the backhand stroke as you begin the hour with your partner. Try some from deep court, some at mid court and some up front near the left hand corner.

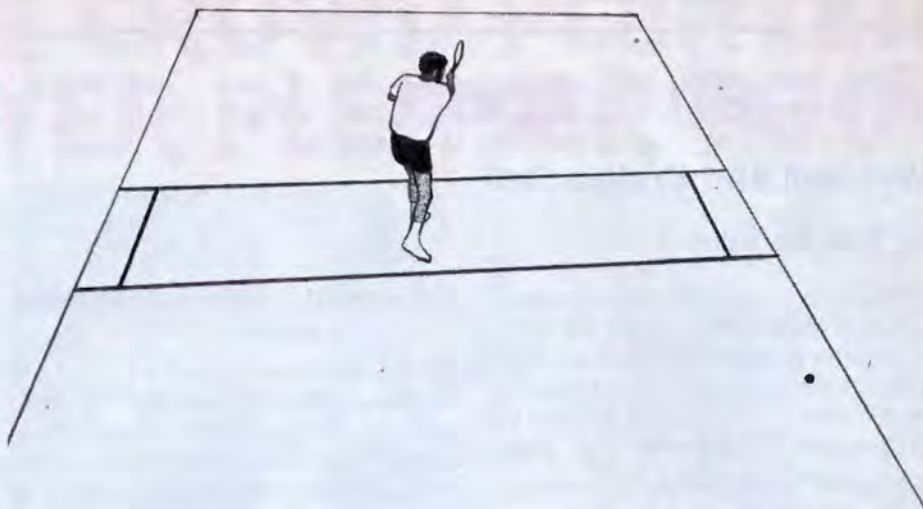
Forehand or backhand?

You have been "thinking" backhand. It's now time to return the backhand to perspective — back into your basic game where it will handle about 20 percent of the strokes made during your racquetball career.

The name of this exercise is decisions. You and your partner feed each other balls right through or near center court, and you must decide quickly whether to take them with your backhand or forehand. Your choice will depend in part on the distance you must travel to get back to your defensive headquarters — the center court position (at the taped "X" four feet back of the short line in mid court or in that six foot imaginary circle).

Make your backhand-forehand decision on the basis of the number of steps you'll have to take *after* you make your shot. It's somewhat like instant chess, planning ahead on the court.

This is the forehand part of forehand-backhand drill, the purpose of which is to give your playing partner practice on both sides of the court.



Drills

Across and hit

This is a one person drill, but both of you can do it at the same time, starting from opposite sides of the court.

Stand about six feet back of the short line, along the right hand wall. Drop the ball and hit it with your forehand so that it returns to you about two steps to the left. You must now hit the ball again, backhand or forehand, to the front wall so that the ball comes back a step or two to your left again. The idea is to work your way across the court. Then instead of getting angry with yourself for your misses, start back from left to right. Try not to collide with your partner.

You will begin to appreciate what control can do for you with this exercise.

Mandatory forehand and backhand

In this exercise you start to play. If you receive the serve with your forehand, you must hit your next shot with your backhand, then alternate. This will force you to run and get set for forehands and backhands under game conditions, the kinds you'll run into as you continue in racquetball.

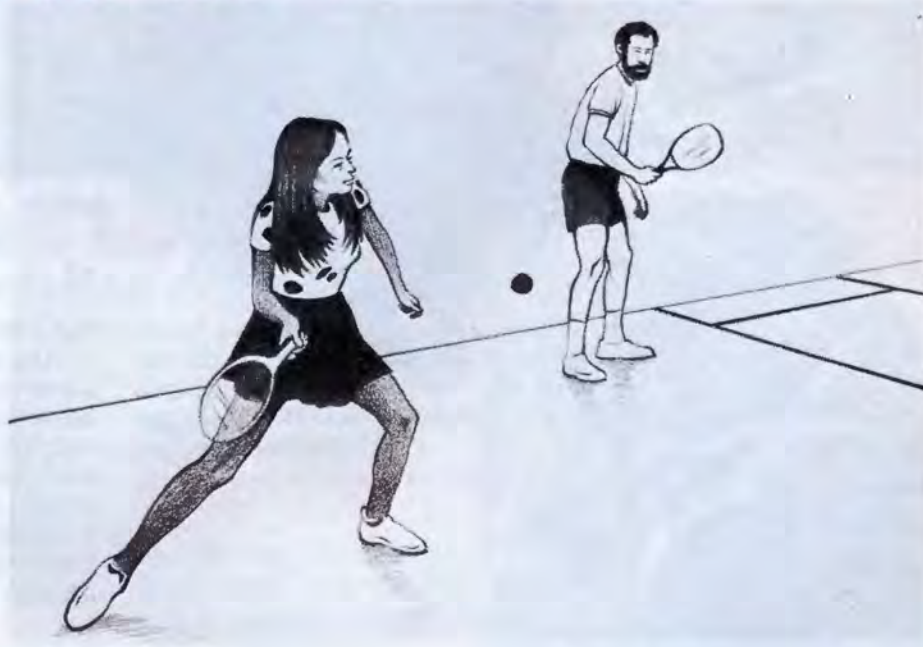
Play

By now you should be able to incorporate backhands and forehands into your game, get into good defensive position and place the ball fairly close to your target. Your lob serve should cause your opponent some concern along the wall and your drive should be picking up steam as you gain confidence.

You should know when to wait for the ball to come down so that you can powder it, and when to start a mad charge towards the front wall to retrieve a dying near kill your opponent has executed. In short you're beginning to play the game.



With almost everything working well the player has let the ball arrive a little too close to her body, crowding her swing somewhat. Had she moved several inches straight back, towards the side wall, everything would have been perfect.



Wrap-up

Another debriefing session in which you and your partner constructively criticize each other's style of play, shortcomings, and achievements. If there's an empty court available — no charge is made at most clubs for a

second hour on an empty court — you might want to work on these criticisms or just play and work out your problems during the game. If you do this, don't get so deeply involved in the game that you can't stop to reenact a good or bad play — always strive to improve. ●

Ask an Expert . . .

Wet Ball and Broken Ball

by Dan Bertolucci

At the April pro tour stop in New Haven, CT, two areas which raised some questions pertained to (1) a wet ball and (2) a broken ball. In this column I hope to clarify these areas for both the players and the referees.

Situation 1: What happens when the ball, after being served, reacts erratically off the front wall — and subsequently off the floor — due to it being unintentionally wet and making it impossible for the receiver to return the ball?

Correct call — Hinder ball resulting in a replay of the point

One question arising as a consequence of this call is *"Why is this wet ball situation different from one in which either during a rally or on a serve the ball hits a wet spot on the floor and zooms out of reach of anyone?"* The resulting call in *that* situation is "No hinder," and, of course, no replay. It is just one of the breaks of the game. The other question is *"How is this situation*

different from one in which a server intentionally makes a ball wet?" The resulting call in *that* case would be "Sideout."

The tournament incident I've described is different from either of the other two cases. (1) The server didn't purposely get the ball wet and (2) The ball's erratic behavior began as it left the wall, as opposed to acting strangely after it hit a wet spot on the floor. In the tournament situation described the referee made a judgement call, determining that the ball was wet from the time it was served.

Situation 2: What happens when a ball is struck by an opponent after a volley ends awarding a point (and, in this instance, game point), and as the loser strikes the ball a few times, the ball breaks?

Correct call — Game point awarded, no replay, game terminated

When does a point get replayed because of a broken ball? As stated in Rule 4.9 (g) broken ball *"If there is any suspicion that the ball has broken during the serve or during a rally, play shall continue until the end of the rally. The referee or any player may request the ball be examined. If the referee decides the ball is broken or otherwise defective, a new ball shall be put into play and the rally replayed."* The key is that the ball must be examined immediately after the rally. In order to get a "replay" call the loser in this game of the New Haven tournament should have inspected the ball *before* he hit it after the point was awarded. The referee determined that it was the player's hitting the ball after the game that caused the ball to break. ●

Davey Bledsoe checks the ball for a possible break immediately after the rally, as the rule requires.



Dan Bertolucci, USRA associate coordinator and official pro tour referee, will answer your questions about rules and calls if you write him at the USRA, 4101 Dempster, Skokie, IL 60076.

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Place Black Ball into Green Square

Diagrams Make Court Perfect for Practice

by Lois Noack



At first glance it would seem as if modern art had invaded the Franklin Racquet Club in Southfield, MI.

Colored squares and rectangles cover the front wall and giant red, blue and green alphabet blocks decorate the service zone.

But abstract artists have not taken over — unless it is to play the game. This court was designed to provide instruction.

The concept of visual aids on the court isn't new. But Jim Easterling, 27-year-old racquetball director at the tennis-racquetball center, wanted "a permanent installation to assist players at all levels of ability."

"I wanted to create an opportunity for players to develop different aspects of their games — at their own pace and by themselves," says Easterling, who — as a member of the American Professional Racquetball Organization — is always looking for new ways to make it easier for players to get better at the game.

The student starts out by looking at a dozen or so diagrams displayed outside the door of the court, which is available at the same rates as the club charges for its 19 other courts. The easy to follow instructions, with drawings, are color coded to the target areas in the court itself, so a player can study a particular serve or shot — then proceed to execute the suggested drills.

Within a three-foot square on each side of the door there are simple drawings and accompanying typed explanations carefully grouped into *Beginner*, *Intermediate* and *Advanced* categories. For example a section on the drive serve from a middle position would look like this:

Intermediate

Position B — Drive Serves

Target areas for this serve are just to the right or left of center court. By hitting the ball two and a half feet from the floor, the ball is able to carry past the short line, and within two feet of the left or right wall.

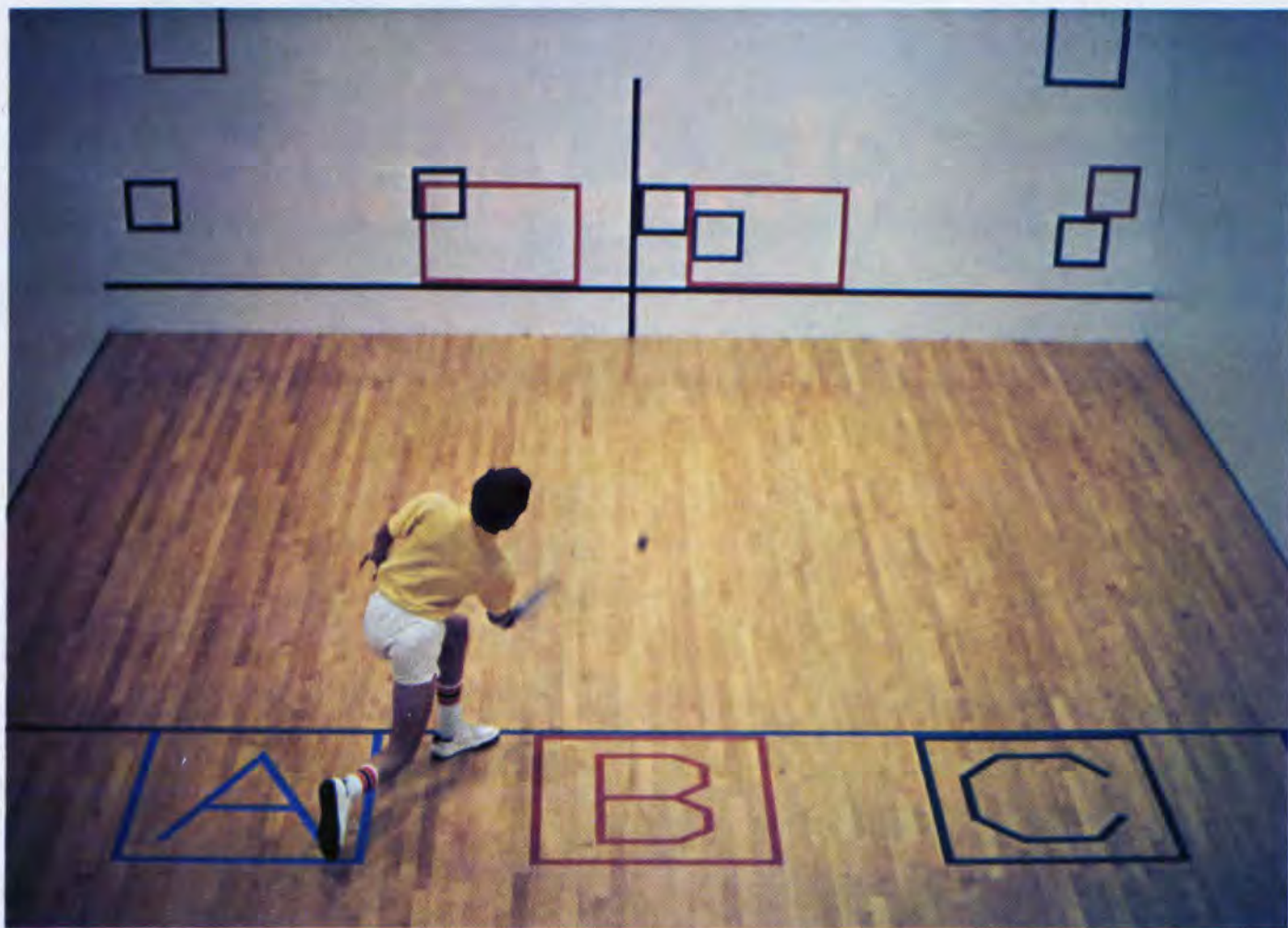
As soon as it was complete, Club players started using the court.

Rhea Shaefer, who had been playing racquetball for a little over a year, says the court was "confusing at first. I felt I was learning patience and self-discipline more than skills. But after a certain point I felt the shots I worked on seemed to become almost automatic when I tried them in a game situation. That was very exciting!"

One of the leading features of the court is its "do-it-yourself" approach. And when the drills are combined with the presence of an instructor, even more skill development is possible.

"There is nothing as complete as instructing a player on a court with visible points on the floor and walls to illustrate how well the person is hitting the target areas," says Joyce Weckstein, Detroit area instructor and author of the paperback *Racquetball*





for Women. "Also it encourages the player to follow the entire shot to make sure the desired effect is achieved when the ball ultimately lands. Good instruction, plus practice on this court, is certainly the finest way I know to develop a well rounded game."

Seasoned tournament players like the court, too.

Gordon Kelly, a top Michigan player and an avid promoter and director of his own junior racquetball programs in Grand Rapids, thinks the court can help players of varying abilities. "It would depend on the instructor's teaching style as to how he could utilize the court with a student. But I think it is exceptionally good for the ready beginner to start the serve on a court where there is a visible point to hit. Then one could gradually progress into the more intermediate shots and

use the court later to develop kill shots and straight in kills. Even the best pro players at times need the kind of structured routine made possible by hitting a shot a thousand times at a specific area of the court."

Kelly uses the tape technique himself. "I thought I was hitting low, but when I checked my shots against the 13 inch line, I was hitting two inches above the tape."

Preparing a diagrammed practice court is inexpensive. After it is established that there is a court available for this purpose, it takes only about a \$50 supply of tape and \$25 to \$30 in plexiglass (to protect the instruction sheets outside the court).

Easterling's enthusiasm for his design was undaunted by the 50 to 60 hours he spent on its construction. "It's something one person can do by himself except for the moments when a second person is needed to hold the ladder for the highest points of the front wall."

The court won't make pros out of beginners overnight, but for most players it's a step in the right direction.

That old admonition, "Practice, Practice, Practice," is as apropos as it ever was, and instruction courts are a good place to do just that. ●

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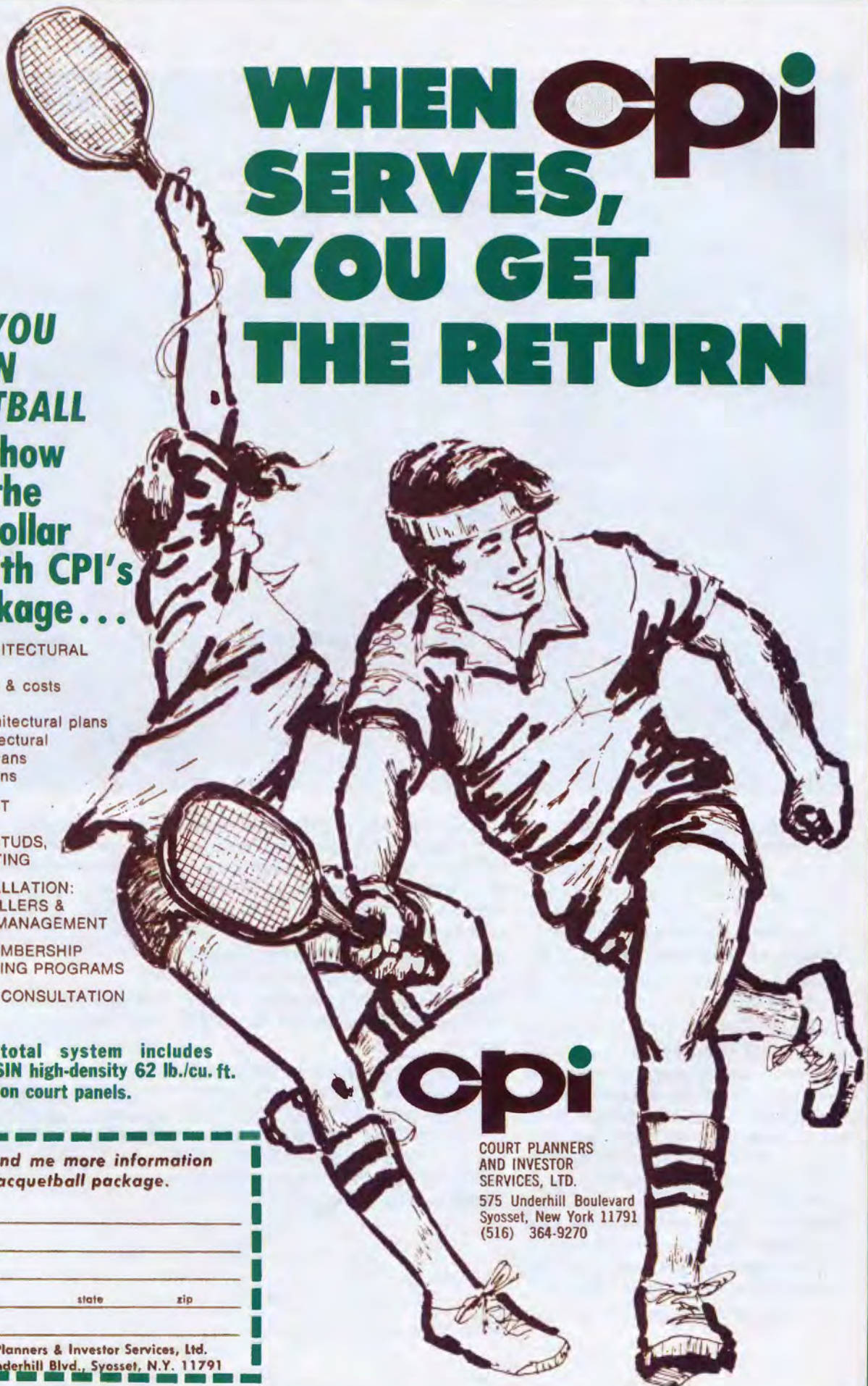
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Women In Racquetball



Carol Brusslan

The Marilyn Headline

"The locker room is a serious issue. It has to do with women's access to this profession. You have to get into the locker room to get your after-game stories."

Le Anne Schreiber, the 33-year-old woman who became *New York Times* sports editor last fall, was talking with Helene Elliott, *Chicago Sun-Times* sports writer, at a panel sponsored by Northwestern University's Program on Women.

When Elliott, who's 22, said she'd been "thrown out and locked out" of dressing rooms, most recently after a Blackhawk hockey game, Schreiber reported that the Islanders hockey team simply "bought matching white terry robes — it's really a minor inconvenience to players."

"You put a woman on the beat and it's taken care of."

It's a matter of attitudes, the women agreed. When men's attitudes change, women's opportunities improve.

The attitude of the *New York Times'* sports staff is "professional," Schreiber said.

"If I make their work better, they judge me a good editor. It's secondary that I'm a young woman among 55 older men."

Schreiber switched from writing about international politics to sports when *Time* magazine assigned her to singlehandedly cover the 1976 Montreal Olympics. She thinks the *New York Times* hired her because "they thought I could relate to my subject in a dispassionate way — that I could combat a kind of fan relationship that sports writers can develop toward their subjects."

The *New York Times* top management demonstrated their faith in Schreiber by putting her in charge of a department with a three million dollar budget and 60 employees — the department that's the main battleground in the New York City circulation war.

One *Times* competitor showed a less enlightened attitude over the right of women to report on sports.

The rival *Daily News*, took a reporter off another beat and sent her to the Yankee locker room the day that women entered the sanctuary for the first time. Then the copy desk topped her story with a headline that — in all ways — made journalistic history as a giant step backwards for equal opportunity.

The headline read: "Our Gal Marilyn Catches Reggie Jackson with His Pants Down."

Reggie Jackson was the subject of a headline that set back the women's sports writers' cause.



— photo courtesy New York Yankees

How to Get the Most from Clinics

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The More the Merrier — and the More You Learn

How to Get the Most from a Clinic



Jean
Oeschger

by Jean Oeschger

Group instruction, as opposed to private lessons, is becoming more and more popular for two reasons: teaching pros find they can reach more students in the same period of time; and students find the group is a practical and economical way of learning basic racquetball skills. One on one private instruction can be valuable when you are getting into strategy, court position, coverage and game plans. But the group clinic is good for learning your basic forehand and backhand drives, ceiling balls, passes, kills and backwall play. No matter how good a retriever and runner you are on the court, it will never compensate for weak and inconsistent strokes.

Just what constitutes a group lesson? Well it isn't one in which the instructor works for a few minutes with one student while the others wait their turn. That's essentially only a series of interrupted private lessons.

In a good group situation each student is active — whether hitting, tossing or dropping balls or working on drills. The instructor can then move among the group making individual suggestions and corrections where needed.

To get the most out of a racquetball clinic, keep the following tips in mind:

HAVE CONFIDENCE in the group theory. You can learn a lot from it if you go in with an open mind.

PREPARE YOURSELF for the clinic. It's difficult to go into the court cold turkey without some understanding of what you're getting into. Possibly you have played before and know what to expect. In case you haven't, it might be beneficial to visit a local racquetball club and watch people play and get an idea of what you'll be doing. Familiarize yourself with the game before the lesson by reading the rules, etiquette, terminology and

court markings. If you know the terminology, it will help you understand what the instructor is saying; you don't want the instructor to waste valuable court time on what could be learned outside the court.

PAY ATTENTION to what the instructor does. Students have a tendency to watch the ball so much that when an instructor is demonstrating the forehand, they neglect to watch the instructor's footwork, backswing, contact point and follow through. Students also tend to watch the instructor's lips when he or she is talking during a demonstration. Use your eyes to observe the demonstration and your ears to listen to the explanation.

MEET PLAYERS of your ability who are possibly looking for games themselves. A lot of people are shy when it comes to asking someone to play because they think that person is too good for them. In a clinic players are all on the same general level.

MAKE SURE YOU CAN SEE what's going on. It is common in large groups that if a person is shy he or she may be standing behind another student and the visual demonstration may be blocked out. If you can't see, move to a place where your view is unobstructed.

IF YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND SOMETHING, SAY SO. Always ask for clarification if you don't understand something. Chances are you may not be the only one with a question, so you may be clearing up some questions for other group students. There are no "stupid" questions! This also helps the instructor know whether or not the presentation is clear.

FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS and forget all previous instructions. Previous instruction may not have worked for you, and the clinic may provide a different approach that will hit home.

"I Do This in Huge Numbers"

WATCH YOUR FELLOW

STUDENTS and learn from their mistakes, comments and questions. PRACTICE your new skills as often as you can so you are ready to move on to the next level. Practicing by yourself for one hour is equivalent to 10 hours of playing with a friend. If you don't practice to make the necessary changes in your strokes, you will probably end up more frustrated than before you began the clinic.

My clinics usually begin with a series of warm-up and loosening exercises to get the body ready and to relax students who might be a little apprehensive. After a quick overall explanation of the game itself I demonstrate a stroke, usually starting with a forehand.

Then comes a question and answer period. Next each person hits five to 10 forehands to the front wall while I pick out one or two ways he or she can improve. Then we break up (usually two per court) to practice the forehand. I stop at each court and give some brief pointers to each person. Then we regroup into one court and each person hits some forehands again as I comment. Sometimes I open up the critique to any person in the group. If someone in the group can spot what a person is doing incorrectly, it helps the student to be more aware of that particular problem. At this point we may go into the backhand or just have general play for half an hour, depending on our allotted clinic time. If the clinic is set up for successive weeks, I begin the following clinic with a recap of the previous week.

You'll probably come across a similar program at your own club's clinics.

So the next time you see signups for group lessons, don't hesitate. Get involved, learn to play better and have a good time making new racquetball friends.

—J.D. Cromie photos



Jean Oeschger gets her San Francisco Bay area players to relax as they reach for their toes.



Four out of seven of these students are following their teacher's advice to focus attention on her feet, not her face.



Each student comes to the head of the class.



The teacher makes her court rounds.

Back to the Gym Class



Jean Oeschger — who spent the last year on a sail boat off Santa Cruz — and Joyce Weckstein — psychiatrist's wife and mother of three who lives in a colonial house in a Detroit suburb — are both so enthused about racquetball they want to share the joys of the game with more people. A lot more people.

That's why they both believe in group lessons. Weckstein, who teaches at the Franklin Racquet Club in Southfield and at Detroit's Jewish Community Center, has developed a clinic plan that she's used around the country to teach racquetball basics to 20 to 40 beginners at a time.

"I do this in huge numbers," says Weckstein, remembering how she taught P.E. classes in Detroit's public schools. "I come into a club — mainly to get the women interested and help the owner fill those daytime hours. I stress fun and safety — I even require eyeguards. I put 20 to 40 people in one court, lining them up along the wall. I introduce the strokes, then divide players into courts — two each — and go from court to court showing players what they should be doing."

Women who enrolled in recent hour and a half Weckstein clinics in Indiana, Iowa and North Dakota also received a week of free supervised round robin play and a copy of Joyce Weckstein's *Racquetball for Women*, a paperback volume dedicated to "a racquetball woman . . . a totally involved woman who is a 'mover' in anything she undertakes; and she undertakes all because she is physically and mentally fit from playing racquetball."

Playing Tip Number 17

Your first time in the racquetball court you were impressed with how good it felt just to move around. But it wasn't long before you discovered you have to move with a purpose.

Pro Jean Sauser and Photographer Arthur Shay devote their fourth chapter of *Inside Racquetball for Women* to the body movements that put you in position to hit winners.

This tip is one of *National Racquetball's* excerpts from the best selling volume, printed with permission of Contemporary Books and available in paperback and hard cover at pro shops and sporting goods stores around the country.



Mistake: **Running Underneath the Ball**

If you stay directly underneath the ball when you move back to hit it, you will be off balance during your stroke, adding to the woes of your game. When you hit the ball from underneath you will often find yourself falling into the back wall or becoming otherwise disoriented – and easy prey for a good opponent.





**Correction:
Wait for Ball**

Take a side view when addressing most of your shots. Think of yourself as a baseball batter. The batter waits for the ball to come alongside before swinging. After a good swing, with a step into the ball – good footwork is assumed by now – you are ready to move into an effective ready or running position.

To practice rotate your body into a good sideways position and drop the ball as shown, swinging at it with sidearm motion, time and again, until you feel confident that you can get out from underneath in plenty of time on most shots.



Who's Playing Racquetball?

Barbara Faulkenberry: Air Force Cadet

Barbara Faulkenberry was a cadet fourth class as a '78-79 freshman at the U.S. Air Force Academy near Colorado Springs, but on the racquetball court she's first class.

She is, in fact, the only cadet out of about 4,400 at the military university who is in active competition on the racquetball circuit.

Faulkenberry, from Clearwater, FL, narrowed her final college choices last year to racquetball-oriented Memphis State and the academy, which didn't even offer racquetball as an intramural sport.

She says she "applied first just to see if I could get in and also because I liked the athletic program. I felt I would still have the opportunity to be competitive even if I was out of the circuit for four years."

Coming to the academy hasn't kept her out of circuit, though.

"The academy has been absolutely super in providing me an opportunity to develop my racquetball game. I've been provided court time on a daily basis and under Captain John Blecher's coaching my game is improving. Even though we don't have a racquetball team, per se, the athletic department has sent me to several major tournaments as a representative of the academy."

She's been a great representative earning, among other titles, current Women's State Champion for Colorado and winner of the Woman's Number One Singles at the first USRA Intercollegiate Nationals.

Faulkenberry's day is different from ordinary college students. It begins with 6:30 reveille, followed by required breakfast, four hours of classes, a march to lunch which she eats with the entire academy in an enormous dining hall, three more hours of classes and then

The Colorado Champion smashes a forehand shot to the corner of one of the academy's 30 courts.



racquetball, followed by the required parade training and drill, including manual of arms. Sundays through Thursdays there's obligatory studying with taps at 11 p.m.

Faulkenberry, who will become a second lieutenant when she graduates, began playing racquetball five years ago at the YMCA courts in Clearwater, where she fell victim to a rule which allowed more experienced players to preempt a court from anyone under 18.

"I got kicked off a lot," she remembers. After about three years' experience, though, nobody kicked her off the court.

"Right now," Blecher says, "Faulkenberry is the best cadet I've seen play. She's the franchise of the academy."

She may also be one of the reasons racquetball was added in spring to the academy intramural program.

— Staff Sergeant Al Ackerson

Cadet Fourth Class Barbara Faulkenberry, right, stands at attention during parade training.



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

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- Water is the medium for virtually all the body's chemistry. It's used by your body constantly, whether you're working hard or just relaxing.

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- Water controls body temperature through perspiration. You perspire to some degree, although you're not always aware of it. Each day your skin loses moisture equal to about two cups of water, even if you work in a sedentary job.

- Water is especially important to your body when you play warm weather sports. During long periods of exercise water intake minimizes dehydration that can result from sweating. It reduces stress on your circulatory system, and it helps your blood carry energy-providing carbohydrates to your body's cells.

- Water is a lubricant preventing friction between your body's joints and muscles, the same way oil prevents friction between machinery parts. During manual labor your body is stretched, twisted and bent in many ways that wouldn't be possible if water weren't present in your body cells.

- Greater water intake is important during illness as it helps regulate your body temperature and control fever.

WATER loss is greater during hot weather because your body perspires more than usual in an effort to keep cool. Maintaining a proper WATER balance will help regulate your body's temperature and prevent overheating.



If you'd like a copy of the poster, write to
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Letters

The Best In Bangor

Dear Mr. Kendler:

On April 27, 28 and 29, we held our first 1979 Holiday Racquetball Classic and it was a great tournament! It was exciting to see the enthusiasm that racquetball has created throughout the country.

I wish to compliment you and your staff for working with Kevin York as the USRA Chairman for the state of Maine. Kevin and his two assistant directors, Danny Sullivan and Davey Travis, did an outstanding job in the area of leadership, organization and direction regarding our tournament. Every event was on time or ahead of schedule and their cooperation and professional attitude made this possible.

Keith Mahaney
Bangor, ME

Special Meaning

Dear Bob [Kendler]:

I can't tell you how much I enjoyed meeting you at Dick Squires' club in New Haven. The interview you gave me is super, and I must admit that I learned a great deal from it. I quoted you in several places in our June issue of *Tennis and Fashion*.

It's rare to meet an individual like you who really believes in a sport, and who goes all out to make it successful as you have done. It's very exciting to see young people such as Rita Hoff, for example, with such marvelously developed skills and professionalism in their field. Racquetball will always mean something special to me after all that I learned last week!

Alison Beyea
New York, NY

Ready for Another

Dear Bob:

The First Annual Robert W. Kendler Racquetball Classic was a resounding success! Certainly working with such "professionals" as Joe Ardito, Terry Fancher and Dan Bertolucci was, indeed, most enjoyable.

I want to thank the USRA, Leach and Seamco for help in underwriting the cost of the banquet of Wednesday night. Everyone present seemed to be having a real "ball," and the social side of racquetball, in my opinion, should be given more emphasis at these tournaments.

I also want to thank you for selecting our club as the site for the event bearing your name.

We did the best job we could. Everyone seemed to be having a good time and, after all, isn't that really the "bottom line?"

Hopefully you will give careful consideration to the Downtown Racquet Club when you decide to bring the prestigious Nationals east sometime in the near future. I promise we will be ready for you.

Again thanks to you, the NRC, Colgate, Seamco and Leach. We thoroughly enjoyed working with all of you.

Dick Squires
New Haven, CT

What's a Lifetime?

Dear Mr. Leve:

I enclose \$12 for a year's subscription, but I do not understand the solicitation for a \$200 lifetime subscription. What if the magazine folds after five years?

J. Carter Fahy
Hampton, NH

The lifetime box on the subscription form refers more to the USRA, for which National Racquetball is the official publication, than to the magazine. But the chances are the magazine will be around for a while, since it's been gaining advertisers and readers at a steady pace since it was founded in 1972. ED

Equal, But Not Separate

Dear Carol [Brusslan]:

We appreciated your printing the article about Ellen Kurland and the Rochester YWCA. We would like people to know, however, that there is NOT a "YMCA portion" of our building. All the court time and space is available to both organizations at all times. Our building is shared in all the recreational areas along with the expenses for these areas. Women enjoy the facilities on an equal basis with the men.

YWCA Program Staff
Rochester, MN

Winning with Steve

Dear National Racquetball:

I would like to thank you and author Steve Strandemo for the fine article, "Match Play Tactics," which appeared in your magazine in December, 1978.

Although just a beginner at racquetball I decided to enter a local tournament which was held at the Court Clubs, Colonie, NY, and not having any idea on how to get ready for a Friday to Sunday event I decided to follow Steve Strandemo's day to day program for getting ready for a tournament.

I won the novice division, and in five matches I didn't lose a game. I feel that a lot of credit goes to Steve and his fine article. I was still in shape for the final match, just as I was for my first match. At the age of 34 and playing men much younger (18, etc.) being ready to play was a big factor in my win. Thank you.

Philip J. Bocketti
Troy, NY



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SPALDING

New Generation Coming



Although Marty Hogan successfully defended his National professional championship, the second place finish by Mike Yellen and the National amateur title won by Bobby Bolan point to the future as holding a definite threat to his domain.

Both Yellen and Bolan are graduates of racquetball's Class of '77, the second year of the USRA's National Junior program, and the first truly major season of that effort.

Ironically neither Bolan nor Yellen won the 17 and Under title at that National Juniors — Larry Meyers, now ranked in the top 25 professionally, did. The point is that these players represent the newest wave of talent emerging on tour. And they will be better than the last group.

Not that Brumfield, Serot, Keeley, Strandemo, Hilecher, et. al., have not been stalwarts of the game. Brumfield's records will stand for years and the others have had and continue in fine careers.

But the younger generation, like all new generations in sports, has the advantage of drawing on the experience of the older group, and they have learned their lessons well.

Take Yellen for example. Yet to reach age 20 he has still to win his first professional tournament, or a major amateur tournament, for that matter. But he's ranked in the men's top four, and only Hogan stands between him and championships.

It's folly to believe that Yellen is unable to attain the skill level of Hogan, if he puts his mind and body to the task. He has proven the better player against all but Marty, and by Hogan's own admission is the only current tour regular who worries him.

Yellen's game is solid, his lifestyle is clean and his mind sharp. As his confidence and experience expand, he will become even tougher.

Bolan, although not as mature mentally as Yellen, probably has a better arsenal of shots. His stringbean build allows a point of impact snap on his shots that make most people shake in amazement as the ball blisters by an opponent for another ace.

Bobby has not accomplished what Yellen has in terms of professional success, but he has accomplished more by winning the brutally difficult amateur title, going through 235 players enroute. In fact Bolan is the only top seed to ever take that tournament.

Not far behind Yellen, Bolan and Meyers are those from the Class of '78, including Scott Hawkins, Bob Phillippy and a host of other youngsters whose dedication and vitality are fueling a desire oozing in intensity.

There are 15 and 16-year-olds (John Eggerman and Mike Levine come to immediate mind) who are competing in the upper echelon of amateur play and giving bottom 16 pros a literal run for their money.

The first to break through was Ben Koltun, the only grad of year 1975 to make his mark as a professional. Lindsay Myers, who took third the year Koltun won the Juniors, has shown great potential but limited success as a pro thus far.

Yellen, Meyers, Bolan and Larry Fox have come next, with Hawkins, Eggerman and Beaver Wickham standing up for the Class of '78. And for each of them are scores of others in the 12-to-16-year-old range who have every shot, every nuance and every piece of strategy in place.

As the base of racquetball players continues to increase, and as racquetball continues to interest the better athletes from each generation, the skill levels will continue to improve. That spells trouble for Marty Hogan — eventually.

Hogan had "only" to top the skills of Keeley, Serot, Bledsoe and of course, Brumfield. He did it with power aided by a good mind, sound coaching and technological advances in the game.

The youngsters on the way up have all of that, too, with one advantage. They have Marty Hogan to shoot for. And until Hogan is shot down, the troops won't rest peacefully. ●



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