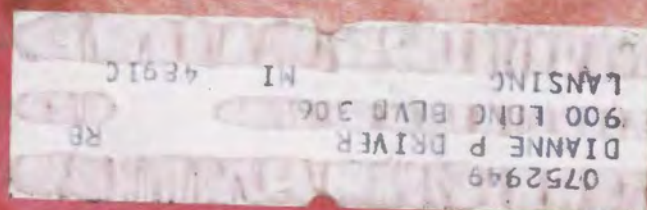


National Racquetball®

Vol. 9 No. 9
September, 1980
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On the Cover . . .

An admitted exercise nut and owner of one of TV's most recognizable faces, Michael Landon would be any manager's dream celebrity at the opening of a racquetball club. Landon played that role for his buddy, Jay Jones, when Jones and Jay Eller premiered a pair of Raintree clubs in California. Turn to page 16 for Kris Gilmore's story.

— Peter Bosari photo

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More racquetball news in a smaller space is what you're getting starting with this August issue of *National Racquetball*.

National Racquetball's newer, smaller body type size compacts our stories into fewer pages which makes it easier to keep up with rising costs of paper and postage. We pass this savings onto you by avoiding a subscription increase.

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National Racquetball Magazine is the official publication of the United States Racquetball Association and is published monthly by the National Racquetball Club, Inc. and Community Builders, Inc.

4101 Dempster Street, Skokie, Illinois 60076, (312) 673-4000. *National Racquetball* • (ISSN 0161-7966)

President and Publisher • Robert W. Kendler

National Racquetball Club Director • Dan Bertolucci

U.S. Racquetball Association Director • Bob Keenan

Design Director/Production Manager • Milton W. Presler

Managing Editor • Carol Brusslan . . . East Coast Editor • Dick Squires

Circulation Manager • Kip Fancher . . . Circulation Administrator • Jack Kendler

Photographic Consultant • Arthur Shay

Advertising information requests should be addressed to

Joseph Ardito, Business Manager, *National Racquetball* magazine,

4101 Dempster Street, Skokie, Illinois 60076. Copy subject to approval of the publisher.

All editorial communications should be addressed to the Editor *National Racquetball* Magazine, 4101 Dempster Street, Skokie, Illinois 60076. Manuscripts must be typewritten and double spaced. Color and black and white photographs are welcomed. Please enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope for return of manuscripts and photos.

Subscriptions are \$12 for one (1) year. Rates are for U.S., possessions and military.

Canadians must send U.S. money order.

Foreign subscriptions are \$12 per year plus postage. Second class postage paid at Skokie, Illinois and at additional mailing office. Postmaster send form 3579 to *National Racquetball*, 4101 Dempster Street, Skokie, Illinois 60076.

(Please allow 6 to 8 weeks between the time subscription form is mailed and receipt of first issue.)

Printed by Photopress Incorporated, Broadview, Illinois 60153.

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Opinions

From Bob Kendler



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Let me tell you "why" the Assassin. There are almost as many balls on the market as there are pros. Every one is different. Some are lightning fast and some as slow as a tomato. All of them have a particular appeal to a small segment of the market. The Assassin is different. You can play it slow or you can play it fast. This makes it ideal for the whole family.

And there's a big surprise. Do you know you can slide, or hook or drop the Assassin? That you can apply "English" (spin) to the ball, introducing a new dimension to the game?

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Evie & Bob Kendler

Evie and Bob Kendler

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From the National Commissioner



Congratulations W.P.R.A.

June 19-22 the Women's Professional Racquetball Association staged their first annual National Women's Pro-Am Championships.

I am happy to report that it was a very successful event, with Heather McKay beating Shannon Wright in the finals. One match was of special interest to us at the USRA because our 1980 National Veteran Open winner, Camille McCarthy, beat our 1980 National Senior women's winner, Sue Carow.



Carole George Charfauros, a frequent National Racquetball contributor, won the Open division in the W.P.R.A. National Championships.

Of course the women couldn't miss with so many good racquetball people pulling for them. And it was a wise choice when they decided on the Killshot Racquetball Club in Bloomingdale, IL as host of their historical tournament. The owners of the Killshot are among the most cooperative and successful club owners in the country.

This tournament helped the world know about racquetball. So hats off to the women, the ones who prove that racquetball is a great family sport. ●

Joe Ardito

Joe Ardito

From the NRC National Director

Twelve NRC Tour Stops — More May Follow

It's our intention at the NRC/USRA to keep our members as well informed as possible about pro-am tour news and programs, new ideas and policy. When you need to know about racquetball, turn to the single most authoritative source. This month and in succeeding months look for Bob Kendler's comments, Joe Ardito's and mine, in this section of *National Racquetball* for an accurate report of our sport.

For openers we're announcing a 36 month tour, which for the first time affords playing professionals an opportunity to make long term career plans. The first of these tournaments took place Aug. 27-31 at King's Court, Westminster, CA.

This season's tour will reflect the continued support of virtually all previous NRC tour sponsors, and a few new ones should be added by season's end. With the Bank of Newport, Kunnan, Leach, Seamco, Coors, Catalina, Coca Cola, Diversified Products and Wagner's Thirst Quencher, this year's tour will be again the richest and most prestigious.

Late September will feature the first of three Grand Prix events sponsored by Coors. Our brewing friends have opted to sponsor two additional events in 1981 starting with a Jan. 14-18 qualifier for the Coors Series final May 6-10. Specific details for qualification as well as sites and remaining dates will be featured in October. Coors' involvement in racquetball continues to be one of the sponsorship highlights of the industry with the pro tour.

Welcoming back Keith Mahaney and the Holiday Health & Racquet Club Racquetball Classic in Bangor, ME is a pleasure. Oct. 15-19 are dates for what we're sure will prove again to be a most memorable tournament experience.

Nov. 18-23 the racquetball world will watch one of two prestigious tournaments — either the Robert W. Kendler or the Seamco Racquetball classic, each one showcasing top amateur and professional play. Awaiting final confirmation our next issue will feature sites for these two events.

William B. Tanner and Coca Cola will host the Memphis tournament with tentative Dec. 10-14 dates. We expect a repeat of last year's outstanding Tanner/Coca Cola event. January will feature two competitions, the first one being the Coors Grand Prix II Series January event, and the

second what has become truly a classic event, now in its third year — the Kunnan/Leach Tournament of Champions Jan. 28-Feb. 1, 1980. This year's Tournament of Champions will feature top flight amateur contestants, and will highlight the 1979-80 NRC tour top eight ranked professionals as of the Las Vegas Championships — along with the 1980 USRA Men's Open winner, the 1980 Canadian Open winner and two at-large sponsor choices. This unique format allows the finest in racquetball to vie for a purse which is only exceeded by the Nationals.

Long awaited by our island friends, who have for the last six years faithfully attended each one of our National Championships (and have done rather well, at that) will be a Feb. 18-22 pro-am tour event in Honolulu, HI open to anyone who just might like to escape that weekend to the sun and excitement.

Catalina sportswear will again sponsor their Catalina Racquetball Classic March 18-22, 1981. Marking their third year of participation with the NRC Catalina displays a support of pro and amateur sport that makes Americans stronger and healthier. Thanks again, Catalina. Site information will appear in the October issue.

April 6-10 will accommodate either the Seamco Racquetball Classic or the RWK event, depending on which one occurs in November. This brings us to the May 6-10 finals of the Coors Grand Prix Series, fitting preview to the 1981 National Championships June 6-13. The two sites will be announced as soon as final decisions are made. A great deal of consideration is going into the 1981 Nationals. The NRC has yet to make a final decision, but as soon as one is made it will be announced in *National Racquetball* magazine.

Players, spectators, and sponsors are cautioned that some of these sites and dates mentioned above are tentative. As each is confirmed the news will appear right here.

The NRC hopes whenever possible to print all entries to the varied NRC Pro-Am tour events. For any additional information on how to obtain entry forms or tickets or to ask any other questions of the 1980-81 tour contact the NRC.

You can see there will be a lot of action — and we're still not finished. Talks are going on right now for an additional two tour events for early spring along with our USRA regionals April 2-5, 1981, and some additional invitational competition. ●

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From our Readers



Inevitable

Dear Marty Hogan:

Who shot J.R.?

Donna Macaskill
Norwood, MA

Have you ever seen Hogan's bullet? ED

Eyeguard Rule Objection

Dear Editor:

I am presently playing in an in-club tournament. On the application, as on all applications for tournaments, there was a statement, "eyeguards must be worn." I have participated in three other tournaments (USRA and NRC) and the wearing of eyeguards was not enforced. I do not wear eyeguards. I cannot find a comfortable pair. Neither do I wear a glove. They don't fit properly and do nothing to improve my game. My thumb is calloused, but that is my decision. It should also be my decision not to wear eyeguards. The club is not held responsible for any injuries incurred on the court.

The referees were instructed not to permit a game to start unless both players were wearing eyeguards. If a participant refused to wear these obstacles, they forfeited the game. Is a club permitted to enforce such a rule on a player? If so how long will it be before a helmet is forced upon us? Many good players lost many points because of this dictatorship attitude.

I think if a person is old enough to pay a membership, court time, and any tournament fees, that person is old enough to make a decision about wearing or not wearing any protective equipment available to him or her without any intimidation or threats of forfeiting games.

D. Mitchell
Lynn, MA

A tournament director is free to set up requirements. The USRA strongly recommends eyeguards, and many players who have experienced or witnessed the horror of eye injuries wouldn't play without the protection. ED

Eyeguard Advice

Gentlemen:

For the past several issues *National Racquetball* has emphasized eye protection at all levels of play with a grand finale in the May issue. I think this is excellent. If at all possible, why doesn't your magazine compile a list of available eye protective devices, their manufacturer, where available, costs, etc.?

John C. Taylor
Miles City, MT

In March of 1979 National Racquetball ran photos of seven eyeguard products made by companies that answered our request for information. We will survey companies again and will list products as a reader service. In the meantime check ads in National Racquetball for the latest equipment available at pro shops, sporting goods stores and opticians. ED

Bad Elbow

I am 52, not in bad shape physically, and an avid racquetball player. After almost a year of hard play, however, I developed tendonitis—tennis (or should I say racquetball) elbow. I now wear a tendonitis band on my forearm, unload my right arm whenever I can and play lefty when the competition is not good. Once a week, though, I play my regular, very competitive group, and I need my good right arm. I can play very hard and seldom notice the tendonitis at all after the first few shots. The next day it is painful again, and I seem to stay in this rut—no worse than last week, but no better. The last thing I want is to quit playing.

You've had excellent articles on physical problems (like the one on back injuries) by highly qualified doctors who also know racquetball. Since tendonitis appears to be a fairly widespread problem, perhaps you can give your readers some information about the causes, care and cure of tendonitis.

I am groping for anything that will help, but I'm unwilling to take advice except from good authority. Thus my appeal to you—the seat of all racquetball knowledge.

George P. Scheuerlein
Stonybrook, NY

Hope you saw National Racquetball's August review of The Tennis and Racquetball Players Self Guide to Injury-Free Fun, a book that deals with racquetball elbow. Also watch for more National Racquetball stories on this nagging injury you share with so many players. ED

Cheers for Pat Schmidt

Dear Editor:

Hear! Hear! Marilyn Ruby's May, 1980, feature article on Pat Schmidt was great! My wife and I have known Pat for nearly six years and would agree with the statement describing her as a "special kind of racquetball player." She is an excellent athlete, gracious winner, good loser and a fine example for anyone who sets high standards for themselves. And as former "racquetball residents" of that great northland known as Wisconsin we congratulate Bob Keenan and the Wisconsin USRA for their choice of Pat as the "Player of the Decade."

Thank you for your article on "a special kind of person." Keep up the good work!

Sue and Mike Dunn
Carbondale, IL

Over 50 Blast

Dear Bob Kendler:

I am a female over 50 years of age and into racquetball, class C and I love it.

Recently I entered two tournaments at the Celebrity Club in Warwick, RI, and since I was the only one enrolled in my class, they scratched it and I competed in the younger age group. I have no problem with this, as I still enjoy it, but I think if I could play women closer to my age, my game would really be a blast.

Do you have any suggestions about where I can find such competition?

Esther A. Reali
Cranston, RI

More age groups for both men and women are added each year to USRA competitions. This year our Nationals offered Women's divisions through the 55 plus age group, and our Regionals did the same. If you want those divisions to go, encourage other women your age to compete. ED

French Connection

Dear Sir:

I am moving to France and am seeking the address of court clubs, especially in France. Do you have a list?

Rusty W. Rischuk
Winnipeg, Manitoba

National Racquetball's list of places to play in Europe appeared in the July, 1980, Opinions section in answer to a reader's letter. In France there's a combination squash-racquetball court at Squash Front de Seine, 21, rue Gaston de Caillavet, 75015 Paris. The phone is 575.35.37. ED

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Semis Winners:

William Hamilton ...

Dear Ms. Brusslan:

I must regretfully inform you that the results of the Men's B division of the Catalina Classic East (April 30-May 3) were erroneously reported in the July issue of *National Racquetball*. William Hamilton in fact defeated Bruce Hawk 13-21, 21-16, 11-5, in the semi-finals and was defeated by Simpson in the finals 21-9 and 21-17.

We enjoy your excellent magazine very much—all of it! In the July issue the piece on coaching kids in the sport was of special interest to my family, and I personally always appreciate the adequate (and not token) coverage of women in the sport.

Carol D. Hamilton
Martinez, GA

... And Ron Clark

Dear Sir:

This letter has three purposes. First let me express the elatedness of reading your publication monthly. I am an avid reader because your magazine is quite informative.

Second I have seen many featured stories written about various subjects and individuals, but I cannot recall reading any written on those gallant individuals who call all of the pro matches. After attending three pro stops I can see that the professional referees are worth 10 times their weight in petroleum. How about a featured story on Larry Lee, Dan Bertolucci, et al.?

Third in your July, 1980, issue listing results of the Catalina Classic East in Atlanta you mentioned in the Men's Senior division that Ron Clark defeated Marshall Chamberlain. In the semi-finals and final matches you re-entered Mr. Chamberlain. It is rare that I reach the finals and more infrequent that my name appears in print, so it would be appreciated if those individuals in charge of this task would scrutinize the results a little closer. For the record Ron Clark defeated Ron Scallion and was defeated in the finals by Jamie Carr.

Ron Clark
Savannah, GA

Praise (and Blame) the Printout

Dear Sir:

I would like information for a college term paper on how your racquetball association uses computers. By the way your magazine is excellent. It has proved to be an invaluable tool in the improvement of my game.

Gloria Z. Rias
Frenchtown, NJ

Computers produce the labels and lists that get magazines to subscribers, and they're what we blame if the magazines don't arrive. Computers also give us our current pro rankings, and some states use computers to rank amateurs, as well. ED

Puzzling

Dear Mr. Ardito:

Please find attached a mountain I recently made from a molehill. It started with me doodling with racquetball names one evening and ended as the project you have before you. The more names I came up with, the more interested I became in finding bits of trivia about each of them. Almost all of the information came from past *National Racquetball* issues or from the programs you recently mailed to me which are distributed at each pro stop.

When I had finished my crossword puzzle, it occurred to me that some of the other *National Racquetball* readers may also find it interesting.

I might add that I especially enjoy the articles and interviews with some of the pros. It's nice to know they have likes and dislikes, ups and downs, quirks and idiosyncrasies just like the rest of us duffers.

Dick Emmons
Vernon Hills, IL

See page 24 for Dick Emmons' challenging and entertaining puzzle. ED

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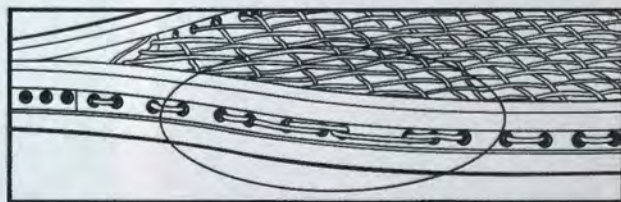
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THE NEW PACER

Racquetball on the Prairie

— Peter Bosari photos



Michael Landon, star of the NBC hit *Little House on the Prairie*, was recently a guest on the *Tonight Show*.

"Why don't you ever invite me over to play tennis at your house?" Landon asked Johnny Carson. "After all we've been neighbors for some time now."

"I'd love to, but we work different hours," Carson said.

"Well, if you're not going to invite me to your house for tennis, then I guess you'll have to come over to mine for golf."

"Golf? You have a golf course?"

"Of course. And Johnny, if you can't make it during the day, pop over at night. We have lights."

The golf course doesn't really exist on Landon's eight and a half acre Beverly Hills estate. But in a few weeks he could invite Johnny over for a game of racquetball.

Landon decided to have a private court built following his first racquetball match.

"It's a fantastic sport and I wish I had played it sooner," he says. "You get a good workout in a short amount of time and even a beginner like myself looks good."

Landon first was introduced to racquetball when he starred as Little Joe Cartwright on *Bonanza*.



It's Michael

by Kris Gilmore

Led by Jones and Eller

Two associates of Landon's at that time were racquetball enthusiasts. Jay Jones, later the winner of the 1974 Nationals, was a stuntman whose horseback and whip cracking specialties were often required on the set. Landon's business manager, Jay Eller, played racquetball two or three times a week.

Eller and Jones met during the filming of a

Bonanza segment in 1969 and discovered they each played "a little" racquetball and scheduled a match.

"The first time we played I dominated the game," Eller says. "Six months later we played again and Jay was much better. The third time we played it was all I could do to stay in the game."

Jones began his racquetball career about 10 years ago, when television was down-playing violence and consequently had less and less need for Jay's talents as a stuntman.

Landon's Game

Raintree Owner Jay Jones, 1974 National Champ, introduced Michael Landon to racquetball when the TV star played Little Joe Cartwright on Bonanza, the show on which Jones was a stuntman.



Mike Jr. joins his famous father at the Raintree opening.



"My work load was reduced and I found myself drinking margaritas every day," he says. "I had to get back in shape and took up racquetball with a vengeance."

Landon, through Jones and Eller, began hearing about racquetball from all sides and his curiosity was aroused. The longtime tennis player was intrigued by the similarity of the sports and impressed with racquetball when he watched the pros at an NRC tour stop.

"Racquetball stirs up your adrenalin much more than tennis. The match I watched was very emotional," he said. "But when you're confined in a small space and you're diving and throwing yourself on the floor, conduct is not going to remain as polite as on the tennis court."

"The two sports have different backgrounds. Racquetball was first a participant sport and only in the last few years with the new glass courts has it gained spectator appeal. Tennis, on the

other hand, was first played in long pants and floor length dresses. It has a history of etiquette attached to it."

Landon has always been involved in athletics and was a top athlete before he became a successful actor.

Eugene Orowitz (Michael Landon was later pulled from a Los Angeles phone directory) was a high school track star in his native Collingswood, NJ and in 1954 established an AAU record of 211 feet for the javelin.

Celebrity Boost at Raintree

"I was a skinny, scrawny kid weighing only 125 pounds," Landon says. "Although I was small, I became the best at what I did. The javelin was a security blanket for me."

Glue Melter

The AAU record earned Landon a scholarship to USC, but his promising athletic career was shortlived when a torn ligament in his throwing arm forced him to quit school his freshman year and look for work.

A variety of jobs including process server, blanket salesman, car washer and even glue-melter in a ribbon factory followed.

While working in a warehouse Landon stumbled into an acting career when a fellow worker practicing for an audition asked him to read the other half of the script. Landon enjoyed the task and began studying drama.

Within three years of his initial theatre work Landon was signed for *Bonanza*.

Now he heads a *Little House on the Prairie* crew of 120 ("There are only four people in the Screen Actors Guild in Los Angeles who are not on our show . . ."), and athletics is one ingredient for the series' success.

Landon not only stars as Charles Ingalls on the show but he also produces, directs and writes most of the segments. He has as high expectations of his crew as he does for himself.

"Michael is one of the most respected people in the industry and his people really work for him," Jones says. "The *Little House* set is one of the most relaxed, smooth running operations there is."

Recreation is one device Landon employs to balance the demands of a heavy work load for his crew and himself.

If a young star repeatedly has trouble with lines and Landon senses his frustration, an impromptu ping pong match may ensue, or if the cast is on location in Sonora, CA in the High Sierras, out come the horseshoes.

"We also have a *Little House* baseball team," Landon says.

This season Landon built a gym in a warehouse adjacent to the *Little House* set, and the crew often works out there between takes, during lunch and after hours.

"Exercise — whether it be racquetball, weights or just a game of ping pong — is essential for a person's well being," Landon says. "Even with a full schedule, I make time for recreation. I can accomplish more in the long run." ●

Jones and Former Playmate Sharon Johansen stand by as the superstar answers questions.



When Raintree Fitness Centers in Fresno and Clovis, CA completed a \$125,000 renovation project earlier this year, they marked the opening of the expanded clubs with a "Michael Landon Day" promotion.

Landon, star of NBC's *Little House on the Prairie*, was invited to appear at the grand opening by the club's two owners, Jay Jones and Jay Eller, personal friends of Landon's.

It was a big day in the farm belt cities of Fresno and nearby Clovis. ("We don't see too many movie stars in Clovis," said one young area resident.)

Landon, on vacation from filming the *Little House* series, flew to Fresno with his son, Mike, for the event.

Scores of autograph seekers stood at the airport waiting for the arrival of Landon's Lear jet. Upon arrival the actor was escorted by limousine to the Fresno Raintree where hundreds of fans waited to greet him. Later in the day there were thousands of admirers waiting to meet the producer-writer-actor-director at the Clovis club.

At both clubs Landon had mail waiting — numerous fan letters and one television script for his review.

The script didn't receive his immediate attention as Landon was led through a tight schedule which included exhibition matches with Jones ("Please, Jay, remember I'm a beginner. Don't make me look too bad!"), trophy presentations, television and newspaper interviews, filming of Raintree commercials with club members and question and answer segments with community residents.

"Yes. Laura Ingalls will marry Almanzo Wilder next year."

"No. Mary will not regain her sight."

"Yes, it's true. My first starring role was in *I Was A Teenage Werewolf* for which I won the annual Lassie award and the S.P.C.A. award."

"Yes I do play racquetball and work out as much as possible. We all should. You feel great and look better when you exercise."



Landon was escorted through the club by Jones and tried out much of the equipment. Each club features 28 racquetball courts and Nautilus equipment. ("I'd better switch to another machine now," Landon said. "My shoulders are getting too big.")

The renovation project added two swimming pools, new pro shops, glass exhibition courts and brick fireplaces to the clubs' lounge areas, updated with brick and lattice wall treatments.

"We wanted to create a poor man's country club," Jones said. "It's now the type of place where our members can come to exercise or just socialize."

"There wasn't anything like Raintree in the Fresno area, which is one of the wealthiest areas of California. Fresno is one of the 10 fastest growing cities in the state and it made a lot of sense to us to build a racquetball center here rather than a metropolis like Los Angeles which is saturated with health and fitness facilities."

The Raintree grand openings lasted all day with additional activities scheduled around Landon's itinerary.

Former Playboy Playmate Sharon Johansen demonstrated the use of the club's weight equipment. "I'm a firm believer in weights for women," she said. "And racquetball is great exercise which gives you about three times more of a workout than tennis for the same amount of time played."

Johansen, 29, was featured last year in *Playboy's* 25th anniversary issue which presented the all-time favorite Playmates. Now an aspiring actress Johansen has appeared in the motion picture *The Jerk* and on the television series *Columbo* and *Flying High*.

Local sportscasters and sportswriters competed in a cutthroat racquetball match at the grand opening while body builders modeled their physiques and explained their conditioning routines to prospective club members outside the entrance to the facility.

Raintree Club manager Jack Wender, a long time Fresno resident and former Tampa Bay Buccaneer, escorted many of the visitors around the club.

"Our membership is skyrocketing," he said. ●

— Kris Gilmore

Landon builds muscles in a Raintree commercial he makes for airing in the Clovis and Fresno areas.

No Upper Limit to This Masters Club

by Lou Kaplan

Dan Kliegman, who retired early from his job running a large New York city tire company, is the founder and guiding light of the Masters Racquetball Club of North Miami Beach, which he organized last fall.

Kliegman, in his 50s, is a handsome, imperturbable, smoothly muscled man who's always smiling. He conceived the idea of the club for a group of guys who've played racquetball on the outdoor three wall courts of the north Miami Beach Recreation Center two evenings and two mornings a week for the past six years.

After the boys approved the idea at a meeting in a local restaurant, Kliegman printed application blanks and suggested a \$5 initiation fee and \$8 monthly dues to further club activities. Meetings would be held monthly, with elected officers, sponsored tournaments and trophies four times a year, uniforms, clinics and social events. This would be the first such club in south Florida.

The club is made up presently of 24 members between the ages of 40 and 65. There is, however, no upper limit. The players are of fairly high caliber, thus teams are evenly matched. The men are from all walks of life — businessmen, brokers, executives, retailers, teachers and active retirees. All of them played handball and paddleball in the past, were and are people who are interested in sports and having fun while they play racquetball. It is interesting to note that some of the men have had heart attacks and are able to play, with the doctor's permission, of course.

Lefty Goldberg is a former handball champ of the Bucaneers Club from the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn. He was also the two-sewer punchball champ! Ronnie Sheffron played paddleball for 16 years in Brooklyn, shoveling snow to clear the courts. Jack Feibus was a singles handball champ of the YMHA and YMCA in Scranton, PA, when he was 18 years old. He doesn't want to say how long ago that was. Sal Alaimo played professional baseball and knew Carl Hubbell. Jim Maynard lends a touch of southern class to the group with his deep Georgia drawl.

Dan is enthusiastic about how well the club has worked out and the future plans for the group. The success of the club has stirred up interest in the area and a group of players from south Dade County have asked him for help in forming a similar club. Clinics for player improvement will

Dan Kliegman



The Masters play a lot of doubles.



be held with experts, local and national, to be invited. Other clubs will be contacted for tournament competition. Social events — dinners, dances, theater, parties — are in the works. It is very important to get the women involved so that they do not become racquetball widows — and they are involved. They come down to watch their husbands play and will be active in planning and running the social events.

To form such a club Kliegman says "Basically all you need is one dedicated guy to take the initiative, talk up the concept, call a meeting, put the proposal



Former Baseball Pro Sal Alaimo is a Masters Club regular.

on the table, vote yea or nay and if yea, you're in business. Make up formal application blanks, set up regular monthly meetings, collect dues, arrange for tournaments, social events, clinics and keep pressure on to insure that the club doesn't fold."

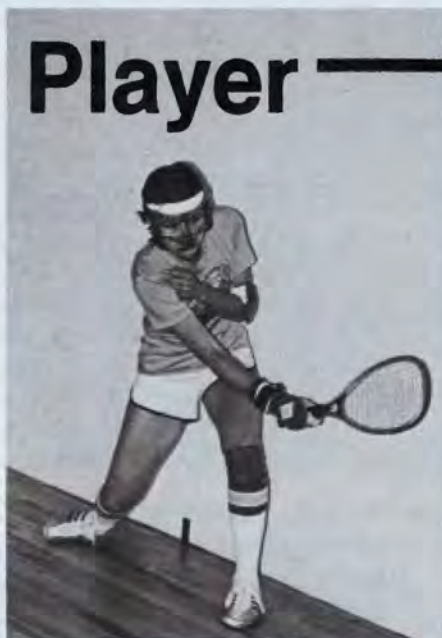
He welcomes all inquiries about how to form clubs similar to the Masters Racquetball Club of North Miami Beach.

Kliegman's address is 1401 N.E. Miami Gardens Dr., Apt. 996E, North Miami Beach, FL 33179, and his phone is 305-947-7440 ●

— Lefty Goldberg photos

Evolution of a Female Racquetball Player

by Nancy Driscoll



Gina Skudera demonstrates the joy of the first month player.

Month One

The neophyte racquetball player appears on court in cut-off jeans and cotton peds with pastel pom poms peeking out of the heel of her sneakers. Her sneakers are the type Maynard G. Krebs wore in *Dobie Gillis*.

She uses a green ball.

She lobs the ball to the front wall and it bounces back, landing behind the serving line. She is delighted that nearly all her serves are in.

The first month player runs frantically after and into most of her opponent's shots, fanning and slashing the air with her rented racquet. She smashes walls, her opponent, herself.

She covers the entire court during each rally. She is everywhere. She allows her opponent plenty of room to return a shot—in fact she presses herself, Spiderman style, to a side wall so as not to hamper or distract. The first month player is courteous.

She yells good naturedly during the game. The courts are nearly soundproof and there is a lot to be said for those rare noise making opportunities. She laughs at herself frequently.

When observers appear at the plexiglass window, the first month player suddenly stops concentrating and plays an I-don't-take-this-very-seriously type of game, running gracefully, taking soft little garden badminton shots. She smiles a lot.

She emerges with faint drops of perspiration on her upper lip. Her leg muscles quiver; she pants.

She decides she loves the game and feels she is excellent (for a beginner).

Before leaving she stops to browse in the pro shop.

Month Two

In her second month she enters wearing men's athletic shorts (size small), same peds, same sneakers.

She whacks the ball downward from above her head as though spiking a volleyball. The second month player misses the ball completely in the backhand corner, spins, and misses again, as the green ball bounces off the back wall.

She is disgusted with her lame little serves.

She avoids the wall press now, but still circumvents the court endlessly during the game.

Happy yelps emerge and she giggles at her ungraceful balletic plunges into air.

The window people appear. She runs faster, jumps higher, swings harder.

She emerges damp with perspiration, her fingernail is broken, her elbow is bruised where she hit it with her racquet.

She feels she is very good (for a second month player).

Before leaving she signs up for the women's Tuesday morning clinic.

Month Three

She approaches the court casually swinging her new racquet. Hiding a smile from the player who passes wearing "those ugly safety glasses," she stops to tighten the shoelaces of her Adidas.

She is pleased with her new repertoire of serves. Her opponent is confused by the Z serve and surprised by the low fast backhand serve.

The third month player waits for the ball to descend to shoulder level before hitting it. She hits to the corners often, fascinated by the strange things the ball can do there.

She spends most of her time at the back wall, but is less generous with the space she gives her opponent to return a shot. Courtesy does not win racquetball games.

She smashes the ball mightily—every shot.

She laughs less at herself and more at her opponent, but she still enjoys the sound of her own cries echoing off the white walls. Occasionally she curses.

The window people appear and she smashes the ball still harder.

She emerges with limp hair, she is hoarse, her right arm is sore.

She feels she is good (for a third month player).

Before leaving she reserves court time for 7 o'clock the following morning.

Month Four

She wears knee high sweat socks and a T-shirt reading, "Racquetball Players Are Animals." She bounces two balls individually a few times and chooses the more lively. The balls are blue.

The fourth month player executes a number of passing shots.

For the first time she calls a hinder against an opponent.

Now and then she finds herself in center court.

The pop of the ball on the walls, her groans, and the score are the only sounds in the court. She has lost her merry voice.

She is glad the window people see her scoop the low fast ball from the backhand corner.

She emerges, wiping her face on the sleeve of her T-shirt. A tender spot throbs above her right eyebrow, she can not breathe.

In her "racquetball players are animals" T-shirt Four Month Player Gina tests a ball before a game.



She feels she is pretty good (for a fourth month player) and vows to become good enough to beat the pants off Jennifer Adams.

Before leaving she purchases a pair of ugly safety glasses.



The fifth month player snaps her wrist bands as she enters the court.



Month Five

After completing her stretching exercises she snaps on her wrist sweat bands and adjusts her elbow pad.

The fifth month player waits for the ball to drop almost to the floor, then crouches, snapping it with her racquet. She volleys well, waiting for the opportunity to use her kill shot.

The fifth month player breaks the silence with infrequent comments. "Good shot" or "Nice get."

The window people appear and she silently curses them for casting distracting shadows on the court.

She emerges sweating profusely, tests the strings on her racquet and goes to the window to watch the bumbings of a pair of first month players.

She feels she is fair (for a fifth month player).

Before leaving she makes arrangements to play a member of the men's league.

Month Six

The six month player is a racquetball aficionado. Her hair is brushed back severely and held with a hairband. The crisp tearing sound of velcro rents the silence of the court as she secures her glove.

During the play she constantly pulls her opponent out of position with ceiling shots, then follows with fierce pinch shots.

She owns center court.

The only conversation occurs when the six month player offers a tip on returning a difficult shot.

Between serves she waves to the club pro who peers through the window.

She emerges, drying herself with a towel, removes the racquet's wrist string, glove, hairband, wrist bands, elbow pad, ugly safety glasses, and pulls up the knee high socks which have sunken in folds around her ankles.

She feels she is wretched (for a six month player).

Before leaving she registers for the Women's Singles Tournament. ●



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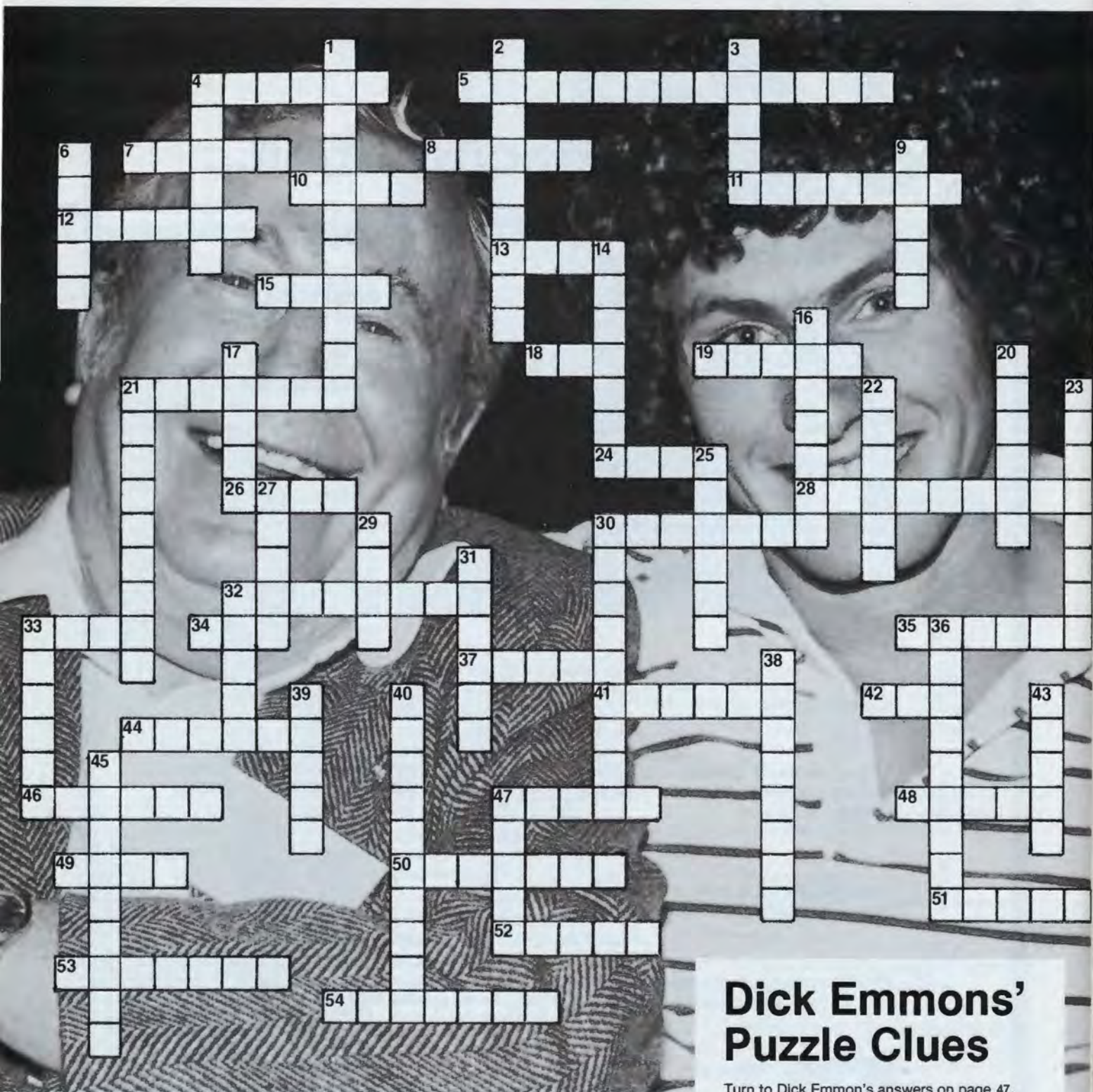
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Dick Emmons' Puzzle Clues

Turn to Dick Emmon's answers on page 47.

Across

4. Brumfield has labeled him a "One-armed bandit".
5. Only 8 players remaining.
7. Has twin sister in Memphis (first name).
8. Dual sport champion (squash is the other one).
10. She's made a habit of beating professional football players.
11. Loser in 1979 Men's National Amateur finals.
12. 1979 Women's National Champ.
13. Pro _____ Morrow.
15. NRC's premier photographer.
18. "The Mule" (first name).
19. Winner in 1979 Men's National Amateur finals.
21. 1977 Men's National Champ.
24. Her first finals appearance came in the 1979 Coors Classic (first name).
26. A shot that didn't make it to the front wall.
28. The World Series of Racquetball.
30. Senior player on both Men and Women's Pro Tour.
32. Justin's dad.
33. Shooter's delight.

34. He's made the biggest move in the rankings this year (first name).
35. USRA Director.
37. Recently disproved Brunfield's theory that nice girls might not be capable of winning.
41. What Hogan claims to have room for after eating Bledsoe's, Hilecher's and Brumfield's lunch.
42. Charles Garfinkel developed this serve to upset Brumfield.
44. High-strung and a well-known thirst quencher.
46. Men's 1978 Rookie of the Year.
47. "Howdy Doody."
48. A short serve, for one.
49. A top pro and co-owner, along with Jennifer Harding, of a Portland racquetball club (first name).
50. Brumfield's mentor.
51. The creator of racquetball.
52. One of the great "divers" in the game, he's also a southpaw.
53. You can't return this shot.
54. Besides being a top player, he's also one of the better referees on tour.

Down

1. Women's Rookie of the Year in 78-79 season.
2. Men's National Amateur Champ in 1977.
3. The rule-of-thumb shot when your opponent is behind you.
4. His father is also a national class player in the Golden Masters division.
6. Shannon Wright's friend and coach.
9. Site of the 1980 Men's Nationals.
14. "Mr. Racquetball."
16. 1978 Women's Nationals finalist.
17. Loser in 1979 Women's National Amateur finals.
20. Handed Hogan his first loss of the season in the Bangor Invitational.
21. A lawyer before making racquetball his full-time occupation.
22. The first National Juniors Champ.
23. Managing Editor of this magazine.
25. *National Racquetball's* Business Manager.
27. Braided pigtails are this California beauty's trademark (first name).
29. Bledsoe was the first to call him "Beef."
30. "The Rat" is no longer his nickname.
31. NC2.
32. Numero Uno.
33. The eccentric subject of a recent national sports magazine article.
36. "You need a good pair."
38. Screening legally, but questionably.
39. Her first win came in the 1979-80 Robert W. Kendler Classic.
40. NRC Director.
43. Goldie's son (first name).
45. Finalist in first Robert W. Kendler Classic.
47. Canadian National Champ. ●

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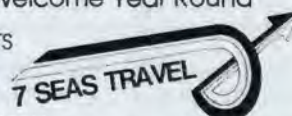
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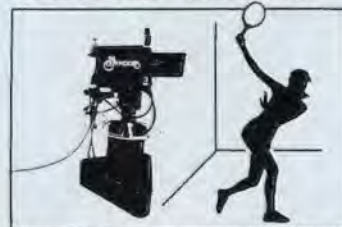
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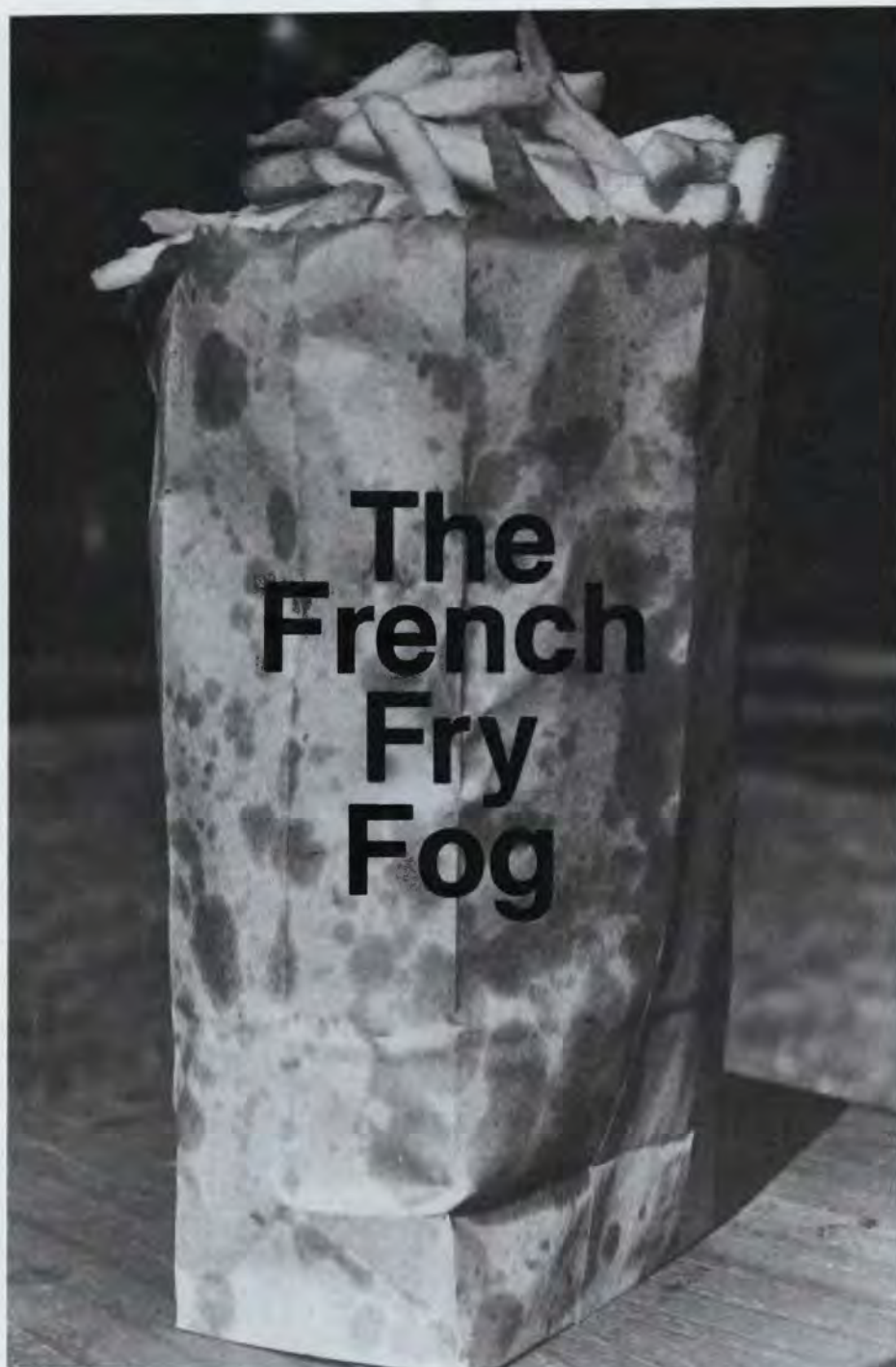
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The French Fry Fog

Oils May Put Your Game Out of Sync

by Marcus Sorenson, Ed.D.

Marcus B. Sorenson, Ed.D., is director of the National Institute of Fitness, a vacation and weight control program headquartered in Orem, UT.

We, as American citizens, are drowning our health, our looks, and our natural athletic endurance in a sea of oil, grease and fat. Fat and grease are simply oil in different form, and the three terms will be used interchangeably in this article.

The average American citizen ingests the equivalent of approximately one cup of oil per day. If a person wished to take his average daily allotment of oil in one sitting, he could melt down a package of lard, pour an eight ounce cup full and drink it down. Or he could simply drink eight ounces from the cooking oil bottle in one long gulp. Whereas neither of these options may sound particularly palatable they are nonetheless equal to the grease eating suicide we Americans indulge in daily.

"Very interesting" you say, "but what does all of this oil-slurping have to do with my performance on the racquetball court?"

To answer your question it will be necessary that you understand what happens when you ingest a meal heavy in oil. The now-classic *Pritikin Program for Diet and Exercise* explains that two or three hours after the ingestion of an oily meal, the oil is broken down into smaller oily particles called fatty acids and is absorbed into the blood stream. These blood oils cause red blood cells to adhere to each other and join together into irregular formations. When this occurs, some of the red blood cells which are clumped together cannot move through the small blood vessels (capillaries) which furnish blood to the individual cells of the body. The clumped cells, whether they are in the brain, heart, skeletal muscles or other organs of the body, will not receive their full supply of oxygen, which is essential to proper functioning. This condition is called tissue anoxia.

Alternate Energy Resources

1. All grains, such as wheat, barley and rice
2. Beans, peas, corn and all fresh garden vegetables
3. Very small amounts of *lean* meat, chicken and fish
4. Non-fat milk products
5. Fruit

You Can Cut Your Oil Intake in Half If You

1. Avoid fried foods.
2. Use a microwave oven and/or Teflon coated pans to cook your meals. Lubricants are not needed when using these products.
3. Substitute chicken, turkey and fish (not shellfish) for meat.
4. Eat nuts, olives and avocados sparingly.
5. Avoid pastries.
6. Do not eat butter, margarine and spreads.
7. Do not eat oily salad dressings.
8. Avoid whole milk, cheese—any dairy product that is not non-fat.

Bad Moves

If the brain and central nervous system are not receiving enough oxygen, the implications for racquetball or other athletic performance are obvious. Brain tissue anoxia will keep you from moving efficiently and gracefully to the ball and hitting it at that precise moment necessary for accuracy and speed. Things may not seem sharp and clear and your head may seem a bit foggy. If you have ever felt out of sync, it could easily be because of an oily meal eaten several hours earlier.

Even more obvious are the deleterious effects of oxygen starvation on the muscles which move your body around the court. Without a full supply of oxygen those muscles will not have the endurance to sustain a long vigorous rally in racquetball or any other court sport. Some scientists even think tissue oxygen shortages can cut down hearing and vision as much as 36 percent. What would *that* do to your racquetball game?

Just how much can a heavy oil meal reduce oxygen in tissues? R.L. Swank, a biochemist at Springfield, IL, college determined that six hours after a heavy oil meal, the oxygen level in some tissues may be only 68 percent of normal!

Of course some oil is needed in human nutrition. About one-tenth ounce of a fat substance called linoleic acid is needed daily to prevent any deficiency. One bowl of whole-grain cereal provides more than enough linoleic acid for the daily requirement. *There is absolutely no need in human nutrition to add oil to anything* if whole grains, legumes and vegetables are eaten regularly.

All other factors being equal—you would gain a half pound of body fat by consuming a cup of oil.



Pure Oil

Where do we get the tremendous amount of oil that we pour down our gullets on a daily basis? Butter, margarine, mayonnaise and most other spreads are almost pure oil. Fatty meats are extremely high in fat. A well-marbled prime rib steak will furnish 85 percent of its calories in fat! Hamburgers, hot dogs, French fries and most of the other fast foods are saturated in fat and oil. All fried and deep fried foods are drenched in oil. A French fried potato has 75 times as much oil as a non-fried potato. Nuts, seeds, avocados and olives are also very high in oil content, as are most pastries. Whole milk, cheese and all dairy products except non-fat products are very high.

How does one go about reducing the amounts of fats and oils in the diet? Check the lists on these pages.

If you are willing to change your diet to include much less oil, you will greatly increase your court efficiency. Nathan Pritikin points to the Bantu tribesmen of Africa and the Tarahumara Indians of Mexico as examples of societies that seem to escape the cardiac disease, diabetes and obesity that go along with the high fat levels of our more "developed" society. The diets of those people have fat contents of less than 15 percent of total calories, and their physical performances defy belief. The Tarahumara men and women are all capable of running 50 to 175 miles non-stop while kicking a ball! Their diets are composed chiefly of grains, vegetables and fruits and a very occasional (once a month) meat meal. This diet is *less than 10 percent fat*.

Although you may not wish to perform such a physical feat or subsist on vegetables, fruit and grains, it may be worthwhile to cut the amount of oil in the diet to better your health. You'll find you've cleared your brain and become a better racquetball player. ●

Group Instruction with a Guarantee

Ft. Lauderdale Plan Pleases 3,000 Players

by Terry Fancher

Terry Fancher, former USRA director who is manager and director of programming at the Courtrooms Racquetball and Health Club in Ft. Lauderdale, FL, gives credit for the group lesson ideas he describes here to Fred Blaess, Courtrooms general manager; Alan Schwartz, Tennis Corporation of America president, and Chuck Sheftel, head of the American Professional Racquetball Organization.

Racquetball Guaranteed at the Courtrooms begins with a half hour introduction to the game covering topics like the history of the sport, eyeguards and warmup exercises.



Courtrooms of Ft. Lauderdale, FL's group racquetball program has "graduated" more than 3,000 students, and most of those players are now active club members who bring in their friends and spread the word about the program because they liked what they learned.

Our Courtrooms program is patterned after (and even carries the same name as) Racquetball Guaranteed, first tried in the former Court House chain of clubs in the Chicago area. Racquetball guaranteed, offers three weeks of one and a half hours of instruction twice a week. We can advertise "Your money back if we do not teach you to play racquetball with nine hours of instruction" because we have a program that always succeeds.

It succeeds for the student, because all instructors use a precise written lesson plan that has worked in the past. It succeeds for the teacher because our head pro trains instructors to communicate with students while teaching the

mechanics of the game. Students develop a rapport with teachers that makes the players want to return for more lessons when they get further along in their games.

At the Courtrooms we make a point of showcasing our Racquetball Guaranteed program. We hold the classes where members and visitors can view the operation and be aware of the professional instruction the club offers. We explain to our students that we're proud of the club's reputation for excellent instruction and that they shouldn't feel self conscious about being beginners because so many of our club's members began learning racquetball the same way.

The beauty of "RBG" is that it suits almost any size racquetball club, YMCA, college or recreational center that wants to introduce people to the game. Racquetball Guaranteed works as well at the Courtrooms, now a 20-court facility with a health club, as it did when the Courtrooms was a simple nine court operation.

Here are four steps that have made Racquetball Guaranteed a success at the Courtrooms:

1. Planning

- Set aside court time.
- Secure and train full time and part time instructors (extra teachers should be on hand the first class session since students need not preregister).
- Provide instructors with written class outline.
- Give students written material including club rules, costs (\$30 at the Courtrooms) and privileges students enjoy even if they're not members. At the Courtrooms that includes a temporary membership; free court time; no guest fees for friends; free racquet, balls and lock; free use of sauna and whirlpool; deduction of program fee from club membership if they join, and refreshments (coffee, sweet rolls, juice in a.m. classes; wine, cheese, health drinks, snacks in evening classes)

2. Advertising

- Put announcements in local newspapers and on radio stations.
- Hand out promotions to members.

3. Arranging training aids

- Secure best possible instructional films (I recommend *Racquetball Color/Sound Series* by the Athletic Institute, North Palm Beach, FL).
- Secure portable video tape recorder and video camera.
- Outline the 30 minute oral instruction that precedes the six lessons (including history of racquetball, safety, goal of the program) and each in-court instruction plan.
- Purchase plastic buckets and put club logo on them.



The lesson plan for Session One, the forehand stroke, includes 10 minutes of pre-class exercise—running in place, forehand stroke mechanics and the grip. Session One also includes 15 minutes of hitting the ball straight off the front wall drill; 10 minutes of around-the-world drill, lower left, and 25 minutes of play with supervision (rotating groups every five minutes).

New Court Clubs Listings



4. Following Up

- Give out and explain club membership applications.
- Hand out announcements of advanced beginner classes (the next step on the learning ladder).
- Hand out class roster with phone numbers of entire class to provide playing partners.
- File class roster for future mailings.
- Have students fill out course evaluation sheets.
- Pass out dates for future Racquetball Guaranteed sessions so students can refer their friends.
- Explain "Matchmaker" service for future games (more about that in a future *National Racquetball* court club feature).

If you want more information on our program contact me or Fred Blaess at The Courtrooms, 750 W. Sunrise Blvd., Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33311. ●

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Ex-Choker Setter Meets Doctor in the Court

"We got together through racquetball. I doubt we would ever have met in the regular course of our occupations," says Charles Janz, a logger from Eugene, OR. Where else would a logger meet a heart specialist, a Sears store manager, and a tire salesman other than in a racquetball court?

Every Saturday morning Janz joins the other three for a match they call "The Miller Classic" after their favorite brand of beer. It's their own personal weekly doubles championship. Immediately after the game at Courtsports II they head for the lounge. Over a few pitchers of beer they can replay the games with 20-20 hindsight, and tell about that great shot they almost made in the time honored manner of good friends and tough opponents everywhere.

The newest member of the group Janz started to play racquetball after a long series of promotions took him out of the log woods and put him into an office chair as manager of the Christian Logging Company. "Racquetball's a good way to stay in shape," Janz says. "I used to get a lot of physical exercise in my work, but I don't any more." He started his logging career as a fire watcher during summers. Later he became a choker setter.

A job unique to the northwest a choker setter has the unenviable task of dragging heavy cable across country, down over rocks and bluffs, through bogs, briars, and patches of poison oak, fighting underbrush and clouds of biting insects, finally to attach the cable to a log which weighs several tons and contains enough lumber to build up to a dozen houses.

Very few choker setters become general managers, but Janz did, going back to his native Alberta to college and working his way up through the ranks job by job.

Bob Newman, the second member of the quartet, oversees all Sears outlets in Eugene. A natural athlete Newman played football and baseball for Washington State University. He then played football professionally a year for San Francisco and Detroit. "Didn't make it really big, so I went to work for Sears," Newman says with a grin. "Decided I would have to work for a living."

Newman schedules a match each day for five days of the week. Frequently he plays during his lunch time. In fact he plays so much racquetball that he's had to cut down on tennis and golf. "Racquetball is a great game," he says, "and it doesn't take so much time out of your day."

Bob Newman, Ron Reich, Foster Keene and Charley Janz, left to right, review their weekly "Miller's Classic." That's Janz, Keene and Reich in the court.



—Connie Peterson photo

On the day of the interview Ron Reich was away, competing in the Cystic Fibrosis Tournament held in Portland. "He and Bob played singles for some time, and he and Foster Keene also," says Janz. "We all just sort of fell in together." Owner and manager of the Superior Tire Service Reich occasionally does business with Janz's lumber company, but the two men had never met until they started to play racquetball.

Foster Keene, M.D., the heart specialist, frequently recommends racquetball for patients who need exercise. Playing racquetball each Saturday has become part of his social life, and racquetball can be a health consideration, as he explains in our feature on page 48.

Sometime soon these four very different men plan to take their families and vacation together at a ranch near Bend, OR, high in the Cascade Mountains. Their friendship began with casual encounters in a racquetball club. Now it has grown to be an important part of their lives. ●

—Kent Patterson

If you know a man or woman who plays racquetball and whose job or hobby would make him or her a good subject for this series, send the name, address and phone number to Carol Brusslan, National Racquetball, 4101 Dempster, Skokie, IL 60076.



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Ask the Champ

by Marty Hogan

Three Time and Current Champion Marty Hogan, a Leach player, answers questions about improving your game in this exclusive *National Racquetball* series.

Marty won the \$30,000 first prize at the June Nationals in Las Vegas.

Send your questions to Marty Hogan c/o Ask the Champ, Managing Editor, *National Racquetball*, 4101 Dempster, Skokie, IL 60076

Question: Congratulations on your conversion to the use of eyeguards that I've noticed in recent pictures in *National Racquetball*. I have eyeguards, but they seem to restrict my peripheral vision much more than the ones you wore on the last page of the magazine — the page with the pro tour schedule. Are yours open (no lens — plain or otherwise)? If so who makes them and where can I get them?

George Scheuerlein, Stonybrook, NY

Hogan: Yes the eyeguards I wear are open with no lens. They are made by my sponsor — Leach Industries, and they don't restrict my peripheral vision.

You should be able to find them in your pro shop or sporting goods store, but if not call Leach Industries at 800-854-2928. I'd like to see the pro tour adopt a mandatory eyeguard rule because then more amateurs would follow suit.

Question: How tight do you string your racquet? What do you recommend for me? I'm a B player at our club.

Dick Masters, San Jose, CA

Hogan: You may want your string tension to depend on the racquet you use. With a fiberglass racquet you can afford to string your racquet much tighter because the racquet will give upon contact with the ball causing the ball to stay on your strings for that split second, enabling you to control your shot. Because of the rigidity of a metal racquet you would probably want to string your racquet a little looser because the racquet will not give upon contact with the ball and the only control you will have is if the strings give. The same theory that applies to aluminum also applies to graphite. It's very important to feel the ball on the strings because until you feel the ball on the strings, it's impossible to hit your shots with the needed control to win at racquetball. You should almost be able to guide the ball off the strings. If you can do

this, then your racquet is strung just about right. It is my theory that the lower caliber player you are, the lower your string tension should be because it is more important at first to learn to hit with control than it is to first learn to hit with power. After you've gained control, the power will come. Personally I string my racquet with blue twist nylon at 30 pounds. I would suggest for you—being a B player—once again, depending on the racquet you use, stringing at about 25 pounds.

Question: I know you play a lot of outdoor three wall. Does playing three wall help or hurt your four wall game?

Randy Kincaid, Honolulu HI

Hogan: There's only one major outdoor tournament a year (Orange Coast College Outdoor Championships in June), so there really isn't much point spending a lot of time training for it. Because you're not taking time to train for it you're really not hurting your four ball game. But I do believe that playing a lot of outdoor three wall would eventually hinder your progress in your four wall game, because a lot of the shots you hit in four wall either go out of the court or end up as setups in the outdoor game. One thing the outdoor game does for your four wall game is that it teaches you to cover the court better. It makes a person more adept at cutting off a pass shot, and at the same time it forces you to be more precise with your own passing shot. You have to constantly remind yourself that in outdoor there is no back wall or ceiling, so that at all times you have to keep the play right there in front of you.

Question: Do you ever play a social game of racquetball against a woman? How do you change your game?

Karen Goodwin, Hartford, CT

Hogan: Very seldom. I almost never play a casual game of racquetball against a woman, especially a non professional

woman player, because racquetball to me is more of a business than a social game. When I show up at the court I try to get the best workout I can possibly get in that two or three hour time. Most of the time during the off season I will play a lot of doubles during the summer and concentrate on my foot work and my front court play, and I find there aren't many good women doubles players. Very few pros I know make a social activity out of racquetball because their game is their livelihood. As for a non professional man playing against a woman, I'd suggest that he keep the ball in play, moving it around, so both players get a good workout. One of the advantages racquetball has over tennis is that two people of unequal ability can still go in a court and get a fairly good workout only if the better player will just take time to keep the ball in play. That means concentrating on pass shots.

Question: What is the best opportunity to use a pinch shot?

Harry Barton, Munster, IN

Hogan: The pinch shot is one of the most important shots to have in your arsenal. If you're a beginning player, you can keep saying to yourself as you're striving to improve your shot selection is to always use the pinch when your opponent is behind you. This forces your opponent to have to come in and have to hit the ball on the run. Also it leaves your opponent way out of position and vulnerable to the pass down the other wall. Also even if the pinch shot does not result in a kill, it is still a hard shot for your opponent to rekill because the ball is coming off the side wall and into your opponent's body. One thing you should always remember when attempting the pinch shot is that the pinch is always hit side wall-front wall, meaning that the side wall would be the first wall you hit, with the ball caromming off to the front wall. ●

When to Buck the Odds

by Mike Yellen

In this exclusive *National Racquetball* series Mike Yellen, second place winner at the 1980 Nationals, discusses topics that come up in clinics he runs for his sponsor, Ektelon.



Figure 1: A good time to buck the shot selection odds is when your opponent's ceiling ball falls short or comes off the back wall because it was too long. Let the ball drop as far as you dare and take an offensive shot based on your opponent's position and your individual strengths.

An easy rule of thumb used by a lot of racquetball players is "down in front, up in the back court."

The strategy is to take all offensive shots in the front court—kills, pinches or passes—and begin going up to the ceiling more frequently as you move toward the back court. It's called playing the percentages.

It just stands to reason that the closer you are to the front wall, the better chance you have of successfully executing whatever offensive shot the situation calls for. As your distance from the front wall increases, your shotmaking percentages decline.

Sometimes, though, you have to buck the odds and just go for it. Top players seem to go for impossible shots and make them anyway.

That's no accident. They are still playing the percentages, in a way.

The reason is that every shooting situation is, to a certain extent, unique. Every rule has to be accompanied by a string of "ifs."

One of the times when the back court odds look a little more favorable is when your opponent's ceiling game falls short. He may also hit his shot too long, for that matter.

The result is the same: you get a setup that you can let drop just where you want.

That's the good news. The bad news is that your setup will be 35 to 39 feet from the front wall and, as we know, the farther the ball has to travel, the more things that can go wrong.

Still you have to take your openings where you find them. Christmas doesn't come every day. But how to differentiate between an opportunity and a trap?

First of all the well hit ceiling ball will bounce high around midcourt and drop right down the back wall, contacting it no more than two feet from the floor. Your only shooting opportunity comes when the ball is shoulder height or higher and so, you have to return a ceiling ball yourself.

If you have a great overhand kill like Lindsay Myers—or, better yet, Bjorn Bjorg—you may be able to shoot your way out of these interminable ceiling rallies. But it's better to just bide your time, and wait for your opponent to blow it.

When he does, you have an offensive opportunity, even though it has a slightly greater element of risk than many shooting situations. Whether the ball falls short or comes off the back wall, your shot options are the same: straight kill, pinch, roll-corner kill or pass.

Which shot you go to depends primarily on what your opponent happens to be doing at that time. Obviously, you want the ball to land as far away from him as possible.

If he gets lazy during a ceiling rally and hangs back after his shots, put the ball down in the front court. Any variation of the kill will do.

Personally, though, I prefer the safer and surer pinch or roll-corner to the straight-in kill for reasons I discussed in last month's article on using the side walls.



Figure 2: If your opponent hangs back after her shot, as shown here, put the ball down in the front court with a killshot such as this roll-corner kill. Note that should this shot not die off the front wall, it will still be heading away from my opponent.



Figure 3: If, as opposed to hanging back, your opponent moves up to control center court after her shot, she may be able to reach a front court shot. A better choice in this case would be a pass such as the crosscourt shown here.

If your opponent moves up into center court the way he should after every ceiling shot, he will have a pretty good chance of covering most front court shots.

He'll probably have to position off to the left or right, though, in order to give you room to shoot. Your duty is clear: hit a cross court or down-the-line pass to the far rear corner.

There are some exceptions which I should mention. Ultimately your shot choice may also depend on which shots you are best at. For example I like the side-wall shots, but Jerry Hilecher has a straight-in forehand kill that's almost as deadly from 39 feet out as from half that distance.

Likewise it helps to know your opponent's strengths or, better yet, his weaknesses. If he has no backhand, for example, or can't hit the ball very well down-the-lines, you'll want to take that into consideration.

That's especially true if you happen to be the guy who just blew the ceiling shot and your opponent is setting up on it. You'll have to decide whether to play up or back and your opponent will be watching you out of the corner of his eye and planning to adjust to it.

You don't want to commit too soon, but yet you'll probably have a lot of ground to cover when he does. Knowing him and being better able to anticipate his shots is worth a step or two.

In summary play smart, play the percentages but be ready to capitalize on opportunities when the percentages soften up a bit. Be calculating but not cautious.

This is a game when you have to know when to go for it. ●

Putting the Pieces Together

Six Keys to Coordination

by Kathy Williams

Kathy Williams, the first woman to win money for playing racquetball on the NRC pro tour in 1974, has been teaching physical education at Colorado Women's College in Denver. She has also been an advisor to the new games division of the Brunswick Corp., headquartered in Skokie, IL.

The majority of women who have taken racquetball lessons from me over the past seven years have never participated in an organized sport. Now they are playing racquetball surrounded by four walls with a ball ricocheting like a pinball off bumpers. Their frustrations over hitting a racquetball traveling from 50 to 100 miles an hour increase because they, first, have to get the body around the ball and, finally, have to aim the ball at a target. It's no wonder that they feel uncoordinated.

But there is hope even for women who didn't have the chance to swing bats or throw baseballs while they were growing up. Practice and effort can put any player—man or woman—in command of the court. Let's start out by looking at some of the components that go into good racquetball playing, ending with that all-important coordination.

Speed

You either have it or you don't. Authorities agree that speed can only be increased by 10 percent and that anything over that is highly unusual. Several women racquetball professionals, myself included, are known for their lack of foot speed. But we might appear fast because we've developed the ability to anticipate the opponent's shots. So if you're not an O.J. Simpson on your feet, don't worry about it. You can compensate.

Strength and Endurance

Strength and endurance can be improved by 20 to 50 percent. All the women professionals work on their cardiovascular fitness and many follow a weight program to increase their strength. July's *National Racquetball* carried a story on how Bonnie Stoll, this year's USRA Northeast regionals winner, increased these qualities, and I will discuss strength and endurance building regimes in future *National Racquetball* articles.

Kathy Williams and Peggy Warner Demonstrate the Drills . . .



Drills for Coordination

Drill	Execution	Purpose
1. Ball bounce	Simply bounce the ball off your racquet using both sides of the racquet as well as the edge.	Makes the racquet feel like a part of your body or extension of your arm.
2. Hand hit	As if you're playing handball hit the ball to the front wall with the flat of your hand. Stand about five feet from the wall and hit with both front and back of hand.	This drill makes you bend lower than you normally would if you had the length of your racquet. It gives you the feel of hitting on the flat surface of your hand, as like the flat surface of your racquet.
3. Step lunge	Stand with feet one foot apart, racquet in ready position. As if reaching for a low backhand step across with opposite foot and reach far as you can and as low as possible. Hop back to ready position and lunge for opposite side. At the end of each lunge pretend you are hitting the ball.	This drill will show you that only one step is necessary to reach a shot at the side wall if you are in center court. It's a great conditioner for the legs and teaches body control. Do the drill as fast as you can going from one side to the other.
4. Pepper	Start in front of the short service line and try keeping the ball in play by hitting it to yourself. The closer you get to the front wall and the harder you hit it the better the drill is for your reflexes.	Great reaction drill. This can be done with one or two people. Many times you will not have time to position your feet and the only way to get power on the ball is to use full body and hip rotation.
5. Rope Jump	Get yourself a good jumprope and jump on both feet together, with a running motion and on each foot 20 times. Move forward, backward and to both sides as you jump.	This is a great coordination drill as well as conditioner because it involves the entire body.
6. Corner Dig	Stand facing the back corner about five feet away. Gently toss the ball into the back wall so that it will ricochet to the side wall. Move in toward the corner and hit the ball to the front wall.	This is an excellent drill for those shots that pass you and go toward the corner. The drill becomes harder as you move further from the back wall.

Agility and Reaction Time

An agile person is one who can change directions quickly and maneuver well around the court. Flexibility, mental alertness and concentration all contribute to agility. Next time you play a game of racquetball visualize yourself scrambling and hustling for every ball. You'll be amazed at the number of balls you can get to if you really try.

Reaction time can be improved best by repeated practice of the skill. If you find yourself having to think about how to hit a forehand shot, then you need to practice it more. When a skill can be done without having to think it through, the mind can now concentrate on other aspects of the game. Practice a skill until it becomes a conditioned reflex and movement is automatic. I know of professional players who will practice a shot tens of thousands of times before they incorporate it into their game.

Coordination

Coordination is the ability to perform in a smooth, balanced and fluid motion. Coordination integrates the other qualities into one graceful movement. I've devised six drills that have helped my students gain greater coordination. Try them and watch yourself moving toward the ball and hitting it with much greater ease. ●



Pepper



Rope jump



Corner dig

Beginner's Racquetball

Pitfalls

by Jack Kramer

For the benefit of the millions of men, women and children who are taking up racquetball for the first time *National Racquetball* is serializing *Beginner's Racquetball* by Jack Kramer, copyright 1979, with permission of the publisher—World Publications, Inc., Mountain View, CA. If you're an experienced player you might like to pass these articles along to a friend who's just starting the game.



No matter what your sport is—racquetball, tennis, or handball—there are certain pitfalls that beginners should be aware of at the start. These are the little things that can make the difference between becoming an adequate player or a superlative one. Failing to take aggressive advantage of a position or not completing a swing, for example, are actually pitfalls that affect your game.

Serving Readiness

Always be ready when serving—before you serve, glance at your opponent so you know exactly where he is and so he knows you know. Notice whether he or she is leaning to one side or the other.

Early Stroke

Here is a common pitfall: Striking the ball before it is in proper position will result in less power on the ball and an easy return for your opponent. Don't make your stroke until the ball passes the center of your body. Hold off until the ball is exactly in this position. Then when you hit the ball, it will have good speed and hit the wall much lower, making a return difficult.

Stiff Wrist Stroke

The wrist should be stiff when hitting the ball, but it should never be rigid. A rigid wrist pushes the ball to the wall rather

than stroking it to the wall—there is less power. Hold your wrist cocked well back at the start of the stroke, and when you hit the ball snap or roll over the wrist action slightly. This will give power to the ball and result in a difficult shot for your opponent to return.

Backhand Flop

If you don't take a full backhand swing, you will swat the ball instead of hitting it. If your thumb position shifts, the ball will go toward the ceiling. Poor body position generally causes the flop. Again be sure the face of the racquet is perpendicular to the floor.

Elbow Shot

Holding your elbow crimped with arm against the body will result in the shot having little power and direction. Be sure your arm is extended in a swing arc.

Overhand Overuse

When a ball comes from the deep court off the wall and bounces high off the back wall, there is the natural temptation to return it with an overhand stroke. Wait until you can get in position for the sidearm stroke (forehand or backhand). You will be able to control the ball much easier.

Cat in a Corner

Put yourself in a corner and you will indeed be cornered. You will be too close to the back wall to make any kind of effective swing. Always know how much space you have relative to the walls and especially corners.

Back Wall Rebounds

Do not rush to hit a ball before it can rebound off the back wall. If your body is parallel to the front and back walls you can only hit a weak shot. Time the ball so you can swing your body into proper hitting position as the ball comes off the wall. Never let the ball crowd your shot. Leave enough room to take a full swing.

Against the Wall Contortions

In certain deep court situations the back wall can be a stumbling block that makes a beginning player resort to ice skating contortions. Hit the rear wall shot as you would a front wall shot. Time your stroke and don't end up being a whirling dervish and losing a point.

Ceiling Shot

If you try a ceiling shot when you are close in, you will make an easy setup point for your opponent. Make the ceiling shot from deep court.

Overswinging

This is a common error and tough to resist. Hitting the ball harder than really necessary can result in more harm than good. Try to strike the ball with just enough force to keep your opponent back and making defensive shots. Overswinging is a plague and only practice can eliminate it.

Backhand Ceiling shot

Most players' backhand shots are weaker than their forehand strokes and less accurate. Chances are good that by pressing your shoulder to the wall you can hit an overhand ceiling shot with your forehand and have more control and power. Of course if the ball is a real wallpaper hanger, you will have to resort to the backhand stroke.

Overconfidence

When many players make a killshot or a perfect return, they assume there will be no return from the opponent and thus, stand still. Not so. After hitting the ball—move! Even if you think you have a winner, get moving and head for that center court position. Never stay in the same spot you made your hit from—the percentages are against you.

Killshot

A kill try too close to your opponent generally just does not work. You must always allow that your killshot may not be perfect. Use the killshot when you are away from your opponent. Then the speed and bounce off the side wall to front wall will work to your advantage. Hitting away from your opponent rather than to him gives you the percentage.

Double Trouble

In doubles there is always confusion as to who hits what and the result might be two racquets banging in unison in thin air. The player on the forehand side should take the shot that comes down the middle between the two partners.

Forehand Ceiling Stroke

The general stroke of the ceiling ball is basically the same as the forehand stroke, but there are a few differences. On the backswing bring the racquet back to a position behind your head. When you are ready to hit the ball, keep your racquet directly behind your back—your elbows should be pointing to the ceiling. Make the forward swing with an upward motion and extend your entire body toward the ceiling. Remember that the higher the point of contact with the ball, the better the chances are of the ball having zip behind it. End the stroke with a step forward to help maintain balance.

- Don't keep your weight on the back foot—weight should be on front foot when ball is hit.
- Don't stop the racquet behind the head; keep it moving backward.
- Don't let the ball drop so low that it is difficult to hit it with a full stroke.
- Don't, after hitting the ball, stay anchored to the spot; put foot forward to maintain good balance and prepare for next shot.

Serving

When you go to the service box, take your time. This is your advantage shot; use it well. Don't stand too close to either side wall; this limits the choice of service direction. When serving the bread-and-butter drive serve:

- Don't make contact with the ball too high; you will be at a disadvantage and the strike will be bad.
- Don't sacrifice control for speed; best to hit only as hard as accuracy will allow.
- Don't hit the ball so hard that it strikes high off the wall and rebounds off the back wall for an easy setup.
- Don't make the angle of service too acute; this could result in the ball rebounding off the side wall into center court for an easy setup.
- Don't use the same serve each time—your opponent will begin to expect what is coming.

Observation

This is last, but definitely not the least, in the pitfall parlay. To make that perfect shot you should always know the location of your opponent. For example let's say you just hit the ball to your opponent who is behind you. If you don't turn your head to see what he is doing, he will put the ball past you. So again keep your eye on your opponent *and the ball*. It is tough to do both, but try. After you hit a ball, observe the ball on its way to your opponent. Try not to change your body position but rather use a neck swiveling motion. Keep your head moving and eyes alert. After some play this action will come automatically. ●

Please turn the page for Lindsay Myers' article on watching the ball.

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Keep Your Eye on the Ball, Not the Other Way Around

by Lindsay Myers

Lindsay Myers, an NRC pro tour regular and a Leach-sponsored player, is Canadian National Champion.

Keep your eye on the ball, not the other way around.



In a way this article is covering two topics—watching the ball and eye protection. But actually my conscience wouldn't allow me to talk about one without the other. Many players give up valuable reaction time by watching the front wall. Their theory is they prefer to get hit in the back, rather than the face. But I'd rather not get hit at all, so I watch the ball *and* wear eye protection.

Compared to skiing, rugby and sky diving racquetball is a relatively hazard-free sport. A typical racquetball injury is self-inflicted in the form of a sprained ankle or hitting oneself with the racquet. However if I were going to give only one piece of advice to keep the game of racquetball as safe as possible I would have to say; keep your eye on the ball—not the other way around!

Ask any eye doctor and he or she will tell you that as the number of racquetball

players increases, so does the incidence of eye injuries. The lucky ones can still see with both eyes, but might have spent time in the hospital waiting for the hemorrhaging to stop.

It's true that most injuries involve beginners because they are still unsure of where the ball's going and do not know how to move out of the way. But the freak accidents happen to the best of us. About five years ago I was playing doubles in a tournament. I served the ball and put my racquet in front of my face for protection. The referee called the serve short, so I dropped my racquet. The man in back court decided he was going to hit the ball anyway and hit me in the right eye.

I was hurt for about a week, but luckily I didn't lose my eye. Just recently, though, I came back to town, only to find that the same guy who had hit me had lost his right eye playing racquetball.

Confidence

Eye protection gives you the confidence to watch the ball at all times. The sooner you know where the ball's going the sooner you're going to get to it and be able to make a good return. The player who turns and stares at the front wall must be expecting to pick up the ball on radar as it's whizzing by his or her ears. But for racquetball I would definitely recommend vision over radar any day.

If you're up against a player who doesn't watch the ball, it can be very frustrating. Most of us don't like to inflict pain on our opponents, but it's pretty hard to miss someone who's backing up, butt first, into your shot. If you want to be nice, you hold up and explain that they should get some eyeguards and watch the ball so they can get out of the way. If possible you can kill the non-watcher with a pass shot every time, preferably a wide angle pass, so she or he can't cut the ball off. This person is slowest moving to back court, so that's exactly where you want to hit the ball every time . . . that is if you can miss his back.

There are many reasons why some players, mostly beginners, don't watch the ball. They may have been taught that way, may be imitating someone who also is ignorant, or they may be intimidated by the speed of the ball. But basically they're all gun shy. They have a fear of getting hit. They may also be unsure where the ball is traveling, which in my view, should tell them to watch the ball so they can get out of the way.

The best way to learn to watch the ball is to practice it outside of a game situation. You have enough to think about when you're actually playing. But in practice you can keep reminding yourself to watch. If you have a partner who knows what you're working on, he or she can stop play every time you don't watch.

Shoulder to Opponent

The positioning of your feet and body is critical. You don't want to overcorrect and turn your back on the front wall because that's where the ball is directed and any mis-hit shot will be waiting for you in front court.

The proper stance to watch the ball would be squaring off to the side as the ball goes past you on its way to the front wall. That way you're a smaller target—people are thinner from back to front than they are from side to side. So I suggest turning one shoulder toward your opponent when he or she is hitting the ball. This position also gives you better mobility. A person can move quickest laterally. If you're at a 45 degree angle to the front wall, then you will have all angles covered. You will be able to travel the length of the court from a lateral position, and you'll be able to step to the side wall that you see the ball heading for.

I also suggest for double protection to bring the racquet face up in front of your face during the serve. This will protect the entire face, but should not be used as a substitute for eyeguards, which I feel are essential equipment.

The Canadian Racquetball Association has enacted a mandatory eyeguard rule for all racquetball tournaments, open or closed. Then the player who uses eyeguards in practice will have an advantage over someone who puts them on for the first time for the tournament.

Eyeguards do take a while to get used to, but a little patience in practice will pay off in the long run. There are different types available, depending on how you want to look, how much you want to protect and how much you want to spend. Just remember—it doesn't count if you buy eyeguards and then don't wear them.

You may have noticed that not all of the pros wear eyeguards. Or that if we miss a



shot because of eyeguards getting in the way of our vision, then we're likely to cast them aside. What we're being is near sighted.

In the long run our racquetball careers depend on keeping our eyesight, more so than just one particular shot in one particular match. More and more pros are beginning to wear eyeguards on their own, though a mandatory ruling is probably not expected here in the near future.

I believe in preventive medicine. That's why I'm suggesting that you start wearing eyeguards now. Don't wait until *after* that freak shot flies in your face. If I were a C player again, I would probably put on a helmet before getting on the court with some of the wild players I see. ●

Watch this way not this way



—Carole George Charlauros photos

You're in luck with These Seven

The American Optometric Association says the vision skills needed for sports are:

- 20/20 eyesight
- dynamic visual acuity—the ability to see sharply and clearly while an object or player is in motion.
- peripheral vision—the ability to see "out of the corner of the eye"
- depth perception—the ability to quickly and accurately judge distance and speed of the object and persons in the field of play
- vision pursuit—the ability to use the eyes to follow a moving object smoothly and easily
- visualization—the ability to picture something in the mind while the eyes are seeing and concentrating on something else
- visual concentration

For the pamphlet that describes "Gaining the Extra Edge in Sports through Vision" send a self-addressed, stamped business size envelope to Communications Division R5, American Optometric Association, 243 N. Lindberg Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63141.

The Outsiders

by Steve Mondry

You can watch the leaves turn color this fall and still improve your racquetball game with these drills I call the Outsiders. Do these drills to improve your movement on the court, your stamina during a match and your confidence in your court coverage. These drills will strengthen the same leg muscles you use in racquetball.

The Outsiders, to be done in the order they are given, are divided into two sections—**Isolation Drills** that work on particular muscles and **Sprint-Type Drills** that increase foot speed.

Isolation Drills

Monster Walks: Monster Walks are similar to the stepover drills I described in August. Both get you bending from the knee, not from the waist. Keeping your back relatively straight, take a giant "monster" step forward with your left leg, bending at the knee. Straighten up and move forward, taking giant monster steps forward with your right leg, bending at the knee. Do this exercise for 25 yards or steps. You will feel this drill mainly working your hamstring muscle, with a little work on your quadricep.

Kangaroo Jumps: Kangaroo Jumps are very similar to the broad jumps we have all done in high school, except for two differences. The first is that the Kangaroo Jumps should be done with little or no rest between each one. It should be a continuous motion. Secondly at the end of the jump your upper legs should be parallel to the ground. This forces your quadriceps to work harder. For the benefit of those of you who have forgotten how to do the broad jump, this is how you do one. Start with your feet slightly bent at the knees and shoulder width apart. Swing your arms backward, and as you jump forward, swing your arms forward, and land on your feet. This drill should be done for 25 yards. As you will find out, the Kangaroo Jumps work the quadriceps muscles.

High Steppers: This drill is done by jogging along at a slow pace and lifting your knee as high as you can at each step. Some key points to the drill are: (1) Make certain your knees keep thrusting high; as you get tired, the tendency is to lower your knees. (2) The more steps it takes to cover the distance, which is 25 yards, the better the results. Remember this is not a race, so take your time. This drill exercises the hamstring muscle.



Carioca: This drill is to be run sideways. Start by putting your left foot out to the side, then cross under that foot with your right foot. Continue by moving your left foot out to the side again and cross over that foot with your right foot. Remember left foot out, right foot under, left foot out, right foot over. This drill should be done for 25 yards. While you want good

technique, speed is also important. As soon as you get the movement down, try and build your speed up—without tripping. This exercise is great for loosening up your hip flexors, which will enable you to move easier laterally. Added benefits are the improvement of footwork and overall coordination.



Starting the Kangaroo Jump



Ending the Kangaroo Jump, wrong way (above) and with upper legs parallel to the ground



High Stepper



Carica

Sprint-Type Drills

Sprints: The first set of speed drills are Sprints. Mark off 50 yards, 25 yards and 10 yards. Do five repetitions at each interval. Start out by doing the 50 yard dashes, and do them all out. My dogs, "Workout" and "Practice," keep pushing me to the max. If I falter, they nip at me until I decide it's easier to give 100 percent. Work your way down to the 25 yard sprints and the 10 yard sprints. On the 50 yard and 25 yard sprints try to move as fast as possible. When you do 10 yard sprints work on: (1) good starting speed and (2) staying low to the ground and thrusting out over the finish as if making a lunge in racquetball.

I know those of you who have read my previous article are saying, "When was the last time someone had to run 50 yards for a racquetball?" Well you never do. What you do with 50 yard sprints is put the icing on the cake. The racquetball muscles in your legs are fatigued; you are going to show your legs what getting into shape really means. Each drill up to now has been an isolation type drill in which the proper form is most important. These last three drills are for both speed and endurance, trying to move the legs as fast



as possible. These drills also work the cardiovascular system much as it would be worked in a racquetball match.

On-Off: This is a 100 yard run in 10 yards on (all out) and 10 yards off (coast) increments. This drill works your legs and your cardiovascular system. Your heart rate stays at a fast pace even when your legs are coasting. The On-Off is good because it requires bursts of energy similar to what's needed in racquetball movements.

Pointer: The Pointer drill is the last of the Outsiders, and it is one of the best drills for racquetball I've tried. This exercise combines almost all of the drills I have just described. The Pointer drill is important because it utilizes almost the exact type of running movements of racquetball. It's another cardiovascular conditioner, too.

The Pointer drill has to be done with at least one other person (someone to point while you run). I try to do all these drills with some friends because we work against each other and make the sprints fun—would you believe even enjoyable?



Sprints with Workout and Practice



—Craig Johnson photos

Stand facing the Pointer, who needs a watch with a second hand. The Pointer has four directions to point and/or call out: UP, BACK, RIGHT, LEFT. Keeping in mind the dimensions of a racquetball court (20 by 40 feet), he points any way he wants to get you moving. I find it very effective to move side to side very quickly and mix in UP and BACK. After the direction has been changed, bend down and swing through the imaginary ball you have just hit. Then bounce up and change direction to where the Pointer indicates. Do this drill for 60 seconds, and then it is your turn to be the Pointer. You should each do this drill two times, and do not pace yourself—go *all out*! What I try to do when I'm the Pointer is to make the other guy so tired he'll not have strength enough to point. Unfortunately he does the same to me.

As a result of doing the Outsiders I am moving faster and with greater ease than I have ever moved before. All of these drills will pay off tremendous dividends if you do them faithfully. Some key points to remember are:

1. Do not horse around—these drills are to be done one after another, with only a minute rest between the two sections.
2. Start out light and build up, as opposed to starting out so hard you are forced to take time out.
3. Do not pace yourself through these drills—go all out.
4. When running the sprints it is important to run close to the ground.
5. Have fun! ●

APRO Teaches . . . Getting the Overview

by SGM Dusty Silver

Members of the American Professional Racquetball Organization write this regular *National Racquetball* feature for club pros and other racquetball teachers. SGM Dustin Silver is Directorate of Personnel and Community Activities at Ft. Benjamin Harrison in Indianapolis, IN, where he also teaches racquetball on the facility's three courts.



The racquetball court overview is a valuable and sometimes overlooked teaching aid. The average racquetball player uses the overview to referee, and as a casual spectator. The club professional has many more uses for the overview.

Some of these are listed below, but the overview's potential to the teacher is limited only by the imagination.

Use the overview to:

- Conduct referee training classes. These classes help to overcome club members' fear of being required to referee matches during club tournaments, instill confidence by improving the players' knowledge and understanding of the rules and increase participation in club tournaments.
- Learn the playing skill level of all club members. As you make your daily rounds, use the Player Evaluation System to rate your membership. If you are not using this

system at present, copies are available from the American Professional Racquetball Organization, 730 Pine Street, Deerfield, IL 60015. There is no faster turn off for club tournaments and special events than to have one or more players playing down to a class below their abilities.

- Make written notes of each member's playing strengths and weaknesses. Remember that each is a potential student. Nothing instills confidence in a teacher's ability faster than a quick identification of the student's problems, and a logical course of action for improvement.
- Allow students to observe the errors of others, differences in court position, repeated win/loss point patterns, changes in momentum, etc. Try taking several students of approximate equal ability to an overview during the next club tournament, and doing an indepth evaluation of the match. Use the overview to show the

students where they are now, and to plan their future progress step by step. If a teacher expects to continue with a student past the beginning instruction stage, a detailed improvement program must be developed and consistent progress made toward the goals established.

- Observe students as they play to evaluate their progress. (*A note of caution:* When students notice their instructor on the overview, they have a tendency to try to increase the caliber and tempo of play. Try not to be too obvious in making your observations.)

A SPECIAL SAFETY NOTE: Check your overviews (especially those with rail guards) to insure that children cannot fall into the court below. Fifteen feet is a long way to fall.

With proper training, your students will never be casual spectators again. ●

What's the Call?

by Dan Bertolucci

Karyl Lamb from Sierra Vista, AZ. sent me three questions which are the subject of this month's column. Don't hesitate to write me when questions come up in your game.

1. If a player hits the ball on the fly before it hits the back wall (it visually would have been "long"), is the ball considered "in play"? In the same situation the player swings and misses the ball before it becomes "long"; is that considered an attempt (and miss) at the ball?

Yes the ball is considered "in play" in the situation you refer to in your first question. The receiver has the option of taking the offense in hopes of catching the server off guard. Referring to your next question—if the receiver swings and misses the ball before it becomes "long", it is not considered an "attempt" and miss at the ball, provided that the receiver didn't touch the ball.

2. What is the rule when the ball is in play and lands in the crotch?

This situation is simply governed by whether or not the player returning the ball was able to retrieve the shot and successfully return it to the front wall before the ball bounces twice.

3. Our courts have a glass gallery and a local rule is hitting the glass is a dead ball. Is it legal when players agree among themselves that hitting glass will be in play?

In a friendly match without a referee two players may agree to play portions of a court such as you describe. You should maintain the rules throughout the match. ●

Dan Bertolucci is director of the NRC, governing body for professional racquetball, and is a longtime racquetball referee. Send him your questions about rules c/o National Racquetball, 4101 Dempster, Skokie 60076.



EXTRA!

Is Racquetball Recession-Proof?

"There's no recession when it comes to exercise," was the majority opinion among 20 clubs around the country which *National Racquetball* phoned about effects of the nation's economic slowdown.

Clubs reporting that "we're feeling the pinch" were located in the "Industrial Heartland," those midwest and eastern states dependent on recession-sensitive industries such as steel and autos.

In the west, south and southwest the racquetball business is growing faster than ever.

Some specific comments from the clubs included:

Far west: "Best first six months we've ever had."

South: "We're charging two to three times what we used to for membership and we're still doing great."

East: "They're not spending as

much in the pro shop. There's a resistance to expensive clothes and equipment."

Southwest: "Most people here are well off and we don't have a huge initiation fee—business is good."

Midwest: "People who've been with our club for years are solidly entrenched in their jobs, so they're still using court time. We're waiting to see if we have a decline in new members."

East: "Our membership is

increasing because we include so much that people don't have to pay extra for—steam, sauna, whirlpool, exercise room."

Midwest: "Our membership is increasing because the club is strictly racquetball—we keep the fees low."

West: "Regardless of economics people are more fitness aware. It's beyond being faddish. People make fitness a priority."

Hitting on the Fly

United Airlines employees pull out their passes when they want to compete in a company racquetball tournament a few thousand miles away.

Since Bill Smith, customer service agent, set up the first United tournament in Medford, OR four years ago, interest in racquetball competition has produced three more Medford events, plus others in San Francisco, Boise, ID and Chicago. The first Medford weekend of matches attracted 17 players, while the one last May pulled 95 entrants.

Jan Meyer, central division manager of human resources, arranged a muscular dystrophy benefit when she ran the Chicago tournament in March. The event that drew 69 players from Honolulu to New York raised \$4,000 for the charity.

—Steve van Der Woert photo, courtesy Friendly Times



Meyer says the special attraction of the company tournaments is that "we're one big, happy family so beginners aren't afraid to enter. One of our Chicago people who flew to the San Francisco tournament had only played eight times before."

"Players find new partners from their own cities and people to play with when they're traveling."

United employees are now warming up for the Boise competition in October.

Ron De Laurre, left, aircraft mechanic from Honolulu, who won last year's Medford tournament, loses to Jim Olson, inventory supervisor from San Francisco, at the May 3 and 4, 1980 event.

The Milky Way



Supreme Court Pros Tim Usher, left and Joe Wirkus try the drink touted by John Oncken, manager of the American Dairy Association of Wisconsin.

Tim Usher, pro at the Supreme Court Racquetball Club in Madison, WI, stars in a 30 second TV commercial that's reminding viewers in Wisconsin and Chicago to think about milk when they think of athletics.

Against a country-rock jingle, "Takin' Time for Milk," Usher plays racquetball and then joins friends at a restaurant over the drink that's being promoted by the American Dairy Association of Wisconsin.

The six to 34 age group is the target for the commercial, part of a series made for television and radio, supplemented by print and billboard ads.

The Woman Athlete's Personality

Competing in sports when they were younger gave them more social ease than they would have had as nonathletes, says a group of former top women swimmers.

In a survey they described in the June, 1980, issue of *Physician and Sportsmedicine* Bruce C. Ogilvie, Ph.D., a psychologist, and Linda

Gustavson McGuire, M.A., gold medalist on the 1968 U.S. women's swim team, found there was no basis for the "negative stereotype . . . based on the belief that female athletes are somehow 'defeminized' by the physical and emotional requirements of competition."

The questionnaire that 49

former national and international class women swimmers answered covered social, family and coaching relationships. A majority of women, whose average age was 24, said they are more poised than nonathletes and that they feel successful on an interpersonal level. They did not feel that competition

"toughened" them emotionally or produced other personality changes adverse to their relations with the opposite sex.

As for family relationships most women in the sample believe their parents gave them strong support but didn't pressure them to compete. And they felt that personal attention from the coach helped them succeed.

Racquetball Omelet Pan

Ellen Cash, home economist at Club Products in Jacksonville, AR, uses a custom built pan to fix omelets for Club employees who stop in at the company kitchen after their noon hour racquetball game at the Little Rock Athletic Club. The company that makes aluminum cookware sent an omelet pan to John Weaver at Leach Industries, who returned the pan with a racquetball wrapped handle.

Cash's recipe for a racquetball omelet:

3 eggs 1 T water ¼ t Tabasco 1 T butter ½ C cheese 1 t chopped marjoram ¼ t salt



Place eggs in a bowl. Add water, Tabasco and salt. Have your pan on medium heat. Beat the eggs and other ingredients except cheese with a fork til just mixed. Butter the pan with a generous tablespoon of butter. It should bubble. Add the marjoram and saute for a minute. Add the eggs. Spread the mixture over the pan. Make sure there are no holes.

Now sprinkle on the cheese, roll and serve.

TV's Six and a Half Minutes of Hogan

"Lucky. Very Lucky," is in part the way Marty Hogan described himself to Janet Zappala of San Diego's PM Magazine television show for a program that aired in San Diego July 8.

The six and a half minute segment opened the half-hour show and had been used extensively in promos for the show in the days preceding it. The spot has been submitted to the national office of PM Magazine in San Francisco, and may well be appearing on local stations across the country

in the weeks to come.

A racquetball player and fan herself Zappala said she had been interested in a Hogan interview for awhile and had made preliminary arrangements to tape him before the Nationals at Las Vegas the first week in June. When he won his third straight title there, she knew she had a story of national significance.

In the interview shot at the Family Fitness Center and Hogan's San Diego home he and Don Thomas are seen

working out on a court, and Hogan puts in a short stint on the weight machines.

The National Champion credited his mother with being the driving force and inspiration in his career. He also talked about younger players on the tour and in the junior ranks, his introduction to the game and plans for the future. Film of his semi-final round match with Jerry Hilecher supplements what the PM crew shot in San Diego.

—Tom Reinman

Racquetball Repartee on the Johnny Carson Show

A USRA staff member reports the following late night exchange: Johnny Carson: "Is it true that you've said 'Give me my horses, tennis and a good looking man and I'll be happy?'" Angie Dickenson: "Oh no—it's racquetball. And you can forget the horses and tennis."

Dick Emmon's Puzzle Answers

Across

4. Mondry
5. Quarter-finals
7. Sarah (Green)
8. McKay
10. Hoff
11. Handley
12. Walton
13. Mark
15. Shay
18. Bud
19. Bolan
21. Bledsoe
24. Rita (Hoff)
26. Skip
28. Nationals
30. Steding
32. Hilecher
33. Kill
34. Don (Thomas)
35. Keenan
37. Green
41. Dinner
42. Zee
44. Wagner
46. Yellen
47. McCoy
48. Fault
49. Jean (Sausser)
50. Loveday
51. Sobek
52. Serot
53. Rollout
54. Zeitman

Down

1. Prefontaine
2. Zuckerman
3. Pinch
4. Morrow
8. Lewis
9. Vegas
14. Kendler
16. Harding
17. Adams
20. Thomas
21. Brumfield
22. Koltun
23. Brusslan
25. Ardito
27. Karin (Walton)
29. Peck
30. Strandemo
31. Wright
32. Hogan
33. Keeley
36. Eyeguards
38. Crowding
39. Greer
40. Bertolucci
43. Marty (Hogan)
45. Fleetwood
47. Myers

Court One



Randy Kramer has his own racquetball court, but he drives over to Los Angeles' Mid Valley Club every night for a game.

Kramer's court is a 15 by 30 foot display case in his racquet specialty store, The Racket Doctor, also in L.A.

Kramer added the novelty to the store he expanded and remodeled in 1978. The A level player, who abandoned

tennis for racquetball two years ago, used glass paneled walls and a three-quarter inch maple floor with regulation markings for the court tucked into a corner and filled with racquets, bags, accessories and clothing.

"I wanted to put in a regulation racquetball court door," he says, "but we had to alter the plans to fit the building code."

A story in the May issue of *Selling Sporting Goods*

reported that The Racket Doctor has increased sales of racquets and shoes by 35 to 40 percent during each of the last few years. The 32-year-old Kramer, who's been stringing racquets since he was 10, thinks the minicourt has helped him cash in on racquetball's popularity.

"When a racquetball player walks in and sees that court in the back he heads right for the merchandise."

Wired into Racquetball

Oregon Cardiologist Plays with a Pacemaker

by Kent Patterson



Foster Keene, left, plays with Ron Reich in one of the cardiologist's four times a week racquetball games. For more on Keene's and Reich's weekly meeting on the court turn to "Who's Playing Racquetball?" on page 30.

—Connie Peterson photo

You've seen it on a thousand TV sit-coms. Tennis or perhaps flag football, the blonde and beautiful young daughter in the fetching little skirt is playing her equally blond and beautiful young man. Then fat and fumbling dear old Dad horns in, wants to go a round. "But Daddy—remember your pacemaker," the daughter wails.

You know the rest. Dad returns a couple of easy lobs, then sinks to the court floor clutching his chest.

Cut to the nearest intensive care ward, where Dad is trussed up in more tubes and wires than the bionic woman's beauticians convention, and wise old Mom is telling him he'll be okay if he just learns to act his age.

It's all very funny, unless of course you happen to be one of the millions of Americans who have outgrown the rock and roll years, yet still want to be physically active. The TV message is clear. After 22 you're over the hill. And if you have a pacemaker, the closest thing you can get to athletics will be turning the dial to Monday Night Football.

This message is false, according to Foster Keene, M.D., a heart specialist and Chief of the Medical Division at Sacred Heart, the largest hospital in Eugene, OR. At 46, with flecks of grey in his dark hair, Keene has a pacemaker, but that doesn't stop him from playing a hard game of racquetball or skiing Rocky Mountain slopes so remote that the only way to reach them is by helicopter.

Electrical Repair

"The reason for putting a pacemaker in different patients is different," Keene says. In his own case his heart was normal except for a sudden slowing. "There's a lot of people with this kind of a problem who don't have serious heart disease. It's really an electrical phenomenon. The heart muscle is normal. It's just not getting the signal. Like a telephone cable that's getting frayed. The signal doesn't get through. It's a very common reason for putting in a pacemaker, but the people are generally very healthy otherwise."

Keene finds his pacemaker has allowed him to lead a very vigorous life.

"You can't make generalizations, but for the most part, pacemakers don't limit a person's physical activity," Keene says. "The average person with a pacemaker can do all of the things he did before he got it. There's just no reason to consider himself disabled because of the pacemaker."

The exception to the rule is that person who got the pacemaker after his or her heart was seriously diseased or damaged. But Keene estimates that as many as 85 percent of people who do have pacemakers can be very active and are cheating themselves if they allow the TV image to cut themselves out of common sense athletics like racquetball.

"People usually have plenty of warning before exercise is going to cause trouble," Keene says, "and they should stop if they

get some symptoms." The most important warning signals are chest pains, undue shortness of breath, faintness and sudden weakness. "If they respond to the common-sense signs, I don't think there'll usually be a problem," says Keene.

Of course there is always the case of the compulsive overachiever who will insist on pushing the limits. "Sometimes you'll find a person with a macho problem," says Keene. "He is, say, 45 years old and was a college athlete. He considers himself some sort of a superman, but really has not done much for years. He may smoke, be 25 pounds overweight. He says 'I'm going to do this thing!' Then he goes at it whole hog. Now that's something else. It doesn't make sense!"

Fun for the Joints

Provided they don't try to be Marty Hogan on the first day, people over 40 should consider racquetball as part of their exercise program. "The reason racquetball's good is because it's fun," Keene says. "That's opposed to jogging, which most people don't find to be fun. Most people my age, and some younger, find their joints won't take jogging. They go out, and they start to jog, their knees hurt, and they're bored to death. It takes a long time to overcome this."

Racquetball, on the other hand, can be fun the first day. Two total duffers can find excitement with a level of play which would make Heather McKay or Charlie

His pacemaker makes it possible for Heart Specialist Foster Keene to carry on a full time practice, play racquetball and fly off to the Rockies for helicopter skiing.

—Anthony Kriedik photos



Brumfield switch to selling insurance for a living. Having fun is vital, Keene believes, because the mental lift of taking a break from work and playing a game can be better for your health than any medicine.

Surprisingly Keene feels that it's the mental lift, not the physical exercise, which is really vital. "If you study the world literature," Keene says, "you can't find any consistent theme that proves that exercise prolongs life." Racquetball is important not because it prolongs life, but because it makes life exciting.

If Keene is correct, then the cheerful duffer who plays with great enthusiasm, but consistently gets his or her killshots killed by 11-year-olds who started to play yesterday, may be getting more from racquetball than any pro. For the duffer it's a break, a relief from everyday dullness and worry. For the pro it's merely business as usual. Duffers ought to take their game very seriously, not in the sense that it matters whether they win or lose, but in the sense that it's important to play.

Keene takes his game seriously, but not because he feels any great need to win. "I don't have any wild ideas about being the best age group racquetball player in the city," he laughs, "much less the county or state. I don't like to feel I have to do anything on a must basis. Then your sport, your pleasure time, becomes part of the treadmill you're on. It becomes just another obligation to fulfill. I don't want that."

Racquetball Appointments

What he does want is good exercise and a good time. That's important. He makes his four times a week appointment to play racquetball with the same concern as he makes his medical appointments. "If I took it casually, if I said racquetball is something I'd like to do today, but I'm awfully busy, I'd never play," Keene says.

As a doctor, of course, Keene takes his pager to the racquetball courts and is always ready to answer emergencies. So far he has had to leave the court only about once every two years. Getting away from the office, he thinks, makes him more alert, and thus a better doctor.

His office itself is something of a retreat. Located five floors up in a brand new office building, the windows look over downtown Eugene. To the east in clear weather you can see the dim outlines of the snow covered peaks of the Cascades. Far to the north, but part of the same rugged chain, is Mt. St. Helens, the volcano which has brought such spectacular beauty and pain to the northwest.

The effect of the distant mountains is heightened by the office decor: enlarged color photos of the Canadian Rockies. Helicopters flash their bright colors against the blinding white of untouched snow slopes, and the outlines of glaciers the size of Eastern counties creep an inch a year down barren stone cliffs.

Like racquetball, skiing is part of Keene's life. He makes no claims to Olympic abilities, but when he talks, the sound of his voice changes as he describes those desolate, untouched slopes to the north.

One of Life's Risks

"The helicopter flies you to a landing site, then you ski down," Keene says. "The helicopter's waiting for you, then they pick you up and take you back to another landing site. It's untracked snow, perfect snow. There are some risks involved, but it's like everything in life. There's always a certain risk, but you don't weight it."

Not weighing risks doesn't mean carelessness. It means taking a slight chance of injury for a good chance of experience. It's looking for that perfect moment.

Keene's perfect moment came in skiing.

"In helicopter skiing you're on your own. I think it must be like a sky diver feels when he's free falling and there's nothing around. You're floating, almost like flying under your own power. It's an emotional high."

"Coming down a long run, we may ski two or three miles non-stop. Your legs burn with pain, yet you're so exhilarated, and it's such an exciting thing that you can't stop."

For Foster Keene, it's a perfect motto. You can't stop. ●

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Feature

Pruitt, the Pioneer, Promotes

New Game in Central Park

by Dick Squires

"The trail of the pioneer is invariably lonely and frequently hazardous, but the potential returns at the end are often rewarding."

Squires, 1980

Jim Pruitt



The above truism pertains to Jim Pruitt who created, organized, promoted and administrated the first (what he hopes will be) annual USRA One Wall National Racquetball Championships after much difficulty and innumerable frustrating problems. By the time the last killshot struck the wall, Jim did realize the deep satisfaction that accompanies a job well done.

The tournament was staged in what might seem at first sight as an improbable back-drop. The site was one of New York City's nicer public parks, "The Recreation House," a picturesque area of about 800 acres located in the 97th Street block of Central Park. Held over the weekend of June 28-29 the weather man cooperated by proffering a sunny day in the 80s on Saturday, and an overcast, cool day on Sunday with the rain holding back until five minutes after the finals. "God oftentimes smiles on pioneers."

In many ways it was a bizarre, incongruous atmosphere for a racquetball tournament. Twelve one wall courts were all bunched together so that errant balls criss-crossing from neighboring courts were the rule rather than the exception. In addition the courts are constructed for racquetball's predecessor, paddleball, so the graffitied front wall is only 16 feet high, the standard 20 feet wide, but the cement playing floor is just 36 feet in length, four feet shy of a regulation racquetball court. With no backstop fencing above the height of the front wall and nothing to stop balls from racing out

of the back court, many high shots and hard hit winners in the rear had to be retrieved. But no one complained about this minor inconvenience.

There were other unique diversions to break the players' concentration. Adjacent courts held paddle and handballers who only occasionally would cast curious glances at those nearby competitors taking part in "that new game." Roller skaters waltzed and winded their way around and across the back areas of the courts during rallies, oblivious of anything other than keeping in step with the loud, lively music that resounded throughout the park. The smell of newly mowed grass (and another variety of grass!) was omnipresent and permeated the air in a not unpleasant way.

Many of the players competing were hardcore paddleball fanatics who have never been known particularly for their chic playing attire or sense of decorum. Many bare backs were, therefore, in evidence, glistening brightly as the sun beat down on the hot, hard courts.

Carnival

By now you should be getting the picture. The best word to employ, not in an uncomplimentary sense, is "carnival." The ambiance was New York City in the summertime. All the crazy characters wearing their outlandish clothes and doing weird things were on hand. But, again, no one complained.

"All the players, without exception, were terrific," said Jim Pruitt at the conclusion of the tournament. "Every match was refereed, there was no bickering and everyone loved the game. I really think that next year we will have the 500 entrants we had hoped for this year."

For over a year Jim had worked diligently to put together his "dream tournament." He wanted to hold it in Manhattan because "over 400,000 people presently play one wall paddleball there and do not have any firsthand knowledge of how great a sport can be when played with a strung racquet versus a solid, wooden paddle."

He labored closely with New York City's Parks and Recreation Department, especially with enthusiastic Director of



Grafitti fails to distract Art Diemar in his win against Joe Giamportone in the singles finals.

Art Diemar, left, and Joe Giamportone



Sports Irv Gregory, who did much to encourage some of the more timid or close-minded, inveterate paddleballers to try the new game.

Unfortunately many unforeseen problems reared their ugly heads as tournament time approached. Sponsors Jim thought he had fell through at the last moment. Some key players withdrew and the event was precariously close to being cancelled. One year of dedicated, hard work was jeopardized.

Jim Pruitt, however, is not the type of competitor who is easily discouraged. He doggedly continued his efforts to beat the drum for the tournament and by the time entries closed he had nearly 100. Not the 500 he had hoped for, but not bad for a first time effort.

Potential

You really have to admire the guy for his unswerving determination and organizational talents. It was Jim Pruitt, originally a rebel from Atlanta, GA who ran the first sanctioned racquetball tournament ever to have a corporate sponsor. That was "way back" in 1975 in Lansing, MI when Charlie Brumfield defeated Steve Serot in one of racquetball's greatest finals, 21-20 in the third game. He truly loves racquetball and believes one of the biggest potential markets for the sport is in New York City—a town strangely bereft of our favorite game. He is probably right.

With the support of Wagner's Thirst Quencher and Searnco, the official soft drink and ball respectively, the show went

off right on schedule Saturday morning. Jim Pruitt's "floor" manager, Fern Sokoloff, Nautilus trainer at Center city Sports in Philadelphia, kept the matches moving along smoothly.

And what a show it was! Many of the better four wall players were trying the single wall version for the first time. They visibly improved with each passing rally, and all concurred in the opinion at the end of the tournament that it was "a great game and a lot of fun." What more could you want!

Third seeded Art Diemar of New York became the first winner of the U.S. One Wall Racquetball Open Singles Championships by defeating Paddleballer Joe Giamportone, the fourth seed, 21-18, 21-15. With a 21-15, 21-6 score in the semis Joe upset first seeded Vic Niederhoffer, whose first exposure to racquet sports was on Brooklyn's one wall paddleball facilities. Diemar beat young Phil Panarella, New Britain, CT in the other semi bracket 21-8, 21-18.

The Open Doubles was annexed by Joe Giamportone and Victor Gonzalez over popular Mike Romano, the current National 30 and Over four wall doubles champion, and Bob Arlock in a tense 21-17, 21-19 struggle.

In the Veteran Singles 30 and Over Angel Cruz upended Stan Danzig in the title round 21-17, 20-21, 11-4. Danzig had beaten out tired pioneer, Pruitt, in the semis 21-18, 21-7.

Sisters-in-law

The women's draw produced a situation worth noting. Seventeen-year-old Dorothy Fischl, of Allentown, PA, currently the Northeastern regional USRA four wall Junior Champion, defeated Shelley Fischl in the finals 21-8, 21-13. They are sisters-in-law! They also competed well as a team in the Men's doubles draw.

Ken Keemer won over Larry Roth in the Men's Seniors 40 and over age bracket.

Bob Keenan, National Commissioner of the USRA, was on hand to see some of the matches, as was Touring Professional Rita Hoff. Bob thought the ball was too fast and that Bob Kendler's Family Handball might be better for the foreshortened court of the one wall variety.

I asked the ebullient Rita whether she would enjoy playing one wall racquetball. "I think it is fabulous," she gushed. "And everyone's having such a good time!" I suspect Jim Pruitt won't have any problems coaxing Rita to compete next year.

As a matter of fact I would not be at all surprised if his dreams are filled in even fuller measure next year. Word will leak out, primarily from the players who participated this year. Sponsors should line up for the opportunity to ally themselves with a super sport in a super market. The Parks and Recreation Department of America's largest city will undoubtedly support having a major, national tournament again in their backyard. The greatest beneficiary of all will be racquetball. And that will be a fitting reward for Jim Pruitt, the lonely pioneer. ●



Are We Ready for Paid Officials?

Many of us remember the time before the "winner must ref" policy, when tournament directors and floor managers had the toughest jobs at tournaments. It was their responsibility to "round up" officials after each and every match. In most cases this system was the main reason many tournaments were poorly run and ran behind time schedules.

The "winner must ref" has helped tremendously, but it also has its disadvantages: like winners not being allowed enough time between matches (after refereeing) to rest properly, or a weak referee, or a novice player having to officiate an open match.

The USRA, in cooperation with its state chairmen, has instituted a trial plan allowing a host site to develop a pool of funds to pay amateur officials. If the system is successful, it will work hand in hand with the National Racquetball Referees Association (NRRRA).



Our goal will be to test the system on selected events, preferably larger tournaments.

Whenever we speak of paying officials, the old question arises - where do we get the money? The money can be generated by giving the players who *do not* wish to officiate during the event the option of paying a higher entry fee. For example: the normal entry fee for a given event may be \$15. But the player who indicates he or she does not wish to officiate will have the option of paying a slightly higher fee - say \$5 more, a total of \$20. If a quarter of a field of 400 entrants opts to pay the higher fee, the additional \$5 creates a \$500 pool to pay officials. If officials then received \$3 to \$5 per match, approximately 125 officials could be paid.

I feel this system has merit, and in the future months we will be working closely with USRA state chairmen at selected events. Contact your state chairman for further information.

As always we would appreciate hearing from our readers - the USRA members. We look forward to your comments and suggestions.

—Bob Keenan

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Tournament Results

Please send tournament results and clear black and white action photos to Bob Keenan, USRA, 4101 Dempster, Skokie, IL 60076. Type your results double spaced, including name of tournament, dates and place with scores listed in style you see on these pages. Use first and last names the first time you mention a player (in doubles matches, too) and last names only after that.

Allow two months or more for your tournament writeup to appear here.

Ohio

The second annual Hall of Fame Racquetball Classic took place March 7-9 in Canton.

Results

Men's Open

Quarters: Tom Travers d. Mark Nash 21-15, 21-20; Ray Brint d. Al Brint 21-19, 21-11; Lee Vantrease d. Bo Brenneman 21-10, 21-10; Bo Perkowski d. Brian Deighan 20-21, 21-20, 11-8
Semis: Travers d. Brint 21-9, 21-7; Vantrease d. Perkowski 21-12, 21-9
Finals: Travers d. Vantrease 21-3, 21-15

Men's Senior

Quarters: Jim Marsh d. Fred Zitzer 21-17, 21-15; Bob Sanders d. Dennis Boatman 21-8, 21-8; Tom Perna d. Ron Akins 21-13, 21-7; Kent Fusselman d. John Tobin 21-12, 17-21, 11-5
Semis: Marsh d. Sanders 21-20, 21-19; Perna d. Fusselman 21-17, 20-21, 11-6
Finals: Perna d. Marsh 20-21, 21-8, 11-8

Men's Class B

Quarters: Carl Fischer d. Bob Fye 21-20, 21-17; Bob Oliver d. Roy McKay 21-14, 21-15; Dave Goldstein d. Duff Beamer 21-10, 19-21, 11-6; Dave Rosenblum d. Mark Smith 21-7, 21-9
Semis: Oliver d. Fischer 21-19, 21-19; Rosenblum d. Goldstein 21-9, 21-18
Finals: Rosenblum d. Oliver 21-6, 21-9

Men's Class C

Quarters: Dave Clark d. Nick Marinelli 21-13, 21-12; Dennis Larve d. Jim Davis 21-12, 20-21, 11-7; Michael McGlade d. Bill Titterington 21-11, 7-21, 11-6; Dan Jaycox d. Nick Despot 21-10, 21-14
Semis: Clark d. Larve 21-11, 21-20; Jaycox d. McGlade 21-5, 21-11
Finals: Jaycox d. Clark 20-21, 21-11, 11-10

Men's Novice

Quarters: Steve Moore d. C.J. Kessler 21-11, 21-18; Joe Rieger d. Chuck Anderson 21-5, 21-14, Jerry Nott d. James Roberts 21-10, 21-19; Charles Sanders d. Randy Pennington 21-6, 21-10
Semis: Reiger d. Moore 21-6, 21-3; Sanders d. Nott 14-21, 21-18, 11-7
Finals: Reiger d. Sanders 21-3, 21-12

Boys 16 and Under

Quarters: Brooke McCarter d. Tom Wetherbee 21-17, 21-9; Kevin Hickey d. Chuck Ford 21-14, 21-7; Bill Martin d. Dave Bradick 21-8, 21-12; Mike Clark d. Marty Smith 21-10, 21-12
Semis: McCarter d. Hickey 21-10, 21-18; Clark d. Martin 21-14, 16-21, 11-10
Finals: McCarter d. Clark 21-10, 17-21, 11-10

Men's Open Doubles

Quarters: Tom Travers/Jerry Davis d. Frog Wachtel/Steve Carson 21-10, 21-5; Dave Eagle/Roy McKay d. Bob Olwin/Larry Huggins 21-14, 21-19; Mark Nash/Tom Perna d. Dave Scott/Ed Staskus 12-21, 21-17, 11-3; Lee Vantrease/Dennis Boatman d. Jim Marsh/Ray Huss 18-21, 21-20, 11-7
Semis: Travers/Davis d. Eagle/McKay 21-20, 21-14, Nash/Perna d. Vantrease/Boatman 21-15, 21-10
Finals: Travers/Davis d. Nash/Perna 21-12, 21-20

Men's B Doubles

Quarters: Bill Yates/Tom Wucinich d. Bob Oliver/David Wagner 21-16, 21-6; Bob Hyde/Ron Yanucci d. Erine Corpening/Mark Smith 19-21, 21-13, 11-8; Brian Deighan/Brooke McCarter d. Terry Duval/Rich Riefenstahl 18-21, 21-16, 11-6; Marck Burch/Lane Willhite d. Less Green/Ted Hendershot 21-13, 12-21, 11-3
Semis: Hyde/Yanucci d. Yates/Wucinich 21-11, 15-21, 11-7; McCarter/Deighan d. Burch/Willhite 21-15, 14-21, 11-7
Finals: Hyde/Yanucci d. McCarter/Deighan 21-14, 16-21, 11-6

Men's C Doubles

Quarters: Dave Sale/Jim Messenger d. Bill Snyder/Dan Schlisfka 21-16, 15-21, 11-10; Kelly Cottrill/Alan Cottrill d. Charlie Jordan/Dan Fazzini 21-13, 21-20; Dave Clark/Matt Meyerson d. Kevin Hickey/Marty Smith 20-21, 5-21, 11-10; Tim Neal/Rick Maynard d. Bruce Peters/Gary Yoder 12-21, 21-17, 11-9
Semis: Cottrill/Cottrill d. Sale/Messenger, default; Clark/Meyerson d. Neal/Maynard 21-13, 21-17
Finals: Cottrill/Cottrill d. Clark/Meyerson 21-14, 21-20

Women's Open

Quarters: Joan Dorkoff d. Jodi Kujawa 21-18, 21-18; Barbara Young d. Dianne Hickman 21-13, 21-18; Sally Forristell d. Colleen Brint 21-12, 21-19; Sue Flanery d. Linda Jursa 21-1, 21-1
Semis: Young d. Dorkoff 21-18, 21-13; Flanery d. Forristell 21-12, 19-21, 11-8
Finals: Flanery d. Young 21-13, 21-4

Women's B

Quarters: Cathy Mapes d. Cathy Beamer 21-4, 21-19; Barb Beattie d. Nan Brint 21-15, 21-18; Becky Brint d. Kathy Frontz 21-13, 11-9; Jennifer Plotter d. Donna Huff 21-8, 13-21, 11-8
Semis: Beattie d. Mapes 21-20, 21-18; Brint d. Plotter 21-17, 21-13
Finals: Beattie d. Brint 21-20, 21-18

Women's C

Quarters: Ila Logan d. Judy Crider 21-20, 21-12; Debbie Skillern d. Debbie Klausner 21-14, 21-12, 11-10; Bren Turner d. Holly Mallett 21-9, 21-19; Shelly Escola d. Darlene Redfoot
Semis: Ila Logan d. Debbie Skillern 14-21, 21-11, 11-10; Bren Turner d. Shelly Escola
Finals: Logan d. Turner 21-6, 21-8

Women's Novice

Quarters: Marilou Ulep d. Grace Vereb 21-13, 21-16; Judy Murphy d. Mary Marko; Missy Casey d. Cheryl Boyer 21-15, 21-18; Anita Fish d. Joan Miller 21-4, 21-8
Semis: Marilou Ulep d. Judy Murphy; Anita Fish d. Missy Casey 21-9, 21-2
Finals: Anita Fish d. Marilou Ulep 21-11, 21-20

Women's Open Doubles

Finals: Flanery/Hickman d. Wachtel/Robinson 21-17, 10-21, 11-6

Women's C Doubles

Quarters: Dee Konarski/Sandi Sprengel d. Karen Hurlless/Mary Balizet 21-13, 21-12; Bonnie Fields/Pam Creedon d. Holly Mallett/Darcy Murphy; Ila Logan/Barb Beattie d. Priscilla Miller/Connie Burgess 21-20, 21-15; Dora Snyder/Janet Schlisfka d. Angie Blacofsky/Lori Kasulones 21-17, 21-7
Semis: Konarski/Sprengel d. Fields/Creedon 21-13, 21-11; Logan/Beattie d. Snyder/Schlisfka 21-9, 21-2
Finals: Logan/Beattie d. Konarski/Sprengel

Florida

The Florida USRA Singles Championships sponsored by ZETA 4 FM and Midway Sports attracted 265 entries to Sportrooms of Carol Gables March 21-23.

Results

Men's Open

Quarters: Sergio Gonzalez d. Robert Mendez 21-13, 21-7; Tim McAuliffe d. Andy Romano 21-4, 21-13; Mike Fatalitis d. Fred Calabrese 21-18, 21-13; Bob Bos d. Bob Cuillo 21-3, 21-2
Semis: McAuliffe d. Gonzalez 21-5, 21-14; Bos d. Fatalitis 21-12, 21-12
Finals: McAuliffe d. Bos 21-18, 21-12, 3rd: Fatalitis

Men's B

Quarters: Tom Dunn d. Richard Smith 21-12, 7-21, 11-9; Joe Porta d. Geoff Hunter 21-7, 4-21, 11-1; John Katronis d. John Cassese 14-21, 21-17, 11-7; Corey Baysman d. Marty Berger 21-12, 21-14
Semis: Porta d. Dunn 21-9, 21-7; Bryman d. Katronis 21-14, 18-21, 11-6
Finals: Porta d. Brysman 21-9, 21-4 3rd: Dunn

Men's C

Quarters: Frank Brownlow d. Ben Upton 21-8, 21-12; Edgar Borrell d. Jim Burress 21-14, 21-12; Greg Diaz d. Ron Patrick 21-2, 21-19; David Olin d. Cliff Price 21-20, 21-16
Semis: Borrell d. Brownlow 21-19, 8-21, 11-7; Diaz d. Olin 21-15, 21-12
Finals: Borrell d. Diaz 21-15, 21-19 3rd: Brownlow

Men's Novice

Quarters: Del Castillo d. Dennis Huffstutler 21-8, 21-10; Chris Buckner d. Greg Durham 21-10, 21-2; Julio Seda d. Oreste Aribu 16-21, 21-7, 11-10; James Snyder d. Ron Maseth 21-13, 21-6
Semis: Castillo d. Buckner 21-17, 5-21, 11-8; Seda d. Snyder 21-16, 21-13
Finals: Castillo d. Seda 21-19, 19-21, 11-2 3rd: Buckner

Juniors 10 and Under

Qualifying: Scott Weiner d. Chris Conway 21-3, 21-18; Dave Eller d. Al Castelon 21-5, 21-5
Semis: Mike Altman d. Weiner 21-1, 21-2; Eller d. Mark Kuffner 21-2, 21-3
Finals: Eller d. Altman 21-8, 21-9 3rd: Kuffner

Juniors 13 and Under

Quarters: Richard Potter d. Jeff Eller 21-9, 21-2; John Rowlee d. Oscar Gonzalez 21-4, 21-6; Benny Lee d. Ed Blaess 21-9, 21-10; Shane Brown d. Glenn Rosenthal 21-9, 21-10
Semis: Potter d. Towlee 20-21, 21-13, 11-6; Lee d. Brown 21-13, 21-19
Finals: Lee d. Potter 21-6, 10-21, 11-10 3rd: Rowlee

Juniors 15 and Under

Quarters: Shawn Brown d. Carlos Rivero 21-18, 21-11; Barry Koran d. Gerardo Jimenez 21-10, 21-14; Cliff Ira d. Rudy Villanueva 21-5, 21-8; Mitch Campbell d. Mark Barrett 21-17, 21-9
Semis: Koran d. Brown 17-21, 21-12, 11-8; Ira d. Campbell 21-12, 21-14
Finals: Koran d. Ira 21-16, 21-18 3rd: Campbell

Juniors 17 and Under

Qualifying: Bubba Gautier d. Shawn Brown 12-21, 21-13, 11-3; Bob Cuillo d. Chris Buckner 21-7, 21-15
Semis: Sergio Gonzalez d. Gautier 21-5, 21-3; Fred Calabrese d. Cuillo 21-17, 21-16
Finals: Gonzalez d. Calabrese 21-6, 21-19 3rd: Gautier

Men's Jr. Vets

Quarters: Terry Fancher d. Jerry Kelleher 21-8, 21-15; Steve Squire d. Gary Mammele 21-17, 21-16; Bruce Perlman d. Greg DeVaul 20-21, 21-8, 11-2; Mike Desormey d. Pat Espinosa 21-15, 21-15
Semis: Fancher d. Squire 21-3, 21-8; Desormey d. Perlman 21-8, 21-15
Finals: Fancher d. Desormey 21-19, 21-9 3rd: Perlman

Men's Seniors

Quarters: Jeff Leon d. John Borque 21-15, 21-17; Fred White d. Bob Golub 11-21, 21-20, 11-1; Gary Goldfaden d. Orrie Cherasia 21-19, 14-21, 11-8; Fred Blaess d. Barry Sarnoff 21-19, 21-16
Semis: Leon d. White 21-7, 21-6; Blaess d. Goldfaden 21-12, 21-1
Finals: Blaess d. Leon 21-14, 21-11 3rd: White

Men's Masters

Quarters: Sonny Marcus d. Sam Previtt 21-9, 21-6; Teaty Davis d. Fred Koran 21-8, 12-21, 11-5; Bob Harper d. Joe Ramos 21-19, 21-9; Mike Wohl d. Robert Primack 21-5, 21-8
Semis: Marcus d. Davis 21-6, 21-12; Wohl d. Harper 21-2, 21-8
Finals: Marcus d. Wohl 21-13, 21-3 3rd: Harper

Men's Golden Masters

1st-Gene MacDonald; 2nd-Fred Koran, 3rd-Bill Friedopfer

Women's Open

Quarters: Brenda Opena Poe d. Julia Knight 21-3, 21-3; Nancy Hamrich d. Mary Livingston 21-17, 21-9; Debbie Drury d. Brenda Grossnickle 21-17, 21-18; Dee Lewis d. Kathy Gall 21-11, 21-4
Semis: Poe d. Hamrich 21-20, 17-21, 11-9; Lewis d. Drury 21-6, 21-13

Finals: Poe d. Lewis 21-9, 19-21, 11-7 3rd: Hamrich

Women's B

Quarters: Jessica Crist d. Tracy Fetzter 21-7, 21-8; Debra Cohen d. Gail Flinn 21-13, 21-18; Tracy Watkins d. Karen Rosenberg 15-21, 21-17, 11-10; Cindy Strauss d. Judy Leerer 21-17, 21-13

Semis: Fetzter d. Cohen 10-21, 21-19, 11-5; Watkins d. Strauss 21-17, 21-13

Finals: Fetzter d. Watkins 21-15, 21-17 3rd: Cohen

Women's C

Quarters: Melanie Berger d. Patrice Daly 21-16, 19-21, 11-4; Kathy Patrick d. Meredith Bozek 21-11, 21-11; Alicia Vidal d. Jull McCord 21-3, 21-3; Gale Sampson d. Gina Marcus 21-3, 21-4

Semis: Berger d. Patrick 21-9, 21-5; Vidal d. Sampson 21-3, 21-6

Finals: Vidal d. Berger 21-14, 21-20 3rd: Sampson

Women's Novice

Quarters: Laura Harlow d. Aida Seda 21-10, 21-19; Norma Henderson d. Suzanne Golub 21-12, 19-21, 11-4; Lillian Baxley d. Martha Fernandez 21-16, 21-19; Beverly Nist d. Doreen Holliman 8-21, 21-10, 11-8

Semis: Henderson d. Harlow 21-13, 21-11; Nist d. Baxley 21-20, 21-12

Finals: Henderson d. Nist 21-14, 21-12 3rd: Baxley

Women's Jr. Vets

Qualifying: Arlene Dean d. Doreen Holliman 21-8, 21-12; Connie Prescott d. Pat Krueger 21-13, 21-13; Arlene Dorsey d. Janet Moppert, forfeit

Semis: Renee Fish d. Dean 21-12, 21-8; Prescott d. Dorsey 21-1, 21-0

Finals: Fish d. Prescott 3rd: Dean

Illinois

The Peoria YMCA hosted the Illinois State YMCA Racquetball Championships March 28-30.

Results

Men's A

Quarters: Mike Suppan d. Brad Flack 21-18, 21-3; Larry McDowell d. Greg Hasty 21-17, 17-21, 11-8; Jeff McDowell d. Larry Davis; Jim Shales d. John Snarr 21-18, 12-21, 11-7

Semis: L. McDowell d. Suppan, forfeit; J. McDowell d. Shales 21-13, 21-7

Finals: J. McDowell d. L. McDowell 21-2, 21-14

Men's B

1st Round: Dan Jordan d. Mike Nobis 15-21, 21-16, 11-4; Bob Sterling d. Dennis Slott 14-21, 21-13, 11-8; Willie Grant d. Roger Ware, forfeit; Tom VanWeelden d. Pat Suppan 21-20, 21-6; John Valentine d. Keith Keca 21-8, 21-10; Gary Stearns d. Steve Akers 21-13, 13-21, 11-6; Gary Miller d. Tim Durst 21-7, 21-10; Pat Humphrey d. Barry Nowak 21-2, 21-12

Quarters: Jordan d. Sterling 21-3, 21-16; VanWeelden d. Grant 21-6, 21-11; Stearns d. Valentine 21-8, 21-6; Humphrey d. Miller 21-2, 21-12

Semis: VanWeelden d. Jordan 21-14, 21-11; Humphrey d. Stearns 21-19, 21-13

Finals: Humphrey d. VanWeelden 21-3, 21-8

Men's C

1st Round: Jack Fulton d. Gordon Craig 18-21, 21-17, 11-9; Mike Didonato d. Mark Klein 21-17, 8-21, 11-4; Terry Beecham d. Ron Symonds 21-17, 21-9; Gary Filter d. Randy McKinley 21-9, 21-10; Mike Cottone d. Mike Murtha 21-5, 21-6; Bill Vincent d. Dave Clarke 21-17, 21-16; Juan Gutierrez d. Bill Fortune 21-17, 21-18; Larry Kabrice, forfeit

Quarters: Fulton d. Didonato 21-4, 21-16; Filter d. Beecham 21-17, 21-7; Vincent d. Cottone 21-9, 15-21, 11-5; Gutierrez d. Kabrice 6-21, 21-15, 11-4

Semis: Filter d. Fulton 21-9, 21-9; Vincent d. Gutierrez 21-16, 17-21, 11-8

Finals: Filter d. Vincent 21-11, 21-14

Men's Novice

1st Round: Ed Cushing d. Mitch Bernstein 21-8, 20-21, 11-2; Dave Crabtree d. Steve Pashon 21-5, 21-3; Chuck Malone d. Dan Tomich 21-18, 21-6; Tom Schaugnessy d. Brent Beeckman; Barry Cousins d. Jim Bremner 10-21, 21-11, 11-9; Ron Murdock d. Fred Meyer 21-16, 21-14; Ron Givens d. Tom Pickett 15-21, 21-3, 11-3; Mike Brennan d. Mike Rudd 18-21, 21-8, 11-3

Quarters: Crabtree d. Cushing 21-5, 21-17; Malone d. Schaugnessy 21-15, 21-2; Cousins d. Murdock 21-18, 21-14; Brennan d. Givens 21-20, 2-21, 11-7

Semis: Malone d. Crabtree 21-19, 13-21, 11-7; Brennan d. Cousins 21-7, 21-6

Finals: Malone d. Brennan 21-4, 21-18

Women's C/Novice

1st Round: Lou Ann Valentine d. Kathy Palmer 21-4, 21-3; Ree Keca d. Kathy Kabrick 21-11, 21-10; Margie Myers d. Vicky Labhart 21-8, 21-8; Melanie Scott d. Barbara Didonato 21-7, 21-17; Barbara Baker d. Beverly Murray 21-3, 21-0; Shirley Grigsby d. Joann Sedam 21-3, 21-1; Rita Solis d. Shelly Portsheller 21-13, 21-10; Maria Edwards d. Carol Ferino 21-14, 16-21, 11-7

Quarters: Valentine d. Keca 21-3, 21-10; Scott d. Meyers; Baker d. Grigsby 21-14, 21-8; Edwards d. Solis 21-5, 21-8

Semis: Scott d. Valentine 21-9, 10-21, 11-7; Baker d. Edwards 21-3, 21-1

Finals: Baker d. Scott 21-8, 21-3

Connecticut

The first annual MS/Seamco Open was held March 28-30 at the Wallingford Clubhouse in Wallingford for the benefit of Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Results

Men's Open

Quarters: Phil Panerella d. John Cassese 21-8, 21-10; Howie Packer d. Nick Caruso 14-21, 21-11, 11-6; Dave Maturah d. Soc Verses 18-21, 21-9, 11-5; Ron Mirek d. Marshall Naimo 21-16, 21-3;

Semis: Panerella d. Packer 21-10, 21-12; Mirek d. Maturah 21-16, 18-21, 11-3

Finals: Mirek d. Panerella 21-18, 21-12

Men's B

Quarters: Will Verhoeff d. Harvey Adler 18-21, 21-17, 11-10; Tony Rodolaki d. John Haslett 21-5, 21-13; Stan Borowski d. Bob Siemiatowski 18-21, 21-11, 11-8

Semis: Rodolaki d. Verhoeff 21-12, 21-3; Borowski d. Barbino 17-21, 21-8, 11-5

Finals: Rodolaki d. Borowski 21-17, 21-18

Men's C

Quarters: Wayne Bruno d. John Mendella 21-17, 21-13; Paul Konopaske d. Jack Olcott 21-12, 17-21, 11-9; Adam Santiago d. Michael Madigan 21-10, 21-9; Ira Kropneck d. Stan Nadjunch 21-7, 11-21, 11-10

Semis: Bruno d. Konopaske 21-11, 21-9; Santiago d. Kropneck 2-11, 21-13

Finals: Bruno d. Santiago 17-21, 21-19, 11-9

Men's Open Doubles

Quarters: Howie Packer/Jack Nocera d. Nick Caruso/Allen Hornstein 21-10, 21-7; Soc Verses/Peter Perimenis d. Will Verhoeff/Vinnie Abate 21-13, 21-15; Jack Fruin/Dick Wells d. Marshall Naimco/Barry McDermott 21-10, 21-18; John Cassese/Dave Maturah d. Paul Konopaske/Jim Wartonick 21-2, 21-5

Semis: Packer/Nocera d. Verses/Perimenis 21-13, 21-15; Cassese/Maturah d. Fruin/Wells 19-21, 21-4, 11-4

Finals: Packer/Nocera d. Cassese/Maturah 21-18, 21-13

Women's Open

Semis: Terry Beers d. Jackie Adler 21-7, 21-9; Laurie Vander Woude d. Lynn Petrowski 21-2, 21-10

Finals: Vander Woude d. Beers 21-2, 21-5

Women's C

Quarters: Lori Wartonick d. Terry Beers 21-3, 21-12; Susan Martucci d. Judy Domian 21-6, 21-15; Fiona MacKay d. Trudi Heinemann 21-2, 21-8; Neonila Martynick d. BarbaraGinguich 21-13, 13-21, 11-3

Semis: Wartonick d. Martucci 21-18, 21-16; MacKay d. Martynick 21-10, 21-9

Finals: MacKay d. Wartonick 21-4, 21-15

Women's Novice

Quarters: Frances Trainer d. Lori Cunningham 21-4, 21-6; Amy Nassen d. Vicky Lanz 21-8, 21-12; Paula Brown d. Carol Lee Ferrucci 21-1, 21-10; Rita Andreoli d. Sandy Collins 21-18, 15-21, 11-8

Semis: Trainer d. Nassen 21-8, 21-12; Andreoli d. Brown 21-17, 21-13

Finals: Trainer d. Andreoli 21-20, 21-15

Michigan

The fifth annual Capitol City Classic Racquetball Tournament took place March 28-30 at the Lansing YMCA, with 123 players competing in nine divisions.

Results

Men's A: 1st-Bryan Smith, 2nd-Tom Kolassa, 3rd-Mike Stelter, 4th-Len Schwartz

Men's B: 1st-Vic Burwell, 2nd- Craig Schaner, 3rd-Larry Rosenberg, Cons-John Pferrer

Men's C: 1st-Frank Soave, 2nd-Chris Klinger, 3rd-Ernie Matties, 4th-Brent Danielson, Cons-Doug Willis

Men's Novice: 1st-Larry Schaner, 2nd-Brad Bohnek, 3rd-Jay Liggins, 4th-Thomas Keneipp, Cons-Sam Morton

Men's Seniors: 1st-John Raducha, 2nd-Warren Roost, 3rd-Robert Schermer, 4th-Chuck Paaso

Men's Masters: 1st-Clint Bradley, 2nd-Carl Ludtke, 3rd-William Harr, 4th-John Kennaugh

Women's A: 1st-Patti Eshenroder, 2nd-Mary Ellen Fallon, 3rd-Barb Burwell, 4th-Dianne Driver

Women's C: 1st-Margaret Messenger, 2nd-Arlene Allan, 3rd-Brenda Troska, 4th-Susan Kring, Cons-Mary Mapes

Women's Novice: 1st-Barbara Trickey, 2nd-Diane Caruso, 3rd-Dianna Honeywell, 4th-Riens Thompson

New York

The fourth annual Auburn WMCA-WEIU Tinkers Racquetball Tournament took place March 22 and 23.

Results

Men's Open

Quarters: Leo Marsocci d. Nick Ferreri 21-5, 21-5; Preston Prue d. Sonny Monroe 17-21, 21-11, 11-10; Mark Renzi d. Jack Cavanaugh 21-5, 21-13; Jim Rougeux d. Peter Tonzi 21-9, 20-21, 11-3

Semis: Marsocci d. Prue 21-2, 21-3; Renzi d. Rougeux 21-17, 21-19

Finals: Marsocci d. Renzi 21-8, 21-6

Men's B

Quarters: Peter Tonzi d. Ken Miller 21-13, 14-21, 11-7; Tom Wood d. Preston Prue 21-18, 16-21, 11-8; Sonny Monroe d. Jack Flore; Dick Clemente d. Tony Bellerdine 21-16, 21-11

Semis: Wood d. Tonzi 21-11, 21-13; Clemente d. Monroe 21-13, 19-21, 11-10

Finals: Wood d. Clemente 21-13, 13-21, 7-11

Men's C

Quarters: Dennis Ashby d. Dave Walters 21-9, 17-21, 11-4; Kevin Dautrich d. Tripp Blair 21-15, 21-6; Neil Goldberg d. Tom Miller 21-2, 21-15; Tony Bellerdine d. Lanny Kinner 21-11, 21-19

Semis: Dautrich d. Ashby 21-15, 20-21, 11-5; Goldberg d. Bellerdine 21-7, 21-12

Finals: Dautrich d. Goldberg 21-17, 21-8

Women's B

Quarters: Paula Morabito d. Joanne Reddick, default; Jill Besden d. Suzanne Morgan 21-2, 21-8; Sherry Moran d. Kitty Masztaler 21-10, 21-1

Semis: Donna Lahti d. Morabito 21-17, 6-21, 11-8; Moran d. Besden 21-17, 21-13

Finals: Lahti d. Moran 21-18, 21-11

Women's C

Quarters: Ellen Crawford d. JoAnne Reddick, default; Janny Ruiter d. Karen Quinn 21-19, 11-21, 11-7; Sue Crawford d. Nancy Wilson 21-0 21-3; Louise von Hahmann d. Suzanne Morgan 21-12, 21-10

Semis: E. Crawford d. Ruiter 20-21, 21-10, 11-8; von Hahmann d. S. Crawford 11-21, 21-8, 11-2

Finals: von Hahmann d. E. Crawford 21-19, 21-20

Indiana

The Indiana All-Star Invitational Racquetball Classic took place April 18 - 20 at the Full Court Club in Anderson.

Results

Men's Championship Bracket (Double Elimination Tournament)

Third Round: Mike Parker d. Jeff Reed 21-7, 21-12; Kim Drake d. Mark Tillapaugh 21-15, 19-21, 11-4; Rob Kinney d. Ken Strong 21-15, 21-18; Jack Roudebush d. Dave Halsell 21-11, 21-15

Semis: Drake d. Parker 21-10, 19-21, 11-7; Roudebush d. Kinney 21-16, 21-5

Finals: Roudebush d. Drake, forfeit

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Women's Championship Bracket

First Round: Dana Cornblath d. Nancie Messerschmidt 21-10, 21-12; Jane Pritchett d. Linda Green 21-8, 21-18; Pam Hofer d. Anita Grosz 21-8, 21-10; Kay Kuhfeld d. Jo Anna Davis 21-1, 21-11

Semis: Pritchett d. Cornblath 21-15, 20-21, 11-10; Kuhfeld d. Hofer 17-21, 21-8, 11-5

Finals: Kuhfeld d. Pritchett 21-14, 21-0

Washington

Turnwater Valley Racquet Club was the site of the Washington State Singles Championships April 18-20.

Results

Men's Open: st-Jeff Larson, 2nd-Fielding Snow, 3rd-Rich Hendrickson, Cons-Dave Hall

Men's B: 1st-Doug Tanabe, 2nd-Wayne Sageman, 3rd-J. McCarthy, Cons-Jeff Dobler

Men's C: 1st-Don Larson, 2nd-Corky Angelo, 3rd-Bill Reetz, Cons-Tom Olson

Men's D: 1st-Denis Ramaciore, 2nd-Monte Falen, 3rd-Mark Liefke, Cons-David Maddock

Men's Novice: 1st-George Gorder, 2nd-Mark Frank, 3rd-Jim Lux, Cons-Lynn Dowty

Men's Seniors: 1st-Gene Altman, 2nd-Mike Call, 3rd-Rhett Kirk, Cons-John Bernhart

Women's Open: 1st-Leslie Lindsog, 2nd-Medrice Coluccio, 3rd-Nancy Rios, Cons-Kim Tiediman

Women's B: 1st-Sandy Hawkins, 2nd-Jan Dobbins, 3rd-Sharon Kennedy, Cons-Maryellen Stewart

Women's C: 1st-Kathy Altman, 2nd-Trish Dick, 3rd-Melodie Fox, Cons-Pat Maddock

Women's Novice: 1st-Pennil Haaland, 2nd-Judy Schiurke, 3rd-Sue Wilson, Cons-Bonnie Hathaway

Masters A: 1st-John Logan, 2nd-Dick Reinhard

Master B: 1st-Ron Myers, 2nd-Bill Key

South Dakota

The Lewis Drug Pro-Am took place April 18-20 at the Sioux Falls YMCA.

Results

Pro: 1st-Don Constable, 2nd-Mark Hegg, Cons-Kelth Haigerson

Men's Open: 1st-Gregg Roth, 2nd-Gene Elrod, Cons-Jim Klempka

Men's Open Doubles: 1st-Ron Hoefer/Bob Morehind, 2nd-Roth/Elrod, Cons-Sonny Wakeman

Women's Open: 1st-Terry Peterson, 2nd-Kelly Meldinger, Cons-Rose Schmeller

Indiana

The Levee Court Club in West Lafayette held a tournament April 23 and 24.

Results

Men's A: 1st-Kerry Klein, 2nd-Dennis Alley, 3rd-Jim Westman, Cons-Mark Autry

Men's B: 1st-Kevin Smith, 2nd-Joe Fowler, 3rd-Jerry Andis, Cons-Mike Doyle

Men's C: 1st-Bill Vicars, 2nd-Chris Pizzolanti, 3rd-Bill Bradshaw, Cons-Jim Sharp

Men's D: 1st-Ken Ragsdale, 2nd-Robert Fuchs, 3rd-Matt Koehler, Cons-A. Huerliman

Women's B: 1st-Marilyn Huddleston, 2nd-JoAnne MacDonald, 3rd-Jill Guthrie, Cons-Bev Beck

Women's C: 1st-Diane Walkey, 2nd-Diahn Campagna, 3rd-Jan Ragsdale, Cons-Marsha Mohr

Women's D: 1st-Carol Anderson, 2nd-Kitty Hildabrandt, 3rd-Carol Murphy, Cons-Sue Mitchell

Juniors: 1st-K. Ragsdale, 2nd-K. Ragsdale, 3rd-A. Banning

Nebraska

Sports Courts of Bellevue was the site of the 1980 National Light Nebraska State Racquetball Singles Championships April 25-27, sponsored by the Omaha wholesaler for Natural Light Beer.

Men's A: Mark Domangue d. Dave McEwen 21-8, 7-21, 11-5

Women's A: Laurie Ogden d. Anita Bahe 21-16, 12-21, 11-0

Men's B/A: Rodger Lindwall Jr. d. Norman Anderson 21-9, 21-13

Men's BB: Dave Olson d. Ron Galusha 21-14, 21-17

Women's B: Kathy Ogden d. Myrta Hansen 21-15, 21-19

Men's CB: Lynn Manhart d. Bruce Albright 21-13, 21-16

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Mark Domangue, left, beat Dave McEwen in their Men's Open Finals match.

Women's C: Marcie Campbell d. Marilyn Booth 16-21, 21-3, 11-4

Men's CC: Randy Wenz d. Jerry Smith 21-20, 21-11

Men's D: Rod Riecke d. Mike Levasseur 21-12, 21-12

Women's D: Theresa Hanson d. Kim DeVoss 21-10, 21-14

Seniors: Hal Smith d. Rick Harley 21-15, 21-4

Boy's 15 and Under: Joe Lindwall Jr. d. Frank Slepicka Jr. 21-1, 21-2

South Dakota

The Sioux Falls YMCA hosted the South Dakota State Singles championships April 25-27.

Results

Men's A: 1st-Tony Upkes, 2nd-Keith Halgerson, Cons-Bob Hastings

Men's B: 1st-Doug Schneider, 2nd-Terry Hill, Cons-Roger Eggen

Men's C: 1st-Gary Farrall, 2nd-Joe Edelen, Cons-Clint Koble

Men's Seniors: 1st-Ron Hoefert, 2nd-Randy Kouri, Cons-Jim Kirschman



Kelly Meidinger is South Dakota's women's champ and Tony Upkes holds the men's title.



Women's A: 1st-Kelly Meidinger, 2nd-Terry Peterson, Cons-Mary Brown

Women's B: 1st-Sandy Gross, 2nd-Deb Upkes, Cons-Janet Jones

New York

The first annual Volvo Amateur Racquetball Tournament took place April 28 - May 1 at the Racquet and Tennis Courts of "Palace", Queens.

Results

First Round: Gary Thame d. Frank Kram 21-7, 21-9; Lawrence Lacquia d. George Rochford 21-11, 21-17; John Nugiel d. Richard Kowall 21-14, 17-21, 11-5; Fred Krowicki d. Leo Siciliano 21-17, 21-18, Andrew Yates d. Lee Wong-te-Tsu 21-19, 21-15; Stuart Stanley d. Bruce Cohen 21-15, 17-21, 11-6; Jerome Clasullo d. Fray Logan 21-17, 21-17; Mark Catsos d. Gary Grillo 21-9, 21-16; Stanley Campitello d. William Zeist, default; Charles Harrison d. Hodgony Pack 21-17, 21-8; Thomas Caples d. Neil Geyer 21-12, 17-21, 11-7; Manny Senra d. Garlano Hnatiw 21-15, 21-8; Orville Sluka d. Stanley Massie 21-16, 18-21, 11-5; Frank Clasul d. Larry Karsh 21-18, 21-11; Greg Vazquez d. Day Gullet 21-11, 21-18

Second Round: Thame d. Harrison 21-15, 21-18; Nugiel d. Caples 21-18, 17-21, 11-8; Senra d. Catsos 21-17, 21-10; Sluka d. Stanley 21-19, 21-15; Clasul d. Yates 21-15, 21-14; Lacquia d. Campitello 21-10, 21-18; Pires d. Vazquez 21-14, 18-21, 11-9

Quarters: Nugiel d. Thame 21-17, 17-21, 11-5; Senra d. Lacquia 21-16, 21-15; Sluka d. Clasullo 21-16, 21-18; Clasul d. Pires 21-18, 21-15

Semis: Clasul d. Nugiel 21-16, 21-13; Senra d. Sluka 21-11, 16-21

Finals: Senra d. Clasul 21-18, 21-14

Indiana

The Indiana State Racquetball Association 1980 State Singles Championships took place May 1-4 at the Racquetball of Greenbriar in Indianapolis.

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Results

Men's Open: 1st-John Amatulli, 2nd-Jack Roudebush, 3rd-Ron Johnson, 4th-Rob Kinney, Cons-Marty Wachel

Women's Open: 1st-Kay Kuhfield, 2nd-Dana Cornblath, 3rd-Pat Foltz, 4th-Pam Hofer, Cons-Patia Horan

Men's A: 1st-Erich Rigby, 2nd-Ron Bakpoff, 3rd-Jim Hamilton, 4th-Gregg Brasseur, Cons-Mark Baker

Men's B: 1st-Layne Scott, 2nd-Bruce Fulkerson, 3rd-Rob Robinson, 4th-Greg McAll, Cons-Tony Gabriel

Women's B: 1st-Linda Green, 2nd-Patsy Graham, 3rd-Ann Breithaupt, 4th-Marcy Edwards, Cons-Diann Nestel

Men's C: 1st-Dennis York, 2nd-Jim Bartlett, 3rd-Craig Barker, 4th-Terry Florek, Cons-Mike Hughes

Women's C: 1st-Kathy Busanic, 2nd-Cindy DeWitt, 3rd-Cynthia Phillips, 4th-Hannelore Estep, Cons-Brenda Boulais

Men's Seniors: 1st-Harold Huff, 2nd-Chuck Solomon, 3rd-Rex Lawler, 4th-Bob Steege, Cons-Charles Childers

Men's Masters: 1st-Earl Dixon, 2nd-Charles Gunn, 3rd-Leo Cox, 4th-Pierre Miller, Cons-Bill Lindner

Men's Golden Masters: 1st-Karl Schmidt, 2nd-Bob Craig, Jr., 3rd-Del Daines, 4th-Emil Mamula

Quarters: Chabot/Chabot d. Mike DiPardo/Bob Fiset 21-18, 21-18; Krikorian/Rossi d. Depot/West 21-20, 18-21, 11-8; Lavalley/Northcutt d. Ed McGovern/John Rosato 21-18, 21-10; Katz/Melaragno d. Dennis Culberson/Jay Roberts 21-10, 21-17

Semis: Chabot/Chabot d. Krikorian/Rossi 17-21, 21-15, 11-8; Katz/Melaragno d. Lavalley/Northcutt 21-16, 13-21, 11-9

Finals: Chabot/Chabot d. Katz/Melaragno 15-21, 21-16, 11-6 **Third:** Lavalley/Northcutt d. Krikorian/Rossi 18-21, 21-10, 11-4 **Cons:** Brown/Robillard d. Adams/Couture 21-12, 21-20

Men's B

First Round: D. Schachter/Waldman d. Donardo/Sweet 21-2, 21-14; Goebel/Henry d. Cady/Chase 21-8, 21-7; Langdon/Wild d. DeLuca/Shields 21-2, 21-2; Scanlon/Shedd d. Marcone/Miller 21-15, 21-14; Mocini/O'Brien d. McKeever/Nelson 21-8, 21-12; Kramer/H. Schachter d. Gottlieb/Leach 9-21, 21-7, 11-5; Bradley/Ruggerio d. Menders/Swanson 21-4, 21-9; Crocker/King d. Friel/Renaldi 19-21, 21-16, 11-8; Bynum/Gosselin d. Cockayne/Sullivan 21-7, 21-10; Steere/Wade d. Buteau/Gullman 21-2, 21-14; McCartin/Razza d. Conn/LeClair 21-4, 21-9; Flaherty/Fournier d. Compraro/Purro 21-7, 21-9; Brichault/Couture d. Bailey/Truchon 21-15, 21-5; Robillard/Santucci d. Korkus/Drew 21-19, 20-21, 11-3

Second Round: Antiguanno/Penza d. D'Eletto/Lostocco 21-9, 21-10; D. Schachter/Waldman d. Goebel/Henry 21-2, 21-14; Langdon/Wild d. Scanlon/Shedd 21-3, 21-16; Mocini/O'Brien d. Kramer/H. Schachter 21-20, 21-13; Bradley/Ruggerio d. Crocker/King 21-15, 21-19; Steere/Wade d. Bynum/Gosselin 21-15, 21-10; McCartin/Razza d. Flaherty/Fournier 21-4, 21-13; Brichault/Couture d. Robillard/Santucci 21-10, 21-17

Quarters: Schachter/Waldman d. Antiguanno/Penza; Langdon/Wild d. Mocini/O'Brien 21-11, 16-21, 11-2; Steere/Wade d. Bradley/Ruggerio 21-12, 21-12; McCartin/Razza d. Brichault/Couture 21-8, 21-18

Semis: Schachter/Waldman d. Langdon/Wild 21-6, 21-15; Steere/Wade d. McCartin/Razza 21-17, 21-14

Finals: Schachter/Waldman d. Steere/Wade 21-20, 21-20 **Third:** McCartin/Razza d. Langdon/Wild 21-11, 21-9 **Cons:** Marcone/Miller d. Bailey/Truchon 21-11, 21-19

Women's

First: Melba Campbell/Marilyn Ellis.

Illinois

Triple-S Promotions ran the Natural Light/NFL Pro-Am May 2-4 at the Glass Court in Lombard.

Results

NFL Pro

Semis: Matt Blair d. Larry McCarren 21-9, 21-10; Stu Volight d. Thom Darden 21-10, 21-5 (Semi final winners competed in June tournament) **Cons:** Chris Barth d. Jim Osborne

Men's Open

Semis: Andy Witt d. Jim Scheyer 18-21, 21-19, 11-4; Tom Golueke d. Marshall Waldo 20-21, 21-9, 11-10

Finals: Witt d. Golueke 21-18, 18-21, 11-8 **Cons:** Bill Lyman

Women's Open

Semis: Judy Sawicki d. Sue Chris Evon 21-12, 21-9; Sue Carow d. Lois Jandris 21-2, 21-3

Finals: Sawicki d. Carow 21-10, 6-21, 11-9 **Cons:** Chris Evon

Men's B Finals: Mike Mason d. Bill Schram 20-21, 21-13, 11-2

Men's C Finals: Bruce Lejeck d. Tim Cena 21-13, 17-21, 11-6

Men's D Finals: Ken Gross d. Don Walls 21-19, 21-19

Women's D Finals: Jane Reed d. Bonnie Anderson 21-19, 21-19

Seniors Round Robins: 3 way tie for first: Ron Johnson, Ron Paul, Phil Simborg **Cons:** Al Shetzer (0-3)

Rhode Island

Over 90 players participated in the 1980 Rhode Island State Doubles Championships May 2-4 at the Corner Shot Racquetball Club in Warwick.

First Round: Joe Chabot/Mike Chabot d. Howie Hawkins/Don Krasko 19-21, 21-7, 11-6; Rene Depot/George West d. Dave Brown/Jack Robillard 21-14, 21-11; Karl Krikorian/Peter Rossi d. Scott Pucino/Dave Harlow 21-18, 21-9; Al Lavalley/Gary Northcutt d. Rich Adams/Don Couture 21-11, 7-21, 11-8; Paul Katz/Jerry Melaragno d. Bob Casey/Dick Zotti 20-21, 21-15, 11-4

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California

The newly remodeled 17 court facility of Rossmoor Racquetball Courts in Seal Beach was the site for the third annual Rossmoor Open May 2-4.

Results

Men's Open: 1st-Gary Berberet, 2nd-Dave Bush
Men's B: 1st-Brian Hawkes, 2nd-Bob Holcomb
Men's C: 1st-Chuck Johnson, 2nd-Tom Obbema
Men's Novice: 1st-Ricky Innigar, 2nd-John Luyben
Men's Beg. Nov.: 1st-Blair Geim, 2nd-Ron Chonister
Men's Masters: 1st-Stanley Silver, 2nd-Roger McEachern
Men's Seniors: 1st-Jay Corbett, 2nd-Jerry Conine
Boys Juniors: 1st-Brian Hawkes, 2nd-Scott Scofield
Men's Open Doubles: 1st-Davidson/Hernandez, 2nd-Sword/Majher
Men's B Doubles: 1st-Mooney/DeRobertis, 2nd-Tetreat/Burger
Men's C Doubles: 1st-Meier/Wolf, 2nd-Jones/Riordan
Women's Open: 1st-Kippi Bishop, 2nd-Darlene Charleston
Women's C: 1st-Jana Shaker, 2nd-Nancy Stewart
Women's Novice: 1st-Sandy Hay, 2nd-Betty San Jose
Women's Beg. Nov.: 1st-Susan Ford, 2nd-Lisa Williams
Women's C Doubles: 1st-Spanky/Choate, 2nd-Cantu/Ball
Upper Mixed Doubles: 1st-Bishop/Sword, 2nd-Choate/Cook
Lower Mixed Doubles: 1st-Wall/Johnson, 2nd-Rippy/Estrada

Minnesota

Northwest Racquet and Swim Club in St. Louis Park was the site for the Minnesota State Championships May 2-4.

Results

Men's Open: 1st-Bobby Adam, 2nd-Steve Singler, 3rd-Dan Ferris, Cons-Gus Farell
Men's A: 1st-Bill Frank, 2nd-Tim Lavo, 3rd-Perry Deutsch, Cons-Mark Kellar
Men's B: 1st-Gary Conda, 2nd-Terry Daniels, 3rd-Kirby Bayerte, Cons-Bill O'Dean
Men's C: 1st-Monty Beckler, 2nd-Bob Whelan, 3rd-Mark Pashoy, Cons-Marty Piechowicz
Men's Novice: 1st-P.J. Lewandowski, 2nd-Tom Kohmetscher, 3rd-Mark Masterson, Cons-Mike Spece
Men's Senior Open: 1st-Bill Hall, 2nd-Mike Gorman, 3rd-Bob Adam, Cons-Tom Anderson
Men's Senior B: 1st-Neil Boderman, 2nd-Quentin Minkin, 3rd-Ron Johnson, Cons-Save McCue
Men's Masters: 1st-Bob McNamara, 2nd-Ralph Stillman, 3rd-Bruce Anderson, Cons-Pat Murphy
Boys 17 and Under: 1st-Hart Johnson, 2nd-Dave Trautman, 3rd-Paul Rosland, Cons-Mark Larsen
Boys 13 and Under: 1st-Peter McCarthy, 2nd-Todd Stead
Women's A: 1st-Jeanette Crnich, 2nd-Carol Osterberg, 3rd-Mary Hannes, Cons-Marsha Liss
Women's B: 1st-Judy Franke, 2nd-Libby Pastor, 3rd-Marys Otis, Cons-Judy Bausch
Women's C: 1st-Shelley Lusk, 2nd-Debbie Thompson, 3rd-Betty King, Cons-Kathy Hayes
Women's Novice: 1st-Maureen Zishka, 2nd-Barb Riniker, 3rd-Cheri Provo, Cons-Patty Anne Vanden-Broecke

Arizona

The second annual Coke-Coors Racquetball Classic was held at Yuma Athletic Club May 15-18.

Results

Men's Pro
Quarters: Steve Mondry d. Mike Romo 21-18, 21-11; Gary Berberet d. Bryan Oates 13-21, 21-20, 11-6; Bob Bolan d. Kevin Williams 21-12, 21-18; Jeff Bowman d. Dennis Majher 21-4, 21-15
Semis: Berberet d. Mondry 21-11, 21-18; Bowman d. Bolan 20-21, 21-8, 11-9
Finals: Bowman d. Berberet 18-21, 21-20, 11-7

Men's Open
Quarters: Bryan Oates d. Kevin Williams 21-8, 21-10; Evan Terry d. Manuel Singh 21-20, 21-10; Mike Romo d. Joe Siemienowski 21-13, 21-5; Jack Nolan d. Demis Majher 21-8, 21-15
Semis: Gates d. Terry 21-15, 21-6; Romo d. Nolan 21-8, 21-15
Finals: Oates d. Romo 21-9, 21-7

Men's B
Quarters: Larry Moon d. Michael Shedd 21-8, 21-10; Rick Montejano d. Rob Garland 21-14, 21-20; Benjamin Sanchez d. Gabe Fuentes 21-13, 21-19; Richard Picazo d. Sam Gould 21-7, 19-21, 11-0
Semis: Montejano d. Moon 20-21, 21-4, 11-5; Picazo d. Sanchez 21-18, 4-21, 11-6
Finals: Picazo d. Montejano 21-17, 21-12

Men's C
Quarters: Kelly Phips d. Alex Romero 21-13, 19-21, 11-7; Fred Greenwood d. Gordon Roediger 21-19, 21-16; Gabe Fuentes d. Tim Swenson 15-21, 21-19, 11-9; Richard Romo d. Mike Prazich 21-14, 21-2
Semis: Phipps d. Greenwood 21-9, 21-20; Fuentes d. Romo 21-11, 21-19
Finals: Fuentes d. Phipps 21-20, 14-21, 11-9

Men's Novice
Quarters: Joe Lovett d. Fernando Gutierrez 17-21, 21-18, 11-5; Trent Cosse d. Johnny Pearson 21-15, 21-18; Dean Moeller d. Jake Eisenberg 21-10, 21-12; Kevin Watson d. Skip Peeples 21-11, 21-11
Semis: Cosse d. Lovett 21-14, 21-18; Watson d. Moeller 21-14, 21-9
Finals: Cosse d. Watson 21-19, 21-17

Men's Seniors
Quarters: Bill Graham d. George Vafis 21-13, 18-21, 11-0; Martin Robbins d. Roger Peterson 21-6, 21-13; Fred Sixta d. Waldo Israel 14-21, 21-13, 11-10; Sam Gould d. Maxie Jarrell 21-10, 21-5
Semis: Graham d. Robbins 21-5, 21-5; Gould d. Sixta 21-4, 21-10
Finals: Gould d. Graham 21-14, 21-12

Women's Pro (Round Robin): 1st-Hope Weisbach, 2nd-Darlene Charleston, 3rd-Becky Gonzales, 4th-Kris Hunter

Women's B
Quarters: Cheryl Smith d. Linda Herrold 21-8, 8-21, 11-6; Paula Arbaugh d. Sheri Hilden 20-21, 21-11, 11-4; Debbie Swenson d. Jan Davidson 21-3, 21-4; Maggie Rodriguez d. Debbie Brown 21-10, 21-14
Semis: Smith d. Arbaugh 21-5, 21-12; Rodriguez d. Swenson 21-6, 21-4
Finals: Rodriguez d. Smith 14-21, 21-10, 11-1

Women's C
Quarters: Debbie Brown d. Lynn Gallger 21-11, 21-14; Denise Wah d. Sue Hansen 21-16, 19-21, 11-0; Sheri Hilden d. Shauna Pearson 21-6, 21-12; Cheryl Fuentes d. Linda Herrold 21-7, 16-21, 11-6
Semis: Brown d. Wah 21-16, 21-10; Fuentes d. Hilden 21-14, 21-5
Finals: Fuentes d. Brown 21-10, 21-14

Women's Novice
Quarters: Joy DeSantis d. Joan Preston 21-7, 21-7; Mary Mateljan d. Cindy Sella 21-4, 21-2; Brenda Whalen d. Shauna Pearson 11-21, 21-15, 11-6; Denise Wah d. Nancy Woodhull 21-6, 21-11
Semis: DeSantis d. Mateljan 21-8, 21-1; Wah d. Whalen 21-5, 21-15
Finals: DeSantis d. Wah 21-10, 21-12

Upcoming Events

Sept. 12-14

Ohio State Racquetball Tournament, 2700 Roberts Ave. N.W., Canton, OH 44709, Tournament Director Fred Zitzer 216-455-7788

Oct. 3-5

Austed Pro-Am, Racquetball of Sioux Falls, 817 W. Russell, Sioux Falls, SD 57104, Tournament Director Tony Upkes 605-336-9494

Oct. 19

Seamco/Palm Beach County Senior Olympics Racquetball Championships for men and women 55 and over, Sport Court, 1111 Hypoluxo Rd., Lantana, FL 33462, Tournament Manager Randy Hines, 305-627-1770

Oct. 24-26

Des Moines Open Racquetball Tournament, Des Moines Y.M.C.A., 101 Locust St., Des Moines 50309, Contact Y.M.C.A. Physical Department 515-288-0131

Nov. 17

Seamco/Sunshine State's National Senior Olympics Racquetball Championships, open to same age group at same location as Oct. 19 event.



In choosing photos of tournament play for these pages, we will give priority to pictures of players wearing protective eye gear.

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—Tony Leighton photos

Hogan, McKay

Televis

**Winnipeg Stop
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by Tony Leighton

The fact that Marty Hogan won the latest stop on the pro tour was in itself not unusual; nor was it out of the ordinary to see Dave Peck in his seventh final of the year and Steve Strandemo and Mike Yellen in the semis. But matchups aside this tournament was different.

To begin with its location: Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. For the second year running Leach Sporting Goods and the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (Canada's largest network) imported most of racquetball's best players to this city of 500,000 that sits on the edge of the Great Canadian Prairie.



The blasts from the racquet of Marty Hogan, right, in the finals are too much for Dave Peck, who'd played his semis match less than two hours earlier in a tight schedule tailored to TV filming.

Steve Strandemo continues his string of marathon matches as he loses to Hogan in a semi tie-breaker that lasts two hours and 20 minutes.

sion Winners

Then there's the nature of the event: a 16 man invitational with a six woman side-show. Eight of America's racquetball cream—Hogan, Peck, Yellen, Strandemo, Thomas, Koltun, McCoy and Wagner—matched in the first round with eight of Canada's best. Among those were Lindsay Myers of Vancouver, currently tenth ranked on the NRC tour, and Ross Harvey, the 20-year-old Montreal player who spent half of last year in San Diego.

And finally there's the most intriguing aspect of the entire affair—television. The Leach/CBC International Racquetball Classic is a pro stop made for TV. Between June 26 and 29 at Winnipeg's relatively small Court Sports Club there were probably fewer live spectators than at any other pro tournament. But those who will eventually see the 13 half-hour "packaged matches" on television will far outnumber the crowds at all other tournaments put together.

In the latter part of this year and the early part of next Canadians will watch a "streamlined" version of the action on all CBC affiliated stations across the country. And by tuning into ESPN, the all-sport network, Americans also will have access to the tournament. With on court interviews, slow motion replay, tips from Marty Hogan, and color commentary by Charlie Brumfield himself (who was acclaimed a "natural" after last year's event), the CBC Classic is considered the most innovative presentation of televised racquetball yet filmed.

For Dave Peck, however, accommodating the camera was not a novelty to enjoy. His semi-final match with Mike Yellen was scheduled only two hours before the final, and after beating Yellen he wasn't fully prepared to do battle with Marty Hogan. It was like writing two final exams in one afternoon.

As the title match began, there wasn't much indication of Peck's fatigue; he quickly ran up a 5-0 advantage and then carried on to 10-5. But Hogan, as is his habit, applied himself in a streak of intensity that knotted the game at 10-10.

Where Peck did seem to lose some sharpness came just after that, at the critical mid-point. The serve was gained and lost several times at 12-12, each player sensing that he'd have to control the front court to win. And forward they moved, rallying on reflex. At one point Peck was perilously beyond the service line, yet he managed to snap a quick volley from waist level—into a perfect rollout.

"The anticipation of the pros today," he later emphasized, "is getting far better. Hogan and I can stand right up front and blast back and forth at each other."

But all that blasting takes its toll. At 13-13 Peck began to overswing just enough to allow Hogan the edge. On a precise series of backhand and forehand kills Hogan scored five clean points in a row, going for

the winner each time. Peck was only able to serve once more before the outcome of the first game was academic. At 20-14 Hogan followed a high bounding ball to the front wall, faked a slam and then dropped it with a feather.

The confrontation of two power players, especially these two power players, in any pro stop final promises to be run on high energy, and Peck was plainly zapped as he left the court between games. He slumped in a chair disconsolately.

"At a normal pro stop you play one match a day," he complained. "That's usually enough to wear you down, especially against Yellen or Hogan. At this calibre of play your strength just doesn't like to go through two matches."



Peck makes the most of Mike Yellen mis-hits to win the semi-final match between the competitors who'd been trading the number two pro tour spot all season.



Following that comment Peck re-entered the court and immediately lost the first three points of the second game on passing shots he could have cut off, had his legs not been made of lead at the time. And although he tied at 3-3, he had given Hogan a head start, at least psychologically.

If anything it was Hogan's psychological power that carried him through the second game. Peck drew on his physical fortitude to serve and retrieve, but he suffered several mental setbacks that must have been disillusioning.

The serve changed hands 20 times between 3-3 and 5-5, but Peck hung tough to tie again at 7-7 and then take a short lead at 9-8. It was at that point, however, that Hogan flipped into third gear, diving to the ground twice to make two spectacular gets. He then took the lead 13-11 and dealt another mental blow, diving down again, this time killing the ball in the process. A perfect diving forehand kill, if there is such a creature.

That was the end of Peck. He faded visibly as Hogan passed him four straight times to lift the score to 19-13. One service change and two hard forehand kills later it was all over. Hogan had been characteristically efficient in yet another final and well-deserving of the \$2,500 first prize.

Still one has to wonder whether Dave Peck might have escaped his bridesmaid's role had he not faced Mike Yellen first

thing that morning. Peck's new status as first pretender to Hogan's throne is one that Yellen has always coveted. Consequently a Peck/Yellen match is filled these days with as much raw emotion as it is power. And it's draining to watch, let alone play.

The Leach/CBC semi-final was no exception. The two Ektelon teammates, both with drumstick thighs and hydraulic arms, went at each other right from the start, trading numerous volleys at mid-court. But thanks to Yellen's unusually inaccurate shotmaking, Peck suddenly jumped ahead to 9-3.

That became the story of the match: rallies would carry on at full tilt until Yellen mis-hit. He literally skipped his way out of the first game, trailing 6-11, 9-14 and 9-20. The last four points were won by Peck when, each time, Yellen hit the floor on a kill attempt.

Yellen's precision was off just enough to ruin his chances at a win, but he rallied endlessly with Peck. Again, in the second game, both players dug in at the beginning, the ball being served 22 times for a 6-6 tie.

Then Peck lifted off like a small rocket, taking four quick points on a mixed bag of shots. Yellen skipped again during his serve. Peck gained two more points, the second on an ace. At 9-19 Yellen managed an ace of own, but it provided little satisfaction. He skipped one last time at 20-11 and the match was over. Score: 21-9, 21-11.

While Yellen was virtually ineffective against Peck, his skills had been sharp the day before against Don Thomas in the quarter-finals. Thomas was able to keep up some impressive power rallies but he always seemed to come out on the losing end. Yellen cruised past 21-15, 21-11.

Peck also encountered little friction in the quarters. Lindsay Myers managed to match his power, but not his control. Myers made some critical errors near the end of both games, losing the first 21-18 and then capitulating the second, 21-7.

Curiously enough it was Hogan in his match with Ben Koltun who looked the shakiest of all quarter-final winners. Although Koltun dropped the first game 16-21, he kept pressuring Hogan with accurate serves and took a 17-12 lead in the second game. Hogan rallied with a serving storm of his own, including three straight aces, but he was stopped dead at 17-17 by a swift forehand pass. Koltun once again stole the momentum and served his way to 21.

Much to his disappointment he didn't get past five in the tie-breaker.

Hogan's semi-final with Strandemo, his third tie-breaker in three matches, was probably the best of the tournament. Strandemo is made of efficiency; he takes nothing for granted, setting up each shot as if it's vital. Compared to Hogan's casual, yet natural precision, Strandemo's accuracy is worked at. And where Hogan erupts with power, Strandemo relies more on the principles of leverage and control.

That control kept him even with Hogan to 7-7 in the first game and allowed him to catch up to 17-17 after Hogan tried to cut loose. Three straight Hogan points, however, put the game out of Strandemo's reach and it ended 21-17.

Game Two seemed to go on forever. Strandemo was far from downtrodden after the first loss and kept on plugging, tying the score at 10-10. Much to the despair of the film crew, that took 90 minutes.

Hogan began to get frustrated while Strandemo remained cool, and consistent. He gained four quick points to lead 14-10 and then kept on rolling to 18-13. Hogan regained the serve twice after that but lost it just as many times and then lost the game on a fatal skipped return of Strandemo's serve.

Victory, however, has a way of crumbling, and so it did for Steve Strandemo. The crowd was obviously on his side but, as Dave Peck said, "I think you'll find Marty pretty tough going into this tie-breaker."

In the quarters Ben Koltun pressures Hogan with accurate serves, but gets only five points in the tie-breaker.



Ross Harvey, losing to Strandemo, in the photo on the left, and Lindsay Myers, Peck's victim, are the only Canadians progressing to the quarters in the Winnipeg tourney.



That he was. Before Strandemo could loosen up, he was at a 1-5 disadvantage. Ten minutes later Hogan snuffed an overhead to make it 10-5 and it wasn't likely he'd let that slip away. Sure enough Strandemo was forced to dive for the next point. He scooped, it dropped, he rose, and both players left the court after the longest match of the tournament to a standing ovation. It had taken Hogan two hours and twenty minutes to eliminate the fiery Strandemo.

It took Strandemo considerably less time to dispose of Montreal's Ross Harvey in the quarter-finals by scores of 21-14, 21-17. Harvey and Lindsay Myers were the only two of eight Canadians to survive the first round, although two others, Bob Daku of Edmonton and Winnipeg's own Wes Hadikin, performed well.

Daku, a talented doubles player, handed Hogan his first tie-breaker 18-21, 21-15, 11-7. And Hadikin, perennially one of Canada's best players, extended Koltun to three games, 21-18, 15-21, 11-4.



When Hogan had finished accepting his winner's check in front of the ever purring television cameras, another champion of equal stature began to warm up for her final match of the tournament. Heather McKay was the undisputed top seed in a curiously lopsided women's draw.

Don Thomas' power rallies are not enough to beat Yellen in the quarter-finals.

Toronto's Heather McKay, Canada's National Women's Champ, right, outplays Karin Walton to win their finals match 21-11, 21-12.



Aside from McKay, lately the newest U.S. national women's champion, the only other name of any repute was Karin Walton. Both women received byes from the first round of play and then McKay easily took care of Texas' Susie Dugan, 21-5, 21-6, and Walton blanked Linda Forcade of Winnipeg, 21-9, 21-6.

Walton claimed before the final that McKay could be beaten if she was kept in the back court and cut off with some good reflex shotmaking. That proved no easy task. With her radar-like sense of positioning, McKay passed Walton numerous times and refused to give her a chance to shoot freely. The serve that might have hurt McKay never materialized and Walton was clearly outdone 21-11, 21-12.

As Marty Hogan, with \$2,500 in his pocket and yet another silver trophy in his baggage, headed south on an airplane, Heather McKay graciously accepted the second Leach Cup given that day. The television producers were happy. They'd filmed the matches they'd hoped for. And way up in Winnipeg, Manitoba, racquetball had come another step closer to its self-admitted plan to woo TV. ●

Men's

Round of 16: Marty Hogan d. Bob Daku 18-21, 21-15, 11-7; Ben Koltun d. Wes Hadikin 21-18, 15-21, 11-4; Ross Harvey d. Craig McCoy 21-9, 21-13; Steve Strandemo d. Sherman Greenfield 21-4, 21-6; Dave Peck d. Brad Kruger 21-15, 21-6; Lindsay Myers d. Rich Wagner 13-21, 21-12, 11-5; Don Thomas d. Wayne Bowes 21-12, 21-8; Mike Yellen d. Ken Suffron 21-8, 21-6

Quarters: Hogan d. Koltun 21-18, 17-21, 11-5; Strandemo d. Harvey 21-14, 21-17; Peck d. Myers 21-18, 21-11; Yellen d. Thomas 21-15, 21-8

Semis: Hogan d. Strandemo 21-17, 13-21, 11-6; Peck d. Yellen 21-9, 21-11

Finals: Hogan d. Peck 21-14, 21-13

Women's

Quarters: Heather McKay, bye; Susie Dugan d. Carol Dupy 21-5, 21-6; Linda Forcade d. Ann Kashiwa 21-9, 21-5; Karin Walton, bye

Semis: McKay d. Dugan 21-5, 21-6; Walton d. Forcade 21-9, 21-6

Finals: McKay d. Walton 21-11, 21-12

Canadian viewers who wish to see this year's version of the Leach/CBC International Racquetball Classic should contact their local CBC affiliated station for scheduling details. U.S. viewers will find out broadcasting times by contacting the ESPN sports network.

Excerpts from Carol Brusslan's interview with Shannon Wright, which appeared in the September, 1977, issue of *National Racquetball* are part of the *The Complete Book of Women's Sports*. Doubleday has set a March, 1981 publication date for the book by Joann Lawless . . . If you're considering a job such as professional athlete, sportscaster, trainer, coach or scout, you can order William Ray Heitman's *Opportunities in Sports and Athletics* by calling 800-323-4900 or, in Illinois, 312-679-4210 . . . People with impaired hearing who play racquetball learn to compensate for missing the sound of the ball, a key element in the court sport. In his story on a tournament sponsored by the *Chicago Sun-Times* Len Ziehm wrote that Beverly Rice's opponent won because she could "hear the velocity of the ball off the front wall." Rice said she makes up for her lack of hearing by "concentrating on the rhythm of the ball." . . . Spaulding Racquetball Clubs, Inc., of St. Louis, MO, have taken over management of the former Racquetball-Coryell clubs in Ballwin and Bridgeton, MO, and of two New Jersey operations—the Eagle Roc Court Club in West Orange and the Century Fitness Club in Paramus. That brings to 27 the number of Spaulding owned or operated clubs around the country . . . *SportStyle*, a Fairchild publication, devoted its June 2 cover and five full inside pages to cover photos of racquetball clothes. Ned Phillips set up the action fashion pictures at the Olympic Court Club in Port Washington, NY, site of the November, 1978, NRC pro tour stop . . . Interior Steel Equipment Co. in Cleveland, OH, is introducing a new line of Wood Grain vinyl lockers in walnut, cherry and teak finishes . . . Marcelo Ringling Hunger stopped at USRA headquarters in Skokie to talk with USRA/NRC director Bob Kendler about the future of racquetball in Chile . . . Rob Rumpke has joined the Circuit Courts racquetball clubs as promotion director for the Dayton, OH, area . . . Will the time come when you'll visit your doctor to see if you've trained enough for a tournament? According to a June, 1980, article in *The Physician and Sportsmedicine* researchers in Eastern Europe claim that deficiencies of certain elements, like iron, show up in the blood and tissues when an athlete overtrains. ●

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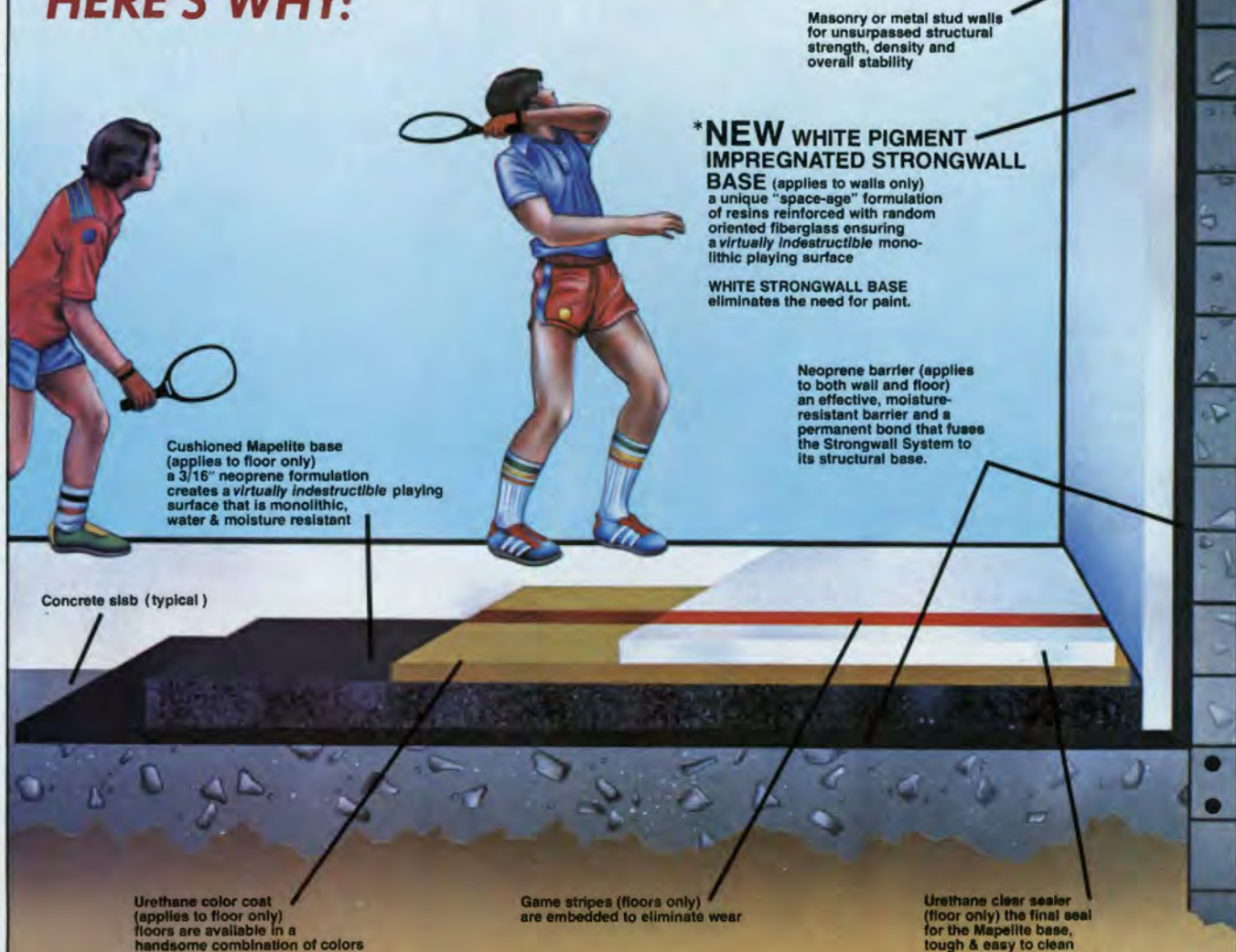
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Racquetball Barrage

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A lone player leads a chase down a racquetball court in this fashion photo by Chicago Tribune Photographer Tony Barnardi.

Watch this page each month starting next month for the NRC Pro Tour schedule.



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