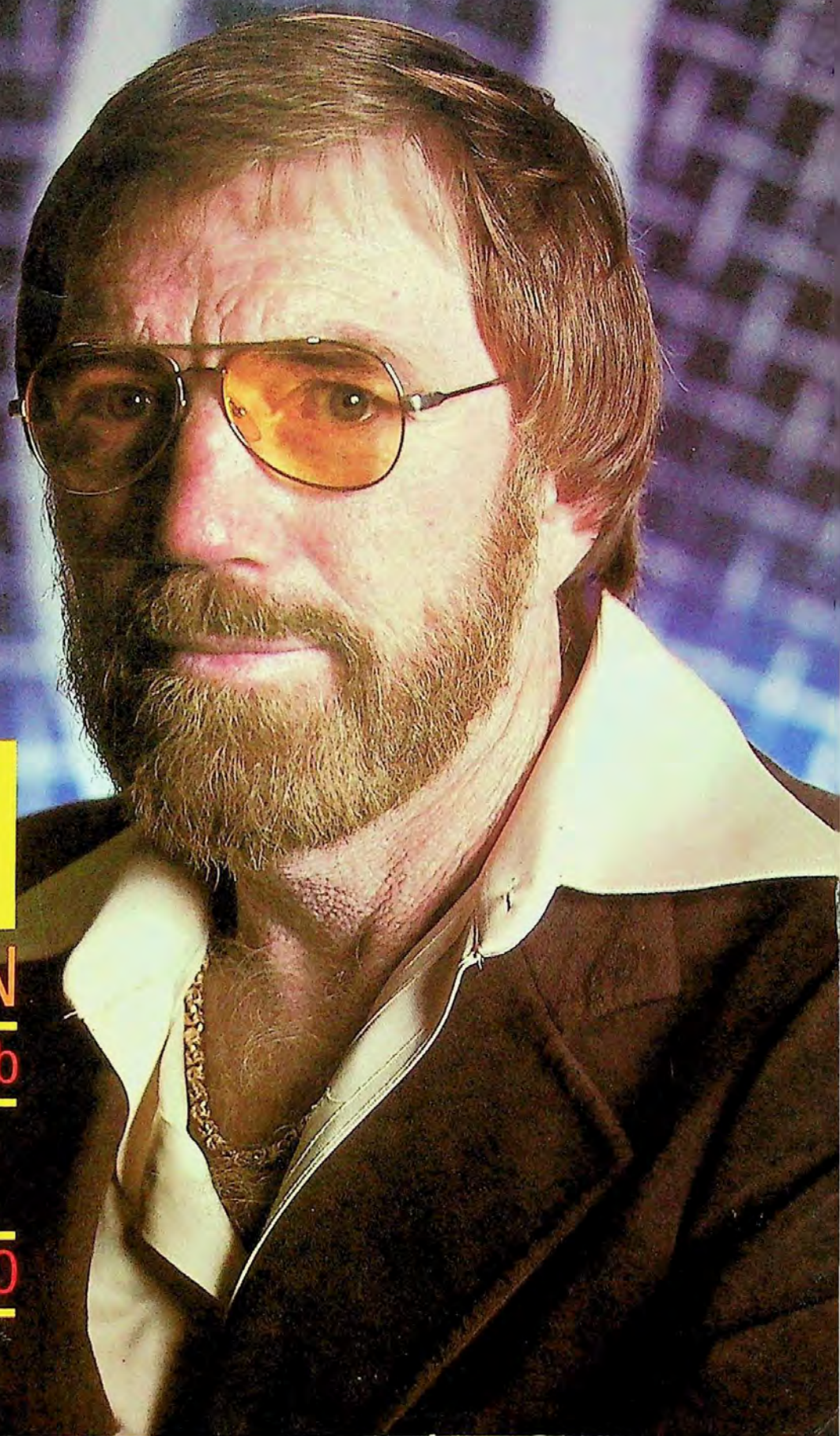


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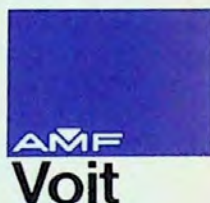
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COVER: Photograph by Larry Kuzniewski

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RECEIVING LINE

Letters To The Editor

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following letter was forwarded to us by Bernard Howard, the AARA's new eastern regional commissioner and also state director for Pennsylvania. It concerns an interesting new development in junior racquetball; for more on this subject, see page 32.

As far as I know Bishop McDevitt High School in Harrisburg (Penn.) is one of the few high schools, if any, in the state of Pennsylvania that offers an elective racquetball class as part of its regular physical education program.

The program began when I talked to Tim Rowlings, the physical director at the Harrisburg YMCA, concerning the use of the Y's racquetball courts. Tim and the entire YMCA staff were very cooperative, and [last] December we

came to an agreement concerning the times and prices.



Members of the racquetball class at Bishop McDevitt High School, Harrisburg, Penn.

At this point, racquetball is offered during the ninth and tenth periods [at Bishop McDevitt]. We have two classes of 15 students. One class has 13 boys and 2 girls, while the other has 13 girls and 2 boys. Out of the 30 students involved,

only five have ever played racquetball before. All of the students were required to supply their own racquets and eye protection. The class is one hour in length and we have the use of three courts.

The unit began in the classroom with a session on safety, basic rules of the game and a description of the various types of equipment necessary. Also covered in this first lesson was a list of local places to play. Students were told of the cost of each club and what [the clubs] had to offer. The following 20 classes are devoted to the skills of the game. The unit will end with a section on refereeing and a class tournament. Also, in April we will hold our second annual intramural racquetball championships. ■

Martin Pavelic Jr.
Bishop McDevitt High School
Harrisburg, Penn.

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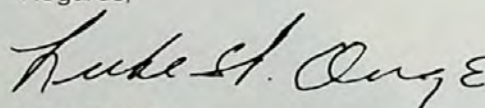
Why compromise your amateur standing, for \$100, or even \$500? One of the most serious problems facing our sport today is the growing number of Open players who strive to win money, and thus be labeled "pros." The result is that many amateur players are walking that fine line between amateur status and professional status.

Unfortunately, the aura of professionalism in high-paying sports has spilled over into racquetball. Time after time one overhears the enthusiastic tournament player say, "My goal is to play on the pro tour."

Be realistic! Professional racquetball as a means of making one's living is not possible now for the vast majority of players. Granted, maybe the top 8 or 10 players can support themselves this way, but the majority can't. There is now a women's pro tour which distributes money in the round of 32. We understand the logic of "spreading the wealth" among the players, but we fear that the net effect of this policy will be to severely reduce the ranks of amateur women. We caution all those who are accepting money on the pro circuits. We will not discuss the merits of the AARA's definition of amateurism—whether it is right or wrong. Still, it is a rule, and a rule that must be dealt with as it is now.

The AARA, as an entirely amateur organization, fulfills the same position as the NCAA does in college athletics. It is a showcase for the best in amateur racquetball, and it offers a stepping stone to a bona fide professional career when the time is right. Think before you "turn pro." It may not be worth it.

Regards,



Luke St. Onge
Executive Director

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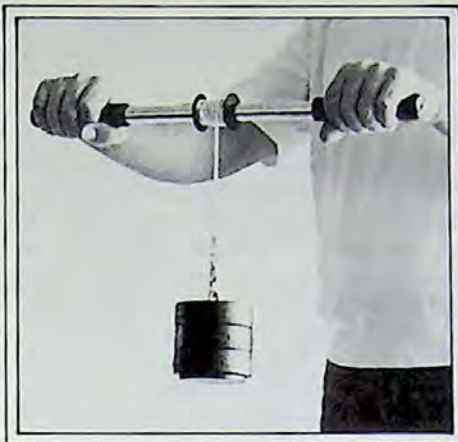
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Pull Your Own Weight

It's only logical—strengthening your forearm can lead to a more powerful racquetball stroke, right? So based on this premise, Normac Inc., is introducing a new exercise aid designed to build wrist and forearm strength.

The "Wrist-It" exerciser, as the device is called, "can add power and consistency to the performance of athletes in virtually any sport where lower arm strength and control are important," the firm says. Normac recommends use of the "Wrist-It" by golfers, tennis players, racquetball players, bowlers and even hockey players.

Consisting of a steel tube with hand grips, a suspended cord and a series of specially constructed weights, the "Wrist-It" comes with a "medically formulated" exercise program for safe and efficient use, according to the manufacturer. For additional information, contact: Normac, Inc., 5140 Lincoln Drive, Edina, Minn., 55436; or call 612-935-7099.

NCCA And Avis Sign Agreement

The National Court Clubs Association (NCCA), the 300-member international organization of racquetball court club owners, and Avis Rent A Car System, Inc., recently entered into an agreement expected to benefit both organizations. Through this agreement, members of NCCA-affiliated clubs will be given a 25 per cent discount on normal time and mileage rates at computerized Avis Wizard locations in the 48 contiguous U.S. states and the District of Columbia. Internationally, including Hawaii and Alaska, Avis will offer a 10 per cent

discount off the normal rate.

In announcing the program, which is effective immediately, Charles S. Leve, NCCA's executive director, said he was "tremendously excited about this newest NCCA program. It's a direct benefit that club owners can offer members, setting NCCA clubs head and shoulders above non-member racquetball/handball facilities."

Avis will provide NCCA-affiliated clubs with a specially-imprinted card good at 3,400 locations worldwide. Clubs will then distribute the cards to their members.

NCCA's Avis discount arrangement is not good, Leve cautioned, on the special unlimited mileage programs periodically offered by the car rental firm. The program also does not include collision damage waiver, personal accident insurance, local taxes, inter-city fees or gasoline charges. Leve said that NCCA is in the process of developing other programs similar to the Avis program that will be of benefit to members of NCCA-affiliated clubs in the U.S. and Canada.

Moving Up

The Dayton, Ohio area Circuit Courts clubs have filled six management positions through two promotions and four new employees.

Michael Parente has been named manager of Dayton Circuit Courts North (1497 Shoup Mill Road). He was previously a recreation supervisor for the City of Dayton Department of Recreation. Karen Bolinger has been named assistant manager of Dayton Circuit Courts North. She was also previously employed by the City of Dayton Department of Recreation.

Lisa Blake has been named manager of Dayton Circuit Courts South (5600 Kentshire Drive, Kettering). She was previously assistant manager of this facility and has been with the Circuit Courts since August, 1978. Tony Krystofic is now assistant manager of Dayton Circuit Courts South. He was previously with King Charles Realty and Moore Business Forms, Inc.

Barbara Young has been named manager of Dayton Circuit Courts East (3182 Rodenbeck Drive, Beavercreek). She was previously a senior program director for the Baytown Branch YMCA in Houston, Texas. Gerald Miller has been named assistant manager of Dayton Circuit Courts East. He has been em-

ployed by the club since December, 1978.

Towel Tales

Some people prefer towels embroidered with fancy designs or personal monograms. But now there is a towel exclusively designed with the athlete in mind. It's called the "Warm-Up Towel," and the design is—not flowers, or bold stripes—but, you guessed it, exercises. To be specific, this velour, bath-size towel is covered with 28 stretching exercises. According to the manufacturer, Jasper Industry, Inc., the design is "a sequential exercise program with an approximate exercise completion time of 8 to 10 minutes." The Jasper company recommends the exercise program as a warm-up for any athletic endeavor, from racquetball to volleyball.

Oh, yes, it can be used to dry off after a shower, too. For more information, contact Jasper Industry, Inc., 123 South Street, Oyster Bay, N.Y. 11771; 516-922-4121. ■



Descriptions of new products are as according to information provided by the manufacturer; products have not been tested by Racquetball magazine.

SHORT LINES



Omega Offers Rebate

Omega Sports, a major producer of racquetball equipment, has announced a money-saving consumer rebate offer for the period of January 1 through April 15, 1980. Purchasers of Omega's "Pro II" and "Century" racquets, or one of the new "Series 21" racquets will receive a \$5 check upon mailing the warranty registration card attached to the racquet, along with "proof of purchase" to Omega.

The purpose of this program is to introduce the unique design and construction of Omega racquets to additional thousands of racquetball players, according to the manufacturers.

The offer will be advertised in *People* magazine, *Sports Illustrated* and *Sport* magazine, as well as the various racquetball publications and local and regional media.

For more information, contact Omega Sports, 10850 Metro Court, Maryland Heights, Mo., 63043. 800-325-4025.

Tighten Up

With the energy squeeze getting more critical almost daily, everyone is looking for ways to conserve. Ted Jablonski, Jr., president of Continental Racquetball Courts of Oakland, Calif., is one of those who has succeeded—in a big way. In fact, Jablonski's energy conservation methods at his club were so impressive, he recently received an award recognizing his success. Pacific Gas and Electric Company cited Jablonski's club for its "comprehensive energy management program that reduced total

gas and electrical use as well as electrical demand."

Upon receiving the award, Jablonski commented, "Utility bills are one of our major fixed costs. We have been able to reduce our utility bills by up to 50 per cent when compared to other, similar facilities. This means we have saved \$8,000 to \$9,000 this year, and the energy control system will pay for itself approximately 10 months after installation."

The methods Jablonski used to save on energy costs in his club included a special lens arrangement with high intensity discharge court lighting which allowed him to use fewer light fixtures; upgrading the insulation in the walls and ceilings of the courts; use of a heat recovering clothes dryer system and the installation of a Programmable Controller energy management system. The system, made by Honeywell, controls the hours of use of lighting, heating, ventilation and air conditioning in the building. In addition, the Controller also controls the magnitude of the electrical demand.

The energy management system was designed and installed by Nova Systems of Point Richmond, Calif., following a complete energy audit and analysis of Continental's potential electrical and gas usage.

Nova Systems is a consulting engineering firm that specializes in all aspects of energy management including system evaluations, design and installation. They have installed successful programs in restaurants, manufacturing facilities and local government buildings.

For more information, contact Gary Agnitsch or John Wunderlich at Nova

Systems, 39 Washington Avenue, Point Richmond, Calif., 415-233-9833.

Court Club Report Available

World Court Clubs Association (WCCA), an organization of court clubs based in Scottsdale, Ariz., has published a computerized report analyzing the growth and development of commercial racquetball clubs in the United States.

The 33-page report was developed in cooperation with Dr. Joseph Bannon, head of the Department of Leisure Studies at the University of Illinois, and Phillip Rose, an administrative assistant in the leisure studies department. The report was compiled from a seven-page questionnaire sent to commercial racquetball facilities that have been in operation a year or more. Though the return rate for the mailing was only 17.4 per cent (89 questionnaires returned out of a total of 454), the survey nevertheless yielded a number of interesting results.

It revealed, for example, that 43 per cent of all racquetball players per club responding were adult males between the ages of 19 to 35, and 22 per cent of players in that age category were adult females. This indicates, according to the WCCA, "the predominance of the modern, comparatively young age group in racquetball, and a need to provide a club atmosphere and sense of belonging that will appeal to them specifically."

The report also bore out a growing trend among court clubs to diversify the services they offer members, including such measures as boutique pro shops, laundry service and special dues structures tailored to both the frequent club user and the sporadic attending member.

The five top problem areas of club operations identified by the study were: Inconsistent court occupancy rates, equipment breakdown or malfunction, lack of comprehensive programming, competition from other racquetball clubs and high employee turnover.

Other problems identified were a lack of qualified management personnel, towel thefts, inconsistent pro shop sales, lack of use of non-racquetball activities and inadequate accounting procedures.

The report is available for \$50 from World Court Clubs Association, 8303 E. Thomas Road, Scottsdale, Ariz., 85251. The executive director of the WCCA, incidentally, is Mort Leve, who founded the National Court Clubs Association (NCCA) now headed by his son, Chuck.

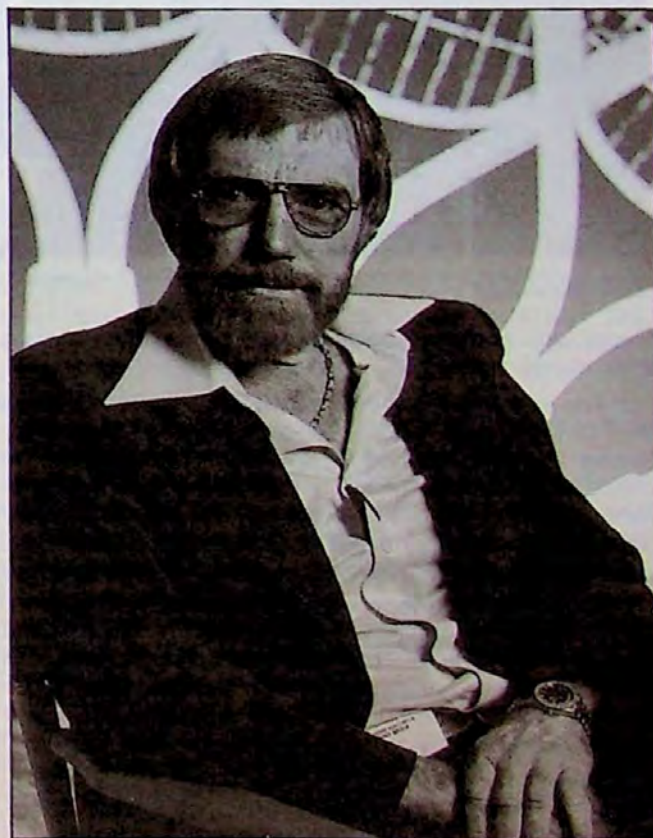
BUD LEACH

THE IDEA MAN

The hands.

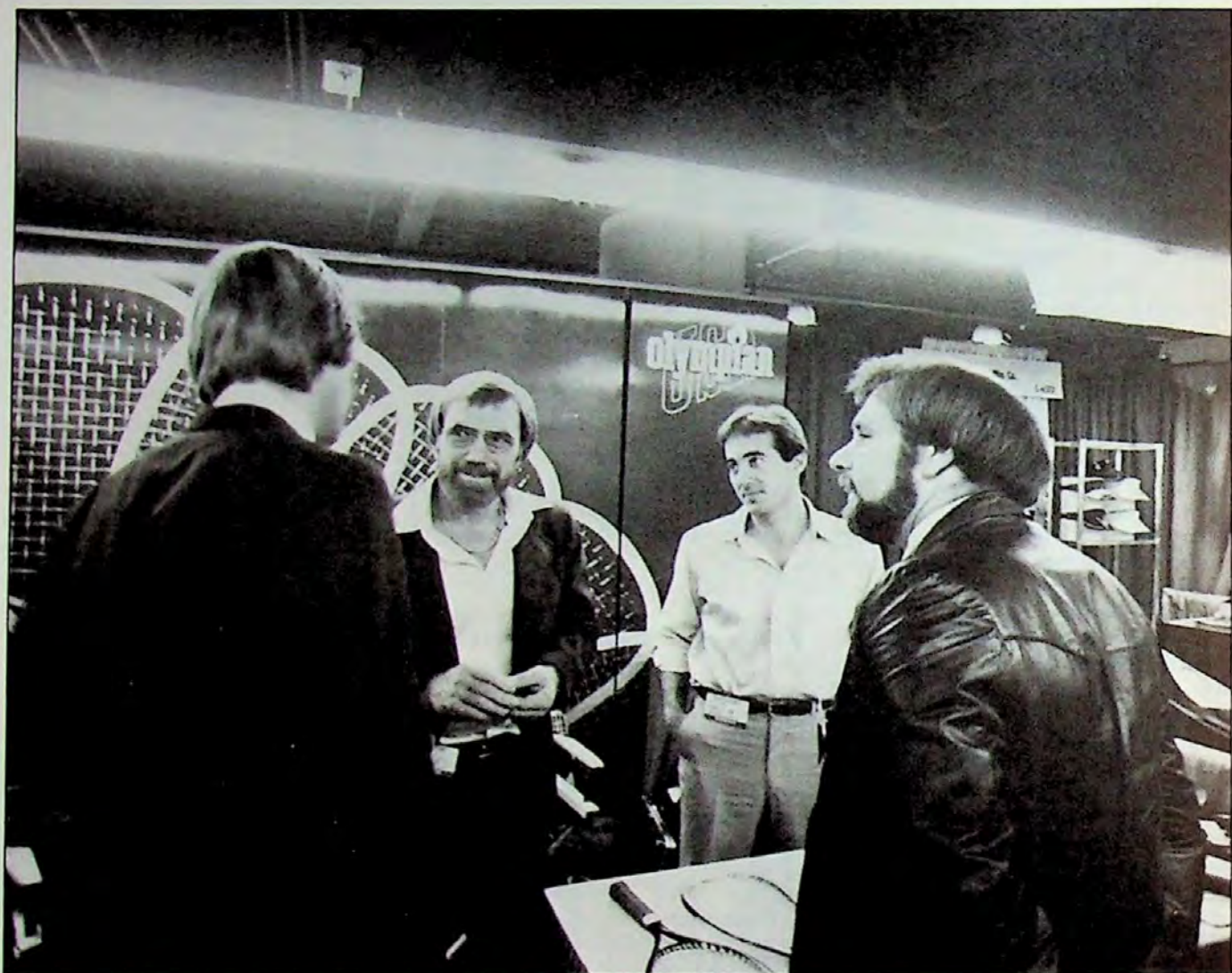
Above all else, that's
what one notices first

about the man: the huge, strong, calloused hands. They seem to practically envelop everything they touch, making a handshake with him more an act of faith than a greeting—faith that one's own puny appendage will emerge from that bear-like grip more or less intact. These aren't the pampered hands of a bureaucrat, a paper pusher who uses his hands for nothing more strenuous than dialing a telephone or scribbling a quick note to the accounting department. No, these are the kind of hands that one would expect to find adjusting the carburetor of an automobile, or wrapped around the tiller of a sailboat. They are hands that are accustomed to getting dirty, indeed, hands that are probably most comfortable when they're smeared with grease or oil or sawdust or whatever. They are the hands of a skilled mechanic, a tinkerer, a builder, a doer. Bud Leach is all of these



LARRY KUZNEWSKI

By Larry Conley



Leach (second from left) seems right at home amidst the noise and bustle of a giant sports show—as if he belonged there. And well he might. For over the years, he has been involved with a variety of sports.

things, and his hands reveal that fact more clearly than any resume ever could.

If you participate in sports, chances are you owe a lot to Bud Leach and his hands. Because Leach is that rarity among men: an individual who has the creativity to conceive an idea, and the practical know-how to transform that idea into a workable product. This combination of talents has helped Leach leave his mark on a wide range of sports, producing everything from golf clubs to water skis, tennis racquets to archery equipment. But perhaps most importantly, Leach is one of a handful of individuals whose contributions to racquetball can truly be called significant, even—dare we say it?—revolutionary. These contributions include development and manufacture of a plastic racquet that was the forerunner of many of the racquets on the market today, and the founding of a company—Leach Industries—that is now one of the biggest producers and sellers of racquetball racquets in the country.

"Bud Leach was one of the innovators and leaders in racquetball, particularly during the early '70s," says

Luke St. Onge, executive director of the American Amateur Racquetball Association, who was just getting into racquetball himself during that period. "The racquet he introduced then, and the marketing strategy he employed, was something new and different; there had never been anything like it in racquetball before. Frankly, it helped popularize the sport."

It's easy to overstate this case, of course, to make too much of Leach's influence on racquetball. Indeed, Leach's detractors (and there are some) complain that Leach himself is often guilty of this—of claiming, in effect, to have invented the wheel and of being singlehandedly responsible for the major innovations in racquetball technology. Leach's competitors in the marketplace (which now include, strangely enough, Leach Industries) are especially scornful of this claim.

Yet, when all the inter-company squabbling is said and done, one inescapable fact remains. During the early '70s, when racquetball was still in its infancy, Bud Leach took a number of steps that had a profound impact on the sport, the effects of which are still felt today. Couple this with the fact that Bud Leach, the man, is a remarkably—even

incredibly—diverse individual, and what emerges is clearly one of the most unusual, intriguing and colorful figures in the racquetball world.

It's 11:30 a.m. on the first day of the 51st Annual

National Sporting Goods Association (NSGA) Convention and Show. Standing in front of the Olympian (manufacturers of racquetball products) booth, on the ground floor of the mammoth McCormick Place convention hall in Chicago, Bud Leach is plying his wares. A couple from Taiwan have dropped by the booth and Leach is showing them his latest racquet creations. Speaking quietly but persuasively, he talks knowledgeably about stringing techniques, materials and manufacturing processes. He even bends one racquet over his knee to demonstrate its flexibility. It's unclear whether the Taiwanese have come to buy or just to look, but it is obvious that they are enraptured with Leach's presentation.

On either side of the Olympian booth, and on the two floors above it, there are the myriad sights and sounds of a gigantic trade show in progress. Manufacturers from across the country have descended upon Chicago for this event, one of the largest such trade shows of the year. Every imaginable sports product—and even some unimaginable ones—is on display here: basketballs, footballs, baseballs, racquetballs, hunting knives, rifles, archery equipment, water skis, canoes, wrist bands, goggles and everything in between. It's a sports junkie's paradise.

Conversing freely in front of the Olympian booth, occasionally greeting passersby, Leach seems right at home amidst this cornucopia of sports hardware—as if he belonged here. And well he might. For over the course of his 52 years, Leach has been personally involved, in one way or another, with a variety of sports. He is on a first name basis with many of the buyers and exhibitors at the NSGA show. Some of them have worked with him at various times; others have worked for him. Indeed, Leach's success in the sports world, as both a businessman and athlete, has been extraordinary. Consider:

- He is a five-time World Champion water skier.
- He has set record times in midget race cars.
- An accomplished scuba diver, Leach has also designed various equipment for underwater filming.
- He was a developer of the composite (made from different materials) water ski.
- He has developed and manufactured various types of composite archery equipment.

The list could go on and on, for Leach has dabbled in all

kinds of sports. This includes everything from manufacturing carbon tennis racquets and golf shafts, to racing boats and playing ice hockey. Like many of the products he has made over the years, Leach too is a composite—a man of many parts, a sports version of the Renaissance man.

But it is in racquetball that Leach has had perhaps his most enduring success. Oddly enough, when he first got into the manufacturing end of the sport, it was virtually by default. You see, he was looking for work.

"I was in the aircraft industry during the Vietnam War," Leach explains, his massive hands clasped around one knee in a quiet corner of the McCormick Place press room, where he has gone for an interview with a reporter. "And as the war de-escalated, it was getting harder and harder to find work [as an instrument designer]; it was getting more and more competitive. So I decided to jump back into the sporting goods business."

"I looked at a number of products, looking for a product to make. One of the products was a racquetball racquet. Racquetball racquets then were made out of wood, and steel, strung with metal strings... Aluminum racquets were just starting to come out then, too... And I saw an aluminum racquet in a sporting goods store for, if I remember correctly, \$36.95. I thought that was a terribly high price for a racquet. And I didn't see any reason why the racquet couldn't be made out of plastic."

So, in 1971, Leach set out to do just that: develop a plastic racquet. It wasn't easy; no one had undertaken such an enterprise before and there were no guidelines to follow. Consequently, Leach made up the rules as he went along. Indeed, his first plastic racquet was a simple two-piece affair that Leach glued together by hand, because his machines weren't big enough to cast a whole racquet at one time.

Finally, after weeks of experimentation, Leach had what he thought was a workable model of a plastic racquet. He went looking for a sponsor, figuring to offer this hot new product to one of the existing sports manufacturers. The first company he approached was a major manufacturer of other sports products that had recently broken into the racquetball market. The company turned him down. The future of racquetball racquets, they said, was in wood—not plastic.

"So I thought if that's the case, we'll just start selling racquets ourselves," Leach says with a smile, recalling the birth of Leach Industries. "So we started out by using the telephone. We'd sell racquets [over the phone] and guarantee that if they didn't like the racquet, they could send it back, no charge. And if they liked it, they kept it."

Needless to say, more people kept the new plastic racquets than returned them. And thus the Age of Plastic dawned in racquetball.

The effect of this innovation on racquetball was, in a word, stunning. Though it was really a relatively simple idea, compared to what had existed before it the plastic racquet seemed like the answer to a racquetball player's prayers. It was lighter than most racquets available at the time, more flexible and offered much better control of the ball. Plus—and this was a big plus—it was cheaper than just about anything else on the market. In short, the plastic racquet offered a racquetball player the two things

he valued most in a racquet: better playability at a lower price. It was just the shot in the arm the young sport needed at that critical juncture in its development.

Even today, some 10 years later, the effects of Bud Leach's simple idea can still be felt. Many major racquet manufacturers continue to offer at least one line of plastic or fiberglass racquets, which are in essence a kind of plastic racquet. Such racquets are still strong sellers, particularly among beginning players. For years, many of the top players in the country—pro and amateur—played with some form of plastic racquet. (Pro player Steve Keeley, in fact, was so impressed with one of Leach's original plastic racquets that he has offered to trade a new Leach Industries' racquet for one of the old, since-discontinued models.) The plastic racquet may even have partly helped attract more women to racquetball, since it represented the continuation of a move—begun with the introduction of aluminum racquets—towards the lighter racquets women preferred.

Naturally, the success of plastic racquets led to similar success for the budding Leach Industries. With Bud Leach as president, the company gradually evolved from a mere collection of telephones into one of the giants of the racquetball industry.

During most of this period of growth and development, Bud Leach remained at the helm of Leach Industries as company president. Then, in 1977, the company received what is generally regarded as the ultimate measure of success in the business world: a merger bid from one of America's corporate giants. In that year, Bud Leach sold his interests in Leach Industries for a reported \$3.5 million in Colgate-Palmolive stock, ending his association with the company he founded. With the enormous assets of Colgate-Palmolive behind it, and with Charlie Drake (who had been with the company since 1972) as chief executive officer of Colgate's new Leach division, Leach Industries continued to prosper.

But the end of Bud Leach's association with Leach Industries did not mean an end to his activity in racquetball. Earlier, for example, he had had a hand in the founding of Aldila, Inc., another manufacturer of racquetball equipment. Recently, he signed on as a special consultant with the Wilson Sporting Goods Company, providing advice and expertise in the field of product development.

Nowadays, however, much of Leach's energy is devoted to his latest venture, Olympian Sports Products, Inc. Leach started the company about a year ago, and it is clearly where his heart lies. Last year, Leach says, the company "busted the million-dollar mark" in sales well before he anticipated, and he expects to double that in 1980. As an example of just how well Olympian is doing, Leach points to a deal he says the company recently clinched with the J. C. Penney Co., to stock Olympian racquets in its nationwide chain of stores.

What Olympian does, primarily, is manufacture racquetball racquets. The company offers a number of fiberglass, aluminum and graphite racquets, many of which bear that personal Bud Leach touch. One fiberglass racquet, for example, is called the "Original," and it is basically a more durable version of the first plastic racquet Leach made many years ago. A number of players had requested a return to his old racquet design, Leach says,

because "that has always been a fantastic racquet. . . We feel that it is the original plastic racquet. And it's still the best playing racquet in the world."

Leach also plans a few new wrinkles at Olympian. One of them is a bite-sized racquet designed especially for junior players. A sample of the racquet was tucked away under the counter of Olympian's booth at the NSGA show, but Leach says the company plans to begin marketing the smaller racquet soon. There's also what Leach describes as his new "trampoline and suspension system" racquet. Basically, this is a racquet which is strung from the *inside*, instead of looping the strings through holes drilled in the frame of the racquet. Leach says this different stringing technique makes for better control of the ball and a harder shot.

Yet, while Leach is forging ahead with his new undertaking at Olympian, specters from the past continue to haunt him. For there's another side to this story that must be told, a sub-plot in effect which can only be described as *The Strange Case of Leach vs. Leach*.

You see, Bud Leach founded Leach Industries, but he's no longer there. So, while Leach Industries is still "Leach Industries," it's not really *Leach* (as in Bud) industries. It's all quite confusing, but essentially what it adds up to is that Bud Leach now finds himself in the unusual position of being in direct market competition with a company he started. This situation, at least according to Leach, makes the people at Leach Industries—and particularly Charlie Drake—very nervous.

"I think that we [Olympian Products] worry them," Leach says, choosing his words carefully, "so they throw stumbling blocks in front of us from time to time . . . Charlie Drake throws tournaments across the street on the same date that I throw tournaments at my club (in Provo, Utah), and so on and so forth. But that's just flaunting Colgate's money. That doesn't impress me and that doesn't bother me . . . We've made a very good mark in the field, we've taken a lot of business from them and they're very concerned."

Charlie Drake, meanwhile, not only denies throwing "stumbling blocks" in front of Olympian, but claims to be only vaguely aware of the company's existence or even of Leach's connection with it. "His [Leach's] present status in the industry I'm not familiar with," Drake says at first, later recalling that "the last time I saw Bud was when I walked up to the Olympian booth [at the NSGA show] and picked up three pieces of literature." Drake emphasizes that this action was just a routine "matter of course, standard procedure for us at all the trade shows," and that he has had no direct contact with Leach for almost three years.

Drake also tends to downplay Leach's *personal* contribution to the design of racquets produced by Leach Industries during the period when Leach was still president of the company. "If any one person in the country deserves credit for building into our racquets a unique styling or design," Drake maintains, "it would be Charles Brumfield." Brumfield has been a consultant with Leach Industries since the company's early days.

As for any potential competition represented by Olympian . . . well, Charlie Drake is a man of few words, and he has even fewer words to say on this subject. He does break ranks on one issue, however, which has to do

with an Olympian ad currently making the rounds. The ad, headlined "Bud Is Back," credits Leach with "most of the sport's innovations . . ." "That's an advertisement," Drake insists, "in the same way I advertise products . . . It's an ad, and that's all it is—an ad."

The whole point of this shadowy non-dispute—the crux of the issue, if you will—is simple: the Leach name. It's a name that commands considerable respect and recognition in the racquetball world, and both Bud Leach and Leach Industries have a vested interest in it. Both companies, in fact, are very concerned about making a clear distinction between the "Leach" in Olympian Products and the "Leach" in Leach Industries. "We want to be known as a separate company," Leach explains. "We want the name Olympian to dominate . . . And whatever [company] name that I use in business, I like people to know that Bud Leach is a part of it. Because people know of my talents."

One final irony here. For years, Leach Industries' San Diego headquarters was located on Kearney Villa Road, in buildings that were (and still are) owned by Bud Leach. Recently, both Leach Industries and Olympian Products moved into new quarters in San Diego. Olympian's new address: Kearney Villa Road.

The clock is ticking towards 2 p.m. in the McCormick

Place press room, and Bud Leach is getting anxious. He has a meeting scheduled with some potential buyers and he shows signs of wanting to terminate the interview. But as the conversation moves away from talk of racquets and rivalries to more personal matters, Leach seems to loosen up a bit. Gradually, he warms to the idea of talking about himself, leaning back in his chair with his arms crossed, obviously pleased at the chance to tell his own story.

And it is certainly one hell of a story. Here is a man who has done so many different things, and been successful at so many things, that the mind boggles at the prospect of it. As a businessman, he has manufactured everything from radio transmitters for tuna boats to fiberglass trays and lamps, not to mention a whole range of sports products. As an engineer, he has fashioned delicate tools and designed instrumentation for some of the biggest names in the aircraft industry, and even did work on gyroscopes for missile guidance systems. He is also a qualified pilot, and still flies his own plane.

Leach has accomplished all this without the benefit of a formal college education, though he has taken a number of college level courses in engineering. And—what's even more remarkable—throughout his various business ventures, Leach has generally managed to remain his own

man, an independent businessman responsible only to himself. In an age of clock punchers, assembly lines and "company men," Bud Leach has remained his own boss.

Now, sitting in the suddenly noisy press room listening to Leach explain his personal working style, his philosophy of racquet making, one begins to understand why he has always shunned the nine-to-five routine. For it becomes clear that, for *this* man, working within the confines of a bureaucratic system would be an intolerable experience.

"You know, some of the bigger companies get so technically oriented, and they get so many engineers, and they get such a big budget, that they make a project out of designing something," Leach says. "So it comes out a Rube Goldberg [product], rather than something simple, unique and very playable at a good price . . ."

"The bureaucracy gets into the thing. And everybody has to pass on a different picture. And you design it and redesign it, design and redesign, and you design it to death. And as a result, instead of this being a \$29.95 [racquet], it's a \$59.95 item. Because they've put so much money into tooling and redoing and redoing. That's absurd . . . The simple ideas, the inexpensive to manufacture ideas, are usually the greater ideas."

This from a man whose very stock in trade is ideas. And in a way, this aversion to bureaucracy helps explain why Leach has tried so many things, been involved in so many businesses. Part of it is the profit motive, of course; build a business up and then sell it for a profit. But one also gets the impression—and it's just a hunch—that Leach becomes, frankly, bored with a venture after awhile. And that after the challenge of conceiving an idea and setting it into motion is over, he becomes restless; his mind moves on to other areas, other ideas. One comes away feeling, in short, that Bud Leach is not a man to be bogged down with details, preferring to leave such matters to the technicians, the bureaucrats.

But perhaps the most accurate assessment of Leach comes from the man himself. Consider, for example, the following exchange between Leach and a reporter, as Bud Leach expounds on a subject he knows more about than anybody—namely, Bud Leach:

Question: Tell me, between hotels [Leach has a financial interest in two], racquetball clubs, [racquet] designing, and all the other things that you do, how would you describe yourself? When you fill out your income tax form . . . what do you put in that little space marked "occupation?"

Answer: . . . It falls under entrepreneur, I guess.

Question: You see yourself as an entrepreneur?

Answer: I think I have to. I mean, that's the explanation of the word, isn't it? You're doing a lot of different things, things that you like, things that you're capable of.

Question: Obviously, you enjoy it.

Answer: I love it.

And with that, Leach rises, ending the interview. It's time to get back to doing his thing—making his contacts, pitching his products, selling his ideas, in a word, "entrepreneurship." It's an activity that Leach has been at for a long time, and one at which he's very, very good. Bud Leach, the sportsman, the salesman, the businessman—Bud Leach, the idea man. ■

OFFICIAL ENTRY BLANK

AARA REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

penn
ATHLETIC PRODUCTS COMPANY

APRIL 25, 26, 27

DIVISIONS:

- () Men's Open Singles
- () Men's 30 + Senior Singles
- () Men's 35 + Senior Singles
- () Men's 40 + Senior Singles
- () Men's 45 + Masters Singles
- () Men's 50 + Masters Singles
- () Men's 55 + Golden Masters Singles
- () Men's 60 + Golden Masters Singles
- () Men's 65 + Golden Masters Singles
- () Women's Open Singles
- () Women's 30 + Senior Singles
- () Women's 35 + Senior Singles
- () Women's 40 + Senior Singles
- () Women's 45 + Masters Singles
- () Women's 50 + Masters Singles
- () Women's 55 + Golden Masters Singles
- () Women's 60 + Golden Masters Singles
- () Women's 65 + Golden Masters Singles

EXTRA EVENT

EXTRA EVENT

PARTNER'S NAME (if applicable) _____

ENTRY DEADLINE:

Postmarked Friday, April 18, 1980, \$10 fee for late entries if accepted.

ENTRY FEES:

\$21 for first event, \$10 for second event. (Refer to individual regional information as fees may vary from region to region for second events).

OFFICIAL BALL:

Penn Ultra-blue

RULES:

Official AARA rules apply. Two games to 21 with a 15 point tie breaker.

ELIGIBILITY:

Current AARA membership required. Must bring proof of current membership (current AARA membership card), or purchase membership at registration.

TRIP AWARDS:

ALL Championship events (not extra events) will be awarded 1/2 round trip coach air fare to the National Amateur Championships May 22-26, 1980, at the Sportrooms, in Coral Gables, Florida. Trips will be awarded to the winners who play in the same event in the National Amateur Championships as they won in the Regionals. If the winner does not use the trip, the runner-up is eligible.

QUALIFYING:

An amateur is defined as any player who has not accepted money in any professionally-sanctioned (NRC, WPRA or NARP) tournament during the past year.

Eastern Region: Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey

Western Region: California, Utah, Arizona, Nevada, Hawaii

Northwestern Region: Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Alaska, North Dakota, South Dakota

Southwestern Region: Kansas, Colorado, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas, Nebraska

Midwestern Region: Illinois, Michigan, Indiana, Missouri, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa

Southern Region: Tennessee, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, South Carolina, Louisiana, Mississippi, Kentucky, Puerto Rico

Mid Atlantic Region: Delaware, Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, Washington, D.C., North Carolina

Northeastern Region: Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Vermont, Connecticut, New Hampshire

A PLAYER MAY ENTER ONLY ONE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT. IF A PLAYER PLAYS TWO EVENTS, THE SECOND EVENT MAY BE ONLY AN EXTRA EVENT (NON-CHAMPIONSHIP - i.e., Doubles, etc.) A MINIMUM OF SIX (6) ENTRANTS MUST PARTICIPATE IN AN EVENT IN ORDER FOR THE WINNER OF THE EVENT TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR 1/2 ROUND TRIP COACH AIR FARE TO THE NATIONAL AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIPS AT THE SPORTROOMS IN CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA.

(This entry blank is to be used for all Regionals. Check page 19 for specific information related to your Regional.)

DETACH THIS PAGE WITH YOUR ENTRY FEE AND MAIL TO:

The address listed for your Regional.

CHECK SHOULD BE MADE PAYABLE TO: The name of your Regional (i.e. Northwestern Regional, Mid Atlantic Regional, etc.)

NAME (PLEASE PRINT) _____ AARA CARD EXPIRATION DATE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

BUSINESS PHONE _____ HOME PHONE _____

I hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors and administrators, waive and release any and all rights and claims for damages I may have against the American Amateur Racquetball Association, its affiliated clubs and their respective agents, representatives, successors and assigns for any and all injuries which may be suffered by me in connection with my participation in Regional or National tournaments.

DATE _____ SIGNATURE (parent or guardian if applicant is a minor) _____

AARA REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

GENERAL INFORMATION

Northeastern Region

Play Off Racquetball Club

15 Catamore Blvd.

East Providence, RI

Tournament Director: Paul

Henrickson 617-754-6073

Mail Entries To: Paul

Henrickson, 20 Oakes St., Millbury, MA 01527

***Housing:** Hearth Stone Motor Inn, Seekonk, MA, 617-336-8700

Extra Events: Men's and Women's B Singles, Men's and Women's C Singles, Men's Open Doubles

Eastern Region

Winning Walls Racquetball Club

300 Boston Post Road

Port Chester, NY 10573

914-939-5000

Tournament Director: Al

Seitelman 516-288-1448

Mail Entries To: Al Seitelman, P.O. Box 1722, West Hampton Beach, NY 11978

Extra Events: Men's and Women's B Singles, Men's and Women's C Singles, Open Doubles

Western Region

The Center Courts

8141 O'Rion St.

Van Nuys, CA 91406

Tournament Director: Bruce

Radford 213-786-6216

Mail Entries To: Bruce Radford, c/o The Center Courts (see address above)

Housing: Holiday Inn, 8244

O'Rion St., Van Nuys, CA 91406

213-989-5010

Extra Events: Mixed Doubles

Upper Division, Mixed Doubles

Lower Division, Men's A Singles,

Men's and Women's B Singles,

Men's and Women's C Singles,

Men's and Women's Novice

Singles, Men's and Women's

Beginner Novice, Men's and

Women's Open Doubles, Men's

Senior B Singles, Men's Senior

Doubles, Men's A Doubles, Men's

B Doubles, Men's C Doubles

Mid Atlantic Region

The Sports Illustrated Club

550177 Center Drive

Charlotte, NC 28210

Tournament Director: Paul

Saperstein 919-889-2001

Mail Entries To: Paul

Saperstein, c/o Concept Plastics,

P.O. Box 847, High Point, NC

27261

Housing: Ramada Inn 704-527-

3000; Motel "6" 704-527-0230;

Howard Johnson's 704-525-

6220; Holiday Inn 704-525-8350

Extra Events: Men's and

Women's Open Doubles, Men's

and Women's B Singles

Northwestern Region

Eastern Washington University

Cheney, WA 99004

Tournament Director: Pat

Whitehill 509-359-2406

Mail Entries To: Pat Whitehill

(c/o address above)

Housing: Available at the Univer-

sity, Contact: Workshops and

Conferences, 509-359-2406

Extra Events: Men's and

Women's Open Doubles, B

Doubles, Men's and Women's

B Singles, Men's and

Women's C Singles, * * Juniors

15 and Under Boys and

Girls, Juniors 13 and Under Boys

and Girls, Juniors 10 and Under

Boys and Girls

* * These are considered

extra events because separate

Junior Regionals will be held in

order to receive air travel to

separate Junior Nationals

Midwestern Region

The Glass Court Racquet Club

830 E. Roosevelt Rd.

Lombard, IL 60148

Tournament Director: Ray

Mitchell 312-745-9400

Mail Entries To: Ray Mitchell,

5724 W. Diversy, Chicago, IL

60639

***Housing:** Holiday Inn, 1250

Roosevelt Road, Glen Ellyn, IL

60137, 312-629-6000

Extra Events: Men's and

Women's A, B, C, D, E; Men's and

Women's Doubles: Open, A,B,C,D;

Mixed Doubles Advanced, Mixed

Doubles Intermediate

Southern Region

Courtsouth

1500 54th Street

Columbus, GA 31904

Tournament Director: Jim Cullen

404-256-2120

Mail Entries To: Jim Cullen, c/o

Courtsouth-Marietta, 1990 Delk

Industrial Blvd., Marietta, GA

30060

Housing: Holiday Inn - Airport

404-324-0231

Extra Events: Men's Open

Doubles, Men's and Women's

B Singles, Men's B Doubles, Men's

and Women's C Singles, Women's

Open Doubles

Southwestern Region

Executive Park Athletic Club

2233 N. Academy Pl.

Colorado Springs, CO 80909

Tournament Director: George

Dwyer 303-598-0963

Mail Entries To: Executive Park

Athletic Club (above address)

Attn: AARA Southwestern

Regionals

Special Note: Entry fee of \$20

first event, entry deadline is

April 16, 1980—no refund after

deadline.

Housing: Best Western Palmer

House Motor Inn 800-528-1234

Single: Discount 20 per cent,

Double - Discount 18 per cent, if

current AARA card is presented

at reservation desk OR Sheraton

Motor Inn 800-325-3535, Single -

Discount 35 per cent, Double -

Discount 32 per cent, if current

AARA card is presented at

reservation desk

* indicate "Racquetball tournament" for discount

Penn[®]
Ultra-blue

**Official Ball for the 1980
Regional and National
Championships**

APRIL 18, 19, 20, 1980

American Amateur Racquetball Association's

1980 INTERCOLLEGIATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

SITE:

Quail Valley Racquetball Club
2716 Cypress Point
Missouri City, TX 77459
(Houston)

ELIGIBILITY:

See accompanying Official AARA Intercollegiate Rules

DIVISIONS:

Men's 1, 2 and Doubles
Men's Team
Women's 1, 2 and Doubles
Women's Team
Men's and Women's Team

ENTRY FEE:

\$15.00 per player, limit one event no. 1 singles, no. 2 singles and doubles—entry fee includes membership in AARA for three months.

DEADLINE:

POSTMARKED April 11, 1980 NO EXCEPTIONS

Entry fee and eligibility letter (see Rule 3, No. 1) must accompany entry

TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR:

Larry Liles (901-454-2807)
Luke St. Onge (901-761-1172)

HOUSING:

The Dunfey Hotel
7000 S.W. Freeway
Houston, TX 77036
713-771-1131 ask for Donna Brown and indicate you are with Intercollegiate Racquetball for discount room rate
Play begins at 3:00 p.m. on Friday, April 18, 1980

OFFICIAL BALL: Penn Ultra-blue

TOURNAMENT SHIRT AWARDED TO ALL PLAYERS

HOSPITALITY BEGINS WITH LUNCH ON Friday, April 18th through Lunch on Sunday, April 20th.

RULE ONE—MATRICULATION

No one shall participate in any intercollegiate racquetball contest unless he is a bona fide matriculated student at an accredited university or college (not business college, trade school, etc.) and is regularly enrolled and doing full work as defined by the regulations of the institution at which he is enrolled.

RULE TWO—PARTICIPATION

1. Participation in intercollegiate racquetball shall be limited to four varsity years over a period of five consecutive college years counting from the date of matriculation.
2. In the event of a student's regular attendance being interrupted by military service in any of the armed forces, his period of eligibility shall be five years exclusive of his period of military service, except for the years in which, during his military service, he may have represented an educational institution.
3. Freshmen are eligible for varsity competition in racquetball. Women are eligible.
4. Transfer students or graduates from a junior college may continue their racquetball competition without complying with the one-year residence rule. Total years of competition shall not exceed four years.
5. No professional racquetball player shall be permitted to compete in any intercollegiate tournament. However, in accord with intercollegiate legislation of 1974, professionalism in any other sport shall not preclude competition in racquetball as long as the player maintains amateur standing in the sport of racquetball.

RULE THREE—TOURNAMENTS

1. Eligibility of participants shall be verified prior to the tournament by letter from the Office of the Dean of Admissions or Registrar to the tournament director, with the school seal affixed.
2. Teams shall consist of four players from the same institution; teams cannot comprise players from different schools in the same system (example, University of Texas-Austin, Arlington and El Paso campuses). Members of a doubles team must be from the same institution.
3. A team of four shall consist of one player in Class No. 1 Singles, one player in Class No. 2 Singles and one doubles team. No player may compete in more than one event.
4. Scoring shall be as follows:
Placement - The champion of each event shall receive 10 points, runner-up 7 points, third place 4 points, fourth place 2 points.
Advancement - A player shall receive two points for each match won, except that no advancement points shall be awarded to the winner of the championship finals, or the third place match. A forfeit or an injury default shall be considered a match won. One point shall be awarded to a player receiving a bye, if he wins his next match.

OFFICIAL ENTRY BLANK

Men - Enter me in ☐ No. 1 Singles ☐ No. 2 Singles ☐ Doubles

Women - Enter me in ☐ No. 1 Singles ☐ No. 2 Singles ☐ Doubles

Name _____ College _____

Address _____

Partner's Name _____ Address _____

Check _____ if members of college's four-player team No _____

I hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors, and administrators, waive and release any and all rights and claims for damages I may have against Quail Valley Racquetball Club and the AARA and their respective agents for any and all injuries

Date _____ Signature _____

MAIL ALL ENTRIES TO: AARA INTERCOLLEGIATE CHAMPIONSHIPS, 5545 MURRAY RD., SUITE 202, MEMPHIS, TN 38117

Starting A COURT CLUB

Look Before You Leap

Undoubtedly, when all the figures and statistics have been tabulated, the '70s will be recorded as a period of remarkable growth for racquetball. Participation through the decade rose more than a hundredfold to include some 10 million players according to the latest Nielsen survey. Annual sales of accessories (racquets balls, etc.) topped \$100 million. A pro tour was established which began to provide a comfortable living for a handful of the game's better players. More importantly, the '70s witnessed racquetball's development from an activity that drew the scorn of other racquet sports (and even the outright hatred of many handball enthusiasts) to its present position as the nation's fastest-growing participant sport. And now at the dawn of the 1980's, racquetball's prospects for the future seem even brighter.

But all is not quite right in this pretty picture of prosperity, for there are nagging indications that there's a darker side to the picture, a fly in the ointment so to speak. It's a relatively minor problem at present, but it involves perhaps the most vital area of the entire racquetball industry: the court club.

In the early '70s, increased demand quickly overtaxed existing courts. Entrepreneurs, many of whom didn't know a balance sheet from a score sheet, rushed to fill the void. Courts couldn't be constructed fast enough. No one was worried about the risk. After all,

racquetball was the new thing. A quick buck was assured. There was nothing that could happen, right?

Well, not quite.

As the decade closed, the San Diego area had more than half of its 35 clubs for sale, many at distressed prices. In Suffolk County, N.Y., two clubs were being built within easy driving distance of two other clubs that could not maintain a cash flow. In the Chicago area, 55 clubs were in operation and nearly one in five was in trouble. St. Louis and Detroit were similarly saturated.

What went wrong?

Gordon Wead, marketing research director of The Court House, Inc., in Chicago, sees it this way: "Racquetball is such great fun that at one time no one thought he could lose by building a club. Unfortunately, they have now learned that certain business principles cannot be violated. Misconceptions, even by people who supposedly knew what they were doing, were common."

For example:

- Racquetball is so popular that a market (demographic) analysis of the area surrounding the proposed club is not necessary.
- A bigger, more impressive "mousetrap" will draw a bigger membership.
- Normal court usage throughout the year is high enough to ensure an immediate profit when a club opens.
- Racquetball enthusiasts, like their tennis counterparts, will drive as much as 40 minutes to play.

According to Wead, these myths and many others "created a tendency to

overlook the two most important factors [in building a court club]—site selection and facility size."

Site Carefully

Few businesses are so fortunate as to claim immunity from the demands the marketplace puts on location. Motels and fast-food restaurants are near interstate highways for the same reason the corner grocery is at the corner: convenience for the consumers trying to be reached by that particular business. With racquetball clubs, experience has shown that this requirement is more stringent than for most businesses. Despite racquetball's popularity, regular players tend to be from a select group: young (under 35), upper and middle class males and females who don't want to drive more than 15 minutes to play.

"The common technique of locating a club where 250,000 people live within a 10-mile radius simply does not work," says Wead. "Two hundred and fifty thousand people in Westchester County, N.Y., is not the same as 250,000 people in Dade County, Fla. Each community must be carefully analyzed to determine if it has a sufficient number of prospective racquetball players who will be able to utilize the club throughout the day and not just during prime time."

But locating the right spot is not easy. "If I could do it over again," says Frank Sales, owner of the Winfield Racquetball Club in Windsor Locks, Conn., "I would have located in a different spot - just a few miles away - and it would have made a big difference. As it was, I just built the club on my

By Tom Slear

Tom Slear is a free lance writer living in Connecticut.

Saunas, weight machines and whirlpools may enhance membership, but the overriding factor is the number of courts.

own land." (Winfield has experienced some rough times and only now, after two years of operation and as many changes in management, is the club's bottom line starting to show a glimmer of hope.)

The impressive amount of work required to collect and review the information for a demographic analysis can be discouraging. However, this is one particular area where franchising may help. Many larger companies have perfected computer software that operates on raw U.S. Census data. The results are considerably more thorough than an individual study and relatively cheap - three to five thousand dollars.

This analysis may confirm what was suspected all along, but it will not prove to be wasted effort. Unless the manager or owner is independently wealthy, he must go shopping for money from individual investors or conventional lending institutions, both of which will expect to see a thorough demographic analysis.

"Investors and banks are totally burned out on the recreational market," says Chicago's Wead. "They are now only willing to listen to sophisticated businessmen with proven track records. These people are the very ones who will do a careful analysis beforehand. They will also know exactly what kind of facility they want to build."

Size Very Carefully

The level of participation by the owner or manager in designing a club covers a wide spectrum. Frank Sales, whose Winfield Club required no financing due to his accumulation of capital as a developer, visited only one racquetball club before giving general guidelines to his architect. Paul Gelin, on the other hand, took three weeks to examine 54 clubs in the Midwest before trying to line up investors for his Empire One club in Chicopee, Mass.

"I noticed everything," he recalls. "From bad lighting to smelly bathrooms. By the time I returned, I knew exactly what I wanted in my club."

Experienced owners and investors, however, have learned that while saunas, Nautiluses and Jacuzzis may enhance membership, they are not crucial to the bottom line. The overriding factor is the number of courts.

Even one more court than the local area will support, and income will have a hard time meeting expenses.

"The extra amount that must be paid for debt service and construction for underutilized courts is oftentimes the determining factor," says Wead. "And no club should have more than 12 courts."

But is there really anything magic about the number 12? Probably not. In Orange County, Calif., alone there are four clubs with 20 or more courts. Leroy Merritt, a prosperous club owner in Maryland, is designing his fourth club with 24 courts in mind, even though he thinks 12 to 14 courts is a good rule of thumb. "From my experience, I am sure this new club will work," he contends.

Gelin, who conferred with Wead during his trek through the Midwest, decided to build 13 courts. "But my decision was based on a careful look at my market and not some 'gut feeling,'" he says.

Getting Money: The Real Test

Though facility size along with site selection are two important lessons racquetball entrepreneurs had to learn the hard way during the '70s, the most significant action taken as a group has been the rejection of the mentality that equated racquetball enthusiasm with good business sense. Individuals and institutions that control the purse strings, the people who have the lines of credit or the cash on hand, have matured considerably in their reactions to a "sure-win" racquetball deal. Like all other business undertakings, racquetball clubs have their risks, and the enthusiastic investor of 1970 will today act more like Leroy Merritt who, as a builder and an owner of racquetball clubs, has accumulated substantial assets and was approached twice in 1979 for money.

"I turned them both down primarily because I thought they selected a poor location," Merritt says. "If it had gone any further, I would have taken a hard look at their business qualifications. The first club I was involved with, I assumed the individual asking for the money would handle most of the work. I wasn't interested in diverting time from my building business. But he just wasn't up for it and I had to become more and more involved. Eventually, I was forced to move in and take over."

Empire One's Gelin, who was frustrated by the banks and turned to private investors for the three quarters of a million dollars he needed, experienced the squeeze from the other side.

"I found investors to be very discerning," he says. "They knew some clubs had made it, but they were also aware that many had not. You have to do one hell of a selling job. Also, you must have your homework done. If the investors ask questions, they don't want to hear 'I think' or 'my best guess is'; they want to see answers right there in writing. One little thing to break their confidence - however minor - and they will walk out on you."

A Tough Road To Travel

The racquetball industry in no way can consider itself unique. The pitfalls of starting and maintaining any small business are many and, therefore, a vast majority fail within two years. According to one loan officer with the Small Business Administration, however, most were ill-conceived to begin with (a formal dress shop in an isolated Kansas town of 5,000 is the most poignant example he could think of), or grossly mismanaged once in operation. The truth of the matter is that the marketplace serves as a harsh discriminator. Inefficient endeavors are forced out with damaging economic and psychological fallout. On the other hand, efficient ideas are usually encouraged with financial returns "that can be very substantial," according to Bob Salvon, part owner of the Supreme Court, Inc., in West Springfield, Mass.

It was in 1976 that Salvon committed himself to the racquetball business. The need for courts in his area was obvious - only 11 were in existence and no additional ones were planned for the entire western Massachusetts region - and he was sure racquetball was no passing fad.

Dutifully, he attended seminars on preparing a demographic analysis and a year later, with site and size determined, he and two partners went looking for money.

"New England bankers are conservative by nature," Salvon says, "and when we mentioned racquetball, they were especially cautious. We really had to sell ourselves and our idea. We had to create the urgency for them to check further." Nevertheless, money came in

(cont. on p. 36)



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RACQUETBALL

MARCH 6-8

Supreme Courts Open (3)
Supreme Courts Racquet and Health Club
4100 Prospect Ave., N.E.
Albuquerque, NM 87110
Clay Childs 505-266-7781

MARCH 6-9

Union Planters Bank/Memphis State University Open (3)
Memphis State University P.E. Complex
Spottswood and Echles
Memphis, TN
Larry Liles
901-454-2807

MARCH 6-9

Ektelon/Perrier
Racquetball World
10115 Talbert Ave.
Fountain Valley, CA 92708
Ron Cathro and Carol Malickow
714-962-1374

MARCH 7-9

Ektelon/Perrier
The Glass Court
830 E. Roosevelt Rd.
Lombard, IL 60148
Lynne Farmer 312-629-3390

MARCH 7-9

Massachusetts State Championship (2)
Sports Illustrated
44 Gould St.
Needham, MA
Maureen Boulette
617-444-8510 (club)

National Health Court Club

Shoot Out (3)
3822 Frisco Rd.
Sherman, TX 75090
Tom Meadows

March of Dimes Benefit (3)

Downtown Racquet Club
230 George St.
New Haven, CT 06510
Wayne Bruno
203-787-6501

Florida State

Championship (2)

MARCH 11-14

Medford Family YMCA In-House Tournament (1)
Medford YMCA
522 W. 6th St.
Medford, OR 97501
Mike Huard
503-722-6295

MARCH 12-15

California State Championship (2)
Rocky's Racquet World
North Hollywood, CA
Mike Hunter
408-373-8455

Utah State Championship (2)

Town & Country Racquetball Club 2250 S. 800 West
Woodcross, Utah 84087
Paul Bowman
801-298-3231

MARCH 14-16

Ft. Armstrong Open (3)
Fort Armstrong Courts, Inc.
310 So. Jefferson St.
Kittanning, PA 16201
Donnie Fletcher

Sport Plaza Spring Festival

Tournament (3)
Sport Plaza
721 Lindberg
McAllen, TX 78501
Ken Kachlik
512-682-1597

Oregon State Championship

(2)
Eugene, Oregon
Dennis Hubel
503-222-4422

North Carolina National

Bank AARA State Racquetball Championship
Singles and Doubles
Sports Illustrated Court Clubs
Charlotte, NC
Tony Giordano
704-372-1946

Bay State Open (3)

Worcester Court Club

MARCH 21-23

Executive Park Open (3)
Executive Park Athletic Club
2233 N. Academy Pl.
Colorado Springs, CO 80909
George Dwyer
303-598-0963

Ektelon/Perrier

Rose Shores East Racquetball
31950 Little Mack Ave.
Roseville, MI 48066
Hugh Strong 313-296-2200

Johnstown Open (3)

Holiday Racquet Spa
Johnstown, PA
Joyce Romani
814-266-9689

2nd Annual St. Joseph's

Hospital Charity Event
Woonsocket Racquetball & Health Club
595 Social St.
Woonsocket, RI
Normand Laliberte
401-762-2996

North Dakota State

Championship (2)
TAC
1401 Dyke Ave.
Grand Forks, ND 58201
Craig Harding
701-746-4486

Illinois State Championship (2)

Chalet Sports Core
8300 S. Wolf Rd.
Willow Springs, IL 60480
Ray Mitchell
312-745-9400

Oklahoma State

Championship (2)
Doubles in March
Singles in December
Contact Sid Shupack
918-749-5757

MARCH 26-30

Ektelon/Perrier
Denver Sporting Club
5151 DTC Parkway
Englewood, CO 80111

APRIL

Delaware State Championship (2)
Branmar Racquetball Club
Wilmington, DE
D.C. Lantz
302-654-2473

APRIL 3-6

Ektelon/Perrier
The Courtrooms
750 W. Sunrise Blvd.
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33311
Fred Blaess
305-764-8700

APRIL 4-6

Nevada State Championship (2)
Supreme Courts
Las Vegas, Nevada
Bob Justice
702-873-5660

APRIL 10-13

Ektelon/Perrier
Courtsouth
2969 Cobb Parkway
Atlanta, GA 30339
Jim Cullen
404-955-2120

Ektelon/Perrier

Brookfield Racquetball Club
670 Larry Court
Waukesha, WI 53186
Jim Wikus and Mary Peters
414-782-6120

Ektelon/Perrier

Spaulding Racquetball Club
7393 Forsyth Blvd.
Clayton, MO 63105
Rick Lukasek
314-721-7355

APRIL 11-13

Meadeville Racquet Club Open (3)
Racquet Club of Meadeville
Meadeville, PA
Shirley Smith
814-724-3524

Michigan State

Championship (2)
Date not available at press time

Billtown Open (3)

Williamsport YMCA
Williamsport, PA 17701
Jim Huffman

International Azalea Festival

Racquetball Classic (3)
Cardinal Court Club
4444 Expressway Drive
Virginia Beach, VA 23464
Dan Samek
804-444-7440
804-499-9667

APRIL 25-27

AARA Regionals (5)
see pages 18 and 19

MAY 2-4

Hemophilia Benefit (3)
Kessinger's
June Road
Memphis, TN 38117
Don Kessinger
901-682-6661

New Mexico State

Championship (2)
Early May, contact
Clay Childs for details
505-247-9536

Second Annual Golden

Triangle YMCA
Benefit Open Racquetball
Tournament (3)
Manor Courts South
Pittsburgh, PA 15220
Norman Joyne 412-261-5820

National Y Racquetball

Tournament (3)
Downtown Y
1600 Louisiana
Houston, TX
Jerry Sampson
713-659-8501

Racquetball tournament for

the Benefit of Retina Research
Foundation
Playoff Club
Beverly, Mass.
Paul Henriksson
617-754-6073

MAY 16-17-18

Governor's Cup Racquetball Classic (3)
International Fitness and Racquetball Center
11033 Quail Creek Road
Oklahoma City, OK 73120
Ken Smith
Jean Lehr
405-751-5950

MAY 22-26

AARA National Singles
The Sportrooms
Coral Gables, FL

JUNE

Georgia State Championship (2)
Early June, contact
Jim Cullen for details
404-256-2120

JUNE 13-15

South Carolina State Championship (2)
Charleston Racquet Nautilus Center
Charleston, SC
Jerry Rogers
803-571-1020

JUNE 20-22

Racquetball Northeast Grand Prix (3)
Racquettime
Tournament Director
Rich Derby
200 VFW Parkway (Rear)
Dedham, MA 02026
617-828-7632

AARA Juniors' Regionals

Sites to be announced

New Jersey State

Championships (2)
King George Racquet and Health Club
17 King George Rd.
Greenbrook, NJ 08812
Frank Pescatore-
Pete Talbot
201-356-6900

Annapolis Court Club

JULY 18-20

Racquetball Northeast Grand Prix (3)
Worcester Court Club
Tournament Director:
Dave Forsberg
Gold Star Blvd.
Worcester, MA
617-852-8209

Yogi Berra/Lite Beer Grand

Prix (3)
Yogi Berra's Hall of Fame
333 Gothic Plaza
RT. 46 West
Fairfield, NJ 07006
Pete Talbot
201-227-4000

JULY 25-27

Arizona State Championships (2)
Arizona Athletic Club
Jack Nolan
602-839-0036

AUGUST 22-24

Racquetball Northeast Grand Prix (3)
Playoff-Braintree
Tournament Director:
Jim Daly
288 Wood Road
Braintree, MA
617-848-8080

Ocean City Outdoor Courts

Maryland Outdoor Championships
Contact Tom Whipple for details

SEPTEMBER 26-28

Yogi Berra/Lite Beer Grand Prix (3)
Yogi Berra's Hall of Fame
333 Gothic Plaza
RT 46 West
Fairfield, NJ 07006
Pete Talbot
201-227-4000

NOVEMBER 14-16

Yogi Berra/Lite Beer Grand Prix (3)
Yogi Berra's Hall of Fame
333 Gothic Plaza

Complex
2160 University Ave.
Coral Springs, FL 33065
Fred White
305-473-3912
Van Dubolsky
904-372-2120

Alabama State
Championship (2)
Racquet Club
Auburn, AL
John Jordan & Jim Hawkins
205-887-9591

Kansas State Championship (2)
Supreme Courts West
3725 West 13th St.
Wichita, KS 67203
Dewane Grimes
316-945-8331

Colorado State Championship
(2)
International Athletic Center
1630 Welton
Denver, CO 80202
Dan Isacson & Steve Krum
303-623-2100

MARCH 8-9
New Hampshire State
Championship (2)
Off The Wall Racquet Club
596 West Hollis St.
Nashua, NH 03060
Ina Ivarson
603-889-5520

Tournament Director:
Howie Coleman
617-852-8209

Holabird Club
Maryland Racquetball
Association Sanctioned Open
Tournament Director:
Tom Whipple

March of Dimes Benefit
Tournament (3)
Greenfield Racquetball Club
Lancaster, PA
Elaine Lee
717-392-4194

Ektelon/Perrier
Racquettime
168 Franklin Ave.
Waldwick, NJ 07463
Nick Elia 201-447-6565

Tennessee State
Championship (2)
The Sports Barn
301 Market St.
Chattanooga, TN 37402
Mike Mjehovich
615-832-7529

MARCH 14-17
Hawaii State Singles (2)
Oaku Athletic Club
1116 Auaki St.
Honolulu, HI 96814
Phyllis Gomes 808-261-2135

MARCH 27-30
Ektelon/Perrier
Off The Wall Racquetball Club
21211 Drake Rd.
Strongsville, OHIO 44136
Gene Joy
216-238-8006

Ektelon/Perrier
Roseville Racquet Club
2400 West County Road D
Roseville, MN 55112
Paul Ikier
612-633-9333

AARA Maine Open (3)
For further details contact
Bruce Lewis
AARA State Director
207-773-6438

MARCH 28-30
Racquetball Northeast Grand
Prix (3)
Racquettime
Tournament Director:
Rich Derby
21 Blandin Ave.
Framingham, MA 01701
617-872-4240

1st Annual Big "10"
Championships
Ohio State University
Gary Undorfer
1945 Indianola
Columbus, OH 43201
614-291-6524

Michigan State University
Mt. Pleasant, Michigan
Bryan Churnside
517-773-9678

Club House Open (3)
Dodge City Club House Inc.
Comanche & Ave F Box 419
Dodge City, KS 67801
Steve Westphal
316-225-0206

APRIL 17-20
Ektelon/Perrier
Arizona Athletic Club
1425 W. 14th St.
Tempe, AZ 85281
David Michael
602-894-2281

APRIL 18-20
Intercollegiate
Championships
See page 20

Ektelon/Perrier
The Highpoint Racquet Club
1 Highpoint Dr.
Chalfont, PA 18914
Alan Koth and Robin Mingey
215-822-1951, 822-2953

AARA 1980 Intercollegiate
Championships
Newk's Racquet Club
2701 Cypress Point
Missouri City, TX 77459
Larry Liles 901-454-2807
Luke St. Onge 901-761-1172
Club 713-499-5621

Ektelon/Perrier National Finals
Rocky's Racquet World
12111 Strathern Street
North Hollywood, CA 91605
Mark Eller
213-768-5541

MAY 9-11
Forest Hills Open (3)
Forest Hills Athletic Club
3910 Caughy Rd.
Erie, PA 16506
Mark Salvia
814-833-2468

2nd Annual MIN-DAK
Air Force Racquetball
Tournament (2)
TAC Racquetball Club
1401 Dyke Ave.
Grand Forks, ND 58201
SSgt. Ben Beck
701-594-6455/3184

Racquetball Northeast
Grand Prix (3)
Shrewsbury Racquet Club
Tournament Director:
Paul Henrickson
Tennis Drive
Shrewsbury, MA 01545
617-845-1001

MAY 10-11
Downtown Racquet Club
Contact Tom Whipple
for details

For more information
Contact Tom Whipple
for details

JULY
9th Connecticut Open (3)
Site to be announced
Tournament Director:
Phil Panarella
203-229-0526

JULY 11-13
AARA National Juniors-Singles
and Doubles
Kangaroo Courts
Sacramento, CA
Tournament Director:
Ed Martin

for more information
Fairfield, NJ 07006
Pete Talbot
201-227-4000

AARA sanctioned tournaments in
bold
(1)-1st level tournament
(2)-2nd level tournament
(3)-3rd level tournament
(4)-4th level tournament
(5)-5th level tournament
(6)-6th level tournament

State Championships not listed
were not available by press time,
please contact your local state
director for details (see p. 42)

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT:
It was learned at press time
that the AARA will sanction
the 19 tournaments of the
EKTELON/PERRIER
CHAMPIONSHIPS. Dates and
sites are listed above. The
AARA is pleased to announce
its sanctioning (at level 3)
of this prestigious national
tournament series.

CALENDAR

JUNIORS' PAGE



Northern California Juniors Tournament: Boys 17-and-under winner Mark Martin (right), second place Scott Johnson (left) and commissioner Ed Martin.



Girls 15-and-under winner Trina Rasmussen (right), second place finisher Sheri Anthony (left) and commissioner Ed Martin.



Boys 13-and-under winner Nathan Martin (right) and second place finisher Jeff Mulligan (left).



Girls 10-and-under winner Delainie Comer (right), second place finisher Nikki Anthony (left) and commissioner Ed Martin.

EDITOR'S NOTE: With the recent formation of a National Junior Racquetball Council in the AARA, junior racquetball is becoming a viable sport in its own respect. Therefore, we are initiating a Juniors' Page, to appear in this space as news about junior racquetball emerges. In order to keep our readers informed, we'll cover everything from camps and clinics to instruction and tournaments. So keep an eye open for our next Juniors' Page.

In the Beginning

First things first. For those who don't already know about the National Junior Racquetball Council, the place to start is at Ed Martin's back door. Martin, as previously reported (see *Racquetball*, January, 1980), is the National Junior

Commissioner—the man behind the organization. As commissioner, Martin is responsible for recruiting a separate network of regional directors who, under the auspices of the AARA, are working to promote junior racquetball. Martin, along with his nine regional directors, has formulated some specific objectives to be accomplished by the Council. Among them are such things as forming a National Junior Circuit, designed to crown a national champion in each age group; providing and promoting junior camps on a regional basis; providing advanced training and instruction to the more advanced players; and providing publicity for junior players at all levels.

Working closely with Martin and the nine regional directors are the other volunteers associated with the Council—people who are dedicated to upgrading

the lot of junior racquetballers. Recognizing that the future of the sport depends upon junior players, Martin has enlisted some of the most knowledgeable and qualified people in the U.S. to help administer these programs.

The nine regional directors for juniors and their locations are: Nancy Martin, San Diego, Calif.; Gene Gibbs, Boise, Idaho; Dewane Grimes, Wichita, Kan.; Fred Blaess, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.; Jim Winterton, Rochester, N.Y.; Jack Nolan, Tempe, Ariz.; D.C. Lantz, Wilmington, Del.; Jim Daly, Braintree, Mass.; and Brian Herndon, Sacramento, Calif.

Commissioner Martin may be reached at 3452 Argyle Road, Redding, Calif. 96001; or call 916-221-4405.

Tournament Report

The Northern California Junior Championships were held January 4-6 at the Sun Oaks Racquet Club in Redding, Calif. Over 100 juniors from California, Oregon and Nevada participated in this tournament. Though most of the top seeds played pretty much to form, there were a few upsets in the older divisions, with Mark Martin and Trina Rasmussen traveling from Medford, Ore., to win their respective divisions over higher seeded players. One of the more intense matches of the tournament was between Jeff Mulligan of Reno, Nev., and Nathan Martin of San Diego, Calif., in the Boys 13-and-under in which Martin came out on top.

Six nationally ranked juniors participated in the AARA-sanctioned tournament. Sponsors were Pepsi-Cola Bottling Co. of Redding and Penn Athletic Products.

Final Results

Girls 10-and-Under: 1st: Delainie Comer; 2nd: Nikki Anthony; 3rd: Stacey Sattler; 4th: Rodie Martin.

Girls 13-and-Under: 1st: Lisa Anthony; 2nd: Michele Gilbertie; 3rd: Delainie Comer; 4th: Holly Rasmussen.

Girls 15-and-Under: 1st: Trina Rasmussen; 2nd: Sheri Anthony; 3rd: Wendy Comer; 4th: Elona Schreder.

Girls 17-and-Under: Round Robin: 1st: Mona Mook; 2nd: Shelley Aboud; 3rd: Joyce Milton; 4th: Dana Gould.

Boys 10-and-Under: 1st: Jeff Stark; 2nd: Mike Vargas; 3rd: Jason Gilbertie; 4th: Jason Corder.

Boys 13-and-Under: 1st: Nathan Martin; 2nd: Jeff Mulligan; 3rd: Rob Rodriguez; 4th: Jess Wilson.

Boys 15-and-Under: 1st: Gerry Price; 2nd: Shawn Fitzpatrick; 3rd: Woody Claus; 4th: Scott Gaston.

Boys 17-and-Under: 1st: Mark Martin; 2nd: Scott Johnson; 3rd: Cameron McDonald; 4th: Greg Adams. ■

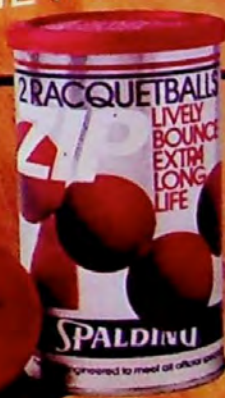


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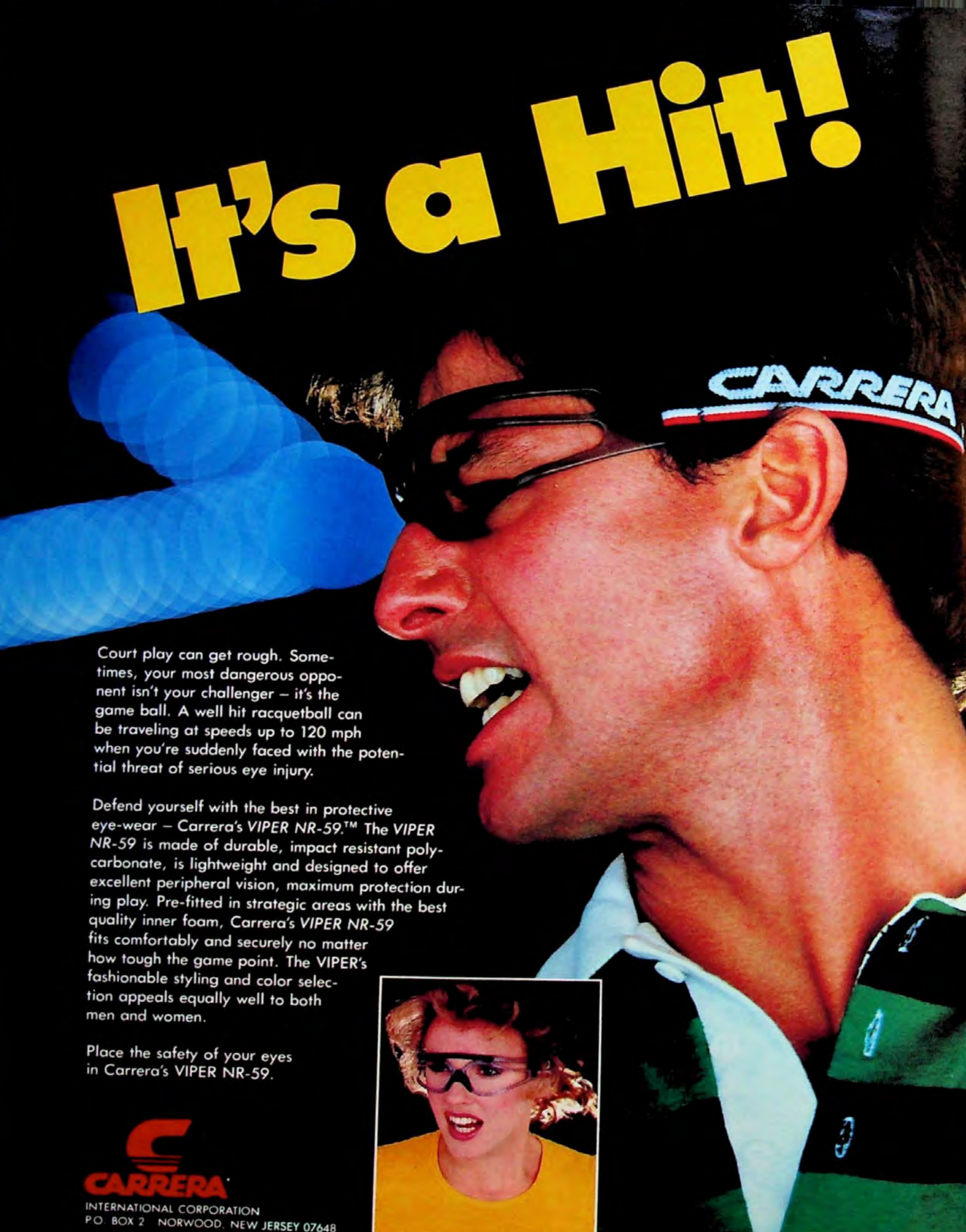
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Jerry Hilecher (left), president of the NARP and Dan Seaton, commissioner of the WPRA.

New Associations On The Rise

Professional racquetball, it seems, has begun the decade somewhat prolifically—with the birth of two new professional racquetball associations.

The Women's Professional Racquetball Association (WPRA) has had an auspicious start, with two tournaments behind them and plans being formulated for a complete tour. (See *Racquetball*, January 1980). And now the National Association of Racquetball Professionals (NARP) is advancing plans for a new men's tour.

The NARP is a new racquetball organization which has been formulated under the leadership of some of the sport's top men professionals. With second-ranked Jerry Hilecher at the helm as president, the board also in-

cludes Davey Bledsoe, vice president; Mike Yellen, treasurer; Bill Schmidtke, secretary; and Mark Marrow, who is in charge of membership.

The organization apparently has similar objectives to the WPRA, as witnessed by their stated interest in development of schools and accreditation for referees and teaching professionals. Both organizations are thereby seeking ways to promote the sport and expand exposure throughout the country.

It was recently announced by NARP president Jerry Hilecher that the NARP has signed a contract with Playboy for the development of a 10-stop nationwide tour. Prize money for the tour will reportedly be \$50,000 for each stop, for a total of \$500,000 for the year. With such substantial backing, the NARP hopes to enhance the visibility of professional racquetball during the coming decade.

Adams, Brumfield Win In Second WPRA Tourney

The second tournament sanctioned by the Women's Professional Racquetball Association (WPRA) was held last month at the Arlington Court Club in Columbus, Ohio. The tournament, which was sponsored by the Wendy's restaurant chain, was the first on a pro tour to offer equal prize money to men and women, according to tournament director Phil Stepp. Both first place finishers received \$1,600 for their efforts.

Results:

Women

Quarterfinals: Judy Thompson over Shannon Wright, by forfeit, Lynn Adams over Jannell Marriott 21-12, 21-10; Rita Hoff over Sheryl Ambler 21-9, 21-10; Sarah Green over Elaine Lee 21-5, 21-5.

Semifinals: Adams over Thompson 21-5, 21-2; Green over Hoff 16-21, 21-11, 11-3.

Finals: Adams over Green 21-17, 21-12, 11-5.

Men: (this was not a regular pro stop for the men).

Quarterfinals: Davey Bledsoe over Brett Harnett 21-17, 21-18; Dave Fleetwood over Jerry Zuckerman 21-14, 21-17; Charlie Brumfield over Mike Zeitman 20-21, 21-4, 11-7; Ben Koltun over Steve Mandry 21-16, 21-7.

Semifinals: Bledsoe over Fleetwood 21-16, 21-20; Brumfield over Koltun 19-21, 21-8, 11-2.

Finals: Brumfield over Bledsoe 19-21, 21-8, 11-2. ■



Charlie Brumfield



'OUR TIME HAS COME'

Janet Simon (left) keeps a close eye on Martha Callahan during the Open finals.

THE WOMEN '80 TOURNAMENT • BY MARTHA LEPORE

They were gathered in Harvard Yard to protest the draft that second weekend in February, but elsewhere in Boston, women were lining up to serve. Not in the military, however, but in the third annual AARA all-women's racquetball tournament—Women '80.

The national prototype of women-only racquetball competitions, Women '80 drew some 150 entrants this year from eight Northeastern states. To win this one meant, as one spectator put it, that "you've really won something."

Once again Boston Tennis Club was the scene of the action where the women competed in eight singles divisions. The club's nine racquetball courts provided

an area for several fiercely fought matches between participants whose ages ranged from 12 to 44.

Over a third of the women played in the Novice and "C" classes, and they exhibited every bit as much enthusiasm and competitive spirit as the more seasoned tourney veterans. One novice from Massachusetts was overheard to say after winning her first match, "I was so nervous before the game, my stomach was in knots. But I just wasn't going out there and lie down."

That spirit of competition held true throughout the tournament. Indeed, the theme "Our Time Has Come," which was emblazoned on the official tournament T-shirts, proved entirely ap-

propriate, as this was one of the most successful women-only tournaments to date.

On To The Open

Historically, the predominance of interest in any tournament focuses on the Open division. And the Women '80 Open deserved that interest. The 20 players in the Open demonstrated some superb strategy and excellent strokes, particularly in the later matches.

In one semifinal bout, frequent rivals Janet Simon of Newton, Mass., and Cindy Alba of Winchester, Mass., squared off. Alba, who won last year's Women '79 Open and the

Photography By John Lepore

March Racquetball 33

Massachusetts state singles title, led most of the first game. Then Simon began to mix up her serves, scoring several aces on lob and forehand serves. At 14-14 both women had a chance to serve, but Simon scored the final point.

Early in the second game, Alba discovered her *Davey Bledsoe* racquet was broken and switched to a *Shannon Wright* racquet. Whether it was because of the racquet or just sheer determination, Alba quickly racked up a lead of 11-2 and eventually won 15-7.

In the tiebreaker, Simon came out with a fearsome start, aggressively hitting kills and roll-outs off the back wall. Tenaciously hanging in the game, Alba, down 10-13, hit an overhand pinch kill from the glass for a side out and scored two more points on forehand drives. At 13-13 Simon got the serve, scored, and then won the match when Alba skipped a backhand kill.

In the other Open semifinal, second-place Open division winner of Women '79, Martha Callahan of Melrose, Mass., was at all times in command of the court as she defeated unseeded Nora Davis of Wellesley, Mass., 15-4, 15-11. Looking ferocious in large yellow-rimmed eye-guards, the diminutive Davis hustled after every ball and gave a respectable showing of her abilities. Even so, there was little question in anyone's mind as to Callahan's superiority.

Open Finals: Standing Room Only

Boston Tennis Club's new five-tiered risers in front of courts B and C were jammed with spectators when it came time for the Open finals between Janet Simon and Martha Callahan. AARA national board member John Lepore jostled with the throng for floor space to photograph the event, while Long Islander Mary Ann Cluess (who had lost to Callahan in the quarterfinals) climbed atop the tennis umpire's chair to referee the match. Popcorn eating pre-schoolers played on the fringes of the crowd, oblivious to the excitement that was building as Simon and Callahan warmed up on court B.

Simon served first and scored three points following periods of extended volleys at the short line before Callahan got on the score sheet. At 7-2, Simon continued to display the improvement in her game brought about by playing with racquetball pros over the past year. She served repeatedly to Callahan's backhand, giving Callahan much grief. Simon took the game 15-7.

Callahan fared no better in the beginning of the second game, looking somewhat foggy as Simon pressed her lead to nine-zip. About this time, there occurred a friendly exchange between the two Massachusetts racquetball

moguls. Later, spectators were to recall it as the turning point, for here Callahan scored her first point and began inching her way, point by point, back into the game. The feeling in the Callahan camp was akin to that of watching their favorite creep slowly back from the edge of a dangerous and crumbling precipice.

Callahan caught Simon at 9-9, then fell behind again to 9-11. Simon skipped a ball for the turnover. Callahan served and scored three points in succession before turning it over again. Simon tied the game at 12-12. Then Callahan took over on a forehand Z. She served out the game with strong backhand serves, winning it at 15-12.

As Simon readied herself to serve first in the tiebreaker, tension was visible among the gallery of spectators. Several turnovers occurred before Callahan broke the deadlock. In what seemed to be an exact reverse of the second game, Callahan continued to score, running up a 10-0 lead before Simon notched her first point. At 12-4, Callahan looked strong, but Simon kept pressing and dug herself out to 10-14, scoring on several service aces.

Callahan then took a time-out. As play was about to resume, Simon took a time-out. The tension in the crowd mounted, and it was the spectators who had sweaty palms. At 14-10 Callahan served to the backhand. Simon went for a passing shot; Callahan hit a sidewall Z and Simon scooped it up. Callahan then ended it with a touch shot that died 18 inches off the front wall. Game, match, and championship Callahan!

Although the Open finals naturally drew the most spectators, play in the other divisions was equally impressive.

Youth In The Spotlight

Youthful competitors put on a good show. Linda Fitzpatrick, a 15-year-old who hails from Falmouth, Maine, competed in the "B's" and made it to the quarterfinals before losing to Priscilla Welch of North Andover, Mass., 15-10, 15-12.

Only 12 years old, Tracy Daly of Quincy, Mass., was the tournament's youngest player, and chalked up an enviable record on her road to winning the 17-and-Under title. She lost only 27 points in the six 15-point games of her round robin competition against three other players, all of whom were her senior.

Among the "young at heart" competitors, Anne Grant of Wellesley, Mass., notched a perfect score of 120 points in winning all eight 15-point games of her Senior (ages 40 to 44) round robin play. Grant showed no mercy when competing against Mary Ellen Tucker of Southbridge, Mass., or

Carolyn Connolly of Needham, Mass., as she dropped just 49 points in her bid for the trophy.

Court Cuisine

At home with her family, Mimi Kelly of Burlington, Mass., likes to cook with beer and wine. But on the court the only spirits she mixes are the libation of skill and the elixir of determination. Having placed second in her division in Women '79, Kelly went all the way this year, defeating Gaye Rosenfeld of Hollis, N.H., 15-3, 15-14 in the Senior (ages 35 to 39) finals. A family woman and emergency medical technician, Rosenfeld lamented afterwards, "I should have lobbed more in the first game."

In the Senior (ages 30 to 34) division, Peggy Whittemore of Kingston, R.I., exemplified her state's motto: "Hope." She became the only Rhode Islander to place in the tournament, winning all of her round robin matches to take the title over Brenda Welton of Framingham, Mass.

Any racquetball aficionado who watched this tournament probably sensed the drama each player felt as she entered the court—conscious that this was it, that she would emerge either a winner or loser.

One bespectacled Long Islander, however, proved the exception to this. Helene Burden, a former paddleball player who converted to racquetball four months ago, exhibited what has to be the epitome of "laid back" competition. Using borrowed sneakers and a borrowed racquet in all six of her matches, she won the "C" division title, defeating Kris Nash of Bridgewater, Mass., by scores of 15-5, 15-8 in the finals. Asked about her off-court work, Burden styled herself simply as "retired." Of her racquetball skill, she rightly observed that she "never bends her knees."

Pedagogical Players

Teaching was a common denominator occupationally for many of the entrants, particularly in the fields of elementary and physical education. Two teachers, in fact, did quite well—Bay Staters Martha Callahan in the Open and Leslie Levine in the Novice division.

Elementary teacher Levine of Quincy, Mass., went the distance in five matches, only to be bested in her sixth (and the Novice finals) by Louise Brigham of Wellesley, Mass., 14-15, 15-4, 15-7. Not bad for the first time out in competition.

Much of the tournament's color was provided by the "B" players. Surprisingly, not one of the seeded "B" players placed in the top four. Then



Tracy Daly (foreground) squares off against Joan Lewis in the 17-and-under division.



Sheila Leperle (left) and Maureen Kane during the "B" finals.



Pat Marcotte (left) and Leslie Levine during the Novice semifinals.

'KC' Barton of Essex Junction, Vt., was appointed AARA state director for the Granite State during the tourney by ever-present AARA regional director Paul Henrickson.

Another "B" player, Linda Estra of New Haven, Conn., brought with her one of the most visible of all spectators. A trainer of carriage horses in her spare time and a physical therapist by profession, Estra was accompanied by—no, not a horse—but by Kijafa, an enormous, lethal-looking black Great Dane. Surprisingly gentle and obedient to Estra, Kijafa nonetheless could inspire her mistress no further than the "B" quarterfinals, where she lost to Maureen Kane of Valley Stream, N.Y.

Kane, a recreational therapist at a children's hospital, eeked out a semifinal win over tough Priscilla Welch 11-15, 15-13, 15-11. This put Kane in the finals against Sheila Leperle of Worcester, Mass., an opponent who has to be women racquetball's female counterpart to Steve Keeley, as far as unusual behavior is concerned.

Leperle recently ended a two and a half year stint as a tennis pro, having once been ranked number two in the NELTA (New England Lawn Tennis Association) rankings for 18-and-Under. Now majoring in business at Worcester State College, Leperle also at one time played doubles with Dr. Renee Richards on the Hawaiian doubles tennis tour.

Her most Keeley-like behavior to date was driving home from Irvine, Calif., to Worcester in 18 days—on a 350 CC Honda motorcycle.

In the Kane-Leperle "B" finals, Kane won the first game 15-5, and Leperle the second 15-14. Before the tiebreaker, Leperle's seated Yoga meditations seemed to improve her concentration and also to replenish her obviously ebbing energies. She won the game 15-4 and the "B" title in this, the third tourney of her racquetball career.

Tourney Accolades

In a tournament that ran as smoothly as Women '80, the players knew they had one person to thank in particular, and that was tournament director Maureen Boulette. Massachusetts state director for the AARA, Boulette is a real pro at orchestrating all the details that comprise an exceptional tournament experience. Working closely with Boston Tennis Club manager Ruth Sigler, Boulette arranged for a fine hospitality room that featured homemade soup and make-your-own Syrian bread sandwiches throughout the tournament.

Enlisting the sponsorship of California's Biscaglia Wine Company through Boston Tennis Club, Boulette was able to provide attractive shirts for the players, as well as free wine during the Saturday evening drawing for door

prizes. And some of the numerous winners that night were treated to dinners at fine restaurants in Boston's famed Quincy Market.

A distinct plus to the Women '80 tournament was the appearance of Rita Hoff, nationally ranked women's pro. In addition to playing five-point games with all contenders, Hoff gave spectators hints and advice on racquetball. An engaging and personable woman given to clowning and joking on and off the court, Hoff defeated all comers, even a doubles team from Long Island (who shall remain unnamed!). After beating the Pittsfield, Mass., phenom Robin Wadsworth, a 16-year-old high school junior who competed in the Open, Hoff asked, "WHEN are you turning pro?"

In conclusion, this premier women's event, the grandmother of women's racquetball tourneys, was perhaps best summed up by one Senior player who was heard to say afterwards, "This has been one hell of a good time!"

Time Out Special Thanks To:

Biscaglia Wine Distributors for their complete support and sponsorship, and to Ruth Sigler and Maureen Bonin of the Boston Tennis Club. Also, the Women '80 Committee: Susan Rhieu, Kim Holle, Sharon Culberson, Trisha Nosek and Judy Gully. ■

only at a trickle. Many times, as Salvon frankly admits, "I had the urge to drop the whole thing."

Finally, in December, 1978, 18 months after talking to the first loan officer, construction on Salvon's club began. The plans originally called for 14 courts, but finances only allowed for eight. The scheduled completion date - June, 1979 - became obsolete almost as soon as it was announced. The cardinal

rule of construction is that everything always takes longer than planned (no owner interviewed for this story opened on time) and in this case, "we were building in terrible weather, even for New England," Salvon explains.

However, when the Supreme Court, Inc., opened its doors in August, all expectations, even the most optimistic ones, were surpassed. Court usage leveled at a bloated 70 per cent, forcing

Salvon and his partners into the enviable position of having to close the membership until six more courts could be built. The return on Salvon's time, money, and most importantly, his aggravations, was immediate.

"It is a hard road to travel when done by the book," says Salvon. "But I'm my own boss in a business I love and I'm making good money. What more could I ask for?" ■

So You Want To Build A Court Club?

O.K., so you're ready to make an investment; you want to build a racquetball court club. Sure, you've gotten some helpful advice, some general tips—but what about specifics? Where can you go for help? And just what are your chances for survival? What is the future of this industry—boom or bust?

To obtain some answers to these questions, *Racquetball* went to the logical source—the National Court Clubs Association (NCCA)—the 300-member international organization of court club owners. Herewith are some excerpts from *Racquetball's* conversation with NCCA executive director, Chuck Leve.

RACQUETBALL: Does the NCCA offer any advisory service to entrepreneurs who are considering opening racquetball clubs?

LEVE: The answer to that is 'sort of.' We do offer three seminars a year—one in conjunction with our annual trade show—for potential club builders. We try to hold our other two seminars on each coast, so that we cover the country. At the seminars there are speakers on every aspect of building a club, from financing and site selection to equipment.

In addition, we keep tapes of selected presentations from these seminars. From these tapes we have transcripts on file, which are continually updated. All of these are available in a manuscript which we sell to investors for \$175. It's essentially the same information the seminars offer, in a 285-page manuscript. The only difference is that people won't have the advantage of addressing questions to the speakers, as they do at the seminars.

R: What about NCCA members whose clubs may be in trouble? Do you offer any assistance to them?

LEVE: I didn't know any of our members were in trouble. Actually, we try to give the owner the best ammunition for competing in the marketplace, through our seminars and such. That is, for competing against other health and exercise type

well. I think the building will continue, and if we stick to the open market areas we'll do well. But it will be those investors who do their homework and put together well-made plans who will obtain the financing necessary to succeed. The key will still be management and location.

R: Can court club owners play a leadership role in the future of the racquetball industry?

LEVE: No doubt about it. Racquetball has reached a point where there are many different segments in the industry. And of course, its going to be in everybody's best interest to have cooperation. The NCCA can take a leadership role in this. We need a strong players' association, a significant pro tour and manufacturers who will continue to put out quality products. You know, when you have three organizations in the same industry, they can all agree they need to cooperate, but they all want to be the *one* organization that the others cooperate with. They all say they want to do something, but none of them is doing anything. If the NCCA can play a role in smoothing out these differences, and I believe we can, it will be to everyone's benefit. And it's in our best interest to keep the infighting to a minimum.

R: The president-elect of the NCCA, Chuck Spaulding, has indicated one of the major things he would like to accomplish during his tenure is bringing the various racquetball organizations to some sort of cooperative agreement.

LEVE: As I said, I believe we can have an influence in this, and I support Chuck Spaulding in his efforts. ■



Chuck Leve, Executive Director of the NCCA.

facilities—not other racquetball club owners. Also, we help NCCA members with advertising and promotion.

R: How does the overall state of the court club industry look? Will there be more building, or is it leveling off?

LEVE: There are some markets that are definitely over built. But then again, there are a lot that are still wide open. With the state of the economy as it is, and the sensitivity of lending institutions, I think building in the future will demand that racquetball packages be put together

FIRST SERVICE

New Court Club Openings

Red Bluff, California

The Red Bluff Racquet and Athletic Club opened last month on Jackson Street in Red Bluff. Membership is available for the health club only or the racquet club (which includes health club facilities). After the \$100 initiation fee, monthly dues range from \$20 for an individual, for health club facilities only, to \$40 for a family, for the racquet club.

Child care facilities, racquetball/handball courts, whirlpool, saunas and other amenities are offered by the club. For more information, call 916-527-4949 or 916-221-4405. (Red Bluff Racquet and Athletic Club is affiliated with Mt. Shasta Racquet Club and Sun Oaks Racquet Club in Redding, Calif.)

Bel Air, Maryland

Construction was begun last November on the Bel Air Racquet Club and Nautilus Center, to be located in the

Harford Mall, 20 miles northeast of Baltimore.

The Bel Air Racquet Club will have 10 racquetball courts, a fitness center using Nautilus equipment, men's and women's saunas, a supervised nursery and other amenities. One racquetball court will have a glass sidewall 40 feet in length. In addition to racquetball and handball, the Bel Air Racquet Club will offer members a supervised fitness program using Nautilus equipment.

There will be no racquetball court fees or fees for using the Fitness Center. Instead, club members will pay an annual membership fee and monthly dues ranging from \$25 to \$45, depending upon the type of membership. The club will guarantee a full refund for any member for any reason during the first 30 days of membership. The club's guest pro will be Rich Dauer, Baltimore Orioles second baseman, and an accomplished racquetball player.

The Bel Air Racquet Club is scheduled to open in April. Memberships in the club, on a first come, first serve basis, became available in December. For further information, write The Bel Air Racquet Club,

Harford Mall, 658 Boulton Street, Bel Air, Md., 21014, or call 301-838-2670.

Chevy Chase, Maryland

The Chevy Chase Athletic Club opened in the Penthouse of the Barlow Building, 5454 Wisconsin Avenue, Chevy Chase, last November. Among other amenities, the facility includes five racquetball courts, three of which have glass back walls, one squash court, two complete conditioning clinics, two saunas, two whirlpools and two sun rooms. Also, the club has a medical advisory staff, for updating fitness programs.

Located in the penthouse of a business building in the heart of the business district, the club's programs are aimed at "executive fitness." Memberships are available for conditioning only, or for both court and fitness facilities. Fees range from \$150 to \$400 for initiation, and \$20 to \$40 for monthly dues. For more information, contact Chevy Chase Athletic Club, Penthouse, Barlow Building, 5454 Wisconsin Avenue, Chevy Chase, Md., 20015, or call 301-656-8834. ■

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FANCY FOOTWORK

POSITIONING FOR CEILING SHOTS

By Mike Yellen

Mike Yellen, ranked third on the pro circuit, is a member of Ektelon's professional player advisory staff.

The trickiest part of a ceiling shot isn't how you move your racquet arm, but rather, how you move your feet. How—and where—you set up determines whether or not you'll be able to get a good piece of the ball with your racquet even before your arm has a chance to do its stuff.

The reason the footwork is so difficult in this shot is that it involves running backwards, or backpedaling, which is not an easy movement to execute. Most sports, after all, are designed for forward

movement. But the amount of backpedaling you have to do in a racquetball game with the normal amount of ceiling shots is probably equivalent to that done by a basketball guard who spends half the game moving backwards in a full court press, or a baseball outfielder who has to fade back to the wall for a long fly on every pitch. It's an important, but often overlooked, aspect of the game.

Most ceiling rally errors aren't the result of a poor stroke, but rather, of a poor setup which forces a poor stroke. For a ceiling ball, getting there and getting set up for your shot is half the battle.

Shots hit too high into the ceiling or right into the front wall are, more often

than not, the result of the player being in the wrong position in relation to the falling ball when he contacts it. This could be caused either by the player misjudging where the ball will fall or by not getting back into position quickly enough.

Let's break down the normal ceiling rally to find out how to backpedal into position for it, setting aside those ceiling shot situations where backward movement isn't necessary. The usual ceiling rally scenario goes something like this:

You have just hit a shot which forces a ceiling return from your opponent. From the center court position, which you always assume after your shots, you will have to move to the back wall to recover your opponent's ceiling shot.

You will be standing in center court with your feet spread about shoulder's width and more or less facing the front wall. Your body will be turned slightly, though, so that you can look over your shoulder and see what your opponent is doing behind you. If he is on the left, you will be turned slightly to the left and vice versa if he is on the right.

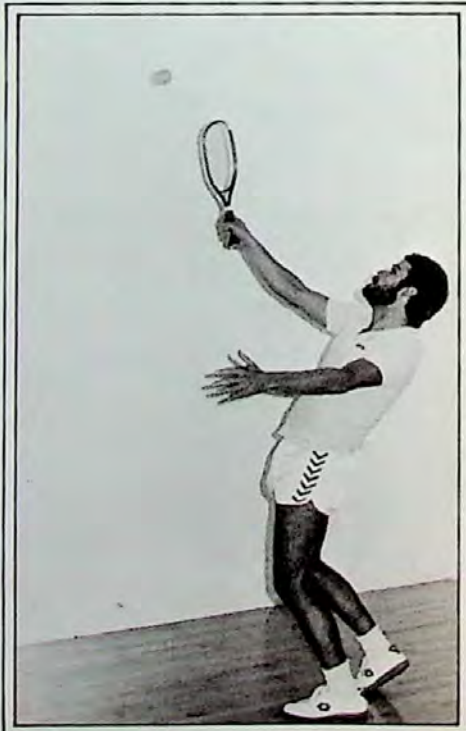
You need to watch the ball at all times during a game and to try to anticipate its direction as soon as possible after your



Positioning under the ball is the key to hitting a good ceiling shot and the correct footwork carrying you into the back court should give you more time to properly position yourself. Here Gary Kroesch demonstrates the problems of letting the ball get too far behind you. He is stretched out up on his toes which will reduce the lift he will be able to give the ball and its present angle is going to carry it too high into the ceiling.



Again Gary demonstrates the perils of being out of position for your ceiling returns. Here he has had to contact the ball too far forward and is again drawn off balance. Without enough lift, the ball is headed straight for a spot high on the front wall, resulting in an offensive shot for his opponent after rebounding off the back wall.



Here Gary is properly positioned and balanced for his ceiling return. He was directly under the ball when it fell and now has good lift off his left foot which is planted securely on the floor.

opponent hits it, in order to leave yourself as much time as possible to get to the spot where it's headed. You shouldn't start fading back until your opponent hits the ball, though, because he could try to pinch or kill it if you do (not high percentage shots for him but the odds improve if you commit yourself too soon).

Once you know that your opponent's shot will be a ceiling ball and see the direction it is headed, your job is to get back to the spot where the ball is going to fall as quickly as possible so as to give yourself as much time as possible to set up for it. Now, anyone is capable of moving from one point on the court to another, even if it must be done running backwards. The question is, how efficiently can it be accomplished?

There are three possible directions in which you will have to move. If your opponent hits a ceiling ball to the rear corner, to which you are already turned—that is, down-the-line—you are already one step on your way. Just push off with the foot closest to the front wall, stepping out with the rear foot. Then step over with the front foot and push off

again, moving toward the rear corner on a diagonal.

Quickness is important, but so is control. You don't want to trip up with this crossover step or you can kiss the point good-bye. Keep your knees bent and take small, controlled steps, not long strides. Get your racquet up on your way back.

If the ball is hit to the corner to which you have your back turned, your initial move is slightly more complicated. It's not unusual to see beginners do a little dance of sorts here before they get going. The correct way is to pivot on your rear foot, stepping back with the foot which had been closest to the front wall and then crossing over with the pivot foot. Continue to step out and cross over until you get to the spot you want.

If the ball is hit directly back down the middle of the court, no pivoting is necessary and you will use a true backpedaling step instead of the crossover step. The ball will probably be moving faster than it does in a cross-court shot and so you will have to keep up. You also will have to quickly decide which side of your body you want to take the shot on

and make the adjustment.

Don't hit the ball on the run or while up on your toes. You need a solid footing flat on the floor when you contact the ball so that you can push off and gain more lift in your racquet. Position yourself so that the ball falls even with your body.

If you let the ball fall behind you, you will be shooting behind your head and will be drawn off balance. The ball will have too much of an upward angle into the ceiling and won't make it to the front wall. If you shoot with the ball too far forward, you will be drawn up on your toes and the ball will angle into the front wall directly, giving your opponent an offensive opportunity when it rebounds off the back wall again.

The correctly hit ceiling ball will strike the ceiling about five feet from the front wall, loft high off that wall and drop right down the back wall. Being in the right position under the ball for your shot is a judgmental ability that you will acquire with practice, but being able to move backwards quickly, efficiently and under control will give you more time to make that judgment. ■

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TIME TELLS

CONDITIONING AFTER FORTY

By Charlie Garfinkel

EDITOR'S NOTE: Charlie 'The Gar' Garfinkel is not quite ready to change his nickname to 'Old Gar,' but neither is he the strapping youngster of yesteryear. Having just turned 41 last January, 'The Gar' is now, naturally, a self-professed expert on conditioning after 40. Herewith his advice to those who find themselves in similar circumstances.

Contrary to popular opinion, I don't play racquetball five hours a day, run seven miles a day, or do two hours of stretching exercises every day. However, I do believe in keeping my body flexible and in top physical condition. If you are in the 40-and-over category, as I am, it becomes more and more important to stay in shape.

For conditioning, racquetball is an excellent sport. Not only is it enjoyable, but it also provides a super workout. However, after 40 it is especially important that you condition properly with running and other exercises, as well as playing the game, in order to derive the utmost benefits from the sport.

Personally, I try to work out every day with an occasional day off. My program consists of four or five days of playing against an opponent, combined with two or three days of practicing by myself and running. On the days that I play against an opponent, I do 10 minutes of stretching exercises before I start playing. Then, when I play, I play for only an hour or an hour and 15 minutes—but as hard as I can.

(I always play singles, because in doubles it takes almost twice as long to get a comparable workout. However, if you prefer to play doubles, by all means do so.) The stretching and racquetball workout, I feel, is more than sufficient for one day.

Usually, on the day following such a strenuous workout, I'll practice on the court alone for 45 minutes to an hour. To supplement my practicing, I run 2½ miles. I try to run the distance in 17 to 19 minutes—but then I have an ad-

vantage, considering the length of my feet. However, if you run the distance in 20 to 22 minutes, you're still making good time. In addition to the running, I try to do about 10 minutes of stretching. (You should always stretch before running, to avoid injuries.)

Alternating workouts by playing an opponent one day and practicing alone the next is a good method of keeping the 40-and-over racquetballer in top condition. But, if I'm preparing for a tournament, I'll change my program somewhat. At least four times in the two weeks prior to a tournament I try to have double workouts, making sure the workouts are spaced four to five hours apart.

I vary the double workout periods somewhat; sometimes playing an opponent in both, sometimes using one period for running. The most important thing to remember, though, when scheduling double workouts, is to let your body rest several hours between times. It's essential for letting your body replenish strength and vitality.

During this pre-tournament period, I maintain my regular schedule of workouts, in addition to the double workouts, with one notable exception. Two days before the tournament is to begin, I'll practice for an hour (each day) just working on my shots.

Before I turned 40, I used to rest the day before the tournament. Then, during the tournament, I would pace myself when I felt I needed to, as I usually played in two divisions. However, an incident occurred in last year's Nationals that changed my thinking somewhat.

Having just turned 40 in January, 1979, I decided to enter both the National Singles and Doubles, which were being held at the same time. I was entered in the newly formed National Veterans Seniors Championships (ages 40-44). But, when I arrived at the tournament site, I was given the disheartening message that my doubles

partner, Dr. Bill King, was unable to attend.

Because we were the defending National Seniors Doubles Champions, I was, naturally, disappointed. However, it turned out to be a blessing in disguise. I went on to win the National Veterans Seniors Singles Championships without dropping a game.

I also formulated some new ideas and different strategies about racquetball for the 40-and-over player.

First of all, if Dr. King had been able to play, I would have been playing twice a day for about five days in a row. Even though I was physically and mentally prepared to play both singles and doubles, the benefits of playing only once a day were immediately evident to me.

Namely, I had time to practice shots that needed work in-between the matches. Because I had so much free time, I could spend about 45 minutes working out. The difference in having that extra practice session was considerable. I was more limber and felt better prepared for my matches. Even though I was on the court twice a day, my practice session was a non-pressure situation, so I was able to concentrate and work out at a leisurely pace. That lack of pressure, I believe, was the key to my success, as I felt more mentally and physically alert at the end of the day than I had when playing in two events. This is especially important to the 40-and-over category of players.

Another point for the 40-and-over player to consider is that of which division to play in. My advice is to play in the division that you feel you stand the best chance of winning. Don't listen to your friends who tell you that you're still good enough to win the Open division. Perhaps you are the best player in your area. (Then again, maybe there's a shortage of 15-year-old marvels like Mike Levine in your area.) But think about it. Can you really withstand the rigors of a tournament in which you play three or four opponents who are 10 to 15 years younger than you? (Just think where Dr. Bud Muehleisen would be today if he'd continued to compete at that level, instead of going on to the Masters division. He'd probably still be pulling teeth, instead of becoming a legend in his own lifetime.)

Another mistake to avoid is playing in two divisions. Just as I learned it was better to play in either singles or doubles, rather than both, so it goes for Open and Senior divisions. If you feel you're "copping out," by playing in the

"old men's division," be assured you will find plenty of competition there. (After all, that's my division now!) If you play in both Open and Senior divisions, I can practically guarantee you two losses. Play in your own division and you'll stand a good chance of winning.

After all, it's just common sense. In a weekend tournament, you may find yourself playing four times a day (if you compete in two divisions). You'll also have to referee in-between matches. So, you won't be getting the rest that you need. Being over 40 means that your body needs more time to recover. Play one event!

I've also picked up some other points that I feel can be helpful. For instance, some racquetball players like to mix racquetball with squash and tennis. I used to do this frequently, and was fortunate enough to have won the Buffalo City Racquetball, Squash and Tennis Championships in 1969. Even though I was a mere 30 years old at the time, I could already see the negative aspects of such a program.

Namely, you use different racquets of differing weights, sizes and grips. You use different strokes in each of the games, which can result in pulled muscles if you're not careful.

I've quit playing squash altogether, but I still play tennis about six weeks a year. Yet, I never mix tennis and racquetball. So, stick to one sport and your game will be consistent. This is, of course, my opinion and others may disagree with me. Still, this philosophy has worked well for me.

Another helpful idea for the 40-and-over player is changing equipment. I used to use a 4 1/2 size grip and a heavy racquet. But when I found myself having more and more arm problems I switched to a graphite racquet that is lightweight, and I also went to a 4 5/16 size grip. The results were amazing, if I do say so myself. I found that I could hit the ball harder and with more control. But even more important, my arm problems disappeared.

One last suggestion, regarding your shoes. I've found that medium, or even high-cut sneakers can provide better support for my ankles.

Finally, conditioning, court strategy and equipment are important for players of all ages. However, they are even more important to "youngsters" of 40-and-over. By adhering to some of the suggestions I've made here, I sincerely believe that you can continue winning for years to come. ■



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RACQUETBALL welcomes all tournaments to report their results. Please list all rounds of each event. Scorecard will report as many rounds of each tournament as space allows.

For reasons of space and clarity, tournament results submitted for listing in "Scorecard" should be arranged as shown in the example below. Entries using this format stand a better chance of being included in the "Scorecard" section.

Men's Open:
Semifinals: John Smith over Peter Smith 21-7, 21-15; John Doe over Peter Doe 21-20, 21-13.
Finals: John Smith over John Doe 21-20, 13-21, 21-16.

Ureses 21-10, 21-11; Frass - Steffens over Panarella - Silvano 21-15, 21-7.
Finals: Risley - Metzner over Frass - Steffens 21-20, 6-21, 11-0.

Men's Open:
Semifinals: Panarella over Fruin default; Dehm over Waltz 17-21, 21-14, 11-8.
Finals: Panarella over Dehm 21-15, 17-21, 11-8.

Men's B:
Semifinals: Swartz over Timpson 21-13, 21-6; Rodolakis over Diamond 21-12, 21-11.

Finals: Swartz over Rodolakis 21-16, 21-5.

Men's C:
Semifinals: Marshall over Davis 21-14, 18-21, 11-3; Salvagno over Hurwitz 21-19, 16-21, 11-1.

Finals: Marshall over Salvagno 21-20, 21-12.

Women's C:
Semifinals: Mayer over Maher 21-19, 10-21, 11-2; Ettinger over Domain 21-17, 21-10.

Finals: Mayer over Ettinger 21-10, 21-20.

Women's Open:
Semifinals: Margo-Chase Wells over Karen Van Kampen 21-7, 21-4; Susan Hurwitz over Judy Lauder 21-17, 17-21, 11-3.

Finals: Wells over Hurwitz 21-19, 21-11.

ARKANSAS OPEN Kessinger's Little Rock, Arkansas

Men's A: 1st: Bob Daniel; 2nd: Keith Blackmon; 3rd: Fred Aylett; 4th: Don Kessinger.

Men's B: 1st: Steve Stevens; 2nd: Carolyn Kessinger; 3rd: Fallon Davis; 4th: Ken Brown.

Men's C: 1st: Jeff Brunthaver; 2nd: Joe Smelser; 3rd: Jim Watts; 4th: Seaborn Bell.

Men's Masters: 1st: Robert Thornton; 2nd: Chester Phillips; 3rd: Bob Slusavek; 4th: James Sager.

Women's B: 1st: Vicky Daily; 2nd: Gwen Young; 3rd: Marlene Crowell; 4th: Dana Yancey.

Women's C: 1st: Sherry Rauch; 2nd: Joanne Jones; 3rd: Jeannie Weir; 4th: Sandra Carlisle.

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Men's A:
Consolation: Ted Wiley over Bill Ruck 21-14, 21-14.

Quarterfinals: Frank Leydens over Dick O'Gara 21-13, 21-17; Dan Sell over J. R. Johnson 21-12, 21-8; Charlie Wicker over Mike Hopkins 21-11, 21-4; Mario Ibbara over Richard Doyle 21-17, 21-5.

Semifinals: Dan Sell over Frank Leydens 21-18, 4-21, 11-10; Charlie Wicker over Mario Ibbara 15-21, 21-12, 11-2.

Finals: Charlie Wicker over Dan Sell 21-7, 21-16.

Men's B:
Consolation: John Bouzis over Doug Payne 21-11, 21-14.

Quarterfinals: Steve Galassini over Don Eldon 21-9, 21-16; Kim Hall over Tom Walker 21-19, 15-21, 11-10; Bill Butler over Bob Skolasky 21-10, 21-15; Cal Nickel over John Cowart 21-5, 17-21, 11-6.

Semifinals: Steve Galassini over Kim Hall 21-16, 21-7; Bill Butler over Cal Nickel 21-14, 21-16.

Finals: Steve Galassini over Bill Butler 21-



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Phil Panarella Jr. (right), winner of the Men's A division in the Armstrong Rubber Co. Open

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B Doubles:

Semifinals: Cassesse - Kroopneck over N.

G. - Diamond 21-8, 21-13; Mushin - Rodolakis over Lahoud - Nakora default by injury.

Finals: Cassesse - Kroopneck over Mushin - Rodolakis 21-10, 21-20.

Open Doubles:

Semifinals: Risley - Metzner over Curley -

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Men's C:

Consolation: Tim Collins over Dan Ollar 21-16, 21-12.

Quarterfinals: Jim Reed over Bob Hartleip 21-12, 21-8; Guy Arneson over Steve Engelking 21-9, 21-10; Steve Buckner over Phil Harker 21-16, 21-10; Don Fox over Al Weston 21-18, 21-11.

Semifinals: Jim Reed over Guy Arneson 21-9, 20-21, 11-2; Steve Buckner over Don Fox, forfeit.

Finals: Jim Reed over Steve Buckner 14-21, 21-15, 11-4.

Men's D:

Consolation: Jeff Eldon over Allen Brett 21-12, 21-7.

Quarterfinals: Micheal Stertz over Jim Olsen 20-21, 21-20, 11-3; Dan Bright over Jeff Kwallek 17-21, 21-12, 11-10; Mike McVay over Pat Colgan 21-3, 21-9; Larry Garrett over John Harp 21-5, 21-10.

Semifinals: Michael Stertz over Don Bright 21-6, 21-12; Larry Garrett over Mike McVay 21-9, 21-16.

Finals: Michael Stertz over Larry Garrett 21-11, 21-10.

Women's A:

Consolation: Loris Sherman over Marce Mitchum, forfeit.

Semifinals: Cathy Henshaw over Kim Morton 21-11, 21-16; Marla Higgins over Patsy Hopkins 21-15, 21-15.

Finals: Cathy Henshaw over Marla Higgins 21-11, 21-20.

Women's B:

Consolation: Tia McKenzie over Chris Hall 21-18, 18-21, 11-6.

Quarterfinals: Sharon Snyder over Karen Drago, forfeit; Kandy Woodley over Jenny Bustos 21-14, 21-13; Sue Lang over Donna Govan 21-5, 21-8; Carolyn Kwaller over Mickey Spieles 21-16, 21-13.

Semifinals: Sharon Snyder over Kandy Woodley 21-4, 21-6; Sue Lang over Carolyn Kwallek 21-15, 21-18.

Finals: Sue Lang over Sharon Snyder 21-13, 21-5.

Women's C:

Consolation: Timmy Crowe over Darlene Brooks 21-9, 21-14.

Quarterfinals: Debbie Higgins over Joan Wicker 21-8, 21-20; Prema Arasu over Sharon Payne 19-21, 21-12, 11-3; Sharmon Reed over LuAnna Fisher 21-6, 14-21, 11-7; Donna Huppert over Linda Stellern 21-9, 21-0.

Semifinals: Prema Arasu over Debbie Higgins 21-10, 21-12; Donna Huppert over Sharmon Reed 21-6, 21-16.

Finals: Donna Huppert over Prema Arasu 16-21, 21-13, 11-8.

PABST/SERA FALL OPEN
Point South Racquet Club
Dothan, Alabama

Men's Open:

Quarterfinals: Schwartz over Cason 21-9, 21-20; Winn over Coleman 21-8, 21-16; Brown over Jackson 21-18, 21-9; Kimbrough over Jordan 21-13, 21-17.

Semifinals: Winn over Schwartz 5-21, 21-19, 15-14; Kimbrough over Brown 21-20, 21-12.

Finals: Kimbrough over Winn 21-15, 19-21, 15-6.

Third: Schwartz.

Men's Seniors:

Semifinals: Webster over Wegner 16-21, 21-14, 15-5; Jackson over Neal 21-2, 21-12.

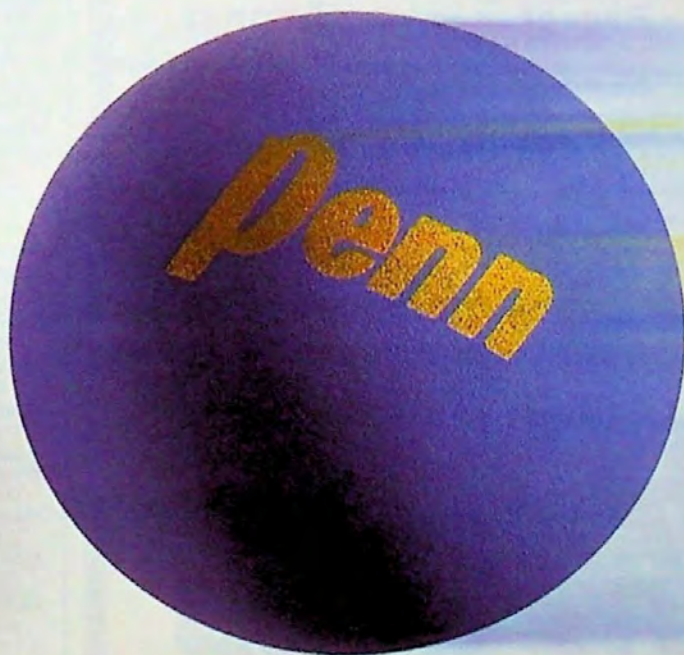
Finals: Webster over Jackson 21-5, 21-11.

Third: Webster.

Men's Jr. Vets

Semifinals: Coleman over Smith 21-5, 21-8;

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Bell over Simmons 21-7, 21-2.
Finals: Coleman over Bell 21-10, 21-6.
Third: Smith.
Men's B:
Quarterfinals: Cason over Davidson 21-14, 21-8; McRee over Fall 21-17, 21-9; Gerard over Bell 21-16, 21-12; Jackson over Chambliss 21-14, 19-21, 15-14.
Semifinals: Cason over McRee 21-7, 21-7; Jackson over Gerard 21-12, 21-8.
Finals: Jackson over Cason 21-13, 8-21, 15-8.
Third: Gerard.
Men's C:
Quarterfinals: Morante over Cohen 21-17, 21-9; Rillstone over Myers 18-21, 21-6, 15-4; Thompson over Hembree 21-9, 20-21, 15-10; Shaw over Smith 21-15, 21-19.
Semifinals: Morante over Tillstone 21-9, 21-12; Thompson over Shaw 21-10, 21-16.
Finals: Morante over Thompson 21-12, 21-6.
Third: Rillstone.
Women's Open:
Round Robin: 1st: Burkette. 2nd: Conrad. 3rd: Stewart.
Women's C:
Quarterfinals: Thurlow over Hembree 21-18, 21-18; Hecht over Gamel 21-19, 21-9; Wages over Hodges 21-14, 21-5; Blitz over Youngsma 21-14, 21-2.
Semifinals: Hecht over Thurlow 21-3, 21-5; Blitz over Wages 21-11, 21-0.
Finals: Hecht over Blitz 12-21, 21-13, 15-9.
Third: Thurlow.

FIRST ANNUAL TIGER OPEN The Racquet Club Auburn, Alabama

Men's Open: 1st: Jim Cullen; 2nd: Bryce Anderson; 3rd: Jay Schwartz.
Men's B: 1st: Bob Latham; 2nd: Tim Tracy; 3rd: Tico Fernandez.
Men's C: 1st: Jim Cannon; 2nd: Mike Bowden; 3rd: Ricky Rife.
Women's Open: 1st: Babette Burkette; 2nd: Janet Marshall; 3rd: Anne Burbach.
Women's C: 1st: Letha Daniel; 2nd: Darlene Conrad; 3rd: Shelley Zeiden.
Men's Open Doubles: Cullen - Vincent over Ray - Olen.
Men's B Doubles: Cochell - Thomas over Shields - Marshall.
Juniors: 1st: Tim Tracy; 2nd: Herb Weaver; 3rd: Grant Anderson.
Seniors: 1st: Roger Wehrle; 2nd: Ronald Clark; 3rd: Andy Anderson.

EASTERN AIRLINES/SEAMCO RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS November 9-11 Downtown Racquet Club New Haven, Connecticut

Men's Open:
Quarterfinals: Vic Niederhoffer over Joe Curley 21-7, 21-5; Mike Romano over Brain Dehm 21-18, 16-21, 11-7; Rob McKinney over Ron Mirek 21-7, 16-21, 11-9; Charlie Horton over Dave Maturah 21-2, 21-12.
Semifinals: Niederhoffer over Romano 21-8, 21-2; Horton over McKinney.
Finals: Niederhoffer over Horton 21-14, 21-14.
Women's Open:
Semifinals: Francine Davis over Margo Chase-Wells, forfeit; Bonnie Stoll over Melanie Taylor 21-17, 21-7.
Finals: Bonnie Stoll over Francine Davis 21-17, 20-21, 11-8.
Open Doubles:
Quarterfinals: Charlie Horton - Mike Romano over Pete Silvano - Allen Horn-

stein 21-4, 21-5; Ron Mirek - Dennis Fonseca over Jeff Rosenblatt - Soc Verses 21-12, 21-17; Ed Castillo - Tom Waltz over Jack Nocera - Howie Packer 17-21, 21-3, 11-6; Jeff Coyle - Sal Marci over D. Walls - Paul Wicha 21-17, 14-21, 11-7.

Semifinals: Horton - Romano over Mirek - Fonseca 21-12, 18-21, 11-6; Castillo - Waltz over Coyle - Marci 21-6, 21-8.

Finals: Horton - Romano over Castillo - Waltz 21-16, 21-17.

Men's Seniors:

Quarterfinals: Tom Waltz over B. Cohen 21-14, 21-12; Dave Yurgaitis over Sal Marci 21-1, 19-21, 11-1; Ed Castillo over Jeff Coyle 21-12, 21-17; Jack Nocera over Pete Royston 21-20, 21-14.

Semifinals: Waltz over Yurgaitis 21-15, 21-17; Nocera over Castillo 20-21, 21-16, 11-10.

Finals: Waltz over Nocera 21-14, 21-17.

B-C Doubles:

Quarterfinals: Joe Pezza - Tony Haralam over Gary Squires - Mike Wiener 15-21, 21-12, 11-9; Will Verhoeff - Ira Kroopneck over Jeff Rosenblatt - Jeff Haslet 21-8, 21-19; Goldrich - Luckwaldt over Jack Mushin - John Whitlock 21-12, 21-11; Marshall Naimo - Barry McDermott over Donegan - Copeland 21-13, 10-21, 11-9.

Semifinals: Pezza - Haralam over Kroopneck - Verhoeff 11-21, 21-5, 11-8; Naimo - McDermott over Goldrich - Luckwaldt 21-18, 21-3.

Finals: Pezza - Haralam over Naimo - McDermott 21-9, 21-12.

Men's B:

Quarterfinals: Vic Alvarez over J. Bagalia 21-6, 21-13; Mike Weiner over John Cascio 9-21, 21-11, 11-5; Phil Scannel over Larry Scaff 21-7, 21-8; John McKinney over Steve Squire 12-21, 21-10, 11-9.

Semifinals: Alvarez over Weiner 21-16, 21-13; McKinney over Scannel 12-21, 21-11, 11-4.

Finals: McKinney over Alvarez 21-5, 21-17.

Men's C:

Finals: Jeff Shapiro over B. Hussey 21-12, 21-8.

Men's Novice:

Quarterfinals: C. Good over Steve Brown 21-15, 16-21, 11-2; Charles Henzy over Jerry Magalnick 21-10, 21-10; S. Mantley over John Miller 21-14, 21-14; Dick Squires over Jeff Kristansen 21-1, 21-8.

Semifinals: Henzy over Good 20-21, 21-7, 11-9; Mantley over Squires 21-12, 21-17.

Finals: Mantley over Henzy 21-8, 21-10.

Women's B:

Quarterfinals: Rita Hurwitz over Ann Rothberg 21-10, 21-19; Debbie Amiot over Peggy Oberg 21-16, 21-6; Veronica Tella over Gail Uellindahl 21-10, 21-15; Carol Nestle over Rosemary Csapo 21-6, 21-8.

Semifinals: Hurwitz over Amiot 21-9, 21-10; Tella over Nestle 21-6, 21-8.

Finals: Hurwitz over Tella 21-9, 21-12.

Women's C:

Quarterfinals: L. Ksieniewicz over Pam Piazza 21-15, 21-2; Lisa Hoffman over Doreen Benoit 21-2, 21-11; P. Borow over Rosemary Csapo 21-8, 4-21, 11-10; Gail Stanley over Betty Marrone 21-4, 21-14.

Semifinals: Hoffman over Ksieniewicz 21-16, 21-15; Borow over Stanley 21-4, 21-14.

Finals: Hoffman over Borow 21-14, 21-14.

Women's Novice:

Quarterfinals: Judy Domain over Lori Brochin 21-11, 21-8; P. Dziubina over Sufton, forfeit; Lucy Miller over Lisa Smith 21-2, 21-19; C. Talucci over Terry Beers 21-5, 15-21, 11-4.

Semifinals: Domain over Dziubina 21-15, 21-7; Talucci over Miller 21-10, 21-2.

Finals: Talucci over Domain 21-14, 21-18. ■

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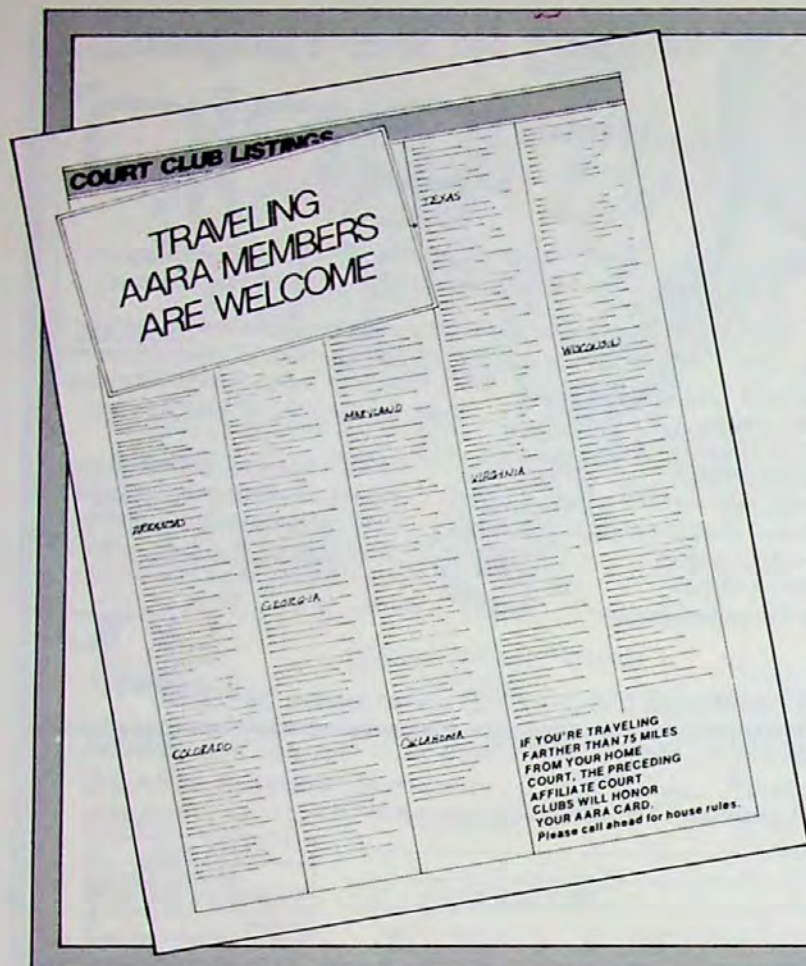


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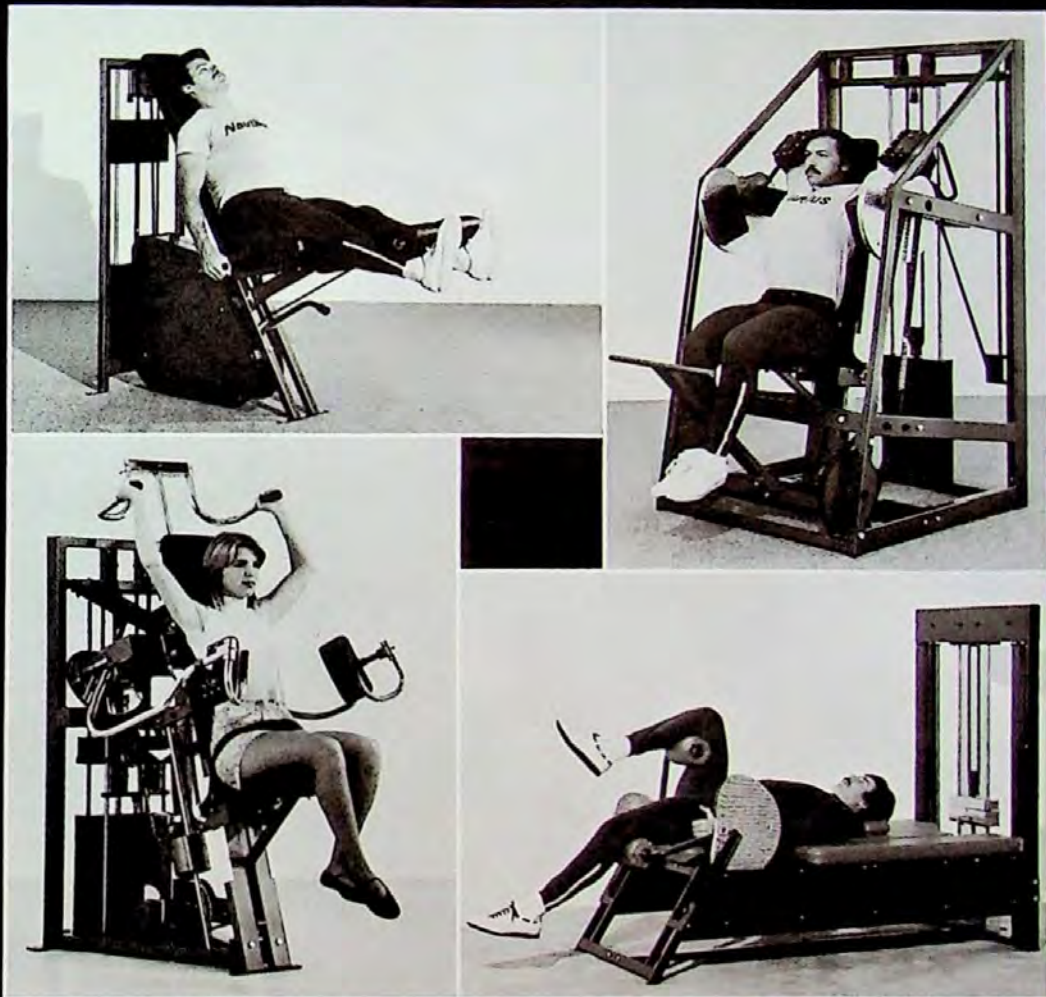
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