



SWINDLE

Racquetscam

Promoter absconds funds

A bizarre scam has resulted in the demise of the Ektelon/Holiday Inn Grand Prix after only one tournament of a planned nine-tourney series.

Steve Ruedlinger, sole owner and founder of Grand Prix Promotions, an Orlando-based company, is believed to have taken all the tournament entry fees from the first Grand Prix, which was held September 16-18 at the Racquet Ball in Orlando, and several entry fees from the second tournament in Ocala, which was cancelled. It's estimated he wrote worthless checks totaling \$15,000 for tourney expenses, leaving suppliers and players irate. He owes \$7,000 to several other companies.

Ruedlinger left Orlando October 7 in a rental car and came back three weeks later. However, he has not returned several phone messages left by the Florida Racquet Journal.

James P. Williams, investigator and chief of the worthless check division of the office of the state attorney of the ninth judicial circuit of Florida in Orlando, is currently investigating the case.

Williams said he could not comment on the investigation.

A warrant is expected to be issued for Ruedlinger's arrest. Executives with three companies, Holiday Inn, Pizza Hut and The Racquet Ball, have told the Florida Racquet Journal they plan to prosecute Ruedlinger in connection with the bad checks they received.

In retrospect, the entire concept of the Grand Prix was a fraud from the beginning, although Ruedlinger's actions convinced the racquetball community that the concept was legitimate. None of the prize money Ruedlinger said he obtained through sponsors ever existed. He had forged sponsors' signatures on tournament contracts.

The Florida Racquet Journal has recently learned that Ruedlinger was involved in another racquetball scam three years ago in Michigan. There he was charged with swindling two people for \$48,000 for an investment in a racquetball club. He was also accused of writing bad checks. In addition, Ruedlinger has been linked to a scandal involving another racquetball tournament series in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. (See page 11 for details.)

The Florida Racquet Journal, which lost a considerable amount of money in advertising and promotional materials, helped promote the first tournament and planned to enter into a limited partnership agreement with Ruedlinger.

"The concept of the Grand Prix appeared to be sound and had lots of potential," Florida Racquet Journal publisher Norm Blum said. "We checked Ruedlinger's record, and according to police, it was clean. He had worked at Racquetball South in Orlando and, while there, he had personality differences with the owner. But that situation exists at almost every racquetball club in the nation. He ap-

peared, on the surface, to be the picture of stability. He has been married five years, has a two-year-old son, and his family is well-established in Orlando. He set up an office in downtown Orlando, was well-organized and appeared dedicated in making the Grand Prix a successful business. The Journal was shocked when this scam was discovered and we plan to help authorities prosecute Ruedlinger.

"Judging from the phone calls, it appears the racquetball community will be able to rally back from the setback. The Journal provided the publicity for this Grand Prix and we were duped, although the motive for this scam baffles me. Steve has been working on the Grand Prix since June, and at best he could have run off with \$5,000 to \$6,000. It's beyond me how anyone can risk a jail sentence and disgrace his family for that much money."

Several of Ruedlinger's friends have told the Journal they were shocked by his actions.

The first tournament at The Racquet Ball received rave reviews and, except for a few minor problems, several players indicated it was the best tournament they ever attended.

The players received about \$60 worth of souvenirs and hospitality for their \$25 entry fee. "Steve wrote rubber checks to all the suppliers," Blum said. "He had an unlimited expense account. Ruedlinger took advantage of his father. He used

businesses like United Trophy, Action Screen Printers and Larkin's (a sandwich shop) — which his father did business with and wrote them bad checks. What he did is mind-boggling. Looking back, Ruedlinger apparently lied about everything. We never thought about calling Pizza Hut or United Trophy to find out if they were really sponsors."

Problems with the Grand Prix surfaced a few days after the first tournament when checks to the winners, which totaled \$7,600, began to bounce. The checks were signed by a person who did not have the authority from the bank. Ruedlinger expressed amazement when he was informed of the rumors and said it was impossible. A few days later Ruedlinger blamed the Holiday Inn for the mix-up, claiming a \$10,000 check to Grand Prix Promotions bounced, causing a chain reaction.

Ruedlinger later claimed he flew to Memphis, Tenn., Holiday Inn's national headquarters, and resolved the problem with company executives.

Ruedlinger said Holiday Inn would send Grand Prix Promotions two checks for \$5,000 each by October 7. Ruedlinger quickly wrote a letter to the players who won the money during the tournament informing them the situation had been corrected. Players had been calling Ruedlinger at both his office and apartment.

(Continued on page 11)

Passing Shots

by Norm Blum

Publisher & Editor



QUOTE OF THE YEAR — Mike Phillips, manager of Omega 40 in Ormond Beach, was supposed to be Steve Ruedlinger's partner in the 27+ doubles division at the Grand Prix No. 2 in Ocala. After hearing how Ruedlinger left town with the money, Phillips said: "I understand all that. Are you trying to tell me I don't have a doubles partner this weekend?"

A MIRACLE — The tournament director consoled the novice player who had lost in the first round. He gave him a few tips and suggested he enter a few more tournaments to gain experience. The player thanked him and asked if he could help him with his backhand. The tournament director paused and said: "Son, I'm not God. I'm not a miracle worker."

BRRRR — Things will be a bit chilly at New Fitness World which opens up this month in Fort Myers. The plush club, which has seven courts, doesn't have the traditional

sauna or steam room. Instead, after a vigorous swim or workout, one can open up his pores by stepping into the ice room. The refrigerated room is guaranteed to send a chill up your spine.

IT'S SMALL, BUT NO. 1 — Readers of Miami/South Florida Magazine, a monthly publication, were polled as to which club is tops in South Florida. And the winner was a small, eight-court facility in Davie: the Racquetball Club of West Broward. "We have all concrete construction which makes for better playing," owner Elliot Horne said. "We don't have a panel system which makes for better tax write-offs. Panels aren't considered part of the construction of the building and owners can write it off as a piece of equipment." The club also has inexpensive \$120 single membership fees and junior memberships for \$80 to assure the next generation is around to play racquetball. And perhaps the

(Continued on page 13)

Where To Play

For \$100 a year, your club can reach all the racquetball players in Florida. Contact the Florida Racquet Journal about placing your club in the Where To Play section. Call (904) 721-3660.

AUBURNDALE

Auburndale Tennis & Pro Shop — 202 West Park St. (813) 697-7265. 4 outdoor 4-wall courts. 8 a.m.-11 p.m. Public courts. Non-resident, \$3 during daytime, \$5 after 5.

BOCA RATON

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

BRADENTON

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

CORAL SPRINGS

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

CLEARWATER

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

CRYSTAL RIVER

Kelly's Racquet & Swim Club — Rt. 2 Duncan Field St. (904) 795-3703. 2 racquetball courts, 2 tennis courts. Large swimming pool, spa, weight and exercise room. ¼-mile roller skating and jogging track. Shuffleboard courts. \$3 guest fee plus court fee.

FORT LAUDERDALE

Holiday Courtrooms — 750 W. Sunrise Blvd. (305) 764-8700. 19 courts. \$6 guest fee for out-of-towners. Basketball court, running track, two Nautilus rooms, swimming pool.

Racquets 2 — 5300 Powerline Rd. (305) 772-2222. 9 racquetball courts; 2 international, 2 American squash courts. Complete Nautilus Fitness Center. Full restaurant and lounge. 30 seconds off I-95, Commercial Blvd. exit. Take Powerline Rd. North.

Bodycenter, Health & Racquet Club — 5065 NE 13th Ave. (305) 491-2255. 9 courts. \$5 guest fee. Aerobics, Slimnastics, Dancerize. Yoga. Nautilus for men and women. Complete lockerroom facilities. Day care center.

FORT MYERS

The Olympiad — 8450 Dayton Ave., SW (813) 939-4477. 10 courts. Country club atmosphere. Fully equipped lockerroom, outdoor jogging track. Convenient and accessible from all directions. 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. seven days a week.

New Life Fitness World — 2531 Cleveland Ave. (813) 337-1981. Full athletic club, 7 racquetball courts. Ice Room, Nautilus Fitness Center, aerobics, pool, indoor track, sun deck, restaurant and lounge.

GAINESVILLE

Gainesville Racquetball Club — 6916 W. University Ave. (904) 372-2120. 6 courts. \$3 guest fee (call ahead). Universal. Lounge, juice bar, color TV.

HOLLYWOOD

South Florida Racquet Club — 5555 Ravenswood Rd. (305) 987-6410. 10 courts. No guest fee for NCCA members. \$3 for others. \$2 guest fee for basketball and volleyball. Whirlpools, saunas, free baby sitting in nursery. Pro shop. Video games & pool tables. 7-foot TV Screen in a full service cocktail lounge. Full Nautilus facilities. Open challenge courts every Tuesday, Friday and Sunday.

JACKSONVILLE

The Place — 6651 Crestline Dr. (904) 724-6994. 10 courts. Nautilus, Aerobics. The only club in Jacksonville that caters to out-of-towners.

Ortega Racquet Club and Fitness Center — 4206 San Juan Ave. (Ortega/Avondale area). (904) 388-1500. 6 courts. No guest fee for active out-of-town club members. Largest heated indoor pool in Jacksonville. Separate men's and women's lockerroom facilities. Steam Seafood Restaurant.

Racquet Power — 3390 Korl Rd. (904) 268-8888. Premier club in Jacksonville. 14 courts. No guest fee when accompanied by member. Otherwise, \$10 during non-prime time hours. Modern Nautilus room, Dynavit, out-side whirlpool, steam room, sauna, aerobics, self-defense classes.

NEPTUNE BEACH (JACKSONVILLE)

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

MELBOURNE

The Harbour Pines Racquet Club — (305) 777-6737. NEW CLUB! 13 racquetball courts, 1 squash court, Nautilus Equipment room, steam room, whirlpools, saunas. \$3 guest fee.

MIAMI

Bogey's — 5885 NW 151st St. (305) 822-0160. 9 courts. \$6 guest fee includes court time. Gymnasium, aerobics. Restaurant and lounge.

Holiday Health & Racquet Club — 10631 SW 88th St., Dadeland West Office Park. (305) 596-0600. 11 courts. \$5 guest fee, plus court time. Fee waived for NCCA members. No reservations, please call. Separate men's and women's health club. Nautilus, fully equipped lockerrooms, pro shop. Lounge, social area.

Miami Court Club — 9395 Bird Rd. (305) 226-4014. 10 courts. No guest fee for NCCA members; \$3 for others (no reservations).

Hotel guests in Miami can reserve non-prime for \$7 (6 a.m.-4:30 p.m. weekdays, 6 p.m.-midnight weekends). Prime \$9 or \$12. Racquets, shoes for rent. Pro shop, whirlpool, sauna, steam room. 6 a.m.-midnight daily.

Miami Lakes Athletic Club — Palmetto Expressway & NW 154th St. (305) 821-1150. 9 racquetball courts. Championship court. Diane Bullard — head pro. Gymnasium. Restaurant and lounge. Nautilus. Aerobics. Guests must be accompanied by members.

NAPLES

The Olympiad — 1048 Castello Dr. (813) 262-1112. 8 courts. \$5 guest fee. Pool, complete lockerroom. Restaurant. Under new ownership.

NEW PORT RICHEY

Richey Racquetball — 8836 US 19 North (813) 842-1455. 10 courts. Whirlpool, sauna, weight room and bar. \$2.50 guest fee.

OCALA

The Fontainebleau — 2120 Northeast 46th Ave. (904) 236-2288. 10 courts. \$3 guest fee. Nautilus, swimming pool, sauna, steam room, whirlpool, lockers. Aerobics, karate, gymnastics. Pro shop, supervised nursery, hair salon. Video games, snack bar, lounge

ORANGE PARK

Park Avenue Racquet Club — 714 Park Ave. (904) 269-8000. 6 racquetball courts, 8 soft tennis courts. \$3 guest fee plus court time. Nautilus, whirlpool, pro shop, nursery. Bar and lounge. 7 a.m.-11 p.m. weekdays, 8 a.m.-11 p.m. weekends.

ORLANDO

The Club — 825 Courtland St. (305) 644-5411. 10 racquetball courts, 16 tennis courts, swimming pool, Nautilus, lounge, pro shop, sauna, whirlpool. Guest fee \$3 & \$5. 7 a.m.-11 p.m. weekdays, 8 a.m.-6 p.m. weekends.

The Racquet Ball — 5165 Adanson St. (305) 645-3999. 8 courts. \$6 guest fee. Nautilus, complete lockerrooms. Restaurant.

Racquetball South — 5224 S. Orange Avenue. (305) 857-1388. Brand new facility. \$5 guest fee. 8 courts, 2 glass championship courts. Nautilus. Spacious lounge and grill with large screen TV. A new era in relaxation — Flotation. Completely stocked pro shop.

ORMOND BEACH

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

POMPANO BEACH

Tennis Trainer — 1301 W. Copen Rd. (305) 974-4310. 7 racquetball courts, 3 tennis courts, 2 indoor practice tennis courts. \$7 guest fee (full use of club). Fully equipped lockerroom.

PORT CHARLOTTE

Charlotte Racquet Club — Loveland Blvd. (813) 629-2223. 4 racquetball courts, 6 tennis courts. \$3 guest fee; \$6 non-prime, \$8 prime. Universal, ping pong. Snack bar. Plans for expansion.

SARASOTA

SARASOTA YMCA — 1075 S. Euclid Ave. (813) 957-0770. 8 courts (2 new exhibition courts with excellent spectator viewing). \$2 guest fee. Non-prime \$5, prime \$7. Co-ed whirlpool. Visitors and guests welcome. Open 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily. Massage therapist on duty 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday thru Friday.

Sarasota Bath & Racquet Club — 2170 Rob-inhood Rd. (813) 922-3546. 8 air-conditioned courts, 2 exhibition courts. Nursery, lounge, snack bar. \$2 guest fee. \$6 non-prime, \$8 prime. Racquetball Director — Judi Schmidt.

ST. PETERSBURG

Tyrone Racquetball Club — 6690 Cross Winds Dr. North (813) 381-8711. 16 courts. \$10 guest fee for out-of-town club members with current card; non-prime \$7, prime \$9. Whirlpool, sauna, exercise room. Private club. 8:30 a.m.-midnight.

STUART

Mid Court Racquetball Club — 20 N.E. Dixie Hwy., Rt. 707. (305) 692-9488. 8 courts. \$2.50 guest fee (guests welcome); \$8 prime (4 pm.-11 p.m. weekdays). All other hours \$6. Racquets, balls for rent. Universal gym, whirlpool, saunas, pro shop, nursery. Lounge, billiards, game room. 8 a.m.-11 p.m. daily.

TAMPA

Brandon Racquet Club — 2011 S. Parsons Ave. (813) 689-4410. 5 courts. No guest fee for out-of-town club members; \$6 non-prime, \$8 prime. Universal, saunas. 7 a.m.-midnight daily.

Tampa Bay Court House — 7815 N. Dale Mabry (813) 932-5321. 10 courts. 2 side-wall glass courts. \$5 guest fee covers court time. Nautilus, pool, fully equipped lockerrooms. 6:30 a.m.-midnight weekdays, 8 a.m.-midnight weekends.

TAVENIER

Wall to Wall Racquetball — Upper Florida Keys, Milemarker 91.5 (behind Harry's Restaurant) (305) 852-2634. 5 courts. No guest fee for out-of-towners with current club card. Nursery. Ideal resort area. Finally, racquetball in the Keys! Check it out.

VENICE

Venice Racquetball and Fitness Center — 581 N. Venice By-Pass (813) 484-8427. 8 courts. \$3 guest fee; \$4 non-prime, \$8 prime. 2 full gyms, swimming pool, sauna, steam bath, inhalation room. Big lounge.

VERO BEACH

The Forum — 650 12th St. (off U.S. 1). (305) 567-7727. 6 courts. Under new management. Watch the Los Angeles Dodgers train and play a game of racquetball. Club expects to expand shortly and become a showcase among clubs in Florida. Watch us grow!

WEST PALM BEACH

The Courthouse — 1500 Old Kochehobee Rd. (305) 684-2111. 7 courts. Complete Nautilus Fitness Center. Enjoy the sun and then visit the Courthouse. Food and cocktail area.

Winners

Body Center
Fort Lauderdale

Men's Open — Sergio Gonzalez def. Freddie Calabrese (forfeit). 3rd — Bubba Gautier. 4th — Mitch Campbell. Men's A — Robbie Bin-

Florida Racquet Journal

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nix def. James Lorello. 3rd — Rick Rapport. Men's B — John Garcia def. John Ross. 3rd — Joe DiDonto. Men's C — Leon Curiel def. Rob Sinclair. 3rd — John Ross. Men's Novice — Ross Greenburg def. John Noda. 3rd — Roy Terpka. Men's 30+ — Bob Owen def. Steve Squire. 3rd — Steve Chapman. Men's 35+ — Mike Desormey def. Steve Squire. 3rd — Chapman. Men's 40+ — Jack Ross def. Ed Vlock. 3rd — Fred Blaess.

Women's Open — Diane Bullard def. Brenda Poe-Barrett. 3rd — Ann Baroburg. Women's A — Lynda Kuchenreuther def. Mary Osler. 3rd — Sandy Marick. Women's B — Monique Pappavero def. Linda Icaza. 3rd — Pam Afford. Women's C — Bertha Menendez def. Donna McCarthy. 3rd — Jennifer Afford. Women's Novice — Carmen Sanchez def. Renee Smith. 3rd — Sylvia Pinera def. Debbie Holzkamp. Women's 30+ — Judi Schmidt def. Colette Maxwell. 3rd — Kathy Johnson. 16-&-Under — James Lorello def. Robbie Binnix. 3rd — Victor Zamorano.

Big Bend Classic
Capital Racquet & Fitness Ctr., Tallahassee

Men's Open — Mark Morrison def. Curtis Winter. Men's B — Charles Stevens def. Tom Strickland. Men's B (non-cash) — Blain Lyall def. Steve Smith. Men's C — R. Patrick def. W. Spinks. Men's Novice — Darryl Pinkston def. M. Byrd.

Women's B — Terri Hume def. Kathy Flores. Women's C — Kim McLeroy def. Beth Benner. Women's Novice — M. Mozley def. D. Pinkston. Open Doubles — Van Dubolsky/Randy Pfahler def. Larry Cashion/J. Porta. B Doubles — White/Grant def. Kubiak/Strickland. Men's C Doubles — Dely/Enzinger def. Shumon/Hartsfield.

Scleroderma Charity
Olympiad Health Club, Boca Raton

Men's Open — Bubba Gautier def. Fred Calabrese. 3rd — Mitch Campbell, Tim Hanson. Men's A — James Lorello def. Armando Alonso. 3rd — Mark Kazen. Men's B — Kurt Nystrum def. Oscar Alvarez. 3rd — Scott Caplan. Men's C — Ray Bedsal def. Steve Feldman. 3rd — Joey Storey. Men's Novice — Frank Ze-

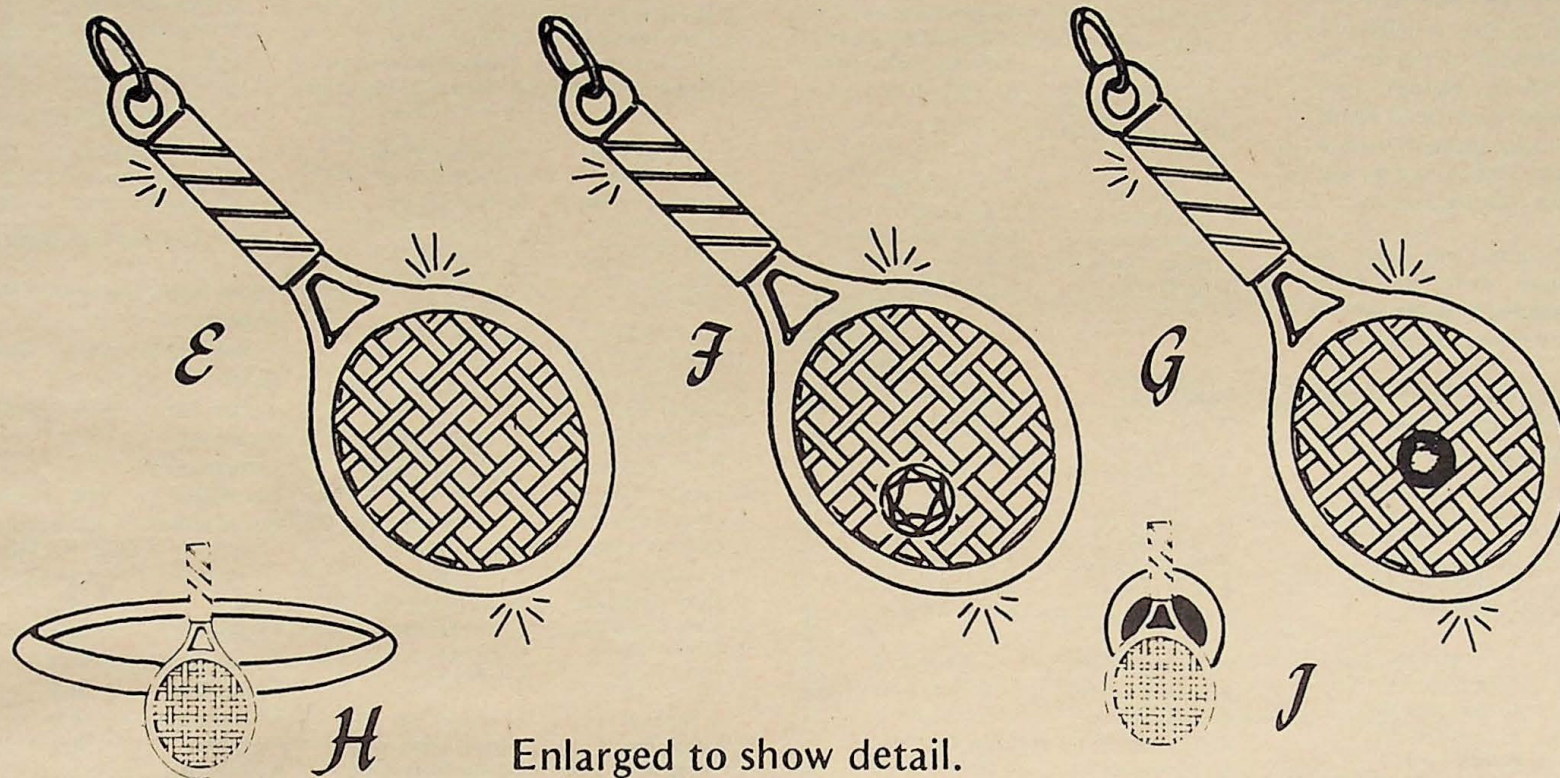
mel def. John Noda. 3rd — Robert Rhoder. Men's 30+ — Steve Squire def. Jeff Leon. 3rd — Steve Chapman. Men's 40+ — Jeff Leon def. Fred White. 3rd — Bill Afford. 16-&-under — Jay Rand def. Anthony O'Connell. 3rd — Steve Taylor.

Women's A — Dee Lewis def. Janet Watts. 3rd — Linda Kuchenreuther. Women's B — Pam Afford def. Cheryl Atherley. 3rd — Lily MacIntyre. Women's C — Dana Conroy def. Jo Kenyon. 3rd — Carolina Garland. Women's Novice — Denise Morin def. Maria Lambert. 3rd — Jan Rocchio.

Mixed A/B Doubles — James Lorello/Linda Kuchenreuther def. Kurt Nystrum/Dana Conroy. 3rd — Roger Jones/Lily MacIntyre. Mixed C/D Doubles — Fred Stallworth/Libby Laney def. John Munn/Cindy Tanner. 3rd — Mike Wederath/Carolina Garland.

Racquetball Jewelry
See page 3.

14 K τ Gold Racquetball Jewelry



Enlarged to show detail.

E	14 KT Gold Racquetball Racquet Charm. Available in White Gold. \$48
F	14 KT Gold Racquetball Racquet Charm with 5 pt. Diamond or Emerald. \$79.95
G	14 KT Gold Racquetball Racquet Charm with 14KT Gold Ball in Center. \$69.95
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I	Men's Tie Tack with 14 KT Gold Racquetball Racquet. \$46.50

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AARA Notes

Floridians fare well in rankings

State Rankings and National Rankings

The AARA will be able to publish a monthly state ranking list by the first of December. Since February of 1983, there have been 20 reported sanctioned events in the state. The results are being used to produce an in-depth ranking that closely parallels the national (AARA) system.

Until the state results are ready, we thought we would share the latest (8/25/83) National Rankings (based on reported sanctioned events since June).

Here are the top four Florida players and their national rankings. Please notice how many state players are ranked at or near the top.

Men's Open 1. Sergio Gonzalez 2. Tim Hansen 8. Bubba Gautier 11. Fred Calabrese	Men's A 1. Tom Rothstein (tie) 3. Steve Chapman (tie) 3. John Ehring (tie) 12. Mike Craft	Men's B 1. Thao Tran (tie) 5. John Rowlee 7. Dave Schwartz 9. Craig Powell	Men's C 1. Tony Sansone (tie) 4. Wade Weisman 5. Jose Schwartz 6. Rick Ford	Men's D 3. Rich Alvarez 4. Rich Sieb (tie) 7. R. Matheny (tie) 12. Andrew Ives	Men's Novice 2. Ed Digiorgo 3. Lino Swarez 4. Lyle Atherly (tie) 4. Tip Shumaker (tie)	Men's 19+ 1. S. Gonzalez (tie) 1. M. Hodgkinson (tie) 3. Vinnie Ganley 4. Tim Hansen (tie) 4. John Scargle (tie) 4. Chris Buckner (tie)	Men's 25+ 1. Mark Morrison 2. Bobby Owens (tie) 2. Randy Godwin (tie) 6. Todd Taylor	Men's 30+ 1. Leo Marsocci 2. Frank Johnson 3. Bobby Owens (tie) 3. Joe Serabia (tie) 3. Van Dubolsky (tie)	Men's 35+ 1. Joe Icaza 2. Steve Chapman 3. Joe Serabia (tie) 5. John Alton	Men's 40+ 1. Jack Ross 2. John Alton 3. Charlie Kramer 4. Sam Sprout	Men's 45+ 1. Dave Dennis 2. Ed Vlock 3. Jim McCauley 5. Al Winter	Men's 50+ 1. Tom Vann 2. Robert Harper 3. Mike Wyman 4. D. Woodington (tie)	Men's 55+ 1. Al Sarmiento 2. Paul Gorman 3. Bob Albertson 4. Bob White	Women's Open 2. Melanie Britton 3. Susan Sotello 4. Babette Bell 8. Deb Bedell	Women's A 1. Mary Jo Kazen (tie) 7. Gail Flynn 16. Jan Curtis 25. Sunday Mann	Women's B 1. Agatha Falso 2. C. Sansone (tie) 5. Janet Watts 6. Linda Icaza	Women's C 1. Cheryl Atherly 2. Kathy Hannon (tie) 4. Jo Kenyon 5. S. Hensley	Women's D 4. Nancy Brady (tie) 4. Holly Ramsey (tie) 11. M. Reynolds (tie) 11. Sandra Tilley (tie)	Women's Novice 1. Irene Dumas 3. Joan Parly 4. Dagmar Kalms (tie) 4. Holly Ramsey (tie) 4. Jeanie Touns (tie)	Women's 18+ 1. Jill Carlson 2. Jamie Lamarea 3. Candy Winter 4. Kay Shoenem	Women's 19+ 1. Jan Curtis 2. Terri Losano 3. Nancy Froelich 4. Melanie Britton	Women's 25+ 1. Janet Watts 3. Robin Midgett 4. Gail Lauteria (tie) 6. Sue Dawson (tie) 6. Sunday Mann	Women's 30+ 1. Sue Sotello 2. Kathy Piccione 3. Agatha Falso (tie) 4. Mary Korbut (tie)	Women's 35+ 2. Gretchen Spiegez 3. Judy Schmidt (tie) 5. Libby Laney (tie) 5. C. Carlson (tie)	Women's 40+ 1. Julia Williamson 2. Grace Page 3. Gretchen Spiegez 4. Ruth Zenk	Boys' 18- 2. Mitch Campbell 4. Steve Cardizibal 5. Charlie Krestul 6. Curtis Winter	Boys' 17- 1. Charlie Nichols 2. John Schneider 3. Declure 4. J. Boyle	Boys' 16- 2. Robbie Binnix 3. Eric Gray 4. Ernest Hodges (tie) 4. C. Nichols (tie)	Boys' 14- 2. James Lorello 5. Bump Blaess (tie) 5. Glen Roberts (tie) 8. Eric Cramer	Boys' 13- 6. James Lorello (tie) 6. J. Miragliotta (tie)	Boys' 10- 1. Jon Xynidis 2. Nick Xynidis
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Girls' 16- 2. Pam Afford (tie) 2. Julie Ginsburg (tie) 2. K. Schoeneman 5. Jennifer Afford	Girls' 14- 1. C. McCarthy 2. Pam Afford 3. Dana Conroy 4. Holly Ramsey	Women's 18+ 1. Jill Carlson 2. Jamie Lamarea 3. Candy Winter 4. Kay Shoeneman	Women's 19+ 1. Jan Curtis 2. Terri Losano 3. Nancy Froelich 4. Melanie Britton
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Tournament Report Cards

Two events were rated this month (as of press time).

Sept. 23-25 The Olympiad, Boca Raton

Oct. 7-9 The BodyCenter, Fort Lauderdale

Participation:
 Olympiad 200 people 15% return
 BodyCenter 250 people 20% return

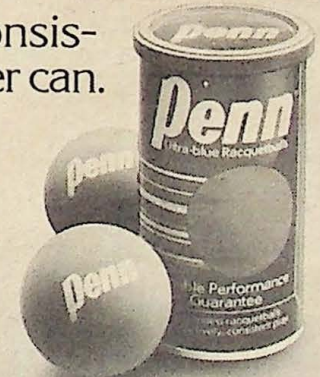
THE RATINGS

	Olympiad	Body Center
Balls	4.0	4.8
Facility	4.6	3.8
Towels & Lockers	4.3	4.3
Hospitality	4.2	4.8
Tourn. Shirts	4.0	4.9
Trophies	4.3	4.7
Promises on		
Entry Blanks	4.2	4.7
Tourn. Directors	4.7	4.8
Scheduling	4.0	3.5
Sandbagging	3.7	3.7
Overall Rating	4.3	4.6

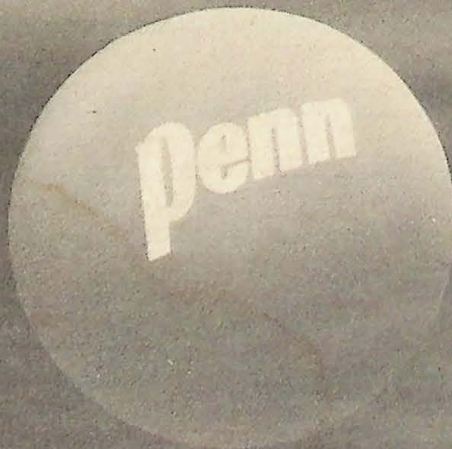
When your racquetball performs erratically, you will, too. So trust your game to the Penn® Ultra-blue. The ball that became number one in the world through liveliness, durability,

and Penn's now-famous consistency. Ball after ball, can after can.

You might discover you're a better player than you think.



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Florida Fall Festival Racquetball Classic

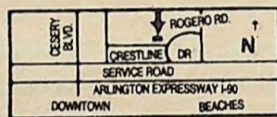
November 11 - 13

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Florida Racquet Journal



THE PLACE
HEALTH & FITNESS CENTER
AND RACQUETBALL CLUB



6651 Crestline Drive • Jacksonville
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FORMERLY
JACKSONVILLE
RACQUETBALL
CLUB

Best souvenirs given at any tournament!

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Location: The Place — Health & Fitness Center and Racquetball Club (Formerly Jacksonville Racquetball Club)
6651 Crestline Drive East
Jacksonville, Florida 32211
(904) 724-6994

Entry Fee: First Event: \$22 (includes tax)
Second Event: \$10 (includes tax)
Third Event: \$7 (includes tax)
JUNIORS 17 & UNDER:
First Event: \$15
Second Event: \$5
Third Event: \$5

AARA Sanctioned. AARA Membership required. Please have proof of membership. Annual \$6 membership includes racquetball publication subscription and discounts.

Souvenirs: Collared shirt plus a gym bag!

Prizes: Trophies in all divisions. Numerous door prizes. The odds are you will go home a winner!

Hospitality: Plenty of food. Assorted fruit all weekend. Saturday breakfast, lunch and dinner capped by an extraordinary dessert contest. Free beer Saturday night. Sunday breakfast.

Facilities: 10 air-conditioned courts. Nursery available at tournament. Nautilus, free weights, aerobics, steam room, whirlpool and

snack bar.

Date: November 11-13, 1983

Entry Deadline: November 8, 1983 at 5 p.m. Phone entries with Visa or MasterCard only. Call (904) 724-6994. Make checks payable and mail to: Florida Racquet Journal, P.O. Box 11657, Jacksonville, Florida 32239.

FREE ENTRY FEES!! Entries received by the Florida Racquet Journal on or before Tuesday, November 1, 1983, will be placed in a drawing. Four entries will be drawn; the winners will be placed in the tournament at no charge.

Starting Time: Players may call for starting times Thursday, November 10 after 5 p.m. at (904) 724-6994. Players must check in 20 minutes prior to starting time.

Official Ball: Penn "Ultra Blue"

Rules: AARA Sanctioned, 15-point games, 11-point tiebreakers. No consolation divisions. Winners referee. To play in three events, one must be mixed doubles. Tournament directors reserve the right to re-classify those divisions with not enough entrants.

Tournament Directors: Al Winter, Wylie Sacks. "Guaranteed to run on time."

Divisions:

- | | | | | |
|----------------|-----------|----------------|-------------|------------------|
| Men's Open | Men's 19+ | Women's Open | Women's 19+ | Juniors |
| Men's A | Men's 27+ | Women's B | Women's 27+ | Boys 13 & under |
| Men's B | Men's 35+ | Women's C | Women's 35+ | Boys 14-17 |
| Men's C | Men's 40+ | Women's D | Women's 40+ | Girls 13 & under |
| Men's D | Men's 45+ | Women's Novice | | Girls 14-17 |
| **Men's Novice | | | | |

DOUBLES:

Men's Open	Partner: _____	Women's Open	Partner: _____
Men's B	Partner: _____	Women's B	Partner: _____
Men's C	Partner: _____	Women's C	Partner: _____
Mixed Open	Partner: _____	Mixed B	Partner: _____

AARA rules state anyone under 19 years of age is required to wear eyeguards.
*Eligible to players who have never made it past the second round in the C division of an open tournament.
**For players with less than one year's experience.

Entry Form:

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____
Telephone _____ Shirt Size (circle one): S M L XL
Amount enclosed \$ _____

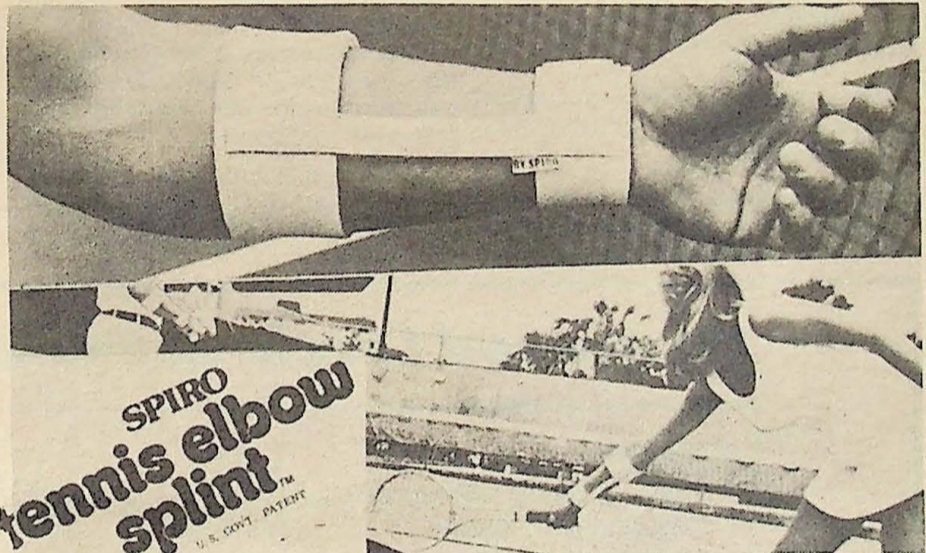
WAIVER: I hereby, for myself, executors and administrators, waive and release any and all rights and claims for damages that I may have against The Place — Health & Fitness Center and Racquetball Club and all other sponsors and their agents for any all injuries which I may suffer in connection with my participation in this tournament.

Signature _____ Date _____
Parent's Signature (if player under 18) _____
Make checks payable to and mail to: Florida Racquet Journal, P. O. Box 11657, Jacksonville, FL 32239



Hogan reads the Journal

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Horoscope

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You'll probably be taking some firm action to change your lifestyle. At first, the need for these changes will be questioned. But you'll shortly discover that working out more than once a week is better for you in the long run.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't engage in any personal competitive struggles now, as you're likely to come out the loser. Enjoy playing the game. The Super Bowl isn't on the line every time you play.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21): There's an opportunity for public recognition of sorts. Your game has improved and you are the talk of the lockerroom. You overhear some of the conversations and you have a right to feel proud.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): This is a great month for your game. You are playing a fantastic game and you find yourself looking forward to going to the club.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Concentration will be a key this month. You have a lot of responsibility at work and your mind tends to wander. If you think about work while on the court don't be surprised if you are behind 6-0 before you know it.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Changes in your game that you've contemplated all year are finally taking place. It's helped you out tremendously and don't fret over not making the changes sooner.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23): Focus now on building long-term success, rather than immediate, more superficial rewards.

Practice the new things you've been taught and although it might feel awkward at first, you'll play better in the long-run.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22): This is your month, Scorpio — and once it's over you may never play as well. Relish this time period while it lasts and try to play every day.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21): By now, with most of 1983's experiences behind you, you can assess your game. Analyze your game and make a resolution for the '84 season on how you are going to improve.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Last month you played well. This month you'll play even better. The holiday spirit

gives you a new enthusiasm for racquetball. You are enjoying the game and you'll convince both business associates and family members to join the bandwagon.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Business will be brisk this holiday season and you'll be hard-pressed to get in a game. Remember you don't have to play at 6 p.m. You can sneak in an early morning game or a quick hour late at night. You need the exercise in order to work around the clock.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): It's time to experiment with your game and get out of the rut. Buy a new racquet and get a few lessons. You'll regain your enthusiasm because you'll be having more fun.

Strandemo Camp set for Florida

The Steve Strandemo Winter Racquetball Camp is coming to Fort Lauderdale.

Steve Strandemo, racquetball's premier instructor, will be holding the Strandemo Racquetball Camp at the Holiday Courtrooms in Fort Lauderdale February 16-19 and February 23-26.

The winter camp will resemble the summer sessions Strandemo has held in past years.

Each student will receive his own videotape of his play during the week and obtain individual instruction.

The camp, for players of all abilities, will consist of eight sessions. Strandemo will provide individual attention and analyze each person's game by using a video tape machine. Each student will receive a copy of the video tape and an instructional manual.

Strandemo gave a camp in Florida last April and he had to turn away people due to the overwhelming response.

To receive a brochure, write: the Journal at P.O. Box 11657, Jacksonville, FL 32239 or call (904) 721-3660.

Racquetballers Do It In The Corner

You can have this clever bumper sticker for only \$1. Simply fill out the order form and you'll receive it immediately. Florida residents add 5 percent sales tax. Write for bulk rates.

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Please Rush Me Your Bumper Sticker

Name _____

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____

1st Annual Cerebral Palsey Racquetball Tournament

Location

Orlando Tennis & Racquet Club
825 Courtland Street
Orlando, Fla. 32804
(305) 644-5411

Date

November 18, 19 & 20, 1983

Play may begin as early as Friday noon.
Every attempt will be made to begin play at 6 p.m. on Friday.

Rules

A.A.R.A. sanctioned (No consolation rounds)
A.A.R.A. membership required. Membership may be purchased at tournament for \$6.00

Tournament Directors reserve the right to reclassify or deny entry to any participant.
Divisions with fewer than 6 entries may be combined with another division or canceled.

Tournament Directors

Julie Pinnell, Sid Miller

Entry Fee

Men's & Women's Open Division	\$30.00
All other divisions (1st event)	25.00
2nd event	8.00

An additional fee of \$3.00 per event will be charged, which will be refunded after you referee a match. Your entry fee & referee fees must accompany your entry form.

Entry Deadline

Wednesday, Nov. 16th, 1983 at 12 noon

hosted by

The Orlando Tennis & Racquet Club

and

FREDDIE'S
FINE SEAFOOD &
STEAK HOUSE

over \$8,000.00
in cash and prizes

Official Ball

Penn

Awards

Cash awards will be presented to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place finishers in those singles divisions having the minimum number of participants.

Trophies will be presented to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place finishers in the Junior & Doubles events.

Each participant will also receive a collared tournament shirt.

A minimum of 16 participants must be entered in a division offering cash, for cash prizes to be awarded.

Hospitality

Pripps Plus, the official Energy Drink, will be available throughout the weekend. A lunch and dinner will be provided on Saturday to all participants.

Raffle

One Yamaha motorcycle will be raffled, as well as other prizes to raise money for Cerebral Palsy. Those entries received before Nov. 10th, 1983 will receive two free raffle tickets. After Nov. 10th, raffle tickets may be purchased for 50¢ each.

Accommodations

Holiday Inn
I-4 at Lee Road
305-645-5600
Room Rate: \$32.00 (single or double occupancy)

HOW TO BUY WITHOUT BORROWING EVEN WHEN YOU'RE STRAPPED FOR CASH.

If you operate a business or profession, large or small, you can now barter what you have for what you need. Barter Systems International, the \$200 million barter network, makes it easy.

If high interest rates are causing you to postpone important business buying decisions, here's the cash-free solution.

You can now barter your product, service, or professional time for what you need. And you can do it without the time and trouble of searching for a trading partner.

Barter Systems International does it for you. We have organized the "barter concept" into a network of 30,000 business and professional people, now trading over \$200 million worth of goods and services through seventy Barter Systems offices.

Who barterers?

Today, people in all walks of life are discovering the advantages of barter.

Clients of Barter Systems International range from individual retailers, doctors, lawyers, and small service businesses to Fortune 500 companies such as Allis-Chalmers, Continental Airlines, and Xerox Corporation.

In fact, fully 65 percent of manufacturers on the New York Stock Exchange now do some part of their business in barter.

Trades range from a few hundred dollars to millions.

Why do they barter?

Some use barter to conserve cash. Others to liquidate inventory. Many find it a way to broaden their customer base, tapping into Barter Systems' 30,000 accounts.

Professional people barter their unused time, factories their downtime. Some even use barter dollars to pay debts. And several major companies use barter to optimize production efficiency—allowing equipment to run "full out" and putting the overrun into a trading system.

What can you barter for?

Practically anything. As a client of Barter Systems International you receive barter dollars for what you trade. These barter dollars are usable to obtain any product or service in our multi-million dollar "barter bank." And we've placed it all on computer to match wants and needs.

A florist obtained a Xerox 2600* copier for 34 palm trees, 7 dieffenbachia, and 3 yucca trees.

A lawyer uses barter to get legal printing done.

A carpet retailer used barter to pay for the entire \$45,000 cost of opening a new store.

Many companies barter for office space, hotel rooms, and airline tickets.

Some parents have even bartered for their child's tuition.

You can literally clothe your family, buy your home, lease an office, and take an exotic vacation all with barter dollars.



Even real estate and insurance can be obtained through barter.

How does Barter Systems get paid?

Clients pay a modest yearly retainer. This covers including them in the computerized network and making their product or service known to other clients.

When a trade is made, each trading party pays Barter Systems a commission of five to ten percent of the value of the trade. That's all there is to it.

How does the IRS view barter?

If you're looking to barter as a way to beat the tax man, forget it. The IRS views barter as a taxable transaction.

But, if you're looking for additional business from sources you don't ordinarily reach ... and you want to conserve cash while procuring the things you want ... let a Barter Systems trade broker show you how to

barter what you have for what you need. It beats borrowing.



One hundred and one things businesses like yours have obtained without cash through Barter Systems International.*

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*Some items in limited supply at some times

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Situations key to your racquetball game

Racquetball is nothing if not a game of situations. Once the mechanics are mastered, improvement is most often measured mentally in how a player reacts, anticipates, improvises — how he or she produces under these situations. Remember, it is one thing to know how to hit a racquetball. It's entirely another to know when and where to hit it.

In my mind, much of situation racquetball's roots are buried in one spot: When you begin to lose control of a rally, by (a) being out of position, (b) "missing" shots, or (c) leaving the ball "up" and not hitting the proper angles.

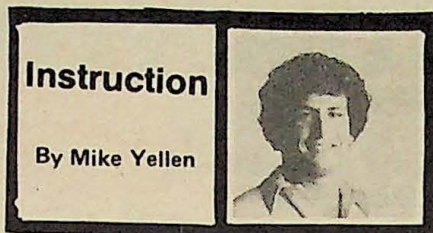
The only way to really cure this control problem is that two-syllable word common to every instructional article ever written — practice. There is no other way.

My suggestion is to practice alone for a half-hour, twice a week. No more, because you don't want to be bored. During this time, stress consistency in your shot selection, be mindful of keeping yourself and your game on balance and in control.

With that in mind, what follows is a reminder of what to do in three on-court situations — what to do when you feel balance and control slipping away.

A Very Common On-Court Situation

Opponent crowding. Everyone has experienced it. And yet not everyone knows



how to handle it. Some players call hinders, and that's fine. Other skilled players, however, turn common crowding situations into points for them. Let me explain.

Let's say you're four feet off the right side wall, right around the receiving line. Your opponent has either served or, during the course of play, has become situated just in front of you to your left. It's a tight squeeze.

You can't go cross court — it's a shot into the back of your opponent; the ceiling is silly at this point; all that's left is that hinder call. Not quite.

The really skilled player will go for the pinch shot off the near side (right) wall. Hit the ball about three-quarters up the right side wall. The ball will bounce off the front wall away from your opponent.

The same shot holds true on the other side of the court — a backhand sidewall-frontwall pinch will keep a crowding opponent on his or her toes.

A Rather Common On-Court Situation

You're receiving. The serve hits the

frustrating sucker lob, that half lob that seems to take forever to enter the backcourt.

To top it off, the server knows it's a great serve — waist high or better, hugging the side wall. As soon as it's hit, the server is already walking back off his or her serve, edging into the backcourt, tempting you to hit a low frontwall kill or bullet a pass into the backcourt.

Don't take that temptation. The serve is good, no, great! The only chance you have is to take that backhand ceiling return.

I agree this is not a complex situation, but the lesson is not in the shot you must hit. It's in the shot you must NOT hit. You've reacted and anticipated the shot properly (there really isn't much else to do but wait for the serve to come down). All you can do now is NOT improvise and try a crazy kill shot or cross-court pass. It won't work. Be patient. Go to the ceiling. Stay in control of the situation and your game.

Not So Common On-Court Situation

Your opponent is in center court. You're a bit out of position when the drive or cross-court shot catches you playing off your back foot.

There's no time to re-set your stance. It's hit it now or count the point. Since you're not Dave Peck, my Ektelon teammate, hitting off your back foot is any-

thing but a common occurrence. What do you do?

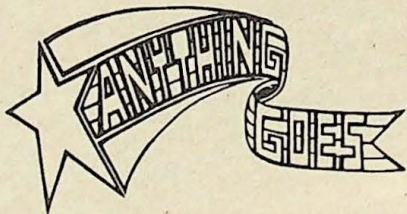
There's only one thing to do: get maximum wrist snap into your shot. And I mean max-i-mum. Really snap that wrist quickly and pivot your body with the shot to get as much forward momentum as possible.

So there you have it — situational racquetball described in three separate situations. I'd like to say you'll never have to practice what I've preached, but as I said in the beginning... racquetball is nothing if not a game of situations.

Attention Racquet Dealers

Over \$2,000 (wholesale) of Wilson and Ektelon tennis and racquetball racquet equipment for sale. BELOW wholesale. Relocated from New York State. Going out of business — liquidation. Send all inquiries to Superior Sports, 3850 Bo Tree Road, Jacksonville, FL 32210. DEALERS ONLY.

FIRST ANNUAL



SAVANNAH OPEN

LOCATION: RACQUETSOUTH
4 OGLETHORPE PROFESSIONAL BLVD.
SAVANNAH, GA 31406
912-355-3070

DATE: NOVEMBER 18, 19, 20, 1983

TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS: ALAN WEINER
KEITH BLUMBERG

TOURNAMENT BALL: PENN

ENTRY FEE: \$23.00 First Event
\$12.00 Second Event

(limited to first 175 entrants, must have 8 entrants to play a division).

Checks payable to ANYTHING GOES and mailed to host site.

ENTRY DEADLINES: Signed entry forms must be received at RACQUETSOUTH by 10:00 p.m., November 11th. All fees must accompany entry forms, however, phone entries will be taken only with VISA/MASTERCARD OR AMERICAN EXPRESS.

MATCH STARTING TIMES: Available after 6:00 p.m., Wednesday the 16th. Participants must report to the tournament desk 30 minutes prior to play. 10 minute forfeit time will be enforced. Participants entering 2 divisions may play back to back matches.

HOSPITALITY: A pizza lunch will be provided both Saturday and Sunday with Beer and Cider being poured all weekend long. Coffee and doughnuts will be provided both Saturday and Sunday mornings. Friday night passes will be available to local nightclub entertainment. Saturday night will be our big party in the TIF BREAKER LOUNGE with food and spirits for all.

TOURNAMENT RULES: AARA (modified) rules apply. 5 foot line rule in effect. Two games to 15, tiebreaker to 11. Some divisions may be combined or eliminated if there is an insufficient number of players. We reserve the right to move a player up. Novice divisions are for RacquetSouth members only. In case of disputes, the tournament directors will make the final decision.

HANDBALL: All USHA rules will apply.

LOGGING: Discount accommodations are available at DAYS INN, 114 Mall Blvd., Savannah, GA, 31406 912-352-4455. Toll free reservations 1-800-325-2525. In Atlanta 1-800-320-2000.

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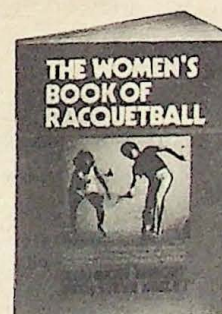
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P. O. Box 11657
Jacksonville, Florida 32211

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 Beginning Racquetball Intermediate Racquetball

Add \$1.50 for one book postage/handling. Add 50¢ for each additional book. Illinois residents add 7% sales tax. California residents add 3% sales tax.

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Letters

Sir:

Here is a little something that should fall under the heading of "Things You Like"... a positive letter.

Thank you, very much, for the opportunity to voice my opinions in the past two issues of the Florida Racquet Journal. Your unedited version of my comments concerning women racquetball players in Florida has sparked a good many "conversations" regarding the issue. It is exactly this type of stimulation that leads to change and it is, additionally, your willingness to print adverse views on certain topics that makes the Journal such a valid source of information. As the only publication representing racquetball in Florida, your performance in providing a reasonably unbiased view of the sport remains unchanged.

Especially appreciated was your support in proving the point of my letters with your coverage of the Grand Prix tournament results. The headline, two pictures on the front page, plus two and a half print columns were devoted to the men's open division players while the results of the top three winners in the women's open were condensed into one sentence. Thanks again.

Linda Mojer
Winter Park

Sir:

Caryn McKinney from Atlanta suggested that I write to you relative to the possibility of getting a subscription to the Florida Racquet Journal. We are primarily interested in being informed of the upcoming tournaments in this area so that we can improve our ability to study racquetball. We have done some high-speed filming of one or two professional racquetball players and are currently looking at the size of the forces that are transmitted into the forearm from the racquet and are interested in trying to study these forces relative to prevention of injury in the sport. In order to better be able to design our experiments and tests, it is very important that we observe some of the better racquetball players to gain an understanding of the mechanisms being used at their level in the sport.

Please let me know if we can proceed to get a subscription and what we do about it. Thank you for your cooperation.

William D. McLeod, Ph.D.
Hughston Orthopaedic Clinic, P.C.
Columbus, Georgia

(Editor's Note:

Subscriptions are \$9.95 for 12 issues. Write P. O. Box 11657, Jacksonville, FL 32239.)

Sir:

Your continuing support for "Attackwear" products has carried us through a small business' toughest year, its first. EQ Enterprises was one year old on August 9th. It has been fun and rewarding, and we thank you all!

Some of our first year acquaintances include professionals and enthusiasts alike. It has been our pleasure to meet notable people such as: Freddie Calebrese (No. 1 Florida men's player), Luke St. Onge (Director AARA), Linda Mojer (top Florida player), Norm Blum (Publisher, Florida Racquet Journal), Diane Bullard (Miami Lakes Racquet Club pro and top woman amateur), John Yates (Reverend and racquetball nut), Rhonda Wilson (Assistant Publisher, Racquetball Illustrated), Tim Foley (President of Sportrooms), Barbara Stein (racquetball friend who believed in us), Chuck Leve (E National Racquetball), and Seyrn. jr Gladstone (Manager, South Florida Racquet Club).

A special thanks to all those people who purchased Attackwear during the 24-hour Easter Seals Sportathon from which EQ Enterprises donated all proceeds to Easter Seals.

This year our first endeavor is sponsoring the 2nd Annual Childrens Home Society Benefit with the Fontainebleau Racquet Club in Ocala. Our future looks bright indeed. We look forward to offering you many new and exciting Attackwear products soon.

Dino Carlone, President
Robert Hart, Vice President
EQ Enterprises
North Miami Beach

Sir:

I just finished reading your current issue of the Florida Racquet Journal and as usual I enjoyed it very much. One article that was particularly interesting was "Gonzalez/Icaza Dominate." With quotes like "the crowd doesn't bet on who is going to win, but the number of minutes it will take" and "we may lose a game on a given day, but on a consistent basis there's no way to beat us," it seems that Sergio and Joe feel that they are invincible.

There is a tentative WPRA stop scheduled for Miami in March. If it becomes a tour event and we are in Florida, maybe Sergio and Joe would like to play a \$1,000 winner take all match against Lynn and I. We had a similar match set up against Martha and Greg McDonald in California just before the Outdoor Nationals in July, but they both came down with colds the day before the match. Maybe they would be interested in playing that match the same week we play Sergio and Joe.

If all the details can be worked out it could turn into a fun event. With some publicity, maybe tickets can be sold, with the proceeds going to the National Arthritis Foundation, which Lynn represents as a spokesperson.

Let me know if the players are interested and we will bring our stopwatches to time the match.

Jim Carson
Costa Mesa, California

(Editor's Note:

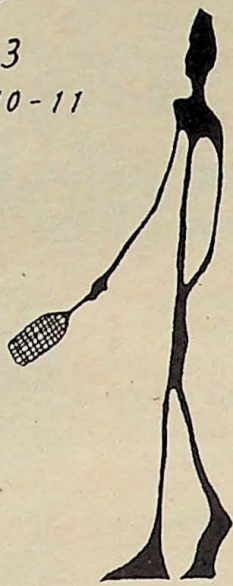
Joe Icaza accepts the challenge for himself and Sergio. Read the Journal for details.)

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1983

DEC. 9 - 10 - 11

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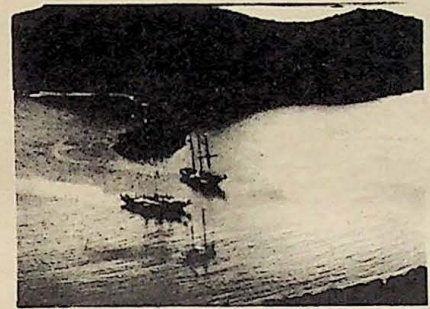
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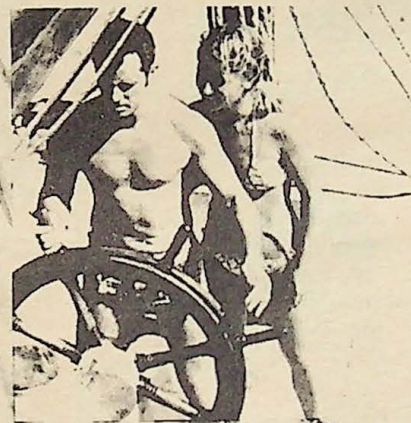
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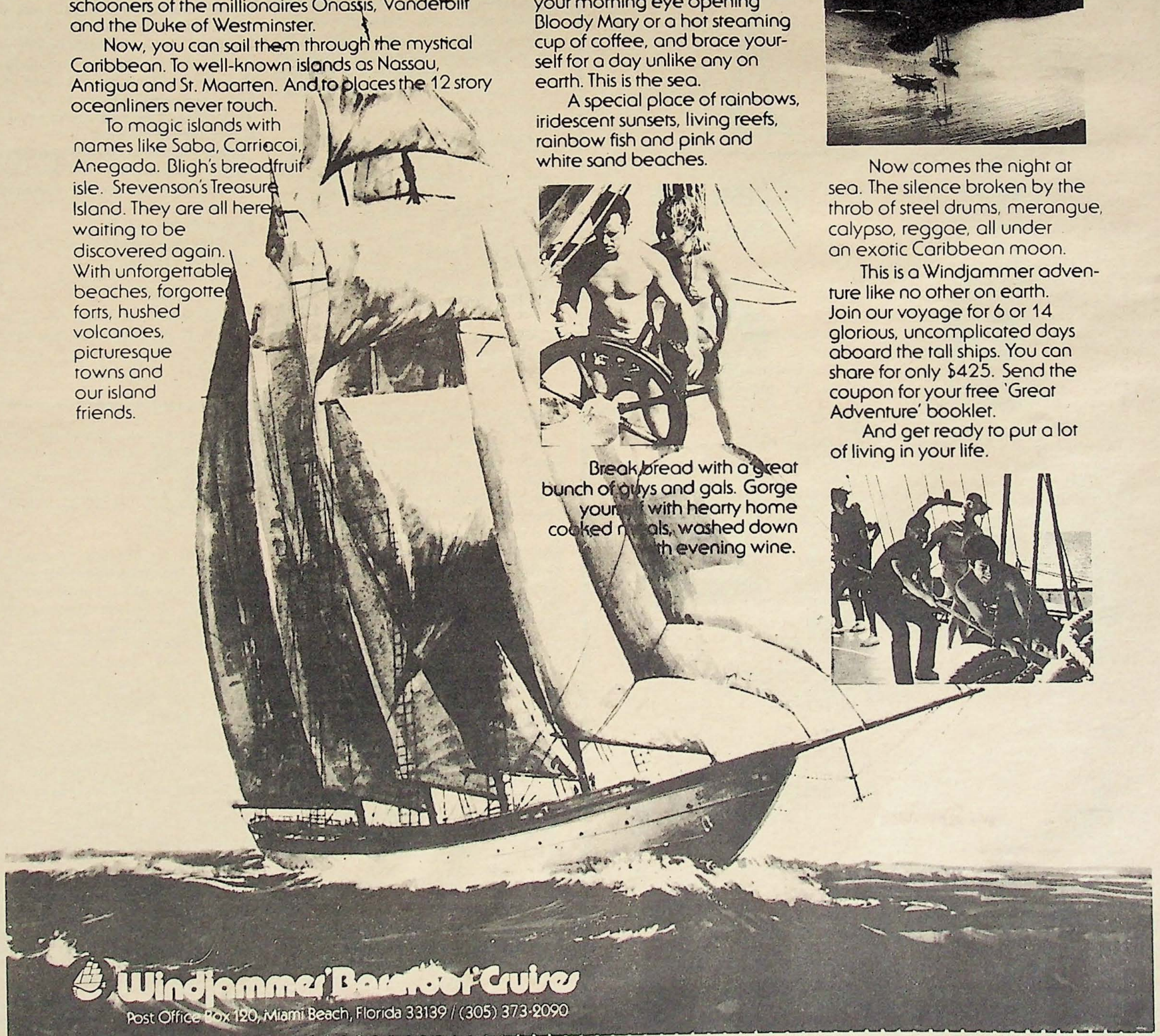
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Grand Prix ends on sour note

(Continued from page 1)

The letter, which contained several typographical errors and misspelled words, appeased most of the players. Ruedlinger said he would mail cashier checks when he received the funds from the Holiday Inn.

"Not only do I have it resolved, but Holiday Inn said they'll try to shuffle the 1984 budget around and give us more money for the Grand Prix," Ruedlinger said.

On Wednesday, October 5, Ruedlinger said he received the money from Holiday Inn and expressed excitement over the prospects of the Ocala tournament which, at that time, was expected to attract 250 people, including top open players Ruben Gonzalez and Sergio Gonzalez.

Ruedlinger said he planned to go to the Freedom Bank in Orlando and have cashier checks sent to all the players to relieve them of any doubts.

Earlier in the week, Ruedlinger went to Ocala to meet with The Fontainebleau owners to discuss the last-minute tournament details. They were aware of the bounced check situation and requested a cashier's check for their payment. Ruedlinger said it would be no problem. With the sponsors lined up and most of the tournament materials in Ocala, Ruedlinger appeared confident about the second Grand Prix stop and said "things are rolling."

On Thursday, Ruedlinger said he placed everyone's check in the mail at 4:30 p.m. "That should make everyone sleep easier," Ruedlinger said.

The next day Ruedlinger disappeared. The deadline for the Ocala tournament was Friday and the message on his answering machine instructed players to leave their names and the divisions they planned to enter.

On Friday, Ruedlinger rented a car from Enterprise Leasing in Orlando and said he was going to Ocala.

The next morning his wife, Deborah, called the Florida Racquet Journal and asked about Ruedlinger's whereabouts. She said her marriage was fine and said she was quite concerned. She said her husband had never been engaged in any wrongdoing previously, and did not mention the incident in Michigan.

Late Saturday night, Ruedlinger called his mother, who lives in Orlando, and spoke to her for less than 30 seconds. He was all right, but had to get away for a few days because he had some problems with the Holiday Inn and the bank, his mom commented.

His wife said she did not hear from him Sunday, and Florida Racquet Journal publisher Norm Blum drove to Orlando Monday to investigate the matter. The Journal did not have a key to the office, but Ruedlinger's wife left one for him.

"I listened to the messages on his machine and there were a lot of people who wanted to enter the Ocala tournament. There were also some messages from companies who wanted their bills paid. I went through his files and saw the invoice file. All the companies he said had provided sponsorship for the tournament had actually sent him bills and they were not paid for. Obviously, things were quite suspicious and I began to think the worst," Blum said.

Ruedlinger was supposed to be in Ocala Tuesday to pick up the remaining entries from the Fontainebleau. There were about 70 entries on Ruedlinger's desk and there were only three checks. How many people sent in checks or had planned to pay in Ocala is not known. At least eight players had their checks cashed

by Ruedlinger.

With Ruedlinger apparently AWOL, the Grand Prix picture became murkier. Orlando's Erroll Potter came into the office Tuesday morning and looked at the sponsor contracts for the prize money. One of the sponsors was Rob Yeager of Sullivan Real Estate. Potter knew Yeager and quickly became suspicious, saying he had serious reservations that Yeager would provide \$500 per tournament. Yeager came into the office and said the signature on the contract was not his. His driver's license signature proved the two did not match.

A call to Tommy Thompson of Freedom Bank, whose signature was on a contract, revealed the second forgery. "I haven't talked to Steve since 1977," Thompson said.

A call to Holiday Inn in Memphis prompted a similar reaction. Company officials had received a proposal from Ruedlinger, but had refused it. They said they were considering a 1984 sponsorship. Ruedlinger also said he had a sponsor who was giving \$2,000 a tournament, but wished to remain anonymous. There was no contract for the anonymous sponsor in the file.

There was no evidence that one dollar of sponsorship money had existed.

Ruedlinger bought time from his suppliers when he told them he had \$15,000 in the Pan American Bank, but that the money was being held because it came from Canada. He said it would be available October 15.

This kept the suppliers happy, but it was later discovered that the checks from the Canadian bank had also bounced because they were written from a closed account in Calgary, where Ruedlinger once worked.

The state attorney's office took an immediate interest in the case and began investigating the situation.

According to Ruedlinger's mother, Barbara, Ruedlinger left a note to Brett, his two-year-old son.

"The note said 'I did a lot of bad things and I lied to a lot of my friends, but I never lied to you. Take care of Mommy, and I'll be back to pick you up.'"

According to the sources available, Ruedlinger grossed about \$5,000 to \$6,000, but office and daily living expenses would have taken nearly all of the revenue.

The Racquet Ball, which played host to the first Grand Prix, plans to file a civil suit against Ruedlinger. "We'll explore all our legal avenues," General Manager Pete Hegener said.

Fontainebleau Manager Kathy Van Vleet expressed regrets. "The Fontainebleau is embarrassed. We're sorry it happened, and hope they find him and the players get their money back."

A Pizza Hut spokesman said the firm plans to prosecute whether or not restitution is made.

The AARA, which sanctioned the Grand Prix, also apologized. "We endorsed it and we were taken in like everyone else," said AARA state chairman Van Dubolsky.

Ektelon, which supplied the awards and balls for the Grand Prix and sold the shirts to Grand Prix Promotions, emphasized its sponsorship was not money-related.

"Needless to say I was quite upset," Ektelon's Eastern Sales Manager Gil Vierra said. "We thought the Grand Prix would be good for racquetball in Florida and good for Ektelon. Situations like this put a damper on the sport. But we're sure the quality people in racquetball will surface and rally to make it a good season in Florida."

Ruedlinger linked to other scams

Steve Ruedlinger was involved in at least two other racquetball scams, the Florida Racquet Journal has learned.

In Michigan three years ago, Ruedlinger bilked two people for \$48,000 for the purpose of investing in a racquetball club. In Calgary, Alberta, Canada, Ruedlinger disappeared after running up debts from the Calgary Catalina Grand Prix, a series of racquetball tournaments.

The Michigan incident came to light when a source told the Journal, "The Grand Prix is nothing compared to what he did in Michigan."

The caller would not provide any details. However, Ruedlinger's wife, Deborah, did confirm that Steve worked in the capacity of a club manager in Sterling Heights.

The club he worked for is an office building today, but the Journal was able to locate a former activities director who worked under Ruedlinger.

Von Cruiselightner provided the Journal with names and details of Ruedlin-

ger's caper. Ruedlinger duped two people into investing \$48,000, faked his own death and departed for Canada, only to be caught and brought to trial last May.

Dale Vergauwen and another investor



Steve Ruedlinger

gave Ruedlinger \$30,000 and \$18,000 respectively. "I was hoping I'd never hear his name again. He seemed real sincere and we talked several weeks before another gal and I gave him the money. Three weeks later he was gone."

According to newspaper reports, Ruedlinger faked his own death and then took off for Canada. An owner of a cruiser, Ruedlinger left a note aboard the boat claiming he had mechanical problems and was forced to swim ashore. He said he fired flares, but got no response. He was presumed dead and friends grieved his death and sympathized with his wife, who was pregnant at the time. "We were devastated. We couldn't believe it happened," Cruiselightner said.

The Coast Guard, however, was suspicious. "There was no residue from the flares and the boat started right away when the key was turned," a Coast Guard spokesman said. "It was quite comical and we still laugh about it today."

Ruedlinger returned to Michigan about

a week later, but there was no warrant for his arrest. He moved to Calgary, Alberta, and his wife joined him three months later. He said he was an owner of a club Calgary, but his wife said he was just a manager.

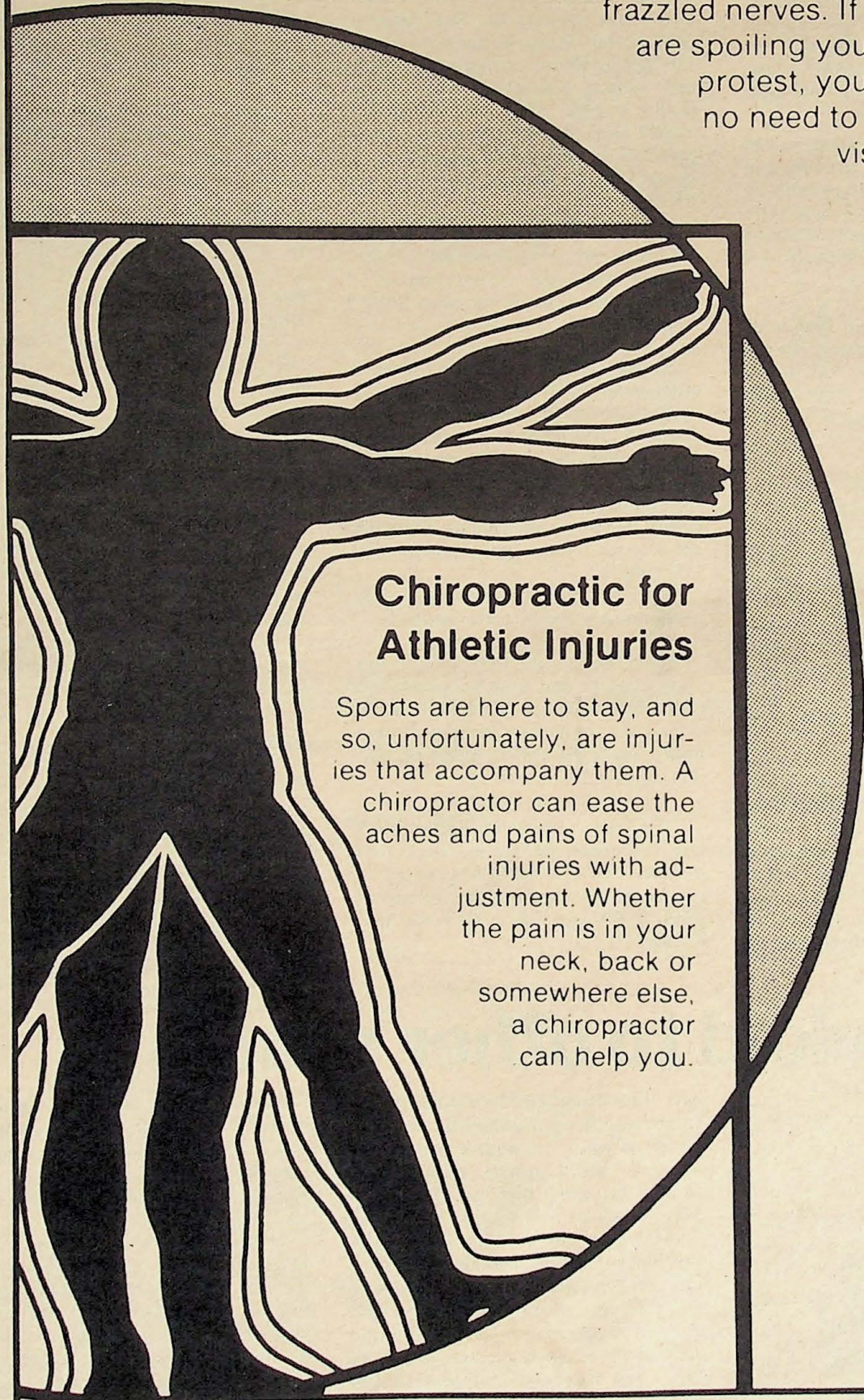
None of Ruedlinger's friends knew he left for Canada and Vergauwen discovered his whereabouts when a letter from a Calgary bank was inadvertently sent to the Michigan club. The FBI began investigating and found Ruedlinger.

His case went to court last May and the grand larceny charges were dropped in exchange for a misdemeanor and restitution of \$28,000. The sentence was deferred by Judge Kenneth Kosnic, district judge of 41A District Court of Michigan until April of 1985.

Ruedlinger is under probation to the court for two years and, "if there's no violation of the law and defendant makes restitution of \$28,000, then suspend six (Continued on page 15)

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Passing Shots

(Continued from page 1)

most unusual factor which sets it apart from almost every other club in the state is that it has the same owners and managers since it opened five years ago.

NO EXPLANATION — They were taking Monday court reservations at the Executive Fitness Center in Miami Lakes Sunday night. But when members went to the club, the door was locked and the sign said "Closed." Last month the Miami Lakes Executive Fitness Center went out of business with no explanation to its members. The closing was no real surprise, however. Last year, three blocks away, the Miami Lakes Country Club opened its plush athletic club and there just wasn't a feasible way for the Executive Fitness Center to compete.

THINGS WE LIKE — The opening of a new club in Fort Myers, wheelchair racquetball divisions in national tournaments, letters to the editor which spur action, managers who work 12-hour days, six days a week.

THINGS WE DISLIKE — Ripoffs, fraud and downright dishonesty. . . Rumors. . . Constant turnover at clubs. . . Sports columnists who put down racquetball without researching the topic. . . Balls that break after two minutes. . . People who don't wash their gloves. . . Eyeguards that fog up.

THUMBS UP — Laurels to Bodycenter Manager Jeff Leon. He's started a junior program in Fort Lauderdale that's on par

with Sarasota's. Now maybe the rest of the state can follow the example. . . Laurels to Marty Hogan. Hogan, the game's No. 1 player in the history of the sport, is paying back his dues by helping juniors. . . Laurels to Diversified Products for getting involved with the AARA on a national level.

THUMBS DOWN — Darts at Steve Ruedlinger. May he get a long jail sentence and never be allowed to pull another con job. . . Darts to clubs that don't screen their instructors. If he's charging \$15 per hour, he should be qualified.

PROS STILL IN LIMBO — Mike Yelen could have the distinction of being racquetball's last No. 1 ranked player. The men's pro tour won't be salvaged for the remainder of the year and pros are scrounging around looking for money tournaments. The players say they are now organized, but the almighty sponsor remains elusive. "We just have a bunch of meetings, but nothing happens," says 32-year-old Ruben Gonzalez, who really can't wait much longer.

POTPOURRI — The Sportrooms has received a big boost from the latest Southern Bell Yellow Pages advertising TV blitz. The advertising theme centers on former sports stars with successful businesses who use the Yellow Pages. Former Miami Dolphins great Tim Foley, general manager of the Sportrooms, is featured in a 30-second spot. . . With the

picture of Marty Hogan reading last month's Journal, the top five players among men and women are now faithful readers. . . Running a league isn't easy and at times activities directors deserve combat fees. One director made the god-awful mistake of scheduling the same team on a court without glass two weeks in a row and created a near revolution. . . Hey, court builders, shorten the ledge so people under six feet can watch a match without a step ladder. . . Don't you play better when you wear an outfit that is

coordinated? . . . Update on the Pripps Plus/Gatorade war: A sampling reveals 60 percent of the people who buy Pripps are repeat buyers. Gatorade, however, is hardly flinching, especially after the excellent reception its new fruit punch drink has received. . . Clubs ban folks with black-soled shoes. How 'bout banning people who wear shoes with grass stains? They just look awful. . . Can't stomach opponents who don't give you enough respect to take off their warm-up suits.

Calendar

- * Nov. 5-7 — Omega 40, Ormond Beach
 - * Nov. 11-13 — Auburndale Rec. Center, Auburndale
 - * Nov. 11-13 — The Place (JRC), Jacksonville
 - * Nov. 18-20 — The Club, Orlando
 - * Dec. 9-11 — Holiday Courtrooms, Ft. Lauderdale
 - * Dec. 9-11 — Suncoast Courthouse, Clearwater
 - * Jan. 6-8 — The Quadrangle, Coral Springs
 - * Jan. 6-8 — Sarasota Bath & Racquet
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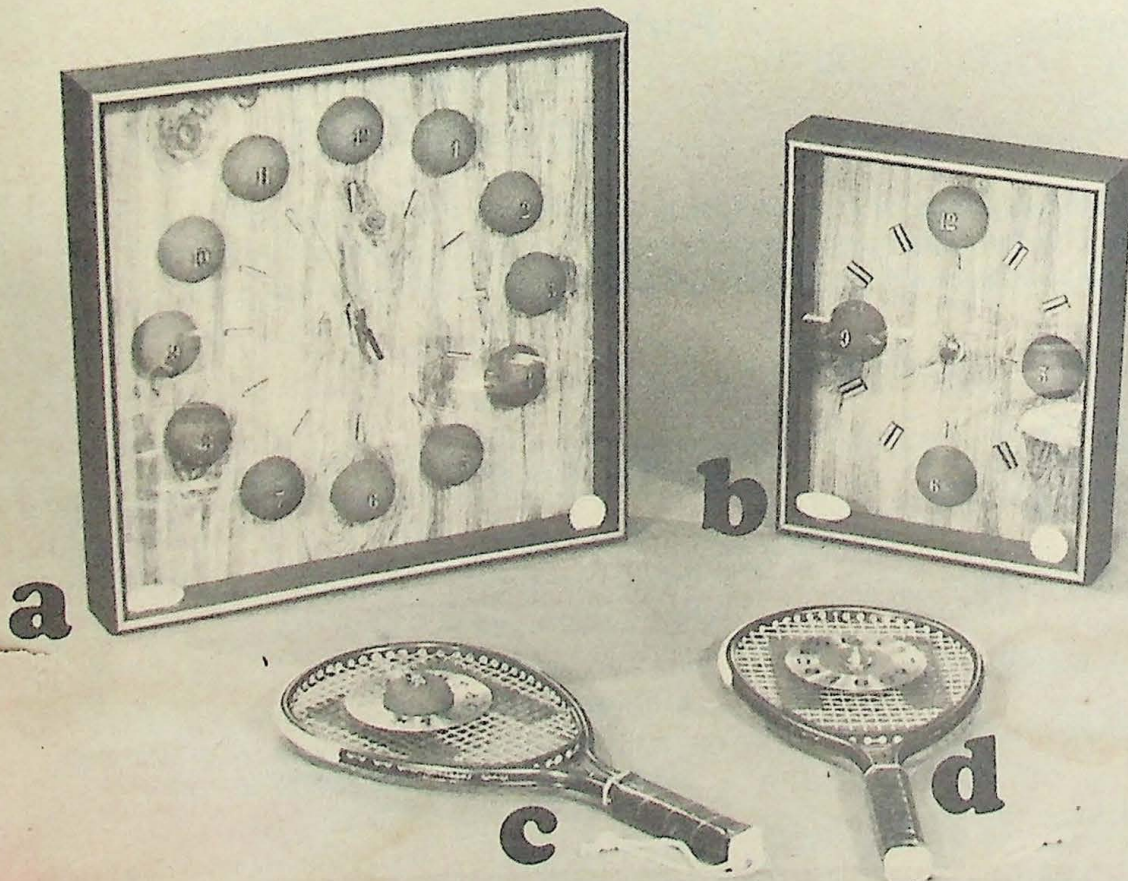
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Ruedlinger linked to other scams

(Continued from page 11)

months in jail with costs of \$300," the court document reads.

The state attorney's office in Orlando has forwarded its findings from the Grand Prix to Judge Kosnic. Michigan prosecuting state attorney Paul Cassidy said Ruedlinger could have been sentenced to 10 years, but the investors would not have received any restitution.

"I gave the investors the options. One, they could throw the book at him and probably not get any money or have the charges lowered and get some form of restitution. It's unbelievable how he would be doing something illegal right after the sentencing."

Vergauwen, who feels bad about the Florida situation, felt he didn't have much choice. "I didn't have much leverage. I figured my best bet was restitution. I feel sick about the whole thing."

How did Ruedlinger get in the position to lure the investors?

Ruedlinger sub-leased the club from the Hall Group, which leased it from the original owners, by placing a \$10,000 security deposit.

"We weren't given a choice on who would run the place," one of the original owners said. "When we got the club back it was a shambles and we tried turning it around, but finally converted it into an

office building."

A spokesman from the Hall Group couldn't speculate on how Ruedlinger came up with the \$10,000. "He leased the club from us. We were the landlord. One day he disappeared and it turns out he had written a lot of bad checks including one to us for the rent. At the same time he was leasing another club from us and put down a \$25,000 deposit. He was there about three weeks before he left.

He was a real charmer and we thought he was legitimate. But in reality he was a con artist and has taken advantage of a lot of companies and individuals. I guess we can only hope that he is found and put away so he can't do it to someone else. That's all we can ask, isn't it?"

The Canadian scam involving Ruedlinger was revealed to the Florida Racquet Journal just prior to the publication's deadline.

Details are sketchy at this point, but it's apparent Ruedlinger ran the Calgary Catalina Grand Prix although Catalina never provided the sponsorship funds as he had led players to believe.

"He disappeared from Calgary when the bills from Catalina came in. He had a lot of guts to do what he did in this country. If there's anything I can do, I'll help put this guy away," said Cliff Hendrickson, Calgary's top player.

Let's not despair

AARA Reaction

To the Florida racquetball public:

For the past 12 years I have dedicated myself to the promotion of amateur racquetball in the state of Florida. Part of this commitment has included serving as an AARA State Director with a portion of my job being to sanction (or not sanction) racquetball tournaments.

I believed in the idea of (and supported with sanctioning) the establishment of

the Grand Prix Circuit in this state. But the recent tragic turn of events has been a tremendous setback. I'm still in a state of disbelief. One of the worst aspects of the story is the fact that someone would take advantage of the Florida racquetball public in this way. I have been involved with racquetball for over 17 years and I consider Florida club owners, managers, players and families to be the finest in the United States. Overall, we are a courteous, hospitable, socially active, trusting lot. The saddest part of it all has been the violation of that trust.

The "Grand Plan" of the Grand Prix seemed to promote Florida racquetball. I

still believe in that potential and I hope something like it does come to pass someday. Meanwhile, we will all continue forward, a little sadder, a bit poorer, but much wiser. Racquetball in Florida will survive this Grand Prix; it's too strong not to.

Sincerely,
Van Dubolsky

P. S. The 35 players who joined the AARA at the first Grand Prix will receive their memberships even though that money was not recovered.

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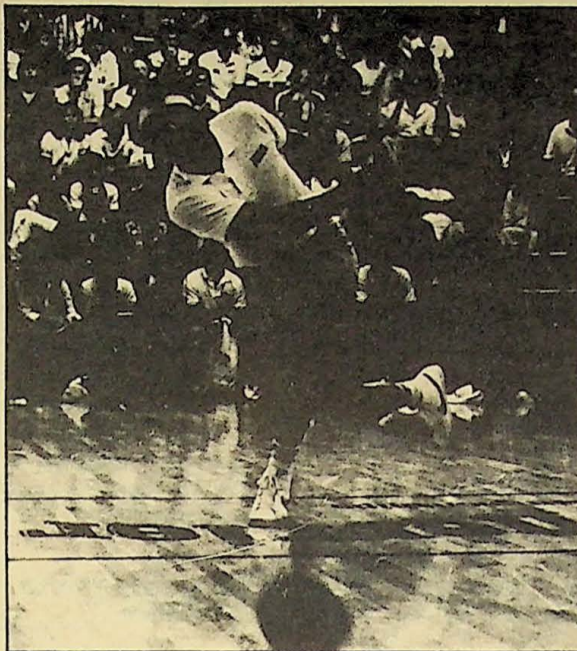
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