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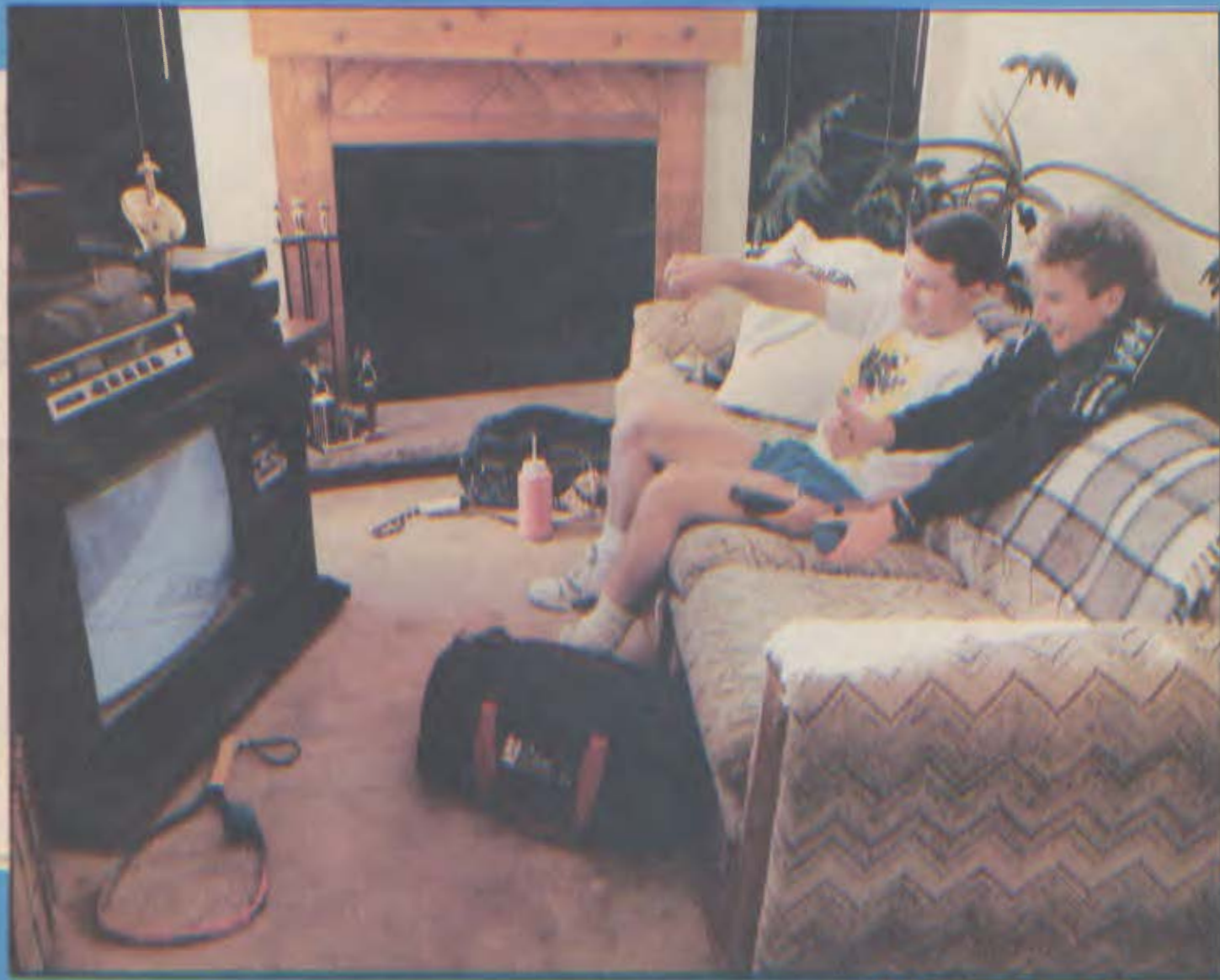
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RACQUETBALL

Magazine

Vol. 2, No. 2;
March -- April 1991
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INSIDE: Televised Racquetball ** Expanded Instructional ** Rule
Changes & Directors Election ** Regional News ** Pro Update ** & More



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Marty Flanagan, 1988 U.S. Open Champion, wears LEADER Eyeguards. He says, "I've never had a pair of eyeguards that have held up as well as LEADER Eyeguards."

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RACQUETBALL Magazine

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March - April 1991

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IN THIS ISSUE:

Television Begins to Smile for the Camera
by Tom Slear, Pg. 4
Club Profile: Lynmar Racquet & Health, Page 43
State & Regional News, Page 21
Pro Update, Page 40
Rule Change Proposals & Ballot, Page 13
Directors Election & Ballot, Page 14.

IN EVERY ISSUE:

New Directions, by Luke St. Onge
President's Message, by Keith Calkins
News from the National Office, by John Mooney
Program Highlights, by Jim Hiser
What's the Call? by Otto Dietrich
Racquetball Aches & Pains, by Dr. Rhett Rainey
PARI Instructional, by Fran Davis
Penn National Rankings, Pages 34-35
Sanctioned Event Calendar, Pages 24-25

COVER:

Steve Blackwood (Denver) and
JoAnn Slater (Littleton) enjoy
some televised racquetball
action, but disagree on the call.
Photo: John Foust.



RACQUETBALL Magazine is the official publication of the American Amateur Racquetball Association [AARA]. All ideas expressed in RACQUETBALL Magazine are those of the authors or the Editor and do not necessarily reflect the official position of the AARA. Articles, photographs and letters are welcome and will be considered for inclusion. Please observe the following publication deadlines when submitting material --

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RACQUETBALL BEGINS TO SMILE FOR THE CAMERA

by Tom Slear

The marriage of television and racquetball was a long time coming. They began courting in the late '70s, and hung in there throughout most of the '80s, but one was always a half-step out of synch with the other. Originally there was plenty of viewer interest, but no technical competence to match, or at least that was the prevailing wisdom. The camera, it seemed, played catchup with the ball. The players looked like they were smacking air.

Also, as AARA executive director Luke St. Onge frankly admits, the game grew too fast for its own good. Governing bodies competed with each other, resulting in turf battles that overshadowed any sort of cooperative ventures. Everybody wanted to be in control, which ensured that no one had the upper hand. A few pro tournaments made it to the small screen, but the players' court decorum was unabashedly crude, and with no higher authority to reign them in. The best and the brightest of the nascent sport came across on camera more as carnival sideshows than gifted athletes.

"Besides," says St. Onge, "there was never a commitment. There was an expectation back in the mid and late 70's that television affiliates would see racquetball one time and then pick it up. That just wasn't going to happen."

The window of opportunity, born out of racquetball's initial growth spurt, slammed shut, reducing the possibility of television exposure in the early 1980s to that of a July snowstorm. Though the AARA took over as the national governing body in 1982, the money-starved organization could barely meet its payroll, much less generate the \$60,000 at today's rate that it would have taken to produce a show acceptable to ESPN.

St. Onge and others at the AARA were caught in the electronic Catch-22 experienced by all minor sports: To be legitimate, a sport needs TV exposure; to get TV exposure, a sport needs money; to get money, a sport needs to be legitimate. The only exceptions are the big ticket items, namely college and pro basketball and football, major league baseball, and to a lesser extent, pro hockey. All others have to approach the networks gingerly and humbly, hat in hand, asking for whatever scraps are left over.

Yet this year, Prime Network will air seven racquetball tournaments, each gobbling up a whopping two hours of program time as they are piped into as many as 26 million homes across America. Portions of these events, though not the same games that will appear on Prime Network, will be picked up by SportsChannel America on three separate occasions for its "U.S. Olympic Showcase." Just like that, almost with the speed of a power serve, racquetball will go from media nobody to media darling among its non-revenue brethren. There is even talk within AARA's national staff, though in hushed and halting tones, of TV producing a positive cash flow in a year or two.

So what happened?

Simple, says Dave Ogrian, who took over as director of broadcasting for the United States Olympic Committee in 1988 after eight years in program acquisition with ESPN: "Rather than waiting around for somebody to come to them, the AARA took steps to create opportunities."





"Other sports wanted to get on TV, but mostly what they did was hope," says Bob Condron, also of the USOC, "but racquetball took things by the throat and moved forward, producing national tournaments on their own."

More specifically, the window of opportunity opened once again with the proliferation of cable television. This time, St. Onge was determined to climb through. The three major networks were still beyond reach, and by 1988, ESPN was moving over the horizon. But the regional sports networks—Home Team Sports in the mid-Atlantic area, Prime Ticket in Los Angeles, Madison Square Garden in New York, to name a few—were literally salivating for competently produced programs to fill the down time between hockey, basketball and baseball games.

"Cable grew much faster than anybody thought it would," says Lelf Elsmo, a Maryland-based independent producer who remembers the early negotiations with St. Onge, which consisted of passing dollar figures back and forth on restaurant napkins. "Everyone missed out on the fact that people wanted more from cable than just good reception; they wanted variety."

The viewing public, remotes firmly in hand, raised channel hopping to an art form. Regional sports networks rushed in to fill the void, which, in turn, created another vacuum. What did HTS, for example, show its viewers on a night when both the Washington Bullets (basketball) and the Capitals (hockey) were idle?

"It all boiled down to big opportunities for sports like racquetball, water polo, and lacrosse," says Elsmo. "However, few saw the opportunity, the importance of television exposure, like Luke did. He didn't know the technicalities, but he just went ahead and laid the groundwork for getting racquetball on television."

The technicalities, however, presented daunting obstacles. The regional sports networks may have needed programming, but they weren't so desperate as to pay for it. The best that St. Onge and the AARA could hope for was a barter deal: Present a network with a camera-ready program and, in return, the network would give up half the advertising spots, which for a sport like racquetball, with no committed national sponsor, amounted to pocket change. Yet the cost of filming the finals of a major tournament in 1988 was estimated at \$6,000, money the AARA desperately needed to pay for such staples as heating and electricity.

Nonetheless, St. Onge and the other members of the national staff had little choice. The year before, a long range plan based on feedback from AARA state presidents, long-time members, and spokesmen from the manufacturers (Ektelon, official sponsor of the AARA and Penn, official ball, etc.), pointed the sport down a narrow path. The first priority, they said, had to be obtaining Olympic status. Close behind that was TV exposure.

Elsmo credits St. Onge for understanding that as a practical matter, the priorities were reversed. Almost by definition, Olympic status follows broadcast exposure. And Olympic status also rains money, somewhere in the range of a \$1 million a year in cash and services.

**... CAUGHT IN THE ELECTRONIC CATCH-22
EXPERIENCED BY ALL MINOR SPORTS:
TO BE LEGITIMATE, A SPORT NEEDS
TV EXPOSURE; TO GET TV EXPOSURE,
A SPORT NEEDS MONEY;
TO GET MONEY, A SPORT NEEDS
TO BE LEGITIMATE.**

Consequently, St. Onge sent a unequivocal signal of compliance early on. When Elsmo suggests a change to please the camera, St. Onge invariably goes along. At the 1988 national doubles championships, Elsmo's first time working racquetball, he stood by horrified as the referee kept the finals moving at a pace too quick for replays. After the first game, he bluntly told the referee to slow things down.

"I can't do that," the referee shot back. "I won't do that."

"Well, make a choice: Do you want this on television or don't you?"

Needless to say, Elsmo got his way. Still, St. Onge plays down the camera-directed rule change. "It's a young sport," he explains, "which makes changes easier. Instant replays slow the game down for the players somewhat, but there haven't been that many complaints."

In 1988, two events were broadcast. Since then, the number has picked up steadily: three in 1989, five last year, and seven this year. In 1989, racquetball joined 41 other sports as a Class A member of the USOC. St. Onge believes that Olympic medal status is possible by 1996.

Meanwhile, Elsmo continues to add media touches. Already he has four cameras surrounding the court, and another one bolted to the ceiling. Bright lights are everywhere. The floor invariably gets a fresh coat of white paint. Replays

follow every couple of points, three at most. And this year, expect to see former Denver Broncos star Jim Turner and WPRO legend Lynn Adams, the color commentators, working with a telestrator, better known as John Madden's crazy pen.

"It's a matter of keeping up what they are doing," concludes O'grean. "The AARA is putting on very good productions and racquetball is now extremely visible to the members of the U.S. Olympic family."

1991 AARA PRODUCTION SCHEDULE

Event, Film Date & Network

Ektelon World Intercollegiates, 04/07, On Prime Network

Ektelon National Singles, 05/27

On Prime Network & SportsChannel America

Penn Pacific Rim Intl. Racquetball Championships, 06/22

On Prime Network

Ektelon Junior Olympics, 06/26, On Prime Network

Penn National Outdoors, 06/29, On Prime Network

Penn World Challenge, 08/18

On Prime Network & SportsChannel America

Ektelon National Doubles, 10/27

On Prime Network & Sports Channel America

Check your local listings for air dates on the cable networks shown. Airings vary from one day to four weeks following the film date.

Following a successful 16-year career in the NFL, former New York Jets and Denver Broncos kicker Jim Turner joined the AARA Broadcast team. An avid racquetball player himself, Turner combines his on-court experience with many years as a pro football analyst for NBC Sports to give an added dimension to the color commentary of AARA national events.



RACQUETBALL ON VIDEO ** RACQUETBALL ON VIDEO

If you've missed any of the action from past National Championships on your local cable sports channel, here's your chance to see it all. VHS videotapes of the following U.S. and International Championships are available:

1990 Ektelon U.S. National Doubles Championships: Michelle Gilman/Jackie Paraiso vs. Malla Bailey/Toni Bevelock and Jim Floyd/Tim Hansen vs. Mike Guldry/Drew Kachtk

1990 Ektelon U.S. Junior Olympic Championships: Elkova Icenogle vs. Renee Lockey and Joel Bonnett vs. John Ellis

1990 Ektelon U.S. National Singles Championships: Michelle Gilman vs. Toni Bevelock and Tim Doyle vs. Egan Inoue

1990 Penn Tournament of the Americas: Michelle Gilman vs. Kaye Kuhfeld and Andy Roberts vs. Sherman Greenfeld

1989 Ektelon U.S. National Doubles Championships: Cindy Doyle/Michelle Gilman vs. Malla Bailey/Toni Bevelock and Doug Ganim/Dan Obremski vs. Tim Doyle/Egan Inoue

1989 Ektelon Junior Olympic Championships: Michelle Gilman vs. Cindy Doyle and Mike Guldry vs. Joey Paraiso

1989 Ektelon U.S. National Singles Championships: Michelle Gilman vs. Cindy Doyle and Tim Doyle vs. Andy Roberts

1988 Ektelon U.S. National Doubles Championships: Malla Bailey/Toni Bevelock vs. Trina Rasmussen/Diane Green and Brian Hawkes/Bill Sell vs. Tim Hansen/Sergio Gonzalez

1988 Ektelon U.S. National Singles Championships: Toni Bevelock vs. Michelle Gilman and Andy Roberts vs. Jim Cascio
Single Tape: \$35.00 - 2-4 Tapes: \$31.50 each - 5-6 Tapes: \$28.00 each

AARA Instructional Tape w/Fran Davis & Stu Hastings

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NEW DIRECTIONS

by Luke St. Onge

If you haven't already noticed, we would like to bring your attention to the new look of our publication. The paper is of a higher grade, we have increased the pages over the past two issues from 32 pages to 48 pages, and the name has been changed from Racquetball USA to RACQUETBALL Magazine.



When the AARA resumed publication of its own magazine after a 12-year absence, it promised the industry and its members that it would operate the project as a business and "start small" with a modest publication. After getting our team together and publishing several issues on a break even basis, we were ready to start to making improvements to the magazine. Following the release of the first two issues we upgraded the paper and increased the number of pages from 32 to 40. We also rang in the new year by restoring the original name of the first racquetball magazine ever published. "RACQUETBALL Magazine" was first published in 1971 by the International Racquetball Association, which was the original name of the AARA.

Since 1971, many "racquetball only" magazines have been published — some with long lifespans, others with very short terms on the market. The names were many: Racquetball Illustrated; Racquetball in Review; National Racquetball; Racquetball Everyone; Racquetball Today; International Racquetball; and Racquetball Industry, plus several more that came and went through the years. The magazine business is a tough one and it's even tougher when the subject represents only one phase in sport, such as "Racquetball versus all Racquet Sports." Thus, with this type of history to look back on, we've moved into our magazine venture slowly and cautiously, to make certain that whatever we undertake, we will continue to do for a long time.

A special thanks to Linda Mojer, AARA Media and Public Relations Director, who took on this challenge in addition to her other full time responsibilities and virtually singlehandedly put out the first three issues. Another special thanks to Mike Arnolt, Regional Director from Indiana, who successfully took on the advertising sales responsibilities for the magazine, resulting in a full 12 pages of industry advertising in the last issue.

What does the future hold for RACQUETBALL Magazine? Behind the scenes, we have already assigned

Becky Maxedon to assist Linda in the production of the magazine. In content, we are slowly increasing the number of pages, expanding the instructional, professional, and human interest stories — this issue jumps to 48 pages. In look, we plan to go "slick," first with a high-grade four-color cover, then, as advertising supports us, we'll begin printing the interior pages on coated stock, giving the texture of a Newsweek or Sports Illustrated. Finally, as the circulation of RACQUETBALL Magazine increases from its present 40,000 to an excess of 80,000 paid circulation, we will begin to attract advertising support from companies outside our industry — where our greatest potential for growth lies.

Clearly, we are not sitting back and only doing the minimum required by our Constitution. Instead, we are committed to improving and expanding RACQUETBALL Magazine so that, when you share your copy with a friend, you are not only proud of your sport but also of your Association.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Keith Calkins

28000 Marguerite Parkway
Mission Viejo, CA 92692



On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to thank each of the participants who attended the 1991 AARA Leadership Conference in Colorado Springs on Jan 10, 11, 12. This was one of the most outstanding AARA events I have ever participated in and I commend all the state and regional directors, and others, who took part in an excellent exchange of ideas and friendship.

A special note of thanks to the staff, especially Jim Hiser, for the planning and preparation of this year's seminar. I should also note that the consulting project reported by John Buck and the presentations by our speakers were of the highest quality. While there were many highlights to this seminar, one of the most important aspects of its success was the USOC's willingness to allow us the use of the conference facilities at the Center. We are grateful for their assistance.

Continuing this year's theme of leadership and governance, I would like to provide some information regarding AARA Standing and Ad Hoc Committees. These committees are appointed by the President of the AARA each year at the May Board Meeting and form a framework for our yearly work

as an organization. In the past they have consisted primarily of AARA National Board Members. Our current constitution mandates that at least three Board Members serve on each of the Standing Committees.

I have introduced legislation to reduce that mandate to the appointment of at least one Board Member to each Standing Committee. If that change passes in May, the President will be able to fill these committees with AARA members who have a strong desire and the expertise to become effective committee members. We need input from our membership and a way for this to happen is through participation in committee work. Following is a list of the current Standing Committees and Ad Hoc Committees, including the chairperson's name and the Staff Liaison for each.

If you are interested in serving on any of these committees, you should contact the Chair or Staff Liaison for more information regarding the committees' responsibilities. Then please send a note expressing your interest to me at the address noted, which states your qualifications and reason for wishing to serve on the committee. The President will then have an opportunity to expand the committee structure by adding interested and qualified members. I sincerely appreciate your involvement in our governance and hope that next year we will see new faces on our important Committees.

AARA STANDING COMMITTEES

Membership: Chair/None, Staff/John Mooney
Development: Chair/None, Staff/Jim Hixler
Rules/Regulations: Chair/Otto Dietrich, Staff/John Mooney
Finance: Chair/Paul Henrickson, Staff/Luke St. Onge
Manufacturers: Chair/Steve Lerner, Staff/Luke St. Onge
Education Research/Program: Chair/None, Staff/John Mooney
State Organization: Chair/None, Staff/John Mooney
Olympic/Pan-American/International:
 Chair/Carol Pellowski, Staff/Luke St. Onge
Elections/Hall of Fame: Chair/Otto Dietrich, Staff/None
Athletic Advisory: Chair/Andy Roberts, Staff/Jim Hixler
Personnel: Chair/Paul Henrickson, Staff/Luke St. Onge

AD HOC COMMITTEES

National Racquetball Week:
 Chair/Steve Lerner, Staff/Luke St. Onge
U.S. Team: Chair/Carol Pellowski, Staff/Jim Hixler
Disabled: Chair/John Foust, Staff/Linda Majer
Awards: Chair/Al Seitelman, Staff/Luke St. Onge
Strategic Planning: Chair/Roger Patrick, Staff/Luke St. Onge
Grants: Chair/Paul Henrickson, Staff/John Mooney
Fundraising: Chair/John Foust, Staff/John Mooney
Publications: Chair/Steve Lerner, Staff/Linda Majer
Scholarship: Chair/Paul Henrickson, Staff/John Mooney
Junior National Team: Chair/Andy Roberts, Staff/Jim Hixler
Coaches: Chair/None, Staff/Jim Hixler
Ethics: Chair/Steve Lerner, Staff/Linda Majer
Sports Science/Sports Medicine

Chair/Dr. Salmoni, Staff/Jim Hixler
Technical: Chair/Otto Dietrich, Staff/Jim Hixler

AARA COUNCILS

Junior: Chair/Jeannie Hanson, Staff/Jim Hixler
Women: Chair/Carol Pellowski, Staff/Linda Majer
Intercollegiate: Chair/Neil Shapiro, Staff/Jim Hixler
Disabled: Chair/John Foust, Staff/Linda Majer
Masters: Chair/Ivan Brunner, Staff/John Mooney
Women's Masters: Chair/Jo Kenyon, Staff/John Mooney
Outreach: Chair/Sid Williams, Staff/Linda Majer
High School: Chair/Jim Murphy Staff/Jim Hixler

NOTES FROM THE NATIONAL OFFICE

by John Mooney



NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP:

The AARA membership is at roughly 31,000. Approximately 4,000 members are currently "Competitive License" members. All members who have current memberships that expire in 1991 may upgrade their membership by sending \$5.00 to the National Office. Members are not covered by the insurance program unless they possess a "Competitive License". Brochures explaining the AARA Sports Accident Insurance Coverage will be available at all sanctioned events.

RANKING AND SANCTIONED TOURNAMENTS:

Many of the inquiries we get at the National Office concern ranking. While we admit that the ranking system has some drawbacks, it is and has been one of the most important programs administered by the AARA. Some insight on the program might be helpful to you:

1. Players in all sanctioned tournaments are entitled to ranking points, if they finish in the top 8 in a division (or the top 16 at National Championships if the draw has at least 48 players).
2. Tournament directors or clubs are asked to report results within 3 days following a sanctioned tournament. Results go to the State Association first and then to the National Office.
3. Tournament results are normally entered into the computer within 48 hours after receipt at the National Office.
4. Recurring errors in reporting results are: Mis-

spelled names, no state designations or wrong states, illegible information.

5. Over the past twelve months, there have been approximately 270 sanctioned tournaments held for which we have not received results at all.

6. How can you help with your ranking?

Use the same name each time you enter a tournament. ** Make sure your name is spelled correctly on draw sheets. ** If you are playing out-of-state, list your home state on the draw sheet. ** Follow-up with the tournament director to make sure your finish is reported accurately in your state. ** Call to make sure the results have been prepared and submitted within 3 days following the tournament.

By following these few guidelines, you will help insure that you receive proper points and it will help us better serve you.

NOSTALGIA: MARCH 1986 AND MARCH 1981

Five Years Ago - States sanctioned 622 tournaments in 12 months, compared to 1077 for the past 12 months. Charlie Wickham and Sue Graham were ranked #1 in Men's and Women's 50+. New products were Omega Titanium Racquet, Tackl Mac Grips, Head Express Racquetballs, Viking Buckskin Gloves. The U.S. National Racquetball Team toured Japan, putting on exhibitions and clinics for the benefit of Japanese players.

Ten Years Ago - Burt Bacharach was playing 3 to 4 times a week. Marty Hogan was 22. The Assassin (dimple ball) and Seamco 600 were new on the market. Duane Grimes introduced Juniors 8 & under no bounce racquetball. Keith Calkins was AARA President and is again AARA President, 10 years later (he did look younger then). Dennis Aceto & Cindy Baxter were ranked #1 amateurs in the country.

PROGRAM UPDATE

by Jim Hiser, Ph.D

As racquetball progresses toward its ultimate goal of Olympic participation, the resources provided by the United States Olympic Training Centers become more and more invaluable to our growth and program development.

Recently our new U.S. Team Coach Jim Winterton and I attended an educational seminar at the Training Center



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entitled "Alcohol in Sport - Educating the Responsible Athlete". Due to the environment in which it is played (primarily in court clubs where lounges are common) racquetball has an inherent need for developing responsible drinking policies.

Some interesting facts about alcohol set forth in this seminar were:

- Male athletes use more alcohol than any other college group.
- Up to 90 percent of all college students drink to some extent.
- In many cases, athletes are more involved in drug abuse than non-athletes.
- Alcohol does affect athletic performance.
- Alcohol effects can linger for up to 72 hours after consumption.

Tournament directors, state and regional directors, coaches, parents, and instructors all have a responsibility to develop responsible policies for their athletes.

Not only are there physiological and psychological problems associated with alcohol, but also the liability factors involved with tournaments and alcohol are both complex and

confusing. Alcohol should not be allowed at tournaments until the tournament organizers have checked with their state liquor board to determine their liability and responsibilities.

The AARA would like to initiate the development of a responsible drinking program for the entire sport. Any persons who are interested in becoming involved in this project should call me at the AARA offices.

COLLEGIATE UPDATE

By Neil Shapiro

Due to a number of factors, The City Square Athletic Club in Phoenix, Arizona has been selected to host the 1991 World Intercollegiate Championships next month. The club has an adjoining hotel of the same name, and you can make reservations by calling 602/279-9811 and mentioning that you'd like the special AARA racquetball rate for rooms. A shuttle will run directly from the airport to the club (\$7/trip). There will be a captain's and coaches' meeting at 9:00 pm on Wednesday night in the pool area. That will also be the time the draw is finalized. Remember that regional finishes play an important role in determining seeding (following last year's final positions, then international/national results as the first two criteria).

The AARA's new insurance program is very valuable for all collegiate players. The extra \$5 allows the ACRA to sanction specific intercollegiate league matches. When your league match is sanctioned you are insured for accidents on the way to, during and returning from your matches. That means that many collegiate players will be able to use institution vehicles for transportation and eliminate the major expense of renting a van for many schools.

To receive sanctioning you must submit a copy of your league schedule to me and to the relevant AARA state director prior to the events (preferably before the season begins). You will then receive a sanctioning document from the ACRA and a copy will be sent to the AARA National office. It is important that you let your state directors know your schedule as soon as possible so they can avoid schedule conflicts and keep abreast of your school's activities.

We would like to begin looking for sites for the 1992 World Intercollegiate Championships. If any one is interested

in hosting that tournament we would like to hear from you. Please write to Jim Hiser (at AARA headquarters) or me as soon as possible. Looking forward to seeing you all in Phoenix, April 4-7th.

RACQUETBALL ACHES & PAINS

by Dr. Rhett Rainey

This issue's medical letter is coming to you from Europe. Following a call from Uncle Sam saying they needed my services as an orthopaedic surgeon, I left Colorado Springs and headed for Nuremberg, Germany. My mission here is to care for the injured soldiers that are air-evacuated from Saudi Arabia. Hopefully, time will pass quickly and I'll be back home soon.

I thought that this month we could discuss problems related to the shoulder and specifically rotator cuff syndrome. Since this is a common ailment of racquetballers, I thought this would be of interest. Rotator cuff syndrome is the medical term for shoulder bursitis or tendinitis. It is a common overuse injury in racquetball because our playing arm is frequently used in an overhead position. Pain associated with this syndrome is usually felt at the tip of the shoulder and referred down the deltoid muscle into the upper arm. Pain occurs mainly when your arm is lifted past 90 degrees, which includes all ceiling shots and in racquet preparation for your forehand and backhand strokes. In extreme cases, pain will be present all the time and may even wake you at night from a deep sleep.

The shoulder is a closely fitted joint that does not allow very much room for additional swelling, which occurs with inflammation of the rotator cuff. The anatomy of the shoulder is such that there is the shoulder joint which is surrounded by the rotator cuff. The rotator cuff is composed of four tendons that are responsible for elevation and rotational motions of our shoulder. Above the rotator cuff sits a bursa or fluid filled sac which lubricates the top portion of the rotator cuff. As the shoulder is elevated, it moves back and forth through a very tight archway of bone and ligament called the coracoacromial arch. When the shoulder is elevated, the archway becomes smaller and can pinch the rotator cuff tendons and the result is inflammation. This can cause a bursitis and/or tendinitis whereby the inflammatory process leads to symptoms of pain and swelling.



These symptoms usually last for only a few days, but may become chronic. The contributing factors to rotator cuff syndrome include: Overuse or repetitive overhead motions; Weak shoulder girdle muscles; Improper stroke mechanics; Over strenuous training; Prior shoulder injuries; Loose shoulder joint.

Initial treatment for these injuries should include rest, which means stop doing the activity that aggravates your shoulder. Apply ice to your shoulder three times per day for 15-30 minutes at a time. If your symptoms fail to resolve after two weeks, then consult a physical therapist. They will place you on a specific exercise program and start modality treatment such as ultrasound and massage. Anti-inflammatory medications will also benefit you from the onset of your symptoms.

If these suggestions fail to relieve your symptoms, then consult a sports medicine physician who might recommend an injection of cortisone in the subacromial space. I have found in my practice that a large volume into the space consisting of a combination of 8cc marcaïn and 2cc of depomedrol works well. This can be repeated up to three times safely. If symptoms persist, then your orthopaedic surgeon might recommend an arthroscopy of your shoulder whereby the rotator cuff can be directly visualized. By looking at your rotator cuff, we can tell if there is a partial or full thickness tear of your cuff which was causing the pain. This can normally be treated arthroscopically and you can resume racquetball once fully rehabilitated. Incidentally, I have had this done to my dominant shoulder and have returned to my pre-injury status.

Once you have recovered and are ready to return to racquetball, go back slowly. Warm up well and make sure your shoulder is stretched out. Slowly increase the intensity of your game until your shoulder is comfortable and there is no pain. Try to maintain a smooth stroke that will make use of the overall strength of your body and not put such a high degree of stress on your shoulder.

Good luck and enjoy our wonderful sport of racquetball.

WHAT'S THE CALL?

by Otto Dietrich
AARA National Rules
Commissioner



Last weekend my opponent hit the ball so hard that it travelled from the front wall to the back wall (without touching the floor), bounced near the receiving line, and then travelled all the way back to the front wall before I could hit it, what's the call? Did my opponent win the rally automatically because I failed to return the ball? — Otto Dietrich, Indianapolis, IN [circa 1974].

Believe it or not, that very situation, which I first encountered nearly 17 years ago, still ranks as the most common question that I have been asked since becoming the AARA National Rules Commissioner.

I was playing in my first racquetball tournament when my opponent hit that very strange shot. I simply froze in place and watched the ball dribble to a stop. Looking up at the referee—a great Masters player named Earl Dixon—I asked him what happened? He calmly explained that my opponent had just won the rally—not because the ball had hit the front

wall a second time, but because I had failed to hit the ball before it bounced twice.

He pointed out that the basic rules of racquetball call for the players to do three things: (i) take turns hitting the ball, (ii) hit the ball before it bounces on the floor twice, and (iii) hit the ball so that it goes all the way to the front wall without touching the floor. Therein was the answer. As Earl stated, it was my turn to hit the ball and since I didn't hit it before it bounced on the floor a second time, I lost the rally. He also pointed out that I could have (and should have) hit the ball AFTER it came off the front wall a second time, but would have had to do it before it bounced on the floor again. It would have been a set-up if I had only realized it. Such a simple concept, but one that had eluded me at the time I could have used it most.

In addition to the obvious lesson which this incident teaches about the rally in racquetball, it also illustrates another lesson about refereeing racquetball. Most beginning players at tournaments need help understanding some situations that more experienced players may take for granted. Ever notice how frequently beginning players get hit by their opponents simply because they don't understand the concept of avoidable hinders? They probably aren't aware that the rules require them to move to allow their opponents an unimpaired shot. Not only may they have not taken time to read the rulebook, they may not even have a copy of it. Even so, I still meet referees who tell me that they NEVER call avoidable hinders on

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beginners. I think that this is the wrong approach! Unless there is someone to point out what they are doing wrong, how will they ever be able to progress to a higher skill level? A much better approach to use when reffing beginners is to always make the proper call (regardless of the players level) and then briefly explain the situation if one of the players appears puzzled.

Incidentally, after that match back in 1974, I sought out Earl and spent a few minutes discussing a few other "obscure" situations that I had not been playing long enough to encounter. Our discussion ended with my asking him how to arrange for a better view of those OPEN matches that I never got to see because always were so crowded. He responded "Volunteer to ref it! I'll guarantee you the ONLY reserved seat!" Well, I did and the rest is history. Thanks again, Earl. Unknowingly, you gave me my very first rules clinic!

AARA SEEKS OPINIONS ON PROPOSED RULE CHANGES

Four rule changes are being considered for adoption this year. In accordance with the procedures described on page five of the 1990-91 Official Rulebook, opinions are being solicited from all interested parties. Opinions received by May 1st will be provided to the Board of Directors at their May meeting where the Directors will vote whether to adopt these rules.

If approved by the Board of Directors, the revised rules would go into effect on September 1, 1991. Please read and consider these proposed changes, and then express your opinion by marking the accompanying ballot. Additional written comments are also welcome, as are any other rules changes that you think should be considered during the next rule change cycle. All ballots and comments should be sent to the AARA, Attention: Rule Changes, 815 North Weber, Colorado Springs, CO 80903-2947 and mailed so that they are received by May 1st.

PROPOSED CHANGE #1

Current Rule: If the referee stops play by making a call of "encroachment" on the return of serve, the receiving side may appeal the call. If the appeal is successful, the service is replayed, except that if the referee thinks the return of serve was not retrievable, then he may award the rally to the receiver resulting in a loss of serve. See Rule 3.8(e) on page 13 of the 1990-91 Official Rulebook.

Reason for Change: Traditionally, when the referee makes a call that stops play, everything that happens thereafter is negated. A good example of this is being hit by your own shot immediately AFTER the referee calls hinder—the rally is replayed. See rule 4.15(b) on page 20 of the rulebook. This same logic should apply when the referee calls "encroachment." That is, any action that happens after the referee's call shouldn't count—even "rolling out" the return. Some might think that this is the same as the referee incorrectly calling a serve short and then being allowed to declare the serve an "ace" if the call is overturned by appeal. However, it is NOT the

same. In the case of such a serve, the serve stands on its own merit and is not affected by something that happens after the serve.

Proposed Change: Delete the portion of the second sentence in rule 3.8(e) which reads "...except: if in the opinion of the referee the shot was not retrievable it will result in a loss of serve."

PROPOSED CHANGE #2

Current Rule: If the ball goes out of the court after hitting the front wall, then the rally is replayed with the server getting two serves. See Rule 4.14(f)(1) on page 19 of the 1990-91 Official Rulebook.

Reason for Change: Although the rules state that the regulation racquetball court has a back wall at least 12 feet high, the actual height varies from club to club. Hitting a ball out of the court is generally a very poor shot, but if the ball hits the front wall first, the person who hit the poor shot is rewarded by getting to play the rally over. Changing the rule would eliminate this undeserved reward. However, it should be noted that this change will add one more basic concept to the game—that is, the ball must not only hit the front wall before it hits the floor, but also be not hit in such a manner that it goes out of the court.

Proposed Change: Delete Rules 4.14(f)(1) and (2) and add the following as Rule 4.14(f): "Any ball which goes into the gallery or through any opening in a side wall shall result in the loss of rally for the player or team that hit the ball."

PROPOSED CHANGE #3

Current Rule: If a player loses a shoe or other properly worn equipment during the rally, play is stopped if the equipment interferes with player safety. See rule 4.14(h)(2) on page 19 of the 1990-91 Official Rulebook. Note: The AARA National Rules Commissioner has ruled that since loss of eyeguards immediately affects that player's safety, play should always be stopped immediately when properly worn eyeguards are lost.

Reason for Change: The loss of properly worn equipment has always been a dead-ball (not avoidable) hinder. However, the player who loses the equipment should be penalized and the best way to do this would be to assess an

avoidable. This might encourage players to keep their equipment in serviceable condition. Also, see proposed change #4 which suggests a less drastic change to this rule.

Proposed Change: Revise Rule 4.14(h)(2) to read: "If a player loses his/her eyeguards, play shall be immediately stopped and an avoidable hinder called against the player who lost the eyeguards. If a player loses a shoe or other properly worn equipment, the referee shall stop play if the occurrence interferes with ensuing play or player safety, and call an avoidable hinder against the player who lost the equipment."

PROPOSED CHANGE #4

Current Rule: If a player loses a shoe or other properly worn equipment and the referee calls "hinder" because safety was affected, the offensive player is allowed one more opportunity to hit a rally ending shot. See rule 4.14(h)(2) on page 19 of the 1990-91 Official Rulebook.

Reason for Change: As was cited as the reason for Proposed Change #1, the referee's call should negate everything that happens thereafter—including an opportunity to hit a rally ending shot. Incidentally, if safety permits, then a hinder should NOT have been called at all. Moreover, who is "the offensive player?" Logically, of course, he is the person whose turn it is to hit the ball. Also, see Proposed Change #3 which suggests a more drastic change to this rule which incorporates this change too.

Proposed Change: Delete the portion of Rule 4.14(h)(2) which reads: "...however, safety permitting, the offensive player is entitled to one opportunity to hit a rally ending shot."

RULE CHANGE BALLOT

Should the Board of Directors put the following proposed rule changes into effect on September 1, 1991?

- | | |
|--|--|
| Proposed Change #1.
(Outcome of appeal) | ☐ Yes ☐ No |
| Proposed Change #2.
(Out-of-court ball) | ☐ Yes ☐ No |
| Proposed Change #3.
(Loss of equipment = avoidable) | ☐ Yes ☐ No |
| Proposed Change #4.
(Hinder call stops everything) | ☐ Yes ☐ No |

NAME: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

Send this ballot, along with any additional comments you may have about the proposed changes, to: AARA, Attention: Rule Changes, 815 North Weber, Colorado Springs, CO 80903-2947. Ballots and comments should be mailed early enough to ensure they are received by May 1st.

1991 AARA BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

Three persons are to be elected to the AARA's Board of Directors for 3-year terms beginning in May 1991. There are seven candidates for these three positions—four who were nominated by the Board of Directors and two who were nominated by membership petition. All AARA members are requested to read the following statements which were submitted by the candidates. Members should then vote for NO MORETHANTHREE candidates by putting an "X" in the box preceding the candidates' names on the ballot. To be considered valid, the ballot MUST have been clipped from this magazine (no photocopies accepted), signed by the member, and sent along with the mailing label from this magazine (needed to verify your AARA membership) to AARA, Attention: Board Election, 815 North Weber, Colorado Springs, CO 80903. Ballots must be received by May 10th.

MICHAEL ARNOLT
Suite #307
3833 North Meridian Street
Indianapolis, IN 46208
(317) 926-2766 (W)
(317) 259-1359 (H)

(Nominated by the Board of Directors)



Qualifications to be a Director:

EDUCATION

B.A. Journalism, Indiana University

PROFESSIONAL

Present - Management Consultant, Club Owner

Former - Corporation President, Newspaper Reporter

AFFILIATIONS

INSRA Board of Directors - 1982 to present - former president

AARA Board of Directors - 1984-1990

National Rules Commissioner - 1984-1988

Region 10 Director - 1983 to present

OTHER RACQUETBALL EXPERIENCE

Organized state, regional and other tournaments for the past 9 years. ** Administrator, AARA representative and seniors player at six international and South American racquetball competitions since 1985. ** Played racquetball for 15 years; top-ranked master player. ** Member of 5-person AARA task force evaluating state organization development.

Why I Want To Be on the Board of Directors: Improved membership services; a quality newsletter; expanding the sport among juniors and women; and improving the relationship

between clubs and the AARA have been past goals for me. In my previous years as a member of the AARA Board, I have worked and influenced things to happen in those particular areas. The work is not complete.

Our fast developing newsletter, as I see it, ultimately will be the medium for racquetball, embracing the occasional player and league participant at public and private clubs, while providing a forum for the amateur and professional tournament player, as well as suppliers to the industry.

Two areas where I see growth — one immediate and the other more long range — are in the colleges and public outdoor courts, respectively. Universities are building courts. They see the need. Municipal outdoor courts will bring a new dimension, new core of players to our sport. And I intend to pursue the development of both areas.

Most importantly, I favor an orderly growth of the game: be it within the rules of the sport or the expansion of AARA services.

Racquetball is my lifetime sport. My desire is to continue to share it with people on a local, state, national, and international level.

KEITH CALKINS

26566 Guadalupe
Mission Viejo, CA 92691
(714) 582-4545 (W)
(714) 582-9656 (H)

(Nominated by Board
of Directors)

Qualifications to be a Director:

In 1979 I was elected to the Board serving as National Rules Commissioner (1 year) and President (2 years). After leaving the Board I remained active as the representative to the United States Olympic Committee. My international involvement also continued serving as Secretary General/Treasurer of I.R.F. and President of the Pan American Racquetball Confederation.

My goals in being an A.A.R.A. volunteer have always been for the promotion and advancement of racquetball at the "Grass Roots", national, and international levels. It has been extremely exciting to see many of our original plans develop as the A.A.R.A. expands and provides the structure that racquetball deserves.

I was re-elected to the Board 3 years ago. I served as Treasurer for 2 years and last year was elected President. My tenure as



President will be over if I am not re-elected. The President is the Board's most important office because he must provide important leadership in forming a close working relationship between the Board and the national staff. This relationship is currently extremely effective.

I believe that my continuation as President will strengthen all of the important work that was done by my predecessor and keep the leadership intact. I sincerely look forward to the challenges that are ahead for the membership and the Board.

Why I Want To Be on the Board of Directors: My major goals are to (1) strengthen State organizations, (2) support court club owners in bringing new people into racquetball, (3) provide leadership toward growth of racquetball at junior, interscholastic, intercollegiate, and age group levels, (4) initiate new travel opportunities for the preceding groups, (5) become a sport at the 1995 Pan American Games and at the 1996 Olympics, (6) initiate plans for an A.A.R.A. Hall of Fame, (7) continue positive relationships with our outstanding sponsors and acquire additional sponsors who may not now be directly involved with racquetball products, and (8) enjoy the positive factors of our sport that makes volunteering fun and self-fulfilling.

I ask that you support my re-election to the Board and give some thought to this important election. With the growth of our sport and our membership, the Board has added responsibilities. They manage a budget totaling about \$2 million in cash and in-kind services. The national staff has recently expanded which is positive, but adds additional responsibilities for Board members. There are important committees dependent upon strong leadership from Board members. These many aspects call for commitments from volunteers who serve on our Board. Consider the qualifications of each candidate and elect those who can get the work completed that will be so important in the next 3 years.

LES DITTRICH

Box 16
Eagle Lake, MN 56024
(507) 257-3353 (W)
(507) 243-4232 (H)

(Nominated by Petition)

Qualifications to be a Director:

- *Involved in club and YMCA level play for 18 years.
- *Minnesota State Board of Directors and Officers for 8 years.
- *Minnesota State Director for 5 years.
- *Regional Director for Region 11 for 6 years.
- *National Master Board of Directors for 5 years.



- *National Masters Vice President for 2 years.
- *Minnesota Hall of Fame Inductee 1991.
- *Attended 3 National Leadership Seminars in Colorado Springs.
- *Self-employed with flexible work schedule.

Why I Want To Be on the Board of Directors: It has always been my philosophy that when something or somebody gives you something, you should give something back. Racquetball has given me a better life both physically and mentally.

As our young sport is growing I feel much has been accomplished, especially in Olympic involvement. I would like to help promote the sport, especially in the age groups. We need to get more of our "veterans" involved.

If you choose to elect me to the National Board of Directors, I am willing to devote my time and energy to what I consider the greatest life sport in the world. I would consider it a challenge and an opportunity to help support and promote the sport of racquetball. — Thank you for your consideration.

VAN DUBOLSKY
661 Evergreen Street
Starke, FL 32091
(904) 395-5356 (W)

(Nominated by the Board of Directors)

Qualifications to be a Director:

I would like to be considered for a position on the 1991 Board of Directors. It has been my pleasure to serve and represent the AARA since 1978. By profession I have been a physical science instructor at Santa Fe Community College in Gainesville, Florida, since 1972, but I have been involved with our sport since 1967. I wish to submit the following as my qualifications to be on the board:

- *Involvement on a State and Regional level since 1978.
- *Florida State Director 1978-1987.
- *Treasurer and Board Member of F.R.A. 1978-present.
- *Southeastern U.S. (Region 4) Regional Director since 1978.
- *Involvement on a National and International level since 1982.
- *Appointed to the National Board 1982.
- *Elected to the Board 1983-1986.
- *Re-elected 1987-1990.
- *Elected and served as President of AARA 1986-1990.
- *Served as U.S. delegate to International Racquetball Federation 1986-1990.
- *Served as U.S. representative to U.S.O.C. House of Delegates 1987-1990.
- *Served as Tournament Director for AARA National and



- International events from 1983-present.
- *Involvement as a competitive player since 1967.
- *Sponsored by Ektelon 1978-1983, 1987-present.
- *APRO certified 1980.
- *Pro, Program Director at Gainesville Racquetball Club 1978-1980.
- *Tournament championships at the local, state, Regional and National level since 1971.

Why I Want To Be on the Board of Directors: As you can see from my qualifications, racquetball and the AARA has played a major role in my life. Other than my family, racquetball is more important to me than anything else I am involved with.

I am very proud that I have been able to play a small role in the ongoing evolutionary process that is recorded as our history. I hope that I will have the opportunity to continue to serve everyone who has chosen this sport as one of their primary interests.

I feel like I have witnessed a large part of this development from a privileged position (thanks to your votes in the past) and I would greatly appreciate the chance to continue to contribute at this level. Regardless of the election outcome I will continue to offer the best of my abilities on behalf of our sport. — Thank you for your consideration.

PAUL GULLY
58 Holden Road
Sterling, MA 01564
(508) 756-7070 (W)
(508) 422-8010 (H)

(Nominated by Petition)

Qualifications to be a Director:

I began playing tournament racquetball 15 years ago. I have been the Massachusetts State Director for 5 years and a member of the Massachusetts Board of Directors for the past 12 years. I have directed over 200 sanctioned tournaments including the National Doubles, Regional Singles/Doubles and our State's Singles and Doubles.

My varied professional background, which includes owning and selling 2 successful businesses, being an administrator of a large municipal nursing home, serving as Executive Director of a Drug and Alcohol Hospital, and working as a Supervisor at a County Hospital, demonstrates my ability to both work with people and handle budgets and bureaucracy of large organizations. I am currently the owner of George Guertin Trophy in Worcester, MA.

As a player I now compete in the Men's 35+ and 40+ Divisions and am currently the Massachusetts 40+ Champion. I feel my



years of experience in private business and management of various racquetball functions at all levels make me uniquely qualified to serve on the Board of Directors.

Why I Want To Be on the Board of Directors: Currently on the eleven member Board of Directors of the American Amateur Racquetball Association there is only one member who is an active State Director. There are several members and candidates who have served three or four terms on the Board. I feel it is time for some fresh new ideas to stimulate the growth of our great sport. Change is good and essential for the growth of any organization.

As a member of the AARA for over 15 years, and an active State Director for the past 5 years, I feel I can represent the State Association viewpoint on the Board of Directors.

We should not fall prey to the same problems that plague other national boards in which they have lost touch with what is happening in the field. I would like to help the Association develop a strategy of supporting and strengthening our State Association as a first priority.

I feel I possess the proper qualifications and desire to achieve these goals and I would appreciate your vote.

CAROL PELLOWSKI
N84W16093 Donald Court
Menomonee Falls, WI 53051
(414) 251-1420 (W)
(414) 255-7751 (H)

(Nominated by the Board
of Directors)

Qualifications to be a Director:

For the past 13 years, racquetball has been a major part of my life as I progressed from club player to Program Director, Club Manager, State Association Director and current National Board member. With the completion of my first term on the Board of Directors, I feel that I now have the knowledge and information to be even more effective during another term. I've learned a great deal about national policies, the intricacies of the Olympic movement and many of the plans and ideas that our national staff has to ensure that our sport will continue to grow.

I've seen the growth, decline, and rebirth of interest in our sport. As an instructor, I see the needs of the local beginner level players. As a tournament director, I also understand the different needs of competitive players. I've taken the opportunity to be involved in many AARA programs. Attendance at the Elite Camp, passing the Referee Certification Test, and becoming a PARI instructor have made me a more educated person and I have tried to pass some of that knowledge along



DIRECTORS ELECTION

to others. -- My strongest qualification for this job ... I care and I am willing to give the time and energy needed to get the job done. I enjoy promoting the sport of racquetball.

Why I Want To Be on the Board of Directors: I had the honor of being involved in class "A" recognition from the Olympic Committee and countless other meetings, activities, and competitions. Being involved in the growth of our sport is fun, but also a lot of hard work. I've helped make some changes and to see that we are going in the right direction, but there still much to accomplish!

As Chairperson for the U.S. Team Committee, I've helped format policies to govern this group. Athlete conduct becomes more important with our increased visibility, and our code of conduct is necessary. I'd like to spend more time with the Women's Council, continue to work with the Junior Council, and see disabled athletes become regular participants in all our National events.

Another term on the board would allow me to continue working on each of these matters. We need to develop lines of communication with state associations and address the needs of each individual state. We cannot forget the needs of local players as we grow to prominence in the Olympic movement.

I enjoy working with people, while representing women, parents of junior players and club players. My background in club management and programming presents a viewpoint different than that of the regular player.

OFFICIAL BALLOT

[Only current AARA members may vote] -- Vote for NO MORE THAN 3 of the following persons by placing an "X" in the box preceding their name. Clip this ballot from the magazine (no photocopies, please), sign it, and then send it, along with the mailing label from this magazine (needed to verify membership), to AARA, Attention: Board Election, 815 North Weber, Colorado Springs, CO 80903 so it will be received by May 10, 1991.

- ☐ MICHAELARNOLT
- ☐ KEITH CALKINS
- ☐ LES DITTRICH
- ☐ VANDUBOLSKY
- ☐ PAUL GULLY
- ☐ CAROL PELLOWSKI

Signature _____

Not valid unless mailing label is attached!

RACQUETBALL INSIDER

PENN SIGNS ON AS TITLE SPONSOR: Penn Racquet Sports has signed on as the title sponsor of the AARA's newest national event, the U.S. National Outdoor Championships. The Penn U.S. National Outdoor Championships will be held at the University of Florida in Gainesville June 28-30. Penn Racquet Sports will also sponsor the Pacific Rim International Racquetball Championships (June 21-24) and the U.S./Canada/Mexico International Challenge in Colorado Springs (August 16-18).

EKTELON DONATES STRINGING EQUIPMENT TO THE U.S. TEAM: Ektelon has donated a much-needed, state-of-the-art stringer to the U.S. National Team. Jim Winterton, U.S. National Team Head Coach said, "The Ektelon Stringer will go far in rounding out the equipment needed by the team when we are out of the country or competing in areas where a stringing machine is not available." Ektelon is the official sponsor of the AARA and the U.S. National Racquetball Team.

OFFICIAL STRINGING CONTRACT COMES UP FOR BID: A three-year contract opportunity to become the "Official Stringer of the AARA" is officially open for bid. Proposals should be directed to the AARA National Office by May 1st for consideration by the Board of Directors at its semi-annual meeting at National Singles in Houston over the Memorial Day weekend.

BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS OVERHAUL OF REGIONAL CONCEPT: A blue ribbon com-

mittee, formed to review the AARA regional format and headed by Board Member Margo Daniels, met during the AARA Leadership Seminar at the United States Olympic Committee and revised the regional structure. The Committee recommended that current regional boundaries be dropped in 1992 and that regional competitions be held in major metropolitan areas throughout the United States. Under this format, it is expected that the number of regional qualifiers would be increased from the current 16 to 21 in 1992. Based upon the success of the '92 Metro Regionals, the number of competitions could increase to 30 by 1993. The AARA Board will vote on the proposal at the May Board Meeting in Houston.

DON'T PANIC: Following the release of the January/February issue of "Racquetball Magazine," Toni Bevelock contacted the National Office to explain that her "heart condition" is not nearly as serious as was indicated by the National Doubles write-up and the videotaped coverage of the match. While she appreciates the concern of her well-wishers, her condition has been diagnosed as being only an "irregular heartbeat." She also clarified that the medication she normally uses to control the irregularity was not neglected, but has been placed on the list of banned substances by the USOC. Toni first learned of the ban at the U.S. Olympic Festival in Minneapolis/St. Paul this past July.

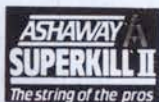
U.S. TEAM TRAINS IN COLORADO SPRINGS: Members of the U.S. National Racquetball Team attended a training camp at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs February 18-23. The camp was the first opportunity for the team to meet and work with newly-appointed head coach Jim Winterton prior to the year's first international event. In

separate "team trials," a series of important practice and evaluation sessions enabled Winterton to select an international squad to represent the U.S. at the VI Tournament of the Americas in Santiago, Chile March 22-30.

GULF CRISIS CALLS UP TEAM PHYSICIAN: The U.S. National Racquetball Team physician, Dr. Rhett Rainey of Colorado Springs, was called into active duty in support of the Gulf

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war just after the first of the year. Presently stationed in Nuremburg, Germany, Dr. Rainey still can't keep his mind off racquetball, and successfully met the magazine's February 1 deadline with a faxed version of his column "Racquetball Aches and Pains."

INTERNATIONAL INSIDER

EUROPEAN RACQUETBALL FEDERATION PUBLISHES FIRST NEWSLETTER: A 28-page premiere edition of "Racquetball Europe" was released by the European Racquetball Federation (ERF) in December and featured a complete update of racquetball activities abroad. With the permission of editors Philip Duignan and Liam McCarney, we reprint the following selected items of interest from the ERF newsletter for our international section.

IRELAND WINS TEAM TROPHY AT EUROPEAN MASTERS: Six countries were represented at the Third Annual European Masters tournament held in Bad Tolz, Bavaria, at the foot of the Alps. Of the six, Ireland came out on top in both the Men's Team competition and the Overall Team title, while the Irish women finished second to France in the women's team event. In the men's doubles semi-final round, an important one-point win by the Irish team of Ryan/Duignan over the Swiss put Ireland into the lead for the team title. "The luck of the Irish" held out as a string of wins in both singles and doubles age divisions put the Emerald Isle in first place at the close of the competition.

10th SWISS OPEN: The 10th Annual Rangliste Swiss Open was held in the small town of Aesch near Zurich, and drew 56 players from Germany, Italy and Switzerland, including U.S. military personnel stationed in Germany and Italy. The most successful repeat challenger was Lou Souther from Rheln Main Airbase in Germany, who added this year's title to wins collected in 1986 and 1987 and to a second place finish in 1981. Each of the winners received a traditional Swiss cow bell -- sized accordingly -- with first place in each division earning a bell big enough for even the largest Swiss cow.

CANADA ANNOUNCES WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP SITE: As reported in the last issue, the 1992 World Championships have been awarded to Canada. "Racquetball Europe" reports that the event will be hosted by the Nautilus Plus Multi Club in Ville D'Anjou, and is tentatively scheduled for August 14-22.

MORE CANADIAN NEWS: World Champion Heather Stupp was named the Canadian Airlines Athlete of the Month for August by the Sports Federation of Canada. The award includes a free airline trip to anywhere in the world served by Canadian Airlines.

TOP SPOTS AROUND THE GLOBE: The top ranked men's and women's open players worldwide are -- Canada: Sherman Greenfeld and Heather Stupp (from rankings); Great Britain: C.Ginyard and W.Hackett (from rankings); Holland: Raymond Postma and Carla Krulzinga (Winners of the Dutch Nationals); Ireland: A.Butler and M.Duignan (from rankings); France: Philippe Lecomte and Sandrine Venard (from results of the French and Strasbourg Opens); USA: Doug Ganlin and Elaine Hooghe (from rankings).



Racquetball's first Olympic Flame: At the Central American Caribbean Games in San Luis Potosi, Mexico, opening ceremonies included the lighting of an Olympic Flame for racquetball -- a first in the sport's history.

COURT NEWS: Racquetball Jenfeld, the largest racquetball center in Europe, recently celebrated its tenth anniversary ** Gotenburg, Sweden hopes to have a new four-court facility constructed in the near future ** Nova Sports created a portable court with a prefab front wall, iron framework and netting for use at the Westladn Exhibition in Poeldijk in the Netherlands.

BRITAIN GAINING GROUND: The Great Britain Racquetball Federation has been approved as an associate member of the British Olympic Association. They also expect to receive confirmation of their acceptance to full membership in the British National Sports Council in the very near future.

The two best HEADS are together at last!



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Coaches' Tour for the Summer of 1991.

*May 31, June 1 & 2
Saginaw, Michigan
Saginaw Valley Health
& Racquet Club

*June 7, 8 & 9
Cincinnati, Ohio
Mid-Town Athletic Club

*June 28, 29 & 30
Colma, California
(San Francisco Area)
What A Racquet

*July 26, 27 & 28
South Plainfield, N.J.
Ricochet Health & Racquet Club

*August 2, 3 & 4
Wilmington, Delaware
Pike Creek Court Club

*August 16, 17 & 18
Aurora, Colorado
Aurora Athletic Club

*August 23, 24 & 25
Edwards, Washington
(Seattle Area)
Harbor Square Athletic Club

CAMP HOURS:

FRIDAY 7:00PM - 10:30PM
SATURDAY 9:00AM - 6:00PM
SUNDAY 8:30AM - 1:00PM

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STATES L.E.A.D. THE WAY

In what has become an annual pilgrimage for many state and regional directors, over sixty affiliated representatives traveled to the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs to attend the 1991 AARA Leadership Conference January 10-11. Participants from 29 states and 7 regions rang in the new year by taking advantage of the opportunity to network with their counterparts from across the country and get a firsthand update on activities at the national office.



In its sixth year, the seminar took on a whole new look by moving into the USOC's main conference center. Designed to seat 100-200 Olympic dignitaries, the multi-media meeting room easily accommodated the group with plenty of room to spare for the guest speakers, their video presentations, promotional materials, give-aways, refreshments, handouts, plus the AARA's new full sized display booth.

Just as the attendees settled in for a three day barrage of information, they were treated to a motivational keynote address by Diana McNab, U.S. National Team Psychologist, that set the tone for the entire weekend. Even the "old hands" in the group sat up to take notice as McNab forced them to examine their reasons for being involved in the organization. Although briefed in advance of the opening session, newcomers began to wonder what they were in for.

Acting on suggestions from previous seminars, moderator Jim Hiser balanced the remaining sessions between high-tech visuals and detailed presentations of facts and figures. Regular breaks allowed people to review the information over coffee and develop strategies for dealing with old problems in new ways. Small discussion groups focused on Sponsorships and Tournaments, Newsletters and Publications, Recreational Memberships, Grants and Applications, Junior Programming and Bookkeeping and Forms. As a whole the group reviewed the recommendations of the "State Development Task Force" headed by John Buck, and heard from a host of industry experts on the state of racquetball in the 90s.



Keith Calkins tells AARA staffer Melody Weiss a thing or two on the dance floor.

By the end of each day of presentations, the AARA leaders were ready to lead the way onto the courts, and several "after hours" sessions were held at the Lynmar Racquet and Health Club. A Saturday night banquet at Lynmar helped close out the event with a successful auction to benefit the U.S. National Team. An annual event in itself, the "Leadership Auction" netted over \$2,500 for the Team, while building reputations for the "best dancer," "best crooner," "most generous," and "funniest" guests.



Tennessee state director Walter McDade also conducted the auction between ballads.

The combination of hard work and a good time at the 1991 AARA Leadership Seminar reflects the attitude taken by state and regional directors on a day to day basis. It's hard work for volunteers and it often turns into a good time for those they serve. The theme of this year's conference was "States L.E.A.D. the Way" and the conference attendees embraced the qualities of Leadership, Education, Administration and Dedication in a way that will benefit each and every AARA member in the coming year.

STATE NEWS

CALIFORNIA: 1st Annual Fog Bog

by Doug Wood [Special to RACQUETBALL Magazine]

The King's Athletic Club in Hanford, California recently held its 1st Annual Fog Bog Racquetball Tournament. The event attracted some of the state's top competitors, including #1 ranked Mike Martinez and #3 ranked Scott Oliver, who met in the Men's Open final.

With cat-like quickness and rocketing shots, Martinez forced Oliver to react like a gymnast in diving and digging out seemingly perfect shots. Proving the Texas saying that "it ain't over till its over," Oliver kept the crowd "ooohing and aahing" throughout the truly classic matchup, as he used his acrobatic maneuvers to outplay Martinez in two games and take home the \$400.00 first place check.

In Open Doubles, Oliver teamed up with Devin Ruby to defeat Jim Durham (CARA ranked #1 in Men's 30+) and Rick Ferrin. In the women's division, Mary Gowetor recovered from an all-night drive to defeat Sharon Chicoine and improve her ranking position and checking account. In all, the tournament was a great success and we look forward to reporting about the "2nd Annual Fog Bog" tournament next year.

Results - MO: Scott Oliver def. Mike Martinez; MA: Greg Freeze def. Dave Gomez; MB: Genny Martinez def. Terry Brown; MC: Tyler Siggins def. Terry Brown; MD: Carlos Flores def. Chris Scott; MN: Andrew Gregorich def. Martin Potter; WO: Mary Gowetor def. Sharon Chicoine.

ILLINOIS: Sullivan Racquetball Club's 1990 Open

by Bev Powell [Special to RACQUETBALL Magazine]

To close out November, the Sullivan Racquetball Club hosted its 1990 Open Racquetball Tournament at the Sullivan Civic Center. Tournament Directors Bev Powell of Lovington, Cathy Waggoner and Linda Alumbaugh of Sullivan, and Ron Matthew of Bethany hosted 64 entrants, including national and state ranked players from Illinois and Indiana for the three-day singles event.

In the Men's Open final, #1 seeded Sid Hales, Evansville, Ind., met #2 Tony Marquez, Springfield, as expected. A capacity gallery viewed Hales, currently ranked Indiana's State Singles Champion, defeat Marquez, 15-10 and 15-4. In the semifinals, Hales defeated Steve Horve, Jr., of Decatur, 15-5, 15-4, and Marquez defeated Jack Kercheval, Sullivan, 15-12, 15-8. Ron Matthew, Bethany, who lost to Horve in an 11-4 tiebreaker first round, defeated Tim Tumulty, Springfield 5-15, 15-4, 11-7, in the Consolation match.

In the Women's Open, #1 seeded Martha Gates, Kanakee, undefeated in this season tournament play, defeated #2 seeded Carol Bastien, Vergennes, (14)-15, 15-3, and 11-5 tiebreaker. Gates and Bastien met earlier this season and went to a tiebreaker to determine the winner in Decatur. Semifinalists were Terri Hinton, Decatur, who lost to Bastien, and Cathy Waggoner, Sullivan, who lost to Gates. Waggoner was the most successful against Gates, earning the most total points against the event winner. Bev Powell, Lovington, after losing a first round tiebreaker to Hinton by three points, defeated Angie Hales, Evansville, Ind., 15-5, 15-1, to garner Consolation honors.

Local player, Jack Kercheval took Men's A first place, defeating Steve Horve, (11)-15, 15-8, 11-8. Horve had beaten Kercheval twice earlier this season in final matches, which made this win on home court that much sweeter. Both semifinal matches went three games, with Tim Tumulty losing to Horve, 15-13, (11)-15, (5)-11, and Mike O'Neill, Springfield, losing to Kercheval, (6)-15, (15)-11, (7)-11. Women's B and C/Novice divisions held round robins with Erin Atherton, Decatur and Lucia Roney, Sullivan, winning, respectively. Linda Alumbaugh and Sharon Karcher (both from Sullivan) shared second place, Robin Black, Sullivan, and Darletta England, Lovington, placed third, respectively.

INDIANA: National Golden Masters Comes to Indianapolis

by Mike Arnolt [Reprinted from Hoosier Racquetball]

For three days in April, Indianapolis will be the place to be for the older racquetball crowd. An estimated 150 players from ages 55 to 80-year-olds are expected to participate in the National Golden Masters Tournament at the Court Club located at 96th and Keystone.

For the first time, this annual tournament will include divisions for women. There will be singles and doubles events. The Radisson Plaza Hotel, Keystone at the Crossing, is the lodging site for the April 18-20 tournament.



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SANCTIONED EVENT CALENDAR



MARCH 15

Cabin Fever Open
South Tahoe Fitness Center
So. Lake Tahoe, NV 916-
344-6222

Carolina Sports Open
Carolina Sports Plaza
Southern Pines, NC 919-
692-7946

EKTELON REGION 10
ADULT CHAMPIONSHIPS
Court Club, Indianapolis, IN
317-926-2766

Hills YMCA
Jefferson City YMCA
Jefferson City, MO
314-633-4181

Grand Rapids City
Championship, Grand
Rapids, MI 616-455-1997

Hastings Open, Hastings
YMCA, Hastings, NE
402-463-3139

Muniz Memorial Open
Racquetball Plus, Burlingame, CA 415-692-3300

Muscular Dystrophy Level 2
South Fla Racquetball Club
Ft Lauderdale, FL
305-987-6410

N W Open/Washington
State Singles, Bellingham
Athletic Club, Bellingham,
WA 206-676-1800

New York City Open
BQE Fitness & Racquet Club
Woodside NY
718-726-4343

Shamrock Shootout
Cut Bank Civic Center
Cut Bank, MT

Slamrock at Court South
Conditioning Center
Murfreesboro, TN
615-896-3123

Sports Life Classic at
Sportalife, Birmingham, AL
205-870-0144

St. Paddy's Day Open
Riverview Racquet Club
Eastlake, OH 216-942-5613

St. Pat's Festival
Clovis Comm. College
Clovis, NM 505-763-4658
St Patrick's Day Open

Nehr At Waterbury
Waterbury CT 06704

Bluewater Racquet & Fitness
Center Open
Niceville, FL 904-897-4376

Tim Denamore Memorial
VIP Health Club
Sanford, ME 207-324-1154

Tournament of Champions
La Masters Racquet &
Fitness Center, West Chester
PA 215-436-6200

10th Ann. Endless Mtn. Open
Shadowbrook Resort
Tunkhannock, PA
717-836-2151

11th Annual Easter Seals
Open at Butler Club
Butler, PA 412-285-3775

4th Annual Raq-Attack
American Sports Center
Fresno, CA 209-226-8686

8th Ann. United Cerebral
Palsy at Suburban R/B &
Swim Club, St. Cloud, MN
612-251-1965

MARCH 16
EKTELON REGION 10
JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS
Court Club, Indianapolis, IN
317-926-2766

Ned Gordon Open
Lakeland Family YMCA
Lakeland, FL 813-644-3528

MARCH 17
NE REGION COLLEGIATE
CHAMPIONSHIPS at New
England H&R, Providence,
RI 508-922-9988

MARCH 21
EKTELON REGION 14
ADULT CHAMPIONSHIPS
Racquetball World, Santa
Ana, CA 714-972-2999

IDAHO STATE SINGLES
Court House
Boise, ID 208-377-0040

NEW MEXICO STATE
SINGLES at Academy Court
Club, Albuquerque, NM
505-884-5555

Ventimiglia Tournament
Lynmar Racquet & Health
Club, Colorado Springs, CO
719-598-4069

MARCH 22

ARIZONA STATE
SINGLES, at La Mancha
Racquet Club, Phoenix, AZ

Coors Light R/B Series #8
Tallmadge Wellness &
Fitness Ctr., Tallmadge, OH
614-548-4188

Coors Silver Bullet
Johnson City RB, Johnson
City, TN 615-282-3091

EKTELON REGION 4
ADULT CHAMPIONSHIPS
Atlanta Sporting Club
Atlanta, GA 404-636-7575

Hot Shots at Coossetown
Racquet & Health Club
Anaconda, MT 59711

KANSAS STATE
DOUBLES, at the Club
House Dodge City
Dodge City, KS 67801

Liberty Bell Open at the
Ultimate Club, Philadelphia,
PA 215-969-6600

NORTH DAKOTA STATE
SINGLES, at the Grand
Forks Tennis Centre
Grand Forks, ND 58201

Omni 41 Open, at Omni 41
Sports & Fitness, Scherer-
ville, IN 319-865-6969

Spring Shoot Out Open
The Works
Somersworth, NH 03878

Super Seven #7
Livoni Racquettime
Livonia, MI 313-239-4130

Tournament of the
Americas
Santiago, Chile

Wambo
Supreme Court
Madison, WI 608-274-5080

WYOMING STATE
JUNIORS, at Kemmerer
Rec. Ctr., Kemmerer, WY
307-877-9641

YMCA Texas Open
Downtown YMCA
Houston, TX 713-524-5478

1st Annual Pottsdam Open
Pottsdam State College
Pottsdam, NY 315-265-0305

12th Annual KZIO Pro-Am
The Courthouse
Duluth, MN 218-728-4454

MARCH 23
For Women Only
Charlotte Racquet & Health
Charlotte, NC 704-523-5769

MARCH 28
COLORADO STATE
SINGLES, at Lakewood
Athletic Club, Lakewood,
CO 719-574-0477

MARCH 29
Pool's Day Folly, at Tri-City
Court Club, Kennewick, WA
206-367-4400

Granite State Challenge Cup
Executive Health & Fitness
Manchester, NH 03103

MAINE STATE SINGLES
Holiday Health & Fitness
Bangor, ME 207-947-0763

March Madness at South
Hampshire RC, St. Louis,
MO 314-353-1500

Reno Athletic Club Open
Reno, NV 702-788-5588

VERMONT STATE
SINGLES
Racquets Edge
Bass Junction, VT 05452

APRIL 3
Cottonwood Open at
Cottonwood Heights Rec
Ctr., Salt Lake City, UT
801-943-3190

APRIL 4
WORLD INTERCOLLE-
GIATE CHAMPIONSHIPS
City Square AC, Phoenix,
AZ 618-436-9522

Northern New Mexico Open
Los Alamos YMCA, Los
Alamos, NM 505-662-1100

Oak Park Spring Open
Oak Park Court House
Oak Park, IL 708-848-5200

APRIL 5
Avian/Moot Classic at Miami
Racquet & Fitness Club
Miami, FL 305-225-2582

Concord Racquetball Classic
Concord Athletic Club, San
Antonio, TX 512-828-8880

Coors Light R/B Series #9
Westerville Athletic Club,
Columbus, OH
614-548-4188

Crush Classic at Courts Plus
Jacksonville, NC
919-346-3446

EKTELON REGION 11
ADULT CHAMPIONSHIPS
Arena Health Club,
Minneapolis, MN
507-257-3352

EKTELON REGION 2
ADULT & JUNIOR
CHAMPIONSHIPS
King George/The Racquets
Club, Greenbrook, NJ
201-612-9534

EKTELON REGION 3
ADULT CHAMPIONSHIPS
Sports Plex East, Birming-
ham, AL 205-760-1121

Grand Junction Athletic Club
Spring Open, Grand
Junction, CO 303-245-4100

KANSAS STATE SINGLES
Wichita Workout
Wichita, KS

MONTANA STATE
SINGLES
Universal Sports & Courts
Bozeman, MT

New Life Open at NewLife
Fitness World, Cape Coral,
FL 813-574-6810

PENNSYLVANIA STATE
SINGLES at Cocon Court
Club, Hershey, PA
717-533-4554

Pomona Valley Open at the
Claremont Club, Claremont,
CA 714-625-6791

WISCONSIN STATE
SINGLES at West Allis
Athletic Club, West Allis,
WI 414-251-1420

WYOMING STATE
SINGLES at Laramie
Athletic Club, Laramie, WY
307-742-8136

Clubsport Open at Clubsport
of Pleasanton, Pleasanton,
CA 415-463-2822

WEST VIRGINIA STATE
DOUBLES at Marshal
University, Huntington, WV



SANCTIONED EVENT CALENDAR

APRIL 11

California Open - WPRP Pro
Stop at What a Racquet
Athletic Club, Colma, CA
415-994-9080

CRA STATE AGE Singles

& JUNIORS at Denver
Sporting Club, Englewood,
CO 719-574-0477

EKTELON REGION 1
ADULT CHAMPIONSHIPS
New England Health &
Racquet, East Providence, RI

Milk Open at Sundown
Liverpool, Liverpool, NY
315-451-5050

Spring Fling at Club
International, Santa Fe, NM

APRIL 12

Dayton City Championships
Dayton, OH 513-435-4875

DELAWARE STATE
SINGLES at Pike Creek
Fitness Club, Wilmington,
DE 302-239-6688

EKTELON REGION 7
ADULT & JUNIOR
CHAMPIONSHIPS at the
Racquetball & Fitness Club
San Antonio, TX
512-344-8596

NEBRASKA STATE
SINGLES

Special K RB Series #4 at
21st Point Health & Fitness
Youngstown, OH
216-247-7549

Super Seven Finale
Detroit/Davison, MI
313-239-4130

TENNESSEE STATE
DOUBLES at Aerob-a-Fit
Sports Ctr., Nashville, TN
615-832-7529

Women's Downeast at
Racquetball International,
Windham, ME
207-892-3231

10th Michiana Open at Pro
Health, Mishawaka, IN
219-259-8585

12th Capitol Courts Open
Capitol Courts, Carson City,
NV 702-882-9566

APRIL 17

EKTELON REGION 12
ADULT CHAMPIONSHIPS
Sports Mall, Salt Lake City,
UT 801-261-3426

APRIL 18

GOLDEN MASTERS
NATIONAL INVITA-
TIONAL Singles & Doubles
The Court Club, Indianapo-
lis, IN 317-926-2766

APRIL 19

Dogwood Classic at the
Sports Farm, Knoxville, TN
615-584-6272

EKTELON REGION 13
ADULT CHAMPIONSHIPS
The Court House
Boise, ID 208-377-0040

EKTELON REGION 6
ADULT & JUNIOR
CHAMPIONSHIPS
The Athletic Club
Overland Park, KS

HAWAII STATE
DOUBLES at the Kaula
Athletic Club, Lihue, HI

Merced Spring Open
Merced Racquet Club
Merced, CA 209-722-3988

Rick Weaver Buick GMC
Truck Open at the Nautilus
Fitness & Racquet Club
Erie, PA 814-459-3033

South Jersey Shoot Out
Diabetes at the All Pro
Fitness & Racquet Club
Maple Shade, NJ

Valley Athletic Club Open
Tumwater, WA
206-352-3400

WISCONSIN STATE
JUNIORS at Tamarack
Athl. Club, Lake Delton, WI

Women's Only Pro-Am
Racquetball Spa, Fairfield CT

2nd Annual Track & Racquet
Springtime Doubles at Track
& Racquet Club, Fayetteville,
NY 315-446-3141

APRIL 25

MINNESOTA STATE
SINGLES
Burnsville Racquet/Swim
Club, Burnsville, MN
612-377-5779

APRIL 26

EKTELON REGION 17
ADULT & JUNIOR
CHAMPIONSHIPS
Charlotte RB & Health Club
Charlotte, NC 704-521-8048

EKTELON REGION 13
ADULT & JUNIOR
CHAMPIONSHIPS
Campbell County Parks/Rec
Gillette, WY 307-682-8327

EKTELON REGION 8
ADULT CHAMPIONSHIPS
North Hills Athletic Club
Menomonee Falls, WI

EKTELON REGION 14
JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS
Racquetball World & Fitness
Club, Fountain Valley, CA
714-962-1347

EKTELON REGION 4
JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS
Southern Athletic Club
Lilburn, GA 404-923-5400

Hawaiian Open, Sacramento
Court Club, Sacramento, CA
916-920-1933

INSRA STATE SINGLES
Racquetball of Greenbriar
Indianapolis, IN 317-255-
7730

MICHIGAN STATE
SINGLES/JUNIORS
Coliseum II Racquet Club
Taylor, MI

OHIO STATE SINGLES/
JUNIORS
Hall of Fame Fitness Center
Canton, OH 614-548-4188

APRIL 27

EKTELON REGION 3
ADULT & JUNIOR
CHAMPIONSHIPS
Ultimate RB & Fitness Ctr
Philadelphia, PA
215-969-6600

APRIL 28

Junior Regional Warm-up
Lincoln Racquet Club
Lincoln, NE 402-423-2511

MAY 2

EKTELON REGION 8
JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS
Glass Court, Lombard IL
312-539-4015

MAY 3

American Cancer Society
Open at Merritt Athletic
Club, Annapolis, MD
301-263-5400

Berberian European Motors
Open at Quail Lakes
Stockton, CA 209-951-3795

Cinco De Mayo at New
Mexico Highlands
University, Las Vegas, NM
505-454-0146

EKTELON REGION 1
JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS
Auburn Health & Racquet
Club, Auburn, MA
508-756-7070

HAWAII STATE SINGLES
Honolulu Club, Honolulu, HI

Penn Monroe Open
Racquet Club of Pittsburgh,
Monroeville, PA
412-856-3930

TENNESSEE STATE
JUNIORS at Aerob-a-Fit
Sports Ctr., Nashville, TN
615-832-7529

3rd Seniors/Masters Singles
Colorado Springs, CO
719-635-5396

8th Sierra Siam at Incline
Court House, Incline Village,
NV 702-811-4212

MAY 4

EKTELON REGION 5
JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS
Aerob-a-Fit Sports Center
Nashville, TN 615-832-7529

MASSACHUSETTS STATE
JUNIORS at Auburn Health
& Racquet Club
Auburn, MA 617-491-8989

MAY 5

EKTELON REGION 12
JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS
Denver Athletic Club
Denver, CO 303-534-1211

MAY 8

Vernal Open
Vernal Athletic Club
Vernal, UT 801-789-5816

MAY 9

NEW MEXICO STATE
DOUBLES at Tom Young's
Ath Club, Albuquerque, NM
505-889-9433

No Excuses II

Courtesy Sports, Los Altos,
CA 415-968-7970

MAY 10

EKTELON REGION 11
JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS
Northgate Racquet Club
Rochester, MN
507-281-1551

HAWAII STATE SINGLES/
JUNIORS at Honolulu Club
Honolulu, HI

Playgirl Open at Lakewood
Athletic Club, Lakewood,
CO 303-422-5703

Spring Open Tournament
University of Houston -
Clear Lake
Houston, TX 713-283-2640

NATIONAL EVENTS

APRIL 4-7: IRF EKTELON
WORLD INTERCOLLE-
GIATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

APRIL 18-20: U.S.
NATIONAL GOLDEN
MASTERS INVITATIONAL

MAY 23-27: EKTELON
U.S. NATIONAL SINGLES
CHAMPIONSHIPS

JUNE 21-24: PENN
PACIFIC RIM INTERNA-
TIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

JUNE 22-26: EKTELON
U.S. JUNIOR OLYMPIC
CHAMPIONSHIPS

JUNE 28-30: PENN U.S.
NATIONAL OUTDOOR
CHAMPIONSHIPS

JULY 13-19: U.S.
OLYMPIC FESTIVAL

AUGUST 1-3: U.S. NATL.
MASTER'S GOLDEN
MASTERS INVITATIONAL
DOUBLES

AUGUST 16-18: PENN
U.S./CANADA/MEXICO
CHALLENGE

SEPT. 4-7: IRF WORLD
SENIOR/MASTERS

OCT. 23-27: EKTELON
U.S. NATIONAL
DOUBLES CHAMPION-
SHIPS

The tournament, which annually relocates throughout the U.S., was held in Pittsburgh in 1990. A round-robin format, giving every player six to ten matches, makes this a special tournament. There are men's and women's divisions in the following age groups: 55+, 60+, 65+, 70+, 75+, and 80+. Players may compete in both singles and doubles events. In addition, there will be women's brackets (singles/doubles) for 35-54 age group. Mixed doubles is also being offered for the first time this year.

The \$85 entry fee includes a continental breakfast and lunch each day of the tournament, including a special banquet Saturday evening (guest fee for non-players).

For more information or an entry blank, contact Mike Arnolt, (317)926-2766 or FAX (317)926-2772, or call the Court Club, (317)846-1111.

MICHIGAN: Bonnett Wins RAM Scholarship

by W.T. Blakeslee [Reprinted from The Racquetball Reporter]

Joel Bonnett was named the 1990 scholarship award winner for the second year in a row. Joel attended Forest Hills Central High School where he lettered in baseball and maintained a 3.4 GPA.

Joel's racquetball accomplishments are unequalled by any other junior player in the nation. He won both the High School National Championship and the Junior Olympic National Championship. He will try to win an unprecedented triple crown as he competes in the Orange Bowl Junior Championship. Joel is consistently in the semis of all major tournaments and won four major tournaments in Michigan last year. It could be argued that Joel is currently the best player in the state. Joel is attending Michigan State University this fall as a freshman and continues to play in most tournaments.

As in the past, the scholarship award is funded by the RAM Board, major and individual contributors. Those interested in becoming a part of the program can contact W.T. Blakeslee.

MINNESOTA: MSRA Inducts Hall of Famer

by Marta Gross [Special to RACQUETBALL Magazine]

Lester Dittrich of Eagle Lake, Minnesota was inducted into the Minnesota Racquetball Hall of Fame at the Annual Banquet of the MSRA Hall of Fame Tournament in early January. A long-time regional director, Les was an ideal choice according to the three basic criteria for selection, which are: 1) making a contribution to the sport, 2) being a model player, and 3) bringing recognition to Minnesota racquetball.

In his hometown of Eagle Lake and nearby Mankato (about 90 minutes southwest of the Twin Cities), Les has actively promoted the sport and annually sponsored an AARA sanctioned event through his bar, the Eagle's Nest. On the state level, he was instrumental in organizing the Minnesota State Racquetball Association [MSRA] and served as its vice-president for one year and as president for two years before becoming the Region 11 director for Minnesota, Nebraska, North and South Dakota.

Les has also been very active on the AARA Master's Council, and has distinguished himself as a model player whose



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sportsmanship on the court is well-known. A competitor commented "He plays hard and he plays fair. He won't take any cheap points." He'll play with just about anyone who wants to play and takes time to talk to all players, regardless of ability.

In bringing recognition to Minnesota, Les has won his division in National Master's tournaments and in 1985 he and fellow Minnesotan Ron Strom won the Men's 40+ division of National Doubles. His hard work was also an important factor in bringing the 1989 National Doubles to Burnsville, and the success of that event opened the door for Minnesota to host the 1991 Ektelon Junior Olympic Championships this summer.

For his enthusiasm, promotion and wholehearted support of the sport, Les Dittich is considered the "Luke St. Onge" of Minnesota racquetball!

NEW YORK: The Long Island Open

by Al Seltzman [Special to RACQUETBALL Magazine]

The 14th Annual Long Island Open drew a record 964 entries from 18 states to the Sportset Clubs in Syosset and Rockville Center on November 9-11. Players from as far away as California, Florida, North Carolina and Minnesota were added to a Men's Open draw that read like a who's who of racquetball on the East Coast.

Even before the first open matches began, the almost \$2,000 in cash prizes for the Men's Open division caused controversy over the right of professional players to compete in an amateur sanctioned event. Although AARA rules state that once a cash prize is offered, any player, regardless of their amateur or professional status, may enter, some local players objected to having to compete against the likes of Ruben Gonzalez. Rather than create a furor, Ruben withdrew from the division and instead offered to play an exhibition match against Doug Ganim on Saturday. As a team, Gonzalez and Ganim were unopposed in entering the Men's Open Doubles division.



Fred Calabrese prepares to serve against Doug Ganim in the Men's Open final. Photo: Courtesy Al Seltzman.

As opening rounds got underway, the crowd began to speculate about the 42 players in the Men's Open. Would Fred Calabrese maintain his unbeaten streak and become the first male player to win four open titles? Would Mike Sekul be able to win a second championship? Would anybody be able to pull off a win in both singles and doubles to match Jim Scheyer's feat in 1978? Would any of the players from out of state take the trophy home? By Sunday afternoon, all these questions would be answered.

Every Long Island Open holds surprises, and even the top-seeded players had difficulty advancing from early rounds. Players used to meeting in the finals of their local tournaments were forced to play each other in the round of 32 due to the high level of competition. In the quarterfinals, #3 seeded Mike Sekul was eliminated by Ron DiGiacomo, and Fred Calabrese had not yet lost a game. By the semi-finals, local fans had plenty to watch with each pairing featuring a hometown favorite against an out of state challenger. Although Tom Montalbano gave his best career effort against Fred Calabrese, he lost the 11-5 tiebreaker. In the bottom bracket, Ron DiGiacomo also gave a good performance against Doug Ganim, but couldn't take a game and lost the match 15-5, 15-6. When Ganim later won the final match over Calabrese, he became the second player in history to win both a singles and doubles title at the Long Island Open, and the first to do it in thirteen years.

Advancing through the largest and most difficult doubles draws ever, Ganim and Ruben Gonzalez displayed the form that made Doug a two-time world champion in doubles. Opponents were heard to remark that they tried to play to Ruben in order to offset Doug's doubles skills. The strategy didn't work for any of the early round opponents, nor for the team of Gruber/Sekul in the final.

With a total of over 186 women entered in the tournament, it was once again proven that women constitute a meaningful force in racquetball on the east coast. In Women's Open, the draw was once again the largest to date, with players from throughout the country coming to do battle. Dot Fischl was trying for an unprecedented sixth straight title, but her opponents included three players who had beaten her in the past year. Despite extremely close matches, all four top seeds made it to the

EKTELON WORLD INTERCOLLEGIATE CHAMPIONSHIPS: PHOENIX, APRIL 4 - 7



SITE AND HOUSING: City Square Hotel & Athletic Club - Phoenix, Arizona

Tournament Contact: Keith Fleming, 602/279-9633

Reservations: 602/279-9811 (Rate: \$62 w/up to 4 in room)

TRANSPORTATION FROM AIRPORT: Super Shuttle - \$7 per person

PLAY BEGINS: 8:00 a.m. Thursday, April 4, 1991 - NO EXCEPTIONS

REGISTRATION PARTY: PENN will be sponsoring a "draw" party from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., April 3rd.

COACHES MEETING: Directly following the Registration Party.

SPECIAL NOTICES: HOSPITALITY begins with lunch Thursday **Tournament SHIRTS for all Players ** LENSED EYEWEAR manufactured for racquet sports is MANDATORY ** RANDOM DRUG TESTING will be conducted - An entire team will be disqualified if any of its members fails the test.

COLLEGIATE RULES

RULE 1: ELIGIBILITY - An undergraduate student shall be eligible to compete in ACRA/AARA sanctioned tournaments if he/she is a full-time student as defined by the individual school enrolled and is making satisfactory progress toward a degree. In the event a member school is represented by a player in an ACRA/AARA sanctioned tournament who is found to be ineligible, all points earned by that player will be forfeited and said participant disqualified. A player will be permitted four (4) years of intercollegiate competition. Eligibility will be governed by the ACRA Board of Directors. **RULE 2: AMATEUR PARTICIPATION** - Only amateurs may participate. A professional is defined as any player (male or female) who has accepted prize money, regardless of the amount in any pro-sanctioned tournament (WPRA and men's professional) or any other association so deemed by the AARA Board of Directors. **RULE 3: VERIFICATION** - A list of participants, certified by the registrar and indicating name, classification, years of competition used, and the number of hours enrolled shall be sent to tournament director prior to competing in ACRA/AARA sanctioned events. **RULE 4: TEAMS AND DIVISIONS** - Teams consist of 1 to 12 players, men and women, from the same university/college. Teams cannot have players from different campuses in the same system (for example, University of Texas - Austin, Arlington, and El Paso campuses). Like singles team, doubles teams must also be from the same university/college. - There are 6 singles divisions and 3 doubles divisions for men and women; no two players from the same team will play in the same division. Divisions are numbered 1-6 (singles) and 1-3 (doubles). Players may enter only one singles division or one doubles division. Singles players may enter one doubles division as a second event. If there are less than 6 players, men or women, on a team, divisions will be filled from the top first, i.e., #1 Singles, #2 Singles, etc. **RULE 5: SCORING** - Points are awarded to first round winners, including wins by forfeit and byes. Details on point awards and team scoring will be available on site. **RULE 6: AARA MEMBERSHIP** - All players must be members of the AARA; non-members must submit \$15 membership fees. AARA/ACRA membership dues can be paid at the tournament site, but to avoid check in delay, please have team members send dues with tournament registration.

TEAM ENTRY FORM

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY _____ DATE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

CAPTAIN/ADVISOR _____ H/PHONE _____ W PHONE _____

INDIVIDUAL FEES:

First event: (\$10/person) _____

Second event: (\$15/person) _____

INSTITUTIONAL FEES (Select one):

6 + Team Members (\$50) _____

2 - 5 Team Members (\$25) _____

1 Team Member (\$10) _____

REFEREE FEE (\$5/person) _____

AARA MEMB. (\$15/person) _____

TOTAL _____

SEND ELIGIBILITY FORM AND CHECK PAYABLE TO: AARA Intercollegiate Championships, 815 N Weber, Colorado Springs, CO 80903.

Entries must be postmarked by Wednesday, March 13, 1991. Only one men's team and one women's team will be permitted per university/college.

WOMEN'S TEAM

MEN'S TEAM

SINGLES:

DOUBLES:

#1 _____

#1 _____

#2 _____

& _____

#3 _____

#2 _____

#4 _____

& _____

#5 _____

#3 _____

#6 _____

& _____

SINGLES:

DOUBLES:

#1 _____

#1 _____

#2 _____

& _____

#3 _____

#2 _____

#4 _____

& _____

#5 _____

#3 _____

#6 _____

& _____

WAIVER As listed below, we hereby, for ourselves, our heirs, executors and administrators waive and release any and all rights and claims for damages we have against the AARA/ACRA and all participating parties and their respective agents for any and all injuries.

(Signature of Advisor/Captain)

semi-finals before Dot pulled away with a 15-5, 15-7 victory over Roz Olson. Randi Freedman took a similar two-game win of 15-8, 15-11 over Lynne Coburn to reach the finals against Fischl. Dot's title win over Randi in a tiebreaker was a replay of last year's Women's Open championship, although Randi continues to improve and become more and more of an obstacle to Dot's dominance of this event. Teaming with Lynne Coburn in doubles, Dot was able to match the achievement of Doug Ganim by winning both the singles and doubles titles. In the doubles final, the pair defeated last year's champions Roz Olson and Melanie Britton.

The generosity of new and long-time sponsors of the Long Island Open makes this annual tournament one of the most popular. At this year's event, over 300 souvenir and door prizes were given out, including Lite Beer prizes, Spalding racquets and bags, Leader eyeguards, Penn gloves and balls, Thorlo socks, Pro-Kennex bags and hats, Tacki-Mac grips, Windjammer cruises, Ektelon bags, airbrushing, AARA bags, U.S. Olympic memorabilia, and dinners at local restaurants.

Even if a player didn't happen to win a prize at the drawing, every entrant received a limited edition Wristlancer designed exclusively for the Long Island Open, plus was treated to an unheard of three-day feast. Over the course of the tournament, food and drink sponsors provided 3,000 Frozfruit bars, 600 Paletta cheesecakes, 36 kegs of Lite beer from Miller, 500 pounds of chicken, 500 Entenmann's cakes, 26 cases of fruit, 200 dozen rolls and bagels, and 200 pounds of salad.

Continuing its commitment that every player and spectator go home feeling like a winner, the tournament staff headed by Allan Seitelman ran over 1500 matches on time and awarded 283 laser-engraved oak plaques to players in 45 divisions. Special thanks goes to Ernie Fraas, Bob Supple, Regina Ochwat, Mike Jones, Neil Barsky, Ann Lovaglio, Ruth, Jack, Rosemarie and JJ Seitelman, Elvira Lovaglio, Jim Mortimer, Frank Pflumm, Perry Barrett, Sr. and the Sportset Clubs for making this year's Long Island Open a great success.

RESULTS -- MEN'S OPEN: Doug Ganim def. Fred Calabrese; MA: John Barrett def. Roger Stern; MB: Matt Stigura def. Peter Pagan; MC: Mark Soalt def. Steve Sanfilippo; MCC: Richard Cardone def. Stephen Musacchia; MN: Gene Samabria def. Joe Palone; MBeg: Larry Lester def. Fred Kohler; M25: Bill Kelley def. Stephen Arizmendi; M30: John Peterson def. Bob Haab; M30C: Robert Calme def. Jack Castaneda; M35: Jim Young def. Ed Garabedian; M40: Frank Ciociola def. Harold O'Neil; M45: Mark Steinhoff def. John Mootz; M50: Charlie Garfinkel def. Don Costleigh; M55: Louis Berson def. Luis Fuentes; M60: David Weinberg def. Walter Shur. **WOMEN'S OPEN:** Dot Fischl def. Randi Freedman; WA: Colleen Kudlik def. Pam Filasky; WB: Angel Renaud def. Vicki Gottlieb; WC: Janet Amodie def. Susan Delzatto; WBeg: Lorraine Novellino def. Samantha Zacker; W25: Ilene Sofferman def. Robin Montalbano; W30: Pat Musselman def. Elizabeth Sanchez. **JUNIORS: BOYS**



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12: Ben Williams def. Kurt Muller; B14: Jason Steward def. A.J. McHugh; B16: Craig Rappaport def. Brian Berlin; B18: Rob DeJunes def. Fabian Pedrazza; GIRLS 12: Rhiana Swartz def. Stephanie DeFalco. **DOUBLES WINNERS:** MO: Ganim/Gonzalez; MA: Falkowitz/Gasbaro; MB: Lombardo/Inzinna; MC: Steinberg/Garzla; M30: Peterson/Young; M40: Ciociola/Vanore; WO: Fischl/Coburn; WB: Delouise/Correlia; W30: Telschow/Gottlieb; MXD: DeJunes/Dunn.

PENNSYLVANIA: Hager Promotes Wheelchair Racquetball for Fitness

By Roxanne McRoberts

[Reprinted, courtesy Lancaster Intelligencer Journal]

Racquetball is a fast-moving sport of precise moves and strategy, most commonly played one-on-one but sometimes played with three players or two teams of two.

A relatively new slant to the sport is the integration of wheelchair players.

Recently named as the president of the National Wheelchair Racquetball Association (NWRA), Joe Hager of Lancaster pointed out that wheelchair players have been

playing racquetball for nine years, but serious organization for the competitive player is only recently being recognized.

Hager, who is not a wheelchair player, as well as those wheelchair athletes who play racquetball, enjoy the sport because it is one of the only integrated sports where able-bodied and wheelchair athletes can compete together.



*Joe Hager at the Lancaster County Racquetball and Health Club.
[Photo: Roxanne McRoberts, Reprinted courtesy Intelligencer Journal]*

"The greatest thing is that a wheelchair player doesn't have to play another wheelchair player."

The NWRA is a branch of the American Amateur Racquetball Association (AARA) Disabled Council. Hager recently returned from a five-day AARA leadership conference in Colorado Springs at the United States Olympic Training Center, where he was invited to speak on the intentions of the NWRA.

"I first went to better understand the workings of AARA, and second, to get support from different states for wheelchair sports," he said. "We were well received by every state racquetball association."

At the end of 1990, John Foust, AARA Commissioner for the Disabled, initiated a preliminary gathering of interested individuals in order to create a NWRA Board of Directors. Headed by Hager, the nine member board will meet in Pittsburgh on February 15 during a benefit pro stop to gather their thoughts for the coming year. On the agenda are such items as generating a mission statement which focuses on the goals and purposes of the group, establishing by-laws, identifying committees and discussing grant opportunities.

Also on the agenda is designing a logo, and improving communications by compiling an accurate mailing list of

wheelchair athletes.

Hager became involved with organizing NWRA simply because he saw a need in a sport that he loves.

Hager, who has been playing for seven years, said, "If I am a vehicle for opening doors, it's a pleasure and an honor for me. It's opening doors for me as well."

Before he ever dreamed of being as involved as he is, Hager saw wheelchair racquetball promoted and wanted to know where he could see it played.

"Before, however, I had a chance to see it played, I met Mike King and asked him if he ever played. He hadn't," said Hager. King is well-known in the area as an accomplished wheelchair athlete.

Hager and King started playing and learning the slightly different rules that apply to the wheelchair athlete. According to Hager, the only difference is that the wheelchair player is permitted two bounces.

Hager met Chip Parmelly from California last year at the Men's Pro Stop in Pittsburgh. Parmelly is ranked No. 1 in the world for men's wheelchair racquetball.

Wheelchair competitors play in the same tournaments with able-bodied players but have their own division.

Last year, the Lancaster County Racquetball and Health Club sponsored the "Road to Caracas" tournament to benefit NWRA. They raised \$1,500 and sent a three-person team to the 1990 World Games in Venezuela.

Hager noted that they played the Canadians and won, taking home first and fourth place honors.

"Everyone was trying to organize a wheelchair racquetball group on their own for years and it wasn't working. We needed a team effort. We reorganized effective December 5, 1990," said Hager.

One of Hager's projects is educating the medical and physical fitness arenas of the sport. He said, "Smokey Roberts of the Divers Den is putting together a promotional video that the NWRA can distribute to hospitals and rehabilitation centers across the United States, as well as health clubs."

Hager said that they also plan to survey every health club in every state concerning their handicap accessibility and their interest in promoting handicap sports.

The LCRHC will host another racquetball tournament on March 8, 9, and 10. Hager said that this year's tournament proceeds will be used for the NWRA as a group.

"For all the things that have happened so quickly, I have to wonder if there's a greater picture that I have not seen," said Hager. "The people I've met through this have done an awful lot for me," he added. "It's making me a better person."

Suggestions and questions can be submitted to Hager at 535 Kensington Road, Apartment 4, Lancaster, PA 17603 or by calling Hager at LCRHC, 397-8623.

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- 2 - New Jersey and New York
- 3 - Delaware, D.C., Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia
- 4 - Florida and Georgia
- 5 - Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee
- 6 - Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma
- 7 - Louisiana and Texas
- 8 - Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin
- 9 - Michigan, Ohio, West Virginia
- 10 - Indiana and Kentucky
- 11 - Minnesota, Nebraska, North and South Dakota
- 12 - Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah
- 13 - Montana and Wyoming
- 14 - California, Hawaii and Nevada
- 15 - Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington
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Mission Viejo, CA 92692
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714/348-0900 (O)

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NW Athletic Club Assoc.
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penn.

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1. Doug Ganim, OH
2. Tim Hansen, FL
3. Tim Doyle, CA
4. Mike Locker, MN
5. Louis Vogel, NM
6. Davey Bledsoe, GA
7. Brian Simpson, IN
8. Chris Cole, MI
9. Jim Floyd, MI
10. Charlie Nichols, FL

MEN'S A

1. Derek Dunn, WA
2. James Lindsey, TX
3. Roger Lone, SD
4. Banks Barbee, TX
5. Pat Bernardo, NY
6. Chris Hardwick, CA
7. Jim Allen, MS
8. Brad Mizgate, IL
9. Caleb Berd, PA
10. Gerry Wolf, OH

MEN'S B

1. Mat Kelly, CO
2. Dwayne Cushing, CT
3. Rhett Rainey, CO
4. Joe Reno, TN
5. John McKinley, WA
6. Matt Butler, NC
7. Craig Brunner, IL
8. Ricky Gentry, TN
9. Kim Niederman, IL
10. Craig Atwood, ID

MEN'S C

1. Ed Callejo, CO
2. Gareth Miller, CT
3. Bruce Crowell, TX
4. Alan Jorgensen, AZ
5. Earl Kathan, OR
6. Matt Thompson, MT
7. Clayton Shaffer, SC
8. Terry Brown, CA
9. Todd Criger, NE
10. Allen Cowan, NC

MEN'S D

1. Charles Dinwiddie, IN
2. Scott Ingram, IN
3. Chris Ryan, WA
4. Mark Ellis, MI
5. Rod Sachs, IL
6. James Evans, GA
7. Jeff Bloom, LA
8. Scott Grunin, MA
9. Ashby Herman, VA
10. Bob Koerber, MS

MEN'S NOVICE

1. Michael Lombardi, GA
2. Wayne Yeager, FL
3. Alfredo Arce, TX
4. Mike Carignan, NH
5. Alan Goodman, NY
6. Larry Noesen, IL
7. Kevin Goolsby, AL
8. Mark Griffin, AR
9. Mike Liebel, NH
10. Michael Alpha, TX

MEN'S 19+

1. Derek Robinson, MO
2. Rob Lamontagne, MA
3. Charlie Nichols, FL
4. Jamie Sumner, UT
5. Chris Eagle, NC
6. Tony Jello, NM
7. Rob McKinney, PA
8. John Negrete, IL
9. Brian Buckalew, GA
10. Jason Waggoner, FL

MEN'S 25+

1. Ron DiGiacomo, NY
2. Jim Jeffers, IL
3. Jim Cascio, PA
4. Dave Negrete, IL
5. John Stocker, KY
6. Steve Lerner, OH
7. Tim Hansen, FL
8. Armando Alonso, FL
9. Jack Eektman, IN
10. Hart Johnson, MN

MEN'S 30+

1. Bobby Corcoran, AZ
2. Bill Lyman, IL
3. Jeff Kristjansen, FL
4. Scott Worthy, MI
5. Mark Malowitz, TX
6. Randy Pfahler, FL
7. Scott Eliasson, CT
8. Andy Pltock, GA
9. John Peterson, NY
10. Gary Tanke, WI

MEN'S 35+

1. Davey Bledsoe, GA
2. Dave Kovanda, OH
3. Gary Mazaroff, NM
4. Craig Kunkel, CA
5. Herb Grigg, IL
6. Tom Travers, OH
7. Dennis Aceto, MA
8. Mike Robinson, TX
9. Mitt Layton, FL
10. Ed Garabedian, PA

MEN'S 40+

1. Herb Grigg, IL
2. Dave Kovanda, OH
3. Mitt Layton, FL
4. Andy Butterbaugh, IN
5. Steve Chapman, FL

6. Jim Bailey, VA
7. Rick Rounds, OH
8. Mike Stephens, MI
9. Chris Kinkade, TX
10. Tim Lavel, MN

MEN'S 45+

1. Ed Remen, VA
2. Ray Huss, OH
3. Fred Letter, NJ
4. Roger Wehrle, GA
5. Pete Petty, TN
6. Tom Perna, OH
7. Brad Parra, CA
8. Jerry Davis, OH
9. Gary Myers, CA
10. Ron Johnson, IL

MEN'S 50+

1. Jerry Davis, OH
2. Dario Mas, DE
3. Charlie Garfinkel, NY
4. Bobby Sanders, OH
5. Len Corte, AZ
6. Rex Lawler, IN
7. Ron Hutcherson, IN
8. Jim McPherson, OK
9. Charlie Hamon, WA
10. Ron Johnson, IL

MEN'S 55+

1. Art Johnson, CO
2. Don Alt, FL
3. Paul Banales, AZ
4. Harvey Clar, CA
5. Otis Chapman, OH
6. Nick Farkough, NY
7. Dan Llacera, Sr., NY
8. Rex Benham, AR
9. Jim Flynn, DE
10. Obed Oas, NE

MEN'S 60+

1. Pierre Miller, IN
2. Joe Lambert, TX
3. Malcolm Roberts, FL
4. Dick Kincade, CO
5. John Bogasky, VA
6. Max Fallek, MN
7. Hugh Groover, AR
8. Victor Sacco, NY
9. Ed Witham, OH
10. Robert Harper, FL

MEN'S 65+

1. Glenn Melvey, ND
2. Art Goss, CO
3. Victor Sacco, NY
4. Don Goddard, MT
5. Bill Stoebe, DE
6. Luzell Wilde, UT
7. Jack Gushue, NY
8. Nick Sans, CA
9. Tony Duarte, CA
10. Art Shay, IL

MEN'S 70+

1. Earl Acuff, NC
2. Luzell Wilde, UT
3. Allen Shepherd, MD
4. Cam Snowberger, PA
5. Jack Murphy, FL
6. Harmon Minor, CO
7. Charles Russell, CA
8. Ralph Greco, CA
9. Ray Crowley, OK
10. Charles Estram, MA

MEN'S 75+

1. Harmon Minor, CO
2. John Pearce, TX
3. Allen Shepherd, MD
4. Joe Sawbridge, AZ
5. Jack Daly, VA
6. Bill Duckworth, FL
7. Howard Hesse, AZ
8. Howard Cole, NM

MEN'S 80+

1. Howard Cole, NM

WOMEN'S DIVISIONS:

WOMEN'S OPEN

1. Elaine Hooghe, OH
2. Dana Sibell, MN
3. Janet Myers, NC
4. Toni Bevelock, CA
5. Michelle Gilman, OR
6. Susan Pfahler, FL
7. Mary Dee Jolly, NH
8. Diane Adams, CO
9. Chris Evon, CA
10. Joetta Hastings, MI

WOMEN'S A

1. Jean Halahan, NY
2. Kim Perry, CA
3. Amber Frisch, TX
4. Mary Keenan, CO
5. Cindy Telstad, MN
6. Chris Allison, DE
7. Jane Greene, KS
8. Darlene Schafer, CO
9. Bev Supanick, CA
10. Lauren Kline, OH

WOMEN'S B

1. Carolyn Long, CA
2. Kathleen Makinen, NY
3. Jane Riffel, AR
4. Dawn Gates, IL
5. Diane McCauley, MI
6. Debra Derr, FL
7. Amy Tyler, IL
8. Colleen Field, IN
9. Cynthia Ford, WA
10. Paula Jones, GA

WOMEN'S C

1. Christine Tucker, NY
2. Millie Guzman, CA
3. Mary Ellis, IL
4. Michelle McCoy, MN
5. Barbara Benley, OK
6. Cathy Clevenger, IN
7. Sherri Crass, TX
8. Debra Derr, FL
9. Gayla Epp, OH
10. Carol Pouncey, AL

WOMEN'S D

1. Deborah White, AL
2. Carl Still, AL
3. Susan Simmons, MS
4. Carol Johnson, AL
5. Pat Griggs, MS
6. Laura Hankins, MS

WOMEN'S NOVICE

1. Barbara Friel, NY
2. Sherri Rogers, CT
3. Jeannie Valadez, TX
4. Allison Thomas, OH
5. Catherine Abueg, TX
6. Gina Leone, NH
7. Kristin Levina, MA
8. Lori Schreck, NY
9. Lisa Maxwell, AR
10. Dee Anderson, DE

WOMEN'S 19+

1. Dana Sibell, MN
2. Cheryl Gudinas, IL
3. Renee Looky, CA
4. Sarah Blair, TN
5. Karen Forbes, OH
6. Kandi Friedman, NY
7. Leah Redwine, NC
8. Kim Russell, KY
9. Robin Conover, TN
10. Ilene Sofferan, NY

WOMEN'S 25+

1. Kersten Hallander, FL
2. Pam Goddard, GA
3. Paula Vallie, MN
4. Dee Ferreira-Worth, CA
5. Laura Fenton, NE
6. Martha Keller, AL
7. Tina Churchwell, TN
8. Lydia Hammock, CA
9. Pat Musselman, PA
10. Lori Walsh, AZ

WOMEN'S 30+

1. Linda Porter, IL
2. Mary Bickley, PA
3. Mary Dee Jolly, NH
4. Linda Moore, NE
5. Linda Screeton, IN
6. Kowalski, Bonnie, OH
7. Mary Lyons, FL
8. Colleen Shields, IL

9. Diana Adams, CO
10. Pam Goddard, GA

WOMEN'S 35+

1. Cindy Baxter, PA
2. Terry Latham, NM
3. Eileen Tuckman, FL
4. Julie Jacobson, WI
5. Janet Myers, NC
6. Susan Pfahler, FL
7. Joanne Pomodoro, MA
8. Deb Gridley, CO
9. Mary Jane Weldin, DE
10. Gloria Lang, IL

WOMEN'S 40+

1. Agatha Falso, FL
2. Linda Miller, IN
3. Jan Smith, FL
4. Donna Christian, OH
5. Terry Hokanson, CA
6. Pat Tarson, IL
7. Meri Jean Kelley, CA
8. Mary Jane Weldin, DE
9. Mary Jo Murray, FL
10. Gwen Benham, AR

WOMEN'S 45+

1. Sharon Hastings-Welty, OR
2. Agatha Falso, FL
3. Brigitte Hartz, MI
4. Marciell Marcus, OH
5. Pat Tarson, IL
6. Pat Alt, FL
7. Carol Remen, VA
8. Sylvia Sawyer, UT
9. Maria Gross, MN
10. Carol Edgar, IL

WOMEN'S 50+

1. Kathy Mueller, MN
2. Jo Kenyon, FL
3. Joanna Raida, PA
4. Sandy McPherson, OK
5. Marion Johnson, TX
6. Sylvia Sawyer, UT
7. Ann Codianne, CA
8. Cleata Ching, PA
9. Maria Hagain, GA
10. Hilda Torrea, MA

WOMEN'S 55+

1. Jo Kenyon, FL
2. Mary Walker, CA
3. Cleata Ching, PA
4. Joan Beck, AZ
5. Phyllis Melvey, ND
6. Doris Singler, WI
7. Rose Mooney, CO
8. Sue Graham, CA
9. Betty Mowery, CA

WOMEN'S 60+

1. Mary Low Acuff, NC
2. Claire Gautreau, TX

3. Phyllis Melvey, ND
4. Eleanor Quackenbush, OR

5. Betty Mowery, NM
6. Zelda Friedland, NM

WOMEN'S 65+

1. Betty Mowery, NM
2. Mary Low Acuff, NC
3. Eleanor Quackenbush, OR

WOMEN'S 70+

1. Mary Low Acuff, NC
2. Eleanor Quackenbush, OR

WOMEN'S 75+ & 80+

1. Zelda Friedland, NM

JUNIOR DIVISIONS

BOYS 8 AND UNDER

1. Lane Mershon, GA
2. Shane Vanderson, OH
3. Dan Thompson, WI
4. Jimmy Lyons, FL
5. Jack Huczek, MI
6. Dan Olson, ME
7. James Gould, NE
8. Jason Jansen, MN
9. Marshall Meldi, NE
10. Matthew McElhiney, FL

B 8- MULTI-BOUNCE

1. Shane Vanderson, OH
2. Jimmy Lyons, FL
3. Robert Gates, IL
4. Lane Mershon, GA
5. Jason Jansen, MN
6. Jack Huczek, MI
7. Dan Olson, ME
8. Matthew McElhiney, FL
9. Nathaniel Dehmer, MN
10. Michael Valinets, IN

BOYS 10-

1. Rocky Carson, CA
2. Andy Tucknott, NE
3. David Liakos, NE
4. Lane Mershon, GA
5. Brit Berkey, IN
6. Ryan Ott, IA
7. Brent McDade, TN
8. Travis Mettenbrink, NE
9. Ryan Staten, KS
10. Daniel Wubneh, FL

BOYS 12-

1. Mark Hurst, FL
2. Blake Hansen, IA
3. Eric Storey, UT
4. Brent Zimmerman, MI

5. Blair Hansen, IA
6. Steve Apilado, TX
7. Hal Spangenberg, CA
8. Jonathan Vandell, NC
9. Jed Bhuta, AL
10. Brent McDade, TN

BOYS 14-

1. Andy Thompson, WI
2. Brad Hansen, IA
3. Jason Armbracht, NC
4. Jason Mannino, NY
5. Shane Wood, MA
6. Scott Zimmerman, MI
7. Todd Criger, NE
8. David Hamilton, OH
9. Toby Lepera, IN
10. Tony Puggioni, NY

BOYS 16-

1. Suday Monchik, NY
2. Jim Ellenberger, WI
3. Matt Meeker, IA
4. Brett Beugen, MN
5. Chad Gibson, KS
6. Ernest Aralza, TX
7. Allan Engel, FL
8. Chris Pfaff, OH
9. Craig Czys, FL
10. Joel Marsh, NE

BOYS 18-

1. Joel Bonnett, MI
2. John Ellis, CA
3. Doug Eagle, NC
4. Brian Simpson, IN
5. Josh Messina, MA
6. Eric Muller, KS
7. Scott Reliff, FL
8. Buz Sawyer, NC
9. Chad Lewis, IA
10. Will Epperson, AL

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1. Alexys Feaster, DC
2. Meital Manzuri, CA
3. Sandra Plaza, OH
4. Suzette Solomon, IN
5. Lynn Hansen, IA
6. Lauren Roberts, IL
7. Elizabeth Smith, OH
8. Haley Axtmann, IL
9. Sara Borland, IA
10. Nichole Grace, IL

G 8- MULTI-BOUNCE

1. Alexys Feaster, DC
2. Sarah Miranda, OK
3. Lynn Hansen, IA
4. Meital Manzuri, CA
5. Lindsey Hudson, IN
6. Sandra Plaza, OH
7. Leslie Wooten, FL
8. Shante Florence, GA
9. Molly Law, CO
10. Monique Rutherford, IL

GIRLS 10-

1. Lynn Hansen, IA
2. Jamie Trachsel, MN
3. Kelly Ruhl, CO
4. Jennifer Hardeman, TN
5. Ryan Hibler, TN
6. Dawn Gates, IL
7. Allison Redelheim, TN
8. Meghan Guardini, MA
9. Lauren Rothman, NY
10. Elizabeth Smith, OH

GIRLS 12-

1. Debra Derr, FL
2. Dawn Gates, IL
3. Vanessa Tulao, TN
4. Jennifer Liakos, NE
5. Jill Trachsel, MN
6. Ashley Crouse, OH
7. Lynn Hansen, IA
8. Kim O'Connor, FL
9. Lyndal Patton, FL
10. Leslie Buschbom, GA

GIRLS 14-

1. Amy Jerdee, IA
2. Debra Derr, FL
3. Jenny Meyer, CO
4. Tammy Rae Brockbank, ID
5. Julie Peterson, KY
6. Andrea Luque, GA
7. Stephanie Torrey, MA
8. Andrea Beugen, MN
9. Dawn Gates, IL
10. Almee Roehler, PA

GIRLS 16-

1. Jenny Spangenberg, CA
2. Amber Frisch, TX
3. Rachel Gellman, NM
4. Jenny Skeen, NE
5. Amy Jerdee, IA
6. Daniela Medina, FL
7. Dawn Peterson, WI
8. Hayden May, CA
9. Elkova Icenogle, CA
10. Julie Peterson, KY

GIRLS 18-

1. Elkova Icenogle, CA
2. Renee Looky, CA
3. Heather Flory, IA
4. Heather Dunn, MA
5. Amy Kilbane, OH
6. Michelle Gilman, OR
7. Jenny Spangenberg, CA
8. Bobbi Jo Bell, MA
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EVERYTHING YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT P.A.R.I.

by *Connie Martin*
PARI Commissioner

The Professional Association of Racquetball Instructors (PARI) has come along way from the first days of the drawing board four years ago. To date, PARI has conducted its two-day Instructors Clinic and Exam for 314 people. The breakdown of those recognized at various levels are as follows: Teaching Professionals, 48; Instructors, 183; Teachers, 74; and Members, 9. Of the 314, 205 are male and 109 are female. Listed for you in this issue are the current PARI Level II Teaching Professionals.

Approximately ten PARI clinics and exams are given throughout the country each year with clinicians Fran Davis, Connie Martin or Dave George. There are three different clinics levels offered. In two consecutive one-day clinics, Levels I & II emphasize all aspects of teaching including the basics of the game, teaching skills, technique, error detection and correction, drills and programming for instruction, promotional, special events, juniors and leagues.

Level I (Day One 10:00am-6:00pm) is \$99 which includes your clinic, Level I manual, a critique of your game and teaching skills and first year dues. All participants then become a PARI Member. Level II (Day Two 9:00am-5:00pm) is \$99 and includes your clinic, Level II manual, two hand books, exam and achievement certificate. You will have a four-part exam required for all participants, three parts on site and a fourth take home test. Upon completion of the exam, you will achieve a Level II Instructor, Advanced Instructor or Professional ranking. A Level III Exam is offered once a year in which you may advance your rankings to that of a Level III Professional or Master Professional. The Level III Exam will be held in conjunction with a 2-4 day advanced PARI clinic for any PARI Member.

If you would like to be added to the mailing list for PARI or learn about upcoming PARI Clinic/Exams in your area, please call Jim Hiser at 719/635-5396.

EAST COAST PARI CLINICS

April 18-19 MARYLAND: Bowie Racquetball Club
Contact: Dave Horvath 301/262-4553
May TBA PENNSYLVANIA: Site TBA
Contact: Julie Nicolla 814/868-0072 or
Fran Davis 201/360-0647

PARI TEACHING PROFESSIONALS

The following instructors have achieved the PARI Teaching Professional ranking by completing a two-day clinic and four-part test and achieving at least a 90% ranking. Please take advantage of these top ranked instructors in your area. If you need a phone number, please contact Jim Hiser at the AARA office (719/635-5396) for referral information.

John Abbott (Novato, Calif.)	Dee Lichty (Rochester, Minn.)
Warren Arnett (Baton Rouge, La.)	Kip Luna (Chandler, Ariz.)
Bob Berryman (Amarillo, Texas)	Mary Lyons (Jacksonville, Fla.)
Bob Book (Durham, N.C.)	Jon Martin (Gresham, Ore.)
Richard Bruns (Napa, Calif.)	Rob McKinney (Lansdale, Pa.)
Steve Carlson (Fargo, N.D.)	Brad Nicholson (Green Bay, Wisc.)
Gerald Cleveland (Galveston, Texas)	Gaye Rosenfield (Hollis, N.H.)
Wanda Collins (Bellingham, Wash.)	Mike Sabo (Mundelein, Ill.)
Tod Danielson (Kingwood, Texas)	Barbara Simmons (Sarasota, Fla.)
Gail DuVall (Sebastopol, Calif.)	Dave Sledge (Dallas, Texas)
Dot Fiaschi (Allentown, Pa.)	Fielding Snow (Seattle, Wash.)
Johnnie Gray (Mobile, Ala.)	Bill Taliaferro (Dallas, Texas)
Dennis Kaufman (Lodi, Calif.)	Joe Wirkus (Madison, Wisc.)
Kathy Langlotz (Bryan, Texas)	Ken Woodfin (Houston, Texas)

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Meet Fielding Snow, one of the top Teaching Professionals in the Pacific Northwest. Fielding started playing racquetball in 1975 in San Francisco and then relocated to the north, Seattle, WA, in 1979. In 1980 he formed his own company: FRS Racquetball Seminars.

Fielding has conducted over 200 weekend instructional camps in over 75 clubs in the Pacific Northwest. An Ektelon sponsored player and one of their Advisory Staff, Fielding has a lot to offer on the court both as a player and as an instructor. As a player he has dominated the Mens Open and Senior Divisions from 1980-86 in the AARA Pacific Northwest Regionals and holds National Championship Titles in 25+

OLYMPIAN



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OLRAC

Doubles ('82), 35+ World Seniors ('86), World Seniors 40+ ('90).

As an instructor, he gives 100% of himself to all levels of players who wish to learn or improve their game. Currently he is instructing over 20 students per week at 4 different clubs in the Seattle area in private lessons, teaches two sessions a week of an Elite Training Class for Tournament Players and teaches racquetball at Bellvue Community College.

Fielding became a PARI Teaching Professional in 1988. He believes strongly that a Certification qualifies that an Instructor can transfer his/her teaching and playing skills to a student. He also states the reason he has been so successful in making teaching racquetball a full time career is his commitment on the promotional aspect of teaching and constant visibility with the racquetball public thru playing, teaching and finding the time to talk with the players.

Off the court his favorite activity is spending time with his wife Christine and two children, Forrest and Aimee ... and right now there is not much time for anything else. If you ever visit Seattle or you live in the Pacific Northwest and would like a quality lesson, give Fielding a call at 206/363-0308.

PARI TIP: OFF-THE- BACKWALL

by Fran Davis

Hello there and welcome back to the PARI column. I hope the PARI tip on the backhand has proven to be as helpful as the PARI tip on the forehand. I have been receiving some very positive feedback on the previous articles and it makes me feel good that these practical tips are working. It seems that "Racquetball Magazine" readers are the best judges of character ... thanks.

Today we will continue to build our game from the ground up using the same step-by-step procedure used previously. We will cover how to handle one of the most offensive shots in the game today ... OFF THE BACKWALL.

An offensive shot is defined as a shot that will end the rally and/or score you a point. When a ball is left up off the backwall (hitting the backwall on one bounce or without bouncing and therefore playable) you want to be able to do just

that ... end the rally and/or score a point. This can be accomplished through a very methodical approach, starting with:

1. Same technique as forehand and backhand stroke.
 2. Good eye contact (tracking the ball).
 3. Correct judgment.
 4. Proper footwork.
 5. Total concentration.
- These five steps will build confidence for this shot.

Players are truly unaware of just how frequently this "off-the-backwall" opportunity occurs in a match. After studying the game for so long I can honestly say it occurs between 25%-50% of the time, so you need to be prepared to handle it with good offensive shots. Too many players shy away from learning this shot and/or get into bad habits, therefore never really taking advantage of one of the most effective offensive opportunities in the game today. I urge you to read this section closely and carefully because the following information can assist you in developing a very powerful weapon: "OFF-THE-BACKWALL".

In order to help you learn this shot, take a moment to close your eyes and imagine yourself on a sunny, white sandy beach in Hawaii or Aruba. Now picture in your mind the waves of these beautiful crystal clear waters moving in and out along the shoreline. This is the exact motion you want to imitate taking the ball off the backwall... flow with the ball in and out just like a wave at the ocean.

With that image in mind, let's begin to conquer the shot that has been a nightmare to most of us. Whether you are afraid of this shot and deliberately hit it into the backwall just to keep it in play (and thus setting your opponent up), or you are taking it off the backwall offensively, but are inconsistent, the following approach can help you score more points off the shot.

1. Technique: A key factor to remember and keep in mind is your basic forehand and backhand stroke mechanics that you learned in previous articles, does not change... it remains **EXACTLY THE SAME**. The only thing that changes is the ball is coming off the backwall instead of the front wall.

2. and 3. Good Eye Contact and Correct Judgment: A good way to determine if the ball will be coming off the backwall on one bounce or no bounces for a set up for you is height and speed. These factors play a major role in how far off the backwall the ball will travel. The harder and higher it is hit the further out it will travel. The lower and softer it is hit the closer to the backwall it will remain. A good gauge for beginners is if the ball is hit waist high or higher you can expect the ball to come off the backwall as a set up. To assist you in this process, remember to have good eye contact with the ball and your opponent so you can make an accurate judgment of where it is



going to come off. Be aware of the ENTIRE flight or path of the ball from the split second it leaves your opponent's racquet, 'til it hits the front wall, 'til it bounces once near the backwall and then finally 'til it comes off the backwall for a set up.

4. Proper Footwork: DO NOT WAIT for the ball to come to you... he who hesitates is lost. You want to learn proper footwork, one of the main ingredients in the success of this shot. You want to run back with the ball and then shuffle out with the ball like a wave on the shoreline. You always want to be a half step behind the ball so you can step into your shot.

5. Total Concentration: At this point you've gained total concentration because your eyes have not left the ball. This is the final ingredient needed to hit an offensive return off the backwall.

The accompanying photos and tips will be a tremendous help so you can become more proficient at off the backwall shots and add a new dimension to your offensive capabilities and scoring potential.

Photo 1: Same stroke mechanics as forehand or backhand.



Photo #1.

Photo 2: Watch the ball's height/speed and then make judgment on how far out it will travel. Do not plant your feet and wait for the ball to come to you. Do not contact the ball off your back foot, behind you.



Photo #2.

Photo 3: Move with the ball, adjusting your body to its flight path off the wall. Do not lunge for the ball, by contacting the ball too far out in front of you.

Photo 4: Now with total concentration, contact the ball off your lead foot out in front of you. Then use the same swing you are familiar with and go offensive. Do not change your swing. Do not hit a defensive shot unless you are off balance or out of position.

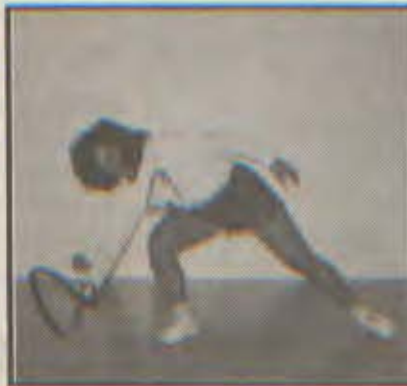


Photo #3.



Photo #4.

You see, the off-the-backwall isn't hard to return, it just takes patience -- and practice. Remember that only through repetition of the correct technique can you become consistent, and consistency is the name of the game. I'll see you next issue for some more offensive shots. Good luck!

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT IS NOT TRUE: PERFECT PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT

by Jim Winterton, U.S. National Team Coach

One of the toughest tasks for an aspiring player is the practice regimen. If you were to go out for any varsity sport in high school or college, practices would follow a similar pattern. That is, the overall game is broken down into smaller parts. In football practice, the line practices separately from the backs and in baseball, the infielders go to one area and the outfielders to another.

Yet, when I talk to many racquetball players, their "practice" is just playing someone or a certain group of players. If they were practicing football, this would be like having a full scrimmage every night. This is not efficient practice since these

players are not breaking the game down into smaller parts. Just as football teams only scrimmage once or twice a week, you should only be "scrimmaging" once or twice per week at racquetball. Aside from these scrimmages, how do you break down your sessions? The following are 10 tips for perfect practice:

1. Set aside a practice objective (or two objectives) for each workout. Write it down. Write the outcome of each workout as well.
2. Set aside time, rather than an amount of shots, to practice.
3. Work on your weaknesses first and foremost. Leave your comfort zone and work on those areas you hate to work on.
4. Try to simulate tournament conditions when you play your scrimmage games. Wear your tournament clothes, play on the glass court, and even get a referee if you can. (Note: every club has a player who nobody likes to play because they cheat, or are particularly offensive on the court. Seek out these people because they will bring out the best in your game and simulate the pressure of tournament play during your practice session).

5. Twenty-seven percent of all rallies are won on the serve. Twenty-two percent are won on the serve return. Since 49 percent of the game is serve and serve return, that is where half of the practice time should be spent.

6. Drill when you play games. Work on control in one game. Work on power in another. This will add points to your game.

7. Try to find a training partner to work out with who will push you.

8. If things are going badly with one shot, stop and forget it for one day. Chances are it's mental or physical fatigue.

9. If you are becoming bored while drilling, stop and take a break. Remember you are better off hitting the shot correctly twice per hour rather than hitting two good ones out of one hundred attempts.

10. Break down your practice sessions day by day. Example:

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
sk 1	sk 1	sk 1	sk 1	sk 1	sk 1	Off
sk 4	sk 3	sk 2	sk 4	sk 3	sk 2	
					sk 4	

skill 1 - drop & hit

skill 2 - set up and hit forehands and backhands

skill 3 - ceiling balls

skill 4 - serves

These are 10 tips for perfect practice. Before you begin this practice schedule, make sure you have your game analyzed by a PARI certified pro because, if you are not practicing the correct stroke mechanics or shot selection, you are rehearsing for failure. Remember "practice makes perfect" is not where it's at; it's "perfect practice makes perfect!"

PRO UPDATE

ROBERTS CAPTURES HOMETOWN WIN

by Hank Marcus

Racquetball and basketball proved they have more in common than great athletes and a lightning fast game at the Memphis Pro Classic, January 10-13. NBA players complain about the dreaded home court advantage a team has when playing in its home city, on its court, and in front of its own fans. At the beautiful Racquet Club of Memphis, the MPRA players came to share that feeling after Memphis native Andy Roberts rode a wave of fan support to a five-game super tiebreaker victory on his home court over Dan Obremski.

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The win was Roberts' first on the pro tour and continued a trend which has seen four of the five MPRA stops captured by first time winners. Roberts' victory was no easy task in one of the toughest draws of the year, over half of the pro matches went five games.

In the round of 32, all four glass courts exploded with action Thursday morning. As usual, the top seeds had advanced easily over Wednesday night's qualifiers, but the 32's always provide some interesting matchups. Roberts began his title run in front of a sold out crowd, soundly beating #21 Dave Sable 11-4, 11-4, 11-0. #15 Mike Ceresia won a long battle over #18 Aaron Embry; and #7 Dave Johnson struggled to get past former MSU star Todd O'Neill. By far the toughest match was the three-hour battle between #11 Mike Yellen and #22 Aaron Katz. Both played a control style that added up to long rallies featuring pinpoint passes, and a win for Yellen in five games. The last round of 32 match was a blast from the past as #8 Marty Hogan took on former National Champion Gregg Peck. Peck came out of retirement for this appearance and made it a memorable one for the spectators, winning the first two games 11-4, 11-9. But at that point he seemed to tire and Hogan began killing the ball to win the next three games 11-4, 11-3, 11-6.

In the following round of 16, players offered more of the best racquetball fans can see and it was "standing room only" for the first match-up between Roberts and #5 Tim Doyle. Doyle, who captured his first pro victory earlier this season in Salem, Oregon seemed no match for Roberts and his fans as he dropped the first two games 11-7, 11-6. In the next two, Doyle got his monster serve going and silenced the crowd, winning 11-5, 11-10. Whether on the MPRA Tour or playing in the AARA Nationals, Roberts and Doyle are always a great match and this was no exception. But Roberts again used the home court advantage to hit crack after crack and win the tiebreaker 11-8. For the Memphis crowd there was no way to top the Roberts win on Thursday, but some of the players really tried!

Yellen followed his tough previous round with #6 Drew Kachtik, whose gritty style of never-say-die racquetball had Yellen down and in trouble after going up 2 games to 1. But Yellen refused to quit and came back to win the match, spending an amazing 5 1/2 hours on the court in one day. Two other battles saw seeds struggling to get to the quarterfinals. Dave Johnson beat #10 Woody Clouse in a match-up of great athletes and #2 Egan Inoue barely squeezed by Mike Ceresia 9-11, 11-9, 7-11, 11-6, 11-5. Ceresia had the match won a number of times but could not quite finish in his best performance of the last two seasons. The remaining seeds advanced with surprising ease; Hogan over #9 Brian Hawkes in straight games, #4 Ruben Gonzalez over #13 Jack Newman in four, avenging a loss in the same round one month earlier in

Riverside, California. #3 Dan Obremski eliminated #14 Tim Sweeney in a match many felt would be closer, and finally #1 Mike Ray playing for the first time with a Spalding racquet looked sharp beating #17 Tony Jelso 11-6, 11-10, 11-0.

Ask any pro racquetball or tennis fan that has been around for awhile and they will tell you the quarterfinal is the round to see. Matches become more intense as eight players battle for spots in the semifinals and the Memphis racquetball fans who filled every seat were not disappointed. Roberts vs. Gonzalez went off first, with Gonzalez silencing the crowd with his tremendous diving gets and a first game win. Roberts used his forehand splat to take game two, but Gonzalez replied by rolling out a diving backhand to take game three. In the next two games, Roberts picked up the pace, began rolling balls from everywhere and moved on to the semis with a 6-11, 11-9, 10-11, 11-2, 11-7 victory.

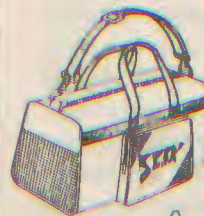
Tiebreakers were the norm in the quarters. Obremski's speed and power just put him over the edge against Yellen, giving him an 11-4, 8-11, 11-5, 5-11, 11-9 win. The Inoue vs. Johnson match featured great strokes and speed, but somewhere between game two and three, Johnson lost ground

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and the momentum shifted to Inoue, who took the last 3 games easily. The last quarterfinal featured Hogan and #1 Ray. Over the last two seasons these guys have played some of the toughest matches on the tour. Hogan seems to always get up for matches with Ray and this one was no different. Hogan has had an up and down season skipping two stops and losing early to Obremski and Doug Ganim in the others and players and fans were wondering what Marty had left. Those questions were answered as Hogan pounded out a 11-10, 11-9, 5-11, 11-10 win in which both players played well.

Moving into the semifinals, the first to square off were Inoue and Obremski. Consistently among the best MPRA tour matchups over the last couple of seasons, these two always play close matches with great rallies. Two of the hardest servers around came out hitting garbage serves and Inoue captured the first two games with a combination of forehand and backhand splats and Obremski skips. For the first time in the tournament Inoue was ahead going into the third game, but Obremski kept fighting and the rallies got longer and longer. Inoue seemed to get frustrated at not being able to kill the ball and Obremski rode it out for a three hour 8-11, 8-11, 11-6, 11-9, 11-8 win that sent him to his second straight final appearance.

The Memphis fans had their dream match. Racquetball legend Marty Hogan playing his best ball of the season vs. local hero Andy Roberts who seemed to be on a mission. Spectators packed every open spot to catch even a glimpse of the match. The question was how much did Hogan have left and would the pro-Roberts crowd help psyche Marty up? Many felt that the player who won the first game in this match would win it all and the theory proved true. Both players came out blasting the ball with confidence and Hogan took a quick lead. Not to be denied, Roberts started using a lob Z serve to Hogan's forehand to win in three straight 11-8, 11-4, 11-9.

Television crews, reporters, and what seemed like all of Memphis showed up Sunday to see Roberts make a dream come true. But Andy was not the only one with a dream; Obremski entered the court knowing that if he won the match he would capture the #1 ranking following the tour's next stop in his hometown of Pittsburgh. The tension was unbelievable as the match began and the crowd was delighted as Roberts continued to steamroll his way into an early lead by winning game one. Along with family and friends who seemed to let out a sigh of relief, Andy let down a little and Obremski began to combine great court coverage with shoulder high backhand splats to win games two and three. Destined to go five games, Roberts rolled five forehands in a row to even the match and force a tiebreaker.

With 11 points between Roberts' his first title and Obremski's lifelong dream of being ranked #1, the tiebreaker

was played as if their survival depended on it. Neither player made mistakes, and each rally ended with a rollout or perfect pass. At 10-10 the MPRA Super Tiebreaker rule of winning by two points was invoked, and the tiebreaker that had lasted over 30 minutes already went into extra innings. It was silent as they battled for the victory, and Roberts remembered his home court advantage and scored the last two points to win 11-4, 7-11, 5-11, 11-7, 12-10 and fulfill his dream. Both players left the court to a well-deserved, five-minute standing ovation from the Memphis crowd.

MEN'S PROFESSIONAL RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION TOP TEN

#1 EGAN INOUE	#6 TIM DOYLE
#2 DAN OBREMSKI	#7 ANDY ROBERTS
#3 MIKE RAY	#8 DAVE JOHNSON
#4 RUBEN GONZALEZ	#9 BRIAN HAWKES
#5 DREW KACHTIK	#10 MIKE YELLEN

LYNN ADAMS WINS FIRST WPRA STOP OF THE SEASON

by Chris Evon

The Women's Professional Racquetball Association (WPRA), kicked off the 1991 season at the Ektelon Winter Classic, held at the Santa Ana Racquetball World, January 18th - 20th. The tour's 1990 Overall National Champion and Player of the Year, Lynn Adams, decisively won the tournament by beating #6 ranked Mallia Bailey in the semi's and number #3 Caryn McKinney in the finals, 10-11, 11-8, 11-9, 11-2.

Adams finished last season as the WPRA number one player, but was challenged by such players as 19 year old rookie and WPRA National Champion, Michelle Gilman; 1989 National Champion, Caryn McKinney; and #5 ranked, Kaye Kuhfeld. However, with the recent change in the WPRA ranking system, Michelle Gilman will be ranked number one going into the Pizza Hut Racquetball Challenge in Atlanta, Georgia, February 1-3. Gilman is the youngest player ever to earn the number one spot on the Professional Tour.

The Ektelon Winter Classic saw 32 of the nation's top women racquetball players competing for a purse of \$12,000. The first upset of the tournament occurred in the round of 32's when unseeded Robin Levine, from Sacramento, CA., ousted #13 Mae Chin-Varon. In the round of 16, #11 Lynne Coburn of Baltimore, upset #6 Molly O'Brien. The quarterfinals found #7 Mallia Bailey taking out the home town favorite and

CLUB PROFILE: LYNMAR RACQUET & HEALTH CLUB

The Lynmar Racquet and Health Club in Colorado Springs has been on the cutting edge of racquetball since it became the official host club for the United States Racquetball Team and the U.S. National Elite Training Camps seven years ago. Proximity to the AARA National Headquarters and the U.S. Olympic Training Center made the facility a natural for the task of providing a training site for up-and-coming competitors, as well as the sport's elite athletes.

Thanks to the willingness of General Manager Harry Venik and Racquetball Director Pete Dean to keep abreast of the many changes in the racquetball industry, Lynmar has gained a reputation for setting trends and marking "firsts." Most recently, Lynmar has become among the first court club facilities to join the AARA Club Program. Later this year it will join a growing list of clubs to be featured on national television when it hosts the Penn U.S./Canada/Mexico World Challenge, August 16-18. To close out 1990, Lynmar became the first club in the nation to convert to all-white flooring on each and every one of its courts.



L-R: Pete Dean and Harry Venik admire the white flooring on exhibition court #2, where the U.S. Team will train in February.

Lynmar's five newly-refinished courts are kept filled by Pete Dean, who manages a varied program which includes daily challenge courts, 6:00 AM Early Bird singles and doubles leagues, mixed doubles leagues, a twice weekly junior program, and three weekly coed shuttles. "Flexible" league schedules are used to ease the demand on prime time court hours and a well-maintained challenge ladder makes it easy for players to arrange their own matches and set their own schedules. Aside from the down time while the courts were being refinished, the switch to white flooring was a good move, Dean commented:

"The adjustment by our players was virtually immediate, and we've had nothing but positive comments about the lighter, brighter courts. The only criticism early on was that players had to adjust their depth perception before they could judge where the front wall stopped and the floor began. We

#4 ranked player, Toni Bevelock. At last season's National Tournament, Caryn McKinney had to beat Michelle Gilman in the semi's to finish second in the rankings. At that time, she wasn't able to handle the incredible power of Gilman, whose serve has been clocked at 150 mph, or Gilman's pressing intensity. But in Santa Ana, McKinney not only handled Gilman, but frustrated her with a game that mixed power with finesse. McKinney never took the pressure off and won the match, 11-5, 11-5, 10-11, 11-4.

For the first time since March 1990, it was Caryn McKinney battling Lynn Adams for first place. In the 1989 season McKinney and Adams met in the finals of every tournament. This match started with Adams blasting through the game almost flawlessly until she hit 10. At that time McKinney threw herself into higher gear and stopped Adams' drive. Focused on each point, McKinney slowly brought herself into the game and eventually robbed Adams of an early match lead by beating her 11-10. Adams, originally from Costa Mesa, CA., had a crowd eager to see her sweep the match. Already exhausted and contemplating whether she could come back after such a mentally and physically draining game, Adams rallied and battled her way through the next three games, winning, 11-8, 11-9, and 11-2, and taking the first title of the season!

Adams recently married Rich Clay from Chicago who was there to celebrate the win with her. Adams commuted back and forth to organize this tour event.

Marci Drexler from San Diego and once ranked as high as third on the Pro Tour, competed for the first time in a year and a half because of a knee injury. Drexler known for her tremendous athletic ability, quickness, power and unorthodox shots, was beaten in the 32's by #8 seeded Jackie Paraiso, but is planning to compete at all the stops this season.

This event took place just after the war had begun, and Sue Moretz, WPRA Vice-President, was sent to Saudi Arabia just a few days later. Sue will be the first female ever to be an air crew member in a combat plane that will drop troops and supplies over enemy lines. In her honor and in tribute to all the troops, both the WPRA and Ektelon presented Sue with a pin and distributed stickers of the American Flag to be worn by the players and by all the spectators. Our thoughts, support and prayers are with her.

1990-91 WPRA RANKINGS

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1. MICHELLE GILMAN | 6. DOTTIE FISCHL |
| 2. LYNN ADAMS | 7. JACKIE PARAISO |
| 3. CARYN MCKINNEY | 8. MALIA BAILEY |
| 4. TONI BEVELOCK | 9. LYNNE COBURN |
| 5. KAYE KUHFELD | 10. MOLLY O'BRIEN |

solved that problem by adding a black stripe at the base of the walls, and now everyone is happy with the change."

The club schedules two open AARA events annually, plus hosts special U.S. Team benefits throughout the year. Lynmar offered full use of the club to attendees of the recent AARA Leadership Seminar, then provided a Saturday night banquet to the group to close the working weekend.

Founded in 1974, the Lynmar Racquet and Health Club is a full service club featuring tennis, strength and conditioning, swimming, aerobics and basketball in addition to its thriving racquetball programs. Over 1400 members also enjoy the "extras" of a full food and beverage service, child care and tanning booths.

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THROW THE BLUM OUT...

by Norm Blum

This column will be a smattering of informative, humorous and opinionated tidbits, by none other than racquetball's own "Norm!"

LENDL, BECKER, McENROE and SWAIN? -- Cliff knows Tennis? We'll soon find out. Cliff Swain, the 1990 No. 1 ranked player on the men's pro tour is going after the big dollars in the tennis world. Citing a lack of financial rewards in racquetball, Swain told the Boston Globe that he will try to conquer tennis.

He realizes starting a new career in tennis won't be easy. His first goal is to qualify for the Nick Bolletteri Tennis Academy, which has produced some of the finest players in the world.

"If anyone can do it, it's Cliff," says fellow pro Woody Clouse. "He's an unbelievable athlete. When he was No. 1 last year he was playing on a different level from anyone else. It will be the greatest thing for racquetball if he becomes a tennis star. He could have continued to play both sports and be a Bo Jackson, who does it well or a Deon Sanders who doesn't do it well. But he figured it would take a much longer time if he didn't just concentrate on tennis. We're all for him."

WORD ON THE COURT DEPT. -- Several players report they haven't received a refund from the cancelled \$210,000 National Handicap Tournament. The entry fee was \$300. Ouch! The phone numbers for the organizers have been disconnected, but we'll try to get to the bottom of this scandal ... Hey, tournament directors, you should listen to the concerns of National 35+ champ Janell Marriott. When choosing which tournaments she competes in, Marriott, who has two kids, rates nursery availability before prize money ... Illinois' Diane DeArmas has hit on something big. She offers one day tournaments and it's great for those who can't devote a full weekend to competition ... Pat on the back to AARA staffer Jim Hiser. At the junior national tournaments everyone is assured of three matches and the odds are high the youngsters will bring home some hardware ... Recently married Lynn Adams has maintained the maiden name which has made her the best female player of all time. But off the courts it's Lynn Clay.

PROFESSIONAL UPDATE -- The AARA is serving as a springboard to professional racquetball which is the way it is in most sports. In tennis, John McEnroe was a junior sensation and at 13, experts predicted he'd be the next Rod Laver. It's happening in racquetball as well. No longer are Marty Hogan and Mike Yellen the dominant players. Hogan is in semi-retirement and Yellen, 31, while still competitive, has had

trouble adjusting to today's power game. Today's stars are the ones you've read about following AARA national events. Tim Doyle and Andy Roberts, past US National champs, have victories this season as does Tim Sweeney. Dan Obremski, known for his prowess in doubles, has become a great singles player. Going into the winter, Obremski is ranked second behind Mike Ray, followed by Egan Inoue and ageless Ruben Gonzales.

POTPOURRI— You know you are pathetically out of shape when you intentionally skip a ball to end the rally... Memphis State, the dominant college racquetball team in the 80's will be challenged this decade. Look for Southwest Missouri State University, which gives out racquetball scholarships, to be the next power... Here's a surprise, Florida, which ranks second in AARA memberships, hasn't produced a top 10 player in the professional ranks on either tour... State and regional directors met in Colorado Springs at the annual leadership training seminar in January and raised almost \$2500 for the US National Team. There was an auction and one jacket brought in \$300... A belated Happy Birthday to my daughter, Rachel, who just turned two. She calls our sport "rakball".

THINGS I LIKE— The comeback of this column (hope you still find me entertaining), one day tournaments and clubs that recycle cans.

THINGS I DISLIKE— Competing against players who are so out of breath and say they can't continue but always manage to retrieve that ball in the corner... Players who show up late for matches and then chat with everyone when they walk in the door.

[Editor's Note: "Throw the Blum Out" is a new addition to Racquetball Magazine. About the author: Norm Blum is President of First Coast Promotions, an advertising specialty and mail order company in Jacksonville, FL. He has few racquetball credentials. He's never broken a ball and won't be mistaken for Carl Lewis on the court with his footspeed. However, his writings have appeared in the New York Daily News, the Cleveland Plain Dealer, the Florida Times Union, and in National Racquetball, where he wrote the Passing Shots column.]

LETTERS

"Gentleman John"

In October I returned my membership renewal fee. I renewed for a two year period. I then received my new membership card, which expires in December of 1992.

Somewhat later, I received the recent edition of "Racquetball USA" and read about the competitive license and was somewhat confused and concerned. (I had just renewed

and there had been no mention of a change at the time). Because I had questions, I called. A gentleman named John handled my call and resolved my distress. He explained that I only needed to send an additional \$5.00 per year of my current membership to receive the competitive license and the insurance coverage.

Enclosed is the required \$10.00, and I would like to express to John my thanks and appreciation for his assistance. And, if you have a formal recognition program, please consider him for such an award. He was most courteous and helpful.

—Robert A. Corsello

[LM: This is as formal a recognition as we offer at present, but the Assistant Executive Director for Membership, John Mooney, certainly appreciates your kind words.]

"More Pros"

I rejoined the AARA last November, and am writing to compliment you on your entire organization. We were left in limbo after "National Racquetball" folded.

Your "Racquetball Magazine" is terrific. I also get the Illinois State Racquetball Association newsletter. It feels good to see that there is still great enthusiasm for racquetball.

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I've been a player for fourteen years and find it more enjoyable than ever.

My only wish is that there could be more coverage of the pro tour. Once again, thank you for all you have to offer and good luck in the future. --**Jim Podraza**

[LM: On pages 40-43, you'll find that both pro tours have submitted excellent coverage of their most recent stops, and we hope you'll enjoy reading about the tour winners!]

"A-Division Complaint"

I am writing this letter because of my concern for the future of A division tournament play.

I recently entered a tournament in the Women's A Division. When I called to find out my playing times, I was told that I would be playing Missouri's #1 ranked Women's Open player in my first round. When I inquired as to why I was playing an open level player I was informed that only four players had entered each division and that the levels had been combined to allow for adequate prize money for the open level players. I withdrew from the tournament and have not yet received my refund even though I was told that I would receive my money back.

My major concern is as follows. I enter tournaments on an almost weekly basis. I find that my competitive skills develop to a larger extent in tournaments, where I play a variety of players of similar calibre, rather than in league play in my home club where I have been playing many of the same people for years. In tournament with only four players, a round robin format can easily be used. Instead, in this instance, I was placed in a division against players of far superior ability. In other tournaments where Women's A entries have been low, the entrants were asked if they wanted to be combined with the Open level players, or offered a refund if they withdrew.

Tournament directors should be willing to accommodate "small" numbers of entries, and if this is not possible, a refund should be offered. Why drive out of town to an event, pay for a hotel room, and put up an entry fee to play non-competitive racquetball? Should we sacrifice player development by not allowing competitive "A" division tournament play so that open level players can earn more prize money? --**Shari L. Coplen**

[LM: Interesting questions. If anyone would like to respond or offer some alternatives used in their state, we can reprint the most creative suggestions as space allows.]



EDITOR'S NOTE:

As I finished the final page layout for this issue, I was reminded of this time last year when the preview edition was going to press and faxed proof pages were burning up phone lines between Florida and Colorado! Since then, we've streamlined the process, the magazine has evolved, and interest in racquetball is climbing again. I'd like to thank all of you for being a part of this special project!

ENTER THE GREAT AMERICAN RACQUETBALL PHOTO CONTEST . . .

1. Submit any original racquetball photography, in one of two categories: Action or Off-Court. Photos must feature an amateur player or players. Limit one photograph per category, per person. Only mounted 8 x 10" photographs will be accepted for judging.
2. On the back of the mounted photo, submit a caption of 50 words or less that gives the year, name of player(s), tournament and club (if possible). Your name, address and telephone number should also accompany the entry.
3. \$50.00 will be awarded for first place, \$25.00 for second (in each category) and winners will be eligible for reprint in RACQUETBALL Magazine.
4. Entry deadline is MAY 1st.
5. Contest is not open to working professional photographers, AARA staff or the national board of directors.
6. All photos submitted become the property of the AARA and cannot be returned.
7. All photos will be displayed and judged at the 1991 Ektelon U.S. National Singles Championships in Houston.
8. Photos will be judged on subject matter, technical quality, composition and visual impact. The decision of the judges is final.

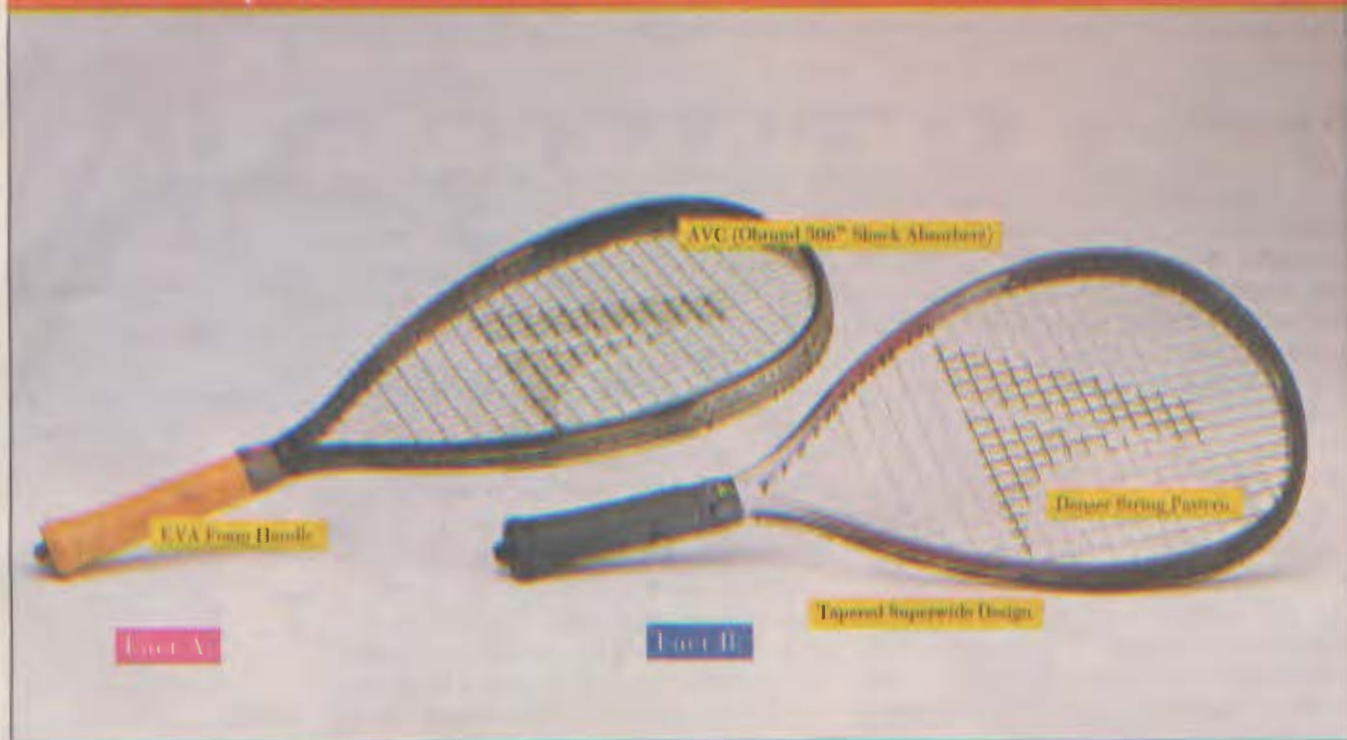
Submit entries to: AARA PHOTO CONTEST
815 North Weber
Colorado Springs, CO 80903-2947



1990 Contest Winner: Shot of Sid Hales
by Janett Marie of Carmel, Indiana.

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