

National Racquetball®

Vol. 13 No. 1

January, 1984

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**DAVID WASSON:
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WARBUCKS
TAKES HIS
RACQUETBALL
SERIOUSLY**

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On the cover . . .

David Wasson, better known throughout the country as Daddy Warbucks in the national company of "Annie," here plays with good friend and fellow actor/singer Jon Rider between performances. For the full story of one of the nation's ambassadors of racquetball, turn to page 12.

—photo by Steven Shay

Next month . . .

Our annual eyeguard preview month arrives in February along with a special feature on jockey Angel Cordero, lots of instruction and Mike Yellen's diary of his racquetball trip to Europe. All that plus our regular features!

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From The Editor . . .

The Bushel Is Safe

I'm one person who doesn't believe in the old adage that a rotten apple will spoil the entire bushel. Isn't it true that they make apple cider from rotten apples? And we all love cider, right?

The rotten apple in racquetball's case is a tournament, actually a proposed series of tournaments, planned for the fall/winter season in Florida (see page 34). This Grand Prix purported to have major sponsorship, including some big name corporations outside the sport, specifically Holiday Inn and Pizza Hut.

Prize money was to be awarded, lots of amateur events were to be held, the host club would receive abundant publicity, competition would be great, and racquetball would continue its outstanding rise in the sunshine state.

Unfortunately, it rained on the tournament. Perhaps hurricaned would be a better word.

When the winners deposited their checks, they bounced higher than a ceiling ball. When suppliers received their payment checks, those too were made of rubber. Investigations, both professional (local authorities) and amateur (local racquetball lynch mobs) found that early entry fees from subsequent events in the Grand Prix were missing, as was the series' primary promoter.

It turns out that neither Holiday Inn nor Pizza Hut was signed on the dotted line for sponsorship, and those firms within racquetball who had been involved, were only committed to equipment, shirts, or hospitality. The only cash the event had was entry fees. And it doesn't take long to figure out that \$4,000 in entry fees won't exactly cover \$7,500 in prize money, plus the other tournament expenses.

So the promoter disappeared leaving those who worked with him and believed in him holding the proverbial bag. With the promoter went \$6,000 or \$7,000—not exactly a fortune for which to risk 20 years in the slammer.

The fact that this same promoter is rumored to have had previous experience in this line of "work" only adds to the weight of the argument that says it's always better to date



before marrying. Basically, he smoothed talked Florida racquetballers—who bit and were caught—hook, line and sinker.

And now, of course, everybody's out with shotguns, bloodhounds, and clubs to track down the dastardly criminal and beat him into submission. That will be their only satisfaction since you can forget finding him with the money.

Does this mean that racquetball has been dealt a devastating blow? Can we never again trust an entry form that offers prize money or decent prizes? Are we all a bunch of swindlers?

Of course not. Sure, some devoted racquetball players got ripped off and some legitimate business people in racquetball got bilked. But it happens in every industry, in every sport. And at least the players who won the tournament have their victories. I'd feel a lot worse if the scam were one that affected the legitimacy of play ala point shaving or fight fixing.

Racquetball has held thousands upon thousands of tournaments over the past 15 years under the auspices of all sorts of different organizations, associations, governing bodies and promoters. After 15 years to have one experience of this nature shows a damn good record that I think our sport can and should be proud of.

I hope the guilty parties are brought to justice and restitution is made. Yet, I know that racquetball will continue on, undaunted by this one pot-hole in our highway to public acceptance.

And next time maybe we'll look a little closer at where we're going, how we're getting there and the route we're taking. ●

Chuck Lane



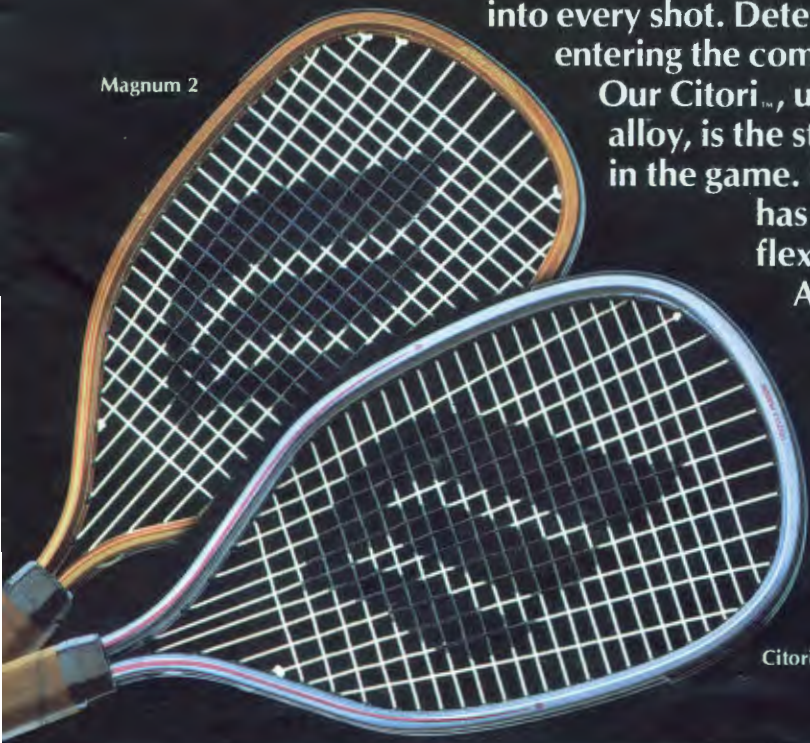
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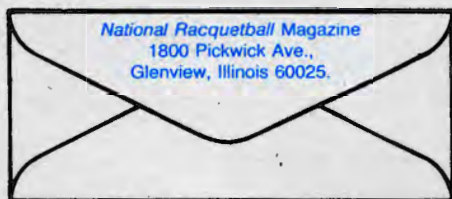
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Letters



A Pro Responds

Dear Editor:

I feel like an echo of hundreds of other teaching pros who I'm sure are thinking or actually writing this same epistle. My reason for writing is not to criticize but to negotiate a statement which taken out of context could leave us with a lot of two-handed forehands, lots of tendinitis, many frustrated beginners, and a few teaching pro-induced broken thumbs and index fingers.

None of this, I'm sure, was Mike Yellen's intention in his *Ask The Champ* column in your November issue.

It is true that many students will take the "strategy before stroke" theory as gospel without provisions. All good teaching pros are, or at least should be, aware of the great Brumfield/Hogan, Niederhoffer/Hogan, Muehleisen/anybody matches, which were, to a point, evidence of the importance of strategy and good percentage play.

The problem is, when the *strategy before stroke* dictum is applied to novice players, we often wind up with the cart before the horse where the player can't hit the shots without the proper strokes.

In his article Yellen says he doesn't have great strokes, but he has, to say the least, very efficient strokes. Maybe his aren't perfect in design, function or efficiency, but they're certainly competent enough to put the ball where he wants it from almost any position on the court.

Yellen further states that Marty Hogan is a complete (power and control) player. This obviously is ideal, but we're not all Mr. H.

A racquetball beginner is similar to a beginning typist. If you start with two fingers at the typewriter you can become fast, even efficient to a degree; but you will always be limited. However, with all 10 digits your way is not only easier, your chances of achieving perfection are greatly increased.

There is no doubt that stroke mechanics and strategy go hand-in-hand. If you develop stroking methods

until they are comfortable and conducive to your particular talents, condition, body rhythms and desired level of play, then keep them — within the basic framework of efficient techniques.

Congratulations in closing to two champions in the industry: Mike Yellen on his well-deserved National Championship and *National Racquetball* on your new style. Your commentaries over the last year have given all of us RB'ers new confidence in the success of THE GAME. Thanks.

Ray Simone
Fredericksburg, VA

Don't Forget The Y's

Dear Editor:

After reviewing Victor Block's *Travel* articles in recent issues of *National Racquetball*, I was impressed by the fact that every town mentioned has one, if not several, YMCA's.

YMCA's have been the traditional leader in racquetball and other fitness facilities, and continue to provide those services and facilities today.

Most YMCA's accept Y memberships from around the country and indeed, from around the world. Most YMCA's likewise permit non-YMCA members to use Y facilities as well.

There are over 1,500 YMCA's across the U.S. and in 14 countries around the world, so chances are your traveling readers will be able to find a YMCA to accommodate their racquetball needs.

Robert E. Bowman
Longmont, CO

WPRA And Promotion

Dear Editor:

I want to express my thoughts to you regarding your editorial "Where Are The Fans?" in the November issue. I strongly believe that the Women's Professional Racquetball Association (WPRA) and International Management Group (IMG) have taken some very positive steps in our never-ending effort to increase the promotional activities surrounding WPRA tournaments. These efforts have already begun to pay dividends.

1. For the first time in their brief history, the WPRA has addressed the need for a comprehensive set of guidelines for implementing a WPRA tournament, and has

published a 50-page Tournament Director's Guide, which places special emphasis on promotion.

2. The communication and exchange of promotional ideas between tournament directors and the WPRA has increased substantially. Several promotional vehicles are presented to the tournament director, who, after discussion, selects the most viable and realistic, taking into account the many geographic, economic and time variables involved.

3. The WPRA has made a complimentary player clinic standard with each tournament. The club is free to use this vehicle as it wishes to help promote the tournament.

4. The WPRA offers each tournament promotional opportunities such as clinics, private lessons, pro/ams, media tournaments and even mini-camps to help promote their events. The players donate their services.

It is now worth mentioning a few examples of the tournaments which, among many others, have taken advantage of the WPRA's tournament promotion opportunities and have demonstrated tangible successes by utilizing them.

1. *WPRA Nationals—Chicago, IL (May, 1983)*—Private 30-minute lessons from top players and excellently structured sponsor promotions resulted in a full house for the final on a *weekday* evening. All of this was accomplished without the benefit of an amateur field of players, who many times help to constitute a ready-made gallery of spectators.

2. *Atlanta, GA (September, 1983)*—A large sponsor cocktail party following the finals encouraged spectators to attend the event and resulted in an excellent crowd. The amateur events were held at a different club and, again, these potential spectators were not built into the gallery.

3. *Auburn, MA (October, 1983)*—This tournament utilized excellent in-club promotion to attract a full crowd of *paid* spectators for virtually every session. A kick-off cocktail party the evening before the first day of play, at which the draw was made, was a tremendous success as well.

4. *WPRA Nationals—Ft. Worth, TX (May, 1984)*—The tournament staff does a superb job of involving celebrities

(such as members of the Dallas Cowboys) in the tournament. Cocktail parties and a tournament banquet will be highlights of this excellently promoted event.

Since neither the WPRA nor IMG actually runs the tournaments on the schedule, it is realistically very difficult to ensure that the promotion of each will be effective and/or extensive. What we can do, however, is to provide ideas and examples and initiate dialogue which will hopefully motivate tournament directors to creatively spread the word.

It disturbs me a bit, therefore, that you cited the women as having "probably fared the worst" in the area of promotion. In my opinion, the women have addressed the situation in an intelligent and commendable manner.

They have 1) identified the problem; 2) fully discussed it (and continue to do so); and 3) taken positive and logical action to correct it. Although it may not be possible for you or your staff to attend all of the WPRA tournaments, I think that if you did view at least a few of them firsthand, your perception and opinion would be drastically altered.

Webster lists as a definition of "promote" the following: "to contribute to the progress or growth of; to further." It is the sincere belief of the WPRA and IMG that we are helping to accomplish just that for racquetball.

Sandy Genelius, IMG
Cleveland, OH

They'd Like To Watch

Dear Editor:

I applaud your article, "Where Are The Fans?" in the November issue. Having a new addition to our family along with relocating, our racquetball playing has been put on hold for a while. If not for your magazine being delivered in our mailbox each month, we would be out of touch with racquetball completely!

Because my husband and I haven't had time to play the game recently, doesn't mean we wouldn't be interested in watching and rooting for our friends in a local tournament—if we knew where and when they were!

Thank you.

(Mrs.) Jan Urban
Greendale, WI

Help This Man

Dear Editor:

I am writing this letter begging you not to publish those articles I sent you earlier this week. I was not in a condition to be responsible for anything I might have written and I'm afraid the articles may be used against me as evidence in either drug-abuse charges or in a sanity hearing.

Of course, I would also appreciate your not publishing this letter.

Sincerely,
Your dear Friend,

Tom Grobmisi

Good Readers

Dear Editor:

I just thought you might like to hear where you stand in terms of advertising.

During the month of October, our company placed ads in four major racquetball publications—and 80 percent of our responses were from *National Racquetball*!

Sales have been fantastic as a result. Just goes to show what a superior product and a superior publication can do when they get together.

Keep up the good work.

Doug Smith
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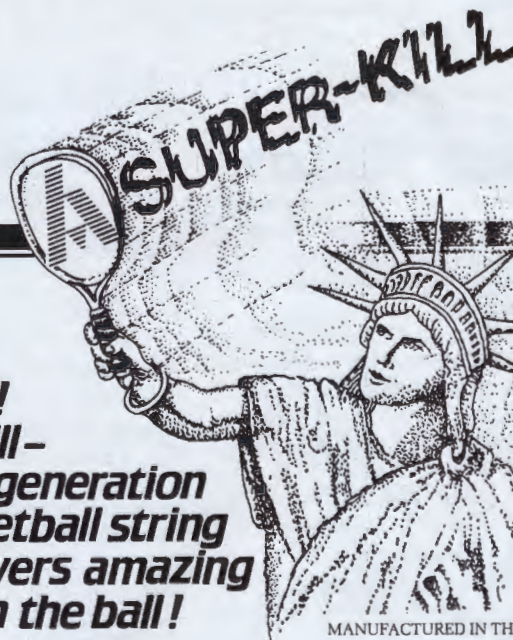
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Put A Holiday In(n) Your Game

by Victor Block

Many people are familiar with the distinctive Holiday Inn sign and the slogan—"The World's Innkeeper"—which welcomes travelers seeking a comfortable, reliable place to spend the night. What fewer men and women might be aware of is the extent to which the far-flung motor hotel chain has adopted programs in keeping with the present emphasis on fitness—including racquetball.

One facet of this approach has been establishment at the Holiday Inn headquarters complex in Memphis, TN of a Fitness Center. Among facilities and activities there are a lap track, swimming pool, weight lifting equipment and aerobics classes, all available for use of company employees under supervision of a health/fitness director.

Another development is a nationwide "Focus on Fitness" program, which allows guests to redeem running-related prizes for Holiday Inn hotel stays.

Of *greatest* interest is the attention paid to racquetball players seeking courts during a stay at a Holiday Inn for a bit of practice or a few games. The *Holiday Inn Sports Hotel* directory lists properties throughout the United States, Canada and the Caribbean along with the sports, recreational and fitness facilities available at each. Detailed information is provided about tennis (number of indoor and outdoor courts and, if not located at the hotel, how far away); golf (information on nine and 18-hole courses, availability of driving range, whether transportation is provided and if a tee time is required) and running (availability of indoor and/or outdoor track, and length).

In addition, for each hotel there is a reference to availability of such facilities as exercise room, swimming pool, sauna—and racquetball/handball courts.

ILLINOIS, Chicago—City Centre, 300 E. Ohio St. (60611), (312) 787-6100
MICHIGAN, Mt. Pleasant—5665 E. Pickard Rd. (48858), (517) 772-2905
MICHIGAN, Midland—1500 W. Wackerly Rd. (48640), (517) 631-4220
MISSOURI, Cape Girardeau—Jct. I-55 & Williams St. (63701), (314) 334-4401
NEW MEXICO, Clovis—2700 E. Mabry Dr. (88101), (505) 762-4491
NEW YORK, New Hartford (Utica)—Campion Rd. (13413), (315) 735-3392
OHIO, Cleveland (Strongsville)—I-71 & State 82 E. (44136), (216) 238-8800
WASHINGTON, DC, National Airport/Crystal City, VA—1489 Jefferson Davis Highway (22202), (703) 521-1600
WASHINGTON, DC, Rockville, MD—Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza, 1750 Rockville Pike (20852), (301) 468-1100
WEST VIRGINIA, Oak Hill—US 19 & Oyler Ave. (25901), (304) 465-0571
WYOMING, Thermopolis—Hot Springs State Park (82443), (307) 864-3131

The Sports Directory lists nearly 900 Holiday Inn properties with in-house or nearby recreational and exercise facilities. Dozens are located near racquetball clubs or courts. You may obtain a free copy of the directory or additional information about any particular Holiday Inn, and make reservations, by calling toll-free 1-800-HOLIDAY.

Of greatest interest are the 11 Holiday Inns with on-site racquetball facilities. These are at the locations listed in this article.

Not surprisingly, the facilities and atmosphere at the Holiday Inns with on-site racquetball vary as greatly as their locations.

Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza in Rockville, Md., a suburb of the Nation's Capital, is a new motor hotel that is a world of its own. The 309 guest rooms and meeting facilities surround an eight-story atrium that soars above a tropical setting of lush foliage and a two-story indoor waterfall. The recreational complex offers indoor/outdoor swimming, saunas, whirlpool and putting green. Hemingway's Restaurant features sophisticated dining, while adjacent Chasers—with live and taped music, dancing and a disco atmosphere—quickly has become one of the liveliest night spots in the area.

The Crowne Plaza has six air conditioned racquetball courts, all with glass rear walls and three observable from an overhead viewing area. The racquetball club is operated by Courts Royal, which runs several other clubs throughout the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. Hotel guests pay the regular court fee (\$6, \$9 or \$11) depending upon the time and day. Rental racquets are available for \$2.

The Cape Girardeau Holiday Inn has six racquetball courts, available for \$7 (Monday-Thursday, 5 p.m.-10 p.m., Saturday-Sunday, opening 5 p.m.) or \$5 (Friday and all other times). Other recreational facilities include two indoor and two outdoor tennis courts, men's and women's exercise rooms, saunas and whirlpool. A well-stocked pro shop carries the latest in racquetball and tennis attire, along with racquets, balls and other equipment. Dottie Summers, Holiday Racquet Club manager, oversees aerobics, slimnastics, karate and other classes.

The Holiday Inn Thermopolis, while situated in a town of only about 4,000 residents, has much to recommend its location. It's in Hot Springs State Park; is adjacent to the Bighorn River, with some of the best trout fishing in Wyoming; is located in an outstanding hunting area, and is 130 miles from Yellowstone National Park.

Another boast is that it's the only Holiday Inn throughout the world with hot mineral waters. This accounts for the bath department, with mineral water showers, steam rooms (\$2.50 charge for use), private bath tubs (\$2.50) and sauna (\$3). Even the outdoor Jacuzzi, which is open year-round, is filled with mineral water. Massages are available from a licensed massage therapist.

There are two racquetball courts, one with a rear glass wall, for which guests pay \$2.50 an hour per person. Rental racquets, and free balls, are available.

Adjacent to the courts is an exercise room with Universal equipment, a running machine, stationary bicycle, mini-trampoline, speed-bag and large punching bag. An upstairs exercise room,

which contains Universal equipment for use by women, looks down onto the racquetball courts.

Anyone who has stayed at one of the newer Holiday Inns, or those with extensive recreational facilities, knows that they are a far cry from many motels of years ago with their sometimes sterile guest rooms and a degree of sameness which—while comforting to some travelers—was a turn-off to others.

Try one of the Holiday Inn properties with on-site racquetball, or located near racquetball courts, and you might well find a new reason to seek out "The World's Innkeeper" the next time you travel. ●

Victor Block is a free-lance travel writer for newspapers, newsletters and magazines; a state editor for Fodor's Guidebooks, and a member of the Society of American Travel Writers. When not on the go researching travel articles, he lives in Washington, DC.

Readers are encouraged to send your racquetball travel questions to Victor Block, c/o National Racquetball, 1800 Pickwick Ave., Glenview, IL 60025.

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David Wasson:

David Wasson as Daddy Warbucks.

Daddy Warbucks On The Court

by Chuck Leve

He's big. He's strong. His head is shaved and his voice booms out from the theater stage. Eight times a week he is Daddy Warbucks, the star of the hit musical "Annie." His name is David Wasson.

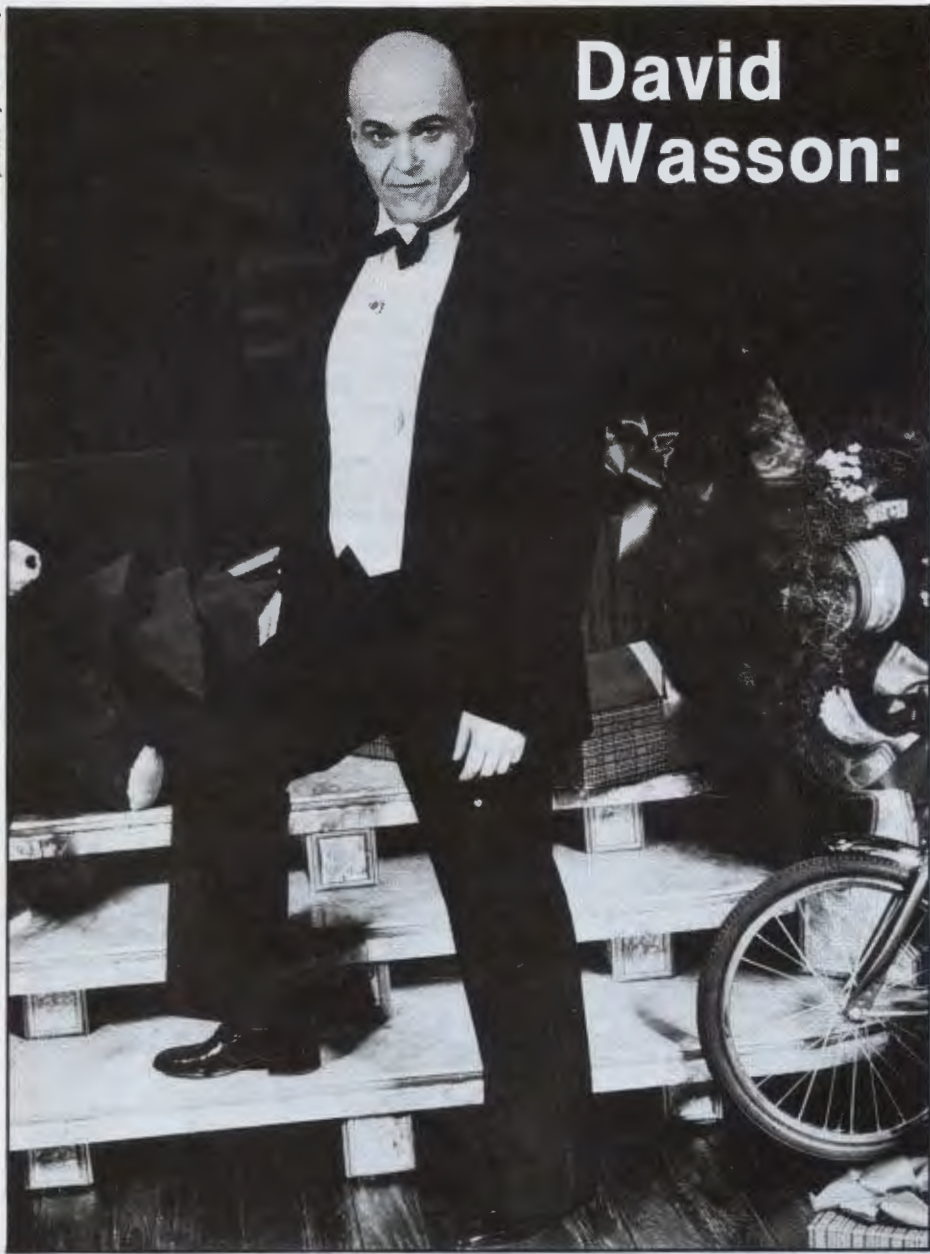
Now well past his one thousandth performance, Wasson leads one of four national touring companies of "Annie," lodged during the autumn of 1983 and early winter of '84 in Summit, Illinois' Candlelight Dinner Playhouse.

"Annie" has taken him to over 100 cities, including Denver, Cleveland, Cincinnati and Minneapolis, as well as Chicago. Each stop along the way, Wasson and close friend, fellow-actor Jon Rider, seek out the local racquetball club, for racquetball has become nearly as important a part of their lives as acting.

"Racquetball keeps me in shape and I have fun at the same time," says Wasson, a 36-year-old Chicago-born, New York resident. "People don't realize how much energy is expended when you perform. If you're a good actor, like a good athlete, you should make your huge effort seem effortless. In order to do that you have to be in top shape. Racquetball helps me stay there." Wasson, at 6', 200 lbs strikes an imposing figure on the racquetball court as well as on the stage. Sporting a better backhand than forehand, he leans toward power over control. But his power isn't enough to offset the experience and control of 35-year-old Rider, who has surpassed 2,000 performances of "Annie" as the character Rooster.

"Racquetball keeps you strong as an actor," says Rider, who dives around the court like a would-be national champ. "An actor has to be an athlete of sorts. I've found that when I play racquetball before I do a show, I'm better in that show than when I do nothing."

Daddy Warbucks, Sandy and Annie.



Athletics is not new to Wasson, who high schooled in Largo, FL. After a neck injury ended his football career, he turned to athletic training to complement his acting and singing roles. Upon high school graduation he was forced to choose between his two loves—athletic training with a scholarship to Southwestern University (Memphis, TN) or music with a scholarship to Florida State.

As we all know, Daddy Warbucks doesn't tape ankles.

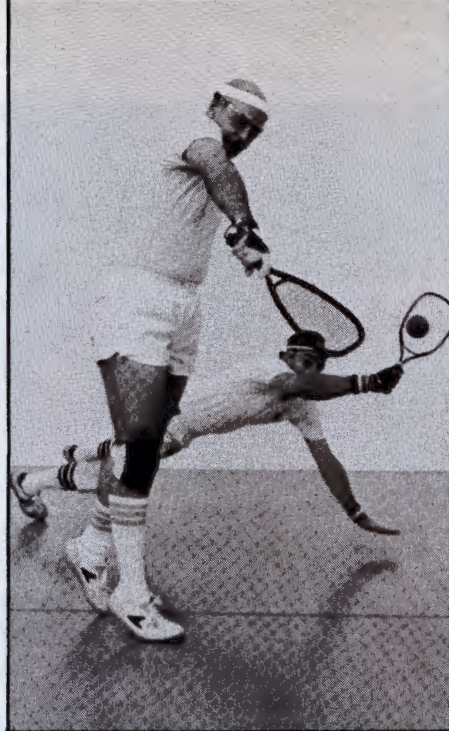
After six years at F.S.U. with more than enough academic credits to graduate, but not enough in any one major, Wasson's acting credits took him out of school and into "real life." The big break so often heard about and so seldom realized, offered itself in the modest form as understudy to Dick Shawn.

Shawn was starring in a play by director Albert Marre who was trying it out at Florida State. Wasson's bit part and understudy roles impressed Marre enough to offer him a part in his *"The Man Of La Mancha"* revival on Broadway. It took Wasson "no more than two seconds" to accept the offer.

Like so many thousands before him, Dave Wasson packed his belongings into two old, worn, dusty suitcases and headed for New York to seek fame and fortune in the theater. And like so many thousands before him, Dave Wasson fell on hard times.

The show closed and another show he had a part in never materialized. All of a sudden he was stranded in the stark reality of an urban existence. Twenty-four years old, no job, no money, no proven ability. Wasson left acting.

"I got out of the business for a couple of years," he said. *"I managed a restaurant, was a photographer's assistant, and did a lot of odd jobs. I was even a bodyguard for Rosalind Russell once. Why not? It paid 25 bucks!"*



But the theater was in his blood and Wasson knew it would lure him back. The opportunity was in Philadelphia, 1978, in *"La Mancha."* this time his role was the Padre, his head was shaved, and his racquetball life blossomed.

Having played racquetball once in 1976 (*"I thought I was going to have a heart attack"*) Wasson met Jim Pruitt and Warren Kirsch, managers of the Center City Racquetball Club in downtown Philly. Pruitt and Kirsch became Wasson's on-court tutors.

"I hate to run. I hate to lift weights," says Wasson, who looks like he'd fit right in with runners and iron pumpers. *"For me, there has to be a game, competition."*

"Jim and Warren taught me how to play racquetball. They showed me the fun of the game and insights I never would have learned myself. It's a great way to work out."

After over a thousand performances of *"La Mancha"* Wasson heard about this new musical called *"Annie"* where the lead character's head is shaved. Having no knowledge of *"Annie"* save common knowledge of the comic strip, Wasson auditioned for director Martin Scharnin, who conceived the show.

Three weeks later he received a call from Scharnin who asked him if he'd like to understudy Daddy Warbucks (Harv Presnell) on the third touring company of *"Annie."* This time Dave took less than two seconds to affirm.

At the time, the third national touring company of *"Annie,"* was truly the touring company. The first national was based in Los Angeles for an extended run and the second national was in Chicago for a nine month stint. The third was on the road in two week shots from New Orleans to Las Vegas.

Each player models his on-court strength: Wasson's backhand and Rider's retrieving ability. But do they have to do it on the same shot?

Wasson went from the third national, to the second national, and when a fourth national opened, he became Daddy Warbucks and closed the national tour. In effect he was the "last" Daddy Warbucks.

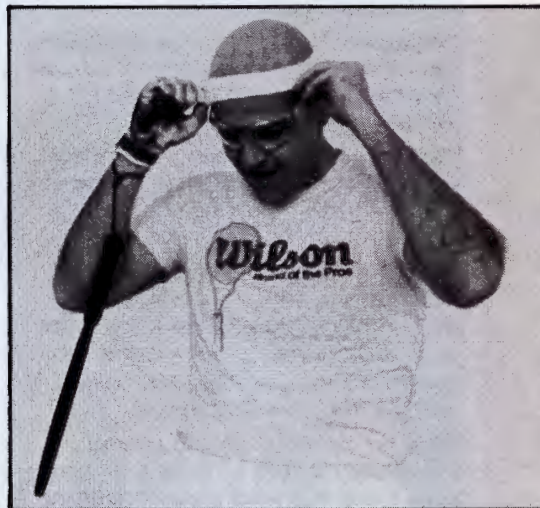
It was in that role that he met Rider, a former standout baseball player, who combines his athletic ability with his quick wit and outstanding voice to star in musical comedy roles. Ironically, Rider had just lost his racquetball partner, Chuck Bergman, another member of the troupe, who had left the show.

As luck would have it, Wasson was hired to replace Bergman, and *voila!*—Rider had a racquetball partner.

"It had to be one of the strangest occurrences in my life," said Rider. *"Here I was losing not only a racquetball partner, but a dear friend. And who replaces him? Another racquetball player. We became fast friends."*

The thrice-weekly matches between the two almost always come out with Rider on top, although Wasson has closed the gap considerably. Both men are acrobatic on the court, preferring the aggressive, all-out style of competitors to the cautious approach you might expect from people who must perform in front of the public on a daily basis.

While neither has ever been injured seriously on the court, both take the mandatory precautions of wearing eyeguards, and the somewhat unusual precaution of knee pads.



A believer in eyeguards ever since narrowly averting tragedy when hit in the eye, Wasson is critical of those players, especially the professionals, who don't don the protection.

Hooray for racquetball! Enthusiasm is not a missing ingredient when Wasson and Rider take the court.

"We're not great players," said Wasson, "so we're out of position a lot. Therefore, if we want to reach the ball we need to dive. The knee pads help a lot.

"We always wear eyeguards. I got hit right in the eye when I first started playing—I saw double for three days. It's a miracle the ball didn't just suck my eye out of the socket. It was a hard lesson, and I was scared. Fortunately, I regained 100 percent of my sight.

"I think if the pro players wore eyeguards more, they'd be setting a better example for the general public. I think there would be a lot less eye and facial injuries if the pros would lead by example."

Wasson's game is heavy on the passes to complement strong, hard drive serves. His primary weaknesses, all in the area of control, come from not being able to devote himself to the game.

"I play to relax, stay in shape, and have fun. I find the competition much more fun than practice, so I sacrifice skill for work out," he said.

Both players find many similarities between racquetball and acting, and they don't mean a Marty Hogan performance for a referee. They must give 100 percent while on the stage, perfect health or not, for the audience demands it of them and they demand it of themselves.

Their eight performances a week include five in a 50 hour period over the weekends. And every audience is a new audience that doesn't want to know of, much less hear of their aches, pains, or problems.

"They paid their money," said Wasson, "and they're entitled to see a fresh performance. That's what being a professional is all about."

Concentration is the key element both on the stage and on the court. Wasson points to the great artists of sport to illustrate his point.

"Great athletes and great artists can suspend time," he said. "Barishnikov defies gravity and does what no other man can do. Doctor J defies gravity and does what no other man can do. In a sense, they are the same.

"A great athlete is able to control everything he does through total concentration. When I'm concentrating on my racquetball game I don't know it because I'm totally involved. When you say, 'I've got to concentrate,' you can't because your mind's off somewhere else.



"On the stage you have to be in the moment as an actor just like you have to be on the racquetball court. When you're in the moment you're transmitting to the audience an emotion that's real, not something you pretend. They want to believe, and they will believe, if you make it real."

Making it real after more than 3,000 combined performances would seem to be a near impossibility. But both Wasson and Rider claim that's the easiest part of their job when it comes to "Annie."

"You've got to understand that 'Annie' isn't just a show," said Rider. "It's not just another job, I mean, I really love this show. I really love what it does to an audience. That's why we're in this business."

"I've never been bored," said Wasson. "Not once have I walked out stage and been bored with this show."

How has the racquetball world treated these traveling ambassadors of good will, entertainment and kill shots? We caught up with them at the spacious 19 court, full service Chalet Sports Core in Willow Springs, IL, where owner Jennifer Wayt rolls out the red carpet.

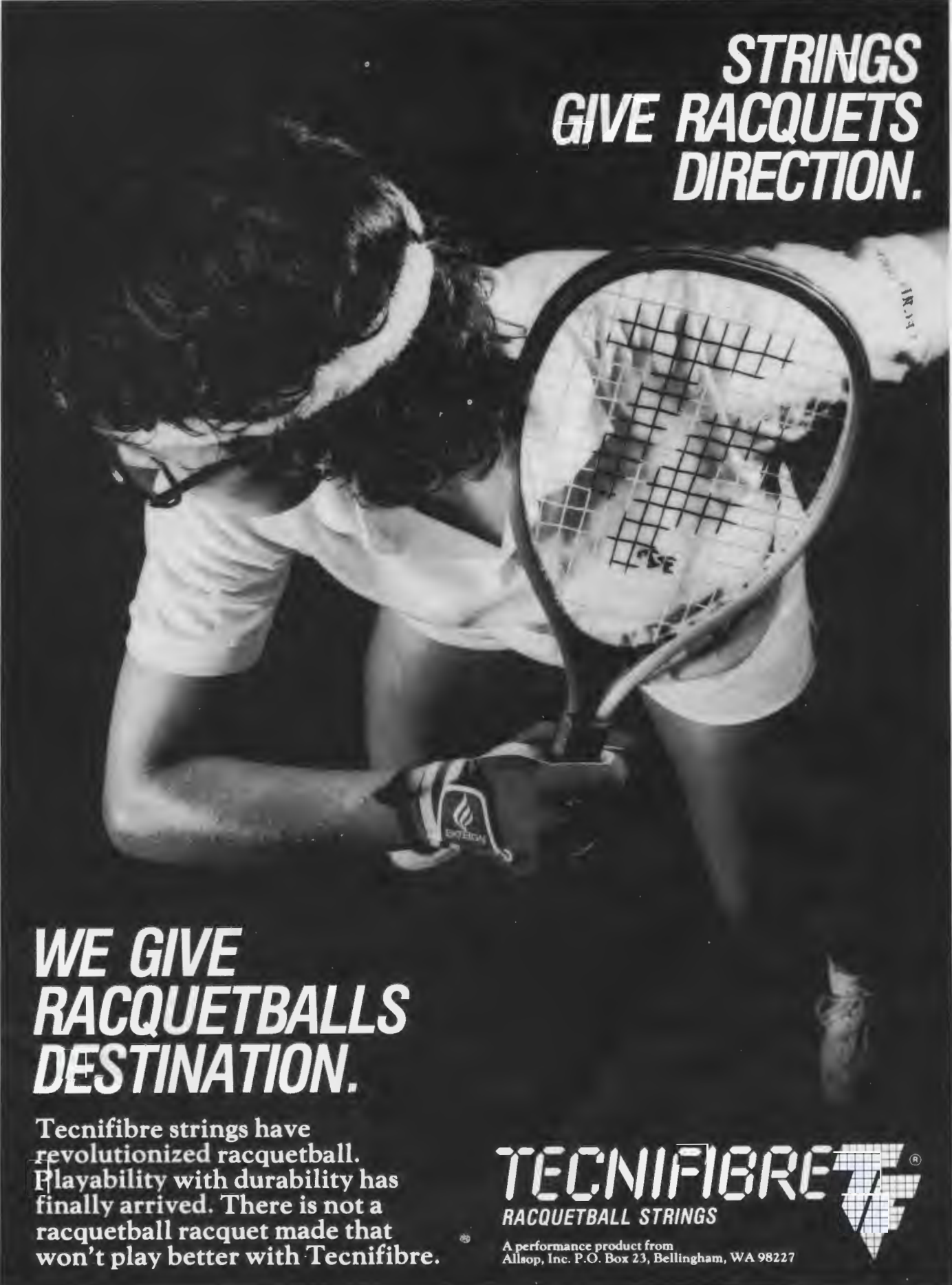
Wasson has played at nearly as many clubs as Mike Yellen, from the very big and very beautiful to the not-so-big nor so beautiful. His line-up of top-notch clubs includes the International Athletic Club in Denver, Washington Athletic Club in Seattle, and a host of others.

"Almost all the clubs have been very cordial," he said. "Most have been quite generous in offering us reasonable visitor memberships, and they've even allowed us to bring in guests. They've been wonderful."

"I can't ever remember running into a bad situation in a racquetball club. And I bet I've played in over 50."

"The racquetball community across the country has treated us very well," added Rider. "They've gone out of their way to please us, and we're appreciative of that."

No more appreciative, one would think, than the millions of people who have been entertained, if not mesmerized, by the wondrous and magical performances of David Wasson, John Rider and the many others who have brought us "Annie." ●



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Renee Hebert: AARA 40+ Champion

by Carole George

When most people meet Renee Hebert, the National 40+ Champion, their first question is: "How do you have time for a racquetball career with seven children?"

"With seven children I need to play racquetball," she replies, "otherwise I'd take out my frustrations on the kids."

Hebert has always been athletic, playing basketball, softball, and volleyball all through school. When she and husband Jim got married she took a break from sports to have seven babies in eight years.

"I think Jim got a surprise. He thought four would be the perfect number, but I wanted 12. After seven babies I realized how much energy a big family demands," explains Hebert.

The nine family members alone would fill their four-bedroom home in Metairie, LA (a suburb of New Orleans), but most of the time all the neighbors and friends hang out as well. Their two cars seem to be forever shuttling kids to softball games, the swim club, and downtown. Consequently, it's almost impossible to interview Renee at home. A typical two minutes goes something like this—

NR: So, tell me how you got started in racquetball...

"Mom, Jennifer wants to know where the Visine is."

RH: Let's see. The club opened in—

The backhand followthrough of the 1983 AARA Women's 40+ National Champion.

"Mom! Where's the Visine? Jennifer wants to know."

RH: What, honey?

"The Visine. Where is it?"

RH: I think it's in the cabinet over the kitchen sink... If it's not there, it's probably in my bathroom... I'm sorry, now what were you asking me?

NR: You were starting to tell me—

"Bye, mom."

RH: Wait, Michelle! Where are you going?

"Sharon and I are going downtown. I have to see if I got that job."

RH: You can't take the car. Kevin needs to drive Julie to softball practice.

"But Mom, I told you earlier I needed the car. I have to go."

RH: Well, hurry back... I really apologize for the interruptions.

"Mom, what are we having for dinner?"

RH: I was just wondering that myself.

Actually it doesn't seem much different at the racquetball club. There Renee juggles numerous racquetball leagues, giving private lessons, and teaching Jane Fonda aerobics. A few months ago, she and "about 199" other fitness instructors had a special session with Jane Fonda to learn how to teach the program. At the end of two grueling hours, everyone was dying. Renee warns her students this is work, not fun.

Renee at her desk at the Kenner (LA) YMCA.



—Photos by Carole George

"Teaching the Jane Fonda work out five times a week, I'll either be in fantastic shape or pushing daisies," laughs Hebert. **"Probably the latter."**

The former is also true. Renee has a body which most 20-year-olds would envy. She keeps it in shape by running and playing racquetball daily. Since taking up the sport nine years ago, Hebert has won the Open division of the Louisiana State Championships three times, the 35+ in the Seniors Invitationals this March, and now the 40+ in the Nationals.

"I always thought it would be great to win a national title and then retire," says Hebert. Somehow it's difficult to imagine her sitting still for two minutes, let alone retiring.

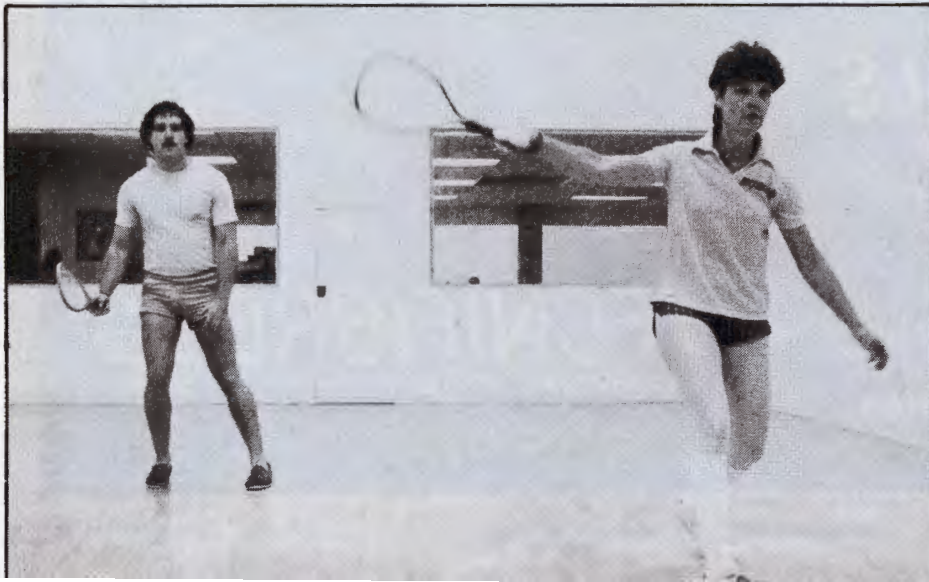
Already Hebert is hoping to host next year's AARA Nationals at the Kenner YMCA where she's worked for the past five years. The facility is beautiful, with 18 courts, even though there isn't any grandstand viewing. It's located next to the freeway, the airport, and several hotels. And then there's the World's Fair next year in New Orleans, which is just 15 minutes away.

"Racquetball is really progressing in this state," boasted Hebert. **"We began slower than the rest of the country."**

Somehow Jim and Renee manage to keep up with all their children. They say it's a lot easier to enjoy them now, but it was hard when they always had three in diapers. The oldest, Brian, has already gone away to college. In 1981 he placed third in the State B Championships, when he was only 16 years old. But since he left home he only plays occasionally. Sometimes Renee wishes he was still competing in tournaments with her.

NR: So, when do you get to take a break?

RH: When I sleep. ●



The 'Boys' From Delray Beach

by Lou Kaplan

Author/player Lou Kaplan



Down here in Florida, if you're interested in staying in shape after retirement, you play racquetball, tennis, paddleball, or handball.

Since tennis is once or twice across the net (at least for us "schleppers") there's not much exercise involved. Handball is part of the past—"those were the days, my friends." Paddleball is a game for screamers, yellers, shouters—"That was in!" "That was out!" Before you play paddleball, you have to pass a 100 decibel level shouting test. Under 100 decibels—you don't play. (Only kidding. Some of my best friends are paddleballers and only a few are shouters.)

Me, I like to play racquetball—it's a great game and a marvelous way to relax. There are a bunch of guys down here in Delray Beach who I play with. They range in age from 60-70. Many of them have infirmities that seem to disappear as soon as they get on the court. Nobody is sick when it comes to playing racquetball.

There's a guy who walks around half bent over. On the court his back suddenly straightens out and he's a wild cat. Arthritic conditions, pinched nerves, ace bandages around knees and elbows, and even more serious conditions don't mean a thing on the racquetball courts.

Racquetball is a fun game and you don't have to be young to play it. We play at Las Verdes condominiums in Delray Beach in a group that is very

Part of the group: (l. to r.) Kaplan, Foster Hartman, Mel Mellon, Harry Rahm.



friendly—and the boys don't take the game seriously. They don't lose their cool in the heat of battle and throw their racquets violently on the ground or, even worse, at you. Close calls are resolved by an outsider wearing judicial black robes. If you don't like his calls, you play the point over.

All of the guys I play with were originally from the East. Harry Rahn, Foster Hartman, Sid Sugarman, Mel Mellon are from Long Island. Carl Reingold and Charlie Guzman hail from Brooklyn. And I'm from the Bronx. Every morning at 8:30 a.m., they cavort around the three-wall outdoor courts. When they're not playing, they sit at the side lines, schmoozing about this or that. At the end of the session, they hang around the courts, sitting in the sun, talking, solving all the world crises.

There's a lot of laughing and kidding that goes on, usually following some of the crazy shots and moves that some of the guys make, like:

Belly Laugh Shot—A total miss of the ball, with the impetus swinging you around, as you land on your butt.

Hole-In-The-Racquet Shot—You give your racquet face a long, hard look when you miss the ball. You're looking for the hole.

Awright Shot—A nice, easy shot comes to you and you're sure you're going to put it away. You yell, "Awright, I got it!" But you didn't got it. You hit the ball into the ground.

Hindu—This is not a person who comes from India. It's where your opponent moves in front of you and 'hinders' you. Always good for an argument . . . or at least a quiet discussion.

Killer—Not a hit man. A ball that hits the front wall about an inch above the ground and that cannot be returned. Actually, it's a kill shot. Believe me, not too many of these shots are in our repertoire, except for Foster and Carl.

Stupid Shot—Your partner in the back court hits you with his shot.

Dummy Shot—When you smack the ball hard and it comes back off the wall, hitting you for the out.

Double Dummy Shot—When you hit the ball back in a rally and you're waiting for your opponent to return it. Instead, your partner suddenly becomes a victim of an amnesia attack. He's lost track of who is supposed to return the ball, and he bangs it against the wall.

We all look forward with great anticipation to these racquetball sessions. They're exciting, stimulating, healthful, and funny. Years seem to drop off as you chase the blue ball. And the camaraderie brings back nostalgic memories of the days when you hung around candy stores, shooting the breeze, in the Bronx, or Brooklyn, or Long Island, or wherever you came from.

So you don't hit as many killers has you used to. But what the heck—you're enjoying! ●

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Ask The Champ

by Mike Yellen

Current National Champion Mike Yellen answers questions about improving your game in this ongoing, exclusive series in *National Racquetball*. Readers are encouraged to submit questions to Mike Yellen, c/o *Ask The Champ, National Racquetball*, 1800 Pickwick Ave., Glenview, IL 60025.



Question: You're well known for having the most effective passing game in racquetball. Which is the best pass shot to use and when do you use it?

Yellen: Depending on the level of play we're talking about, I'd say that most players tend to hit too many kill and pinch shot attempts in front court. Once a player commits to this super-offensive style of play, his opponents will begin "cheating" up in front court to be ready to retrieve.

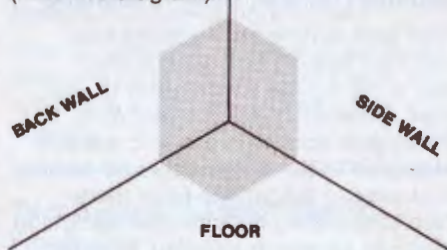
When a player moves up in this fashion, he is leaving himself wide open to being victimized by the passing attack.

There are three primary passes, all of which must be incorporated into your game if you want to reach your racquetball potential. They are the down-the-line, cross court, and wide angle V passes. They are equally important and should be used depending on the position of your opponent and your confidence in each shot.

If your opponent has a tendency to sit in the back portion of center court, then go for the down-the-line. If your opponent likes to play one side or the other, then use the appropriate cross court pass angled away from him.

In both cases (down-the-line and cross court) I like to use my "cube theory" which calls for an imaginary three-foot cube (you can actually put tape on the

court to make it unimaginary) in the rear of each back corner of the court. This cube is three feet high on the back wall, three feet out from the corner, and three feet down the side wall (note the diagram).



Any time your shot passes through this cube, it will never go through center court. The idea is to get your opponent to retrieve a shot that passes through the cube while you take his place in center court.

When your opponent moves up to cover your kills, the wide angle V pass is the perfect shot selection. Make sure the ball strikes the side wall even with where your opponent is standing and watch it carom to deep center court!

If your opponent tries to cut it off at center court, he'll have to contend with the wall while on the run, thus he won't be able to do much with it. If he lets it go, he's got quite a chase on his hands and odds are, he'll never track it down.

Question: When do you recommend requesting a change of referees and how do you do it?

Yellen: I've been treated fairly well by referees during my career. I understand that racquetball is one of the toughest, if not *the* toughest sport to referee. There are so many different calls, so many judgment calls, that it's impossible to receive a perfect refereeing job.

In every sport you're going to have questionable calls. That's the nature of sports. If there weren't close calls there wouldn't be a need for referees in the first place.

I think some of the problems with referees stem from many local tournament rules that make players referee

the next match after their own match. This "winners must referee" rule has a two-fold problem: first, you get a tired referee, and second, you can get a referee who's not qualified to call your caliber of play.

If this happens to you, I suggest that you call a time out, find the tournament director and ask him to watch a few points of your match. If he agrees that your match is not being properly handled, he should make a change.

Be careful, however. Generally, players don't ask for a new referee unless they're losing. Thus, it's easy to find yourself accused of sour grapes. The best precaution to take is prior to the match, when you can talk to the referee and be sure that he or she is qualified to call your game.

Question: I've noticed that many of the better players seem to serve to their opponent's forehand a lot. Why do it, and when?

Yellen: The main reason I serve to my opponent's forehand is to keep him honest when returning my serve. If my serve to the backhand side is working very well with an abundance of aces or weak returns, conventional wisdom says I should stick with it. However, if I hit that serve 10 times out of 10, the receiver will eventually start cheating left and gauging the speed.

Pretty soon, that serve that was so dominant early on, is no longer working in my favor. The idea is to mix it up so the receiver must stand in the middle of the service return area, enabling you to take full advantage of your complete line of serves.

When he does begin to cheat left, that's when you hit him with the bullet to the right. While I'm hoping to hit that perfect ace, or have my opponent get tangled in his own feet as he tries to rapidly switch directions, you have to expect a return. So I look to hit an offensive shot off his return of that serve. ●

Charlie Garfinkel's 'Spot' Racquetball

10 Shots To Combat The Ceiling Ball

by Charlie Garfinkel

This article begins a monthly series by former top pro Charlie Garfinkel using the "spot" theory of racquetball, which helps improve your game by hitting a specific spot on the wall, which will give the desired effect for the shot. The spot theory also takes into consideration the "spots" on the court occupied by both you and your opponent.



"I lost because my opponent constantly was hitting ceiling balls. All I could do was go back to the ceiling, again and again. Eventually, my ceiling ball fell short, or hit the side wall. In either case, my opponent kept putting my shots away. It was frustrating, very frustrating."

How many times have you heard this familiar refrain? Too many, I'm sure! To allow yourself to be caught continuously in deep court by ceiling balls is dumb, dumb, dumb!

However, do not despair! The Great Gar will show you how to utilize your opponent's ceiling balls to your advantage. You will see that there are a variety of shots that are extremely effective to counter the ceiling ball.

Around-The-Wall Ball—Backhand

This shot is different from the old Around-The-Wall Ball shot, in that you're hitting the wall closest to you first, rather than going crosscourt. When your opponent and you are both stationed in the deep backhand corner, it is easy to get pinned back there. Non-stop ceiling balls to your backhand side can be very frustrating. However, the solution is a relatively simple one.

Instead of hitting another ceiling ball, hit the shot forward and upward into the left side wall (Diagram 1). The ball will then carry high to the right front wall, near the right wall-side wall crack. It will then hit the right side wall and bounce just behind the short line, near the center of the service box.

If your opponent doesn't move in to take the ball on the first bounce, expecting instead to take it off the left side wall or back wall, he's in for big trouble. Why? Usually, if the shot is hit correctly it will bounce twice before it hits another wall. And, even if he takes it on the first bounce, he will have difficulty due to the angle at which the ball is coming at him.

Another advantage of this shot is that it is relatively easy to hit, and it doesn't put much strain on your arm.

As to the amount of power needed to hit the shot correctly, usually a medium paced swing will produce excellent results. However, because of the liveliness of different racquetballs and courts, you'd be wise to adjust your swing to slightly different spots on the court, if needed.

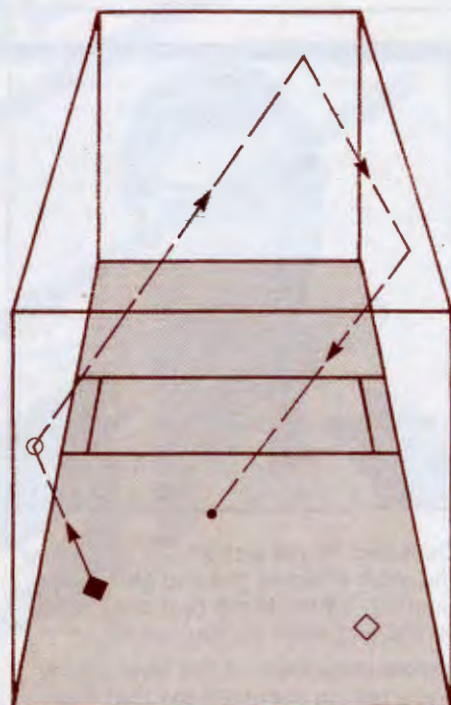


Diagram 1. Backhand Around-The-Wall Ball

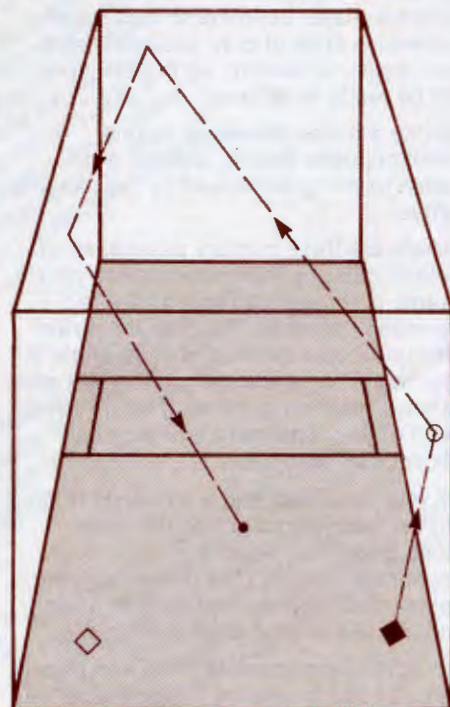


Diagram 2. Forehand Around-The-Wall Ball

Around-The-Wall Ball — Forehand

When hitting the Around-The-Wall Ball from the forehand side, your opponent should again be stationed in the back court with you. However, he'll now be in the deep forehand back court. As *Diagram 2* shows, the shot is hit in the same manner as the backhand Around-The-Wall Ball shot. Naturally, it is hit from the forehand side, this time.

By trying these shots you will see that your opponent will never be sure as to whether or not you're hitting a ceiling ball or an Around-The-Wall Ball.

To hit the old Around-The-Wall backhand correctly (*Diagram 3*), you are again stationed in the deep left corner. Your opponent is stationed in the deep right corner. Hit the ball crosscourt and approximately three feet from the ceiling into the upper right side wall. The ball will then hit the front wall, ricochet to the left side wall, and then bounce in the deep right corner.

Even though your opponent is stationed there, he must get set to hit a shot that is coming at him at such an acute angle.

'Old' Around-The-Wall Ball — Backhand

Speaking of the old Around-The-Wall backhand and forehand, there's nothing wrong with using either of these shots. Steve Keeley, in his heyday, was a master of these shots. And, they are still being used by many pros today.

'Old' Around-The-Wall Ball — Forehand

The old, forehand Around-The-Wall ball is hit in much the same manner. However, you're now standing in the deep right corner. Your opponent is stationed in the deep left corner. Again, he will be faced with hitting a shot from an unenviable position (*Diagram 4*).

Using the different variations of Around-The-Wall balls, will keep your opponent wary of preparing for continuous ceiling balls.

Forehand Overhead Left Side Wall-Right Side Wall-Front Wall Shot

As the name implies this shot will take some practice.

But, once you have perfected it, it will prove to be a superb addition to your repertoire. Believe me, I know. Recently, while playing in the Natural Light Championships, I was matched against Julio Torres in a quarter-final match. He jumped out to an 11-4 lead by hitting seven of these shots in a row. And, if you're using a ball that is slightly on the slow side, the shot is even more effective.

To hit the shot correctly (*Diagram 5*) on the left side of the court, you must be positioned deep in the back left corner.

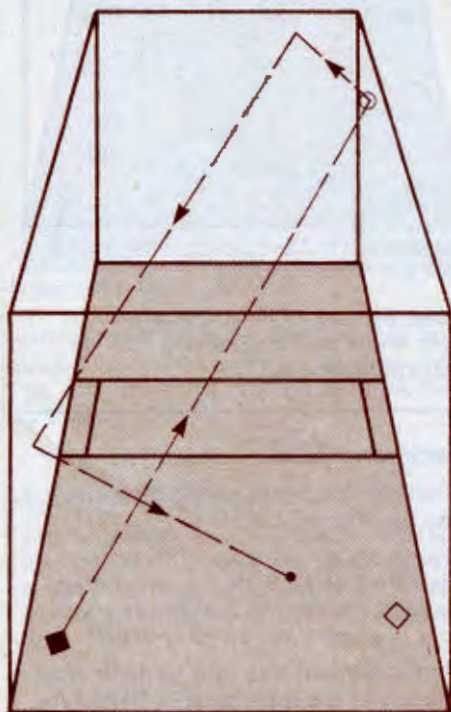


Diagram 3. "Old" Backhand Around-The-Wall Ball

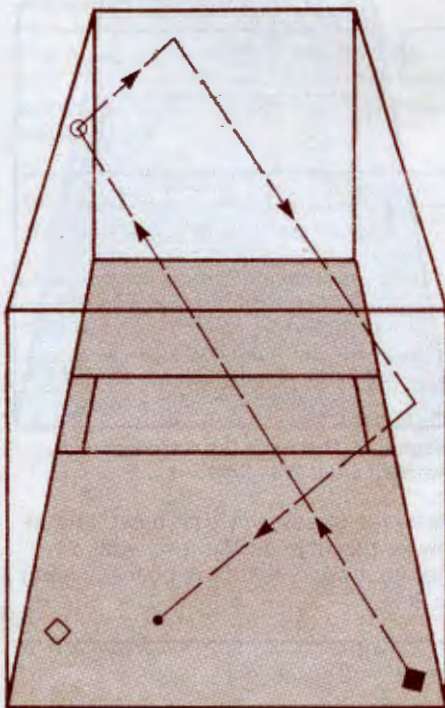


Diagram 4. "Old" Forehand Around-The-Wall Ball

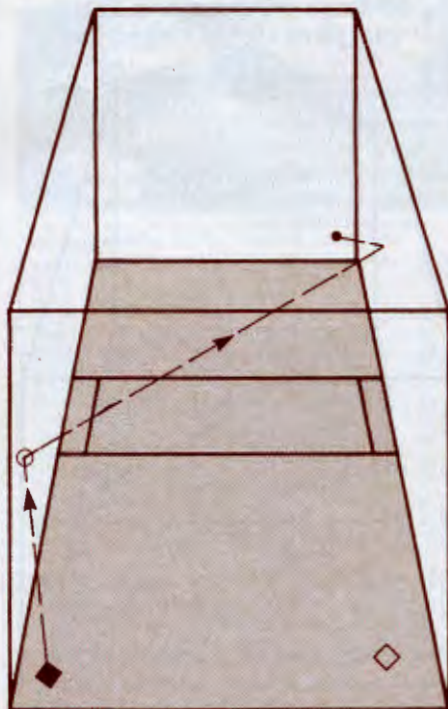


Diagram 5. Overhead Forehand Left-Side Wall-Right Side Wall-Front Wall Shot

The ball must be three to four feet from the side wall. Your opponent is in the deep right court.

As you prepare to hit the shot, you should appear as if you're going to hit a ceiling ball. However, using a forehand overhead motion, the ball should be hit into the left side wall. The ball will then carry to the right side wall, near the crack, and die on the front wall like a wet sponge. Your startled opponent will be standing in deep court as if his feet were imbedded in cement.

Note: After practicing this shot you'll be amazed at how close you can stand to the left side wall, and still use an effective overhead forehand stroke.

Forehand Overhead Right Side Wall-Left Side Wall-Front Wall Shot

When your opponent is positioned on the left side of the court in deep back court, the same shot can be hit from

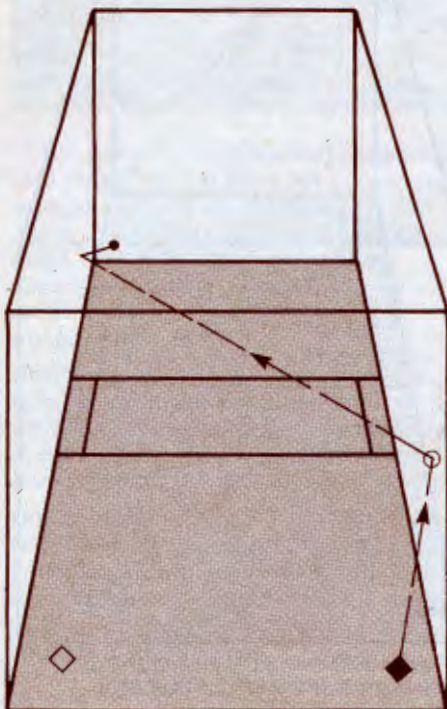


Diagram 6. Overhead Forehand Right Side Wall-Left Side Wall-Front Wall Shot

the right side of the court (*Diagram 6*). Again, if the shot is hit correctly, your opponent won't be able to react in time to return it.

Forehand Overhead Left Side Wall-Mid Front Wall Shot

When your opponent is stationed in the back court on the right side, the element of surprise that this shot represents is remarkable. This shot, when hit correctly (*Diagram 7*), will hit the left side wall, and then will die on the front wall, near the middle of the court.

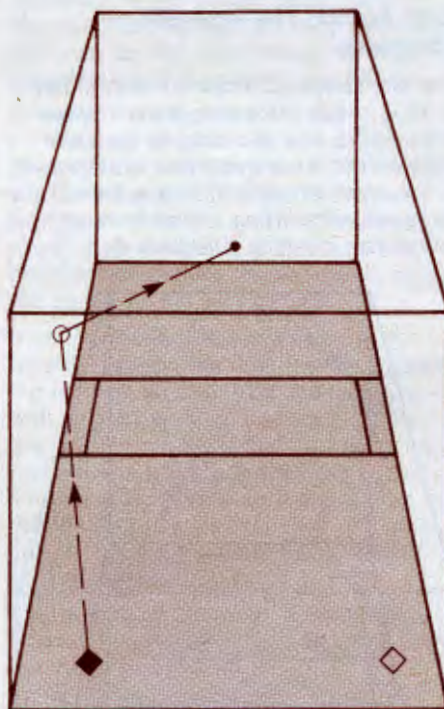


Diagram 7. Forehand Overhead Left Side Wall-Mid Front Wall Shot

Needless to say, the shot must land as low as possible on the front wall, so that your opponent can't possibly react in time.

Forehand Overhead Right Side Wall-Mid Front Wall Shot

Conversely, you would hit the forehand overhead into the right side wall (*Diagram 8*). The ball will then carry to the center of the front wall for another mind boggling rollout.

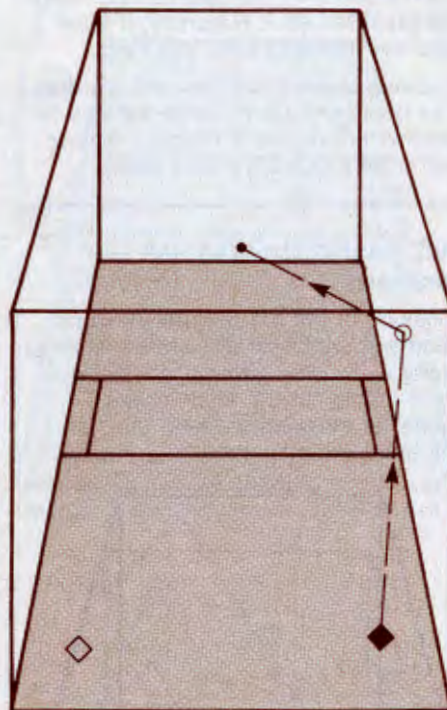


Diagram 8. Forehand Overhead Right Side Wall-Mid Front Wall Shot

Note: Be sure to hit the side wall on both shots past the serving line for maximum results.

Backhand Z-Ball

Whatever happened to the forehand and backhand Z-balls?

Five to seven years ago they were used frequently. Suddenly, the purists claimed, "When the Z-ball falls short your opponent has an easy shot!"

That statement was only partially true. The key to the statement is "When the Z-ball falls short." The obvious answer,

of course, is to hit a Z-ball that lands *deep* in the court. Surprisingly, it is a relatively easy shot to hit (Diagram 9).

When your opponent is stationed deep on the right side of the court, a Z-ball hit high into the right corner will force your opponent deep into the back court. If the shot is hit correctly, your opponent will often be off balance.

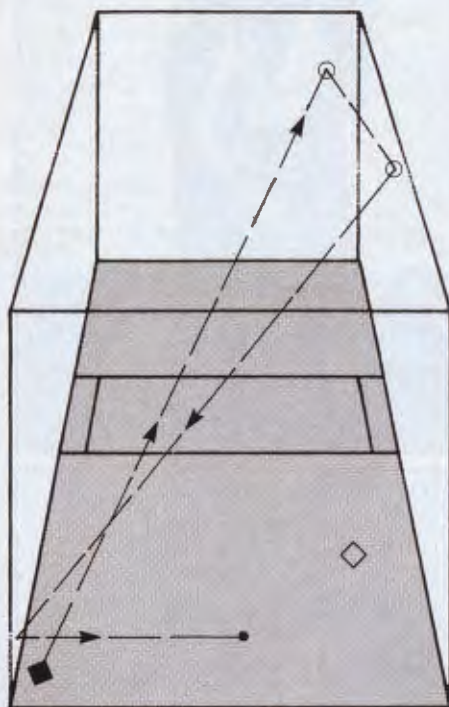


Diagram 9. Backhand Z-Ball

And, even if he is set, the ball may be so close to the back wall, he might not be able to get his racquet between the wall and the ball.

Forehand Z-Ball

From the right side, the forehand Z-ball into the left corner is just as effective. It will force your opponent to hit a shot from a spot that he is unaccustomed to.

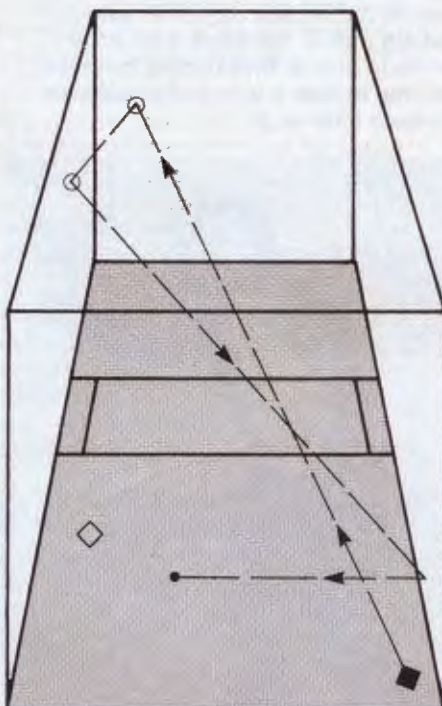


Diagram 10. Forehand Z-Ball

The message is clear. If you adjust your "spot" on the court, you can take advantage of the "spot" that your opponent is in! ●

"The Gar" is a former top professional player, well known author, instructor and student of the game, holder of dozens of national singles and doubles titles, and member of the Ektelon advisory staff.

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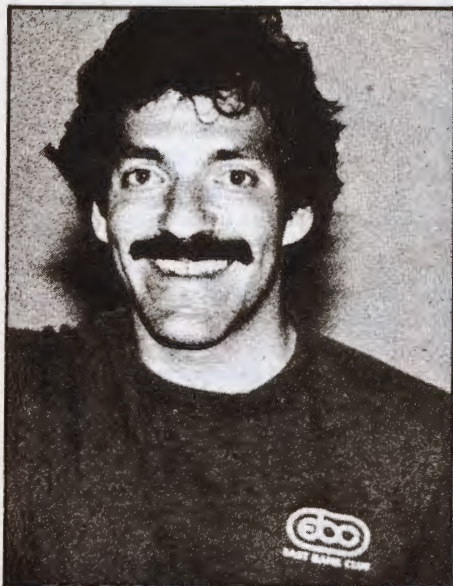
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Steve Mondry's Racquetball Clinic:

5 Keys To Hitting The Ball Harder

by Steve Mondry



I've given hundreds, probably thousands of lessons over the years and I can easily say that most of the racquetball players I've worked with are interested in learning how to hit the ball harder. It is obvious that Marty Hogan's influence on the way racquetball is played continues.

It is surprising, sometimes, to see just who can and who cannot hit the ball hard. Hogan, for that matter, stands only 5'8 and weighs no more than 165 lbs. Yet not a person alive has ever had a shot clocked faster than Hogan's 142 miles per hour. And Hogan did it for the radar gun on two different occasions, weeks apart!

When I lived in San Diego I can recall vividly the day two of the football Chargers were playing racquetball. One was a 6'7, 275 lb. nose guard, the other a 5'9, 160 lb. defensive back — and they were playing as if each was in the other's body. The behemoth hit the ball like the proverbial wimp while the little guy blasted shots harder than a Mr. T left hook.

The lesson, of course, is that you don't have to be big to hit hard. And certainly, there are plenty of "external" ways to improve your power such as lifting weights. By the same token, there are some relatively simple things that you can incorporate into your swing to generate more power.

Remember that all players, from the giants to the pint-sized, share common properties on the court that enable them to hit the ball hard. It's really not that big a deal. But since everybody seems to still be mesmerized by power, it's time to take a look at five ways to generate more of it.

1) Hit Off Your Back Foot

The traditional forehand was always taught to be a stroke that you stepped into. That is, you made contact with the ball as your body moved into it, striking the ball parallel to the instep of your front foot or the inside of your front knee. This was the stroke that won



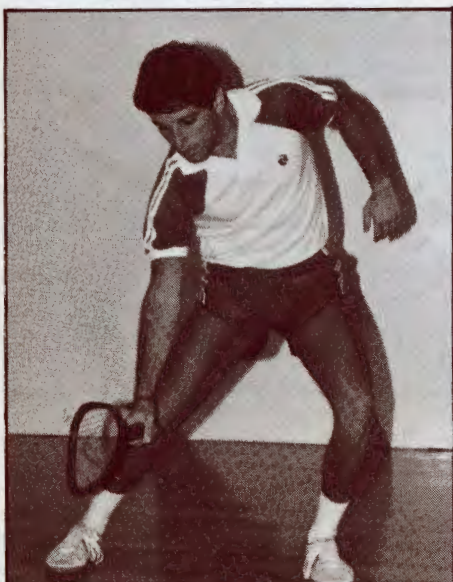
Figures 1-4. The traditional forehand stroke sets up, moves into the ball, has point of contact off the instep of the front foot, and follows through.

scores of national titles for Charlie Brumfield in the early to mid 1970's, and more than that, was the stroke of his nearest competitors like Steve Keeley and Steve Strandemo.

The power in the traditional stroke was achieved through a gradual weight shift brought about by stepping into the shot (Note Figures 1-4).

Today's power forehand utilizes a smaller front step and instead of contacting the ball off the front foot, power players now hit the ball off of their back foot. This causes their hips to lead through to the front wall causing a more forceful weight transfer, resulting in a harder shot with no additional effort (Note Figures 5-6).

Figure 5. Another look at the forehand point of contact off the instep of the front foot.



2) Be Sure To Set Up

It is not only possible, it is necessary to set up 75 percent of the time for a particular shot. If you want to win, you must set up during the rally.

The most common excuse for not setting up (and there are many) is "I don't have time to set up." Thus the player ends up flailing away in a desperate attempt to hit hard with the end result being off balance, mostly arm strokes which can only lead to pulled muscles, arm injuries and mis-hit shots.

Without setting up, the player usually ends up hitting with an "open stance" (feet parallel to the front wall) which makes it all but impossible to hit the ball with authority (Note Figures 7-8). As a result, it's unlikely the player with the

Figures 7-8. The open stance robs you of all power since your shoulders and upper body are already in a follow through position eliminating your hips and body rotation as a source of power.

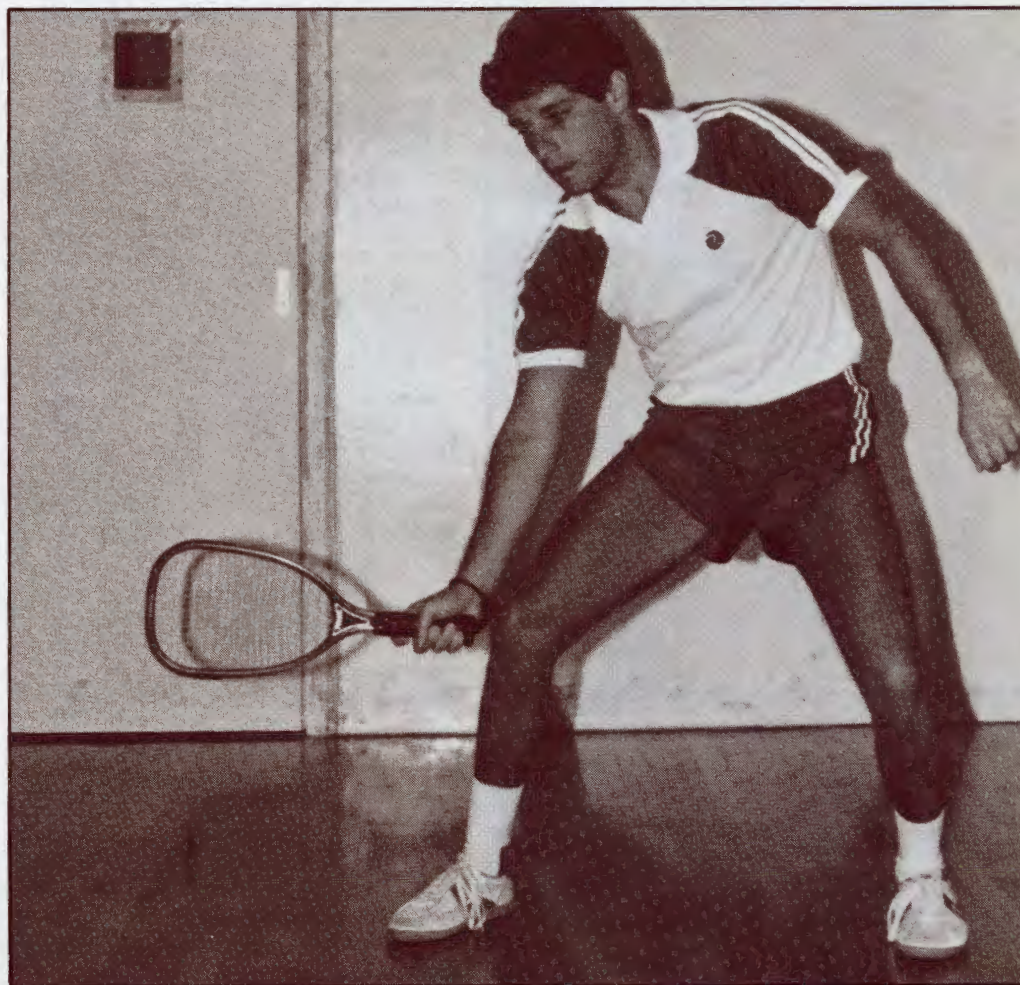
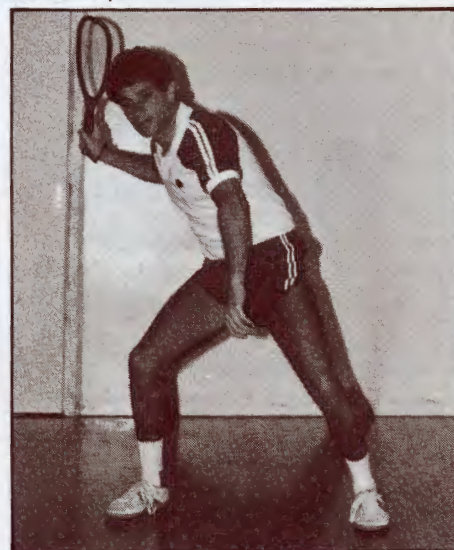


Figure 6. The point of contact of today's power stroke is off the instep of the back foot.

open stance will be able to generate enough power to even get the ball past his opponent, let alone handcuff him.

It's much, much better to move your feet, set up and then let it rip. About the only benefit of the open stance in a power situation is that you'll be well balanced, but what advantage is good balance if it doesn't generate any power?

To set up your power, set up with your feet.

3) Upper Body Turn

It's amazing how important your upper body is to your power game. And I mean your entire upper body, which

means that all parts must be used in synchronization with each other.

Often would-be power players have a pretty good upper body turn with their forehands, but become all arm and wrist with their backhands. Unlike a golf swing where your shoulders remain parallel to the ball as your swing comes through the point of contact, the proper racquetball stroke should have a vigorous shoulder rotation.

The proper method of rotating your shoulders (*Note Figure 9*) is so that they become almost parallel to the back wall, yes, the *back* wall, prior to hitting the ball. Then an uncoiling motion occurs (the upper body turn) as you step into the ball.

This will ensure the extra power you've been looking for with little or no additional effort in your normal swing. Your upper body can generate an amazing amount of new power with the upper body turn.

4) Use A Lighter Racquet

One of the major components in any swing that is necessary to hit with power is racquet head speed. The greater the head speed, the greater the power. Head speed is directly related to the amount of wrist snap you're able to put into your shot, thus the greater the wrist snap, the greater the power.

Therefore, all you need to do increase head speed by increasing wrist snap and you'll soon be ripping 'em like Hogan. Well, almost. Probably the easiest way to increase your head and wrist snap speed is by changing to a lighter racquet.

Back in the Brumfield era, champion Charlie used a racquet made of aluminum, which he named "Big Bertha." Big Bertha weighed in at a massive 290 grams and would have weighed more, but Brumfield wasn't strong enough to get anything heavier around on the ball. Big Bertha, while paving Brum's way into the Hall of Fame during the control years, was undoubtedly one of the primary reasons that Charlie lacked power in his game.

Today's top players use racquets that weigh about 250 grams, and most of them are made primarily of graphite. And players are always looking for that stronger, lighter element to help their racquets generate even more power. And who knows? With modern technology, they'll probably come up with the next generation before this generation even matures.

In fact, boron racquets, just now making their initial appearance on the market, just may have those qualities. All things being equal, if you use a lighter racquet, you should hit the ball harder.

5) Whoosh Your Backhand

Do women snap towels in locker rooms? Did they when they were girls? Having never witnessed women's locker room activities I don't really know, but I *do* know that guys have snapped towels ever since towels and locker rooms became partners.

I raise the issue because the best backhand wrist snap is identical to the wrist snap used in snapping towels. And we all (should) know what power and pinpoint accuracy such a wrist snap can deliver!

A good way to determine if you are properly snapping your wrist is to swing your racquet (without hitting the ball) and listen for the "whoosh" sound as your racquet moves through the point of contact. If there is little or no "whooshing" then it's time to start working on snapping your wrist.

The whoosh is the noise made by air going through the racquet strings at a very high speed. The slower the speed, the less the whoosh. The less the whoosh, the poorer the wrist snap.

So, there's no "whooshing" for a good wrist snap. You must develop a good wrist snap in order to whoosh. ●

Steve Mondry is head racquetball pro at Lehman Courts, Chicago, a top touring pro for six years and author of numerous instructional articles on racquetball, conditioning and weight training.



Figure 9. The proper shoulder rotation finds the shoulders lining up parallel to the back wall for the backhand set up.

The Highs And Lows of Service

by Steve Keeley

The most important part of your game is the serve. I kept statistics one year (admittedly a "fast ball" year) and discovered that the average number of shots per rally is 2.1. In other words, there was the serve, the return, and a fraction of a shot left over for the rally.

And while the slower balls of today's racquetball world may have helped push the average shots per rally up to 2.5 or 2.6, the fact remains that the significance of the serve and serve return cannot be overemphasized.

Let's leave the serve returns for another article and focus now on the service.

I use a unique approach to teaching serves which I've termed the "high zone" and the "low zone" method. This technique is easy to learn and has a logical strategic basis.

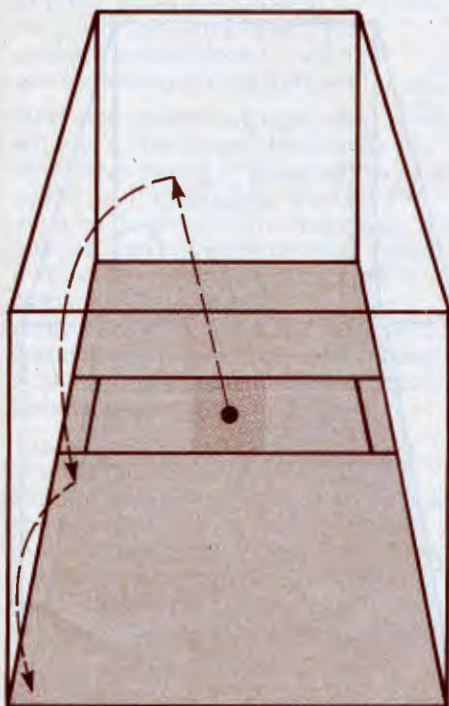


Diagram 1. The garbage serve hits the front wall about mid-way up and a foot to the left of center, bounces on the floor four to six feet behind the short line and rebounds head high into the left rear corner.

All serves are usually struck at one of two levels: 1) a high zone up around your chest, or 2) a low zone down around your calf. The high zone serves include the garbage and lob. The low zoners are the drive and hard Z's.

Do not try to mix zones when you serve. That is, if you smack a drive serve at the high zone (about chest level), the result will be laughable. Your ball will fly high and hard to become either a long serve off the back wall or a longer serve over the back wall.

If, on the other hand, you hit a garbage or lob from the low zone (about calf high), the result will be equally disappointing. The ball will loft too high and either hit the ceiling, rebound on the fly to the back wall for a long serve, or go over the back wall for another racquetball home run.

Let's examine the two high zone serves, the garbage and the lob. For the garbage (*Diagram 1*) again, contact the ball about chest high and push or tap it into play rather than using a powerful, wristy stroke. The ball should contact the front wall about midway up and one foot left of center.

After you tap the ball into this front wall bulls-eye, it should bounce about four to six feet behind the short line, rebound high and float softly into the left rear corner.

The garbage serve is homely and harmless looking, yet deceptive. You may feel embarrassed standing in the service box with a potential cannon in your hand and only shooting ping pong balls, but the idea of the serve is mainly to put the ball into play without error.

This means: (1) keep the ball off the side wall until it is in deep court, and (2) don't let the ball rebound too high off the back wall for a set-up. Your garbage serve may look just like that — garbage — but it is easy to hit and usually is returned defensively with a ceiling ball.

Now for the lob serve (*Diagram 2*). The outdated lob is just a lofty version of the garbage with a side wall brush thrown in before the first floor bounce.

The stroke for the lob is virtually the same as the garbage. Tap the ball a little higher and a little softer in aiming for a front wall bulls-eye about three quarters up and one foot left of center. The ball will rebound off the front wall and travel in the upper court atmosphere toward the left rear corner, glancing off the side wall during its downward trajectory.

As with the garbage, the lob serve usually generates a ceiling ball return. The garbage has replaced the lob of old because of the livelier ball and the more offensively oriented game style of present-day racquetball.

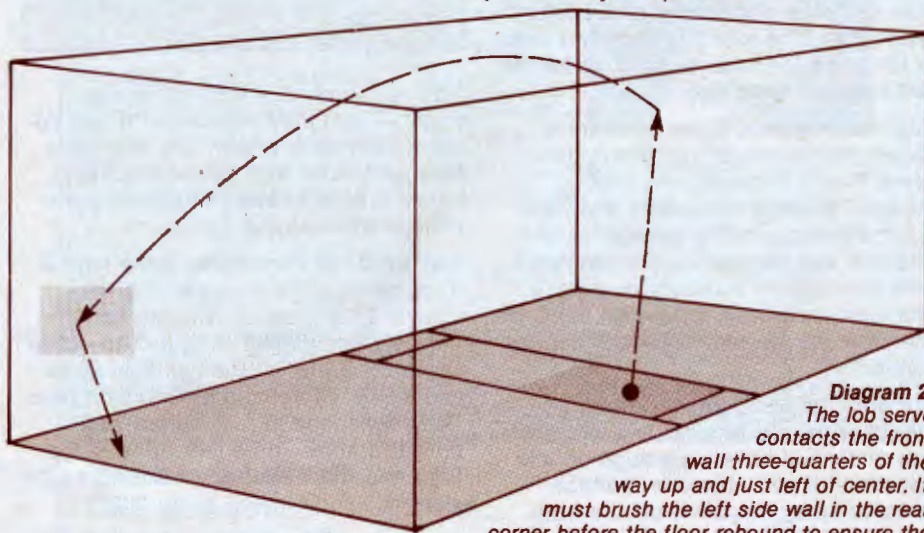


Diagram 2. The lob serve contacts the front wall three-quarters of the way up and just left of center. It must brush the left side wall in the rear corner before the floor rebound to ensure the ball doesn't set up off the back wall.

That's it for the high zoners. Don't think that just because they're embarrassing and easy to hit that they aren't effective. Take Charlie Brumfield, racquetball's early, perennial national champ. Back in the old days of the game (early 1970's), Brum used solely the garbage serve to win 21 tournaments in a row!

Of course, the garbage was more popular then because the deader balls of that period demanded a slower, controlled game. Charlie simply pushed the garbage ball into play, waited for the ceiling rally return, then continued the ceiling rally until his opponent either erred to give a set-up or went bonkers from boredom.

The two low zone (calf high) services have been termed the "power serves." They are the drive and the hard Z, probably the two most important serves for the advanced player.

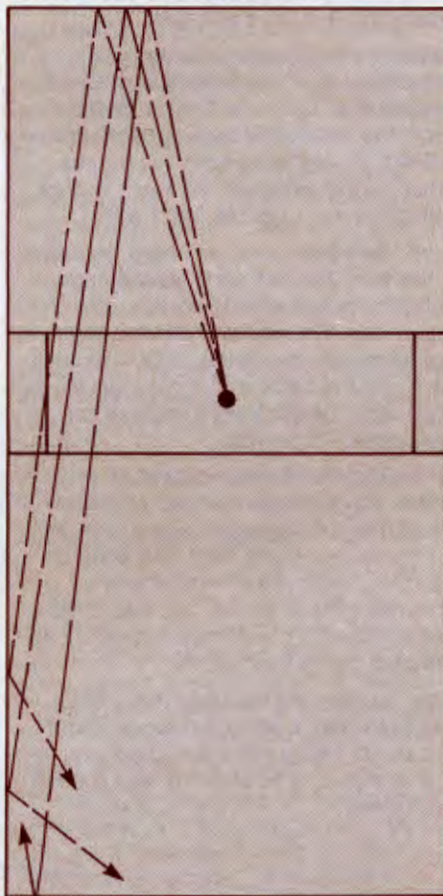
Consider first the drive serve (*Diagram 3*). The stroke here is the same as for your normal forehand, and you might try to improve your drive serve by imitating the forehand stroke you use when dropping and killing the ball in practice.

Contact the ball between sock and calf high and generate power as usual — with body torque and wrist snap. The ball should contact the front wall about three feet up and one foot left of center, bounce just past the short line, then carry low and hard into the left rear corner. The return is usually a pass or kill since the receiver must strike the ball at about knee high.

You may have heard the drive serve called the "low-hard" or "power drive" serve. That's because, when hit accurately, it earns more aces and weak returns than any other service in racquetball. But therein lies the problem with the drive — accuracy doesn't come as easily as it does with some of the other serves, especially the high zoners.

But don't be discouraged. Attain accuracy with your drive serves with practice and you'll have a big edge on any opponent. If your drives in practice seem to spray randomly off the front

Diagram 3. The drive is the most effective serve when hit accurately. The angle off the front wall may vary, but the height of three feet or less up from the floor is important to prevent a back wall rebound.



wall — too high or with the wrong angle — you may improve with this tid-bit: try swinging about 10% less hard on your stroke. Still hit the ball firmly, but with 80% to 90% maximum power instead of an all-out flail.

The other low zone serve is the hard Z (*Diagram 4*). This is also called the "power Z" or "low Z." The stroke for the hard Z is similar to that of the drive serve. Drop and hit the ball exactly as you would a forehand drop-and-hit practice stroke, and aim at a front wall bulls-eye about three feet up from the floor and three feet left of the right side wall.

As you become more proficient with the angles and spins of this serve you may want to vary your starting stance in the service box and move your front wall bulls-eye a little to the left or right.

The flight pattern of the Z serve, from the vantage point of the novice receiver, is mesmerizing. The ball hits the front wall, the right side wall, courses to the left rear corner, then angles sharply off the left side wall into the opponent's body. The receiver is often jammed on the stroke and ends up wearing the ball in his navel.

The purpose of the hard Z is the same as that of the drive serve. It usually forces a hard-hitting, smack-em past-em rally. No safe ceiling return off this serve because, in general, the ball is too close to the floor when the receiver makes contact.

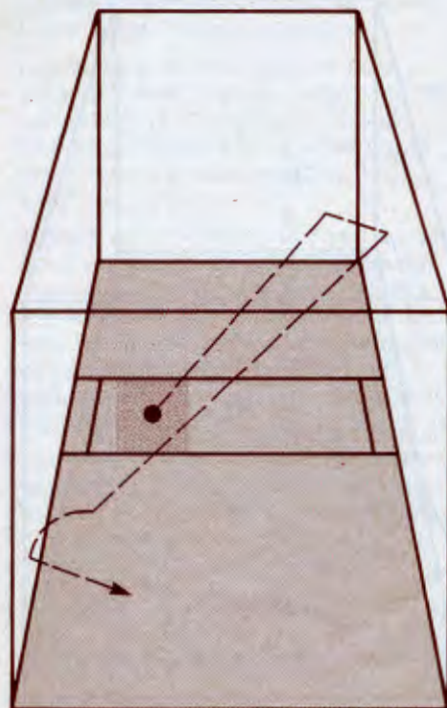


Diagram 4. The Z serve is easy to hit, difficult to return. All it takes is hitting the front wall bulls-eye about three feet up from the floor and three feet left of the right side wall.

I believe the power Z is the most underrated serve of all. People in clinics ask me, perhaps facetiously, to improve their game by 10 points in the next 10 minutes. I give them a dead serious answer: Learn the hard Z. Go into a court alone and hit some serves to an imaginary opponent. You'll be surprised at how fast you pick up the correct height and angles. Next try the hard Z in a practice game and see if your opponent on the return doesn't end up bug-eyed and with a ball in his belly button.

Let me illustrate how effective the low hard and hard Z serves can be. I played the present national champion, Marty Hogan, in a mid-1970's pro stop in Denver, and it was the best match of my career. I made only two mental errors (i.e., taking the wrong shot at the wrong time) and only three or four physical errors (i.e., blowing a stroke for a skip ball)—yet I lost. I just couldn't handle Hogan's 140 mph serves coming off the front wall glass.

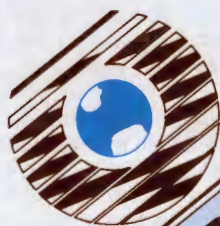
He'd step deceptively right, drive serve left and I'd be caught dead-center in back court having to guess which side of the court to lunge for the ball. He aced me 10 times in the first game, and you just don't give the national champ a 10 point spot and expect to win. I didn't, going down 21-20. The next game was pretty much the same, with him drive serving and me diving from side to side like a tennis shoed windshield wiper.

That's the highs and lows of serving. You've read it, you know it, now practice it. Solo service practice is perhaps not as titillating as working on other parts of your game, but it's a must. As my old wrestling coach used to say, you gotta drill on a move 1,000 times before you try it out in an actual match.

Though service practice may not be *that* much fun, with it you'll experience rapid improvement. Why not corral a buddy to share your misery, as well as your advancement? Play take-a-turn. You serve, he returns, and his shot is caught. There is no rally—only the serve and the return. You repeat the same serve 10, 50, a thousand or

however many times you wish, then trade positions and he practices the serve and you the returns. No score is kept because the goal is improvement, not competition. You'll get enough competition at tournament time. ●

Steve Keeley, recognized as one of the greatest players of all time, is a veteran instructor, author, and all-around racquetball expert.

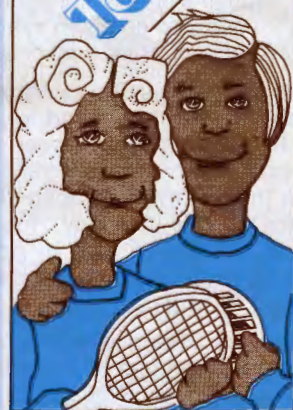


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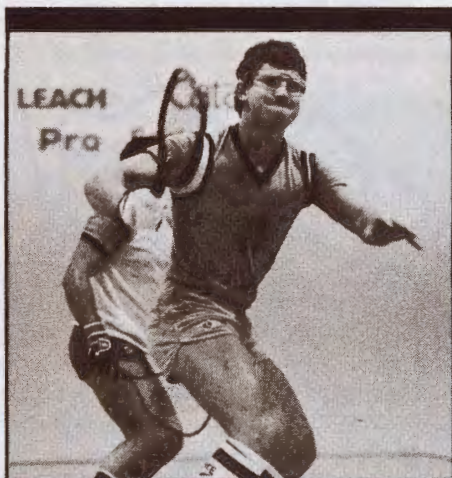
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The Hogan Way

by Marty Hogan

Five time National Champion Marty Hogan answers questions about his game and how to improve your game in this ongoing, exclusive series in *National Racquetball*. Readers are encouraged to submit questions to: Marty Hogan, c/o The Hogan Way, *National Racquetball*, 1800 Pickwick Ave., Glenview, IL 60025.



Question: You said a few months ago that if the pro racquetball tour didn't come through with a major sponsor you were going to go on an exhibition tour of your own. Have you, or are you?

Hogan: The "Hogan Tours America" tour started last month and will continue through May of this year. It is the heaviest sponsored, one person promotion in the history of racquetball. Besides my new company, Hogan Racquetball, we're sponsored by Adolph Coors Company, Leader Eyewear, Nike, and Ram Racquetball.

We began in December in the east and will continue through 35 cities across the continent. Over \$100,000 in promotional funds have been put forth to ensure that all who attend enjoy themselves.

Many of the cities we're going to will have ongoing tournaments and I've pledged to play against the winners of those events. We'll go to other places that, for one reason or another, were unable to secure a pro tour stop over the years. Most of these places have never seen me play and now they'll get to see me in the flesh.

The main purpose of the tour is to kick off my new racquet line and give the racquetball public a chance to see me play. Over the past four years I've averaged about 200 invitations a month from people asking me to compete in their event or put on an exhibition. I've never before been in a position to fulfill those requests.

However, with the disorganization in men's pro racquetball today, it's given me the opportunity to take the year off competitively and help promote the sport I love at a different level.

Question: I understand that the lob shot was a decent shot once. What ever happened to the lob and do you think it will ever make a comeback?

Hogan: If the lob comes back, it won't be in my career's lifetime. I'd say it will come back the day after *The Day After*. In other words, no chance.

The lob is one of those shots from the old days, the early 1970's and even earlier. It was a shot for those who didn't know any better and as soon as the players figured out that it wasn't a purposeful shot, it was discarded.

The main problem with the lob is that it became extremely difficult to control. Faster balls coming at you faster meant it was nearly impossible to stop the ball with your racquet, finesse the lob softly, and have it travel nearly the length of the court—all of which were demanded by the lob for it to be effective.

It just couldn't be done. In addition, players today cover the court so well that the lob's vulnerability makes it a ridiculous choice. It can be cut off in short court and killed; it can be fly killed from mid-court; it can be killed off the back wall; and anywhere else, it travels so slowly that you can set up on it and really rip.

The lob was created with the slow ball and became extinct as racquetball evolved. It was in the first generation of

defensive shots when balls were too dead to carry to back court off the ceiling. It really was a pick-up shot from paddleball where the balls were slightly livelier than overripe tomatoes.

Question: I've noticed in watching some pro matches that the players don't seem to kill the ball off the back wall like they used to. I remember when a shot off the back wall was considered an absolute set-up. Can't today's players kill the ball off the back wall?

Hogan: I agree, in part, that a few years back balls off the back wall were pretty much considered 100 percent winners—shots that were easily killed. As with the last question, it has much to do with the livelier balls.

Nowadays the ball comes off the back wall with a little more zip which means that players don't have quite as much time to set up. I still think that any ball off the back wall should be considered as a set up and when I get one I go for the kill. You have to if you're going to play an aggressive game.

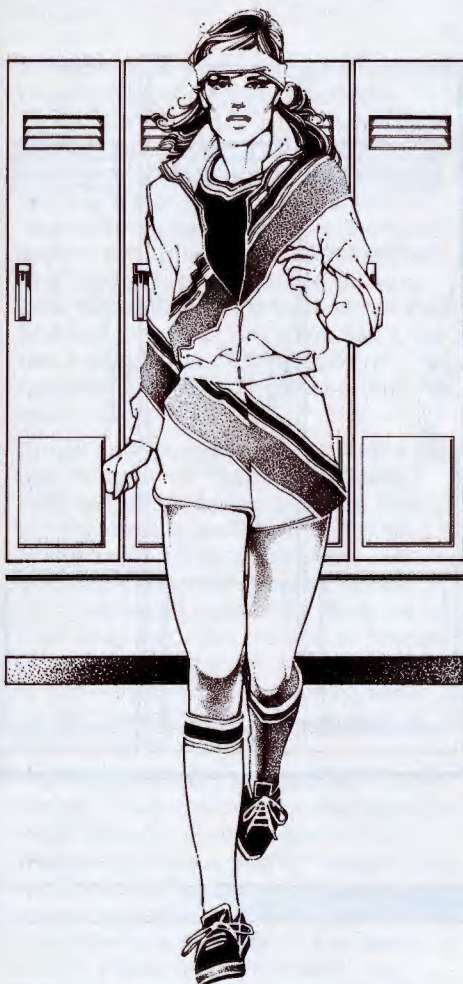
However, a lot of players—either because they're not getting to the ball in time, or perhaps they don't have confidence in their kills—are not going for bottom board off the back wall. Instead, they are driving the ball, mostly cross court.

I'll tell you this, though, hitting a kill shot has not gotten any easier over the years. In my opinion, the kill is the only shot that has not changed at all since the first day of racquetball. It's as tough to kill in 1984 as it was in 1964.

In the days of slower balls you had extra time to set up and the ball definitely stayed down a lot more. Back then a three foot high shot was a kill. Nowadays a three foot high shot is a pass. That's the difference. ●

Stop Eating Your Heart Out

by Lisa Swann Rogak



With one last violent swing of the racquet, Debbie ended the game, 21-17, in her favor. Sandy, her opponent, shook her head.

"I don't know how you do it," she sighed. *"You have so much energy and you're as thin as a rail, too. I envy you."*

"Exercise gives me energy," Debbie replied. *"And after this, I've got two more games, and 100 laps to do in the pool."*

"I wish I had your motivation," said Sandy as she left the court. *"See you next week, same time?"*

"Yeah. So long," waved Debbie. As soon as the door shut, she began an almost maniacal jog around the perimeters of the court to pass the next five minutes until her next partner would show up.

"Must never stop moving," Debbie chanted to herself as her legs furiously pumped up and down. At 5'4" and 85 pounds, she seemed to fly through the air; her feet barely touched ground.

But Debbie didn't notice. All she cared about was her nightly schedule of racquetball (at least two games), monotonous lap swimming, and running whenever she could, whether up and down the fire exit stairs at work, or at the courts, as she was doing now. Nothing mattered to her but burning up those calories.

Not that there was much to burn up, for Debbie probably took in no more than 300 calories daily, if she was lucky. Debbie had anorexia nervosa, an eating disorder where a woman will starve herself down to a dangerously unhealthy weight, all because she has a distorted body image. That is, she sees herself as fat no matter how thin she really is. Anorexia and bulimia, the binge-purge disease, are becoming increasingly common among athletes of all persuasions. It's a problem with many causes, but no real answers.

It would appear to the casual observer that Debbie simply had a lightly excessive interest in keeping fit. After all, runners training for a marathon have to devote several hours daily to exercise, and most would not think them obsessive, though they are.

However, Debbie's case differed in that she was obsessed by each calorie taken in and each one burned off. What had started as a simple, healthy diet and exercise plan to lose a few extra pounds for the beach season had escalated into a radical all-consuming lifestyle concerned only with ridding her body of every ounce of fat. Tragically, when her fat reserves are used up, her body will start to cannibalize its vital organs in a desperate attempt to stay alive.

Debbie was a typical anorexic in that her bizarre behavior was vitally important to her, and to skip even one day of exercise would be unthinkable. Likewise, eating normally. When she first embarked on her moderate weight-loss program, she delighted at each drop on the scale.

However, when she reached her goal, it felt too good to give up the rush she received when the needle showed yet another pound's loss, so she stepped up her diet and exercise regime. And besides, she still didn't feel or look "perfect": the image she had conjured up for the way she would appear at diet's end. After all, she still saw lumpy thighs in the mirror, so she figured, why stop here?

So, her mandatory hour of nightly exercise had gradually escalated to four, and her previously sensible diet had dwindled to two egg whites and a grapefruit half in the morning, an apple for lunch, and a lettuce wedge with one cherry tomato for supper. Sometimes she skipped the evening meal altogether to allow for a clearer mind for a exercise-filled night ahead.

Debbie especially enjoyed her racquetball matches because her mind was more highly attuned to her environment now than when she was "fat." She found that she was better suited to strategize her opponent in advance, and she rapidly climbed from advanced beginner to near-expert status when her starvation level quickened. She earned a reputation as a tough match at the posh health club where she worked out, swam, and swung a racquet.

Soon, regulars at the club were challenging her to racquetball matches, and she gratefully accepted. Spending her evenings exercising would really burn off the calories. More importantly, it would also keep her mind from fantasizing about the pastries at the new bakery that opened around the corner.

Oh, she had will power; in fact, it was as strong as iron. But sometimes, she dreamed about what it would be like to bite into a creamy chocolate eclair. After all, she could certainly afford the 50 or so calories such a bite would take. However, it was more than that.

Debbie was absolutely terrified that once she took one bite, she wouldn't be able to control herself, and would end up eating a dozen of the rich, sweet pastries she had denied herself for so long. And control was at the core of her imagined superiority over those people who couldn't will themselves to be as strong and as thin as she.

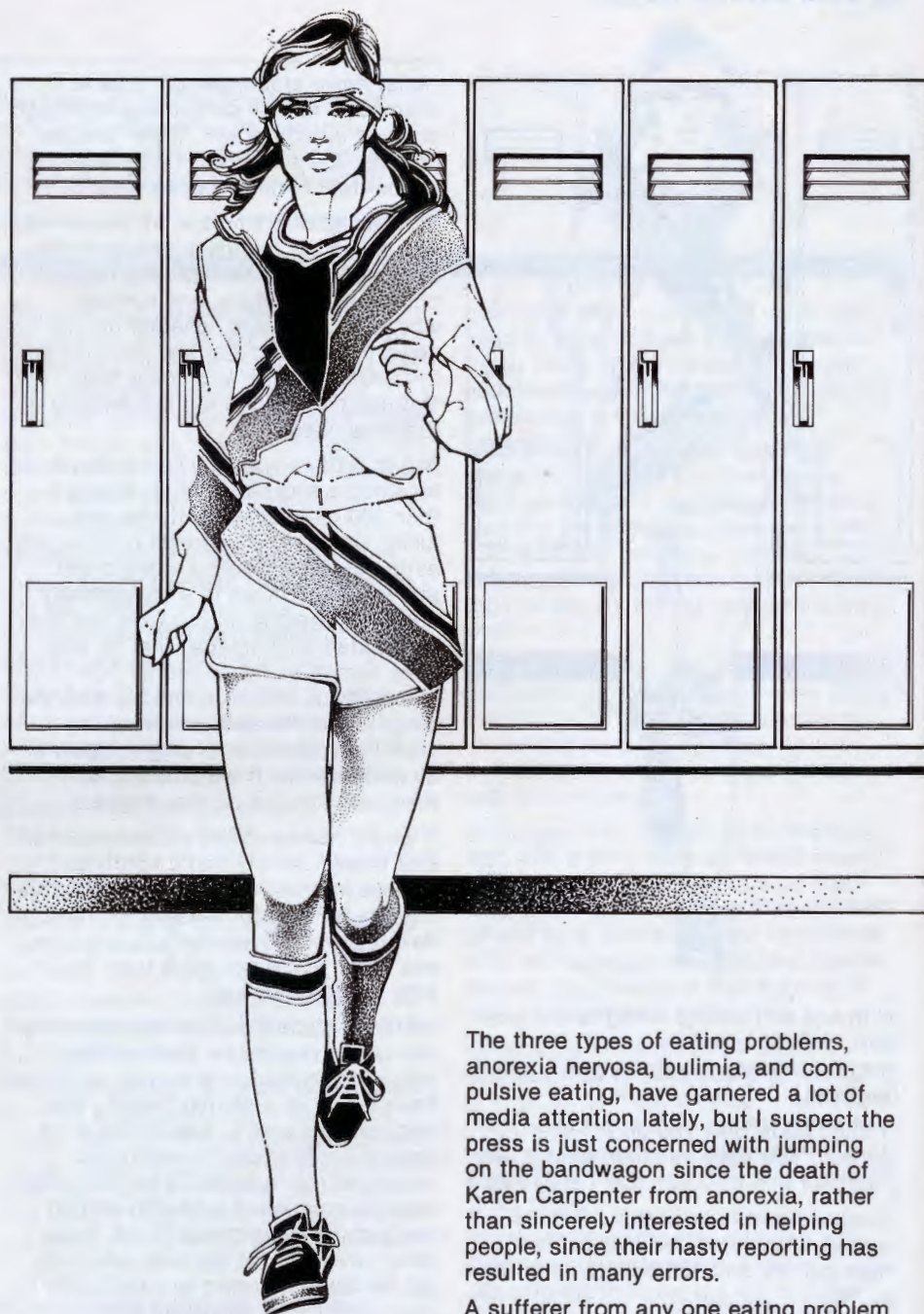
So, instead of indulging herself just once, she continued with her strange food rituals of cutting each nightly wedge of lettuce into six, exactly even sections, chewing each bite of apple 62 times, and drinking 87½ ounces of water daily, no more, no less.

Her food and exercise regimens took up most of her time, so what little social life she had before she became anorexic dwindled down to nothing. On the weekends she slept, for she was always excruciatingly tired, and this was the only time she could sleep. She found it difficult to close her eyes for more than a half-hour at a time, because her jutting hipbones kept pinching her already-stretched skin, and the sharp pains kept her awake.

Debbie soon found her discomfort too much to bear, and made an appointment with her doctor. Of course, she never attributed both her pains and fatigue to her eating habits and excessive exercise, for, after all, you can never be too thin, right?

Her doctor didn't agree. When she stepped on the scale, and he kept pushing the weights downward until it stopped at 77¼ pounds, his face turned white. Debbie asked if anything was wrong.

She was admitted to the hospital that night for treatment of severe anorexia nervosa and malnutrition. It took four months, but Debbie walked out of the hospital 20 pounds heavier, knowing the extent of damage she had committed to herself. She spent the next two years in extensive therapy learning why she starved herself, and how not to feel threatened and "fat" in the future. Those years were filled with both anguish and joy as Debbie saw herself unfold before her eyes, but today, she leads a fulfilled life at 110 pounds, and doesn't feel fat in the least.



The three types of eating problems, anorexia nervosa, bulimia, and compulsive eating, have garnered a lot of media attention lately, but I suspect the press is just concerned with jumping on the bandwagon since the death of Karen Carpenter from anorexia, rather than sincerely interested in helping people, since their hasty reporting has resulted in many errors.

A sufferer from any one eating problem may be also obsessed with exercise, not just food, but as the example of Debbie has shown, anorexics are more likely to keep a strict ledger of calories in and energy expended than bulimics or compulsive eaters.

Why has there been so much focus on eating problems in the last few years, and why are there so many women who are affected by them? No one cause can be blamed, to be sure, but a few theories have been offered.

An eating disorder can arise for many different reasons. Madison Avenue is often cited as a major culprit, but poor self-worth, peer pressure, family difficulties, and environmental influences also enter the picture. Why these hurdles affect some people and not others remains a mystery, but researchers believe they concern an addictive personality, or a person who would become obsessed with something anyway, like alcohol, other drugs, or another person.

Lisa Swann Rogak is Publisher/Editor of Consuming Passions, a bi-monthly newsletter that explores the strange relationship between women and food. She is headquartered at 150 E. 35 St., Suite G-3, New York, NY 10016.

Advertising does its part by sending us crossed signals: on the one hand, being thin, beautiful, and desirable are the only sure paths to success. But if you turn the page or change the channel, you'll discover that the only true way to be human is to drink cases of sugary soft drinks, eat at streamlined fast food places, and snack on salty junk foods. So how can you do all this and still remain skinny? You can't, so many people get psychologically unstable around food, either eating too much or not at all.

Stress and the pressure on women today to "do it all" may also influence the onset of an eating problem. This is the first time in society's history that women have taken on so many responsibilities. Driven for success in their jobs, many still want to be feminine in their love lives. This creates an identity crisis that would make any person turn to some kind of unorthodox behavior so they could forget their troubles, at least for a short time.

The opposite sex may also be a major cause of eating problems. For instance, what happens when he doesn't call when he said he would? A turmoil such as this can often make women look for comfort elsewhere, and many times that other place is food. It can seem like your best friend; it doesn't talk back, it doesn't criticize, and it immediately cheers you up when you're down. What more could you ask?

Unfortunately, food also doesn't let you forget that it's been your friend. Days after a marathon bingeing session ends, food's by-product, also known as *fat*, settles itself on your hips. This can easily serve as your excuse when you search for something to blame when you again need comforting from this cruel world. And, like before, food will be there to absorb your anger, thus setting off a vicious cycle.

It seems dismal, but there is hope. Relaxation is one key to understanding your body's reaction to a threatening situation. So, take a deep breath when faced with a potential time bomb in your refrigerator or on your table, and again before considering the following possibilities for help.

The important thing is to find what works best for you. Don't let yourself be talked into anything by a friend who's been won over by the latest fad diet or exercise. Besides, diets are what cause on-again/off-again syndrome that makes people prone to contracting an eating problem in the first place.

Experimenting with a natural foods program or two can help you to relax when threatened by a signal to binge. Anything that requires a change in your lifestyle can also be an effective way to unconsciously allow your eating problem to gradually fade out of your life. Holistic health techniques, mild exercise, and deep breathing accomplish this purpose by making you feel better about yourself and by physically improving your body.

It's also important to understand that there is no such thing as a "cure" for an eating disorder. Like an alcoholic, you must live one day at a time. If you make a mistake, acknowledge it, learn from it, then move on to something else. Don't dwell on your error because the obsession is bound to return along with the original eating disorder, this time in a more powerful form.

Note that nowhere in this article did a specific diet, food plan, or exercise appear. What works for a friend probably won't work for you, and vice versa. You must experiment with different foods and workouts that are comfortable to you.

But most of all, believe in yourself. Don't let anyone brainwash you into anything that's foreign to you, and do only what makes you feel good, even if that means having a hot fudge sundae for breakfast. Take one day at a time, and you're well on your way to being at peace with food and exercise. ●



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EXTRA!

Series Cancelled, Promoter Accused

The Grand Prix, a nine tourney series planned for this season in Florida, has been cancelled after one event.

Steve Ruedlinger, owner and founder of the Orlando-based Grand Prix Promo-

tions, is accused of absconding with tournament entry fees from the first Grand Prix held September 16-18 at The Racquet Ball, Orlando, and of taking entry fees from The Fountainbleau, the second-scheduled tournament site.

Suppliers which included Ektelon and the *Florida Racquet Journal* newspaper, and players received \$15,000 in bad checks. Other companies contend that Ruedlinger owes them as much as \$7,000.

Supposed sponsors Pizza Hut, Holiday Inn, and The Racquet Ball plan to prosecute. The case is currently under investigation by James P. Williams, investigator with the Florida state's attorney's office. Williams declined to comment on the case.

According to the *Florida Racquet Journal*, Ruedlinger set up the tourney with no sponsors and no money. He lured suppliers into the event by claiming that \$15,000 was being held in a Canadian bank and would be available October 15. Sponsors' signatures apparently were forged on contracts.

After prize money checks began to bounce, Ruedlinger wrote letters to players claiming that a \$10,000 check that he'd received from Holiday Inn had bounced, causing prize checks to bounce. Holiday Inn officials had rejected an offer to sponsor the event,

but said that they were considering a 1984 sponsorship.

The *Florida Racquet Journal* wrote in their November issue that Ruedlinger claimed to have flown to the Memphis, TN headquarters of Holiday Inn to clear up the matter. On Wednesday, October 5, he received a check from the motel chain, wrote checks on Thursday, October 6, and then skipped town on Friday the seventh leaving more bad checks and angry sponsors, suppliers and players, according to Florida racquetballers.

Ektelon's Eastern Sales Manager Gil Viera, although upset about the situation, was the most philosophical in his outlook.

"We thought the Grand Prix would be good for racquetball in Florida and good for Ektelon," he said. "Situations like this put a damper on the sport. But we're sure the quality people in racquetball will surface and rally to make it a good season in Florida."

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AARA Selects Penn As Major Sponsor

Penn Athletic Products Company will be a major sponsor of three major championship series of the American Amateur Racquetball Association (AARA) during 1984.

They include the 15 Regional and the National Adult Singles Championships, the 15 Regional and the National Juniors Championships and the National Intercollegiate Championships.

The Penn Ultra-blue racquetball will be the official ball for all regional and national events.

In addition to its support of these major AARA events, Penn is sponsoring an aggressive AARA membership



drive focused on support of the United States National Racquetball Team, which began play in international competition this fall.

In addition to its AARA activities, Penn again will sponsor the State Team Intercollegiate Championships during the 1983-84 season. The goal is to promote a team championship event in each of the 50 states.

Penn Athletic Products, the nation's largest manufacturer of racquetballs and tennis balls with headquarters in Monroeville, PA, is an operating unit of The General Tire & Rubber Company.

Seniors Pro Group Formed

In a bold attempt to get pro racquetball started for players 35-years-old and older, Vincent M. Wolanin, president of the 21st Point Club, Albany, NY, has formed the SPRO (Senior Professional Racquetball Organization). From its Albany headquarters SPRO will try to secure sponsorship prize money for the former greats of the game.

"We're going to attempt to create a modified pro tour to be known as 'The Legends of Racquetball Pro Tour,'" said Wolanin. "We'll start with a National Championship event sometime in 1984."

Wolanin's plan is to attract most of racquetball's original pioneer professionals back into the game while at the same time providing much-needed exposure for the sport.

Vince Wolanin (right), owner of the 21st Point Club, Albany, NY and founder of SPRO (Senior Professional Racquetball Organization) for pro players 35 and over, signs with Ektelon. Witnessing his signature is Ektelon regional sales representative, Paul Krawczyk. Says Vince, "Your racquetball life need not be over at 35!"



Any senior player interested in receiving information or becoming involved can contact Wolanin at (518) 489-3276.

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Weight stacks are selectorized and each one provides up to 155 lbs. of resistance.

Call or write: Universal Gym Equipment, Inc. P.O. Box 1270, Cedar Rapids, IA, 52406 or phone (800) 553-7901.



Smith Goggles

Smith Sports Optics, manufacturers and distributors of Smith Goggles and Sport-goggles, introduces their new racquetball protective goggle. The eyeguard is designed to give the optimum in protection while allowing the most comfortable fit.

Packaged with the goggle are pre-cut stick-on foam pads for custom designing the fit. Also the goggle has a one inch wide head-band to hold the goggle firmly in place under all conditions.

Look for these goggles at your local pro shop or call (208) 726-4477. Smith Goggles are located at Smith Optics, P.O. Box 2999, Ketchum, ID 83340.



Sports Carryall

AMF Voit announces the RBT10 Deluxe Sports Carryall the "two bags in one" carryall. The zippered outer bag is executed in navy blue nylon with white accents. Inside, the same motif carries over to a separate drawstring bag for wet clothing.

Exclusive horseshoe zipper design provides easy access, while a shoulder strap with leather-like patch assures comfortable handling.

Further information is available from AMF Voit, 3801 South Harbor Blvd., Santa Ana, CA 92704.



Actionwear Line Introduced

Bright and feminine fashion colors of turquoise and coral with accents of black, classic white and Mexicali pink highlight new women's actionwear introduced by Ektelon.

The line features eight new tops, and details include saddle raglan sleeves for freer movement in the upper arms and shoulders, striping in the collar and cuffs and sport snap fronts.

The shorts come in a variety of colors and styles, from solids in coral and turquoise to sporting variations with contrasting stripes down the leg. They are available with zipper fronts and snap enclosures, or elastic all-around waist.

Check your pro shop or contact Ektelon, 8929 Aero Dr., San Diego, CA 92123.



Ideal's Grip Tape

A new racquet grip tape has been introduced by Ideal Tape Company. It has been specially formulated to increase the player's gripping power.

The non-slip grip is achieved with a thin, 100-percent cotton tape that has a special cohesive coating that only sticks to itself.

Available in three colors, green, blue and tan, the tape is packaged 1½ inches wide by 10 yards long. Contact Ideal Tape Co., 1400 Middlesex St., Lowell, MA 01853, (617) 458-6833.



Foot-Joy's 3Q Shoe

Foot-Joy has introduced TUFFS 3Q, a three-quarter height racquetball shoe specifically designed to strengthen your game by providing increased ankle support.

TUFFS 3Q features a cushioned collar that firmly keeps the ankle comfortably in place. The double heel counter gives added heel support and improves rear foot control. TUFFS 3Q dual density sole provides both a long wearing, hard rubber outer sole, and a lightweight, shock-absorbing EVA midsole.

In addition, this shoe features suede leather that provides lateral support and stability, while nylon mesh uppers provide foot ventilation.

For more details write Foot-Joy, 144 Field Street, Brockton MA 02403.

Tournament Results

Wright/Trent, Kamahoahoa/Frenck Take National Doubles Titles

The 14th annual AARA National Doubles Tournament held October 27-30 at the Tyrone Racquetball Club in St. Petersburg, FL, saw Steve Trent and Stan Wright retaining their Men's Open title and Melia Kamahoahoa and Carol Frenck victors in the Women's Open division.

Both teams will go on to represent the U.S. in the World Championships, July 16-22, at Gleneagles Racquetball Club, Sacramento, CA.

Presented by Lite Beer from Miller and sponsored by D.P. Leach and Penn Athletic Company, the tournament boasted 270 competitors representing every state in the union.

San Diegans Wright and Trent faced Houstonians Mark Malowitz and Jeff Kwartler in the Men's Open finals. The scoring in game one went back and forth, with neither team surging to the front. The game saw a strong mixture of pinches and powerful passes with a rollout here and there.

At 16-16, Trent served and his team picked up number 17 on a pinch kill. The second serve produced another point on a booming pass by Wright. After a time out, point 19 came on an error. The next serve by Trent ended in a handout.

Wright's first service resulted in a passing winner from Trent, 20-16, before the side was retired.

Malowitz and Kwartler could produce only one point when they took over and with the score 20-17 Trent serving, the first rally produced a forced error, Wright and Trent taking the hard-fought game 21-17.

The second game got off to a fast start for Kwartler and Malowitz who jumped to an early 6-0 lead which they held to 8-3. From there it was all for the champs as they overcame the early Kwartler/Malowitz advantage to coast to the 21-13 second game win.

The top seeded Women's Open team of Kamahoahoa and Frenck struggled in the finals against Floridians Mary Halroyd and Gail Lauteria. The first game had Kamahoahoa and Frenck constantly throwing their opponents off balance to win 21-11.

Game two was close through the first 12 points, with numerous service exchanges. Halroyd's serve at 12-12 turned things in her team's favor as she and partner Lauteria were good for six points and an 18-12 lead. Kamahoahoa and Frenck managed three tallies on their serve, but that was it as the game ended with Halroyd and Lauteria winners at 21-15.

In the tie-breaker, Kamahoahoa and Frenck took control early and won going away, 11-2.

In the Men's 25+ division, Californians Mark Morrow and Bruce Radford had no trouble moving through the ranks to the championship round. Kwartler, playing two events, teamed with Mark Auerbach to reach the finals. Neither of these teams had lost a game enroute to the title match, and it was Morrow and Radford continuing the winning streak 21-18, 21-10.

In the Women's 25+ second seeded Molly O'Brien and Linda Kennedy of Pennsylvania dominated play, emerging with a 4-0 round robin record and the championship. Runners-up were Floridians Marilyn Miller and Janet Watts; third place went to Trudie Green and Fran Morris of Connecticut.

The championship match in the Men's 30+ division pitted Ed Remen and Johnny Hennon against Radford and Morrow in a showdown between two undefeated teams. The first game went to Radford and Morrow 21-10, but Remen and Hennon turned the tables in game two, 21-17. Radford and Morrow then captured the tie-breaker 11-8 to close out the two hour and 30 minute match, the longest of the tourney.

The top-seeded team of Marilyn Ross and Jeanine Farrell reached the finals of the Women's 30+ after a grueling three game match in the semi's with the Massachusetts tandem of Mimi Kelly and Vicky Edelman. The lower bracket had second-seeded Janet Simon and Linda Alba upset by Judy Schmidt and Lauteria who were unable to make it back-to-back upsets succumbing to Ross and Farrell in the championship match 21-9, 21-13. ●

AARA National Doubles

Results

Men's Open: 1st—Trent/Wright d. Malowitz/Kwartler 21-17, 21-13; 3rd—Gautier/Hansen

Men's 25+: 1st—Morrow/Radford d. Auerbach/Kwartler 21-18, 21-10; 3rd—Dubolsky/Pfahler

Men's 30+: 1st—Radford/Morrow d. Hennon/Remen 21-10, 17-21, 11-8; 3rd—Mazaroff/Lujan

Men's 35+: 1st—Hennon/Remen d. Icaza/Auerbach 21-10, 21-4; 3rd—McKie/Taylor

Men's 40+: 1st—Austin/Schmidtke d. Davis/Wayne 21-13, 17-21, 11-2; 3rd—Leon/Thomas

Men's 45+: 1st—Columbo/Talbot d. Winter/Shumer 21-15, 20-21, 11-7; 3rd—Seams/Morrow

Men's 50+: 1st—Waltz/Roy d. Mojer/Bonfleur 21-18, 21-11; 3rd—Schattner/Grapes

Men's 55+: 1st—Troyer/Karp d. Lamber/Sellers 21-12, 13-21, 11-8; 3rd—Erickson/Bruner

Men's 60+: 1st—Gumer/Zeitman; 2nd—Martinez/Sena; 3rd—Creamer/Schultz

Men's 65+: 1st—Harless/Gumer; 2nd—Creamer/Schultz

Women's Open: 1st—Frenck/Kamahoahoa d. Halroyd/Lauteria 21-11, 15-21, 11-2; 3rd—Morgan/Lyons

Women's 25+: 1st—Kennedy/O'Brien; 2nd—Miller/Watts; 3rd—Green/Morris

Women's 30+: 1st—Ross/Farrell d. Schmidt/Lauteria 21-9, 21-13; 3rd—Kelly/Edelman

Women's 35+: 1st—Frenck/Gwinn; 2nd—Edelman/Kelly; 3rd—Laney/Schmidt

Tournament Results

Air Force Dominates 1983 Interservice Championships

1983 Interservice Championships

by Joe Mulkerrin

Capturing five out of the possible six first-place positions, the U.S. Air Force team rolled to victory over elite teams from the U.S. Navy, Army and Marine Corps in the 1983 Interservice Racquetball Championships October 16-21 at the Ace of Clubs at Greenbrier, Chesapeake, VA.

Louis Souther of Los Angeles Air Force Base, CA slammed the best two out of three games against David Bernacki, Reese Air Force Base, TX to take the gold medal in a battle of two Air Force players in the Men's Open Singles division.

Barbara Faulkenberry, Warner-Robins Air Force Base, GA, perennial ladies champion, repeated her crown by stopping Shauna Lacey of Camp New Air Force Base, Amsterdam, Netherlands.

Full ceremonial honors were accorded the athletes at the opening ceremonies to the tournament. On hand to welcome the participants were Mayor Sidney M. Oman of Chesapeake, David Wynne, president of Chesapeake's Chamber of Commerce, and Captain John A. Carbonne, Commanding Officer of Naval Amphibious Base, Little Creek, VA, which, as host command, provided a 25 piece honor guard.

Each service team consisted of 10 players—four men's open players, four men's senior players, and two open women's players. The full week of competition included double elimination in both singles and doubles categories. The Air Force rode its five victories to 71 team points, outdistancing second place Army (54 points), third place Navy (30 points) and fourth place Marines (15).

Top-seeded Robert Ellis, Lackland Air Force Base, TX took the gold medal in the Men's Senior Division over Army's Dave Arnold, Kaiserlauten, West Germany.

Bernacki avenged his finals loss in the Men's Open Singles by teaming with Robert O'Brien, also from Reese, to take the Men's Open Doubles crown over Army's Fred Menhe, Fort Sam Houston, TX and Billy Jackson, Fort Bragg, NC.



The All-Air Force team: (Front, l. to r.) Robert Ellis, Shauna Lacey, Chief Msgt. Lackey, Barbara Faulkenberry, James Saunders; (Back, l. to r.) Dayton Dickey, Robert O'Brien, Lewis Souther, George Hegerty, John Fuhrmann, David Bernacki



The All-Army team: (Front, l. to r.) Glen Vanderpool, Felix Acosta, Jaclyn Yzaquirre, Belinda Rhodes, Fred Menhe; (Back, l. to r.) Kevin Dorr, David Arnold, Lew Washington, Billy Jackson, Ellis Walthour



The All-Navy team: (Front, l. to r.) Roy Jackson, Ralph Worthington, Karen Dunigan, Dr. William A. Fleming, Lisa Dunigan, Rick Rangel, Roy Buell; (Back, l. to r.) Glen Allen, Rob McDonald, Blacks B. Wood, Carl Crown



The All-Marine team: (Front, l. to r.) Reb Brown, Fernando Gambirazo, Lt. Brinn, Kimberly Skielnik, Donald Acklin; (Back, l. to r.) Angel Sandoval, Rickey Inninger, Kris Koch, Richard Melim, Steve Bernard, Mark Maffei

Individual Results:

Men's Open Singles

Semi-finals: Souther d. Bernacki 21-9, 20-21, 11-1; Bernacki d. Vanderpool 21-12, 21-16

Finals: Souther d. Bernacki 19-21, 21-13, 11-6

Women's Open Singles

Semi-finals: Faulkenberry d. Lacey 21-12, 21-4; Lacey d. Yzaquirre 4-21, 21-13, 11-1

Finals: Faulkenberry d. Lacey 21-12, 21-4

Men's Senior Singles

Semi-finals: Arnold d. Worthington 21-11, 21-20; Ellis d. Worthington 21-14, 21-16

Finals: Ellis d. Arnold, forfeit

Men's Open Doubles

Semi-finals: Bernacki/O'Brien d. Menhe/Jackson 21-14, 21-13; Menhe/Jackson d. Walthour/Vanderpool 21-13, 21-18

Finals: Bernacki/O'Brien d. Menhe/Jackson 10-21, 21-6, 11-9

Women's Open Doubles

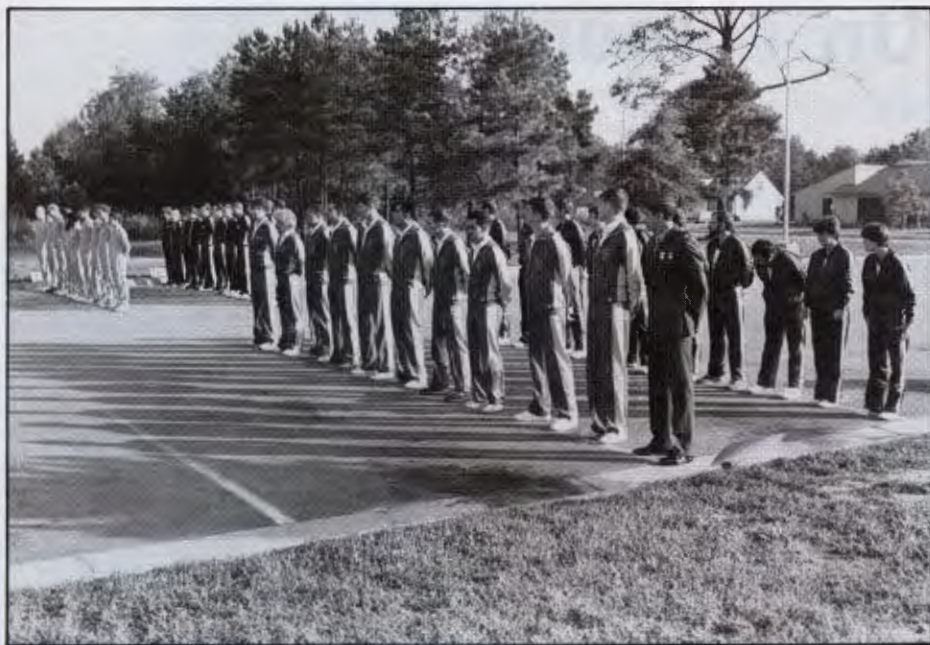
Semi-finals: Faulkenberry/Lacey d. Nicholson/Dunigan 21-10, 21-13; Nicholson/Dunigan d. Rhodes/Yzaquirre 21-13, 17-21, 11-8

Finals: Faulkenberry/Lacey d. Nicholson/Dunigan 20-21, 21-6, 11-3

Men's Senior Doubles

Semi-finals: Worthington/Crown d. Dorr/Arnold 21-12, 18-21, 11-8; Arnold/Dorr d. Ellis/Dickey 21-7, 21-9

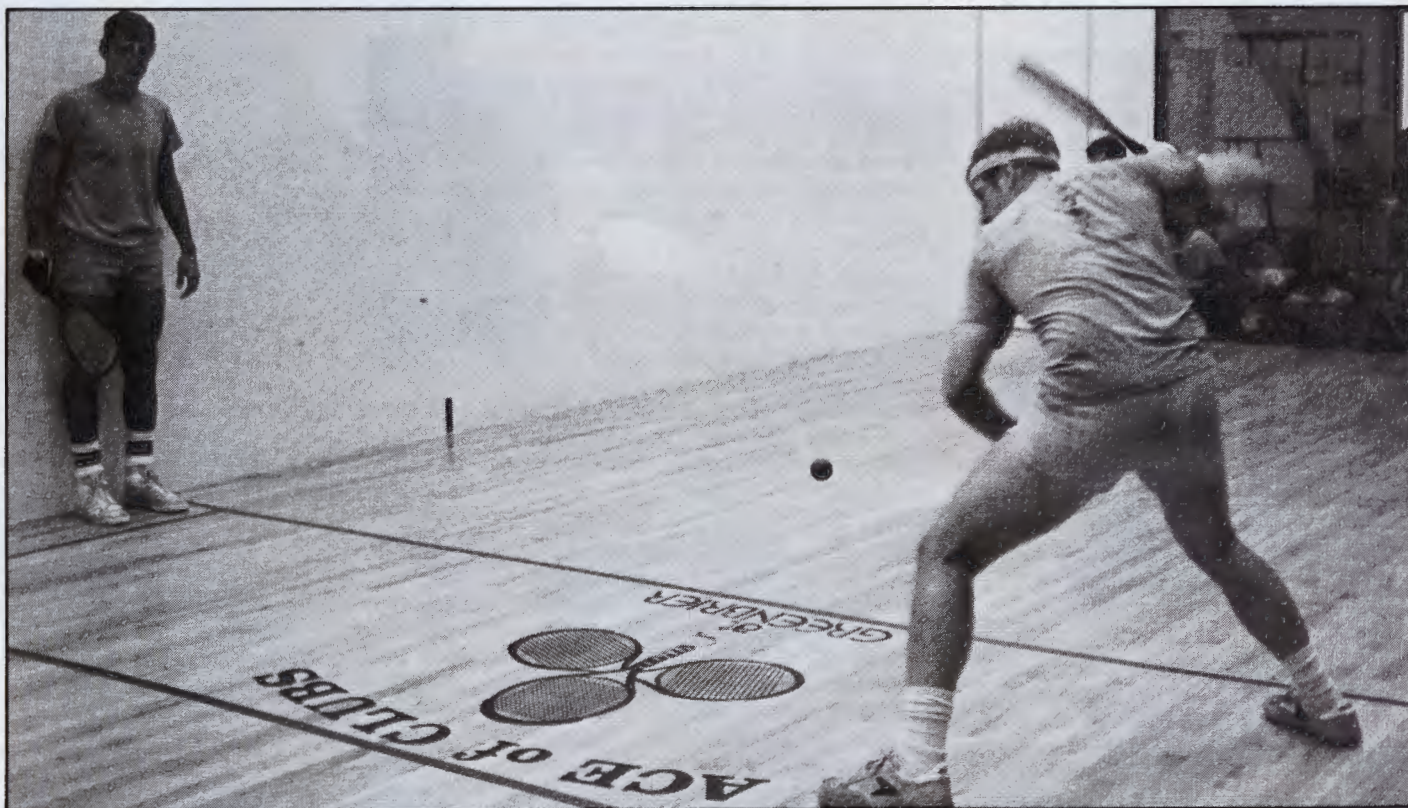
Finals: Worthington/Crown d. Dorr/Arnold 17-21, 21-17, 11-4



Opening ceremonies find the service teams standing ready as they prepare to "do battle" on the court.

Team Results:

1st—U.S. Air Force	71 points
2nd—U.S. Army	54 points
3rd—U.S. Navy	30 points
4th—U.S. Marine Corps	15 points



Robert O'Brien, Air Force, prepares to serve in the Men's Open Doubles finals as his partner, David Bernacki, stands ready. O'Brien/Bernacki won the doubles championship.

Faulkenberry, showing her annual dominance of women's racquetball in the service, teamed with Lacey to take the Women's Open Doubles title over the Navy team of Karen Dunigan, Lemoore, CA and Lisa Nicholson, NAS Pensacola, FL.

The Ace of Clubs, which also hosted the all-Navy preliminary competition 10 days earlier, was the first commercial facility to host this important inter-service competition. With nine courts, Polaris fitness center, sun bed, jacuzzi, saunas, steam rooms, and restaurant, the Ace of Clubs proved to be a superb and deserving host to such an outstanding group of servicemen and women. ●

Tournament Results

Costa Rica: Un Torneo

(A Tournament To Remember)

by Carole George

"Viva la difference," say the French, but in Latin America you experience it.

During the Pan-American racquetball championships, held in San Jose, Costa Rica October 9-14, the United States Amateur team got to experience the difference for the first time. In the two previous international tournaments, the competitors had met the U.S. on our home turf, but this was the first time the "Norteamericanos" went abroad.

On the court, the U.S. team felt right at home, despite the newly laid dark brown floors and the smell of fresh paint. A kill shot is a kill shot in any country and the North Americans had no trouble finding that spot a few inches above the floor, from anywhere on the court.

But off the court was a different experience altogether—from dealing in a foreign language and foreign currency, to sampling exotic foods and stomach disorders, to bringing home a sunburn from a tropical beach. Not exactly your average racquetball weekend!

In addition to the U.S., eight Latin American countries were represented in the second annual "Torneo de la Raza" (Tournament of the Race): Costa Rica, Honduras, Guatemala, Bolivia, Columbia, Panama, Dominican Republic and Mexico. The skill level in these third world countries was surprisingly strong, considering the fact that they know about as little about racquetball in the U.S. as we know about racquetball south of the border.

With practically no instruction, no books, no magazines, no videos of the sport, and limited facilities in every meaning of the word, the Latinos were able to convince the "gringos" that very soon they will be a real threat in international competition. But for now it was still the U.S. team that took home all the top honors.

The first Latino to really gain attention was Gustavo Retamozo, 20, who pushed Dan Ferris, the USA's biggest gun, to a tie-breaker in three close and exciting games. While the American team had its expenses covered by sponsors Penn, DP Leach, Levi-Strauss, and Lite Beer from Miller, the majority of the other teams paid their own way to Costa Rica, plus hotel and meals.

Retamozo, who works in a restaurant in La Paz, Bolivia, had played "paletas" since the age of four or five and was four-time national champion in both singles and doubles. He is also the national handball champion. So when his boss, Eduardo de Rada, introduced him to racquetball five months ago, it was love at first shot.

It may be a long time before Retamozo can make any money in Bolivia in racquetball, but at least it provided him with the chance to travel outside his own country—something he had never done before.

"I'm very happy because this is the second time I've ever been outside of my country," commented Retamozo with the help of an interpreter. The first time was the "Torneo Independencia de Columbia" in July, which he won by upsetting Costa Rica's Enrique "Chino" Carranza in the finals. This time he travelled all the way to Costa Rica to finish fourth, just behind three Americans.

However, because of random seeding, Retamozo never had to play against Dave Peck's proteges from Juarez, Mexico: Federico Alvarez and Raul Canales. Bolivia's team was the only one to have their expenses paid by a sponsor—\$1500 for each of the four men, courtesy of the American-Bolivian Bank and the Cibo Company.

In one respect the Latin Americans have a long way to go before they catch up with the U.S.: the women. In most of the countries there are many women playing, but the reason that only 12 out of the 72 players were women (and seven of those were on the U.S. team) is cultural. Latinas are not likely to compete seriously in sports and, even if they do, they're not likely to receive financial support from either family or sponsor in order to travel to tournaments.

Costa Rica had a good showing of women, mainly because they didn't have to leave home. But they are also an exception because both Gabriela Pozuela and Silvia Portuguez competed in the North American Championships held in Stockton, CA, and they plan to compete in the World Championships

Silvia Portuguez, Costa Rica's numero uno, three time national champ.



in Sacramento, CA in July, 1984. Mexico had a women's team at the first World Championships in July '81 and at the North Americans, but due to finances they had no women in Costa Rica.

"We think we can do pretty well in Sacramento," predicted Rudolfo Echeverria, the president of the Costa Rican Racquetball Association, *"because we have a strong women's team. When Silvia was travelling in Europe she beat some of the top women over there."*

The only other woman to participate this time was Blanca Novoa of Columbia. In fact, Novoa was the only non-Costa Rican to have played both years in the Torneo de la Raza. She was presented with a trophy of appreciation by Echeverria. Even though Novoa felt she could have played better after losing all three of her round robin matches (the draw was divided into groups of four and then the top finishers in each round robin were put randomly into an open draw), she had a fantastic time throughout the week.

"Estoy contenta" (I am contented), she said at the conclusion of the tournament.

The Costa Rican tournament was definitely a tournament to be remembered, but not so much because of who played who and how each one finished.

Marianne and Han Vander Heijden, president of the International Amateur Racquetball Federation listen attentively although Spanish is not one of the five languages that either of them speaks. The Vander Heijdens flew from their home in Holland to Costa Rica for a meeting of the World Games Council.



Instead, the thing that really made it special was the international camaraderie and the friendships that developed between "amigos" from different countries.

Held in Central America, which has long been known for turmoil and conflict, this tournament was like an oasis of international peace and good will. Even the language barrier proved to be no real barrier because it was usually possible to find someone bilingual (generally a Latino), or to get the point across "with hands and feet" (a favorite expression in German).

Although the tournament didn't provide hospitality in the usual tournament definition (providing food and drink throughout the weekend), the hospitality of the Costa Ricans was incredible. They organized an outing for the Americans to a volcano, took the players into their homes for parties and get-togethers, supplemented the hired shuttle with their own cars to transport players to restaurants, shopping, and sight seeing.

One of the highlights of the week was the trip to "la playa" (the beach). There were no matches scheduled for the day, so at 7 a.m. all of the players were loaded into a bus and the food and drinks were loaded into a jeep. Thus began the two-hour drive through lush, green mountains to the Pacific Coast. The drive probably could have been shorter, but with all the beer stops, and consequent pit stops, the beach seemed to always linger just out of reach.



It was well worth the wait! Especially to the old-timers like Americans Stan Wright, Steve Trent, and Dan Ferris (40 years of racquetball experience between them) who laid back in the crystal clear, bath-temperature water, looked up to the white sand, lazy palms and blue skies, and said, "Now, racquetball ain't such a bad sport after all."

Another big event was the awards banquet. Again, this was a new experience for the U.S. team. It was held in a large patio with live Latin music and the hors d'oeuvres and drinks were constantly replenished.

Instead of trophies, all of the winners were presented with wooden wall clocks, inscribed in Spanish. Luke St.

Torneo De La Raza '83

San Jose, Costa Rica

Nations Tournament: 1st—USA; 2nd—Costa Rica; 3rd—Colombia; 4th—Mexico; 5th—Bolivia; 6th-8th—Guatemala, Dominican Republic, Honduras, Panama

Men's Open: 1st—Dan Ferris, USA; 2nd—Ray Navarro, USA; 3rd—Jim Cascio, USA; 4th—Gustavo Retamozo, Bolivia

Women's Open: 1st—Cindy Baxter, USA; 2nd—Malia Kamahoahoa, USA; 3rd—Trina Rasmussen, USA; 4th—Silvia Portuquez, Costa Rica

Men's Doubles: 1st—Wright/Trent, USA; 2nd—Sanchez/Guzman, Colombia; 3rd—Alvarez/Canales, Mexico; 4th—Echeverria/Calderon, Costa Rica

Women's Doubles: 1st—Latini/Hajjar, USA; 2nd—Portuquez/Leiva, Costa Rica

Senior Doubles: 1st—Serrano/Ayub, Costa Rica; 2nd—Gomez/Mata, Costa Rica; 3rd—List/Ibarnegaray, Costa Rica/Bolivia

It's time for a beer transfusion stop on the way to "La Playa."

Onge, executive director of the AARA, had warned all of the countries beforehand that they would be called upon to serenade the other teams, as part of a tradition which began at the North American Championships.

So it was with teary eyes at the end of the evening that everyone said "adios" to their new "amigos." As much as they may have felt that they were leaving something behind, the players were also taking alot with them: the memories, the addresses to visit and write, the t-shirts and pins they'd traded for during late night bidding in the hotel lobby, and a sincere promise to try to make it to the 1984 World Championships in Sacramento, CA, in July for more good times. ●

—photos by Carole George

Tournament Results

Florida

Holiday Courtrooms
Ft. Lauderdale, FL, July 8-10

Men's Open: 1st—Sergio Gonzalez; 2nd—Fred Calabrese; 3rd—Bubba Gautier; 4th—Tim Hansen

Quarter-finalists: John Ehrihe, Steve Miragliotta, Tico Fernandez, Jeff Bales

Women's Open: 1st—Melanie Britton; 2nd—Debbie Bedell; 3rd—Lynda Kuchenreuther; 4th—Nancy Hornack

Quarter-finalists: Agatha Falso and Denise Bissett

Men's A: 1st—John Ehrihe; 2nd—Tom Rothstein; 3rd—Mike Craft; 4th—John Whaley

Quarter-finalists: Ken Girandy, Tom Strang, Tom Macenan, Jeff Hunter

Men's B: 1st—Thao Tran; 2nd—John Rowlee; 3rd—Craig Powell; 4th—John Garcia

Quarter-finalists: Danny Palov, Joe Didonato, Oscar Gonzalez, Ken Girandy

Men's C: 1st—Tony Sansone; 2nd—Joe Sanchez; 3rd—Peter Nehr; 4th—Rich Alvarez

Quarter-finalists: Steve Feldman, Arseno Amat, Pete Walker, Bob Willis

Women's B: 1st—Cherisse Sansone; 2nd—Linda Icaza; 3rd—Agatha Falso; 4th—Denise Bessette

Quarter-finalists: Michelle Dorsey, Kathy Johnson, Connie Prescott, Libby Laney

Women's C: 1st—Cheryl Atherly; 2nd—Joe Kenyon; 3rd—Libby Laney; 4th—Nancy O'Donnell

Quarter-finalists: Bonnie Powlowski, Joan Purdy, MaryBeth Linne, Rena McFadden

Men's Novice: 1st—Lino Swarez; 2nd—Ed DiGiorgio; 3rd—Ross Jarrett; 4th—James Victor

Women's Novice: 1st—Irene Dumas; 2nd—Joan Purdy; 3rd—Denise Morin; 4th—Angela Sether

Men's 35 +

1st—Joe Icaza; 2nd—Jeff Leon; 3rd—Pete Jonas; 4th—Mike Slow

Men's 45 +

1st—Dennis David; 2nd—Tim McCawley; 3rd—Leo Kuchenreuther; 4th—Chuck Prince

Men's Open Doubles

1st—Icaza/Gonzales; 2nd—Hansen/Gautier; 3rd—Koran/Miragliotta; 4th—Fernandez/Calabrese

Men's B Doubles

1st—Jonas/Ross; 2nd—Palov/Bedek; 3rd—Didonato/Binnix; 4th—Nynstrom/Cunningham

Women's Doubles

1st—Hornack/Kuchenreuther; 2nd—Bedell/McFadden; 3rd—Atherly/Aloi; 4th—Brinegar/Brinegar

Women's C: 1st—Kathy Hannon; 2nd—Beuky Stevens; 3rd (Tie)—Debra Dunahoo, Mary Dupuis

Quarter-finalists: B. J. Boro, Dyan Meier, C. C. Landress, Janice Martin

Men's Novice: 1st—Elgin Hoggard; 2nd—James Wilson; 3rd—Herb Scott; 4th—Phil Carpenter

Women's Novice: 1st—Kim Emerson; 2nd—Harriet Gold; 3rd—Cheryl Dailey; 4th—Patty Gonzalez

Senior Open: 1st—Joe Pappatera; 2nd—Otto Dietrich; 3rd (Split)—Nareh Khana, Dick Kellum

Senior C: 1st—Mike Hill; 2nd—Hugh Valentine; 3rd—Gene Lovely; 4th—Chuck Bagley

12 & Under Jr.: 1st—Patrick Mikos; 2nd—Bill Willard; 3rd—(Split)—Ernie Mikos, Heather Mikos

Open Doubles: 1st—Mende/Turner; 2nd—Boone/Vincent; 3rd (Split)—Caristi/Tidd, Gries/Hamby

Men's A Doubles: 1st—Caristi/Luque; 2nd—Brooks/O'Brien; 3rd—Wiegard/Winters; 4th—Dietrich/Kellum

Men's B Doubles: 1st—Shoman/Smith; 2nd—Spink/White; 3rd (Split)—Chavis/McKay, Daniels/Watkins

Georgia

Georgia Peach Classic
Suwanee Georgia — Falcons
Suwanee, GA, August 12-14

Men's Open

1st—B. Titus; 2nd—D. Bledsoe; 3rd/4th—J. Cullen, T. Kimbrough

Quarter-finalists: S. Rollins, B. Turner, D. Sears, C. Muller

Women's Open

1st—Susan Sanders; 2nd—K. Donofrio; 3rd/4th—M. Adams, C. Healy

Men's A

1st—B. Pearson; 2nd—R. Weber; 3rd/4th—S. Smith, D. Gale

Quarter-finalists: L. Hall, T. Jaekle, A. Hotz, R. Sturken

Men's B

1st—D. Harrison; 2nd—R. Sturken; 3rd—R. Viers; 4th—T. Coutur

Quarter-finalists: D. Walker, J. Schonemann, W. Nigro, T. Trochek

Men's C

1st—Dave Brackin; 2nd—F. Topolski; 3rd—J. Cotten; 4th—A. Turem

Quarter-finalists: P. Maher, J. Weems, R. Amores, H. Cohn

Women's A

1st—Robin Midgett; 2nd—Marg Light; 3rd—Cindi Branch; 4th—Kim Bryant

Women's B

1st—T. Wright; 2nd—K. Piccone; 3rd—C. Branch; 4th—J. Brennan

Quarter-finalists: J. Freeman, J. Hamel, R. Coulson, D. Dunahoo

Women's C

1st—P. Lisska; 2nd—N. Russom; 3rd—M. Sturken; 4th—J. Appling

Quarter-finalists: T. Walker, A. Harris, J. Tieslau, S. Hall

Men's Novice

1st—J. Gaines; 2nd—B. Jucks; 3rd—D. Brookins; 4th—M. Flanagan

Women's Novice

1st—Sharon Glenn; 2nd—Ann Jackson; 3rd—S. Swann; 4th—J. Lewis

Men's Senior Open 40 +

1st—W. Vincent; 2nd—H. Jones; 3rd—H. Hilliard; 4th—D. Walker

Men's Open 50 +

1st—G. Litsky; 2nd—J. Arem; 3rd—C. McIntosh; 4th—B. Billingsly

Men's Masters Open 45 +

1st—D. Kellum; 2nd—H. Jones; 3rd—T. Barbaris; 4th—B. Billingsly

Men's Jr. Vets Open

1st—D. Sears; 2nd—K. Semenas; 3rd/4th—T. Kimbrough, S. Rollins

Florida

Florida State Doubles
Tyrone Racquetball Club
St. Petersburg, FL, August 26-28

Men's Open

Finals: Icaza/Gonzales d. Hansen/Gautier, 21-15, 21-8; **Third:** Dubolsky/Pfahler

Women's Open

Finals: Pinnell/Lauteria d. Miller/Watts (forfeit); **Third:** Collins/Hamrick

Men's B

Finals: St. Lawrence/Welch d. Scimecca/Piwniczka, 8-21, 21-20, 11-9; **Third:** Johns/Hopkins

Men's C

Finals: Jordan/Stratton d. Conti/Colacci, 21-18, 21-17; **Third:** Nolan/May

Women's B

Finals: Losano/Egleston d. Foist/Horne, 21-15, 21-15; **Third:** Aloi/Atherly

Women's C

Finals: Afford/Aford d. Hensley/Holder, 21-16, 19-21, 11-6; **Third:** Anderson/Chaney

Men's 25 +

Finals: Owens/Ruffing d. Pfahler/Jones, 21-19, 21-13; **Third:** Cottrill/Taylor

Men's 30 +

Finals: Marsocci/Owens d. Zetrouer/Dubolsky, 21-14, 21-7; **Third:** McDonald/Deegan

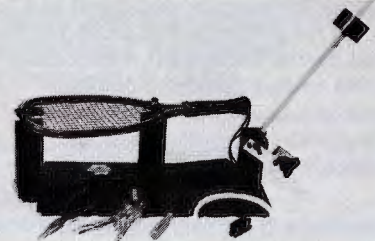
Men's 35 +

Finals: Icaza/Leon d. Shaak/Ariet, 21-8, 21-13; **Third:** Handley/Mojer

Men's 40 +

Finals: Shaak/Ariet d. Ross/Afford, 21-6, 21-16; **Third:** Leon/Xynidis

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RCP

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Georgia

People Classic
Stone Mountain Athletic Club
Atlanta, GA, July 22-24

Men's Open: 1st—David Griese; 2nd—David Mende; 3rd (Tie)—Billy Turner, Wayne Vincent

Women's Open: 1st—Susan Sanders; 2nd—Vicki Luque; 3rd—Brenda Lepley; 4th—Karen Donofrio

Men's A: 1st—Jonathan Winters; 2nd—Gary Tyler; 3rd—Curtis Price; 4th—Steve Wiegano

Quarter-finalists: Mike Brooks, Roger Luque, Tom Little, Rusty Sturken

Men's B: 1st—David Hamby; 2nd—Steve White; 3rd (Tie)—Mack Viers, Mike O'Brien

Quarter-finalists: David Brakin, Charles Crow, Jay Heap, Cliff Shuman

Men's C: 1st—Neil Trice; 2nd—Mike Baccieri; 3rd—John Phan; 4th—Jerry Williams

Quarter-finalists: Peter Stevens, Phil McElhaney, Tony Landis, Wayne Rucker

Women's A: 1st—Letha Daniel; 2nd—Carrie Healy; 3rd—Sara Hannon; 4th—Kerri Williams

Open Mixed

Finals: Pinnell/Dubolsky d. Pfahler/Hamrick, 21-17, 10-21, 11-6; **Third:** Cotrill/Sotello

B Mixed

Finals: Heshel/Cashion d. Brett-Williams/Anderson, 12-21, 21-14, 11-7

Oregon

1983 State Fair Tourney
Courthouse Fitness Center South
Salem, OR, September 1-4, 1983

Men's Pro Open: Larson d. Dunn

Men's A: Ilnicki d. Miller

Men's B: O'Reilly d. Bilusak

Men's C: Saboe d. Vela

Men's D: Mayorga d. Salsbery

Men's Novice: Shriver d. Blumenkron

Men's Seniors 35+: Wallace d. Jahn

Men's Masters 40+: Harris d. Howard

Woman's A: Peohlmán d. Hyne

Women's B: LaCount d. Hedrick

Women's C: Knecht d. Casey

Women's D/Novice: Birrer d. Kurz

Men's Pro-Open Doubles: Larson/Marcus d.
Boyce/Rasmussen

Men's A/B/C Doubles: Thompson/Barney d.
Camus/Oberkamper

Men's Veteran Doubles: Breckenridge/Westwood d.
Bone/Gardner

Mixed Doubles: Chamberlin/Ryan d. Egesdahl/Jones

Florida

Racquetball Round-Up '83
Miami Lakes Athletic Club
Miami Lakes, FL, September 9-11

Men's Open Singles

Finals: Sergio Gonzales d. Fred Calabrese 21-15, 21-16;
Third: Bubba Gautier d. Tim Hansen

Women's Open Singles

Finals: Brenda Barrett d. Mary Lyons 21-9, 21-19; **Third:** Sue
Morgan d. Maria Armantrent

Men's B Singles

Finals: Rafael Fuentes d. Oscar Gonzales 21-17, 10-21, 11-4;
Third: Fred Sherbinsky d. Kurt Nystrom

Men's C Singles

Finals: Mike Altman d. Lino Suarez 21-7, 21-16; **Third:** Joey
Miragliotta d. John Mann

Women's B Singles

Finals: Carol Andrus d. Beth Aloï 21-16, 21-2; **Third:** Joni
Brinegar d. Elizabeth Brinegar

Men's Open Doubles

Finals: S. Gonzales/J. Ehring d. T. Hansen/B. Gautier, 21-17,
21-13; **Third:** M. Barrett/S. Miragliotta d. R. Pfahler/
V. Dubolsky

Men's B Doubles

Finals: J. Ross/J. Ross d. O. Gonzales/K. Nystrom, 21-5,
21-15; **Third:** Maysonett/Shane d. Micklanzina/Upton

Open Mixed Doubles

Finals: D. Bullar/F. Calabrese d. M. Dejourney/B. Barrett
21-19, 15-21, 11-9; **Third:** R. Pfahler/S. Morgan d. V. Dubasky/
M. Lyons

Pennsylvania

3rd Annual Courthouse Classic
Johnstown, PA, September 9-11

Men's Open

Semi-finalists: Diettrick, Emes

1st — Obremski; **2nd** — Pillion

Women's Open

1st — Upson; **2nd** — Conway; **3rd** — Vojtko; **4th** — Beck

Men's B

Semi-finalists: Conway, Thomas

1st — Vojtko; **2nd** — McCutcheon

Men's C

Semi-finalists: Shank, Goble

1st — DiBartola; **2nd** — Hohman

Women's B

Semi-finalists: Vojtko, Meyers

1st — Beck; **2nd** — Cascino

Women's C

Semi-finalists: Drager, Campbell

1st — Shank; **2nd** — Fasick

Men's Novice

Semi-finalists: Lewandowski, Orr

1st — Coward; **2nd** — Paul

Women's Novice

Semi-finalists: Seebold, Drager

1st — Ringler; **2nd** — Reynolds

Men's Sr. 35+

Semi-finalists: Thomas, Hohman



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San Jose, California

Massachusetts

The International Challenge
Racquetball International
Seekonk, MA, September 10-11, 1983

Women's A: Burlingame d. Alba

Women's B: Allen d. Whittet

Women's C: Santamaria d. Hammond

Women's Novice: Siebert d. Joly

Men's Seniors: Indelicato d. Gully

Men's A: Dogan d. Drew

Men's B: Ramos d. Ventriglia

Men's C: Burman d. Foley

Men's A/B Doubles: Swain/St. Onge d. Coeman/Ushkernis

Men's C Doubles: Chace/Letizia d. Casavan/Gunderson

Men's Novice: Gunderson d. Cabana

Semi-finals: Andrews d. Texiera 12-15, 15-5, 15-14; Conine d. Mack 8-15, 15-9, 15-7

Finals: Conine d. Andrews 15-13, 15-10

Women's Open

Semi-finals: Drexler d. Zahn 15-4, 14-15, 15-5; Donnelly d. Clifford 11-15, 15-10, 15-13

Finals: Donnelly d. Drexler 14-15, 15-14, 15-10

Men's B

Quarter-finals: Chastain d. Penman; Lerner d. Markley; Doherty d. Labollita; Riggs d. Foster

Semi-finals: Chastain d. Lerner 15-10, 7-15, 15-13; Riggs d. Doherty 15-11, 15-9

Finals: Riggs d. Chastain 15-9, 15-10

Women's B

Quarter-finals: May d. Pijlo; Preston d. Smith; Favour d. Vasquez; Pierson d. Brown

Semi-finals: Preston d. May 15-14, 15-7; Pierson d. Favour 15-4, 15-5

Finals: Pierson d. Preston 15-4, 15-9

Men's C

Quarter-finals: Johnson d. May; Riley d. Anascavage; Davis d. Hanyon; Delapp d. Trejo

Semi-finals: Riley d. Davis 15-2, 15-10; Delapp d. Johnson 15-9, 15-12

Finals: Riley d. Delapp 15-13, 15-11

Women's C

Quarter-finals: Mulvanna d. Taaffe; Smith d. Seitz; Medina d. Mihaylo; Robertson d. Conlyn

Semi-finals: Smith d. Mulvanna 15-1, 15-11; Robertson d. Medina 9-15, 15-12, 15-10

Finals: Robertson d. Smith 15-12, 15-14

Men's Novice

Quarter-finals: Carvale d. Wynn; Morrison d. Fiolla; Poolittle d. Zielonko; Turner d. Carrasco

Semi-finals: Carvale d. Morrison 15-1, 15-10; Turner d. Poolittle, 15-9, 15-9

Finals: Turner d. Carvale 15-10, 15-14

Women's Novice

Semi-finals: Conlyn d. Seitz 15-6, 15-2; Begin d. Bernier 15-7, 15-6

Finals: Conlyn d. Begin 4-15, 15-7, 15-4

Men's Beginner Novice

Quarter-finals: Soursby d. Cygan; Arnett d. Kasas; Logue d. Varrato; Voss d. Cotrell

Semi-finals: Soursby d. Arnett 15-6, 15-14; Voss d. Logue 15-8, 11-15, 15-4

Finals: Soursby d. Voss 15-5, 15-11

Women's Beginner Novice

Semi-finals: Begin d. Serr 15-8, 15-9; Traylor d. Dewulf 15-7, 15-10

Finals: Begin d. Traylor 2-15, 15-12, 15-14

Men's Seniors (35 +)

Quarter-finals: Fearing d. Combs; Gotlieb d. Zielonko; Starkman d. Delapp; Bellah d. Stoeckel

Semi-finals: Fearing d. Gotlieb; Bellah d. Starkman

Finals: Bellah d. Fearing 15-1, 15-2

Men's Master (45 +)

Quarter-finals: Lerner d. Quanstrom; Zielonko d. Turner; Hapner d. Shultz; Wetzel d. Duda

Semi-finals: Lerner d. Zielonko; Wetzel d. Hapner

Finals: Wetzel d. Lerner 12-15, 15-3, 15-5

Men's Open Doubles

Quarter-finals: Sell/Harding d. Martinez/Jensen 15-10, 15-3; R.O. Carson/Barker d. Mack/Sheffield 15-11, 15-14; Conine/Southern d. Texiera/Drexler 15-10, 13-15, 15-7; J. Carson/Chadwick d. Johnson/Johnson 15-9, 15-8

Semi-finals: Sell/Harding d. R.O. Carson/Barker 15-8, 15-11; Conine/Southern d. J. Carson/Chadwick 6-15, 15-8, 15-7

Finals: Sell/Harding d. Conine/Southern 15-6, 15-11

California

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Racquetball Shootout
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Irvine, CA, September 14-18
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Director: Scott Winters

Men's Open

Quarter-finals: Andrews d. Sheffield; Texiera d. Southern;
Conine d. Larsin; Mack d. Green

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Tennessee

The Fourth Annual Camelot Music
Open Tournament
Nashville Supreme Court
Nashville, TN, September 16-17

Men's A: Roberts d. Jeffers 15-6, 15-9
Women's A: Collins d. Wyatt 15-10, 15-6
Men's B: New d. Berry 15-14, 15-11
Women's B: Given d. Archer 15-1, 15-8
Men's C: Johnson d. Rodgers 15-12, 12-15, 11-10
Women's C: Medalle D. Given 15-8, 15-7
Men's D: Decker d. Edmunds 15-12, 15-4
Women's D: Chastain d. Reid 15-6, 15-5
Men's Novice: Wilkes d. Sparkman 15-3, 15-4
Women's Novice: Maywald d. Palmer 15-4, 15-13
Seniors: Alderman d. Evans 5-15, 5-12, 11-3
Junior Vets: Harman d. Heard 5-15, 15-6
Men's A Doubles: Cowell/Roberts d. Jeffers/Elkins 15-8, 15-11
Men's B Doubles: Deer/Kissner d. Harris/Gammons 15-5, 15-12
Men's C Doubles: Litowkin/Doyle d. Dixon/Coker 15-1, 15-13

Ohio

3rd Annual Kettering Klassic
Oak Creek Racquetball Club
Kettering, OH, September 16-18
Sponsor: Jim Hooghe
Agent: State Farm Insurance
Tournament Directors: Jim & Linda Hooghe

Men's Semi-Pro

Semi-finals: Newman d. Bartlett 15-11, 15-0; Clifford d. Vantrease 15-14, 15-7

Finals: Newman d. Clifford 14-15, 15-5, 11-3

Women's Semi-Pro

Semi-finals: Kuhfeld d. Callahan 15-6, 15-8; Pritchett d. Mar-
das 15-6, 10-15, 11-7

Finals: Pritchett d. Kuhfeld 15-9, 10-15, 11-6

Men's Open

Semi-finals: Webster d. Shoemaker 15-3, 15-14; Clark d. Lillis
15-5, 15-0

Finals: Clark D. Webster 15-12, 15-9

Men's A

Semi-finals: Webster d. Drye 4-15, 15-10, 11-9; Krug d. McNutt
15-5, 15-10

Finals: Webster d. Krug 13-15, 15-9, 11-8

Women's A

Semi-finals: Baxter d. Kovanda 15-8, 15-5; Niggemyer d.
Daugherty, 15-4, 15-13

Finals: Niggemyer d. Baxter 15-2, 15-1

Men's B

Semi-finals: Figlar d. Zile 15-11, 15-12; Hamby d. Foster 15-1,
4-15, 11-1

Finals: Figlar d. Hamby 15-13, 15-5

Women's B

Semi-finals: Otto d. Turner 15-4, 15-7; Hannon d. Sheets 15-4,
15-1

Finals: Hanon d. Otto 15-14, 15-13

Men's C

Semi-finals: Spencer d. Romito 15-11, 15-9; Clevenger d. Har-
rell, 15-7, 15-1

Finals: Spencer d. Clevenger 5-15, 15-9, 11-4

Women's C

Semi-finals: Wiseman d. McKee 15-3, 15-10; Richardson d.
Upton 15-2, 14-15, 11-9

Finals: Wiseman d. Richardson 15-8, 15-12

Men's Novice

Semi-finals: Thompson d. Ross 15-2, 15-2; Pritchett d. Martin
15-9, 15-3

Finals: Pritchett d. Thompson 7-15, 15-2, 11-2

Women's Novice

Semi-finals: Crews d. Freeman 15-6, 15-8; Young d. Hooghe
0-15, 15-7, 11-4

Finals: Crews d. Young 15-1, 15-7

Men's Seniors

Semi-finals: Metteer d. Worrell 15-10, 15-6; Pritchett d.
Spence 12-15, 15-4, 11-3

Finals: Pritchett d. Metteer 15-12, 8-15, 11-9

Men's Open Doubles

Semi-finals: Vantrease/Bartlett d. Schindler/Galamb 15-14,
15-8; Sipes/Eagle d. Lillis/Parker 8-15, 15-9, 11-0

Finals: Vantrease/Bartlett d. Sipes/Eagle 9-15, 15-6, 11-9

Women's Open Doubles

1st—Gifford/Harrison; **2nd—**Zeller/Parker

Men's B Doubles

Semi-finals: Hawksley/McNutt d. Reilly/Rode 15-11, 15-11;
Williams/Kryzanowski d. Guhold/Lillis 15-9, 15-11

Finals: Williams/Kryzanowski d. Hawksley/McNutt 15-6,
11-15, 11-2

Maine

The Bring Out Your Best/Bud Light Open
Royal River Racquet Club
Maine, September 16-18

Men's Open: 1st—Olson; 2nd—St. Pierre; **Semi-finalists:**
Dubord; Cox

Women's Open: 1st—Graham; 2nd—Fransoso; **Semi-**
finalists: Carr; Belanger

Men's A: 1st—Bouthot; 2nd—Fransoso; **Semi-finalists:**
DiPalma; Cochrane

Men's B: 1st—Pancsofar; 2nd—Johnson; **Semi-finalists:**
Calcagni; Giorgetti

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Men's C: 1st—Hart; **2nd**—Ackendorf; **Semi-finalists:** Farley; Gagnon

Men's Novice: 1st—Currier

Men's Senior: 1st—Simmons; **2nd**—Gagne; **Semi-finalists:** Isenberg; Keefe

Women's B: 1st—Kent

Women's C: 1st—Gellenfeldt; **2nd**—Henke; **Semi-finalists:** Patterson; Letourneau

Men's Open Doubles: 1st—Bilodeau/Olson; **2nd**—Bouthot/Cox; **Semi-finalists:** Isenberg/Wright; Daye/Griffing

Women's Open Doubles: 1st—Carr/Michaud; **2nd**—Gellenfeldt/Henke; **3rd**—Hubbard/Jalbert; **4th**—Kent/Letourneau

Men's B Doubles: 1st—Golucci/Johnson; **2nd**—Calcagni/Langmaid; **Semi-finalists:** Ackendorf/Butler; Norsworthy/Pancsofar

Oregon

"End of Summer Open"

Klamath Racquet Club

Klamath Falls, OR, September 16-18

Sponsors: Harvest Ford, Travelodge Motel, Stagecoach Pizza, Satellite Restaurant
Tournament Directors: Charlie DiPietro, Don Hogan

Men's Open

Semi-finals: Rasmussen d. Adams; Ballantine d. Zacharias

Finals: Rasmussen d. Ballantine

Men's A

Semi-finals: Rasmussen d. Hall; Watters d. Aguiar

Finals: Rasmussen d. Watters

Men's B

Semi-finals: Bowers d. Rasmussen; Gamez d. Hart

Finals: Bowers d. Gamez

Men's C

Semi-finals: Brennan d. Saboe; Hughes d. Noble

Finals: Brennan d. Hughes

Men's D/Novice

Semi-finals: Dey d. Beisang; Vincent d. Grow

Finals: Vincent d. Dey

Women's B

Semi-finals: Watters d. Stilwell; Fleck d. Moudry

Finals: Fleck d. Watters

Men's Open/A Doubles

Semi-finals: K. Rasmussen/Ballantine d. Watters/Watters; Tompkins/Hogan d. Zacharias/T. Rasmussen

Finals: K. Rasmussen/Ballantine d. Tompkins/Hogan

Men's B/C Doubles

Semi-finals: DiPietro/Bowers d. Hughes/Martinez; Brennan/Fleck d. Stiles/Gamez

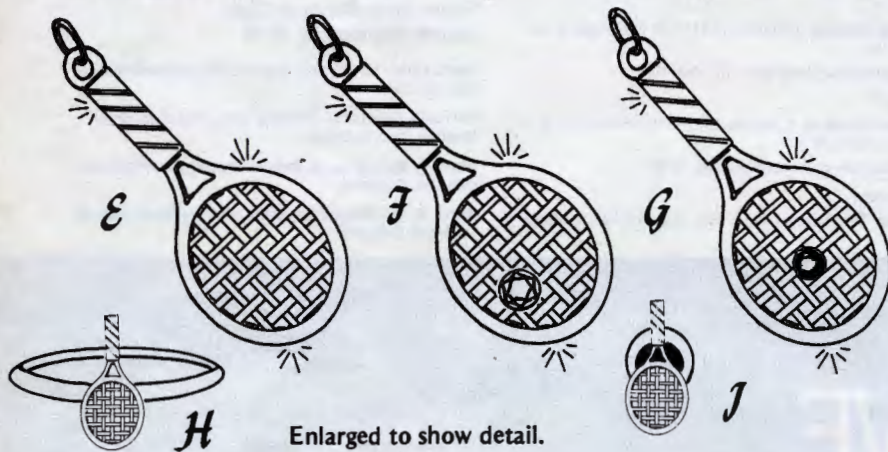
Finals: DiPietro/Bowers d. Brennan/Fleck

Women's B/C Doubles

Semi-finals: Noble/Watters d. Fleck/DiPietro; Aguiar/Yancey d. Curtiss/Moudry

Finals: Noble/Watters d. Aguiar/Yancey

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Michigan

Michigan Racquetball Association #1

Little Taverse Racquet Club

Petoskey, MI, September 16-18, 1983

Sponsors: Wilson, Bata, WKHQ

Men's Open: Anderson d. Vanover

Men's A: Smith d. Kelley

Men's B: Casey d. Veith

Men's C: Bos d. Fitzgerald

Men's D: Carlson d. Bakalis

Men's Senior B: Jordan d. Patrick

Men's Senior C: Gray d. Chrenka

Men's Masters A: Strautnieks d. Hise

Men's Masters B: Nash d. Malleck

Juniors: Tessmar d. Fischer

Women's Open: Gonyes d. Anderson

Women's A: Lutze d. Gravelyn

Women's B: Steinbach d. Driver

Women's C: Carson d. Goss

Women's D: Belongie d. McDaniel

Pennsylvania

March of Dimes Doubles Scrambler

Racquet Club of Meadville

Meadville, PA, September 17, 1983

Men's B Doubles: 1st—Sass/Williams; **2nd**—Marrie/Allin

Men's C Doubles: 1st—DeMaiolo/Welty; **2nd**—Homer/Beck

Men's Doubles 35+ : 1st—Fuchala/Torok; **2nd**—Beitsch/Dugan

Women's C Doubles: 1st—Diloreto/Kiehlmeier

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The Bonds That Bind Us

by Tom Grobmisi

There's camaraderie amongst racquetball players that's really special, and far beyond what you'll find in most other sports. I can't say I know all the reasons why this special feeling for each other exists, but I have given the subject a lot of thought and have come up with a number of unique characteristics of all racquetball players which I believe greatly account for this closeness.

First, we all *hate* tennis players. (We really don't, but we all say we do. It's just something that started a long time ago and kept going. Many of us are ex-tennis players, and many still even play during the summer.)

Secondly, we all like blue racquetballs. There used to be players who liked black, green and even plum colored balls, but they've all given up the sport (or you'd still see some of those balls around). Those of us who have proven to be truly dedicated to racquetball have shown a definite preference for blue.

Next, all racquetball players (over 21) like beer. Even the ones who say they don't really do. (I know this in my heart for a fact.) That's one of the reasons so few Mormons play racquetball. (The other reasons are either very personal or have something to do with the position required to hit a good backhand.)

All racquetball players are relatively new to the sport . . . we've all been

playing for less than 10 years. The average player has been playing only about three years. This is a real "bond" as we don't have to sit around and listen to some old-timer telling us about how things were 30 years ago. To a racquetball player, the "good old days" were last October. Maybe even November.

Racquetball players don't care how they smell. (In the interest of good taste, I will not go into further detail on this subject, but I will mention that *National Racquetball* had at one time considered doing a "scratch-and-sniff" centerfold of one of the top pros.) There's another possible, and more tasteful theory, and that is that racquetball players can't smell good. Either way you take that, it adds up to one more thing we share in common that brings us together and separates us from the rest of the crowd.

Racquetball players often have circular bruises on their backs and legs. I don't know why this is; it's just something I noticed in the locker room over the years.

I know there are some liberals out there who will misconstrue this next point, and I don't believe it has anything at all to do with prejudice, but most racquetball players have never been to India. I've talked to a lot of players about this and, again, I don't think they have anything against the people of India. I think it's just a case of "bad press." All

the publicity about over-population in India has tended to make most racquetball players think it's probably very tough to get a court there. (I think it's probably more a question of how many people will be in the court once you do get one.)

Lastly, racquetball players eat very few strawberries. Don't ask me why. I have no idea. It's just something else I've noticed around the club over the years.

I don't pretend to know what all this means. I only know that these, and possibly a few other factors I might have missed (I'm only human), have helped contribute to a real feeling of fellowship amongst racquetball players all over the world (except India). Again, in the interest of good taste, I did leave out any discussions of sexual, drug, animal, and television preferences. This is a family publication. I'm sure you understand.

Some Things You Might Not Have Considered About Racquetball

by Tom Grobmisi

How come there aren't any electrical outlets in a racquetball court?

How come it isn't much better in the locker rooms?

Why don't they make the front wall lower so that everybody could make more good shots?

How come you only run out of time when you're having a close game?

How come God didn't make sure that all cocky people lose all the time?

How come they make racquetballs just small enough to fit into your eye socket?

How come when a club is cheap to join, the courts are always expensive to rent; and the clubs with cheap court rental rates have real expensive membership fees?

How come you kept reading these questions after you read the first couple? ●

Winning

by Tom Grobmisi

Ted didn't care whether he won or not. He just liked getting in the court and hitting the ball around. The score never mattered to Ted . . . he didn't care either way if he hit a great shot or a lousy shot. This infuriated Ted's friends, as Ted always seemed to win even though he obviously just didn't care.

So his friends wanted to teach Ted a lesson. They entered Ted into a big racquetball tournament and Ted went ahead and played because he said fine, he didn't care.

His friends stood around in shock as they watched Ted win his first three

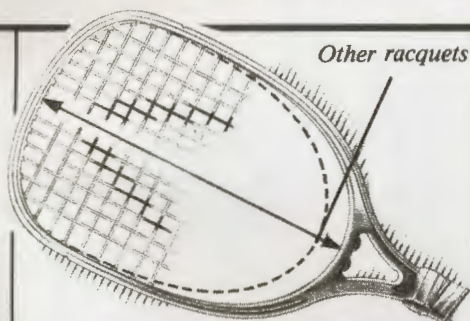
matches and there he was in the finals and he was still acting like he could care less.

What his friends didn't realize was that Ted's attitude greatly affected his opponent's play. They saw Ted wasn't really trying and they just couldn't get themselves motivated to win. So they began missing all kinds of shots they'd normally never miss. Meanwhile, Ted was used to playing apathetically and had developed one of the most accurate nonchalant kill shots in the history of the sport.

In other words, Ted had found a way to get his opponents to play *his game*.

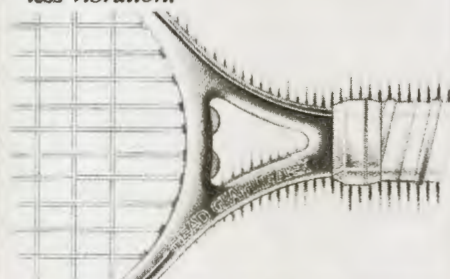
He lost in the finals to a guy who cheated real bad, but Ted didn't even care about that. This *really* drove his friends crazy.

HEAD REDEFINES RACQUETBALL:



BIGGER

We've enlarged the hitting surface to provide our biggest sweet spot ever. This means more power and less vibration.



STRONGER

The integrated throat design provides built-in reinforcement against twisting. And it adds firmness to the shoulder area, giving you more control on off-center hits.

Two years ago, engineers at Head began creating designs that would move racquetball into a new era.

A larger hitting area emerged. A firmer frame. An aerodynamically slick profile. A lighter, more maneuverable racquet head. And a stiffness that racquets of the past just can't touch.

But these new designs were more than great ideas on the drawing board. In test-play, they delivered amazing new levels of power and control.

And now, Head brings that stunning performance to *your* game with the new Vector and Graphite Apex racquets.

Never has there been such a clear advantage available to the serious racquetball player. So visit your Authorized Head Dealer soon.

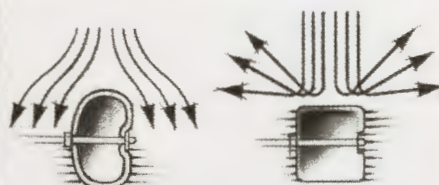
Because you see, we must make them available to your competition as well.



HEAD

We want you to win.

AIR FLOW

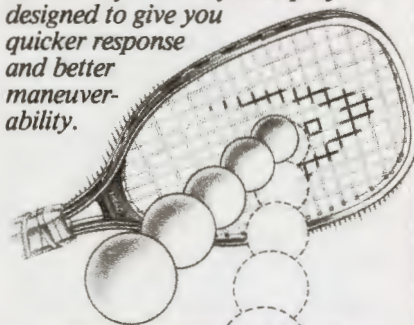


Head

Other racquets

QUICKER

Our aerodynamically slick profile is designed to give you quicker response and better maneuverability.



STIFFER

With a stiffer frame, more power is transferred to the ball instead of absorbed by the racquet. It also helps the ball follow a truer, more accurate path as it rebounds off the racquet face.

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The Head Graphite Apex —the ultimate performance racquet.

The Head Vector — extra stiff and lightweight for the advanced player.



The Will To Win.

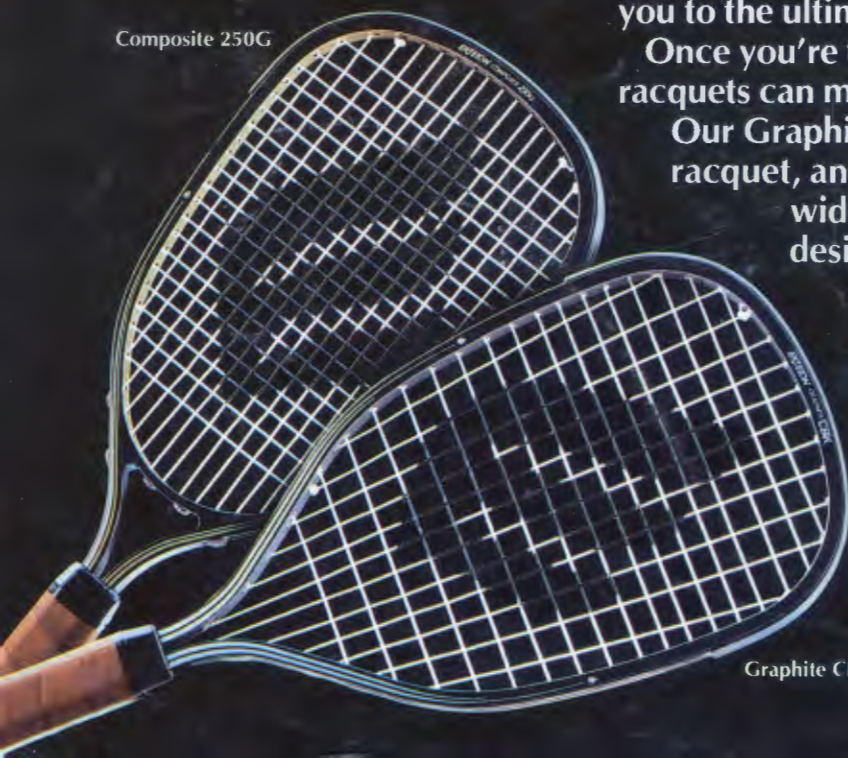
The will to win. When you've got it, nothing can stop you. It breaks down the barriers and pushes you to the ultimate limits of your capabilities.

Once you're there, you'll find that only Ektelon racquets can meet your performance standards.

Our Graphite CBK[®], the game's most powerful racquet, and the Composite 250G[™], the most widely used tournament model, are designed for players who want the best.

Ektelon . . . if you demand as much from your racquet as you demand from yourself.

Composite 250G



Graphite CBK

EKTELON 

The Most Recommended Name in Racquetball

another  BROWNING company