

National Racquetball®

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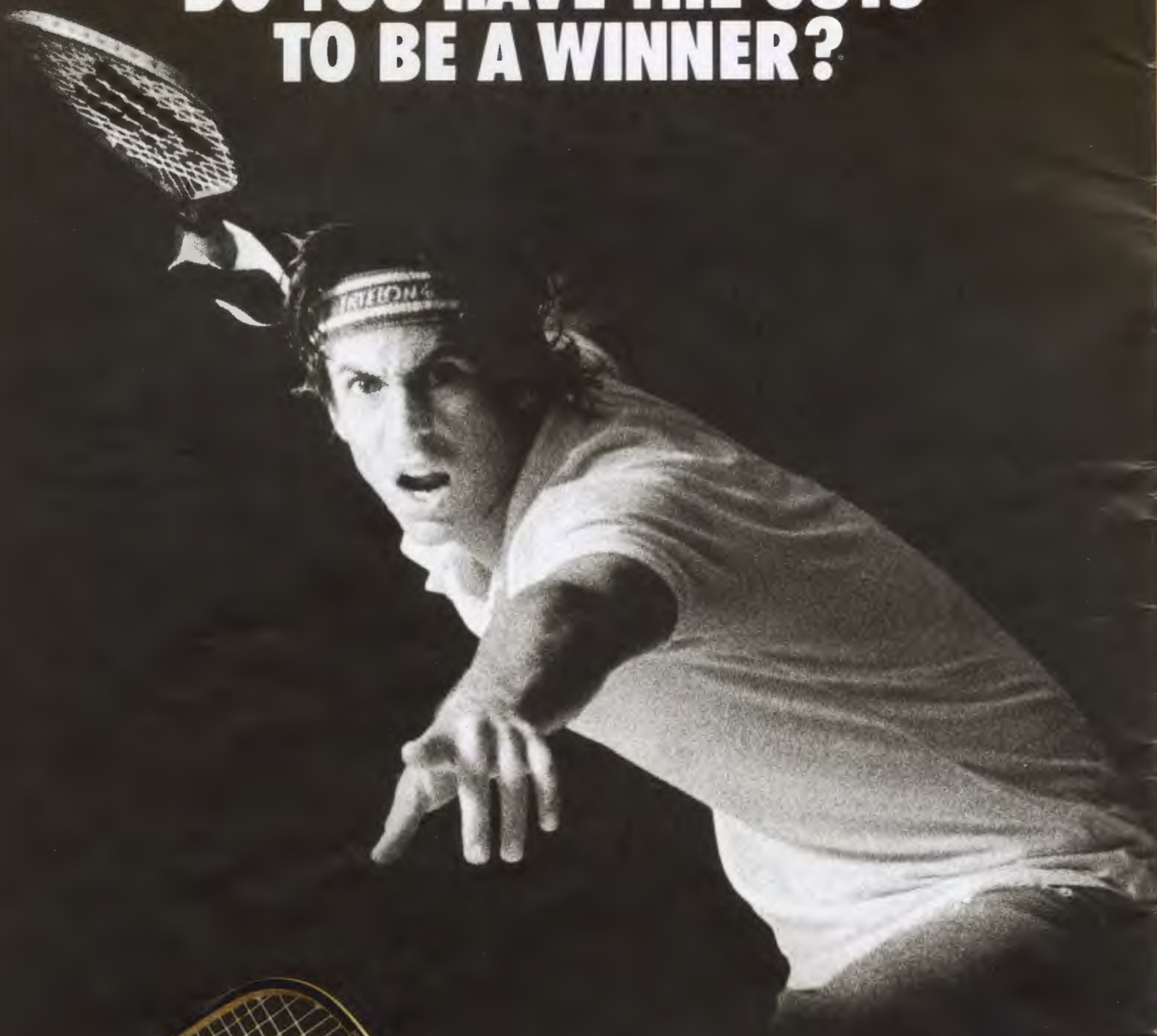
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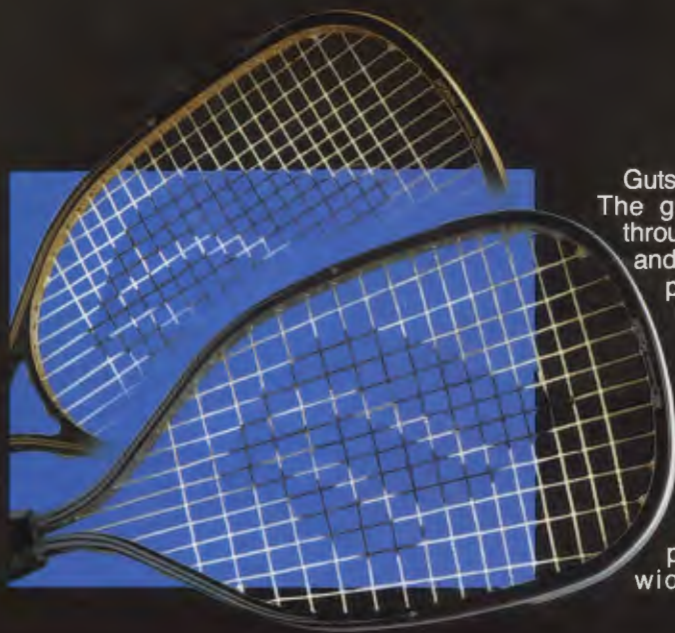
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On the cover...

Bob Kendler, the man who led racquetball from its infancy through its fantastic growth throughout the 1970's, died on November 1. A review of his impact on racquetball and what some of those who know him best had to say about his passing (page 9).

—Arthur Shay photo

Next issue...

We'll start out the new year with an in-depth look at collegiate racquetball, rapidly becoming the spawning ground for the next generation of players; also a Reader Participation Survey on National Racquetball and a feature on Art Michaely, the guy who runs the world's largest racquetball league. Plus our usual departments and results of the AARA National Doubles—all right here!

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From The Editor . . .

Whatever Happened To Doubles?

The AARA completed its annual National Doubles championships October 21-24 just under the deadline for this issue. It was a good tournament—exciting play, tremendous hospitality, lots of upsets and good media coverage. We'll carry a full report next month.

And that'll be it for doubles for another year. As usual, the doubles season's over before Halloween. Thrilling, huh?

I could never figure out the racquetball mentality relating to doubles. Somehow we've passed over a game that, compared to singles, is 1) more exciting, 2) more skillful, 3) more entertaining, and being played by millions every day.

So where have all the doubles tournaments gone? What is it about doubles that steers the promoters away like the plague? Now, I'm not talking about the fancy-dan, city-slick type promoters. I'm talking about you and me and our local club where "Let's have a tournament" means "Let's have a singles tournament."

I don't know about you, but I like doubles. Okay, I'll admit it—I like singles more, but I still like doubles. I play doubles at least 40 percent of the time and enjoy every minute. And unlike singles, I can blame my losses on my partner.

Dangerous? Not really, if you know what you're doing. To me, flying jet planes would be dangerous, because I don't know the first thing about being a pilot. Playing doubles is dangerous if you don't know anything about the game.

But that's precisely what makes doubles so attractive—it is a life, an aura, a being all its own. It's a different game than singles. There are different shots, strategy and all sorts of factors. You've got a partner to watch, worry about and depend on. Your shots have to be precise or they'll get ripped right back atcha'.

It's fast-paced, thrills a minute, stimulating rallies. At the top of the competitive ladder, it's a great show, a better display of racquetball talent than singles. So how come all the doubles players in the world meet once a year for their competitive quickie—and that's all folks?



I also wonder why the pros don't include one or two doubles events on their tour each season, or better yet a pro doubles division at each tour stop. It would give more players a shot at some prize money; it would take the sting out of early round losses for some pros (especially if they did well in doubles); it would put some of today's great singles artists to the test of melding their superb individual talents to the teamwork, finesse and partnership that is doubles. That I'd like to see.

Now don't start telling me how hard it is to go both ways, singles and doubles, in one event. All that junk about how we racquetballers can't take the pace of two events because of the tremendous toll our game takes on us. Hogwash!

There was a day that was true, but nobody's seen it lately. Anybody who claims racquetball is too tough to go both ways is out of shape. I mean, how hard is it to hit a ball as hard as you can twice every 30 seconds for 45 minutes? That's singles.

They do it in tennis, from every week tour stops to Wimbledon. And virtually all the pros play doubles along with their singles. And it's rare that you hear of a player defaulting in doubles to "save" himself for singles. And don't start telling me how much tougher racquetball is than tennis 'cuz you can't fool an ol' court watcher like me.

But then again, maybe I'm all wet. Maybe there's hundreds of doubles tournaments out there and I'm just not reading my mail. But like the club owner said to the guy who claimed there were 14 million racquetball players, "that may be, but they're not coming through my front door." ●

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Letters



National Racquetball Magazine
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Back Wall Rule

Dear Editor:

In your August '82 issue, a reader wrote in suggesting a back wall rule in which a line would be placed five feet from the back wall and you could only hit the ball into the back wall if you were behind the line.

The letter asked for comments. Well, I've got some.

In racquetball, people need a lot of freedom. Any rule that limits freedom on the courts cuts down on the fun. And the back wall rule is unnecessary.

I've never seen anyone hit, nor have I been hit myself, by a ball being shot to the back wall. If there's anybody who knows about getting hit by the super-sonic blue bullet, it's me. I play three hours a day, five days a week, and get hit by the ball or racquet at least twice a week. I've been hit everywhere imaginable, and then some.

Wherever you stand on the court, you may be hit, and the back wall is no exception. But I'm sure we're all safe enough with the rules of today.

Brian Vaughan
El Cajon, CA

The Publisher's Pipe

Dear Editor:

Evidently comments about your publisher smoking a pipe have been to no avail (see October issue, p. 4).

It certainly does not project a good image, particularly for a *sports* publication.

I am a member of the Los Angeles Athletic Club and I know that less than one half of one percent of our handball and racquetball members smoke.

Peter Gates
Los Angeles, CA

(Dear Peter: What pipe? —Ed.)

She Takes The Challenge

Dear Mr. Morgan:

I am a dedicated player, I read all of your magazine cover to cover, and I would like to reply to your challenge (October issue, p. 4).

You asked who we are, why we play, how often we play.

I am 63 years old. I have played for four years and loved every minute of it. I have never played any other sport, and will not give up racquetball until I am in a wheelchair in a nursing home. (I am secretly plotting a way to play even there.)

Racquetball has done so much for me. Physically, it has brought down my extremely high blood pressure and helped me to lose forty pounds over the first two years.

Why do I play? Naturally, for the health benefits, but really just because I love it, I love the people, and I play nearly every day of the week.

Racquetball has given me the chance to make new friends, many of them much younger than me; to edit our Courthouse Newsletter, which has opened a whole new world—I am no longer just a tired old housewife; I even had an article in *National Racquetball* a few years ago and through it met players from all over when they were out here visiting.

It is so nice to have a publisher recognize that not all of us are open players or top stars; but we do play, we buy lots of outfits and equipment, we pay our dues on time, and we love the game.

Thanks for realizing that it is the average players who comprise the bulk and success of any club or magazine.

Eleanor Quackenbush
Salem, OR

Importance of Eyeguards

Dear Editor:

I firmly agree with your comments on eyeguards in the October issue of *National Racquetball*.

I have been an avid player for the last three years. I am also a firm believer in eye protection and have been wearing eyeguards ever since my first lesson.

My two daughters, ages nine and seven, are beginning to play and enjoy the game. I wish to stress to them the importance of eye protection.

To me eyeguards are as important a piece of equipment as my racquet. I wouldn't walk onto a court without either one.

Nancy L. Kurszewski
Stevens Point, WI

Dear Editor:

Congratulations on the great editorial about protective eyewear in the October issue of *National Racquetball*. We commend your successful efforts to continually publicize the need for racquetball players to wear eye protection.

I'm convinced that it is only a matter of time before the major national racquetball and squash associations require protective eyewear for all players. Unfortunately, between now and then, thousands of painful, costly and needless eye injuries will occur to racquetball players. The impact of such injuries on the sport's future could be substantial.

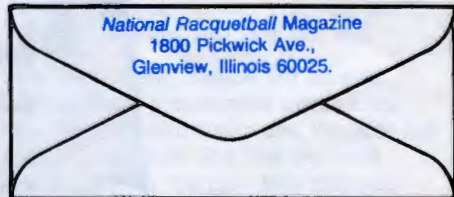
Dennis Hirschfelder
Director of Eye Safety Programs
National Society to Prevent Blindness

Favorite Shot

Dear Editor:

Your magazine is excellent, but I would like to see a short article by some of the pros about what their favorite shot is. My favorite is when the ball is coming off the front wall very high and deep into the back court. I swing at the ball as if I am going to hit it on the fly...and deliberately miss it. If my opponent is right behind me, and he is asleep, the ball will hit him and result in a point or a side out—another step toward a brilliant victory for yours truly...

Al Freedman
Voorhees, NJ



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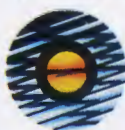
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Kendler's Death — End Of An Era



Robert W. Kendler, the driving force in the racquetball industry from 1968-1980, died November 1 at the age of 78. He collapsed in church Sunday morning, October 31, lapsed into a coma and never regained consciousness.

And so an era in racquetball history has ended. As founder of the old International Racquetball Association (IRA), U.S. Racquetball Association (USRA), and National Racquetball Club (NRC); inaugurator of both *Racquetball* and *National Racquetball* magazines; inventor of the glass court; founder of racquetball's first pro tour, national juniors, intercollegiates and countless other racquetball activities—he earned a place in the sport's history which will never be forgotten.

Kendler's role in racquetball was as enigmatic as could be. To some he was a sacrificing savior, nearly always ready to do whatever was necessary to get the job done. He paid for production of racquetball TV shows when no sponsor would come forth; he put up the prize money when no sponsors were to be found in the early days; he gave tremendously of his time and energy and he never drew one penny in salary.

On the other hand, his personal pride and affection for doing business "exclusively" (signing endorsement contracts with one company to the exclusion of others) caused continuous political and legal problems which eventually led to the demise of his racquetball empire.

Yet during his years of peak influence Kendler managed to get racquetball featured in *Sports Illustrated*, *The Wall Street Journal* (twice), *The Christian Science Monitor*, most major metropolitan daily newspapers, several in-flight magazines and countless other periodicals as well as three national and two regional TV shows.

Kendler's court sports career began in the 1920's when he was an avid handball player. As his years and personal wealth grew (real estate, home building and remodeling), he became disenchanted with the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) governing of handball. Thus, in 1951 he orchestrated a "revolt"

A rare glimpse of Kendler just taking it easy in his Skokie, IL, office—4101 Dempster St. was known as racquetball headquarters for over a decade.



that saw 31 of the top 32 handball players withdraw from the AAU and join Kendler's new U.S. Handball Association (USHA).

As the the president and driving force of handball through the USHA, Kendler steered the course for over 30 years. This past summer, at the age of 77 and in obviously failing health, he resigned from USHA, turning the reins over to Carl Porter.

Racquetball World Mourns

The reaction to the death of Bob Kendler came swiftly from the racquetball industry. Those who knew him best, who had an inside look at how he operated his racquetball interests, had these words to say:

I feel a sense of loss for racquetball. I don't know how you can ever replace a Bob Kendler. Bob created a standard of excellence that still exists today. I'm concerned how racquetball is going to maintain the programs he initiated. —Charlie Drake, president, O.I. & D., Inc., San Diego, former Chief Executive Officer, Leach Industries.

Bob Kendler created professional racquetball. If it hadn't been for him none of us would be playing. He was controversial, but he told everybody what he was going to do and he went out and did it. He led the way. I had a great deal of respect for him. He was a fantastic human being and

racquetball was fortunate to have a man of his stature involved in it for so many years. —Marty Hogan, five time National Champion.

Bob Kendler was one of the most dynamic and visionary leaders in American sports history. He dreamed of transforming grubby little 20x40 cubby holes in the back recesses of YMCA's into exciting glass showcases. In doing so, he touched and enriched the lifestyles of millions of new handball and racquetball players. Many of his goals for the sports he loved are still to be achieved. The legacy Bob left us is the inspiration and challenge to keep building on those dreams. —Carl Porter, Jr., president U.S. Handball Association.

I don't believe that the court club industry or any aspect of it, such as associations, tournaments or publications, would be nearly as advanced as they are without his help. I am personally grateful for the help and information he shared with me when we were beginning our racquetball ventures. —John S. Wineman, Jr., former president, National Court Clubs Association, partner Court House Sports Clubs, Ltd., Northfield, IL.

I'm shocked at his loss. Bob Kendler truly started the game of racquetball. He did so much. We came a long way since Milwaukee in 1968 and it was Bob who led us there. He gave me a career in racquetball and

The good ol' days found Kendler (right) with former Seamco president Al Mackie (left) and Illinois governor Jim Thompson, an avid racquetballer. It was Kendler's insistence on exclusive ball contracts with Seamco that led to years of litigation, still not totally resolved at the time of his death.



In 1968 Kendler was called to Milwaukee to witness the first bud of the racquetball flower and sensing its eventual greatness, he embraced the game, much to the chagrin of his handball following. He formed the IRA and began the many programs that continue today under the auspices of the AARA.

In 1973 a disagreement with the Board of Directors led to Kendler's resignation from IRA and his formation of the competitive organizations, the USRA/NRC. He established pro racquetball and a second magazine, and continued to amaze the racquetball world with his brash, "my way" approach to the industry.

There are other opinions, to be sure, but the fact remains that Bob Kendler was the man most responsible for putting racquetball on the sports map. It was he who ruled the roost during the great boom of the 1970's, it was he who put his money where his mouth was, it was he who had the guts to go forward when others would shrink away.

One of his favorite lines was, "God hates a coward." If the converse of that is true, "God loves a man with guts," then Bob Kendler is doing just fine right now. ●

he was always willing to help if there was a problem. I'll miss him and I know the sport will too. —Bill Schmidtke, National Champion 1971, 1974.

It's very unfortunate that Bob has passed away. He made a major contribution to the sport and the history of racquetball will reflect that. —Luke St. Onge, executive director, AARA.

He was the catalyst for the sport. What always struck me the most was how he controlled racquetball with kindness. When I needed money to get through school, he gave it to me. Any player could go to Bob with a problem. Sure, he was

gruff at times, but he tempered it with kindness. —Charlie Brumfield, National Champion 1972, 1973, 1975, 1976

We'll all miss him. He meant the world to racquetball. If it hadn't been for Bob Kendler, the sport would never have reached the heights it has. I only regret that his enemies couldn't have known how much he cared. Most of all I'll cherish his generosity for the kids. He loved the juniors and always made sure they were taken care of. —Joe Ardito, former National Commissioner, USRA/NRC and long-time Kendler associate.

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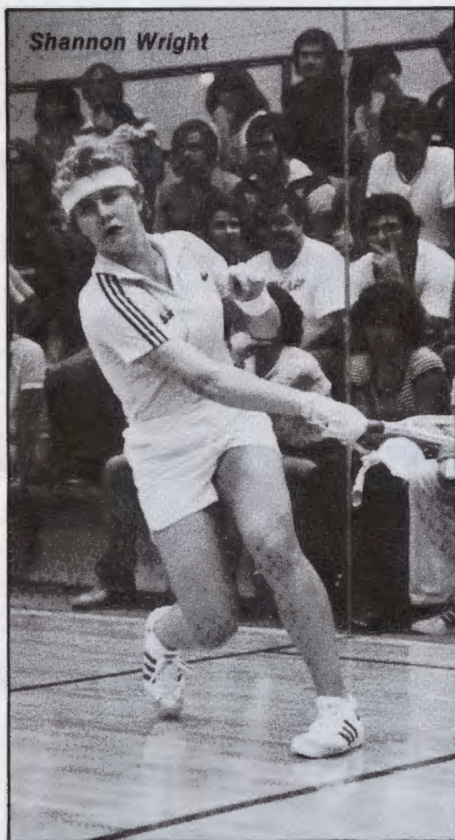
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The Inner Athlete: A Profile Of Shannon Wright

"I'm not close friends with anyone on the tour. I don't think that's a very good idea—being friends with the people you're competing with."

—Shannon Wright, 1977



There's no doubt in Shannon Wright's mind that she'll be national women's champion in 1983. In her own words, *"I'm gonna clean up this year."*

In June 1977, Shannon defeated Peggy Steding in San Diego and became national champion for the first time. Since then, she has played brilliantly but erratically, often ranked first, always staying near the top but never consistently dominating, in spite of her unique combination of incredible endurance, strength, aggressiveness, and court smarts.

She's been called an "all-American girl," but the insipid expression fails to

characterize this complex woman who is fiercely independent and competitive and yet emotionally available, who has built a log cabin single-handedly and flies a plane, but needs the approbation of her peers and fans in racquetball.

Wright's competitiveness dates to schooldays, where she distinguished herself academically mainly, she feels, because there was no worthwhile athletic competition available to her.

She is a woman of formidable determination. Three weeks after she began to play racquetball for fun, she got serious and decided, with Pete Wright advising her, that she was going to be the best. Five years and one broken marriage later she achieved her objective.

In the past few years, some major developments in her personal life have caused Wright to reevaluate her goals and the focus of her racquetball career, to ask some of the hard questions that we all have to ask sooner or later.

And she has come up with some tough-minded, perceptive answers that indicate the kind of personal and professional growth she's achieved in the process. At 26 she is still tough and confident, but she is very far from the defensive, touchy brat of yesteryear who got tagged cocky and arrogant. These days she's positive and warm not only about her own playing, but about the level of women's racquetball generally and her competition on the pro tour.

In a recent interview with *National Racquetball*, she talked about the new Shannon Wright and the hopes and dreams that sustain her as she enters her eighth pro racquetball season.

Over those eight years Wright has certainly stood the test of time. Gone from top level play are virtually all of the players she has had to climb over to reach and stay number one during her

early years—players like Kathy Williams, Peggy Steding, Sue Carow, Jan Campbell and Jan Pasternak.

It's a new generation now, one of harder hitters, more cunning strategists and better conditioned athletes. And Wright has earned her spot at or near the top of today's racquetball ladder.

"I've been playing racquetball a long time," she says of her expectation of winning the nationals. *"My endurance is phenomenal, I'm smart and experienced, and I've had a feeling that I'd reach my prime about 28. So the next couple of years are going to be my best."*

"I've made some changes in my life and they're going to help me get there. I've altered my eating habits, for example, and lost weight. Eventually, I'd like to be no higher than 130, and I'm real close. I think that's going to help my speed."

"And this summer I've been working with weights. I've always been real strong and I want to capitalize on that."

The confidence isn't new—Wright has always been sure of herself and of her preeminence in women's racquetball—but there's a sense of balance that wasn't always there.

"You've got to be even-keeled to make it," she says. *"Like Heather McKay—she had to be even-minded, even-tempered to win for 18 years at squash."* (McKay is two-time and current national women's champion.)

It was that lack of balance that destroyed her first marriage with Pete Wright.

"We were married for two years, from the time I was 18 to 20. He's a wonderful teacher and he taught me a lot," she said.

"But our whole life was racquetball—we had no relationship skills. While the relationship was on the

The old days when a victory over Steding (right) was worth theatrics.



rocks, I was playing terrific racquetball, but racquetball killed the marriage. That was all either of us knew—we were just kids and other areas of our lives weren't developed.

"Now we're good friends, and everything is falling into place."

One of the things that's most "in place" in Wright's life is the presence of Jim Hamilton, her fiancé. Their relationship is a union of opposites in more ways than one. Hamilton brings to it the maturity and experience of 44 years, where Wright, at 26, still has the energy and zest of youth.

All of Wright's adult life to this point has been dedicated to the pursuit of physical excellence; Hamilton's has been focused on the spiritual, through 20 years spent in Christian ministry. But they complement each other well with the different insight and experience that they bring to their relationship.

"Jim has helped to guide me in lots of ways," Shannon says. "Since I've met him (three years ago, in Las Vegas) I've learned how to be friendly and competitive at the same time, how to be loving towards others and yet play to win."

"When I started out in racquetball, the role models weren't very good sports. People like Charlie Brumfield or Steve Serot projected a very rough image. There was a lot of outright rude behavior—pushing and shoving and yelling."

"Well, I was influenced by that, and I certainly wasn't any angel. Ultimately, it made me very unhappy. I was isolated, an outsider—a lot of the girls didn't like me."

But all that has changed. These days Wright is feeling more comfortable and accepted, and has developed some close friendships among the women on the tour.

"Lynn Adams and I really love one another," she says, "and yet we're competitors. The edge doesn't have to go out of competition just because the players are friends."

"On the WPRA tour generally there's a high degree of people trying to get along with people. I feel very much a part of that, a part of the group."

"But anyone could tell you—Peggy Gardner or Sue Jackson or any of the girls on the tour—I was cocky and inconsiderate for a long time. And I got to the top, but I wasn't happy. I had to re-evaluate."

Looking back, Wright traces the unevenness of her performance to the hostility that her behavior provoked in the other players and the unhappiness this in turn caused her.

"If some part of your life is out of whack, you ain't going to win, baby," she says with tough good humor. "I'd rather have lost as I have for the past couple of years and learned a really important lesson in life."

"In the past, when I didn't win it was usually because of a personal matter. You know, the top athletes win by inches—so the mental stuff makes a big difference. Players like Adams and McKay are so terrific because they're not only outstanding athletes, they're also balanced and mature, developed human beings."

She sees the integration of personal and professional life, of prowess on the court and realization of the inner person, as more typical of female than male players.

"A lot of women athletes are maybe deeper in their attitudes than the guys,"

Under the bright lights: Wright battled Harding on regional PBS-TV in February, 1978, taking the crown.



she said speculatively. "What's important to them is being a good sport and living your life the right way. Of course competing, winning, have a place in this—the only way to play is to try and win. But there's more than competition.

"I don't find the guys as mature as the ladies. I mean, their tour is chaotic—torn by partisan politics, where the WPRA tour is responsible and organized."

Amid all the reflection and re-evaluation Wright has been subjecting her life to, her game and her ambitions in racquetball have also come in for serious scrutiny. The failures and frustrations of the past few years have become opportunities for her—opportunities to change and grow.

"A lot of people if they'd gone down from the top would have stayed down," she said. "I was on top for a while, then I wasn't any more, but I rose above again—I wasn't going to stay down.

"I asked myself what does it take to be a winner, and a champion. I've been finding the answers, and making changes. If I'm right, I should be back up on top."

Of her closest competition, she says, "Lynn (Adams) is not better; in fact, I have the potential to be better than she is. I know how I've played racquetball sometimes and I know that with a little more time my game could be awesome!"

She is optimistic about the quality of women's racquetball and its future. "The women have improved about 500 percent in the last two years," she says. "They're getting better all the time. The WPRA tour is going to be really something this year—even the quarter-finals are going to be tough.

"And women's racquetball is going to keep on getting better. Lynn, Heather and I are all way above everyone else, but even we still have notches to go up before we reach our potential."

And she works steadily towards that potential, with a training schedule that combines five miles of running four or five times a week, riding a bike 12 miles each day, and playing racquetball one hour a day.

"I drill by myself," she said, "or I often practice with Matt Rudich, the 12-and-under champ who's my star pupil and practice partner."

She sees the future as holding not only national championships, but a variety of ways for her to use her expertise. She is sponsored by Foot-Joy and Omega at present, and is enthusiastic about representing them.

"I've been with Foot-Joy for a year and a half, and it's worked out real well," she says, "and for a while now I've been playing with an Omega racquet. The strings are their Mad-Rax design so they don't move around as much. I really like it. And by the end of the season, I'm going to be talking to some additional sponsors."

She takes her role as a racquetball teacher seriously, and hopes to continue with it. "I'm interested in teaching future pro players," she said. "Matt's friend David Simonette was out here in the summer and we played. He's very good too. I'd like to spend some time in the coming years working with the promising kids."

Whatever the future holds, whether she makes national women's pro champion or not, Shannon Wright is a winner, a bright, together lady who's found out how to win on the really important things. ●



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National Racquetball's First Annual Ball Guide

Another Exclusive One-Stop Shopping List

Over the years we've seen black racquetballs, purple racquetballs, green racquetballs, even dimpled racquetballs. Today's game has finally settled on blue as *the* color for racquetballs.

The industry has suffered through years of balls that were too slow, too fast, too brittle or too smooth. Today's standards seem to have melded well the fast and slow to equalize the power/control forces.

For easy comparison we have displayed for you on these pages the various racquetballs currently on the market. Most are available at your club, but if any should not be, or if you'd just like further information on a particular brand, please feel free to contact the manufacturers listed at the conclusion of this article.

Our sincere thanks to these companies who generously provided samples, photos and descriptions of their products.



Speedflite™ by Ektelon

- Durable, high performance blue ball
- Nearly perfect roundness eliminates erratic wobble or bounce
- New production methods ensure uniformity in weight, diameter, wall thickness and rubber density
- Textured surface to prevent skim or slide
- Approved by AARA
- Provides high speed favored by hard-hitters
- Over-all playing characteristics also produce control game
- Guarantee: If broken before label wears off, will replace free
- Packaged two balls per can



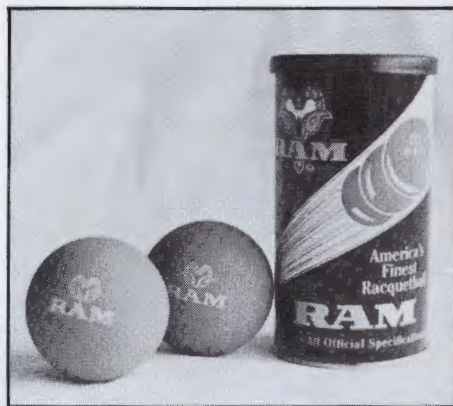
Yellow Dot™ by Merco-North American Sports Co.

- High quality blue ball
- Manufactured in Australia—assembled in U.S.A.
- Severely tested for three years by top professional players
- Merco experience (number one squash ball manufacturer) and dedication to excellence
- Yellow dot engraved in ball so players will always know which of their balls is the Yellow Dot
- Packaged two balls per can
- Suggested retail price: \$5.00 per can
- Approved by AARA



Rollout Bleu by AMF Voit

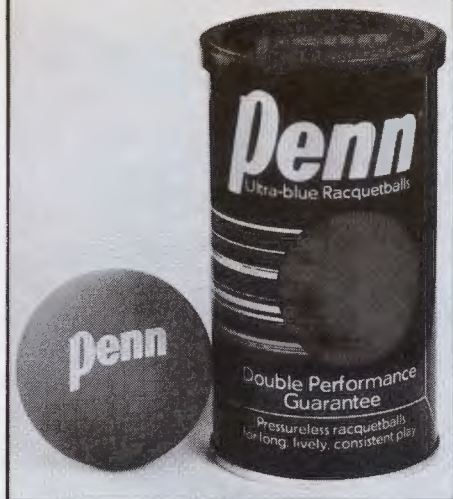
- Consistent, elastic, constantly improving blue ball
- Superior quality control standards
- "Life" tested (ball blasting against wall to ensure long life)
- Vital areas constantly reviewed: roundness, weight, compression, balance, texture and seam integrity
- Approved by AARA
- Official ball of WPRA
- Official ball of Catalina/DP Leach Pro Series
- Packaged two balls per can
- Suggested retail price: \$4.00 per can



Ram Racquetball

- Precision, high performance blue ball
- Superior durability, true bounce
- Ideal speed and consistent rebound
- Standard guarantee for breakage
- Meets all official specifications
- Packaged one per box or two per can
- Suggested retail: \$1.95/box or \$3.95 per can

Manufactured and distributed by license granted from Ram Golf Corporation to Right Gard Corporation, Montgomeryville, PA.



Ultra-blue by Penn

- Pressureless construction for long, lively consistent play
- Exclusive "Double Performance" guarantee: If ball fails before label is worn off, will replace with two new balls
- Approved by AARA
- Official ball 1982 AARA Regional & National Singles Champions
- Official 1982 ball AARA Regional & National Juniors Championships
- Official ball 1982 AARA National Inter-collegiate Championships
- Official ball of American Professional Racquetball Organization (APRO)
- Packaged two balls per can
- Suggested retail price: \$4.95 per can



TruBLUE by Wilson

- Lively, consistent bounce
- Long lasting durability
- Play tested nationally by the game's best players
- Medium/fast speed
- Pressureless to retain its bounce in or out of can
- Approved by AARA
- Packaged two balls per can
- Suggested retail: \$5.00



Pinch Shot by General Sportcraft

- Long playing blue ball
- Perfectly round
- Official size and weight
- Approved by AARA
- Standard guarantee
- Consistent bounce
- Packaged two balls per can
- Suggested retail: \$5.00



Seamco 600 by MacGregor

- New, improved formula
- Vivid, pressureless blue ball
- Improved quality for durability, consistency & liveliness
- Approved by AARA
- Premium quality natural and synthetic rubber
- Meets required standards of all associations
- Packaged two balls per can
- Official ball of AARA National Doubles Championships
- Suggested retail price: \$4.20 per can



Top-Flite® Blue by Spalding

- Manufactured to exacting specifications
- Consistently lively and durable blue ball
- Pressureless construction
- Uniformity of weight, compression and bounce
- Guarantee: If ball fails before label is worn off, Spalding will replace with new can free of charge
- Packaged two balls per can
- Approved by AARA
- Suggested retail price: \$4.50 per can

For further information on any of the balls included in this guide feel free to contact the appropriate manufacturer:

AMF Volt, Inc., 3801 South Harbor Blvd., Santa Ana, CA 92704

Ektelon, 8929 Aero Dr., San Diego, CA 92123

General Sportcraft Co., Ltd. 140 Woodbine St., Bergenfield, NJ 07621

Merco-North American Sports Co., 840 Cowpath Rd., Hatfield, PA 19440

Penn Athletic Products, 200 Mall Blvd., Monroeville, PA 15146

Right Gard Corporation, Commerce Drive & Stump Rd., Montgomeryville, PA 18936

Seamco by MacGregor, 25 East Union Ave., East Rutherford, NJ 07073

Spalding, 425 Meadow St., Chicopee, MA 01013

Wilson Sporting Goods, 2233 West St., River Grove, IL 60171 ●

The Top 10 Male Players Of All Time

by Charlie Garfinkel

Charlie Garfinkel, author, raconteur, and distinguished racquetball player in his own right, here takes the long view through the years to provide us with capsule evaluations of the 10 male players that, in his view, are the best that racquetball has seen in its 12-year history. If you disagree with the Gar's selections, or if you've comments of any kind to add, write us. Any letters that are fit to print, we'll print!

My rankings of the top 10 male players of all time are based on first-hand experience playing and watching all the great players since 1970. My criteria for ranking are overall ability—to judge this is difficult and demands expertise such as I possess—and longevity of national ranking, a matter of record.

1. Marty Hogan: Age 24, San Diego, CA.



To put it simply, Hogan is the greatest racquetball player in the history of the game. Already the holder of five consecutive national championships, Hogan has come excruciatingly close to making it seven in a row. Seven years ago, he lost in the finals to Charlie Brumfield by the unusual scores of 21-17, 1-21, 11-8. The following year was even closer, with a 21-19, 21-20 finals loss to an inspired Davey Bledsoe.

And I'm firmly convinced that Hogan can make it 10 years in a row even

though the level of competitive play is higher than it has ever been.

Hogan's powerful shoot-and-serve game is unique. When he is concentrating to his fullest, he can serve four or five aces in a row before his startled opponent can even get set. Even if his serve is off, it is hit so hard and placed so well that he gets many weak returns which he promptly puts away.

His ability to shoot any shot from any part of the court is mind-boggling. Straight-in kills, reverse pinches, and wicked splats abound from Hogan's racquet, shot after shot, many hit from seemingly impossible angles.

Hogan's desire to win, especially when the chips are down, is ferocious. He says, *"Although I may have some ups and downs during the season, my whole year is geared to the nationals, as my record bears out."*

His on-court intelligence is also remarkable. Because of his dazzling shot-making and prodigious power, this sometimes goes unnoticed, but his shot-selection and ability to turn a losing game around are unequalled. He's also capable of slowing the game down and playing control with the best of the control players.

Some experts feel that Hogan won't continue to dominate racquetball as he has done in the past because the tournament ball is now slower. But the ball is this year's tour and nationals was slower and, unfortunately for Hogan's competition, he never looked better than he did this year en route to his fifth national title.

2. Charlie Brumfield: Age 34, San Diego, CA.



Brumfield, who always called himself "the People's Champion," is the master strategist in the annals of the game. Although he won his four national singles championships in the days of the slow ball (1972-76), his ability to give his opponent a "tour of the court" was nonetheless extraordinary.

The tour would usually go something like this: Brumfield would continually hit pin-point ceiling balls that kept his opponent pinned in the deep left or deep right corner. As soon as the opponent made a mistake, Brumfield would take to the offense.

Often, however, he would reject the more obvious and direct method of ending the rally—the kill shot. Rather, he would use his uncanny ability to place the next shot just barely within reach of the opposition, whose return was usually extremely weak. Again, Brumfield would forego the kill and keep the ball in play, until finally, he would administer the coup de grace. Eventually, he would fatigue the opponent to death.

In order to play this style Brumfield needed to be a control master and his passing game was the greatest in the history of racquetball. He could hit passing shot after passing shot that never touched the side wall. If his opponent attempted to let the ball come off the back wall, it would invariably bounce twice.

Brumfield, who once won an incredible 20 straight tournaments, was also known as a master psycher. During his reign as the game's top player, he was famous for pronouncements such as, *"When I'm really on my game, my opponent will maybe get between seven and ten points. If I'm playing lousy, he'll get between 12 and 15."* And that was usually exactly what happened.

3. Jerry Hilecher: Age 28, Solana Beach, CA.

Hilecher finished the past season tied with Bret Harnett for the number three spot in the rankings. With the exception of Hogan, no player over the past 10 years has been consistently ranked as high as Hilecher.

Over the years, Hilecher has had one of the most awe-inspiring serves in racquetball. Standing near the left side wall, he drops the ball toward the middle of the court, steps into it with his long stride, and blasts bullets to right



or left. His ability to disguise his serves keeps opponents guessing till the last moment.

His devastating forehand, however, is what opponents fear the most. And he will go to any lengths, often running around an easy backhand, to take a shot with his forehand. When he shoots his forehand, his rollout percentage is implausibly high. But if his opponent moves up, he hits deadly passing shots. And he's also a fierce competitor, known for his diving, and amazing retrieving ability.

Perhaps the highlight of his career was winning two pro events this year—after he had been omitted from the original tour format.

4. Dave Peck: Age 25. El Paso, TX.

Peck at present is challenging Hogan for his racquetball supremacy, and could very well move up in the all-time rankings during the next few years.

In fact, he is number one this year in many experts' minds because he scored more points than Hogan over the season, even though he lost to Marty in the DP Leach nationals.

A former University of Texas (El Paso) linebacker, with the all-American good looks of Jack Armstrong, Peck is a power player to rival Hogan—especially

on his backhand. He hits the ball so hard that his shots seem to die on the front wall. But he is also equipped with a tricky lob serve that sends other players into fits.

On top of all that, Peck's forehand pinch into the left corner from deep court is the best in the game. He disguises this shot so well that his opponents are often caught moving the opposite way.

He is unbelievably quick for a player of his size, and his court coverage is outstanding. A great competitor, he says, *"I don't brag when I win. I don't complain when I lose."*

5. Mike Yellen: Age 22, Southfield, MI.



In 1979 and 1980, Yellen was runner-up to Hogan in the national finals. It might have been three years in a row, except for a controversial call in the 1978 national semi-finals against Brumfield which resulted in an 11-10 tie-breaker

loss. Yellen also gave Hogan his toughest match of last year's nationals in the semi-finals.

He is a very intelligent player whose game has been compared to Brumfield's when Brumfield was at his peak. Very steady, with superb pinch shots, Yellen also has an excellent ceiling and passing game. His ability to play almost error-free racquetball puts enormous pressure on his opponents.

However, he can also play the power game with the best of them. He instinctively knows when to switch from control to power and vice versa.

6. Steve Serot: Age 26, St. Louis, MO.

Serot had the misfortune to play his best racquetball during the same period as Brumfield. He was clearly the number two player during the early 1970's and, in one stretch, reached the semi-finals of over 50 consecutive tournaments.

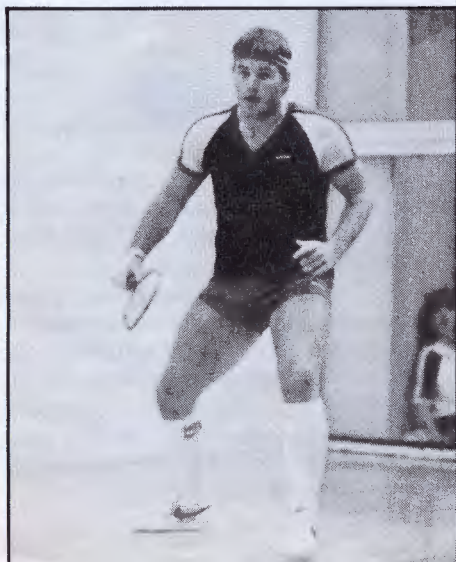


The possessor of what has been called "the greatest backhand" in the history of racquetball, Serot is a left-hander—which made his power and placement seem even more impressive.

With his tremendous retrieving and diving ability, he could return almost any shot that didn't roll out or die in the corners. But this diving ability eventually led to his demise as a player; repeated injuries sustained while diving along with his inability to adjust to the power game forced him to give up racquetball at a relatively young age.

7. Steve Strandemo: Age 34, San Diego, CA.

Strandemo, in my opinion, was the fiercest competitor that ever stalked





the courts. Possessed of an almost insatiable desire to win and a vast knowledge of the game, this superbly conditioned athlete first burst upon the racquetball scene by winning the Canadian nationals in 1973 with victories over Hilecher and Serot.

Later that year he had to qualify for racquetball's pro tour. Did he ever qualify! He upset Brumfield in the quarter-finals to stop Charlie's 20-tournament winning streak. Although Strandemo didn't win the event, he was ranked in the top four for the next four years, and the top six until 1980.

Almost as remarkable was Strandemo's ability to adjust his shotmaking from the slower ball of the mid-'70s to the livelier ball of the late '70s and early '80s.

8. Bill Schmidtke: Age 41, Apple Valley, MN.



Winner of the nationals in 1971 and 1974, Schmidtke was generally regarded as having perhaps the greatest forehand the game has ever seen. In addition, he was as fair a competitor as has ever played racquetball. However, Schmidtke is best remembered for his fighting spirit and never-say-die attitude.

In the national finals of 1971, when he was losing the third game 14-3 to defending champion Craig Finger, he turned it around, serving well and shooting at every opportunity, and ran off 18 straight points to win the title.

His 1974 win was even more remarkable. Although he was still one of the top players in the country, he was given very little chance of winning the nationals. But he proved all the experts wrong by responding with the greatest effort I have ever seen. On successive days, he defeated Strandemo, Brumfield and Serot.

Although Schmidtke's success never went to his clothes, he will always be remembered as an all-time great.

9. Steve Keeley: Age 34. Haslett, MI.



Although Keeley never won a national championship, he won many pro tournaments and he also won four national paddleball championships.

His all-court shooting ability combined with his effortless movement on court enabled him to remain one of the top four racquetball players from 1972 to 1975. He continued to play well for a couple of years after that, but his branching out into other areas of racquetball such as writing, teaching and lecturing adversely affected his game.

Known as the eccentric of racquetball, Keeley has bicycled from San Diego to St. Louis for the nationals, run 10 miles in 10-below-zero weather, and worn two different colored sneakers wherever he has played.

10. (Tie) Davey Bledsoe: Age 31, Memphis, TN.

Bledsoe's 21-19, 21-20 win over Marty Hogan in the 1977 nationals must rank as one of the greatest upsets in racquetball history. Bledsoe's court



coverage, adrenalin, confidence, and awesome forehand pinch shot were too much for Hogan or anyone else to overcome that day.

A consistent top eight finisher for a number of years, he ranks with Richard Wagner as one of the two fastest players in the top 10.

10. (Tie) Richard Wagner: Age 26, San Diego, CA.

A seasoned veteran, who ranked consistently in the top six for a number of years, Wagner plummeted out of the top 10 two years ago as a result of personal problems.



This past year, he's risen to number six again. If he hadn't injured himself in his semi-finals match against Dave Peck in the DP Leach nationals, he might have ranked even higher.

Nicknamed "the Cockroach" because of his amazing ability to get almost any shot, he's also equipped with shot-making ability that strikes fear into his competitors.

Honorable Mention: Craig McCoy, Mike Zeitman, Don Thomas, Ron Rubenstein, Craig Finger. ●

Ask The Champ

by Marty Hogan

Five time and current National Champion Marty Hogan answers questions about improving your game in this ongoing exclusive series in *National Racquetball*. Readers are encouraged to submit questions about their game to Marty Hogan, c/o "Ask the Champ," *National Racquetball*, 1800 Pickwick Ave., Glenview, IL 60025.

Question: I finally got to see you play—on ESPN last night. I was most impressed with your backhand. I've been wondering, why don't you ever serve with it, thereby matching your backhand with your opponent's weaker backhand? Also, do you or any of the pros ever serve with your backhand?

Hogan: It would be a rarity for me or any other pro to serve with the backhand. The reasons are not that complex.

The serve is the only time during the rally where you begin from a stationary position and literally set up your own shot. I can get better leverage and power on my forehand than I can with my backhand from the serving position. I believe that's true for any player.

Even though I hit my backhand as hard as, if not harder than, my forehand during a rally, I wouldn't have the control of my serve, using a backhand drive, that I have with the forehand. In addition, I can place the ball directly to my opponent's backhand with a forehand serve, just as easily as with a backhand.

No pro player uses a backhand serve consistently and only a handful will ever use one at all. Every once in a while you might see a player use a backhand lob just for variety, but it is in no way an offensive serve—and today's serving game still leans toward the offense.

There's truly no percentage in serving with your backhand.

Question: I'm 17-years-old and ranked second on my racquetball team. My problem, of course, is I can't seem to beat the guy who's ranked first. My coach has told me to forget about winning and losing and just concentrate on my shots. Easy to say, but how do I do that?

Hogan: The Hogan style of play never allows the thought of defeat to enter your mind. Never entertain the possibility.

What you must do is 1) all those things that you do best; and 2) nullify your opponent's strengths. Since he is beating you consistently, it is obvious that he has found that weakness in your game and just that method of penetrating your game style that will take advantage of your vulnerability.

Don't feel bad—it happens to the best of 'em. I long said that Steve Serot was the best racquetball player in the early years of the game, but he never was able to beat Charlie Brumfield, despite superior skills. Serot never changed his game to adjust to what Brumfield was doing to him on the court and as a result he got beat every time.

Never be too proud to adjust your game. Sometimes you have to make adjustments for individual players. There are some shots I have packed away that I bring out only for certain players.

What's most important is that you are enjoying yourself on the court and playing to your maximum potential. Of course, that potential includes the mental side of the game, a large portion of which is strategy. You might watch carefully when your number one ranked friend is playing others and see how they score against him and how he scores against them. This should give you some good clues for your next match.

Question: You've been at or near the top now for over seven years. How long do you think you'll play competitive racquetball?

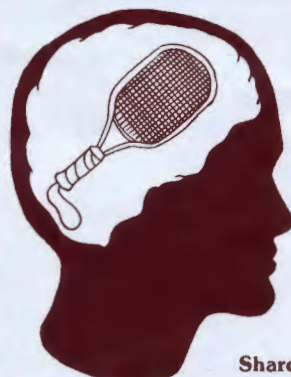
Hogan: The one thing that inspires me is the competitive act. Being on the court against another player is a nearly perfect situation for the competitive athlete. I'd say the only sport that would be better is boxing. When it's you against the other guy, that's when you get the best competitive atmosphere.

The key to how long I'll play is a combination of accomplishments and productivity. I feel I'm productive in my career right now. I believe I can win every time I step on the court. In fact, there's nobody in racquetball who can give me even a game, my best against his best.

I want to be known as the greatest player of all time and to reach that goal I need to win the major championships. By winning those events, I think I prove my dedication to the sport and gain a reputation for winning the big ones.

How long will I go on? I think I have five strong years left, five years where I can dominate the game. That would make it longer than a decade for me at the top and by then I should have achieved my goals and laid the patterns for future champions.

Then it will be time for me to step aside and let someone else take over, someone who will have the best interest of the sport at heart. I will play until I'm 50 if I think the person to succeed me at the top of the ladder won't have the sport's interests at heart. ●



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APRO Teaches:

Anticipation—The Winning Edge

by Lou Fabian

Good anticipation is a mental skill that will improve your ability and help you defeat a stronger opponent. Your ability to anticipate your opponent's shots can gain you that extra split second which allows you to reach more balls, neutralize your opponents' strategy, and set up more quickly for your shots.

Any discussion of anticipation must include a thorough description of center court position, because both are an integral part of racquetball success.

Beginners: Let the game come to you

If you focus your movements around center court the game will come to you. Nearly all of your movements will be confined to a coverage area that comprises from two to 12 feet behind the service line and to within three feet of the side walls (*Diagram 1*). Your speed, size, and stretching ability will determine how effectively you cover this area. If you play it correctly, you will be in a better position to retrieve shots in the rear 10 feet of the court and be able to cut off passing shots within three feet of the side walls.

As the server, start anticipating the next shot as soon as you complete the follow through of your serve. Relocate in center court in relation to where the ball is traveling and where your opponent is located (*Diagram 2*).

Move to center court position as fast and directly as possible and set up to hit the ball with good body form while watching the ball and opponent. Don't run a circle pattern. Also, try not to over-play center court position in covering normal shots, because a competent opponent will make you look foolish and win almost every rally. The absolute, basic rule on all court coverage is *keep your eye on the ball at all times*. Your eyes start all of your movement on the court and most misses originate because you take your eyes

off the ball. Eyeguards should be mandatory equipment for all players, especially beginners. Since the key to success on the court is directly related to your ability to watch the ball and your opponent, eyeguards must be worn.

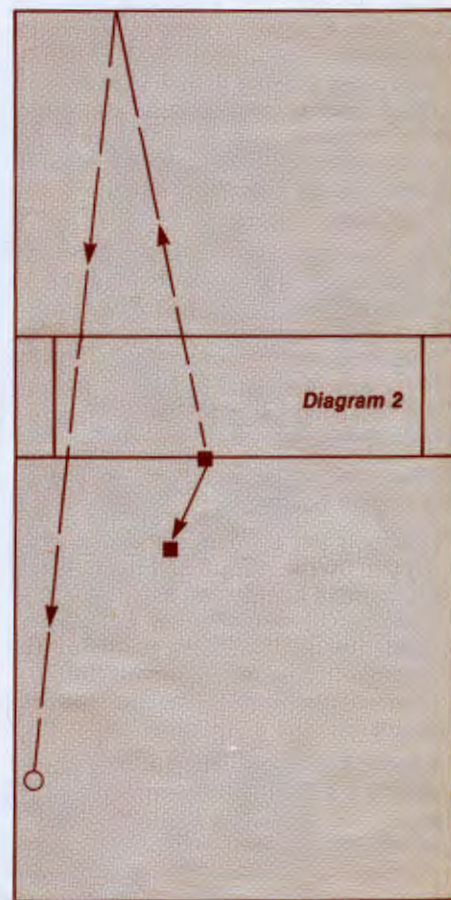
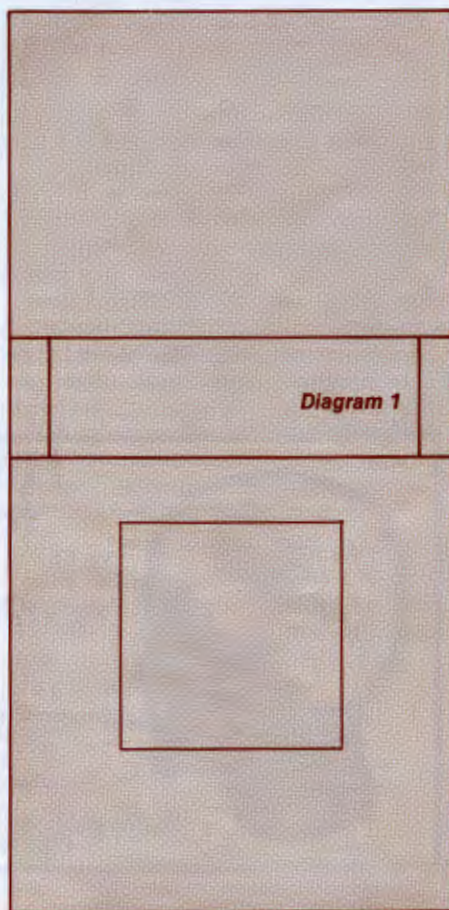
Watch your opponent begin to set up on his shot. If he is hitting from the left side of the court, turn slightly to your left so you can watch the ball come into his racquet. Then study his body positioning and swing, and try to anticipate either a defensive shot like the ceiling ball, or an offensive shot like the kill or pass. It only takes a split second, and most beginners make no attempt to disguise their intentions.

You may not be able to determine exactly where your opponent is going to hit the ball, but you can anticipate when the ball is going to be hit and probable center court action. Be prepared to retrieve the shot you are anticipating and place it where it will

do the most good. Expect errors and be ready to put the ball away if the opportunity arises.

As a match progresses, you should be able to anticipate your opponent's shot to a greater degree. If you remember to watch him over your shoulder as he gets ready to swing, you will recognize whether the return will be high or low. Later on, the same shot patterns will occur more frequently, allowing you to anticipate and capitalize on your knowledge of your opponent's game by showing up close to where the ball will be.

If your opponent has a tendency to kill the return of serve, then give him a lob serve and cover the kill. If he attempts to cut off the lob serve, then take a deeper drop protecting against the pass. If the return is to the ceiling, hurry to the back wall and take a quick look at your opponent to see if he is covering deep or short, left or right. Return your eyes to the ball, and select



the percentage shot which counters your opponent's position.

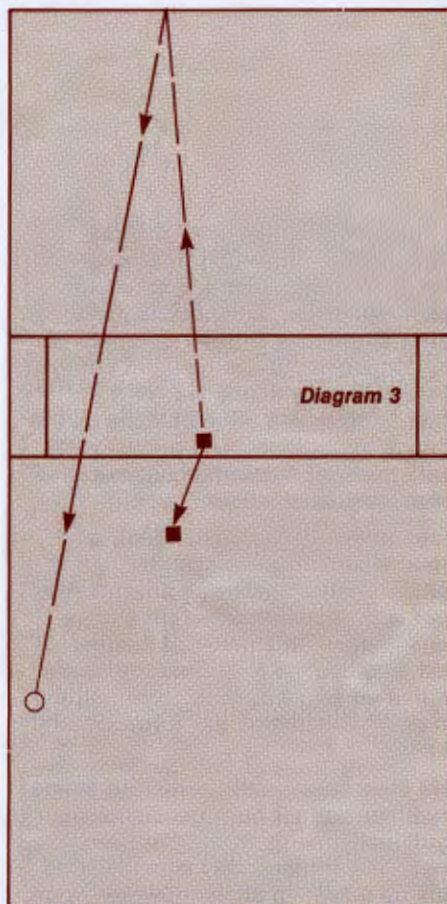
Table I is a guide for selecting the percentage shot (Stafford, 1975). Memorize the chart, master the shots, and implement the strategy during a game.

Table I — Beginners				
Your Opponent's Position				
Your Position About to Hit The Ball	Front Court	Middle Court	Back Court	
	Front Court	Down The Line	Diamond Pass	Straight Kill
	Middle Court	Down The Line	Straight Kill	Straight Kill
	Back Court	Ceiling Ball	Ceiling Ball	Ceiling Ball Straight Kill

Anticipation during the rally can be summed up in one simple statement—expect the ball to be hit away from you and directed to take you out of the middle. It's better to anticipate most returns to your backhand, then be mentally prepared for the shot you are going to return. First, lean to the backhand side, then switch to your backhand grip, and move your body into a proper hitting position.

Intermediates: Read his, disguise yours

Intermediate players must realize that a good mental game also includes not giving away information to your opponent which would help him anticipate what you are going to do. Therefore, learn to serve from the middle of the court (body position slightly to one side so you contact the ball at mid court). Learn to serve all the basic serves to both sides of the court.



After hitting the ball, the server should back two or three steps out of the service box toward the rear corner where the serve was directed. The angle of your position at the set up point should align with the opposite front corner and the approximate point of contact with the ball. Obviously, the only way to determine the point of contact is to watch the receiver and the ball. This observation will aid you in anticipation of your opponent's shot, place you in good court position, and protect you from getting drilled in the kidneys (Diagrams 3-4).

Good anticipation begins by watching your opponent's swing and the body position as he hits the ball. An open stance usually means the contact point will be in front of his body, so the ball will go cross court. A closed stance shifts the contact point back to your back foot and directs the ball into the near side wall. Obvious body position for the ceiling ball is high, while a very low body position is needed for the kill shot.

It is important to be able to analyze your opponent's swing. Where does he contact the ball? Does he take a full backswing and follow through? Is the swing flat (horizontal) or pendulum (vertical)? Then devise a strategy which handicaps and anticipates that swing.

A horizontal swing means more control into the corners with Z serves and angles shots, whereas a vertical swing means more power down the lines with drive serves. It is best to watch how the player sets up to hit the ball; then shift your eyes to the front wall where you believe the shot will hit. You want to think, before you ever hit the ball, where the likely return will be. By then, you are already anticipating and have begun moving in that direction, flowing toward the spot where you will make final contact with the ball.

As a rule of thumb for the return of serve, if the ball can be played below the knees then hit it offensively; if the ball must be taken above the knees, then play it defensively. However, a more definite method of shot selection based on anticipation is offered in Table II (Stafford, 1975).

Your position on the return of serve is

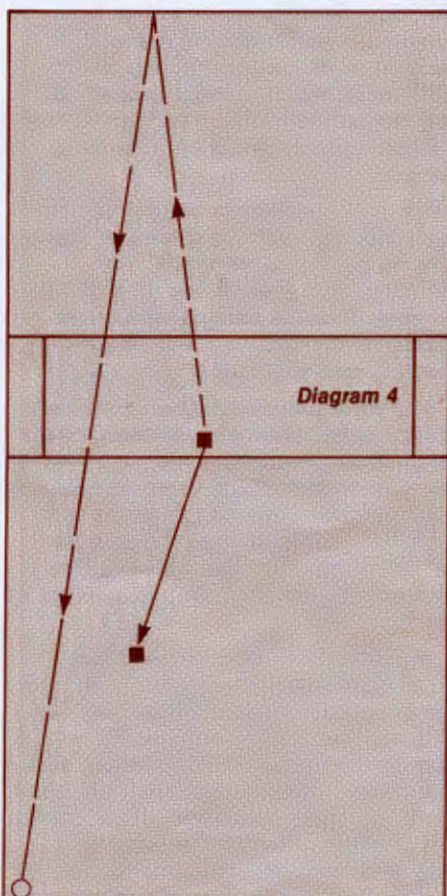


Table II — Intermediates				
Your Opponent's Position				
Your Position About to Hit The Ball		Front Court	Middle Court	Back Court
	Front Court	Down The Line Diamond Pass	Pinch Shot Diamond Pass	Pinch Shot Straight Kill
	Middle Court	Down The Line Diamond Pass	Straight Kill Pinch Shot Cross Court Pass Diamond Pass	Pinch Shot Straight Kill
	Back Court	Down The Line Ceiling Ball	Ceiling Ball Cross Court Pass	Ceiling Ball Pinch Shot Straight Kill

back court, so anticipate where your opponent's position will be after the serve and select a shot which counters that position. This may be accomplished by watching the server for a moment, or by remembering what happened earlier in the match.

Anticipation during the rally is as important as at any other time. You should trust your instincts as to where you believe the next shot is going and begin moving into position slightly before your opponent strikes the ball. Stay on your toes at all times, with knees bent slightly, feet shoulder width apart. Keep your back straight, carry your racquet waist high, and if you switch grips, then hold the grip which matches the side of the court the ball will be coming from.

If you are in center court, then most retrievable balls will come within one or two long steps and a stretch of your body. You should practice this footwork pattern in different directions from center court because efficient body movement will save you valuable time and energy, and will also enable you to better rekill the ball.

You should use the momentum of the shot to carry yourself forward into a better court coverage position. Primarily cover the cross court shots, because

during a normal match 75% of all shots go to a cross court coverage pattern either by a pinch or cross court pass. Remember, crowding is illegal. A better alternative is flowing in behind your opponent, tip-toeing and cutting in at the last second one way or the other. It gives you more balance and a chance for a hinder. You are also less likely to be hit with a racquet or called for an avoidable hinder.

Most rallies are won as a result of three occurrences—a skip ball, a kill shot, or a shot that takes advantage of poor court position. The first and second happen as a result of racquet skill, and depend to a greater or lesser degree on your opponent's committing an error. The third is up to your mental ability.

You have no one but yourself to blame if you get caught out of position. Don't continually run up front after every shot. This strategy may enable you to pick up a few kill shots; however, your opponent will begin to hit a safer pass shot and defeat you every time. Don't play under your opponent's armpit. If he is smart his follow through will inhibit your body movement to the ball and, according to the rules, contact on a follow through is not an automatic hinder.

Don't lag in backcourt, waiting to see your opponent put the ball away. Avoid running up your opponent's back, stamping your feet, or shouting during the rally. Besides being illegal, these practices take you out of the game mentally and physically.

If you cover the crucial court zones surrounding you, then you will have a better chance of retrieving your opponent's shots on a percentage basis. Midcourt position gives you enough swing and retrieval room to kill into the corners, kill balls on the fly, and hit cross-court or down-the-line pass shots, ceiling or Z balls.

If you are quick and anticipate the cross-court pass, it is easy to step into the cross-court lane, intercept the ball, and kill it in the opposite corner. If your opponent sets up on the forehand side and always tries to pinch the right corner or go cross court, then shade to the left of center. If your opponent hits forehand down the line, straight kills,

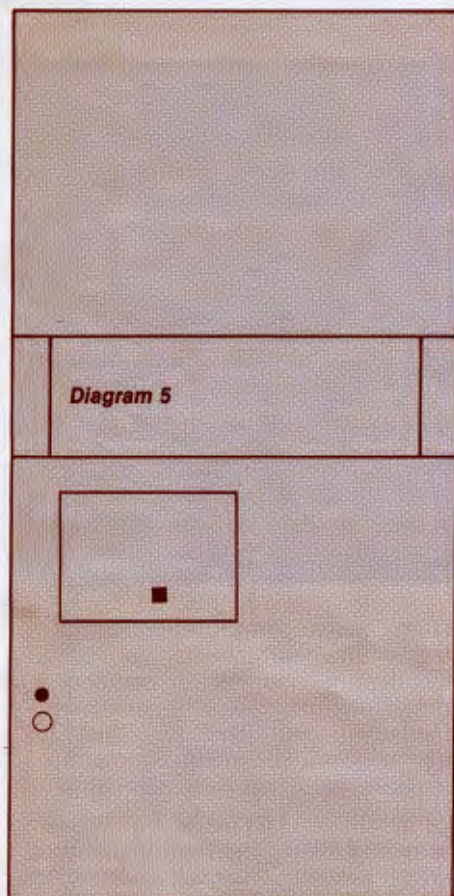
and cross-court passes, then cover down the line because you have more time to recover for the cross-court shot.

If another opponent hits everything cross court, then play to the far left of center court and deep enough not to get passed. This situation occurs frequently with beginning and intermediate players and can easily be exploited. If your opponent continually burns you with one shot, then watch him play other people and observe how they neutralize that shot.

Advanced players: Combine anticipation with strategy

The kind of anticipation described for intermediates is fine, but the advanced player has to do a great deal more. A related element of anticipation is strategy, in which you always want to keep a variety of serves going so your opponent never really knows what to expect. When you become too predictable and too patterned, you give your opponent an edge in anticipation which can prove fatal. A good rule of thumb is never to serve the same serve twice in a row. Where you position yourself after the serve depends on the type of shot you hit, where your opponent will be hitting from, what type of shot he is likely to hit, and his capabilities and tendencies with that shot.

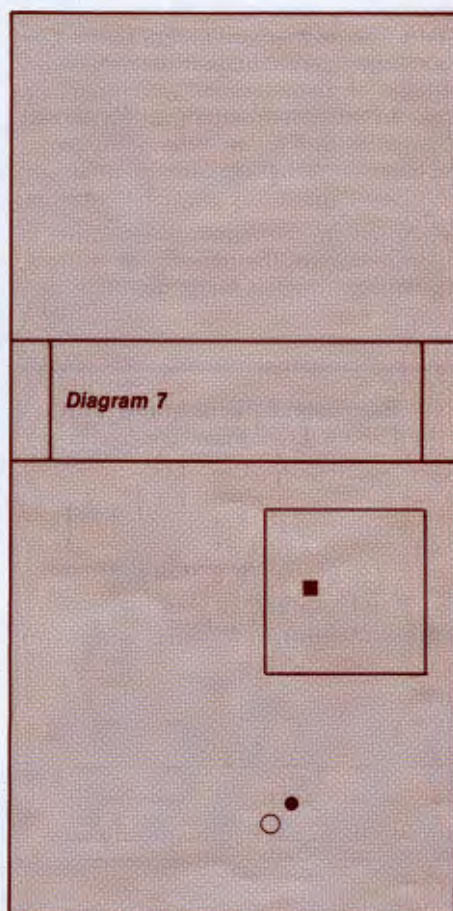
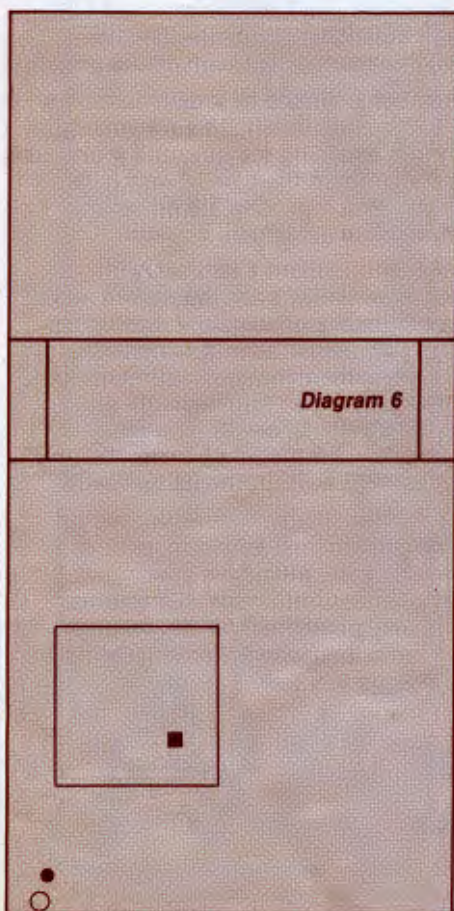
Top players cover that area in center court which will give them the optimum position to cover several low shots. For example, if you serve a low drive serve to the left rear corner and you know your opponent's tendency is to attempt a straight kill, then you should position yourself in the front left quadrant of center court, which gives you a play on the straight kill, down the line pass, pinch, and reverse pinch (*Diagram 5*).



As you watch your opponent move to the ball, play off his likely position (cut the cross court angle), and try to anticipate if your shot will force an offensive or defensive opportunity. Then assess his scoring potential from that particular spot on the court, and make a final adjustment on your court position.

For example, suppose your opponent is forced to hit a shot out of mid-air, while on the run from the rear left side of the court. You should then position yourself in the left rear quadrant of center court, because the chances of his hitting a flat kill are very small (*Diagram 6*). However, if your shot caroms off the right side and back walls, then you can anticipate a good kill shot from your opponent and you need to adjust your position to the front right quadrant of center court (*Diagram 7*).

When your opponent is winning, it's time to gamble on the return of serve.



Pick a side, begin moving in that direction when your opponent is about to serve, and shoot the return. It's probably better to get aced a couple of times when you misguess the serve, and return the rest effectively, than it would be to stay in center court and return none of the serves effectively.

Another offensive return of serve is to move up and cut off the ball on the fly. This volley need not be a perfect pass or kill because the server will not have time to set up and therefore must retrieve the ball on the run. This is especially good when returning Z and lob serves. Anticipate the serve by watching the server's motion and body movement; then form a mental image of that position when you are returning future serves. Of course you should be watching the ball after your initial observation of the server.

The secret to winning every rally rests in your ability to determine your opponent's position and your execution of specific shots to defeat that position (*Table III*). A player can only be considered advanced when he has

Table III — Advanced				
Your Opponent's Position				
Your Position About to Hit The Ball		Front Court	Middle Court	Back Court
	Front Court	Cross Court Pass Down The Line Diamond Pass	Pinch Shot Drop Shot Z Ball Diamond Pass	Pinch Shot Drop Shot Straight Kill Reverse Pinch
	Middle Court	Cross Court Pass Down The Line Diamond Pass	Cross Court Pass Straight Kill Pinch Shot Reverse Pinch Diamond Pass	Straight Kill Pinch Shot Reverse Pinch Fly Kill
	Back Court	Cross Court Pass Down The Line Ceiling Ball Around The Wall Ball	Cross Court Pass Ceiling Ball Pinch Shot	Straight Kill Ceiling Ball Pinch Shot Reverse Pinch Overhead Drive

mastered all the shots shown below, and uses them at the proper time during a match.

Advanced players must be able to anticipate shots off the back wall. Generally speaking, low balls off the back wall will be killed by a competent opponent, whereas balls rebounding high (above three feet) will tend to go cross court. This is because as your opponent lets the ball drop for a kill shot, the contact point with the ball moves in front of his body and directs the ball cross court. Covering these situations should by now be a matter of common sense.

The key to playing deep zone is flowing forward as your opponent hits the ball. A player already moving on the ball, coming from a deep position, is in a far superior situation than a player who is supposedly being more aggressive by running up to front court, stopping, and then poking at the ball. The aggressive player is not able to move as gracefully or efficiently as someone coming from the back who can move onto the ball, ready to hit hard every time. This is the "deep zone with arrival hit theory" as put forth by Charlie Brumfield.

Two additional tips from Brumfield include, first, positioning yourself during the rally to dictate where your opponent is going to hit the ball. That doesn't mean positioning yourself to block his shot; it does mean being close to him, showing one coverage,

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then at the moment of contact moving for your cross court coverage. Second, prepare for the Sunday shot. Every player has a favorite shot that he is confident of hitting especially under pressure. Know these shots, cover them, and react to put the ball away.

To summarize, two things are always present in racquetball and should be the first things you think about before a match. First, every player has weaknesses relative to the rest of his game. The sooner you detect them, the sooner you can anticipate taking advantage of them. Second, you must come to an understanding with yourself about your own game. What are your capabilities? What can you do and what can't you do?

Decide before the match how you are going to control the tempo. Are you going to play a fast, running game, or a

control, ceiling game? Determine the areas on the court in which you feel most confident so that you can concentrate your game in those areas. Learn to anticipate your opponent's shots and force your returns toward the area on the court which suits your strengths.

Use the first few points of a match for experimentation. Feel your opponent out. Try a variety of serves to see which cause him the most difficulty. Some serves will inevitably be returned better than others, so you better find out which ones they are early in the match.

Your serve should have two purposes. It should create difficulty for your opponent in returning the ball, and it should force him into the type of return you desire. You may then set up for a predictable (anticipated) return.

As your opponent begins serving, watch carefully. Vary your return so he cannot easily anticipate it. Watch his drop into center court position after his serve to determine the best return to break serve. Can he handle all returns equally well? Once you find the weakness, hit that shot, cover the best return, and wait for the bad return.

Remember, if you keep your eyes on both the ball and your opponent, stay on your toes, anticipate your opponent's shots, vary your returns, and play percentage shots, then you will go a long way toward defeating every opponent. ●

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Do You Really Want To Improve?

Part IV

by Lynn Adams

This article is another in a continuing series authored by Lynn Adams, current Women's Professional Racquetball National Champion. Adams is also one of the nation's foremost instructors, dealing with players of every level.



It's time now to start learning the proper footwork for hitting a moving ball. You've been working on your stroke with the drop and hit drill, and I bet you're getting anxious to go forward with your progress. The steps it takes to improve will be quicker now. You've been building a good solid base and your progress will be more tangible from here on out.

The first drill will be the side wall drill. Stand facing the side wall and toss the ball so it hits the side wall first, then bounces. You then will want to set up to hit a straight shot to the front wall before the ball bounces again.

Footwork is crucial. You need to be able to move far enough away from the ball to give yourself a full swing. You're going to move away from the ball in two different directions, but at the same time. Let me explain.

First, you have to get away from the ball that's coming at you. So you need to back up. Second, you want to hit the

ball off your front foot. If you just back up, the ball will be coming toward your chest or stomach. Once you step into your stroke, you'll be contacting the ball well behind your front or lead foot. So now you must also move sideways toward the back wall, so you can step into your shot.

When you do both those motions at the same time, you will take a diagonal path toward the back corner. Go away from the ball in a back diagonal direction and then come into the ball on that same path. That will allow you to use the swing you've been practicing.

The quickest and most efficient way to get into position on a set-up shot like this is a simple "step-together-step." It's a quick shuffle without crossing your feet. Step-together-step-together, step, etc. Once you get your timing down, you will be able to flow smoothly into a ball, making that last step-together-step when you plant your back foot and take your final step into the ball.

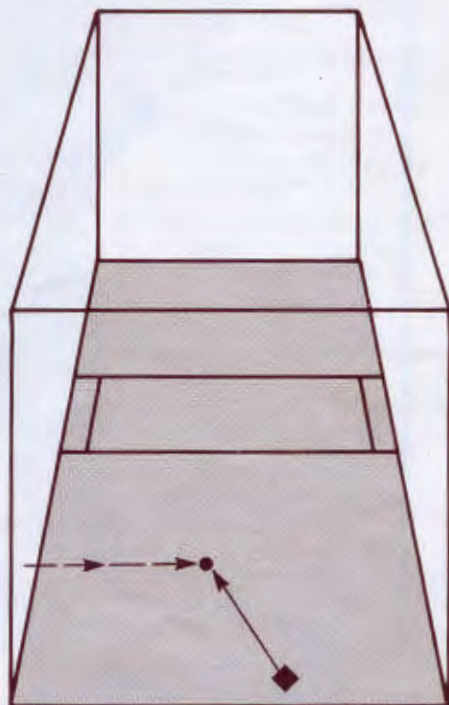
Be careful that you don't get jammed by the ball being too close to your body. That is a common error which can only be corrected by moving away from the ball diagonally. Give yourself plenty of room to move and swing.

Another moving drill is the front wall drill. You want to hit yourself slow, easy set-ups that come off the front wall, and come down somewhere in the middle of the court. You want to have a lot of room to practice your footwork and if you hit the ball too hard, the back wall won't allow you to go back far enough.

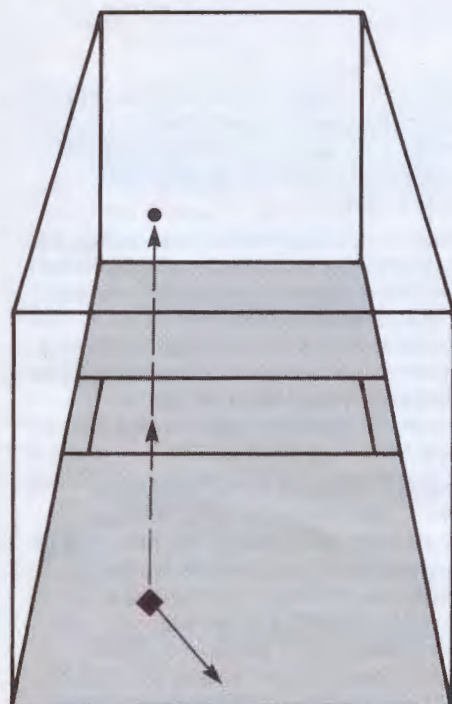
The biggest adjustment that most people have to make when learning this drill is that their first motion should be away from the ball, not toward the ball. It's very normal to see where a shot is going and rush to that spot. You probably end up hitting most of your shots at hip or waist level or higher because of that normal instinct.



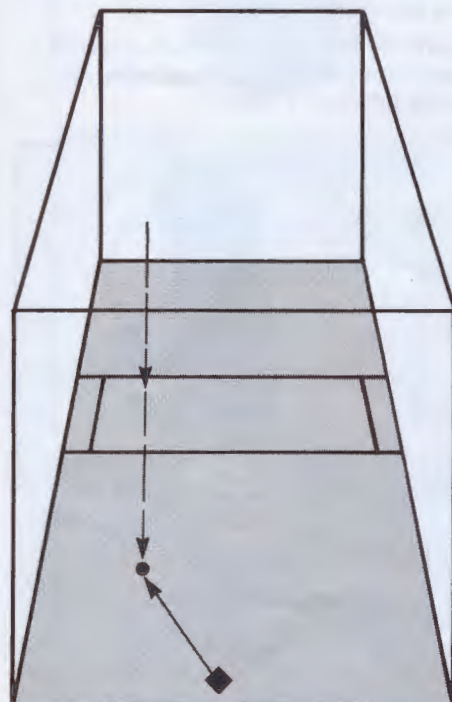
Side Wall Drill (Backhand). Toss the ball into the side wall, move back in a diagonal direction, then ...



... move into the ball as it rebounds off the side wall toward your point of impact.



Front Wall Drill (Backhand). Hit yourself a slow, easy set up, move back in a diagonal direction, then ...



... move into the ball as it rebounds off the front wall toward your point of impact.

You should hit your set-ups at a contact point of knee height or below. And the only way to do that is to let the ball drop. You have to get out of the habit of rushing into a shot. Totally turn your thinking around for this drill and make your first motion *away diagonally* from the ball.

Make sure you hit your set-up very slow and high on the front wall so it takes a long time before it bounces twice. As it is coming at you, do your step-together-step motion backward diagonally away from the ball. If you go straight back and straight in, the ball will be much too close to your body to take a full swing. The step-together-step motion allows you to move smoothly and step into your shot. That's very important; always step into your shot.

You'll find out later on when you're playing in a game how effective it is to move back and then into a ball when you have the opportunity. It really clears your opponent out of the way and forces him to commit to an area on the court. Once that happens, it makes it easier for you to decide what shot to hit.

The other advantage to this motion is that you're always moving, staying up on your toes and being aggressive. One of the worst habits to get into is walking around the court, and walking toward your set-ups. Even worse than walking is planting your feet and just standing, waiting for the ball to come to you.

You should always be active and alert. Be ready for anything and be mentally and physically tough. You become a lot more consistent, you might unnerve your opponent because you're so aggressive by never standing still, and you'll get a better workout.

These drills are good stepping stones toward game play and making the most of your potential. There's a lot of satisfaction involved when you're improving and testing your limits. Set your goals high and work hard and you'll feel great. Good luck! ●

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Practice Drills To Improve Your Game

by Kathy Williams

One reason drills are indispensable is that they permit you to isolate a specific part of your game—a shot that you don't use in game-situations because you don't have enough confidence in it, or a pattern of movement that you need to perfect in order to strengthen a given shot.

Lots of times in a game you'll pass up the high percentage return or the more aggressive shot because it doesn't feel entirely familiar and you can't execute it naturally and automatically. Drills can help make those tricky movements automatic, and sharpen your over all game by allowing you to think about *strategy* rather than the mechanics of shot-making.



Kathy Williams has been a racquetball teacher and professional player for 10 years. She has recently completed *The Book of Successful Racquetball Drills* from which this article is excerpted.

This month's collection of drills are designed to give you total mastery of some not so easy balls—the "Wallpaper Ball" that's stuck tight to the side wall, and the back corner almost-dead ball that takes a real bit of timing and wrist motion to flick it up to the front. Then there are an assortment of drills to help you work on positioning, footwork, and precise, dependable shotmaking, plus a couple that will give you a real work out and improve your conditioning if you do them regularly.

Forehand-Backhand

This is my favorite teaching drill for beginners. It teaches the similarities between the *forehand and backhand*. The drill is done on or off the court without a ball and is excellent for groups of 15 or more. Many teaching pros use this drill to teach the forehand and backhand strokes.

Start

Phase 1 is the *body turn*. Face the front wall, feel shoulder width apart, with your racquet pointing forward and elbows on hips. Turn, pointing your racquet to the side wall so that your hips and shoulders are facing the side wall. Note how your toe also points toward the side wall and your heel is off the floor. Keeping the elbows on the hips

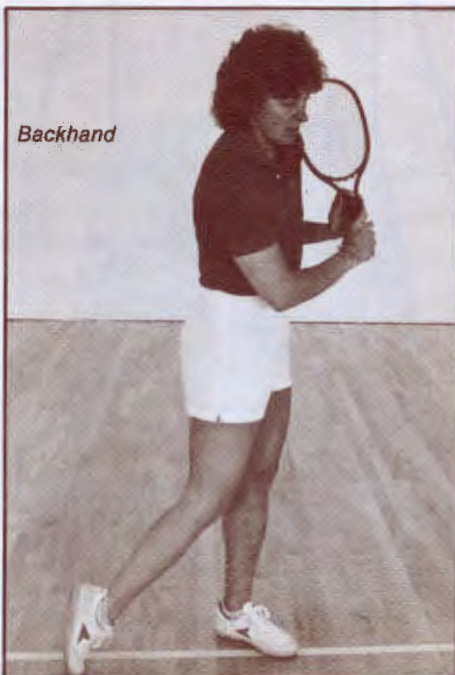
and both hands on the racquet, pivot and point your racquet toward the opposite side wall. Continue to pivot back and forth to become familiar with the body rotation.

Phase 2 includes the *racquet swing*. As you continue to pivot from one side to the other, begin to move your racquet in a sweeping motion from one shoulder to the other. Keep the elbows close to the hips during the swing. Slowly take one hand off the racquet and move that arm freely with the racquet.

Phase 3 represents the *completed stroke with the wrist snap*. As you rotate from one side to the other, begin to snap your hips through on each pivot. As you snap your hips and shoulders add the wrist snap for both the forehand and backhand. You should hear the air whistle through the racquet strings during each rotation.

Do each phase of the drill until it becomes automatic. Keep adding elements until the drill is complete and the swing feels natural.

Next add the step into the swing and bending the knees as if you were actually hitting the ball.



Wallpaper Ball

This is the best drill I have found to practice those racquet-shattering shots that seem stuck like glue to the side wall. Through the years I have destroyed a fair number of racquets and dislodged enough plaster to make a hundred arm casts while trying to master the *wallpaper ball*.

Notes

The forehand-backhand drill for beginners has produced tremendous success. I like to point out to my students that there is a wind-up, a swing, and a follow through for every stroke. It gives them a feeling like hitting a golf ball. Another point I like to make is that if you saw a picture of someone hitting a racquetball and you did not know which way was the front wall, it would be difficult to tell if that person was hitting a forehand or a backhand. The wind-up for the forehand is almost exactly the same as the follow through for the backhand.

Try this drill in front of a mirror, or check with a friend to make sure you are doing the swing properly.

Wallpaper Ball



Start

Stand behind the short serve line facing the side wall. Hold the ball so that it's touching the side wall at about head height, then drop it so it falls down the wall, letting it bounce once before attempting a front wall kill. Practice 30 forehands and 30 backhands, trying to keep the ball close to the side wall.

Notes

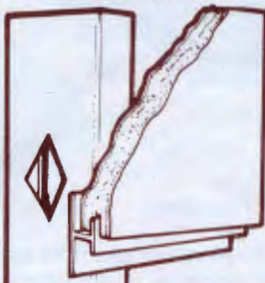
A Hollywood stunt man can throw a punch that travels a fraction of an inch from its target. A good racquetball player can do the same with a racquet in his or her hand. You are on your way to being a good racquetball player when the racquet feels like an extension of your arm instead of a foreign object.



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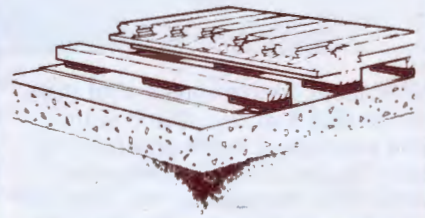
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My Best Shot

Listed below are a number of drills for *back corner* practice. I practiced backhand corner shots extensively during my career and had great confidence in my ability to kill the ball effectively from this area. Shots that traveled into the backhand corner became an easy set up for me and I credit the following drills with my success.

Start

Drill Number 1 is a simple throw and hit. Stand facing either back corner. Gently toss the ball into the corner so that it hits the back wall, side wall, and floor in that sequence. After the ball bounces, set up for a straight in kill. This drill gives you plenty of time to set up and let the ball bounce low before the hit. Start with about a four foot high throw and work your way down to a one foot high toss. With the low soft throws it is not unusual for you to have your shoulder touching the back wall. In this case only a sharp wrist snap will get the ball to the front wall. Practice 20 forehands and backhands. Remember, this drill gives you plenty of time to let the ball bounce low.



Drill Number 2 represents a shot that hits the side wall first. Stand in the same position as in the previous drill, about five feet out from the corner. Gently throw the ball into the side wall so it rebounds to the back wall and bounces on the floor. With this drill you will really have to back out the corner in order to let the ball travel to its lowest point. Practice 20 forehands and backhands.

Drill Number 3 requires you to hit the ball before it bounces. Stand close into the back corner and throw a ball that hits the back wall first and rebounds into the side wall. Hit the ball before it

bounces, trying to hit a straight down the wall kill shot. Practice 20 forehands and 20 backhands. Remember, let the ball get nice and low before you attempt a kill.

Throw all balls in these drills with an *underhand* motion.

Pivot And Slide

This is a drill for beginners, to teach them the correct method of *moving into position after a serve*. I call this my



pivot and slide drill and should be done enough times to produce an automatic response by the beginner. This is also a good *safety* drill.

Start

This drill is done alone and does not require the use of a ball. Draw an imaginary line on the court from one corner to the other. Begin in the middle of the service zone in the serve position. For the right-handed player covering a serve to the backhand corner, reverse pivot and slide along the imaginary line toward the backhand corner with both feet on the line as you slide. For a serve to the forehand corner, no pivot is required. Simply slide along the line toward the forehand corner into position for a return. Do this several times on each side until the motion becomes automatic.

Notes

This drill will get the student into the proper position to best cover for a serve return. If you ever watch beginner

play, you will see a number of dangerous moves as the server readies himself for the service return. This drill helps to remove some of those risky patterns of movement.

Two Foot Dash

Racquetball players are not famous for their speed in a 100 yard dash, but rather for their speed at moving two steps in any direction. This drill requires at least two people and can be done on or off the court. This is an *agility* drill with emphasis on *fast foot-work*.

Start

Select one person to give the commands while the other person or remainder of the group stands facing the leader. The person giving the visual signals will hold his hand above his head and point forward, backward, right, or left depending on which way he wants the runners to move. The runners will take two fast, explosive steps in the direction that is pointed and be



ready to move again as soon as the next signal is given. Whoever gives the signals must do so quickly—at the rate of about one per second. Only 30 seconds of this drill will give you 30 changes of direction and a good work out.

Notes

I like to make this drill harder by having the runners touch the floor with one hand before changing directions. This can be a real killer if you do it in the sand. ●

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Diabetes And Racquetball

by Beatrice Taylor Quirk

Few racquetball enthusiasts come to the courts with only their racquets and balls in hand. Everyone has his or her particular assortment of paraphernalia to bring along—gloves, eyeguards, sweat bands, towels, a change of clothing and assorted toiletries.

I carry all that with me, but I also bring along something else that is as vital to my game as my racquet—a small canvas bag featuring a sleeping Garfield and the words "Out to Lunch" on the outside and a half-dozen hard candies, a can of Coke and change inside. I am a diabetic, and I would no more play a game of racquetball without my "food bag" nearby than I would while wearing a pair of shoes that didn't fit.

Sound overly dramatic? It isn't. True, nearly every club has a soft drink machine or sells orange juice or candy, and I can always borrow money. But when I'm suffering from an insulin reaction, which is a sharp drop in blood sugar sometimes brought on by vigorous exercise, time is of the essence. I may be shaking or sweating excessively (even for playing racquetball), feel weak or dizzy or be mentally confused. I can't wait for someone to unjam a broken machine or take the chance the club is out of candy bars that day.

When I come off the court with an insulin reaction, I need something sweet to stop my blood sugar from dropping any further and to raise it back to normal, and I need it immediately. In severe instances, time could make the difference between remaining conscious and passing out. But for any reaction, the faster I treat it, the less severe it will be and the quicker I can recover. I won't be able to play any more that day, but I'll still be able to get through the day and play again tomorrow.

Like all diabetics, I am more vulnerable than the average person to something going awry when I play racquetball. But that's true for diabetics in all aspects of their lives—it's part of living with the disease. It's no excuse to stay away from playing racquetball (or any other sport), and with careful balancing of exercise, diet and insulin dosages, most diabetics should be able to play without any serious problems.

Other people need have no qualms about playing with diabetics or playing them as hard as they can. Diabetics,

through experience, can take care of themselves most of the time. And anyone who has seen Bobby Clarke play hockey for the Philadelphia Flyers, Kenny Duckett play football for the New Orleans Saints or Bill Gullickson pitch for the Montreal Expos knows being diabetic has not affected any of these athletes' competitiveness or abilities.

Diabetes mellitus is an inherited metabolic disorder in which the body lacks insulin. Produced by the Islets of Langerhans in the pancreas, insulin enables the body to utilize and store glucose, which is derived from the digestion of foods and used to fuel the body.

There are two types of diabetes. The adult-onset type usually affects older, obese people. They produce insulin, but either don't produce enough of it or

Like all diabetics, I am more vulnerable than the average person to something going awry when I play racquetball.

else the body has trouble making use of what is produced—medical researchers aren't sure if it's either one or a combination of the two. Adult-onset diabetes is usually treated by diet and/or oral medication that stimulates insulin production and utilization. In juvenile diabetes, which usually affects children and young adults, the pancreas doesn't produce any insulin at all. These diabetics are treated with diet and insulin injections once or twice daily.

For juvenile diabetics, regulating blood sugar levels is a balancing act between their insulin dosage, how much and what food they eat and the amount of exercising they do. Eating makes the blood sugar rise, while insulin and exercise bring it down. Insulin enables the body to use the sugar (glucose) and exercise burns it up as a fuel. Other factors, such as infections and emotional stress, can affect blood sugar levels, but insulin, diet and exercise are the major ones. Diabetics can test both their blood sugar and urine sugar levels at home to help sort out the balance.

In non-diabetics, insulin is secreted as the body needs it, depending on how much you exercise and eat. But the insulin diabetics inject into themselves works on a time-release basis. Once they've taken their shot, a certain amount of insulin will start working after so many hours whether they've eaten a lot or a little or whether they've played racquetball for two hours or napped. Consequently, diabetics experience a lot of fluctuations in blood sugar level, something non-diabetics don't.

When all three factors are in harmony, the blood sugar stays fairly close to normal; if a diabetic has eaten too much or isn't getting enough insulin, the blood sugar level will climb; and if he or she hasn't eaten enough, has too much insulin or has used all the available sugar by exercising, the blood sugar will drop, an insulin reaction.

As long as a diabetic stops exercising and treats the reaction by eating or drinking something sweet, it is not a dangerous condition. But it can be irritating, since a diabetic is unable to function normally with low blood sugar. Consequently, diabetics should either tell their opponent they're diabetic or be sure that club personnel who are there know.

Sometimes other people can see a reaction coming on before the diabetic does—the diabetic may become pale, move slowly and swing wildly at the ball or act "out of it." If you see any of these symptoms, don't panic. Suggest the diabetic stop playing and get something to eat. Then keep an eye on the person as he or she recovers. It's reassuring to me, as I sit and sip on my orange juice or Coke, that club members are keeping tabs on me and will drive me home if I need it.

If your diabetic opponent should collapse and is still conscious, get him or her to drink some sweet liquid. You should be able to see improvement in 10 to 15 minutes. Keep the person drinking until they've revived enough to know what they're doing. If diabetics become unconscious, which is rare, don't force any liquids into them, but instead call emergency medical help.

Far more dangerous than insulin reactions in the long run is high blood sugar. A diabetic with high blood sugar may feel and appear perfectly fine, although be more thirsty than usual.

But elevated blood sugar levels over a period of time will make a diabetic ill and could exacerbate long-term complications, such as vision problems, kidney trouble and damage to the nervous and circulatory systems.

I am 28 years old and have been a juvenile diabetic since I was three. And though I knew exercising was good for me, it wasn't until about a year-and-a-half ago, when I took up racquetball, that I began exercising vigorously on a regular basis. For the first time in my life, I found a sport that I could play competently, and at which I could see myself improve. My skills have increased to the point where I can think out strategy and even sometimes execute it. And I'm still improving. That's gratifying and an impetus to keep going.

I began playing once a week, then slowly increased that to my current three times a week. I also attend an exercise or aerobics class twice a week. These activities have affected my diabetic routine. My daily insulin dosage has decreased. On days that I play racquetball, I eat more before and after I play, usually a muffin or roll, potatoes, fruits or vegetables. I stay away from sweet cookies or cakes unless my blood sugar is low.

I try to stick to a 1,700 calorie diet when not playing, but if I burn up 700 of those calories playing racquetball for an hour, I have to make up for it. In addition, your metabolism continues working at a faster rate for several hours after exercising, which also must be taken into consideration. For example, when I first began playing, I often suffered from insulin reactions six to eight hours after I played.

Some diabetics eat the same amount of food when they exercise strenuously, but decrease their insulin dosage. I have tried this, too, but feel more comfortable eating extra, since it gives me more flexibility. I'll eat more if I've played a long time or very hard, less if it's been an easy workout. In addition, if I lower my insulin dosage in the morning because I'm going to play in the afternoon, and my opponent cancels, I'm left without enough insulin. Still, others prefer to decrease their insulin so they won't get in the habit of overeating or be tempted to eat more than they should. Some diabetics find they need both to eat more and to decrease their insulin dosage.

I have noticed physiological changes as well. I'm leaner, more fit and stronger. There are other less apparent changes, too. For example, there is now a blood test that determines your average blood sugar level for three months. Since I began playing racquetball, mine has improved significantly, to within the normal range for non-diabetics. I've also found that when my blood sugar gets high, it comes down sooner—I suspect I've become more sensitive to insulin, something medical research is beginning to verify. Because I am more fit, my cardiovascular system is working better, and for someone who faces circulatory problems, that can't hurt.

But even more significant have been the psychological changes affecting my concept of myself as a diabetic. For

Other factors, such as infections and emotional stress, can affect blood sugar levels, but insulin, diet and exercise are the major ones.

almost a year during 1978 and 1979, I was seriously ill with a diabetic complication called neuropathy, a condition affecting my nerve endings. I had constant sharp pain in my feet and thighs, had difficulty eating, and lost lots of weight and body strength. I was housebound much of the time.

The pain ultimately went away, I was able to eat normally again and gained back the lost weight (and then some). But I was told I would never gain back the strength in my thighs. My body healed reasonably well, but it took a long time for the mental and emotional healing to take place. Once it did, I gained emotional toughness and confidence in my spiritual ability to survive.

During this process, I had to learn to stop thinking of myself as an invalid; I had become a relatively healthy person again and had to learn to think of myself that way. I could take part in regular daily activities without falling apart, and I was strong enough to live a normal lifestyle.

But I was also extremely aware of my physical limitations and never felt comfortable about testing them. I assumed my body would fail if pushed too hard. Most people wouldn't have noticed this—I wasn't physically frail, rather I was mentally frail when it came to my body-sense. As a diabetic, I had never fully trusted my body, figuring it would always betray me. After the neuropathy, this distrust became even stronger.

I discovered racquetball while visiting my sister. I played with her, thought it was fun, and started playing at home. Because of the immediate gratification from seeing my skills improve and my body become slimmer and more fit, I kept playing. And slowly but surely, I realized that my body was as strong as my spirit—my thighs became even stronger than they had been before the neuropathy; I could push myself and play through fatigue; I could suffer a minor hurt and recover from it; I could control, to a greater extent than I thought possible, my body's actions. I was more physically resilient and had more reserves of physical strength than I had ever dreamed.

Knowing my body will not fall apart at the first sign of stress and that it can endure a lot of strain, I have become more confident in myself. I'm braver—physically, emotionally and mentally. Challenges no longer frighten me as they did. When your body is strong, you feel you have a solid base on which to expand your capabilities, physical and otherwise.

I know I still have limitations. Everybody does—mine are just a bit more apparent than some. And I must watch them closely. I can't play racquetball while having an insulin reaction; if I go off my diet too much, I'll feel lousy; when I reach a certain point of fatigue, I must stop and take it easy. So I listen to my body's needs very carefully.

By playing racquetball, I've learned to better accept my diabetes-imposed limitations. That's because I've kept pushing on those limits. I'll continue to push and expand them, and in doing so, can work around the limits and live with them better. And that's something both diabetic and non-diabetics alike should be constantly learning in order to live life to the fullest. ●

Tournament Results

Hogan, Peck Split Season's First Two Pro Tournaments

by Thomas J. Morrow

Dave Peck and Marty Hogan, the two at the top of the ladder, each beat the other as the 1982-83 Catalina/DP Leach/Voit pro circuit got off to a flying start.

Hogan, who lost his coveted number-one ranked position to Peck last season, inaugurated the new year with a thrilling 11-10, 11-6, 10-11, 9-11, 11-5 victory over Peck in the finals of the first pro stop September 30 to October 3 at King's Court, Westminster, CA.

Two weeks later, Peck returned the favor with an 11-9, 11-10, 7-11, 3-11, 11-4 win over Hogan in the championship match of the second stop at the Burnsville (MN) Racquet Club. In each tournament the winner took home \$5,500, the loser \$3,500.

At Westminster, Hogan and Peck made their way to the finals by eliminating the number three and four ranked players in the nation. Hogan defeated old hometown chum Jerry Hilecher (formerly of St. Louis, now of Encinitas, CA), and Peck ousted a stubborn Bret Harnett of Las Vegas. Peck defeated qualifier Steve Lerner, Santa Barbara, CA, in the first round and John Egerman, Boise, ID, in the quarter-finals. Hogan got by a tough Mark Martino, Fountain Valley, CA, and Gregg Peck, El Paso, in the quarters.

In other action, Rich Wagner, who was making his first tournament appearance since wrenching his knee in the semi-final round of the DP Leach National Championships last June, won his first match against Steve Strandemo, but broke his right thumb in the process and had to forfeit Friday's quarter-final match to Hilecher. Wagner's racquet hand was so swollen he could not grip without great pain.

Harnett, the 18-year-old sensation who has risen from obscurity to a number three ranking, ousted Mike Yellen, Southfield, MI, in the quarter-finals. Other upsets had Don Thomas, Mesa, AZ, losing to Egerman in the opening round as did Craig McCoy, Riverside, CA, to young Gregg Peck.

The surprise of the Minnesota tournament was the outstanding play of pro racquetball's senior citizen, Steve Strandemo, 34, of San Diego. Playing before many of his friends from years when he lived in Minnesota, Strandemo upset Harnett in the first round, held off Doug Cohen, St. Louis, in the quarter-finals and met Hogan in the semi-final round, the strongest showing in two years for Strandemo. It took Hogan four games before he could put the Kenyon, MN, native out of action.

On a less happy note, fourth-ranked Hilecher broke a bone in his ankle during his quarter-final match against Yellen and will be out of action for about two months. Hilecher played the entire match against Yellen refusing to forfeit despite his injury. Hilecher was not aware, however, just how serious it was until later.

Yellen was eliminated by Peck in the semi's, but it was the strongest showing the Michigan pro has turned in for quite some time.

Now that Hogan and Peck have each beaten the other once in two starts the guessing game continues as to which player is number one. They were scheduled to break the tie November 18-21 in New Haven, CT. Stay tuned to *National Racquetball* for an update. ●

DP Leach/Catalina Results

Westminster, CA, September 30-October 3

Round of 16: Dave Peck d. Steve Lerner 11-3, 11-10, 11-0; John Egerman d. Don Thomas 7-11, 11-9, 11-2, 10-11, 11-9; Mike Yellen d. Ed Andrews 11-5, 10-11, 11-0, 11-6; Bret Harnett d. Doug Cohen 11-8, 11-2, 11-9; Jerry Hilecher d. Cory Brysman 11-3, 11-7, 11-1; Rich Wagner d. Steve Strandemo 11-4, 11-10, 8-11, 11-6; Gregg Peck d. Craig McCoy 11-7, 11-8, 11-0; Marty Hogan d. Mark Martino 3-11, 11-1, 3-11, 11-4, 11-7

Quarter-Finals: Dave Peck d. Egerman, 11-2, 11-6, 11-8; Harnett d. Yellen, 11-8, 11-5, 10-11, 11-6; Hilecher d. Wagner, injury default; Hogan d. Gregg Peck 11-5, 9-11, 11-9, 11-3

Semi-Finals: Dave Peck d. Harnett, 5-11, 11-4, 3-11, 11-5, 11-6; Hogan d. Hilecher, 11-4, 11-3, 11-8

Finals: Hogan d. Peck 11-10, 11-6, 10-11, 9-11, 11-5

Burnsville, MN, Oct. 14-17

Round of 16: Marty Hogan d. Paul Bakken 11-9, 5-11, 11-5, 11-8; Don Thomas d. Joe Sacco 11-3, 11-3, 11-6; Doug Cohen d. Gregg Peck 11-6, 11-8, 3-11, 11-9; Steve Strandemo d. Bret Harnett 3-11, 3-11, 11-7, 11-9, 11-8; Jerry Hilecher d. Ed Andrews 11-9, 11-10, 5-11, 11-4; Mike Yellen d. Dan Ferris 11-3, 8-11, 11-3, 11-4; Craig McCoy d. Scott Hawkins 11-3, 11-6, 11-8; Dave Peck d. Paul Ikier 11-7, 11-3, 11-7

Quarter-Finals: Hogan d. Thomas 11-8, 11-10, 9-11, 10-11, 11-6; Strandemo d. Cohen, 0-11, 11-0, 11-6, 11-10; Yellen d. Hilecher, 7-11, 11-6, 11-9, 5-11, 11-5; Dave Peck d. McCoy, 11-3, 11-8, 11-1.

Semi-Finals: Hogan d. Strandemo 11-10, 2-11, 11-9, 11-8; Peck d. Yellen, 11-6, 10-11, 11-10, 11-3

Finals: Peck d. Hogan 11-9, 11-10, 7-11, 3-11, 11-4

Point Standings To Date:

Marty Hogan	210 points
Dave Peck	210 points
Jerry Hilecher	120 points
Mike Yellen	120 points
Bret Harnett	100 points
Steve Strandemo	100 points
Don Thomas	80 points
Gregg Peck	80 points
Craig McCoy	80 points
Ed Andrews	60 points
John Egerman	50 points



Tournament Results

McKay Wins WPRA Event

A standing room only crowd watched on October 24 at the Adelaide Club in Toronto, Canada, as Heather McKay won a resounding 3-1, 3-0 victory over Lynn Adams, the reigning national champion, in the Women's Professional Racquetball Association first pro tour stop sponsored by Bausch and Lomb, AMF Voit, Harvey Woods and CRS.

McKay depended heavily on a combination of ceiling shots and forehand passing shots to defeat Adams. *"I've been working on my ceiling shot all summer,"* she said after the match.

"I feel almost more confident about my forehand than my backhand. And Lynn was not putting the shots away as well as usual today—I think she was just a little off."

McKay's confidence was also boosted by the supportive atmosphere in Toronto, her hometown, and by her second seeded position, which lightened the pressure to win.

In the semi's, squash opponent Barbara Maltby extended the match with McKay into a tie-breaker, winning the first set 3-0. Maltby had made the semi's by upsetting third seeded Marci Greer, whom she has defeated in straight sets the last two times they've played.

Lynn Adams gave nothing away in her round of 16 match against Jennifer Harding or her semi-final victory over Laura Martino, both of which she took 3-0, 3-0. In the quarters, Terri Gilreath took two games from Adams. Then Lynn cranked up the power and scored continuously on backhand killshots.

At the next WPRA stop, the CBC Classic in Winnipeg, Canada, the top three Americans, Lynn Adams, Shannon Wright and Marci Greer, were up against Canadian stars Heather McKay, Heather Stupp and Linda Forcade. Watch for an update. ●

Adelaide Women's Open

Round of 16: Adams d. Harding 3-0, 3-0; Gilreath d. Jackson 3-1, 2-3, 15-10; O'Brien d. Davis 1-3, 3-1, 15-9; Martino d. Dee 3-2, 3-1; Greer d. Stupp 3-0, 3-2; Maltby d. Crawley 3-0, 3-0; McKinney d. Stoll 0-3, 3-0, 15-7; McKay d. Fletcher 3-0, 3-0

Quarter-finals: Adams d. Gilreath 3-2, 3-0; Martino d. O'Brien 3-0, 3-1; Maltby d. Greer 3-2, 3-1; McKay d. McKinney 3-0, 3-0

Semi-finals: Adams d. Martino 3-0, 3-0; McKay d. Maltby 0-3, 3-0, 15-9

Finals: McKay d. Adams 3-1, 3-0

Massachusetts

The WYMS/Centre Jewelers Great 98 Open
Sponsored by Radio WYMS, Centre Jewelers, AMF Voit, Coke
The Faunce Corner Club
North Dartmouth, MA, October 9-11
Directors: Paul Gulley, Bob Froehlicher

Men's Open

Quarter-finals: George Vierra d. Alan Dogan; Cliff Swain d. Gerry Cassidy; Charlie Horton, Jr. d. Steve Sinicrope; Dennis Aceto d. Tim Griffing

Semi-finals: Vierra d. Horton 15-12, 15-7; Swain d. Aceto 15-3, 15-7

Finals: Vierra d. Swain 13-15, 15-11, 15-9

Men's Seniors

Quarter-finals: Rene Depot d. Dana Burrill; Fred L'Esperance d. Don Moniz; Joe Indelicato d. Bill Synnott; Manny Pita d. Richie Vota

Semi-finals: Depot d. Pita 15-8, 15-11; L'Esperance d. Indelicato 15-12, 15-4

Finals: Depot d. L'Esperance 15-7, 15-14

Men's B

Quarter-finals: Mitchell Nathanson d. Ron Wnek; Jeff Balboni d. Bill Kieran; John Whalen, Jr. d. Peter Lash; Charlie Good d. Peter Dupuis

Semi-finals: Nathanson d. Whalen 15-6, 12-15, 15-4; Balboni d. Good, 11-15, 15-10, 15-8

Finals: Nathanson d. Balboni 7-15, 15-7, 15-10

Men's C

Quarter-finals: Mike Pereira d. Norman Farland; Dave Walstrom d. John Warters; Jim Anderson d. Jim Rice; Larry Brown d. Richard Ventriglia

Semi-finals: Walstrom d. Anderson 15-10, 15-7; Pereira d. Brown 4-15, 15-8, 15-10

Finals: Pereira d. Walstrom 15-13, 4-15, 15-12

Men's Novice

Quarter-finals: Doug Jefferey d. Tom Mullane; Tony Pimentel d. Brian Anderson; Larry Yourell d. Bob Pickett; Walter Robak d. Tim O'Connor

Semi-finals: Jefferey d. Yourell 15-9, 9-15, 15-4; Pimentel d. Robak 15-2, 15-7

Finals: Jefferey d. Pimentel 15-13, 9-15, 15-4

Women's Open

Quarter-finals: Eileen Ehrlich d. Grace Low; Sue White d. Marilyn Ellis; Martha Callahan d. Judy Bryant; Janet Simon d. Mimi Kelly

Semi-finals: Callahan d. Simon 15-7, 9-15, 15-3; Ehrlich d. White 15-6, 15-11

Finals: Ehrlich d. Callahan 12-15, 15-10, 15-6

Women's B

Quarter-finals: Kristine Nash (bye); Leesa Smith d. Chris Howard; Sue Rocicot d. Kathy Cocroft; Sandy Cross d. Doreen Taylor

Semi-finals: Smith d. Rocicot 15-12, 7-15, 15-14; Cross d. Nash 15-1, 6-15, 15-11

Finals: Smith d. Cross 9-15, 15-4, 15-9

Women's C

Quarter-finals: Sheila Doherty d. Chris Parisi; Jolene Ridder d. Debbie Gabriel; Debbie Ericksberg d. Paulette Manssuer; Debbie Paul d. Gail Woltz

Semi-finals: Ridder d. Doherty 15-5, 15-10; Ericksberg d. Paul 15-8, 15-1

Finals: Ericksberg d. Ridder 15-5, 15-4

Women's Novice

Quarter-finals: Lea McBratney d. Cheryl Riccardi; Debbie Farland d. Sheila Garro; Mary Allard d. Betsy Page; Maria Santamaria d. Juanita Fonseca

Semi-finals: McBratney d. Farland 15-6, 15-6; Allard d. Santamaria 15-4, 15-2

Finals: Allard d. McBratney 15-10, 15-4

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New Hampshire

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Tournament

Executive Court Club

Manchester, NH, October 8-10

Director: Mary Dee

Men's A: 1st—Bruce Christensen; 2nd—Phil Panarella;
3rd—Tom Reilly

Men's Seniors: 1st—Bob Sarvis; 2nd—Bob Drouin; 3rd—Joe Ruggieri

Men's B: 1st—Edward Lavallee; 2nd—Ted Paulauskas;
3rd—Mike Shagrin

Men's C: 1st—John Raymond; 2nd—Robert Knipe;
3rd—Doug Poirier

Men's Novice: 1st—Bob Joyce; 2nd—Wayne Huard;
3rd—Mitch Milewski

Men's Doubles: 1st—Mike Luciw/Tom Reilly; 2nd—Keith Shiel/Bruce Christensen; 3rd—Edward Lavallee/Doug Poirier

Women's A: 1st—Nan Higgins; 2nd—Debbie Wilbur;
3rd—Ginny Baeder

Women's B: 1st—Candy Fox; 2nd—Rachell Aubut;
3rd—Walker Hearsay

Women's C: 1st—Ann Seidman; 2nd—R.J. Ehrgott;
3rd—Marianne Palermo

Women's Novice: 1st—Joanne Benoit; 2nd—Diane Brouillard; 3rd—Susan Mathews

Women's Doubles: 1st—Ginny Baeder/Susan Harris;
2nd—Candy Fox/Carole Hackett; 3rd—Joanne Booth/Kathy Clarke

Ohio

2nd Annual Kettering Classic
Sponsored by Jim Hooghe Insurance
Kettering, OH, September 17-19

Men's Open

Quarter-finals: Dan Clifford d. J.P. Stewart 21-13, 21-9; Ray Brint d. Ralph Mollet 21-3, 21-15; Brian Diegan d. Bruce Lillis 21-13, 21-15; Mike Sipes d. Tom Moore 21-15, 21-16

Semi-finals: Clifford d. Brint 21-10, 21-10; Diegan d. Sipes 19-21, 21-18, 11-6

Finals: Clifford d. Diegan 21-10, 21-14

Men's A

Quarter-finals: Cole Kiser d. Art Chin 21-16, 21-9; Lee Terry d. Jerry Ayers 21-8, 21-7; Maurice Sweet d. Terry Cox 21-12, 21-13; Wayne Heffelfinger d. Rick Creager 21-11, 21-5

Semi-finals: Terry d. Kiser 21-3, 21-8; Sweet d. Heffelfinger 21-16, 21-12

Finals: Sweet d. Terry 21-17, 21-17

Men's Seniors

Quarter-finals: Marshall Mildworm d. Rich Robey 21-17, 21-20; Tom Sawyer d. Mike Cooper 9-21, 21-19, 11-9; Tom Nystrom d. David Venzke 21-6, 21-8; Tom Murray d. Rick Mathers (forfeit)

Semi-finals: Mildworm d. Sawyer 21-7, 21-18; Nystrom d. Murray 21-13, 14-21, 11-0

Finals: Nystrom d. Mildworm 21-10, 18-21, 11-5

Men's B

Quarter-finals: Buzz Long d. Tom Speiser 21-4, 21-11; Jonhenri Ball d. Tom Martin 21-15, 21-13; Jerry Rex d. Kent Myers 21-16, 11-21, 11-9; Mike Wilkins d. Jeff Drake 21-5, 21-8

Semi-finals: Ball d. Long 21-19, 19-21, 11-8; Wilkins d. Rex 21-6, 21-10

Finals: Wilkins d. Ball 21-3, 21-20

Men's C

Quarter-finals: Dan Krzyzanowski d. Ron Young 21-18, 21-9; Kirk Haas d. Eric Routenberg 21-14, 21-17; Matt McClain d. Tom Persinger 18-21, 21-10, 11-8; Tony Maier d. Gregory Toney 21-17, 21-6

Semi-finals: Haas d. Krzyzanowski 21-5, 21-15; McClain d. Maier 21-6, 21-10

Finals: Haas d. McClain 21-6, 21-10

Men's Novice

Quarter-finals: Jim Roberts d. Jack Shannon 21-7, 21-12; Jim Coahran d. Matt Mahrt 21-3, 15-21, 11-7; Kyle Stevens d. Joseph Hess 20-21, 21-16, 11-3; Jerry Carter d. John MacKeller 21-15, 21-11

Semi-finals: Coahran d. Roberts (forfeit); Carter d. Stevens 21-10, 21-5

Finals: Coahran d. Carter 21-11, 21-6

Women's Open

Quarter-finals: Suzie Helfrich d. Paige Sutherland 21-8, 21-9; Tammy Horrocks d. Karen Kattman 21-18, 21-6; Brigitt Hartz d. Pat Bomhorst 21-9, 21-5; Barbara Harrison (bye)

Semi-finals: Helfrich d. Horrocks 21-19, 21-3; Harrison d. Hartz 21-18, 21-2

Finals: Harrison d. Helfrich 21-20, 5-21, 11-5

Women's A

Quarter-finals: Karen Mitchell d. Terry LeClaire 21-6, 21-16; Sharon Hardebeck d. Marcia Young 21-20, 21-5; Susan Hooghe d. Kathy Brewer 21-17, 18-21, 11-10; Shannon Simmons d. Ryka Shaffer 21-12, 21-17

Semi-finals: Mitchell d. Hardebeck 8-21, 21-11, 11-6; Simmons d. Hooghe 21-18, 21-13

Finals: Simmons d. Mitchell 5-21, 21-15, 11-9

Women's Veterans

Semi-finals: Teena Walker d. Sharon Bongiorno 11-3, 11-8; Cathy Lennon d. Diane Broedling 11-1, 11-2

Finals: Walker d. Lennon 11-0, 11-3

Women's B

Quarter-finals: Carol Wallace d. Debbie Shartle 21-8, 21-10; Paula Patrice d. Jane Archer 21-12, 21-17; Tina Feudi d. Nancy Kosier 21-11, 19-21, 11-7; Terri Williams d. Yvonne Edwards 21-19, 21-18

Semi-finals: Wallace d. Patrice 17-21, 21-19, 11-9; Feudi d. Williams 20-21, 21-15, 11-5

Finals: Feudi d. Wallace 8-21, 21-20, 11-9

Women's C

Quarter-finals: Tammy Calhoun d. Debbie Brooks 21-10, 21-7; Penney Goodwin d. Lisa Textor (forfeit); Vicki Connor d. Michele Marks 21-0, 21-11; Donna Venzke (bye)

Semi-finals: Goodwin d. Textor 17-21, 21-11, 11-7; Connor d. Venzke 21-6, 21-5

Finals: Connor d. Goodwin 21-4, 21-13

Women's Novice

Quarter-finals: Olivia Williams d. Marianne Rodgers 21-2, 21-7; Sherry Tope d. Donna Upton 21-12, 21-13; Diana Smith d. Linda Froehlich 21-10, 21-6; Donna Kraus (bye)

Semi-finals: Williams d. Tope 21-5, 21-17; Smith d. Kraus 21-19, 20-21, 11-7

Finals: Smith d. Williams 21-12, 21-4

California

Fourth Annual Straw Hat Pizza Western
Cookout And Racquetball Shootout
Sponsored by Straw Hat, Nike, SAI, Penn,
Champion, Coors
The Irvine Clubhouse
Irvine, CA, September 22-26
Directors: Scott Winters, Jane Tubbs

Men's Open

Quarter-finals: John Mack d. Clay Ballard 15-3, 15-9; Jeff Conline d. Dolwain Green 15-12, 15-13; Jim Carson d. Dan Southern 15-13, 4-15, 15-12; Mike Gustaveson d. Chuck West 15-8, 15-11

Semi-finals: Mack d. Conline 15-6, 15-8; Gustaveson d. Carson 15-11, 15-8

Finals: Mack d. Gustaveson 15-7, 15-14

Men's Seniors

Quarter-finals: Mickey Bellah d. Bob Hamm 15-5, 15-4; John Gustaveson d. Bobby Bible 15-12, 15-8; Tony Marti d. Bill Hanson 15-11, 15-9; Bill Fearing d. Burt Carlson 15-1, 15-5

Semi-finals: Bellah d. Gustaveson 15-14, 15-9; Marti d. Fearing 15-13, 15-14

Finals: Marti d. Bellah 15-10, 15-12

Men's B

Quarter-finals: Dan Martin d. Mike Chastain 15-8, 15-8; Rick Cardwell d. Jeff Schott 15-4, 15-9; John Vigil d. Devin Labolitta 15-8, 15-12; Ken Hysell d. Mike Martinez 10-15, 15-11, 15-8

Semi-finals: Cardwell d. Martin 10-15, 14-15, 15-7; Vigil d. Hysell 15-12, 14-15, 15-4

Finals: Cardwell d. Vigil 15-3, 14-15, 15-4

Men's C

Quarter-finals: Gary Glem d. Charles Cochrane 15-4, 15-5; Joe Padilla d. Ken Green 15-10, 14-15, 15-2; Pete Wilson d. John Evans 15-10, 15-2; Emimo Taffarella d. Mike Casha 15-13, 15-4

Semi-finals: Padilla d. Glem 14-15, 15-7, 15-12; Taffarella d. Wilson 15-11, 15-2

Finals: Padilla d. Taffarella

Men's Novice

Quarter-finals: Tom Sutro d. Joel Morrison 15-12, 15-8; Eric Fernandez d. Rich Portugal 15-10, 15-13; Craig Johnson d. Pat Early 15-8, 15-6; Leo Favella d. Terry Myers 15-13, 10-15, 15-6

Semi-finals: Fernandez d. Sutro 15-11, 15-9; Favella d. Johnson 11-15, 15-7, 15-14

Finals: Fernandez d. Favella 15-2, 15-3

Men's Beginner Novice

Quarter-finals: Mickey Sinclair d. Dick Arnelt 15-10, 15-8; Robert Pike d. Vincent Artaie 15-13, 15-2; Jim Smith d. Bob Hardwick 15-10, 15-12; Joel Morrison d. George Rendell 15-10, 15-7

Semi-finals: Sinclair d. Pike 15-8, 15-14; Morrison d. Smith 15-11, 11-15, 15-8

Finals: Sinclair d. Morrison 15-8, 10-15, 15-12

Men's Open Doubles

Quarter-finals: Carson/Chadwick d. Crawford/Keohen 15-4, 15-7; Olson/Cernicky d. Green/Flannery 5-15, 15-7, 15-11; Gustaveson/Hubbard d. Alderson/Curry 15-9, 15-11; Southern/Barker d. Mack/Sheffield 15-5, 15-14

Semi-finals: Carson/Chadwick d. Olson/Cernicky 15-7, 15-11; Southern/Barker d. Gustaveson/Hubbard 11-15, 15-12, 15-8

Finals: Carson/Chadwick d. Southern/Barker 15-13, 15-10

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Women's B

Quarter-finals: Dianne Rippey d. Pat Kurtiniatis 15-7, 15-11, Patti Crowell d. Cathy Welch 15-12, 15-8; Andrea Tomar d. Carolyn Williams 14-15, 15-12, 15-10; Elissa Frolinko d. Myra Karas 15-10, 15-13

Semi-finals: Rippey d. Crowell 15-3, 3-15, 15-4; Karas d. Tomar 15-10, 15-14

Finals: Rippey d. Karas 15-4, 15-4

Women's C

Quarter-finals: Michelle Brown d. Sherri Freitas 15-0, 15-0; Pam Favour d. Cathy Smith 15-5, 15-0; Jill Robertson d. Jeffri Cochran 11-15, 15-2 15-0; Daphne Lovelette d. Emily Pearson 12-15, 15-7, 15-6

Semi-finals: Favour d. Brown 15-11, 15-14; Lovelette d. Robertson 15-14, 12-15, 15-4

Finals: Lovelette d. Favour 15-8, 15-11

Women's Novice

Quarter-finals: Bernie Mulvenna d. Cindy Kurtz; Mary Ann White d. Cindy Lloyd; Rosemary Medina d. Linda Mihaylo; Sandy Smith d. Debbie Bernier

Semi-finals: Mulvenna d. White; Medina d. Smith

Finals: Medina d. Mulvenna 15-7, 15-9

Women's Beginner Novice

Semi-finals: Mary Ann White d. Cindy Melfi 15-0, 15-6; Ellen Norquist d. Linda Mihaylo 15-11, 10-15, 15-12

Finals: Norquist d. White 15-7, 15-4

California

Sixth Annual Fat City Open
Sponsored by Coors Beer
Quail Lakes Athletic Club
Stockton, CA, Sept. 23-26
Director: Jim Moscatelli

Men's Pro

Quarter-finals: Scott Oliver d. Rich Wagner 12-15, 15-4, 11-9; Steve Lerner d. Ed Andrews 15-12, 5-15, 11-10; Mark Martino d. Gerry Price 15-9, 15-13; Crain McCoy d. Corey Brysman 15-4, 15-8

Semi-finals: McCoy d. Martino 15-8, 15-13; Lerner d. Oliver 15-7, 15-5

Finals: Lerner d. McCoy 15-5, 5-15, 11-7

Men's A

Semi-finals: Bill Sparks d. Dan Gualco; Michael Lowe d. Greg Frasier

Finals: Lowe d. Sparks 15-6, 14-15, 11-5

Men's Seniors 35+

Semi-finals: George DeLucca d. Dave Ellis; John Garcia d. Jim Hazley

Finals: DeLucca d. Garcia 15-12, 15-8

Men's Masters 45+

Semi-finals: Harvey Clar d. Ray Burdernich; Tom Morrow d. Al Rossi

Finals: Clar d. Morrow 15-5, 15-2

Men's B

Semi-finals: Dave Garcia d. John Hawkey; Scott Sieker d. Gary Callister

Finals: Garcia d. Sieker 7-15, 15-3, 11-5

Men's C

Semi-finals: Ernest Robinson d. Scott Davis; Mike McAllister d. Steve Buck

Finals: McAllister d. Robinson 15-12, 15-8

Men's D

Semi-finals: Brian O'Connor d. Dave Garcia; Gilbert Chavarria d. Brian Medelson

Finals: O'Connor d. Chavarria 15-12, 15-13

Men's Pro Doubles

Semi-finals: Ed Andrews/Mark Martino d. Craig McCoy/Charlie Brumfield; Steve Strandemo/Kyle Kamalu d. Gerry Merritt/Dan Factor

Finals: Andrews/Martino d. Strandemo/Kamalu 15-9, 15-13

Men's A Doubles

Semi-finals: Mike Hollenbeck/Jim Durham d. Steve Jensen/Tom Morrow; Michael Bronfield/John Candaso d. Jeff Trubey/Dave Vis

Finals: Hollenbeck/Durham d. Bronfield/Candaso 15-13, 5-15, 11-10

Men's Senior Doubles

Semi-finals: Nick Bartell/Rich Morrison d. Oscar Johnson/Spider Thomas; Chuck Dietz/Joe Bambino d. Mike Acosta/Jack Bursch

Finals: Bartell/Morrison d. Dietz/Bambino 15-7, 15-7

Men's B Doubles

Semi-finals: Wayne Guinn/Jim Curry d. Gary Alagret/Glenn Pierson; John Hawkey/Michael Willmarth d. Stephen Pease/Jim Marrufo

Finals: Guinn/Curry d. Hawkey/Willmarth 6-15, 15-10, 11-9

Men's C Doubles

Semi-finals: Ronald Schwarz/R.G. Johnson d. Luis Mendoza/Sefforina Porras; David Azuma/Jeff Aydelott d. Steve St. John/Pearson

Finals: Azuma/Aydelott d. Schwarz/Johnson 15-12, 15-12

Women's Open

Semi-finals: Karen Seavello d. Michelle Morrow; Debbie Sloan d. Marcia Yamashiro

Finals: Seavello d. Sloan 15-8, 15-7

Women's C

Semi-finals: Debbie Webb d. Karen Shriber; Amie Heath d. Barbara Myers

Finals: Webb d. Heath 7-15, 15-7, 11-7

Women's D

Semi-finals: Jannine Cessna d. Joan Ballard; Michelle Ploof d. Ellen Stencell

Finals: Ploof d. Cessna 15-10, 15-6

Women's C Doubles

Semi-finals: Evette Freggiaro/Judi Auwinger d. Ruth Flowers/Bev Engkabo; Geneva Johnigan/Linda Ward d. Wendy Keevil/Liz Smith

Finals: Freggiaro/Auwinger d. Johnigan/Ward 15-8, 3-15, 15-6

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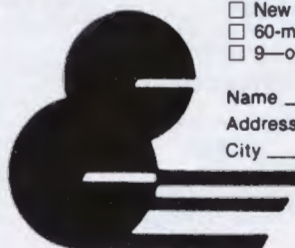
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- Exercise programming/equipment
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Indiana

INSRA Classic Tour, Schuyler Open
Sponsored by Thomas Schuyler Real Estate/
Investment
Sports Illustrated Court Club
Highland, IN, Sept. 24-26
Tournament Director: Fred Bojrab

Men's Open

Quarter-finals: John Amatulli d. Frank Johnson 15-11, 15-3;
Jim Bartlett d. Rob Robbins 15-7, 13-15, 11-8; Tony Gabriel d.
Larry Wackowski 15-10, 15-10; Sean Moskwa d. Mark
Tillapaugh 15-8, 15-13

Semi-finals: Amatulli d. Bartlett 14-15, 15-2, 11-10; Moskwa d.
Gabriel 15-4, 15-13

Finals: Amatulli d. Moskwa 14-15, 15-7, 11-8

Men's A

Quarter-finals: Alan Disher d. Dave Bachar 15-8, 15-8; Phil
Simborg d. Steve Jurus 15-8, 13-15, 11-8; Len Restaino d.
Frank Mackell 15-7, 15-7; James Hillman d. Mike Gordon
(forfeit)

Semi-finals: Disher d. Simborg 15-3, 15-10; Hillman d.
Restaino 7-15, 15-9, 11-7

Finals: Disher d. Hillman 15-11, 15-7

Men's Seniors

Quarter-finals: Ottis Campbell d. Phil Howard 15-12, 15-14;
Rich Kamper d. Marshall Mildworm 15-14, 15-12; Larry Davis
d. Steve Burns 15-14, 15-12; Bob Selva d. John Bushfield
(forfeit)

Semi-finals: Kamper d. Campbell 14-15, 15-5, 11-5; Davis d.
Selva 15-10, 15-14

Finals: Davis d. Kamper 15-8, 15-14

Men's B

Quarter-finals: John Byrd d. Dave Thomas 15-3, 4-15, 11-9;
Rick Avalos d. Oscar Pace 15-8, 10-15, 11-1; Ed Fields d. Ken
Massie 7-15, 15-11, 11-8; Keith Pritchett d. Mike Kelley 15-8,
15-11

Semi-finals: Avalos d. Byrd 13-15, 15-11, 11-0; Pritchett d.
Fields 3-15, 15-11, 11-10

Finals: Avalos d. Pritchett 15-13, 15-10

Men's C

Quarter-finals: Jeff Day d. Dave Strother 15-14, 15-7; Ron
Ours d. Lee Strauch 15-13, 15-13; John Hutchins d. Joe Haas
15-5, 15-2; Chuck Womack d. Ray Villareal 15-14, 15-8

Semi-finals: Day d. Ours 15-5, 15-5; Womack d. Hutchins
15-10, 15-10

Finals: Womack d. Day 15-13, 15-1

Men's D

Quarter-finals: Darryl Ransom d. Doug Korovesis 15-6, 15-7;
Delmar Reed d. Mike Riordan 11-15, 15-11, 11-3; Jeff Morris
d. Ed Withrow 15-12, 15-9; Mike Burkhardt d. M.R. Gaseor
15-12, 15-4

Semi-finals: Reed d. Ransom 7-15, 15-12, 11-8; Burkhardt d.
Morris 15-9, 3-15, 11-7

Finals: Reed d. Burkhardt 15-10, 15-5

Men's Open Doubles

Quarter-finals: Simpson/Gabriel d. Negrete/Mizgate 15-11,
12-15, 11-3; Baker/Tillapaugh d. Campbell/Servin 15-5, 15-2;
Phillip/Bence d. Wackowski/Szfranski 13-15, 15-5, 11-3;
Bartlett/Pritchett d. Zipes/Mikulla 4-15, 15-10, 11-8

Semi-finals: Simpson/Gabriel d. Baker/Tillapaugh 15-10, 15-3;
Bartlett/Pritchett d. Phillips/Bence 15-5, 14-15, 11-7

Finals: Simpson/Gabriel d. Bartlett/Pritchett 15-7, 11-15, 11-7

Men's B Doubles

Quarter-finals: Luther/Amstutz d. Smith/Nobles 15-12, 15-13;
Massie/Christenson d. Arnold/Hutcherson 15-8, 10-15, 11-8;
Cornwell/Campbell d. Simpson/Hernandez 15-12, 10-15, 11-8;
Burns/Keelan d. Karras/Faso 15-14, 15-8

Semi-finals: Massie/Christenson d. Luther/Amstutz 15-5, 15-2;
Burns/Keelan d. Cornwell/Campbell 15-9, 15-3

Finals: Massie/Christenson d. Burns/Keelan 15-7, 7-15, 11-7

Women's Open

Quarter-finals: Sue Carow d. Debi Mackell 15-7, 15-1; Chris
Evon d. Carol Baker 15-2, 15-8; Sue Prisching d. Becky Brint
15-4, 15-0; Dina Pritchett d. Kathy Busanic 15-13, 15-7

Semi-finals: Evon d. Carow 5-15, 15-12, 11-1; Pritchett d.
Prisching 15-7, 7-15, 11-10

Finals: Evon d. Pritchett 15-11, 15-5

Women's A

Quarter-finals: Martha Trapp d. Connie Zientara 11-15, 15-9,
11-10; Pat Bornhurst d. Debi Hovey 15-8, 8-15, 11-2; Paige
Sutherland d. Willie Hancock 15-14, 15-14; Kathi Claro d.
Vicki Nicholson 13-15, 15-5, 11-7

Semi-finals: Bornhurst d. Trapp; Sutherland d. Claro 15-12,
15-6

Finals: Sutherland d. Bornhurst 15-10, 15-4

Women's B

Round Robin: 1st—Nancy Kamper; 2nd—Monica Doyle;
3rd—Dorinda Kammer; 4th—Carol Murphy

Finals: Lieberman d. Gihos 6-15, 15-10, 15-7

Women's C

Quarter-finals: Linda Karalaw d. Carol VanderLugt 15-12,
12-15, 11-7; LuAnn Fatheree d. Iris Flynn 15-3, 15-4; Sue
Plunkett d. Sherri Barker 15-10, 15-3; Betty Haas d. Dixie
Broertjes 15-3, 15-7

Semi-finals: Fatheree d. Karalaw 15-8, 15-6; Haas d. Plunkett
15-5, 12-15, 11-5

Finals: Haas d. Fatheree 15-3, 15-13

Women's D

Quarter-finals: Virginia Nativo d. Kris Briggs 10-15, 15-12,
11-7; Carol Julian d. Carol Bosky 15-10, 15-0; Pat Peterman d.
Fran Gerbasich 15-11, 15-7; Tonya Withrow d. Kathy
Hostetter 15-1, 15-8

Semi-finals: Nativo d. Julian 15-11, 15-10; Withrow d.
Peterman 15-8, 15-4

Finals: Nativo d. Withrow 15-10, 15-1

Massachusetts

3rd Annual Friends of Floating Hospital
Boston Athletic Club
Boston, MA, September 25-26
Director: Esta Titlebaum

Men's Open

Quarter-finals: Cliff Swain d. Luke Adolph 15-9, 15-7; Phil
Fisher d. Bob Catrone 5-15, 15-2, 15-8; Roy Simon d. Al
Petrilli; Aceto d. Dave Scalin 15-5, 15-10

Semi-finals: Swain d. Fisher 15-8, 15-5; Aceto d. Simon 15-7,
15-8

Finals: Swain d. Aceto 15-3, 15-9

Men's 30+

Quarter-finals: Mike Luciw d. DeVencenzo 15-3, 15-0; Bob
Shulze d. George Noonan 15-7, 15-7; Rich Votto d. Luke
Adolph 15-2, 15-13; Warren Pierce d. Al Petrilli 15-6, 9-15,
15-13

Semi-finals: Luciw d. Shulze; Votto d. Pierce

Finals: Luciw d. Votto 15-14, 15-11

Men's 45+

Quarter-finals: Skip Eiman d. Art Lebrasseur 15-12, 15-1; Tom
Kelly d. Walter Falkenstrom 15-5, 15-5; John Solio d. John
LePore 4-15, 15-11, 15-1; Howie Coleman d. Norm LeCompte
15-3, 15-14

Semi-finals: Eiman d. Kelly 15-2, 15-2; Coleman d. Solio 8-15,
15-10, 15-4

Finals: Eiman d. Coleman 15-14, 15-1

Men's B

Quarter-finals: Nick Maggio d. Charles Buschwarz 12-15,
15-7, 15-11; Jack McGrath d. Mike Parent 15-11, 8-15, 15-9;
Peter Dupuis d. Bob Petrucci 15-9, 15-8; Tom Gill d. Art
Morgan 15-10, 15-9

Semi-finals: McGrath d. Maggio 15-6, 13-15, 15-14; Gill d.
Dupuis 15-10, 15-9

Finals: Gill d. McGrath 15-5, 15-12

Men's C

Quarter-finals: Craig Drimal d. Charles Larrabee 15-9, 15-6;
Vin Puccio d. Bill Mallwood 15-13, 15-6; Mitch Nathanson d.
Mike Feinberg 15-5, 15-7; John Gallagher d. Mitch Meyers
6-15, 15-7, 15-4

Semi-finals: Drimal d. Puccio 15-4, 15-3; Nathanson d.
Gallagher 15-8, 15-8

Finals: Nathanson d. Drimal 15-14, 15-12

Men's Novice

Quarter-finals: Walter Collins d. Ralph Dowd 5-15, 15-1, 15-12;
Charles Myatt d. Tom London 15-8, 15-10; Steve Castigliotti
d. Bill Costas 15-4, 15-3; Andy Bennett d. Jerry Murray 15-13,
12-15, 15-13

Semi-finals: Collins d. Myatt 15-2, 15-4; Bennett d. Castigliotti
15-9, 15-12

Finals: Collins d. Bennett 15-13, 14-15, 15-6

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Women's A

Quarter-finals: Janet Simon d. Marie Cushing 15-0, 15-4; Karen O'Neil d. Kathy Manning 13-15, 15-5, 15-11; Cindy Alba d. Mimi Kelly 15-5, 15-9; Mary Anne O'Sullivan d. Kathy Sanford 15-2, 15-1

Semi-finals: Simon d. O'Neil 15-8, 15-5; Alba d. O'Sullivan 15-2, 15-1

Finals: Alba d. Simon 2-15, 15-12, 15-9

Women's B

Quarter-finals: Heidi Lieberman d. Gail Carridi 15-12, 15-6; Kathy Boyd d. Paula Shugrue 15-6, 15-5; Denise LeCompte d. Sharon Loube (forfeit); Gail Gihos d. Diane Harber 8-15, 15-3, 15-2

Semi-finals: Lieberman d. Boyd 15-8, 15-11; Gihos d. LeCompte 15-10, 15-4

Finals: Lieberman d. Gihos 6-15, 15-10, 15-7

Women's C

Quarter-finals: Kathy Curtis d. Connie Guilla 15-14, 9-15, 15-11; Mary Hoyt d. Jane Staula 13-15, 15-9, 15-1; Diane DiCarlo d. Diane Mossesso 13-15, 15-10, 15-14; Trish McGrath d. Cindy Mernich 15-4, 15-4

Semi-finals: Hoyt d. Curtis 15-8, 15-10; McGrath d. DiCarlo 15-6, 15-13

Finals: Hoyt d. McGrath 15-6, 15-14

Women's Novice

Quarter-finals: Jan Brock d. Kay Miles 10-15, 15-1; Vivian Avery d. Leanne Nossberg 15-8, 15-3; Eileen Hegarty d. Lynn Miller (forfeit); Marilyn Cohen d. Esta Titlebaum 15-9, 15-10

Semi-finals: Avery d. Brock 2-15, 15-8, 15-8; Cohen d. Hegarty 15-11, 15-14

Finals: Avery d. Cohen 15-6, 15-11

Pennsylvania

4th Annual White Rose Classic
Sawmill East Racquetball Club
York, PA, October 1-3
Directors: Harry Fishel and Bill Richards

Men's Open

Quarter-finals: Reuben Gonzales d. Dan Obremski 15-3, 15-10; Mike Levine d. Phil Panarella 15-4, 15-9; Charlie Horton d. Ira Miller 15-8, 15-13; Jim Cascio d. Cliff Swain 15-5, 12-15, 11-10

Semi-finals: Gonzales d. Levine 8-15, 15-5, 11-8; Cascio d. Horton 15-9, 15-9

Finals: Cascio d. Gonzales 11-15, 15-12, 11-5

Men's Seniors

Quarter-finals: Al Ginsburg d. Carl Ezersky 15-1, 15-2; Jon Owen d. Warren Riecke 15-8, 7-15, 11-9; Sam Munson d. Dick Lee 12-15, 15-14, 11-1; Ed Remen d. Charles Horton, Sr. 15-4, 15-3

Semi-finals: Ginsburg d. Owen 15-13, 15-1; Remen d. Munson 15-4, 15-4

Finals: Remen d. Ginsburg 15-4, 15-2

Men's A

Quarter-finals: Mark McCarthy d. Jim Martin 14-15, 15-9, 11-5; Tom Burkholder d. Pete Fuoco 9-15, 15-4, 11-5; Brian Hilt d. John Vaccaro 8-15, 15-9, 11-8; Cliff Swain d. Gary Glogler 15-2, 15-6

Semi-finals: McCarthy d. Burkholder 15-6, 15-8; Swain d. Hilt 15-6, 15-3

Finals: Swain d. McCarthy 15-9, 15-9

Men's B

Quarter-finals: Allan Lesser d. Parris Woodbury 13-15, 15-11, 11-2; Bill Vangreen d. Randy Brenner 15-6, 15-7; Bob Phillabaum d. Greg Frizzell 15-10, 15-6; Mike Myers d. George Kroll 15-9, 15-9

Semi-finals: Phillabaum d. Vangreen 15-12, 9-15, 11-7; Myers d. Lesser 15-2, 15-11

Finals: Myers d. Phillabaum 15-13, 16-18, 11-3

Men's C

Quarter-finals: Robert Compton d. Rick Lee 15-1, 15-6; Al Douden d. Paul Greenslade 15-17, 15-11, 11-8; Joseph Walters d. John Burleson 10-15, 15-11, 11-10; Warren Riecke d. Ron Gray 7-15, 15-8, 11-6

Semi-finals: Walters d. Douden 14-16, 15-13, 11-8; Riecke d. Compton 15-9, 15-8

Finals: Riecke d. Walters 15-13, 19-17

Men's Doubles

Quarter-finals: Powell/Simonette d. Munson/Vanore 15-12,

16-14; Klein/Obremski d. Backston/Martin 15-3, 15-2; Glogler/Rougeux d. Barrett/Sabalesky 15-4, 15-10; Horton/Panarella d. Hilt/Natale 16-14, 15-7

Semi-finals: Horton/Panarella d. Glogler/Rougeux 15-10, 15-4; Klein/Obremski d. Powell/Simonette 15-6, 15-7

Finals: Klein/Obremski d. Horton/Panarella 15-8, 15-10

Women's A

Quarter-finals: Pat Dorsheimer d. Tammy Hajjar 15-11, 15-13; Sharon Fraer d. Andrea Katz 15-3, 2-15, 11-9; Lucy Zarfos d. Yvonne Smart 15-11, 15-10; Dot Fischl d. Malia Kamahoa 15-7, 15-12

Semi-finals: Dorsheimer d. Fraer 15-5, 15-5; Fischl d. Zarfos 15-5, 16-14

Finals: Fischl d. Dorsheimer 16-14, 15-7

Women's B

Quarter-finals: Andrea Turo d. Barb Atkinson 15-9, 15-7; Pat Anderson d. Jeri Barnes 15-6, 15-10; Anne Roggenbaum d. Donna Garrett 15-9, 15-8; Jody Landis d. Condy Gelling 15-9, 15-5

Semi-finals: Turo d. Anderson 15-9, 15-3; Landis d. Roggenbaum 15-9, 15-5

Finals: Landis d. Turo 15-3, 15-7

Women's C

Quarter-finals: Judy Schrecker d. Donna Gean 8-15, 15-10, 11-5; Anne Roggenbaum d. Stephanie Pinola 10-15, 15-1, 11-7; Andrea Turo d. Darlene Smith 15-10, 15-3; Sharon Hershey d. Gloria Simmons 15-7, 15-12

Semi-finals: Schrecker d. Roggenbaum 15-7, 15-9; Hershey d. Turo 12-15, 15-6, 11-2

Finals: Hershey d. Schrecker 15-12, 15-1

New York

Third Annual Columbus Day Weekend
Shootout
Sponsored by Lite Beer
21st. Point Club
Albany, NY, October 8-10

Men's Open: 1st—Allan Lee; 2nd—Gus Koumarelas; 3rd—Aaron Katz

Men's Seniors: 1st—Jack Nocera; 2nd—Neil Shapiro; 3rd—Dennis Sbrega

Men's Masters: 1st—John Wheeler; 2nd—Alex Shapiro; 3rd—Mike Frankel

Men's Golden Masters: 1st—Saal Lesser; 2nd—Frank Anderson; 3rd—Irv Cowle

Men's B: 1st—Brian McDermott; 2nd—Howard Millian; 3rd—Ed Shivokevich

Men's C: 1st—Mark Zayas; 2nd—Howard Spaeth; 3rd—Ed Scolia

Men's Novice: 1st—Joe Cerniglia; 2nd—Rich Corso; 3rd—Kevin Duggan

Men's Open Doubles: 1st—Neil Fudim/Roger Fudim; 2nd—Jim Burns/Steve Volk; 3rd—Jack Nocera/Howie Packer

Men's B/C Doubles: 1st—Bob Hooper/Ira Shapiro; 2nd—Jay Calnen/Howard Spaeth; 3rd—John Charbonneau/Mike Millian

Women's Open: 1st—Anne Baril; 2nd—Jessica Rubin; 3rd—Cheryl Irving

Women's B: 1st—Laurie Kitchen; 2nd—Pat Rile; 3rd—Barb Meredith

Women's C: 1st—Sue Graham; 2nd—Carol Casilli; 3rd—Diane Nero

Women's Novice: 1st—Janet Fabian; 2nd—Arlene Capizzi; 3rd—Robin Golden

Women's B/C Doubles: 1st—Diane Nero/Sue Graham; 2nd—Carol Liparelli/Nina McGee; 3rd—Jacki Charbonneau/Sue Craddock

Boys 15: 1st—Howard Millian; 2nd—Brian Tollin; 3rd—Scott Liparelli

Boys 13: 1st—George Delaney; 2nd—Joe McGee; 3rd—Kevin Duggan

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Tell Us About Your Eyeguards

Eyeguards and the issue of eye safety continue to be primary concerns in the racquetball world. The questions wearing eyeguards, not wearing them, open frames (lensless), closed frames, mandatory usage and optional usage are among these issues.

National Racquetball is interested in your experience with eyeguards in line with our continuing desire to provide our readers with meaningful information on a variety of racquetball topics.

The results of this survey will be published in our February, 1983 issue, so we need your response by January 1, 1983. It's your chance to be heard on this vital issue facing our sport.

Send your completed survey forms to:
National Racquetball Reader Survey,
1800 Pickwick Ave., Glenview, IL 60025.

1. How Often Do You Play Racquetball?

- ☐ 3 or more times per week
☐ 2 times per week
☐ 1 time per week
☐ 2 times per month
☐ 1 time per month or less

2. How Many Years Have You Been Playing?

- ☐ More than 5 ☐ 3 or less
☐ 5 or less ☐ 2 or less
☐ 4 or less ☐ 1 or less

3. Where Do You Normally Play?

- ☐ Private club ☐ Park District
☐ YMCA ☐ School
☐ JCC ☐ Military base

4. What Is Your Skill Level?

- ☐ Beginner ☐ Open
☐ Intermediate ☐ Professional
☐ Advanced

5. Are You Male Or Female?

- ☐ Male
☐ Female

6. What Is Your Age?

- ☐ Under 18 ☐ 35-44
☐ 18-24 ☐ 45-54
☐ 25-34 ☐ 55 or over

7. Do You Wear Corrective Lenses (glasses or contacts) Off The Court?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

8. How Often Do You Wear Eyeguards When You Play Racquetball?

- ☐ All the time ☐ Sometimes
☐ Usually ☐ Never

9. Have You Ever Taken Lessons?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

10. If You Have Taken Lessons—What Did Your Instructor Say About Eyeguards?

- ☐ Demanded that we wear them at all times
☐ Recommended that we wear them
☐ Merely told us they were available
☐ Didn't mention them at all

11. Are The Eyeguards That You Wear Open Lenses Or Closed Lenses?

- ☐ Open
☐ Closed

12. How Many Pair Of Eyeguards Do You Own?

- ☐ 3 or more
☐ 2
☐ 1
☐ None

13. Where Did You Purchase Your Last Pair Of Eyeguards?

- ☐ Local club pro shop
☐ YMCA/JCC
☐ Sporting Goods Store
☐ Discount Store
☐ Mail Order

14. How Many Pairs Of Eyeguards Did You Purchase In The Last 12 Months?

- ☐ 3 or more
☐ 2
☐ 1
☐ None

15. What Was The Cost Of The Last Pair Of Eyeguards You Purchased?

- ☐ \$5 or less ☐ \$20 or less
☐ \$10 or less ☐ \$25 or less
☐ \$15 or less ☐ \$26 or more

16. What Will Be Most Likely To Influence Your Next Eyeguard Buying Decision?

(Rank in order of your first 3 preferences, i.e., put a number 1 next to your first choice, a number 2 next to your second choice, etc.)

- ☐ Comfort
☐ Frame construction materials
☐ Open vs. closed lens
☐ Appearance
☐ Local instructor's advice
☐ Advertising
☐ Price
☐ _____ Other

17. Are You Pleased With The Eyeguards You Are Now Wearing?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

18. Do You Believe The Eyeguards You Are Presently Wearing Give You Total Protection?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

19. What Do You Like Most About Your Eyeguards? (Rank in order of first three preferences).

- ☐ Comfort
☐ Protection
☐ Appearance
☐ Price
☐ Clear vision
☐ _____ Other

20. What Don't You Like Most About Your Eyeguards? (Rank in order of first three preferences).

- ☐ Comfort
☐ Protection
☐ Appearance
☐ Price
☐ Clear vision
☐ _____ Other

21. Have You Ever Been Hit In The Eye Or Face With A Racquet Or Ball?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

22. Have You Ever Been Saved From Injury Or More Serious Injury Because You Were Wearing Eyeguards?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

23. Do You Think That Eyeguards Should Be Mandatory Equipment In Your Racquetball Facility?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

24. In Which Tournaments Should Eyeguards Be Mandatory, If At All?

(Check the box or boxes next to those tournaments in which you feel eyeguards should be mandatory).

- ☐ Professional
☐ State/Regional/Open Amateur
☐ Intercollegiate
☐ Junior
☐ Doubles
☐ All Of The Above—Eyeguards Should Be Mandatory In All Tournaments
☐ None Of The Above—Eyeguards Should Not Be Mandatory In Any Tournaments

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Indiana State Doubles Championship

December 17-19

Kokomo Sports Center
111 Southway Blvd.
Kokomo IN 46901

Tournament Directors: Tony Gabriel,
Mark Morehead
(317) 455-0167

Michigan Super Seven #5

January 7-9, 1983

Mt. Clemens Racquet Club
40501 Production Road
Mt. Clemens, MI 48045

Tournament Director: John Becchio
(313) 463-2000

2nd Annual IRSA Convention

January 17-21

Riviera Hotel
Las Vegas, NV

Contact: Mary Johnsen
(503) 645-6543

St. Valentine's Day Open Racquetball Tournament

February 4-6, 1983

21st. Point Club
McKown Road off Western Av.
Albany, NY 12203

Tournament Director: Vincent Wolanin
(518) 489-3276

Music City Racquetball Tournament

February 25-27, 1983

YMCA

1000 Church St.
Nashville, TN 37203

Tournament Directors: Frank
Burkholder, Steve Tarver
(615) 254-0631

WPROA Tour, 1983

Rainbow Inspection Racquetball Pro-Am

February 10-13
Wyoming Racquet Club
Casper, WY

Tournament Director: Rick Carbaugh
(307) 265-6928

February 17-20
Riverbend Athletic Club
Fort Worth, TX

Tournament Director: Mary Pat Slenka
(817) 284-3353

Bob's Big Boy Open

Tucson Athletic Club
Tucson, AZ

Tournament Director: Carl Porter
(602) 881-0140

Entry deadline: the Friday before each
tournament

HEALTH

How Tough are Your Eyes?

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* National Racquetball May '82

protection. They're even better than industrial safety thickness plastic (known as CR-39). Street wear plastic, as normal glasses, does break," says Easterbrook.

In his opinion, *"Anybody who plays racquetball without eyeguards is nuts, to put it another way, there is more energy in a racquetball traveling at high speed than there is in a bullet."*

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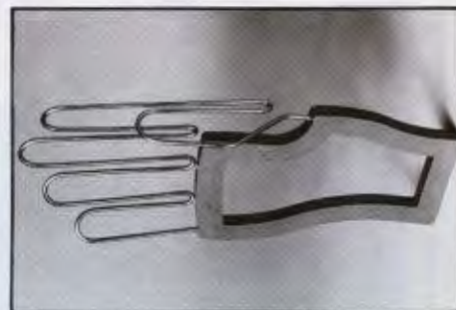
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One Of The Giants Of Racquetball History

In the early days of racquetball, the days prior to blue balls, metal racquets and prize money tournaments, a few pockets of play sprung up in various locations throughout North America. These became the hotbeds or "meccas," if you will, and one such place was Louisville, KY.

The head guru of the Louisville fanatics was Ken Porco, former track, baseball and football star at the University of Louisville, later to become one of the world's foremost racquetballers and a pioneer in development of commercial racquetball facilities. Along the way, he managed to get himself embroiled in the bloodiest political confrontation in the sport's history.

Porco, whose 5'8, 195-pound physique once got him labeled "racquetball's tank," was the epitome of the game's style in the late 60's and early 70's. His fierce competitiveness, guts, and physical style caused many a collision between body and wall, with even money riding on which would survive.

Blessed with the type of power that would make some of today's bullet shooting players envious, Porco nevertheless found more pleasure in the finesse and outmaneuvering that marked those early years.

He captured the International Doubles championship in 1971 (with Mike Zeitman) after having taken second place the previous year with partner Dick Ribisl. In singles he was a consistent national quarter and semi-finalist from 1969-73, who annually seemed to run into an eventual tournament finalist along the way.

(In 1970, for example, Porco lost to Craig Finger, the tourney winner, 21-20, 21-20 in the quarters).

A true racquetball preacher, Porco organized, taught, competed with and against, and otherwise promoted racquetball among a rapidly growing band of enthusiasts in Louisville. His home base at the time was the Louisville Jewish Community Center where he was Associate Director of Physical Education for 13 years.

He led his entourage on excursions to Pennsylvania, Illinois, Tennessee, Wisconsin, Missouri and anywhere else they could reach where the word was

that racquetball had been born. These personally financed trips were for the pleasure only—to find out who else was playing this crazy game and how well they played it.

Today, the 44-year-old native of Pittsburgh is Director of Media Mix, a 24-hour-a-day recreational club for employees of the Louisville Courier Journal/Times, the city's major newspaper. The building also houses the Downtown Athletic Club for which Porco also serves as Director.

He and his wife Jeanne found the time to raise four children while Ken pursued his nomadic racquetball existence, hosting tournaments, playing in them, repping for court building firms and otherwise spreading the racquetball gospel. He is truly one of those people who was there at the beginning.

* * *

Ken Porco sat in a crowded, damp room with nearly 50 other men at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. It was 1962 and Porco, like the others with him, was attending a conference of physical education workers of Jewish Community Centers. The topics varied, but few truly caught Ken's interest.

The group took a break to survey the vast facilities of UM, and along the way, Porco couldn't hide his amazement as they toured the school's handball court area.

"I remember it like it was yesterday," said Ken. "We walked through there and I thought to myself, 'my goodness, they're playing with paddles and dyed tennis balls on their handball courts!'"

Since he had dabbled in squash and handball over the years, paddleball triggered a natural reaction in Porco. He noticed that it was easier to play than handball, that the workout generated was good, and that he would be able to offer the sport to his members back in Louisville.

Upon his return, Porco immediately bought up as many paddles as he could, and began dying tennis balls black. That was paddleball, 1962.

"Everybody wanted to play as quickly as possible," he said. "It was amazing. We never had enough paddles. We didn't know where to get a decent ball. Nobody knew anything."

Porco (left) accepts his third place trophy at the first IRA National Championships, 1969. Fourth place finisher Dr. Chuck Hanna is at the right.



Word traveled, as it always does, and one day a fellow came down from New England, looking for a game from Porco or anybody at the JCC. But he didn't have a paddle. He had a strung racquet, wooden framed, the old Joe Sobek model. It was the greatest thing Porco or his friends had ever seen.

"We held that racquet," he said. "We hit with it a little. The atmosphere was electric. We thought we had died and gone to heaven."

From that point on there was no stopping Ken Porco and friends. They started to hear about other locales where the new game was being played and they sought them out. The carloads of players on weekend excursions became well known throughout the midwest and midwest.

The Louisville clan would always show up. Guys you've probably never of heard of, like Ribisl, Al Spevak, Norm Klein, Bob Williams, and Irv Goldstein. Or those you might have heard of like Hermie Abramovitz, Ike Gumer, Irv Zeitman, Alan and Andy Hyman, Don Rigazio, and of course, Mike Zeitman.

They were led by Porco, who took them to Milwaukee in May of 1968 for the first ever "national" tournament although it was never recognized as such.

"Milwaukee was a revelation," said Porco. "It amazed us to see so many good players from so many different places. They had all developed their game on their own, from different sports backgrounds. We went to Milwaukee just to play, but it became apparent

In doubles action Porco goes for bottom board from three-quarters court against Finger (left) and Lawrence at the 1970 Nationals.



that racquetball was going to become something really big."

Porco's on-court reputation became nearly as big. The burly former fullback for Calgary of the Canadian Football League earned fame, if not fortune, playing his way to the upper echelons of racquetball. Yet he remained snakebitten each step of the way.

In 1969, at the first International Racquetball Association (IRA) championships, he lost to eventual runner-up Charlie Brumfield in the semi-finals 11-21, 21-11, 21-8; in 1970 came his loss to Finger; in 1971 he again came up short against Finger (who finished second) 21-19, 21-16; in 1972 an injury kept him out of singles, but he managed to capture fourth place in doubles with Bill Evans.

Porco's dedication to the sport earned him the non-paying, almost honorary job as national commissioner of the IRA, forerunner of today's AARA. It was in this role that he found himself a pivotal person in the 1973 battle for control of the IRA between president Bob Kendler and the Board of Directors.

"It was awkward, to say the least," said Porco. "I think Mr. Kendler respected me, because during the negotiations, I was one of only three people he would talk with. Unfortunately, my efforts and those of my colleagues were not enough to keep the IRA together."

When Kendler inaugurated pro racquetball a few months later, Porco held back, partly because of his commitment to IRA and partly through a realistic perception of what his career was about.

"The political stuff was all new to me," he said. "Factions, dogfights—heck, I was a player, I played for fun. The whole scene in 1973 took away some of my enthusiasm."

"I slowly stopped playing competitively. I think I entered only one pro event and that was my swan song. I was 35 years old in 1973, not the age you start pro careers at."

Instead, Porco went into the business of racquetball, leaving the JCC in November of '73 to design, build and invest in the Louisville Athletic Club, a four court commercial facility that's

still going strong. Proving that his leadership was more action than words, he used a panel court system for the walls of the L.A.C., the first such construction in the mid-south.

"I was repping for World Courts at the time," he said, "and I firmly believed then, as I do now, in the concept of panel court construction." Four subsequent years repping for Sports Unlimited brought him to eight nations as well as dozens of states, all in the pursuit of building more paneled courts.

But Louisville has always been that home to return to. After a knee injury in Calgary's last exhibition game of his rookie season had sidelined him, the Rough Riders placed him on waivers—a career ended before it began.

With few job opportunities available in birthplace Pittsburgh (his initial athletic stardom was at Pittsburgh's Central Catholic High School, alma mater of current Pitt quarterback Dan Marino), he packed up for Louisville, where the grass was greener.

The JCC called him in November of '73 beginning his 13 year affiliation with that organization.

Although his knee injury wasn't serious enough to warrant surgery at the time, the constant pounding of years of racquetball didn't help any. Until a few months ago, you'd find him on the courts a couple of times a week, if not playing racquetball, then squash or handball.

"As I got older it just became tougher for my body to absorb my hard style of play," he said. "It was just a question of time before something had to give and when it gave it gave real good."

At this writing, Ken is hobbled by torn ligaments in both knees with surgery to have been performed on his left one last month.

Court observers who've been around since the late '60s will tell you that Porco was born 15 years too early. His natural power and learned finesse would place him at or near the top of today's game.

"You never know," he said. "Youth is the great equalizer. I've been labeled a power player, but I always got the most enjoyment out of out-foxing my opponent. The control game was preferable to me."

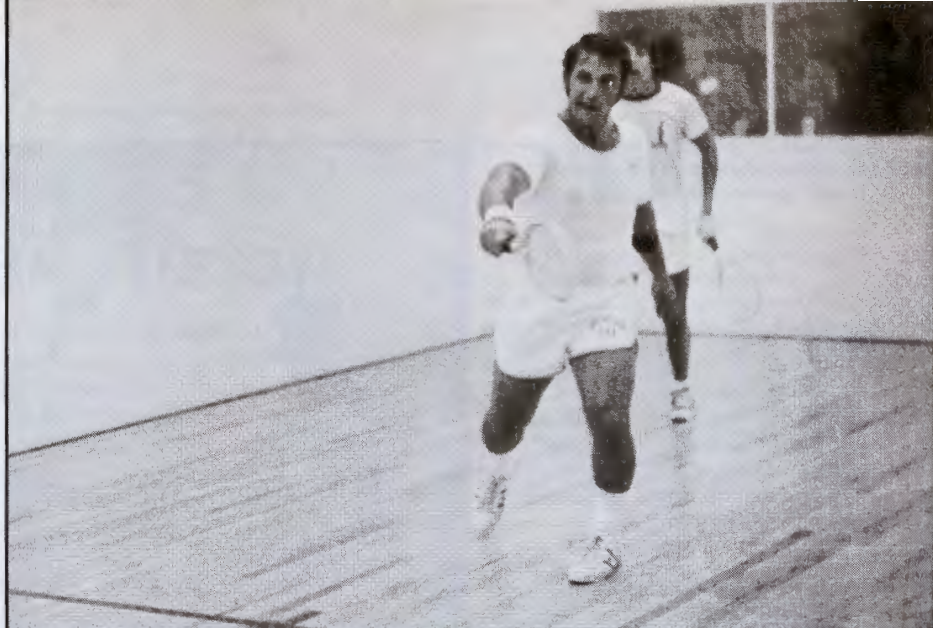
"Now that the ball's been slowed down we're seeing a return to strategy, lob serves and finesse. To me, a kill shot is a kill shot, hit hard or hit soft."

Two of Porco's contributions to racquetball will never be forgotten, at least not by those who witnessed or participated in them. The first was his notorious backhand, a sort of inside-out stroke, where his thumb actually rested on the surface of the racquet handle.

"Everybody always made fun of my backhand stroke," he said. "But to me, it was just as natural as could be. I never could understand why everybody didn't hit it that way."

Ken's second contribution was the annual Louisville Invitational Doubles

The Porco backhand as famous as it was infamous. Here Ken follows through against young Steve Serot in the 1971 Invitational Singles Championships.



Championships, an event that drew every top doubles team in the nation each of the four years he hosted the tournament at the JCC.

"That tournament was the best," he said. "There wasn't a year that all the big guns didn't show. Finger, Lawrence, Schmidtke, Serot, Valier, Muehleisen, Brumfield, Souders, Charlson, Zeitman,



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° (Enlarged to show detail)

Garfinkel, Rubenstein, Keeley, Rudysz, Luciw—everybody came to that one."

The reciting of names of an era gone by brought a smile to his face.

"I will always remember and always be thoughtful of the people I've met in the sport," he said. "They have been wonderful friendships and relationships that still exist today.

"I hope today's players love the sport for the sport and not so much for greed, you know, what they can get out of it. Back then, we played because we loved racquetball."

In 1976 Porco sold his interest in the Louisville Athletic Club to his partner and joined Media Mix and the Downtown Athletic Club, where he continues today. And although he's not the type to say it himself, the 2,500 members of those clubs are rubbing shoulders with one of the giants of racquetball history.

All 5'8, 195 pounds of him. ●

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