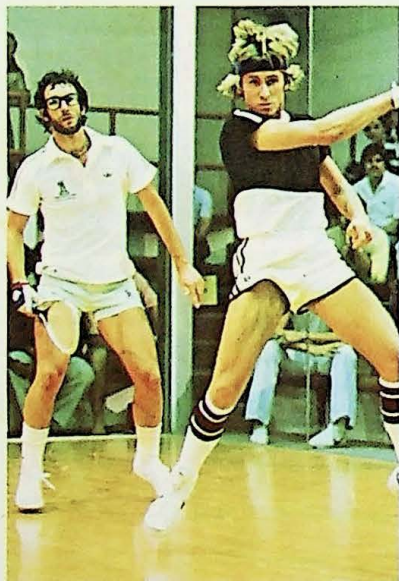


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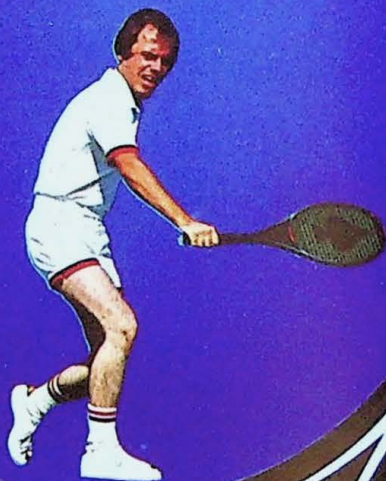
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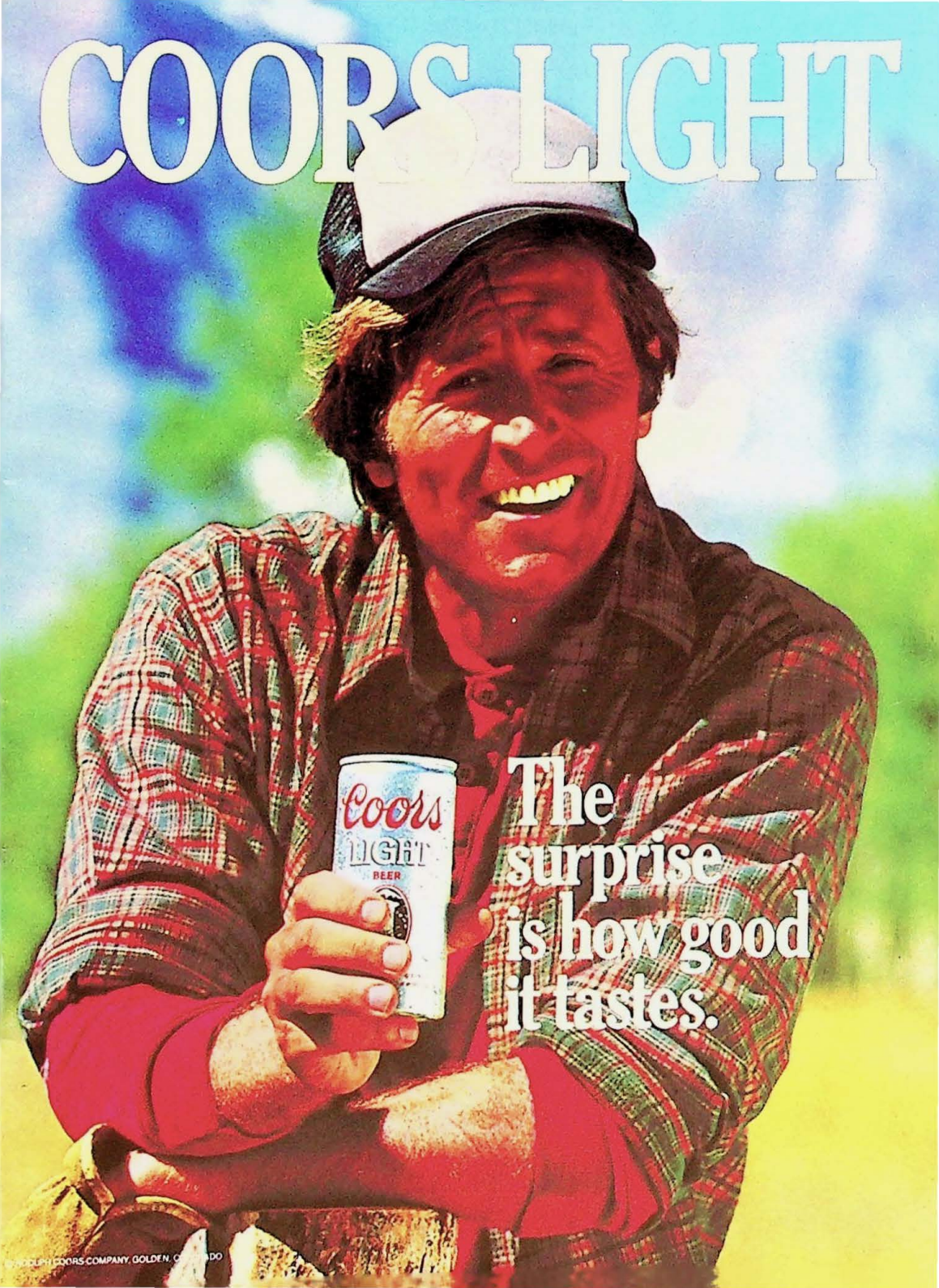
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surprise
is how good
it tastes.

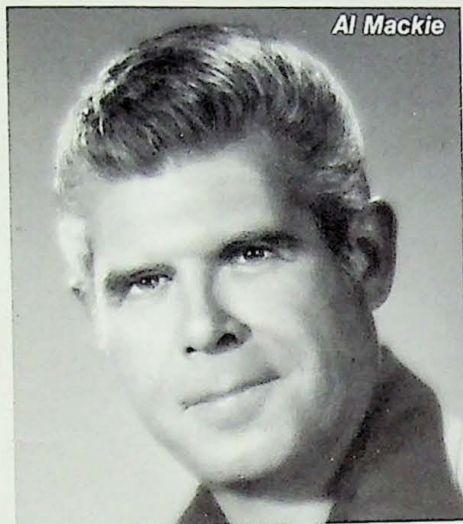
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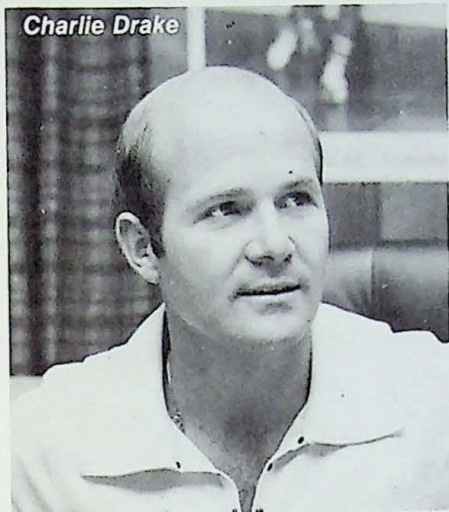


Catalina

Seamco, Leach Aid NRC In Sponsoring 1979-80 Tour



Al Mackie



Charlie Drake

The National Racquetball Club (NRC) Pro/Am Racquetball Tour is sure to be a huge success, largely due to the tremendous support by its co-sponsors Leach Industries and Seamco Sporting Goods.

In addition to the fine support of these two firms, all sponsors who put their names to events a year ago are back in the fold for this current season. Those include Coors, Catalina, Kunnan Industries, Leach, and Seamco.

Leach's involvement will be the sponsoring of the 1980 National Championships a \$100,000 prize money extravaganza — tentatively scheduled for Las Vegas, the first week in June.

Each of the other firms will be sponsoring at least one tournament, with varying amounts of prize money, but all with a minimum of \$15,000 distributed.

"We're not done yet," said NRC president Bob Kendler. "We're still negotiating with a few other companies and expect to have more stops lined up before the season is too far underway."

Seamco is the NRC's oldest pro tour sponsor, having been the first firm to donate funds for the prize money and promotion of the tour, dating

back to 1975. Al Mackie, president of Seamco, continues to boost the NRC and USRA in every way imaginable — he's an amateur as well as a pro supporter.

"I can't think of a better friend of racquetball than Al Mackie," said Kendler. "Seamco has been there every time the sport needed them. Their list of 'firsts' is endless."

Leach Industries, the third member of this triumvirate, is in its fourth season of sponsorship and was instrumental in the organization of the sponsorship structure the past two years.

"Charlie Drake (president of Leach) was able to help us increase the prize money nearly 110% this season," said Kendler, "just by a reorganization of the format. It took a lot of hard work and negotiating, but he got the job done."

The tour's final dollar figure will fall over \$300,000 in actual prize money distributed, along with nearly equal amount for promotion, publicity and implementation.

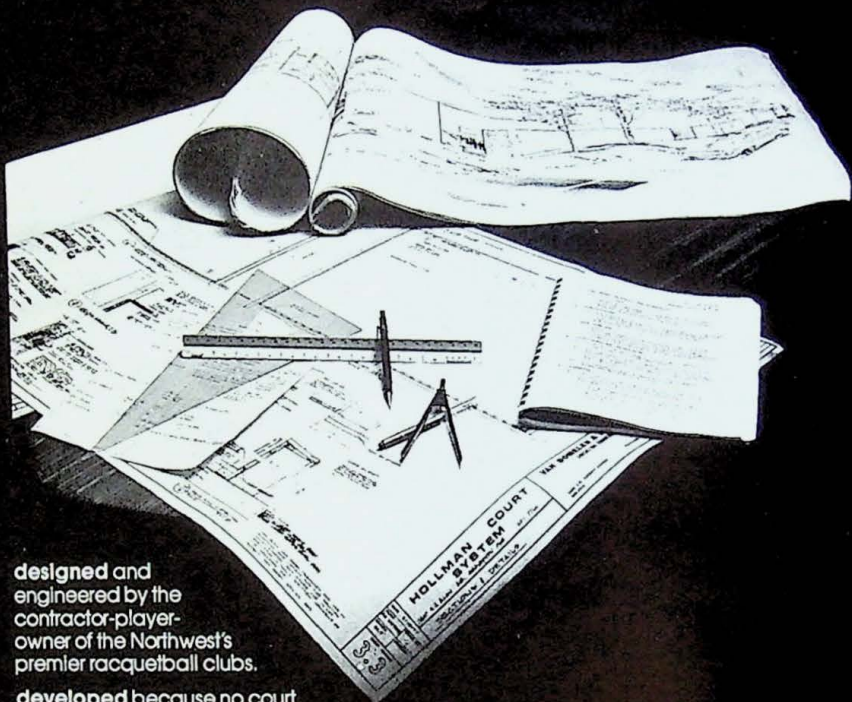
"It doesn't do any good to sponsor the events," said Kendler, "if you don't let the world know that you're sponsoring them."

With Seamco, Leach and the NRC/USRA working hand-in-hand to organize, promote and coordinate the pro racquetball tour, the world will most definitely know about it.

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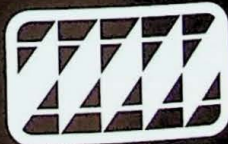
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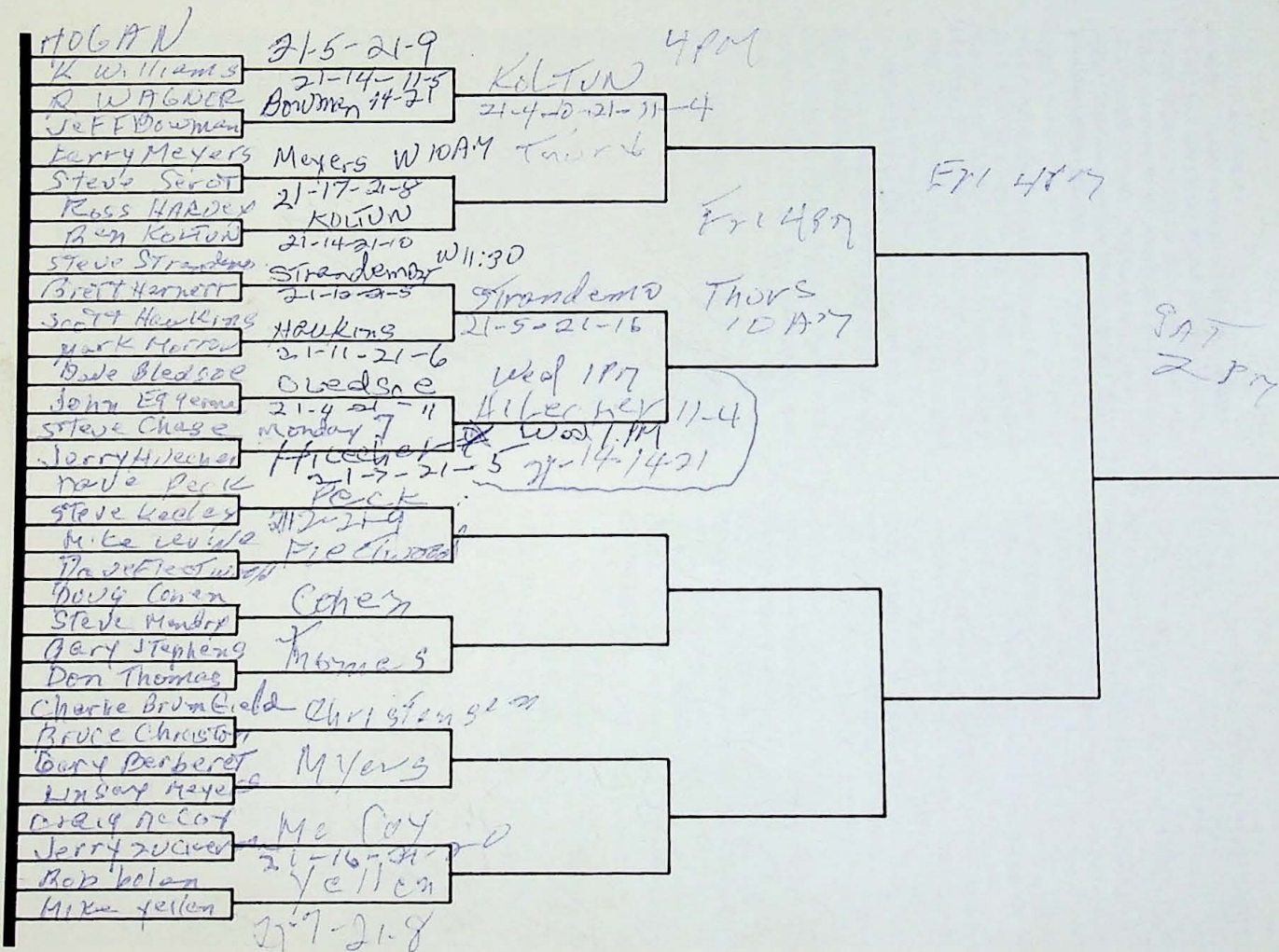
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Men's Pro Draw



Ranking The Players

The N.R.C. has devised an elaborate system of ranking the professional players. This system is based on a number of criteria, all of which are directed toward obtaining the most accurate reflection of the current skills of each player.

From this ranking the official draw for each tournament is conducted. Therefore, the key to a player's position in the draw in each tournament is largely dependent on his current ranking.

One of the goals of the N.R.C.'s ranking system is to accurately reflect the *current* abilities of each player. This conforms to the N.R.C.'s feeling that to allow players to build up tournament credentials over months and years would be unfair to those new players attempting to break into the higher ranks.

There are five categories, each counting 20% of the total from which the rankings are determined. These categories are labeled as follows: "Prize Money," "Total Points Earned," "Average Points Earned," "Percentage of Victories," and "Current Season." Let's explore each one.

Prize Money

This category is self explanatory. The amount of prize money earned by each player is added up after each event, and this cumulative total then represents each player's amount. The players are then ranked within this category, from highest amount of prize money earned to lowest, and each player is given his or her corresponding number, i.e. 1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc. depending on how much money has been earned.

Total Points Earned

The N.R.C. awards points based on performance, per round, in each tournament. The tournament winner receives 12 points, the runner-up 9, semi-finalists 7, quarter-finalists 5, round of 16 losers 3, and round of 32 losers 1. These points are then accumulated by each individual, similar to prize money and each player is given his corresponding number depending on where he ranks within his category.

Average Points Earned

In this category points are awarded similar to the "Total Points Earned" category except that the points are taken as an average per tournament played, rather than a cumulative total. In this way players who are forced to miss tournaments due to injury or illness are not treated totally without mercy by the system.

Percentage of Victories

Similarly, this category is an average, as all percentages are. Here the total number of matches played by each player (beginning with the round of 32 for both men and women) is tabulated with the number of victories. These totals are then added together and the percentage is taken.

In each of the above criteria, only the most recent five N.R.C. tour events are tabulated.

With this in mind the overriding regulation concerning the ranking system is that only the most recent five tournaments are counted. In this way, a five tournament rotation system is established whereby those players currently playing well will be justly rewarded by a better ranking than those not doing as well.

For an example, if Mr. Ace Serve was to win the first tournament of the season, he would be credited with that win throughout the first five events. When tournament number six rolls around, however, the credentials from tournament number one are not counted.

Current Season

The final category is a total of the first four, and is the only category not based on a five tournament rotation. Rather this category serves to put some weight on past performance and is a cumulative total of the first four categories throughout the season. After each event, the totals of each category are entered onto a master category which keeps a running total of each.

Finally, then, after each player is ranked within each category, the categories are then cross /added. For example, a player may be ranked 5 in "Prize Money," 4 in "Total Points Earned," 6 in "Average Points Earned," 5 in "Percentage," and 4 in "Current Season." This player's final ranking number (add them all together) is 24. All the players are added in this way, and wherever 24 fall in relation to the other players is the ranking.

The lower the number, the higher the ranking. For example, a perfect total would be 5. That player would be first in all categories and a series of 1's would add to 5.

Current 1979-80 Pro Rankings

1. Marty Hogan • St. Louis
2. Mike Yellen • Southfield, Mi.
3. David Peck • El Paso, Tx.
4. Jerry Hilecher • St. Louis
5. Steve Strandemo • San Diego
6. Don Thomas • Mesa, Az.
7. Charlie Brumfield • San Diego
8. Ben Koltun • St. Louis
9. Larry Meyers • Oceanside, Ca.
Lindsay Myers • San Diego
Doug Cohen • St. Louis
12. Mark Morrow • Los Angeles
13. Davey Bledsoe • Kingsport, Tn.
David Fleetwood • Memphis
15. Craig McCoy • Riverside, Ca.
16. Jeff Bowan • San Diego
17. Richard Wagner • San Diego
18. Jerry Zuckerman • St. Louis
19. Mike Levine • Rochester, N.Y.
20. John Eggeman • Boise
21. Scott Hawkins • Santa Clara, Ca.
22. Steve Mondry • San Diego
23. Gary Berberet • Buena Park, Ca.
24. Steve Serot • St. Louis
25. Ros Harvey • Montreal
26. Bruce Christensen • Nashua, NH
27. Kirk Williams • San Diego
28. Brett Harnett • Las Vegas
29. Steve Chase • Keokuk, Ia.
30. Steve Keeley • Hasett, Mi.
31. Bob Bolan • Tempe, Az.
32. Gary Stephens • Memphis

Marty Hogan



St. Louis • 1-22-58

Right handed, fifth year on tour, sponsored by Leach, career pro victories — 29 including 1979 National Championships.

Hogan is the game's premier player. His offensive method of play, the so called serve and shoot style, has become *the* way to play. His shots have been timed at 142 mph. Besides the power he can kill from anywhere on the court, forehand and backhand, and must be considered the odds on favorite in any tournament. When he's on his game he is awesome. His only fault seems to be lack of concentration, - either he is so far ahead that he relaxes, or he doesn't come ready to play and must come from behind. Only player with the ability to turn it on at will.

Mike Yellen



Detroit • 2-3-60

Right handed, third year on tour, sponsored by Ektelon, career pro victories — 3.

1978 Rookie of the Year emerged in '78-79 as a solid top four performer. Had near-win over Hogan and finished runner-up in the Nationals, again to Hogan. Another year's experience should make him all the tougher. Originally a control player, has blended the control with solid kills and a superb cross court passing game. Can move well, particularly laterally, and is smart. His cool and calm composure make him virtually immune from the psychological ploys of opponents. Could be his year.

David Peck



El Paso, TX • 11-21-56

Right handed, second year on tour, sponsored by Ektelon, career pro victories — 2.

Hands down '78-79 Rookie of the Year, who broke into prominence with semi-final finish in February's Coors Classic followed two months later with another semi-final at the Robert W. Kendler Classic. Has devastating power and serves to complement his booming forehand kills. Confidence can only improve his game. His game is solid, and the years of experience can only make him better.

Jerry Hilecher



St. Louis • 7-20-54 . . .

Right handed, seventh year on tour, sponsored by Elktelon, career pro victories — 1.

One of the original serve and shooters, Hilecher became famous for his power drive serves. Still one of the feared power players because his backhand has developed the consistency of his forehand. Has ability to top the best, and his retrieving takes a back seat to no one. One of the game's best divers. Consistent game produced solidly number two ranking last season after years of bouncing around top eight. Has proven he can top all but Hogan. Plays best under pressure. A referee's nightmare.

Steve Strandemo



San Diego • 3-4-48 . . .

Right handed, sixth year on tour, sponsored by Head, career pro victories — 2.

A control player all the way, Strandemo is the last player to beat Hogan, capturing last season's opener in St. Louis, dumping Hogan in the 16's, McCoy in the quarters, Wagner in the semi's and Hilecher in the finals. Big win and a boost for the control game. Has put injuries to '77-78 season behind him. Calculatingly smart. Continues his dogged pursuit of National title, having come close in '75 (second to Brumfield) and playing his best ball right now. At 31 one of the tour veterans hanging in against the young lions.

Don Thomas



Mesa, AZ • 3/9/57 . . .

Right handed, second year on tour, sponsored by Leach, career pro victories — none.

A power serve and shooter who emerged as one of the tour's top 12 ranked players going into the 1980 season. He has a vastly improved backhand over last season and is displaying a surge of confidence. His quickness and desire to win should lead to a great future with forehand shooting providing the base of his repertoire.

Charlie Brumfield

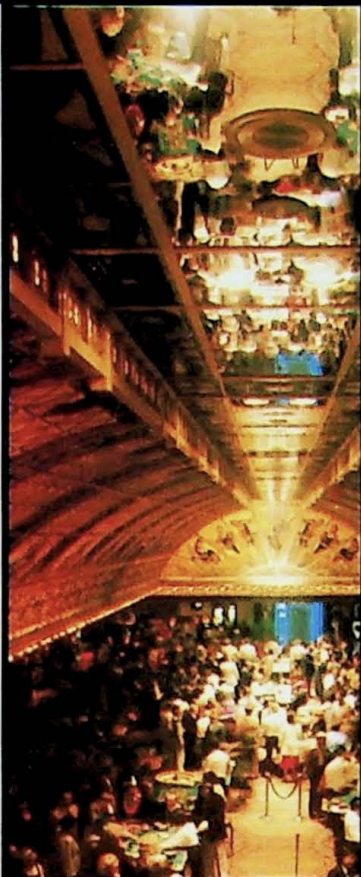


San Diego • 6-9-48 . . .

Right handed, seventh year on tour, sponsored by Leach, career pro victories — 10 including 1975, 1976 National Championships.

When winning his titles (two amateur National championships in the pre-professional days) Brumfield set the standard of play in the control method. i.e., placement first, power second. He's known as a mastermind on the court who can think his way out of as many situations as he can shoot his way out. At 31 he usually gives away 8-10 years each time out. Crowd pleaser who seems to have shaken off illness of a year ago. Good showing (semis) in the Nationals could lead to better days.

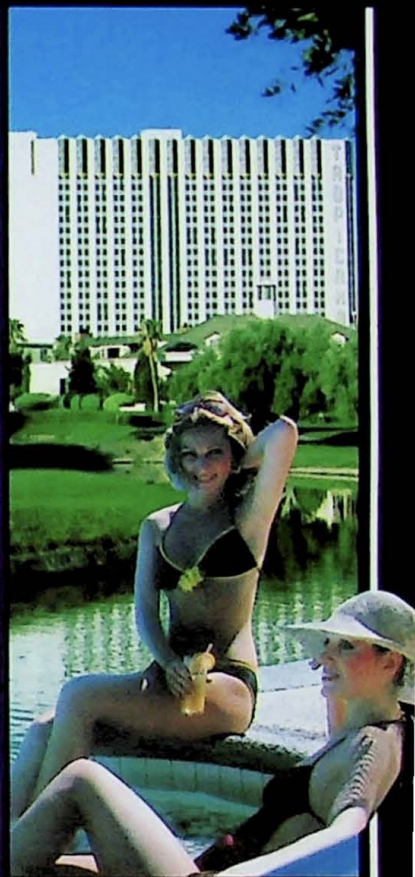
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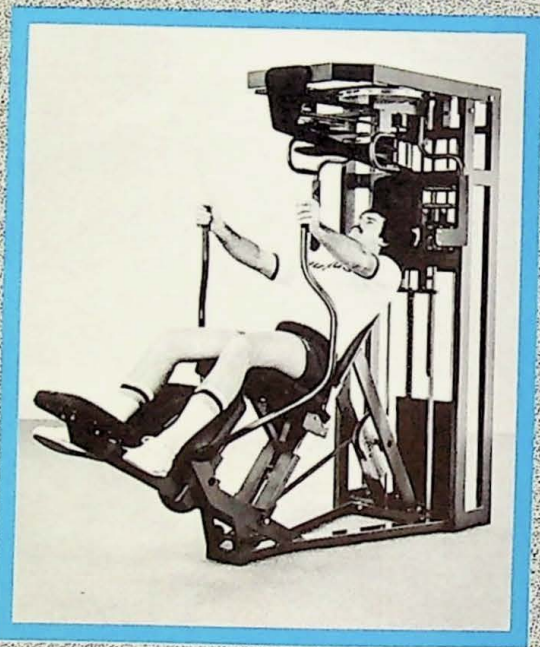
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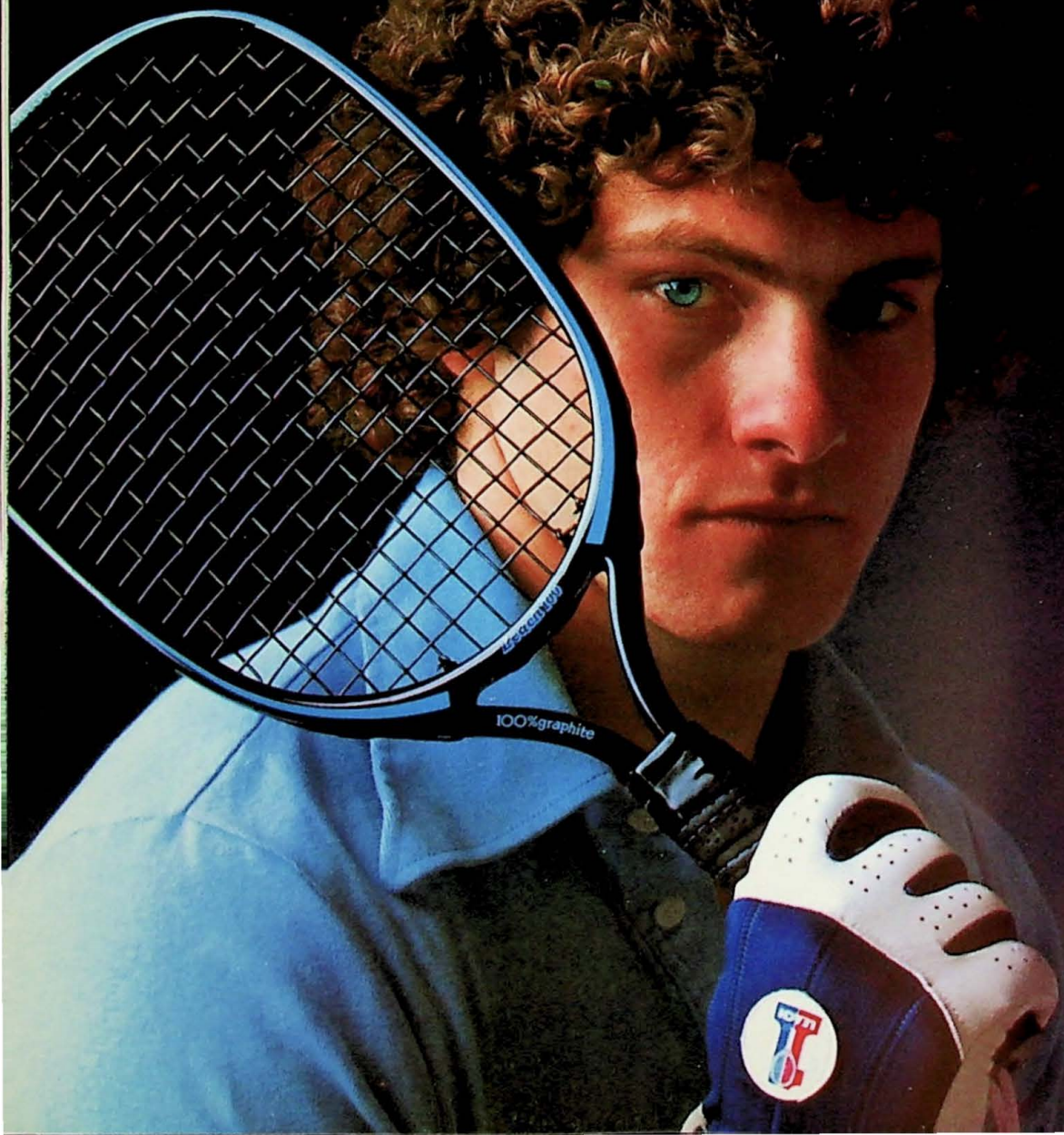
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Graphite is probably the perfect racquet frame material. Ounce for ounce, it's several times lighter than aluminum. Yet, even stronger and stiffer.

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What's more, no one's been able to copy Leach's innovative technology. So the Leach Graphite 100 is still the world's first and only 100% graphite racquet.

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Obviously, not everyone needs the awesome power of 100% graphite. So Leach created three other racquets that harness graphite's winning ways.

Like the Leach Graphite Competitor. An ingenious

combination of maple, ash, bamboo and graphite laminates make it Leach's lightest racquet. Strong and stiff, it's a hybrid that packs tremendous power.

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Leach Graphites: The Competitor, Bandido and Performer



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And the wrap around cup rubber sole gives you extra traction for quick lateral moves.

It's a lightweight, tough shoe that'll last a long time. And help make sure you're making the killshots.

Instead of diving for 'em.



Beaverton, Oregon

Ben Koltun



St. Louis • 2-3-58 . . .

Right handed, fourth year on tour, sponsored by Leach, career pro victories — none.

The first National juniors champion (1975) has improved each season to his current rank. He's a serve and shoot player, with a hedge toward control. Main strong points are quickness and ability to shoot off balance. Pet shots include backhand wide pinch and back wall forehand kill. Tough serves which include best deception on tour. Likes to cut off power drives on the fly. Difficult draws during season probably kept ranking from higher. Stamina problems in tie-breaker seem to be behind him.

Larry Meyers



Oceanside, CA • 11-7-59 . . .

Right handed, third year on tour, sponsored by Wilson, career pro victories — none.

The 1977 National Juniors Champion hovering in the top 16 now holds the number 12 spot. Larry, in the eyes of many, is probably the most underrated pro player in the game. His picture perfect execution and deceptive quickness has proven to be the nemesis to many above him in rank. He's had impressive wins over Bledsoe, Yellen and Brumfield and has gone three with Hogan.

Lindsay Myers



San Diego • 2/11/59 . . .

Right handed, second year on tour, sponsored by Leach, career pro victories — none.

Canadian National Champ who was on threshold all last season. Narrow losses to some of the top names indicates that with a good draw he could cause problems. Another powerful serve and shoot player who possesses remarkable speed and natural ability. He has yet to develop the consistency of those above his rank.

Doug Cohen

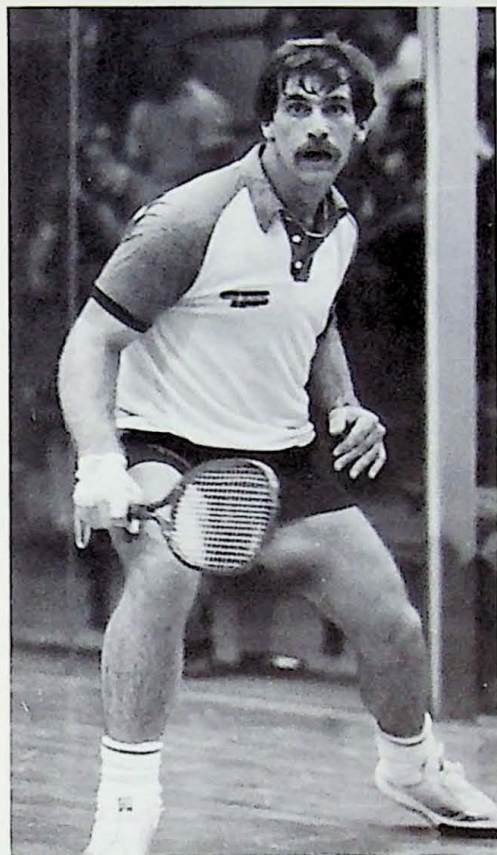


St. Louis • 2-20-62 . . .

Right handed, first full "rookie year" on tour, sponsored by Head, 1979 Leach/Seamco National Juniors Finalist, career pro victories — none.

This hard hitting, smooth and fluid serve and shooter out of St. Louis is emerging this season with some superb victories over elite company. Beating the likes of Bledsoe, Hilecher and others has helped establish the needed consistency and confidence to continue to do well. He's quick and isn't afraid to shoot with the best of them and the years of experience he will accrue will only make him better.

Mark Morrow



Los Angeles • 6-21-52 . . .

Right handed, fourth year on tour, sponsored by Trenway, career pro victories — none.

Hard hitting righty, who's a threat to reach the quarters every time out. Good forehand kills, needs more potency with backhand. Superb intensity and desire. Game has shown improvement in recent events with narrow losses, keeping him from breaking into top 10. Aggressive game entertaining.

Davey Bledsoe



Kingsport, TN • 3-7-51 . . .

Right handed, sixth year on tour, sponsored by Wilson, career pro victories — 2 including 1977 National Championship.

A power player Bledsoe has shook off his discouraging and disappointing 1977-78 season. The championship burden is off his shoulders and his game has picked up because of it. The intensity and forehand corner kills that marked his '77 game are on their way back. Speed and quick hands still his strong points, - it's almost impossible to pass him cross court. Major weakness a tendency to be too aggressive on serve return, - causing free points for opponent when backhand is off.

David Fleetwood



Memphis • 4-22-57 . . .

Right handed, third year on tour, sponsored by Ektelon, career pro victories — none.

A young serve and shooter who has come out of the pack to emerge as one of the tour's top 10 ranked players going into the new season. Superb second half of last year led by vastly improved backhand and surge of confidence. First visit to quarter-finals came last October in Leach Motor City Classic and was finalist in one of tour's most recent events. Quickness and natural ability should lead to great future with forehand shooting providing the base of repertoire.

Craig McCoy



Riverside, CA • 2-20-57 . . .

Left handed, sixth year on tour, sponsored by Leach, career pro victories — none.

This smooth southpaw made big strides in 1978, overcoming many of the psychological barriers he had against various opponents. Has the power and control to play even the best (he forced Hogan to tie-breakers three times last year). Excellent variety of hard serves, especially Z's. Biggest problem still concentration, which has plagued his career. Has all the physical tools but seems lazy at times, trying to make it look too easy. If he ever works hard, it will be hard to beat him.

The USRA

In 1973 Bob Kendler organized the United States Racquetball Association to govern amateur racquetball in this country. The USRA publishes the official rules, puts out its monthly magazine — *National Racquetball*, aids affiliate groups in all 50 states and sponsors more than 500 tournaments ranging from local events to the National Championships held each June.

The USRA rule book, which is revised annually, is free to all Association members and is available through state affiliates or at USRA headquarters.

National Racquetball magazine, also free to USRA members, each month provides instruction by top pros, amateur and professional tournament results, news of state affiliates, court club features and stories about celebrities and other newsworthy people who play racquetball.

USRA affiliates, run by volunteers in each state, sanction tournaments for men, women and juniors. Players and officials at USRA sanctioned tournaments are eligible for free balls, shirts, draw sheets, rule books and other materials in the USRA tournament package.

The USRA sponsors 15 Regional Championships each year, and pays the full air fare round trip to the Nationals for the men and women Open Singles Regional winners.

In the summer of 1979 the USRA began sponsoring 15 Junior Regionals with winners advancing to the National Juniors Championships in August.

The USRA is an amateur organization, with no player who has accepted more than \$1,000 or more in prize money in the previous 12 months eligible to play in USRA events.

The NRC

The National Racquetball Club, governing body of professional racquetball, is best known for organizing the annual professional tour from September through June.

The tour, which began in the fall of 1973 with no sponsor and a total of \$20,000 in prize money, now has the support of eight sponsors and over \$300,000 available to pro tour winners.

A wide geographical range of tour locations gives racquetball fans around the country a chance to see live professional play, with special consideration given to those areas recognized as "racquetball hotbeds." Each year facilities in all parts of the country offer their racquetball centers as pro tour stops. Once chosen the host facility puts in months of preparation to guarantee that the event is well attended and is hospitable to players and spectators.

Although the tour is highlighted by the professionals, the tournaments are open to any player who desires to try his or her game against the best. Such players go through a qualification event prior to the tournament, and those who reach the pro level can match their shots, on the court, with the greats of the game.

For more information write the National Racquetball Club, 4101 Dempster St., Skokie, IL 60076 or phone 312-673-4000.

Souvenir Program Staff . . .
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Design/Production • Milt Presler

Robert W. Kendler



Bob Kendler, President and founder of both the United States Racquetball Association and the National Racquetball Club, is the one person most responsible for the growth and improvement of racquetball.

A multimillionaire Chicago real estate developer Kendler began his court career before racquetball ever was imagined, forming the United States Handball Association in 1951. Kendler paved the way for the original racquetball players by encouraging handballers to let the new players on their courts. Recognizing the potential of the young sport Kendler formed the first racquetball association in 1968, then five years later organized the USRA and NRC.

Though often involved in high finance Kendler finds no question or idea too small to consider. He enjoys talking with USRA members and professional players. If you want to speak to the person who gets things done in racquetball, dial 312-673-4000 and ask for Bob Kendler.

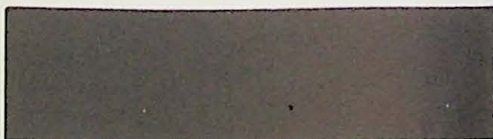
Joe Ardito



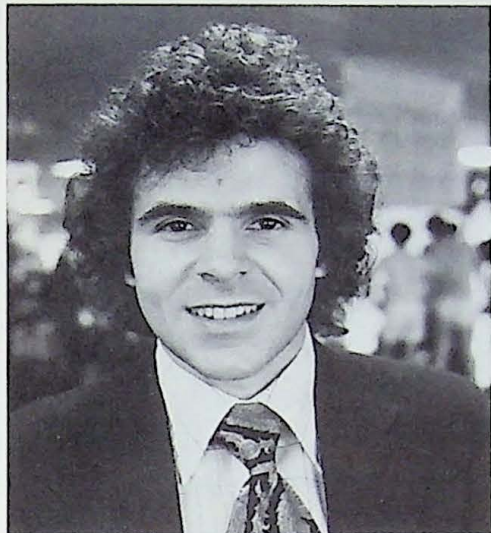
Joe Ardito, Business Manager of NRC and National Commissioner of the USRA, is the man who hands out the checks after each money match.

A person who knows how to make a tournament run smoothly Ardito began his work in handball over 20 years ago and moved over to racquetball in 1973 to help operate the new NRC. Ardito is advertising director of *National Racquetball* magazine and liaison between the USRA and NRC and the racquetball industry.

Ardito's focus on the people end of racquetball ranges from being the firm enforcer of NRC rules and policies to helping develop a strong Juniors program that has produced some of the game's top pros.



Dan Bertolucci

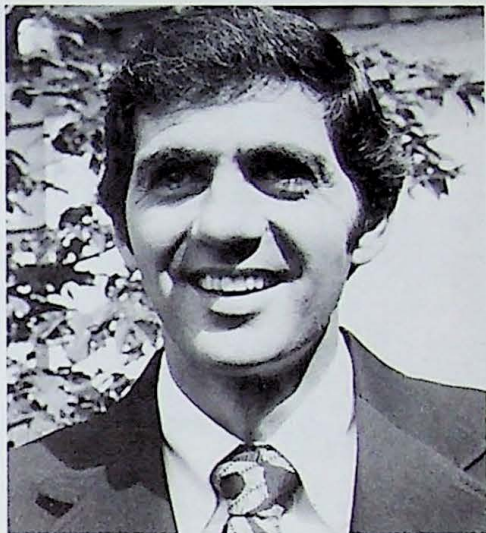


Dan Bertolucci, National Director of the NRC, first joined the NRC/USRA team as Associate Coordinator in 1977. His primary duties include the organization of the annual professional tour, serving as chief liaison between NRC/USRA headquarters and the clubs hosting tournaments. He also referees at pro tour stops, where he's a regular competitor.

Bertolucci learned to play racquetball at Northern Illinois University, where he earned degrees in psychology and biology. His PROfiles and "What's the Call? Ask an Expert" are popular features of *National Racquetball* magazine.



Bob Keenan



Bob Keenan, the newest member of the NRC/USRA staff, is the United States Racquetball Association National Director. His contribution to organized racquetball goes back to 1971. Bob gained much of his valuable experience as tournament organizer and director for midwest state and regional tournaments and he directed the Milwaukee stops during the first two years of the National Racquetball Club pro tour.

Bob became one of the USRA's first state chairmen in 1976, representing Wisconsin, and has continued to put his expertise behind the USRA ever since. He works hand in hand with state chairmen to promote amateur racquetball in all 50 states and assists on the pro tour as one of the most knowledgeable referees.



Calls You Might Hear . . .

. . . and what they mean

New spectators to racquetball matches often hear words and terms either unfamiliar to them, or confusing, especially if such terms are not found in the rule book. Additionally, certain rituals occur during a racquetball game that whether covered by the rules or not, — are an integral part of any match.

Here then, are a collection of such terms and situations, to help you racquetball spectators better enjoy yourselves.

When the referees calls . . .

Hinder! It immediately stops play at that moment, voiding any occurrence thereafter, including the ball hitting an opponent. A hinder rally is re-played in its entirety with no penalty.

Screen! A screen is a serve which passes so close to the server's body that in the referee's opinion, a fair opportunity to return the serve was not given to the receiver. No penalty, re-played.

Skip! A shot that hits the floor before it hits the front wall ending the rally and causing the player hitting the shot to lose the rally.

Down Ball! A skip that hits close to the hitting player's feet usually in deep court.

Two! Synonymous with double bounce pick-up, but a lot easier to say. It's the referee's call.

Check The Ball! Whenever the referee believes the ball has become wet, accidentally or not, during the course of play or after a rally. The referee will ask *check the ball, please* and the server will then toss the ball to the receiver for inspection. If the ball is wet, the receiver will dry it and toss it back to the server. The referee may also ask for the ball to be checked if it leaves the court of if he believes that the ball might be broken. All *check the ball* calls by the referee occur after the rally while the ball is not in play.

Broken Ball! If the ball should break during the rally, the rally is re-played. If the rally is over and the ball is found to be broken the previous rally is re-played. If however, the ball is put in play, beginning another rally, no broken ball replay may be awarded for the previous rally. Also if the ball is struck by a player after the rally, causing the ball to break, the previous rally is not re-played.

Racquet Up! Rather than a call, this is a signal from the receiver to the referee that he requests

the full 10 seconds the rules allot him to prepare to receive serve. If the receiver has his racquet up prior to the beginning of the serve any served ball at that juncture is re-served without penalty. However, if the score has been called by the referee and the server has visually checked the receiver's readiness and no racquet is up, the serve is legal and must be returned by the receiver.

Short! A serve which strikes the floor before passing the short line. Normally a referee will say, *Short, take one, or Short, second serve*, because the server is allowed two chances to serve the ball legally (there are exceptions, check the rule book).

Avoidable! An avoidable is short for avoidable hinder, a hinder that in the referee's opinion could have been avoided had the offending player either moved out of the way, or not moved in the way of his opponent or his opponent's shot. One of the more controversial calls in racquetball, and avoidable hinder loses the rally for the offending player.

When you hear . . .

Air Horn! When the air horn is blown by either of the two linesmen, it signals a foot fault on the part of the server. The serve is then treated as if it was short, allowing the server one more chance to serve legally. Either linesmen or the referee may call a foot fault and it is not appealable.

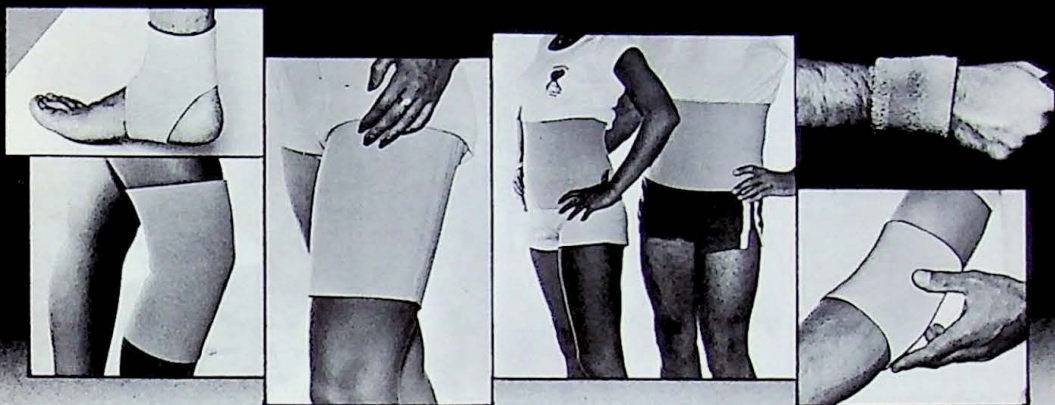
Appeal! Any player can appeal certain calls during a match, if in his or her opinion the referee was in error. Those certain calls are skip, short (or long — a serve that hits the back wall on the fly), or double bounce.

The tiebreaker . . .

A few rule differences occur when a match enters the third game (tie-breaker), made necessary if the players or teams each win one of the first two games. Those rules are:

1. The third game (tie-breaker) is played to 11 points.
2. The player or team having scored more points in the first two games combined serves first in the tie-breaker.
3. If the number of points scored in the first two games is equal, a coin is flipped to determine first service.
4. Two time outs per player or team.
5. As in 21 point games a single point is all the margin of victory need be (11-10).

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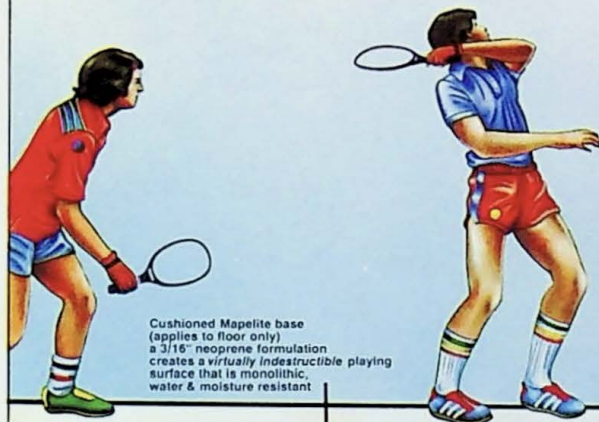
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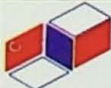
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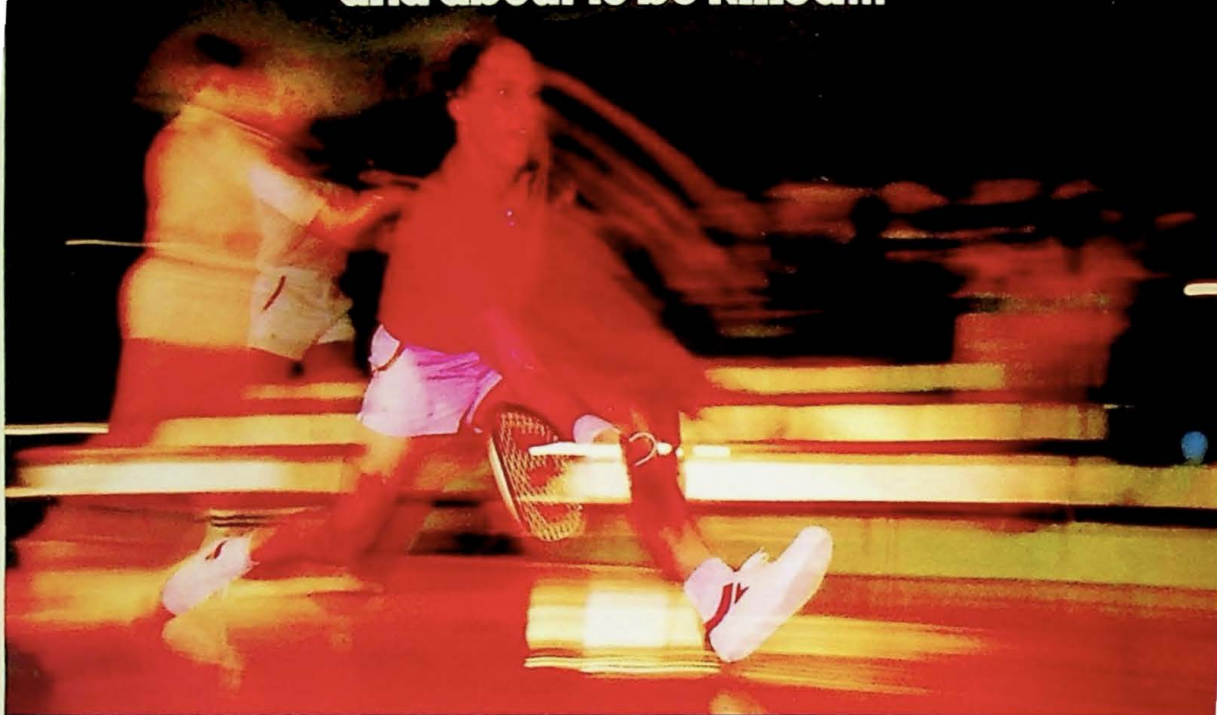
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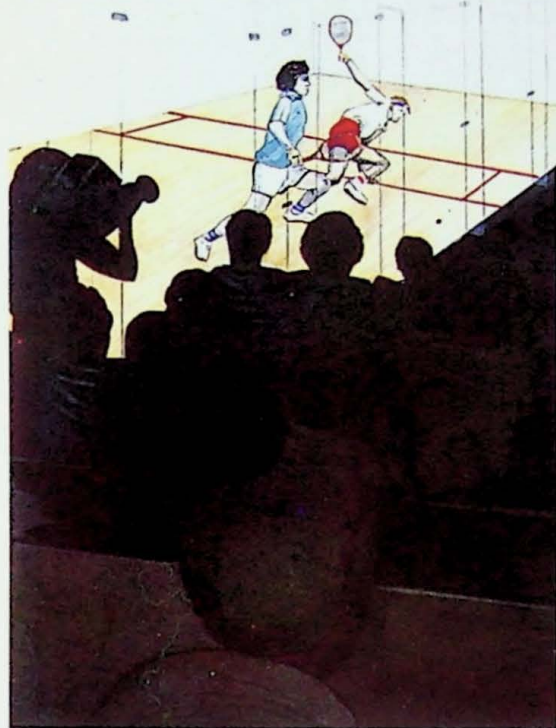
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