

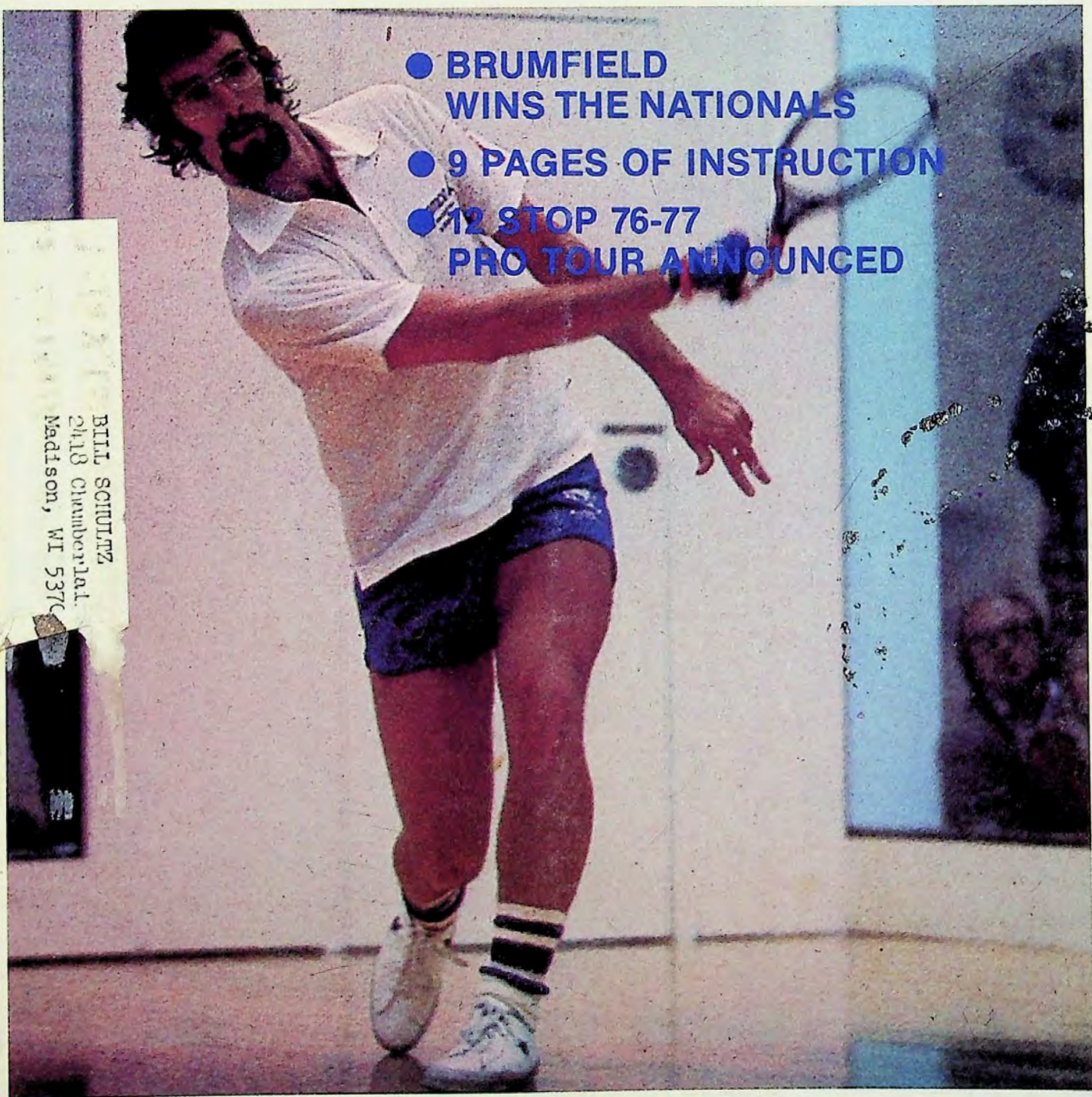
National Racquetball

VOLUME 4 NUMBER 4 • \$1.00 • JULY, 1976

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE U.S. RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION

- BRUMFIELD WINS THE NATIONALS
- 9 PAGES OF INSTRUCTION
- 12 STOP 76-77
- PRO TOUR ANNOUNCED

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National Racquetball

VOLUME 4 NUMBER 4 • \$1.00 • JULY, 1976

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On The Cover:

National Champ Charlie Brumfield shows his classic form. Complete coverage of the National Championships begins on page 10.
—photo by Arthur Shay

National Racquetball magazine will pay \$25 to the author, upon publication, of any instructional, feature, or first person racquetball article submitted. All articles must conform to the specifications outlined in the table of contents and are subject to revision, alteration or rejection by the editor. Photographs of high quality in color or black and white are welcomed.

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FROM BOB KENDLER

A Tough Act To Follow . . .

We are referring to San Diego, of course. The entry set a record, the television made history, and the hospitality will never be forgotten. The National Championships for 1976 was, without a doubt, the best organized and most publicized racquetball tournament ever held. The quality of play and the attendance have never been equaled, nor have the facilities provided by the Atlas Health Club. San Diego comes by its distinction as the Mecca of racquetball honestly. The clubs are fabulous. And there are all kinds of them in Southern California. When you add to all this the recreational and scenic amenities—plus perfect weather—this certainly will be a hard act to follow. That's why we're going back there next year. If you missed this extravaganza—by all means, don't make the same mistake twice. You will never see a better show—never, never, never. Believe me!

It was my privilege to spend considerable time at the Nationals with new I.R.A. president Bill Tanner and his very lovely wife Pearlina. You know, I am not a racquetball player—Bill is and a good one. That gave him an advantage. But we are both businessmen and making a *sound* business out of this great sport was the sole topic of our discussions.

We explored the present as well as the future in utter frankness. I sincerely believe that Bill Tanner is good for racquetball in general, and the I.R.A. in particular. It was very

comforting to know that with Bill, there is no vindictiveness, no envy, jealousy or criticism. That makes two of us. It was also a pleasure to be with some of Bill's new directors and as the week went on, our organizations became closer and closer.

I finally couldn't help wondering how we could ever have had any differences. The question of who's side you were on never came up—we are all on racquetball's side.

Seems like the Olympics are having the same kind of a problem we are . . . players insisting that they play for certain countries, and countries deciding which other nations should or should not play. With the Olympics this is a nation problem—with racquetball it's a manufacturers problem. My ear has been so badly bent by the runners-up that it's time to put the subject to rest.

We all realize that the pros have added a new and exciting dimension to our sport. Money magic is what I call it. The pros were willing to make an unbelievable effort in return for matching compensation. I can find no fault with this. My only problem was that I couldn't find the money to make this miracle come to pass. I approached everyone in the industry and believe it or not—only two manufacturers had the courage to gamble substantial sums to bring you the greatest play possible.

I want to emphasize that I made the pro tour available to *everyone*. Now that the foresight of our sponsors



has proven their promotional genius—others insist they share the spotlight with them.

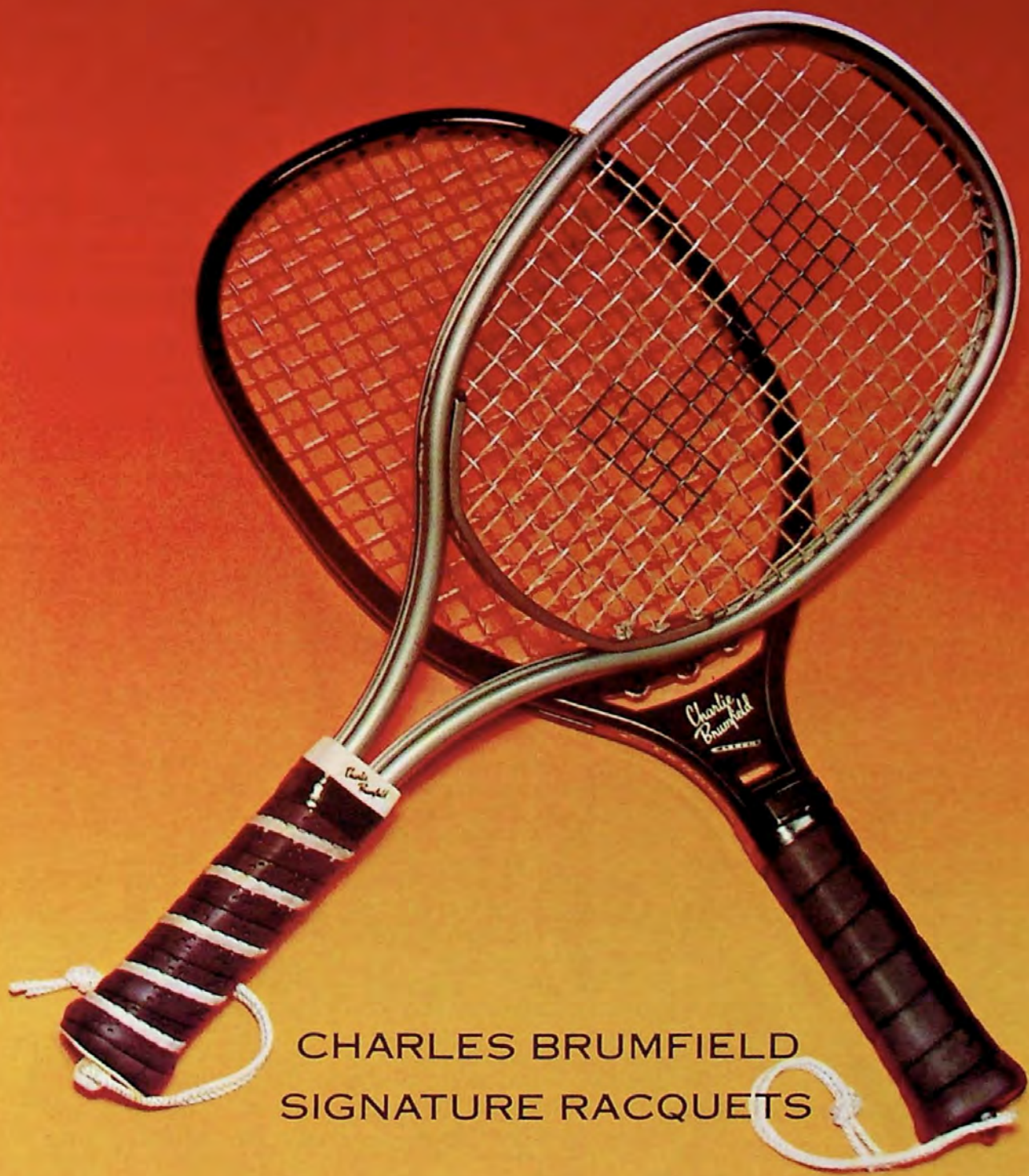
Now I am not going to take sides, or deny anyone anything. The tour for the '76-77 season was under sponsorship contract before the San Diego Nationals because the schedule must be published in this issue. So there is nothing to talk about for next year.

If any manufacturer is interested in the '77-78 season, we will be glad to hear from them. We are beholden to *no* man or manufacturer. I must add, however, that we will count, as part of any bid, the past contribution made by a particular sponsor. Without the faith of our current sponsors, the pros would not have all that money . . . and you would not have that Super Bowl performance. They deserve the recognition the Nationals brings them . . . because they paid for it! And they should be rewarded for their faith in us.

This is a good time to tell you that we have some surprises in store for you. Next season will be big with benefits. It's really too early to give you the details but we are confident that you will be happy with the bold strides that will make you proud to be a part of the racquetball scene. Don't ask me what they are . . . just remember they were all designed for you and for racquetball. It is our pleasure to serve you, the player.

Bob Kendler

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Saturday Through Tuesday,— Why Not?



Sitting still is not my style. Doing things because they've always been done that way, is fine,—as long as that way doesn't blind us to a better way. Well, I think there's a better way to run tournaments and we're going to prove it to you.

As you probably noticed, in our tournament schedule for the Leach-Seamco pro tour next season, most of the events begin on Saturday and end on Tuesday. Now, before you get in line to beat my head with your Bandidos, let me explain two things. First, no action by the N.R.C. is irreversible. If what we try doesn't work, we try harder to find the solution. Secondly, this will work.

As I see it, the three primary problems with major tournaments are: 1) players are forced to miss two days of work; 2) it's tough to draw galleries on Saturday and especially Sunday afternoons; and 3) media coverage is difficult, if not impossible on the weekends. Saturday through Tuesday tournaments will solve all three problems.

Let's take missing work first. Traditionally, major events begin on Thursday and end on Sunday. As the number of tournament participants continues to increase, larger draws will make this problem even greater. Players are forced to miss Thursday and Friday from their normal place of employment, or they cannot play in the tournament.

However, if we start on Saturday, by the time Sunday evening rolls around, a good 80 per cent of the

participants will have lost,—a hard reality. Those who wish to stay, are more than welcome to do so, and we're sure there are many who will. But, those who cannot afford to stay, who must get back to work, well, they'll be able to do just that. These players can play, attend, receive their souvenirs, watch the pros in early rounds, and get home,—all without missing an hour of work.

Those players who have to stay over to play Monday and Tuesday will most likely be tourney veterans anyhow, those players who are used to taking off from their jobs. This will not hurt attendance, since every day more and more of the spectators at our events are not tournament players, but rather racquetball fans. And the Saturday-through Tuesday format will be to their benefit as well.

Racquetball fans are also sports fans. And the majority of them are family people, too. In the past with the quarter-finals on Friday night, the semi-finals Saturday and the finals Sunday,—our attendance has suffered with 1) a nice day outside or 2) a good football game on the tube or 3) general family outings.

Under the new format, we will be able to play the quarter-finals Sunday night, which will allow our fans to attend the religious services of their choice, watch pro football or spend time with their families during the day, and still see the best racquetball in the world that evening.

The semi-finals Monday night may buck Monday night football, but I'd

rather take my chances there than against college football on Saturday and pro football on Sunday, in addition to the monumental number of other sports activities on the weekend.

For Tuesday night's finals, we should have the sports world all to ourselves.

And that leads us to reason number three,—publicity. We have been trying for years to break into the newspaper pages with tourney results, let alone, good, comprehensive coverage. We know the problems that face us as well as the media when it comes to weekend coverage. In a major metropolitan area in the fall, virtually all staff writers are assigned to football. On Chicago papers, for example, staffers cover Northwestern University, the University of Illinois, Notre Dame, Ohio State, and Michigan in addition to high school football. To break away to cover a racquetball tournament, unless it's the Nationals, is rough. We understand.

Now, if our tournament begins Saturday, and ends Tuesday, we will have a much greater chance of coverage, with much, much less going on in the sports world, especially Monday and Tuesday. The increased publicity will aid in increased promotion which will, in turn, aid the game.

Saturday through Tuesday will take some getting used to. Anything new does. But think it out. Are there any reasons not to change?

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It Was a Very Good Year



In a way, it's almost sad to see the 1975-76 season end. As the song says, it was a very good year.

By far it was racquetball's greatest season, and certainly the U.S.R.A./N.R.C. staff feels quite proud of our contribution to the tremendous growth and successes '75-76 has had.

A solid, well-sponsored, exciting professional tour became a reality this season; a national juniors program has begun with the most outstanding juniors event in racquetball's history; *National Racquetball* magazine became the unchallenged leader in racquetball coverage from tournament results to instructional material; state associations are now under way with more being added every day; and the court club business continues to spur the game's meteoric rise.

Every organization has goals, and I can proudly say that our goals for 1975-76 have been achieved. These things don't just happen, and to all those individuals and groups who have supported us this season,—we thank you for all the help you have given us. For without you, it could not have occurred.

With this record behind us, we can thank the Lord, take a deep breath, roll up our sleeves even higher and get down to business. We are not going to sit on our laurels, or accept racquetball today as the racquetball of the future. Instead, we are going to work harder, immediately, to ensure increased activity in all areas of racquetball promotion next season. Just like

we predicted last season, we are going to do everything bigger and better as we progress.

With the addition of Terry Fancher to our staff, we can now put more emphasis on the amateur phase of our promotion, beginning with the organization of state associations, which you know has been high on our priority list. The pro tour next season will have prize money sponsorship of over \$100,000, more than doubling for the third consecutive season. We will again have a superb show for the juniors. And our tireless efforts at television coverage will begin anew, as we continue to impress racquetball's benefits on the national media.

The beauty of working for a national association is that your work is never really done. No matter how much you accomplish, there is still more to do. The fact that our work is other people's recreation gives our efforts here additional incentive, knowing that what we do, makes life more enjoyable and healthier for others.

Those of you who have followed the U.S.R.A./N.R.C. over the past three years have learned a great deal about us and the way we work. You know, for instance, that we put everything we have into making a success of any undertaking upon which we embark. You know, too, that we are not perfect, that occasionally we do make mistakes,—but you also know that we do not repeat those

mistakes. And above all, you know that when we tell you we're going to do something,—we do it!

Many people, a few paid, but most volunteers, have donated their time and energy to helping us achieve higher horizons for racquetball. As we grow, we will need to call on even more of you, those of you who truly believe in our great game, and are willing to help us make racquetball the nation's number one participatory sport.

A reporter for a national magazine asked me the other day, "what makes you believe that racquetball won't just die out, that it's not a fad, to the 1970's what the hula hoop was to the 60's?" "The reasons are almost too long to answer long distance," I said, "but just remember this. It is no fad when a sport is easy to learn and enjoy, but difficult to master; when people of all ages, all income groups, both sexes and any walk of life can enjoy it; and most of all, when you combine the above with the fact that racquetball is physical fitness, the fun way, you have it all. Nobody ever told me how the hoola hoop aided in cardiovascular improvement."

But you, our reader, know all this already. So all we ask of you is to do the same thing we're doing,—spread the word.

Some plain talk about your next court installation

Handball and racquetball are among the country's fastest-growing sports. Public, private and scholastic facilities are being built in record numbers. Y's, racquet clubs and colleges are all recognizing the need for handball/racquetball courts to meet the needs of an ever-increasing number of players. Whole families are taking up the court sports as never before. Many, many new courts will have to be built in the near future to satisfy the demand. Never before has your choice of the type of court installation been more important.

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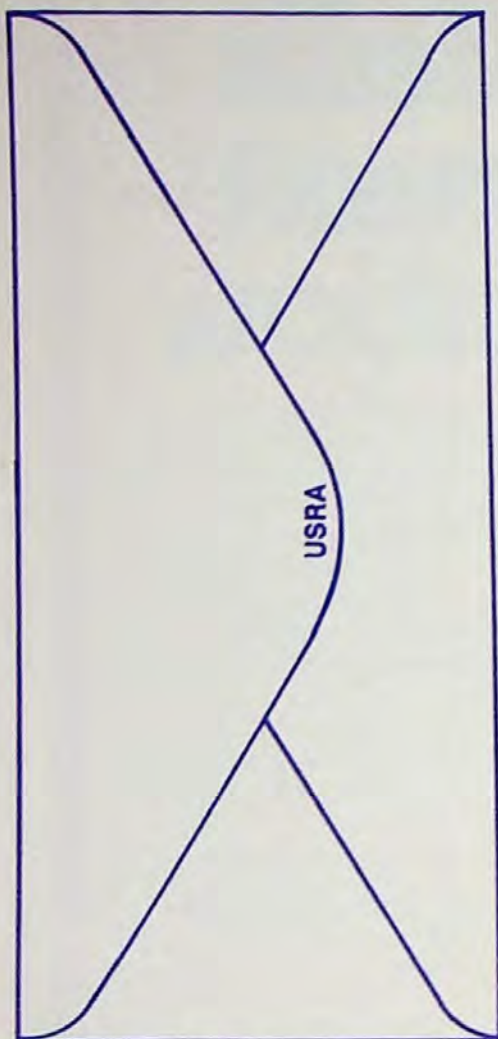
There are many more distinctive advantages to Frampton court systems. Installation is important. Our court systems install quickly. You have only one contractor to deal with. We have a fully staffed and expert engineering department that will help you from the planning stage to the first day of play. We can give you knowledgeable advice on lighting, air circulation and many more important details. In short, Frampton handball/racquetball court systems have to be your best buy, no matter how you look at it.

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Dear Mr. Kendler:

Persuant to the competent administration of any national organization concerning itself with a sporting activity is proper concern for the overall safety of the current and anticipated participants. There are, of course, numerous examples of concern for safety in many athletic arenas, i.e. boxing gloves, baseball and football helmets, etc. I believe some administrative bodies have neglected this safety responsibility or regarded it in a lesser vein of importance than other aspects of their duties.

It is my hope that both the U.S. Racquetball and Handball Associations will respond in a progressive, positive manner and summarily mandate the usage of protective eye guards for all sanctioned competition. If vision in only *one* participant's eye could be saved, isn't it really a small price to pay to preserve this precious God given sense?

Leo J. McCarthy, M.D.
Indianapolis, IN

Sir:

I enclose one dollar to be used in memory (a one ounce toast with good scotch, perhaps) of Theodore Tarantula. (I wish there were some way to have eight toasts at one time.)

The article convinced me that Theo was indeed one big, hairy happy Tarantula, and I will miss him. That is strange in itself, seeing that I never met him.

A side note, so that you will realize the sincerity of my motives, is: I have never authorized the U.S. Government to divert one dollar of my taxes for use by political aspirants. Liberals and conservatives alike tap my monetary till, although methods and uses vary.

The only time I saw Steve Keeley was when he played Charlie Brumfield at George Brown's in 1974. Good luck to Steve.

Kenny Williams
Imperial Beach, CA

Dear Mr. Kendler:

It is because I love racquetball so much and it is such a big part of my life that I am writing to you.

I have been playing for many years and have been fortunate enough to be ranked among the top players in this area, and recently when I was in San Diego, I was privileged to take an hour lesson from Charlie Brumfield.

I feel the ceiling ball is ruining our game of racquetball. Even the top players in this area now depend on this shot so much that they are not using the shots that demand greater skill. It seems like the game is turning into a "ceiling ball game" rather than a racquetball game.

It would seem to me that if we made this shot illegal, there would be a greater degree of skill put back into the game and players would not be exhausted from endless rallies of ceiling balls that involve little more than strength. Although I love racquetball, it seems that the game of squash requires greater finesse, because they penalize the player when he hits a ball that touches the ceiling.

I would like to suggest that the rules of racquetball be changed and this shot be stopped. I think it would mean, in time, players concentrating on kills, pass-shots and on the other basic shots of racquetball which would make the game greater. We could begin more to concentrate on floor shots rather than the shots from the ceiling.

Could you please see that this is given to the Rules Committee when decision time comes about? I would also be interested in your reaction to what I have recommended. Thank you for all you are doing to aid the growth of racquetball.

Larry Garvis
Ft. Lauderdale, FL

Dear Mr. Leve:

Even though I am relatively new to this fantastic sport, I can understand that because of its ever-increasing popularity, obtaining court-time may sometimes be quite a task. Because of its (racquetball) effect on individuals, even a new player may quickly become a "devotee" of the game.

For example, in pursuit of available court-time I have spent an hour and a half in commuting time to actually play for only one hour. I have learned to re-adjust my schedule instantly because someone has a court and lastly to put all other activities on "hold" if there is a tentative game in the working.

Thus, it is not surprising that in your March issue of *National Racquetball* magazine I looked to the Directory of Court Clubs with anticipation. Could there be another club in my area that I wasn't aware of? If so, my chances of obtaining court time are increased, or so I thought.

Yes, there was a new club but upon calling for further information, I found out that this particular club was only open for male memberships. In this "progressive" sport, where according to Robert W. Kendler, "*the interest and participation of women in the game of racquetball helped the sport to succeed*" it is extremely discouraging to still find that we must face these prejudicial acts by the male owners and select members of certain clubs. Perhaps in future Directories of Court Clubs a small notation could be made as to which of these clubs are discriminatory! Of course, this is not something a club would willingly want to reveal, is it?

Pamela A. Jablonski
Madison Heights, MI

Dear Chuck:

I hope this little note finds you recovered from the rigors of conducting a national racquetball tournament, which was, by the way, a huge success in my estimation.

Just thought I'd drop you a line to thank you again for the hospitality and for the opportunity to work with you, Jim, Bob and the others in the management of the tournament. I learned a good deal from my week there with you and look forward to lending a hand at next December's pro tour event here in Tucson. I'm sure you can count on Woody and me to help out.

Again, thanks for the fine week.

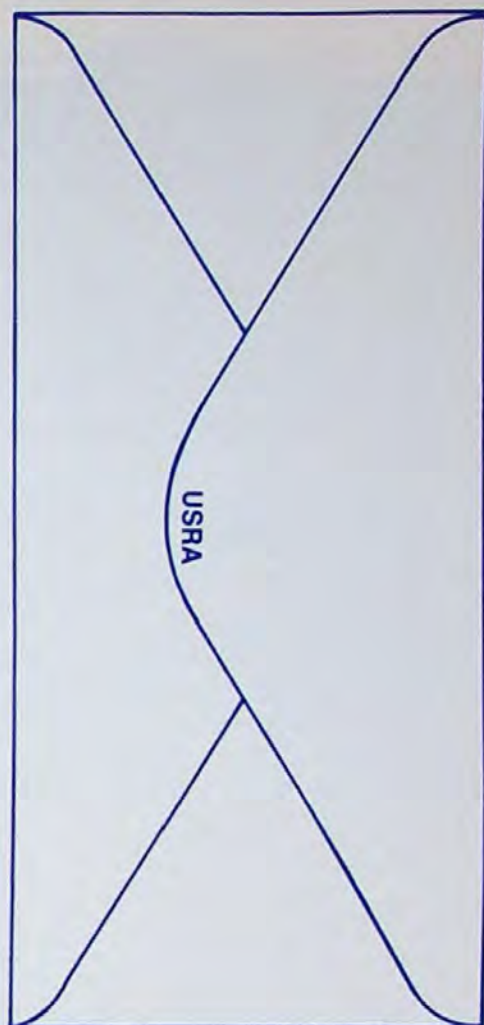
John Lankford
Tucson, AZ

Dear Sirs:

I know of no other game that does not put safety of the athlete as priority one. Why do we not have an eye-guard rule in racquetball? Take a look at people that run the facilities. When they play, they will be wearing some form of eye protection, whether it is shatterproof glasses, plastic bubble goggles or aluminum and rubber cage over their eyes.

These are the people that have seen eyeballs filled with blood, gashes and unnecessary loss of sight. In all sanctioned events eye guards should be worn. Once an affirmative stand has been made on eye protection in sanctioned events, open and fun play will fall in line. The next time the rules committee meets a rule must be drafted spelling out how to protect an athlete. If we are to be devoted to the growth of racquetball, we must eliminate, "I used to play racquetball, but ever since I got hit in the eye—". We not only lose that player from the greatest sport going, but everyone he tells that to. Let's make racquetball "the" national sport. Make it grow.

Doug Hartmann
St. Charles, MO



TOURNAMENT RESULTS

Brumfield, the master, and Hogan the Challenger, had another classic duel, this time for the National Championship.



Al Mackie (l.) president of Seamco Sporting Goods and Bud Leach (c.) president of Leach Industries congratulate Brumfield after his win. Leach and Seamco sponsored the N.R.C. tour this season and will again next.

Nationals

San Diego 8 Pro-Am Tour

He is racquetball's Muhammed Ali, Jack Nicklaus and Bobby Fisher all rolled into one. He has power, speed, finesse, brains and ability. He is, of course, Charlie Brumfield. And for the second consecutive year he is the professional racquetball champion of the world.

The bespectacled San Diegan captured the \$4,000 first place prize to up his season's earnings to \$12,675, almost double his nearest rival, and his career money mark passed the \$20,000 mark as well.

Brumfield took the National title, sponsored by Leach Industries and Seamco Sporting Goods and sanctioned, organized and run by the National Racquetball Club. The victory was in typical Brumfield style.

Playing the thinking man's game all the way, the Brum went through one of the most difficult draws ever for a number one seed. And in the finals he bested the heir apparent, 18-year-old Marty Hogan 21-8, 1-21, 11-8. More on that later.

Sunday's first day of play saw only four pro preliminary matches as unranked amateurs vied for the few available spots in the professional round of 32. Jesse Valera, Des Plaines, Illinois, Gary Lusk, Chula Vista California, Jim Doyle, San Diego and Mike Burgener, Fallbrook, California won those prelims to advance to the full round of 32.

The upset of the Monday matches was Minneapolis' Paul Ikier's win over 12th seed Ron Rubenstein, Chicago. Rubenstein, 37, although not a serious contender for the

title, was still given a shot at reaching the top eight. After capturing game one with relative ease 21-12, Rubenstein tired in game two and Ikier came from behind to take the game 21-20. Both players survived on determination in the tie-breaker before Ikier's youth and shot making overcame the game, but exhausted Rubenstein. It went to Paul 11-7.

In a match of two top-ranked amateurs, defending amateur champ Jay Jones, Los Angeles, met third-seed amateur Ben Koltun, St. Louis, in the professional division. The match was billed as a potential preview of the amateur finals, but the fireworks expected never really materialized as the 18-year-old Koltun controlled the play and the 21-14, 21-17 victory.

An exciting, if not classic duel between Chicago's Jeff Bowman and San Diego's Charlie Drake was another of Monday's highlights, with Bowman, who would make a name for himself later in the week, eking out a 21-20, 21-19 win over Drake, who played probably his best competitive match of the season.

Other winners on Monday including Brumfield, Craig McCoy, Richard Wagner, and Steve Strandemo, all in routine early round fashion.

Only one match in Tuesday's second half of the round of 32 could be termed an upset,—Joe Wirkus' 21-18, 21-16 victory over Bill Dunn, Union City, California. Wirkus, a Milwaukee native and

All photos of the Nationals by Samantha Robert.

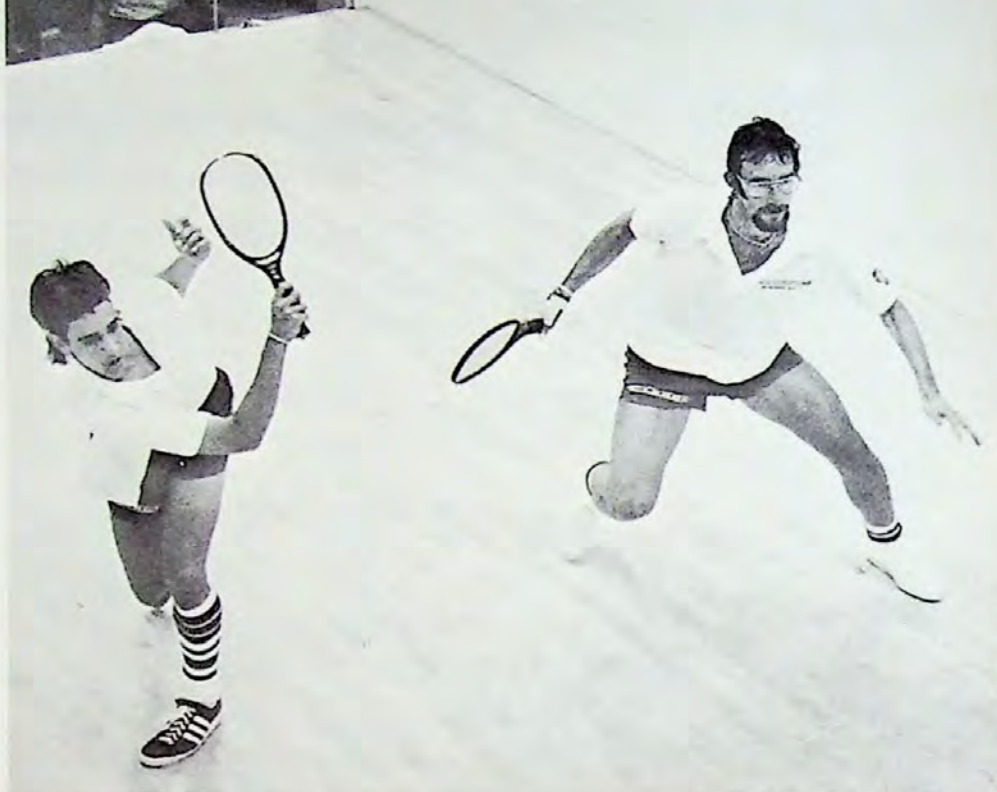
Rookie Ben Koltun, in his first taste of pro ball, found that Brumfield can be a great teacher. The lesson cost \$50, but was well worth it in experience.



Wisconsin state champ, battled Dunn even on the ceiling, and outshot him in front court to seal the win.

Other victors on Tuesday were Bill Schmidtke, Steve Keeley, Steve Dunn, Mike Zeitman, who will be heard from later, Davey Bledsoe, Steve Serot, Jerry Hilecher and Marty Hogan.

Steve Dunn's win was somewhat controversial in nature, as he received an injury forfeit from 14th seed John Lynch, Champaign, Illinois. Lynch took a ball flush in the eye during practice the day prior to the tournament and was forced out of action, although the injury was not permanent.



"Wild Bill" Schmidtke, former national champ hits the floor against Craig McCoy. The 18-year-old McCoy was too tough for the Minnesotan in the 16's.

Thus the round of 16 was set and at 10:30 am Wednesday it began with Keeley dashing Ikier's hopes with a 21-7, 21-14 win. For Ikier it was a case of not being able to get "up" for a name pro two days running. Keeley, playing much more aggressively than at any time this season, was too much for Paul.

Next up were McCoy, the smooth, 19-year-old lefty and Schmidtke, the 34-year-old former National Champ. The youngster has always been tough on the aging kill shot artist and this day was no exception. The match went to McCoy 17-21, 21-5, 11-4.

Defending champ Brumfield then took the court against Koltun, the kind of match of which dreams are made. Playing smooth, confident racquetball, Koltun refused to knuckle under to the Brumfield mystique, racing to a 13-6 first game advantage. The Brum,

deciding that enough was enough, shifted gears and caught Ben at 14, then had to stop a late rally for a 21-18 win. Although the second game was not close at 21-8 for Brumfield, Koltun showed his class and ability by putting the champ out at 20 eight times before Brumfield applied the finishing touch. All agreed, it was harder than Brumfield wanted to work in this round.

Strandemo and Steve Dunn entered the glass-back walled court number one at the Atlas Health Club next, and the gutsy Dunn gave him all the work he wanted. Mixing a tough overhead shooting game with a consistent ceiling ball, Dunn showed respectably before losing 21-14, 21-16. Strandemo was moving well, showing no signs of a back injury that had plagued him for three weeks prior to the tournament.

Two old nemeses entered the arena next, as Zeitman and

Bledsoe squared off. Zeitman, in the throes of a poor season, finally put it together by eliminating most of his flashy shots and getting down to some serious racquetball. His head clear and cool, he ousted the much-favored Bledsoe, who was the tourney sixth seed 21-19, 21-10. Bledsoe, who seemed lack-luster on the court at times, appeared to overtrain for the tournament, and was not at his peak game.

The match of the round of 16, and possibly the tournament was next as Steve Serot and Jerry Hilecher readied for battle. The two St. Louisians, although Serot currently calls San Diego home, had a truly classic duel with Hilecher capturing the match in a mild upset 20-21, 21-18, 11-8. Diving, killing, passing, and a blistering pace was greatly appreciated by the fans who responded with a standing ovation when it was over.



Quarter-finalist Hilecher here retrieves a Serot pass in the round of 16. Hilecher's upset here wowed the crowd with the best match of the tournament.



Part of the gallery for the Serot-Hilecher match. Crowds were near-overflow even for the round of 16's.

In case anybody was wondering how his game was, second-seeded Hogan took care of Wirkus 21-11, 21-9 in the seventh match of the day. Using his booming serve and shoot game, and wasting no time, Hogan got in and out as they say.

The final match of the day was to be a "routine," with fourth seeded Wagner going up against Bowman, who had never reached farther than this point in his career. Playing to a late-night slim gallery, Bowman won the match of his life, besting the highly-favored Wagner in a real shocker 15-21, 21-8, 11-6.

"I played like horsebleep," said Wagner. "I deserved to lose."

He got no argument anywhere as Bowman outshot and outplayed the young San Diegan to move to the quarters.

From the \$12,000 total purse the losers of the above round each won \$250, equalling the highest purse for the round of 16 in racquetball's history.

Thursday came the quarter-finals, the round that separates the men from the boys. Already four players were still in it who many didn't expect to see,—McCoy, Bowman, Zeitman and Hilecher. Only Zeitman would play again this week.

Keeley met Bowman late in the afternoon in the first quarter match and Bowman was given as much chance as Richard Dunn had against Ali. But this was the Nationals, and anything can happen.

It did in the first game, as Keeley, perhaps overconfident, let the game slip away, and Bowman, riding his forehand kills as far as they would take him reached 21 while Steve still sat on 20. Keeley turned it around in the second, coasting to a 21-7 win, setting the stage for the famous tie-breaker, where the extreme pressure and minigame can shorten your lifespan.

"I had my chance," said Bowman later. "I think I caught Keeley off his game, but I just didn't have enough."

The third game went to Keeley, 11-8.

Bowman's quizzical look may have looked funny to some, but not to Wagner and Keeley, who found out how good he can be.





Criticized prior to the tournament for lack of effort, Keeley answered the critics with good performances all the way through. This get is a typical example.

One of the best matches of the tournament finds Zeitman (l.) giving it the "one more point!" while Strandemo tries the "it hit me, ref!" Zeitman took two straight in this quarter-final match.

Zeitman and Strandemo came next, a match in which anything could happen based on past performances. As often occurs in competitive sports, certain players have difficulty with certain others based on contrasting styles. Zeitman has this advantage against Strandemo, just as Wagner seems to against Hogan, and McCoy does over Schmidtke. Strandemo, however was still the favorite, with few expecting Zeitman to be able to put two consistent performances back-to-back.

Well, the talented Memphian did just that, taking the match right to Strandemo. Steve seemed a step slower than the day previous, perhaps the back was bothering him, perhaps the superior play by Zeitman. Whatever the reasons, Zeitman, wearing his sun visor and no lens glasses won in two straight 21-17, 21-15, to reach the semi-finals for the first time all season.

"If you're going to do it once," said Mike, "this is the tournament to do it in."

Fireworks were expected at 7 p.m. this evening, as Hilecher took the challenge to Hogan. Both are power players, both shooters, both claim hard, driving serves. And too, each had been playing his best ball of the year.

After taking game one 21-13, Hilecher seemed on the verge of emerging from this toughest bracket the winner. But Hogan plays in stages, and he geared up to warp nine for game two, just overpowering and outkilling Hilecher 21-14.

Brumfield, taking a set-up off the back wall in his quarter match with McCoy. Craig showed better than usual against his master, but not well enough.



Hogan then, riding the crest of that elusive momentum, took the tie-breaker 11-5 to move one step closer to the title.

Brumfield and McCoy stepped onto court one about an hour later than scheduled, which gave both players something to moan about. McCoy has never defeated the champ, something that he has in common with many others. This Thursday night was not the time for



win number one, though, and Brumfield captured the match 21-16, 21-10.

"We used to be teammates and doubles partners," said the 27-year-old Brumfield. "It was a protege kind of thing and Craig just doesn't have the confidence against me."

And now the field was down to four. Of the quad, only Zeitman was in unfamiliar surroundings. Brumfield and Hogan were the clear favorites to move into the finals for the confrontation the fans were hoping for. On the underdog side, Keeley, it was said, was the only man who had a chance to unseat Brumfield in the top half; Zeitman, obviously, was playing the best ball of his life.

But the semi's were a dud, and even Frederick Forsyth couldn't have made them sound exciting.

After Keeley took an initial 4-1 lead in game one, Brumfield took

Hogan's ferociousness is amply described in this shot of his quarter-final match with Hilecher.

control of the pace and game. From 1-4 Brum went to a 12-5 advantage, where Keeley held Charlie three straight times. But he was unable to score himself as Brumfield increased the advantage to 17-6, and then ran out. Aces at 3, 6, 16, and 18, plus continued tough serving was Brum's key.

Game two was a Xerox of the first. Keeley got down early 4-7, 5-11 and Brumfield, sensing the landslide, poured it on. The match never changed as Brum rolled to 16-5, 19-7 and finally 21-10. He was like a precise surgeon, getting the job done, neatly, cleanly, correctly, and with as little pain as possible.

Then came Hogan and Zeitman, and maybe here, some competition. Not so, my friends. At 5-all in the first, Hogan tallied seven times in his next three serves for a 12-5 lead and then increased it to 17-6 as Zeitman tried everything, but could do nothing—just watch the board read 21-7.

The drama, they said was ending here for Zeitman. Playing tough and still confident, Mike was down 6-7 to Hogan in game two, when Marty stepped in and in two innings served three aces to increase the lead to 12-8 and although Mike was still playing tough, he was not playing confident. At 14-8 a Zeitman time-out had no effect, and aces at 17 and 20 were the crushing blows—21-8 for Hogan.

So the last two, were really the first two—number one seed Brumfield and number two ranked Hogan. Between them were six of the seven pro titles won this season, and more prize money earned than most of their fellow pros combined. Hogan held a 2-1 face-to-face edge on the N.R.C. tour, but this was the Nationals, and Brumfield still rated the favorite's role.

And you couldn't doubt that after the first game, which Brum handily captured 21-8. Despite a technical foul at 0-0 which put him at negative one, (the first player in pro racquetball history to achieve such a dubious distinction) Brumfield was truly on his game. A tight 2-2 game was blown open to a 10-2 advantage, which Hogan could never lessen. At 16-8 Brumfield began playing games, calling a time out, trying to break Hogan's mind,

upset the kid. And Hogan was. He ranted, he raved, he behaved like the child he sometimes is. The only thing he didn't do was play racquetball. That Brumfield took care of.

Then how can you figure the second game? Hogan came out calm, cool and hot. Brumfield was the one grasping for his shots, playing each rally with defense in mind, returning shots, instead of molding rallies. And the score began to mount, 3-0, 4-0, 5-0, 8-0 as Hogan's serve and shoot game was serving and shooting well. Down by this eight, Brumfield resorted to a glove change to slow the momentum, saving his time outs for later.

The strategy failed, however, when Hogan's first shot after the delay was a perfect ace to the left corner, and one more short rally made it 10-0. The crowd was becoming uncomfortable. Next time in Hogan added four more and it was apparent now that Brumfield had given up the game. But would he allow himself the embarrassment of a donut?

The answer came soon enough, when at 0-15, Hogan hit an easy shot into the floor and that's where the game stood, as Marty then regained service and continued to coast 21-1, the worst single game defeat in Brumfield's career.

And so the National Championship, \$4,000, pride and prestige came

down to the tie-breaker. And what a tie-breaker it was.

Brumfield broke on top, scoring more points in one minute than he did the entire second game, a 3-0 lead. Hogan came right back, refusing to fold despite the tremendous pressure, not only of Brumfield's classic shots, but his verbal banterings as well. Hogan tied the game at three.

Again Brumfield made a run, four points over two innings and Hogan was forced to take a time out at 7-3. The rest allowed Marty to re-gain his composure, he put Charlie out, and tallied twice himself, as Brumfield countered with a time out of his own. The psychological game was as good, or better than the physical game. Neither man scored next time in, but Brumfield was able to scratch out another point for an 8-5 lead. It held to 9-6, before Hogan cut the margin by one at 9-7 and 10-8.

Finally, Brumfield put the National title up on the board with the 11th point coming on a forehand back wall kill, and an 11-8 victory.

For Hogan, there will be other years. For Brumfield, what more can be said? With two straight professional National Championships and four national championships in the last five years—can anybody doubt that he is truly the greatest player of all time?

Number 2 Hogan being interviewed following his loss to Brumfield. The \$2,000 runner-up check made it easier to be philosophical.



Men Pro Results

Men's Professional (First round): Jesse Valera def. Billy Austin 21-15, 21-19; Gary Lusk def. Ray Capitanelli 21-17, 21-8; James Doyle def. Mark Susson 21-18, 21-13; Mike Burgener def. Phillip Kintuele 21-13, 21-15.

(Second round): Charles Brumfield def. John Kruger 21-2, 21-5; Ben Koltun def. Jay Jones 21-14, 21-17; Craig McCoy def. Dan Alder (default); Bill Schmidtke def. Valera 21-2, 21-19; Steve Keeley def. Lusk 21-9, 21-15; Paul Ikier def. Ron Rubenstein 12-21, 21-20, 11-7; Jeff Bowman def. Charlie Drake 21-20, 21-19; Richard Wagner def. Doyle 21-12, 21-12; Steve Strandemo def. Mike Romano 21-8, 21-9; Steve Dunn def. John Lynch (default); Mike Zeitman def. Gordon Kelly 21-19, 21-11; Davey Bledsoe def. Burgener 21-5, 21-1; Steve Serot def. David Ziegler 21-0, 21-1; Jerry Hilecher def. Steve Chase 21-6, 21-10; Joe Wirkus def. Bill Dunn 21-18, 21-16; Marty Hogan def. Gil Schmitt 21-11, 21-15.

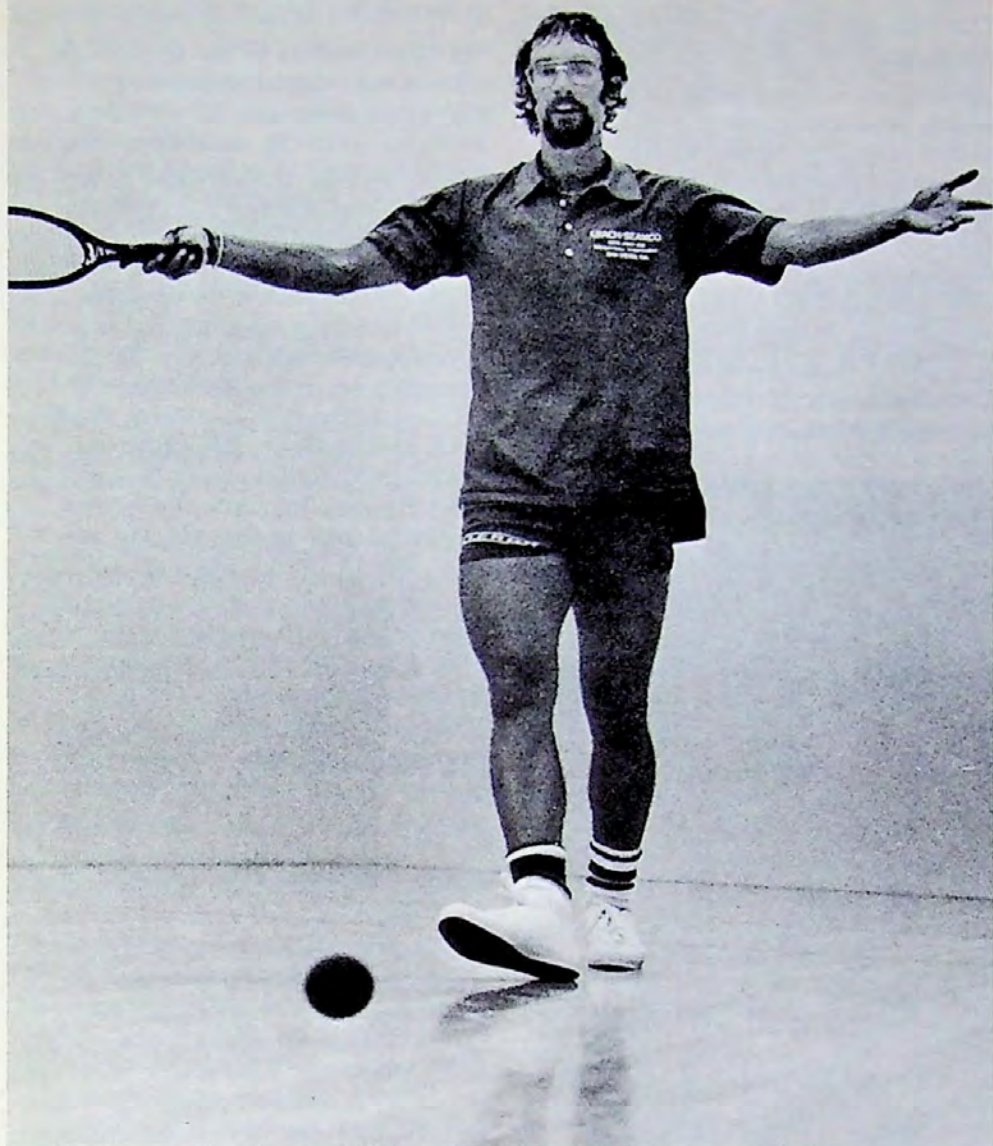
(Third round): Brumfield def. Koltun 21-18, 21-8; McCoy def. Schmidtke 17-21, 21-5, 11-5; Keeley def. Ikier 21-7, 21-14; Bowman def. Wagner 15-21, 21-8, 11-6; Strandemo def. Dunn 21-14, 21-16; Zeitman def. Bledsoe 21-19, 21-10; Hilecher def. Serot 20-21, 21-18, 11-8; Hogan def. Wirkus 21-11, 21-9.

(Quarter-finals): Brumfield def. McCoy 21-16, 21-10; Keeley def. Bowman 20-21, 21-7, 11-8; Zeitman def. Strandemo 21-17, 21-15; Hogan def. Hilecher 13-21, 21-14, 11-5.

(Semi-finals): Brumfield def. Keeley 21-6, 21-10; Hogan def. Zeitman 21-7, 21-8.

(Championship): Brumfield def. Hogan 21-8, 1-21, 11-8.





Intensity was the name of the Nationals. Emotion was the outcome. Here (l. to r.) are examples of that intensity and emotion: Janell Marriott trying to psyche up; Steve Strandemo, whose face tells the score; Mike Zeitman celebrating his first trip to the semi's; Brumfield singing "Come To Me, Baby;" and Hilecher exalting in his win over Serot.



She couldn't run, but she sure could shoot. That's the way the incomparable Peggy Steding had to play the title match for the Ladies Professional Championship in San Diego, and she played it to the hilt.

Steding, in quest of her second consecutive pro national championship, was suffering from a painful pinched nerve in her back, taking a solid 30-35 percent of her mobility away in the finals. Her opponent, 20-year-old Shannon Wright was ready to move in and wrest that number one spot from her.

Instead the 40-year-old Steding hung on. Using a devastating

overhead corner kill from deep court, she connected on 14 of 16 during the match and had Wright shaking her head in amazement.

The title and \$1,200 went to Mrs. Steding 21-19, 18-21, 11-5.

Seventeen women entered the pro arena, and there was a major upset in the very first round when unseeded Camille McCarthy, Indianapolis, topped the tourney's number three seed, San Diego's Jan Campbell. It was the first win over a top eight player in McCarthy's career and she did it the hard way 21-15, 4-21, 11-6.

Campbell, whose game has been off for months, just couldn't put the

consistency that was necessary together for the entire match. Camille played well, made few mistakes and was never in trouble in either the first or third games.

No other match of the first round was close, although a few eyebrows were raised when Jennifer Harding, seeded ninth, easily topped number eight Jan Pasternak. Pasternak, whose season was burdened with conditioning problems came out on the short end of 21-15, 21-7 scores.

Other known names who succumbed in the first round included San Diego's Bette Weed 21-7, 21-7 to Kathy Williams, La Mirada's Ruth Knudsen 16 and 11 to Jean Sauser, and Marcy Greer's 21-7, 21-6 loss to Sue Carow.

Thus the quarter-final match-ups were set and except for the usual Marriott-Williams tight battle, all encounters in this round had about as much excitement as a long ceiling ball rally.

Steding did away with Harding in almost record time 21-5, 21-7; Sauser did the same with McCarthy 21-11, 21-2; and Wright could do nothing wrong in her match with Carow 21-7, 21-5.

Marriott and Williams, on the other hand, always match up well. Janell got off to a good start, grabbing a quick and commanding lead in the first game, and riding it to a 21-10 win. But Williams began making her shots in game two, and as she killed the ball her confidence returned. The score indicated the change as Kathy notched a 21-6 second game victory.

So, to the tie-breaker they went. After a good early battle, Marriott wedged ahead and was not to be denied. She captured the match 11-5.

Rematches were the name of the semi-finals. Marriott and Steding, a match that can always produce excitement, promised to be a good one. Janell has some good hot streaks against Williams in the quarters, and it was a known fact that Steding was hurting. Yet, ever since her loss to Janell last November, Steding has yet to lose on the N.R.C. tour. It was no different this day.



Deep left court, that's where much of the action took place in the ladies professional finals. Here, Shannon Wright hits another ceiling ball against champ Peggy Steding.

Staying just that needed cushion ahead, and never letting Marriott break into any long streaks, Steding held the hard-hitting Salt Lake City lass at bay, for a 21-15, 21-19 victory.

"I thought I was going to get her," said Marriott. "I wanted this one terribly."

Well, everyone wants the Nationals terribly, and the two ladies who played in the lower bracket semi surely did too. Sauser, who is becoming a regular in the top four, brought her tip-toed game in against Wright, the back-hand ceiling ball artist.

"I learned a lot the last time we played," said Jean. "I was confident. I know I've got the shots."

Jeannie had plenty of shots, the problem was that Shannon had more. Mixing her ceiling game with an effective backhand cross-court pass, Wright covered well, and shot just enough to keep Sauser honest. It really wasn't as close as the 21-15 first game score indicated, and the second was much worse, 21-6.

As with the men, the top two seeds, then, reached the finals in the ladies division. Six weeks earlier in the Tournament of Champions, Steding had been devastating in her victory over Wright. This day was nowhere similar. Steding, as reported, was nursing a pinched nerve that made lateral movements extremely painful, in fact, the match was crowded with grimaces from the champ. Wright, too, had been working hard on her game, and obviously learned much from their last encounter.

The first game was a nail-biter. Down 6-11 Wright was able to come back on the crest of some errorless play, and tie the game at 12-all. From there it was trading points, as the game see-sawed to 17-all, when Steding drew a hush from the crowd by double-faulting, the first time any in attendance had ever seen the champ commit such a faltering of concentration. It didn't cost her, though, as both players stayed tight to 19-all. And, the saying goes that when the going gets tough...and Steding gathered in the final two points for the 21-19 first game win.

The second game was not quite as tight all the way through, but the final score of 21-18 was enough to give the game plenty of drama. The last tie was at 11, and from there Wright held a narrow lead throughout, 16-14, 18-16 and finally the 21-18 win.

Thus both professional championships were to be determined by the tie-breaker. Again Steding drew the breath out of the crowd, first with her unbelievable overheads that rolled out of the right corner, and then with a 3-0 lead, she double faulted again. Wright was able to add three of her own to tie, but Steding forged ahead again with two more to move to 5-3. Shannon, showing the fortitude that marks her as the next champion, came back to tie at five-all, but it was the last time a marker would go up on her side of the board.

Five minutes later it was all over. Still National Champ, still number one, still the best there is in ladies racquetball was Peggy Steding, 11-5 in the third.

"I'm just happy to win," said Peg in a post-match interview. "I knew I had to shoot well, and fortunately I did."

The San Diego Nationals may prove to be Steding's last trip to the winners circle at the National Championships. But if it is, it's a victory that will long be remembered.

Womens Pro Results

Pro Results Women (First Round): Camille McCarthy def. Jean Oeschger 21-7, 21-5.

(Second Round): Peggy Steding def. Alicia Moore 21-4, 21-5; Jennifer Harding def. Jan Pasternak 21-15, 21-7; Kathy Williams def. Bette Weed 21-7, 21-7; Janell Marriott def. Donna Noguchi 21-7, 21-7; McCarthy def. Jan Campbell 21-15, 4-21, 11-6; Jean Sauser def. Ruth Knudsen 21-16, 21-11; Sue Carow def. Marci Greer 21-7, 21-6; Shannon Wright def. Judy Clemens 21-12, 21-4.

(Quarter-finals): Steding def. Harding 21-5, 21-7; Marriott def. Williams 21-10, 6-21, 11-5; Sauser def. McCarthy 21-11, 21-2; Wright def. Carow 21-7, 21-5.

(Semi-finals): Steding def. Marriott 21-15, 21-19; Wright def. Sauser 21-15, 21-6.

(Championship): Steding def. Wright 21-19, 18-21, 11-5.



Jean Sauser, rapidly becoming a force on the women's tour, here prepares to hit a forehand into the corner. Jeannie had her best Nationals finish ever in San Diego, losing in the semi's.

Men's Amateur Singles

They say he just plays well enough to win. Nothing could be truer in describing the game style of 18-year-old Ben Koltun, the St. Louis youngster who in San Diego added the National Amateur title to his National Juniors championship. If there was one thing everybody in San Diego agreed on it was that Koltun promises to be the next major factor on the pro tour.

"He's got that extra something," said one player. *"He's the kind of opponent who makes you look over your shoulder."*

Koltun worked his way through the 123 entrants in the Amateur Singles bracket to face friend and fellow-St. Louisian Rudi Losche in the finals, a re-match of the Central Regional finals which found Koltun on top 11-10 in the tie-breaker.

And as in five of his six matches of the tournament, Koltun went the three game route and won. His championship match with Losche ended 21-16, 20-21, 11-4.

"I almost won it in two," smiled Koltun, who served but was unable to capture match point in the second game. *"But don't get me wrong. If I've got to go to the tie-breaker to win, it's fine with me."*

It may have been fine with Koltun, but it drove his opponents wild. Number two seed Dave (D.C.) Charlson was on the short end in the semi-finals 13-21, 21-18, 11-8; Massachusetts state champ Mike Romano was the quarter-final victim 21-17, 16-21, 11-6, Memphis' David Fleetwood found out in the round of 16, 6-21, 21-14, 11-3; and Pasadena, California's Al Portune got his taste in the round of 32, 15-21, 21-11, 11-4. Only San Diego's Joe Ogilvie didn't go three with Koltun, but was in no disgrace, Ben winning 17 and 18.

In the upper bracket, Losche was working his way through the tough

number eight seed, topping Milwaukee's Joe Wirkus in the semi-finals 21-20, 21-12. Previous to that Losche eliminated defending champ and top seed, Jay Jones, Los Angeles 17-21, 21-13, 11-5, for his only difficult match to that point.

Wirkus, on the other hand, was playing like Koltun in the bottom half of the upper bracket. He won both his round of 16 and quarter-final matches by the skin thin margin of 11-10 in the tie-breaker. In the 16's it was Dallas' Pete Wright who felt the sting, and Salt Lake's Trey Sayes got it next.

The other quarter-finalist was San Diego's Steve Mondry, whose on-the-court antics will not be tolerated next season. When all the shouting subsided, Charlson did away with Mondry 21-15, 21-9.

How did the seeds fare in what many of the pros called *"the toughest amateur tournament they had ever seen?"*

Number four Steve Dunn was upset by Chula Vista, California's Gary Lusk in the third round 21-10, 16-21, 11-3; Romano ousted number six Eric Campbell in the 16's 10-21, 21-13, 11-10; Mondry did it to seventh seed Stan Wright 21-9, 18-21, 11-3, number 10 Ken Wong 11-21, 21-17, 11-8, and the always-tough Mike Luciw 21-9, 18-21, 11-3 to join Wirkus and Koltun in the *"I love the tie-breaker"* set.

Some well-known names who didn't get out of the early rounds included Gary Mazaroff, Jim Doyle, Gil Schmitt, Craig Guinter, Larry Fox, Len Baldori, Lindsay Myers, and Gordon Kelly. Other round of 16 losers included Tom McKie, Steve Trent, and Steve Chase.

"I'm glad I'm playing pro and not amateur," said Marty Hogan, looking over the amateur draw the day before the tournament. *"These guys are really tough. Whoever wins this tournament is ready for the pros."*

Marty, say hello to Mr. Ben Koltun. He's ready.

Amateur Open Results

Open Singles (First round): Jim Owen def. Peter Starodub 21-12, 21-12; Steve Scott def. Greg Harkins 21-10, 21-8; Mark Morrow def. Marvin Wong 21-19, 21-9; Steve Trent def. Mel Tom 21-13, 21-19; Ray Capitanelli def. Larry Schmidtke 21-9, 21-18; Stacy Knox def. Ray Garcia 21-10, 21-2; Gordon Kelly def. Richard Benton 21-0, 21-5; Steve Chase def. Dan Townsend 21-9, 21-3; Gary Berberet def. Randy Lau 21-12, 21-8; Len Baldori def. Alan Shetzer 21-11, 21-7; Lindsay Myers def. Eric Sword 21-2, 21-8; Beaver Wickham def. Lee Duda 18-21, 21-14, 11-10; Larry Fox def. Mark Sussan 21-16, 21-18; Ron Mirek def. John Wolfe 21-7, 21-8; Rudi Losche def. Robert Zepeda 21-10, 21-12; Don Thomas def. Rick Herzoff 21-3, 21-1; Phil Allen def. Carson Turlington 21-12, 21-17; Wayne Weightman def. Bill Fearing 21-17, 21-9; John Kruger def. Mike Holland 21-15, 21-9; Darryl Weed def. Tim Smythe 21-11, 21-13; Mike Alderson def. Steve Thompson 21-19, 21-5; Pete Wright def. Craig Davidson 21-5, 21-3; Trey Sayes def. Deniz Fonseca 21-5, 21-5; Don Olson def. Bruce Stafford 21-19, 21-13; Ian Fleishman def. Dean Kingsten 21-6, 21-5; Don Crawford def. Jan Thiessan 21-6, 21-9; Gary Lusk def. Bill Lynn 21-5, 21-3; Mike Kajiyama def. Mickey Pierce 21-5, 21-3; Keith Novotwy def. Mike Weiner 21-17, 21-16.

Joe Ogilvie def. Mike Grisz 21-13, 19-21, 11-1; Richard Cramer def. Fielding Snow 21-12, 21-13; Al Portune def. Dan Bertolucci 21-7, 21-8; David Fleetwood def. Mike McNally 21-14, 21-9; Scott Davidson def. John Lankford 21-18, 21-15; Mike Hoonan def. Bill Holden 21-11, 21-4; H. Craig Guinter def. Bruce Radford 20-21, 21-9, 11-7; Mike Romano def. Howard Diamond 21-6, 21-1; Ted Field def. Joe Gallardo 21-4, 21-3; John Robbins def. Howard Wendel 21-8, 14-21, 11-8; Morgan Sayes def. John Shaw, Jr. 21-11, 21-2; Gil

Rudi Losche, a close second in the amateur open, will be heard from soon in the pros. He also claimed second in the Central Regional and first in Amateur segment of Peoria pro-am.



Schmitt def. Bobby Bible 18-21, 21-17, 11-7; Leo Gurnoe def. Joe Sylvester 21-8, 21-14; Kirk Williams def. Bob Bolin 21-11, 21-16; Eric Campbell def. Jim Pool 21-9, 21-18; Stan Wright def. Owen Lovell 21-13, 21-7; Skip Jirrels def. George Akeo 9-21, 21-14, 11-10; Mike Burgener def. Jack Friedlander 21-17, 21-3; Hank Marcus def. Danny Groves 12-21, 21-15, 11-6; Mike Luciw def. John Sipp Jr. 21-4, 21-8; Gary Mazaroff def. Nelson Moku 21-15, 19-21, 11-7; Steve Mondry def. Lloyd Smith 21-20, 21-8; Ken Wong def. Bob Beal 21-9, 21-8; Tom McKie def. Robert Loveday 21-17, 21-12; Larry Myers def. Wrenly Kaakimaka 21-14, 21-5; Paul Darnell def. Robert Kraut 20-21, 21-20, 11-8; Jim Doyle def. Ken Hartnett 21-7, 21-6; Joel Scheinbaum def. Monte Huber 21-12, 21-20; Rick Marrs def. Jon Zuckerman 21-14, 18-21, 11-6; Gene Gibbs def. John May 21-2, 21-3.

(Second round): Jay Jones def. Owen 12-21, 21-8, 11-3; Morrow def. Scott 21-13, 21-8; Trent def. Capitanelli 21-18, 19-21, 11-1; Kelly def. Knox 13-21, 21-17, 11-0; Chase def. Berberet 18-21, 21-8, 11-2; Myers def. Baldori 21-18, 21-10; Fox def. Wickham 21-6, 21-10; Losche def. Mirek 21-9, 21-12; Wirkus def. Thomas 21-14, 21-10; Weightman def. Allen 21-18, 21-5; Weed def. Kruger 21-1, 21-14; P. Wright def. Alderson 21-19, 21-14; T. Sayes def. Olson 21-8, 21-8; Crawford def. Fleishman 19-21, 21-8, 11-7; Lusk def. Kajiyama 21-10, 21-11; Steve Dunn def. Novatwy 21-10, 21-10; Ben Koltun def. Ogilvie 21-17, 21-18; Portune def. Cramer 21-5, 17-21, 11-6; Fleetwood def. Davidson 21-2, 21-3; Guinter def. Hoonan 21-12, 21-12; Romano def. Field 21-4, 21-6; M. Sayes def. Robbins 11-21, 21-9, 11-10; Schmitt def. Gurnoe 21-15, 21-12; Campbell def. Williams 21-15, 21-13; S. Wright def. Jirrels 21-6, 21-15; Marcus def. Burgener 21-9, 21-7; Luciw def. Mazaroff 21-8, 21-14; Mondry def. Wong 11-21, 21-17, 11-8; McKie def. Myers 21-4, 21-19; Darnell def. Doyle 21-14, 14-21, 11-6; Scheinbaum def. Marrs 21-11, 21-17; Dave Charlson def. Gibbs 21-11, 21-15.

(Third round): Jones def. Morrow 21-7, 21-13; Trent def. Kelly 20-21, 21-16, 11-9; Chase def. Myers 19-21, 21-9, 11-7; Losche def. Fox 21-19, 21-13; Wirkus def. Weightman 21-7, 21-11; P. Wright def. Weed 21-15, 21-13; T. Sayes def. Crawford 21-13, 21-5; Lusk def. S. Dunn 21-10, 16-21, 11-3; Koltun def. Portune 15-21, 21-11, 11-4; Fleetwood def. Guinter 7-21, 21-7, 11-2; Romano def. M. Sayes 21-14, 21-3; Campbell def. Schmitt 21-18, 21-18; S. Wright def. Marcus 21-13, 11-21, 11-10; Mondry def. Luciw 8-21, 21-11, 11-4; McKie def. Darnell 21-11, 11-21, 11-5; Charlson def. Scheinbaum 21-19, 21-11.

(Fourth round): Jones def. Trent 21-9, 21-8; Losche def. Chase 21-17, 21-11; Wirkus def. P. Wright 17-21, 21-19, 11-10; T. Sayes def. Lusk 21-19, 21-19; Koltun def. Fleetwood 6-21, 21-14, 11-3; Romano def. Campbell 10-21, 21-13, 11-10; Mondry def. S. Wright 21-9, 18-21, 11-3; Charlson def. McKie 21-12, 21-9.

(Quarter-finals): Losche def. Jones 17-21, 21-13, 11-5; Wirkus def. T. Sayes 21-7, 12-21, 11-10; Koltun def. Romano 21-17, 16-21, 11-6; Charlson def. Mondry 21-15, 21-9.

(Semi-finals): Losche def. Wirkus 21-20, 21-12; Koltun def. Charlson 13-21, 21-18, 11-8.

(Championship): Koltun def. Losche 21-16, 20-21, 11-4; **(Third place):** Wirkus def. Charlson (default).

Women's Amateur Singles

Twenty-seven ladies from 10 states and Canada made up the Women's Amateur Singles field in the Nationals, and favorite Sarah Green, Memphis emerged the winner. Green, who had the Peoria Pro-Am Ladies Amateur title to her credit this season, as well as Tennessee state title, was forced to three games only once, and oddly it was her first match. There she defeated Judy Clemens, Mission Viejo, California 21-17, 17-21, 11-1.

The surprising finalist from the bottom bracket was Newport News, Virginia's Carol French, winner of the Eastern Regional. Carol was able to attend the tournament by accepting her round trip from the U.S.R.A. as part of her victory in the Regional.

It was Green, however, who was the tougher in San Diego. The lithe, 19-year-old has been tutored of late by professional Mike Zeitman, and the training has definitely boosted her game. The victory came by scores of 21-17, 21-13.

Only one of the highly-touted Southern California women was able to reach the semi-finals, that being Huntington Beach's Donna Noguchi, the sixth seed. And she barely made it, topping Central

Regional winner Beverly Franks, Northbrook, Illinois in the quarter-finals 16-21, 21-10, 11-9.

Chris Salazar, from that magic town of Odessa, Texas was the other upper bracket semi-finalist, eliminating San Diego's Bette Weed, the tournament's fourth seed 21-16, 21-17 in the quarters. Salazar, the Southern Regional champ, couldn't keep up the pressure, though, and Green took their semi-final encounter 13 and 13.

French, seeded seventh, knocked out second seed and Western Regional winner Patti Berneathy, San Diego in the fourth quarter-final match 21-15, 10-21, 11-5. It was after that that French eliminated Noguchi, 21-13, 11-21, 11-1 in the bottom bracket semi-final.

In fact French was able to join male amateurs Koltun, Mondry, and Wirkus in the "I love tie-breaker" song, since every single match Carol won in the tournament was won in three games, although none of her tie-breakers were close, 11-5 being the tightest.

Salazar had Noguchi's number in the third place play-off, topping the talented southpaw 21-7, 21-6.

Women's Amateur Singles Results

Women's Open Singles (First round): Judy Clemens def. Sarah Murphy 21-10, 21-9; Lottie Bain def. Sue Halsey 21-2, 21-6; Marci Greer def. Debbie Ravens 21-10, 21-3; Dena Rassenti def. Sandy McLaughlin 21-4, 21-7; Linda Hogan def. Lisa Rogers 21-5, 7-21, 11-3; Moira Roark def. Linda Siau 21-16, 21-18; Goldie Hogan def. Jean Oeschger 21-6, 21-19; Donna Noguchi def. Karen Seavello 21-2, 21-11; Carol French def. Kathy Gardner 21-10, 16-21, 11-5; Alicia Moore def. Orva Lewis 21-13, 21-19; Mary Ludwig def. Wilmette Soon 21-7, 21-6.

(Second round): Sarah Green def. Clemens 21-17, 17-21, 11-1; Greer def. Bain 21-13, 12-21, 11-5; Salazar def. Rassenti 21-13, 19-21, 11-7; Weed def. L. Hogan 21-12, 21-1; Franks def. Roark 21-14, 21-3; Noguchi def. G. Hogan 21-8, 21-5; French def. Moore 20-21, 21-9, 11-3; Berneathy def. Ludwig 21-11, 21-6.

(Quarter-finals): Green def. Greer 21-3, 21-16; Salazar def. Weed 21-16, 21-17; Noguchi def. Franks 16-21, 21-10, 11-9; French def. Berneathy 21-15, 10-21, 11-5.

(Semi-finals): Green def. Salazar 21-13, 21-13; French def. Noguchi 21-13, 11-21, 11-1.

(Championship): Green def. French 21-17, 21-13; **(Third place):** Salazar def. Noguchi 21-7, 21-6.



Sarah Green, who captured the women's amateur singles title, should make her mark on the pro circuit next season.

Senior Singles

On the eve of the Nationals, most observers felt that the least exciting bracket of play would be the Senior Singles, and that opinion was based on the presumption that the Seniors belonged to Dr. Bud Muehleisen. The real battle would be to see who could finish second. Ah, but the little Seamco 558 bounces to the drummer of its choice, and the choice this tournament was not Dr. Bud. Who then? Let's play games.

How about number two seed, Mark Wayne, Mongo himself from Fremont, California? Nope. Former pro and third seed Jim Austin, the best from Houston, Texas? Wrong again. Deryck Clay, last year's champ, from Portola Valley, California? Sorry. Dr. Chuck Hanna, San Diegan who topped Wayne? No, not this year. Hey, what about Luther Bernstein, the little guy from Dallas who topped Muehleisen? Wrong.

Who then? The winner, from St. Louis, and a well-deserved win it was,—Joe Gibbs. And the final round match was a barn-burner 16-21, 21-20, 11-9 over Austin.

Gibbs, an assistant coach with the St. Louis Football Cardinals, was a quarter-final loser in the Central Regional, but he put his entire game together for the season's most important tournament. His win over Bernstein in the upper bracket semi-finals was another narrow one 17-21, 21-10, 11-6.

Bernstein, though, had to be the

story of the Seniors. His victory over Muehleisen has to be the highlight of his career, and rightly so, for Dr. Bud is truly a legend in our sport. But Wednesday night at 8:30 p.m. at the Atlas Health Club, the spotlight was on Mr. Roller Skates, who slid and dove to a 21-18, 7-21, 11-10 win over Muehleisen in the quarters.

"I can't believe I beat Muehleisen and didn't win the tournament," said Bernstein later. "I just can't believe it."

It happens as well we all know. It happened to Jerry Hilecher, after he topped Brumfield in Buffalo this season and it will happen again. Sometimes that big upset takes so much out of you mentally, that you just can't get it back together for your next match.

Gibbs win over Bernstein was 17-21, 21-10, 11-6.

In the lower bracker Hanna did away with Wayne 19 and 18, but came up that proverbial hair shy against Austin in the semi's with the slim Texan topping the goodly doctor 20-21, 21-16, 11-10. Strange indeed, when you figure that Hanna served game point in every game, but couldn't capture the match.

Other quarter-final results found Gibbs topping San Diego's Bruce Russell, 10 and 19, and Austin stopped Honolulu's Shippy Kealoha 21-6, 21-16.

Hanna won the third place match over Bernstein 21-14, 21-15.

Senior Singles

Mens Senior Singles (First Round): Manny Rezendes def. Obed Oas (default); Ron Botchan def. J. F. Shanahan 21-3, 21-6; Joe Bannan def. Don Griffin (default); G. Meyers def. Barry Murray 21-17, 18-21, 11-8; Joe Gibbs def. Bob Moericke (default); David Baum def. Bob Estacion 21-11, 21-9.

Shelly Clar def. Joe Malama 21-2, 21-6; Phil Ivaldy def. Russ Woodman 21-4, 21-9; Allen Weckerly def. Gordy Bakken (default); Tom Smith def. Ernie Lippe 16-21, 21-10, 11-9; Rick DeSaracho def. Gerald Rettela 21-4, 21-13.

(Second round): Dr. Bud Muehleisen def. Dennis McGinn 21-2, 21-1; Botchan def. Rezendes 21-20, 21-14; Paul Franks def. Bannan 21-14, 21-17; Luther Bernstein def. Ron Keeler 21-4, 21-7; Pat Colombo def. Meyers 21-10, 18-21, 11-8; Gibbs def. Jerry Northwood 21-3, 21-16; Bruce Russell def. Jim Harper 21-12, 21-12; Deryck Clay def. Baum 21-10, 21-11; Jim Austin def. Bobby Bible 21-8, 21-7; Joel Scheinbaum def. Clar 21-20, 21-14; Ivaldy def. Tom Street 21-17, 12-21, 11-10; Shippy Kealoha def. Jim Trent 17-21, 21-18, 11-9; Geo. Morfitt def. Weckerly 21-12, 12-21, 11-8; Dr. Chuck Hanna def. Smith 21-19, 21-7; DeSaracho def. Jordon Tilden 20-21, 21-12, 11-9; Mark Wayne def. Lewis Tipton 21-14, 21-13.

(Third round): Muehleisen def. Botchan 21-7, 21-16; Bernstein def. Franks 21-13, 15-21, 11-2; Gibbs def. Colombo 10-21, 21-13, 11-3; Russell def. Clay 21-20, 21-19; J. Austin def. Scheinbaum 21-18, 18-21, 11-6; Kealoha def. Ivaldy 21-16, 21-19; Hanna def. Morfitt 15-21, 21-13, 11-6; Wayne def. DeSaracho 21-18, 21-10.

(Quarter-finals): Bernstein def. Muehleisen 21-18, 7-21, 11-10; Gibbs def. Russell 21-10, 21-19; Austin def. Kealoha 21-6, 21-16; Hanna def. Wayne 21-19, 21-18.

(Semi-finals): Gibbs def. Bernstein 17-21, 21-10, 11-6; Austin def. Hanna 20-21, 21-16, 11-10.

(Championship): Gibbs def. Austin 16-21, 21-20, 11-9; **(Third place):** Hanna def. Bernstein 21-14, 21-15.



Joe Gibbs, surprise champion in the senior singles division, displayed a steady game throughout.

Masters Singles

A near-full bracket of 29 Masters Singles players went after that title in San Diego and the top two seeds ended in the finals,—last year's champ Sam Koanui, Honolulu, and second seed Bob McNamara, Minneapolis. Koanui couldn't make it two in a row as McNamara proved too strong 21-10, 21-19.

Using the two-handed backhand which he made famous during years of paddle-ball play, McNamara held off the game Koanui, the only other player to really test the muscular Minnesotan.

Mac disposed of the rapidly-improved Bill Tanner, Memphis 21-9, 21-10 in the lower bracket, while Koanui had his hands full with Houston's Dewey Strickland, going three but coming out on top 21-7, 13-21, 11-2.

Tanner was able to come back and take the third place trophy, 21-16, 21-14 over Strickland.

Quarter-final results found Koanui besting Dr. George Holland, La Mesa, California 12 and 15; Strickland topping Los Angeles' Al Green 16 and 10; Tanner doing away with Los Angeles' Earle

Castle 21-4, 21-7; and McNamara easing by Metairie, Louisiana's Milt Rebbeneck Jr. 21-9, 21-7

Masters Singles Results

Masters Singles (First round): Bill Armstrong def. Wes Coyner 21-2, 21-5; Dr. Geo. Holland def. David Perelman (default); William Prescott def. Joe Woods 21-12, 21-9; Al Green def. Bob Peters 21-1, 21-3; Fred Rizzo def. John Morris 21-8, 21-3; Francis Warner def. Len Kaiser (default); Dewey Strickland def. William Bowling 21-5, 21-5; Vance Lerner def. Dan Hilecher 21-14, 21-9; William Tanner def. Ed Taylor 21-3, 21-2; Gordon Sproul def. Manny Nosan 21-18, 12-21, 11-10; Chas Wilcox def. Bill Dabney (default); Milt Rebbeneck, Jr. def. Peter Gates 21-10, 21-2; H. A. Gutzmer def. Herbert Sampson (default).

(Second round): Sam Koanui def. Armstrong 21-9, 21-16; Holland def. Prescott 10-21, 21-16, 11-6; Green def. Rizzo 21-13, 21-20; Strickland def. Warner 21-3, 21-2; Earle Castle def. Lerner 15-21, 21-19, 11-6; Tanner def. Sproul 21-6, 21-5; Rebbeneck def. Wilcox 21-7, 21-18; Bob McNamara def. Gutzmer 21-3, 21-7.

(Quarter-finals): Koanui def. Holland 21-12, 21-15; Strickland def. Green 21-16, 21-10; Tanner def. Castle 21-4, 21-7; McNamara def. Rebbeneck 21-9, 21-7.

(Semi-finals): Koanui def. Strickland 21-7, 13-21, 11-2; McNamara def. Tanner 21-9, 21-10.

(Championship): McNamara def. Koanui 21-10, 21-19; **(Third place):** Tanner def. Strickland 21-16, 21-14.

Golden Masters Singles

The Golden Masters Singles bracket took on wide-open proportions when defending champ and number one seed Jim DiVito was unable to attend due to a last minute injury. The eventual winner did come out of the upper bracket, however, he being San Diego's Stan Berney, who topped Art Payne, Columbus, Ohio in the finals 5-21, 21-17, 11-5.

Berney had stopped DiVito's friend and partner Sam Rizzio in the semi-finals 21-8, 21-14, while Payne had a rough time eliminating San Diego's Cal Murphy 21-16, 11-21, 11-8 to reach the championship match.

Rizzio was awarded third place when Murphy defaulted.

Quarter-final finishers were Seattle's Al Meyersham who was defeated by Rizzio; West Vancouver's L. A. R. Wade who couldn't get by Berney; Seattle's Doug Wilson who was ousted by Murphy; and Vancouver's Jack Duncan who bowed to Payne.

Golden Masters Singles Results

Golden Masters Singles (First Round): Al Meyersham def. Jim Scott 21-16, 21-17; L.A.R. Wade def. W.S. Brown 21-17, 21-13; Doug Wilson def. Abraham Swerdlow 21-17, 21-8; Art Payne def. William Chung 21-1, 21-5.

(Quarter-finals): Sam Rizzio def. Meyersham 21-6, 21-14; Stan Berney def. Wade 21-9, 21-9; Cal Murphy def. Wilson 21-10, 21-1; Payne def. Jack Duncan 21-8, 21-1.

(Semi-finals): Berney def. Rizzio 21-8, 21-14; Payne def. Murphy 21-16, 11-21, 11-8.

(Championship): Berney def. Payne 5-21, 21-17, 11-5.

Amateur Open Doubles

Thirty-three teams competed for the Amateur Open Doubles championship in San Diego, and with no professionals in the field, the race for the number one spot was torrid. When the smoke had cleared, two lefty-righty teams, both from Southern California emerged in the finals.

Former National Champs D. C. Charlson and Roger Souders, the third seeded team, met Dr. Bud Muehleisen and Jay Jones, the number one seeds, in one of the most entertaining matches of the tournament, and especially the championship rounds.

Muehleisen-Jones had not been tested severely during the week, taking their semi-final match 21-13, 21-7 over the San Diego team of Gary Lusk and Jim Pool. Charlson-Souders, on the other hand, had a real fight in their semi-finals, besting second seeded Bill and Steve Dunn 21-13, 13-21, 11-6.

Thus the stage was set, and as is always the case with top-flight doubles, the action was fast and furious. Muehleisen and Charlson on the left are probably the two all-time best left side players and each was the key factor in the match.

Amid drives and kills, ceilings and V-passes, the winners finally emerged,—Charlson-Souders. And match point in the third game came on an unusual play, when Muehleisen, after a fantastic front court retrieve was struck by a Charlson shot off the front wall, resulting in point 11 for Charlson-Souders.

The entire match scores were 17-21, 21-4, 11-7, as both Muehleisen and Jones saw their hopes for singles and doubles titles die with the tie-breaker.

In the quarters, Charlson-Souders topped the Dallas team of Eric Campbell and Tom McKie 12 and 14; Dunn-Dunn bested an all

juniors tandem of Ben Koltun and Lindsay Myers 21-8, 18-21, 11-3. It was the first time Myers and Koltun had ever played together and the loss was Koltun's first tie-breaker loss of his short career.

In the upper bracket, Muehleisen-Jones disposed of Long Beach, California's Al Portune and Mark Morrow 11 and 15, while Lusk and Pool, who had earlier upset the tournaments fourth seeds Mike Romano and Mike Luciw, defeated Trey and Morgan Sayes, Salt Lake City, 16-21, 21-7, 11-4.

Open Doubles Results

Open Doubles (First round): Johnson-Heatherington def. Hartnett-Diamond 21-13, 20-21, 11-4.

(Second-round): Muehleisen-Jones def. Grisz-Thomas 21-7, 21-14; Gibbs-Kraut def. Groves-Johnson (default); Lau-Olson def. Duda-Harper 18-21, 21-6, 11-10; Morrow-Portune def. McNally-Barry 21-9, 21-4; Sayes-Sayes def. Akeo-Sylvester 21-5, 21-6; Loveday-Loveday def. Johnson-Heatherington 12-21, 21-9, 11-5; Lusk-Pool def. Lau-Smythe 21-4, 21-13; Luciw-Romano def. Myers-Myers 21-3, 21-18; Charlson-Souders def. Gurnoe-Hoonan 21-10, 21-1; Lovell-Wong def. Valera-Bertolucci 21-11, 21-14; Field-Susson def. Street-Shetzer 21-12, 21-13; Campbell-McKie def. Moku-Kealoha 21-12, 21-4; Koltun-Myers def. Kaakimaka-Rezentes 21-8, 21-17; Crawford-Robbins def. Burgener-Stafford 21-8, 21-16; Scott-Darnell def. Friedlander-Baum 21-5, 21-6; Dunn-Dunn def. Crenshaw-Kintzel 21-10, 21-12.

(Third round): Muehleisen-Jones def. Gibbs-Kraut 21-4, 21-19; Morrow-Portune def. Lau-Olson 21-5, 21-9; Sayes-Sayes def. Loveday-Loveday 21-8, 21-11; Lusk-Pool def. Luciw-Romano 21-17, 21-20; Charlson-Souders def. Lovell-Wong 21-8, 21-10; Campbell-McKie def. Field-Susson 21-5, 21-7; Koltun-Myers def. Crawford-Robbins 9-21, 21-9, 11-10; Dunn-Dunn def. Scott-Darnell 21-11, 21-14.

(Quarter-finals): Muehleisen-Jones def. Morrow-Portune 21-11, 21-15; Lusk-Pool def. Sayes-Sayes 16-21, 21-7, 11-4; Charlson-Souders def. Campbell-McKie 21-12, 21-14; Dunn-Dunn def. Koltun-Myers 21-8, 18-21, 11-3.

(Semi-finals): Muehleisen-Jones def. Lusk-Pool 21-13, 21-7; Charlson-Souders def. Dunn-Dunn 21-13, 13-21, 11-6.

(Championship): Charlson-Souders def. Muehleisen-Jones 17-21, 21-4, 11-7; **(Third place):** Dunn-Dunn def. Lusk-Pool 21-17, 21-13.

Women's Amateur Doubles

A disappointing field of seven gallant teams battled in the Women's Amateur Doubles division, with borderline



A smiling national doubles championship team of Camille McCarthy (l.) and Jennifer Harding (r.) show their awards with N.R.C.'s Joe Ardito.

professionals Jennifer Harding and Camille McCarthy teaming up to grab the title. But it didn't come easily.

In the championship match they took the crown from Sarah Green and Linda Siau 21-19, 21-20, in a well-played and emotional confrontation.

In the semi-finals it was another duel, this time against Lottie Bain and Mary Ludwig, Livermore, California 21-18, 20-21, 11-5. In the bottom bracket Green and Siau knocked off number two seeds Bette Weed and Patti Berneathy 21-20, 21-11. Bain-Ludwig took third place 21-20, 13-21, 11-9.

Women's Doubles Results

Women's Doubles (Quarter-finals): Bain-Ludwig def. Murphy-Lewis 21-3, 21-9; Green-Siau def. Gibbs-Soon 21-3, 21-5; Weed-Berneathy def. Hogan-Hogan 21-2, 21-13.

(Semi-finals): Harding-McCarthy def. Bain-Ludwig 21-18, 20-21, 11-5; Green-Siau def. Weed-Berneathy 21-20, 21-11.

(Championship): Harding-McCarthy def. Green-Siau 21-20, 21-11; **(Third Place):** Bain-Ludwig def. Weed-Berneathy 21-20, 13-21, 11-9.

Senior Doubles

Senior doubles held some satisfaction for the winners, Jim Austin and Dr. Chuck Hanna, the Houston-San Diego duo, who topped Bob McNamara and Pat Colombo, Minneapolis-Scarsdale, New York in the finals. Both Austin and Hanna had been disappointed in the singles and they took their frustrations out on the entire Senior Doubles field.

McNamara, playing down an age category and Colombo, were runners-up in last year's Las Vegas tournament and trying again for that elusive title. But it was all Hanna-Austin not only in the finals, which they took 21-13, 21-10, but in the complete event.

In the semi-finals they defeated the Chicago team of Jordan Tilden and Tom Street 21-11, 21-9, while in the bottom bracket McNamara-Colombo did away with Mark Wayne and Luther Bernstein, Fremont, Cal.-Dallas 21-15, 21-12.

One of the highlights of the Senior Doubles was the entry of former handball champ Paul Haber and John Fabry, President of the Saranac Glove Company. Haber-Fabry lost to Austin-Hanna in the quarter-finals 21-17, 21-12.

Wayne-Bernstein won third place, defeating Tilden-Street 21-6, 21-20.

Senior Doubles Results

Senior Doubles (First round): Haber-Fabry def. Jenkins-Lippe 21-5, 21-7; Bible-Ivaldy def. Monell-Hilton 21-8, 21-10; Botchan-DeSaracho def. Keaunui-Malama 21-1, 21-9; Tilden-Street def. Garay-Kosnak 21-5, 21-10.

(Quarter-finals): Austin-Hanna def. Haber-Fabry 21-17, 21-12; Tilden-Street def. Clar-Franks 20-21, 21-8, 11-4; Wayne-Bernstein def. Bible-Ivaldy 18-21, 21-15, 11-8; McNamara-Colombo def. Botchan-DeSaracho 21-10, 21-19.

(Semi-finals): Austin-Hanna def. Tilden-Street 21-11, 21-9; McNamara-Colombo def. Wayne-Bernstein 21-15, 21-12.

(Championship): Austin-Hanna def. McNamara-Colombo 21-13, 21-12; **(Third place):** Wayne-Bernstein def. Tilden-Street 21-6, 21-20.

Masters Doubles

San Diego brought home a winner in the Masters Doubles bracket as the team of Carl Loveday and George Brown entered the winners circle,—but just barely. Their final round match victory was 8-21, 21-13, 11-2 over the Honolulu tandem of Sam Koanui and L. P. Skelton. Koanui, a double winner a year ago in Las Vegas, thus ended a double runner-up this season.

Loveday-Brown, however, barely got out of the semi-finals, being surprised and battled by the Palos Verdes, California team of Bill Armstrong and Bill Gibson. In one of the best matches in any division the entire week, Loveday-Brown came out on top 21-16, 17-21, 11-10.

In the upper bracket semi-final Koanui-Skelton topped the Los Angeles duo of Earle Castle and Bill Dabney 21-13, 21-10.

Armstrong-Gibson took third place 21-13, 21-18.

Masters Doubles Results

Masters Doubles (Quarter-finals): Castle-Dabney def. Kobernick-Press 21-16, 21-15; Armstrong-Gibson def. Perelman-Pearl (default); Loveday-Brown def. Coyner-Wilcox 21-14, 21-3.

(Semi-finals): Koanui-Skelton def. Castle-Dabney 21-13, 21-10; Loveday-Brown def. Armstrong-Gibson 21-16, 17-21, 11-10.

(Championship): Loveday-Brown def. Koanui-Skelton 8-21, 21-13, 11-2. **(Third Place):** Armstrong-Gibson def. Castle-Dabney 21-13, 21-18.

Golden Masters Doubles

In a strange tournament, riddle with defaults, the best team finally did win in Golden Masters Doubles,—San Diego's Cal Murphy and Stan Berney. Their toughest match came in the semi-finals, topping the Honolulu tandem of William Chung and Keo Nakama 21-15, 21-20.

The finals were anti-climactic with Murphy-Berney stopping another San Diego team, Jim Scott-W. S. Brown 21-2, 21-6 for the title. Scott Brown, oddly enough, had not played a match en route to the finals.

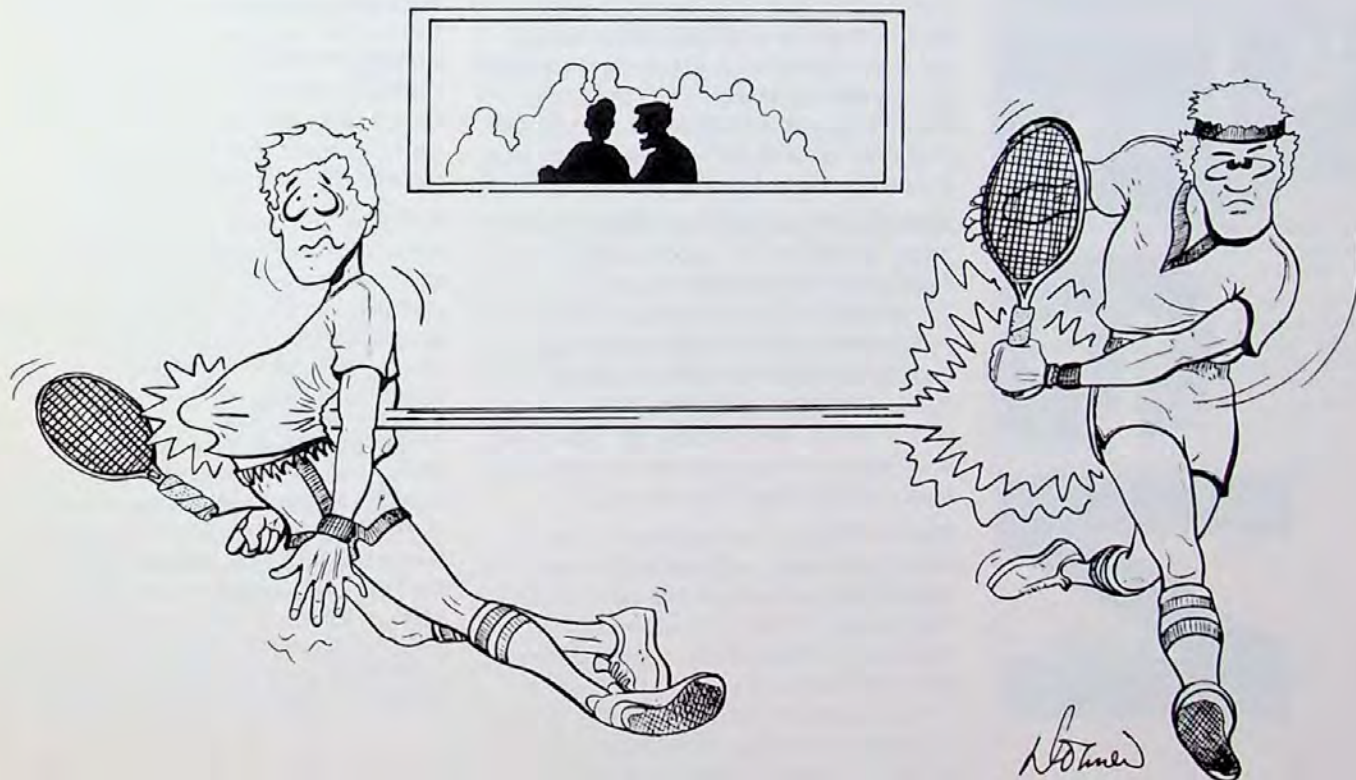
Golden Masters Doubles Results

Golden Masters Doubles (Quarter-finals): Payne-Rizzio def. McNally-Payne (default); Scott-Brown def. Yee-Kaalekahi (default); Chung-Nakama def. Wilson-Meyersahm 21-2, 21-3; Murphy-Berney def. Duncan-Wade 21-12, 21-15.

(Semi-finals): Scott-Brown def. Payne-Rizzio (default); Murphy-Berney def. Chung-Nakama 21-15, 21-20.

(Championship): Murphy-Berney def. Scott-Brown 21-2, 21-6.

What a KILL SHOT!



Nationals

Without Them It Couldn't Have Been Done.

When you ask somebody to do something and he says he will, you think, well, that's good. When that same somebody does even more than you requested and does it so well that you know nobody could have done a better job,—you're overwhelmed.

For the U.S.R.A./N.R.C. National Championships in San Diego, it wasn't a one person who did the job,—it was an entire organization,—and then some.

The organization was the Atlas Hotel Corporation in general, and the Atlas Health Club in particular, who provided the nucleus of manpower that gave the racquetball players and fans, the best organized, most efficiently run and most successful National tournament ever held.

The thank you's will flow fast and furious for a few moments now, and certainly all those who rolled up their sleeves and pitched in will not be recognized. To those we miss, a general thank you from the U.S.R.A. and N.R.C. for without you it couldn't have been done.

Accolade number one must go to Jerry Sandstrom, Senior Vice President of the Atlas Hotel Corporation, and the man who contacted the U.S.R.A. with the desire to host the Nationals at Atlas' beautiful Health Club. Jerry put in long, lean hours of planning and leg work to ensure a wonderful and convenient time for all.

Next in line is the man who did more and was noticed less than any other person at the Nationals. His name is Lee Hinrichs, Jerry's right hand man, who worked day in and day out with the N.R.C.'s Chuck Leve in co-ordinating draws, details, planning, scheduling and virtually every phase of the Nationals. It was Lee who overnight

re-designed the function of the Atlas Health Club, from a member-oriented facility to a player-spectator-tournament facility. It was no easy task, and we wonder if Lee has yet recovered.

George Threadgill, the Club manager was always there when needed, lending his managerial expertise to the entire operation, recognizing and intercepting the details from the over-view, making everybody else's job that much easier. His prompt and efficient actions in aiding the injured John Lynch was instrumental in John's speedy and complete recovery. Undoubtedly George's skill here was the most important single work by anybody all week.

Pat Orr and Marge Mathurn, who worked unending hours on the entries and correspondence with players, deserve recognition for their fine job, as do Carol Clark and Linda Hoffman, the two lovely receptionists at the Atlas Health Club, who put up with the phone calls, pages and seemingly unending requests of the players.

A thank you too, to Sally Francisco and Debbie Poway for helping out at Tournament Central, and for putting up with the indiosyncrasies and temper tantrums of Leve, Hinrichs and floor managers Jim Stotz and Bob Peters.

The National Championships were truly that, in every sense of the words. Stotz and Peters, both imports from the Chicago area, were tabbed the unenviable job as co-floor managers and they organized and co-ordinated their manpower and own abilities to run the most efficient large racquetball event in history. They are both

perfectionists and the smoothness of the tournament was a credit to their performance.

The Head Referee's Desk was manned by a number of stout-hearted men, all of whom spent untiring hours obtaining and assigning referees and linesmen to matches. Woody Woodman, Jerry Monell, Joe Singleton and John Lankford were the big four here.

They had some expert help and co-operation from the many, many volunteers who did the refereeing, especially "Tiger Bill" Holden, Gil Schmitt, Tom Street, Mike Hoonan, John Steinbacher and Al Portune.

To the literally scores of others who did their share and more in the refereeing department,—a big thank you. Never once was a match delayed because a referee could not be found,—a record that undoubtedly will stand for all time.

There was so much more to the Nationals than just the play. The unbelievable amenities at the Atlas Health Club, from outdoor swimming pool to steam, sauna, whirlpool, snack shop and more, were utilized to the limits by the over 400 participants.

Hospitality was tremendous, with dinner served each of five nights thanks to the donation of five manufacturers: Leach Industries, Seamco Sporting Goods, Saranac Glove Company, Champion Glove Company and Ektelon. Our extra-special thanks to them for their support and to the Atlas, again, for not scrimping when it came to choice and amount of food.

Others at the Atlas who played an important role behind the scenes

included the lovely Nancy Morrell, who organized the excellent banquet on Friday evening. The 12 ounce sirloin steak dinner was scrumptious and the band and dancing kept those attending rocking all night long. And Ivan Taylor, manager of the Mission Valley Inn, the delightful hotel that served as tournament headquarters, kept his cool and smile all week, while wrestling with reservations and rooms.

And last, but probably most important, our thanks to Mission Cable Television, whose confidence and foresight in our sport of racquetball enabled viewers in 26 states to watch an hour and a half of live racquetball in prime time four nights of the tournament.

And with television came the warmest, most congenial and one of the most professional men of the tournament, Fred Lewis, whose play-by-play commentary was superb. Another thank you to Fred, who also doubled as Master of Ceremonies at the Banquet.

And to you all,—it was a wonderful experience. The U.S.R.A. and N.R.C. want to sincerely thank you and let you all know that your work was appreciated. We will see you in San Diego again next year!



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Kendler Lays Down U.S.R.A. Policy in National Address

U.S.R.A. president Robert W. Kendler, in an address to the annual National Championships Awards/Banquet outlined the goals and objectives of the U.S.R.A./N.R.C. The awards dinner and dancing program was attended by over 200 players and guests at the Town and Country Convention Center in San Diego.



U.S.R.A./N.R.C. president Bob Kendler address the 200 plus gathering at the banquet/dance at the Nationals.

Hi! How would you all like to join me in a great big round of applause for Jerry Sandstrom and Lee Hinrichs for staging the finest, biggest and best managed racquetball tournament ever held!

Last Sunday afternoon your friend Chuck Leve handed me a short memo which gave me a pretty good idea of what was expected of me this week. Let me give you the memo's last line, first. It stated, "We are trying to make the Awards Dinner/Dance a nice affair. Make your talk short and remember, you are not talking to handball players . . . and please, forget your corny jokes. Also, we are encouraging everyone to dress nicely. So, for a change, Bob, could you try and look like a president? Some day we might get some class in the court sports."

That's what he said, your friend Chuck Leve.

His first line was *not* as sarcastic, however. It stated,—be sure to say a few words of welcome. Now, I don't know whether I should welcome you or you should welcome me. You know, I am pretty much a stranger to most of you and I can't really welcome you to my city because this is actually your city. So let's just put it this way,—Evie and I are delighted to be here and we are tremendously impressed with the place, the play and the people. Most of all,—the people. Racquetball players are a breed all their own and



Atlas Senior Vice President Jerry Sandstrom address the group.

anyone who isn't fascinated by both the play and the player should start shopping for a coffin, because they're dead.

It's a wonderful experience to come to a city and find our program in such good hands,—and to feel the cordiality that is the trademark of San Diego. Truthfully, we rarely come to a city that has so much warmth, so much beauty and so much welcome. And we *never* come to a city that has such tremendous racquetball talent. Thank you for inviting us and I hope that one day soon, we can reward you for taking us into your hearts.

I especially want to thank the Atlas Health Club and its two inspired leaders,—Jerry Sandstrom and Lee Hinrichs. Their success with the club, their confidence in racquetball and their faith in the U.S.R.A. has made the struggle very worthwhile. I am sure that for them, as well as for us, there is no profit, except the respect and gratitude that is due from you, the player.

At this moment I am reminded of an experience that goes back more than 25 years. It was at the time when the A.A.U. and I were involved in a struggle for the control of handball,—a situation somewhat similar to racquetball today. Lawsuits were flying in every direction and the atmosphere was charged with threats and scorn. To compound my problem, I agreed to binding arbitration and very much to my surprise, Avery Brundage was chosen as the arbitrator. Well, I could see our dream of a Player's Fraternity going down the drain, so I didn't even take the trouble of calling in counsel to represent us. You see, I didn't know Charlie Brumfield then. Talk about beginners luck. I fought off a dozen legal minds before the great Brundage with the very simple argument that handball belonged to the players and no one could do a

better job of running it than the players themselves. Well, Mr. Brundage agreed. And before he died recently he gave me an Olympic Gold Medal for making the handball players dream come true.

Now there is a little more to the story than all that. To begin with he felt handball was the perfect game,—and that feeling must have come from his heart because he played it for 40 years. In fact he won numerous championships in Chicago around the 1920's. He decided that no one could develop the game better than the player,—and for 26 years we have confirmed his decision. Because that's how handball is run . . . by our Players Fraternity. We feel we are all members of one great body, planted by nature in a mutual love and fitted for the perfect game. We all consider ourselves born for the good of the whole. That's what we should do in racquetball!

The lesson I learned from this experience is never to prejudge anyone. When I was told that our fate was in the hands of Mr. Olympics, I knew there was no hope. But that was before I *met* him. Or before we had a chance to share our principles and our purposes. Suddenly we discovered we had so much in common, so much that we both wanted to do for youth during our lives, that we forged a bond that even his death has not broken. I will need no other direction than the legend that he left behind.

If you ever knock on the door of a Masonic Lodge, you will hear the words, "*Who comes here?*" When you hear me knocking on racquetball's door, you have a right to know "*Who comes here?*" Evie and I met most of you during this week and I hope we impressed you as much as you impressed us. All I ask is that you don't prejudge me as I did Avery Brundage. I went into racquetball because I wanted to both preserve life and to enrich it.

And this is my entire point,—the mutual ground that both handball and racquetball walk on is the ground of health and well-being. *Can there be sin in these two good causes working together??*

You know, I didn't make the decision to organize racquetball until I had sent out a questionnaire to hundreds of handball chairmen and athletic directors asking for opinions on racquetball. Almost to a man they highly recommended the game and stated particularly that it would not only add 15 years to the court life of handball players,—it would bring in the family, as well. The fact that youth inherited the game should not negate your debt to handball,—or handball's debt to you.

And handball IS greatly indebted to you. Before racquetball came along, handball wasn't nearly what it is today. Before handball came along, racquetball wasn't nearly what it is today. I am firmly convinced that both sports complement each other,—and I intend to do everything I can to make sure that both handball and racquetball are guided to a brilliant and successful future. The days of bickering between the sports are over. Working for our *mutual* good is what tomorrow will bring.

Do you realize that there wasn't a successful court club in the country prior to my organizing racquetball? Today there are hundreds of them because handball and racquetball *collectively* share each others strength and present to the investor great profit opportunities. Together, and not separately, we have made a sound, worthwhile business of the court sports; as a result, handball is enjoying a considerable boom right now, just as racquetball is.

Now, I can understand why in San Diego handball isn't the most popular sport. I hope you

understand that in New York, racquetball isn't the most popular sport, either. San Diego is racquetball's hotbed—New York is handball's. And as the wearer of two hats, I am totally dedicated to bringing the best of handball to San Diego and the best of racquetball to New York! And every other city as well!

In my talk at the annual convention of the United States Handball Association last week, I decided to bridge the chasm that has separated these sports so needlessly. I told our members in no uncertain language that it is pure nonsense for handball players to assume they have squatters rights in the courts,—just as it is for racquetball players to think that they have a priority. Promoting each other will be far more profitable than fighting each other. I am sure that the *best* sport is the one that is the *best* for you and I couldn't care less what the old timers think. Racquetball is the *new* sport for the *new* generation and every day I hear less and less criticism of the time and money I invest on racquetball's behalf.

It is only a matter of time when common sense will prevail and we will all live happily,—*together*. *Today's economics demand this!*

It would be nice if you could meet our entire staff. It would be even nicer if you could attend one of our staff meetings. The handball staff shares its experiences with the racquetball staff and vice versa. The input from each of them is priceless. The value can only be realized when you know that our handball staff has been running tournaments and programs for over 30 years. It is the most professional and experienced management staff in all amateur sports. It brought to racquetball not only the expertise, but the influence that made the

introduction of racquetball easy. More than all else, it inherited handball's good will and esteem.

The two key men in our racquetball organization both have handball backgrounds and tremendous experience. Joe Ardito, Mr. Business Manager Supreme was drafted from handball after 20 years of outstanding promotion of the junior and intercollegiate arenas. Chuck Leve, our energetic National Director is just a chip off the old block. His father has been handball's Executive Secretary for 25 years. Chuck simply followed in his father's footsteps.

Ironically, only the brand-new member of our staff can be called a racquetball expert from the beginning,—Terry Fancher,—who spent almost two years studying the history of our sport, and followed it by going into the management and teaching phase after earning his Masters degree. Terry will be devoting most of his time to organization and communication with our state associations, as well as adding experience to our tournament staff. We're expecting great things from him.

Guys like Bob Peters and Jim Stotz are switch-hitters,—they help us in handball and racquetball both,—and they're simply superb. Tell me, do you know of any other organization that has so many full-time, dedicated men who devote all their lives to the court sports? I don't.

This is just the right time to tell you we are in this business to stay. We are going to make racquetball a proud business,—accountable only to the players, as we do in handball. Because unless we do it, unless we get our own house in order,—big business will come in and do it for us, likely sacrificing every principle for which we have devoted the past 30 years.

I want to do for racquetball exactly

what I did for handball,—make it one of the most respected sports in America. I have been at the helm of handball for over 30 years,—have been the Association's only President,—and during all that time there has never been a breath of scandal. Never!

We have run more than 2,000 tournaments and it has even been our privilege to run national championships for all the other leading amateur organizations,—the A.A.U., the Y.M.C.A., and the Jewish Welfare Board. That's besides standardizing the courts, the rules, the equipment, and the play. Add to this about 2,000,000 magazines as well. I must tell you, however, that while we were very casual in years past, we are dead serious today. We are going for unquestioned leadership in racquetball and will use every modern merchandising method possible to deserve total player support. We are growing up, and our beautiful, little baby sister will soon mature into a very popular Miss America,—with her big handball brother.

Did you know that between handball and racquetball we will be involved in 62 tournaments next season? More than one per week, which means there are a dozen people in the home office and a dozen more on the road helping to build this industry so that you can have beautiful court clubs, exciting pro tours and plenty of amateur events as well.

And speaking of tournaments, you may have heard talk this week that we're going to expand our pro tour to 12 stops next season. We hope to do it, and we're in the final planning stages of a season that will not be forgotten for a long time, just as this tournament will be long remembered.

It is going to be hard for people to copy us next year. We already have

commitments for \$120,000 from sponsors, money that will be divided between the pros, the amateurs, the juniors and the ladies. I won't go into detail, but you keep reading our magazine and you'll be pleasantly surprised at some of the fresh new ideas we plan to unveil shortly.

Not the least of these will be a nation-wide network of state associations and if any of you are interested in getting your state champs to the Nationals, we may have the answer. This is something we have done in handball very successfully and I don't mind telling you that this amounted to more than \$20,000 for regional and state winners last week at the U.S.H.A. championships in Las Vegas. So you see, not all the money we generate goes to the money players.

Perhaps the biggest progress we've made this year is what is happening here this week. I'm speaking about Cable TV. We realize that this is not network TV, nevertheless, we are being seen in 26 states by some 200,000 viewers. We are very fortunate to have Fred Lewis of Mission Cable 2 as our announcer . . . there is no one more articulate, more informed, or more interested in our sport. And God willing—if we go network—he will be our unanimous choice to do our shows.

As you know, we invented the glass court. Every year we make improvements that hasten the day when racquetball and handball will make its debut on network TV. This year we introduced the glass front wall and I would like you all to encourage its use. When you see the action from the front wall, you will double your pleasure!

In Des Plaines, Illinois last month we held a pro handball tournament on the first court to have front, side and back wall glass from floor to ceiling. It was a phenomenal

success and a joy for some 1200 spectators. You know where everyone wanted to sit? That's right,—behind the front wall!

And to show you our commitment to front wall glass, we expect at least three of our pro tour stops next season to be on courts that have it.

I think it's about time for me to go off the air, but before I do, there are a few bouquets that belong to some mighty fine people. First of all, I would like to salute Bill Tanner and his very lovely wife Pearline. Congratulations on your election to the presidency of the I.R.A. Bill. They couldn't have picked a better man. I look *forward* to working with you in the future for the growth and success of *all* of racquetball.

Al Mackie, the president of Seamco Sporting Goods has been a tremendous sponsor for our game. Without his royalties and prize money, we would be hard put to do a first class job. Even more important, he has perfected the 558 and 559 balls to the point where they are accepted as the standard all over America today. I don't believe more than two or three balls were broken this week; that's almost unbelievable. We learned a long time ago, you can't expect the players to use your products, unless your products meet the standards of these same players. And that's just the beginning. Soon Seamco will be coming out with a red ball,—and after that, well, who knows? In Al Mackie, the U.S.R.A. and N.R.C. and all of racquetball have a remarkable ally. So please don't forget Seamco when you are buying sports equipment. We owe this to a very good friend.

I would like to thank Bud Leach in the same context. I don't ever remember asking him for anything

that I didn't get. Not always easy,—but always what was best for the sport. In Bud Leach and Charlie Drake we have been blessed both with considerable money plus brilliant counsel, as well. No one knows racquets better than Bud Leach and no one knows the racquetball market better than Charlie Drake. We are fortunate, indeed, to have both their substance and guidance, to say nothing of their players. There is only one man on the Leach Team I am not too sure of, and that's Steve Keeley. I just finished reading his impressive new book on racquetball and I thoroughly recommend it to all of you. Except page 16, where he has the audacity to refer to handball as racquetball's ugly sister. In handball we refer to racquetball as our beautiful new baby. And if that wasn't enough, on page 18, he refers to the United States Racquetball Association as the "*new I.R.A.*"

Really now Steve, how could you do a thing like that to those nice people? They may not be as flattered as I am!

Thank you.

Bob Kendler

Kendler Tough Boss

Vantage Point

By Michael Grant

Staff Writer, The San Diego Union

"If I'm gonna pay the bills, I'm gonna make the decisions," said 71-year-old Bob Kendler, with the authority of a millionaire.

Some of the players have been heard to describe this as on the dictatorial side, but it is how Kendler chooses to run his United States Racquetball Association and its professional adjunct, the National Racquetball Club.

And if the athletes worry about the absoluteness of his power, they are ready to accept its fruits. The NRC's national championship last month at Atlas Health Club, was racquetball's richest ever.

Thirty-seven entries, including the world's best, chased the men's \$4,000 first prize. There were 17 women's professional entries, and upwards of 400 in the amateur divisions.

Not bad for six years' work. But Kendler had prior experience in sports administration. He annually has been re-elected president of the United States Handball Association since he founded it in 1951.

"If the record is bad at the end of the year, then they can throw the president out," Kendler smiled, which is his natural expression, though his blue eyes harden somewhat when he speaks of where the buck stops.

"I must have done okay, because I'm still here," he said.

Kendler also was among the founding fathers, in 1968, of the International Racquetball Association, which now is the rival of his USRA and NRC.

This odd state is a result of Kendler's penchant for

decisiveness, and the resources to get what he wants.

The IRA was set up to be run by a board of 12 directors, and all the day-to-day decisions, as well as longer-term policy-making, had to be offered for their ruminations.

This stuck in Kendler's craw.

"There's no way you can make progress if you have to go to 12 people for a decision on something that has to be done right now," he said. *"It was just too cumbersome."*

This attitude, in turn, grated on most of the rest of the membership of the infant IRA, which was glad, after years of disparate rules, equipment specifications and organization, to at last be under one roof.

So Kendler picked up his marbles and went off to form his own circle. The potential cost of such a venture never occurred to him. He has lots of money. His Community Builders, an 11-company amalgam, custom-builds \$200,000 homes in the exclusive Chicago suburb of Lake Forest, and it is working on a condominium project, 849 models that will start at \$100,000.

The parting was not amicable.

"It was quite a bitter break, and the wounds are still sore," said Tom McKie, now the executive director of the IRA.

"I have no ill feeling," said Kendler. *"The sport needed decisive leadership. I could feel a wall between us."*

On the surface, the USRA-NRC appears the more vigorous of the two. Its magazine, *"National Racquetball,"* is more polished than the IRA's *"Racquetball;"* its professional eight-stop circuit, with

solid and continuous sponsorship, offers more prize money (\$50,000); the NRC's championship was populated by more name players than the IRA's; and Kendler seeks out, and bankrolls the expenses of, the game's brightest younger stars, Marty Hogan and Richard Wagner among them.

And Kendler, who moves easily in the business world's higher echelons, has the attention of the makers of balls, racquets and courts. He is working with Libbey-Owens on development of an all-glass, portable court that would provide good seating for 3,000 instead of 300, and would be ready-made for television coverage. It will cost \$150,000 and be tremendously expensive to move.

But there still exists among many players a feeling of allegiance to the original group. *"The IRA will be okay,"* said women's champion Peggy Steding, a bit defensively.

And there have been efforts at co-existence. The groups avoided conflicts in their pro circuit schedules this year—a change from last year—and McKie was among the entrants in the USRA play here.

"The IRA is having a very difficult time right now, but I wouldn't like to see anything happen to the IRA," said Kendler. *"They're our competitors."*

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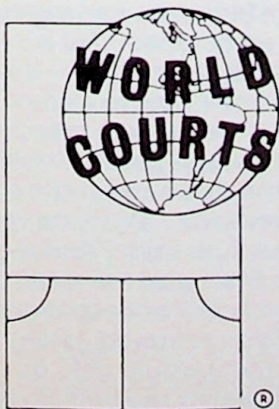
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A Game With Charlie Brumfield

"If your going to pass down the line with me in backcourt, it better die on the back wall or I'll have a sure kill shot," Charlie said, as he retrieved my pass and rolled it out of the left corner. I stopped for a moment to comprehend what had happened. World champion racquetball player, Charlie Brumfield, was bouncing me around the court more than the ball. It was my first on court experience with Charlie, allowing me an insight to a superb athlete and a truly great man.

I met Charlie during the 1975 National Outdoor Tournament, held at Orange Coast College. I took some photographs of Charlie playing and sold him an enlargement. In lieu of money we agreed to a game of racquetball. It wasn't till March were we able to schedule a game. We made plans to play at the Atlas Health Club in San Diego on a Tuesday afternoon.

"I'll get a court at 1 p.m." he said. *"Get there a little early."*

The Thursday before our game, while playing in a match for the Orange Coast College Racquetball team, I dove after a ball and bruised my right hip bone. My right buttock swelled like a balloon. I couldn't walk for two days. On Monday I still walked with a distinct limp. The school trainer advised me to postpone the game till my hip healed. After two months of hoping and planning for a game with Charlie, when it was just a day away, I had to decide if I should call off the game or try to play despite the injury.

"A game with Charlie Brumfield," I thought. *"Who knows when the opportunity would come again?"* On Tuesday I drove down to San Diego.

I got there an hour early. Charlie wasn't there so I gave myself a tour of the club. Nervousness began to set in on me. *"What if I can't play,"* I thought? *He arranged an hour of his time to play with me. He might think I wasted his time."* I shook these fears from my mind. *"Think*

positively" I thought. *"Have confidence in your ability to play."*

I was standing in the front hallway when Charlie entered the club. He was dressed in his racquetball gear. Standing six foot one and weighing about 180 pounds, he had an air of majesty about him. He smiled as he recognized me. I walked toward him, trying to conceal my limp.

"What's wrong? You have an injury?" Charlie asked.

"Yea. Bruised my hip. It's alright though. I can still play. I just need to soak it in the jacuzzi first."

"Well hurry up. We've got a court at 12:30 p.m."

"Twelve-thirty," I thought, as I hurried to the locker room. *"What a way to start."*

Charlie was talking to Bette Weed, a top woman player in San Diego, when I came out of the locker room. He tossed me a ball and told me to warm up on court one. As I hit a few ceiling balls, my belly felt as if a thousand soft feathers were blowing inside. There were seven people in the stands as Charlie entered the court. He hit the ball for a few minutes, then tossed it to me for first serve.

A serve and a rollout later, I was defending the backcourt. After a few minutes neither of us were keeping score. The people in the stands had large grins on their faces and I knew what was amusing them. I could barely return his serves. When I did, he would make a cross-court pass and end the rally. Seeing my inability to move well on the court, Charlie eased off and I began to try harder. Rallies lasted longer and I would win a few, only to be cast to the backcourt, following my serve and a short rally.

He moved around the court with unerring precision and agility. As I hit the ball he would anticipate, react and be in position for a return shot before mine came off the front wall. More than once I would make a seemingly rally winning pass turned into Charlie's point, as he dug the ball six inches from the

floor and hit a perfect ceiling ball to my backhand corner. I would make a few nice shots and hearing Charlie's affirmation of *"good shot"* made me swell with pride, that I was worthy of a compliment from the champion.

I was drenched with sweat and completely exhausted. A few drops of sweat collected on Charlie's brow and occasionally dropped from his goatee. It was obvious he was just getting warm.

He would periodically stop the game and give me some pointers on my court position, strokes, and strategy. During play he would yell pointers to me.

"Watch the angle of the ball... play for the cross-court pass... ceiling ball... concentration... anticipate... racquet control." He is a warehouse of racquetball knowledge. Completely new thoughts on racquet control and strategy flooded me till it seemed I could absorb no more.

After a half hour my leg felt as if it was about to separate at the hip bone. I was learning so much, I didn't want to stop. When my movements more resembled that of a handicapped turtle, Charlie decided on a break. We talked about my plans to move to San Diego during the summer. He listened intently and seemed to have a genuine interest in my goals. After 15 minutes we went back onto the court.

"Your backhand needs some work," he said. Showing me a new grip and stance, he had me run through some drills. *"Hit a thousand of these a day,"* he said after each drill. As we walked off the court, Charlie asked a friend if he wanted to play a game. Shaking his hand, I thanked him for the game and the lessons. *"Work on your backhand,"* he said. *"And let your hip heal. Then give me a call in a month and we'll schedule another game."* With renewed esteem, I assured him I would call. As I walked towards the locker room, my only thought was, *"one month. One month."*

Pre-Match Drills To Improve Your Game

A question frequently asked of a racquetball teaching pro is "What type of warm-up exercises or shot drills should I do before playing a match?" There are two answers to this question. The first relates to stretching exercises, the second to practice drills.

It is a sound practice to stretch the muscles prior to engaging in heavy exercise, thereby decreasing the chance of muscle strains or tears. A common mistake among club players is to enter the court at the beginning of an hour reservation, hit the ball a few times and then begin to play a full speed, vigorous game of racquetball. This is the normal way to begin a match for many players because of the pressure brought about by the time factor.

However, watching most people toward the conclusion of the hour reveals that they are fatigued and not concentrating on the game. Why not spend the first 10 minutes of the hour in proper preparation for the next 50?

To begin with, stretch and loosen the body's large muscle groups, specifically the legs, back and upper body. It is important to emphasize that muscle groups be stretched slowly and without jerky motions or bobbing-type actions which may cause tearing of muscle fibers.

Try to delegate the first five minutes on the court to stretching, or better yet, if you arrive early to play, do the exercises outside the court.

Everyone is familiar with calisthenics from physical education classes and rather than recommending specific exercises, let it be generally said that you should stretch the muscle groups that are most used while playing.

The second phase of pre-match drill involves the execution of practice shots. Ideally, the drills and shots

used prior to playing resemble the shots a player would use in a game situation to aid in establishing rhythm and co-ordination of the strokes.

Spend five minutes of practice on the most common strokes used in a game and five minutes on strokes that are your weaknesses. Many players spend practice time only on their strong shots while warming up,—neglecting their weaknesses.

Yet, the only way to feel comfortable with a shot that is difficult is to go through a process of repetition with that particular shot until you can relax and execute it in a game situation to your advantage.

One must realize that in a practical approach to pre-match drills, a player is practicing specific shots repetitively. In actual play, when the most logical shot to take presents itself, the only thing left to do is properly execute the stroke.

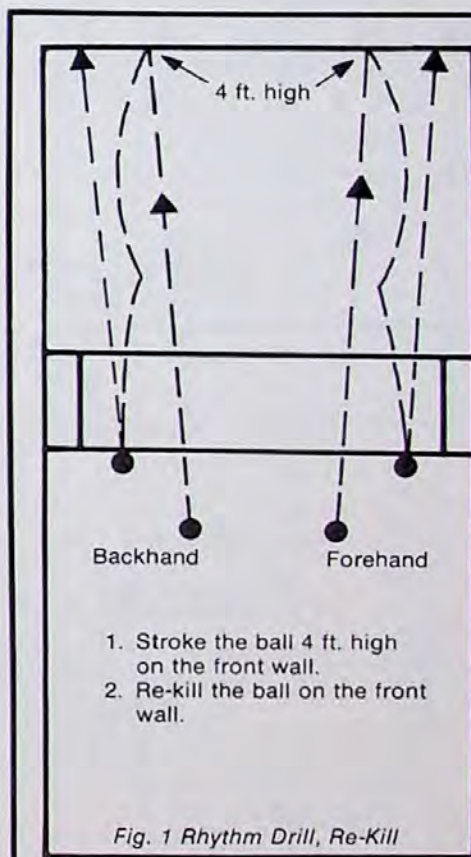
Let us assume that this shot presents itself five times during a match and when it does you want to make the shot successfully a high percentage of the time. If you have spent practice time on the shot, you will have the confidence and relaxation required to perform well.

The drills and practice techniques described in the following diagrams are used by one or more of the top pros or are those that I have found helpful for the players of all levels because they are fundamentally sound.

Note that all drills on the forehand side should be finished first before switching to the backhand side or vice versa. Strokes should be practiced one at a time unless otherwise indicated. Of course, on kill shots the ball can strike the side

wall before hitting the front wall. The drills are designed for two people on the same court at the same time to derive the maximum number of strokes in the minimum amount of time.

In *Figure 1* a good rhythm drill is depicted. It requires that the player hit himself a half-speed, set-up shot about four feet high on the front wall, then kill the ball on the front wall. Repeat the drill at least 10 times.



The back wall kill in *Figure 2* requires that the ball be stroked six to eight feet high on the front wall from center court position with enough force to cause the ball to rebound off the back wall. The player should follow the ball back, set up, and stroke the ball low to the front wall. Remember that the earlier you can set up for the back wall shot, the more time you will have to ready yourself for the rebound and to execute the stroke without being rushed.

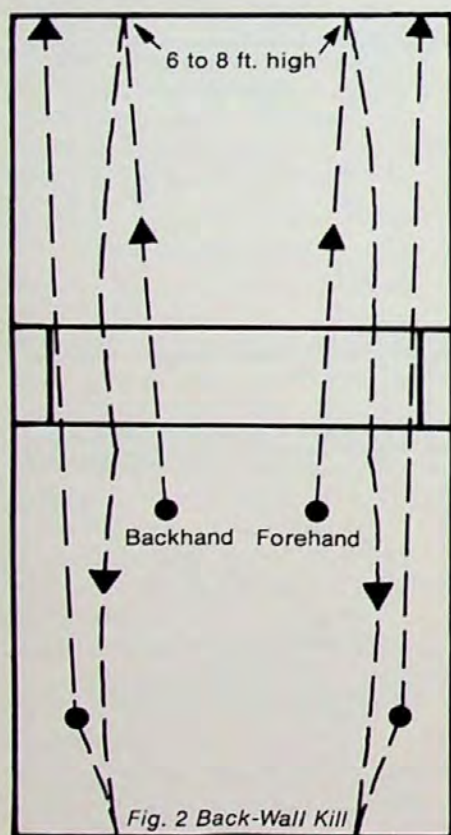


Fig. 2 Back-Wall Kill

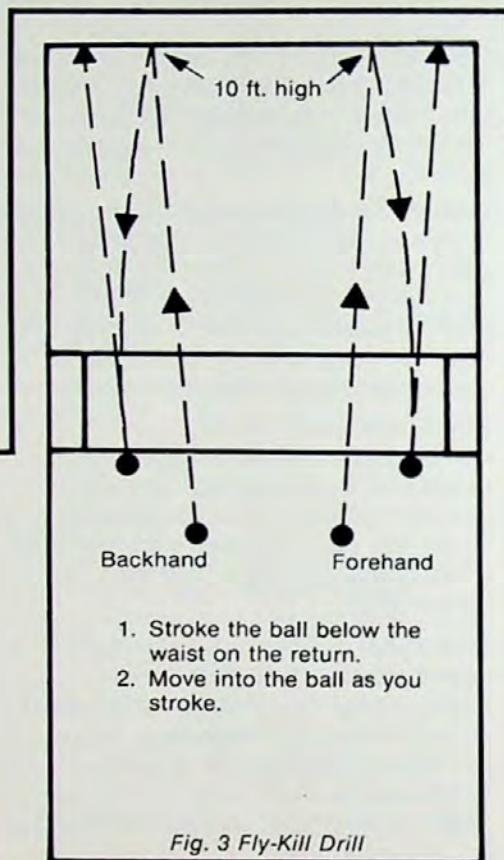


Fig. 3 Fly-Kill Drill

In *Figure 3* a very important shot, the fly kill is demonstrated. The ball is hit approximately 10 feet high on the front wall and stroked below the waist and killed on the front wall. Emphasis should be placed on moving into the ball prior to contact.

The pass shot in *Figure 4* is a continuous drill requiring that the player control the ball down either side wall by repetitively stroking the ball approximately three to six feet high on the front wall. Avoid striking the side wall with the ball before it hits the front wall or it will rebound to center court.

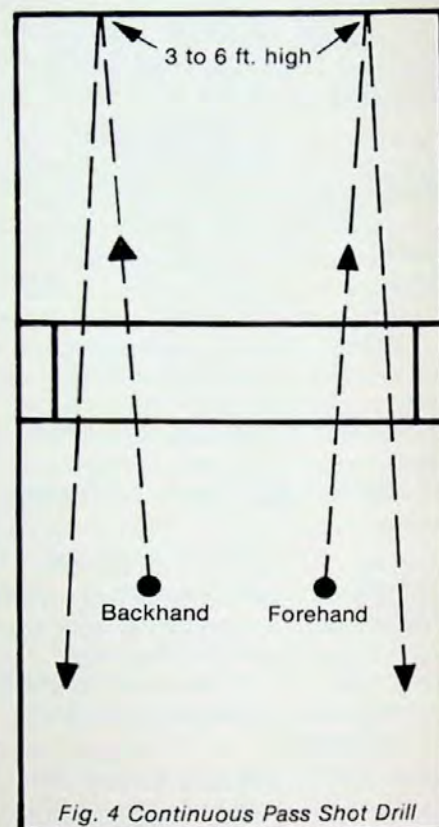
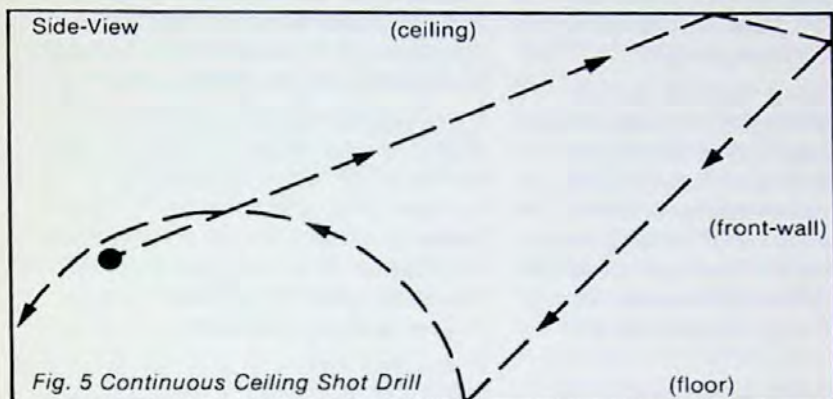


Fig. 4 Continuous Pass Shot Drill

The ceiling shot drill in *Figure 5* is a continuous drill in which the player constantly hits ceiling shots to



himself trying to keep the ball hugging the side wall and deep in the court without rebounding off the back wall. Emphasize control without swinging too hard; a common error for beginning or intermediate players is wasting effort on the overhead ceiling shot.

In summary, let me point out that these are simple drills and not the only ones that can be used to warm-up; any shot used in a game can be isolated and practiced individually anywhere from 10 times to 500 times if one has the time or desire to do so. In my opinion, a combination of practice alone on all shots, especially ones that are weaknesses, as well as constant play and competition, are the way to improve rapidly in racquetball.

Repeating a stroke correctly over and over will eventually allow a player to feel comfortable to use that shot in game situations. You should be aware, however, that it is

far different to practice shots while casually warming up as opposed to the same shots under the stress, fatigue and rapid movement which are match conditions.

It has been my observation as a teaching professional that a player will not improve his backhand, for example, only through playing. Practice alone or before a match, especially with supervision, is the prerequisite for obtaining a sound, well-rounded game. It is also important to mention that while practicing or playing, concentration must first be given to the ball and secondly to the feeling and positioning of the racquet. The body will react to both.

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Part III

How To Referee

The toughest calls in racquetball are the hinder and avoidable hinder. All other refereeing decisions are cut and dried, —either the ball skipped or it didn't, the ball was short or not, or the "get" was on one bounce or two. The hinder and avoidable hinder calls are entirely referee's judgment and it is the manner in which these calls are made that separates the good referees from the bad.

In addition, with the advent of linesmen to most major tournament officiating, the pressure of skips, shorts and double bounces is eased tremendously from the shoulders of the referee. He can then turn the bulk of his concentration to hinder calls.

What is a hinder? The rules say a player is entitled to a clear and unobstructed view and path to the ball. A simple statement that through our game's evolution has become one of the most muddled and misinterpreted rules of racquetball.

Hinder calls boil down to when the referee should call the hinder and when he should let the play go. All players want "their" shot, however, and part of the hinder problem occurs when there is a partial obstruction, either with view or with path to the ball.

As referee in a situation of partial obstruction, it is wise to let the play go. If the player holds up his swing, or obviously is distracted then the hinder call should be made. If you as referee, did not feel the obstruction justified a hinder, DO NOT allow the player an option to accept the winning shot if good, or take the hinder if bad. If the

obstruction is borderline and the player feels it is substantial enough he should hold his swing.

In most instances like the above, the player will want that shot. What usually happens is that during the preceding shots of the rally, one player has outmaneuvered his opponent to a point of having the winning shot at hand. He should be given his opportunity to end the rally, even if there is a partial hinder.

A similar situation to this is when there is fast and furious action in center court and one player drives the ball directly back at his opponent. If both players are stationed near each other, there may be a momentary hinder if the ball passes close to the body of one player. If his opponent wants to go for a fly shot, then a hinder would be the call.

However, most players will want to take this shot off the back wall and they should be allowed to do so, unless the obstruction is so great that the player was frozen. Often in this situation the action happens so fast that it is almost impossible for the referee to verbalize the hinder call before the player is already on his way to taking the back wall shot. To call a hinder as he sets up for this "plum" is poor refereeing.

Another tough hinder call is the play in which Player A executes a pass down either wall. Player B attempts to retrieve the shot and collides with player A. Of course, B wants a hinder. This is entirely the referee's judgment and another difficult call. The criteria for your decision must be 1) Could Player B have gotten to the shot? 2) Did the shot come off the back wall enough to have allowed Player B to

retrieve it?, and 3) Did Player B alter his course and create the collision or near-collision himself to try and get the hinder call?

If the answer to numbers 1 or 2 above is yes, then a hinder is the correct call. If the answer to number 3 is yes, then no hinder has occurred. It is your judgment as referee as to the "gettability" of the shot, which determines if a hinder occurred or not.

The same holds true on attempted kill shots. If Player A goes for the bottom board, but blocks Player B as he follows through, Player B cannot receive a hinder if the ball was not retrieveable in the referee's opinion. If the ball was not killed, and in the referee's opinion could have been returned, then a hinder is appropriate.

In these type of circumstances, the benefit of the doubt must be given to the player who has been hindered.

Another hinder call that is sometimes difficult is the safety hinder, where a player will stop his swing and not even hit the ball, claiming that he would have hit his opponent had he swung. In cases like this, the player must be given the benefit of the doubt, and only in incidences when it is obviously not an injury risk, should the hinder not be allowed. If a player is willing to risk not swinging at a ball he easily could have retrieved, then in almost all cases he will get the hinder.

A celebrated example of this call not being made occurred in the semi-finals of this season's Aurora Pro-Am when Charlie Brumfield held up his swing, and I did not

grant him the hinder, because I felt, there was no safety factor involved. Charlie felt otherwise, and was quite vociferous about it. That's what refereeing is all about,—on any particular call, only 50 per cent of the players on the court will be in agreement with you.

Consistency is the mark of a good referee, and the most important part of your efforts to call a good match is the consistency with which you make your decisions. Players will, after a while, become comfortable with your style and they will instinctively know how you interpret the hinder balls, after you have made one or two calls. However, if you call a hinder in one situation and let an almost identical situation pass later without a hinder call, then the players will have difficulty and you will too.

Many people still think that avoidable hinders mean intentional hinders. Far to the contrary a very small percentage of avoidable hinders are intentional. The rules say that all intentional hinders are avoidable, but that all avoidables need not be intentional.

The avoidable hinder rules were covered in great detail in the September, 1974 issue of *National Racquetball*. My only recommendation at this juncture is that you not be afraid to call avoidables, but that you use the power to make the call, with discretion. An avoidable

hinder call can change the psychological momentum of a match at any given time, so be careful.

In the past few years, largely through better quality refereeing on the national level, many more avoidable hinders have been called. It is not a call that can be taken lightly, and it is one that should be used sparingly. If the avoidable occurs, you must call it. If you do not, other avoidables will occur and then others and within a short time you will have lost control of the match.

But be careful. An avoidable hinder call in a situation that was not avoidable, can create a nasty atmosphere on the court.

In summary, be tough, but be fair. The hinder and avoidable hinder rules are there to protect the player who for whatever reason, is not given a fair chance at the ball. As referee, it is up to you to see that he is given that chance.



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Keeleyisms

Note: *The latest word on Steve Keeley's upcoming book, It's A Racquet! is it is written, re-written and now "festering" in the limbo stage awaiting the author's final effort toward publication. The book, aptly illustrated by Jan Campbell, is historical and anecdotal rather than instructional. This project has been idling because Keeley has been writing a purely instructional book, The Complete Book of Racquetball, D.B.I. Books, Inc., Northfield, Illinois. The text is primarily instructional and recently hit the market with 50,000 copies.*

If you can't play the game, at least "take five" to digress into its communicative network. From outa the voicebox and offa the tongue—look out hackers, here it comes! Peruse more verbose offerings in an endless potpourri of racquetball **KEELEYISMS!** Illustrations by Jan Campbell.

21-x. Normally, racquetball box scores read something like Willie Makit 21, Sammy Strate 20. This translates Makit downs Strate 21-20 in a single game of racquetball. So where does the "x" in 21-x come in?

Well, Daniel Webster defines "x" as "an unknown quantity. An arbitrary value from the domain of a variable . . ." Therefore, 21-x signifies 21 to who-knows-what.

Do not snicker. This "x" concept burst into reality at the 1973 National Tournament in St. Louis. This is a story which should not be penned but rather played on a gypsy violin accompanied by appropriate sobbing.

Charlie Brumfield had edged Steve Serot in the upper bracket semi-finals and in the bottom half, I had squeaked by Bill Schmidtke. The energetic, young, whipper-snapper Serot, quickly rebounded from his defeat and went off alone into a court to practice his stinging kill shots; while repeating aloud "every day in every way I'm getting better and better."

On the other hand, the grizzled veteran Schmidtke followed up his defeat by going off by himself and downing a copious amount of an agreeable liquid, while letting fly many self-directed comments such as "Doggone it, Bill!" "You Stink!" "Just Give It Up!"

So it was Serot vs. Schmidtke in the play-off for third place bright and early the next morning. Serot was jazzed. Adrenalin coursed rampant through his bloodstream as he screamed words of self-encouragement and jumped around the court as though chased by a herd of drugged-crazed alligators.

But Schmidtke was not so jazzed. Pure ethanol from last night's refreshments dripped sluggishly in his blood vessels as he lolled here and meandered there in the court. The two-time national champ could only muster a sickly grin-and-bear expression while Steve commenced a barrage of aces to begin the match.

A juggernaut march to 21 then ensued: 8-0, 12-0, 16-0, 18-0, and finally the chagrin reached the point of intolerance 20-0. No more of this for the former champ.

"I quit," slurped Schmidtke, as he staggered toward the door. He exhaled with every breath.

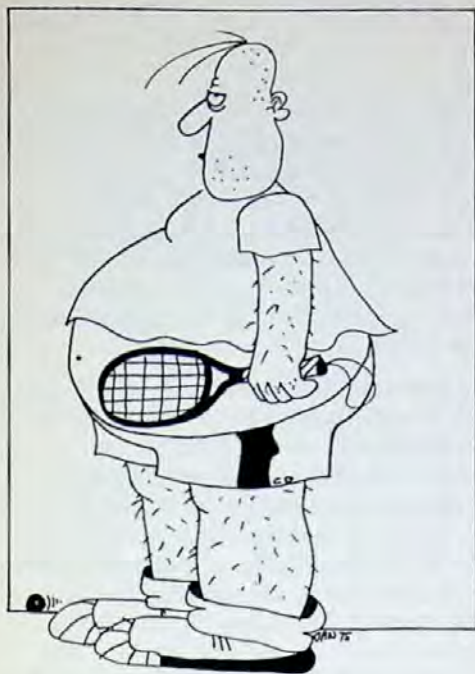
"You can't quit!" answered Serot, serving the ball.

The sphere hit in deep court and fell untouched. Bill stood at the court exit and reiterated his position.

"I quit," he emphasized. And he just continued to stand there, eyes-semi-glazed and smirking at the agitated Serot, who resembled a little kid who just had his donut taken away. I reckon Schmidtke looked kinda like Davey Crockett grinning down a tol'able, orn'ry bear.

Serot served out the game, all services unanswered, and to this day the score stands 21-x.

The "amoeba man" is the most plodding of all court creatures.



Amoeba Man. This hapless court chap has been referred to in previous issues as the three-toed sloth, and the turtle. As they are apt to say about these players back in my home state of Michigan, "He's slower than molasses in an air-conditioned court."

If, during a match, your opponent suddenly pats you condescendingly on the back and simpers, "Nice try, amoeba man," you should sock him right in the face with one of your pseudopods. This is the most cutting of all court insults.

An amoeba is a microscopic protozoan possessing a basically formless structure. It moves about by extending a viscous mass called a pseudopod and then by pulling the rest of its body after the pseudopod. Thus, it locomotes like a squashed inch-worm.

Box Theory. A teaching, practice and/or game aid whereby the player utilizes an actual or imagined box at which he directs his kill shots or serves. This fantasized or actual box provides a *general*, rather than an exact target area.

By way of analogy, pretend you are standing in rear court armed with a bow-and-arrow and are trying to hit a quarter taped to the front wall. Your arrows scatter asunder as you try to scope in on a ridiculously minute bullseye. Now, pretend you are standing in rear court and are trying to hit a quarter taped in the

middle of a paper plate, all stuck to the front wall. Not only will your arrows funnel into the paper plate area, many will hit the quarter. The box theory works similarly.

On corner *kill shots*, put the ball through a one foot square box (use an actual box in practice, imagine one in play), sitting in the front corner. On *garbage serves*, bounce the ball into the top of a three foot square box sitting in the rear corner. On *low, drive serves*, put the ball through that three foot square box. Aim for generalized targets and you will hit more specific bullseyes.

Center court. Some define this as that floor area of the court starting from the front service line and extending posteriorly (toward the back wall) to about four feet behind the second short line. Specifically, it is the floor area described by a circle which has its center in the middle of the service box—midway between the side walls and half way from the front service and short lines.

The player who maintains center court control usually emerges the victor, just as the chess player who controls the center squares of the board commands that game.

Controller. A conservative player whose game strategy revolves around moving his opponent around the court with many passes and defensive shots. The success of the controller hinges upon his ability to hold down center court position. (As opposed to a pure shooter.) For example, Charlie Brumfield and Steve Strandemo are controllers.

Crotch. Anatomical area of the racquetball court from which spurt myriad freak and tweak balls. It is the juncture of two playing surfaces, usually applied to the front wall-floor and the back wall-floor junctures. For example, a crotch kill shot or crotch serve.

Technically, a crotch kill is a skip ball and a crotch serve is a side out (on the front wall). Realistically, there is no such thing as a crotch ball, just as there is no such thing as a perfect roll out with bilch bounce. A crotch ball, while

indistinguishable to the human eye, must hit the wall or the floor initially, but it would take a microscope to decide which. So, play such questionable shots over.

Cut-throat. A racquetball game with three players. Each person during his serve plays and scores against the other two. Synonym: triples. Recommendation: Negative. Eschew the madness which combines the worst aspects of singles with the worst aspects of doubles. Every cut-throat game ever played seemed to be against two northwest gorilla types who had helicopter wind-ups and roundhouse follow-throughs. My major objective was not to outscore my simian rivals, but rather to slink to the safety of the nearest side wall.

Do not confuse cut-throat with one-on-two. The latter contest involves three players, but one person versus the other two as a team for the entire game. As an additional handicap, the singles player may have only one serve to the team's two.

Five foot rule. The receiver(s) of service must stand at least five feet behind the short line. (This is or is supposed to be indicated by a three inch vertical line on the side walls.) Also, the receiver(s) cannot return the ball until it passes the short line. In making a fly return, no part of the receiver's body or racquet may enter into the service zone (the short line or anterior). A violation of any of these rules results in a point for the server.

Handy-wipe. (For lack of a better term). The small (approximately six by 12 inches) towel a player partially stuffs into his shorts for when the gun hand or racquet handle becomes sweaty. The handy-wipe is a good alternative to the glove and wristband in remedying the slippery palm syndrome. Synonym: mini-towel (for lack of a better synonym).

Half-volley. To stroke the ball on the short hop off the floor. This is the test shot for potential spasticity which I give to all my new court

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students. Some of the pros cannot pass the half-volley spasticity exam, much less the hackers.

Half-and-half. The most common means of dividing court responsibilities between two players of a doubles team. Here, an imaginary line is drawn down the middle of the court (from front to back walls) with one player covering most balls on the right side, his partner covering most shots to the left. Synonym: side-by-side.

Hierarchy. In racquetball, the division of players according to skill. This classification in tournament is usually alphabetical. The novice or C rank player who wins a C tournament must participate as a B player in all future competitions. The average, or B player becomes an A upon winning a B tournament. Some states or locales rule that finalists or even semi-finalists in some cases must move up the hierarchy.

Hierarchy by court slang is more descriptive, perhaps more familiar. The lower ranking *rubber pushers* and *weekend hackers* gain nomenclature status with experience and become upper echelon *big wigs* and *pros*.

You can always distinguish between a *rubber pusher* and a *pro*. Upon hitting a lucky freak ball, the former freezes in dripped-jaw astonishment and apologizes profusely. Upon hitting the same shot, the latter raises a singular eyebrow and struts sanctimoniously toward the service box as though he were entering a scummy public restroom only out of perfunctory biological necessity.

Hospitality room. The free grub room for all tournament participants is indigenous to our four-walled sport. This subtle effort by the wives and girl friends of the tournament committee to appease the first and second round losers must be commended. The main course often is racquetball hash, a

"stomach pump food which goes best with voluminous amounts of water, or energy drink, or both."

Whether or not the eats are palatable, in the typical hospitality room 10% of the players eat 90% of the food. Synonyms: the losers trough, the grunt-a-rama, the puke-and-choke cubicle.

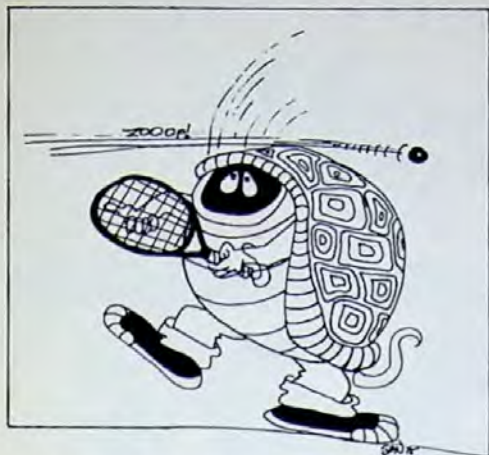
Gamesmanship: Use of unusual strategic tactics to secure points or psychological advantage. For example, the verbal psyche-out ("Boy, your backhand stinks today, doesn't it?"), crowding, intentional long serves, stalling tactics (wiping up a dry floor, for example), bickering. The all-time guru of gamesmanship is our incumbent national champ, also known as the court world's Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Brumfield.

Gravity Ball. An attempted kill shot whose air speed approaches that of a falling leaf. In fact, the ball travels so slowly the force of gravity causes it to rapidly lose altitude en route to the front wall... skip ball. As Elmer Einstein, our local Y.M.C.A. champ expounds, "The horizontal force vector provided by the racquet is less than, and eventually is overcome by, the vertical force vector provided by gravity. Therefore, the sphere hits the hardwood before the plaster." Some say the gravity ball travels so slowly the logo may easily be discerned:
S - E - A - M - C - O.

Gym strip. A term I hear frequently in Canada in reference to gym clothes.

I-formation. One means of dividing court responsibilities between two players of a doubles team. Here, an imaginary line is drawn to equally split the front and back courts. One player covers shots to the front and his partner does the same on balls to the back. Synonym: front-and-back.

None can hide from racquetball's "inner game."



Inner game. Every racquetball game has its inner and outer facets. The inner game concerns the mental aspects: confidence, concentration, choking. Synonym: cerebral racquetball.

Interval training. Rigorous method of physical training where periods of stress are interrupted by rest intervals for partial recovery. For example, sprint 50 yards, jog 20, sprint 50 . . . Repeat this 30 times. If it sounds terribly toilsome, it is. If it sounds terribly beneficial, it is. You end up feeling as though you just crawled out of a centrifuge. Recommended for 15-year-old and under physical studs or members of the Justice League of America.

Jill Strap. Female counter-garment to the male supporter.

Northwest gorilla ball. The mis-directed photon or the uncontrolled flail. The objective is power, not accuracy. I picked up this term at a Portland, Oregon clinic/exhibition where there seems to be a preponderance of northwest gorillas. You know the type.

Beware of the "northwest gorillas."



He has the philosophy of Popeye and the mentality of Sweet Pea. That massively muscled caterpillar brain who plods into the service box thinking, "Duh . . . I am going to drop da little ball and hit a low drive serve, just like I seen at da clinic." And as the boob drops the ball, windmills his backswing and steps into the serve, his slow-flowing mental stream changes course.

"Duh . . . I think I'll hit a high soft lob instead of a low, hard drive." And the racquet wielding ape wallaps a high, hard drive that zooms at warp 10 over the back wall. Be thankful the incidence of northwest gorillas within our racquetball population is low.

Odor hinder. Self-explanatory. A tactic not to be sniffed at.

Offensive theory of play. Certain school of strategic thought which advocates unleashing offensive rather than defensive shots whenever feasible. The offensive theory proponent's first thought on any set-up is to administer the most offensive shot,—the kill. If he is out of position or leery of his opponent's court coverage ability, it doesn't matter. His second thought is the second most offensive shot,—(the pass. Only if he is psyched-out, dogged-out, or slipping on a wet spot does the third most offensive thought enter his mind,—a defensive shot (usually ceiling ball).

Whether they realize it or not, such players as Steve Serot, Marty Hogan, Jerry Hilecher and northwest gorillas flail in accordance to the offensive theory of play.

One-grip system. Method of grasping the racquet handle with the same grip for both forehand strokes. Common among club hackers; infrequently utilized by better players. It often causes undesirable slicing (backspin) on the backhand. (As opposed to the two-grip system.)

Outer game. Every racquetball game has its inner and outer facets. The outer game concerns the physical aspects: positioning, court coverage, shot making.

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EXTRA

General News

Terry Fancher Newest Member of U.S.R.A. Staff

The U.S. Racquetball Association is pleased to announce the addition of Terry Fancher, 28 to its staff as National Executive Coordinator.

Fancher, who wrote the five-part *History of Racquetball* series that appeared in *National Racquetball* magazine this past season, is a veteran racquetballer in education, theory and practice.

He is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin where he earned his Bachelor of Arts and Masters degree in physical education.

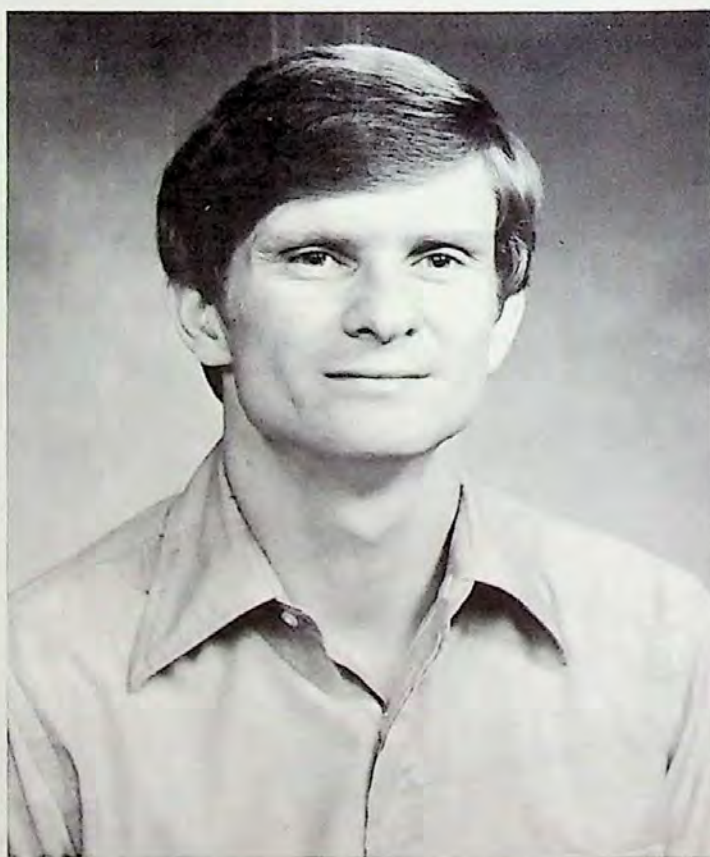
Since graduation he has been employed by The Court House Sports Clubs, a chain of racquetball/handball clubs based in the Chicago area. There he concentrated on the teaching and management phase of the court club business.

Terry's primary function will be the co-ordination

and communication with U.S.R.A. state associations. An excellent player, he will use his abilities to write instructional material for *National Racquetball*, stage clinics throughout the nation, and in general cover the racquetball scene.

"We are certainly happy and proud to be able to add somebody of Terry's ability and background," said U.S.R.A. president Bob Kendler. "We are certain Terry will be a big asset to our organization and we are expecting great things from him."

"Terry's work with the state associations is vitally important for the future of the game," added Kendler. "Our goal is to organize 50 state associations and get them all working together for the betterment of racquetball. Terry's role will be to fill the communication and



guidance gap that has existed between the national organization and the states."

For any information relative to your state organization, please feel free to contact Terry at the U.S.R.A. headquarters.

O. J. Simpson has found a new, fun way to keep in shape during the off-season. It's racquetball, fastest growing amateur sport in the nation.

Giving O. J. a few tips on court strategy is Denny Hoyle, vice president and general manager of the California Way Health and Racquetball Club. Simpson, a part-owner of the \$1 million facility, and Hoyle were on hand recently to welcome members to a pre-opening party for the new club, scheduled to open in July.

California Way, located at 33 N. Lake Street in Pasadena, is a unique club combining 10 racquetball courts, a completely equipped health spa and extensive recreational and social facilities. The club will be open to both men and women members on an every-day basis from seven in the morning until midnight.



Souvenir Shirt Problem Now Solved

The United States Racquetball Association and National Racquetball Club would like to apologize on behalf of themselves as well as pro-am tour sponsors Leach Industries and Seamco Sporting Goods to those few players who did not receive souvenir shirts this season.

As tournament goes can imagine, the logistics of obtaining, imprinting and shipping the necessary number of shirts to the many, many tournaments each season, can become an expensive and difficult proposition. The great number of tournaments, coupled

with late entries and late entry deadlines, made it impossible to accommodate all players at every event.

The costs and manpower to go back and re-order, re-print, and reship a few shirts out of thousands of participants is just prohibitive.

The souvenir shirt problem, we are happy to announce, has been alleviated for next season. At all pro tour events, entry forms will include a space for the player to mark the size shirt he or she desires, thereby ensuring the correct number of each size for distribution. Also, any

late entries will not be guaranteed a shirt, and in virtually every case, will forfeit their right to a shirt.

This policy, it is expected, will not only solve the souvenir shirt problem, but will also aid tournament committees by having the entrants more responsible in sending their entry fees and forms in on time.

Once again, we regret any inconvenience you may have encountered in the past,—and we look forward to serving you in the future.

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SkyHarbor Court Club has named Jean Sauser head pro, in charge of all teaching and programming at the Northbrook, Illinois racquetball facility.

Twenty-five-year-old Sauser is responsible for tournaments, inter-club league play, SkyHarbor's youth excellence program, free clinics, films and private, semi-private and group lessons. Sauser joined SkyHarbor's staff when the club opened in September, 1975, at 3175 Commercial avenue.

Sauser finished among the top four women in the recent N.R.C. (National Racquetball Club) Pro Racquetball championships held in San Diego, where she co-anchored the women's finals for television. During 1975-76 the SkyHarbor pro ranked among the top women money-earners on the national racquetball circuit.

SkyHarbor recently expanded its Northbrook operation to 12 courts and will open a Highland Park facility in late fall of 1976.

Amateur Prize Limit Increased to \$500

Effective immediately, the U.S.R.A. has announced it will prohibit any player from playing U.S.R.A.-sanctioned amateur events if that player has won \$500 or more in prize money in the past 12 calendar months. The \$500 is \$300 more than was allowed amateurs this past season.

"The reason for raising the limit," said N.R.C. Business Manager Joe Ardito, is that we are offering substantially more money on the pro tour this season. Amateurs who make the round of 16 shouldn't be penalized. They aren't full-time pros.

"We want to protect the amateurs as much as we can," continued Ardito, "but these weekend players who want a shot at the pros should be allowed that, too."

The rule applies to both men and women.

Book Review

Fundamentals of Racquetball, An avoidable Hinder

By Terry Fancher

Fundamentals of Racquetball, by Jim Rich, edited by Jack G. Pirkey, Ph.D. and William M. Bishop. Kendall-Hunt Publishing Company, Dubuque, Iowa, 1975, \$2.25.

This book is described as an aid to the beginning and intermediate player to help improve "all facets" of the game of racquetball. The style of writing is generally description of techniques used in the game, which comprises only 17 of the book's 49 total pages. In a book on fundamentals, this is an inexcusable lack of information. At best, this work is barely adequate for beginners only.

In terms of information, only the most basic techniques of the various racquetball strokes and shots are taught; pictures

are confined only to the grip, forehand and backhand strokes and the backwall shot. Other basic shots are described in one paragraph normally, and along with a total of eight diagrams the reader is simply not supplied with enough ammunition to fortify or improve upon his game.

The section entitled "playing hints" is composed of three paragraphs. The information on technique is essentially correct, but sketchy.

In general, in **Fundamentals Of Racquetball** it appears that the research on the fundamentals and strokes is inadequate; the author should have consulted someone well-versed and currently active in the game to supply the latest trends in the sport,

specifically relating to racquet and ball selection, practice drills, advanced shots, more complete strategy, and better sequence action photos.

In summary, I would hesitate to recommend this book to anyone with a serious intention of improving his or her performance in racquetball. One-half of the work consists of a glossary, rules and a short racquetball quiz. The price of \$2.25 is just too much, —\$1.00 would be more appropriate.

My feeling is that "how to" books of this nature are bad for the sport of racquetball. Either the author should make a legitimate attempt at some serious research on the subject or make no attempt at all.

The tabulation is finally completed for the Reader Demographic Survey which ran in the January issue of *National Racquetball*. The response was overwhelming and we thank all of you who took the time to answer the questionnaire. Here then, is what the average racquetball player is all about. (Percentages totaling more than 100% are due to multiple answers.)

Number of years played.		Scotch	16%	Credit Cards used.	Couple and two children	21%	
Less than one year	23%	Bourbon	9.5%	American Express	44%	Couple and three children	7%
One-two years	23%	Vodka	10%	BankAmericard	51%	Couple and four children	5%
Two-five years	48%	Gin	10%	Master Charge	58%	Couple and five children	2%
10 or more years	6%	Don't indulge	18%	Carte Blanche	5%	Couple and six children	1%
Frequency of play.		Does your club have an alcoholic bar.		Diners Club	15%	Age of adult male head of household.	
Every day	11%	Yes	17%	Oil Company	63%	20 years old or less	none
Three times a week	67%	No	84%	None	11%	21 to 25 years	8%
Once a week	18%	Is there an alcoholic bar nearby?		Primary residence.		26 to 30 years	18%
Irregularly	4%	Yes		Homeowner	67%	31 to 40 years	34%
Other family members who play.		No		Apartment rental	21%	41 to 50 years	15%
Spouse	25%	No		Home rental	7%	51 to 60 years	21%
Son(s)	12%	No answer		Condominium	5%	Over 60	4%
Daughter(s)	4%	Cigarette smoking patterns.		Population of primary residence.		Age of adult female head of household.	
None	67%	Two or more packs per day		Suburb of major metropolitan area	31%	20 or less	14%
Where you play.		One pack per day		City 250,000 or more	23%	21 to 25	24%
Membership club	53%	Occasionally		City 250,000 to 50,000	23%	26 to 30	24%
Y.M.C.A.	37%	Never smoke		Town 50,000 or less	16%	31 to 40	6%
School or University	18%	Magazine readership.		Rural area	7%	41 to 50	9%
Public Courts	7%	Sports Illustrated		Adult male income producing classification.		No Response	23%
Military Installations	5%	Reader's Digest		Professional	38%	Male adult educational level reached.	
J.C.C.	3%	Time		Executive	26%	College graduate	43%
Park District	3%	Wall Street Journal National Geographic		Self-employed	11%	Graduate school graduate	22%
Locate courts on business trips.		Ladies Home Journal		Managerial	11%	Some college or junior college	20%
Yes	61%	Playboy		Laborer	6%	High school graduate	8%
No	34%	TV Guide		Supervisory	4%	More than graduate school	3%
No answer	5%	Newsweek		Clerical	1%	No Response	4%
Monthly court time costs.		Good Housekeeping		No Answer	4%	Female adult educational level reached.	
\$2-5	15%	Business Week		Adult female income producing classification.		College graduate	33%
\$5-10	12%	McCalls		Professional	25%	Some graduate school	31%
\$10-25	24%	U.S. News & World Report		Clerical	11%	Graduate school graduate	17%
\$25 or more	21%	Money		Executive	9%	Some college or junior college	17%
None or No Answer	28%	Fortune		Managerial	9%	Only high school graduate	2%
Will racquetball be an on going sport for you.		All others less than 10%.		Supervisory	4%	Adult who completed questionnaire.	
Yes	98%	Primary means of family vacation travel.		Sales	4%	Male	82%
No	1%	Automobile		None	31%	Female	9%
Uncertain	1%	Airlines		Combined family annual income.		Male and female co-operatively	9%
Soft drink consumption.		Airlines and rental car		\$100,000 or more	4%		
Sugar content	33%	Seldom travel		\$75,000 to \$100,000	2%		
No sugar content	46%	No Answer		\$50,000 to \$75,000	5%		
Don't indulge	21%	Primary means of business travel.		\$30,000 to \$50,000	26%		
Can you get your soft drink preference at your club.		Airlines		\$20,000 to \$30,000	28%		
Yes	45%	Automobile		\$15,000 to \$20,000	14%		
No	41%	Airlines and rental car		\$10,000 to \$15,000	13%		
No answer	14%	Seldom travel on business		\$10,000 or less	8%		
Preference in alcoholic beverages.				Household make-up.			
Beer	30.5%			Single male	9%		
Wine	28%			Single female	5%		
				Couple only	33%		
				Couple and one child	17%		

California Way, a unique new club combining 10 racquetball courts, a completely equipped health spa and extensive recreational facilities, will open on schedule in July, announced Hugh W. Horne, president of the firm.

Construction of the 23,000-sq.-ft. club, located at 33 N. Lake Street in Pasadena, is well underway, according to Horne.

All facilities at the \$1 million club will be open to both men and women on an every-day basis from early morning to late evening.

"We believe that Southern Californians who are trying to keep fit want more than a weight-filled gymnasium," says Horne. "They want a chance to stay in shape and have fun and good sport doing it. And they want an opportunity to meet new friends of both sexes, in a convivial setting."

Facilities for racquetball, the fastest growing amateur sport in the nation, will include two championship glass-walled viewing courts, six regulation courts and two practice courts. A pro shop will carry a full line of racquetball equipment and clothing. Lessons for beginners, intermediates and experts will be available from the club's resident pro.

The exercise complex will feature a complete range of body-building and muscle-toning equipment, steam room, sun lamps, jacuzzi and showers. Dressing rooms for men and women are spacious, with ample locker space.

Recreational amenities will include a large Club Room and snack bar, television lounge and an extensive activity area for card games, backgammon matches and electronic pub games.

Memberships in the new club are now being accepted at The California Way headquarters adjacent to 33 N. Lake Street in Pasadena. For further information, call 795-5906.



Denny Hoyle and Marilyn Dabich talk over plans for their first racquetball match in the new \$1 million California Way Health and Racquetball Club, shown in background. Hoyle is vice president and general manager of the 10 court facility, scheduled to open in July.

MISSION VIEJO

Construction has begun on the Saddleback Court Club, a private membership club located at Jeronimo Rd. and Taladro Circle in Mission Viejo.

The land is part of a 92-acre industrial park, being developed by the Mission Viejo Co. The site is directly across Jeronimo Rd., from the Burroughs Corporation computer systems plant.

The 18,000-square-foot club will include the following facilities:

- Ten championship handball—racquetball courts built to meet tournament specifications.
- Two courts will have glass back wall for viewing.
- Spectator viewing areas on mezzanine floor for all courts.
- Men's and Women's locker rooms including: lockers, jacuzzi spa, showers, rest area lounge, sauna, rest rooms, steam bath, grooming vanities, and cool-down pool.
- Weight and exercise room.
- Members lounge with TV, pool table, and game tables.
- Child care room with attendant.
- Juice bar.
- Outside running track on roof.
- Racquetball and Handball instruction.
- Equipment and workout clothing will be sold in the club.

VAN NUYS

One of the nation's largest racquetball/handball athletic clubs will open this fall in Van Nuys, California, according to an announcement by actor Wayne Rogers and Lewis N. Wolff, of Wolff-Seson Development Company, principals in the project.

Located adjacent to the Van Nuys Airport at 7030 Hayvenhurst Avenue, the Supreme Court Sports Club will feature 12 professional quality indoor racquetball/handball courts, steam room, sauna, jacuzzi, locker rooms, snack bar and pro shop. The club will also have a resident professional to assist players.

Supreme Court will be open to men and women on a membership priority basis and to non-members for an hourly charge.

"Not only will Supreme Court be a complete racquetball/handball club for residents of the San Fernando Valley, but it will offer the finest and most modern court construction available today," Wolff said. *"All courts will feature paneled playing surfaces, which are less susceptible to cracks and ball marks, and will meet the requirements of the most demanding racquetball and handball players."*

In addition, a viewing gallery will be located at the upper rear of each court. Women members will be

offered dance-exercise fitness courses, taught by experienced personnel.

The free-standing 20,000-square foot structure will be built by Warren Bradley of Bradley Construction, Woodland Hills, and Les Lazarus of Advanced Heating and Air Conditioning, North Hollywood, who also are involved in the project as partners together with Rogers, Wolff-Seson and Robert Gilman, C.P.A. of Tarzana.

Wolff-Seson Development Company, West Los Angeles, built the award-winning \$75 million Park Center Plaza in San Jose, a complete business and commercial center exceeding one million square feet. Wolff-Seson also built the highly successful Supreme Court Club in San Jose which opened last summer.

Wolff was formerly president of 20th-Century-Fox Realty and Development Company.

Rogers, the star of NBC-TV's one-hour series, *City of Angels*, is an active private real estate and financial investor and is involved with Wolff-Seson in the Pasadena Mall Financial Center.

Information about membership may be obtained by contacting Sandy at Wolff-Seson Development Company, 11110 Ohio Avenue, Los Angeles, 90025; (213) 477-3593.



Charter memberships are available at special savings to individuals, families, and companies.

A July 1, 1976 opening date is planned.

Artist rendering of Saddleback Court Club, Mission Viejo, California.

NEWPORT BEACH

The Newport Beach Sporting House is a 1.5 million dollar project being built in Newport Beach, California at the West end of the Irvine Industrial Park (3601 Jamboree Road). Completion is scheduled for September, 1976.

Rick Schliebe, General Partner of Sporting Houses of America, and Director of the Sporting Houses in Denver, Colorado, announced that the Newport Beach Club is the sixth in a planned chain of ten Sporting Houses which will be opened across the country.

Ground breaking ceremonies at the Newport Beach Sporting House included (l. to r.) James Parker, president, Newport Harbor Chamber of Commerce, Debbie Van Cleave, Miss Newport, touring professional Steve Strandemo, and general partner Rick Schliebe.

Features of the 34,000 sq. ft. facility include: 16 racquetball and handball courts; complete and separate health clubs for ladies and gentlemen, with steam, sauna, massage and walk-in whirlpools; fully equipped weight and exercise rooms; personal fitness and conditioning programs; cardiovascular testing by licensed physician; outdoor jogging track, 1500 lockers, sports shop, free nursery for babysitting; lounge with 24 sq. ft. color screen; open 7 days a week; free towel service, parking and no court fees; full-time pro instructors, free beginner lessons, guaranteed match service and challenge court, front glass wall exhibition court with 125 spectator seating; local, national and professional tournaments.

PALATINE

A fresh approach to racquet club design has been utilized at Forest Grove Swim and Racquet Club in Palatine, Ill. The industrial park, or the midtown area look, has given way to a club nestled in a forest preserve. As members drive down the lane to the main entrance, they pass lights camouflaged as tree timbers and outdoor tennis courts surrounded by a forest preserve. The swimming pool overlooks a pond where picnics are popular, and a huge picture window opens the co-ed whirlpool where the bathers feel like they are almost out of doors. The entire club is an architectural exercise in nature.

Forest Grove started out on a smaller scale than most clubs with four racquetball and four indoor tennis courts, this being done to promote the feeling of closeness in its members. "We tried to get away from the feeling that people have of . . . stop in, play the game for an hour and leave," says pro Jerry Anderson. "We adopted the logo line A Country Club for the Racquet Sports after careful consideration and questioning about what we really wanted the club to become. We try to learn each member's name, hoping to make them feel part of the club. It is our intention to make Forest Grove the most enjoyable racquet club in the Chicago area, hoping each member will want to join year after year."

The future plans for the summer activities are for more indoor tennis courts, a wet bar and a snack shop, monthly tennis parties and late night buffets which have proved popular in the past.

Community involvement is important at Forest Grove, and one of the promotions was a racquetball tournament between the local police and fire departments with the village president and the fire chief on hand to present the trophy to the winning team. In the meantime many of the policemen and firemen have developed an interest in the game of racquetball.

Another promotion done for charity which also gave the club some publicity was a racquetball



exhibition between TV newscaster Frank Mathie of Channel 7 (ABC) news and one of our pros.

Exercise has been an important program at Forest Grove. Mary Anne Kennedy, the exercise coordinator, has recently added two teachers to the staff and has a complete schedule of 22 classes with everything from Discodancing to mixed classes for husband and wife . . . This summer a new course in swimmetrics will be introduced which is a good way to introduce the members to the fun of exercise, and to the beauty of the outdoor facilities.

The grand opening of the outdoor facilities took place on May 16, and it was a perfect day for "showing off the club." A huge hot air balloon anchored behind the tennis courts drew passerbyers and the free rides entertained all as adults lined up as quickly as the children for this once in a lifetime opportunity. The outside courts were free and full and the swimming pool had a few brave people testing it against the cool May air. Former Cub baseball player Glenn Beckert was on hand to play racquetball. Music was provided at poolside with a live band from the local high school.

Once inside the club members are treated to a lodge like atmosphere . . . the fireside lounge overlooks the tennis and racquetball courts, and is the perfect place for an after the game drink or chat. The saunas, whirlpool, carpeted locker rooms and the exercise room with its mirrored wall and Universal gym, are the final touches which make Forest Grove a resort all year around.

Jerry Anderson, a lean sandy haired fellow from North Dakota, came to Forest Grove with a background heavy in tennis teaching experience. He has developed a program at Forest Grove which puts a great emphasis on teaching tennis to the young and starting

them off right. A graduate of Arizona State University, Jerry was elected one of the outstanding college athletes of 1969.

Family fun seems to be an important part of Forest Grove where many father and son, and mother and daughter teams are

starting out to play competitively with a racquetball tournament being scheduled for this summer.

Hopefully Forest Grove will become more than just an athletic business, but will also become an answer to family enjoyment and recreation in the Northwest suburbs of Chicago.

Nursery and tennis are all a part of the Forest Grove Racquet and Swim Club in Palatine, Illinois.



Glass Court Offers Challenge

A new luxury handball and racquetball club will open in Lombard, Illinois this fall. The Glass Court is located at 830 E. Roosevelt Rd., one half mile west of Westmore and Meyers.

For those not familiar with racquetball, it is a game easy to learn while offering all the nuances of strategy and proficiency available to tennis players—without a lot of ball chasing. In addition to being fun, racquetball has been proven to be one of the best forms of exercise available, burning off 800 calories per hour (second only to mountain climbing.)

This fall when construction is complete, the Glass Court will offer the ultimate in handball and racquetball facilities in accommodating the country's

fastest growing sport. The Glass Court has been designed to provide anyone from the beginner to the professional superior playing courts, comfortable surroundings, and professional, courteous service at attractive prices.

Facilities offered at the Glass Court include twelve A/C nationally sanctioned and approved handball and racquetball courts. One all-glass court is custom designed, surrounded by a spectator stadium with a seating capacity of approximately 280.

This main court will be the center of pro tour matches with the capability of TV broadcast origination. Three other glass courts surround the square foot "Wall Banger" lounge. The exhibit courts offer an excellent view of court play as you enjoy your

favorite drink and sandwich while relaxing with friends in front of the large, double-walled fireplace.

For these members who like to try their skill on the popular electronic games, there will be several, placed conveniently throughout the lounge and lobby.

Also located on the main level is the supervised nursery where the youngest Glass Court members will be cared for while the moms get their exercise.

The exclusive Glass Court pro shop will carry a full line of handball and racquetball equipment, apparel, and accessories.

The lower level of the facility houses the men and women's fully carpeted locker and shower areas. Each locker and shower area offers private sauna and whirlpool baths, fully equipped exercise rooms, water pic massaging showers and private dressing stalls.

Some of the services the Glass Court members will enjoy are free towel service, and the availability of a limited number of permanent lockers. A complete lesson program directed toward players of all ages and abilities, plus a full schedule of leagues, teams and challenge ladders will also be available.

Members will be able to take advantage of the supervised exercise programs and most important, all members will have first choice on stadium seats for exhibit and pre-tournament matches.

The first professional tournament is scheduled for November. This professional racquetball tournament is one of the richest on the pro tour. It is sure to attract the top names in the racquetball world. The Glass Court is very proud of the fact that it was chosen over all other clubs to be the site of this prestigious event.

For information on memberships or answers to any questions, contact The Glass Court, P.O. Box 292, Lombard.



THE GLASS COURT nearing completion on Roosevelt Rd., Lombard and when completed will offer handball courts, saunas, exercise rooms plus a cocktail lounge-restaurant facility which overlooks the courts. Application for a liquor license has been made to the liquor commission.

Latest Seminar Report Booklet Available

Full report of June 25-27 Sixth National Court Clubs Association Seminar-Meeting held at Chicago Marriott Hotel. Full agenda of presentations covering all aspects of the Court Club operations, planning, feasibility and construction. Available with individual membership in NCCA through 1976 for \$10. NCCA, 4101 Dempster St., Skokie, IL. 60076.

FT. LAUDERDALE

The Ft. Lauderdale Handball-Racquetball Club is now a reality at 5065 N.E. 13th Ave., Ft. Lauderdale, Florida 33334. The club, owned by Earl L. Brown includes eight, regulation racquetball/handball courts.

Featuring all of the necessary amenities and then some, the Ft. Lauderdale Handball-Racquetball Club also has exercise rooms; a Universal gym; saunas for both men and women; fully-equipped pro shop; and television lounge.

Rates are \$2.25 per person per hour. For further information call 305-491-8091.

FALMOUTH

In early March, Maine's only court club opened its doors for business. The five-court facility is the Down East Court Club, located at Rt. 1, Falmouth, Maine. The Down East Court Club is a joint venture between Ken Astor of Portland, and Peter Camplin of York, Maine.

The new club offers four racquetball/handball courts and one squash court, all climate controlled for year-around play. One of the racquetball/handball courts is a beautifully designed exhibition court with 16' glass panels on the back wall and 8' glass panels along one of its 40' side walls. The block-bonded and hard white plaster finished walls combined with maple strip flooring make these the finest and the fastest competitive courts available on the entire eastern seaboard.

The club's upper level features supervised, TV equipped nursery, pro shop and lounge. The beautiful glass-walled lounge area overlooks three of the courts and offers fireplace, intimate furnishing and good food and beverage. The lounge is the social center of the club with members dropping in for a drink and conversation or a lively game of backgammon.

The spacious carpeted locker rooms have saunas and whirlpools for both men and women and a

steam room for the men; both rooms have plenty of oversized lockers. Other locker room amenities include hot lather machines and hair dryers. The club also features a completely equipped and supervised exercise room. Members interested in exercise are given an exercise program designed for their individual needs. Diet and nutritional information and consultation are also available.

Private instruction in the court sports, group clinics, tournaments, exercise classes and social events round out the club's active programs. The Court Club Manager, Kevin York, offered some comments about the new club: *"The state of Maine has long needed a facility of this kind. It gives the people of the greater Portland area a place to enjoy America's fast growing court sports and relax in a posh, luxurious atmosphere. We've concentrated our efforts on building a totally member-oriented club, offering our clientele the very best in facilities, service and amenities."*

For a Court Club membership, rates are \$80.00 for an individual, \$100.00 for a husband and wife and \$10.00 for juniors. Court fees are \$4.00 (7 a.m. - 9 a.m.), \$5.00 (9 a.m. - 5 p.m.) and \$6.00 (5 p.m. - 10 p.m.). Permanent reserved court time is available at a reduced rate.

The aggressive Court Club team is planning a four court addition soon and is contemplating additional construction sites in the northeast.

If your future plans include a trip to Maine, you're invited to stop in and visit.



Whirlpool and exercise equipment of the new Down East Court Club, Falmouth, Maine.



TOURNAMENT RESULTS

California

3-Wall

Orange Coast College (California) coaches Barry Wallace and Bob Wetzel won major titles at the third annual Outdoor Three-Wall Racquetball Tournament held July 2-4 at OCC.

More than 280 players from across the nation took part in the three-day affair.

Wallace captured the open singles crown and Wetzel annexed the senior singles championship.

Wallace blitzed Davey Bledsoe of Memphis 21-17, 21-10 to win the open singles. It was Wallace's first national singles championship. He has won several state singles titles and has a national doubles crown to his credit.

Wetzel, who competed in the open singles for the last two years, moved up to the senior bracket and defeated defending champ Dr. Bud Muehleisen of San Diego in the finals. Wetzel stopped Muehleisen in an early round of the double-elimination bracket, but Muehleisen won the opening match in the finals, 11-21, 21-16, 21-15 to force a third match. Wetzel won that one easily, 21-10, 21-16, to take the title.

Wallace and Wetzel were upset victims in the open doubles. The defending open doubles national champs lost to Jim Carson and Rich Kossler in the finals, 12-21, 21-16, 21-12.

Martha Byrd upset defending champ Bette Weed in the finals of the women's singles, 21-6, 21-5.

Los Angeles

The Center Courts celebrated its first full year of racquetball with a members only tournament. For many it was their first tournament and the field of 100 was not gathered without some coaxing of the more hesitant. As one might expect, some of the more hesitant turned out to be some of the more enthusiastic as they learned what all tournament players have known for a long time—tournaments are fun.

Bruce Radford emerged as the mens club champion in a double elimination open bracket. Pete Maccarrone finished second losing to Bruce two matches to one.

The women's champion was not so well defined as a few of the club's more experienced women elected to play in the mens classes. Judee Hames lost to semi-finalist Richard Mesnick in the C class 21-11, 21-10; Debbie Radford lost in the semi-finals of the mens novice to the eventual winner Ron Behar 21-12, 20-21, 21-14; and Kelly Radford lost

in the mens novice to Jim Olsen 21-18, 21-17.

The men's B class was won by Mitchell Schwartz 21-19, 14-21, 21-18 over Rob Boriskin. Mitchell defeated Jerry Feldman in the semi-finals 21-14, 21-11 and Rob defeated Dave Warman 21-11, 12-21, 21-12.

The men's C singles was won by Mike Gallagher defeating Richard Mesnick in the semi-finals 21-19, 17-21, 21-11 and Stu Schwartz 21-11, 21-9 in the finals.

The men's novice was won by Ron Behar over Paul Krantzman 21-11, 18-21, 21-18.

The women's novice featured 12 relative newcomers to the game in some very close matches. Pam Eyer defeated Pam Adelman in the finals 21-18, 21-17. In the semi-finals Pam Eyer defeated Carol Leavitt 21-19, 19-21, 21-11, while Pam Adelman defeated Cathie Warman 21-18, 21-13.

West Los Angeles—Bruce Radford dives to return a shot against Pete Maccarrone in the finals of the open bracket during the Center Courts first Anniversary Racquetball Tourney.



NorCal Pro

Northern California's first inaugural Professional Tournament began with a bang and ended the same way at the Supreme Court IV Sport Center in Hayward, California, June 8 & 9. The tournament marked the beginning of a professional tour for Northern California athletes only.

Twelve players were chosen to participate in the tournament and several other players were invited to qualify for the final four players to complete a round of 16. The top seeded players in the tournament were Bill and Steve Dunn, Mark "Mongo" Wayne, Bob McAllister, Bob Kraut, and Gene Gibbs. Rounding out the 12 were Len Stream, Deryck Clay, Bill Russell, Spencer Johnston, Ed Ritner, and John Wagoner.

Several upsets began in the very first round when qualifier Rob Baruck, San Carlos upset the 4th seeded player, McAllister, Sunnyvale, in three tight games, 17-21, 21-14, 21-18. Bill Russell of Stockton knocked off the eighth seeded player, Deryck Clay of Portola Valley in a tightly contested 16-21, 21-4, 21-18 match.

For his efforts Baruck was quickly set down by the fifth seed, Bob Kraut. Scores were 21-7, 21-6. Other close matches were qualifier Frank Wies' three game with Steve Dunn and Russell's loss to Bill Dunn in two games. The one upset of the quarterfinals was Gene Gibbs' win over third seed Mark Wayne 21-8, 21-18. This was Gibbs' first victory over Wayne in six tries.

The semi-finals went as expected with Bill Dunn winning over Kraut in an argue-filled two game 21-17, 21-15 and Steve Dunn defeated Gibbs 21-15, 21-16.

The finals was not close with Steve Dunn missing everything in sight and Bill Dunn getting hot. The scores were 21-16, 21-9. Third place went to Kraut 21-1, 21-16.

First place received \$150 while other prize money totaling \$600 was distributed down through the ranks. Consolation went to Bob McAllister, who won \$25.

This was just the first tournament in a six month season over the summer. Other sites include Sacramento, Stockton, Redding, Sunnyvale, and San Carlos.

New Mexico

The New Mexico State Racquetball tournament was held over Easter weekend at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque. The tournament was sponsored by the University of New Mexico Racquets Club under the auspices of Gary Mazaroff and Clay Childs. One hundred twenty participants were accommodated in six events. Compared to the 20 participants in the state tourney two years ago, it appears that New Mexicans have joined the racquetball boom demonstrated nationwide. With the addition of some new facilities in the offing, the outlook on racquetball is very favorable.

The open singles for men saw Gary Mazaroff defeat Dr. Earl Badger in two games, 21-12 and 21-17, for the championship. Badger gained some revenge by taking the open doubles along with partner Dennis Chavez. They defeated Mazaroff and Clay Childs in the semis 21-20 and 21-11. They clinched the championship by defeating local Francisco Silva and traveled all the way from Little Rock, Arkansas for the tournament, and he made his presence felt. In addition to his second place in the doubles, he won third place in the open singles.

The B singles, which had the most participants (42), saw Kim Robinson of Utah, defeat a fellow serviceman, Duncan Johnson 21-9 and 21-17, for the championship. Another Utah resident, Bob McNabb, nabbed the senior division crown by easily defeating Roswell's Louis Lucero 21-6 and 21-8.

The C or Novice division matched Ed Rodriguez against Albuquerque handball notable Ken Gattas. Rodriguez had no problem as the scores of 21-5 and 21-3 indicate.

The women's singles division saw Lynn Chirigos defeat Renee Lowden 21-7 and 21-12 for the title. This match, although not indicated by the score, was by far the toughest test of the tournament for Ms. Chirigos, who has been coasting through local competition for the past few years.

Y.M.C.A.

Tournament Results National Y.M.C.A.

Open Singles: 1. Randy Stafford.
2. Mark Auerbach. 3. Jim Austin.
4. Eric Campbell.

Open Doubles: 1. Mark Auerbach-Kevin Meyer. 2. Eric Campbell-Danny Groves.

Senior Singles: 1. John Hellard.
2. Duane Cooper. 3. John Watson.
4. Joe Peery.

Masters Singles: 1. Dewey Strickland. 2. Ray Crowley. 3. Milton Rebennack. 4. Simon Weederman.

Women's Singles: 1. Peggy Steding. 2. Marci Greer. 3. Connie Gambou. 4. Janice Segall.

Women's Doubles: 1. Pam Spann-Janice Segall. 2. C. Karcher-N. Buckley.

Nevada

Men's A (Quarter-finals): Barnbeck def. Fowler 21-17, 21-16; Sparger def. Waldman 21-15, 17-21, 21-15; Seaton def. Adams 21-0, 21-1; Prescott def. Holmes (forfeit).

(Semi-finals): Barnbeck def. Sparger 21-5, 21-11; Seaton def. Prescott (forfeit).

(Championship): Barnbeck def. Seaton 19-21, 21-11, 21-15.

Women's Open Singles (First round): Kosmides def. Townsend 21-0, 21-0; Tacy def. Langston 21-2, 21-0; Carter def. Barnett 21-1, 21-0; Stanton def. Timko 21-17, 21-18; Cola def. Peterson 11-21, 21-18, 21-13; Briggs def. Ordway 21-14, 21-3.

(Quarter-finals): Connelley def. Kosmides 21-10, 21-4; Carter def. Tacy 21-5, 9-21, 21-6; Stanton def. Cola 21-7, 21-5; Wells def. Briggs 21-8, 21-2.

(Semi-finals): Connelley def. Carter 21-5, 21-17; Wells def. Stanton 21-9, 21-4.

(Championship): Connelley def. Wells 3-21, 21-8, 21-8; **(Third place):** Carter 21-0, 21-8.

Men's B (First round): Phillips def. Morris 17-21, 21-12, 21-13.

(Second round): L. Musgrove def. Phillips 21-15, 21-5; Staley def. Martinez 21-9, 14-21, 21-12; Ruegge def. Bishop (forfeit); Brunsting def. Godfrey 21-19, 21-10; Reideinger def. Cola 21-12, 11-21, 21-17; Darling def. Threet 21-5, 19-21, 21-16; Bass def. Marlon 21-20, 21-17; Dziedzic def. D. Musgrove 21-12, 21-18.

(Quarter-finals): L. Musgrove def. Staley 21-20, 14-21, 21-13; Brunsting def. Ruegge 19-21, 21-4, 21-8; Darling def. Reideinger 9-21, 21-19, 21-12; Bass def. Dziedzic 21-12, 21-18.

(Semi-finals): Staley def. Brunsting 21-18, 9-21, 21-13; Bass def. Darling 14-21, 21-11, 21-14.

(Championship): Bass def. Staley 19-21, 21-14, 21-16; **(Third place):** Brunsting def. Darling (forfeit).

Men's C (First round): Wallace def. Moran 21-16, 17-21, 21-4; Kiefer def. Algase (forfeit); Thomas def. Sapp 21-12, 21-6; Vosko def. Jones 21-3, 21-5; Amante def. Sinotte 21-7, 21-0; Butler def. Rozzi 20-21, 21-8, 21-11; Stockbauer def. Graham 21-18, 21-16; Seright def. Williams 21-7, 21-11.

(Second round): Bush def. Miller 21-0, 21-8; C. Smith def. Ionnone 21-15, 21-8; Wallace def. K. Smith 21-11, 21-4; Bonvino def. Pulse 21-6, 21-1; Kiefer def. Murphy 21-7, 21-3; Schwartz def. Super 21-4, 21-12; Rivkin def. Thomas 21-9, 21-4; Vosko def. Lurkins 21-15,

16-21, 21-12; Straway def. Wallin 21-13, 13-21, 21-15; Overby def. Amante 21-7, 21-18; Norquist def. Branciani 21-12, 21-9; Armour def. Butler 21-6, 21-0; Alvarez def. Rasmussen 21-8, 21-6; Murph def. Stockbauer 21-3, 21-2; DiGeorge def. Adamczyk 21-3, 21-7; Rud def. Seright 21-6, 21-10.

(Third round): Smith def. Bush 17-21, 21-18, 21-18; Wallace def. Bonvino 16-21, 21-13, 21-17; Schwartz def. Kiefer 14-21, 21-17, 21-10; Rivkin def. Vosko 21-8, 21-7; Straway def. Overby 8-21, 21-20, 21-20; Norquist def. Armour 21-19, 10-21, 21-8; Alvarez def. Murph 21-16, 19-21; Rud def. DiGeorge 21-12, 21-10.

(Quarter-finals): Smith def. Wallace 21-9, 21-2; Rivkin def. Schwartz 21-20, 11-21, 21-15; Norquist def. Straway 7-21, 21-6, 21-19; Rud def. Alvarez 21-18, 21-7.

(Semi-finals): Rivkin def. Smith 21-4, 21-15; Rud def. Norquist 14-21, 21-12, 21-19.

(Championship): Rud def. Rivkin 21-18,

21-16. **(Third place):** Norquist def. Smith 21-20, 21-10.

Men's Novice (First round): Freedman def. Laub 21-2, 21-1; Wilson def. Marriott 21-10, 21-7; Wetzler def. Thielke 21-11, 21-13.

(Second round): Freedman def. Wilson 20-21, 21-6, 21-5; Wetzler def. Lera 21-10, 21-20; Chism def. Collins 21-19, 21-13; Eustace def. Dubois 21-14, 21-10; Husson def. Casillas 11-21, 21-8, 21-11; Hamilton def. Laub 16-21, 21-14, 21-9; Cobb def. Elliott 21-10, 21-4; Minker def. Taylor 21-16, 21-5.

(Quarter-finals): Freedman def. Wetzler 21-12, 21-4; Eustace def. Chism 21-8, 21-3; Hamilton def. Husson 21-3, 21-4; Cobb def. Minker 21-14, 21-15.

(Semi-finals): Freedman def. Eustace 21-7, 21-14; Cobb def. Hamilton 21-7, 21-20.

(Championship): Freedman def. Cobb 21-7, 21-20. **(Third place):** Hamilton.

Florida



Winners and runners-up of the annual West Side Racquetball Tournament, Vero Beach, Florida: (l. to r.) Dale Talbert-Glenn Golnick, first place; Dennis Batchos, club manager; Dick Bird-Ralph Evans, second place. Talbert-Golnick took the crown 21-7, 21-12.

Michiana

Michiana Open

The 1976 Annual Michiana Open Racquetball Tournament was staged at the South Bend YMCA. This was the second year with turnout and operations again commendable. The final was a classic with Ron Johnson, Indianapolis defeating Ron DeMunter, Michigan 21-20, 21-20.

Johnson advanced to the finals by defeating Lee Duda, Evanston, Ill. in the quarter-finals 21-16, 21-12, then defeated Jim Hall, Des Plaines, Ill. in the semi-finals 21-4, 21-8. DeMunter defeated David Peters, Michigan in the quarter-finals 21-15, 21-16, then defeated Ron Anderson, South Bend, who was also tournament chairman, in the semi-finals 21-6, 21-6.

Hall then defeated Anderson 15-21, 21-14, 21-12 for third place. Clyde Senters, Schaumburg, Illinois kept the crowd amused and defeated Harold Huff, Indianapolis for the consolation title 21-19, 21-19.

The Women's Division found Fran Mamula, South Bend dominating the field by defeating Phyllis Vantrease, Findlay, Ohio in the semi-finals 21-0, 21-3 and Brigitte Huff, Indianapolis in the finals 21-3, 21-4. Huff advanced to the finals by defeating an up and coming Helen Parr, Indiana in the semi-finals 15-21, 21-14, 21-18. The most exciting women's match came in the quarter-finals when Parr defeated veteran Nancie Messerschmidt, Indiana 21-12, 20-21, 21-18.

Parr captured third place by defeating Vantrease 21-10, 21-10.

JoAnn Martin, South Bend defeated Irene Wasiutyk, Indiana for the consolation title 21-6, 21-13.

For the first time a field of Masters was added and found Jack Schuberth, Palos Hts., Illinois defeating Pierre Miller, Indiana in the finals 21-5, 21-12. Schuberth displayed his consistent style of play in the semi-finals by defeating Bill Lowe, Indiana 21-14, 21-9. Miller defeated Joe Gatto, South Bend in a match of endurance in the other semi-final 21-13, 18-21, 21-19. Lowe defeated Gatto for third place 21-16, 21-18.

The South Bend YMCA sports one of the finest tournament facilities in the nation.

Connecticut

W. Conn. B Singles

Harry Cohn, Bridgeport, Ct. won the Western Connecticut B Singles Tournament held at the Naugatuck YMCA over the March 27th weekend as he defeated Jack Fruin Jr., Naugatuck, Ct. 21-9, 21-8. Over 32 players in the B category competed for the title.

Jack Fruin reached the finals by eliminating Steve Tretiak, Ansonia, Charlie Pugliese, Naugatuck; Jeff Hattem, West Hartford and Dave Valinski, Waterbury.

Harry Cohn had his toughest match in the first round defeating Greg London, Bloomfield; Cohn then went on to score wins over Don Rinaldi and Yogie Adler, Waterbury.

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Massachusetts

First Northeastern University Tourney

After three full days of play, the First Annual Northeastern University Singles Racquetball Championship Tournament sponsored by the Physical Education and ROTC Departments came to a close with a few surprises and a lot of exciting play. More than 170 matches were played on the Cabot Gym courts May 14, 15 and 16 as 82 members of the faculty, staff, and student body of Northeastern University vied for titles in the four divisions of competition. The tournament was the first of its kind for the Northeastern University community, and the matches were played without any major catastrophe.

Even though the majority of the players had never played in a racquetball tournament before, everyone was cooperative and enjoyed themselves. Players were on time, matches went off as scheduled and no one gave excuses to avoid refereeing a match.

The tournament held at Northeastern University was a little different than most tournaments. Since racquetball is a relatively new sport at Northeastern, the C Division was limited to players with less than four months experience. To increase interest in the tournament, there was no entry fee. Captain David W. Chinn, the tournament director, had previously announced that this tournament would prove to all disbelievers that "a free lunch" still exists somewhere in the U.S.A. A contestant had a forty percent chance of winning some type of prize or trophy.

Trophies were awarded to the first three places and the consolation champion in each level of play. In addition, racquets were awarded to the first place winners. Many door

Tournament chairman David Chinn with women's champ Janet Gillis.

prizes were awarded to those holding the appropriate lucky ticket number.

In the C Division, SSG John Evans captured first place by defeating LTC Jack Peters in a well played finals match, 21-12, 21-15. Third place was captured by CPT Bruce Gale over Professor John Cipolla, Jr, 21-7, 21-12.

The B Division competition saw Auguste Robinson, 79 BA, come from behind to defeat a hustling and determined CPT Hardy Batchelor, Jr., 4-21, 21-16, 21-13. Robinson's comeback was exciting to watch as he was defeated handily by CPT Batchelor in the first game. At the start of the second game, Robinson changed his strategy and took control of the rest of the match. Robinson's victory was significant in that he played nine matches in three days! The third game was much closer than the score indicated. SSG Evans defeated Tom Mullen for third place 21-7, 20-21, 21-13.

Janet Gillis, 77BBC, easily defeated Peggy Hannon, 76BBC, for the Women's Division crown, 21-7, 21-2. Gillis, who is a recent beginner in racquetball, gave up no more than eight points in her previous matches. Sally Doolittle, 76 BA, defeated Mary Keane in a hard fought match for third place, 21-7, 18-21, 21-9.

What everyone had been waiting for—feeling it would be inevitable that the two would clash in the A Division finals—came true by late Sunday afternoon. Mike Stone, seeded number two and a Law School student, played an exciting three-game match against his arch rival, CPT David Chinn, that finally saw Stone prevail, 19-21, 21-13, 21-20. In the first two games, each player came from behind to win their game. The final game found Stone ahead early 5-0, only to fall behind 6-14 and 14-20. At this point, Stone put together everything he could muster and ran off seven



Mike Stone, A Division Champ.

points to win the title. Both players were exhausted at the end of the most exciting match of the tournament. Robinson easily defeated John Malgeri for third place 21-1, 21-14.

The success of the tournament and the increased popularity of racquetball at Northeastern indeed proves that racquetball is the fastest growing indoor sport in America. Next year's tournament should draw an even bigger crowd since racquetball classes will be offered for the first time in the fall quarter.

David W. Chinn
Bruce R. Gale

Regionals—Western

Experience and percentage racquetball were the theme of this year's Western Regionals held at SCHOEBER'S Court Club and Spa in South San Francisco, as Steve and Bill Dunn captured the Men's Open Singles and Doubles titles. Steve won a thrilling third game in the semis against the indescribable youngster, Lindsay Myers. Steve's persistence and control overcame Lindsay's brilliant backhand shooting and blistering speed to win by one point in that third game. Most observers concurred that their match was the highlight of the tournament.

Dunn's experience and shrewdness proved even more valuable against sharp shooter Jay Jones in the finals. While Jones attempted to score with ace serves and unorthodox backhand side to front kills, Dunn served slow and tantalizing, shoulder high lobs to Jones' backhand. After missing a few kills, Jones was forced into a defensive ceiling game.

Unfortunately for his opponents, Steve Dunn owns the ceiling. The inevitable result was an easy two game victory (21-16, 21-7) for Dunn.

In the Open Doubles the well-balanced team of Bill Thurman and Len Stream extended the poker faced pair of Dunn and Dunn to three games. Once again the brothers' percentage play outlasted the fine shooting and power of Thurman and Stream to win a decisive third game victory.

Patty Berneathy and Betty Weed monopolized the Women's Singles and Doubles as handily as the Dunns did in the men's division. Berneathy breezed through the singles field of 24 to beat finalist Betty Weed 21-12, 21-10. Their first game was closely contested until Patty began to capitalize on Weed's weaker forehand. Berneathy's power and intense desire to win overpowers her opponents.

The semi-final match between Weed and Donna Noguchi once again illustrated the advantage that

percentage play and tournament experience represents. Donna looked like a sure winner in the first game, using sharp z-serves and cross corner kills. Betty hung in there, relentlessly retrieving and placing the ball, trying to lure Donna into a safer, backhand ceiling game. Donna tired and succumbed to the defensive type of play, falsely trying to conserve energy. She abandoned the z-serve in favor of a less tiring, straight, shoulder-high serve. Weed took the initiative at the first sign of weakness and pulled out the first game. The second game was no contest. Donna was psyched. After the game Donna realized that abandoning her z-serve and not going for shots, cost her more in energy than she saved by playing defensively.

The Women's Doubles was a small but competitive field. Betty Weed smartly teamed with "Slugger" Berneathy to best Lottie Bain and Mary Ludwig in two hard fought but one sided games.

The Senior Men's Singles final between Mark Wayne and Spencer Johnston was a demonstration of well-honed skills and experience that senior division players exemplify. Each volley was closely contested with a minimum of errors. Johnston theorized correctly that Wayne was a little slow up front, and proceeded to keep the ball low and up front, coming off the side walls. The match went to three games, with "Mongo" Wayne victorious. Mark's great stamina and power proved too much for Johnston to battle for three grueling games.

In the Senior Men's Doubles, Wayne teamed with Chuck Hanna to beat Mike Bugel and Lou Concha 21-4, 21-12. This "superteam" outclassed the field, never going to three games in any round. In the over 35 age group, conditioning seems to be the name of the game.

In the Master's division, Al Rossi, in exemplary physical condition

himself, breezed through the field. He defeated Lee Griffin 21-13, 21-10 in the final match.

Compliments are due to SCHOEBER'S for running an outstanding tournament. The hospitality began Thursday night with cold cuts and home-made salads, ending up on Sunday with a Smorgasbord of Southern fried chicken, barbecue, and assorted goodies. Champagne flowed freely at the presentation of the trophies. A special thanks to Pearly Gordon for her secret chicken recipes and to Manager Howard Wasserteil for putting all the money back into the tournament. The matches were on time and well organized. The refereeing could have been better but this is a problem well known to tournament directors.

A special thanks to Jay Jones and Lindsay Myers. These two gentlemen assisted in refereeing the difficult matches and behaved in a sportsmanlike way, even when things did not go their way. Finally, thank you Phil Waldman, for your constructive criticism and your help in putting your suggestions to work.

Andy Grosz
Tournament Director

Western Regional Results

Men's Open Singles (First round): Kerry Williams def. Steven Berbowen 21-3, 21-6; Gene Gibbs def. Bill Russell 21-17, 20-21, 11-10; Price Thomas def. Dan Contreras 21-15, 21-6; Steve Ludwig def. David Lucas 21-7, 21-19; Dean Kingston def. Thomas Bishop 21-5, 21-10; Terry Fowler def. O. M. Scott 21-8, 21-14; Rich Handley def. Duane Isetti 21-9, 17-21, 11-8; Steve Mondry def. Stacy Knox 21-13, 21-8; Lindsay Myers def. Roger Ehren 21-19, 21-20; Robert Kraut def. William Boudreau 21-1, 21-1; Henry Raqueno def. Howard Wasserteil 17-21, 21-10, 11-9; Frank Wies def. Leo Gurnoe (forfeit); Mike Hoonan def. Jimmy Doyle (forfeit); Ben Friedlander def. Roland Brier 21-0, 21-2; John Rodriguez def. John Hyatt 21-1, 21-5; Larry Huntley def. Lee Yates 21-11, 21-12; Brian Cloud def. Mike Hanson 21-15, 21-5; Tim Wolcott def. Jim McDaniel (forfeit); Nathan Meckel def. Tom Baron (forfeit); Rob Baruck def. Don Peyrucain 21-11, 21-9; John Jancoski def. Vince Pecunia 21-15, 21-9; Lee Simon def. Paul Klatt 21-18, 21-3.

(Second round): Steve Dunn def. Williams 21-10, 21-7; Gibbs def. Thomas 21-3, 21-10; Don Crawford def. Ludwig 21-7, 21-19;

Kingston def. Fowler 21-16, 21-13; Al Portune def. Ed Ritner 15-21, 21-6, 11-3; Mondry def. Handley 21-12, 21-8; Myers def. Kraut 21-19, 21-15; Wies def. Raqueno 21-5, 21-14; Hoonan def. Lorenzini 21-8, 21-14; John Robbins def. Friedlander 21-2, 21-2; Rodriguez def. Ted Ferguson 21-6, 21-7; Jay Jones def. Huntley 21-10, 21-1; Wolcott def. Cloud 8-21, 21-20, 11-7; Mike Mjehovich def. Meckel 18-21, 21-12, 11-7; Baruck def. Jancoski 21-11, 21-18; Bill Thurman def. Lee Simon 21-7, 21-10.

(Third round): Dunn def. Gibbs 21-7, 21-7; Crawford def. Kingston 21-11, 21-4; Portune def. Mondry 21-15, 21-10; Myers def. Wies 21-8, 21-15; Robbins def. Hoonan 21-17, 21-11; Jones def. Rodriguez 21-15, 21-0; Mjehovich def. Wolcott 13-21, 21-10, 11-5; Thurman def. Baruck 21-4, 21-11.

(Quarter-finals): Dunn def. Crawford 12-21, 21-17, 11-9; Myers def. Portune 21-14, 21-12; Jones def. Robbins 21-14, 21-10; Thurman def. Mjehovich 21-9, 21-16.

(Semi-finals): Dunn def. Meyers 17-21, 21-15, 11-10; Jones def. Thurman 21-14, 21-19.

(Championship): Dunn def. Jones 21-16, 21-7; Third place Myers (forfeit).

Men's Open Doubles (First round): Keenan-Kvandal def. Follain-Tse 21-4, 21-2; Barbuck-McDonald def. Doyle-Gurnue (forfeit); Handley-Wies def. Wasserteil-Vinnie 21-19, 21-8; Carpenter-Stein def. Grosz-Knox 21-4, 21-10.

(Second round): Stream-Thurman def. Ritner-Chalifoux 21-15, 21-8; Mjehovich-Johnson def. Keenan-Kvandal 21-12, 21-9; Kraut-Gibbs def. Johnson-Hetherington 21-5, 21-11; Crawford-Robbins def. Barbuck-McDonald 21-6, 21-14; Hansen-Milios def. Loveday-Loveday (forfeit); Portune-Ehren def. Handley-Weis 21-5, 21-11; Myers-Hoonan def. Thomas-Hanson 21-12, 21-10; Dunn-Dunn def. Carpenter-Stein 21-6, 21-6.

(Quarter-finals): Stream-Thurman def. Mjehovich-Johnson 21-17, 21-12; Kraut-Gibbs def. Crawford-Robbins 21-8, 21-20; Ehren-Portune def. Hansen-Milios 21-10, 21-14; Dunn-Dunn def. Myers-Hoonan 21-20, 21-16.

(Semi-finals): Stream-Thurman def. Kraut-Gibbs 21-20, 21-15; Dunn-Dunn def. Ehren-Portune 21-16, 9-21, 11-8.

(Championship): Dunn-Dunn def. Stream-Thurman. **(Third place)** Kraut-Gibbs def. Ehren-Portune 21-18, 21-19.

Women's Singles (First round): Deborah Kellum def. Geri McDonald 21-11, 21-17; MeriJean Kelley def. Patricia Black 21-11, 21-



Jay Jones prepares to take a shot off the back wall in the finals against Steve Dunn. Jay didn't have enough for the younger Dunn brother.

16; Debbie Brown def. Krissie Johnson 21-11, 21-10; Carol Grosz def. Linda Ferguson 21-11, 21-0; Mary Ludwig def. Sherry Redmond 21-4, 21-0; Ann Redding def. Kathie Selsted 21-19, 21-2; Judy Thomas def. Sharon Linroth 21-4, 4-21, 11-4.

(Second round): Betty Weed def. Kellum 21-4, 21-3; Alicia Moore def. Kelley 21-4, 21-14; Brown def. Tricia Graves 21-7, 21-11; Donna Noguchi def. Grosz 21-8, 21-5; Linda Siau def. Ludwig 21-19, 6-21, 11-7; Lottie Bain def. Redding 21-15, 21-2; Dena Rassenti def. Priscilla Connelley 21-3, 21-4; Patty Berneathy def. Thomas 21-1, 21-5.

(Quarter-finals): Weed def. Moore 21-7, 21-15; Noguchi def. Brown 21-7, 21-1; Bain def. Siau 21-10, 16-21, 11-10; Berneathy def. Rassenti 21-16, 21-8.

(Semi-finals): Weed def. Noguchi 21-19, 21-11; Berneathy def. Bain 21-5, 21-13.

(Championship): Berneathy def. Weed 21-12, 21-10.

Senior Singles (First round): Mark Wayne def. Jim Smith 21-1, 21-5; Lou Concha def. Reed Fitkin 21-8, 21-4; Lee Ellis def. David Craig 21-2, 21-2; Kelley Edwards def. Chuck Hanna 17-21, 21-16, 11-8; Rich Costes def. Keith Calkins (forfeit); Oscar Fallon def. Donald Barasia 5-21, 21-16, 11-8; Spencer Johnston def. Bob Williams (forfeit); Deryk Clay def. Phil Waldman (injury forfeit).

(Quarter-finals): Wayne def. Concha 21-15, 21-9; Ellis def. Edwards 9-21, 21-14, 11-8; Fallon def. Costes 21-9, 21-7; Johnston def. Clay 21-15, 16-21, 11-7.

(Semi-finals): Wayne def. Ellis 21-7, 21-4; Johnston def. Fallon 21-3, 21-8.

(Championship): Wayne def. Johnston 21-9, 21-14. **(Third place):** Ellis 21-7, 21-12.

Senior Doubles (Quarter-finals): Green-Edwards def. McClendon-Spanos 14-21, 21-4, 11-7; Dabney-Griffin def. Carey-Clelland 21-7, 21-13; Bugel-Concha def. Ellis-Pinkerton 18-21, 21-16, 11-10.

(Semi-finals): Hanna-Wayne def. Green-Edwards 21-10, 21-4; Bugel-Concha def. Dabney-Griffin 21-13, 21-13.

(Championship): Wayne-Hanna def. Concha-Bugel 21-4, 21-12. **(Third place):** Green-Edwards def. Dabney-Griffin 21-18, 21-7.

Master Singles (Quarter finals): Al Rossi def. Bill Dabney 7-21, 21-17, 11-0; Mike Bugel def. Carl Whittenton 21-10, 7-21, 11-10; Don Green def. Larry Hoyt (forfeit); Lee Griffin def. Earle Castle (forfeit).

(Semi-finals): Rossi def. Bugel 21-13, 21-10; Griffin def. Green 21-15, 14-21, 11-5.

(Championship): Rossi def. Griffin. **(Third place):** Green def. Bugel.

Regionals-South

Number one seed Eric Campbell had little trouble living up to that billing as he coasted to the U.S.R.A. Southern Regional open singles title. Campbell, who never lost a game during the tournament, bested Luther Bernstein in the finals 21-1, 21-10.

Bernstein, who is generally regarded as a seniors player, made an excellent showing in his attempt to capture a U.S.R.A. round trip to the Nationals. Before his final defeat Luther topped number three seed Ken Hendricks, Miami and number six seed Gary Mazaroff, Albuquerque.

An expected battle between Campbell and Pete Wright the tourney's number two seed never materialized, when Wright was forced to forfeit his quarter-final match to Jeff Kwartler. In an unfortunate situation, Pete's motel wake-up call did not come through and he never made the match.

Kevin Meyer, Houston took third place over Kwartler. Meyer dropped his semi-final match to Campbell 11 and 15, while Kwartler came up short against Bernstein (is that possible?) 21-11, 6-21, 21-17.

Chris Salazar, letting the world know that there is another tough player in Odessa, Texas, breezed through the women's open, defeating Linda Guerrero, San Antonio 21-8, 21-8 in the finals. Janice Segall placed third.

Open doubles found the young team of Mark Malowitz and Kwartler taking the honors, topping Meyer and Simon Wiederman 21-18, 8-21, 21-9 in an all-Houston finale. The always tough team of Dewey Strickland and Jim Austin finished third, taking that play-off from Jim Lane and Hendricks 21-4, 21-7.

It was all Austin in the seniors, with no player being able to tally even 10 points in any single game against the former pro. Bernstein could only rally for 21-7, 21-3 deficits in the championship match. Dallas' Dwayne Cooper took third, over Houston's David Todd.

Strickland went all the way in Masters singles, but got a good run for his trophy from Dr. Gordon Ira, Jacksonville, Florida 21-16, 14-21, 21-9 in the finals. Ira had topped San Antonio's Jack Hood 16 and 15 in his semi, while Strickland coasted six and four over Austin's J. W. Studak.

In other play, Shreveport's Andy Hodges captured the juniors title over Kenny Kaihlman, San Antonio; Jackie Black won the women's novice; Ricky Stroud won the men's novice; Bob Ellis took the men's B; John Avent and Craig Spirduso won the men's B doubles; Spann and Segall won the women's open doubles; Albert Hirsch captured the men's C singles; and Jay Goodman and Mike Hatch took the honors in C doubles.

Our thanks to Bruce Hendin and the San Antonio Handball/Racquetball Club for hosting the tournament. We hope everybody had a great weekend of racquetball.

South Regional Results

Men's Open Singles (First round): Mike Gann def. Dan Groves (forfeit); Mark Malowitz def. Rinaldo Gonzalez 21-17, 21-12; Ed Badger def. John Jameson (forfeit); Neal Wong def. Jay Sollinger 17-21, 21-19, 21-14; Dave Peck def. Ed Barziza 18-21, 21-11, 21-10; Richard Cramer def. Jerry Stone 21-9, 21-20; Jeff Kwartler def. Bob Lampley 21-14, 16-21, 21-18; Ron Meek def. Mark Sandler 21-13, 17-21, 21-9.

(Second round): Eric Campbell def. Gann 21-6, 21-5; Malowitz def. John Avent 19-21, 21-14, 21-19; Kevin Meyer def. Gary Zetrover 13-21, 21-15, 21-3; Badger def. Wong 21-15, 21-6; Pete Wright def. Peck 21-15, 21-11; Kwartler def. Cramer 21-18, 21-10; Luther Bernstein def. Ken Hendricks 21-15, 21-19; Gary Mazaroff def. Meek 18-21, 21-15, 21-18.

(Quarter-finals): Campbell def. Malowitz 21-15, 21-8; Meyer def. Badger 21-9, 21-16; Kwartler def. Wright (forfeit); Bernstein def. Mazaroff 21-20, 19-21, 21-14.

(Semi-finals): Campbell def. Meyer 21-11, 21-15; Bernstein def. Kwartler 21-11, 6-21, 21-17.

(Championship): Campbell def. Bernstein 21-1, 21-10.

Open Doubles (Quarter-finals): Meyer-Wiederman def. Campbell-Gann 19-21, 21-12, 21-6; Strickland-Austin def. Mazaroff-Badger 21-9, 21-13; Lane-Hendricks def.

Lampley-Gonzalez 19-21, 21-14, 21-20; Malowitz-Kwartler def. Zetrover-Dubolsky 21-19, 11-21, 21-7.

(Semi-finals): Meyer-Wiederman def. Strickland-Austin 20-21, 21-15, 21-17; Malowitz-Kwartler def. Lane-Hendricks 21-10, 21-17.

(Championship): Malowitz-Kwartler def. Meyer-Wiederman 21-18, 8-21, 21-9. **(Third place):** Strickland-Austin def. Lane-Hendricks 21-4, 21-7.

Men's Seniors (First round): Dale Hobbs def. Tom Bellizo 31-16; Ken Kachtik def. Tom Murphy (forfeit); David Todd def. Jim Pace 31-30; Joe Nunnallee def. H. G. Wells 31-24; Fred Babbitt def. Darrel Stroud 31-4.

(Quarter-finals): Austin def. Hobbs 31-7; Todd def. Kachtik 31-19; Cooper def. Nunnallee 31-10; Bernstein def. Babbitt 31-4.

(Semi-finals): Austin def. Todd 21-9, 21-6; Bernstein def. Cooper 21-17, 21-10.

(Championship): Austin def. Bernstein 21-7, 21-3. **(Third place):** Cooper def. Todd 21-3, 21-6.

Juniors (First round): Mark Pasche def. Troy Pack 31-5.

(Quarter-finals): Andy Hodges def. Mark Barta (forfeit); Jeff Karp def. Pasche 21-3, 21-4; Ken Kaihlman def. Glen Scrivener 31-8; Bob Stone def. Mike Brower (forfeit).

(Semi-finals): Hodges def. Karp 21-7, 21-8; Kaihlman def. Stone 21-19, 9-21, 21-17.

(Championship): Hodges def. Kaihlman (forfeit). **(Third place):** Stone def. Karp 21-16, 21-6.

Women's Open Singles (Quarter-finals): Janice Segall def. Sandy Barker 21-15, 17-21, 21-18; Chris Salazar def. Bev Haney 21-9, 21-13; Linda Guerrero def. Janet Cross 21-13, 21-12; Pam Spann def. Suzanne Storey 21-8, 21-14.

(Semi-finals): Salazar def. Segall 21-17, 21-7; Guerrero def. Spann 9-21, 21-11, 21-12.

(Championship): Salazar def. Guerrero 21-8, 21-8. **(Third place):** Segall def. Spann 21-8, 21-8.

Master's Singles (First round): Bill Reese def. Bill Giginac 31-5.

(Quarter-finals): Strickland def. Reese 21-12, 21-1; Studak def. Cooke (forfeit); Hood def. Wiederman (forfeit); Ira def. Karp 21-9, 21-7.

(Semi-finals): Strickland def. Studak 21-6, 21-4; Ira def. Karp 21-16, 21-15.

(Championship): Strickland def. Ira 21-16, 14-21, 21-9. **(Third place):** Studnak (forfeit).

Regionals—Central

The U.S.R.A. Central Regional was a tough tournament but nobody really knew just how tough it was until the two finalists, Ben Koltun and Rudi Losche, went on to take one-two in the National Championships, Amateur Division.

Through the thickness of a heavy draw, Koltun and Losche, both from St. Louis, emerged in the finals of the Central Regional, with Koltun capturing a dramatic come-from-behind victory 21-14, 16-21, 11-10 for first place and a trip to the Nationals on the U.S.R.A.

"It's a shame either player had to lose," said tourney director Fred Blaess. *"They both played their hearts out."*

The third game tie-breaker was all Losche who bounced to a 9-3 advantage before Koltun began his gutsy comeback, one of the trademarks of the youngster's game. To make the loss even tougher for Losche, was the fact that he and Koltun were car-mates and faced a five hour drive home from the tourney site, The Court House in Arlington Heights, Illinois.

The open singles semi-finals were two excellent matches with Koltun besting Gil Schmitt, upset winner over Gordon Kelly and Losche topping Milwaukee's Joe Wirkus.

The second free round trip to San Diego was awarded the winner of the Women's open singles bracket and that turned out to be Northbrook, Illinois' Beverly Franks, who was forced to three games by St. Louis' Nancy Zelson in the finals 11-21, 21-16, 11-3. Pre-tournament favorite Camille McCarthy was defeated by Zelson in the semi's 19 and 14. Franks eliminated St. Louis' Chris Ackerman in her semi 21-20, 7-21, 11-8.

The open doubles title was won by the team of Dan Alder and Terry Fancher, as the winners never lost a game en route to the title. The championship match saw them stop Cliff Minter and Bob Van Tuyle 21-14, 21-19. Nick Papanicholas and Jesse Valera captured third place over Alan Shtezzer and Rick Hobday 19-21, 21-14, 11-5.

An excellent draw in the senior singles found eventual National Champ Joe Gibbs, St. Louis, eliminated in the quarter-finals of the Regional by Skokie, Illinois' Ron Rashkow 21-17, 21-18. But Rashkow could go no further being stopped himself in the semi's by Milwaukee's Joe Bechard, the eventual champ. Bechard captured the title by defeating Northbrook's Shelly Clar in the finals 21-12, 21-11.

A couple of new faces to the lower midwest knocked off two familiar faces in the senior doubles division. Tom Tonkin and Shelly Sheldon, down from Minneapolis bested Blaess and Bob Breckenridge in the finals rather convincingly 21-10, 21-11. Blaess, the reigning Illinois seniors champ, gave no excuses, although bothered by a bad back all week. Still, the Minnesotans unorthodox style of play was well executed and brought them a well-deserved win.

Another upset occurred in the masters singles category where Jack Schuberth topped number one seed Sam Carl 21-18, 21-8 for the title. Stan Altman took third 21-20, 21-7 over Manny Nosan.

Fond du Lac, Wisconsin's Ben Wirkus took the Golden Masters title defeating Milwaukee's Fred Vetter 21-14, 20-21, 11-8.

In the junior singles, up-and-coming Steve Sulli topped John Zuckerman 10 and 13 for the championship.

Our thanks to The Court House, Brian Bennett, Fred Blaess and all the wonderful people who helped make the Central U.S.R.A. Regional such a great event.

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Central Regional Results

Men's Open Singles (First round): Tom Karas def. Lee Churchill 21-6, 21-8; Wm. Donnelly def. Rob McKinney 21-13, 21-9; Dennis Tolchin def. Daniel Doherty (forfeit); Tom Donnellan def. Tom Wilkins 21-5, 21-7; Glenn Schmoll def. Tom Ramker (forfeit); Jim Murphy def. Laurence McDonald 21-3, 21-9; Gene Kieronski def. Jay Sarmir 21-17, 21-11; Ottis Campbell def. Matt Richardson 21-20, 1-21, 11-6; Stephen Wilcox def. John Hodge 21-10, 21-6.

(Second round): Rudi Losche def. Wm. Kovacs 21-5, 21-7; Bob Deuster def. Jack Friedlander 21-9, 21-13; Karas def. Scott Hemphill 21-13, 21-9; Larry Putterman def. Donnelly 21-19, 21-14; Ken Wong def. Lee Casty 21-7, 21-8; Phil Crabbe def. Tolchin 21-1, 21-11; Dan Bertolucci def. Donnellan 21-15, 21-15; Joe Wirkus def. Schmoll 21-3, 21-2; Ben Koltun def. Jerry Sayers 21-4, 21-4; Mark Coleman def. Al Mazz 21-18, 21-8; Murphy def. Graham Moore 16-21, 21-8, 11-10; Bill Gottlieb def. Lawrence Gamm 21-7, 21-4; Gil Schmitt def. Kieronski 21-1, 21-2; Jim Hall def. Robert Spurgeon 21-13, 21-5; Campbell def. Wilcox 17-21, 21-11, 11-3; Gordon Kelly def. David Madison 21-3, 21-3.

(Third round): Losche def. Deuster 21-8, 21-14; Putterman def. Karas 21-9, 21-20; Wong def. Crabbe 21-6, 21-10; Wirkus def. Bertolucci 21-3, 21-2; Koltun def. Coleman 21-12, 21-15; Gottlieb def. Murphy 21-3, 21-6; Schmitt def. Hall 18-21, 21-13, 11-8; Kelly def. Campbell 21-6, 21-7.

(Quarter finals): Losche def. Putterman 21-5, 21-9; Wirkus def. Wong 21-19, 21-5; Koltun def. Gottlieb 20-21, 21-9, 11-10; Schmitt def. Kelly 21-19, 21-17.

(Semi-finals): Losche def. Wirkus 21-19, 21-15; Koltun def. Schmitt 21-17, 21-14.

(Championship): Koltun def. Losche 21-14, 16-21, 11-10; **(Third place):** Wirkus def. Schmitt 21-13, 21-7.

Women's Singles (First round): Camille McCarthy def. Kathryn Glasser (forfeit); Kris Biggs def. Nancy Paulauskas 21-4, 21-3; Carol Armstrong def. Sue Sulli 21-2, 21-8; Nancy Zelson def. Judy Huhta 21-5, 21-11; Christine Ackerman def. Jacquelyn Jost 21-2, 21-2; Glenda Pommerich def. Linda Schwartz 21-8, 21-8; Cameron Dick def. Barbara Halpern 21-15, 21-12; Beverly Franks def. Renee Leifheit 21-3, 21-2.

(Quarter-finals): McCarthy def. Biggs 21-5, 21-8; Zelson def. Armstrong 21-8, 21-14; Ackerman def. Pommerich 21-18, 21-16; Franks def. Dick 21-5, 21-10.

(Semi-finals): Zelson def. McCarthy 21-19, 21-14; Franks def. Ackerman 21-20, 7-21, 11-8.

(Championship): Franks def. Zelson 11-21, 21-16, 11-3; **(Third place):** McCarthy def. Ackerman (forfeit).

Open Doubles (First round): Alder-Fancher def. Cohen-Crowe (forfeit); Kanetsky-Katler def. Landry-Moore 21-5, 21-14; Shetzer-Hobday def. Smith-Frank 21-2, 21-8; Harper-Duda def. Wenecki-Ghisell 21-7, 21-8; Anderson-Richardson def. Collins-Buckley 21-8, 18-21, 11-1; Vantuyle-Minter def. Haddon-Holt (forfeit); Papanicholas-Valera def. Giertz-Stech 21-7, 21-7; Clemons-Tilden def. Peckler-Wolf 21-11, 21-5.

(Quarter Finals): Fancher-Alder def. Kanetsky-Katler 21-4, 21-14; Shetzer-Hobday def. Harper-Duda 11-21, 21-14, 11-5; Vantuyle-Minter def. Anderson-Richardson 21-7, 21-20; Papanicholas-Valera def. Clemons-Tilden 11-21, 21-17, 11-10.

(Semi-finals): Fancher-Alder def. Shetzer-Hobday 21-7, 21-19; Vantuyle-Minter def. Papanicholas-Valera 18-21, 21-18, 11-6.

(Championship): Fancher-Alder def. Vantuyle-Minter 21-14, 21-19; **(Third place):** Papanicholas-Valera def. Shetzer-Hobday 19-21, 21-14, 11-5.

Men's Senior Singles (First round): Tom Street def. Larry Glass 21-2, 21-8; Bob Moericke def. Clark Barks 21-19, 21-9; Scott Berry def. Bob Stotland (forfeit).

(Second round): Joe Gibbs def. Dan Day 21-7, 21-7; Ron Rashkow def. Terry Podolsky 21-9, 21-19; Street def. Dan Little 21-16, 21-17; Joe Bechard def. Bradley Armstrong 21-14, 21-7; Paul Franks def. Moericke 21-5, 20-21, 11-4; Berry def. Harold Williamson 15-21, 21-19, 11-9; Paul Nelson def. Ron Paul 21-13, 21-6; Shelly Clar def. Shelly Chaplik 21-13, 21-8.

(Quarter finals): Rashkow def. Gibbs 21-17, 21-18; Bechard def. Street 21-3, 21-18; Franks def. Berry 19-21, 21-19, 11-8; Clar def. Nelson 21-15, 9-21, 11-2.

(Semi-finals): Bechard def. Rashkow 15-21, 21-11, 11-3; Clar def. Franks 21-17, 21-8.

(Championship): Bechard def. Clar 21-12, 21-11; **(Third place):** Franks def. Rashkow (forfeit).

Senior Doubles (First round): Ripes-Schwartz def. McKiernan-Svoboda (forfeit); Orr-Shook def. Bolster-Ford 21-7, 21-2; Tonkin-Sheldon def. Palmer-Sandoval 21-9, 21-16.

(Quarter-finals): Blaess-Breckenridge def. Ripes-Schwartz 21-13, 21-7; Kramer-Ruffer def. Goodman-Barasch 21-14, 21-8; Karlin-Feigen def. Orr-Shook 21-7, 21-4; Tonkin-Sheldon def. Goss-Hanke 21-13, 21-3.

(Semi-finals): Blaess-Breckenridge def. Kramer-Ruffer 21-16, 19-21, 11-4; Tonkin-Sheldon def. Karlin-Feigen 21-8, 21-12.

(Championship): Tonkin-Sheldon def. Blaess-Breckenridge 21-10, 21-11; **(Third place):** Karlin-Feigen def. Kramer-Ruffer 21-4, 21-7.

Master Singles (First round): Stan Altman def. Robert Acheson 21-2, 21-7; Tom Rogan def. Harry Heftee (forfeit); Robert Pillon def. Tim Rusch (forfeit); Bert Shulimson def. Dominick Massaglia 21-7, 21-10.

(Second round): Sam Carl def. Anthony Yucevicius 21-6, 21-12; Joe Sulli def. Jack Glasser 21-0, 21-17; Altman def. Tom Rogan 21-6, 21-4; Pillon def. Bob Nichols 21-9, 21-8; Manny Nosan def. Richard Boulton 21-10, 21-7; Shulimson def. Dave Perelman 21-20, 21-17; Jack Schuberth def. Norman 21-7, 21-8; Richard Porter def. Amos Rosenbloom (forfeit).

(Quarter-finals): Carl def. Sulli 21-6, 21-6; Altman def. Pillon (forfeit); Nosan def. Shulimson 21-12, 21-7; Schuberth def. Porter 17-21, 21-16, 11-3.

(Semi-finals): Carl def. Altman 21-11, 10-21, 11-3; Schuberth def. Nosan 21-16, 20-21, 11-10.

(Championship): Schuberth def. Carl 21-18, 21-8; **(Third place):** Altman def. Nosan 21-20, 21-7.

Golden Master Singles (Semi-finals): Fred Vetter def. Robert Halter 21-3, 21-8; Ben Wirkus def. Brud Turner 21-8, 21-14.

(Championship): Ben Wirkus def. Fred Vetter 21-14, 20-21, 11-8; **(Third place):** Turner def. Halter 21-4, 21-4.

Junior Singles (First round): Steve Breckenridge def. Kevin McAllister 21-2, 21-4.

(Quarter finals): Steve Sulli def. Dave Kurtz 21-1, 21-2; Bruce Weiner def. Mark Berman 21-10, 12-21, 11-2; Jeff Siegel def. Breckenridge 21-13, 21-5; John Zuckerman def. Dan Sharps 21-0, 21-6.

(Semi-finals): Sulli def. Weiner 21-6, 21-6; Zuckerman def. Siegel 21-15, 13-21, 11-7.

(Championship): Sulli def. Zuckerman 21-10, 21-13; **(Third place):** Siegel def. Weiner 21-12, 21-17.

Regionals—East

The spacious Court Club in South Burlington, Vermont was the gracious host of the Eastern U.S.R.A. Regionals, where hospitality made every player a winner.

"The hospitality room went through hundreds of sandwiches a day," said Court Club manager and tournament director, John Kruger. *"We also had cases of fruit, juice, Gatorade and much more."*

In open singles an excellent field, with action-packed matches finally found Craig Guinter emerge champion and receive the winner's round trip fare to San Diego. Craig knocked off Mike Luciw in the semi-finals and Mike Romano in the championship match. The finals were played before over 200 fans on The Court Club's famed glass court number eight.

The strongest women's field ever put together in the east, with unknown Carol Frenck (who is no longer unknown following a number two finish in the Nationals) capturing the title over number one seed Monique Parent, Montreal. Among Frenck's victims was second-seeded Phylis Dumont.

Twenty tough teams vied in the open doubles bracket, all trying to beat the overwhelming favorites, Mike Luciw and George Rudysz. Many tried, but none could do it, however, with only one team forcing the New Britainnites to three games—Steve Dubord and Jim Reuschel. In the finals Luciw-Rudysz topped the Rochester, New York tandem of Joe Aguglia-Jim Winterton 21-10, 21-14.

The anticipated showdown in the seniors, rapidly becoming one of the toughest brackets of play in the east, did come off, when top two seeds Pat Colombo, Scarsdale, New York met Tom Waltz, Newtown, Connecticut. Second-seeded Waltz came out on top, but by the narrowest of margins 5-21, 21-19, 11-10.

The story of the Masters was Portland, Maine's Bob Folsom, the

third seed. He overpowered Hal Grieg in his semi-final match 21-7, 21-11, while top seed Bill McLaughlin had a tough match on top 21-11, 21-20 over Mike Friedman. In the championship match, another three-gamer ensued, with Folsom besting McLaughlin 17-21, 21-14, 11-7.

Number one seed Ross Harvey was too tough for the other junior division players defeating Burlington's Todd Gibbo in the finals 21-12, 21-3. Harvey displayed a consistent backhand and superb forehand kills to let the older players know that he is on his way.

The 11-point third game was well

received by the players and overwhelmingly applauded by the many fans. The Seamco balls held up terrifically with an absolute minimum of breakage or dead balls.

Hats off to Clurt Club staff and especially to assistant director and floor manager Bob Comolli who really did a super job keeping matches on schedule and finding referees.

A special thanks, too, to Court Club owners Cliff Johnson and Charlie Hubbard for the use of their facility and extra help. We all enjoyed the event, and certainly hope every single player did as well.

John Kruger



Jim Winterton shoots his forehand in the open doubles finals as partner Joe Aguglia (r.) and Mike Luciw look on.

East Regionals Results

Open Singles (First round): Phil Williams def. Danny Kunz 21-9, 11-21, 11-10; Barry Russell def. George Sulikowski 18-21, 21-20, 11-9; Jim Dollinger def. Dave Matulis 21-12, 21-14; Joe Aguglia def. Al Christian 21-7, 21-4; Jim Jones def. Steve Hagstrand 21-3, 21-5; Harry Cohn def. Dick Moore 21-10, 21-9; Jim Pruitt def. David Martin 21-3, 21-5; Paul Lazure def. Seymour Mardinger 21-2, 21-5; Tom Callahan def. Mike Weiner 21-6, 21-17; Dan Cox def. Mike Haines 21-4, 21-3; Jim Reuschel def. Brian Valin 21-14, 21-16; David Krueger def. John Alfieri (default); Jack Bystone def. Jim Lahai (default); Rich Offutt def. Blake McWilliam 21-6, 21-16; Ivan Velan def. Keith Little 21-0, 21-3; Tom Coburn def. Bruce Lewis 21-18, 21-19; Bob Pattison def. Bob Carelli 21-11, 21-12; Steve Dubord def. Howard Solomon 19-21, 21-17, 11-0; John Kruger def. Victor Alvarez 21-15, 21-11; Doug Clark def. Neil Shapiro 11-21, 21-19, 11-6; Bill Dubord def. Andy Rickard 11-21, 21-12, 11-7; Jim Winterton def. Kevin Corrigan 15-21, 21-7, 11-4; Willy Wong def. Bruce McKendrick (default); Bill Burnett def. Bob Eastman 21-9, 17-21, 11-6; Tito Padilla def. Sid Schacter 21-20, 21-11; Yogi Adler def. Dave Yurgaitis (default); Ray Capitinelli def. Jeff Mahar 21-6, 21-6; Ed Costillo def. Richard Flewelling (default); Ed MacPhee def. Dick Gaeta 21-9, 21-7.

(Second round): Mike Romano def. Williams 21-0, 21-3; Dollinger def. Russell 21-18, 21-14; Aguglia def. Jones 21-8, 21-15; Pruitt def. Cohn 17-21, 21-14, 11-5; Lazure def. Callahan 21-9, 21-10; Reuschel def. Cox 18-21, 21-7, 11-3; Blystone def. Krueger 21-9, 21-5; Velan def. Offutt 21-14, 21-0; Mike Luciw def. Coburn 21-6, 21-4; Dubord def. Pattison 21-16, 21-13; Kruger def. Clark 21-13, 6-21, 11-9; Winterton def. Dubord 21-11, 21-16; Wong def. Burnett 21-8, 21-4; Padilla def. Adler 21-16, 21-7; Capitinelli def. Costillo 11-21, 21-13, 11-3; Guinter def. MacPhee 21-11, 21-4.

(Third round): Romano def. Dollinger 21-7, 21-8; Aguglia def. Pruitt 21-10, 21-6; Lazure def. Reuschel 21-20, 18-21, 11-9; Velan def. Blystone 9-21, 21-6, 11-5; Luciw def. Dubord 21-17, 21-4; Winterton def. Kruger 21-18, 12-21, 11-9; Wong def. Padilla 21-8, 21-10; Guinter def. Capitinelli 13-21, 21-11, 11-7.

(Quarter-finals): Romano def. Aguglia 21-13, 21-11; Velan def. Lazure 21-7, 21-7; Luciw def. Winterton 21-5, 21-15; Guinter def. Wong 21-15, 21-18.

(Semi-finals): Romano def. Velan 21-16, 21-16; Guinter def. Luciw 21-19, 16-21, 11-10.

(Championship): Guinter def. Romano 13-21, 21-18, 11-9. **(Third place):** Velan (default).

Open Doubles (First round): Christensen-Christensen def. Carelli-Haines 21-20, 21-16;

Pattison-Sulikowski def. Corrigan-Callihan 17-21, 21-9, 11-7; Lewis-Williams def. Martin-Soloman 21-17, 21-19; Maher-Colangelo def. Hagstrand-Offutt 21-4, 21-8.

(Second round): Luciw-Rudysz def. Christensen-Christensen 21-0, 21-0; Dubord-Moore def. Eastman-Schacter 21-17, 21-16; Pattison-Sulikowski def. Capitinelli-Rizzo (default); Dubord-Reuschel def. Mardinger-Taib 21-9, 21-8; Costillo-Dollinger def. Lewis-Williams 21-8, 21-16; Neumeier-Padilla def. Kruger-Lazure 21-12, 14-21, 11-9; Blystone-LeFrancis def. Comolli-Moffatt 21-17, 21-16; Aguglia-Winterton def. Maher-Colangelo 21-4, 21-20.

(Quarter finals): Luciw-Rudysz def. Dubord-Moore 21-6, 21-15; Dubord-Reuschel def. Pattison-Sulikowski 21-20, 12-21, 11-0; Costillo-Dollinger def. Neumeier-Padilla 21-19, 21-15; Aguglia-Winterton def. Blystone-LeFrancis 21-14, 21-12.

(Semi-finals): Luciw-Rudysz def. Dubord-Reuschel 21-12, 21-4; Aguglia-Winterton def. Costillo-Dollinger 21-18, 21-16.

(Championship): Luciw-Rudysz def. Aguglia-Winterton 21-10, 21-14.

Master Singles (First round): Francis Anderson def. Frank Christensen 17-21, 21-15, 11-2.

(Quarter finals): Bill McLaughlin def. Anderson 21-4, 21-3; Mike Friedman def. Fred Rizzo (default); Bob Folsom def. Dan Rodriguez 21-17, 21-11; Hal Greig def. John Lepore 21-9, 21-3.

(Semi-finals): McLaughlin def. Friedman 21-11, 21-20; Folsom def. Greig 21-7, 21-11.

(Championship): Folsom def. McLaughlin 17-21, 21-14, 11-7.

Senior Singles (First round): Chuck Bigalow def. Fred Clermont 21-5, 21-6; Harvey Goldstein def. Bill LeFrancis 21-12, 5-21, 11-5; R. Colangelo def. John Lundy 21-15, 2-21, 11-9; Bert Moffatt def. Eric Jensen 21-2, 21-3.

(Quarter-finals): Colombo def. Bigalow 21-16, 21-18; Neumeier def. Goldstein (default); Wallace def. Colangelo 21-5, 21-3; Waltz def. Moffatt 21-7, 21-16.

(Semi-finals): Colombo def. Neumeier 21-9, 21-7; Waltz def. Wallace 21-16, 21-7.

(Championship): Waltz def. Colombo 5-21, 21-19, 11-10.

Junior Singles (First round): Steve Elia def. Bruce Christensen 21-9, 15-21, 11-10.

(Quarter-finals): Ross Harvey def. Bob Cohen 21-19, 21-11; Elia def. Steve Larrabe

21-19, 21-20; Todd Gibbo def. Mark Kahan 17-21, 21-16, 11-8; Steve Veilleux def. Brad Johnson 21-4, 21-7.

(Semi-finals): Harvey def. Elia 21-0, 21-5; Gibbo def. Veilleux 21-19, 9-21, 11-9.

(Championship): Harvey def. Gibbo 21-12, 21-3.

Women Doubles (Quarter-finals): Marcus-Velan Bye; Curran-Crowley def. Moore-Peterson 21-14, 21-11; Johnson-Dee def. Erica-Pels (default); Davis-Belinsky def. Boyer-Flahive 21-11, 21-3.

(Semi-finals): Marcus-Velan def. Curran-Crowley 21-6, 21-2; Davis-Belinsky def. Johnson-Dee 21-6, 11-21, 11-4.

(Championship): Davis-Belinsky def. Marcus-Velan 21-3, 21-8.

Women's Singles (First round): Karen Bednarski def. Colleen Crowley 21-7, 21-9; Lorraine Miller def. Sue Desrosiers 20-21, 21-10, 11-9; Francine Davis def. Robin Ulmer 21-10, 14-21, 11-10; Jackie Boyer def. Mary Dee 21-19, 0-21, 11-7; Marjorie Calahan def. Claudia Curran 21-0, 21-1; Joanne Belinsky def. Barb Gannon 12-21, 21-19, 11-3; Jackie Adler def. Sally Jensen 21-12, 21-5; Janet Laliberte def. Gerry Rudysz 21-12, 21-4; Jane Flahive def. Joanne Johnson 21-16, 21-16; Carol Frenck def. Susan Pels 21-1, 21-0.

(Second round): Monique Parent def. Bednarski 21-7, 21-3; Davis def. Miller 21-4, 21-10; Ann Rothberg def. Boyer 21-16, 14-21, 11-7; Callahan def. Penny Velan 21-10, 21-19; Heather Marshall def. Belinsky 21-7, 21-4; Lisa Marcus def. Adler 21-6, 21-17; Laliberte def. Flahive 21-9, 21-10; Frenck def. Phyllis Dumont 21-4, 21-4.

(Quarter-finals): Parent def. Davis 21-13, 21-13; Rothberg def. Callahan 21-1, 21-7; Marshall def. Marcus 21-13, 21-16; Frenck def. Laliberte 21-6, 21-9.

(Semi-finals): Parent def. Rothberg 21-9, 21-13; Frenck def. Marshall 21-12, 21-0.

(Championship): Frenck def. Parent 13-21, 21-13, 11-2.

UPCOMING EVENTS

'76-77—The Best Is Yet To Come

Over \$100,000 in prize money, double any previous season; 12 tour stops instead of last year's eight; and at least seven new hosts, with more glass than ever before.

This my friends, is the N.R.C.'s 1976-77 pro-am tour, already organized, already formed, already ready to go.

Once again, the tour will bear the name of the two firms, who have led the way in racquetball's promotion for the past five years—Leach and Seamco. Their prize money donations will enable the men and women professionals to compete for more cash than ever before in the court sports.

"It is with a great deal of pleasure that I welcome Seamco and Leach back as our sponsors," said N.R.C. president Bob Kendler. "The willingness of these firms to put their profits back into the further promotion of the game, warrants accolades that words can't describe. We thank them for their far-sightedness and their confidence in the N.R.C. as the only association that can organize and run a professional tour in a professional manner."

The tour begins Labor Day weekend at the Wall Street, a new court club in Sacramento, California, featuring an all-glass front wall, pro racquetball's first encounter on the spectator wave of the future.

Three weeks later we move to The Court Club, the newest club in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, long a racquetball hotbed. That tournament will be September 23-26.

Stop number three will be an old friend, and a most successful host last season—The Court Club in South Burlington, Vermont. Dates there will be October 14-17 and you

won't want to miss the beautiful Vermont foliage season, which will coincide with the tournament.

Entry forms for Edmonton, Alberta, Canada and Burlington, Vermont can be found in this issue.

Stop number four moves to the Midwest where The Glass Court, a brand new, 12 court facility in Lombard, Illinois, just outside of Chicago is our host. Owner Ron Hankin has made it clear he will spare no expense in bringing the best of racquetball to the Chicago area. November 6-9 is Lombard.

Number five should be a great one at Ft. Lauderdale Court Club Dec. 4-7 in Florida. Our first visit to the far southeast promises great action and even greater winter weather.

Number six stop on the tour has a unique twist as we move to Houston, Texas and the Downtown YMCA Jan. 8-11, 1977.

The pro-am will be held in conjunction with the National YMCA Tournament. The Houston Y, some might remember, was the very first pro racquetball host, in Sept. of 1973.

Stop number seven will bring us to the brand new Denver Sporting House, Feb. 5-8. Owner Rick Schliebe welcomes the tour with a beautiful club featuring a glass front wall.

Tour stop eight will bring us to California, at Rick Schliebe's new Newport Beach Sporting House. The dates are March 5-8 and Rick promises a first class show, as only he can put on.

At stop number nine March 26-29, we visit the beautiful University of Tennessee in Chattanooga and the million-dollar glass enclosed courts. You don't want to miss this one.

Stop number 10 moves to Southfield, Michigan, just outside Detroit, where Pat McPharlin has built the biggest racquetball center in the nation, the 30-court Southfield Racquetime Center. Dates for this event are April 16-19.

May 14-17 brings us to the last stop prior to the Nationals, a new club now under construction in Little Silver, New Jersey, just 40 minutes outside New York City. Len Mayo in Little Silver is as excited as we are about breaking into the New York market.

And the 12th stop, in early June, will of course, be the National Championships, again at the Atlas Health Club in San Diego. Exact dates of the Nationals will appear in the September issue of *National Racquetball*, as will the Regional Tournament schedule and more entry forms.

For certain, the most expensive, most progressive and most exciting season in racquetball's history, is in the offering for '76-77,—and it will be brought to you by who else,—the N.R.C., Seamco and Leach. Racquetball is on its way!

LEACH-SEAMCO PRO TOUR
presents the
KLONDIKE CITY PRO-AM
EDMONTON, ALBERTA, CANADA
SEPTEMBER 23-26, 1976

Site: The Court Club, 10420—122 St., Edmonton, Alta., Canada T5N 1M3.

Facilities: 8 regulation, indoor, four-wall courts, all with glass back walls.

Dates: September 23-26, 1976.

Entry fee: \$30 in all professional brackets; \$25 in amateur singles brackets; \$25 per team in doubles brackets.

Entry deadline: Friday, September 10, 1976. Entries received late cannot be guaranteed a souvenir shirt.

Sanction: By U.S. Racquetball Association and National Racquetball Club.

Official ball: In all amateur events: Seamco 558 (black). In all professional events: Seamco 559 (green).

Rules: U.S.R.A. and N.R.C. rules and regulations apply. No Player having accepted \$500 or more in prize money in the past 12 months may enter amateur events.

Awards: To first three places in amateur events. \$6,000 in prize money in Men's Pro Singles; \$2,000 in Women's Pro Singles.

Mail entries to: Howie Rankin, The Court Club, 10420—122 St., Edmonton, Alta., Canada T5N 1M3.

Make checks payable to: The Court Club. Fee must accompany all entries.

Please enter me:

☐ Men's Pro	☐ Women's Pro	☐ Senior Singles
☐ Amateur Open Singles	☐ Amateur Women's Singles	☐ B Singles
☐ C Singles	☐ Amateur Open Doubles	☐ B Doubles

Shirt Size: ☐ Small ☐ Medium ☐ Large ☐ X-Large

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bumper stickers marked above.

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Name _____

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SEAMCO-LEACH PRO TOUR

presents the

NEW ENGLAND PRO-AM BURLINGTON, VERMONT OCTOBER 14-17, 1976

Site: The Court Club, 70 Farrell Rd., South Burlington, Vermont 05401.

Facilities: 7 regulation, indoor, four-wall courts.

Dates: October 14-17, 1976.

Entry fee: \$25 in professional brackets. \$15 in amateur brackets.

Entry deadline: October 1, 1976. Entries received late cannot be guaranteed a souvenir shirt.

Sanction: by U.S. Racquetball Association and National Racquetball Club.

Official Ball: In all amateur events: Seamco 558 (black). In professional events: Seamco 559 (green).

Rules: U.S.R.A. and N.R.C. rules and regulations apply. No player having accepted \$500 or more in prize money within the past 12 months may enter amateur events.

Awards: To first four places in amateur events. \$6,000 in prize money in Men's Pro Singles, \$2,000 in Women's Pro.

Mail entries to: John Kruger, The Court Club, 70 Farrell Rd., South Burlington, Vermont 05401. Phone: 802-864-4770.

Make checks payable to: The Court Club. Fee must accompany all entries.

Please enter me in: ☐ Men's Pro ☐ Women's Pro ☐ Senior Singles
☐ Amateur Men's Singles ☐ Amateur Women's Singles

Shirt size: ☐ Small ☐ Medium ☐ Large ☐ X-Large

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Tournament headquarters: Sheraton Motor Inn 802-862-6576. Make reservations early. This is Vermont's peak foliage season.

Prize Money . . .

Final 1975-76 Men's N.R.C. Prize Money Earnings

Rank	Player	Prize Money
1.	Charlie Brumfield, San Diego	\$12,675
2.	Marty Hogan, St. Louis	6,675
3.	Steve Strandemo, San Diego	4,275
4.	Steve Keeley, San Diego	4,025
5.	Richard Wagner, San Diego	3,350
6.	Dave Bledsoe, Memphis	3,075
7.	Steve Serot, San Diego	3,050
8.	Bill Schmidtke, Minneapolis	2,175
9.	Mike Zeitman, Memphis	1,750
10.	Craig McCoy, Riverside, Cal.	1,700
11.	Jerry Hilecher, St. Louis	1,650
12.	Jeff Bowman, Urbana, Ill.	800
13.	Ron Rubenstein, Chicago	450
14.	Paul Ikier, Minneapolis	400

All Time Women's N.R.C. Prize Money Earnings

Rank	Player	Prize Money
1.	Peggy Steding, Odessa, Tex.	\$3,350
2.	Kathy Williams, Hazel Park, Mich.	1,625
3.	Shannon Wright, Dallas	1,350
4.	Sue Carow, Glenview, Ill.	1,100
5.	Janell Marriott, Salt Lake City	750
6.	Jean Sauser, Northbrook, Ill.	650
7.	Jan Campbell, San Diego	500
8.	Jan Pasternak, Houston	450
9.	Jennifer Harding, Portland	275
10.	Camille McCarthy, Indianapolis	150

Final 1975-76 Women's N.R.C. Prize Money Earnings

Rank	Player	Prize Money
1.	Peggy Steding, Odessa, Tex.	\$2,850
2.	Shannon Wright, Dallas	1,350
3.	Janell Marriott, Salt Lake City	750
4.	Jean Sauser, Northbrook, Ill.	650
5.	Kathy Williams, Hazel Park, Mich.	550
6. (tie)	Jan Campbell, San Diego	500
	Sue Carow, Glenview, Ill.	500
8.	Jan Pasternak, St. Louis	200
9.	Jennifer Harding, Portland	150
10.	Camille McCarthy, Indianapolis	150

All Time Men's N.R.C. Prize Money Earnings

Rank	Player	Prize Money
1.	Charlie Brumfield, San Diego	\$21,375
2.	Steve Serot, San Diego	14,050
3.	Steve Keeley, San Diego	13,075
4.	Steve Strandemo, San Diego	10,235
5.	Marty Hogan, St. Louis	7,190
6.	Bill Schmidtke, Minneapolis	5,306
7.	Richard Wagner, San Diego	4,790
8.	Mike Zeitman, Memphis	3,850
9.	Jerry Hilecher, St. Louis	3,670
10.	Davey Bledsoe, Memphis	3,325
11.	Ron Rubenstein, Chicago	2,885
12.	Craig McCoy, Riverside, Cal.	2,180
13.	Ron Strom, Minneapolis	2,080
14.	Dan Alder, Milwaukee	1,530
15.	Charlie Drake, San Diego	1,195
16.	Jeff Bowman, Chicago	900
17.	Paul Ikier, Minneapolis	660
18.	Bill Thurman, San Francisco	415
19.	Ken Wong, St. Louis	400
20.	Joe Ycaza, Atlanta	330
20.	Dave Charlson, San Diego	330
22.	Joe Wirkus, Milwaukee	300
23.	Steve Dunn, Union City, Cal.	285
23.	Bill Dunn, Union City, Cal.	285
25.	Victor Niederhoffer, New York	250

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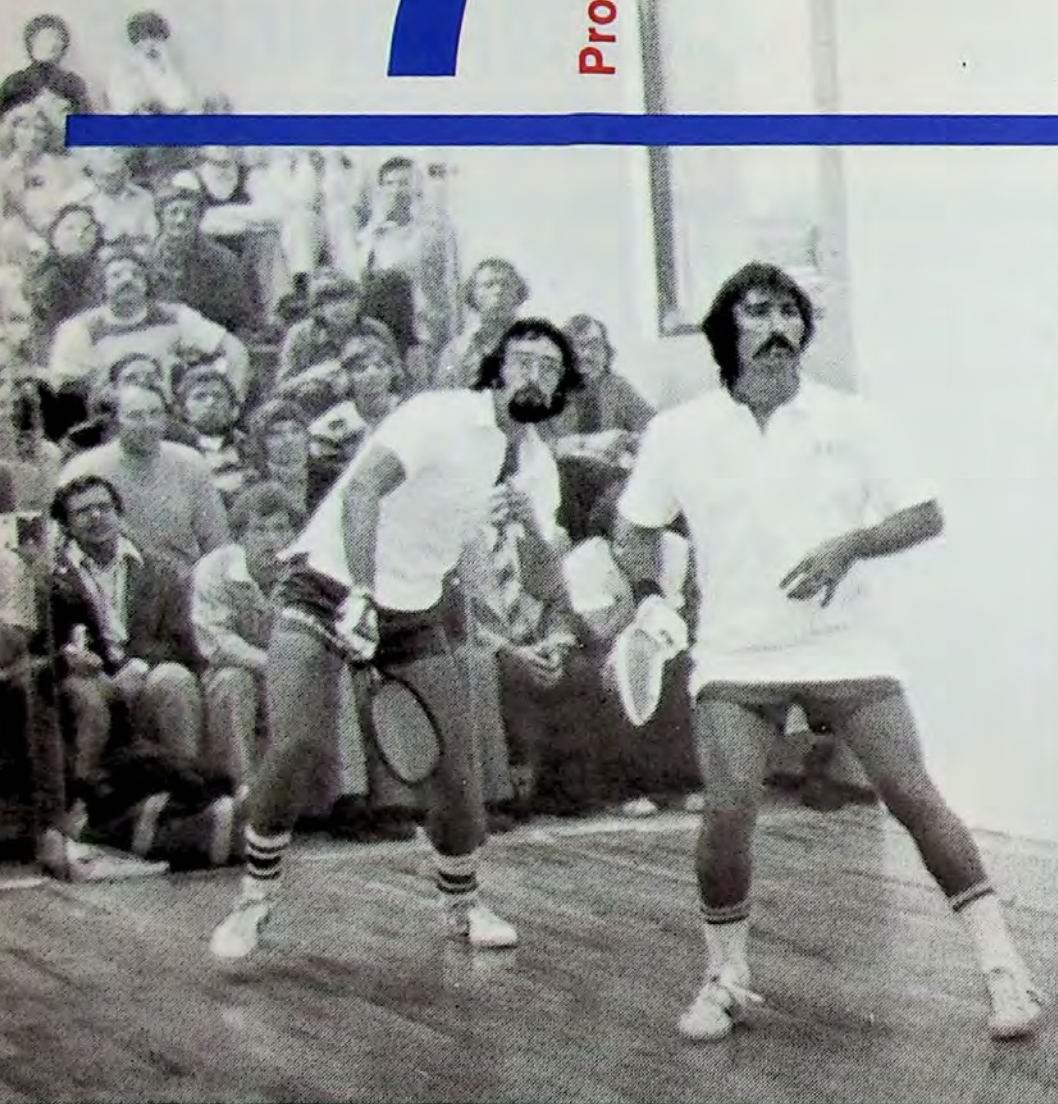
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TOURNAMENT RESULTS

Peoria 7

Pro-Am Tour



Brumfield goes for the overhead in the championship match against Strandemo in Peoria. Another case of having just a bit too much for his opponents.

Will the real top four please stand up? That was the question at the Tournament of Champions when the top 12 money winners from the first six Leach-Seamco Pro Tour stops met in the \$10,000 invitational event hosted by the Courtside court club in Peoria, Illinois.

The tournament was the last stop prior to the National Championships and every player had been gearing his game to ready for the big one.

The big question in everybody's mind was whether or not Charlie Brumfield had lost his touch. Coming into Peoria, the Brum had not won a major tournament in over three months, finishing second to Marty Hogan in Milwaukee and losing in the quarters to Jerry Hilecher in Buffalo.

But when it was all over, Brumfield again proved he was the man to beat in San Diego, by taking the Tournament of Champions and the \$2,000 first place prize by defeating Steve Strandemo in the finals 21-16, 11-21, 11-7.

Strandemo, who had been off his game for much of the season, came from the difficult number six seed to reach the finals, having to top Mike Zeitman, Richard Wagner and Steve Serot, before giving a great effort against Brumfield.

"This was a big tournament for me," said Strandemo, who had

Steve Strandemo drives the ball down the right wall in his rough match and win over Steve Serot in the semi-finals.

gone out in the round of 16 in Buffalo. "I needed at least a second place for a good draw in the Nationals."

Brumfield started the finals in intimidating fashion, with three aces his first three services on Courtside's full glass back walled championship court. Strandemo didn't let it get to him, though as the game was close throughout with ties at six, nine, and 10. A three point Brumfield lead was narrowed to one at 17-16, but two Brumfield points caused Strandemo to call a strategic time out at 19-16.

"I still thought I could get the game," said Steve, "but I had to slow him down."

It was to no avail as Brum rallied for the necessary two to reach a 21-16 first game verdict.

Game two began similarly, however this time it was Strandemo who broke the game open mid-way through, jumping from an 8-7 advantage to 14-10 and then 17-11. Brumfield decided against making a serious effort at this juncture and Strandemo ran out to a 21-11 win.

To the tie breaker they went with the full house gallery on the edge of their seats. Both players were reaching back and the match began taking on classic proportions.

Five times each man came in to serve at 2-1 Strandemo's lead in the tie-breaker. When Brumfield stretched the lead to 4-2, Strandemo came right back to knot it at four. Charlie tallied twice for a



7-5 lead, and Strandemo answered with two of his own for 7-7. Again Brumfield scored to 9-7, but this time Strandemo was unable to answer. Strandemo refused to die, tying the score at 9-all. Finally it was the Brum, 11-7, with the last point coming on a backhand left corner kill.

"I was struggling," said Brumfield. "But I felt I had to win this one."

In the semi's Brumfield topped a re-born Steve Keeley who had bested Ron Rubenstein and Davey Bledsoe en route to Charlie. The scores were 21-16, 21-20. It was a frustrating loss for Keeley, who came back from an 11-1 deficit in the first game only to lose, and then saw leads of 12-6 and 15-10 evaporate in game two. A

valiant late bid by Steve when down 20-17 failed, when at 20-20 Brumfield served an ace to the right deep corner.

In the lower bracket Strandemo and Serot had their usual struggle. Each player took a game easily, Serot capturing game one 21-11 and Strandemo turning the books 21-10 in the second. Strandemo kept the pressure on in the tie-breaker and a series of excellent serves including an ace for point 10 led the way to his win, 11-8.

In the quarters Brumfield destroyed Bill Schmidtke 21-7, 21-7 in a match in which Schmidtke worried more about his ball selection than the game itself; Keeley had a tough one with Bledsoe, before ousting



Two of the losers kid it up. Davey Bledsoe plays the dummy and Marty Hogan plays the trainer (or is Hogan the dummy?) at a party given by Mike Hart at the Tournament of Champions. That's Steve Keeley (lower left) enjoying the show.

the likeable Memphian 21-11, 20-21, 11-8; Strandemo took it to Richard Wagner, both physically and mentally for an overwhelming 21-17, 21-7 win; and Serot easily handled second seed Marty Hogan by the surprising scores of 21-15, 21-11.

In the women's professional division, the story was Peggy Steding, who was truly on her game. Years from now when people inquire as to how good she really was, they will point to the Tournament of Champions, where Peg never allowed an opponent to score more than 10 points against her in any given game. Her final round win was 10 and 10 against a gutsy, but outshot Shannon Wright. With complete control of her entire repertoire of shots, Steding was overwhelming, from serves to kills.

"When she's playing like that, there's nothing anybody can do," said Shannon. "I tried to play the ceiling and move her, but she was too hot."

The semi-finals were a disappointment as Janell Marriott, possibly demoralized by a poor draw, couldn't mount the threat she had hoped for against Steding, succumbing 21-6, 21-10 in the upper bracket.

Down below, surprise semi-finalist Jean Sauser had the same trouble against Wright, as Shannon's experience and superior shot-making accounted for the 21-15, 21-6 scores.

Seamco's Bob Coate, National Sales Manager, presents Brumfield with the \$3,000 first place award at the Tournament of Champions. Looking on are Courtside owner Roger Weddle and Strandemo.



Finalists Steding (l.) and Wright chat prior to their duel. This time it was Steding, with ease.



The eight lady field had only one interesting first round match, Sauser's stunning upset win over Jan Campbell 17-21, 21-17, 11-10 in a thrilling, action-packed match. Other scores were Steding's destruction of Jan Pasternak 21-7, 21-8; Marriott's relatively easy win against Kathy Williams 17 and 13; and Wright's lopsided win over Sue Carow, 21-11, 21-6.

Thirty-two men made up the Men's A amateur division and some pretty good players showed their games to good galleries at Courtside.

The winner turned out to be Rudi Losche, the St. Louis player whose ease and grace almost mesmerizes opponents. Losche stopped Chicago's John Lynch, who had topped Ben Koltun in the semis.

The finals were exciting, indeed, with the scores 21-14, 18-21, 11-9. An avoidable hinder against Lynch at 9-all in the tie-breaker was a good, but rough call that aided in the outcome.

"There's a good chance he would have won anyhow," said Lynch. "But I sure wish the avoidable hadn't been called. I guess I can't argue with the call, but I regret it came when it did."

Losche stopped Champaign's Charlie Rish in his semi, 11 and 17, while Lynch's win over Koltun was a strange three game 4-21, 21-4 and 11-4.

Sarah Green, the next lady to make an impression in the pro ranks captured the women's

amatuer division, besting Beverly Franks in the finals 21-11, 20-21, 11-0. Green, who had three shots at match point in the second game, sealed the tie-breaker with zest. Neither lady had trouble in the semi-finals.

It was Tom Street capturing the Men's B finals over Marshall Peterson 13 and 19, while Donna Valerie won the Women's B 15 and 10 over Vickie Kimber.

Courtside was an ideal host, not only with their excellent nine courts, but also co-operation and aid in running a great tournament. Owner Roger Weddle, manager/pro Gary Whitaker, and former partner Mike Hart did everything imaginable to make the event successful. Their organization, hard work, dedication and superb hospitality left no stone unturned.

Our thanks to these people and the other on the Courtside staff who all helped to make the event as good as it was.

The Courtside club added \$5,000 to the \$5,000 guaranteed by the N.R.C. through Seamco and Leach as prize money, making the Tournament of Champions the richest prized tournament outside of the nationals in racquetball history.

Nice to see Seamco's Bob Coate and Art Orloski in attendance and both men must have been proud, indeed, in their ball's performance which had no broken balls the entire tournament.

Pro Results Men: (First Round) Schmidtke def. McCoy 21-19, 21-17; Keeley def. Rubenstein 21-18, 21-14; Strandemo def. Zeitman 20-21, 21-10, 11-2; Serot def. Hilecher 21-20, 10-21, 11-4.

(Quarter-finals): Brumfield def. Schmidtke 21-7, 21-7; Keeley def. Bledsoe 21-11, 20-21, 11-8; Strandemo def. Wagner 21-17, 21-7; Serot def. Hogan 21-15, 21-11.

(Semi-finals): Brumfield def. Keeley 21-16, 21-20; Strandemo def. Serot 11-21, 21-10, 11-8.

(Championship): Brumfield def. Strandemo 21-16, 11-21, 11-7.

Pro Results Women: (Quarter-finals) Steding def. Pasternak 21-7, 21-8; Marriott def. Williams 21-17, 21-13; Wright def. Carow 21-11, 21-6; Sauser def. Campbell 17-21, 21-17, 11-10.

(Semi-finals): Steding def. Marriott 21-6, 21-11; Wright def. Sauser 21-15, 21-6.

(Championships): Steding def. Wright 21-10, 21-10.

Men's A: (First round) Losche def. Masher 21-8, 21-16; Champagne def. Berry (forfeit); Bertolucci def. Stickler (forfeit); Blaess def. Ellis 21-9, 21-7; Rish def. Hall 21-4, 21-10; Franks def. Grafton 21-9, 21-8; Ranker def. Guberman 21-13, 21-13; Schmitt def. Armengol 21-8, 21-3; Lynch def. Kotarba 21-4, 21-7; Clar def. Reynolds 19-21, 21-5, 11-1; Fleetwood def. DeMunter 21-19, 21-5; Frye def. Lucas 21-6, 21-4; McDowell def. Jon Zuckerman 21-10, 21-12; Stephens def. Daley 21-4, 21-3; Duke def. Senters 21-10, 21-16; Koltun def. Casey 21-6, 21-19.

(Second round): Losche def. Champagne 21-7, 21-9; Blaess def. Bertolucci 21-10, 21-8; Rish def. Franks 21-10, 21-17; Schmitt def. Ranker 15-21, 21-20, 11-2; Lynch def. Clar 21-2, 21-8; Fleetwood def. Frye 21-14, 21-15; McDowell def. Stephens 21-14, 21-15; Koltun def. Duke 21-7, 21-18.

(Quarter-finals): Losche def. Blaess 21-13, 21-8; Rish def. Schmitt 21-13, 21-17; Lynch def. Fleetwood 21-8, 21-12; Koltun def. McDowell 21-12, 21-13.

(Semi-finals): Losche def. Rish 21-11, 21-17; Lynch def. Koltun 4-21, 21-4, 11-4.

(Championship): Losche def. Lynch 21-14, 18-21, 11-9.



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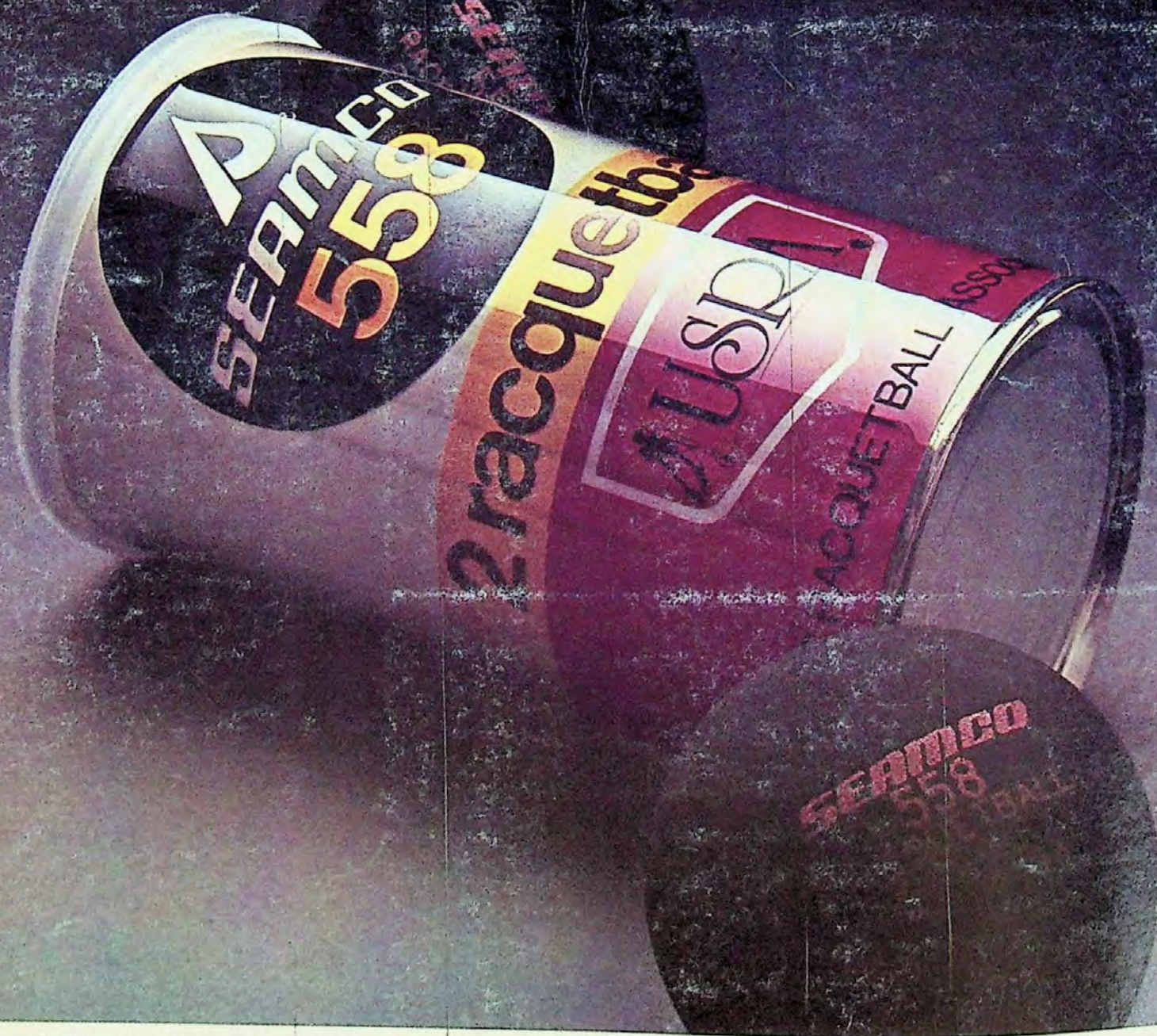


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