

Racquetball

Official Bi-monthly Publication of the International Racquetball Association.
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12-78

JOE SOBEK

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E. Hoch '78



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Features

15 In the Beginning . . .

Joe Sobeck Recalls the Genesis of Modern Day Racquetball • Tom Carlson

18 Deadly Doubles

or, Eat My Racquet, Please • Mark Holland

21 What Makes Johnny Run?

Taming a Competitive Nature Through Running • R. John Kaegi

26 The Nittany Lion Open

The Lion Roars • Charlie Garfinkel

Departments

6 Receiving Line

Letters to the Editor

8 New Directions

And a Happy New Year

10 Players' Forum

Answers to Your Questions

13 First Service

Court Club Openings

24 Calendar

Upcoming Tournaments

30 Winning Points

Pinch Shots • Michael Mjehovich

32 Winning Points

Ceiling Balls • Patricia Froeba

36 Industry News and New Products

People and Equipment

39 State Director

Alaska's Marvin J. Andresen

42 Short Lines

News Round-Up

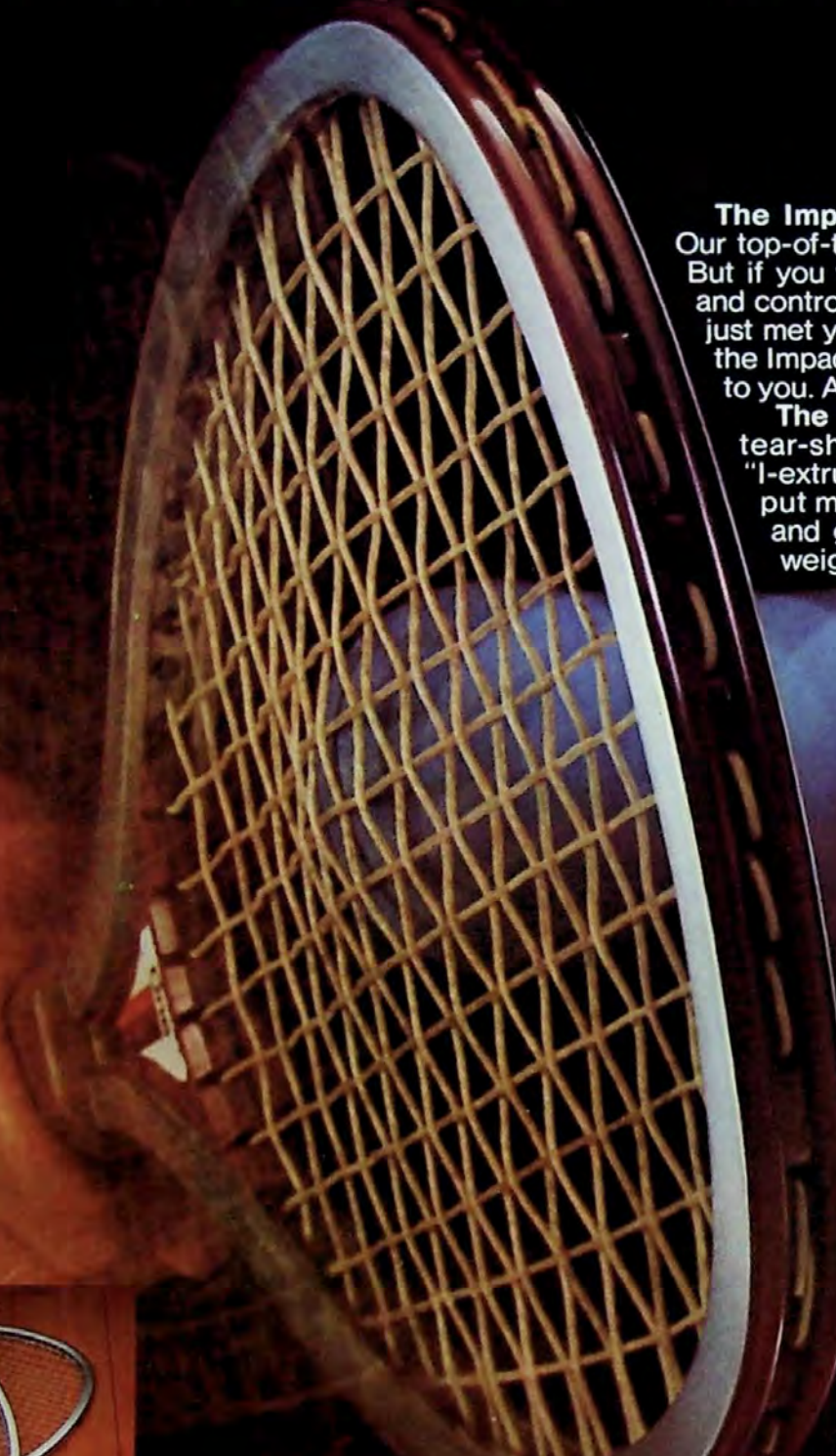
43 Scorecard

Tournament Results

COVER: Illustration by Ed Hirth

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We Have Lost These Members, Please Help Us Find Them!

The International Racquetball Association is attempting to find the correct addresses of the individuals below.

If you know their whereabouts, please contact the IRA office at 5545 Murray Road, Memphis, Tennessee 38117.

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Letters To The Editor

I just wanted to let you know how much we enjoyed that little bash you held at Capitol Courts Club in Sterling, VA last month. It was PJ and my first doubles competition of any kind and I must admit that I thought that starting with the National's was pretentious to say the least. However, you and Bob Klass and Mark Wayne and all the rest really made us feel welcome.

If you recall, we had several discussions on rules and I would like to put my opinions in writing for whatever that's worth. First, I feel that the rules should be self-contained leaving as little as possible to ambiguous interpretation. I believe that you said that if you tried that the rule book would be "that thick!" Well, so be it. The only thing that we have to work with at our state and local tournaments is that rule book. We can't use the opinion of a guy who once talked to a guy that knew a guy that went to the National's. Further, I think that any beginning player should be able to pick up the rule book and, if he reads it carefully, come away with an understanding of how to play the game. This is not now the case. One example under discussion was whether a server could start "winding up" to serve with one or both feet outside the service zone. The interpretation used at the National's was that he could not. But rule 4.1 (c) and (d) is as clear as can be (ask any lawyer). A serve is commenced "as the ball leaves the server's hand." Anything that you do prior to that is not relevant to foot faulting.

Another interesting call was the avoidable hinder called by Fred White on Bob Klass while Bob was laying on the floor after a diving "get." You all agreed that this was an "obvious" avoidable hinder. This was not one of those circumstances where, after the dive, the man, while struggling to his feet, got in his opponent's way; Bob tried to get out of the way but was unable to do so. I'm convinced that had Bob been on his feet and not able to get out of the way, no avoidable would have been called. If this situation is avoidable, I can't imagine any situation that is not avoidable. The use of the word "unintentional" in rule 4.10 (a)(6) is not very much different from the use of the word "avoidable" in rule 4.11 (1). As I said, so little difference that one

wonders how any hinder could not be considered avoidable if you pushed the rules far enough.

I don't wish to make it sound as if I feel that rule writing is easy. I know from experience that it is not. You all have a tremendous responsibility whenever you rewrite the rules since the enjoyability of the game is, to a great extent, dependent on simple and understandable rules. Your difficulty is even greater since you have been immersed in the game and its rules for so long that they have become second nature to you and perhaps that makes your view of them slightly biased. I know that we will be seeing rule changes in the near future that will clarify many of the points that need clarification.

Thanks for all the effort you've put into the sport.

John R. Ware
Silver Spring, MD

(P.S. I'll be back next year, with a backhand!)

...

With great interest I read your letter (New Directions, Sept.-Oct.) about the future plans for our Racquetball Association. Especially the additional age divisions. This is, in my opinion, an absolute must. There are so many older people now who would like to compete in tournaments for a 60 and over class. Tennis has it—I play every year in the 50 and 60 Clay U.S. Open; Table Tennis has it—The U.S. Table Tennis Championships offers two classes: one over 60 singles and one over 70 Singles. I played last year in it and am registered for this year in the 60's. We should do the same with Racquetball. I think it would incite more players to enter our association.

Otto H. Wenk
Little Rock, Ark.

[In November of 1977, the I.R.A. established new age groups for men of 55, 60, and 65 years old in both singles and doubles. As of October 1978, we established 45, 55, 60, and 65 singles and doubles age groups for women. Junior age groups have been designated for both girls and boys in the 17 and under, 15 and under, 13 and under, and 10 and under age groups.]

Just a note to express my personal thanks for the many extra courtesies Hallie Singer extended to me during the National Doubles recently.

Although my partner and I weren't among the award winners, we were impressed with the splendid efforts put forth by the tournament committee.

Sincerely,
Brud Turner
AMF Voit Racquetball
Advisory Staff

...



I am very interested in the development of racquetball in Israel. I was first introduced to racquetball in 1969 in the Jewish Community Center of Worcester, Mass., where I worked as the H. & P.E. Director. I learned to love the game with the help of Mr. Lester Sadowsky who at one time was a New England champion. One of my young helpers at that time was Steven Mondry, whom I understand plays today professionally.

I have tried to approach racquetball in Israel in a few ways, but so far not with great success. However, in a few weeks we'll operate the first legal one-wall court at the Mt. Washington College for P.E. Teachers where I work as Recreation Director.

My part-time efforts have been directed in the last few years toward the establishment of the first indoor racquetball center in Israel. This still remains the first major project through which we can introduce the game, conduct clinics, etc.

Well, I guess it's time for me to tell you that I gladly accept the I.R.A.'s offer of becoming the contact person in my country. I am looking forward to getting more specific information, and to help build racquetball in Israel.

Sincerely yours,
Uri Lipzin
Israel

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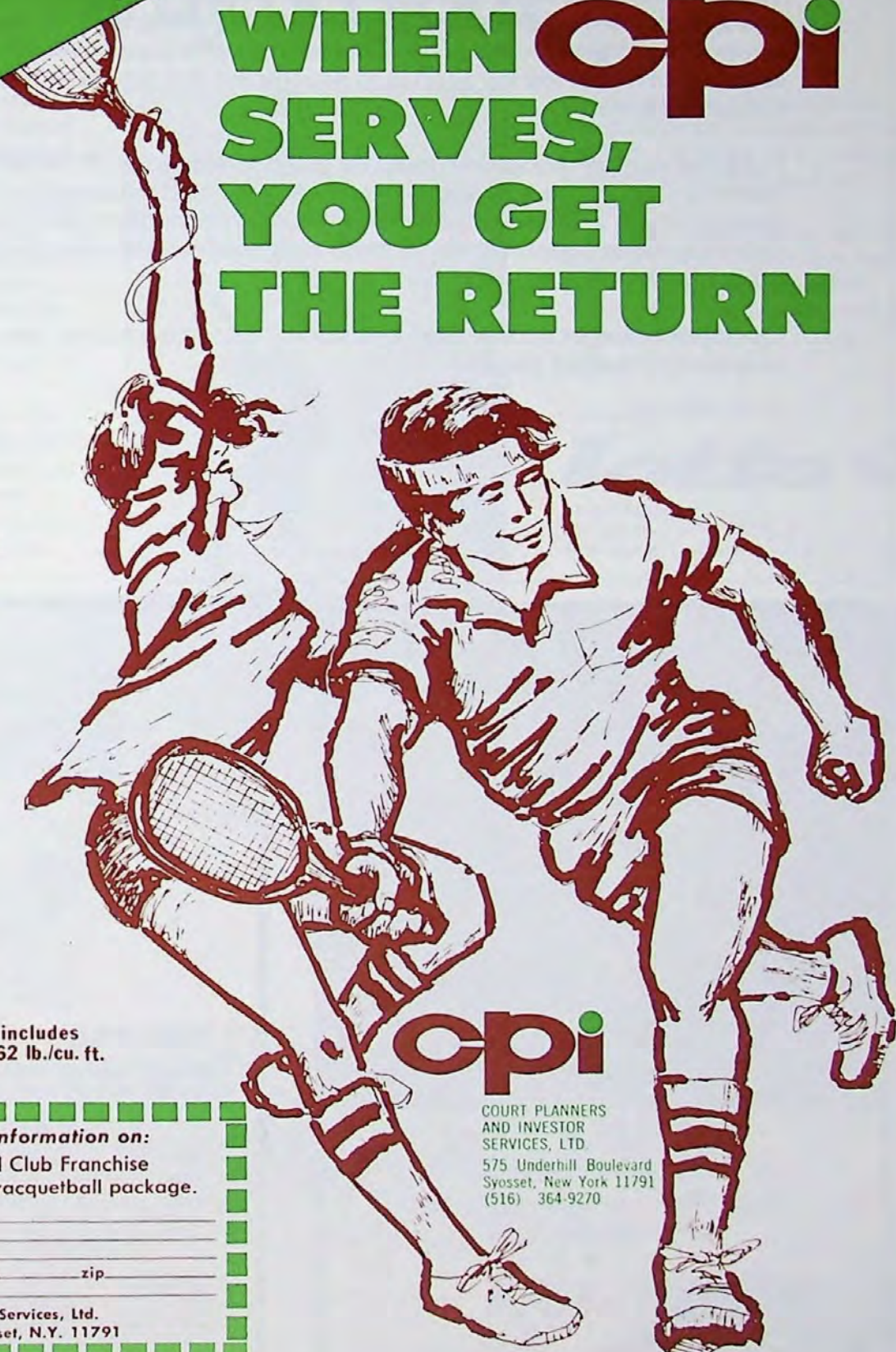
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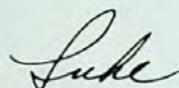
NEW DIRECTIONS

Dear I.R.A. Member,

1978 has been a year of great change and new direction for our Association. 1978 saw a complete reorganization of the International Racquetball Association and the return of the control of the I.R.A. to the players who truly govern the Association. Much went on behind the scenes to accomplish this task which need not be recounted here.

I feel that special recognition must be given to Al Mackie, President of Seamco Sporting Goods. Throughout this reorganization and our quest to regain credibility, Seamco stuck with us and continued to fulfill their contract with us along with providing moral support to us. Without their support and *your* loyal support of their products, the I.R.A. would only be a memory.

Our future is bright and exciting because of Seamco and you, the grass roots amateur racquetball player.



Luke St. Onge
Executive Director, IRA

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ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS

To start off the new year, we'd like to answer your questions about equipment and I.R.A. playing rules and policy. If you have any other questions—or comments—write to us; we'll be glad to help in any way we can.

Explain one more time how the ball must be played after your opponent has hit the ball during a rally with such velocity that it hits the front wall, carries to the back wall, bounces on the floor, and hits the front wall again.

Of all the questions we receive, this is the most frequently posed. The ball must be returned to the front wall by your opponent's racquet. He may play the ball prior to hitting the front wall a second time or after it hits the front wall the second time, but in either case, it must be played with his racquet.

Why the change on the Junior age qualification?

For those not aware of it, beginning Jan. 1, 1979, a Junior in any I.R.A. sanctioned event may play in his age group based upon his age as of January 1. The reason behind this decision stems from almost a reverse advantage in all other divisions where age is determined on the first day of the tournament. In all other divisions you can play up—B's can play Open, Seniors can play Open, Masters can play Seniors or Open, etc. In Juniors there is a distinct disadvantage to being forced to play up—15 year-olds having to play against 17 year-olds; 10 year-olds having to play against 13 year-olds, etc. The Board of Directors felt that it was extremely unfair for a Junior to play in one division most of the year and because of an arbitrary tournament date have to play in a higher division due to his birthdate. Every Junior will know as of January 1 of each year what division he will qualify for, which is only fair under the conditions.

There is a lot of discussion concerning compression-type balls and non-compression balls. What is the difference?

We want you to know that we are not ball experts by a long shot, but we will give this a try. A compression type ball (Seamco, Vittert, Wilson) are two-mold balls with anywhere from 2-4 pounds of internal pressure. This internal pressure exceeds atmospheric pressure and when the ball is struck against a wall the compression combined with the resilience of the rubber results in the faster type ball. When these balls lose this internal pressure, the balls become "dead".

The internal pressure of non-compression balls (such as the Voit and Trenway-Z ball) is the same as external pressure. These balls rely on the rubber compound for their liveliness. They are never as lively as the compression ball.

What is percentage racquetball?

Basically, percentage racquetball is selecting the shot or serve that you have the best chance of making. For example, if you are deep in the left back corner, your opponent is ten feet back from the front wall and four feet from the left side wall, and the ball is coming at you waist high, the percentage shot is a ceiling ball. The non-percentage shot is a kill.

I see where the definition of PROFESSIONAL in the I. R. A. has changed again. What goes?

The definition for "professional" under the I. R. A. interpretation has NOT changed and never has changed. Only the requirements for someone termed "professional" who wishes to regain his amateur status has changed.

O.K. how has it changed?

Prior to this decision, a pro could regain his amateur standing by refraining from taking cash in any pro-sanctioned tournament for a year and waiting a year

from the date of his or her letter requesting a return to amateur status. Now a player may regain amateur status by refraining from taking cash for a year and he or she may write the letter requesting return to amateur status at any time during that year.

Can a player call a "Cabot time-out" under I.R.A. rules?

Here we go again: for those who do not know, a "Cabot time-out" occurs when the receiver calls time-out after the server has dropped the ball and before he hits it with his racquet. For the life of us we cannot understand how any referee has ever allowed this to happen. Rule 4.1, part D clearly states that the serve is commenced as the ball leaves the server's hand, not when it is struck by the racquet. Thus play has already begun when the receiver has called "time-out" and it is not allowed.

Let's see you answer this one. Can the server start his serve with a foot outside the server's box?

No. We beg to differ with Mr. Ware ("Receiving Line," this issue) that the rule is clear. Again refer to Rule 4.1, section C. "The server may serve from any place in the service zone. No part of either foot may extend beyond either line of the service zone." A Philadelphia lawyer may argue that this does not prohibit someone from running into the service zone and complying with the rules by serving, but the above wording has always been interpreted to mean that the entire serve must begin within the server's box.

What is behind the decision of the Board of Directors of the I.R.A. that players are allowed to play only in one Championship event in the Regionals?

In the past, we have run into a problem when a top amateur enters and wins two events in the Regionals (the Senior and Opens, for example). He could receive reimbursement for 1/2 coach air fare in only one event at the Nationals. Let's say he picked the Open and therefore forfeited his 1/2 fare in the Seniors to the runner-up. The unfair part is that all those he had defeated in the Senior bracket really did not have a fair chance to play or beat the number two man in the Seniors. ■

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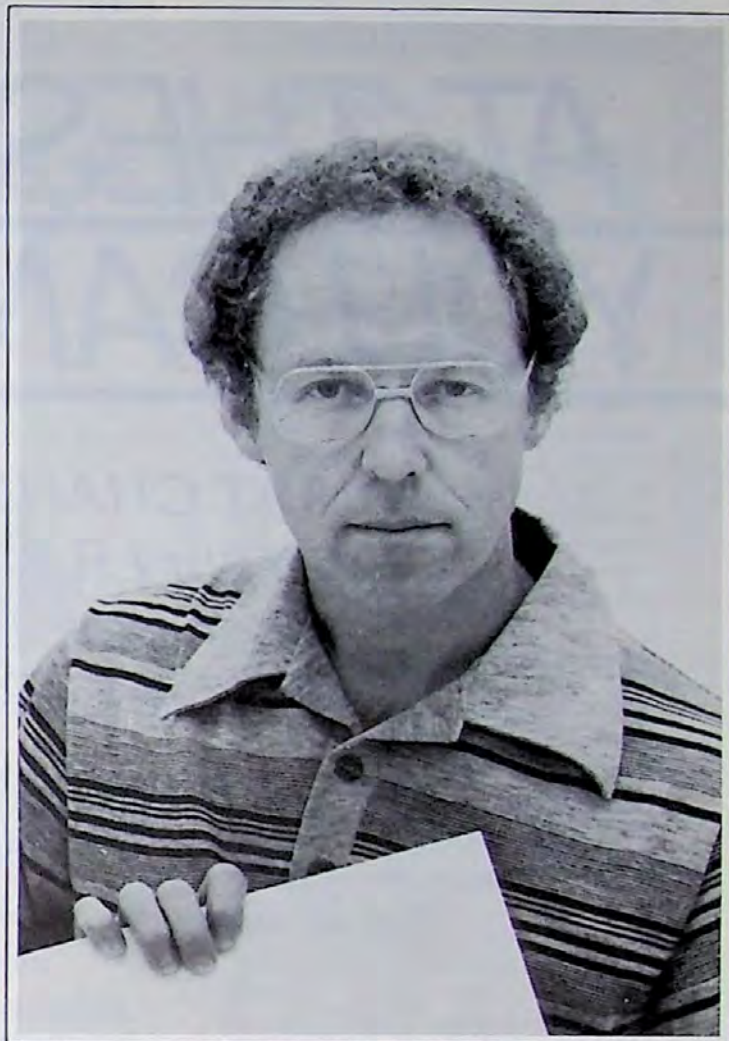
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New Court Club Openings

All's Wellesley

Wellesley Racquetball Club, located on Rt. 16 in Wellesley Hills, Mass., will be open in February, 1979. This facility is comprised of 9 racquetball and 2 squash courts, all fully air conditioned and controlled, built into a 4 level structure which also contains over 13,000 sq. ft. of office rental area.

The club will feature individual saunas and whirlpool spas plus a large exercise room, members' lounge, nursery and pro shop. Ten of the courts will have viewing areas with one of them, through a glass side wall, looking directly into a proposed 100 seat restaurant located on the third level. Professional staff will provide programs to suit the needs of every level of player. Private memberships are available on an individual, family, or corporate basis.

For more information, write Wellesley Racquetball Club, P.O. Box 253, Wellesley Hills, Massachusetts or call 617-235-4307.

Meet Me In St. Louis

The Spaulding Racquetball Clubs, Inc., St. Louis, Missouri, is nearing completion of its first racquetball-handball club in the state of Texas at 5890 Point West Drive in southwest Houston.

Upon its scheduled completion in late December of this year, this newest Spaulding Club will have 16 professional racquetball-handball courts with panelled, carpeted locker rooms with saunas and whirlpools. There will also be a modern nursery with competent daytime supervision.

In The Knoll

The Knoll Tennis and Racquetball Club is scheduled to open in early spring of 1979 in Parsippany, New Jersey. It is adjacent to the Knoll Country Club in Lake Hiawatha.

This 50,000 sq. ft. sports complex features 4 indoor tennis courts and 12 professional racquetball courts and a complete gym with the latest exercise and weight training equipment.

Other amenities include fully supervised nursery, complete pro shop and a fresh juice bar. The locker rooms are fully carpeted with men's and women's steam rooms and sauna, as well as individual private showers for men and women.

The comfortable lounge areas are complemented by a functional brick fireplace and afford excellent viewing into glass walled exhibition courts. There will be extensive lesson and clinic programs for both tennis and racquetball. The club will also offer slimnastics and exercise classes in conjunction with a total fitness/health program.

For membership information, please contact Knoll Tennis and Racquetball Club, at 1130 Knoll Road, Lake Hiawatha, N.J. 07034 (201)335-6200.

Screen Play

A new Spaulding Club at 725 River Road in Edgewater, New Jersey will become a part of a unique recreational complex that includes a nine-court indoor tennis club, a four-screen movie theatre, an ice skating rink, and an unusual 500-seat floating restaurant converted from a remodeled Hudson River Ferry Boat.

Upon its scheduled completion in mid-December, 1978, this newest Spaulding Club will have 20 professional racquetball-handball courts with panelled, carpeted locker rooms with saunas and whirlpools. A modern nursery with competent daytime supervision will be available.

Crowning Achievement

Royal Racquetball of Delden, N.Y. will open its 2½ acre recreation facility this month. The facility, located at 607 Middle Country Road at Patchogue-Mt. Sinai Road in Coram, N.Y., has 12 championship courts (five are viewing courts) men's and women's saunas; free, supervised child care; equipped slimnastics room, men's steam room; a lounging area, including snack bar, disco, pro shop; and a meeting and conference room.

Royal Racquetball's programs include private and club-hosted parties, round robins, lessons, tournaments, leagues, and special events such as fashion shows and luncheons.

Information about single, family, and corporate memberships is available either by writing or by calling 732-5500.

Imperial Court

A multi-million dollar sports facility, featuring a complex of 14 championship racquetball courts, plus what has been called the most complete fitness training center in the East, opened in Fort Lee, New Jersey last December. About one-quarter of the 50,000 square-foot, four-story facility is devoted to racquetball.

King Arthur's racquetball courts are specially designed with the latest technology, including floating hardwood floors, precision lighting and acoustic controls, so they'll be fitting hosts for exhibitions and clinics by nationally-ranked professionals. According to Stan Danzig, operations partner, nationally-prominent players will also be on the staff of King Arthur's.

Other features of the sports club are an advanced, well-equipped fitness and sports training center, with a 4,000 square-foot gymnasium, banked running track, and the most sophisticated exercise hardware and locker room setup anywhere; and an outstanding health food restaurant, with menus planned by a leading nutritionist.

King Arthur's Court has a staff that includes a physiologist, sports trainer, cardiovascular consultant and nutritionist, along with racquetball instructors. They'll administer a wide range of activities, including aerobic exercising and cardio-efficiency testing.

Can't Hold That Tiger

Tiger Racquetball Club at Kingston, New York announced the addition of ten new racquetball courts completed November 1978. The courts have maple floorings, formica walls, and a climate-control system.

The addition is the second phase of plans by owner-operator Seth Nadel. The first phase included seven indoor and six outdoor tennis courts, saunas, a whirlpool, a full-sized adult swimming pool, and a children's pool. The three buildings of racquet activities, plus the outdoor courts and pools are on nine acres, making it one of the largest racquet sport centers in the country. They feature year-round activities—round robins, lesson programs, tournaments, leagues, and other programs.

The third phase will include a large restaurant featuring an international cuisine and an additional seven racquetball courts for a total of 17. This construction should be completed by 1981. ■

INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION 3-WALL OUTDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

OFFICIAL ENTRY BLANK



Tournament Host	Lakeland, Florida Municipal Courts
Tournament Director	Gene Owen 813-687-6675
Dates	March 30, 31, April 1, 1979
Entry Fee	\$25.00 1st event; \$10.00 2nd event. All entries are final.
Entry Deadline	All entries must be postmarked by Tuesday, March 20, 1979.
Official Ball	Seamco 444
Eligibility & Rules	All entrants must show a current International Racquetball Association card and abide by IRA tournament rules. You must meet the age requirements as of March 30, 1979. Tie breakers will be played to 15 points.
Awards	Trophies for the first four places and consolation.
Playing Time	8:00 A.M., March 30, 1979. The draw will not be given out in advance.
Mail	Entry fee should accompany form. Make check payable to the I.R.A. and mail to: Fred White, 8431 N.W. 2nd Manor, Coral Springs, Fla. 33065
Housing	Contact Fred White 305-473-3912.
Events	Men's Open; Women's Open; Women's Senior Open (35 +); Men's and Women's Senior Open (35 +); Men's and Women's Master (45 +); Men's and Women's Golden Master (55 +); Men's and Women's Golden Master (60 +); Boy's (17 and under); Boy's (15 and under); Boy's (13 and under); Boy's (10 and under); Girl's (17 and under); Girl's (15 and under); Girl's (13 and under); Girl's 10 and under; NON CHAMPIONSHIP: Men's B, Women's B.

Make check payable to: I.R.A.

Send this form with entry to:
Fred White
8431 N.W. 2nd Manor
Coral Springs, Fla. 33065



PLEASE INDICATE SHIRT SIZE

S M L XL

EVENT ENTERING _____

NAME (print) _____ IRA CARD NO. & EXP. DATE _____

PARTNER (Print) _____ IRA CARD NO. & EXP. DATE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

BUS. PHONE _____ HOME PHONE _____ ESTIMATED TIME OF ARRIVAL _____

I hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors, and administrators, waive and release any and all rights and claims for damages I may have against the Florida Racquetball Association, Lakeland, and the International Racquetball Association and their respective agents, for any and all injuries.

DATE _____ SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____ SIGNATURE _____

IN THE BEGINNING...

Joe Sobek Recalls the Genesis of Modern Day Racquetball.

Joe Sobek isn't the type to boast. Yet if he wanted to, he could hook his thumbs under his suspenders, rock back on his heels, and tell you that he singlehandedly invented a national pastime.

Joe Sobek is the undisputed father of racquetball. Twenty-eight years ago, he came up with the idea, designed the equipment, and formulated the rules for a game which has since grown into a multi-million dollar industry and may soon become an Olympic sport.

Today Sobek still lives in Greenwich, Connecticut, where he first experimented with the game, and where at present he is the tennis pro at the Fairview Country Club. The energetic and personable grandfather of five still plays the game—often with his wife, Nancy—while keeping one eye on national developments of the sport he created.

In this present age of committees, when it seems that almost all decisions and inventions come out of industrial laboratories,

ad hoc study groups, and corporate think tanks, Joe Sobek's story of the invention of racquetball sounds like something out of a previous century when great ideas were traceable to inspired individuals toiling alone. As usual, necessity was the mother of Sobek's brainchild.

In the 1940's Sobek had been a squash and tennis pro at the Greenwich YMCA. In 1950, however, he took a desk job with a rubber manufacturing company in nearby Bridgeport. It wasn't long before he found himself getting restless for some exercise. The cold Connecticut winters did not allow for much tennis, so he spent a great deal of time at the local "Y's" and health clubs playing wall sports. An "A" class squash player, he couldn't find much quality competition, and he didn't like handball ("too strenuous and too hard on the hands"). So he turned to pad-

By Tom Carlson

dleball and platform tennis. That's when the lightbulb blinked on over his head.

"One day I decided that a strung racquet would allow you to make shots you could never make with a dead wooden paddle," recalls Sobek.

Variety being the spice of wall sports, Sobek went home and began drawing up a blueprint. He started with a platform tennis paddle—not with a sawed-off tennis racquet as has so often been reported. To compensate for the weight loss involved in converting a wooden paddle into a strung racket, Sobek included a lead ply in the bow. He took his design to the Magnan Racquet Manufacturing Company nearby where the engineers made a few minor alterations before sending it into production. The first order of twenty-five was purchased by a group of players at the Greenwich YMCA who had become interested in their friend's invention.

The next problem was a serviceable ball. The compression, size, and weight of handballs and paddleballs made them unsatisfactory for the new game which, in 1950, Sobek was calling paddle racquets. Other balls were tried—even the insides of a tennis ball. Still unsatisfactory. Finally, Sobek found some Spalding balls at a local five-and-dime store and was delighted with the results. When the supply ran out, he went back for more and discovered that Spalding had stopped making that kind of ball before World War II.

The company still had the mold, however, and agreed to supply the minimum order of 150 dozen. Before they went into production, Sobek asked them to make one change. The original ball had been half blue and half red—a real psychedelic experience on the court. He asked that the ball be made solid blue ("Black was a little easier to see, but blue wouldn't mark up the courts"). Still, Sobek's problems weren't over. When he and his friends tried the new balls, they discovered that they were much too lively. Evidently the original five-and-dime balls had mellowed like wine on the store shelves. Sobek couldn't wait another five or six years for the new balls to follow suit. So he began writing to ball manufacturers. "I think I contacted every rubber company in the country," he said. "It got so that every drawer in our house was filled with sample balls." Finally he took one of the original Spalding balls to a friend at Seamless Rubber Company in New Haven. The designers there matched the size, compression, and wall thickness, eliminated some of the "rabbit," and the modern racquet ball was born.

Next came the rules. Sobek drew up a set and took them around to "Y's" in the area for the advice and consent of local players. While he was at it, he formed the players into a Paddle Rackets Association to promote the sport. The rules Sobek formulated in the early '50's did much to determine the shape of the game today.

"The major difference," says Sobek, "was that the rules as I originally laid them out leaned more toward squash than handball. Today the rules are closer to those of handball." For instance, in the early '50's version of the game, the rear-court

receiving area was divided by a line into two "service boxes" as in squash. Also in keeping with squash rule, the server could strike the ball before it hit the floor, and could use the rear wall, but he had to alternate his serves to the two rear service boxes.

By now paddle rackets was showing signs of becoming a full-fledged epidemic. Some Greenwich enthusiasts had moved and taken the game with them; local businessmen proselytized on business trips across the country; the military was picking it up.

Joe Sobek found himself in the mail order business, packaging and sending off racquets, balls, and rule booklets to St. Louis, Memphis, Detroit, Chicago and points west. He also did some vigorous promoting. He supervised clinics in Hartford, New Britain, Nashville, Fort Dix, and the Pentagon. Promotional flyers were sent out all over the country:

Gentleman:

Are you discouraged with your physical condition? Are you exhausted and winded after the slightest exertion? Have you neglected the most precious possession God gave you, your body?

Well buddy, if your answer is "Yes" to all of the above, it is about time you started to do something about it. Your first step is to say "Yes" to your physical director when he asks you to try Paddle Rackets.

And so on. Interested parties were sent rackets and balls on a trial basis. If they didn't care for the game, they could send the equipment back. "No one ever did," says Sobek.

As the sport continued to snowball into the late 1950's, Sobek and his National Paddle Rackets Association began setting up the first tournaments. In 1959, they organized the first national invitational amateur championships in New Britain, Connecticut. The two-day tournament drew players from as far away as Cleveland, Chicago, and Memphis. (For trivia fans, the first national amateur champion was Victor Lugli of New Britain, while the first national doubles champions were Dr. Joe Granski and Norman "Apple" Steinberg, also of New Britain.)

By 1959, the sport was well out of its infancy. It grew steadily throughout the '60's and in 1968, at the age of eighteen, racquetball reached its majority. That was the year of the National Paddle Rackets Tournament in Milwaukee. Organized by Larry Lederman, athletic director of a local Jewish Community Center, the tournament drew players from all over the country, large crowds, and perhaps most important of all, national news coverage.

Racquetball was obviously here to stay, and one of those to see the handwriting on the wall was handball impresario Robert Kendler. Meetings were held after the tournament, and within a year, paddle rackets had a new name, and the International Racquetball Association had been born.

"When I saw Kendler and the IRA begin massive national organizing, I decided that things had grown beyond me and my Paddle Rackets Association, and so I willingly let the big boys take over," says Sobek. "I wasn't upset by these develop-

ments," he's quick to add; "I knew that with their resources they could do a better job of promoting on a national scale."

And promote they did. In 1969, the IRA held the first international racquetball championships in St. Louis (won by Dr. Bud Muehleisen). Within three years participation in racquetball had tripled to over a million and a half, and the building boom was on. By 1977, over five million people would be playing the game, and more than 600 court clubs would be opened across the country.

About the time Sobek's Paddle Rackets Association had given way to the IRA, a curious—and, for Sobek, an ironic—pattern had become apparent in the growth of the sport. Racquetball was catching on much faster in the Midwest and Far West than it was in his own native Northeast. Sobek offers a tentative explanation: "In the '50's and '60's the Northeast had a lot going for it—tennis, skiing and other winter sports as well as all kinds of wall sports—squash, handball, platform tennis and paddleball. In other parts of the country, many people had never played handball or paddleball, and so for them, racquetball was a novelty.

In the last five years, however, the prodigal sport has come home. As an example, just last year in nearby Westchester County, Sobek himself set up Court Sports I, an ultra-modern complex featuring fourteen glass-wall exhibition courts. Future plans for this one area alone include four more racquetball complexes with a total of sixty-six courts.

As to why racquetball caught on at all in the early days, Joe Sobek is more certain. "It's an easy game to learn," he observes. "In about fifteen minutes of practice, anyone can achieve instant mediocrity." A lot of people, he says, have trouble hitting a ball with a gloved hand, "but with a short-handled racquet, there's a large striking surface near the hand so it's easy to make contact even if your hand-eye coordination isn't the best." He points out further that for the average player, racquetball demands less shot-making ability, patience, or knowledge of strategy than squash, handball, or tennis.

Another basic virtue of the sport is that it allows the player healthy exercise in a minimum of time; playing at a normal pace, the racquetballer can burn up almost 800 calories an hour.

And because racquetball is not strictly a power or strength sport, the largest number of new converts has been from among women of all ages and older men who have found that they can compete successfully with younger men.

"One other advantage," Sobek continues, "is economic. Most winter sports activities are not as convenient, and many of them, like skiing, are quite expensive." He's got a point. The most a serious beginner should have to spend on a racquet, racquetball shoes, and a can of balls is \$46—and the shoes aren't requisite.

Finally, there's the psychology of the game. It's Sobek's suspicion that the sound of the ball has a lot to do with the game's appeal. "When you hit the ball, it makes an awful pop, and that's just a very satisfying noise," says Sobek. And good therapy too. It's interesting to note, however, that racquetball

has yet to hear from the psychologists. Other older sports such as football, baseball, and basketball have been examined as substitute war games, quasi-hunting rituals, and vehicles for transferred aggression. (One recently published article has it that football is essentially a homosexual activity—terms like tight end, split end, fumbling, and scoring, along with players patting each other on the bottoms, and the posture of the quarterback and his center being the dead giveaways.) Perhaps we should prepare ourselves to be told sometime in the near future that most racquetballers are aggressive, anti-social types suffering from acute agoraphobia. We anxiously await their findings.

Looking back on it all in 1978 finds Joe Sobek both amazed and gratified. "I find it a little hard to believe sometimes," he admits; "a sport I began for a few friends at the Greenwich YMCA is now played by millions of people all over the world. It's truly astonishing."

Not all facets of the sport's growth have pleased its inventor, however. "I've always thought that professionalism in sports was a good thing because it made the sport grow, but recently, I've been worried that the pendulum has swung a little too far to the professional side. I'm worried that the amateur level isn't being adequately protected." Sobek and others who share his concern have taken heart, however, at the Public Funding Act recently signed into law by President Carter. The bill will bring amateur racquetball under the aegis of the U.S. Olympic Committee, and eventually promises to promote it as an Olympic sport.

Sobek would also like to see changes in a few aspects of the present style of play and some of the modern rules. "Take the power serve used by many young people," he says; "it's discouraging to many people, and if you see it on television, it's fast and final and uninteresting." Sobek believes that power serving could be controlled by either limiting serve tries to one or dividing the back court into receiving areas or "service boxes" as it had been in the early days of the sport.

A couple of present-day rules also bother Sobek. The hinder rule for instance. "It's too vague, and there are so many actors involved that it's very difficult for the referee to decide whether or not it was intentional." The English "let" rule in squash, he argues, is much more manageable.

The same holds true for the eighteen-inch rule in serving. "It's a difficult if not impossible judgment call, especially in a power game," says Sobek. Finally, he would like to see some changes in the out-of-court rule: "Now, whenever a ball goes out of court, the point is played over. What *should* happen is that a player should be penalized if the ball goes out of court as a result of a bad shot."

But if Sobek is not the type to boast, he's not the kind to complain either. He likes what has happened to racquetball. His attitude toward the sport today is that of a father whose child has grown up and left the nest. He sired the sport, raised it, and gave it direction. Now, at twenty-eight years of age, racquetball is out on its own, and Joe Sobek is happy to sit back and smile proudly. ■



DEADLY DOUBLES

OR, EAT MY RACQUET, PLEASE

Novice doubles is more dangerous than frying bacon in the nude. A doubles game may seem an innocent enough undertaking to the beginning player. After all, doubles is simply a spirited game with plenty of competition in which everybody gets to play. Lots of fun, lots of exercise. Right? Wrong. When four inexperienced players are confined in that over-ambitious closet we call a court, collisions are as inevitable as earthquakes in Southern California.

Despite the perils, novice players continue to play doubles; whether out of ignorance or arrogance, they insist on taking their chances. What they don't realize is that the normal concept of team versus team does not hold true in doubles: theoretically, you and your partner are on the same side, playing against the other two players. But in reality the contest often pits partner against partner, or partner against everybody.

PARTNER-VERSUS-PARTNER

Injuring your partner is the result of

ignorance and clumsiness; but sometimes it has its own deadly choreography. Consider the "I'll take it! You got it!" play which is stolen from the baseball scrapbook of easy ways to a quick concussion. In this situation, two players on the same team scurry after a ball which has been lobbed into the rear court by the opposing team. When they reach the ball, in the confusion of the moment, one player shouts, "I'll take it! You got it!" The two players then turn quickly with cat-like grace and watch the ball float to the floor between them. As the ball hits the floor, there are two alternatives available to the players: they can both put their hands on their hips and stare disgustedly at one another (as a member of the opposing team comments, "good teamwork"), or they can use the alternative that most novice doubles players choose. As the ball hits the floor, they both flail at it, hoping they can hit at the last minute: instead, teeth and racquets collide. Blood is optional. Pain is requisite.

Players usually agree before a game whether they will play side-by-side or one up front and one back. The "front/back" position results in many more injuries than the "side-by-side," yet for some unknown reason, most novice doubles players seem to opt for it. When they do, the "kneeling knight" play and the "blind bat wallop" are inevitable.

The "kneeling knight" play takes its name from the days of chivalry when a young squire entered knighthood by kneeling and receiving a tap on both shoulders with a sword. In racquetball the opposing team must hit a ceiling shot which comes down in the middle of the court. The front player of the defending team then backs up with his racquet cocked over his head, ready for a ceiling shot return. But at the last moment, he drops to one knee like a kneeling knight and hollers for the back player to take it. The back player, with his racquet cocked over his head, moves forward quickly and swings viciously at the ball. He may

BY MARK HOLLAND

or may not hit it, but he will with awesome regularity bring the metal edge of his racquet crashing down onto the forward player's head. The game is usually stopped at this point.

The "blind bat wallop" is a precise maneuver which requires split-second timing on the part of the front player and depends entirely on his ability to deceive his teammate in the back court. The setup requires that the opposing team hit a good, crisp passing shot by the front player. He makes a move toward the ball, but then appears to give up and let the ball pass. At this point, timing is crucial. Just as the back player decides that the ball is his, the front player pivots and lunges after the passing ball like a bat closing on some unsuspecting insect—hence the name of the play. Needless to say, the back player has already completed half of his swing and has no hope of checking it. The result is a loud gasp from the front player. The red and blue lines appearing instantly across his nose and cheeks will fade in a week or so.

PARTNER-VERSUS-EVERYBODY

The partner-versus-everybody maneuvers lack the grace and poetry of the partner-versus-partner moves, but are infinitely more sinister because they seem more premeditated, and paradoxically, more out of control. One player seems to declare open season on the other three players.

The "three cowering mice" syndrome can be precipitated only by a player who is under the influence of the "lone ranger" complex. It can appear at any moment during a novice doubles match, but is most likely to occur toward the end of a game as the result of overexertion. Initially, the potential "lone ranger" will encroach on his partner's side of the court, taking shots that his partner could have made. At first it happens infrequently and apologies are made immediately. Soon, though, the encroachments happen more frequently, and the apologies, if they come at all, come less quickly.

Suddenly he goes berserk. He loses control and starts racing wildly all over the court, oblivious to the fact that he even has a partner. He tries to get every shot regardless of where it's hit.

Internally, the "lone ranger" is having grandiose illusions about his abilities. He can do anything. He can reach any ball. He can make any shot; Hogan or Brumfield wouldn't stand a chance. He and the ball are the only thing that exist. He has become one with the ball. This feeling may be described by the "lone ranger" as a religious experience (the Zen of racquetball), but it is described by the other three players as dangerous.

Novice doubles players should be aware of the early warning signals of the "lone ranger" complex and if a fellow player exhibits any of the signs, they should stop the game and have the potential zealot take a break and catch his breath. If they don't take this precaution, they could fall victim to their own ignorance and become the "three cowering mice."

"Three cowering mice" can truly be called cruel and unusual punishment because it is not sure and swift. It gives the three players time to contemplate the pain that one of them will soon be feeling. Anyone who has ever seen "three cowering mice" performed knows that it can be as excruciatingly painful to watch as it is to experience.

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grow if new players
keep maiming each
other. Novices
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of doubles.*

The basic choreography begins after the "lone ranger" has just made another bad shot. He is standing close to the front wall on the extreme left hand side of the court. The opposing team then hits a lob which carries toward the back wall on the extreme right hand side of the court. Regardless of the fact that he is as far from the ball as he could possibly be, and that his partner is standing in the far right hand corner of the court, ready to make the shot, the "lone ranger" comes raging out of the front court toward the ball. Using common sense, the other players start backing away from him; suddenly there is no more room to back up—but the "lone ranger" is still coming. He has herded them all into the corner and they are pinned. The ball drops about five feet from the backwall and bounces high while the "lone ranger" cocks his exaggerated backswing. His racquet is within inches of the three players: they cower. As the "lone ranger" lunges at the ball, the three players raise their racquets in the hope of warding off the blow. Then there is a thud, a crack, as one of the "three cowering mice"

doubles over in pain. The other two sigh with relief; they have been spared. Then they rush to the aid of their fallen comrade. The "lone ranger" snaps back to his senses, and in shame, realizes what he has done. It is not a pretty sight, but then novice doubles is not a pretty game.

Even a player who is under complete control of his emotions and senses can fall victim to the "disappearing player" phenomenon. Any description of the "disappearing player" situation should start with a quick anatomy lesson: humans have only two eyes: one to watch the ball, the other to watch three other players. With a little luck, and good peripheral vision, a player making a shot will be able to keep track of the ball and two other players. That leaves one player whom he can't see—the "disappearing player."

Magicians have an old saying: "What disappears must reappear." The trouble with a player who vanishes during a doubles game is that he, too, must reappear. In a novice game, the invisible player many times reappears at the exact point at which a swung racquet has reached its maximum velocity.

For example, player A goes for a forehand kill. He adjusts his body position to avoid hitting the player off to his right, player B. Player A sees his partner up in the front court, player C, but he doesn't see player D—D for disappearing. *Where the heck did that guy go*, player A wonders. *Did he just disappear, or what? Oh well, I've got to smash this shot.* While player A prepares to kill the ball, the "disappearing player" is wide-eyed with fear. He is directly behind player A and he is gyrating spastically, trying to move out of the way to keep from getting clobbered. As player A hits the ball, the bang-pop of his shot contrasts sharply with the thud of his racquet making contact with the "disappearing player." *There that pesky rascal is.* The "disappearing player" staggers backwards in pain, wishing there had been some way he really could have disappeared.

Racquetball can't continue to grow if new players keep maiming and scaring each other. Novice players should wait until they are experienced enough to know their limitations before they donate their bodies to the abuse of a doubles game. If this description of dangerous doubles possibilities has not been enough to arouse the instinct of self-preservation, and if there are novice players who still feel they must play doubles, then they should be aware of an excellent plan offered by Blue Cross/Blue Shield, with a semi-private room, plus major medical, plus . . . ■

WHAT MAKES JOHNNY RUN?

Just as left-handed people must learn at an early age to use right-handed scissors or forget about cutting anything, so it is that non-competitive people must adjust to the predominance of such competitive sports as football, basketball, hockey, and racquetball or drop from the sports scene. Indeed, it is a hard, competitive world for the non-competitive athlete, who must alter his inclinations, sit on the sidelines, or find a non-competitive sport.

Fortunately, there are non-competitive sports. Running, for instance, is a perfect activity for non-competitive people. As a matter of fact, it has so many non-competitive qualities that the competitive person is the one needing to adjust, for a change.

Competitive people who see any activity as a contest between themselves and an opponent [as in racquetball] or at least between themselves and the clock [as in running] are likely to become increasingly miserable as runners, and finally give it up altogether. Or they may develop personality traits similar to those of their non-competitive brothers and sisters to become successful runners.

I'm my own best example. I am still a competitive person but I underwent a psychic overhaul while I learned to handle running. I hadn't really realized it until I dropped by the office of my friend, Mark.

"Hey John, I caught your jogging act this morning on my way to work."

"Yeah?"

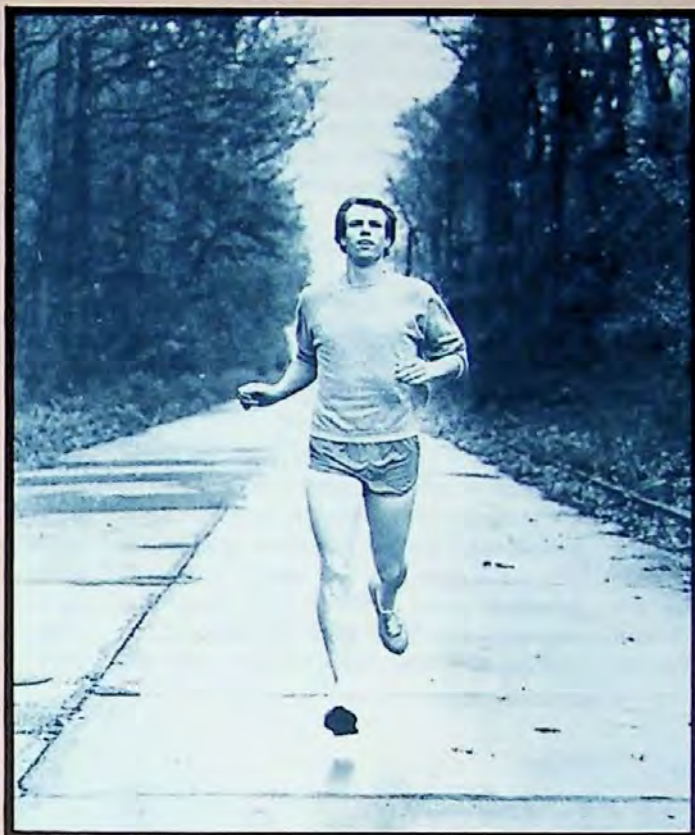
"How far do you jog, anyway?" Mark asked with a kind of curiosity that clued me he's interested in running himself.

"It depends on how I feel, how much I've run already this week and..."

"Cut the excuses, how far today?"

"Six miles today," I blurted. "And eight on Sundays." Suddenly I was embarrassed by my vanity.

"Six miles! I couldn't walk that far with hourly rest periods."



he declared. Mark's disclaimer had a smugness all its own, but I detected a bit of envy from my friend, the cynic. It was my chance to regain a little humility.

"Sure you could. Why there's hundreds of old ladies out there who do better than that."

"I don't know, John. I've tried jogging before. It's too boring for me."

That smugness again, as if running (which to him was jogging) was beneath his dignity or something. I responded, "Have you tried the LSD method?"

"LSD!" he gasped. "I heard that some cancer patients smoke grass legally, but LSD for joggers?"

"Not the drug, Mark." Long, Slow Distance, I explained, is what LSD stands for, and it is a very effective running—training—technique that dissolves pain and boredom.

"Long, slow distance work actually overcomes the

boredom of running because your body enjoys the jaunt and your mind is free to wander."

"But doesn't long distance tire you out for racquetball? I hardly have the energy to keep up my number one sport, much less another."

Looking back on it, I really got pompous at this point. Me, the expert. "Actually," I explained, "racquetball is the very reason I run. But before I go any further, let me enlighten you with the proper terminology. Jogging is a passe term for running." I explained to Mark that the great athletic fantasy of running is half the satisfaction, so why spoil it with a less-than-flattering description? If you feel like you're exerting yourself beyond a fast walk, you're running.

"Mark, there are two types of human personalities—competitive and non-competitive. You're more non-competitive wouldn't you say?"

"You know I am. But if you think I'd enjoy the dull routine of running, you're mistaken."

"Running doesn't have to be monotonous," I responded. "Runners who train with the LSD method report anything but monotony because their minds become detached from the repetition of the wap, wap, wap of their feet and become transfixed on the surroundings or solutions to their problems or beautiful daydreams. Myself, I daydream about winning racquetball tournaments. That's just between you and me, Mark."

R. John Kaegi, publisher of Alpha: The Magazine for Campus Greeks, ran competitively in high school and college, then quit for six years. Not wanting to feel "over-the-hill" at 30, he began running again three and a half years ago and now competes in 5-10 mile road races.

Taming A Competitive Nature Through Running • By R. John Kaegi

At this point he was the victim of my "running is so good for you" appeal that secretly reinforces every runner's sense of purpose. I recited every benefit I could remember: endurance, cardiovascular development, leg muscle tone, psychological tranquility—almost like meditation—and "Oh, I almost forgot, brainstorming."

"Brainstorming?"

"Yeah. The running time is among the most creative moments of my day. Besides, too much racquetball can be dull, too," I added. "A racquetball-running training approach is the ideal aerobic exercise program since the start-stop-start of racquetball alone is less beneficial aerobically speaking. It also strains muscles and tendons that can be strengthened with the proper running program. And a combination of racquetball and running will repel the blahs of too much of either."

Here I reminded Mark that aerobic exercises are those that involve large muscle masses and are performed continuously for a significant period of time until one's breathing becomes deeper, the heart beats faster and the blood vessels expand. Aerobic exercise improves the body's ability to consume

and use oxygen. On the other hand, anaerobic exercises, such as weight lifting or sprinting, do little for the cardiovascular system, though they will strengthen muscles.

"Many racquetball players get even less cardiovascular benefit when they take long rest breaks between games or play for only brief periods. For exercise to be truly good for you, it must be performed for extended intervals and it must be rhythmic so the lungs and heart will work harder than usual. Remember, your heart is your most important muscle."

"I gotcha. You're saying that a running program in addition to racquetball will improve my endurance to the point that I will enjoy racquetball more and not worry whether I'm getting enough of the right kind of exercise."

"Yeah, I guess I am."

"Well, I *enjoy* racquetball. But I'm not sure I would stick with running."

"Mark, a non-competitive type person like you would love running if you only gave it a try, and, of course, followed some advice. I'm sure you wouldn't make the same mistake I did in setting lofty goals and trying to establish

new records every trip out. I'm so competitive that I came back to running after once burning out, but, this time, with a positive mental approach."

"Like?"

"Like allowing myself to become detached from the results of my running. It may sound contrary, but I've become both humble and selfish when it comes to running. I'm no longer concerned with how others rate me as an athlete based on my running. I enjoy road racing, but I run for myself, not against the clock or the others in the race. No use fretting about winning or losing since speed is largely an inborn thing, not likely to be influenced much by training."

"I've become selfish in my preference to run alone, to run as far or short as I want that day and to plan my time around running. I *enjoy* running. Before I became a runner, I was just a competitive type who was 'chug, chug, chugging' along, always staring straight ahead. The only variety was my futile attempt to break my previous day's 'record.' Runners aren't 'chug, chug, chuggers' because they relax and enjoy the beauty around them regardless of the season or surroundings. They—we—tend to drift off into new mental

AMF Voit's truer, bluer,



dimensions where some of our most creative and provocative thoughts come."

Then I mentioned the psychological affect of footwear. Believe it or not, I told him, lacing up a quality pair of running shoes is gratifying and motivating. It helps me *feel* like a runner. Besides, proper footwear is necessary to run any distance at all with any regularity. Tennis shoes don't give enough support.

"Keep in mind that a runner's feet strike the ground some 800 times a mile, Mark. Running shoes are made to comfort the feet while running."

Actually, more suitable adjectives for a good pair of running shoes might be "wonderful" or "exotic" (and while it's tempting to wear them for nonrunning sports, it's better not to since they're not made for twisting, jumping and fast starting). As many as 16 different models (ranging in price from \$15-\$60) are made by a score of companies. I wouldn't rely on a department store special that sells for less. Most casual runners today just buy one pair of training shoes, though shoes are also made for road racing, cross country and sprinting.

"Say I do learn to enjoy running," Mark intoned, "how long does it take to get over the soreness of starting out?"

"You don't have to have any soreness. Start slowly or even combine walk and run stints over a mile for the first two or three weeks. You're in pretty decent shape now, so you could work your way up to an easy two mile run in three or four weeks. Then add a half mile every two weeks until you're running at least 30 minutes each time out. Thirty minutes is a minimum necessary for real cardiovascular improvement.

"Pay attention to your body, your breathing, and your muscles. Take short, quick steps and just run naturally. Your stride and style will evolve quickly and will be right for you. Keep your elbows bent, but not tight against your body, and relax your hands. Also, don't run on your toes. Let each foot contact the ground at the heel and roll forward.

"Once you begin enjoying the long, slow distance method, you'll be surprised how long you'll want to stay out running. Then you might want to try the fartlek training method."

"Fartlek? You're kidding."

"No, it's a Swedish word that means

'speed play.' It's only effective if you are disciplined enough to perform a tough workout. But it's also fun. In fartlek training, several runners take off into the woods or fields at a fast pace through and over whatever obstacles are present, whether they be streams, high grass, mud, snow drifts, whatever. Each obstacle is seen as a challenge. Overcoming those challenges makes the fartlek method an outstanding training method.

"But watch yourself, especially when you combine hard training with racquetball. You could overtrain like I did a few years ago."

At age 32 I am far from over the hill, but on my 30th birthday I decided to become another Bruce Jenner. At 5:30 every morning I began a six mile run followed every evening by a tough racquetball practice. Although I felt great, after a couple months of this insanity I began sensing trouble. Early in the tournament season I played brilliantly in the first game of each match, but inevitably worsened as the matches wore on. I stepped up my regimen despite the early warning signs my body provided. Swollen glands, sore throat and headaches added to the misery

cont. on p. 34

brighter, bouncier ball.



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CALENDAR

January 12-14

New Hampshire State Racquetball Championships Closed Singles and Doubles*

Off the Wall Racquet Club
596 W. Hollis St.
Nashua, NH 03060
Tournament Director: Ina Ivarson

8th Annual Cowboy Open*

Oklahoma State University
119 Colvin Center
Stillwater, OK 74074
Tournament Director:
Dorothy Searcy
405-624-7406

I.R.A. Maine Closed*

all events other than doubles
Andy Valley Racquetball Club
Lewiston, ME
Contact: Bruce Lewis
30 Bow St.
Freeport, ME 04032

2nd Annual European Racquetball Assoc. Single Championships Augsburg Open*

Tournament Director: Ray Jimenez
or Ken Hines
Augsburg, Germany

Invitational A & B
P.A.R.C.

Bellingham, WA
Tournament Director: Gene Altman
206-676-1800

1st Liberty Bell Town & Country

Tennis & Health Center
1st Ave. No.
Federal Way, WA 98181
Tournament Director: Gary Hansen
206-927-3312

AMF Voit / Datsun Racquetball Classic
National Playoffs for all
Tournament finalists
Supreme Court
Las Vegas, NV
213-276-2018

January 15-26, 1979

Cambridge Area Jaycees and YMCA
Men's and Women's A & B Divisions
P.O. Box 87
Cambridge, OH 43725
Tournament Director: Ralph Penick

Thorton YMCA Doubles*

Contact: Jean Lehr
Oklahoma City, OK
405-843-9741
Down East Women's Classic
USRA
Mall Racquetball Club
South Portland, ME

January 26-28

One More Time
18th District Morrie Major
Linden Park Court Club
220 W. North Ave.
Chicago, IL
Tournament Director: Angelo Petitti

B-4 Sporting Goods Racquetball Classic*

Tournament Director: Jim Lovell
Sorrento Valley Racquetball Club
Sorrento Valley Road
San Diego, CA 92121
Long Island Open*
1657 Westmoreland Rd.
Merrick, NY 11566
Tournament Director:
Allen Seitelman
February 2-4

Burlington Open*

Burlington YMCA
Tournament Director: Harry Haynes

February 4-5

Lawton YMCA Senior II Masters Tournament*

Lawton, OK
Contact: Dick Hoffman or Jean Lehr
Oklahoma City, OK
405-843-9741

2nd East Coast Women's Doubles*

Off the Wall Racquetball Club
3100 Industrial Blvd.
Bethel Park, PA 15102
Tournament Director: Ken Goldberg
412-833-7600

February 9-11

New Hampshire Open*
Off the Wall Racquet Club
596 W. Hollis St.
Nashua, NH 03060
Tournament Director: Ina Ivarson

North Carolina State Championships*

Freeport, ME 04032

February 16-18

Connecticut Open*
c/o Phil Panarella
Box 259
New Britain, CT 06050

Williamsport Open*

Tournament Director: Kirby Shimp
3rd & Hepburn
Williamsport, PA
717-323-7134
A & B Men's and Women's Doubles

Cove County*

22 & Finley
Lombard, IL
Tournament Director: Angelo Petitti
312-348-3805
All C Divisions tournament

Pro Am

Court House
Tournament Director: Bob Petersen
7211 Colonial
Boise, ID
209-377-0040

February 23-25

Woman '79*
Boston Tennis Club
Tournament Director: Carol Mason
617-358-4341

President's Council on Physical Fitness Clinic*

Northwest Region
Pacific Lutheran University
Tacoma, WA

Masters Singles Invitational*

Jacksonville Racquet Club
6651 Crestline Dr.
Jacksonville, Fla. 32211
904-724-6994
Tournament Director: Gordon Ira

Colorado State Championships*

Denver Sporting House
5151 DTC Parkway
Englewood, CO
Tournament Directors: Bob Klass
303-629-2970

February 26-March 4
International Racquetball Week

March 2-4

International Racquetball Association
State Championships*

c/o Marvin Andresen
907-452-5303

Georgia State*

Contact Jim Cullen
Courthouse I
1990 Delk Ind. Blvd.
Marietta, GA 30060

Oklahoma State*

Contact: Jean Lehr
for site location
405-843-9741

Florida State Singles*

Contact: Gordon Ira
Jacksonville Racquetball Club
6651 Crestline Dr.
Jacksonville, FL 32211

Washington State*

Rescheduled for April 6-8

California State*

Sacramento Handball &
Racquetball Club
725 14th St.
Sacramento, CA 95814
Tournament Director: Ed Martin
916-241-2613

Down East Juniors

USRA
Downeast Court Club
Falmouth, ME

Pennsylvania State Tournament*

Racquet Club
Monroeville, PA
Tournament Director:
Ray Stephenson
412-665-7691 (office)
412-731-1483 (home)

2nd Liberty Bell

Town & Country Tennis &
Health Center
1st Ave. No.
Gig Harbor, WA
Tournament Director: Gary Hansen
206-927-3312

March 9-11

March of Dimes*

Downtown Racquetball Club
New Haven, CN
Tournament Director: Wayne Bruno
203-787-7459

West Virginia I.R.A. State Championships*

Delaware I.R.A. State Championships*

Tournament Director:
William Stoebe
Brynmar Racquetball Club
2513 Bryan Drive
Willmington, Del. 19808

Northwest Open

P.A.R.C.
Tournament Director: Gene Altman
Bellingham, WA
206-676-1800

March 23-25

Mid Atlantic Masters Invitationals*
Racquettime, Inc.
Senior Invitationals
Racquettime Racquet Club
4314 Old William Penn Highway
Monroeville, PA 15146
Contact: Gary Martin

New York Open I.R.A. State Championships*

Tournament Director:
Allen Seitelman
Winning Walls Racquetball Club
Porchester, NY
516-379-0043

Tennessee State*

U. of Chattanooga
Tournament Director:
Emile Catignani
615-537-5111
Daffodil Festival Open
Sprinker Rec Center
Tacoma, WA
Tournament Director: Gary Hansen
206-537-2600

March 29-30

International I.R.A. 3-Wall Championships* (see p. 14)
Tournament Director: Fred White
777 American Express Way
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33337
305-473-3912

March 30-April 1

Maine Open-I.R.A.*
Mall Racquetball Club
S. Portland
Downeast Court Club
Falmouth, ME
Contact: Bruce Lewis
39 Bow St.
Freeport, ME

Racquetball®

RACQUETBALL QUESTIONNAIRE

The I.R.A. and RACQUETBALL Magazine are launching a new effort to communicate the needs and desires of the amateur player to the manufacturer and court club owner. One part of this effort involves the following questionnaire. Please take the time to answer all or any number of the questions and return your answers to us. We feel confident that your effort will benefit the sport.

Please mail the questionnaire to: Research Department, RACQUETBALL Magazine, P.O. Box 16566, Memphis, TN 38116. Thank you for your help.

HABITS

What sport do you play most? _____
Second (if any) _____ Third (if any) _____
How long have you been playing racquetball? _____
How frequently do you play racquetball? _____ times a month
How long do you play each time _____
Compared to the past, are you playing _____ more _____ less _____ about the same
What days do you usually play? S M T W TH F S (please circle)
During what hours? _____ A.M. _____ P.M.
At how many different places do you play? _____
Are you a member of any of these clubs? _____ yes _____ no
If yes, how many? _____
What membership dues do you pay? _____ month _____ year
What are your court costs? _____ per hour
Have you incurred any major injury that forced you to miss playing? _____ yes _____ no
If yes, what kind of injury? _____
For how long were you sidelined? _____
Which of the following activities do you enjoy participating in at your club?
_____ ladder _____ round robins _____ club tournaments _____ open play _____ private classes
_____ group classes _____ pick-up games _____ clinics _____ other (please list) _____
Do you eat before you play? _____ yes _____ no _____ no regular pattern
How long before? _____
What is your favorite food before you play? _____

Do you eat after playing? _____ yes _____ no _____ no regular pattern
 How long after? _____
 What is your favorite food after you play? _____
 Do you drink after you play? _____ yes _____ no _____ no regular pattern
 If yes, what type of beverage? _____ brand _____
 how much _____
 Do you warm up before playing? _____ yes _____ no
 If yes, how long? _____
 Do you cool down after playing? _____ If yes, how long? _____
 List what you do after playing (shower, shave, chat with friends, etc.)
 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____
 5. _____ 6. _____ 7. _____ 8. _____
 How far do you travel to play? _____ miles _____ minutes

FACILITIES

Does your club (_____ private _____ public) have the following facilities? (If your club has the facility indicate with a ✓, if you use that facility add an x.)

_____ nursery _____ supervised nursery _____ exercise/weight room _____ lockers
 _____ steam room _____ health bar _____ snack bar _____ whirl pool (men's)
 _____ whirl pool (women's) _____ sauna (men's) _____ sauna (women's) _____ pro shop (equip.)
 _____ pro shop (clothes) _____ tennis court _____ running track _____ golf _____ other

EQUIPMENT

Do you buy shoes specifically designed for racquetball? _____ yes _____ no
 If yes, how many pairs do you own? _____
 What brands do you own? _____
 How much did you pay for each pair? _____
 How often do you buy athletic shoes? _____
 When you are ready to buy another pair, which brand will you buy? _____
 Where will you go to buy them? _____

Do you buy special tops for racquetball? _____ yes _____ no
 If yes, how many do you own? _____
 What brand(s) do you own? _____ cost _____
 How many do you buy each year? _____
 When you are ready to buy a new shirt/top, which brand will you buy? _____
 Where will you go to buy it? _____

Do you buy special shorts for racquetball? _____ yes _____ no
 If yes, how many pairs of racquetball shorts do you own? _____
 What brand(s) do you own? _____ cost _____
 How many pairs of athletic shorts do you buy each year? _____
 When you are ready to buy a new pair of athletic shorts, which brand will you buy? _____
 Where will you go to buy them? _____

Do you buy athletic socks for racquetball? _____ yes _____ no
 If yes, how many pairs do you own? _____
 What brand(s) do you own? _____ cost _____
 How many pairs of athletic socks do you buy each year? _____
 When you are ready to buy a new pair, which brand will you buy? _____
 Where will you go to buy them? _____

Do you own safety glasses? _____yes _____no
Are they prescription glasses? _____yes _____no
What brand do you own? _____cost _____
Would you buy the same brand again? _____yes _____no
If no, what brand would you buy? _____
If you do not currently own safety glasses, are you considering buying a pair? _____yes _____no
If yes, what brand are you considering? _____

Do you own any wrist, knee, or elbow supports? _____yes _____no
If yes, do you wear them only when you are injured? _____yes _____no
What brand(s) do you own? _____cost _____
Would you buy other support equipment? _____yes _____no
If yes, what brand(s)? _____

What brand(s) of racquet do you own? _____cost _____
How often do you buy a new racquet? _____
When you are ready to buy a new racquet, what brand will you buy? _____
Where will you go to buy it? _____

Do you buy athletic underwear/supports for racquetball? _____yes _____no
If yes, what type? _____
What brand(s) do you own? _____cost _____
When you are ready to buy new underwear/supports, which brand will you buy? _____
Where will you go to buy them? _____

What brand of racquetballs do you play with? _____
What brand of balls do you like the best? _____cost _____
How long does a can of balls last you? _____
Where do you buy your racquetballs? _____

Do you own a carry bag? _____yes _____no
If yes, what brand? _____cost _____
How often do you *need* a new bag? _____
How often do you *buy* a new bag? _____
If you were to buy a new bag, what brand would you buy? _____
Where would you go to buy it? _____

Do you own a racquetball glove? _____yes _____no
How many do you own? _____What brand do you own? _____cost _____
How often do you *need* a new glove? _____
How often do you *buy* a new glove? _____
When you buy one, what brand will you buy? _____

TRAVEL

Have you ever traveled out of your city specifically to play racquetball? _____yes _____no
How often? _____times per year for _____ years.
What is the farthest you have traveled? _____ miles
What is the longest time you have spent playing/watching out of town? _____ nights
Where did you stay? _____hotel/motel _____friends _____homes of host _____club members
_____ other
Type of play _____informal _____tournament
Would you travel out of town to see a tournament? _____yes _____no
At what playing level? _____

SPEAK OUT

What changes would you like to see regarding the following?

EQUIPMENT

Racquets _____

Balls _____

Shoes _____

Gloves _____

Other _____

COURT CLUBS

Hours _____

Facilities _____

Courts _____

Costs _____

What do you like *most* about your club? _____

About the management? _____

What do you like *least* about your club? _____

About the management? _____

Have you ever resigned from a court club? _____ yes _____ no

If yes, why? _____

What new club rules would you like to see added at your club? _____

PLAYING RULES

Does your club follow I.R.A. rules? _____ always _____ only during tournament play _____ never

_____ it's up to the players except during tournaments

What playing rules would you like to see changed?

Serve _____

Return of serve _____

Officiating _____

Play _____

Hinders _____

Tournaments _____

Your Name _____ Sex _____ M _____ F

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____ Telephone Number _____

5th Annual Mass. Singles (Closed)*
Cedardale Racquet Club
Haverhill, MA
Tournament Director: John Lepore
617-662-6791

President's Council on Physical
Fitness Clinic*
Northeast Region
Board of Education
New York, New York

Box 61116
Raleigh, NC 27661
Tournament Director:
Sonny Harmon
919-227-1161
919-832-5513

SnowFest Racquetball
Tournament*
August YMCA
Contact: Bruce Lewis
39 Bow St.

Site for State Championships
Alabama State Championships*
Huntsville Athletic Club
Tournament Director: Gary Bell
2005 Sewanee Road
Huntsville, AL 35801
205-534-5019
Alaska State*
Racquetball Fairbanks
Front & Eagle Streets
P.O. Box 73169
Fairbanks, Alaska 99707

519 Warwood Ave.
Wheeling, W. VA 26003
304-277-3640

March 16-18
Intercollegiate I.R.A.
Championship*
to be held at Penn State State
University
Tournament Director: Larry Liles
Jim Cullen
c/o Court House I
1990 Delk Ind. Blvd.
Marietta, GA
404-452-2120
Memphis State University
901-454-2805

Bay State Open*
North Meadow Racquet Club
Tewkesberry, MA
Tournament Director:
Dan Giordano

Tournament
Tri City Court Club
1350 N. Grant St.
Kenwick, WA 99836
Tournament Director: Kathy Schilling

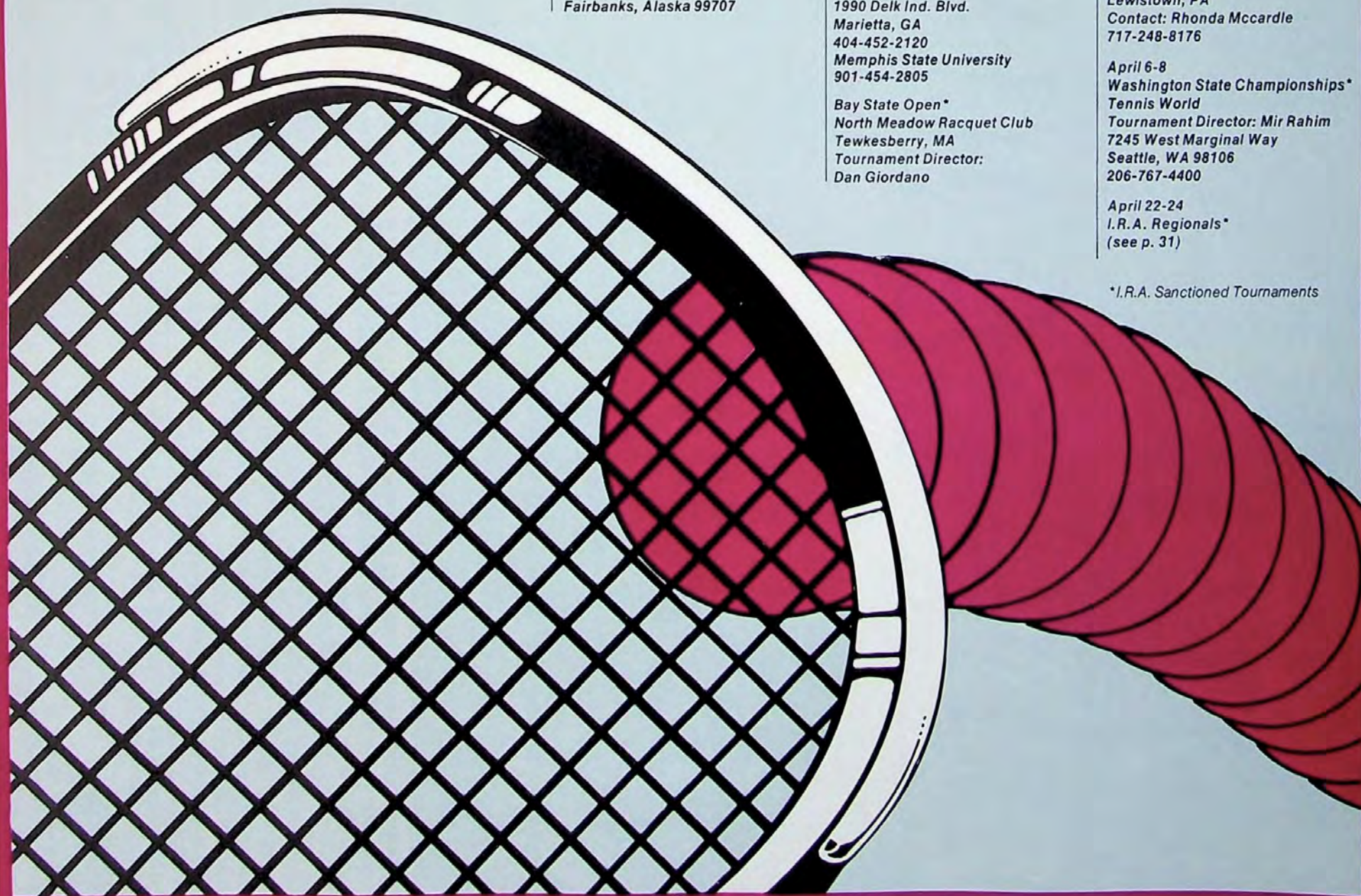
April 5-8
N.R.C. Regionals

Bumble Bee Women's Classic*
Open, Singles, and Doubles
Juniata Valley YMCA
Lewistown, PA
Contact: Rhonda Mccardle
717-248-8176

April 6-8
Washington State Championships*
Tennis World
Tournament Director: Mir Rahim
7245 West Marginal Way
Seattle, WA 98106
206-767-4400

April 22-24
I.R.A. Regionals*
(see p. 31)

*I.R.A. Sanctioned Tournaments



THE NITTANY LION OPEN



THE LION ROARS · BY CHARLIE GARFINKEL

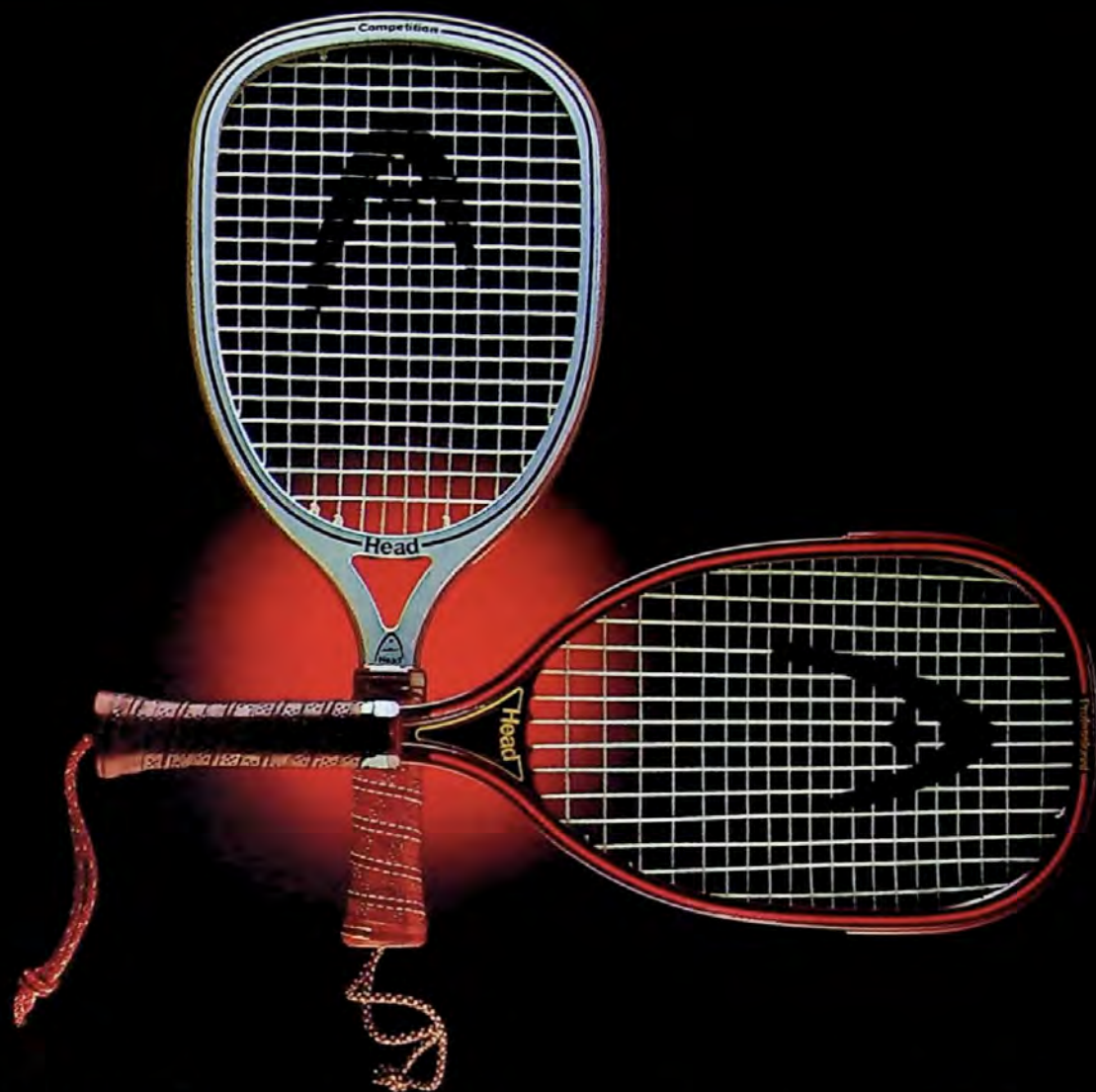
Penn State's campus was a great place to be in mid-November. UPI and AP had Penn State ranked as the number one college football team in the nation and everyone who held a ticket for the upcoming game with Pitt knew they held gold. Could the Penn State Nittany Lions beat the Pittsburgh Panthers to remain number one?

At the intramural building, the battle to be number one was about to begin. The excitement started building until the air fairly crackled with nervous energy. Coming early to claim the best vantage points, the spectators cheered the players as they warmed up. They waited impatiently for the best players to compete in the most prestigious contest in the East. Football? Nope. It was racquetball time.

The 7th Annual Nittany Lion Open had begun.

Charlie Garfinkel, writer of numerous articles for RACQUETBALL Magazine, has recently published his first book, *Racquetball The Easy Way*.

ILLUSTRATION BY BILL GREGG



Head unveils its racquetball line with a simple suggestion:

Consider the source.

Head® brings exciting news to racquetball with the Competition and Professional racquets. Innovation from the people who refuse to accept the obvious in design. We revolutionized the art of tennis racket construction through the use of composites and aluminum – and have taken every major professional tennis title in the process. Now, once again, we come equipped to change the face of a sport.

The sleek Competition features our patented combination of fiberglass and aluminum. For the first time in racquetball, Head captures the power and durability of metal with the “feel” of fiberglass.

The Professional is equally impressive. Under its classic burgundy finish is the highest strength aluminum in the racquetball industry. The result is devastating power.

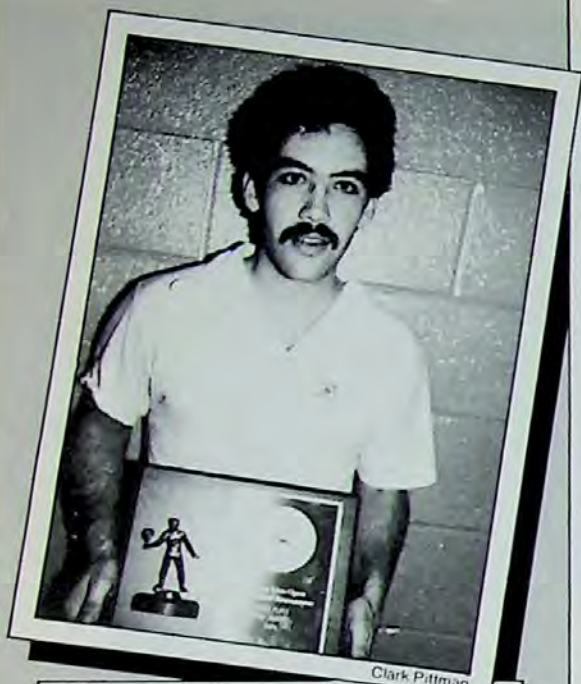
And both racquets feature Head's revolutionary contoured (hourglass) handle that can help you add critical wrist-snap power to your shots.

The innovations continue. But they're best explained by the expert at your sporting goods store. He'll demonstrate exactly what our quadriform head, laced-in bumper guards, and replaceable throat piece and grommets can do for you. And he'll carefully describe our options in racquet weight and handle size, as well as introduce you to the complete line of Head accessories – shoes, string, eyeguards, gloves and bags.

From Wimbledon to...

Racquetball. We meet again.

AMF
Head



Clark Pittman



Tom Ranker



Carol Frenck

The Nittany Lion Open once again proved to be one of the best tournaments in the East. In the Men's Open final, a David-versus-Goliath match occurred.

Clark Pittman, 5'7" and about 150 pounds, was matched against Tom Ranker, 6'4" and 215 pounds. Clark, who is from Mansfield, Ohio, quickly showed that his smaller stature was definitely not a detriment. Using well-placed serves, a faultless ceiling game, and an unbelievable array of shots, he completely stymied Ranker in the first game by the score of 21-5. Ranker was missing shots and seemed unsure of himself. His vaunted power game never got started.

In game two, Pittman's concentration seemed to waver a bit, but he was still playing well. Ranker knew he had to shoot, and shoot he did! He turned the match around and won the second game 21-16. Game three was a see-saw battle with Pittman putting a few more shots away to win 15-13. Even though Pittman was seeded seventh and Ranker was seeded fourth, Pittman's win was no fluke. The 1977 Midwest Regional Champion, he has recently defeated such players as Phil Steppe, Jim Austin, John Hennen, and Larry Fox.

As for Tom Ranker, his dedication and desire to improve his racquetball game during the past four years has been amazing. As Tom himself said, "I've improved 500%. Luke St. Onge taught me the game in 1974. In 1976, I moved to Detroit and played with the top players there. Now I play a lot with Tom Whipple and he has helped me immensely. I play every day and I have won five singles titles this year."

In the semifinals, Pittman defeated Al Plummer of Pittsburgh 21-17, 21-12. Plummer had upset number six seed Jack Chelucci and number three seed Jim Bailey in earlier rounds. Plummer, a 23-year-old pro at Off the Wall in Pittsburgh, hits the ball very hard and shoots unerringly. He's in great shape: he plays two hours of racquetball, runs four miles, and does a half hour of calisthenics—every day. He'll be heard from in the future.

In the other semifinals, Tom Ranker was defeating his good friend and doubles partner Tom Whipple 21-12, 21-14. Ranker was very "on" and Whipple seemed a bit weary after five matches and 13 games the previous day.

Whipple, a three-time Maryland State Singles Champion, had pulled the top upset of the tournament by defeating number one seeded Charlie Garfinkel in the quarterfinals. Whipple won the first game 21-9, Garfinkel won the second game 21-11, and Whipple jumped out to a big 13-4 lead in the third game.

Garfinkel gained control and ran ten

straight points by Whipple to lead 14-13. When Whipple regained the serve, Garfinkel promptly rolled out a forehand. Whipple rolled out Garfinkel's next serve, then won the match on an off-balance forehand pinch shot in the right corner. The crowd went wild as the final score stood 21-9, 11-21, 15-14.

In the other quarterfinals, Clark Pittman avenged his last year's loss to second seed Leo Marsocci by completely overwhelming the mustachioed slugger 21-12, 21-4. Clark's shots and control completely neutralized Marsocci's power.

Number three seed Jim Bailey lost to Al Plummer 21-17, 21-12 in a match that wasn't as close as the scores indicate. Plummer was so hot that there are still scorch marks on the lower front wall of the court they played on. He couldn't miss. Bailey, who relies on his great gets, stamina, and forehand pinch shots, was not as sharp as usual.

In the final quarterfinal match, Tom Ranker defeated Rich Zewe 21-4, 21-13. Many thought that the match would be much closer since Zewe had upset fourth seeded Craig Guinter 21-20, 21-17 in an earlier round. Ranker had barely gotten past Jere Willey in the round of 16 (20-21, 21-20, 15-14). But in this match, Ranker was strong in all departments.

The most interesting feature of the Men's Singles was the fact that the first four seeds didn't make the semis. Surprising? Perhaps. However, there are more and more contestants playing high caliber racquetball and the players at the top will have to work harder and harder.

Women's Singles

In the Women's Open Singles final, Carol Frenck of Newport News, Virginia proved to be the class of the field by defeating Lucy Zarfos of York, Pennsylvania 21-15, 21-19.

Zarfos is a steady player who relies on control, passing, and an excellent ceiling game. Zarfos, who has won the Mid-Atlantic Regionals four years in a row and who was runner-up to Sarah Green in the United States Amateur Championship in 1976, has a devastating forehand. She tries to keep the ball moving constantly and doesn't use a ceiling ball a great deal. She stays in shape by coaching and playing basketball and by taking a conditioning class that emphasizes stretching, running, and calisthenics.

In the semis, both women completely overwhelmed their opponents: Frenck defeated Cindy Baxter 21-2, 21-12 and Zarfos defeated Mary Musewicz 21-14, 21-2.

One of the most incredible comebacks ever witnessed occurred when Sue Jameson was serving game-match point,

14-3 to Molly Hartenstein. The serve was an apparent winner that Hartenstein just managed to get a racquet on, sending the ball straight up in the air. As the ball descended, it struck Jameson on the shoulder as she was about to receive congratulations from her opponent. Hartenstein broke Jameson's serve, fought off four exchanges of serve, and scored 12 straight points—including seven service aces—to take game three and the match!

Men's Doubles

In the Men's Open Doubles finals, Clark Pittman emerged a double winner in the tourney. He teamed with Leo Marsocci to defeat Mitch Buckler and Al "Rip" Miller 21-12, 21-12.

Marsocci was incredulous after the match. He said, "Pittman had just completed a gruelling three-game singles final and they played me the whole match. I couldn't believe it."

Marsocci, who has won the doubles championship four times with four different partners, is one of the premiere doubles players in the East. His power, z-balls, reverse z-balls, and half volleys control most of his doubles matches. The fans love it when Leo rolls out a kill shot, points his finger at the spot where he hit the ball, and yells at the top of his lungs, "YAH-h-h-h-h-h!!!"

Buckler, a finalist in the Juniors, and Al Miller had pulled the upset of the doubles tourney by defeating Tom Ranker and Tom Whipple 21-12, 21-20. Miller said, "We wanted to make sure that Ranker felt bored. He looked like he was doing a rope-a-dope the first game." Miller was right. Ranker looked as if he were saving himself for his singles semifinal. Even so, Buckler's deadly left-handed forehand kills and Miller's great gets proved decisive.

Marsocci and Pittman defeated Dennis Onkotz and Jere Willey in two well-played games 21-12, 21-14 in the other semis.

In the quarterfinals, there were two super matches. Buckler and Miller defeated Tim Grapes and Jim Jones of Pittsburgh 16-21, 21-13, 15-9. Ranker and Whipple defeated Carm Felicetti and Herb Meyers 10-21, 21-15, 15-9.

Women's Doubles

Carol French became a double winner in the tournament by teaming with Andrea Katz to defeat Mary Musewicz and Diane Palazolo 21-20, 21-2. French and Katz have played a lot of doubles together and it shows in their control, teamwork, and court position. They always seem to be in the right place and they usually put the ball away. Farrell and Ross gave a good account of themselves, but made too many unforced

errors.

In the semifinals, French and Katz defeated Sally Skibinski and Kathy Stapf 21-12, 21-7. Farrell and Ross lost to Musewicz and Palazolo 21-19, 10-21, 15-11 in a hard-fought and well-played match.

Juniors

Kevin Pillion is 5'10½" and weighs 130 pounds. When he stands sideways, he almost disappears. But don't let that fool you; sixteen-year-old Kevin's strokes are textbook perfect and he is deceptively powerful. As Kevin himself says, "I like to shoot off both sides. It doesn't matter. I hit good low serves. I have a super wrist and Al Plummer has helped me a lot."

In the Junior finals, Pillion defeated Mitch Buckler in a super match 21-14, 20-21, 15-8. His seemingly flawless game eventually wore down the harder hitting Buckler.

Pillion's semifinal wasn't any easier. He defeated Charlie Horton 11-21, 21-12, 15-10. Horton (who wears a moustache at 15) possesses a great forehand, but has lapses in concentration. He was a quarterfinalist in the National Juniors and will be tougher and tougher from now on.

In the other semis, Mitch Buckler won by the scores of 21-7, 21-13 over Ira Miller of Maryland.

All of the juniors showed great potential and improved court manners. They are the future champions.

Up-and-comers can find no better proving grounds than the Nittany Lion Open. It remains the premier racquetball tournament of the East. ■

Time Out: Many Thanks

To: Ed Checki and Penn State University for their continued support of amateur racquetball.

To: Seamco Sporting Goods Company for their donation of shirts and racquetballs.

To: The entire tournament committee of Denny Onkotz, Jere and Carolyn Willey, Fran Mason, Ron and Marcia Marsenco, Bill Bradley, Bill Verity, Earl Haines, Sue Jamison, and John Dougherty.

To: Our loyal supporters - Athlete's Foot, Athletic Attic, Centre Sports, Gatorade, Horner Farms, The Racquet Shop, Riverside Markets, S.A.S., The Scorpion, Joe Toscano, and Wilson Sporting Goods.

To: Mark Belden who again did a yeoman's job as floor manager.

To: All participants who once again made the Nittany Lion Open the premier amateur event on the East Coast.



Lucy Zarlos



Kevin Pillion



Mitch Buckler

PINCH SHOTS

By Michael Mjehovich

THE SKILL

To practice the pinch shot, you must first have an accurate swing. Because the successful pinch shot is hit to a desired area on the side wall, a consistent stroke is necessary.

Secondly, you must also understand the angles involved in hitting the pinch shot. Stand near the right side wall (right handed) about six feet from both back and side walls. Use the same motions for practicing the basic forehand, but instead of striking the ball straight forward, aim for the side wall first. Do this several times but make sure the ball rebounds to the front wall before striking the floor. After a while you will see a pattern develop as the ball rebounds.

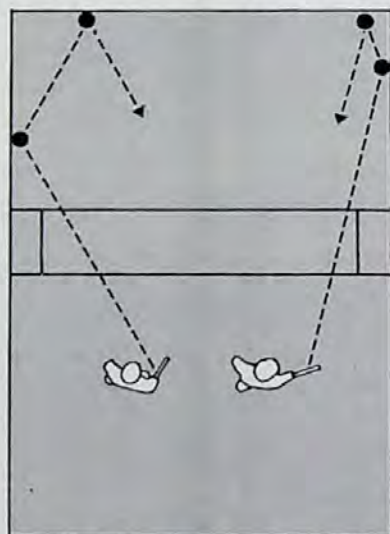
Move closer to the center of the court using the same drill. You will now notice you must adjust your swing and aim at a different spot to acquire the same pinch effect. This is simply a learning process to familiarize yourself with the court position necessary to make a good pinch shot.

The third step is to practice hitting good low shots. With low shots, mistakes are easy, so patience is a must. Remember this is an advanced shot, so you must treat it as a new skill and practice.

The fourth step is to use the back wall to practice hitting the pinch shot. Toss the ball off the back wall and follow it out to the contact point, slightly adjusting your swing while aiming for the side wall. This will insure the flight of the ball to the desired position. The pinch shot should be treated as a new skill. Too often, players take this shot for granted saying "all I have to do is aim for the side wall." It's not that easy. You must know where to hit the side wall. This, of course, depends on your position on the court. A mistake made when hitting a pinch shot usually results in a skip ball. The pinch shot is effective, but as with all the strokes, its effectiveness comes from your ability to make the shot when you want to.

STRATEGY

As an advanced shot, the pinch shot is very effective. It is used as an offensive weapon and also helps to add a change of pace in your selection of shots. Like a baseball pitcher who throws a curve once in a while, the pinch shot can be successful when mixed up with the regular strokes. The most effective setting for using the pinch comes when playing the ball off the back wall. Imagine during a game you are taking your back wall shots and hitting them very hard, using straight pass shots and cross court pass shots. Your opponent will be reacting to



VARIOUS ANGLES OF THE PINCH SHOT

the first contact the ball has with the front wall. Since the back wall shots are usually hit so they strike the front wall first, their angle of return is usually straight towards the back wall. This is the ideal time to use the pinch shot off the back wall.

If the ball is hit to the side wall just before it strikes the front wall, the ball will rebound off the front wall back towards the center court at a 45 degree angle. This, as you can see, will cause a quick change in direction for the ball as well as for your opponent. The farther

away from the front wall that the ball strikes the side wall, the less the angle of the ball's return to the middle.

In this case two things happen. First, your opponent will automatically start to move in the direction of the side wall when the ball first makes contact. This is a natural reaction because of the sound the ball makes when it strikes the side wall. As your opponent takes a step to the side wall, the ball will rebound in the direction of the front wall. Again, you have a change of direction. Your opponent will now have to change his movement to that of the ball. The ball will rebound off the front wall towards the opposite side wall. To complicate it further, if the ball is hit low, you should now be able to see why a good pinch shot is an added weapon for the offensive player.

Now that you have shown your opponent this shot, he will be thinking about moving up to cover it. He must wait until he can follow the flight of your shot before reacting. Everytime you have a back wall return you will be more confident knowing your opponent has no idea which shot you are going to use. You can learn to choose your type of shot at the last second, depending on the position of your opponent.

The pinch shot can be used at any time. The return of the back wall shot is the most common but not the only example. The return of the back wall is the most deadly because you can set up and hit a powerful shot at any height you so desire. With your opponent going one way and the ball the other, the pinch shot is a most effective weapon.

REVERSE PINCH SHOT

Reverse pinch shot is the term used to describe the shot that first strikes the front wall, rebounding directly into the side wall. This is not a common shot but is very effective.

There are very few times during a game when the beginning or intermediate player hits the reverse pinch shot "on purpose." The advanced player knows its effectiveness and also its difficulty. An unsuccessful reverse pinch shot usually results in the ball rebounding to the center of the court, allowing a greater chance of return for your opponent. ■

[We inadvertently left Mike's by-line off last issue's Winning Points article on passing shots. We appreciate Mike's articles and apologize for leaving off his by-line. —Ed.]

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Haverhill, MA
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Dan Giordano
617-861-3212 (office)
617-274-0570 (home)

Extra Events: Men's and Women's B, C, and Novice
Limit of 64 entrants in each non-championship event
Limit of one event per entrant
Entry fee includes Banquet
Saturday evening (guests \$10.00)
Housing: Howard Johnson's Motel in Haverhill (617-373-1511)

Western Region

Kangaroo Courts I
200 S. Harding Blvd.
Roseville, CA 95678
916-782-7711

Extra Events: Open Doubles, Men's and Women's B and C Singles, B Doubles

Northwestern Region

Eastern Washington University
Cheney, WA 99004
Tournament Director:
Pat Whitehill
509-359-2406
or contact Roberta McNeal

Extra Events: Men's and Women's Open Doubles, Men's Senior Doubles, Men's and Women's B Singles, Women's Novice Singles, Men's C Singles
Housing available at the University
Contact: Conferences and Workshops (509-359-2406)

Mid-Atlantic Region

Extra Events: Open Doubles, Open B Doubles, Men's and Women's B Singles
Extra event costs an additional \$5.00
Open Division limited to 64 entrants; B Division limited to 128 entrants

Southern Region

Court House I
1990 Delk Industrial Blvd.
Marietta, GA
Tournament Director: Jim Cullen

Extra Events: Men's and Women's Open Doubles, Men's and Women's B and C Singles
Limit of one singles event and one doubles event.

Draw available at noon on Wednesday, April 18, 1979
Tournament Director reserves the right to upgrade or refuse any entry.
Housing: Holiday Inn and Ramada Inn on Delk Industrial Blvd. in Marietta, GA. When making reservations, specify "Regional Racquetball Tournament."

Midwestern Regional

West Port Racquet Club
2388 Chaffee
St. Louis, MO 63141
Tournament Directors: Len Marks (314-725-3710) and Dan Hilecher (314-469-1989)

Extra Events: Men's and Women's B, C, and Novice; Men's and Women's Doubles

Southwestern Region

University of Texas at Arlington
Arlington, TX
Tournament Director: Brad Walker
101 E. 10th
Dallas, TX 75203
214-948-3243
After tournament begins, all phone calls should be directed to the Recreation Building at the University

Extra Events: Men's and Women's B and C, Men's Open Doubles, Women's Doubles, Men's B Doubles
\$18.00 for first event; \$9.00 for second event
Housing: Holiday Inn, 903 Collins Ave., Arlington, TX (214-261-3621)

CEILING BALLS

By Patricia Froeba

A full-time graduate student working on her PhD in English at the University of Southwestern Louisiana, Patricia Froeba plays in tournaments in Baton Rouge, New Orleans, and as far west as San Antonio. She is working on a book about athletics for children in conjunction with the owner of the club where she works part-time.

All right, you're confused. You've spent weeks working on ceiling shots—you can hit the corners with unerring accuracy, and you have developed the knack of dropping the ball maddeningly near the back wall. The rest of your game is reassuringly solid, so you enter a big tournament not too far from home. And in the first round, something goes haywire. Your ceiling shot is the most visible evidence—your ordinary stroke is sending the ball too deep, and it is bounding off the back wall for easy set-ups. You ease up, and aim for side walls in desperation, but now the ball seems to drop far too short. Your concentration is destroyed, and you go down to defeat in total frustration. You go home wondering what happened.

At home, you sit down to do some hard thinking. *Something* at the tournament threw your game off, especially your ceiling shots. *Something* was different. Your shoes? Nope. Your racquet? Nope. The lights? Nope. The ball? The ball!

With the entry into the market of new balls, and the wider distribution of all brands, even club players are finding vast differences in the balls they are playing with. Some manufacturers send in balls for tournaments, balls that may not be readily available in the area, or balls that have a factory-fresh liveliness quite unlike the usual pro-shop merchandise. While upper-level players can make adjustments to the different balls readily, the average club player must prepare if he is to adapt in time to play his own game. He must look at each part of his game, and ask himself how it will be affected by a livelier ball, or a heavier ball, or a ball that seems to skid and spin more than usual. Then he must practice to make whatever adjustments are necessary.

Serves and passing shots are affected by different balls, but, as that last tournament proved, your ceiling game

suffers the most. Mis-hitting the ceiling shot can be disastrous—it can bound off the back wall for easy set-ups, or it can fall into the three-quarter court area where it is easily put away. From the standpoint of your own offensive game, it is a necessity to learn something about the balls being used in tournaments in your area. Talk to other players, but do not accept their evaluation as final—get balls from the different companies and try them out yourself. If you know which ball will be used in a tournament, work with it prior to the tournament. Tournament balls, for whatever reasons, seem to be high-charged super-bouncers. But be aware that, like fingerprints, no two balls are quite the same. Even within the same type, there will be variations. Consistency of bounce seems to be a mythical quality, much talked of but little seen.

There are other considerations. Within the last few years, at a relatively small sample of tournaments in my area, I have seen tournament directors run out of balls on Saturday and switch to a new ball for the finals; I have seen new balls that were rejected by an opponent and a referee in favor of a "deader" ball. I have seen tournament directors refuse to supply balls, telling players to use whatever they had with them. Some players carry favorite balls onto the court with them—these have ranged from very lively balls to heavy, slow-bouncing balls. I have seen balls that make a terrific noise when hit, but which move slowly off into the back wall despite the gunshot sound. Finally, I have seen the official ball change the day of the tournament because a shipment did not arrive.

So what does all of this mean for the club player? If the club player (meaning you and me, not the semi-pro who lives at the club) is going to enter tournaments and even travel around a little, he should be prepared for the differences in balls. He should have a firm idea as to what a

good ceiling ball does, and before a tournament, he should practice executing that shot with a variety of balls. At the tournament, he should spend a part of his warm-up before a match hitting the ceiling shot with the game ball. He should find out how much power it takes to reach the back wall, or how much "finesse" he will need to keep the ball off of the back wall. Knowing what his shot will do, knowing ahead of time that it will, for instance, bound off the back wall or drop in good position, helps a player prepare for the return. He is one step further along in anticipation because he has prepared.

There is another side to the preparation. If your opponent is not used to or hasn't practiced with a super-charged ball, you have the makings of some dandy offensive set-ups. He will hit the ceiling ball too hard, and you will find it coming off the back wall awaiting your pleasure. His ceiling shots will fall short as he tries to ease up with an unfamiliar ball. Be prepared to take full advantage of his mistakes—practice hitting short ceiling balls aggressively—work on passing to the corners, down the line and cross-court, as well as killing the ball, hitting Z shots, or returning ceiling balls. Give yourself as many options as possible by preparing ahead of time.

A ceiling shot that rebounds off the back wall is also an offensive opportunity, though hitting the shot requires some minor adjustments in thinking. First, the ball is a back-wall set-up, but it has some important differences. Unlike a normal back-wall set-up, this shot is slower—it has hit the ceiling, and is slowed down by the contact. You must adjust to the slower speed and be prepared to supply a bit more power than was needed on the other shot.

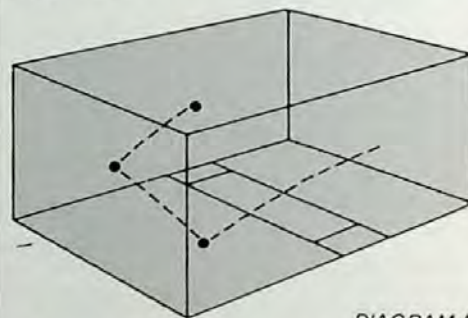


DIAGRAM A

Second, the ball is coming from a very different angle. A non-ceiling shot moves rapidly off the front wall, hits the floor, then bounces upward into the back wall, moving upward at a good speed (Diagram A). You need to estimate where it will fall, then roll it out.

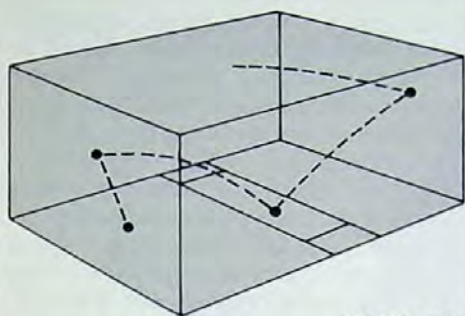


DIAGRAM B

A ceiling shot hit too hard is a different story. It strikes the ceiling first, then the front wall, then the floor. Moving slowly in a gentle arc, it strikes the back wall on the down-side of the arc and continues to drop, softly and quickly (Diagram B). If you are to move offensively with this ball, you must adjust. Remember that the ball is slower than usual; remember that it is moving downward. Concentrate on contacting the ball solidly as part of a level swing; if you try to track the ball in the air and hit it so that it follows its present course (possible in a normal back-wall shot), you will skip the ball. You may even miss it altogether. You must practice to get the sense of timing for this shot—treat it as a new shot, not just another set-up off the back wall. Practice the shot often, and practice doing a variety of things with it—send some back to the ceiling, down the line, cross-court, etc. You may need to slap it into the back wall if it is dropping very softly. Be ready for the shot.

You may have trouble practicing alone—it may be difficult to hit a ball hard enough to take that bounce, particularly with ordinary pro-shop balls. A partner is invaluable—so is a lively ball. It may help to take a pressure-adjustable ball and pump it up a bit. Remember that lively balls have a way of showing up at tournaments, so be ready to adjust your own shots and to take full advantage of your opponent's mis-hits. If you make him eat his mistakes, he will be under pressure to hit each shot with precision—and we all know what extra pressure can do to one's game.

Once you have practiced with heavy balls and super-lively balls, you should have confidence that you can execute no matter what ball is used. Further, you will be ready to take offensive advantage whenever your opponent makes a mistake. With a little extra practice at adjusting to the altered path and reduced momentum of a ceiling ball off the back-wall, you will have added another killer shot to your arsenal. ■



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cont. from p. 23

of my self-imposed torture. When my game continued to deteriorate and the annoyances persisted, I visited my doctor. He said he had seen this kind of mild mononucleosis in other over-trained athletes. He advised rest.

"The moral of the story," I told Mark, "is wrapped up in the epilogue. I rested, all right, about two weeks. Then I was back on the streets every morning, albeit only four miles now, and the courts every evening. I felt fine and played well, but suffered from extreme disinterest and laziness in racquetball tournaments. After the season I took several months away from the game which gave me a chance to see my troubles with a fresh perspective. I could see that my body had never fully recovered from that mono. I understood all too well the old runner's adage, 'train, don't strain.'"

Now, a week out of my new training program is a bit more sane for someone over 30. Racquetball practice five days a week, running three days a week, the only overlap day on the weekend when I have more rest and less occupational stress. Also, I warm up thoroughly with five minutes of stretching exercises before running. Afterwards, I walk and do additional stretching exercises to cool down. I use exercises that extend leg and

lower back muscles and hold them for a six count with five to ten repetitions. Quick, jerky exercises only contract the muscles.

"I'm glad you had all those problems, not me," said Mark who seemed exhausted himself. "I'll be sure that I don't overtrain," he chuckled as he leaned back in his chair.

"How old are you?" I returned.

"It makes a difference?"

"I have a purpose in mind."

"You always do."

"You really should have a complete physical if you're over 30. People over age 40 should have a physical and a treadmill test every other year."

"I'll get my physical next year, then," Mark responded. Then he asked the toughest question of all.

"What is that natural high that runners get?"

"For me, runner's high, as it's called, is a myth. Maybe some runners experience it, but I never have."

For some runners, after 30-40 minutes of running, a euphoric natural high sets in, giving them a false confidence in their energy reserves. Marathoners have prematurely run themselves into oblivion because they felt "too good" after six miles. There's a story going around that during a race, a famous actor-marathoner had pushed

himself so hard that he felt he was doing fine—and all the while he was standing stock still and literally sweating blood.

So far, I've never experienced *anything* like that. However, with nearly every run I reach a point somewhere after midway where my mind is anywhere but on running. Though there's no exhilaration, there's no pain; likewise, no energy deception, but no exhaustion either. Rather, my mind is detached from running, probably conjuring up some sales innovation or, more likely, daydreaming about winning the national championships. It's a time when I'm most creative and I love it. Perhaps it's why I love running. "Once I dreaded running; now I look forward to it," I added.

"Your enthusiasm is contagious," Mark said. "And it fits."

"How so?"

"It fits with something I read yesterday, about the U.S. Surgeon General's opinion of running."

"Yeah?"

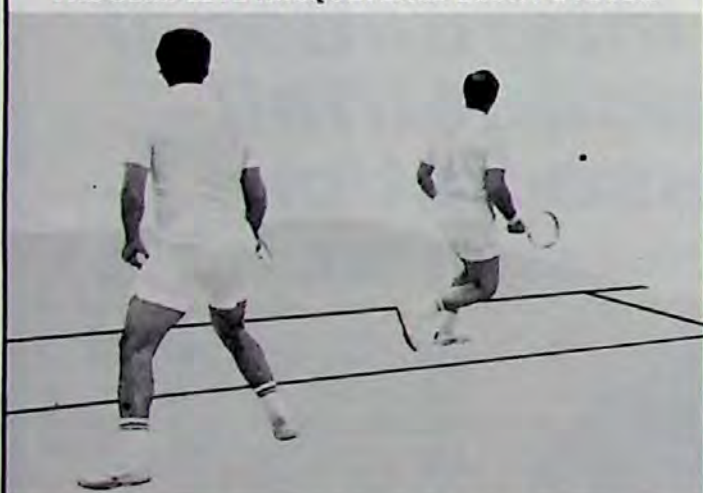
"He said people who run regularly even enjoy sex more. If that isn't motivation enough, I don't know what is."

"So you'll give it a try?"

"I may be non-competitive in athletics, but in sex. . . OK. I'll give it a try." ■

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INDUSTRY NEWS & NEW PRODUCTS



Carry On

This season, Ektelon is offering a line of athletic tote bags with styling to suit every taste and a wide range of uses. Their rugged good looks and special features make Ektelon bags ideal not only for carrying racquetball, tennis or other sports gear, but also for use as overnight, flight or carryall bags.

In addition to its popular blue-and-yellow vinyl All Pro Bag and Racquetballer Bag of brown Uniroyal Ranchide expanded vinyl, Ektelon has two new bags of 18-ounce canvas duck cloth.

The New Racquetball Sport Bag offers the traditional racquetball styling in chocolate brown duck cloth while the New Racquet Tote Bag of earth-tone duck cloth provides a different look with external racquet pockets.

All Ektelon bags are equipped with a roomy interior for clothes and equipment and separate waterproof pockets.

Moving On

Omega Sports, a St. Louis-based firm which is one of America's largest producers of racquetball racquets, has been acquired by Carlson Companies, Inc. of Minneapolis, Minnesota.

"The acquisition of this respected racquetball products firm is part of the continuing growth of Carlson Companies in the nation's leisure products industry," says Edwin C. Gage, president of Carlson Marketing and Motivation Division. "We feel that Omega Sports has set the standards of excellence in this expanding industry." Gage reported that with the acquisition of Omega Sports, the Carlson Companies leisure industries group has combined annual sales of around \$30 million.

...

John Holohan, a Lemontree resident,

has been named corporate fitness director of Sports Illustrated Court Clubs, Southfield.

He holds master's and bachelor's degrees in exercise physiology from Ball State University (Indiana) and Syracuse University, respectively, and a certificate as cardiac-graded exercise technician from the American College of Sports Medicine.

He is in charge of physical fitness programs which are now offered in four of the SI Court Clubs and which will be extended to at least 20 more clubs within the next year. Though the programs were only recently initiated, they already have more than 1300 members.

Individualized exercise programs are designed for each member after testing for flexibility, strength and heart-rate response to exercise. The programs include exercise to build flexibility, muscle strength, endurance (heart-lung capacity), and abdominal strength, and are opened and closed with warm-up and cool-down exercises.

Each club's program is supervised by a qualified fitness director who holds at least a B.A. in physical education.

...

Omega Sports, St. Louis based producer of racquetball racquets and accessories, has appointed Susan M. Crummey as its Eastern Regional Manager.



Mrs. Crummey will be headquartered in Southern Connecticut, and will work with Omega's manufacturer representatives in servicing customers in New England and the Middle Atlantic States. In addition, Mrs. Crummey will coordinate Omega's racquetball clinics and supervise the Omega Player representation program in the eastern United States.

Susan Crummey has been closely associated with the development of racquetball in New England. She is a

contributing editor of *New England Tennis Journal*, and a regular participant in racquetball programs throughout the east coast area.

Espirit de Court

The first racquetball racquet designed specifically for women, now the number one selling women's racquet on the market, is the Esprit by Omega. Weighing only 250 grams and measuring 18 1/4" long, the Esprit offers the player a balance of flexibility and strength. A modified teardrop headshape provides a great hitting area. These features combine for controlled power which women players appreciate. A pale blue metallic frame and matching leather grip is another attractive feature women prefer. Grip sizes are 4" and 3 7/8."

Omega's American-made racquets are virtually unbreakable due to the "total frame" concept in which the frame extends to the butt of the handle. Omega offers a one year warranty on the Esprit frame and handle.

Set 'em Up

"Hey, let me have that serve again! Put it right there! This time I'm really going to put it away!"

How many times have you wished you could have a difficult shot over again—maybe even a hundred times over again—to learn and practice on? With the development of the racquetball practice machine, this is now possible. Manufactured by Crown Manufacturing, "The Racqueteer" can be set to deliver ceiling balls, lobs, drive serves, "Z" balls or a perfect set up at various speeds anywhere on the court.

According to Jack Scott, President of Crown Manufacturing which makes the "Racqueteer," the machine has been designed to be safe, reliable, quiet, very consistent, and virtually maintenance free. It is self contained, easily portable, and battery powered. It can deliver several dozen balls per loading at speeds from 10 to 80 miles per hour.

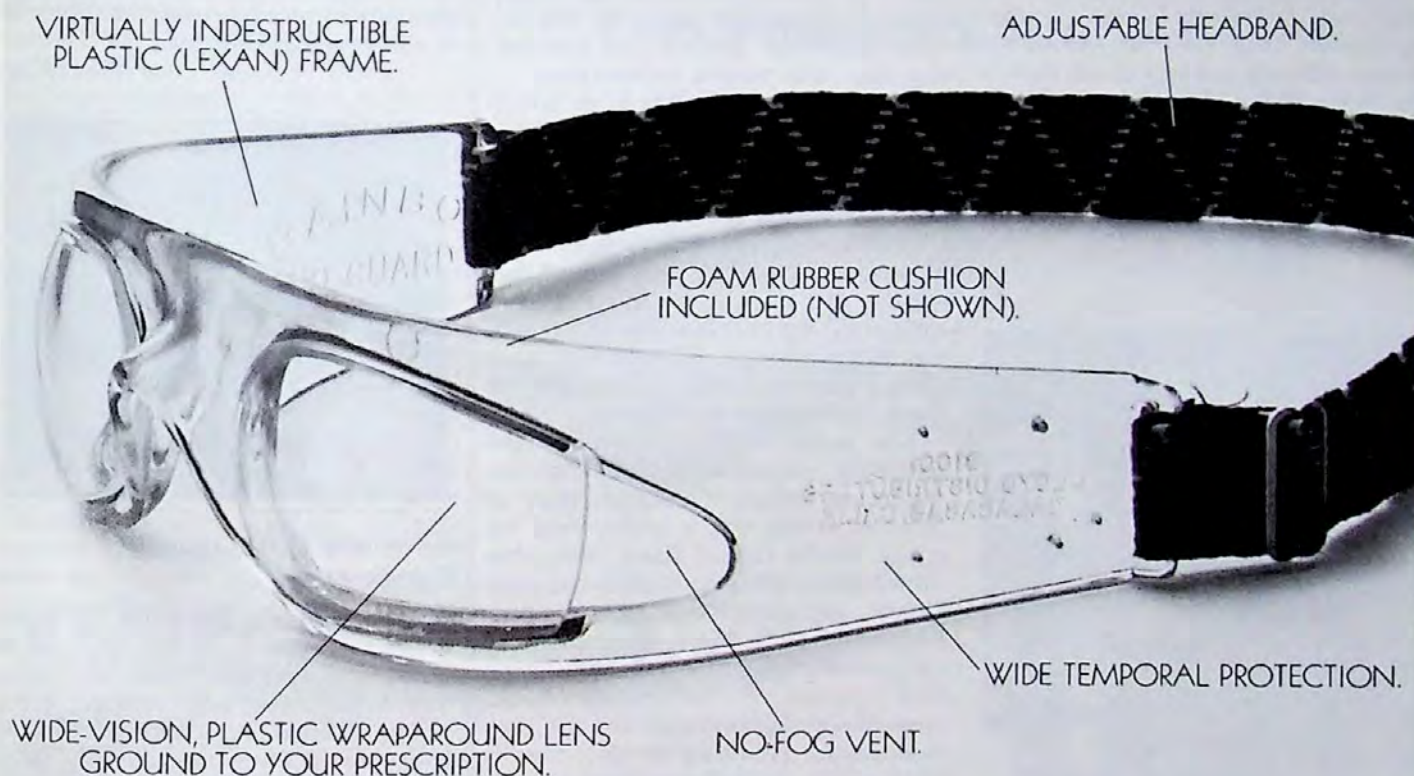
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court which was used to put on a racquetball exhibition on the Mike Douglas show December 5, 1978, and is expected to make other TV appearances.

The court, 26 x 16 feet x 10 feet high, has approximately half the playing area of a regulation court and is half the height. A three-foot strip in the center of the back and side walls is transparent Plexiglas for easy viewing.

SI Court Clubs takes its portable court to shipping centers, sports shows and other public places to conduct exhibitions and free teaching clinics. First-time players are invited to play skill games on court.

It has been booked in January for the National Sporting Goods Dealers Association trade show in McCormick Center, Chicago and for a sports show at the Notre Dame University fieldhouse.

The mini-court was built for SI Court Clubs by Bauer-Frampton, Detroit, builders of court panel systems, and is available for rental. For information contact Gil Schmitt, SI Court Clubs, 18311 W. 10 Mile Road, Southfield 48077.



Design Of The Times

It may just be the racquetball club of the future—now. At least, that's how its owner, Jack J. "call me J.J." Press describes the Black Mountain Racquetball Club on San Diego's Mira Mesa. And, indeed, it is more than just a place to play racquetball.

Press calls it a "public utility": that's utility as in use and public as in for everyone. He designed his club for the entire Mira Mesa population, not just for its hardcore wall bangers. When he talks about his club, Press uses phrases like "community involvement" and "total community service." The

programs at Black Mountain reflect his intention to open the sport of racquetball and his club up to the widest possible audience.

For example, the club has spacious meeting rooms which are open for use by local groups. IMED Corporation, for one, has taken advantage of the club's offer and is using a room to stage an in-house management training program for its employees. Other groups have set up corporate health programs, stress testing, and physical fitness programs at Black Mountain. In addition, handicapped therapy and women's health programs also make the club what Press calls "a public resource for better health." Of course, the club has the usual amenities: Jacuzzi, jazz exercise, day care, and modern lockerrooms.

And it's not a bad place to go just to play racquetball either. The club's fourteen courts are often full of fifth-graders from La Jolla Country Day School, the local high schools, and the United States International University at Miramar. One of the club's most far-reaching activities is the league play it sponsors. Press has taken the initiative in organizing a league for women novice players and intercompany play for the many corporations in the area.

The facility itself is futuristic and combines experimental and proven design innovations. Press, who prior to club ownership was a professional inventor for the United States Navy, has turned the club into a demonstration project in water and energy conservation. The facility is designed to use a minimum of water from the self-closing sink faucets in the back-to-back, groundfloor lockerrooms to the low maintenance plumbing design; there is even a drip irrigation system for the surrounding landscape.

The courts are lighted with high-intensity, low energy metal halide lights which use only half the energy for equivalent illumination of low cost mercury vapor lights.

The entire facility is both cooled and heated by passive and active solar and wind energy systems. Wind-driven roof ventilators provide cooling and ventilation. A special two-component coating on the building increases radiant night cooling, improves air circulation, and eliminates water condensation on the courts during the winter.

Press is testing the first low-cost industrial solar heating system at the club in cooperation with the Navy, but his specialty is synthetic materials. He designed a synthetic fiber while with the

Navy and has used what he learned in the construction of his courts, building them of fiberglass fabric in a polyester resin rather than drywall or cement panels.

"There are no dead spots," notes National Men's Amateur Champ Jeff Bowman who sometimes plays at Black Mountain. "Everyone who has played here says that they are the fastest walls they have ever played on," adds Press.

At Black Mountain, a very special man's concern for the public and his investment in and contributions to the technology of the eighties combine to create a club which serves the best interests of the community without being a drain on its natural resources. The club of the future is now.

—Mike Hogan



Rainbow Prescription Eyeguard

An optometrist has come up with a design for a new protective eyeguard for people who wear prescription glasses but want to participate safely in active sports.

The Rainbo Prescription All-Sport Eyeguard is being marketed by Lloyd Distributors, 23930 Craftsman Rd., Calabasas, Ca. 91302, (Call toll free (800) 423-5221. In California call collect (213) 999-4330), who manufacture a non-prescription protective eyeguard for racquetball players. The company also furnishes other safety equipment for the sport.

The eyeguard frame is available in five lightly tinted, translucent colors and in the more medical-looking clear plastic. All come with a single dark colored headband. Corrective lenses can be clear or tinted.

The entire package comes with a custom-made protective case and a bottle of anti-fog solution and sells for about \$80.

Persons interested in the Rainbo Prescription eyeguard should see their eyecare specialist. ■

STATE DIRECTOR



What kind of sport do you play if you live where there are 23-hour nights and the ground below eight inches is permafrost? Racquetball, of course.

Oil and gas brought Marvin J. Andresen to Fairbanks in 1960, where he busied himself teaching geology at the University of Alaska. His wife, Patricia Ann, is an associate professor of mathematics at the university and she and Marvin have five children: Mary, 20, John, 19, Robert, 17, Elizabeth, 12, and Melissa, 6.

Going into business for himself in 1964, he was a founding partner of Geonomics, which provided geological research and financial advisory services to major oil companies, independent oil and mining companies, the Alaska Native Regional Corporation, and to individuals. They advised on and participated in the drilling of several test wells for oil and gas in Alaska and participated in a barite mining operation in Missouri.

From January 1973 until the present, Andresen has been president of Alaska Energy Corporation, which manages natural resource assets worth more than \$6 million. They explore for oil and gas primarily outside of Alaska and have commercial production in Oklahoma, Colorado, and Nebraska.

What does all this have to do with racquetball? Andresen's Alaska Energy Corporation owns 50% of Impact Systems, a firm which designs and manufactures racquetball courts. The home office is in Hawaii. Lucky Andresen.

He's also the managing partner in Racquetball Fairbanks, which is constructing an eight-court facility which should open soon.

Andresen says that he is eager to work hard to develop competitive racquetball in Alaska and is looking forward to being the IRA's State Director. The IRA welcomes Marvin and feels privileged to have him for its Alaska State Director.

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- Entry Fee: \$15.00 per player, limit one event. A singles, B Singles, and Doubles.
- Deadline: Tuesday, March 6, 1979. Entry fee and eligibility letter (see Rule 3, No. 1) must accompany entry.
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ENTRY BLANK

Men - Enter me in ☐ A Singles, ☐ B Singles, ☐ Doubles
Women - Enter me in ☐ A Singles, ☐ B Singles, ☐ Doubles

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Check _____ if members of college's four-player team. No _____

I hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors, and administrators, waive and release any and all rights and claims for damages I may have against Penn State and the International Racquetball Association and their respective agents, for any and all injuries.

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Send all entries to:
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RULE ONE—MATRICULATION

No one shall participate in any intercollegiate racquetball contest unless he is a bona fide matriculated student at an accredited university or college (not business college, trade school, etc.) and is regularly enrolled and doing full work as defined by the regulations of the institution at which he is enrolled.

RULE TWO—PARTICIPATION

1. Participation in intercollegiate racquetball shall be limited to four varsity years over a period of five consecutive college years counting from the date of matriculation.

2. In the event of a student's regular attendance being interrupted by military service in any of the armed forces, his period of eligibility shall be five years exclusive of his period of military service, except for the years in which, during his military service, he may have represented an educational institution.

3. Freshmen are eligible for varsity competition in racquetball. Women are eligible.

4. Transfer students or graduates from a junior college may continue their racquetball competition without complying with the one-year residence rule. Total years of competition shall not exceed four years.

5. No professional racquetball player shall be permitted to compete in any intercollegiate tournament. However, in accord with intercollegiate legislation of 1974, professionalism in any other sport shall not preclude competition in racquetball as long as the player maintains amateur standing in the sport of racquetball.

RULE THREE—TOURNAMENTS

1. Eligibility of participants shall be verified prior to the tournament by letter from the Office of the Dean of Admissions or Registrar to the tournament director, with the school seal affixed.

2. Teams shall consist of four players from the same institution; teams cannot comprise players from different schools in the same system (example, University of Texas-Austin, Arlington and El Paso campuses). Members of a doubles team must be from the same institution.

3. A team of four shall consist of one player in Class A Singles, one player in Class B Singles and one doubles team. No player may compete in more than one event.

4. Scoring shall be as follows:
Placement - The champion of each event shall receive 10 points, runner-up 7 points, third place 4 points, fourth place 2 points.

Advancement - A player shall receive two points for each match won, except that no advancement points shall be awarded to the winner of the championship finals, or the third place match. A forfeit or an injury default shall be considered a match won. One point shall be awarded to a player receiving a bye, if he wins his next match.

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INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL WEEK

February 26th
through
March 3rd, 1979

SHORT LINES

Transcending Tennis

Looks like Dick Squires has come out with the definitive book on paddle and racquet sports (other than tennis). *The Other Racquet Sports* explores, among other things, the courts, the equipment, and the history of racquet games from racquetball to pickle ball.

Each of the 12 sports' unique appeal and distinctive qualities are described, as well as the interrelationships of the games in terms of strokes and strategies. Comprehensive bibliographies, locations of courts throughout the country, addresses of the governing bodies, leading court builders and equipment manufacturers, and a listing of champions are provided. Personal anecdotes from the author, who matched himself against top players in the racquet sports, give the book a firsthand quality of participatory journalism.

Superbly illustrated with over 100 photographs, old engravings, etchings, and paintings, this book also features cartoons by Jack Davis, who has painted 35 covers for *Time* and is best known for his caricatures in *Mad* magazine.

In the foreword, George Plimpton says, "If I cannot adapt my questionable skills to a particular game, it behooves me that I do the reverse and find a game that suits my idiosyncracies." If you're looking for a racquet game to fit *your* talents, you can find it in *The Other Racquet Sports*.

Pro Club

Racquetball pros have formed the Association of Racquetball Professionals (ARP) to meet the growing needs of the professional player.

ARP is striving to "protect all racquetball players' mutual interest, promote the drafting of just and reasonable rules governing players and sponsors, improve playing conditions, and maintain ethical standards to govern the conduct of their members." In addition, the ARP will work to maintain minimum levels of prize money and assure its continued growth and equitable distribution. The Association also will attempt to improve communication and encourage cooperation between its members and other individuals and organizations helping to promote professional racquetball. One of ARP's first projects is to gather players' recommendations on ways to improve their sport and attempt to get them

enacted. They are also negotiating endorsements for unsponsored players with several companies.

For further information, write ARP, 640 Solana Circle #18, Solana Beach, CA 92075.

Open Door

Treborshire Tennis Club, the Glenwood recreation and health center on 195th St., hosted a two-day Open House, November 11-12. Members and non-members alike were invited to this gala event which featured free clinics, workouts exhibitions, and other special events. In addition, a club social rounded out activities from 7 p.m. to midnight, on Saturday, November 11th.

The Open House included a free workout on the club's new Nautilus fitness machine, a free racquetball clinic, exhibition matches on the racquetball courts and a tennis exhibition match featuring four top Chicago area professionals.

Thanks From The Heart

The largest amateur racquetball tournament in history culminated this Fall with the presentation of \$6,000 to actor John Wayne to benefit the American Heart Association. "The money which the tournaments generated is deeply appreciated and will be put to good use," said Wayne.

The Ektelon/Natural Light Racquetball Championships, which began back in May, spanned the nation with regional-class racquetball competition in 30 major cities. Six thousand amateur racquetball players participated in men's and women's categories ranging from open to novice and in seniors and master categories. All participants received Ektelon/Natural Light racquetball shirts, certificates of participation, and trophies for their victories.

Women On The Move

Women '79 is a premier tournament for women only to be held February 23-25 at the Boston Tennis Club, 653 Summer, Boston, MA. Sponsored by Budweiser/Natural Light, the entry fee is \$15 and the deadline is February 17 for Seniors, Open, B, C, and Novice divisions (limit, one entry). For more information, contact Carol Mason, 33 White Road, Wayland, Massachusetts 01178 (617-358-4341). ■

Scorecard

RACQUETBALL welcomes all tournaments to report their results. Please list all rounds of each event. Scorecard will report as many rounds of each tournament as space allows.



Bill Thurman and Stan Wright

SUN OAKS/COORS RACQUETBALL CLASSIC Redding, CA

Men's Open: 1st Round: Steve Dunn over Dennis Bales, 21-3, 21-5; Mike Anthony over Jack Schreder, 21-11, 21-5; Bob Begert over Bob Mark, 21-6, 21-3; Bill Thurman over Duane Carleton, 21-12, 21-4; Bill Dunn over Renny Noll, 21-4, 13-21, 21-5; Paul Juarez over Mario Serafin, 21-5, 21-12; Tim Scott over Jim Gilbertie, 21-5, 21-13; Stan Wright over Ken Seamans, 21-2, 21-4.
Quarters: Dunn over Anthony, 21-3, 21-4; Thurman over Begert, 21-13, 21-4; Dunn over Juarez, 21-9, 21-16; Wright over Scott, 21-8, 21-4.
Semis: Thurman over Dunn, 7-21, 21-9, 15-6; Wright over Dunn, 7-21, 21-13, 15-11.
Finals: Wright over Thurman, 21-11, 21-7.

Women's Open: Alicia Moore, bye; Candy Hetherington over Donna Seamans, 21-7, 21-7; Sue Case over Donna Gaston, 21-0, 21-0; Lori Burks over Pat Bunkley, 21-7, 21-3; Mona Mook, bye; Connie Wold over Pam Cross, 21-6, 21-8; Evelyn Seth over Michele Nance, 21-5, 21-4; Debra Hoffman, bye.
Quarters: Moore over Hetherington, 21-4, 21-2; Burks over Case, 21-1, 21-2; Mook over Wold, 21-6, 21-7; Hoffman over Seth, 10-21, 21-5, 15-1.
Semis: Moore over Burks, 21-9, 21-6; Hoffman over Mook, 21-7, 21-4.
Finals: Moore over Hoffman, 9-21, 21-3, 15-6.

Men's A: 1st Round: Duane Carleton over Monte Fitchett, 21-8, 21-13; Mario Serafin over Les Johnson, 21-4, 21-6; Dennis Bales

over Greg Avilla, 21-7, 21-2; Renny Noll over Mark Rincon, 21-15, 21-8; Butch Hanks over Tom Truax, 21-4, 10-21, 15-10; Bob Mark over Jack Schreder, 8-21, 21-5, 15-3; Mike Anthony over Chris Scott, 21-8, 21-9; Ken Seamans over Jim Gilbertie, 2-21, 21-12, 15-9.

Quarters: Carleton over Serafin, no score; Bales over Noll, 13-21, default; Mark over Hanks, 13-21, 21-13, 15-10; Seamans over Anthony, 11-21, 21-6, 15-10.

Semis: Bales over Carleton, 13-21, 21-8, 15-13; Seamans over Mark, 21-11, 10-21, 15-8.
Finals: Bales over Seamans, 21-4, 21-5.

Women's A: 1st Round: Donna Seamans, bye; Marge Casebeer over Nita Adams, 21-12, 21-4; Linda Allen over Star Corley, 21-7, 21-13; Beverly McSwain, bye; Sandy Burks, bye; Donna Gaston over Pam Cross, 21-0, 21-7; Pat McMahon over Joyce Gilbertie, 21-13, 21-10; Michele Nance, bye.

Quarters: Seamans over Casebeer, 21-7, 21-6; McSwain over Allen, 21-13, 6-21, 15-8; Gaston over Burks, 21-7, 21-4; Nance over McMahon, 21-4, 21-10.

Semis: Seamans over McSwain, 7-21, 21-4, 15-9; Nance over Gaston, 21-8, 21-6.
Finals: Nance over Seamans, 21-8, 21-13.

Men's B: 2nd Round: Rob Hicks over Frank Gutierrez, 21-8, 21-8; Mike Knighten over Ron Thomsen, 21-8, 21-8; Greg Avilla over Bob Leyes, 21-7, 21-8; Ted Kloth over Howard Taylor, 21-7, 21-8; Bill Fox over Frank Benz, 21-1, 21-7; Dan Krueger over Bill McFadden, 21-8, 21-12; Steve Donnelly over Pete Foote, 21-7, 10-21, 15-7.

Quarters: Hicks over Knighten, 21-3, 21-6; Avilla over Williams, 21-14, 21-7; Kloth over Fox, 21-8, 21-14; Krueger over Donnelly, 21-6, 13-21, 15-13.

Semis: Avilla over Hicks, 21-8, 21-11; Kloth over Krueger, 21-8, 8-21, 15-11.

Finals: Kloth over Avilla, 10-21, 21-13, 15-2.

Women's B: 1st round: Dale Nagel, bye; Terri Ulloa over Anne Hanks, 21-11, 21-7; Debbie Carmona over Mary Burns, 21-10, 16-21, 15-9; Kelly Avilla, bye; Olenda Findley, bye; Judy Fogt over Star Corley, 21-4, 21-12; Rita McFarland over Bunny Cools, 21-8, 13-21, 15-14; Shelly Aboud, bye.

Quarters: Nagel over Ulloa, 21-5, 21-6; Avilla over Carmona, 12-21, 21-4, 15-3; Fogt over Findley, 21-9, 21-7; McFarland over Aboud, 10-21, 21-11, 15-13.

Semis: Nagel over Avilla, 21-12, 21-9; Fogt over McFarland, 21-9, 21-12.

Finals: Fogt over Nagel, 21-12, 21-9.

Men's C: 2nd round: Lee Murcer over Gary Mathis, 21-6, 21-12; Jerry Hahn over Neil McGee, 21-4, 21-0; Scott Gaston over Bob Garza, 21-8, 21-8; Mike Bruesch over Mike Bertagna, 21-1, 21-0; Mark Babiarz over Bryan Evers, 21-14, 21-4; John Eckelbarger over Brad Frost, 21-13, 21-7; Happy Day over Al Wallner, 21-0, 21-4; Ron Soos over Gene Greenwell, 21-8, 21-12.

Quarters: Murcer over Hahn, 21-9, 10-21, 15-6; Gaston over Bruesch, 21-8, 21-6; Babiarz over Eckelbarger, 21-9, 21-13; Soos over Day, 21-10, 21-10.

Semis: Murcer over Gaston, 21-6, 21-10; Soos over Babiarz, 14-21, 21-0, 15-6.

Finals: Murcer over Soos, 21-6, 21-7.

Women's C: 1st round: Sheri Anthony over Carmel Gowney, 21-13, 8-21, 15-6; Fran Martin over Lisa Anthony, 21-10, 21-9.

Quarters: Regina White over Sheri Anthony, 21-7, 21-2; Carol Veres over Mary Taylor, 21-10, 21-4; Colleen Thomsen over Michelle Gilbertie, 21-9, 21-15; Fran Martin over Jackie Shaffer, 21-10, 6-21, 15-9.

Semis: White over Veres, 21-7, 21-4; Martin over Thomsen, 21-13, 21-11.

Finals: White over Martin, 21-0, 21-0.

RACQUETBALL FESTIVAL Tom Young's Spa Courts Hogs Breath Saloon Sponsor Albuquerque, NM

Men's Open Division: Finals: Bud Muehleisen over Jack Blystone, 21-11, 21-10; 3rd: Rick Wright over Clay Childs, 21-11, 21-10.

Semis: Muehleisen over Wright, 21-4, 21-8; Blystone over Childs, 21-6, 21-9.

Quarters: Muehleisen over Eric Sanchez, 21-6, 21-4; Blystone over Brian Fahey, 21-5, 21-11; Wright over Brad Caress, 21-4, 21-8; Childs over Bob Stoermer, 21-9, 21-12.

Women's Open [A-B]: Finals: Jan Corsie over Wrenne Saunders, 21-12, 21-6; 3rd: Ernestine Tenorio over Connie Burch, 21-16, 21-17.

Semis: Corsie over Tenorio, 21-9, 21-18; Saunders over Burch, 21-11, 21-17.

1st Round: Tenorio over Dar Ferdinandus, 21-19, 21-11; Burch over Vicki Stenerud, 21-20, 21-6.

Men's A Doubles: Finals: Jack Blystone & Clay Childs over Rick Wright & Bob Stoermer, 21-19, 21-12; 3rd: Eric Sanchez & Tom Frank over Ron Sims & Dave Arnold, forfeit.

Semis: Blystone & Childs over Sanchez &

Scorecard

Frank, 21-20, 21-20; Wright & Stoermer over Sims & Arnold, 21-8, 21-18.

Women's C Doubles: Finals: Connie Burch & Penny McAlister over Karla Barela & Jeannine Henry, 11-21, 21-7, 15-6; 3rd: Diana Taylor & Kathy Felber over Karen Bridwell & Liz Morley 21-11, 21-18.

Semis: Burch & McAlister over Bridwell & Morley, 21-8, 21-6; Barela & Henry over Taylor & Felber 21-13, 21-18.

Quarters: Burch & McAlister over Margie Gillespie & Pat Snyder, 21-15, 21-2; Barela & Henry over Karey Schoenfeld & Debby Meyer, no score. Bridwell & Morley over Peggy Blystone & Ann Van Sickel, 21-8, 21-15; Taylor & Felber over Jan Pettis & Paula Sanchez, 21-6, 21-7.

Men's Masters, 35+: Finals: Ernie Nello over Mike Eichinger 21-18, 21-12; 3rd: Jess Burch over Bob Sanchez, 21-16, 21-18.

Semis: Nello over Sanchez, 21-3, 21-15; Eichinger over Burch, 21-15, 21-12.

1st Round: Sanchez over Dan Lester, 21-6, 21-6; Burch over Ed Saure, 21-8, 19-21, 15-0; Nello over Bob Bogan, 21-8, 21-8; Bye, Eichinger.

Juniors 14 & Under: Finals: Greg Stephenson over Kevin Shoemate, 21-14, 21-17; 3rd: Tim Chirigos over R. J. Pettis, 21-20, 21-14.

Semis: Stephenson over Pettis, 21-2, 21-0; Shoemate over Chirigos, 21-0, 21-1.

1st Round: Chirigos over Tommy Evans, 21-13, 21-1; Pettis over Kemper Martin, 17-21, 21-13, 15-1; Byes, Shoemate, Stephenson.

Juniors 14-17: Finals: Kevin Dean over John Fritz, 21-3, 21-16; 3rd: Ed Sauer over Alan Frank, 21-2, 21-2.

Semis: Dean over Sauer, 21-14, 21-4; Fritz over Frank, 21-2, 21-2.

1st Round: Sauer over Glen Frank, 21-7, 21-4; Alan Frank over Greg Mondragon, 21-4, 21-4; Fritz over Brian Sanchez, 21-10, 21-9; Bye, Dean.

Men's B Singles: Finals: Brad Caress over Dave Arnold, 21-17, 21-8; 3rd: Jim Schaefer over Steve Rozzelle, 21-17, 21-17.

Semis: Caress over Schaefer 6-21, 21-16, 15-3; Arnold over Rozzelle, 21-11, 18-21, 15-12.

Quarters: Caress over Jeffrey Hayes, 21-3, 21-2; Arnold over Ken Brock, 21-3, 16-21, 15-6; Schaefer over Jerry Verlarde, 18-21, 21-14, 15-7; Rozzelle over Mike Sanchez, 21-3, 21-6.

Men's B Doubles: Finals: Jim Schaefer & Jim McWilliams over Gary Sanchez & Ken Brock, 21-10, 21-15; 3rd: Danny Ferdinandus & Ron Meek over Jim Midyett & Ben Caswell, 12-21, 21-12, 15-10.

Semis: Schaefer & McWilliams over Ferdinandus & Meek, 21-14, 21-13; Sanchez & Brock over Midyett & Caswell, 21-16, 21-12.

Quarters: Schaefer & McWilliams over Bill Caskey & Craig Larsen, no score; Sanchez & Brock over Ron Jacobsen & Dale Scott, 21-17, 13-21, 15-12; Midyett & Caswell over Robert Krauser & Dick Vogel, 21-15, 21-8; Ferdinandus & Meek over Dave McGregor & Jerome Hoffman, 21-12, 21-18.

Women's Novice: Finals: Linda Hudson over Dawn Urban, no score; 3rd: Roseann Ortega over Lisa Gibbs, no score.

Semis: Hudson over Ortega 21-3, 21-8. Urban over Gibbs, 21-14, 21-11.

Quarters: Hudson over Karen Levy, 21-11, 20-21, 15-4; Urban over Jan Pettis, 21-18, 21-18.

16; Ortega over Karen Ward 21-15, 18-21, 15-9. Gibbs over Gail Fahey, no score.

Men's C Singles: Finals: Richard Davies over Ron Meek, no score; 3rd: Richard Moore over Mike Danhoff, 21-10, 21-10.

Semis: Davies over Moore 21-7, 21-13; Meek over Danhoff 21-2, 21-17.

Quarters: Davis over Terry Linton, 21-16, 21-14; Meek over Dale Scott, 21-16, 21-14; Danhoff over Bill Kennedy, 21-19, 21-16; Moore over Dan Abeyta, 21-15, 5-21, 15-4.

Women's C Singles: Finals: Carol Davis over Cathy Shustack 21-16, 15-21, 15-7; 3rd: Karla Barela over Kathy Felber, 21-10, 21-16.

Semis: Davis over Barela, 21-18, 21-18; Shustack over Felber, 21-9, 21-6.

Quarters: Davis over Peggy Blystone, 21-15, 19-21, 15-12; Shustack over Liz Morley, 21-5, 21-7; Barela over Karen Bridwell, 21-13, 21-14; Felber over Ann Van Sickel, 15-21, 21-6, 15-12.

Men's C Doubles: Finals: Rene Ramirez & Dave Martinez over Rick Siegel & Danny Ferdinandus, 21-16, 21-18; 3rd: Mike Danhoff & Jim Schumacher over Bob Pettis & Rick Miera, 21-11, 20-21, 15-3.

Semis: Ramirez & Martinez over Pettis & Miera, 21-8, 21-15; Siegel & Ferdinandus over Danhoff & Schumacher, 21-15, 21-15.



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5. Jere Willey & Denny Onkotz
6. Gene Grapes & Al Schattner
7. Luke St. Onge & Dick Gambino
8. Ron Boyd & Rudy Van Hulten
9. Ken Boren & Gary Martin
10. Jeff O'Malley & Ed Hyjeck
11. Tom Miller & Jim Redic
12. John Pushak & Dick Shaeffer
13. Jim Mulmack & Joe Tarantini
14. Tom Ranker & Dan Brannon

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Heath.

B Division: 1st Ron Walker; 2nd Dave Weber.

C Division: 1st Dallas Richterich; 2nd Melinda Douglas.

D Division: 1st Tim Anderson; 2nd Marty Palmer.

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Tampa, FL

Men's Open Singles: 1st, Bill Koenig; 2nd, Charlie Behar; 3rd Kevin Spence.

Women's Open Singles: 1st, Robbie Stouffer; 2nd, Ala Freitas; 3rd, Pam Harrison.

Men's B Singles: 1st, Gary Robin; 2nd, C. Black; 3rd, David Reep.

Women's B Singles: 1st, Linda Castelland; 2nd, Renee Fish; 3rd, Jill Denoff.

Men's C Singles: 1st, Bob Marrazi; 2nd, Rick Willits; 3rd, George Barcello.

Women's C Singles: 1st, Debbie Marchippo; 2nd, Cynthia Carter; 3rd, Eleanor Smith.

Men's Senior (35+): 1st, Larry Bauer; 2nd, Bill Koenig; 3rd, Sonny Marcus.

Men's Masters (45+): 1st, Wes Burquest; 2nd, John Saltzgarver; 3rd, Dick Tuakel.

Boy's Juniors (under 17): 1st, Shawn Brown; 2nd, Bob Cuillo; 3rd, Tyrone Jackson.

Girl's Juniors (under 17): 1st, Gina Marcus; 2nd, Lisa Vlock; 3rd, Sharon McWaters; 4th, Renee McWaters.

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Shrewsbury, MA

Men's Open: Quarters: Parker over Pierce forfeit; Savage over Laraia 6-15, 15-2, 11-9; Vierra over Janelle 15-9, 15-9; Coleman over Henrickson 15-4, 7-15, 11-6.

Semis: Parker over Savage 15-13, 15-14; Vierra over Coleman 15-14; 15-12.

Finals: 1st Vierra over Parker 15-0, 15-5; 3rd Coleman over Savage 15-10, 14-15, 11-6.

Women's Open: Quarters: Callahan over Cone 15-6, 15-1; Carnovale over Simon 6-15, 15-14, 11-6; Wells over Kelly 15-4, 15-5; Alba over Buckley 15-3, 15-2.

Semis: Callahan over Carnovale 6-15, 15-7, 11-6; Alba over Wells 15-14, 15-3.

Finals: 1st Alba over Callahan 15-5, 15-10; 3rd Wells over Carnovale 15-9, 15-6.

Men's B: Quarters: Culberson over Nicholas 15-3, 10-15, 11-7; Kacarties over Champagne 15-11, 15-10; Wells over Konovalcheck 15-12, 15-7; Boule over Yoh 15-14, 15-2.

Semis: Kacarties over Culberson 15-12, 15-5; Wells over Boule 15-6, 15-7.

Finals: 1st Wells over Kacarties 15-1, 5-15, 11-6; 3rd Culberson over Boule 15-8, 3-15, 11-6.

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Scorecard

8.

Women's B: Semis: Lufkin over Athanas 15-8, 15-9; Sechrist over Hahn 15-12, 7-15, 11-5

Finals: 1st Lufkin over Sechrist 15-12, 7-15, 11-5; 3rd Hahn over Athanas 15-10, 5-15, 11-9.

Men's C: Quarters: Dubrow over Goldman 4-15, 15-9, 11-7; Kirkpatrick over Forrestall 15-5, 15-7; Skaff over Spear 8-15, 15-14, 11-7; Snyder over Reddy 15-6, 15-5.

Semis: Kirkpatrick over Dubrow 15-7, 15-1; Skaff over Snyder 9-15, 15-4, 11-9.

Finals: Skaff over Kirkpatrick 15-7, 15-13; 3rd Snyder over Dubrow 15-7, 15-11.

Women's C: Quarters: Benoit over Gully 10-15, 15-4, 11-5; Lowell over Kavanaugh 15-6, 15-4; Rybak over Savage 14-15, 15-9, 11-7; Felkel over Culberson 15-7, 15-7.

Semis: Lowell over Benoit 4-15, 15-10, 11-5; Felkel over Rybak 3-15, 15-4, 11-9.

Finals: 1st Lowell over Felkel 15-6, 15-8; 3rd Benoit over Rybak 15-14, 8-15, 11-2.

Men's Novice: Quarters: Stepanski over Hager 15-8, 8-15, 11-7; Hawksworth over Consetti 15-6, 15-5; Coleman over Rizzotto 15-5, 15-11; Juwa over Ditaranto 4-15, 15-3, 11-10.

Semis: Hawksworth over Stepanski 7-15, 15-14, 11-10; Juwa over Coleman 15-3, 15-12.

Finals: 1st Juwa over Hawksworth 15-14, 14-15, 11-0; 3rd Stepanski over Coleman 15-14, 14-15, 11-10.

Women's Novice: Semis: Hager over Hakala 15-0, 15-4; LaGrega over Anderson 15-6, 15-7.

Finals: 1st Hager over LaGrega 15-12, 15-1; 3rd Anderson over Hakala 15-14, 14-15, 11-10.

AMF VOIT/PERRIER RACQUETBALL CLASSIC Racquetball Club of Ft. Worth, TX

Men's Pro-Am: Winner David Peck, El Paso, over Mark Hegg, Stillwater, OK, 21-18, 21-4.

Women's Pro-Am: Winner Rita Hoff, St. Louis, over Jennifer Hardy, Milwaukee, OR, 21-6, 10-21, 11-10.

Men's Seniors: Winner Jim Austin, Houston, over Jerry Linton, Oklahoma City, 21-12, 13-21, 11-7.

Women's Seniors: Winner Faith Ragow, Dallas, over Carol Greenberg, Lancaster, 21-10, 21-15.

Men's B: Winner Ernie Charfauro, Chula Vista, CA, over Mark Hill, Irvine, 21-13, 21-7.

Women's B: Winner Sandra Hunter, Houston, over Christina Mettrailer, Baton Rouge, 21-12, 21-16.

Men's C: Winner Steve Mejia, San Angelo, over Jim Swiggart, San Antonio, 21-16, 21-12.

Women's C: Winner Leann Young, Dallas, over Robin Lasher, Ft. Worth, 21-9, 21-11.

SUPREME COURT WEST Junior Tournament Hutchinson, KS

16-and-under: Winner, Scott Perry; runner-up, Darin Grimes; consolation, Chris Anderson.

12-and-under: Winner, Darin Grimes; runner-up, Doug Jones; Consolation, Jeff Duncan.

2nd ANNUAL LADIES' TURKEY TOURNAMENT Spaulding Creve Coeur Club St. Louis, MO

Open Class: Mary Herling

Class A: Chris Cheak

Class B: Gina Parks

Class C: Gerry Keller

Class D: Billie Sigler

Novice: Tammy Woods

LEACH CULLUM & BOREN OPEN "The Best in the Southwest" President's Health Center Dallas, TX

Men's Open: Finals: Andy Hodges, Shreveport, over Bob Phillippy, Austin, 15-3, 11-15, 15-8; 3rd: Skip Merrill, Ft. Worth; consolation: Arnold Davis, Dallas.

Women's Open: Finals: Leslie Moughan, Ft. Worth, over Maureen Krumel, Dallas, 15-2, 15-5; 3rd: Janice Segall, Houston; consolation: Sharon Stapleton, Wichita Falls.

Men's Open Doubles: Finals: Jeff Kwatler & Mark Malowitz, Houston, over Arnold Davis & Carlos Nieves, Dallas, forfeit; 3rd: Tom McKie, Dallas, & Andy Hodges, Shreveport.

Women's Open Doubles: Finals: Leslie Houghan & Marian Merrill, Ft. Worth, over Maureen Krumel & Leslie Hall, Dallas, 15-5, 12-15, 15-0; 3rd: Sue Babbitt & Linda Senter, Dallas.

Men's Seniors: Finals: Luther Bernstein, Dallas, over H.J. Cooper, Dallas, 15-6, 15-6; 3rd: Bob Davidson; consolation: Jerry Brazil, Dallas.

Men's B: Finals: Alex Closson, Dallas, over Ross Smith, Wichita Falls, 16-14, 15-4; 3rd: Morty Weinberg; consolation: Steve Montoya, Shreveport.

Women's B: Finals: Sara Russell over Ruth Surilevetch, 15-10, 15-3; 3rd: Jamie Bunch; consolation: Marice Trawnik.

Men's B Doubles: Finals: Larry Stockton & Alex Closson, Dallas, over Bill Grantham & Louis Glazer, Dallas, 15-8, 15-8; 3rd: Darby Tucker & Dale Grimes.

Men's C: Finals: Paul Radnitz over Bob Ramsey, 15-5, 15-10; 3rd: Mike Young;

consolation: Steve McDonald.

Women's C: Finals: Cathey Eckert over Holli Roberts, 15-13, 11-15, 15-9; 3rd: Fauna Newton; consolation: Sherri Gual.

Men's Novice: Jeff Jortner over Randy Smalley, 5-15, 15-10, 15-10; 3rd: Grant St. Clair; consolation: Steve Greenberg.

Women's Novice: Finals: Candy Black over Sherri Smith, 15-10, 8-15, 15-3; 3rd: Mary Bean; consolation: Tricia Madison.

1st ANNUAL WALLBANGER NCAA Palo Alto, CA

Men's A: 1st: Peter Blatman over Fred Konko, 21-9, 21-8; 3rd: Joe Weiss.

Men's B: 1st: Jeff Aven over Ron Dorst, 21-2, 21-8; 3rd: Rob Zolezzi.

Women's B: 1st: Debra Hodson over Gerri McDonald, 21-7, 21-18; 3rd: Jan Carlson-Williams.

Men's C: 1st: Don Harrison over Dave Azuma, 14-21, 21-17, 21-15; 3rd: John Langenback.

Women's C: 1st: Robbie Knoop over Lilly Juico, 21-11, 21-7; 3rd: Fran Roelfsema.

7th ANNUAL CONNECTICUT STATE CLOSED Rollout Racquetball Club Rocky Hill, Connecticut

Men's Open: 1st: Ron Mirek; 2nd: Brian Dehm; 3rd: Deniz Fonseca.

Women's Open: 1st: Bonnie Stoll; 2nd: Margo Wells; 3rd: Missy Guida.

Open Doubles: 1st: Ed Castillo & Tom Waltz; 2nd: Bill Risley & Steve Meltsner; 3rd: Sal Marci & John Cillizza.

Men's B: 1st: Martin Kidder; 2nd: Jack Nocera; 3rd: Steve Tiberio.

Women's B: 1st: Eneida Rivera; 2nd: Libby Wiley.

Men's C: 1st: Socrates Verses; 2nd: Joe Barbino.

SPORTS ILLUSTRATED COURT CLUBS 1978 LADDER TOURNAMENT

GSI Court Club-Lemontree
Belleville, MI

Men's Class A: 1st: Lynn Hahn, Saline, MI. 2nd: Renard P. Valenciano, Flint, MI.

Women's Class A: 1st: Yvonne Hackenberg, Kalamazoo, MI. 2nd: Fran Manula, South Bend, IN.

Men's Class B: 1st: Kevin McCulley, Ann Arbor, MI. 2nd: Joe Burkant, Portage, MI.

Women's Class B: 1st: Sheri Hohenstein, Haslett, MI. 2nd: Kit Daniher, Ann Arbor, MI.

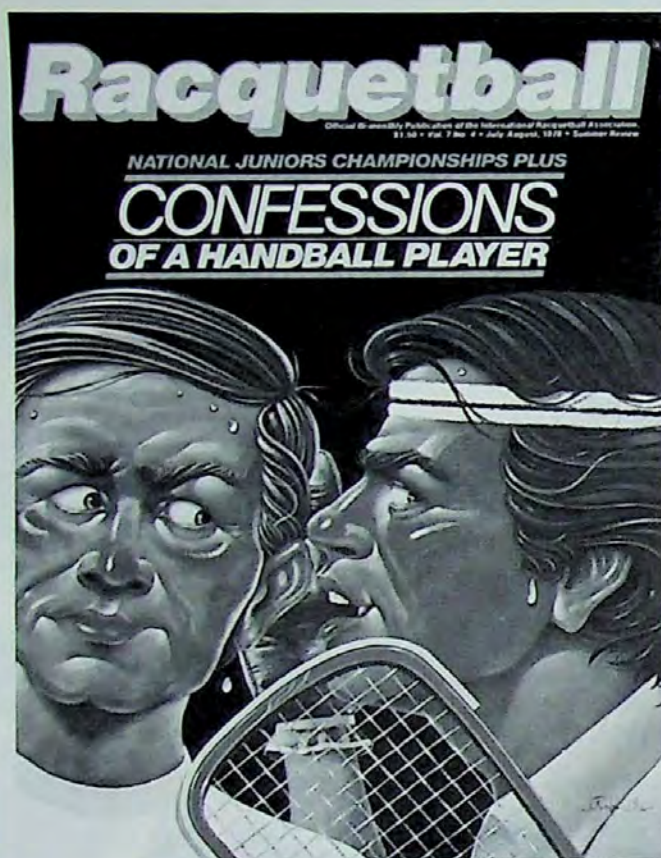
Men's Class C: 1st: Don Hogan, Flint, MI. 2nd: Pete Keelon, Fort Wayne, IN.

Women's Class C: 1st: Connie Weisel, Schoolcraft, MI. 2nd: Mary Ann Powell, South Bend, IN.

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