

Passing Shots

Norm Blum
Publisher & Editor



HOME COURT ADVANTAGE — From here on out, I'm bringing Lewis, the maintenance man at my home club, to tournaments. I don't know what it is, but Lewis cleans the walls with this formula which adapts to my game. I played two open players, received my usual 10-point spot — which usually isn't enough — and took both games. Now I know for a fact that my game hasn't improved and can only credit the cleaning formula because both players complained how funny the ball bounced off the wall.

TRUE PARTNERS — A good doubles team usually are friends off the court. This couldn't have been better exemplified in the case of Jake Wilds and Blake Hartland. A gigantic 15-foot cobra snake was about to strike Hartland when Wilds pounced on it and saved his partner. Now if Jake could only put the ball away.

HOUSEHOLD NAME — Mike Yellen, who finished the season with the No. 1 ranking for the third straight year, is finally overcoming Marty Hogan as the game's most recognized player. We recently received a letter requesting tournament information from a 21-year-old "C" player who described himself as an avid player who didn't hit the ball like Mike Yellen. In the past, the reference would have been made to Hogan.

SPLAT SHOT — A friend was playing a match and noticed the court was wet and neither player was sweating. The players looked up and noticed three heads peering over the court, spitting onto the court. "They wanted to see their spit drop to the floor. Such activities should be saved for the Empire State Building or Grand Canyon," the player said.

PLAYER OF THE MONTH — Lakeland's Lou Biltz is this month's Player of the Month. Biltz, who has been competing in tournaments the last several years, finally defeated Lakeland's Tom Rumsey in the 45+ division at last month's Florida Racquet Journal Cash Classic at the Sarasota YMCA. Biltz did a few victory laps around the parking lot and deserves this honor.

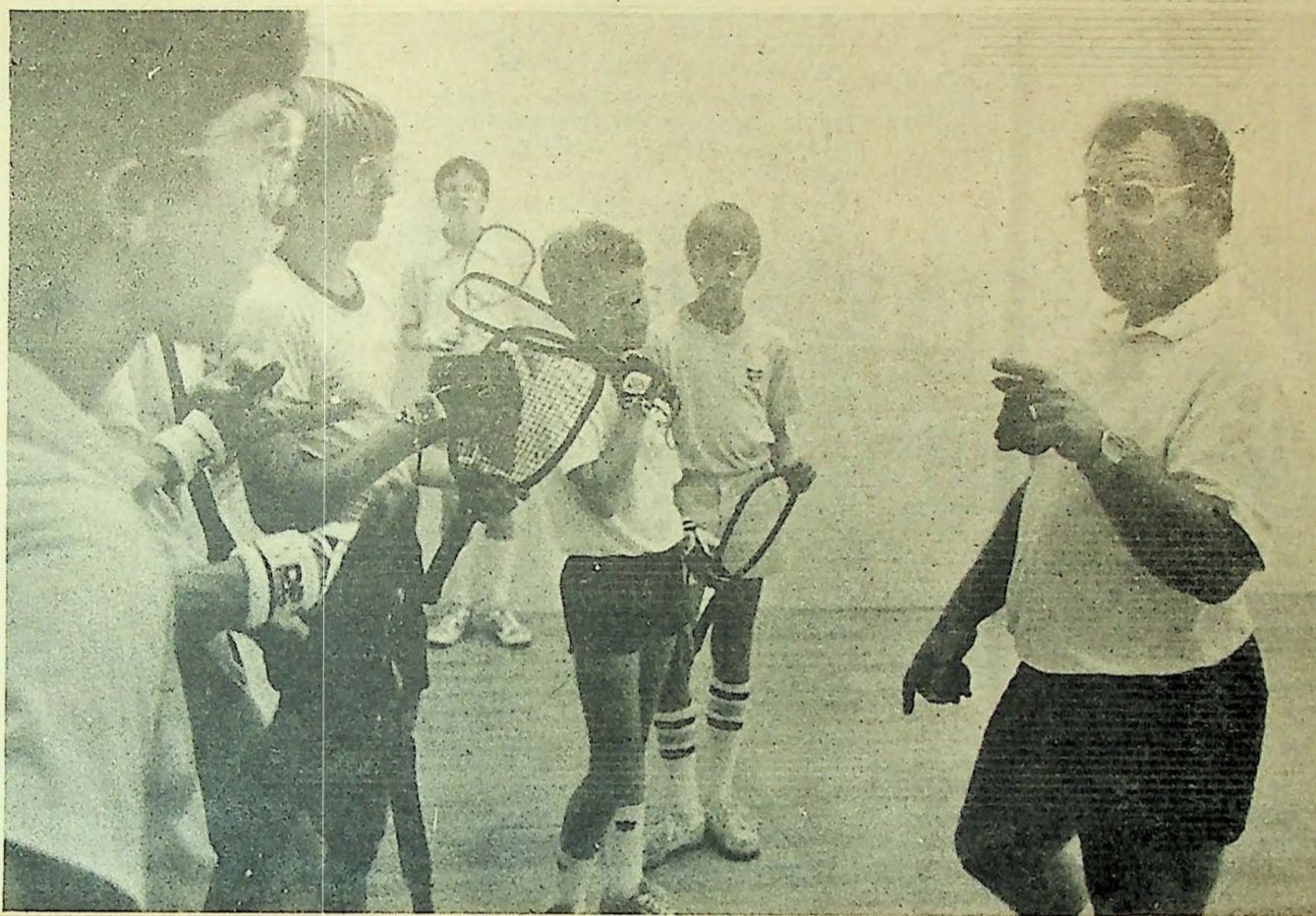
THUMBS UP — Laurels to Mike Yellen for notching his third straight national championship. . . Congrats to Jim Carson who was recently named executive director of the women's professional tour. Carson, who is the husband of No. 1-ranked Lynn Adams, deserved the job. . . Laurels to Ektelon and its new ball. They won't need much fanfare to promote this ball. This time they have a ball which will definitely be popular among racquetball players.

THUMBS DOWN — Darts to the AARA for not providing state rankings to the Journal in time for the August issue. Sure it's a volunteer organization, but the computer person is paid and it's apparent he can't meet his deadlines. . . Darts to clubs that don't turn in their tournament results to either us or the AARA. We can only tell players that they have to apply the pressure and make sure the job is done.

POTPOURRI — I don't know about you, but I'm leery anytime I see a package of grips that says "easy to install." Maybe, if you don't have two left thumbs it's easy. . . Something has to be done about the Sunshine State Games. It seems each year there is a foul up. This year entries were sent to the host club, 7-11 and to Tallahassee. If that isn't a formula for mass confusion, what is? . . . Maybe it's because they work there all the time, but can't clubs realize when the lobby smells like a lockerroom. . . Nicest club we've seen to date is the Sarasota Bath & Racquet Club. It's definitely the plushiest around in Florida. . . Mike Yellen and Lynn Adams ended the year with the No. 1 ranking but we didn't receive a single press release. How come? . . . Jan Curtis will think twice before requesting a "No Friday" starting time at the Sunshine Games. She played seven straight hours on Saturday and barely managed to raise her racquet Sunday morning. . . Honest, we know one gal who becomes irate when white t-shirts are given out as souvenirs. She likes to play braless and white t-shirts offers everyone a free show. . . It doesn't take a MBA from Harvard to realize snotty, abrasive front desk people run people away from the facility. . . We'll have a complete story on last month's Sunshine Games in next month's of the Journal. The results were sent to Tallahassee instead of us and we didn't want to run a story without a complete list. By the way, Charlie Nichols and Diane Bullard won the men's and women's open

PRP: The nation's model program

Junior Mania!



Pat Powers is the genius behind the program

By Norm Blum

BRADENTON — His coach was more than 100 miles away. No one would know. But 10 year old David Liekensohn was determined to adhere to training regulations when he approached the tournament director and asked if the ice tea contained sugar. The perplexed director told the youngster it didn't and young David breathed a sigh of relief.

"We're not allowed to have sugar if we are members of the team," Liekensohn said matter-of-factly.

• A nine year old finished his match and went upstairs to thank the referee for a job well done.

• The tournament started at 5 p.m. and six youngsters asked the tournament director: "Can I ref."

Such behavior is routine for members of the Power Plus Junior team from Bradenton. Forty youngsters, count'em 40, ranging in age from five to 17, belong to the nation's most active and organized junior program.

Pat Powers, 38, owner of Power Plus Racquetball in Bradenton, is the innovator of the nation's model junior program.

Powers, a former insurance executive in Bristol, Conn., bought the ailing club in May of 1983 and has since turned it around, utilizing a strong junior program. "The future of the sport is in the juniors," Powers said.

His junior team has a following in Bradenton and has become a focal part of the community. The Bradenton Herald, the city's daily newspaper, gives the PRP team excellent coverage and has even staffed certain events.

Robby Walden, last year's 12-and-under state and Orange Bowl champ, was Powers' first pupil.

"The first time we played, I beat Robby 15-0, 15-0," Powers recalled. "Today, I'm lucky if I can get a point off him."

Teaching racquetball was a natural extension for Powers who was once an excellent player in his own right before he tripped over a telephone cord and ripped up his knee.

"I started studying racquetball films and took note of all the common things good players did and wrote a booklet. I worked with some kids up North before I came down here. I always wanted to build a program around juniors."

After Walden came into the club, other juniors followed suit and a team was formed.

In some cities, becoming a member of the football team is important, in Bradenton, being a PRP player carries prestige.

"To make the team you have to practice with the team for three months," Powers said. "You have to referee at least two matches at a tournament before they can play in one. Then they have to ask me if they want to join and the team takes a vote, taking into account attitude and willingness to practice. To date, no one has been refused yet because a kid knows if he isn't dedicated, he won't ask to be on the team."

The PRP team members, sponsored by Diversified Products, each own attractive, custom-made uniforms and everyone associates the red color and wide white stripes with the team.

Strict team rules have been set up and the players police themselves.

"They have to have their shirts tucked in, there are no head phones at tournaments, there's no cussing on the court, they can't hit a ball after the play has ended and they have to shake their opponents' hand after the match. They also have to maintain their grades," Powers said.

During the school year practice is 4:30 to 6:30 and team members must bring in their text books. "If they aren't studying, they have to run laps around the club," Powers said.

"We don't judge our success on national titles, we judge it on how many go to college."

Powers also has a no-sugar policy. "We did an experiment and told the kids not to have sugar. We noticed their grades improved and they were more attentive. After the state doubles last year we let them have all the candy they wanted. Afterwards, they climbed the van walls and felt sick and tired so they decided on their own not to have sugar."

The community strongly supports Powers' junior team and last year donated more than \$9,000 to help defray expenses. The PRP team also held fund raising activities during the year and 19 members competed in the Junior Nationals in California.

"We go to about one tournament a month. The youngsters are responsible for their entry fee and they can't bring more than \$10 a day to spend on souvenirs, but the donations take care of the transportation and lodging."

The easy-going Powers promotes good, safe racquetball and doesn't allow his team members to dive for balls. Diving during a match results in laps at the Bradenton club.

Powers also offers free lessons and said adult members are the strongest backers of the junior program.

"It gives the adults someone to play with all the time if they need a game," Powers said.

While Powers' team has some of the top juniors in the state, he stresses the team aspect. "I tell them no matter how good you get, you still play with the worst kid in the club."

The younger juniors look up to the older ones and Powers said the program is at the point where new youngsters are coming in all the time.

"If clubs don't have junior programs they won't be building the sport up."

Where To Play

AUBURNDALE

Auburndale Racquetball — 202 Wiley Drive (813) 967-7265 and/or (813) 967-6443. Eight outdoor 4-wall courts. 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. Public courts. Non-resident, \$3 during day-time. \$5 after 5.

BOCA RATON

The Olympiad — 21069 Military Trail. (305) 368-6441. 11 racquetball courts. 2 squash courts. Nautilus, whirlpool, sauna. Pool. Restaurant. \$5.25 guest fee for out-of-towners.

BRADENTON

Power Racquetball Plus — 6412 14th St. West Bradenton. (813) 755-0137. Six air-conditioned courts. Pro shop, snack bar. \$3 guest fee. 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. Guests welcome.

CORAL SPRINGS

The Quadrangle Racquetball Complex — 2160 University Dr. (305) 753-8900. 12 courts. No guest fee for NCCA card holders. \$5 for others. Pro shop, cafe, nursery. Nautilus, whirlpool, sauna. 7 a.m. to midnight weekdays; 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. weekends.

CLEARWATER

Suncoast Courthouse — 2147 Pine Forest Dr. (813) 531-8933. 15 courts. 2 glass tournament courts. Aerobics room. Nautilus, pool fully equipped lockerroom. Lounge/restaurant. \$5 guest fee.

FORT LAUDERDALE

Scandinavia Courtrooms — 750 W. Sunrise Blvd. (305) 764-8700. 15 courts. \$6 guest fee for out-of-towners. Basketball court, running track, two Nautilus rooms, pool.

FORT MYERS

The Olympiad — 8450 Dayton Ave. SW (813) 939-4477. 9 courts. Fully equipped lockerroom, outdoor jogging track. Convenient and accessible from all directions. 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. every day.

FORT WALTON BEACH

Fort Walton Beach Athletic Club — 125 Miracle Strip Parkway SW (904) 244-4040. 10 racquetball courts. Restaurant, Nautilus. We welcome guests.

HOLLYWOOD

South Florida Racquet Club — 5555 Ravenwood Rd. (305) 987-6410. 10 courts. No guest fee for NCAA members. \$3 for others. \$2 guest fee for basketball and volleyball. Whirlpools, saunas, free baby sitting in

nursery. Video games and pool table.

JACKSONVILLE

Beaches Wellness Center — 450 Atlantic Blvd. (904) 241-5252. 6 courts. Nautilus, aerobics, complete lockerroom facilities, nursery and snack bar. Expanding. Check us out.

Ortega Racquet Club — 4206 San Juan Ave. — (904) 388-1500. Six courts. Large indoor heated pool. Nautilus. Aerobics room, saunas, steamrooms & whirlpools. No guest fee for active out-of-town card holders for court use. Court fees by the hour.

Jacksonville Wellness & Sports Center — 6651 Crestline Dr. (904) 724-6994. 9 courts. Nautilus, aerobics, snack bar. We cater to out-of-towners.

Racquet Power — 3390 Kori Rd. (904) 268-8888. 12 racquetball courts. Nicest racquetball facility in North Florida. Host of the 1986 National Doubles Championship.

LANTANA

American Lifestyle — 1111 Hypolux Road. (305) 586-4420. 9 courts. Lounge. Active racquetball club. Right off I-95. We welcome guests. \$5 guest fee.

MELBOURNE

Harbour Pines Racquet Club — 4100 N. Riverside Dr. (305) 777-6737. 12 racquetball courts, one squash court. Nautilus. Aerobics. Outstanding restaurant. Tournament hotspot. Host of the Florida Racquet Journal tournaments four times a year! Best hospitality offered anywhere!

MIAMI

Miami Court Club and Fitness Center — 9395 Bird Road (305) 226-4014. Nine racquetball courts, Nautilus Fitness Center, separate locker rooms with shower, steam, sauna and whirlpool. \$7.10 court time 6 am to 5:30 p.m. weekdays, 9 am to 9 pm weekends. Guest fees \$4.95 each. Racquet and shoe rental available.

Scandinavia Health & Racquet Club — 10631 SW 88th St. Dadeland West Office Park. (305) 596-0600. 6 courts. Nautilus, lounge, fully equipped lockerrooms.

NAPLES

The Olympiad — 1048 Castello Dr. (813) 262-1112. 6 courts. \$5 guest fee. Pool, complete lockerroom, pro shop, restaurant.

ORLANDO

The Racquet Ball — 5165 Adanson St. (305)

645-3999. 8 courts. \$6 guest fee. Nautilus. Expanding! Lee Road exit off Interstate 4. We're the friendliest club in town. You'll feel at home.

Racquetball South — 5224 S. Orange Ave. (305) 857-1388. 8 courts, 2 glass championship courts. \$5 guest fee. Spacious lounge and grill with large screen TV. Flotation tank. Pro shop.

Bally Health & Racquet Club — 4650 S. Semoran (2 miles south of Curry Ford Road) (305) 277-1144. 3 regulation racquetball courts. 75-foot lap swimming pool. \$500,000 in fitness equipment. Nursery. Indoor track. Advanced free weights. Full service club. 10-10 Monday-Friday. Saturday, Sunday 10-5.

ORANGE PARK

PARK AVENUE RACQUET CLUB — 714 Park Avenue. (904) 269-8000. 6 racquetball courts. 8 lighted clay tennis courts. Full Nautilus facility. 32 weekly aerobic classes. Restaurant and lounge. 7 a.m. - 11 p.m. Monday-Friday. 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. Saturday. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Sunday.

ORMOND BEACH

Omega 40 — 1 S. Old Kings Rd. (904) 672-4044. 10 courts. 24 pieces of Nautilus, swimming pool, whirlpools, steam/sauna. \$5 guest fee. Open 7 a.m. - 11 p.m.

PALM BEACH GARDENS

PGA National Sports Center — 600 Avenue of the Champions. (305) 686-4420. 6 courts. Nautilus, swimming pool, whirlpool and sauna. Bar & Lounge. \$3 guest fee; \$5 non-prime, \$7 prime.

PENSACOLA

Pensacourt Sports Center — 3001 Langley Avneue (904) 478-1400. 6 racquetball courts, 6 rubico and lighted tennis courts. Guest Fees — IRSA Members \$6, out-of-town guests \$10. Complete use of facility. Monday-Friday, 6 a.m. - 10 p.m. Weekends, 9-5.

POMPANO BEACH

Tennis Trainer — 1301 W. Copen Rd. (305) 974-4310. 7 racquetball courts. \$7 guest fee (full use of club). Fully equipped lockerroom.

ST. AUGUSTINE

Anastasia Athletic Club — (904) 824-0458. 1090 Anastasia Blvd. 5 air-conditioned

courts featuring Ellis Pearson Glass Wall. Co-ed Nautilus and weight room. Dry sauna, steam room, individual whirlpool. Pro shop. Snack bar. Natural Foods, beer and wine. Guest fee: \$5 per visit, plus court fee. 6:30-10 Monday, Wednesday, Friday. 8-10 Tuesday & Thursday. 9-8 weekends. "Out-of-towner" 7-day guest card \$42.

SARASOTA

Sarasota YMCA — 1075 S. Euclid Ave. (813) 967-0770. 8 courts. 2 guests fee. \$5 non-prime, \$7 prime. Co-ed whirlpool. Visitors & guests welcome. Open 7 a.m. - 11 p.m. daily. Message therapist on duty 9 a.m.- 5 p.m. Monday thru Friday.

Sarasota Bath & Racquet Athletic Club — 2170 Robinhood Rd. (813) 921-6675. 10 air-conditioned courts. 2 exhibition courts. Nautilus, JR. Olympic Pool, nursery, lounge, snack bar. \$6 guest fee. \$6 non-prime, \$8 prime. Racquetball Director: Judi Schmidt.

STUART

Midcourt Racquetball Club — 20 NE Dixie Highway. Rt. 707 (035) 692-9488. 8 courts. \$2.50 guest fee. Guests welcome. \$8 prime (4 p.m.-11 p.m. weekdays). All other hours \$6. Racquets, balls for rent. Universal gym, whirlpools, saunas, pro shop, nursery, lounge, billiards, game room. 8 a.m. - 11 p.m. daily.

TAMPA

Brandon Racquet Club — 2011 S. Parsons Ave. (813) 689-4410. 5 courts. We welcome guests; \$6 non-prime, \$8 prime. Universal, saunas. 10 a.m. - 11 p.m. daily.

Tampa Bay Courthouse — 7815 N. Dale Mabry (813) 932-5231. 10 courts, 2 side-wall exhibition courts. \$10 guest fee covers court time. Nautilus, free weights, fully equipped lockerroom. Pro shop, large restaurant, nursery. 6 a.m. - midnight weekdays. 7 a.m. - 9 p.m. weekends.

WINTER PARK

Bally Health & Racquet Club — 1700 N. Semoran (Highway 436, 1 mile north Aloma Avenue). (305) 678-1118. 3 regulation racquetball courts. 75-foot lap swimming pool. \$500,000 in fitness equipment. Nursery. Indoor track. Advanced free weights. Full service club. 10-10 Monday-Friday. Sunday, Sunday 10-5.

Winners

Florida

Racquet

Journal

For advertising and story ideas, write: P.O. Box 11657, Jacksonville, FL 32239 or call (904) 743-0218. Published monthly by Southeast Racquet Association, Inc. Copyright, Southeast Racquet Association, Inc. 1985.

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**Quadrangle East
Fort Lauderdale**

Chuck Prince 4th Annual Charity Diabetes Open — Fred Calabrese, James Lorello, Bill Simon, Oscar Alvarez. A — John Ross, Ricky Alvarez, Jimmy Alvarado, Fred Sherbinsky. B — Ross Greenberg, Doug Armentrout, Steve Feldman, Russ Palazzo. C — Hector Capp, Jorge Caetano, Phillip Williamson, Jerry Picardi. D — Steve Miller, John Wegman, Gerald Bird, Juan Asenjo. 25+ — Ted Bailer, Ben Upton, Fred Blaess, Mike Pagan. 30+ — Bill Simon, Steve Squire, Jim Costello, Tony Singleton. 35+ — Fred Sherbinsky, John Hadaway, Andy Pawlowski, Will Santiago. 40+ — Jack Ross, Fred White, Steve Squire, Jim McCauley. 45+ — Jim McCauley, Fred Blaess, George Gowing, Jay Aimis. Women's A — Monique Bondillo, Mary Hargrave, Cherrisse Sansone, Sue Elkins. B — Debra Held, Julia Williamson, Dee Lake, Jo Kenyon. C — Cris Pinerio, Eva Russell, Barbara Gochenbach, Kathy Hamilton. D — Deete Feurtado, Dana Taylor, Dori Newman, Kelly Drew. 30+ — Jo Kenyon, Julia Williamson, Cherrisse Sansone, Kathy Hamilton. Juniors 14 & under — Ross Greenberg, Barney Revuelta, Derek Falkowski, Mike Iapichino. 12 and under — Richard D'Andrea, Danny Bernstein, Robyn O'Toole, Erin Hamilton.

**Racquet Power
Jacksonville**

Men's Open — Mitch Campbell, Mike Ray. A — Brian Phillips, Mike Distifano. B — Glen Warren, Tim Eiland. C — Pat Fairfax, John Wilbur. C — Jud Litchfield, Donna Hayes. Open — Margie Burton, Laurie

Basch. B — Sherri Davis, Brenda Reese. C — Renee Weinstein, Brenda Reese. Open Doubles — Mark Morrison/Claudia McCarthy, Curtis Winter/Vinnie Ganley. A — Ray Felice/Monty Grunthal, Charlie Kretul/Dave Chappell. B — Glen Warren/Mike Carter, Aaron Metcalf/Doug McNutt. C — Dick Youman/Dick McCarthy, Dave Archer/Judd Litchfield. 19+ — Curtis Winter, Ron Babkoff. 30+ — Mitt Layton, Jim Culen. 40+ — Greg Shaak, Mario Ariet.

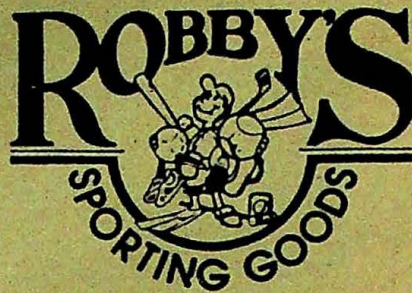
**The Olympiad
Naples**

Women's Open — Linda Diamond, Coleman. B — Mary Ann Rogers, Feurtado, Russell. Men's Open — James Walden, Rick Turner. B — Fabro, Brown. C — Manning, Williamson. D — Walker. 25+ — Rick O'Dell, Steve Friedman, Scott. 40+ — Jack Ross, Vince Biondi. Women's D — Feutado, Casc, Smith, Russell. 30+ — Janet Watts, Eva Russell. Mixed Doubles — Hyatt/Watts. Open Doubles — Ross/Ross, Walden/Scott. B Doubles — Woodington/Conti, Griffin/Schroeder. C — Henry/Fogelman, Surlis/Lefebvre.

AARA Calendar

- August 9-11 — Lakeland YMCA (Doubles only)
- August 9-11 — Quad East (Florida Racquet Journal tournament)
- August 23-25 — Sarasota Bath & Racquet — AARA State Doubles
- September 6-8 — Harbour Pines Racquet Club — Melbourne (Florida Racquet Journal tournament)
- September 13-15 — Anastasia Athletic Club — St. Augustine
- September 20-22 — The Fontainebleau — Ocala (Florida Racquet Journal tournament)
- September 27-29 — Tampa Bay Courthouse (Women's Invitational).
- October 4-6 — Racquet House — Marietta, Georgia (AARA SE Regional Doubles)
- October 24-27 — National Doubles — Cheyenne, Wyoming.
- November 15-17 — Auburndale Recreation Center

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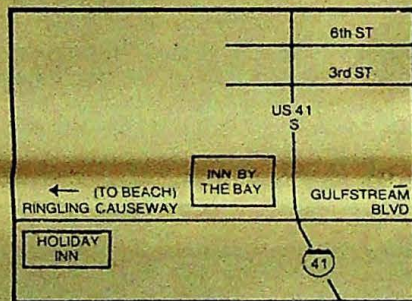


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1985 Florida State Doubles Championships

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 CLUB AFFILIATION _____
 PARTNERS _____
 BIRTHDATE _____

	Month	Day	Year
Men's	<input type="checkbox"/> 19+	<input type="checkbox"/> Open	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/> 25+	<input type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/>
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	<input type="checkbox"/> 55+	<input type="checkbox"/> 40+	
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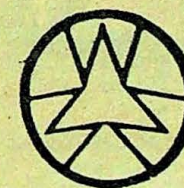
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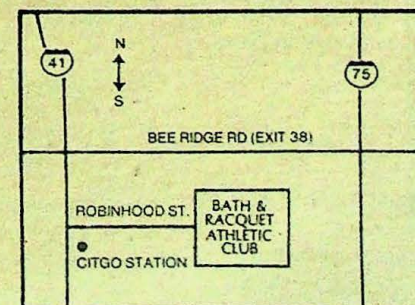
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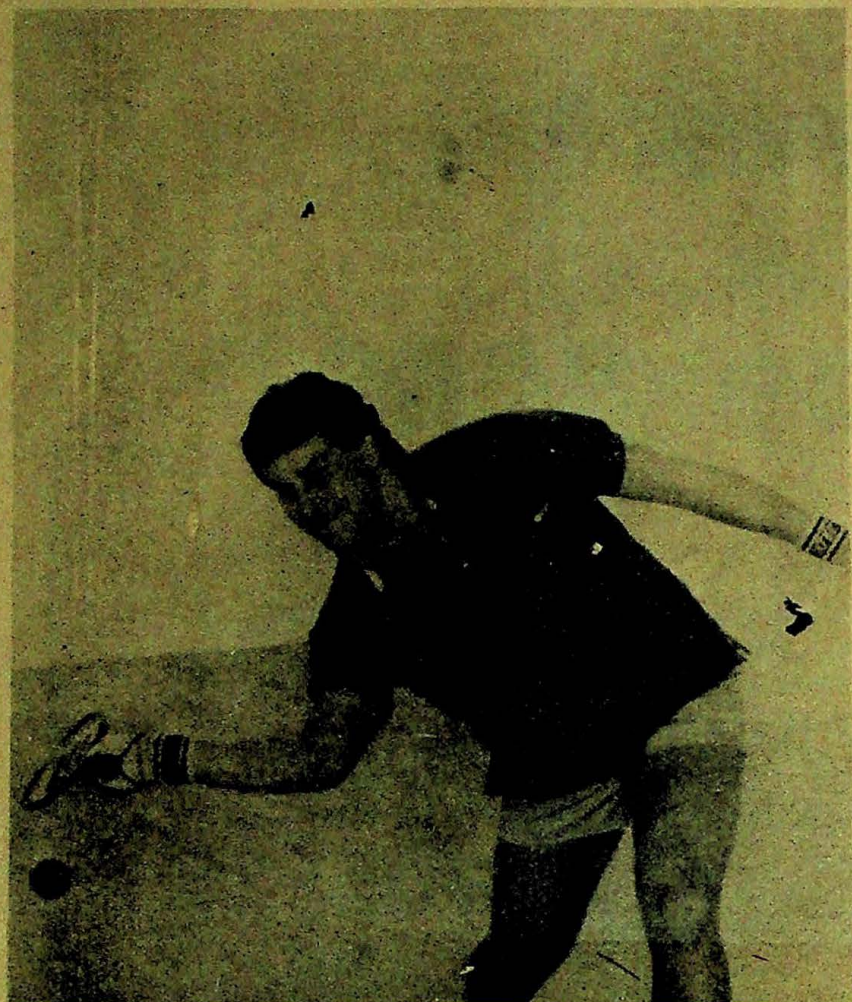


Bath & Racquet Athletic Club



2170 ROBINHOOD STREET
 SARASOTA, FL 33581
 (813) 921-6675

Entry Deadline: Saturday, August 17th 6:00 P.M.



No. 1!

Mike Yellen finished the pro season with the No. 1 ranking for the third straight season. The *Florida Racquet Journal* is pleased to announce Yellen will be giving clinics and exhibitions in at least two Journal sponsored tournaments this year.

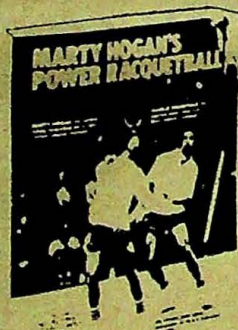


Paradise

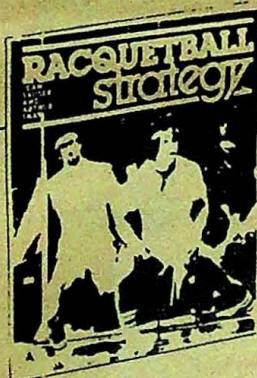
Racquetball players looking for a place to get away from it all and not wanting to travel can have that opportunity at the Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress at Orlando.

The 18 story, 750 room Hyatt is the centerpiece of the Grand Cypress Resort. The \$110 million hotel features three restaurants and six lounges, a spectacular 200 ft. high atrium lobby and a half-acre, free-form swimming pool.

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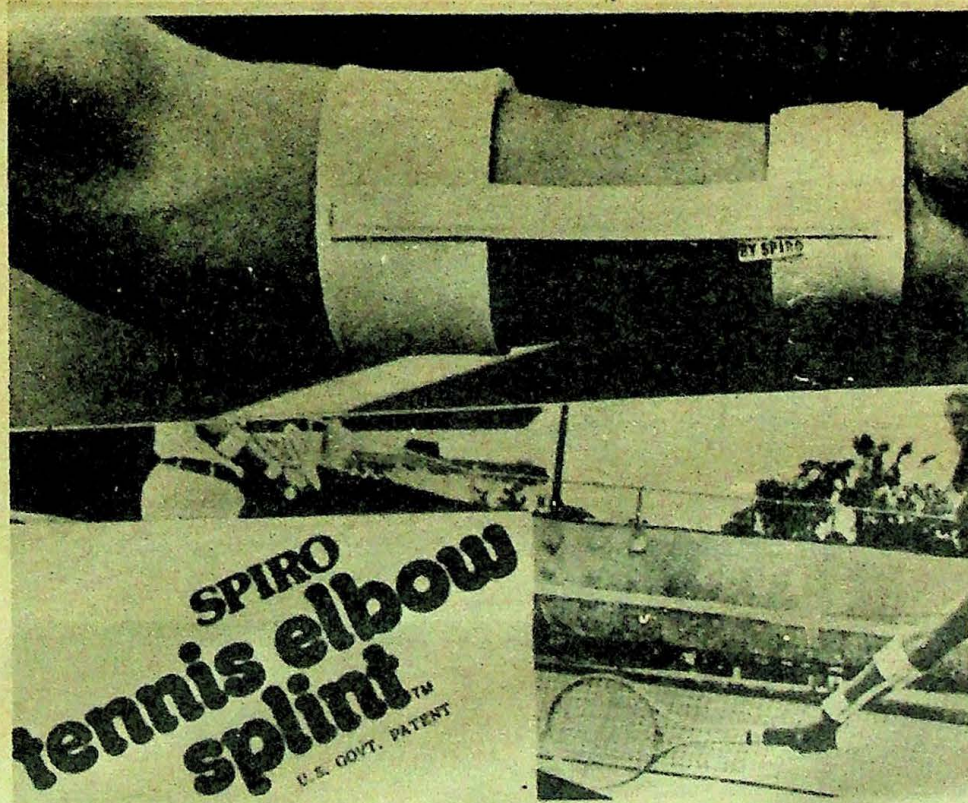
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Add \$1.50 for one book postage/handling. Add 50¢ for each additional. Illinois residents add 7% sales tax. California residents add 6% sales tax.

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Racquetball players have discovered it has similar affects. Mary Lyons, the national 25+ doubles champion, was unable to hit a forehand before using the splint and she's sold on the device.

You too, can play without pain.

Send a check or money order for \$14.95 to:

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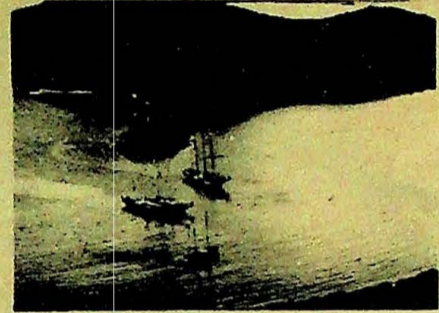
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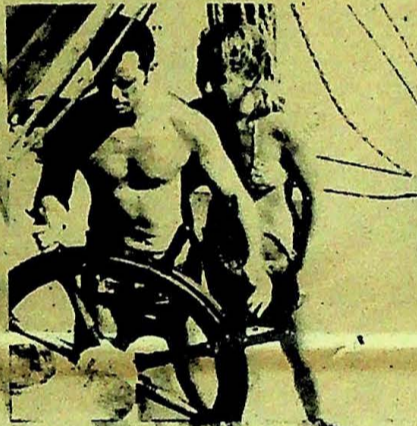
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AARA Notes

By Linda Mojer

(Linda Mojer is on the AARA Florida Board of Directors. She'll be writing this column on a monthly basis. Players are asked to give Linda and other board members feedback at next month's state doubles championship at the Sarasota Bath & Racquet Club.)

Recently the Florida Racquet Journal reprinted the suggested guidelines for the sanctioning of all future statewide racquetball tournaments compiled by a sub-committee of the State Board of Directors. Many of these issues will be voted upon in Sarasota and put into effect. One issue not printed but discussed was the elimination of the "double-skill" tournament entries.

As the number of racquetball players and competitions increase, the skill divisions (A, B, C and novice) contain more and more "double-skill" entries. A player is not sure whether he or she should be classified a "B" or a "C" player so enters in both divisions. This situation is most noticeable on the draw sheets of state-level tournaments where either cash or 'big' ranking points are awarded to the winners. While this appears innocent enough, technically it is sandbagging in its most convenient form.

For example, an individual enters in the "B's" and does very well through a full draw to reach, yet lose, the semi-finals. Rather than simply receiving points for attaining that level, the person returns to the locker, changes and takes on another competitor in the "C" finals and wins, demoralizing the genuine "C" level player in the process. This individual now has a "C-win" and a "B-place" to be entered into the rankings. Until he or she is forcibly evicted from the lower level, this practice can continue and points be awarded in two divisions despite the confusion it causes.

Using the ranking system as a reference for seeding in tournaments is virtually impossible when individuals have points in two different divisions. Unless tournament directors have personal knowledge of the persons being seeded they are forced to rely on the computer listings provided by the AARA for guidance. Where would one place someone in the "C" rankings and 80 points in the "B's" who wanted to play both divisions, and had NOT won a "C" tournament?

In the meantime, age divisions in many tournaments go unfilled and are combined or deleted for lack of entries. Yet, when the

Sunshine State Games, State and Regional Singles/Doubles are scheduled, you'll notice that the age divisions are considered the "championship" events. Not wanting to appear less-than-champions in these events, those players who routinely play two skill events enter their age division. Then having no experience whatsoever with the competition in their age bracket they do poorly and are demoralized as well.

In the interest of fair play in the skill levels, and in encouraging well-rounded competition in age brackets, the AARA State Board of Directors will consider the elimination of "double-skill" entries from sanctioned tournaments. This would mean that in order to play in two events in an AARA sanctioned competition, one would have to be an age bracket.

Racquetball players are notoriously opinionated, uninhibited and loud group. Let's hear some of your thoughts on the subject of single-skill play before State Doubles on August 23 so your input can be incorporated into what is sure to be a heated discussion. Contact any board member to deposit your two-cents.

EDITOR'S NOTE — I'll offer the first opinion. The suggestion reeks. Forcing players to choose an age group as a second division goes against the whole concepts of tournaments — competing on a level at which you have a chance. A 35-year old C level player won't have a prayer in his age group which consists of older open players. All the experience in the world won't raise him to that level of play. Let's face facts, some people are lifetime C or B players and they don't have the talent, time or desire to become a top-ranked player. What do you do about a player who is in the semifinals of B and C division? We encountered that situation in Sarasota last month. Paul Hanley, who prior to the tournament had never won a game in the B division, advanced to the semifinals in the C and B division. We kicked him out of the "C" division because on this particular weekend he didn't belong on that level due to his performance in the B category. Paul understood the decision and he ended up losing his semifinal match in the B division. I can understand the frustration of those who play in the age groups and nearly always compete in a small draw against the same people. But let's not force the "C" player into that division so that the strong player has someone to defeat.

Yellen offers tips

By Mike Yellen

(Mike Yellen, sponsored by Ektelon, has been the No. 1 player in the world the last three years. He serves as contributing editor to the Florida Racquet Journal and also works with the Journal giving clinics and exhibitions).

It's like a recipe — all the ingredients have to be included. Any racquetball player can play in a mixed doubles game, but winning takes a bit of planning.

The most important ingredient therefore, is your partner. Like any duo in sport, you must find a partner that complements you and vice versa.

As you practice together, learn each other's strengths and weaknesses. Decide who is better at the front wall shots, who is better with the backhand and the lobs. For one, this will help you decide who will play where in competition. Just as importantly, while in a game situation if your partner has hit a shot that he/she is weak at returning, you will be more apt to keep a keen eye out in case you'll need to back him/her up.

There are two basic doubles formations: side by side, or up and back.

Side by side doubles is fundamentally easier to understand. Each partner covers exactly half of the court, divided by an imaginary line from the middle of the front wall to the middle of the back wall. It's clear which partner has responsibility for each shot. But it's also easier for your opponents to isolate the weaker player in this formation.

"Keep it to the right," you'll hear them say. And the partner on the left is helpless.

In the up and back formation (sometimes called the "I" formation, one partner covers only the front court, while the other plays back. If you and your partner have agreed that one of you is considerably weaker than the other (or one of you is simply injured or in a slump), that weaker player should take the "up" position but cover only the right front corner, leaving three-fourths of the court to the stronger partner.

The "up" player hangs in there near the short line, and never, never, never hits anything with a backhand. Sticking out that backhand could rob your partner of a forehand setup.

On to the subject of backing each other. All my Ektelon teammates agree, this is a must. You have to work as a team. If you feel your responsibility ends by just returning "your" shots, forget it, this is not your game. Imagine that each shot is yours. If your partner misses that shot, be there to try for it yourself.

Your combined serving techniques can

also make or break your game. This is an area that takes time to iron out. Separately, your serves naturally have to be pretty good. But if your partner is great with "Z" serves, and that just happens to be your best serve too, someone had better brush up on another way of serving. Your competition may just love returning "Z" serves. Be prepared. Each half of the pair should pick a serve to practice in order to keep the competition guessing.

If your opponents are a lefty and a righty, serve down the middle, which means that either opponent will have to return with a backhand.

If both players hold the racquet in the same hand — whether left or right — serve to the backhand corner.

And you'll probably want to serve more defensively than you would in a single match. It's very difficult to hit an ace in doubles, because the receiver has less court to cover.

So you should be more patient that in a serve-and-shoot singles game. Work on the other team's mistakes. Hit more ceiling balls. Wear'em down. Wait for the right offensive opportunity. Then kill it, right?

Wrong. You'll want to hit more passing shots for winners in doubles. Sure, the kill is still the basic offensive weapon. But remember: there will be two people standing up there to retrieve your kill attempt, eager to bury it for themselves.

If you work the ball, moving one of your opponents out of position slowly with the flow of the rally, you'll eventually have an opportunity to hit a passing shot and add a point.

And speaking of positioning, don't let your own team be caught off guard. When receiving the serve, your partner should already be moving up toward proper position near the short line as you get set up to hit.

Another important point to remember is to trust your partner. Always remember you're only half of the winning team. While playing alone, there are always moments that you need to psyche yourself up or pull yourself out of a slump. Double those moments with doubles. Always help your partner out when you know he/she is disappointed with a shot or a bad serve.

Finally, "positioning," or stealing your partner's shot, only leaves you out of position. It's exactly the opportunity your opponents are waiting for to blow a winning passing shot past you.

So talk to your mixed doubles partner, decide how you'll divide the court, stick to your game plan, and have fun.

Dates to remember

State Doubles August 23-26 Sarasota

Journal tournaments

September 6-8 Melbourne

September 18-20 Ocala

Be there!!

Letters

Sir:

I want to express my sincere appreciation to you and the Florida Racquet Journal for your large donation of shorts and assorted shirts.

We are so grateful to the people in our community who desire to help our boys through donations. It means a great deal to us to know that people care.

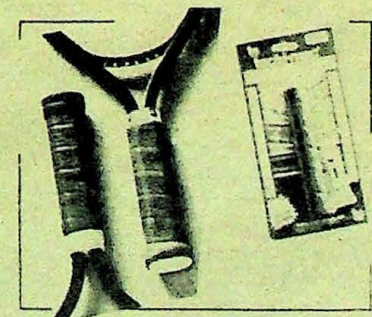
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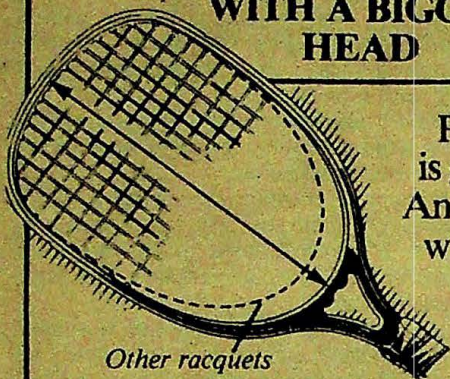
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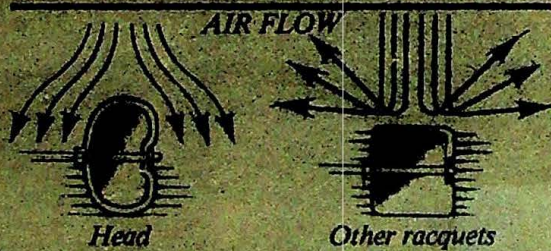


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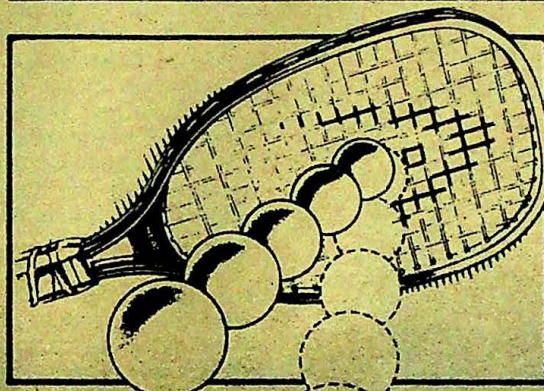
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See how air flows easily around Head's aerodynamically

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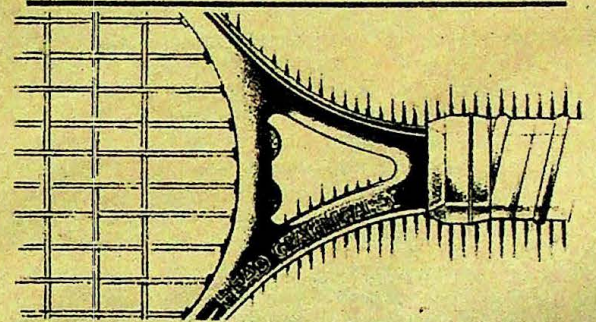
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Head's stiffer frames help you overpower your opponents with accuracy. You see, the ball follows a truer, more accurate path as it rebounds off the face of a stiff racquet. So you get great

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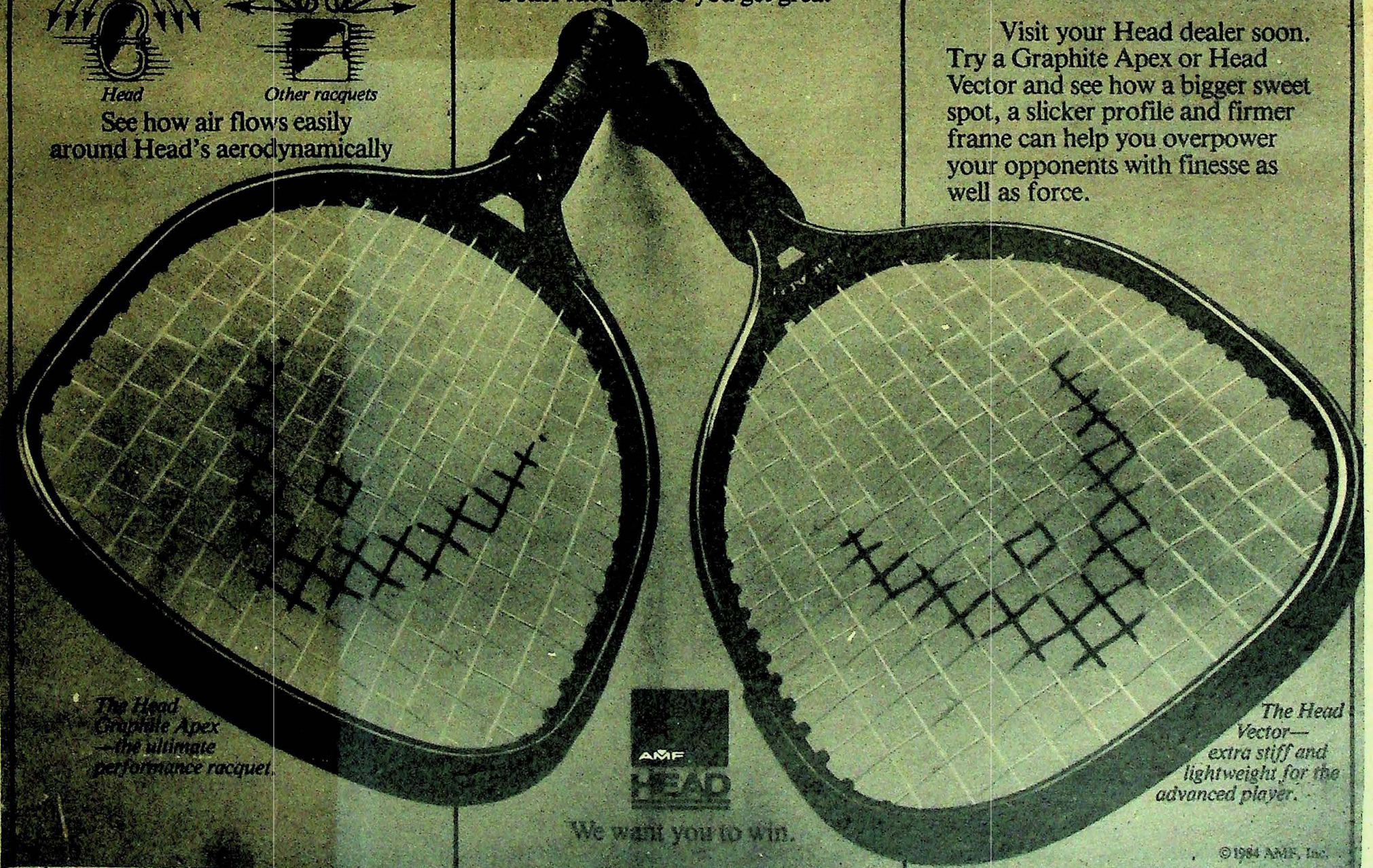
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TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

DATE: August 9-11, 1985

SITE: Quadrangle Athletic Club, 5065 N.E. 13th Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33334 (305) 928-1880.

ENTRY FEE: \$25-1st event, \$10-2nd event. Juniors: \$15-1st event, \$5-2nd event. Family Discount 20 per cent off total entry fee.

ENTRY DEADLINE: Tuesday, August 6 at 6 p.m. Phone entries with VISA or MasterCard only. NO EXCEPTIONS. Play may start as early as 4 p.m. on Friday. For starting times call (305) 928-1880, August 8th after 6 p.m.

TOURNAMENT BALL: Ektelon Speed Flite.

TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR: Al Caballero

REFEREES: Losers ref

RULES: 2 games to 15. 11-point tiebreakers. All juniors must wear eyeguards. Eyeguards are recommended for all players. AARA sanctioned. Memberships required and may be purchased for \$6 at tournament site.

SOUVENIRS: All participants will receive a collared tournament shirt.

HOSPITALITY: The beer starts flowing Friday night when the tournament starts, resumes Saturday afternoon and continues into the evening. Our hospitality begins on Friday night. After your match you'll get a chance to tell old war stories over pizza and beer. Saturday afternoon, make room for Subway's huge six-foot subs and salad. Saturday evening will feature the best barbeque in town—Sonny's. No one can top Sonny's chicken, baked beans, cole slaw and rolls. And, of course, we'll have refreshing iced tea with all meals for non-beer drinkers. On Saturday and Sunday mornings, treat yourself to bagels and cream cheese!

FACILITY: 9 courts. Plenty of room to watch the matches. Pro shop, restaurant, complete locker room facilities.

DOOR PRIZES: KAEPA Athletic Shoes, the best racquetball shoes on the market, will be awarded to several lucky players. We'll announce the winners during the Saturday dinner hour.

CASH PRIZES: Men's and Women's Open-1st Place-\$200, 2nd-\$100. 12 entrants required for this division.

LODGING: Howard Johnson's 5001 N. Federal Highway. (305) 771-8100 or 1-800-432-8665. Only five minutes from the club! Reasonable rates. \$35 (1-4 people per room). Mention you are with the tournament.

ENTRY BLANK

Division must have at least six entrants. Please list an alternative division in case your division is cancelled. Tournament director has the right to reclassify any player.

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- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Open | <input type="checkbox"/> 30+B |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A | <input type="checkbox"/> 35+ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> B | <input type="checkbox"/> 40+ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> C | <input type="checkbox"/> 45+ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> D | <input type="checkbox"/> 50+ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beginner | Juniors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 19+ | <input type="checkbox"/> 18 & under |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 25+ | <input type="checkbox"/> 16 & under |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 30+ | <input type="checkbox"/> 14 & under |

WOMEN'S SINGLES

- | | |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Open | <input type="checkbox"/> 30+ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A | <input type="checkbox"/> 35+ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> B | Juniors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> C | <input type="checkbox"/> 18 & under |
| <input type="checkbox"/> D | <input type="checkbox"/> 16 & under |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beginner | <input type="checkbox"/> 14 & under |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 19+ | |

DOUBLES

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Men's Open | <input type="checkbox"/> Women's Open |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Men's A | <input type="checkbox"/> Women's B |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Men's B | <input type="checkbox"/> Women's C |
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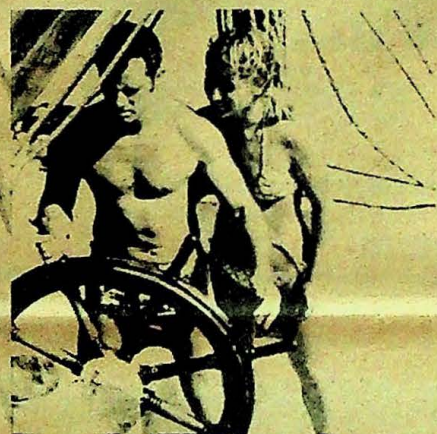
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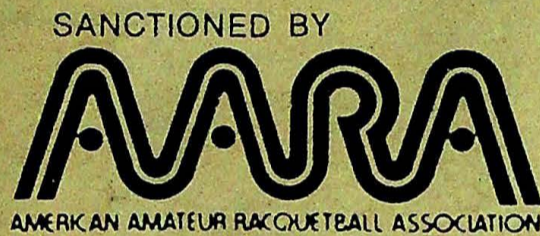
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DATE: September 6-8, 1985

SITE: Harbour Pines Racquet Club, 4100 N. Riverside Drive, Melbourne, FL (305) 777-6737.

ENTRY FEE: \$25-1st Event, \$10-2nd Event, 3rd Event — \$5. Third event must be MIXED DOUBLES! Juniors: \$15-1st Event, \$5 2nd event. Family Discount: 20 per cent off the total entry fee.

ENTRY DEADLINE: Tuesday, September 3 at 6 p.m. Phone entries with VISA or Mastercard only. NO EXCEPTIONS. Play may start as early as 4 p.m. on Friday. Please list an alternative division in case your division is cancelled. For starting times call Thursday, September 5 AFTER 6 p.m. (305) 777-6737.

TOURNAMENT BALL: Ektelon Speed Flite

TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR: Fred White, Libby Laney

REFEREES: Losers ref.

RULES: 2 games to 15. 11-point tiebreakers. All juniors must wear eyeguards. Eyeguards are recommended for all players. Players must enter their proper division. Players who sandbag will be forfeited without refund of entry fee. AARA sanctioned. Memberships required and may be purchased for \$6 at tournament site.

HOSPITALITY: The club's beautiful banquet facility will serve as the setting for our splendid hospitality. Saturday's lunch will feature Bunky's Raw Bar. You'll be served oysters on the half shell, shrimp salad, salad and assorted sandwiches. On Saturday evening sit down and enjoy 12-ounce t-bone steaks, rolls and corn on the cob. We'll be serving beer all day Saturday and iced tea for the non-beer drinkers with all meals. Coffee and donuts will be available Saturday and Sunday mornings.

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| <input type="checkbox"/> A | <input type="checkbox"/> 35+ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> B | <input type="checkbox"/> 40+ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> C | <input type="checkbox"/> 45+ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> D | <input type="checkbox"/> 50+ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beginner | Juniors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 19+ | <input type="checkbox"/> 18 & under 12 & under |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 25+ | <input type="checkbox"/> 16 & under 10 & under |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 30+ | <input type="checkbox"/> 14 & under 8 & under (no bounce) |

WOMEN'S SINGLES

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|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Open | <input type="checkbox"/> 30+ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A | <input type="checkbox"/> 35+ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> B | Juniors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> C | <input type="checkbox"/> 18 & under 12 & under |
| <input type="checkbox"/> D | <input type="checkbox"/> 16 & under 10 & under |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beginner | <input type="checkbox"/> 14 & under 8 & under (no bounce) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 19+ | |

DOUBLES

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Men's Open | <input type="checkbox"/> Women's Open |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Men's A | <input type="checkbox"/> Women's B |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Men's B | <input type="checkbox"/> Women's C |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Men's C | <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed B |

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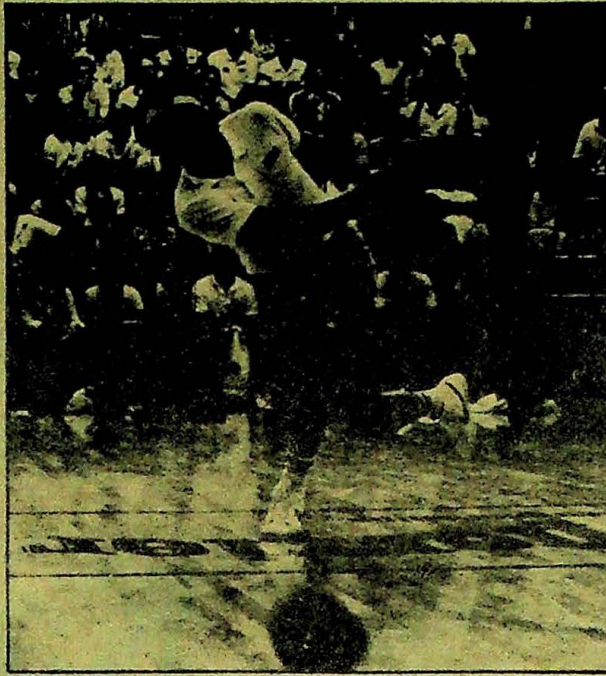
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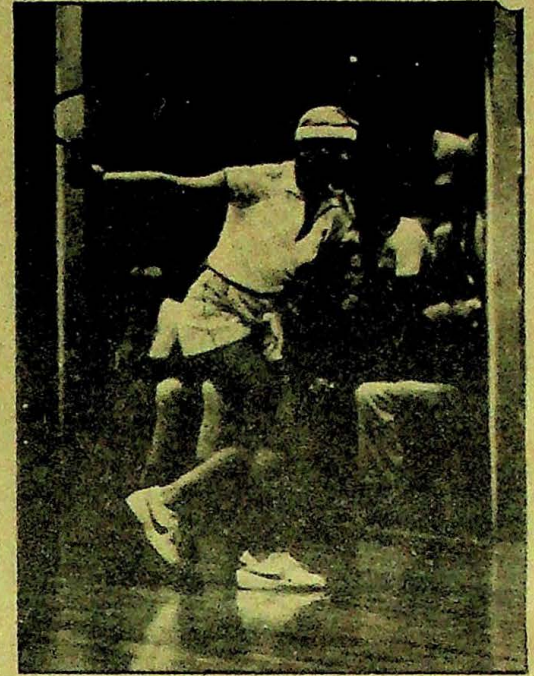
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