

NATIONAL

OFFICIAL VOICE OF PRO-AM

RACQUETBALL

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 1, JAN.-FEB. 1974

50¢

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*INSTRUCTIONAL:
The Serot Backhand*

*WOMEN: Does Playing Men
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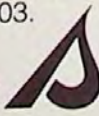
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RACQUETBALL

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An Apology. . . . And An Explanation

This issue of NATIONAL RACQUETBALL has been delayed through no fault of our own. We think you should know the reason even though it is contrary to our principle of not passing judgment on anyone. If you get that impression, please forgive us.

We embarked on the pro-am racquetball program because we believed it was good for the game as well as the players. We felt there was a place for both the professional and the amateur. As a matter of fact, we were convinced there would be an enormous increase in amateur interest when the magic of money was added as the final ingredient to our fast rising sport. This amateur boom could only help the International Racquetball Association. (I.R.A.)

But we at the National Racquetball Club (N.R.C.) feel that if racquetball is ever to be recognized, we must uncover players like a Namath, a Laver and a Nicklaus. They must be so superior that they will dazzle the fans with their performances. This can only come if the players can make a career of sport through sufficient remuneration to enable them to live on a plane that corresponds with their play. This is what we are trying to do.

However, the I.R.A. has set up obstacles for the N.R.C., the most recent of which was a lawsuit, designed to stop us from publishing NATIONAL RACQUETBALL, using the word **racquetball**, using a certain typestyle and from using 4101 Dempster St., Skokie, Illinois as our mailing address. The I.R.A. has claimed sole rights to the word **racquetball**! They have claimed sole rights to a certain lithographic typestyle! And to top it off, they ask for hundreds of thousands of dollars in "damages."

It saddens us that the I.R.A. cannot see the good the pros do, -the vast number of kids that will be attracted to racquetball as they have tennis, hockey and golf. The I.R.A. stands to gain far more than the N.R.C.

One of the primary allegations the I.R.A. made in support of their suit was that by publishing NATIONAL RACQUETBALL we have led the racquetball world into falsely believing that the N.R.C. actually is, or represents the I.R.A. Although we do not feel this has been the case, we would like to clarify the matter for all time.

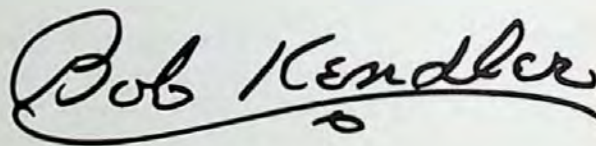
The National Racquetball Club, Inc. has no connection with the International Racquetball Association whatsoever. We hope you will not confuse us with them. The I.R.A.'s offices are in Stillwater, Oklahoma. The N.R.C. is headquartered in Skokie, Illinois.

The N.R.C. does not believe that any organization has the sole rights to the name of a sport. We draw your attention to the various professional and amateur tennis organizations, baseball leagues, football leagues, hockey leagues. Also, we cite the many different publications within the various fields of sport, -TENNIS and WORLD TENNIS, HOCKEY NEWS and HOCKEY DIGEST, SPORT and SPORTS ILLUSTRATED.

We do not feel that we have misled anybody. Those of you who received the first issue of NATIONAL RACQUETBALL could not have mistaken us for them. The articles and editorials contained in that issue clearly set forth the independent goals and fresh, new ideas of the N.R.C.

Those goals still form the basis of the N.R.C. We will continue to promote pro-am racquetball. We will continue to publish a magazine and we will continue to be open and fair to all racquetball players.

We now ask the International Racquetball Association to do the same.



Robert W. Kendler
President



Charles S. Leve
National Director

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Tournament Schedule

Pro-Am Tournaments

Date	Site	Facility
March 29-31	Milwaukee	Milwaukee Handball/ Racquetball Club
April 24-28	Chicago	Chicago Park District University of Illinois Circle Campus
May	San Diego	Brown's Racquet Club
Sept. 12-15	Cleveland	Executive Club
Oct. 17-20	Montreal	Cote de Liesse Racquet Club

Amateur tournaments

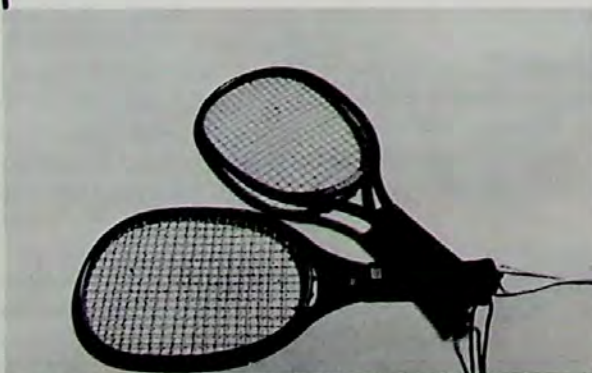
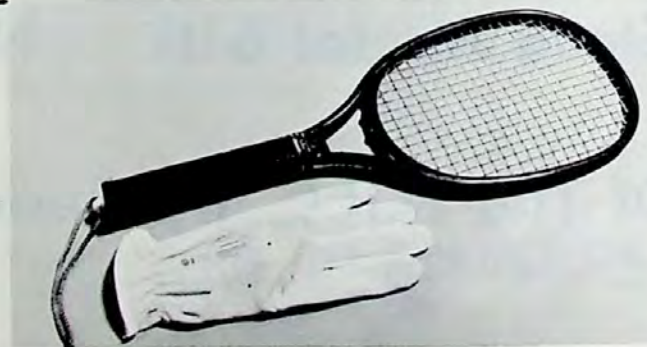
Date	Site	Brackets	Facility
Feb. 15-17	Montreal	O.S., B.S., O.D.	Cote de Liesse Racquet Club
Feb. 22-24	Illinois Singles (Closed)	A, B Women	Aurora YMCA
March 22-24	New York State Doubles	O.D.	Buffalo YMCA
April 19-21	Minnesota State (Closed)		Rochester, MN YMCA

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"Super" Green Ball Ready Now

Everyone knows one of the primary reasons for the creation of the National Racquetball Club was to improve the game, the facilities and the equipment. Overnight, the N.R.C.'s pro-am tournaments raised the level of play to heights never before deemed possible. Now the N.R.C. has helped raise the quality of the ball to meet the demands, not only of the professionals, but of all players.

Almost a year of intense work with chemists at the Seamco Sporting Goods laboratories, along with an amazing new manufacturing process has given us a master ball,—one that the pros have already tested and love,—and one that will appeal to amateurs as well.

The ball is the new green Seamco 559.

Beginning early last year, Bob Kendler, Chuck Leve and many of our pros began working with Don Strong, Executive Vice President of Seamco and his staff toward the development of the "unbreakable." High bounce and uniform quality were also essential ingredients to

this beautiful ball. And of course, for better visibility, we made it green.

Field and tournament tests by pros and amateurs alike brought out ideas that resulted in entirely new formulations and rubber components. Scores of prototypes fell under the relentless battering of the power players. Even new machinery was found to be necessary in order to produce this new ball.

The search for a better ball had a dramatic reward. We discovered along the way, the causes of the breakage that players have always endured. The pro players, however, could not and would not tolerate anything less than a high quality ball. And why should they? If they are to compete for prize money, shouldn't the ball be able to last at least a match? And why should the amateur be stuck with the inconvenience and expense of having to buy a half dozen balls in order to finish one workout?

We now have the ball that eliminates all the old problems. The discovery that makes this new, green ball the pride of the pros will eventu-

ally reduce the breakage in the black ball. We couldn't be happier,—even though the green ball, and not the black is the official ball of the National Racquetball Club. We feel what blesses one, blesses all and if the success of the new, green 559 raises the quality of the black 558,—we'll rejoice with you.

That's one of the many dividends all racquetball players will enjoy from the determination of the National Racquetball Club to build a better sport. Next you'll be hearing about new facilities, huge galleries for spectators and television. You're going to be glad the N.R.C. believes that racquetball has no limitations. We think everything is possible in this sport, and we're doing it!

If you are a player or club and have been having trouble obtaining the green ball, just fill out the form below. Be sure you tell us who your dealer is so we can be sure he gets the ball. If you are a dealer and can't get the 559, let us know and we'll make sure that you have it.

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Volley For Show But Shoot For Dough

That was the motto of 17-year-old Steve Serot as he blasted his way to the first victory of the N.R.C.'s pro-am tournaments. And he made believers out of everyone.

The National Racquetball Club's pro-am tournament tour blasted off the launching pad September 27-30 in Houston, Texas and the four-day event was splattered with shocking surprises.

Steve Serot, the 17-year-old St. Louis southpaw, captured the first \$1,500 top prize, with a 21-20, 21-9 finals victory over Minneapolis' Bill Schmidtke. Schmidtke cashed in \$1,000 for second place.

The real story of the Houston Open, as much as Serot's victory was the fall of Charlie Brumfield at the hands (legs would be more appropriate) of Steve Strandemo. For it was Strandemo who amazed everybody by defeating the top-seeded Brumfield 17-21, 21-18, 21-13 in the quarter-finals.

Strandemo went on to meet Serot in the semi finals, and was destroyed 21-3, 21-8.

The most exciting match of the tournament occurred in the semi-finals of the bottom bracket between Schmidtke and San Diego's Steve Keeley. Keeley, seeded second in the tournament, took the first game 21-18, but Bill turned it around in the second for a 21-14 victory. That set up a third game and it turned out to be a work of art. With the score see-sawing back and forth, the out-

come was a 21-20 Schmidtke win.

The quarter-final matches, including the Brumfield-Strandemo battle, were excellent. Serot topped Chicago's Ron Rubenstein 21-10, 21-20 in a great shooting match, while Schmidtke was eliminating Mike Zeitman, 11-21, 21-16, 21-6, and Keeley bested unranked Dan Alder 21-14, 21-11.

It was Alder who pulled the tournament's first major upset with a stunning three game, round of 16 win over Buffalo's Charlie Garfinkel 7-21, 21-15, 21-9.

That round of 16 saw some truly great matches, and some very good players bite the proverbial dust. Brumfield had a rough time against Redwood City's (Calif.) Bill Thurman hanging on for a 21-19, 21-17 win. Strandemo was forced to three games by Jerry Hilecher 12-21, 21-6, 21-14. Serot had a tussle with Ken Wong, St. Louis 21-14, 21-15. Schmidtke and Mike Zeitman each had to go three games for their victories, Schmidtke over Charlie Drake, San Diego, and Zeitman over Paul Lawrence, San Diego. Keeley topped Bill Dunn, Union City, California 21-15, 21-15 and Rubenstein grabbed the other top eight slot with an easy win over Tom McKie, Dallas.

The tournament was played at the Houston Downtown Y.M.C.A. with the cordial and well experienced Houston racquetballers on hand to aid in the running of the meet. Joe Leach, physical director of the Y.M.C.A., and Dewey Strickland were most helpful, Strickland as tournament chairman and Leach as floor manager. Jim Austin and Carroll Stith were also instrumental in making the tourney a big success.

Never before in a racquetball tournament outside of the National Championships has there been so much excellent competition in one place at one time. And the same great play will continue as the N.R.C.'s pro-am tour moves on.

The fact that Charlie Brumfield did not win, certainly is encouraging to the other players, who feared a Brumfield sweep in every tournament. The truth is that everybody has improved to a point where Brumfield cannot so readily dominate as he has for the last two years.

This was the case against Strandemo, where Charlie took a faulty game plan into the match and found it backfired, just when he and everyone else felt he had the match in hand.

Using his "tour of the court" style of play, i.e., shooting as little as pos-

sible, keeping the ball in play, and tiring out the opponent, he ran Strandemo up and back, side to side, attempting to take the edge off Steve's shots. The game Strandemo hung in, making fantastic "gets" and many times diving full length to retrieve possible passes. Game one was won by Charlie, 21-17 one of the most exciting games of the tournament.

The second game looked like Brumfield in a breeze, for a while. Charlie took control early and built up a huge 14-5 advantage, again keeping the ball in play, using an occasional kill to keep Strandemo off balance. But then something happened, something nobody had seen occur to Charlie Brumfield in almost two years,—his legs went.

In the process of attempting to tire out Strandemo, Brumfield himself succumbed to the fatigue factor. And therein lay the faulty game plan,—the way to beat Strandemo is not to run him, for he is the best conditioned athlete on the pro tour. And Brumfield should have realized this, knowing full well that Strandemo was averaging three hours of play daily, and 10 miles a day running.

Charlie's shots stayed up, his ceiling balls kicked out and came up short, and Strandemo, sensing the trouble his opponent was in, began shooting and hitting.

The result was a thrilling Strandemo comeback, including tremendous gets and dead-eye backhand shooting into the front left corner, to pull out a 21-18 second game victory.

"I knew I was tired," said Brumfield, "but I didn't think I was that tired. And I felt he had to be as tired as I was. After all, he ran four times as much as me."

After their ten minute break the third game began and from the outset there was no doubt as to the final outcome: Charlie Brumfield was through. On the second point he cramped in the calf of his left leg, a cramp that he could not shake throughout the entire game. Often he hobbled back to the deep left to retrieve ceiling balls, then back to the right for passes. But Strandemo kept the pressure on and never let go of the lead. Final score was 21-13.

The other top bracket quarter-

SEMI-FINALS

GAME 1

Keeley

1 0 0 0 3 1 1 1 3 0 2 0 2 2 1 3 1 — 21

Schmidtke

0 0 1 0 1 0 0 0 4 3 3 0 1 2 3 0 x — 18

Kills—Keeley 26, Schmidtke 28; Passes—Keeley 2, Schmidtke 1; Errors—Keeley 6, Schmidtke 9; Aces—None; Hinders—2; Time Outs—None.

GAME 2

Schmidtke

0 5 1 0 0 0 0 1 1 1 2 0 0 0 1 6 0 2 0 1 — 21

Keeley

0 0 0 0 0 3 0 0 0 0 2 0 0 5 0 1 0 0 3 x — 14

Kills—Schmidtke 22, Keeley 18; Passes—Schmidtke 10, Keeley 2; Errors—Schmidtke 12, Keeley 7; Aces—Keeley 1, Schmidtke 1; Hinders—2; Time Outs—Keeley 1, Schmidtke 1.

GAME 3

Keeley

0 3 3 1 0 1 1 0 1 0 0 0 4 1 1 1 0 0 0 2 0 1 — 20

Schmidtke

1 1 2 2 1 0 0 4 0 0 1 2 1 0 2 0 2 0 0 0 1 1 — 21

Kills—Schmidtke 27, Keeley 26; Passes—Schmidtke 8, Keeley 4; Errors—Schmidtke 9, Keeley 8; Aces—Schmidtke 1; Hinders—3; Time Outs—Keeley 2, Schmidtke 1.

*

*

*

GAME 1

Serot

4 7 0 3 0 5 0 1 1 — 21

Strandemo

0 2 1 0 0 0 0 0 x — 3

Kills—Serot 18, Strandemo 3; Passes—Serot 5, Strandemo 5; Errors—Serot 2, Strandemo 6; Aces—Serot 1; Hinders—2; Time Outs—Strandemo 3.

GAME 2

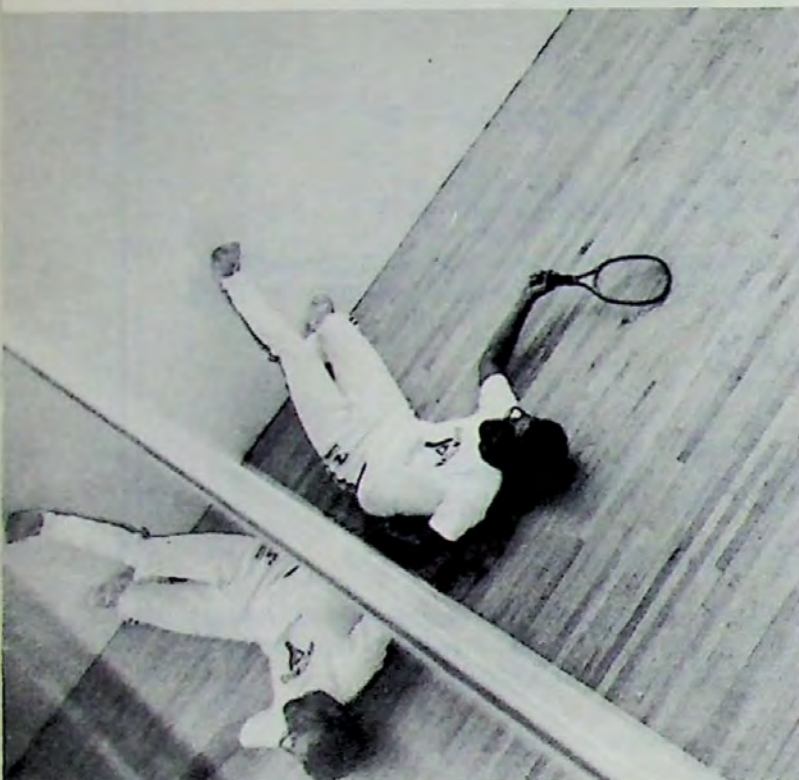
Strandemo

1 0 0 3 1 3 0 0 — 8

Serot

2 0 1 0 0 (13) 1 4 — 21

Kills—Serot 17, Strandemo 7; Passes—Serot 10, Strandemo 4; Errors—Serot 4, Strandemo 2; Aces—None; Hinders—3; Time Outs—Strandemo 1.



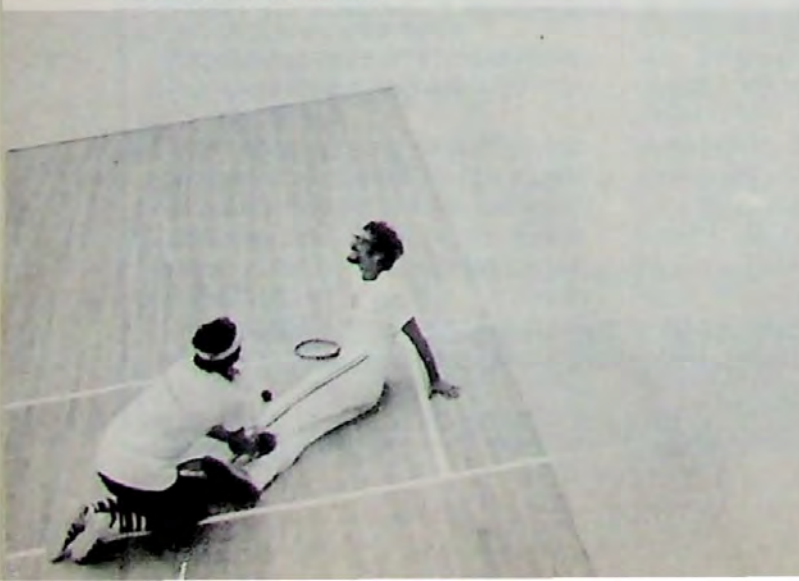
Brumfield's first cramp came after a driving attempt to reach a pass in the back left corner.



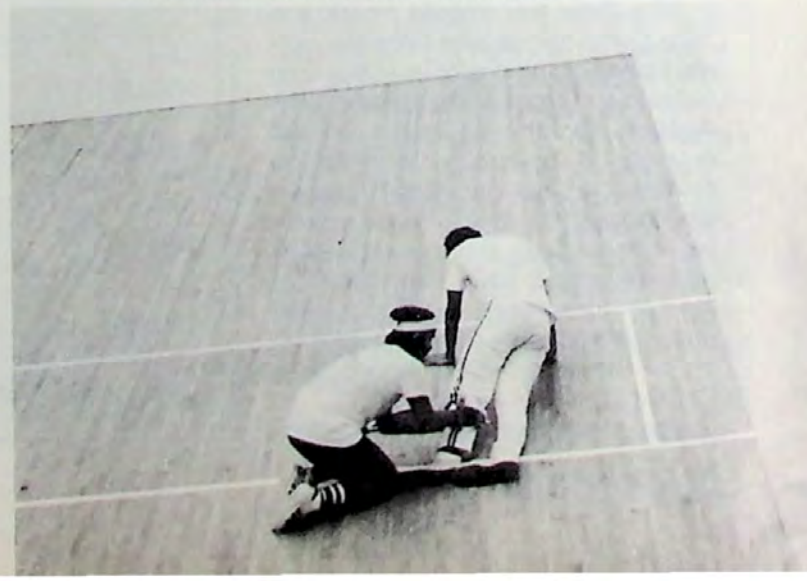
With Strandemo's help, Charlie tries to walk it off. He did and play was resumed.

Cramps Did Him In

We all know the pain. The grimace on Brumfield's face shows the world what a third game against Strandemo can be like.



The next time it hit, the champ was finished. Again opponent Strandemo aids, this time trying to work it out of Charlie's left calf.



final match pitted Serot against Rubenstein, a first-time ever encounter for the two. It was a hard match to predict as both players can be devastating when their shooting game is "on."

Serot's was on in the first game (as it was during most of the tournament) and he went through Ruby in a breeze 21-10. The second game was a different story, however, with Ruby gaining the touch on his side-wall-front wall pinches and Serot seeming to tire slightly. But Steve held on for a 21-20 second game win.

In the bottom bracket Bill "Three Game" Schmidtke settled two outstanding debts by defeating Zeitman in the quarters and then Keeley in the semi's. As usual Bill got off slowly, primarily due to excellent play on Zeitman's part, as the Louisville pro swept to a 21-11 victory. In the middle of game two Schmidtke turned it around and held on for a 21-16 win.

That set up the third game, with a great show expected. However, Zeitman, who had three tough



games earlier in the day with Paul Lawrence, seemed to lose his quickness, and Schmidtke methodically tore him apart 21-6.

Keeley's 21-14, 21-11 victory over Alder was relatively routine. Steve's superior control and shooting ability were too much for Dan, who is, however, one of the game's most rapidly improving players.

The semi's were a huge contrast that nobody expected. Both matches were figured to be close, as Serot had lost to Strandemo recently in Canada and Schmidtke in three games to Keeley in St. Louis. The prediction was half right as Schmidtke and Keeley played, without doubt, the most exciting single match in the tournament.

Prior to that, though, Serot destroyed Strandemo 21-3, 21-8. It's hard to believe that a player could defeat Charlie Brumfield in one

FINALS

GAME 1

Serot

1 0 2 2 0 1 0 0 1 3 1 0 0 1 1 0 1 0 1 0 0 2 0 3 0 1 — 21

Schmidtke

0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 2 1 2 2 1 0 1 0 0 0 5 4 0 0 1 0 0 x — 20

Kills—Serot 17, Schmidtke 32; Passes—Serot 15, Schmidtke 3; Errors—Serot 11, Schmidtke 18; Aces—Serot 1; Hinders—1; Time Outs—None.

GAME 2

Schmidtke

4 1 0 1 1 1 1 0 0 0 — 9

Serot

1 2 0 3 0 5 0 1 8 1 — 21

Kills—Serot 10, Schmidtke 14; Passes—Serot 10, Schmidtke 1; Errors—Serot 2, Schmidtke 11; Aces—Schmidtke 1; Hinders—1; Time Outs—Schmidtke 3.

round and then get utterly demolished in the next. But it happened.

"I think I had a letdown," said Strandemo. "I put everything I had, both mentally and physically, into the Brumfield match. When I got to Serot, I was drained, especially emotionally."

That factor, plus the radical differences in style, made Strandemo's case hopeless against Serot. Serot is a shooter, Strandemo a retriever. Strandemo's strong suit is keeping the ball in play, tiring his opponent, and taking advantage of mistakes. But Serot shoots almost every ball, or so it seems, and how can you run a player who constantly goes for bottom board, Either he hits or misses.

Well, Serot was hitting against Strandemo, who did indeed, keep the ball in play.

"You just can't give Serot two or three shots during a rally," said Brumfield. "He's got to kill one of them. The way to beat Serot is to shoot first."

The Keeley-Schmidtke match was beautiful. The first game found Keeley off to a strong start, running up a 10-2 advantage, but Schmidtke came back primarily on Keeley errors to tie at 12-all. The lead sawsawed to 18-all when Steve killed twice with a hinder sandwiched in

The elation of victory: Steve Strandemo rejoices after scoring the winning point in the third game against Brumfield.



Showing the strain of continuous refereeing are Carroll Stith (l.) and Bruce Kranz, Southern Regional Director of the N.R.C.

between. Bill regained the serve on a kill of his own, but Keeley did the same to come in at 20-18. He then hit the shot of the tournament for game point an overhand, backhand left side wall-front wall kill.

"I failed," said Keeley.

Game two was Schmidtke all the way as he gained an early 11-5 lead, and when Keeley closed to within 10-12, Bill ran the lead to 18-10 and took the game 21-14.

The third game went an amazing 22 innings, and was close throughout with ties at seven, nine, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19 and 20. Each player showed the poise, confidence and cool under pressure to certainly deserve this game. On match point (his second time in) Schmidtke almost aced the serve in the side wall just behind the short line to Keeley's backhand. Steve managed to just get his racquet on the ball, but it sailed all the way to the back wall, where Schmidtke took the pumpkin and passed Steve on the left for the match.

The finals went the same way as the Keeley-Schmidtke match with 21-20 the outcome of the first game, as both Bill and Steve came out shooting. Six times one player or the other served at 20-20, with Serot finally killing the ball with his back-and in the right corner for the game.

"I felt I should have won that game," said Schmidtke, who had seen a 20-17 lead vanish on two errors and a Serot kill. "I guess I eased up a little."

Many onlookers later felt if Schmidtke had won the first game he would have taken the match, but it was all academic as Serot really

caught fire (how much hotter could he get?) and took an 11-9 lead all the way to 21-9 in game two.

It was a mixture of kills, passes and Schmidtke errors as Bill did his all to stop Steve, from body surfing to calling time outs.

"Volley for show," said Steve, as he collected his \$1500 first place check, "but shoot for dough."

An interesting experiment to the first N.R.C. tournament was a pro-am doubles bracket teaming one pro and an unknown local amateur in doubles, with the players playing for their entry fees. The pros were teamed with an amateur by literally picking the names out of a hat.

Pro Bill Thurman picked amateur Richard Walker, Dallas and the two took the title, having their toughest match, oddly, in the second round a 21-17, 19-21 21-13 win over pro Jerry Hilecher and amateur Dr. Bill Sellars, Dallas.

Every single one of the quarter final matches went three games with pro Jim Austin and Richard Cramer topping two amateurs Wallace Hardy and Jerry Linton 21-13, 19-21, 21-14; Bill Dunn and Bruce Kranz bested Dave (D.C.) Charlson and Strickland 21-9, 19-21, 21-10; Bob Hill and Richard Spears, Houston topped pro Ken Wong and Ralph Holiday 21-17, 20-21, 21-16; as well

as the Thurman-Walker win.

Austin and Cramer topped Dunn-Kranz 21-20, 21-18 in the top half of the draw while Thurman-Walker took Hill-Spears 21-11, 21-12 in their half. It was then Thurman and Walker in a 21-18, 21-13 finals victory.

Masters singles was won by Milton Karp in an all-Houston final over Lenny Friedman. Karp had defeated Fred Baccus in one semi, while Friedman eliminated B. J. Knott in the other.

Top seeded Dino Solomon won the B singles with a thrilling 21-19, 21-19 win over Dallas' Virgil Thurmond. Solomon had topped Jerome Winsberg, New Orleans 18 and seven in his semi-final, while Thurmond bested Houston's Armando Cortez 13 and 14 in his. Cortez won third place.

Karp and Friedman teamed up to capture Masters doubles with a 21-15, 21-17 victory over Dan Hilecher, St. Louis and Bruce Alger, Dallas.

Consolation B singles was won by Peter Mitchell, New Orleans, over Ashley Houser, Houston. Dave Charlson won the Open singles consolation over Jim Santino, Lansing, Michigan 21-8, 21-15.

NOTES . . . Bruce Kranz and Irving Zeitman (father of Mike) were imported by the N.R.C. to aid in the officiating and they received great help from Stith, Baccus, Strickland and Charlson . . . Zeitman cheats at hearts Players were given "Gorjuss" watches to go along with their prize money, compliments of the Houston group . . .

46.0

As expected, playing for money has changed the atmosphere and performances at racquetball tournaments. As the N.R.C. begins its pro-am tour every top player has competed at each stop and the results point to some interesting conclusions.

Who would have believed that after two pro-am tournaments Charlie Brumfield would have won neither? Who would have believed that no player would have made the finals is both? And who would have figured that such excellent players as Garfinkel, Wong, Lawrence, Drake, Rudysz, and Thurman would not have broken into the top eight in either tourney?

Yet this is what has occurred. No player has dominated the initial period of the tour, but rather a group of players have emerged as the ones to beat. The way the competition has progressed five players have put their heads above the others,—Serot, Schmidtke, Keeley, Brumfield and Strademo. Three others have shown consistently to be capable of playing on virtually even terms with the above—Rubenstein, Zeitman and Hilecher. The others have found it impossible to break into the round of eight.

What does this tell the National Racquetball Club about its players? First, those who have worked the hardest have been collecting the bulk of the prize money. Serot, Brumfield, Keeley, Schmidtke and Strademo have put together extensive running and conditioning programs to complement their normal playing. Thus, we have not only the best players in these people, but the best conditioned as well. And the results have shown it.

Secondly, it shows that perhaps some of the other players have not been putting their all into preparation for the pro-am tournaments. Without accusations, some of the players seem to have taken the attitude of "well, my travel and lodging is paid already, and I should pick up at least \$50 by reaching the round of 16."

It is this attitude which will not be tolerated by the N.R.C. Any player continuing out of shape, or lacking in effort on the court will be properly disciplined. The professional players must set the example for all

players, regardless if their game is "on" or not. I have watched two players actually give up on the court when far down in certain games. No matter how tired, nor how disappointed, nor how frustrated the

player might be, the N.R.C. will never condone this type of behavior.

The new N.R.C. method of draw has worked out very well in each tournament, and although some

(To page 41)



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Keeley Captures Long Beach Open

Displaying a devastating game in the finals, Steve topped Brumfield for the coveted \$1,500.

Curly-haired Steve Keeley made it two different champions in two N.R.C. pro-am tournaments by defeating Charlie Brumfield for the \$1,500 first prize and the title at the Long Beach, California Open.

It was the second time around for the touring professional players, who had a month to re-shape their game if they thought it necessary, after the inaugural tournament in Houston.

Most of the players managed an adjustment or two in preparation for Long Beach, with only one or two "going back to the drawing board."

"I think the players have taken an easy going attitude toward their game and their performances," said N.R.C. National Director Chuck Leve. "After another tournament or two, if a player is consistently not coming in the money, then he'll have work to do. But none of the bottom eight has panicked."

Keeley, who has found handball playing two or three times a week has helped his racquetball game, did not have an easy time reaching the finals, being forced to three games in both the quarters and semi's. But in the finals he took complete control in the first game against Brumfield and then had to come from behind late in the second game to win the match in two straight.

"I find I can't keep my concentration playing just racquetball," said Steve. "In fact, hours and hours of continuous play bores me. So I play handball a couple times a week and when I switch over to racquetball it remains stimulating."

Keeley certainly didn't seem to lack any concentration in Long Beach, whether handball is the reason or not. He trounced Paul Lazure and Trey Sayes (an upset winner over pro George Rudysz in the first round) in the early going, and then had to dig in to defeat two old nemeses, Jerry Hilecher 13-21, 21-2, 21-16 in the quarters and Bill Schmidtke 21-15, 13-21, 21-8 in the semi-finals.

On the top side of the draw Brumfield was attempting to atone for his disappointing showing in Houston, and by an unlucky flip of the coin for both players, was forced to play Serot in the semi-finals. Prior to that, however, Brumfield topped Charlie Drake five and five, and then had a tough win over Mike Zeitman in the quarters 21-16, 21-18. Zeitman, who could have won either game, really made "The Brum" work.

But Serot had no easy time of his rise to the semi's, initially being forced to three games by localite Jay Jones in the first round, before

waking up and slaughtering Charlie Garfinkel 21-2, 21-6. But Serot's quarter-final match was Steve Strandemo, and the surprise of the Houston tournament showed a vastly improved game and strategy against Serot, than in Texas, where he was blasted 21-3, 21-8.

This time Strandemo came out shooting, realizing that keeping the ball in play meant a sure Serot victory. By keeping the pressure on the younger Steve, Strandemo captured the first game 21-17. Serot came back strong, riding one of his amazing hot streaks in the second game to a 21-9 win, leaving it all up to game three.

It was a thrilling battle, with neither player giving an inch and both of them often ending up sprawled at contorted angles on the hardwood. When it was over Serot emerged victorious, although tired, 21-18.

Serot's semi-final match with Brumfield then, was a test in stamina as well as the other facets of racquetball. Charlie took pretty good control of the first game around the mid-point and coasted in to a 21-13 victory. It seemed that Serot couldn't get his machine gun left arm loaded quite fast enough.

As he usually does when playing Serot, Brumfield, when forced to keep the ball in play, gave Steve the worst possible percentage shots he could, and the strategy worked.

In game two Serot changed things around by hitting some of these shots, and as Brumfield appeared to tire slightly, Steve was getting better balls to shoot. The result was a 21-16 Serot win.

"Sure I'm tired," said Brumfield in between the second and third games. "But I know he's just as tired."

If the line sounds familiar, it is, for Brumfield uttered it when explaining his feelings at the same point against Strandemo in Houston. This time, however, he did not fold, in fact he broke Serot's concentration and confidence with a string of points and a disappointingly (for the fans) easy 21-6 win.

Schmidtke and Keeley, meanwhile were engaged in a Houston re-match. It was Schmidtke who had pulled the surprise of the tournament to this point, by not going three games with Ron Rubenstein in the quarters.

"I can't understand it," said another pro. "Either Bill's playing very, very good or Ron's playing that bad, but that match is a made to order three game. That's a lot of nerve on Schmidtke's part, to win in two, instead of three."

In all fairness, "Three Game" Bill did go three games with Bill Dunn in the round of 16, and as usual, again with Keeley in the semi's.

Neither player was sharp in the first game, or for that matter in the entire match. But Schmidtke eventually won the battle of the errors, and gave the first game to Keeley, who gladly accepted after seemingly attempting to give it back.

Schmidtke was taking awful shots, somehow falling into a pattern of attempting kills with his backhand, many coming on service returns. He skipped as many as reached the front wall, and half of those that did reach the front wall stayed up for easy Keeley re-kills.

Keeley, not to be outdone, was coupling ridiculous overhand, backhand kill attempts off Schmidtke ceiling balls (when Bill did decide to try a defensive shot) from deep left court into the front right corner. His percentage was about 40 for the good, and Steve added to that a perplexing inability to put away the easiest shots. Final score was 21-15.

"With the shots I gave him," said Schmidtke, "he should have given me a donut."

But Keeley is aware of Schmidtke's three game reputation, and held off accepting first game congratulations.

"I haven't won yet," said Steve. "We've still got two games to play."

And so it was. Schmidtke turned the second game around completely, with Keeley playing as bad as Bill did in the first. Schmidtke finally took control at around point 10 and put Steve out of his misery 21-13.

As for the third game,—it was all Keeley. Finally putting together his powerful game, Steve thoroughly trounced Schmidtke who never could get going in this strange (especially for a semi-final) match.

"I don't know how to explain it,"

FINALS

GAME 1

Brumfield

0 0 1 0 1 0 1 2 0 1 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 — 7

Keeley

0 3 1 4 0 0 0 0 4 1 2 1 0 0 0 1 2 2 — 21

Kills—Keeley 22, Brumfield 12; Passes—Keeley 5, Brumfield 3; Errors—Keeley 9, Brumfield 13; Aces—None; Hinders—3; Time Outs—Brumfield 1.

GAME 2

Keeley

1 3 1 2 8 0 1 0 0 2 2 1 — 21

Brumfield

1 2 4 1 3 0 1 0 6 0 0 x — 18

Kills—Keeley 18, Brumfield 13; Passes—Keeley 9, Brumfield 6; Errors—Keeley 6, Brumfield 6; Aces—Keeley 1; Hinders—7; Avoidable Hinders—Brumfield 1; Time Outs—Brumfield 2.

said Bill after the 21-8 third game. "I felt I was playing my best ball coming into the match, but I certainly wasn't coming out. Oh well, you have days like that."

In the finals, Keeley completely dominated the first game, having a tremendously hot hand. He killed the ball well, his ceiling game was accurate, and most importantly he filled the lanes extremely well, cutting off potential Brumfield passes and shooting the ball.

"I couldn't get the ball past him on the right," said Brumfield. "He covered really well and turned those into offensive shots."

Keeley ran up an 8-1 advantage before Brumfield broke a sweat. When Charlie came back to 5-8, Steve put out the rally and added five more of his own to take a commanding 12-5 lead. Steve then reverted to defense, picking up points here and there, but making sure that Brumfield couldn't get a big inning going. Brumfield, in fact, scored only two more points the entire game.

Game two was fantastic action, thrill-packed and with the outcome in doubt down to the wire. The score was tied at five, seven and eight, when six Keeley kills and a Brumfield error boosted Steve to a seem-

ingly insurmountable 15-8 advantage.

Point 15 was an avoidable hinder on Brumfield, called by referee Bill Dunn and the first avoidable hinder in the finals of an N.R.C. tournament. Brumfield, although upset, did not seriously question the call.

But the current National Champ did not fold. He regained the service and promptly tallied three points of his own to 11-15. At 12-16 Brumfield made his move. First a pass left made it 13-16, and two Keeley errors, one on a kill attempt off the serve closed the gap to 15-16. Brumfield then had to suffer through a broken ball hinder on a kill shot that would have ended the rally, an event upsetting enough to force him to call a time out.

On resumption of play Charlie tallied three more times for an 18-16 lead before Keeley put him out with a pass right. Steve came back with two points on a forehand kill and Brumfield error, but gave the serve back to Charlie by skipping in a "plum ball" with his backhand at the short line.

A few innings later Steve broke the tie with two consecutive passes. Charlie regaining the serve, couldn't score and Keeley stepped up with a 20-18 lead for the second time.

"I tried to ace him on the right,"





Schmidtke showing excellent form in his semi-final match with Keeley. Note the transfer of weight from back to front legs as he waits for the ball to drop to calf level. Keeley does all he can with center court retrieving position.

said Keeley. "I wanted to hit a good hard low serve to his forehand. I don't think he was expecting it."

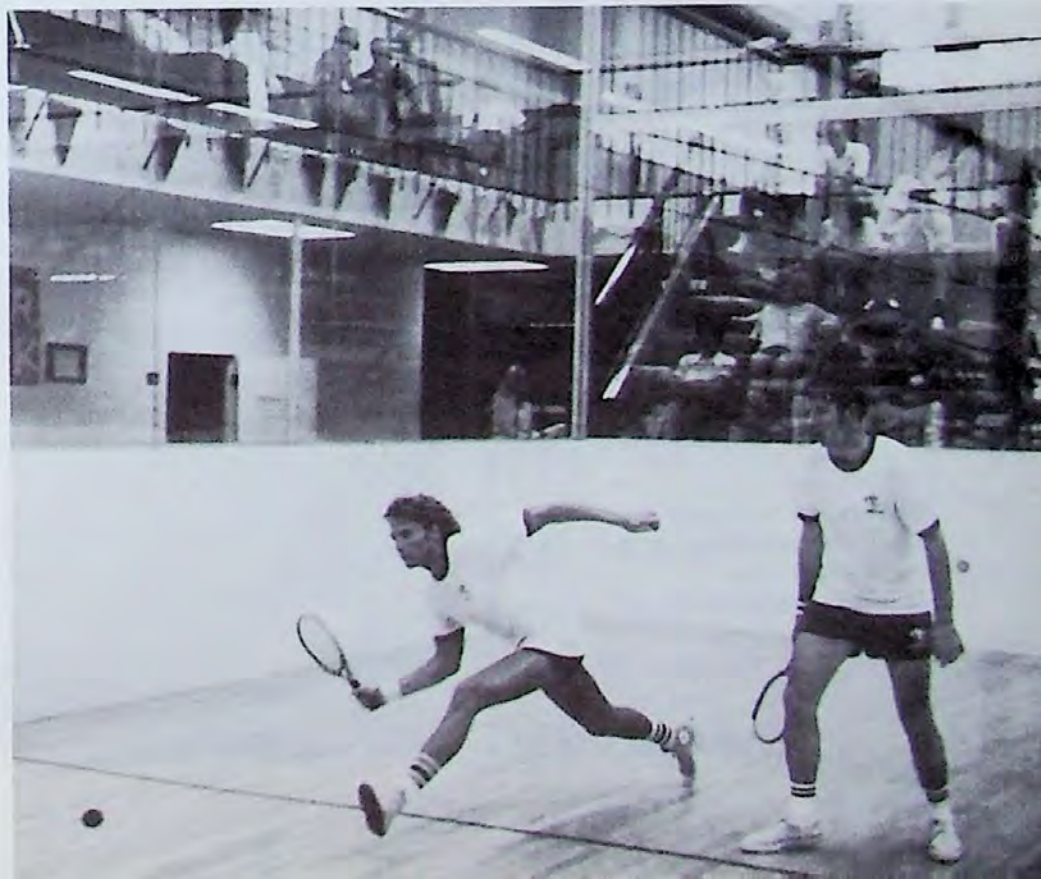
The strategy worked, as Keeley's ball seemed to be some sort of change of pace to the right, for although he took a full swing, the ball came back softer than expected and with enough spin to make it kick forward off the back wall directly toward the front wall. Brumfield could not make contact, and the match was over.

"I mis-hit the ball," said Keeley, "I was lucky. The ball wasn't anywhere near the middle of my racquet. I hit it way up at the top, near the frame."

NOTES . . . The B singles bracket attracted the highest number of entries as usual, with Jerry Northwood, of Newport, California taking the title, in a three game win over Fullerton's Jim Moore. Scores were 21-13, 6-21, 21-13. Semi-finalists were Walter Burgess, Costa Mesa who lost to Northwood 21-14, 21-20 and Long Beach's Rick Bryson, who was defeated by Moore 21-16, 21-17 . . . Open doubles showed some excellent teams, including a pick-up team of Mike Zeitman and Craig McCoy who won the tournament. They defeated the Hayward, California team of Bill Dunn and Bill

Thurman in the finals 21-10, 21-18, coming from behind in the second game for the title . . . Semi-finals saw Dunn and Thurman top Pat Moran and Ken Creese 21-16, 21-20, while Zeitman-McCoy eliminated Len Stream and Mark Wayne, another Hayward team 21-5, 21-16 . . . One of the most interesting doubles matches in memory occurred in the

Keeley in the same match lunges forward to pick up a Schmidtke kill attempt. By necessity this time, the point of contact will be extremely low. By Schmidtke's position and flat-footedness in this picture, any shot down the right wall should be a winner.

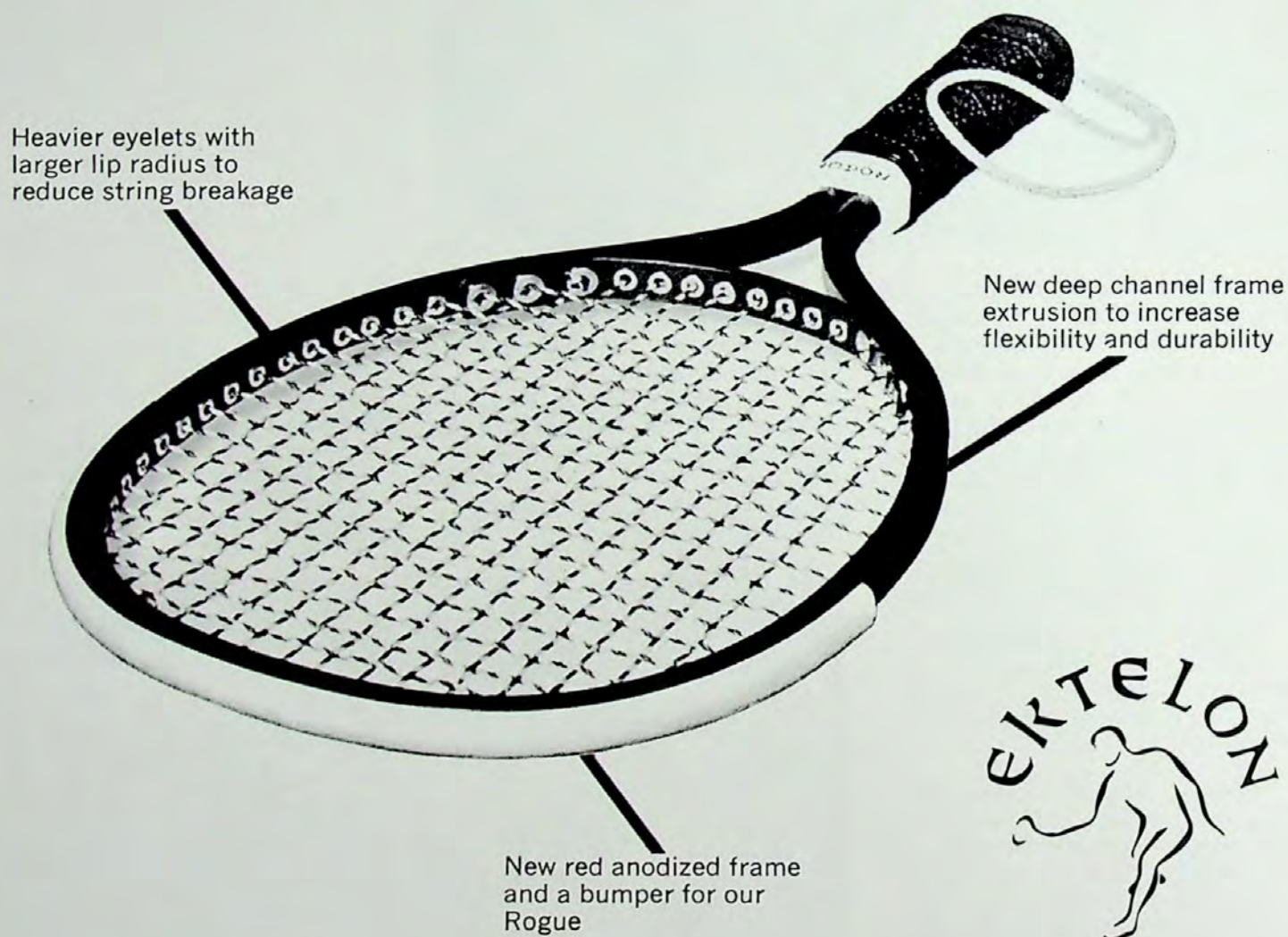


(Top) Brumfield goint to ceiling in finals. (Bottom) The hard workers included (l. to r.) Al Gracio, Scotty Deeds, Ed Kelly and Harry Keast.

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The tournament floor manager's desk, with welcoming signs and players autographs on the wall. There were so many people who did their all in Long Beach, and to them all, our thanks.

Serot reaches back to go to the ceiling in his semi-final match against Brumfield. Notice Brumfield looking over his shoulder to see what Serot does with his return.



first round when Jay Jones and Rick Deseracho did combat against Rick Marrs and Stan Alvarez. Jones and Deseracho won the first game 21-9, then lost game two by the amazing score of 21-0. Yet they still managed to turn it around and win game three 21-5! That, after a donut...

INTERESTING MATCHES IN OPEN SINGLES... McCoy upsetting Thurman in the first round in two games... Another tough draw for Bill... Trey Sayes, of San Diego, topping pro George Rudysz in the first round. Sayes is an amateur and took advantage of Rudysz' apparent rustiness and Sayes' own better conditioning... Jones, who recently won the Los Angeles open B singles tournament, thereby forcing him into the open, took Serot to three games in the first round before succumbing 21-3, 12-21, 21-8...

HATS OFF... to Scotty Deeds and Bill Shumart for all their hard work at the tournament, especially in the publicity and p.r. end. Scotty's a pleasure to work with and a great guy besides... ditto for Ed Kelly and Al Gracio, both of whom lent their time and energy to help make the tournament go... Bootin' Ben Agajanian's Athletic Club is still the most beautiful around, with Ben still doing a bang-up job of promoting racquetball and handball... Players stayed at the Queen Mary Hotel in Long Beach, actually aboard the British liner... quite an experience for everybody... Best match to watch was B singles first round match between Dr. Ed Beebe and Sharon Reiher, the tournament's queen. Sharron, who has been under the tutelage of Deeds at one of the California State campuses, played a nice game before losing 21-12, 21-14.

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Ardito Named to N.R.C. Commissioner Post

Nothing takes the place of an old pro to settle down the rookies on the ball team. If this old pro also has good business sense, you have it made. If this holds true for our racquetball team at the N.R.C., we certainly have it made. We just added one of the best known and most successful tournament promoters in the country to our staff.

Joe Ardito has been officially appointed the National Commissioner and Business Manager of the National Racquetball Club. Along with Chuck Leve, National Director and Editor of *National Racquetball* magazine, we now have a one-two punch that's going to be hard to beat. We have merged unbounded enthusiasm with unlimited experience and in a new business, there are the basic ingredients.

And this really is a new business. We are learning every day and enjoying it. Nevertheless, it's surprising how many ideas that have been popular in handball work just as well in racquetball. Blended with new racquetball methods the N.R.C. has created a unique format made to order for Joe Ardito.

That's why we think Joe is going to be a real blessing. With all the prize money and increased budget, Joe is just the one to balance that budget. He has been with Bob Kendler for almost 25 years, acting on his behalf in many vital matters. His record as president of the Illinois Handball Association is a record in every respect,—continuous growth, fiscal responsibility and most importantly,—the total affection of all his members.

On a national basis, Joe was the father and guardian of the National Juniors Championships and it would be hard to find a top player today that hasn't been aided at one time or another by Joe's unique dedication to young players. His whole career as an official of the Y, as National Juniors Chairman and as head of our state association has been one of total dedication to the youth of America. His proteges can be found everywhere, and wherever they are they reflect credit on Joe. His own son, Don, is a good example having won many big handball titles. Even

Johnny Sloan, Phil Collins and many others owe their athletic skill as well as their personal character in a large part to the kind, compassionate, understanding of a man who has been as much a father as he has been a coach to his "boys."

Although most of Joe's experience has been in handball, he has already made numerous friends within the racquetball community. He has taken his great reservoir of handball knowledge and molded it to fit the idiosyncrasies and differences that racquetball and racquetball players demand.

"I've been converted," he said after witnessing the first N.R.C.

pro-am tournament. *"This game is the greatest. It's no wonder so many people are getting into it."*

"I have my own personal reasons for being very happy that Joe has agreed to take on the racquetball responsibility," said N.R.C. president Bob Kendler. *"Joe has assisted me for many years and has been my doubles partner as well. I hate to tell you how many times he has backed me up, not only in the court but in business as well."*

"I make it a practice of employing only people who I would enjoy having for a friend. Joe has been my friend, and I promise he will be yours, too."

Say It Ain't So, Charlie!



In a match against Steve Serot, San Diego's Charlie Brumfield appears to be hitting a beautiful left hand kill shot in a handball game. Aha! The camera deceives, for in reality Brumfield has just hit a racquetball backhand, while Serot has been caught behind him.

Photo by Hymen Edelstein

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How To Improve

By STEVE SEROT

For most racquetballers, particularly beginners, the forehand is a relatively natural shot, but the backhand is much more difficult to master or even properly develop. At times even the most advanced players have been known to practically scale the side walls to avoid hitting a backhand shot. However, a solid player must acquire a strong backhand that he has confidence in using at all times.

Too many players on all levels are unrealistic about their own game. Before working up an elaborate tactical plan relative to your opponent's game and weaknesses, first analyze your own game to correct your faults. Work on your game to a goal of perfection; which means a great backhand to go with your forehand.

The backhand probably gives racquetballers more trouble than any other stroke, yet mastery of it is essential. This will not only prevent opponents from taking advantage of your weak stroke by attacking your backhand side, but it can be turned into a powerful offensive weapon. A strong backhand will allow you to get many passing attempts and will save the numerous steps to walk around a ball to get a forehand shot.

The technique for a good backhand stroke starts with the proper grip. Many people, especially those who have some tennis experience, feel it necessary to change the position of the hand on the racquet when switching from a forehand to a backhand, or the other way.

However, I feel that the continental grip is suitable for both strokes. This grip will prevent you from being jammed, when you are in front of the

service line on a ball hit directly at you.

As I grip the racquet throat the butt of the racquet rests on the heel of my opposite hand. I shake hands with the racquet, my fingers curve around the handle and my forefinger extends naturally up the racquet.

Proper stance and footwork are the next steps in developing a good backhand. Many beginners are unaware that the backhand stroke must always be executed while facing the side wall so that your arm can snap the ball directly toward the front wall. The knees must always be flexed, don't stand flat-footed, and have your feet spread out at shoulder length. When re-killing a shot I try and take a wider stance and get down even lower than usual.

Initially, your body weight should be placed on your rear foot. The



Your Backhand

backswing depends on the amount of time you have to line up the ball and execute your shot. At the peak of your backhand, your shoulder points directly toward the spot to which you are aiming the ball, and your forearm is parallel to your body. The knees are now bent as you prepare to transfer the body weight to your front foot. As you swing, step into the stroke, toward the front wall, throwing your weight onto your front foot. The ball should be hit at nearly arms length to maximize the power input. Always follow through on your swing.

The only way to improve your backhand is by practice. Practicing alone, hitting a variety of backhand shots will help you become comfortable and confident with the stroke. When playing singles with players of lesser ability than myself, I can play an entire game using the backhand

shot almost exclusively. Try this for a week and I guarantee that your backhand will improve.

I have found that a major portion of the power put into the backhand drive is produced from the triceps and muscles of the forearm and wrist. Therefore, more power can be developed through weightlifting exercises such as reverse curls, french curls and wrist curls. Try to do these weight exercises three or four times weekly. To increase your strength, exercise with as heavy a weight as possible for three sets of low repetitions. You will find that these movements can put more "zing" into your backhand.

The only way you can ever hope to have any success at improving not only your backhand, but your total game is through a proper conditioning program. As I have already

mentioned, weight lifting can be useful to you. A friend of mine in St. Louis added two feet to his ceiling ball by following a simple weight lifting program for a few months. Don't just try to be good at racquetball, try to be a good athlete. Anyone can pick up a racquet and start beating the ball into the wall, but only a hardworking athlete has any chance of becoming proficient at the game. The best way to join the other athletes in the sport is by running,—notice I said running, not to be confused with jogging. I run a brisk two mile cross country course every morning in 12 minutes. You should start by running one-half to a mile daily and within two months be doing two miles in 14 to 16 minutes. Everyone who wants to play the game seriously must run to improve his wind, adding stamina to the rest of his game.



First Time Around Leaves Impressions On The Commissioner

By Joe Ardito

It gives me great pleasure and satisfaction to report that our first pro-am racquetball tournament was a tremendous success. I now feel confident that we do have the fastest growing sport in the country and have no doubts about the continued growth and success of the N.R.C.'s pro-am tour.

I would like to take this opportunity to offer our thanks and deep gratitude to our host, the Houston Downtown Y.M.C.A. and members of their staff for their complete cooperation. Our further thanks for a job well done by tournament chairman Dewey Strickland and his hard-working committee,—Jim Austin, Carroll Stith, Fred Baccus, publicity and hospitality man Jon Campbell, and a terrific job of floor managing by super-hard working Joe Leach. More plaudits to the many people who aided in refereeing, including our two imports, Irv Zeitman and Bruce Kranz.

There is no way that I can find words to express my sincere thanks to the contract pro players. Their 100-plus per cent efforts not only in displaying their skills as the greatest racquetball players in the world, but also their behavior and true sportsmanship displayed on and off the court were exemplary at all times.

As I sat and watched as many of the pro matches as I was able, I just found it hard to believe what was taking place. Here we had professional athletes playing for prize money for the first time, and I believe you all know what I was most concerned about.

First of all, I just couldn't believe racquetball could have so much continuous, superb, exciting, fast action. (If sports fans enjoy viewing tennis and golf on television, imagine the fans we will attract when racquetball is properly displayed on television). I still can't understand how these players make perfect kill shots forehand or backhand from any part of the court, how they execute perfect pass shots, hit ceiling balls after ceiling balls that hug the left wall, and how they move, anticipate and change direction with unbelievable quickness. You can be sure I was converted.



ARDITO

But the most important and gratifying aspect of play was the behavior and sportsmanship displayed. I sat there match after match, thinking the attitude or pressure would start to reflect on the players as we moved into the big money matches. I was pleased to watch the players perform even more graciously right through the finals.



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I watched Charlie Brumfield go down to defeat. I know that this tournament was the one he wanted to win more than any other tourney. An ordinary man would probably have broken down, or gone home, but not Charlie Brumfield, for he is a true champion. I spoke to him after his loss. He smiled and said, "Wait until Long Beach, I will be ready." In my record book I wrote a big 100-plus behind Charlie Brumfield's name for a great champion.

The next great match I watched was the Keeley-Schmidtke semi-final. This match contained everything to please an audience that a promoter could ask for. The first game was action-packed, very close and well-played. Both players performed brilliantly and at the same time kept their unbelievably pleasing, cool attitude and commendable sportsmanship. Keeley won this one 21-18.

The second game was a replica of the first with Schmidtke making a great comeback (as is his style, I'm told) with a 21-14 win. The stage was not set for the deciding third game.

Right at the start the action was superb. Both players honored each others ability and honesty in deciding a wrong call from the referee. Also, all through this great match, both players used a bit of psychology on each other. Much to my amazement (for I have seen this type of strategy backfire and create a very obnoxious situation) both players did this so honorably and at all times with a friendly smile toward the other, that it was a manner which actually pleased the gallery. I couldn't believe this aura could continue, especially when the score reached 17-all. The next few points would decide the winner, who then would be assured of \$1,000 prize money and a chance to win first place, worth \$1,500.

Current Player Rankings

After two N.R.C. pro-am tournaments two players are tied for the lead in the current rankings and money winnings. The complete statistics are below.

Rank	Player	Points	Prize Money
1 (Tie)	Steve Serot	15	\$2,100
	Steve Keeley	15	\$2,100
3	Bill Schmidtke	12	\$1,600
4	Charlie Brumfield	10	\$1,200
5	Steve Strandemo	8	\$800
6 (Tie)	Ron Rubenstein	6	\$400
	Mike Zeitman	6	\$400
8 (Tie)	Jerry Hilecher	4	\$250
	Dan Alder	4	\$250
10 (Tie)	Charlie Garfinkel	2	\$100
	Charlie Drake	2	\$100
	Jim Austin	2	\$100
	Paul Lawrence	2	\$100

The following players have each reached the round of 16 once, earning one point and \$50: Ken Wong, Bill Thurman, Bill Dunn, Craig McCoy, Trey Sayes and Tom McKie.

Statistics complete through January 15, 1974.

The tension was at a peak and we could hardly contain ourselves in the crowd. But lo and behold the players continued their excellent play without any change as the score mounted to 19-17, 19-all, 20-all and Schmidtke then scored the final point for the victory.

Immediately both players embraced each other with a happy smile and Steve very graciously congratulated Bill on his win. Everybody in the gallery sensed the satisfaction these players were enjoying, knowing that they had just put on a great show.

The final match was the Schmidtke-Serot battle, which followed the same pattern. The first

game was another thriller, won by Serot 21-20, after being down 19-15. The second game unfolded the making of a great, young, 17-year-old champion. At that tender age Steve Serot has peaked and matured into a professional athlete.

Congratulations to you Steve on a great second game win and becoming our first pro champion.

Thanks to you, Mr. Steve Serot and all of our pro players for putting on a successful showcase of racquetball and a display of sportsmanship of which you and the N.R.C. can be proud.

And as the tour goes on, good luck to you all.



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Now Available: Court Club memberships. \$25.
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All members will receive a booklet covering tape recordings of this first Seminar-Meeting, March 23-25.

Court Club Seminar-Booklet Available to non-members at \$10 a copy. Seminar covered every facet of Court Club operation, building, promotion, products . . . includes question and answer session.

A sampling response from those in attendance:

Malin Greenberg, Court House, Minneapolis. — "I just wanted to express my great pleasure with the proceedings of the Association over this last weekend. Not only was I pleased with the great turnout, I would like to think I know everything about racquetball that there is to know from a business standpoint, I will candidly admit that I, too, learned something there."

Ken Porco, Louisville Athletic Club. — "Just want to say thanks for putting together a very successful first meeting of the NCCA."

Dr. James Tanner, Birmingham. — "Congratulations on a truly wonderful seminar."

Lee Nylen, Champion Glove Mfg. Co. — **"I want to thank Mort, Bob and Chuck for the very fine seminar you organized on behalf of all of us who are interested in building courts in our respective communities."**

Len Stream, San Mateo, Calif. — **"Thought the program was great—excellent exposure. The content of the seminar was very complete. Looking forward to attending next year's NCCA seminar. Well done."**

NCCA, 4101 Dempster St., Skokie, IL 60076

Enclosed find () \$25 for official Court Club membership. () \$10 individual membership. () \$10 Products manufacturer for Court Sports. This fee will include both 1973 membership with all literature coming out of the NCCA headquarters, and the official booklet covering the first seminar-meeting, March 23-25.

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Make checks payable to: National Court Clubs Association.

B.C. Totem Open To Strandemo

Superbly conditioned Steve Strandemo methodically ground down the opposition to win his second consecutive Canadian title, the B.C. Totem Open, 21-14, 21-18 over Wes Hadiken. Steve used his now infamous "fatigue offense," moving his opponents left and right, up and back, until the edge was completely off their games. Showing his mastery over all aspects of racquetball competition, Strandemo teamed with Dale Pond of the Men's Athletic Recreation Centre (Vancouver) to simultaneously capture the Open Doubles Crown. Scores were 21-15, 21-17 over the stubbornly competitive team of Jim Lund and the much travelled Gordon Kelly of Grand Rapids, Michigan.

In B Singles, J. Smith outlasted Warren Mitchell, 8-21, 21-8, 21-18. The third game was a real barn-burner, both men playing hard and fair racquetball.

In C Singles, H. Kellough squeaked out a tight 21-19 second game over Ernie Peters to make it a straight game victory. First game score was 21-12.

In D Singles, another Canadian innovation, 15-year-old, B. Swartz out-foxed Dan McIntyre, 21-19, 21-15.

In Women's Open, Audrey Leach overcame an almost insurmountable obstacle, "tournament jitters," to make her first visit to the winner's circle in the Women's Division. Everyone who knows Audrey's competitive attitude and tremendous potential knows this first will certainly not be the last.

Master's Singles saw Peter James, fresh from the Master's Invitational in San Diego, do the job on Dale Pond, 21-10, 21-14. Dale did bring home the gold, however, in Open Doubles.

A few quick scores in Consolations:

Open Singles: Bill Crandtadow over D. Moore, 21-9, 12-21, 21-20.

Open Doubles: Marcus & Smith over Sid Kusun & Warner, 21-16, 21-12.

B's: Keith Anderson over Phil Swartz, 21-14, 14-21, 21-



Strandemo taking one off the back wall.

- C's: Kelly Head over Murray Shiapiro, 21-15, 21-6.
D's: B. Myers over Jack Webster.
Master's: Terrific Smith over Herb Capozzi, 21-9, 12-21, 21-9.

Great hospitality and a fun time

for all has become a Canadian Tourney trademark, and the Totem Open was no exception. "Terrific" Smith's plumage was as bright as ever, and Herb Capozzi spared no effort to make American and Canadian visitors feel welcome. All entrants enjoyed themselves — what better compliment can we give to our Canadian hosts?

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Kendler's Cleveland Speech Sets N.R.C. Game Plan

In Cleveland as guest of John Leech, owner of the Executive Club Court Club, Bob Kendler was given the key to the City of Cleveland. In front of an overflow crowd the president of the National Racquetball Club delivered the following address:

I suppose all you folks know John Leech better than I do, and understand just what he is trying to accomplish here today. From his invitation, I couldn't figure out if this was a Grand Opening, a Dedication, or a Revival Meeting! Whatever it is, I'd like to tell you I am honored to be here, and you certainly have my blessing in anything you do for the Court Sports.

Not too long ago, I negotiated a deal with one of the most astute businessmen I ever met. It took about a year, but because he is the largest manufacturer of racquets, it was worth the effort. Nevertheless, it was Some Ordeal! As you probably know, his name was Leach. Imagine my surprise when I learned there is ANOTHER Leech in racquetball and, really, I don't know if I can stand another one. In John's invitation for me to speak here tonight, all he wrote about was the titles he had won and the big shots he beat. He even told me about the Air Force Thunderbirds who worked-out at your club for three days, and had some very kind comments about both the Club and racquetball.

After inspecting your magnificent facility I get the feeling that if you want to play in John's club, John WINS — or you're out! I also get the feeling that there is another nut, like Kendler, who blew a million bucks just to play *When* he pleased and as *Long* as he pleased! Keep it up, John — you'll wind up like me, doing all your serving from the podium instead of the box!

Actually, this isn't all bad. When you're president of a sport, you have to explain your game plan to the players — and you better have a winning game! We have a demanding membership and if you don't keep moving forward, they will run you over. They have shoved me a few times but haven't yet trampled me! That's because I really want to bring out — thru court sports — the greatest possible good for BOTH the game and the player. The truth is — we have spent too many years bettering the Play, and not enough years bettering the *player*.

We call bettering the Play, Phase One. By this, we mean we have culled out the best talent in the world and have pitted them against each other. They say you are only as good as your competition. Because we now bring together the best competition from near and far, even the best PLAY is being improved. Players from distant cities, who sometimes have no competition at

home, now regularly face the highest skills. It can do nothing but better *their* play and inspire *our* play.

Bettering the Player, we call Phase Two. We are at it now and, Man, is this a challenge!

Generating a hundred thousand dollars in prize money for the players is like trying to pick up a no-bounce sidewall kill shot — with a hook on it! Yet, that's precisely what the players expect of us. And for good reason. They see those bizarre matches between Bobby Riggs and Margaret Court and Billie Jean King, with over \$100,000 at stake. If any of you saw the hands vs. racquet matches you know there was absolutely no comparison! They went for \$30,000 and displayed shot-making and reflexes that no sport — at any time — has ever displayed. It was an absolutely unbelievable exhibition of speed, power, and physical dexterity, unmatched in all sports history, and I don't care WHAT sport you include! The excitement shook the rafters, and there were literally hundreds of people who could not buy tickets.

Prize money tours in tennis and golf have educated our players who, I believe, are better athletes, and put on a better show. This is what we must market to attract spectator income. From the gallery, we hope, will flow the cash that will enable our players to make a career of their sport. It follows then — that they will be super sharp to put on a super-show. If you ask, "*Why haven't we done this before?*" — the answer is we didn't think the time was right. Even now, when the time seems to be right, we haven't the galleries or the TV coverage to attract sponsors and generate the income. So we are gambling, putting the pro-am tour in court clubs wholly inadequate for the demands of the spectators or the needs of the promoters. However, we feel that if our player package exceeds everyone's expectations, the pressure from *within* the court clubs will result in larger galleries and with TV following a close behind. Believe me, there is no problem in professional play that can't be solved with audiences at the court or in the home. We are certain this will put Phase Two to bed, and leave the clubs with many substantial benefits that follow every prestige tournament.

Pro tours really comprise Phase Three. We got the 1972 phase of our racquetball tour off to a great start in Houston and Long Beach. We have been working closely with the hosts, and have been keeping our schedule and position flexible enough to make the players and clubs happy. We have moved some of our original dates around to make each tournament exactly right for each area. And it has worked.

In Phase Four we hope to present — thru the medium of television — an exciting new sport that combines super athletes, audience oriented glass courts, cash prizes that will lend intensity to the competition, and a respected national promoter with undoubted integrity. At this moment, we have the ingredients and are now putting the package together.

For starters, the four-day racquetball tournaments will be open to both pros and amateurs. Handball, on the other hand, will be strictly pro — and feature eight of the sixteen leading players who will compete only on weekends. In this way, we can study the advantages and disadvantages of open pro-am play, as against the closed-pro "Super Eight" play.

What I am really saying to you is that we are in a trial and error period. We opened up in Houston because — just like a Broadway Show — we wanted to get all the "bugs" out of our operation before we hit the big cities. Our next stop in Long Beach, was considerably better.

If there was anything to be learned in Houston, it was that the players were ready for their national debut. Their behavior was a credit to the game; their play was unbelievably fierce; and the upsets were frequent. The old-timers went down like ten pins, while 17 year-old Steve Serot smashed his way to victory and \$1500. Houston will remember Serot and Schmidke long after it forgets about Riggs and King.

You, too, will remember these kids when our tour plays Cleveland. I can promise you the most amazing spectacle you ever saw. The way these kids fly through the air, change directions, retrieve perfect passes, and fire kill-shots with the accuracy of a sharpshooter is something to behold. You may think you have seen racquetball around here, but just WAIT till you see the show the pros put on. It's positively breathtaking!

All the recent explosion in racquetball has led to thousands and thousands of new players, and a family participation involving the fair sex. And it also brought the need for more Court Clubs.

We foresaw the impact of this, and organized the National Court Clubs Association, to service court club owners and to aid clubs by serving as consultants to those interested in getting into a fascinating and profitable business.

When we had our first seminar last March in Chicago, there were 95 in attendance with a dozen speakers. We will follow this up with a second get-together next May in Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

What is so intriguing to me, after a half-century of court activity as a player and administrator, is trying to stay current with these fast-moving developments!

And that was one of the reasons for our move into pro-am racquetball and handball. For years, I personally have been frustrated by the lack of attention given our games — by the press, radio, and TV. It is obvious that our country is as professional minded as amateur — and the only thing to do is give them both!

So we're giving them what they want now. We are showcasing the top talents of our game, and I'm confident within a couple of years we'll have headline publicity in the sport pages — along with network television.

Those who might criticize professionalism — as taking away from the pure love of competition — must realize that we're not taking one iota of pleasure from the average player. What he is getting, as we grow and grow, are better facilities as in clubs like this one.

Clubs such as yours are certainly the answer — both for the player and for the tournaments. The family participation, the "home away from home," and the opportunity to enjoy not only the court action but the "country club" friendships — all add up to a successful operation.

Everything will move in a chain reaction ... the best players will be seen in the best tournaments, and this is bound to be enormously attractive to thousands of young people seeking a career in sports — and who just might have a unique talent for our games.

Let me tell you one of the things that happened in Houston.

I don't know how many of you know a young man named Steve Strandemo. Steve is a bright, well-liked, 24-year-old player, whose primary accomplishments in racquetball as of nine months ago, was finishing third in the Central Regionals. When he heard we had formed the National Racquetball Club and would be offering prize money in tournaments, he immediately contacted us, wanting to know if we would put him under contract, like we were doing with Brumfield, Keeley, Serot, Schmidke and all the other top players.

Well, we were very honest with young Mr. Strandemo. We simply told him that, yes, he was a good player, but just not quite good enough. We told him to work on his game, get some tournament wins under his belt and then come and see us again.

Strandemo quit his job, won some tournaments and showed up in Houston. And who did he draw in the second round? You guessed it, Charlie Brumfield. Well, let me tell you, you have never seen a more intense person on a court in your life. You could just FEEL the desire and want that Strandemo had for that match. And he won. It took three games but Steve beat Brumfield and was finally eliminated in the semi-finals. But after that Brumfield match, Strandemo could hardly talk. To him, in his short life he had won the World Series, the Super Bowl and the Stanley Cup.

Chuck Leve tried to interview him for NATIONAL RACQUETBALL magazine, and the kid was too choked up to talk. It was the agony and ecstasy that could come only from a super effort. That's what happens when they play for pay.

You know, the wonderful part of these pro-am tournaments is that everyone gets a whack at the pros. In Long Beach, we even permitted the women to play in the B bracket. And they loved it! You should encourage as large an amateur entry as possible; *that* will make better players out of your members and fill your galleries at the same time. Remember, it takes a full gallery to cover the cost of these tours, and if you want these players to put out a lot for you, — you should be willing to put out a little for them!

Our National Championship will take place in May or June at a location not yet determined. Numerous very attractive facilities are under construction, and all are bidding for the event. We want to make sure they have both the physical resources as well as the human resources before we make a commitment. In the meantime, the tour is generating steam, and the climax at the Nationals should be a blockbuster — particularly if we are able to increase the prize money substantially. You know that we honestly believe we can take the spotlight away from tennis, if we play all our cards right. It is not going to be easy, but when you realize that racquetball costs less to play, takes only one-eighth as much room, offers more action and fun, and is easier to learn — we think a lot of tennis players can be weaned away. Even today, we find many of our players are tennis buffs.

Let me warn you, racquetball has a New Look! Beautiful green and white outfits, a faster more durable green ball, and special racquets and gloves designed expressly for professional play! Along with this comes NATIONAL RACQUETBALL magazine, crammed full of instructional articles by the stars. These are but a few of the many improvements being introduced by the National Racquetball Club and its companion, the National Handball Club. Every top player in the country, in both sports, is now under a professional contract with our organizations, and I assure you — they are in good hands!

Numerous attempts have been made in the past to professionalize these sports. All have failed because players had no confidence in the organizers. For all the players to have joined with me — must be regarded as a considerable tribute, and that's precisely how I regard it. I don't ever intend to betray their faith — on the

contrary, I intend to work even harder to improve their conditions and the opportunities the sport affords. I keep reminding myself that handball is 1,000 years old and this is the first time anything like this has ever happened to it!

We expect the success and enthusiasm to increase with every tournament — and many sleepers will be attracted by the prize money, and headlines. Future greats will be supported, guided, encouraged, and rewarded through the National Racquetball Club.

My attitude shall always remain the same as I continue to help deserving players through scholarships, Y contributions, and mediation of any problems. All players, professional or amateur, will always find me a willing listener and friend-in-need.

Bold ventures don't just happen to succeed. They require the hard work, cooperation, and will power of all who are involved. And I have that will power.

Court Club Building Continues To Rise

New court clubs, some entirely racquetball/handball and some in combination with tennis have continued to be built with five more such clubs either open or just about to open.

In the mushrooming Chicago court club area, The Court House in north suburban Northbrook opened the 19th of January with eight courts in an entirely racquetball/handball complex.

The Court House is offering a \$15 introductory membership with court rental. The facility will feature men and women's locker rooms, saunas, exercise-weight room, pro shop and a sun room.

Scheduled to open the 15th of February to handball/racquetball play, and already operating for tennis is the Oak Park River Forest Racquet Club in western suburban Oak Park. The club has eight indoor tennis courts and four handball/racquetball courts.

Oak Park River Forest offers individual, family, junior and business memberships, with summer and winter rate scales varying.

Already operating north of the border is Cote de Liesse Racquet Club in St. Laurent, Quebec, just outside of Montreal. The Club has four courts for handball/racquetball, sauna, whirlpool, a huge lounge, bar and restaurant all on the premises. It is conveniently located near the metropolitan Montreal area.

Under construction with summer/fall opening dates are the

Tucson Athletic Club and the Racquet Club of Virginia.

In Tucson (groundbreaking ceremonies pictured below) the facility will include eight racquetball/handball courts, weight room, rooftop jogging track, outdoor swimming pool, billiard, table tennis and card rooms, men and women locker rooms with steam, sauna, whirlpool and cold plunge in both. Over 400 members have signed up already. Estimated cost of the T.A.C. is \$672,000.

The Racquet Club of Virginia in

Virginia Beach, just outside of Norfolk, is primarily a tennis facility with 10 outdoor and five indoor tennis courts. Plans are to include at least one and probably two handball/racquetball courts and if the action warrants it (as we all know it will) there is room for expansion for more of "our" courts.

An outdoor swimming pool, saunas, restaurant and bar add to the plushness of the Club.

If you know of any new court clubs going up in your area, let us know about them so we can pass the word to the entire racquetball community.



AT GROUND BREAKING CEREMONIES for the Tucson Athletic Club are (l. to r.) Steve Keeley, leading pro racquetballer; Doug Clark, president of the Tucson A.C.; Mel Gorham, president of the National Court Clubs Association, who has lent his expertise to the Tucson group; and Paul Haber, pro handballer and manager of two of Gorham's west coast clubs.



Mononucleosis . . .

The only difference between an exhaustive racquetball tour of the court and a disease called mononucleosis is that the former syndrome is of shorter duration. Both situations are punishing; I know because I have recently experienced both.

A tour of the court is also known as showing your opponent the court facilities. In brief, it involves sending your competitor scurrying after the ball from corner to corner, from side wall to side wall and from front wall to back wall. The ball always seems just barely out of reach, much as the

proverbial carrot is suspended just above the donkey's nose. The end result of the tour: touree exhaustion.

On the other hand, infectious mononucleosis is an acute infectious disease characterized by what we used to term back in veterinary school as the *sick dog*, or in this case, the *sick human syndrome*. That is, one just becomes ill all over. This does not sound very scientific but will be expanded upon below. Many different names have been tacked upon this illness. The *Merck Manual*, a physicians ready reference when he does not know what

ails you, lists two synonyms, —infectious lymphadenosis and glandular fever. We always called it the *kissing disease* or *mono*.

Etiology

Do not ask me how, why or where I picked up the bug. Mono is a communicable disease of unknown transmission whose etiologic agent is a virus. A stressful or rundown state is thought to enhance the possibility of the virus taking up a residence within one's body. It is true that when I first began showing symptoms in mid-June of this year I was not at the

. . . Cured By Racquetball

By STEVE KEELEY

pinnacle of well being. I was in excellent physical condition, but I had been getting sub-normal amounts of sleep for a week straight and (due to lack of time) had been existing on substandard food, dining frequently at speedy franchised hamburger places common across the country. Simultaneously with my lack of sleep and food I was probably over-extending myself physically with racquetball, handball, running on the beach, bike riding and working out occasionally being part of my daily routine.

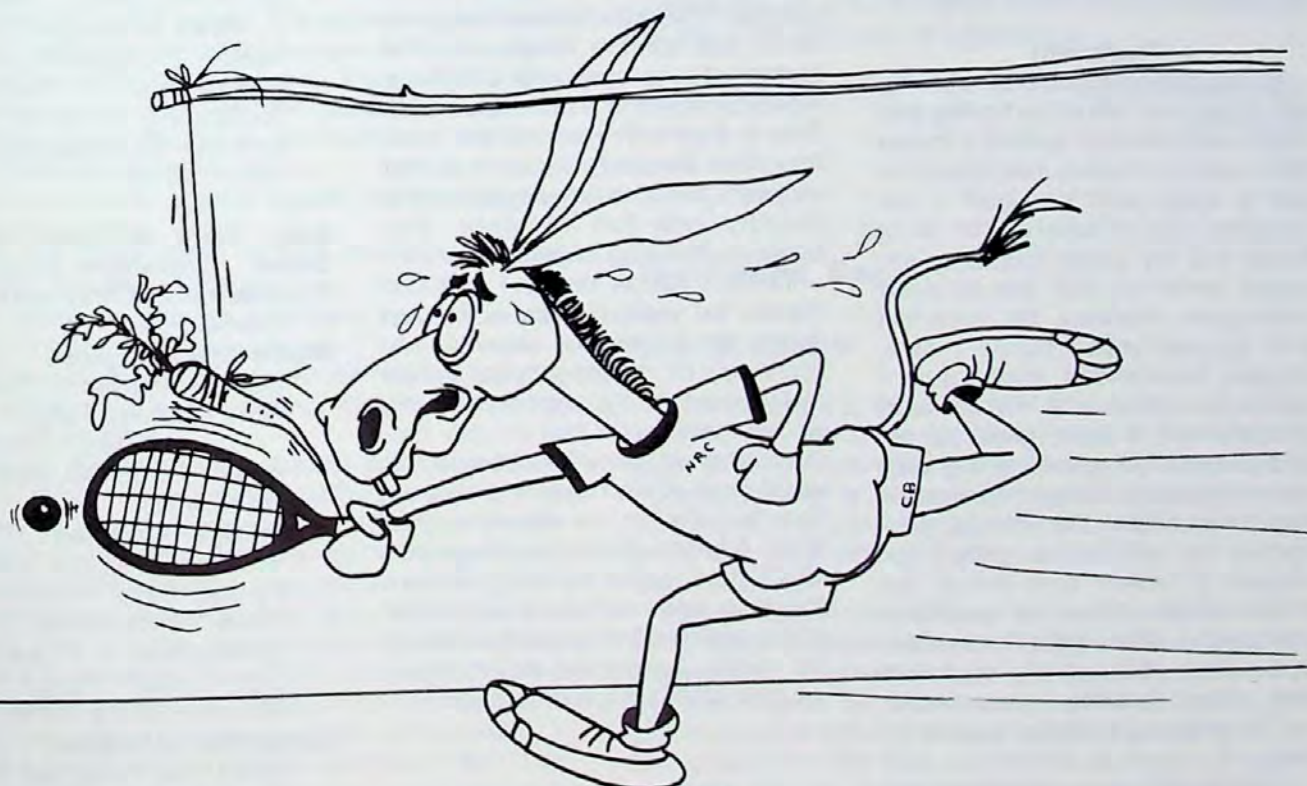
Symptoms

Whatever the cause, one does

not exactly care once the mono bug has struck. He is too preoccupied with the typical symptoms of malaise, severe headaches, fever, sore throat, enlarged spleen and generalized lymph node enlargement. These fun little manifestations occur *"two to three weeks after one first contacts the infectious source,"* according to Dr. Charles Hanna, the medical wizard who eventually cured me of my malady. I will have more to say about the good doctor later.

In my case, the first physical abnormality I noticed which told me that all was no copacetic was a dizzy feeling and an atypical fatigue after exercising. It was not until I developed a fever and acute headaches a few days later that I visited a free health clinic. The man in the white coat could palpate no enlarged spleen (indicative for mononucleosis) and thereby declared that I probably did not have it. They took a blood sample from an arm vein, a procedure which I was later to become very familiar with, and suggested I return in three

to next page



Carrot-ball

Jan 73

MONO

days.

When I did return at the prescribed time I was basically delirious due to my high body temperature. Unfortunately, they had misplaced my records from the previous visit and I could not recall my phone number, address, etc. So it was after some red tape that they examined and again diagnosed that I did not have mono and sent me home with a packet of aspirin, advising that I stay in bed and drink lots of fluids.

Instead, I went to Dr. Hanna, himself a well known and avid racquetballer, who felt my now-enlarged spleen and informed me that the problem was, indeed infectious mononucleosis. When the results of more blood tests returned two days later he said I had it "bad".

"According to the lab work," he told me, "*you have the second worse case of mono ever to go through the county lab.*"

Dr. Hanna ushered me to a friend in order that I have somewhere to stay and someone to care for me (it was either that or enter a hospital).

Treatment

To shorten what could be a boring and drawn out tale of my boring and drawn out bedstay, suffice it to say that I was completely bedridden for just a week and one-half. I developed the characteristic sore throat and my lymph nodes lay enlarged under my skin like so many mishappen marbles. My excellent and sympathetic "nurse", Mrs. Eugene Muehleisen, made sure I received adequate fluids and nourishment. I have given larger pills to cows compared to the submarine shaped vitamin boluses I had to swallow. Dr. Hanna prescribed no antibiotics (until I developed a severe sore throat) for these drugs have no positive therapeutic effect upon mononucleosis virus. In brief, the treatment was almost entirely symptomatic, i.e., fluids for dehydration, aspirin for fever.

I was able to return home after the week and a half period on my back, where I rapidly replaced the 12 pounds and regained normal health. My progress was monitored by trips every few days to Dr. Hanna's office for the blood-letting process. I was

ecstatic to hear Hanna proclaim just a week after returning home, "*You've made an amazingly fast recovery.*" So, I was allowed to begin practicing racquetball (but not play against others) less than a month after the symptoms had become apparent.

I must be somewhat of an optimist. People ask me how the illness affected my game and I reply that it had a positive effect. Healing is always a matter of time, but many times it is also a matter of opportunity. During my period of recovery when I was able to practice by myself I perfected my ceiling ball game and serves. What is more, my enthusiasm and drive for the game had been renewed tremendously since my month layoff. As with most adages, the one which states *absence makes the heart grow fonder* proved entirely true in this instance.

Cured

After two weeks of solitary racquetball Dr. Hanna felt my blood reports had improved sufficiently to permit me to play the game against other players. Actually I began playing others (not going all out at first) two days prior to what the doctor ordered. This was rationalized in my mind, but not too intelligent. The danger of a re-lapse with infectious mononucleosis is a common pitfall. This is true with mono even more than other diseases because during recovery period one feels absolutely healthy and full of vigor. But beware—the bug lingers.

To Dr. Charles Hanna I owe first thanks for vigilant watch over me during my illness and secondly my apologies for disobeying his orders by two days during recovery. Chuck, as everyone calls him on the racquetball court, excels not only in his white coat at his modern sterile office, but also in his off-white gym attire. A former standout college athlete, Chuck roams the court with enthusiasm and intensity of an excited intern after his first appendix. I mean he really becomes emotionally caught up. It's a great release.

Sickness—Sadness?

The cause, symptoms and treatment of infectious mononucleosis have been given above for both the "typical" case and for mine. It is worthwhile and perhaps necessary to mention that this disease is not to

be taken as lightly as this article unfortunately suggests. Mono is a mean bug. Besides the potentiality of a post-recovery re-lapse, there exists the possibility of liver, heart and gastro-intestinal tract involvement. Rupture of the spleen may occur either spontaneously or upon excessive trauma. Contrary to my case, mono may linger for as long as two or three months. Once completely recovered a person normally experiences no after-effects.

Mine was basically a textbook case of infectious mononucleosis with no serious complications or sequelae. So who says that sickness is sadness? Being ill is one of the disguised pleasures of life provided one is not too sick too long and is not obliged to work until he is better.

Midwest Results

Site: Madison, Wisconsin

Date: September 28-30.

Men's Open Singles: ... Finals ..

Ron Haisting def. Bill Schultz

Sr. 21-18, 21-10 ... Third place ..

Brad Armstrong def. Paul

Nelson 21-18, 16-21, 21-15 ...

Semi-finals ... Haisting def.

Armstrong 21-8, 21-18 ...

Schultz def. Nelson 21-18,

17-21, 21-14.

Site: Fargo-Moorhead Y.M.C.A.

Dates: September 29-October 1.

Tournament Chairman: Gary Graham.

Men's Open Singles ... Finals ...

Dennis Hanson, Fargo def.

Gary Graham, Fargo 21-6, 21-8

... Consolation ... Dorwin Ma-

quardt, Fargo def. Modesta Jor-

dana, Minot.

Men's Open Doubles ... Finals ...

Hanson-Graham def. Alex

Cooley-Felix David, Grand

Forks, 12-21, 21-20, 21-14 ...

Consolation ... Lee Stewart-

Dick Sisler, Fargo def. Jim

Wilson-Jordana, Minto.

Senior Men's Singles ... Finals ...

Obed Oas, Fargo def. David ...

Consolation ... Stewart def. Ed

Flynn, Fargo.

Women's Singles ... Kay

McDonald, Fargo def. Karen

Olson, Fargo ... Consolation ...

Robyn Williams, Fargo def. Dee

Watson, Fargo.



DEAR EDITOR:

....now that I have your attention....

From A Champ

Dear Mr. Kendler:

Good luck in your creative efforts to form a National Racquetball tour. Since I have been involved with racquet sports of many kinds from the day I was born, please permit me to offer a few thoughts and a bit of advice.

It is apparent the promoters, players, and directors involved have entered into a voluntary association. It is therefore mutually beneficial and leaves each party better off than before.

Like all such efforts in a free society, your pro tour can only succeed if continued efforts are made to please your customers, i.e. the public. The entrepreneurs who are initiating and sponsoring the tour are obviously committing substantial capital at high risk. They must be able to realize a very high return on their capital if the venture is to continue. High returns to the founders will have four very favorable consequences:

1. It will encourage greater capital commitment to foster the game.
2. This will make more money available for the players, directors and referees.
3. It will allow the players to expand more time and effort in improving their games.
4. All these will make the game much more enjoyable and accessible to the public, thereby enriching their leisure time.

I emphasize these points because there is often a tendency to think that it is shameful for promoters of a venture such as this to be interested in their own wealth and satisfaction. The promoters should be proud of their desire to profit. Without profits, racquetball will not grow.

I first played racquet sports when I was 10 months old. The setting was a large swimming pool at Brighton Beach Baths in Brooklyn, New York emptied during the winter for paddle tennis play. While my parents played, they gave me a ping pong racquet for amusement. I used this racquet as a prop to help me crawl over to the court my parents were using. Just as I was about to reach the sidelines, my mom would pick me up and set me back to the corner I had started crawling from.

My introduction to one wall paddleball came when I was about two. My father, an "A" handball player, himself, would bounce tennis balls to me on a one wall handball court and I would try to swat it against the wall. I

believe this early introduction equipped me with a deep seated appreciation of the bounces and spins of the game. My father also introduced Howie Eisenberg, a frequent one wall handball National Doubles Champion, to handball and paddles.

I began tennis at three or four. Since New York specializes in one wall facilities, I did not play on a four-wall court until I entered Harvard at the age of seventeen. However, my teacher there was Jack Barnaby, probably the world's greatest squash coach ever. He spent many patient hours helping me unlearn many of the running patterns I picked up in the one-wall game.

During my career in various racquet sports, I have been fortunate enough to win more than twenty National Tournaments. While I have not played racquetball to date, I am looking forward to entering one or two of your spring tournaments. It should be very interesting to see if my early training and background at numerous racquet sports will enable me to overcome my handicap of old age (30) and lack of experience.

Victor Niederhoffer
New York

We Thank You

Dear Mr. Kendler:

It's a pleasure to know the N.R.C. is on its way. I also enjoyed very much the opportunity to play Ron Rubenstein when he was visiting Phoenix a short time ago. If Ron's character is the type that typifies your organization, the N.R.C. can't help but be a success. And I well know that he's among the handful of top-flight world-class players.

I've passed on my first issue of *National Racquetball* to 15 other professors in our College of Business Administration. A goodly share will probably subscribe. Could you send me an extra copy or two for office use and sending to other professors in other colleges of our University? I'm the past paddleball champion (having switched, though, to racquetball the last year) of A.S.U. and know fairly well most of the area's racquetball enthusiasts.

Best of luck to N.R.C. and the Pro Tour's success.

Dr. Vincent P. Apilado
Arizona State University

A Referee

Dear Chuck:

I wish to express my sincere gratitude for your effort in my behalf. It was pleasureable to have the opportunity to officiate the finest players in racquetball competition. My apprehension was somewhat squelched by the professional attitude and decor of the participants. I expected immature actions and mayhem, but nothing of this nature took place. Your choice of the "Pros" is really a tribute to your expertise in the field of sports. The officiating may not have been an easy task but it gave me great satisfaction to be a part of the inaugural N.R.C. tournament.

The opportunity for anyone associated with this venture is unlimited. In order to belong and be a part of this adventure, one must give of himself. Each individual must feel the obligation for causing a successful tour and endeavor to conduct himself in an exemplary manner.

It is my goal to participate in as many of the tourney's as possible. You designate what's to be done and I will respond. Thank you again for the opportunity. I am available.

Irv Zeitman
Louisville, KY

Kwajalein Island

Dear Bob and Chuck:

I have just finished reading your inaugural issue of NATIONAL RACQUETBALL. Let me first compliment you and encourage your efforts to continue promotion of Pro-Am Racquetball. I find it one of the most fascinating and enjoyable sports I have ever played. I recall your town of Skokie from college basketball days when we played De Paul University and took the L to Skokie, where we stayed overnight several times.

I know you must be extremely busy with the new N. R. C. organization. However may I ask a quick favor of you for a little guidance to some 100 or more active and interested racquetball players. Our situation is a little unusual, so let me give you a short background.

Racquetball on "our island" is relatively new and because of our remoteness, it is difficult to keep up with the quick changing sport. "Our Island" is Kwajalein Island of the Marshall Island group, 2500 miles west of Honolulu at 8° north latitude. The island is only 1/2 mile wide and 3 miles long and is one of several dozen islands forming the Kwajalein lagoon and Kwajalein Atoll; perhaps you were out this way during the War and know of the location. It's a fascinating place with a total population of 5000. Most persons here are civilians working with the SAFEGUARD Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) system, against Missile fired from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California.

We have three handball courts which are used primarily for racquetball and our last doubles tournament had over 60 participants. Each of our courts is a three walled court.

Our problem is two fold—first, we have courts which are slightly non-standard in that the side wall (concrete-outdoors) is 20' instead of 16'. Second—we don't have a rule book for 3-wall racquetball. We have been using a paddleball rule book and hybrid between this and handball rules adapted for local conditions.

I have enclosed a set of rules from our last tournament. We play with the standard racquetball racquet similar to the Brumfield Swinger and Seamco racquetballs.

Would you please send us a copy of official racquetball rules as adapted for 3-wall play and suggest anything with regard to the dimensions of our courts. In particular the possible line down the middle of the court.

Mr. Ed Taylor, our ladder chairman, has written you and supplied the names of everyone on the Racquetball ladder for free copies of the NATIONAL RACQUETBALL Inaugural issue.

Thanking you for any help you can be to the formation of our Kwajalein Racquetball Association, I remain

E.D. Bloedel
Tournament Chairman
APO San Francisco 96555

P. S. The weather on Kwajalein is warm the year around like 85°.

A Friend Indeed

Dear Chuck:

Congratulations on an outstanding first issue of the NRC magazine. I thoroughly enjoyed going through it and am enclosing my check to perpetuate delivery for the next three years.

As newly designated state chairman for the IRA, here in Missouri, I want to assure you of my personal cooperation since it is my sincere belief that the more exposure racquetball receives the better it will be for all of us concerned with its welfare.

Warm regards and best wishes.

Len B. Marks
St. Louis

He'll Help

Dear Chuck;

I received Volume 1 of National Racquetball Magazine. Fantastic that all that can be said. I'm delighted to finally see our sport receive the respect and sophistication it well deserves. Also I'm happy to hear tha N.R.C. will pick up a few more Pros, this is my goal and I'm sure I'm not alone.

Well, Chuck thanks again for an excellent magazine and good luck. In closing may I ad that if there is anything that I can do to better serve our fine organization please don't hesitate to let me know.

Joseph Ycaza
Atlanta

Thank You, D.B.

Dear Gentlemen:

The contents of the attached letter is expressed mainly as personal opinion. Also, included is a *potential* idea intended to stimulate interest in handball/racquetball sports.

Much, or possibly all of the contents may be familiar to N.R.C. and U.S.H.A. organizations. They are expressed to you because I too share your desire to see court sports prosper for all.

If you feel the ideas included within the letter can be of any assistance to gaining prosperity for court sports, please use them in whatever way you see fit. Certainly your organizations have more avenues to test the idea if there exists any merit. My only concern would be to see handball/racquetball additionally prosper and ultimately receive its due regard among athletics.

For the price of a ball, every youngster in the neighborhood can play football, add a bat or goal, and he becomes a baseball or a basketball player. The catalyst for golf or tennis usually starts with a parent, or in many other instances, community facilities exist and equipment is readily available to most youngsters. This early exposure to sports is primarily responsible for adults later putting dollars back into the same sports, either as participants or spectators. Adults also guide their children into the same activities in which they took part as youngsters. However, the most intense exposure, obviously, is the impact the media has upon a particular sports' popularity. Both adults and youngsters emulate the media sports.

For racquetball and handball to enhance its prominence, youngsters will have to play the games themselves. The many benefits of court sports will serve as its own catapult to popularity. Consequently, once exposed, youngsters will become avid players and spectators. This increased popularity will perpetuate into an additional demand for facilities, and ultimately, media exposure with emulation from the viewing public. Possibly one conceivable means of exposing more youngsters to handball and racquetball sports would be as follows.

Almost every school, elementary through senior high have an adaptable indoor playing floor surface for handball and racquetball. For walls, imagine a rebound net structure, or a flexible nylon mesh screen material, stretched inside a lightweight, self supporting rectangular structure. This type of court, designed to assemble and disassemble, would allow for easy storage and continuation of other athletic activities. Most importantly is the utilization of existing space; flooring, lighting, heating, and ventilation.

Most gymnasium ceilings would accommodate the regulation size court, although the court support structure could be made adjustable to any ceiling height. Adaptability in court dimensions, plus possibly a softer and larger handball for the younger age players could be incorporated. Other activities, such as paddleball and deck tennis are also practical possibilities.

Potentially every school age youngster with access to an indoor play area could be exposed to court sports action. A basketball court would accommodate four to six

regulation courts easily. Student intramural programs, varsity athletics, physical education classes, community recreation and little leagues are only a few of the many ways in which racquetball and handball sports would become a part of everyone's early athletic experience.

James H. Stewart
Batavia, OH.

Nice Guy

Dear Mr. Kendler:

It was my good fortune to receive my copy of *National Racquetball* just in time to learn of the tournament held this past weekend in Houston. Although my involvement in the game has been very brief I was very pleased to hear of your venture and even more excited about the idea after what I witnessed.

But the stimulus which prompted me to write this letter was the even greater good fortune of meeting and becoming acquainted with one of the professional players, Mr. Steve Strandemo. I cannot begin to tell you how impressed I was with this young gentleman except to say that he is indeed a credit to the game and especially to the N.R.C. I'm certain that the visits Steve made to various organizations and individuals in our area following the tournament sparked more interest in racquetball than probably the tournament itself. His magnetic personality, knowledge of the game, and apparent desire to help others learn more about the game all make him a definite asset to the N.R.C. I commend your decision to make him a part of the tour.

I sincerely hope your venture is a successful one. Should the need arise I would be most happy to help in any way I can.

Dan Travaille
Texas City, TX

Good Idea

Dear Chuck:

Last Sunday I spent a good part of the morning going through the inaugural issue of *NATIONAL RACQUETBALL* magazine. To say the least, I want to apologize for my delay, but nevertheless still want to congratulate you and your organization for the most interesting sports commentary it has been my privilege to read in many years.

Understandably *NATIONAL RACQUETBALL* is on the way and with the kind of leadership, or let's better say "sideline cheering", that we have every reason to expect, I can see no reason to fear the future about which I am most enthusiastic.

Chuck, let me again congratulate you.

D. B. Frampton
Columbus, Oh

Women: Does Playing Against Men



With as new a sport as racquetball there is bound to be pockets of play throughout the country where competition is more acute than others. We find this in almost all brackets of play, from professional to B's and C's. This is one reason many top players have migrated to Southern California, the game's reknown "mecca."

The problem of good competition, one of the prime ways to improve one's game, is even a bigger problem among women players. Top gals are, at this stage of racquetball's development, few and far between. And, once again, Southern California has the lion's share of good women players.

Women do have an advantage over men, however, in that the gals can play against the men to improve their game. And thus the question of this article, just how much good does it do a woman and her game to compete versus men?

Obviously, the degree of help or hinderance depends a large amount on who the lady is, how often she plays, generally, and how often against men, and of course who the men are. Yet, dealing even in generalities, we can still draw some conclusions.

Let's take the female tournament players first, because they are the ones most concerned about improving their game. Unfortunately, it is these players who can harm their game more by playing men than any other segment of the women's racquetball population.

If this seems like a contradiction, it may well be, but note the phrase was "can" harm their game, as opposed to "will" harm it.

One of the basic problems in women playing men too much is that the man's game, at least right now, is much faster and powerful than the women's. Not that this cannot, (and probably will) change, but it is so

right now. A woman constantly playing men, say a Jan Campbell playing Charlie Brumfield or Steve Keeley will pick up the faster pace of the competition. Even if she were to play other good players not quite of the caliber of Brumfield and Keeley, say a Dave Charlson or Trey Sayes, even then the pace would be picked up.

For Jan to then go directly into women's competition at a tournament could be disaster. The pace would be slower, the shots she would have to return would be different, and her timing would be far off stride, being tuned to a man's game rather than a women's.

"I have to be really careful prior to tournaments," says Jan. "Because if I don't watch myself, I find it very difficult to adjust to most women's games after playing against men so long."

Another factor detrimental to women playing men would be called

Really Improve Your Game??



the *Chauvanistic Syndrome*. It happens to almost all men who compete against women in practice, or even in tournaments. Defined it could be called not playing your usual game because your opponent is a woman.

Many may scoff at the whys or hows of this situation, however, it does exist, and in tournaments usually works to the advantage of the woman. What happens is the man adjusts his game and his shots just because his opponent is female. Where he might have driven the ball he now goes to the ceiling or lobs because he wants to make absolutely sure he doesn't hit his opponent with the ball.

The ironic part of this tendency is that any girl who plays against men has assumed this risk as part of the game. And most gals will say so before, during and after the match. But in most cases the male cannot do anything about it,—he has had the *never hurt a girl* attitude drummed

into him since infancy. Even if he wanted to play his normal game, he couldn't. So the harm is twofold. First, the man's game suffers, therefore making the girl's competition not as good as she had thought it would be. Secondly, the girl does not get the benefit of an all-out effort from her opponent, basically the hinders, semi-hinders, body contact and yes, ball bruises.

"If I can survive getting hit by a man," says Campbell, "then I know that no woman can hurt me. And if that's the case, my game will be more aggressive than before, because I will not have a fear of getting hit."

"But if a man can't or won't play his usual game against me, then this factor is negated, and although beneficial, the workout was not worth as much as I had thought it would be."

As more and more women take racquetball seriously, more and

more men will find themselves being challenged by members of the opposite sex. And therein lies a third negative factor of male/female competition,—the man's ego.

Often men will not play women for simple fear of losing.

"Who'd you play today, Jim?"

"Ah, I hit a little with that little blond, what's her name? Carol?"

"What were the scores?"

"Not too bad, 21-15, 21-10."

"Who won?"

"Well, ah, cough, cough, we, uh, we weren't really keeping score that closely to call it a match. And, well, my leg's been bothering me and I didn't eat lunch today, and you know that tennis elbow's been acting up again."

Etc., Etc., etc.

Therefore many men will not play women, or if they do, will not give an all-out effort, simply, because of the potentially damaging effect it will
to next page



have on his ego. And it is the woman who gets hurt by this attitude, for she needs the man for the competition. If he won't put out, the entire effort is wasted.

Of course, playing men can have real advantages for women who are learning the game and seriously want to play. Because like it or not, the best women players play like men.

Good female players have all the shots, ceiling, Z, V-passes, everything, including kill ability. When watching players like Peggy Steding, Campbell, Jan Pasternak and Kathy Williams one becomes oblivious to their sex, and can just appreciate their skill as racquetball players,—which, to this writer's way of thinking, it should be.

This is no reflection on their femininity either, for good women players are no more or less feminine

than good men players are more or less masculine.

Gals, you will never be a good player unless you learn all the shots. Many, perhaps most, females I have seen play cannot or do not hit the ceiling ball effectively. Some do not even try to hit it. And these are women with otherwise competent games. They use the excuse that they aren't strong enough to hit ceiling balls.

They ARE strong enough, for strength is one of the least important factors in hitting ANY racquetball shot. Co-ordination, footwork, correct swing, timing and point of impact are all more important than strength. But to hit an effective ceiling ball one must *hit like a man*. Why *man*? Why not,—*correctly*?

By playing men of a higher ability than themselves, the women can get a first hand look at better competition, better shots and more skill. But if she has it in her head that she cannot hit a certain shot, because she is a woman, then she's fighting a losing battle and may as well go back to playing with her girl friends once a week, in lieu of the mah jong game.

The one other very important facet of racquetball that anybody can learn from good players is to

watch the ball at all times. I say anybody, because nearly as many men as women do not watch the ball, especially when it is behind them, simply because they fear getting hurt. The irony is that by NOT watching the ball you leave yourself open to much more severe an injury than if you do watch the ball.

Men and women: how many times have you seen a player, regardless of sex, serve the ball and back out of the service zone into the back court, afraid to turn around and see what his or her opponent is doing? Many.

And how many times has the same person been involved in collisions, or hit by the ball, or hit by the racquet, or near-misses? Many. And many more than the player who turns slightly around to see what is going on.

And the player who does turn around will have much more quickness and anticipation because he or she will be able to watch the opponent's arm and swing and find out what kind of shot it will be and where it's going.

So ladies, take a look behind you, for your own safety. Nobody is going to harm your pretty little face.

And men, you're so ugly, it doesn't matter anyhow.

Jordon, Rostenstreich Top Birmingham

The Birmingham Racquetball Association has just completed its Third Annual BRA Closed Tournament. It was a week-long tournament with the finals played on Saturday, November 10th.

Jim Jordan took the championship, beating Ben Dowdey (21-15, 21-12), in Flight "A" singles, with Joe Bluestein winning the consolation round over Bob Shields. Jim Rostenstreich was winner in the Flight "B" Singles over Bruce Gordon (21-9, 21-7), while Larry French took the consolation round. In the doubles tournament, David Johnson and Ben Dowdey defeated Andy Smith and Jim Jordan (21-5, 14-21, 21-16).

Pictured are, from left to right: Bruce Gordon, Larry French, David Johnson, Jim Jordan, Ben Dowdey and Andy Smith.



KELLY CONNECTS AT OXFORD OPEN

By KATHY ROHRER

Gordon Kelly was flying high in more ways than one after the Oxford Athletic Club's OX OPEN Sept. 9-16.

The Michigan pilot flew in to the Vancouver, Wash., tourney and demonstrated why he's not only a good player, but a student of the game. It was concentration and consistency that was the story of the open singles finals as Kelly faced Bill Fearing, Laguna Beach, Calif. The odds-on favorite prior to the match had to be Fearing who held a prior victory over Kelly. Usually, a late starter Kelly came out shooting and took it to Fearing 21-7 in the first game.

But turn-around is fair play. With only two minutes to regroup, Fearing cleared the cobwebs and put his thinking cap on, using much more finesse and varying his shots. Second game, 21-7 Fearing.

The third game was all Kelly who gained momentum early with unerring consistency in his pass shots, and put it out of reach with a string of roll-outs off the service returns, both backhand and forehand. The final score was 21-4.

Third place was awarded to Bob Lund, Portland (Ore.) J.C.C., when Don Gessel, Olympia (Wash.) YMCA defaulted due to an injury sustained in early morning play.

In the open doubles, the finals were a contest between two relatively young doubles teams. First place went to Lund and Pete Lubisich (Portland J.C.C.) defeating Sid Williams and Al Metz (Washington Racquetball Assn. Tacoma, Wash.) 21-19, 20-21, 21-20. Third place went to the open singles champion, Gordon Kelly and Dick Brouwer, Multnomah A. C. (Portland, Ore.) who defeated Gene Altman and Doug Clark (Bellingham, Wash., YMCA) 19-21, 21-16, 21-16.

Other tournament results were:

Open singles consolation finals: Dr. Peter James (Bellingham YMCA) def. Hank Marcus (Portland J.C.C.).

Open doubles consolation finals: Bill Condratow and Wayne Smyth (Vancouver, B.C., Athletic Club) def. Dave McCourt and Jeff Smith

(Vancouver, Wash., Oxford A. C.).

Women's singles finals: Reit Smith (Portland M.A.C.) def. Bobbie Marsh (Vancouver O.A.C.).

Women's singles third: Betty Vanderpool (Portland J.C.C.) def. Shirley Hart (Portland J.C.C.).

Women's singles consolation Finals: Shirley Melton (Portland Olympic A.C.) def. Dale Spencer

(Vancouver O.A.C.).

B-singles finals: Kerry Gilbert (Portland M.A.C.) def. Al Weinstein (Portland J.C.C.).

B-singles third: Ron Bennink (Portland M.A.C.) def. Bob Lewis (Portland M.A.C.).

B-singles consolation: Bill Flow-ers (Portland M.A.C.) def. Milt Sharp (Portland M.A.C.).

EDITORIAL

(From page 16)

players have not received as "good" a draw as others, the method of picking out of a hat has met with complete approval. A point total and ranking system is currently being tabulated and it will be probably one more tournament before the rankings will follow directly into the draws.

The rankings will follow the following point system:

First—10 points

Second—7 points

Third & Fourth—5 points

Fifth through Eighth—3 points

Ninth through Sixteenth—1 point

There are no third place matches and no playoffs for the other positions, again a system that has met with the total approval of the players. In case of players missing tournaments (injury, personal commitments), their average finish to the date of the tournament will be continued.

One aspect of the game that has been closely watched and handled beautifully by the players has been on-the-court conduct. Many people were wary that by playing for prize money, the players might change the game to one of hindering, blocking and general unsportsmanlike conduct. This has not materialized, much to the amazement of spectators and to the relief of the N.R.C. The players themselves are to thank for this, for they are aware of the importance of sportsmanship. It is noteworthy, I believe, to report that only one technical foul has been called in two tournaments. Whether or not the T.R. has been a deterrent to poor behavior on the court is debateable. The point is that the

players have been exemplary in their actions, and will, I know, keep it up.

Wong Hurt

A serious eye injury forced St. Louis' Ken Wong to miss the second N.R.C. tournament in Houston, and was serious enough to keep the flamboyant player on the sidelines for another month.

Wong was working out at the St. Louis J.C.C.A. with Steve Serot, Joe Zelson, and Denny Frye when Serot went into the deep left corner to retrieve a Wong ceiling ball and Wong, who was at the short line looked up in anticipation of another ceiling ball. Serot, however, decided to attempt a forehand "hypotenuse ball" and drove the ball cross court with an overhand stroke, aiming for the front right corner.

It never reached the front wall, being intercepted by Wong's left eye. The result was a slightly detached retina, and for two days there was great concern about the sight in one eye.

"It was pretty bad for awhile," said Wong, "in fact, I couldn't see anything out of the eye for a couple of days. But it cleared up after that."

On doctors orders, Ken bypassed the Long Beach tournament, but went back to the court too soon afterwards, and suffered a relapse, forcing him out of action approximately six weeks.

"It's a week-to-week thing now," said Ken. "I'll just have to take it easy and wait for it to heal."

"If it had been anybody but Serot, I don't think it would have bothered me. But he hit his usual photon."

Handball

By MORT LEVE

First two National Handball Club Super Eights were 100% successful, first at the St. Paul Athletic Club, Nov. 30-Dec. 2, and then at the Downtown YMCA in Memphis, Dec. 14-16. Balance of both competitions was amazing. In the total of eight first round matches, seven of them were three gamers. It is most likely that we could have a new winner in each tournament.

Fred Lewis was the gunner in No. 1, beating Lou Russo in the finals. Russo knocked out Paul Haber in the opening round. At Memphis it was a Dave Graybill show as the veteran outthrust and out-stamina-ed the field. Early returns: Leading money winner—Lewis—\$1300.

Stuffy Singer has set up a round robin spectacular at the Encino Health Club in Van Nuys, Feb. 15-17. Each outing will consist of two 15-point games with a schedule of four days—two a day the first three with No. 7 on Sunday. Winner will be selected on a basis of won-lost games . . . in event of a tie the total point differential.

The Denver Athletic Club will host the fourth pro tourney, March 1-3. Athletic Director Rick Schliebe and his aide, Monte Huber, were observers at Memphis and came away orientated in good fashion.

No. 5 is slated for the Aurora, Ill. YMCA, first weekend in April. This is the site of the famed all-glass court. There are a total of eight courts available.

Neal Nordlund, our Central Area commissioner hosted superbly for us at St. Paul, and John Jemison is our man in motion for the No. 2 swing of the pros at Memphis' Downtown YMCA. *"It's \$3,000 prize money in this initial one,"* Jemison enthusiastically reports, *"but next year we're aiming at \$10,000" . . . and, that just ain't Southern Comfort talking!"*

The Super Eight provides a rather simple format—round trip travel, per diem and a minimum of \$3,000 prize money for the top eight seeded players as determined from the USHA open nationals held last March in Austin, Texas. The front line boys are: Terry Muck, now a graduate student at Northwestern U., Evanston, Ill.; Dr. Steve August, Los Angeles; Paul Haber, San Diego; Stuffy Singer, Los Angeles; Fred Lewis, Cleveland; Gordie Pfeifer, Tacoma; Lou Russo, New York; Dave Graybill, Phoenix. As alternates and stomping impatiently in the wings: Bill Yambrick and Dr. Gary Rohrer, St. Paul; Buzz Shumate, Dallas; Randy Essel and Al Drews, Cleveland; Bob Lindsay, Tulsa; Don Ardito, Chicago.

A whale of thanks to D. B. Frampton & Co., Columbus, Ohio, for their complete support and participation on the Pro Tour. Dynamic D. B. "puts his money where his mouth is" and there's too few of his caliber around the premises these days . . . Seamco and Spaulding also came in "big" on the ad sponsorships for the Pro Tour souvenir book. It's available to one and all at \$1 a copy. . . National Handball Club, Inc., 4101 Dempster St., Skokie, IL. 60076.

USHA big dates—National Invitational Masters doubles at the Denver A.C., Dec. 7-9; National Juniors at Shreveport, La., YMCA, Dec. 27-29. . . call your reporter—#312,673-4000 if you want in; Divisional tournaments: West—Oceanside, Feb. 8-10, Feb. 8-10, Rocky Mountain at Denver A.C.; Central at Tulsa YMCA, March 1-3; East—Bill Kennedy has it ticketed to Hartford's YMCA, April 8-10. National Invitational Masters singles goes third straight time to fine hosts at Chattanooga YMCA, Feb. 15-17 . . . National Intercollegiates at U. of Colorado March 1-3 big open nationals at U. of Tennessee, Knoxville, March 16-23.

Plans in offing for more Super Eight Pro stops after first of the year. Encino Health Club Van Nuys, Feb. 14-17, Denver A.C., March 1-3.

Storm Meadows Athletic Club in Steamboat Springs, Colo., rises prominently in our activity scheme of things. Time Schiebe is athletic director and most promotion minded. . . National Court Clubs Association second seminar-meeting will be held May 24-26 there, and then in mid-June will commence a six-week FIRST handball/racquetball Summer instructional camp with leading players from each sport tutoring.

Two more Court Clubs for Chicagoland. Oak Park-River Forest Racquet Club (four courts) along with eight indoor tennis courts; The Court House in Northbrook with eight courts with opening slated for Jan. 2, 1974 opening. They're coming fast and furious around the country, and those interested shouldn't overlook the consultation service that is available through the National Court Clubs Association, which is an integral part of the national headquarters in the "World's Largest Village" Skokie, Ill., 4101 Dempster St. Area Code 312. 673 4000.

Tropicana Hotel in Las Vegas will soon unveil its sports complex with the combination of indoor tennis and handball/racquetball. Along with the incoming jai alai at the new M-G-M Hotel, there's lots of action in LV besides the tables. Davey Pearl, our good friend of many years standing, calls from his Davey's Locker Bistro about the eight new courts opening at the U. of Nevada-Las Vegas and what are the possibilities of the USHA nationals there in 1975. The question is whether the boys can take the week-long grind combination of court play and the bright lights ???

RACQUETBALL

**IT'S A
NEW
YEAR!...**

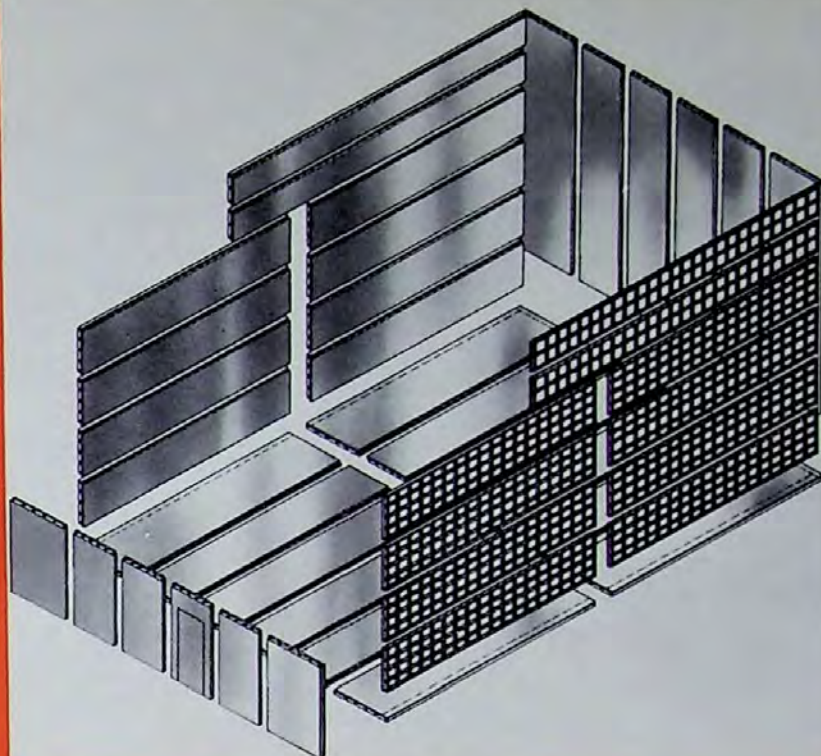
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HAPPY ONE IN

1974



Our Recreational Court insert is appearing in Sweet's Architectural Catalog for 1974 with more information on "NINLOCK" together with 4 other Court Construction Options. For more detailed facts, figures and specifications, write for the complete "NINLOCK" Brochure. It will be mailed quickly at no obligation.



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A PREFABRICATED, ALL WOOD COURT

• We take great pleasure in presenting "NINLOCK"[®]—the recent addition to our advanced line of court installations. Truly a thing of beauty and a joy to all Racquetball players across the nation.

Since the construction and installation of "DOWELOC"[®] All Wood Courts (now discontinued)—our "first born" project in the Recreational Court field, we have continued a program of research for a product that would equal or surpass "DOWELOC"[®] in every respect for the playing of Racquetball, Squash, Handball and Paddleball. It is now our firm belief that "NINLOCK"[®] (the ultimate in wood courts) meets every requirement of both professional and amateur. *It is the only prefab, wood court available on today's market.*

Completely packaged and ready to install, all modules are carefully wrapped including precisely coded instructions for fast, easy installation—requiring minimal man hours.

D. B. FRAMPTON & COMPANY

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**THE OFFICIAL
VOICE OF
PRO-AM
RACQUETBALL**

The Tour Opens To You...

We sort of expected that the professional racquetball tour would be very popular and it is. However, we didn't expect a mutual admiration society to result. Who would have thought the players would be more concerned with the fans than with the prizes? And who would have thought the fans would be as intrigued with the players as with the play? Houston and Long Beach proved that people have an affection for our racquetball pros, and they have responded with the most spectacular play ever.

The most gratifying thing to me was to hear the players say, "Bob, what can we do?" I felt they have done more than their share. Giving the fans a real show for their money was all we could expect. If these shows are to be bettered, it is up to us to do it. Like making them more available and more flexible.

Not all the court clubs can afford to restrict their membership play for a four or five day tournament. Others haven't enough gallery to warrant a full tour of 16 pros. Yet all of them want a peep at the greats and the near-greats. So we found a method for little clubs to have a big show. We will reduce the number of pros to the amount of prize money your budget permits. That also reduces the number of days your courts are tied up, and the amount of traveling and housing expense you will have. Four to eight pros can put on a very exciting show over a Friday through Sunday. It's a natural for the medium sized club.

That's not all. To help you defray the cost, we will give you advertising space in our NATIONAL RACQUETBALL magazine, equivalent to the amount of prize money in your tournament, at no cost. You sell the advertising, you keep the money, we run the ads.

The entry fees and ticket sales will cover the travel and housing cost. That still leaves you one big ace in the hole, - a local sponsor. Many areas have sporting goods stores, car dealers, insurance companies, banks or other advertisers, who would be interested in sponsoring part or all of your tournament.

If you would like to learn how you can make money for your club through our program, please write us. We will give you the exact cost of a pro-am tourney with a complete tournament guide, which shows you how you can profitably stage one of the most exciting events your members will ever see.

We need to know how many courts you have, the size of your gallery, and the dates you prefer. Given sufficient time, we can publicize your tournament nationally and attract players from many areas.

We couldn't be happier that our pros have been so well received. The best evidence is the many inquiries we are getting from Clubs, Y's, schools and J's, asking for tournament dates. Write us now, while there are still good dates available. Together we can stimulate an enormous racquetball interest in your community.

Bob Kendler