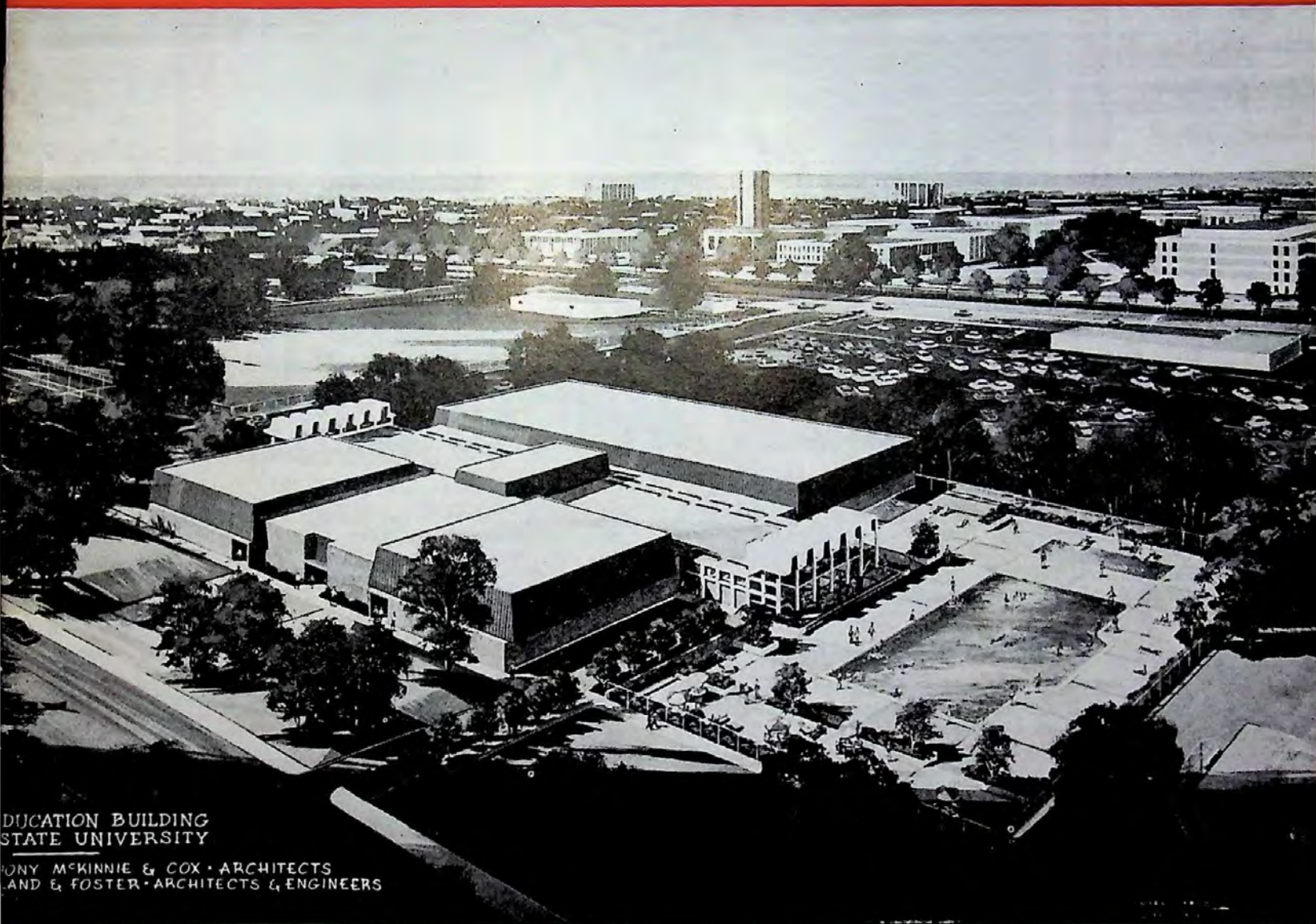


ACE

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OCTOBER 1968

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- Pages 6-13 — International Three-Wall
- Pages 17-19 — Instructional Feature



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MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE 38111

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

September 20, 1968

Mr. Robert W. Kendler
4100 Dempster
Skokie, Illinois

Dear Mr. Kendler:

The visit with you yesterday at lunch and the opportunity to hear you speak was a delightful experience. We are all deeply indebted to you for your taking the time to come down and talk to us about handball and advise with us about our new building. I have just finished talking to Mr. Merrill, our engineer, and he reported that he will be working with the architects to implement the suggestions that you made about the new handball courts. I am sure that we shall be calling upon you for some additional advice as we try to finalize our plans.

I also want to thank you for the training film which should be of tremendous help to our physical education teachers who are handling our handball classes. This certainly is one of the finest training films and instructional aids that I have ever seen. We shall certainly put it to good use.

Again let me tell you how much I enjoyed personally our visit. I will be seeing Sam Atcheson in a few days and passing on your regards to him. I am looking forward to having you visit us again and to receiving your cooperation in bringing one of the good tournaments to Memphis.

Sincerely yours,

C. C. Humphreys
C. C. Humphreys
President

USHA OFFICERS

President

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ON OUR COVER

In Detroit at the three-wall Jack Gillespie of Memphis brought plans for a battery of courts planned at Memphis State University. USHA President Bob Kendler took one look at them and said, "Let me fly down and talk to your people and sell them on a real gallery court." A fortnight later Bob winged his way Southward, spent a full afternoon explaining the need for a "Classroom Court" for the college.



PRESIDENTS . . . Bob Kendler, USHA, who presented the "Glass Court" case to Dr. Cecil C. Humphreys, Memphis State University.

End result? Jack, moving force behind the Memphis Handball Association, tells us, "The blueprint now calls for a 750-seat glass-walled court, with studies being made on the possibility of a real amphitheater type like that at the University of Texas.

Pictured with Bob is Dr. Cecil C. Humphreys, president of the university, and a man with a keen interest in sports. Dr. Humphreys played football at the University of Tennessee, was selected by Sports Illustrated on their Silver Anniversary All-American Team (1960).

Dr. Humphreys is enthused about handball and looks forward to a near future date when USHA will conduct a major tournament in Memphis.

Memphis State University, thanks to the efforts of Jack Gillespie, the salesmanship of Bob Kendler, and the insight of its president, Dr. Humphreys, will have one of the nation's finest handball facilities.

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ACE — U.S.H.A.

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USHA Three-Wall Panorama

*ACE Photographer Egon Teichert Catches Bird's Eye View of
Championship Singles Finals*



Decatur Steals 3-Wall Show . . . Grand Slam Singles, Doubles With Russo

"DECATUR — Best of the three-wallers . . . that's definitely his best game . . . I think he could beat the Herszkowitz of 15 years ago . . . great team with little Louie . . . those Straus twins are something else . . . in three of four years they should be ready for the doubles throne."

These were the words bandied around after a record entry had finished five days of pounding the Spalding ACE against the stalwart three-wall block courts of Palmer Park.

It was definitely a New York ambush with defending home town Masters, Dr. Al August and Dr. John Scopis the only non-Gotham bannered players to reach the finals. And, then they too met defeat from the fine team of Billy Gluck and George Maier.

Marty Decatur pulled off handball's "Grand Slam" in winning both the singles and doubles, with Lou Russo, in the 19th USHA National Three-Wall in Detroit Labor Day. There were no doubts to any of those present that the streamlined New Yorker is the premier of today's three-wallers.

Decatur captured his fourth singles crown in surprisingly easy fashion over the legendary Jim Jacobs, 21-13, 21-1. Jim came from behind in the first game to 13-16 but couldn't sustain his rally and from that point on wasn't the champion performer we have watched through the past 15 years.

About two and a half hours later, after intermittent showers threatened to move the action to four-wall at the Jewish Community Center, Decatur paired with Lou Russo to stop the amazing 16-year-old upstarts — the Bronx twins, Gary and Mitchell Straus, 21-5, 21-6. The one-sided scores, as is often the case, do not indicate the fine play that ensued in the doubles finals. This also was a No. 4 title for Marty, three with Russo, one with Johnny Sloan.

Rain did hamper play on the semi-final Sunday and part of the day's eliminations were forced to the Community Center. It was probably the toughest break for Steve Sandler, the outstanding one-waller from New York, and Howie Eisenberg, long a strong performer in both one-wall and three-wall. Sandler, teaming with Lou Kramberg, lost in the semis in four-wall to the Straus lads, 21-10, 21-8. It was a case of Kramberg taking care of those shots off the back wall that seem to be the bugaboo of all transforming one-wallers but failing to give adequate protection to the all-important front court.

Stuffy Singer, USHA national four-wall singles champ, appearing in his first three-wall, got his baptism in the first round in singles from the southpaw of the Straus youngsters, Gary. Then, Stuffy, acclimated himself better in the doubles with Eisenberg. They, too, had to play four-wall in the semis against Decatur and Russo, and as Singer put it, "We didn't have a chance indoors and

know it, but outdoors I figured there was a possibility."

It was a year of all new champions. Carl Obert, and his brothers Oscar and Ruby, had taken a family hold on singles and doubles respectively last year, while the Detroit dental team of Al August and John Scopis had provided the hosts with a first in national three-wall wins in Masters.

But, Decatur back after an injury leave of absence, and rejoining a more serious and better conditioned

Russo, took care of two titles, and the fellow New York team of Billy Gluck and George Maier became the new Masters, downing Drs. August and Scopis over the full route.

Jacobs, always a center of attraction, had come into the tournament for "the fun of the holiday outdoor court weekend", knowing his chronic back condition could stymie his performance at any time. He proved to Sandler that the three-wall game takes some measure of experience, even for a one-wall top notcher, then gave Russo a lesson outdoors, 21-16, and then had to move indoors on the rainy Sunday afternoon and pull out all stops in a come from behind (10-16) to win, 21-18.

In the championship match against Decatur there were no doubts that Jim would give it the big try but Marty was not to be stopped. Some decade of age difference and the ability to go at full tempo throughout made it a Decatur title showcase. The shots plus control, invariably the Jacobs trademark, belonged to Marty on this sunny Labor Day morning. As we said it was a good match up to the 16-13 Marty margin in the first game . . . from then on Jacobs couldn't dig up fine shooting that was on the safe side rather than bottom board.



DEEP, DEEP COURT UNIQUE SHOT . . . Gary Straus appears "miles" from that front wall as he sets for lefthand return in the doubles finals. Photo shows opponents and jam-packed crowd.

—Photo by EGON TEICHERT



Jacobs Sidelined ...

Jim Jacobs suffered a recurrence of his chronic back woes in the recent national USHA three-wall in Detroit and will be forced to the sidelines for at least six weeks. *"The doctors have warned me against tournament play for four or five days running and I had every intention of not overdoing it in Detroit . . . but as always in competitive handball it just can't be done and so I'll pay for it."*

Jim defeated Lou Russo in the semis in a unique outdoor-indoor combination caused by rains, and then played Marty Decatur under sunny skies the next morning. He made one determined bid in the first game, coming from well behind to 13-16 but from that juncture scored only one point in the remainder of the match.

3-WALL NOTES

Seems to be a tie in "furthest travel" . . . Stuffy Singer came in from N. Hollywood, Calif. Lou Escobar and Izzy Mankofsky made it two years in a row from L. A. . . . Sunny Singer and Marty Singer arrived for the last couple of days of play. Full contingent of Oberts including the latest addition . . . Carl finally took the leap and had his pretty bride with him.

Ken Schneider missed this one due to pressing duties at home, so Gus Lewis teamed with Joe Ardito and were unceremoniously "dump-

ed" in the first round by upstarts Paul Merlo and Nat Miller's talented son, Bruce . . . Grand ol' warrior Angie Trullio, still a fine physical specimen at the 60-plus mark . . . wants a singles tournament in that age category — any takers?

Lefty Rothenberg, tearing away from his golf to watch some action . . . still maintains a keen interest in handball . . . now shuttles between Detroit and his apartment in Florida . . . ex-national four-wall singles champ Joe Griffin came up from Fort Lauderdale with George Fisher but didn't like the switch to three-wall . . . says he's got some

RECLAIM DOUBLES . . . Marty Decatur (left) and Lou Russo left no doubts as to the class of the open doubles as they returned as a team and left the field in somewhat of a shambles.

promising youngsters in tow at the Y down there.

Seems we get more New Yorkers every year . . . and they've all got fine talent . . . first time out for Steve Sandler and he acclimated himself well from his one-wall well known merits . . . he was disappointed at the switch indoors to four-wall because that definitely is not his cup of tea as yet. Refurbished Court No. 1 floor met with fine reception . . . ACE photographer Egon Teichert, resplendent in Nehru jacket and "bell bottom" side burns at the big Sunday night dinner-dance.

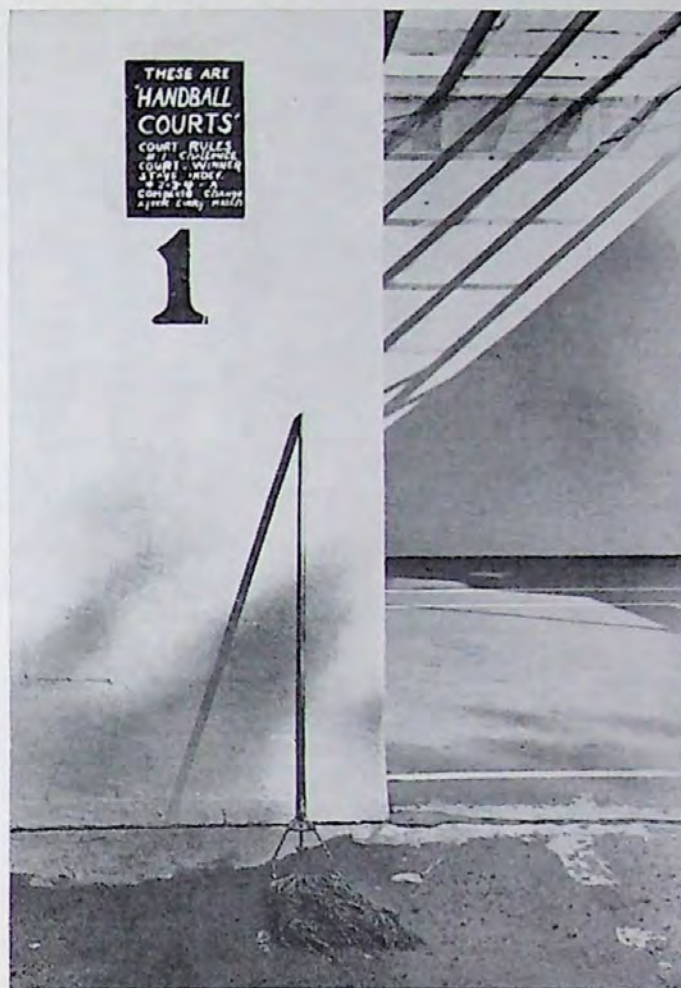
BESTS OF THE TOURNAMENT . . . *Improvement* — Straus twins, hands down . . . *Player* — It's now "Mr. Three Wall" Marty Decatur . . . *Impressive* — Masters doubles newly-crowned champs — George Maier and Billy Gluck . . . *Welcomed Young Bloods* — the new Michigan Handball Association officials . . . eager and willing to work . . . and, pretty, pretty wives all over the place!

ACE — U.S.H.A.

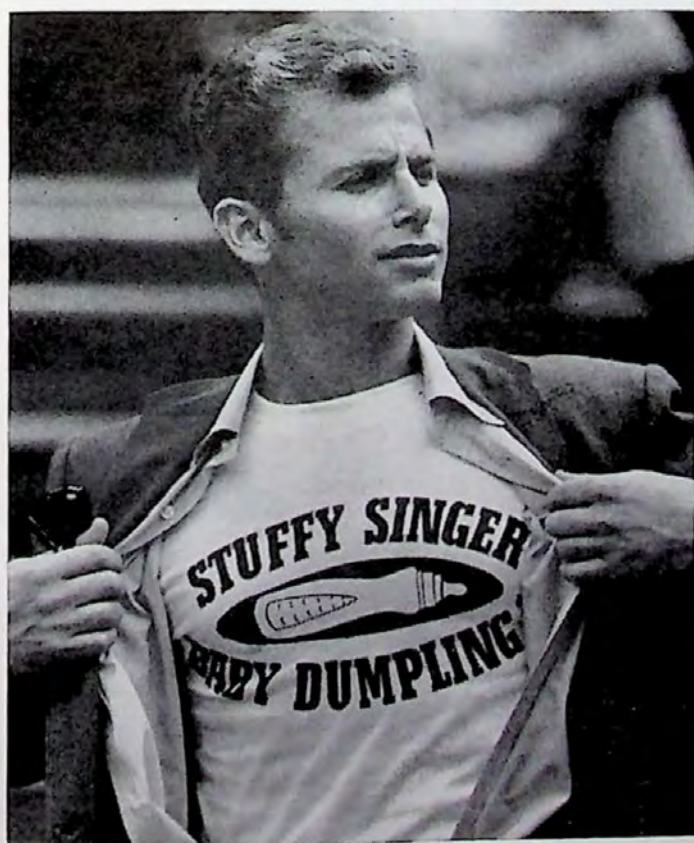
Rogue's Gallery at Detroit USHA Three-Wall



Well-dressed handballer? . . .
Bob Ambros 'fielded' well.



And the rains came . . .
Bob Kendler used this mop.



Phil Elbert's donation . . .
Reminding Stuff of his TV past.



Setting the game back . . .
Vern Loepp goes 'mod' with handlebar.



*SECOND GUESSERS A. C. . . . Gallery was packed with also rans
for Labor Day finals.*



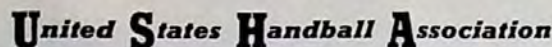
*Evie Kendler and Irene Scapis . . .
Probably discussing new styles.*



*She's the pretty one . . .
Jim Jacobs' gal friend helps with loot.*



THREE-WALL SINGLES



DECATUR-RUSSO
21-5, 21-6
Champion

1	OSCAR OBERT-RUBY OBERT, New York	O.OBERT-R.OBERT			
2	Bye		O.OBERT-R.OBERT		
3	FRED CLEMONT-MONTREAL-BILL KENNEDY, N.J.	LOOK-VALENTINO	31-2		
4	DEAN LOOK-LANSING-CARL VALENTINO, Montreal	31-10		M.STRAUS-G.STRAUS	
5	BILL MCGREEVY SR.-BILL MCGREEVY JR., St. Louis	MCGREEVY-MCGREEVY	31-27		
6	BILL DILLON-ALEX KWALUK, Montreal	31-15			
7	DAN TOMS-ANTON WEITER, Detroit	M.STRAUS-G.STRAUS	31-23		
8	MITCHELL STRAUS-GARY STRAUS, New York	31-17			
9	DICK GREENWALD-BOB HARRATKIN, New York	GREENWALD-HARRATKIN		M.STRAUS-G.STRAUS	21-14, Def.
10	BOB KEMSKO-SKY-JERRY WEBER, Detroit	31-8			
11	LOU ESCOBAR-IZZY MANOWFSKY, Los Angeles	ESCOBAR-MANKOFFSKY	31-12		
12	GEORGE DE BAY-SAM ELLIOWITZ, Detroit	31-24		McDONALD-UPATNIERS	
13	CHARLES SHELTON-LUCIANO RADSLOVICH, New York	SHELDON-RADSLOVICH	31-20		
14	DAVE PORCHINSKI-VAL VAN BAESEYN, Detroit	31-11		McDONALD-UPATNIERS	
15	GIL SINGERMAN-RANDY ESSEL, Cleveland	McDONALD-UPATNIERS	31-11		
16	JACK McDONALD, Joliet-ANDY UPATNIERS, Chicago	31-9			
17	PAUL HABER, Milwaukee-S.AUGUST, Detroit	THODE-NEMHOUSE		M.STRAUS-G. STRAUS	21-10, 21-8
18	KEITH THODE-TIM NEMHOUSE, Detroit	Def.			
19	MURRAY HOZMAN-M. FELDMAN, Detroit	HOZMAN-FELDMAN	31-12		
20	BERNARD KELLY-JOE TAKASH, Chicago	HOZMAN-FELDMAN	31-12		
21	NICK DIMITRIADES-MIKE PEPERIDES, Detroit	DIMITRIADES-PEPERIDES		FENTON-FUSSELLMAN	31-19
22	G.M. DRISCOLL-TOM BOGEN, Columbus, Ohio	31-16			
23	FRED KUNGER-TOM MARKINS, Chicago	FENTON-FUSSELLMAN	31-20		
24	GEORGE FENTON-KENT FUSSELLMAN, Warren, Ohio	31-16			
25	JOHN FILSINGER-JOHN CONNELLY, Buffalo	FILSINGER-CONNELLY	31-11	KRAMBERG-SANDLER	21-20, 15-21, 21-12
26	AL McDONALD-TOM SIOW, Chicago	31-11			
27	JIM FARRELL-GORDON NICHOLS, Columbus, Ohio	KUNKEL-PRUTER	31-20		
28	KAY KUNKEL-BOB PRUTER, Detroit	Def.		KRAMBERG-SANDLER	
29	LARRY DOHMAN-TOM TYDEREK, Chicago	DOHMAN-TYDEREK	31-20		
30	TIM REDMAN-JOE SKUPIN, Detroit	31-20		KRAMBERG-SANDLER	31-20
31	ANDY MESSINGER-RON LOIT, Lansing, Mich.	KRAMBERG-SANDLER	31-8		
32	YOU KRAMBERG-STEVE SANDLER, New York	31-10			
33	FRED LEWIS, Miami Beach-KEN SMOLACK, New York	LEWIS-SMOLACK			
34	GENE FOWLER-GEORGE MILLER, Detroit	31-18		LEWIS-SMOLACK	
35	ED BIERNE-JIM COSENTINO, Detroit	BIERNE-COSENTINO	31-7		
36	BILL SIDEBOTTOM-TIM TISDALL, Detroit	31-20			
37	RANDY ESSEL-HERMAN PANIGUTTI, Cleveland	JOHNSON-DOUCET		LEWIS-SMOLACK	31-30
38	JIM JOHNSON-RAY DOUCETT, Detroit	Def.			
39	TOM O'NEIL-JAMES BIGHAM, Chicago	FINDELL-L.AUGUST	31-13		
40	ALAN FINDELL-LARRY AUGUST, Detroit	31-2			
41	STEVE LOTT-WILLIE YEE, New York	LOTT-YEE		DECATUR-RUSSO	21-12, 21-10
42	JACK HARKINS-ED ZAHORIK, Chicago	31-1			
43	JOHN ST. CLAIR-FRANK LI POCCOLO, Detroit	HERRON-GODFREY	31-23		
44	JIM HERRON-JACK GODFREY, Warren, Ohio	31-2		DECATUR-RUSSO	
45	STAN BARGMAN-CAM MC DETH, Toronto	BARGMAN-MC DETH			
46	MIKE WHITE-JOHN MC CLAIN, Chicago	31-18		DECATUR-RUSSO	31-9
47	MIKE O'BRIEN-TIM COTE, Detroit	DECATUR-RUSSO	31-7		
48	MARTY DECATUR-LOU RUSSO JR., New York	31-1			
49	HOWIE EISENBERG, New York-STUFFY SINGER, L.A.	EISENBERG-SINGER			
50	GREGG SPAULDING-TERRY FUNDERBURKE, Chicago	31-6			
51	TIM DOBB-TOM DOBB, Kalamazoo, Mich.	EISENBERG-SINGER	31-6		
52	RAMON RODRIGUEZ-LUIS RODRIGUEZ, New York	R.RODRIGUEZ-L.RODRIGUEZ	31-26		
53	VINCE MAGI-TOM BUSHEY, Detroit	MAGI-BUSHEY		EISENBERG-SINGER	31-13
54	JOHN STANISLAWSKI-BILL MARKIE, Chicago	31-20			
55	TOM DOBAN-SCOTT MADIGAN, Chicago	WALSH-REYER	31-5		
56	JOHN WALSH-ART REYER, New York	31-12			
57	BOB AMBROS-CHUCK THORNTON, Detroit	AMBROS-THORNTON		EISENBERG-SINGER	18-21, 21-20, 21-18
58	D. J. CROSSIE-R. GEMEL, Montreal	31-11			
59	SHELDON SONKIN-JIM BLACK, Detroit	OLSON-ARDITO	31-30		
60	FLOYD OLSON-DON ARDITO, Chicago	31-21			
61	PAUL OLSEN-KEVIN DILLON, Chicago	HIPOL-ELDER		MUNSCH-MUNSCH	31-17
62	RON HIPOL-DICK ELDER, Detroit	31-10			
63	Bye	MUNSCH-MUNSCH	31-7		
64	FRED MUNSCH-FRANK MUNSCH, New York				

THREE-WALL MASTERS DOUBLES ¹³

Rank	Player Name	City	Matchup	Score	Result	Notes
1	A. AUGUST-SCOPIIS	Detroit				
2	Bye					
3	SCHMAB-LASSKOW	New York				
4	LEINWEBER-PALOMO	Chicago				
5	HAGENA-GALLON	Detroit				
6	WASIK-DAVIS	Chicago				
7	A. ZERBO-J. MEDA	Detroit				
8	ROTHMAN-GROSSMAN	New York				
9	GRANNER-BELLER	Detroit				
10	LAMB-MANN	Detroit				
11	LOEPP-FRIEDMAN	Detroit				
12	BINGER-LOGOCCO	Chicago				
13	Bye					
14	MERLO-B. MILLER	Detroit				
15	Bye					
16	LEWIS-ARDITO	Chicago				
17	PALOMO-ROTT	Detroit				
18	Bye					
19	MARLOR	Indianapolis-E. THOMAS, Detroit				
20	McCLEAN-PROUX	Toronto				
21	TRULIO	New York-MILLER, Detroit				
22	LEVE, Northbrook	Ill.-GILLESPIE, Memphis				
23	GRIFFIN-FISHER	Fort Lauderdale, Fla.				
24	A. MURPHY-COSTELLO	Chicago				
25	VANETTI-BATTILOCCI	Detroit				
26	Bye					
27	SANDON-TRUJILLO	Cleveland				
28	ACKENMAN-BERTONI	Detroit				
29	DE NEULEMEESTER	Detroit-MANDJACK, Kalamazoo				
30	Bye					
31	GLUCK-MAIER	New York				
32	Bye					



WATCHING THE MASTERS . . . Inez Ardito (left) couldn't pull her hubby Joe or son, Don, through, watches finals with "Beauty Ben" Costello.



SCOUTING THE FIELD . . . Ultimate new Masters champs, Billy Gluck (left) and George Maier, followed a winning plan throughout.



By MORT LEVE

From the . . . KILLSHOT ROOM

Things are happening!

First, we're busy lining up sites and dates for another tremendous USHA season . . . already confirmed — Austin, Texas, and those 13-court facilities at the University for March 16-22 . . . Shreveport, La., YMCA, promising the best South regional yet, and a slight switch because of location putting that lil' ol' state of Texas in that baliwick for the '69 campaign . . . Columbus, Ohio, YMCA, gung ho for the Mid-East regional . . . Les Shumate and his gang taking over the Rocky Mountain region at the fine Downtown Denver YMCA courts . . . Fresno bouncing back into the regional picture and again staging the West regional . . .

And, the tournament that is getting bigger and better by the year — the National Contenders — to be hosted by that grand gang down in Birmingham, with the YMCA and air-conditioned courts.

By the Dec. ACE we will have the confirmation on the other four regionals and the Christmas-time National Juniors.

This is our initial Paddleball section in ACE and despite a few disgruntled "handball above all" (and, in this we agree) there appears to be an overall OK for co-existence. Live and let live, fellows . . . there is room for all . . . and if there isn't room, let's go out and clang the bells and get more courts.

The first International Paddle Rackets Association championship tournament is set for the St. Louis JCCA next April. Full details will be forthcoming in the next ACE.

President Bob Kendler flew to Memphis to speak to a full house, with enthusiasm generated by our Tennessee district commissioner, Jack Gillespie . . . purpose was to "sell" a glass-walled championship-exhibition court for the new court building plans at the fast-growing Memphis State University. Bob got the real Southern reception and it looks 100 per cent for a realization of such plans by 1970. (see new building drawing on our cover) . . . When Jack was in Detroit for the three-wall he mentioned to Bob the possibility and that was all that was needed . . . "I'll come down immediately," Bob told him, "and, we'll make sure they are aware of the importance of the Classroom Court." For, that's what RWK sold them on — the flexibility of such a court in teaching the game, showcasing the game, and using it for other practical uses.

Chicago may once again become a national tournament site. The Northwest Suburban YMCA, burst-

ing at the seams with the largest membership in the world . . . with six courts now, plans to add additional courts to accommodate its frustrated handballers who must frantically scamper to get a court reservation. General Secretary McClelland is convinced a glass gallery court should be included in the new addition, is now bent on securing the necessary funds. So, don't

be surprised if we have the '71 nationals in the Windy City.

* * *

HEARD AND SEEN . . . Paul Haber is going to be rough and ready for a reclaim on his 1966 and 1967 titles, Mr. Stuff. Just recently Paul took on both runnerup Ray Neveau and Simie Fein and applied the noose, and that's no easy trick . . . another strong returnee to the four-wall singles wars should be a trained-down Lou Russo Jr., fresh from his doubles win in Detroit 3-wall with Marty Decatur. And, we've got our prayers going for Denny Hofflander, who has been in the midst of Vietnam warfare for nine months. We're sure Denny's ability and attitude will be strictly national championship potential upon his return . . . there's that youngster Terry Muck, who will be coming of age for the next one and with continued improvement should now be knocking loud and clear, along with his best supporter and most experienced, still young campaigner, a physically able Bill Yambrick.

Mike Dau is busy in a multitude of coaching duties at Lake Forest College but with his real keen interest mainly in handball. The new three-court facility there is now open and his "boys" the Yee twins, Wes and Willie from Bob Davidson's school of bombardment in New York and Dave Smith from St. Louis, are the hopefuls upon which Mike has hopesto build a national intercollegiate championship team.



FIRST CLASS BILLING . . . Washington Athletic Equipment in Seattle gives "equal recognition" to handball outdoor display. Bill Douglas (left), president and general manager of the sporting goods store (left), former University of Washington quarter-back, with Jim Bilby, in charge of handball sales and trophies. Andy Anderson arranged for Bruce Lamken to take the picture.

CAROM SHOTS

Mayor Louie Welch headed up the list of dignitaries at the formal opening of the Houston Downtown YMCA outdoor running track, Sept. 5. Along with Mayor Welch were Dr. Robert Leachman, noted heart surgeon, and Bobby Morrow, winner of three gold medals in the 1959 Olympic Games.

* * *

Lou Guillou, formerly at Notre Dame University, is now in the mathematics department at St. Mary's College, Winona, Minn. He is an avid handballer, and has announced an open singles tournament there, Oct. 18-20. There are four regulation courts located in the college's three-year-old athletic center. Lou is serving on the tournament committee along with Max Molock, intramural director; Brother I. Patrick Hayes, vice president; George Rogge, Winona YMCA.

* * *

Toronto's Sgt. Ed Chalmers has put on display a "super" model court for the various Y's in the area and announces. "It took six months to build and in this way I hope to get the real thing constructed. The Valentines Handball Club, where I am the handball coordinator, is going to build the glass court along with others, with plans set for 1970. Pat Kirby is coming to Toronto soon."

* * *

Irv Goode, 6-6, 250 pound St. Louis Cardinal footballer, visited the University of Missouri at Rolla and played some spirited handball with USHA members, Leo Christopher and Professor J. Bobbitt, on the school's new standard sized court. Christopher and Bobbitt were instrumental in getting the new court. Both UMR staff members agreed with Goode that fast handball is probably the best all-around game for maintaining stamina, reflexes and general muscle tone. Dues in the Rolla Association are nominal but necessary to in order to pay off the loan for the construction of the building. The idea behind a dues-paying membership is merely to "break even" while the members can work out and enjoy the game — for faculty and students.

* * *

Bob Kasey, formerly assistant athletic director at the Washington A.C. in Seattle, is now athletic director at the Spokane Club new million dollar facility. The Club includes: two standard handball courts, two squash courts, gymnasium, swimming pool, conditioning departments, and locker facilities.

Bob is now getting the handball

HOUSTON YMCA . . . Outdoor running track innovation in this era of "Run For Your Life" . . . Mid-50 year old Ike Jones paced marathon contest runners last year, logging more than 200 miles within two weeks.

program organized and promises the same blanket membership in USHA he helped produce in Seattle. He reports that Bob Bourbeau paid a visit, "and very politely slaughtered all of the local players in a display of fine handball . . . one question he raised was the heating and humidity problem . . . our board of trustees has approved air-conditioning to combat this problem."

* * *

Lloyd Phillips, now a first string defensive with the Chicago Bears, was a disappointment a year ago as a rookie from the University of Arkansas. A leg injury hampered him and last Winter an examination discovered a blood clot. After a successful operation Lloyd reports, "Every day I'd play handball with Pete Barnes of the Houston Oilers, then we'd lift weights and run two or three 440's. I'm in the best shape right now that I've been in since my sophomore year in college."

* * *

Our Tucson able district commissioner, Holly Kembel, tells us they're after the county to build some three-wall courts . . . also, says, Major Carmen Annillo is flying out of Da Nang and has beaten the former Vietnam No. 1 player for the title on the remotest handball court in the world.

* * *

George Nelson, the former national singles champion (1927), has renewed his membership, adding: "Had cataract removed from right eye in May and hope to resume play about Oct. 1, going into my 56th year. Sorry to learn of Al Banuet's death . . . he beat me in finals in 1930 and 1931 . . . was best I have ever seen."

* * *

Add new courts — Bill Kennedy, our New Jersey "pro" scribe . . . Portland, Maine, YMCA — two new courts. Central YMCA in Indianapolis — one new standard "official" court; one new "unofficial" court . . . Eastside Y also has an official court . . . from Elmer Binner, associate general secretary of the Y.

* * *

Chicago may bounce back in the picture as a site for USHA national

four-wall championships . . . The Northwest Suburban YMCA has blueprinted plans for adding additional courts to its existing six and this will include a glass walled exhibition championship court. This YMCA boasts the largest membership in the world and is bursting at the seams with activity.

* * *

Steve Subak, the National YMCA Handball Committee Chairman, is awaiting confirmation of April 14-19 for the annual National YMCA Four-Wall Championships . . .

SPORTING GOODS BUSINESS is fine, vital new publication . . . the monthly newsmagazine as a major communications force in the sporting goods field.

Officers of the Houston Handball Association: Tim Ballantyne, president; Frank Price and John Heiner, vice presidents and Ronnie Emberg, secretary-treasurer.

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Lou Kramberg Expounds On Court Tactics, Three-Wall Developments

Editor's Note: Lou Kramberg, assistant athletic director to Al Stein at the famed 92nd St. YMHA in New York City, has contributed some noteworthy instructional articles in the past, and has again graciously consented to have his "brains picked". A disciple of Jim Jacobs, Lou has an impressive background of professional sports participation in basketball and baseball, and despite a comparatively late start in handball, is considered one of the nation's real fine ball players. He is definitely an astute student of the game and herewith passes forth some of his observations in a taped session with yours truly while at the three-wall nationals in Detroit.

* * *

By LOU KRAMBERG, as told to MORT LEVE

Conditioning for players—I have found that many handball players neglect one important aspect of their training in preparing for court play. They overlook the values of wind sprints. I feel long distance running is fine for stamina although it will not necessarily help much in a handball court in making those quick moves. In my opinion handball is a series of short sprints back and forth chasing that elusive ball. It would be most beneficial for players to add wind sprints, utilizing the gymnasium . . . sprinting down one end, walking back, repeating seven to ten times, and then finishing up with a shuttle sprint which is a continuous sprint back and forth about six times without stopping.

I would suggest this sprint program three times a week and it is my belief it would help greatly in improving quickness in the court.

—We were talking about the importance of arm strength in our game, and you emphasized forearm rather than bicep strength.

I don't believe the bicep power doesn't do as much for the player as forearm and wrist strength. If the player will take five, ten or 15 pound weights . . . anything that can be handled comfortably and just do wrist curls, it would be more beneficial than just pumping up the bicep muscles. Of course, constant handball play must be intermingled to keep this from being restricting.

The other exercise recommended, using the same type weights, would be leverage exercises . . . extending the arms in front, holding for several seconds, then bringing them down, arms to the side with the same pattern, repeating . . . this will give tendon, ligament, shoulder strength. Lastly, spend two or three minutes a day with five or ten-pound weights doing shadow boxing. This would be most beneficial in those long volleys where many players become arm weary.

—As we know the most effective shots are those that are taken from as low a position as possible. Could you advise any limbering up type exercise that would aid a player in gaining this flexibility?

In physical education they have been getting away from the deep knee bends, which are thought to be harmful to the knees. However, the half knee bend might be prescribed. I don't think too much importance should be given getting real low because it is the position which is most comfortable that gains results. I do believe there is a spot ideally suited for hitting the handball if you can get it to that spot, but it's mainly a question of reflexes in getting to the ball. If you reach the ball and line it up properly most players will hit it properly.

I think the biggest mistake players make is in not

running past the ball so that they do not come in behind the ball and thus getting into the proper position.

—What do you mean by running past the ball?

A lot of players in chasing a pass shot will race to the spot where it is passing them and reach for the ball. Now, if you watch Jim Jacobs, Stuffie Singer or Paul Haber they will go two or three feet past the ball, actually run past it and then wait for it to drop while the inexperienced player is reaching and pulling the ball back to the front wall. You must go past the ball, and then it will look like a watermelon. Please, young ball players of America, do not run to the exact spot where the ball is going to land, get past it and the ball will wait for you.

—One of the things brought out here at the three-wall tournament is the move indoors because of rain and the switch to four-wall to complete the day's schedule. A player like Steve Sandler, outstanding in one-wall, but a comparative novice at four-wall, finds the hardest transition to make is the shot off the back wall . . . a move that is apparently foreign to all one-wallers, and, of course, not necessary in three-wall.

I believe the back wall game becomes more mental



SNAPPING HER CHAMP HUBBY . . . Lou Russo's pretty Mrs. catches a photo of the doubles finals . . . that's serious-looking Lou Kramberg at her left, with Bob "Coach" Davidson meditating as his boys roll to title.

than anything else to the changeover one-wallers. The back wall shot can be the easiest shot in handball. You must realize that it is the only time in handball play that the ball is going in the same direction that you want to hit it. There's no resistance to the back wall shot. To me it is strictly a question of attitude. To me, when I'm on my game, when the ball goes to the rear of the court I say to myself, "Oh boy" . . . not, "Oh, no".

— Continuing our conversation on the final day after Marty Decatur had beaten Jim Jacobs in the singles finals, 21-13, 21-1. Jim had come into this tournament saying he was here more or less as a "lark" and would see how far he could go with his chronic back condition. This was a fourth title in singles here for Marty and we questioned Lou, asking why his three-wall game seems stronger than his four-wall game.

You must realize, Mort, that I'm a neophyte at the game of three-wall, but in my opinion I feel one of the reasons Marty is so great at this game is that it is a combination of one-wall, four-wall with the emphasis more on one-wall and I've always thought that Marty's natural habitat is the one-wall court. He beat Steve Sandler this year after not being in tournament play for some time, although he does play exhibitions. His overhand game is tremendous, his right and left hands are strong. His left has become much better in the last two years because of injuries to his strong hand . . . a bad thumb and bone bruises. Marty hasn't reached 30 as yet while Jacobs will be 39, and is just better at the game now and completely overpowered him. If people would give it some thought they would realize that Decatur has the guts of a burglar on the court . . . tremendous competitor, not afraid to shoot, and is extremely accurate on his fly shots and on the bounce from deep court. We can get back to shooting later but the three-wall court is so huge that the shot really doesn't have to be that good to be effective.

Against Jim, perhaps, he tries to make the shots a bit better but against some of the other players in the tournament in the earlier rounds, "safe kill" from deep court proved quite sufficient, and his confidence in all these facets of his game is such that this is the answer to his winning . . . coupled, of course, with his tremendous service. He uses all of the court. He hit some shots today that were just within the long line while Jim had some vital ones in that first game that were out. It appears to me, in the last analysis, that this three-wall game was just waiting for Marty to come along. It's his, lock, stock and barrel.

Lou, in this tournament we have had the surprising and crowd-pleasing element of the 16-year-old Straus twins — Mitchell and Gary — coming along to beat the Oberts in a 31-point match . . . realizing that Oscar is badly handicapped with his back . . . and then coming forth to win later matches to play in the finals. These boys seem to improve 100% every time we see them. What do you think of their future?

We have the Straus boys playing at our 92nd St. YMHA now . . . they have been playing with Jim . . . I have played with them . . . they had their initial training with Bob Davidson and he did a lot for their game . . . making them aggressive. Jim has taught them something. I think they have learned a lot from everyone. The big improvement in their game has been one of attitude. Perhaps, through their association with Jacobs, Marty and myself . . . we're trying to impress them the importance of character on the handball court. They're not a better team than the Oberts at this moment as I think with a healthy Oscar it wouldn't have been much of a match. The kids were charged up, they had nothing to lose. They weren't expected to win. That's always the best way to go into a match. They are maturing.



KIDS IN DOUBLES FINALS . . . That's southpaw Gary Straus firing away from deep court . . . but the 16-year-old "Davids" couldn't slay the Goliath talents of Lou Russo and Marty Decatur.

As to their future? They can't execute shots much better than they're doing right now. There's just so many things you can do on a handball court and they're doing 'em. They can soften their ceiling shot on a four-wall court, they can play better court position, they have some problems with hooks in front of them . . . but this will come with experience. I believe if they remain with us the championship aura will rub off . . . Jim is gracious, Marty is humble . . . I can't help but think they will win — not just because of physical prowess, but because they will continue to develop attitude and character, which is something most young kids don't have because no one talks to them about it.

I have been in on frequent conversations with Jim, our good friend Cus D'Amato (former manager of boxing champion, Floyd Patterson), and this is the main topic — character. Stuffy has this now and this is why he won the championship. He went all week and had a great deal of character on the handball court.

— When you speak of character, Lou, on a handball court, in a boxing ring, or on a baseball diamond . . . just what do you mean? What are the elements of character? Are you talking about sportsmanship? Are you talking about competitive desire? Behavior on and off the scene of competition? Watching the diet? Proper rest? Doing everything possible toward that championship goal . . . is this what you mean by character?

Yes, again, I must go back to Jim and Cus . . . I have listened to them and I have a great deal of respect for their opinions. Character can be summed up in discipline. They never discuss age. They don't think this is a factor if a man thinks young and can think of winning only. Cus believes if a man really believes in himself, in winning, he could have pizza and coke before a fight, and still win.

So, let's sum it up in the words "discipline" and "attitude". It's a question of not looking over your shoulder to see who is gaining on you. I told the kids to go out there and play and if they got ahead not to be surprised; the reason they would be ahead is because they are playing better handball than their opponents. Never think your opponent is playing badly because you are making him play this way. And, if you're ahead in the ball game against some

(To next page)

INSTRUCTIONAL . . .

(From page 17)

one who has a reputation and is supposed to be favored to win, don't look back.

— Lou, when I was first introduced to the tournament scene about 16 years ago, the general trend of thought was that a true handball champion couldn't be developed before the age of 28 or 30. Johnny Sloan was probably the first one to disprove this theory, winning a national doubles (YMCA with Jack Gordon) at the age of 18. Jimmy won his first national singles at the age of 24 as another example. Now, we have these Straus twins coming so fast at the age of 16. It may prove that this game can be mastered at the same age the youngsters master such sports as swimming, football, basketball, track and baseball.

Yes, Sloan became a champion because he had the talent PLUS the advantages of association and play with some of the nation's very best. Jacobs had this same advantage, along with fellows like Phil Collins, Marty Decatur, and the Oberts. Sloan further improved his game making a long tour with Jacobs, and the two of them certainly helped one another. The one word that I think has revolutionized the game, and something I discussed with Stuffie Singer in San Francisco, is "choice". And, Jim and John were experts at making the proper choice of shots in a handball court. This is now being passed down to these youngsters. They come to a tournament and they watch these great ball players perform and always see the correct choice. You see many potential greats at the tournaments, hitting the ball hard with both hands, but they don't win the big ones until they learn to make the proper choice. It's not enough anymore to have two good hands, the hop to go with it. If you can't place the ball properly, if you don't change speeds, if you don't hook correctly . . . if you hit a ceiling shot as proper choice but don't hit softly enough it is still not effective. In other words, we might supplement choice with proper execution. The ones who pick these up are the ones who will go on ahead.

I don't want to get into a discussion about the old-timers. I'm 39 but I didn't take up handball until the age of 26 or 27. I'm sort of associated with the handballers of today. I think of myself as playing the game properly just within the past five years, before that I was just hitting the ball. Now, I've seen film that Jim has of yesteryear standouts. I don't want to mention names but in comparison with today's brand it was horrible. I don't say they didn't have ability . . . they would probably pick up the necessary finesse to cope with the seeded stars of today but with the game they used a generation ago they would not win now. They just didn't do the things with the ball that we see today. Naturally, this is true with most sports. Finer equipment, bigger and stronger performers, addition of more and varied shots. They just wouldn't make seven points against a Billy Yambrick or a Paul Haber. (Editor's note: That should bring a deluge of mail).

— We once talked with John Hills, the noted TV physical fitness expert, and handballer, about proper exercises before playing handball, and he promised to prepare a treatise for us. Do you recommend anything specifically?

Not really. Everyone differs, of course. The main thing is to go onto the court feeling ready to play . . . socks, shoes and gloves fitting properly . . . if you are nervous, realize this is natural and that it will wear off after the match gets underway. All the conditions should be favorable. Don't walk on that court feeling you are giving away anything. Once again, it is all-important to have the proper attitude. Some players have the dry heaves, others turn white, some get red behind the neck, still others yawn. Just remember, these are normal reactions. Everyone has some version of them.

— You are talking more about preparing yourself mentally more than physically. Now, a player walks into the court. What should he do to get physically ready for play? We know some players will shower to relax before a match . . . others might go into the sauna to loosen up . . . dunking of the hands in hot water.

Obvious, this is a personal thing. I don't do anything physical other than get onto the court, throw to get loose, and then go at it harder until I feel ready to start play. If the other things are soothing by all means stick with them; again we're getting back to attitude. I have noted that there are players who get on the court before a match against a so-called "name" player and immediately assume an inferiority complex . . . getting off to the side to allow the opponent more room. I've seen Jacobs get into the court, and his opponent will retreat to the back of the court and start to lob the ball against the side wall, and just seem to shrivel out of sight. This is not good . . . it displays a timidity to the opponent, and it makes it that much easier for him.

Mort, you asked me about the top players from the small cities, and what they need to do to cope with the so-called super stars of our game. They should come to the regional and national tournaments and expose themselves and learn the refinements of championship handball. When Jacobs went on his long tour several years back he brought back many amusing stories. They would invariably tell him at this stop or that one, "Wait until you see so-and-so's back wall shot. He flattens them all the time." Jim would reply, "But, I won't give him the opportunity to get those kind of shots." They would ignore him, and repeat, "But, wait until you see him flatten the ball." And, sure enough, the match would progress and the local hero would be in there floundering and the score would be whatever Jim would want it to be. The reason for this is that these fellows learn nothing more than offensive shots. They have not learned defense because there's nobody around to force them to go on defense.

Now, you know when a man is playing a Haber, Decatur, Yambrick or Singer he will find himself chasing to the rear of the court after serving the ball and forced to return with his off hand. That is perhaps the biggest revolution in handball . . . the punch to the ceiling with the off hand, or bringing the ball around the walls. If you attempt to shoot off these returns you'll be a loser . . . if this return is executed properly. The ball is slanting to the floor and it's just unreasonable to think you can make an effective shot off it.

So, those from the towns where the competition is limited, practice defense. When the opponent gives a bad serve go on defense anyway and give the ceiling or around the walls return and practice these maneuvers . . . even though you can make an offensive shot . . . you know you can beat these guys anyway. Use all the walls, the punch to the ceiling, and by all means practice the right stroke. With the punch or overhand to the ceiling it is all-important to use touch . . . because such shots are worthless if executed too hard. It will come off the back wall if hit hard and be the same as a straight back wall shot to the experienced opponent. You don't want to give choice . . . you want him to take it in deep court overhand or scraping off the back-side wall and permit only a defensive return . . . you then trade defensive shots until someone miscues to allow the rally-ending shot.

So remember, when you are playing against an opponent you can beat handily, practice your defensive shots. You will not lose your offensive game but, rather, give yourself a complete game to cope with stronger opponents. It isn't the job of flattening the ball off the back wall, it's the know how of playing defense. Practice, practice, practice — defense!

1968-69 TOURNAMENT CALENDAR

DATES	EVENTS & SITE	CONTACT
Oct. 18-26	Colorado State Y Doubles Denver YMCA A, B & C Classes	Les Shumate 655 Monaco Pky. Denver
Nov. 17-23	Northwest Sub. YMCA Des Plaines, Ill.	
Nov. 17-23	USHA Central Singles Northwest Sub. YMCA Des Plaines, Ill.	Joe Ardito, USHA Hqs.
Dec. 8-14	USHA Masters Doubles Northwest Sub. YMCA Des Plaines, Ill.	Joe Ardito, USHA Hqs.
Nov. 29-Dec. 1	Dayton, Ohio. YMCA Invitational	Harry Bradbury, Phys. Dir. YMCA-117 W. Monument Dayton, Ohio
Dec. 16-21	Open Masters Doubles Denver YMCA	Les Shumate 655 Monaco Pky. Denver
Dec. 28-30	USHA National Juniors (to be announced)	Mort Leve, USHA Hqs.
Jan. 11-18	USHA Colorado Singles A, B & C Classes Denver YMCA	Les Shumate 655 Monaco Pky. Denver
Jan. 17-19	Akron YMCA Open Singles & Doubles	Don Nelson, YMCA 80 W. Center, Akron, O.
Jan. 25-Feb. 1	USHA Colorado Doubles A, B & C Classes Denver YMCA	Les Shumate 655 Monaco Pky. Denver
Jan. 31-Feb. 2	Annual Mardi Gras Invitational	Donald Zimmer c/o New Orleans A.C. 222 Rampart, N. O., La.
Feb. 7-9	23rd Annual Dallas A.C. Invitational	George Lee, Athletic Director, Dallas A.C.
Feb. 20-23	USHA Natl. Contenders Birmingham, Ala., Y	Mort Leve, USHA Hqs.
March 16-22	USHA Natl Championships U. of Texas, Austin (also Natl Intercollegiate)	Mort Leve, USHA Hqs.
April 11-13	Annual Mem. Invitational Denver YMCA	Les Shumate 655 Monaco Pky. Denver

1969 USHA REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS

MIDEAST — Columbus, Ohio, YMCA, Jan. 31 - Feb. 2.
SOUTH — Shreveport, La., YMCA, Jan. 23-26.
ROCKY MOUNTAIN — Denver YMCA, Feb. 20-23.
WEST — Fresno YMCA, Jan. 31 - Feb. 2.
EAST, SOUTHEAST, MIDWEST & NORTHWEST SITES
TO BE ANNOUNCED IN DECEMBER ACE.

West Regional . . .

Fresno, Calif.. YMCA will host the 1969 USHA West Regional, Jan. 31-thru Feb. 2.

In view of the limitation of facilities imposed by four courts, 160 players will be the maximum accommodated on the three-day basis, with 68 matches scheduled on opening day.

This will be handled on a first come, first entered basis.

FRANK ZUNIGA, President
Fresno YMCA Handball Club
1408 N St., Fresno, Calif.

Mardi Gras Invite . . .

The New Orleans Athletic Club Mardi Gras Invitational Handball Tournament dates have been set for Jan. 31 and Feb. 1, 2, 1969.

This tournament is open by invitation only.

For additional information please contact either Don Zimmer or Mr. Lee Early at the New Orleans Athletic Club, 222 N. Rampart Street, New Orleans, La., 70112.

Tourney Publicity . . .

—Pre-tournament announcements.
—Contacts with local newspapers, radio and TV to service them with information and to get their possible coverage on assignment.

—Cooperation with news media on possible interviews, pictures, etc.

—If the tournament is important enough to warrant Western Union wires and operators, inform them early of the need and work with them on their requirements. Keep your local Associated Press and the United Press International posted on results and pinpoint cities with lead items on players involved.

Rod follows with the need for tournament information signs for spectators and players . . . welcome signs . . . directional signs . . . large-scaled pairings forms in strategic locales.

Committees needed to handle refereeing, maintenance, tickets, entertainment, ads, housing, awards, banquets.

In conclusion — tournament procedure — check lists . . . time schedule . . . have first aid equipment and doctor on call if needed.

Post-tournament — Evaluate tournament . . . letters of appreciation where necessary . . . match results to participants with summary for their information . . . constructive critique . . . write article and send in to ACE magazine.

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Chicago . . .

Washington Park Handball Club has completed its annual Open Doubles Tournament. The tournament was successfully and admirably handled by Jim Cosentino, who found the thankless task motivated by personal pride and loyalty to the club.

Though the entry was not as large as last year, the quality of play did not suffer. There was power and there was precision, all going into the development of very exciting play.

The championship was at least partially retained at the home court as it was won by Jim Cosentino of Washington Park teamed up with Floyd Olson of 111th St. YMCA. They defeated the team of Blanks and Hunt, Washington Park. The play of this final match was a fine exhibition of handball and absolutely inspired play by both teams. However, inspiration can prove ultimately beneficial to only one team.

Next year there is every reason to expect a full representation from the whole metropolitan area.



USHA LIFE INSURANCE PRESENTED . . . East Area Commissioner Irving Ehrlich presents widow of Irving Ash \$10,000 check. Sy Diamond (right) was court partner of the deceased, teaming with him for 15 years and participating in past seven USHA National One-Wall tournaments. Both belonged to Farragut Pool Adonis Health Club, B'nai Israel of Midwood and the Brownsville Boys Club. In addition to the USHA check, a scholarship fund has been established at the Brownsville Boys Club Day Camp in memory of Irving Ash.



WASHINGTON PARK CLUB . . . (l. to r. standing)—E. Cochrane, J. Jackson, M. Nailer, T. Flynn, L. Hunt, T. Chism, M. Bell. (l. to r. kneeling)—W. Walker, W. Tillery, R. Smith, W. Smith, E. Blanks, D. McClendon, W. Collins.

FILMS AVAILABLE . . .

Reserve a handball film for your awards banquet . . . club meeting . . . Sports Night . . . 3-day rentals—\$25.

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- ★ 1965 Nationals—Austin, Texas
- ★ 1964 Nationals—St. Louis
- ★ 1963 Nationals—Seattle

Write: USHA, 4101 Dempster St., Skokie, Ill. 60076.

Seattle . . .

The annual Seafair tournament, held at Seattle's Downtown YMCA, proved a huge success this season. Jim Miller is credited with the "expert hand" that guided the smoothest tournament ever. His advanced planning made it a carefree tournament for all.

Gordon Pfeifer, Tacoma Elks, won the singles, defeating Mike Fies, Washington A. C., 21-5, 21-3. Third place was taken by Lea McMillan, Tacoma Elks, over Joe Lenhardt, San Jose YMCA, 21-3, 21-18. Jack Cotter of the host Y, won the consolation singles. In the semis Lenhardt and Fies battled for 2 hours.

Bob Bunch and Bud Simpson of the Seattle Y, teamed up for the first time, and won the doubles over Father Chandrau and Des Charouhas, Washington's A.C., 21-20, 21-17. Third place was won by Jerry McInroe and Roland Hublou, Seattle Y, over the Patricelli brothers, Ron and Dick, by default. Tony Sagare and Ollie Nelson, Yakima YMCA, took consolation doubles honors.

Behind the scenes chores were superbly handled by Don Lintott, referees' chairman; Mark Oughton, Vancouver, B. C. YMCA, for yeoman service . . . and the wives holding forth in the hospitality room: Melby Ford, Pearl Bostrom, Kay Gee, Irma Bunch . . . special thanks to the Y staff—in particular, Al Bostrom and Bob Gee . . . locker cage men, Al Miller and Bill Grenier.

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Another Players' Fraternity . . .

ACE Magazine devotes eight pages of this October issue to our new relation, The International Paddle Rackets Association. We introduce its officers, discuss plans, and in general start the ball rolling on an organization that aims toward a uniformity of rules and standardized equipment.

Bob Kendler has been asked to do the same guiding and promotional success that has been achieved for handball. The USHA headquarters will serve as the "clearing house" for the paddle rackets game just as it has been for handball.

As is the typical story at the present time, there is some confusion as to the ideal ball to use, and the clarification of rules.

Nothing will be done in haste. First, sample balls will be sent to key facilities to test and report on . . . then, an official ball will be adopted. Discussions have been held on rules and the first rough draft is included on pages 6-7. They will also be sent out for constructive criticism and in the Dec. ACE the IPRA official rules will be printed.

Milwaukee's Larry Lederman Named IPRA National Commissioner

In the first meeting of the paddle racket players, held during a national tournament sponsored by the Jewish Community Center of Milwaukee, USHA President Bob Kendler was invited to speak and explain the 20-year success story of handball. Players from some eight or nine states were in attendance and during the discussions it was evident that the paddle game had been emeshed in confusion for years and that there was now a consuming desire to work towards unification.

Kendler offered his assistance and that of the USHA headquarters office and the enthusiasm of those present indicated that this would be the prime move in gaining a true national organization.

There is no one better qualified to assume the position of national commissioner than Larry Lederman, athletic director of the Milwaukee Jewish Community Center and a man who has long promoted both handball and paddleball.

It was Larry who jumped at the idea of the USHA National Contenders and staged the first competition at his JCC in 1964. Despite a lack of gallery he has been able to put on outstanding tournaments in both handball and paddleball through the years, staunchly sup-

ported by an active, able group of members.

In this pioneer effort toward paddle rackets unification the IPRA will be able to take advantage of the tried and tested USHA formula, both for membership-subscription and in tournament planning. Nothing will be done in haste. On the immediate agenda will be a testing and adoption of an official ball. Questionnaires were sent out last Summer and a compilation has been made. Right now, the test balls will be black in color, and it will then be determined how lively and how firm the composition of the ball should be.

In the rules there has been much discussion on safety factors — such as use of the thong and one hand only as against switching of hands; eliminating use of hitting the ball into the back wall (desperation shot as used in handball) to reach the front wall because of the sudden move around and swing of the paddle.

Larry will have the complete support of Bob Kendler and the USHA national staff . . . and he has a good cross-country group of area and district commissioners upon which the buildup of IPRA will rest.

Paddle rackets offers immense po-



LARRY LEDERMAN

tential and is wholly endorsed by physical education directors everywhere. Simply enough, it permits more court participation. It offers prolonged court life to those players who can no longer enjoy handball . . . it offers an easier introduction to the four walls by those who have played tennis or badminton . . . and there is more of a lure for the women to play a racket game.

Larry Lederman has a big job ahead of him, but he has accepted it with real enthusiasm. We're off and running!

INTERNATIONAL PADDLE RACKETS ASSOCIATION CHARTER MEMBERSHIP-SUBSCRIPTION APPLICATION

EXTRA BONUS! Those signing up **NOW** will receive ACE magazine for the balance of this year PLUS all of 1969 (\$2 yearly fee), or through 1971 (\$5 for three year fee). Official IPRA membership cards will be issued.

Those desiring dual USHA and IPRA memberships pay \$3 for one year; \$7 for three years. If current USHA member, \$1 will cover 1969 IPRA additional membership.

IPRA

4101 Dempster st.

Skokie, Ill. 60076

() \$2 for 1969; () \$5 for 1969-71.

NAME _____ YMCA/Club/Center/School _____
(Please print)

ADDRESS _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Make checks or money orders for membership to: IPRA:

LEDERMAN 'WALL OF FAME' . . .

Milwaukee's Jewish Community Center athletic "Wall of Fame" has its first four members, including Larry Lederman, our new International Paddle Rackets Association national commissioner.

Sam Fein, chairman of the selection committee, said additions will be made at intervals and candidates are being screened by the committee.

Lederman is a former University of Wisconsin Big Ten champion wrestler, has coached that sport and tennis at Marquette University and the U. of Wisconsin extensive division. He has been director of health and physical education at the JCC for 26 years and has played a key role in the Center's expanded sports program.

Others selected were: Charles "Buckets" Goldenberg, former college and all-pro football lineman. He played 13 years with the Green Bay Packers. Hy Popuch, who played football and tennis at Marquette University, and long a sports promoter in the city. Albert "Ollie" Adelman, football and tennis standout at Northwestern University and the school's top scholar-athlete in 1937.

Paddle Rackets Booms In Chicagoland Area

With 107 four-wall courts available in the Greater Chicago area there was bound to be a move into paddle rackets. Leading the parade at the present time are the Duncan YMCA in Chicago and the suburban Evanston YMCA.

J. Larry Meyer, physical director at the Evanston Y, is an able paddle racket player, and had previously been an official in the Chicago area squash league. Larry will assume the role of Midwest Area commissioner for IPRA and has already made a bid for a State or Division tournament in 1969.

Paul Haber Also Plays Terrific Game Of Paddle Rackets

By LARRY LEDERMAN
Athletic Director
JCC — Milwaukee

What is it like to have a handball champion live "in the courts" and see him play every day . . . to see the peculiar types of shots, that until he came, were completely foreign?

Paul Haber is like the man who came to dinner . . . and then stayed on. Paul came for an exhibition in December of 1967 and has been a fixture in Milwaukee ever since. The question often put to me is "What does he add to the game of handball in your courts . . . and even in your area?" After complete analysis, there are some very definite conclusions.

Without a doubt, the entire caliber of the game takes on a higher level of achievement for the players who wish to immitate or take on a new shot. For the top class of players, the presence of a champion (or ex-champion) is electrifying. The games they play with the champ are new dimensions because they are now looking at various assortments of shots they have seldom, if ever witnessed. They are getting a "pressure" during the ball game that they have never felt . . . the feeling of being out of position, the feeling of setting him up on one of his "patented shots" . . . the feeling of even belonging in the same court goes through the mind.

The "handball area" profits from the games they are able to witness. A new thinking arrives . . . a new chatter . . . and a daily conversation of a new personality and the different game.

There is a light and humorous side to games that are carried on in the courts. There are games where the opponent gets 20 points in a 21 game; there are games of one hand versus two hands; there are games where opponents use rackets against hands, and then other combinations like "one man" against two with one serve or two serves depending in the ability of the players.

Does this all point up to fun and pleasure? It does. And the good nature ribbing and joshing when a player gets a "goose egg" for all his efforts is bandied about the club in a raucous style. Yes, it's healthy, full of fun, and adds to the program.



J. LARRY MEYER
Midwest Area Commissioner

Vancouver, B.C. Hotbed For Canadian Paddleball

Gary Hanko, athletic director of the Men's Athletic Recreation Center in Vancouver, B.C., Canada, introduced paddleball two years ago. The roster now stands at 200 active players.

Other facilities in the area have taken up the game — Vancouver A.C. and Jewish Community Center. Blueprint plans are set for the University of British Columbia, Simon Fraser University and the University of Victoria. They will support both paddleball and handball.

Hanko writes: "You can be sure that in a short period you will have an additional 100 paddleball members in IPRA. Our first class tournament last month in three classes attracted 80 entries, in which the entry fee covers the cost of a year's membership-subscription. I support both handball and paddleball."

BONUS OFFER!

SIGN UP THREE IPRA MEMBERS AND YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 1969 IS FREE!

ALL 1969 MEMBERSHIPS WILL BE CHARTER.

Wisconsin . . .

The Wisconsin State paddle rackets championship tournament will read like a "national" when it gets underway early next year, Larry Lederman, National Commissioner revealed the other day to the IPRA office.

The champion, runner-up and third place winner are all from the Badger state, so the semi-final's should read like last year's national tourney.

What has happened to the game of paddle rackets is probably in evidence all over the United States. Handball players and former handball stars are trying the game and it suits them fine.

Caught in action at the Milwaukee JCC courts were 1966-67 national handball champion, Paul Haber, playing against Simie Fein, national doubles paddle racket champion and the outcome of the game revealed the unusual ability and skill of Haber. Playing the game for only eight days, Haber has caught on so quickly that he will be a threat to any aspirant for the national championship. A game is already in the making for an exhibition with national champ William Schultz of Madison and Haber.

Fein has the condition of a true athlete and should be another contender in the scramble for national honors in this racket game. The passing and killing strategy is no different than handball and Fein demonstrates this with poise and ease.

Peculiarly enough, when Fein and Jimmy White teamed up for doubles in last year's national tourney, the two had only played three days together and White had never held a paddle racket in his hand before that time. However, it is only fair to state that Jimmy is a runner-up in the Western racket squash tournaments and a tremendous handball player in his own right. This gives a person the proper perspective of the immediate carry over from other court games to paddle ball.

LARRY LEDERMAN
National Commissioner
Intl. Paddle Rackets Assn.



NATIONAL TOURNEY COMMITTEE . . . This is the bunch that did such a fine job in staging the 1968 tournament at Milwaukee's JCC. (l to r)—Mort Luck, Larry Lederman, Ben Libowski, chairman; Tom Sanicola, and Larry Gardner. Other members of the committee not in the picture were: Irv Peckarski and Harry Dizach.



THIRD PLACE WINNERS . . . Jay Phillips (left) and his Dad, Marlowe Phillips (right) of St. Louis, took the third spot in doubles; Tom Sanicola, Milwaukee, the ageless "Boisere" of paddle rackets, took a third in the singles competition.

FOUR DIVISION HOSTS SOUGHT

Send in a bid now to host an IPRA Division Tournament — singles, doubles and Masters doubles. Winners of singles and doubles (not

Masters) will win a Special Award — round trip air coach to the FIRST IPRA National Championships.

Intercollegiate Paddle Rackets Planned

With the increased growth of paddle rackets in the colleges there is a definite need for inter-college, regional and national championship tournaments.

IPRA is blue printing plans for an intercollegiate play patterned after that of the USHA intercollegiates. In 1969 it is planned to hold a first college eliminations as part of the open paddle racket championships.

Full details will be carried in the Dec. ACE. Meanwhile, we invite college players to write us, telling of the paddle racket activity, and we will carry the ball from there.

Where is paddle rackets being played?

Please let IPRA know and we'll compile a directory — Where To Find Paddleball. And, let us know whether the "gut" racket or wooden paddle is being used.

Before forming the IPRA surveys showed that the paddle racket game in four-wall is favored over the wooden paddle game approximately five to one.

And, if there is an argument for wood over gut, write us and we'll be happy to present the case.



NATIONAL SINGLES FINALISTS . . . William Schultz, Madison, Wisc., YMCA, (right) defeated teammate and doubles partner, William Schmidtke, for the singles title. The two had been more familiar with the wooden paddles and had converted to the "gut" game only a month before the tournament.



HANDBALL ABOVE ALL . . . More known for their handball tournament abilities, Jim White (left) and Simie Fein, outpointed the field in open doubles. The Milwaukee team had the court coverage and quickly adapted to the racket game. White also had the background advantages of squash and badminton play.

One-Wall Paddleball...

The U. S. Paddleball Association's Eighth Annual One-Wall Singles and Doubles Paddleball Championships were played on the handball courts at 96th St., and 1st Avenue in Manhattan, September 14, 1968.

Howard Hammer, Brooklyn, defending champion defeated Martin Trachtenberg, Manhattan, 25-12, 24-26, 25-16, in the singles finals.

The doubles crown was regained by three time past champion Chris Lecakes and John Bruschi, Manhattan. Lecakes and Bruschi defeated Howard Hammer and Bernard Klein, Brooklyn, 12-25, 25-22, 25-17.

Paddleball, an offshoot of handball, is played with a wooden paddle approximately 16 inches in length, on a regulation size handball court. Popularly played by thousands . . . paddleball is recognized as one of the fastest games in sports, requiring quick reflexes and stamina . . . Among active participants in this sport are members of Congress, and New York's own Mayor Lindsay.

INTERNATIONAL PADDLE RACKETS ASSOCIATION OFFICIAL FOUR-WALL RULES

NOTE: This is our first draft of rules for the International Paddle Rackets Association. They are presented with the view in mind of gaining constructive criticisms and a second draft, refining and making acceptable the official rules. In this first draft an effort has been made toward the safety factor. The completed second draft will include an index for easy reference. The first national convention will convene during the national championships next April and at that time a vote taken to adopt the revised official rules. We invite our paddle racket people to send in their comments so that we might be better guided in this work. IPRA — 4101 Dempster Street, Skokie, Illinois 60076.

* * *

I. COURT — The specifications for the standard four-wall court are:

(a) **Dimensions.** The dimensions shall be 20 feet wide, 20 feet high, and 40 feet long, with back wall at least 12 feet high.

(b) **Lines and Zones.** Courts shall be divided and marked on the floors with 1½ inch wide red or white lines as follows:

(1) **Short Line.** The short line is midway between and is parallel with the front and back walls dividing the court into equal front and back courts.

(2) **Service Line.** The service line is parallel with and located 5 feet in front of the short line.

(3) **Service Zone.** The service zone is the space between the outer edges of the short and service lines.

(4) **Service Boxes.** A service box is located at each end of the service zone by lines 18 inches from and parallel with each side wall.

(5) **Receiving Lines.** Five feet back of the short line, vertical lines shall be marked on each side wall extending 3 inches from the floor.

II THE GAME — Played by two players — singles; four players — doubles.

(a) **Scoring.** Points are only scored by the player or team in service. 21 points constitutes a game. A match victory consists of a player or team winning two games.

(b) **Refereeing.** In tournament play it is recommended that a referee and a scorer be used. It is the referee's responsibility to take charge, making all calls. The scorer's responsibility is to keep a running count of the game and make a vocal call after each point is scored.

III EQUIPMENT —

(a) **Uniform.** All parts of the uniform, consisting of a shirt, shorts, socks and shoes, shall be white. Warmup shirts and pants, if worn in actual match play, shall also be white. Only club insignia and/or name of club or handball organization may be on the uniform. Players may not play without shirts in tournaments.

(b) **Official Ball.** Note. IPRA is now conducting tests to determine an official ball. The color black has already been agreed upon. The ball shall be 2¼ inches in diameter, weight

approximately 1.40 ounces with the bounce at 65-70 inches to be determined through these tests.

(c) **Paddle Racket.** As a safety factor it is hoped to adopt a racket with foam rubber or other such material bordering the rim of racket. The length together with width may not exceed 26 inches with a weight of not more than one pound.

IV. SERVE —

(a) In singles the server can stand in any part of the service zone. He must bounce the ball on the floor and stroke it to the front wall first, and the ball must rebound over the short line without hitting the floor. The legal serve can be either a straight rebound from the front wall or a combination with one side wall, hitting the floor past the short line. Any other type serve is no good. Examples: Serve that hits the side wall first. There are two types of illegal serves — "shorts" which allow for a second serve, or a player or side "out" serve that loses the serve.

1. **Short serves:** Serve that does not rebound over short line. Serve that hits two or more walls after being served to front wall. Serve that hits front wall and then ceiling. Serve that hits front wall and rebounds on fly to back wall. Foot fault serve in which server extends foot out of service zone while serving.

2. **Player or side out serves:** Serve that is hit into the floor before reaching front wall. Serve that hits ceiling before reaching front wall. Serve that rebounds back and hits server. Serve that hits partner while this player is out of his position against side wall. Serve that hits side wall before reaching front wall. Serve that hits the crotch of floor and front wall is considered same as serving into the floor. Bouncing the ball more than three times before serving. Note: If such a serve hits crotch in second side wall or back wall it is a legal serve, if it first goes over the short line.

(b) In doubles, the team that serves first gets one serve only, and this serve can be taken by either player. From that juncture each team gets two serves with the same order of serve prevailing.

(c) Receiving player or team must remain five feet behind short line until ball is served and cannot return the ball legally until it passes the short line. Any infraction results in player or side out.

(d) Two short serves result in player or side out.

(e) **Return of service.** Player can take serve out of air or on one bounce, and can return it to front wall with any combination of walls or ceiling as long as ball does not touch floor before hitting front wall.

V. VOLLEY PLAY —

(a) Once ball is put into play a volley continues until the player player or side serving or receiving has returned the ball to the front wall and no return is made by the opposition.

Note: As a safety factor in paddle rackets a player cannot return a ball by hitting it into the back wall first, as the suddenswitch in position puts his opponent in a precarious position of getting hit by the racket.

1. Player or team is allowed a clear view and room to ex-

ecute shot of the ball on all returns during a volley. If such view or position is not given a hinder should be called.

(a) **Serving hinders:** "Shadow" serves in which the served ball passes so close to the server's body that it impedes the view of the ball by the receiver. Serve that hits partner while he is in zone position against side wall.

(b) **Return hinders:** Balls that strike the opponent. Balls that rebound from the front wall into a side or back gallery on the fly or first bounce.

(c) **Volley hinders.** Player not given clear view or position for return shot. Physical contact which impedes effort of player to return ball.

(d) **Avoidable hinders.** This need not be intentional. In the opinion of the referee, if player has given opponent clear view or position for return when he could have done so, he can call an avoidable hinder and this is player or side point, or out, as the case may be.

(e) **Safety hinders.** If player avoids returning ball because of fear of hitting his opponent with the racket a hinder call should be made by the referee. This is a judgment decision, of course.

(f) If player loses control of his racket time should be called immediately.

(g) If ball breaks during volley the play is immediately dead.

(h) Ball must be hit with the paddle in one or both hands. As a safety factor the thong must be around the wrist at all times. No switch of paddle from one hand to the other during volley or serve is permitted.

(i) If ball is touched with hand, arm or any part of the body during return it is an out or point, as the case may be.

(j) In doubles if one player swings and misses the ball, his partner may attempt to return the ball legally.

VI CONDUCT OF GAME —

(a) **Delays.** Deliberate delay exceeding ten seconds by the server, or receiver shall result in an out or point against the offender.

(b) **During Game.** During a game each player in singles, or each side in doubles, either while serving or receiving may request a "time out" for a towel, wiping glasses, change or adjust equipment. Each "time out" shall not exceed 30 seconds. No more than three "time outs" in a game shall be granted each singles player or to each team in doubles.

(c) **Injury.** No time out shall be charged to a player who is injured during play. An injured player shall not be allowed more than a total of fifteen minutes of rest. If the injured player is not able to resume play after his rest of 15 minutes the match shall be awarded to the opponent or opponents. On any further injury to same player, the Commissioner, if present, or committee, after considering any available medical opinion shall determine whether the injured player will be allowed to continue.

(d) **Between Games.** A two minute rest period is allowed between the first and second games, at which times the players should NOT leave the court, without approval of the referee. A ten minute rest period is allowed between the second and third games, at which time players may leave the court.

MISCELLANEOUS DEFINITIONS

ACE — An ace is a legal service which completely eludes the receiver.

FLY BALL — A ball is on the fly after a service or a return before it has touched the floor, no matter how many walls or ceiling it has touched.

KILL — A kill is a ball returned to the front wall or side wall-front wall or front wall-side wall in such a manner that it rebounds so close to the floor that it is impossible for the opponent to make a return.

PASS — A pass is a ball returned to the front wall or front wall-side in such a manner that the ball rebounds behind or on either side of the opponent and it is not returnable.

RECEIVER — The player or players to whom the ball is served are called the receiver or the receiving side.

SERVER — The player serving the ball shall be termed the server. In a four-handed game the one serving and his partner are termed the serving side.

Membership-Subscription: ACE Magazine, Official Voice of Handball and Paddle Rackets, published six times yearly, is included in the annual dues in the IPRA. This magazine is the communication vehicle through which players everywhere can keep posted on the developments in the game, know where tournaments are being held, gain valuable instructional material. Membership in the Association gives you an opportunity to compete in sanctioned tournaments. Your membership card is an introduction to players and clubs throughout the world. You receive, in addition to ACE, periodic mailings on developments. Membership in the IPRA is available to any person interested in Paddle Rackets — champion and beginner alike. The membership fee, along with all other IPRA income, is used to promote interest in and the betterment of the game.

For all information: IPRA, 4101 Dempster St., Skokie, Ill. 60076.



Do you think there's any paddleball here?

Letter Box . . .

Commencing with the Dec. ACE we will have a special IPRA. This is for all of you paddle racket players. Let us hear from you on any subject dealing with the game. This is your section . . . take advantage of it. IPRA, 4101 Dempster St., Skokie, Ill. 60076.

IPRA PLAYERS AND FANS . . .

The December ACE will include:

—Instructional Material. We will tape interviews with some of the nation's outstanding paddle racket players and pass on their court strategy to you.

—IPRA Letter Box. Devoted exclusively to the paddle game.

—Calendar of tournaments, including the four planned IPRA divisional championships, leading to the first big nationals in 1969.

—PADDLE RACKET ROOM . . . An exclusive feature column by Mort Leve, editor of ACE.

—Stories and pictures from all parts of the paddle racket world. Deadline for Dec. ACE—Nov. 15. Send in your stories NOW and include "clean", well-planned photos.

Question and Answer column. Fire them this way.

—Announcing full plans for the 1969 season.

The four-wall Paddle Rackets game will now be unified with official rules, official balls, official rackets.

JOIN THE 'HIT' PARADE. Send your membership in today and become a CHARTER MEMBER of the Paddle Racket Players' Fraternity

International Paddle Rackets Association, 4101 Dempster St., Skokie, Ill. 60076. Tel. No. Area Code 312. ORchard 3-4000.

Something for Everyone- Houston USHA Theme



TOP RIGHT—Master runnersup in USHA Houston tournament—Tim Ballantyne and Jack Looney (left) with winners—Bob Fretz and Al Sheppard, USHA district commissioner. RIGHT—Perennial Texas doubles winners, Pete Tyson and Dick Roberson (left) of Austin. Scott Potter, tournament chairman, makes pre-

sensation. St. Louis team of Bill McGreevy Jr. and George Alexander, runnersup. LEFT—Potter also makes singles awards to: (l to r)—repeat winner, Buzz Shumate, Dallas; Jim Faulk, Dallas, second; Al Johnston, Y physical director, helps with the tanker trophies.

Our Houston district commissioner, Al Sheppard, reports on the annual Summer USHA competition... lots of handball for everyone. In addition to open singles and doubles, there was B singles and doubles, consolations, and a special created to include players better than the average B but could not get into the 32 bracket of open.

Buzz Shumate won the open singles as expected, beating Jim Faulk in the finals. No. 2 seeded Art Moore, Houston, was upset by Dallas' Bob Roberts. Bob went on to finish third.

Dick Roberson and Pete Tyson, pride of Austin, didn't lose a game en route to the doubles title. They beat Frank Price and Val Personaire of Houston in the semis and then the St. Louis team of Bill Mc-

Greevy and George Alexander in the finals, 21-17, 21-12. Price-Peronaire took third place over Alvis Grant and Steve Crosson, Dallas.

It was Al Sheppard and Bob Fretz as the host Masters doubles winners. They defeated Tim Ballantyne and Jack Looney, stablemates, in the finale, 21-12, 21-10. Bernie Dennenberg and Hank Bohm, Houston, were third placers over Dallas' Nick Roberts and Jim Moore.

Bill Cady, Shreveport, went the route before winning the Masters singles over Jim Kelley, Houston, 21-15, 14-21, 21-10. Bob Spann, Corpus Christi, third place, over Les Proctor, Austin.

In the "special" singles it was Tom Kezlan of Austin, over Dave Flettrich, New Orleans. Tim Sellers, Austin, took third place, over Herb

Weiner, Pasadena, Texas.

Jim Pace, Austin, was the B singles winner, beating Jack Placke, Austin in the finals of the 32-player field, 21-12, 21-16. Bill Hearon, Houston, took third place over Billy Pyle, Wichita Falls.

Jim Snyder, Houston, consolation singles, winner over Doug Bowley, San Antonio. Doug Tinker - Roger Nelson won the B doubles over Dick Curron - Bill McPherson; Cy Burke and Dick Elledge won third place over John Coolidge and Mike Moore.

Scott and Lillian Potter's Saturday night party was great as usual... lots of food, drinks and entertainment, John Lommax arranged for the singer and music.

All in all there were lots of exciting matches, lots of good handball, and most important, lots of fun!

JUAREZ INVITATIONAL . . .

(From page 26)

of fun. My thanks to Moose and his sparkling wife, Cookie.

The next day the finals and third place were played. Renato (Durango Kid) Almonte beat Cory Garcia, Albuquerque, in two straight. Gabe Enriquez and Bob Diaz, Los Angeles, beat Tom Kay and Chuck Walter, Albuquerque, in three games. Memo Correa, Juarez, beat Rene Zamorano, Tucson, for third place in three tough games. Natcho Veloz and Frank Prado, Juarez, beat Hernandez and myself for third place

in three games.

Leaving and saying goodbye was the toughest part of the trip, but I'll be back with Diana and son Billy during Christmas and I'll play in the Sun Tournament. If anyone reading this is interested in going to the El Paso tournament or next year to the Juarez tournament I will be happy to give the details. It will be the most enjoyable weekend fiesta you could possibly attend.

And a happy "hasta la vista" to all.

PLAN NOW!

Mark on your 1969 calendars—Feb. 20-23 . . . USHA National Contenders — Birmingham, Ala., YMCA.

March 16-22 . . . USHA's 20th Anniversary National four-wall championships — Austin, Texas.

OBSERVATION TOWER

By BOB DAVIDSON
National Juniors Chairman



MORE FOR CASTLE HILL . . . Masters team of Billy Gluck (shooting) and partner, George Maier (at his right) upseted the Detroiters, Dr. John Scopis and Dr. Al August, to make it a clean title sweep for the Bronx Castle Hill Beach Club.

This three-wall tourney in Detroit was a culmination of all my efforts in helping youngsters develop their handball skills.

We just couldn't do any better . . . a first in singles and a first in doubles; also, a second in doubles by the 16-year old Straus twins, Mitchell and Gary.

The method of power play and good shooting is part of the answer to improving individual play.

This was the year for Marty Decatur . . . earlier in the year he showed his championship skills in one-wall and a fifth national four-wall doubles with Jim Jacobs.

In three-wall Marty has developed into a powerhouse, using the one-wall tactics of power drives down the side walls . . . his shooting ability is excellent, and now he has annexed four singles and four doubles titles . . . He has definitely reached the apex of his game . . . takes a plan and works it out beautifully. I cannot see anyone taking his title away for the next couple of years.

Decatur has taken every national victory except the four-wall singles and I'm fairly sure that next March in Austin he will make the big effort.

En route to the three-wall singles

throne Marty encountered trouble with talented Ed Novak of Detroit . . . New York's Jack Walsh got an early lead but Decatur loosened up and pulled away strong. We thought Steve August would be the man to extend the champ but the rangy Detroit, now serving his medical internship, was outplayed in all facets of the game and went away saying, "He was just too good".

Decatur never let up in the final match against Jim Jacobs. It was a tough first game up to 16-13, but from then on strictly no contest.

Lou Russo, another of my boys did right well in winning the doubles with Decatur. This was his third win in three-wall. He won his first USHA title in the National Juniors when he was 16, repeated two years later along with the Junior one-wall. Lou's big win in the three-wall singles was over Carl Obert. His semi-final loss to Jacobs was a unique match . . . first game outdoors, second one forced indoors because of the rains . . . he showed well in both games, getting 16 and 18. He hit his peak in the doubles finals against the Straus twins . . . his shooting percentage was near perfect. Lou, in good physical condition, is one of the very best shooters in the tournament ranks.

No doubt of it — those Straus

lads were the sensations of the tournament — Mitchell the righthander, Gary the southpaw. As one of our guys opined, "They were the destroyers of champions". Gary gave an indication of things to come when he applied an upset win over reigning four-wall champion, Stuffy Singer. Two rounds later Gary lost to Fred Lewis, Florida state champ, another in our stable.

Before getting to the doubles finals Mitchell and Gary had to win five matches. They eliminated defending champs, Oscar and Ruby Obert in a 31-point match. A below par Oscar, always dangerous when he didn't have to move too quickly, with a strong Ruby, had the pressure on but these 16-year-olds refused to crack. They went in with the "nothing to lose" all-out attitude and it paid off. Gary handled some great serves around the left wall along with the low power shots while Mitchell played the general's role, directing play and making some vital shots. When in trouble, Mitch looked around and put into action any suggestions made.

In the fourth round the Straus team beat Chicago's double combine, Andy Upatnieks and Jack McDonald in the first game 21-14, and then a default was made because Andy came up with an injured right arm.

Because of the Sunday rains their semi-final match was forced indoors . . . this one against Steve Sandler and Lou Kramberg. Lou usually handles the kids quite easily at the home 92nd St. YMHA court, but this time he found them up and couldn't "carry" the comparatively inexperienced four-waller, Sandler. Steve was disappointed because he had showed well in the transfer from one-wall to three-wall.

We had quite a batch of my youngsters in this tournament. William Yee lost in the second round to Russo . . . Allan Findell, who was "over the hill" at the age of 12, did exceptionally well in his first three-wall, losing to Steve August in the third round, and lost in doubles with Larry August in a very tight match against Fred Lewis and Ken Smolack, 31-30. This match ended under the lights at midnight. Allan is 19, Larry is 20 . . . an up and coming team.

Lewis and Smolack lost to Decatur and Russo in the quarters in the four-wall necessity.

Wes Yee was on hand but had been under the weather and could not play. He and his brother are now at Lake Forest College, where Coach Mike Dau will continue to further their handball progress.

Steve Lott, another of my hopefuls, didn't do too well, but at last he has decided to discuss his game, instead of applying his own know-

ACE — U.S.H.A.

ledge of how to play ball. Steve has tremendous talent and should get straightened out.

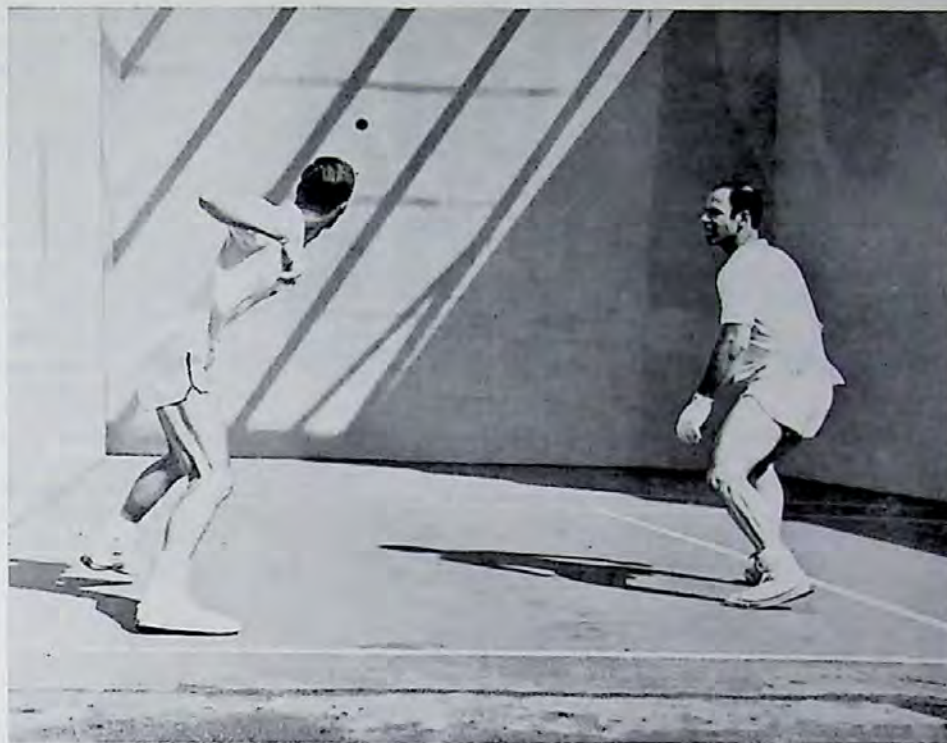
Stuffy Singer and Howie Eisenberg beat the Munsch brothers, Fred and Frank, in an exhausting quarter round three-gamer. Then they had to go indoors for the semis against Decatur and Russo. Stuffy tried to carry much of the load but couldn't add up to 21.

Decatur is thinking of defending in singles only next year so Russo will have to decide whether to go both ways and get a new partner. It was a fine comeback for Lou after two years of virtual retirement. He'll definitely be an "import" in the February USHA National Contenders in Birmingham. He can continue to move up the four-wall ladder as he has that all-important fly shot and court generalship.

This was an all-Castle Hill Beach Club victory. Every winner is a Castle Hill member. The Masters' veterans, Billy Gluck and George Maier, stay in shape playing these youngsters. Billy is 52, George, 42. Gluck has won Masters doubles in Philadelphia with Jack Weitz, another Castle Hiller. Maier coaches football and swimming at Rye, N.Y. high school.

The Gluck-Maier championship round win over defenders Dr. Al August and Dr. John Scopis, came after three fine games. Gluck was on the left for the first two games, but Maier put the polishing touch on in the final game with his patented dump left.

Bill McGreevy Jr. showed plenty of potential, playing with his Dad, Bill Sr. They lost to the Straus', 31-22. Another of our teams—Richie Greenwald and Bobby Harbatkin—have been doing well as a team, lost to Upatnieks and McDonald. Artie Reyer, one-wall doubles kingpin, teamed with Walsh, losing to Singer-Eisenberg. Marty Grossman and Julie Rothman did well in the Masters until Julie pulled up lame



BOB'S FIRST PUPIL . . . Marty Decatur came under the Davidson wing as a youngster and it was with pardonable pride that Bob watched him in his superb conquest of Jim Jacobs in the singles finals, and then adding the "Slam" doubles championship.

with a groin injury . . . they are products of the 92nd St. Y.

It was a great Labor Day evening dinner-dance at the Buckingham Hall for those in attendance. Dave Rott, new Michigan Handball Association president, is a strong addition to the three-wall picture . . . men who always help: Paul Merlo, Paul Stobbe, George Fisher, Earl Thomas, Dr. Al August, Dr. John Scopis. There were about 250 locals and out-of-towners.

NOTES: Mike Lachman, selling ACE subscriptions like no one else can . . . Joe Ardito sitting in on the draws and refereeing . . . wife, Inez, "Best Arm in Las Vegas", cheering Joe and son, Don, on . . .

Bill Binger and his wife . . . Ben Costello and wife. Ben showed well in Masters with his partner, Dr. Allen Murphy.

Mort Leve has improved his game quite a bit, has lost weight and keeps the ball in play with an occasional kill. (Ed. Note—that's not quite how I wrote it. My weight has been the same for 25 years . . . and my kills are devastating!)

Pauline Davidson up every a.m. at 7, playing at the courts before the day's regular schedule got underway . . . Irene Scopis was at the banquet and the final day matches . . . pleasure to see and talk to her . . . she is feeling much better and is, as ever, her charming self.

We were fortunate to get a lift to Lake Forest, Ill., from our president, Bob Kendler, and his lovely wife, Evie. We discussed the gambit of handball . . . visited at his new home, as fine a domicile as I have ever seen. Look at Better Homes and Gardens magazine and you will know why we were so impressed . . . while in Lake Forest got together with Mike Dau, his wife, Judy, along with the Yees and Straus boys. Bob took an afternoon off to show the boys around this scrumptuous suburb of Chicago, and they also ended up with some pocket money. The Kendlers dropped us off at Mike Dau's home. Mike showed me around the new sports building, which include three courts . . . one of which is the center glass sided-walled championship arena. Mike expects to take his players on a

(To page 35)

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(PLUS POSTAGE)



Handball LETTERS

Argentine Handball . . .

Dear Mort:

Jack Gordon has written about "handball vacations" in Mexico, and Jimmy Jacobs, a few years ago, if my memory is correct, described playing handball of a sorts on-board ship enroute to England. But who has experienced playing the game in Buenos Aires, Argentina?

This summer my wife and I enjoyed a vacation traveling around and across South America. Before leaving the States I checked the Handball Membership Directory and Guide in the offchance that there might be a USHA member in South America so that I might be able to arrange to play during the trip. Sure enough Antonio Baez was listed in Bogota, Colombia, and H. E. Johnson in Buenos Aires, so I threw a set of handball gear in my bag just in case. As it turned out, Antonio was not in the Bogota phone book, and our time in Colombia did not allow for handball anyhow.

A couple of weeks later we arrived in Buenos Aires. That evening I looked in the city phone book, and although there was a H. E. Johnson listed, when I called, no one answered the phone ring. A lost cause, I thought. The next morning, after breakfast, walking down the street from the hotel, I passed a modern seven-story building with the typical triangle Y plaque embedded in stone in its base. "Maybe there is a 4-wall handball court?", I asked myself.

I went in, asked the doorman if "pelota a mano" — Spanish for handball — was played here. "Si, señor, on the fifth floor," he answered. So up I went to the fifth floor. Did I find a hotbed of handball activity? No less than five courts, all fully occupied at the time with doubles, and in a gallery above, players waiting to play at each court "kibbitzing" loudly and constantly. Things were humming so much that there was a traffic director assigning courts to the waiting players as games ended.

In watching the action and talking to the "aficionados," I learned that two types of balls were used. One was our standard hard ball, imported from the U.S. when possible. The other, a larger, softer black ball, very similar in size and softness to the old New York punchball. The Argentinians had gone to the softer, larger ball because these could be made on a standardized basis locally, but our version could not, and delivery from the States was too irregular (USHA sales — attention). Johnson, of the directory, had left about a year before, and had been considered a real good player. I was invited to play, went back to the hotel to get my gear, returned, and dressed out.

When I got on the court, I found out the really interesting facets of handball — Argentine style. We played doubles with the softer, larger ball. Floor was hardwood, all walls of plastered cement. Ceiling counted in play, but was a good bit lower than ours — no more than about 12 feet high. This low height cut off the ball on ceiling shots, so that the softer, shower ball generally did not carry to the back wall. At the base and running the full width of the plastered front wall was a black wooden board some four inches high. Any shot hitting this board was an automatic "out". This rule was a gimmick which, of course, nullified concept in handball play.

But, wait, the best (or worst) is yet to come. Where the front wall meets the right side wall, the Argentinians had in-

serted from floor to ceiling a slant piece 10 inches wide and making an angle of 120 degrees with both the front and right side walls. This piece they called the "tambur," and in play it counted as a shot against the front wall, or as part of the front wall.

Naturally, the locals played the "tambur" for all it was worth. A shot hitting the "tambur" came off at a crazy, unexpected angle (for me, at least). Usually the ball, after hitting the "tambur," was deflected to the left side wall at an angle. Talk about carom shots, this beats them all. Serves — or "saque" — in doubles alternated one player from each team at a time as in tennis doubles. Short line was like ours, but in fun play like we were having that morning, the Argentinians foot-faulted commonly. They abided by the normal serving rules in tournament play, however. Games were 31 points long. The Buenos Aires players played with a lot of savvy, and besides the "tambur" shot used a front wall-side wall kill or fade-away shot a lot. Despite temperatures in the low 50's that morning, we all worked up a good sweat.

I enjoyed the Argentine handball crowd, their kidding, their hospitality, and their enthusiasm for the game. Most of their players at the Y could hold their own very well on any court in the U.S.

HARRY W. ANISGARD
1354 Mendez St.
New Orleans, La. 70122

Tribune Salute . . .

Dear Bob:

I was out of the city the week-end of the Tribune's great story on your leadership of the fine sport of handball. My son Scott told me about it and when I returned I called the Tribune and they sent me a copy.

Today with so much adverse news it was refreshing and heartwarming to read good news about a man I have so long admired and respected.

May I join your legion of friends in congratulating you and also say that Bob Kendler has always been my "Citizen of the Year."

Fred Heitmann.
President
North West National
Bank of Chicago

USHA Assists . . .

Dear Mr. Kendler:

On behalf of all the handball players that participated in the Banos Roma 6th Annual Handball Tournament in Juarez, Mexico, I wish to thank you for the handballs, shirts, and literature. Your contribution was of great help in making our tournament a success.

Again, thanks a million.

Hector Marusich
El Paso Central YMCA
Handball Chairman

Yees at Lake Forest . . .

Dear Mr. Kendler:

Just a note, to say thank you on behalf of my brother and me for your gracious hospitality during our visit. The discussions (lectures) that you gave us concerning proper conduct on and off the court will be embedded in us as students at Lake Forest College, and as proud members of USHA. I look forward to a lasting relationship between the USHA and myself and equally important the resumption of our friendship. You are the first person to clearly explain the philosophy of the game, as well as the style of life, needed to play the game.

The panoramic view of Lake Forest cannot be duplicated anywhere in the country without your help.

I look forward to arriving at Lake Forest.

William Yee
New York, N. Y.

ACE — U.S.H.A.

Life's True Values

There is no price tag on true love
No value can be set
To count the blessings to be had
When loving hearts have met.
That friendly smile or gay hello
Cannot buy food or drink
But, still, its value to your soul
Is worth more than you think.
When you are burdened with a load
That seems of mammoth size
Of times the thing that helps the most.
Is the trust in someone's eyes.
The things that count the most in life
Are valued not in gold
For love . . . and trust . . . and faithfulness
Cannot be bought or sold.

—Carice Williams

Handball Remembrance . . .

Dear Mort:

I encountered a little anecdote about our USHA President Bob Kendler while calling at the Corbin Farm Supply in Fort Myers, Florida, where I live. One of the principals there, Joe Kura, and I were loading sacks of decorative rocks to go to my house, when he complained that he had not kept in very good shape and that he should have followed the advice of a friend he had in Chicago.

He said he was attending a Study Group at the Sheraton Hotel back in the Fifties with a man who was a very successful builder and who, at the slightest pause in any conversation, would get going on handball. Of course I said that it was Bob Kendler, who sprung handball out of the AAU doldrums until now it has championship competition at all levels and all areas. Later I showed him the picture of Bob that was in the April issue of ACE, along with the record of Laser-Kendler, winners of the National Four-Wall Masters in 1952 and 1953.

Incidentally, I would like to inquire about the paddleball game which I see being discussed now. While I was on duty before going to Europe at Governor's Island in the spring of 1942, I found the young officers there playing paddleball with a paddle with a short wood handle and a thick wooden blade, fairly heavy. I did right well with the game because I use a pick-up serve, but haven't seen it played since. What I would like to know is, which is the better, the gut paddle or the wood paddle? We used the regular handball at Governor's Island, but I am not sure whether that is suitable for a tennis type racquet paddle.

In Fort Myers, Florida, we have no court facilities but are getting a YMCA started which should give us some three-wall courts within the next year. Possibly some of the handball players would like to use the wooden paddle, which I judge would keep them in the game longer.

Morris Fuller
3981 E. River Dr.
Fort Myers, Fla. 33901

U. of Tennessee . . .

Dear Mort:

I am pleased to report that our new physical education building is under construction, and we should be in it during the spring of 1970. As you may recall, we have 11 handball courts in this facility, and you can imagine how excited we are about having it completed.

Ben A. Plotnicki,
Professor Physical Education
University of Tennessee
Knoxville, Tenn.

Air Conditioning . . .

Dear Bob:

This letter is in reference to air conditioning Handball Courts and how they might be financed. The Tulsa YMCA Hinder Club, handball players and paddleball players, are extremely proud of our 15 ton, \$5,150 air conditioning project on our four regulation courts. It might interest other associations to know our method of financing this project. Our rules are as follows:

1. \$1 per hour reservation (doubles, singles and cutthroat).
2. The \$1 reservation fee must be paid at the Service Desk prior to play.
3. A ticket for 28 reservations at \$25 will be made available for purchase. (This would provide immediate funds and a small discount for those interested in the purchase.)
4. The Physical Education staff will be responsible for supervision and control of all reservations. It would be the staffs' responsibility to award reservations to youth under 18 years of age.
4. The Physical Education staff will be responsible for supervision and control of all reservations. It would be the staffs' responsibility to award reservations to youth under 18 years of age.
5. Donations and contributions from companies and individuals will be received at any time.
6. All charges are to be discontinued upon the completion of the finance obligation.

This whole project began with our sponsoring the USHA Junior national handball tournament in Dec., 1967. We had enough money left over from the Junior National for a down-payment and arranged with the air conditioning firm for a loan of the balance spread over a 3-year period. Our players have received this very well and many have purchased \$25 tickets. Tulsa is somewhat a hot, humid climate during the summer months and the air conditioning is extremely welcome for at least 4 months out of the year. We do however, plan to charge for playing throughout the winter and hope to pay off our indebtedness in 1 year.

We would be happy to answer any questions that other associations might have concerning our project.

The members and players of the Tulsa Y are due full credit, and the YMCA staff is extremely proud of their aggressiveness and interests in improving the YMCA Handball program and facilities.

Dean Farris
Physical Director

Prose . . .

Sirs:

Zealous youngsters examining weaknesses, varying underhand tricky serves, rarely quitting practice? Oh no! Making left-handed kill shots jokingly is handball's great fun. Everyone doesn't compete but all agree better conditioning develops energy, feels great, helps inspire juveniles, kids learning maturity; no only players quixotically requiring shutouts, tremendous upsets, victoriously weary. Exits, yielding zeroes.

—Christopher Fogarty
Illinois Athletic Club, Chicago

Handball in Vietnam . . .

Dear Sir:

Believe it or not, we do have a few handball courts in Vietnam. Fortunately, if they are constructed of concrete block they can also be used as shelters during mortar and rocket attacks. Needless to say, I would think this is a first, as regards others uses to which a handball court might be used.

As it happens, we are about to open a newly constructed court here at Phu Loi, RVN. This for the most part, was built with Vietnamese labor and you can be certain they have some doubts as to its intended purpose.

William W. Cole, Lt. Col.
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Juarez Labor Day Invite Displays Mexican Hospitality

'Durango Kid' Almonte Wins Singles... Enriquez-Diaz, L.A., Doubles Winners

By JACK GORDON

After having such a wonderful time last year at the El Paso tournament, I decided to enter the Juarez Labor Day weekend meet so that I could once again be with the same people. My plans to go were made weeks in advance and my only regret was that my wife Diana was tied up with an art showing and could not go.

However, an old friend from New York, Bernard Skolnick, called about two weeks prior to the tournament saying he wanted to visit and when he learned I was going to Juarez, he decided to come along. I was already entered in doubles with Natcho Hernandez of El Paso, but I called and was able to get Bernie in the singles. Incidentally, Bernie not only was an old handball partner from my New York days, but he was also best man at my wedding.

After picking Bernie up at O'Hare airport, we drove directly out to Community Builders . . . where Bob had a package of goodies for the Juarez group. This included 12 cans of new "round" ACE balls, T-shirts, and an assortment of printed matter. I don't have to tell how all this was appreciated, especially the balls. To pick up, from there we went to the Duncan Y and had a fine workout with Bob Perez and "No Boy" Tenerelli. The next morning we were on the plane for El Paso.

My anticipated happiness over this trip took shape the instant I saw the smiling faces of Natcho and his son, Gilbert, waiting at the airport.

After checking in, we drove to Natcho's residence where his wife Marge and daughter Debbie were waiting. I feel so close to this wonderful family that I wish we were related. Natcho surprised me with a gift of two cestas (the curved basket used in Jai Alai). I had expressed a desire for one and it seems that a friend of his had gone to a game and asked one of the players to sell him an extra cesta. He was refused, but after the match the same player offered to sell him the pair. He had bet on himself and had lost. Sounds like some handball players I know!

That evening we all went to din-

ner in Juarez and enjoyed a good steak after which several of the boys tried drinking wine from a flask as it is poured down the forehead. The wine travels down your nose and you are supposed to extend your lip to trap and drink it. I remembered that last year Buzz Shumate told us he thought he had trapped all the wine, but when he went to bed that night, he noticed that his undershirt was stained red.

The next day the tournament started. It was held at the Club Roma in Juarez which is owned by Nati Gonzalez. This is the club I played Renato in three years ago. I have been to many tournaments in many different cities, but never have felt more welcomed. Mrs. Gonzalez and her entire family (Nati was in Mexico on business) were absolutely wonderful.

A very delightful aspect of the tournament was in the fact that



RENATO ALMONTE
Singles Winner

most of the participants were of Mexican origin and you could almost taste the international flavor. It was funny watching a conversation between two players who did not understand each other. In this same vain, an extremely funny incident occurred during my third place match. My friend Bernie was refereeing, and at one time during a game, the opposing team of Veloz and Prato ran into each other try-



DOUBLES CHAMPS — (l. to r.)
Bob Diaz and Gabe Enriquez of
Los Angeles

ing to get a low return. Bernie called a hinder and Natcho and I looked at each other in surprise, since we were nowhere near the action. Bernie stuck to his decision, but the quizzical look on Natcho called for an answer. I took a time out and walked over and said he would have to excuse my friend as all Mexicans looked alike to him. This cracked Natcho up, which made it worth losing the point.

The banquet was held at Natcho Veloz' home in Juarez. It reminded me of a movie hacienda such as might be seen in a picture titled "In Old Sorrento". The setting was just beautiful. We ate in the high walled gardens with a Mexican band providing appropriate music. The food, the people, the music, all put me at such peace with the world that I was actually happy I had lost my match that afternoon. I was also made extremely happy by several things that were said and done that evening. First, Natcho Veloz invited me and my wife to visit this Christmas and the words he used were "my house is yours". Then, Mrs. Gonzalez presented me with a beautiful Mexican shawl for Diana. And then (you will never believe it) I was presented with the Good Sportsmanship Trophy. That should quiet a tremendous number of my critics in Chicago.

Mrs. Gonzalez also gave out more shawls as door prizes and I gave out the U.S.H.A. T-shirts, and the committee gave out 25 peso Olympic silver coins. When we left I couldn't stop singing "South Of The Border, Down Mexico Way". Just before leaving "Moose" Stubing, the baseball star formerly with the St. Louis Cardinals and now a player-coach with the El Paso Sun Kings (they had just won their league pennant) invited us out for coffee. The group became about 14 people and we enjoyed another few hours

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HEROICS IN THE HANDBALL COURTS

You wouldn't think it to see those middle-aged men dressed up in shorts and eye protectors, but they are descendants of the knights of old, the champions who entered the lists to joust for life and honor.

By JIM BROSNAN

"The passing of a hero leaves a gap in society . . . one who does a thing better than anyone else assumes a place in history that is sorely missed when he can no longer perform."

So wrote William Hazlitt, noted English essayist of the early 19th century. His subject was neither a king nor admiral, playwright nor a scientist, rector nor a banker. Unleashing the heartfelt emotions of a true and purebred sports fan . . . Hazlitt penned his tribute to an Irish athlete, John Cavanaugh.

Cavanaugh's "thing"?

He played handball.

Man's history admits of no more democratic principle than this . . . Everyone can be best at something,

even if he invents his own game.

There are kings at quoits, champions at skittles, titleholders in battledore, ping-pong, and snooker . . . Choose your own caper, Clyde: archery, boccie, and curling; fives, gobang, and pallone; quintain, and rugby; tipcat and volleyball.

With bows, balls, and brooms; with paddles, cues, and horseshoes; with bursting lungs or feather-fingered grip, man uses any limb, any sense, to transform bodily exercise into sport.

Ever been in a lemon game at a pill joint, kissing the ivories a la Rudolph Walderone?

Ever played pool?

Ever tried blindsies? Left-handed babies? Fast Chicago?

Pee Wee Reese did. Reese was a champion at marbles long before he played shortstop.

So Hazlitt wrote his panegyric to Cavanaugh in 1819. Archers and fencers, mumblety-peg masters and hammer-throwers should have such an apologist to extol their feats.

One hundred and fifty years after Cavanaugh's death, the game that Irishmen call "Fives" has become a fierce fad, almost a spiritual pastime to 5 million Americans. In Chicago alone handball ranks, its devotees claim, among the top 50 serious games that men (over 15 and under 70) play. Many YMCA's, Jewish community centers, and private athletic clubs have handball courts and their own champions. In their locker rooms handballers will judge new members acceptable by stating:

"He's a player." Or:

"He's a *player*." Or, ultimately:

"He's a **PLAYER!**"

A handballer is not motivated by public acclaim or status in the sports world. As Hazlitt put it: "The game of fives is what no one despises who ever played it. It is the finest exercise for the body, and the best relaxation for the mind."

Robert Kendler, a millionaire player, once burred in the tone of voice that he usually reserves for TV commercials, "If I die on the handball court, it will take them a week to get the smile off my face."

Now, that's a **PLAYER!** If there is any sporting justice in the old ball game, Kendler ought to be enshrined as an honorary Hibernian and his grave adorned with a Blarney stone.

The spirit of Kendler (alive and breathing in Skokie) and Cavanaugh (breathless but hallowed in Dublin) is the foundation of amateurism. (Kendler, himself, won national titles on the handball court and at 63 still challenges players and *players* to a game of doubles.)

Any man with an ounce of competitiveness can be called "champion." Originally the word (from the French, *campion*) connoted a contestant, anybody willing to get

NOTE: We reprint feature article which appeared in the Chicago Sunday Tribune Magazine section (Aug. 18) written by Jim Brosnan, the ex-big league pitcher turned big league author. Permission granted by the Chicago Tribune, for which we are most grateful. With well over a million readers this handball story received wide acclaim and there were quite a few requests for the ACE ball to bounce against the wall.

in there and mix it up. The champ of champions had a short career, usually. Games in the Middle Ages featured swords and battleaxes rather than pig bladders and horsehide pelotas. Sports competition was so fierce, raw, and animal-natured that just to be a contestant took a champion's guts.

Today it's the simple, *amateur* sports that carry on the venerable custom of "champions." Professional athletes don't count. Pros are a different class — uncommon and money-oriented.

It's the racquets players, the badminton buffs, the squash addicts who excite the finest gaming instincts of their fellow sportsmen. Above all, humble handball, that simple and cheap and age-old competition, offers every man his chance to be champion.

"It's a game anyone can carry around in his pocket and play every day of his life," says Bob Kendler, who will sell you a ball for your pocket for a buck any time. Send check to United States Handball association, Skokie, Ill.

Handball is unique among minor sports. Bob Ripley called it "the oldest game played with a ball by man, woman, or child." Ripley, of course, was a player . . . and on his good days, a *player*. Believe it or not.

Egyptian foremen who stood around watching slaves build the Pharaoh's tombs took to bouncing a ball off the ground and slapping it against the wall. There seems no doubt that then, as now, handball was considered a good way for fat men in dirty shorts to work up a sweat.

The Irish national game was first played here in the late 19th century. PLAYERS like Phil Casey and Mike Egan taught the game in New York City and won all the semi-official championships. (Casey reportedly never lost a game after he left Ireland; handball history is full of Hibernian folktales.)

The utter simplicity of handball — the ball-wall-opponent prerequisites — probably hindered the development of the game. Purists and New York firemen may sneer at the facts but handball-for-champions did not become a true American amateur's gig until the four-wall game was popularized.

By definition the four-wall game required an inclosed court, not just the side of a firehouse or pub — (where the great Cavanaugh played some of his most memorable contests). Private arenas lend themselves to the urgent needs of an in-group. They are clubby, classy, and can be restricted to *serious* players.

Egyptian overseers, Irish nationalists, and Brooklyn beach-boys may have enjoyed their fun game, but it took dedicated four-wall hand-



CHICAGO HALL OF FAMERS . . . Gus Lewis and Ken Schneider deservedly gained their niche in the Helms Handball Hall of Fame for their three decades of play par excellence, and USHA President Bob Kendler for his contributions in giving the game an individual identity and rightful prominence.

ballers to really organize the sport. (The United States Handball association pointedly labels itself "The Players' Fraternity.")

The four-wall game, played in grimy-but-precious private clubs (Union League, I.A.C., Lake Shore), in old red-brick YMCA's, and in brand new streamlined, glass-tiled JCC's, preserves the basic physical virtues of handball. The four-wall game also adds psychological incentives; a champ for every court, a champ for every class of players, a champ for the house, and a champ among champs. National tournaments are available, but it is the house tournaments in each club that make handball bounce, and it is the intra-club, brotherly competition that makes a handballer seem "possessed" on and off the court.

"Handballers are addicts," says one handballer's wife. "Handball is a vice." Like golfers, gin players, and horse bettors, the "handball husband" makes a sports widow of his spouse.

"Handballers are addicts," says Mrs. Barbara Linkemer, a St. Louis girl whose husband, Rich, is hooked on the game. Her passionate plea was published by ACE, the handball bible:

"They play a game on the court then replay it on the phone, point by point! We go to a party and they play it over again. And then once more, in bed, half-asleep. That is when it gets dangerous. Arms waving, knees jerking, and elbows digging you in the ribs!

"They are a breed apart. No other sportsmen in the world are like handball players. Take the guy who

everybody recognizes the minute he walks on the court. Dirty Dan! He wears 'walking attire.' His shorts and socks can walk on and off the court by themselves. Never washes them between matches. He leaves them stinking in a corner of the house so he can walk right into them and be ready to play!"

Dirty Dan may make champ, but he'll never win any popularity contests.

"On the other hand," says Mrs. Linkemer, "there's Mr. Clean. He wears spotless white uniforms all the time. Changes his T-shirt twice during a game. His shorts are always starched and pressed. His wife is a full-time laundress!"

Should the poor loser come home from the court seeking sympathy or solace, all he is likely to get is sneers and sarcasm.

"It is hazardous if not horrifying to go to bed with a player," says the handball widow. "He comes in from a game moaning and groaning, as if he's been wounded in a war. He gets out a heating pad or an ice pack and enough liniment to soothe a football team. He twitches and jerks all night long. There are occupational hazards to handball . . . only they hurt the wife, not the player. Handball's not a sport. It's a disease!"

Chicagoland, with 107 four-wall courts, has more would-be handball heroes than any metropolis in the country. That clarion call, "Anyone Can Play!" has lured countless middle-aged, overweight, unsung sports buffs into a "Y" or club or JCC where they eagerly buy a ball (and shorts, sneakers, T-shirt em-

blazoned with the club's name, and USHA approved gloves and eye protectors) and sign for a court (provided all of them haven't already been reserved until 9 p.m.) only to discover that four-wall handball is really cubist billiards demanding a lifetime of experience to learn all the angles plus a marathon runner's lung power to reach every stroked ball before it bounces twice on the floor after caroming off one or more of the four walls.

Grasping the details of handball at first may befuddle the average man, the rookie clod, stumbling after hop serves, waving vainly at passing shots. Fortunately, the very act of joining a club or "Y" or JCC

A lifetime isn't too much time to master the ways of how the ball bounces.

has built-in pressures for keeping him at it.

Membership itself involves a commitment of money and time. Some truly passionate hopefuls take out lifetime "Y" memberships. Motivations may include such disparate alibis as 1) "keeping in shape;" 2) "giving the kids a place to go on Saturday;" and 3) "contributing to the community welfare." The third reason may even be tax-deductible.

In addition, if a prospective player can't be a handball hero himself, he can get into a court and shake hands with one. (It's a not unsubstantial part of the American way of life.) In his own club, among his peers, he can talk a good game, promote, criticize, and take pride in the house champ (a sort of spiritual pinch hitter). For, as the philosopher Plato (a nonplayer once declaimed, "People will always have a champion whom they will set up and nurse into greatness."

The old Greek could see it coming. The age of Cavanaugh! The era of Kendler! The time of John Macmiller!

Johnny Mac.

Let us now sing the praises of Johnny Mac. Even his name had the sound of legend.

That's a proper name for a champion. Solid-sounding. Easy to remember. Fittingly affectionate. On the street or in the court, it has a ring to it.

Johnny Mac is the prototype house champ. For the last 18 years his feats at handball have been hailed with awesome exaggeration by members of the Union League club. "Best player on Jackson boulevard" is just one of the things they say about him. Other clubs may have their heroes. The Illinois Athletic club has Phil Elbert. Duncan YMCA has Tom Brownfield. The Bernard Horwich center has Mort Leve. None of them earns the kind of members' kudos laid on Johnny Mac by Union League handballers. In his house, for nearly two decades, he has been supreme.

It's sad but true that Johnny Mac's home-court reputation is sometimes scoffed at, his skill doubted, on the outside. At the headquarters of the USHA, the inner sanctum of the players' fraternity, the name of the Union League club's standard bearer is only cautiously applauded.

"He's a tremendous player," says Ken Schneider, a national champion of Kendlerian quality. "Johnny Mac has a good service, power, and all the shots. He's also inconsistent, erratic, and gets keyed up too much in tournaments. Blows a couple of shots and goes sky-high."

A put-down but hardly a traumatic letdown for a genuine house champ. A man who knows he's a whale of a player at home needn't worry about being a fish on the road.

"A house champion," Schneider explains, "seldom beats double-A players, the guys who rank in the top eight in the state. It's like a semi-pro beating a pro. It happens, but not very often."

Smart house champions play it cool, bathing in intra-mural accolades, ignoring critical audiences at major tournaments. A man who knows his place keeps it in contentment.

Schneider accompanies his argument with a soft lob of criticism to put away his point: "Club champions often find it hard to win when they leave their own group. They get away with things on their own court that would get shoved down their throat by better players."

Schneider is 47, 10 years older than Johnny Mac, and a redoubtable PLAYER who could be champ

in anybody's house. A native New Yorker, he won his first national title before Johnny Mac even learned the game. Ken's trophies for city, state, and international hand-

House champs, if they're smart, stay in small puddles and win big.

ball honors would fill the Union League locker room.

With partner Gus Lewis, Schneider won the Master's doubles championship of the USHA four years in a row, 1964-67. Appropriately, Schneider and Lewis were frequently challenged by teams from other cities, other courts.

"When you get to the top" says Schneider, "you could spend the whole year traveling around, giving exhibitions."

The challenges in many cases are from club members rather than house champions, who usually know better. Like club pros in the golf racket who are forced into matches with touring pros on the home golf course, the handball house champ has to face up now and then to a tilt with the big boys and their big game. Usually the house champ loses face and match. Usually, but not always.

"You're far more relaxed playing club champs," Schneider notes. . . . "You're visitors and you don't want to abuse hospitality. The idea is to give everybody a workout. So you don't work on weaknesses as you would in tournament ball."

Occasionally, the house champ triumphs. And like "The Day the Yankees Lost the Pennant," such an event becomes a legend in the club.

It happened to Johnny Mac.

It happened with Ken Schneider and Gus Lewis.

At the Union League club it lives in the members' memories. "The day Johnny Mac beat Schneider and Lewis! You should have seen it! Two straight games and Johnny Mac scored every point!"

True, true.

"John was great that day," Schneider recalls. "But his partner was weak. We could have worked on him. It wouldn't have happened in a tournament."

Sour gripe? Arch alibi? Eyebrow-raisers who have to break their necks just to dig out a hard serve in the back corner find it hard to imagine an AA player being a gracious loser. Schneider's talent and integrity are unquestionable, however, so that Union Leaguers simply point with greater pride to that day when the mighty Macmiller won.

Fame and acclaim, whether they be brief and private or publicly trumpeted, exact a price. Heroes

(To next page)

Perhaps there's something more important—like making money

seldom fade away; they flunk their physicals and drop out of the action. Arthritis gets them in the arms; knees and ankles collapse; hearts fail.

Handballers, epic-making and otherwise, are prone to varicose veins. Cavanaugh had them. He died of a burst blood vessel. So did Joe Platak, the celebrated Chicagoan who won seven straight national singles titles while never losing a game. (It's in the book.)

Wry fate has similarly fingered Johnny Macmillan. Union League players toll the medical prognosis: the bell will ring no more for Johnny Mac. His veins stripped, he has retired. His reign ended, long live the champ!

To do his "thing" a man must find some thing to do. Avowed sportsmen graduate from boyhood

games like kick-the-can to childish games like shooting pheasant and to manly games like, well, pitching to Willie Mays. Handball, with its infinite advantages, is not the be-all of a good man's life, no matter how much the player insists. Hazlitt, writing on Cavanaugh, admitted:

"There are things of more importance than striking a ball against a wall . . . such as making war and peace, making speeches and answering them, making verses and blotting them, making money and then throwing it away."

Take Ken Schneider now. After he and Gus Lewis lost their Master's title at St. Louis this spring, Kenny said:

"I'm taking up paddle-ball. Anybody want a game?"

Massachusetts . . .

Paul Pender, former middleweight boxing champ of the world, is doing a fine job as recreation director at the Norfolk, Mass., penitentiary. Handball plays a big part in the program. John M. A. McCarthy is coach; Fred Brandolini and Robert Potter, referees.

Outside handball tournaments were added to the sports schedule. The L Street handball club from South Boston was brought, composed of John Connolly and Bob Nichols. Bob is also a member of the Boston Patriots football team. Pat Mulkern split with Connolly.

Oddities . . .

Around the North Jersey area Howard "Tarz" Heerwagon, long time handball player and worker, is noted for his intensive competitive drive. He plays his hardest against everyone.

Once, while playing a relatively new player, "Tarz" quickly built a big lead with his aggressive play. With the score 20-0, "Tarz" stepped in to serve game point, only to see his opponent walking out of the court. When "Tarz" asked where he was going, the beginner replied, "I'm leaving. Nobody's going to beat me 21-0."

And he left. And "Tarz"? Well, he still beats everyone as much as he can.

Florida . . .

The Tampa — St. Petersburg — Clearwater areas were treated to a series of four-wall handball clinics and exhibitions—the likes of which have never been witnessed in many, many years.

Jack "The Fox" Weintraub, outstanding champion and representative from the West Side YMCA in New York, played Ernie Ortiz, present Tampa YMCA singles champion. The purpose was to expose the great game to the Bay area and promote and recruit more courts and participants.

The first clinic was enthusiastically received at the Tampa YMCA, and an overflow crowd enjoyed listening to the various aspects of the game, followed by a best of three exhibition. Weintraub won the first game 21-13, but was drubbed in the second 21-3 and after leading 18-7 in the final — was overtaken 20-21 in a thriller that had the home crowd shouting "ole" with every point scored by their spunky hero, Ortiz.

Harry Smith's Health Studio was the arena for the second clinic, and again many had to be turned away due to limited gallery space. Weintraub, a determined competitor, exhibited why he is considered an outstanding handball player. His fly kills, corner placements and consistent backwall kills were too devastating and he registered 21-11, 21-16 victories over his game foe.

The beautiful Clearwater YMCA was the site for the final clinic and "showdown" exhibition match. An excited crowd of over 100 received and enjoyed learning the intricacies of our game. This Y has two beautiful courts and hopes to expand its facilities before too long since the demand for courts from handballers as well as racketballers is at its peak. It is possible that the Florida State Open Tournament will be held here. Weintraub and Ortiz proceeded to thrill the onlookers with a blistering and torrid exhibition which displayed tremendous returns and many long volleys. After two and a half hours of play, Weintraub was victorious — 21-17, 13-21, 21-20.

SAM MESSINA
Tampa YMCA,
Handball Chairman



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GOOD SPORTS FUND

Evanston, Ill., YMCA, has conducted a very worthwhile "Good Sport" fund drive. Members of the YMCA's Executive Athletic Club were asked to contribute \$24 to cover a membership for a youngster in the community. USHA President Bob Kendler was one of the first to lend a hand. J. Larry Meyer, Y physical director and director of the Club, had stickers designating those who participated placed on their lockers.

\$15,000

life insurance \$3.30 a month

*that's an
insurance break
for USHA members*

At the risk of sounding undignified, we call it USHA's Maxi-Mini Policy—maximum protection, minimum cost. But risk is what it's all about. We bet on handball players (and what's a better way to keep a man healthy?) That's why we cover you with \$15,000 for loss of life for so little cost.

For instance, if you're 28 years old it would cost less than \$40 per year or \$19.65 semi-annually. (That works out to be just a little more than \$3.30 a month.)

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Pacific Northwest USHA Regional Singles and Doubles

NOTE: We continually urge our members to send in news about tournament play and general developments in their areas — and, most important, to get the results in as soon as possible after the end of the competitions. The old saying, "There's nothing as stale as yesterday's newspaper" also applies to magazines. We publish every other month and when a writeup of tournament play comes in late in the Summer covering play that took place last March we just can't give it the same kind of treatment it would be given had it been received within a couple of weeks after the scheduled play. PLEASE bear this in mind. The deadline for our issues is the 20th of the month preceding the dated magazine. In other words, all material for the Dec., 1968 ACE must be on hand in the USHA headquarters office by Nov. 20. The following material was forwarded by Ken McQueen and Chuck Bell of the Oregon Handball Society. This group picked up the ball after the tourney hosts neglected to send in results.

* * *

This covers the USHA Northwest regional singles and doubles tournaments, split between two cities for the first time. The singles hosted by the Vancouver A.C., March 15-17, and the doubles a month later at the new Spokane Elks Club, April 11-13. The trial of two separate hosts was not overly accepted and the opinions favored holding both singles and doubles together in 1969. Most play-

ers felt it was too much of a hardship in terms of financing and time involved to attend both.

Portland players dominated the competitions. In Vancouver the veteran Bob Schoning, Multnomah A.C., won the singles over Rod Pantages of the host club, 21-17, 21-16. Pantages had scored an upset in eliminating Portland's Ted Yeamans and then Jack Scrivens, also Portland. Schoning was pushed to the limit by the fast-improving Gordie Pfeifer, Tacoma Elks, before winning 8-21, 21-10, 21-19. Then Bob defeated teammate John Foster in the semis and went on to win his twelfth NW singles in 20 tries, a record which may never be equalled. Stainless steel carving sets were awarded as trophies, and as usual the Canadians were first class hosts.

John Ritchie and Dennis Schalk of the Olympian Athletic Club in Portland won the doubles. They were unseeded and defeated the top three seeds to gain the crown. No. 2 seeded Dick Brouwer-Jack Scrivens, Multnomah A.C. defeated Jim Slaven and Jud Heathcote, Spokane Elks, in the semis . . . while Ritchie and Schalk eliminated No. 1 seed, ten time Oregon State champs, Schoning and Bob Johnson. They then took the championship match, 21-9, 21-18. Probably the highlight of this doubles tourney was the winners quarter-final triumph over Pfeifer and Lea McMillan. Behind 7-16 in the third game they overcame the deficit

with good serves and timely kills to outscore their opponents 14-1 in the final innings and win, 21-17.

Ted Yeamans and Bill Inglesby won the Masters doubles over Bernie Goble and Al Kircher, Spokane Elks.

Presentation of trophies and "ham" awards was handled by Jud Heathcote, who kept everyone in stitches with his quick wit and gags. Many thanks must go to the Spokane Elks Club, for their attractive and very adequate facilities for a well run tournament.

* * *

The Oregon State singles and doubles was hosted by the Eugene Central Lane YMCA. Tom Young, aided by local players and wives, again produced excellent competition, food and fellowship. Doubles — John Foster and Frank Bagan, winners, Multnomah A.C. Howard Soumie and Jerry Young had upset No. 1 seed, Schoning and Johnson. Singles — Ken McQueen, Olympian A. C., won over Ted Yeamans. McQueen came back after losing the second game. . . at 11-11, he ran six straight points, and then won, 21-13.

Masters singles, initiated this year, had a good reception. The Eugene hosts got its chance to shine as Chuck Larson took the championship over Salem YMCA's Lee Shinn, 21-10, 21-6. Also, Eugene's George Dorsey won the consolation over Albany Y's Vince Barrett.

1968 USHA TENTH ANNUAL ONE-WALL HANDBALL SCHEDULE

FINALS: — Singles — Friday, Oct. 25, 8 p.m.

Boys' Novice and Masters Doubles — Friday, Nov. 1, 8 p.m.

Men's Doubles — Friday, Nov. 8, 8 p.m.

Chairman: — Irving S. Ehrlich

Chief Referees: — Marvin Greenberg, Morris Levitsky

Tourney Coordinator: — Mickey Blechman

Referee Corps: — Sid Bauer, Norm Butler, Danny Deloach, Harry Greenberg, Andy Belsky, Joe Cohen, Irving Forman, Ugo Bontempo, George Cohen, Alex Fischer, Sam Silvers

Match Coordinators: — Teddy Breslow, Joe Koren, Abe Garr, Steve Schnaps, Wil Kong, Meyer Weinberg

USHA Representative: — Oscar Relkin

Tourney Printers: — Herb Friedman, Curley Martin

SHORT SHOTS . . .

Mesa Junior College in Grand Junction, Colo., included four standard courts in its new sports building, ALL WITHOUT ANY OPENING IN THE BACK WALL. Next step — remodeling.

Lake Forest College has opened its new sports complex, including three handball courts, one of which has glass side walls, floor to ceiling. Coach Mike Dau, is gung ho about the game and his freshman team of Wes and William Yee, New York; Dave Smith, St. Louis, and Steve Jamron, Miami. Dec. ACE will feature the court facilities and program. USHA Central singles is going to be scheduled there in January.

* * *

As this reaches you we will be in Birmingham for a confab with the Handball Club members planning for the Feb. 20-23 USHA National Contenders at their YMCA. A one-day handicap tournament is being played on the meeting date with an invitation to out-of-town players. And, the color film of the 1968 nationals in St. Louis is being shown.

ACE — U.S.H.A.

LETTERS . . .

(From page 25)

Youth Foundation . . .

Dear Mr. Kendler:

Just got back from a rest in the Islands (after a busy and hectic convention time—it was much needed) — and wanted to thank you so much for your assistance and support in helping to make the Youth Foundation — YMCA benefit dinner a success. You were so kind to help us with contributions, and I know how much Hugh (O'Brian) appreciated all your help also.

Again, many thanks Mr. Kendler — my best to your cute wife, and family — hope to see you all soon.

—SUZY LENNOX

NOTE: Hugh O'Brian, movie, TV and legitimate stage star, founded the Youth Foundation with the support of the YMCA in 1958 to afford the "middle group" of high school boys an opportunity to develop leadership potential. The first seminar was held in 1960 and this past Summer 50 outstanding high school juniors, one from each State, and ten from foreign countries, were selected — half to attend the Republican Convention in Miami, and half to attend the Democratic Convention in Chicago, to personally witness the democratic processes of nominating presidents. Two professional counselors accompanied the youths.

Chicago Illini . . .

Dear Mort:

The ACE Magazine has become one of my favorite periodicals. The June, 1967 edition carried news of a Capt. Vince Domile (Blue Angels) who is one of our favorite former students. The most recent issue is of special interest because it includes the article on the Rainbow Beach Tournament. Tom Brownfield, another former student, and his partner triumphed over John Sloan and Andy Upatnieks. Andy is a new neighbor of mine and has visited and played at the Circle Campus.

We were privileged to play in the impressive University of Texas courts at Austin last April. Pete Tyson and the Intramural Director, Sonny Rooker, were wonderful hosts.

PETER R. BERRAFATO,
Director of Intramural Sports
Director of Recreation
U. of Illinois at Chicago

Likes Instruction . . .

Gentlemen:

The June '68 issue of ACE was the best yet. Please give us more articles like one on the National Tournament Clinic-Seminar, i.e. instructive articles. I suspect that many of your readers, like myself, are not tournament types, but just handballers who love the game and want to improve . . . and articles like that are a big help.

REV. J. R. HEISSE, M. M.
Maryknoll Fathers
Seoul, Korea



YOUTH FOUNDATION DINNER . . . Evie and Bob Kendler pitched in to give a hand to Hugh O'Brian, TV, movie and stage star, founder of the YMCA-coordinated Youth Foundation.



PRO FOOTBALL CONDITIONER . . . Bruce Boydston, Wichita, Kansas, district commissioner (left) works out with Jim Wasikiewicz. Jim, former All-Missouri Valley Conference player at Wichita State University, is with the Cincinnati Bengals of the AFL.

1969 USHA NATIONALS FORMAT

I—Dates March 16-22 with possibility of preliminary extra play March 15, if necessary. Events in Nationals: Singles; Doubles; Master singles; Masters doubles; —Consolation singles (for all singles players eliminated in preliminary round and/or rounds, and first round of open singles competition. First round is considered bracket of 64.

II—Referees and Floor Manager—Coordination between local committee and National Rules Chairman, Jim Jacobs. There is no present national referees chairman, as such. Joe Ardito, in new position as National Tournaments Coordinator, will be go between, and set this up, working with local committee, Joe Shane, and using Al Gracio as floor manager.

a. Welcoming breakfast and outline of rules and general conduct of tournament. Time: Sunday morning opening, chairmaned by National Commissioner Joe Shane.

b. Tournament singles draw. To be held at University of Texas, Thursday, March 13.—Doubles draw—Sunday, March 16, after completion of first round singles.—Masters singles, Masters doubles, and consolation singles draw, Monday, March 17. (Time to be determined by schedule of play.)

III. Registration Table. Will follow successful pattern of previous tournament with setup in Gregory Gymnasium entrance lobby, manned by host personnel. . . all incoming players and guests will be cleared and orientated here . . . signing in, payment of fees (current membership), check on entries with fees, combination hospitality room, banquets, entertainment fees. Envelope with necessary information, souvenir T-shirt, identifying badges. . . sales of tickets to matches . . . set hours for registration table.

IV—TOURNAMENT HOST FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES:

a.—Balls—25-30 dozen.

b.—Maintenance of courts, locker room facilities, masseurs.

c.—Hospitality room . . . site. The one big facet of the tournament.

d.—Banquets . . . Convention night banquet for USHA members only . . . Tuesday, March 18 . . . Awards banquet—Thursday, March 20.

e.—Awards—trophies.

f.—Press room.

g.—Souvenir T-shirts.

h.—Identifying badges.

V—RUNDOWN ON COMMITTEES:

Registration, entertainment, referees and scheduling, housing, banquets, hospitality, tickets, publicity and promotion, advertising, individual sponsorships, trophies, women's hospitality, trips, etc., finance. . . OVERALL—Host tournament chairman, co-chairmen.

VI—USHA RESPONSIBILITIES:

Winners of all regional singles and doubles (not Masters) . . . placing of host ads in Yearbook (FEBRUARY ISSUE).

Entry blank brochures both in ACE and mailing.

National official personnel.

Supply of Yearbooks at tournament site.

Pre-tournament publicity releases.



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- How A Simple Exercise Can Improve Your Golf Score
- Why Women Don't Need Girdles
- How Many Aches Before You're Fit?
- How Sex Affects Fitness, and Vice Versa
- Can You Pass the High School Fitness Test?
- College Athletes—10, 20, 30 Years Later.
- Me Run 20 Miles? Impossible!
- The Yoga Boom—Real or Otherwise?

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OBSERVATION TOWER . . .

(From page 23)

tour of the East before Christmas . . . it will be financed by a planned exhibition next month, headlining a return match between Stuffy Singer and Ray Neveau.

Pauline and I expect to reach Miami Beach about Nov. 1, where we will stay until the Texas nationals in March, and then back to New York in April. Pauline has her Florida massage license after a year of schooling.

West Side YMCA in New York will have the "Jack Marks Memorial Handball Tournament" late this month . . . Jack passed away last Spring and was a moving force in the game around the city.

Once again Brownsville Handball Club and Irv Ehrlich have gathered together the best one-wall show in the world . . . Top teams — Decatur and Sandler to challenge defenders, Artie Reyer and Joe Danilczyk . . . Joel Wisotzky and Lou Russo . . . Mitchell Straus and Steve Lott in the under 19 year old Juniors.

In retrospect back to three-wall — I'm firmly convinced that our game of power shooting is the winning game in three-wall . . . and also in one-wall and four-wall . . . point of contact supplies the power and accuracy, and with this as a basis, it depends upon the individual to develop a type of game that will win for him . . . knowing how to kill and pass with power is the way to end volleys . . . don't shoot unless you are sure of the kill . . . pass when you have your opponent up front . . . Use your opposite hand as a defensive weapon as much as possible . . . as long as you don't give your opponent a set up with your off hand you know the job is being accomplished . . . keep your opponent off the short line . . . don't hit the side walls on the ceiling shots . . . don't run to the back after serving . . . hold position on that vital short line . . . get to the back wall quickly for the ceiling return . . . for good shooting averages let the ball get as low as possible, as far from you as is comfortable and the point of contact is around the center of your body.

See you in Austin — March 16-22, 1969!

National Juniors . . .

At press time confirmation of the Dec. 28-30 National Juniors site for Miami Beach Flamingo Park was pending on a meeting there Oct. 28, attended by USHA Executive Secretary Mort Leve. Entry blanks will be sent out by mid-November to all handball centers.

OCTOBER, 1968

Straus Loot . . .

Mitchell and Gary Straus, the sensational 16-year-old New Yorkers, have already won more than 120 awards — trophies, medals, certificates and a bowl. In addition to handball they have won baseball, softball, swimming, paddleball trophies and plaques in junior tournaments held at Castle Hill Beach Club.

The boys aren't the only trophy winners in the family. Their father, Al, won the Class B four-wall handball tournament this past Summer at the Beach Club. He says, "The boys' handball achievements have been due to the effective coaching of Bob Davidson; also playing with Jim Jacobs and other top players. Jim started working out with Gary and Mitchell when they were 13 . . . and the boys have worked hard to gain this ability . . . it took plenty of practice . . . Davidson has constructively pointed out their faults . . . they are still learning. I want to thank the USHA for encouraging and allowing Mitchell and Gary to participate in the National Juniors and assisting with travel expenses."



WON'T BE LONG NOW . . . Those colorful, rapidly-improving 16-year-old Straus twins (Gary and Mitchell), should be ripe for crown measurements in a few short years. Their meteoric climb to national prominence augurs well for a bright championship future in both singles and doubles.



3-WALL PICNIC . . . International three-wall in Detroit's Palmer Park is like a five-day family reunion outdoor funfare, complete with healthy exercise, hot dogs, cold drinks and ice cream.

366ers - Coming Fast!

As the Fall season progresses USHA headquarters has received an increasing number of qualified members for the unique "366 Club." To qualify a member must participate in 366 games of handball during 1968 (for the Leap Year 366-days) and accompany his certification from the physical director with a paid new member application.

Dan Callahan, Bellingham, Wash., was No. 1 this year, getting his subscribed number of games within three months — believe it or not!

What Is A Handball Player?

By MORT LEVE

— A handball player is many things . . . most important he is a competitive sportsman who has found a man-to-man game as a way of life.

— He is a youngster who strives to overcome the frustrations of the four walls, ceiling and floor jig saw puzzle that will take years to put together in the complete design . . . or a youngster who finds it natural to bounce a ball against the single wall, first with the "pinkie", later with the official ACE, the strong serve and fly shot.

— He is an ambitious young man out of school or the Army who finds the game an ideal physical outlet but can't understand why men more than twice his age have little trouble beating him. He's faster, has the youthful power arms, but has to learn the hard way that nobody has yet blasted a ball through the wall.

— He's an ex-varsity team athlete standout who finds that this seemingly simple game is everlastingly just beyond the grasp of mastering. His scrapbook of clippings don't mean a thing against his veteran control artist opponent.

— He's a professional football or baseball player with that important 120% effort but becomes just another B or C performer in this game until he can learn the importance of the word "wait", position, maneuvering, and proper stroke.

— He's a professor who learned the rudiments of the game in his undergraduate years and can be found the man to beat at any given college. He may be bookwormish off-court but he's a veritable tiger in action and finds the wall the perfect antidote for the classrooms and research.

— He's a doctor or dentist who relieves the tedious strains of his practice with clock-like two or three times a week scheduled action. He is happy to give on-the-court mouth or leg misery examinations.

— He's a super salesman who'll break off in the middle of a big deal to race to his home away from home to keep a handball date. He's the one who will argue long and loudest on hinder and double bounce calls.

— He's a man of the cloth who will close his ears to the rantings and ravings of his opponents and might even toss in a few choice epithets himself because on the court there bursts forth the pent-up barbarisms that have lain dormant for centuries.

— He will roll up to the Y, Center or Club in a Cadillac or a rundown clunker . . . he may doff a \$300 custom made suit or frayed dungarees . . . but once in the conventional white gear of the court there's no distinction, no social classes . . . everyone is created equal . . . the ideal democracy that appears to elude us in this topsy turvy world of ours.

— Young and old, the game is for all. As some one put it, you have to lose to show true sportsmanship . . . those who practice it can leave the court content with a vigorous workout, and toss off the disappointment of defeat, savoring the fruits of victory. He will help a neophyte learn the rudiments of the game and invariably invite a player into the fray, whether he be a big A, or a small C.

— Handball encompasses a fraternity—The United States Handball Association—personifying hard play, good fun, and a helping hand in the promotion of the game.

— This is your handball player!

NEW YORK'S NAT SHIFTER A-1 PLAYER-CONTRIBUTOR

As time marches on and observations and facts are recorded, one must be sure to include the extraordinary achievements and contributions Nat Shifter has made to the game of one-wall handball in New York City for the last seven years.

Seldom does one see or hear of a ball player who started to play at the age of 37 and graduated almost immediately into national tournament competition. Yet that is exactly what Nat did. Furthermore, he was not satisfied with just playing and competing in handball tournaments and exhibitions, he had to become an outstanding contributor to and promoter of the sport, a veritable humanitarian who has contributed resources and precious time for the benefit of paraplegic basketball teams and boys' handball facilities.

Who but a man of great ability and enthusiasm could in three years time become runnerup to the great Vic Herschkowitz in the national masters' tournaments two successive years? Only Nat Shifter, a player and man of great color, of great confidence, of great human interest and of great downright exasperating competitive spirit. He can soothe you with a song or good humor and exasperate you with competitive deeds and words.

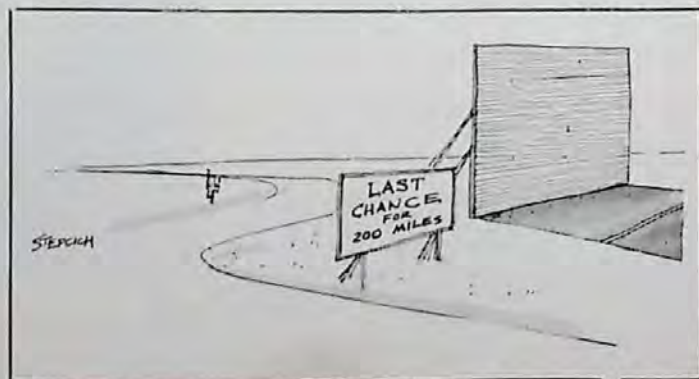
These are the facts, but what makes his achievements even greater is the fact that Nat has from time to time in the last few years had various serious surgical operations and has been hospitalized five times, never knowing if he might play handball again. Nevertheless he has always returned with great determination and confidence, with trust in God, and good use and direction of his energies consequently always emerging as a good competitive ball player.

Nat has great praise for the exceptional medical help given him by Dr. Alan A. Kane, Brooklyn, and great praise for his wife and daughters with whom he lives at 1605 Avenue V, Brooklyn.

Just recuperating from his most recent serious operation Nat again is around, anxious, determined and always courageous. Here he is ready to recondition himself in order to be ready for competition in the current USHA one-wall handball tournament at the Brownsville Handball Club, where he has been the capable president for the past year. Nothing seems to diminish the marvelous spirit of this extraordinary man, who should be envied, admired and honored. His motto is "Perfection is not an accident."

As a committee man of the club, along with Irving Ehrlich, our chairman, and all the other officers and members, I would like to have it known that we feel privileged to be associated in civil life as well as in handball with Nat Shifter, a man with a song in his stout heart, a ready greeting in his jovial eyes, a kind and humorous word on his lips and an athletic hand anyone should be mighty proud to shake.

—Ugo Bontempo, USHA Referee



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L. A. Dominates San Jose Labor Day Open Tournament

More than 150 players from as far away as Chicago, El Paso, Vancouver, plus all parts of California turned out in force and good fellowship for the fourth annual San Jose Labor Day weekend open handball championships, Aug. 31 - Sept. 2. Hosted by the San Jose YMCA, the event featured four categories of competition. Due to the large number of entries, participants were limited to one event only. Over 60 matches were played the first day.

In the Masters doubles the new champs are Bob Nedd and Bob Burnett, Palo Alto Elks, 21-15, 21-14 over Stan Perisich and George Brotemarkle, a pick-up combination that got together just a couple of days before the tournament. Strong serving kept Brotemarkle and Perisich in contention until the finals, found the pressure of a very steady game by Nedd and Burnett forcing errors and set-up plays. George Takaoka and Frank Zuniga, Fresno, took third over Bill Keays and Kevin O'Shea, San Francisco. O'Shea, former all-American basketball player at Notre Dame, was a last minute fill-in for Bob Brady who had won with Keays the previous two years.

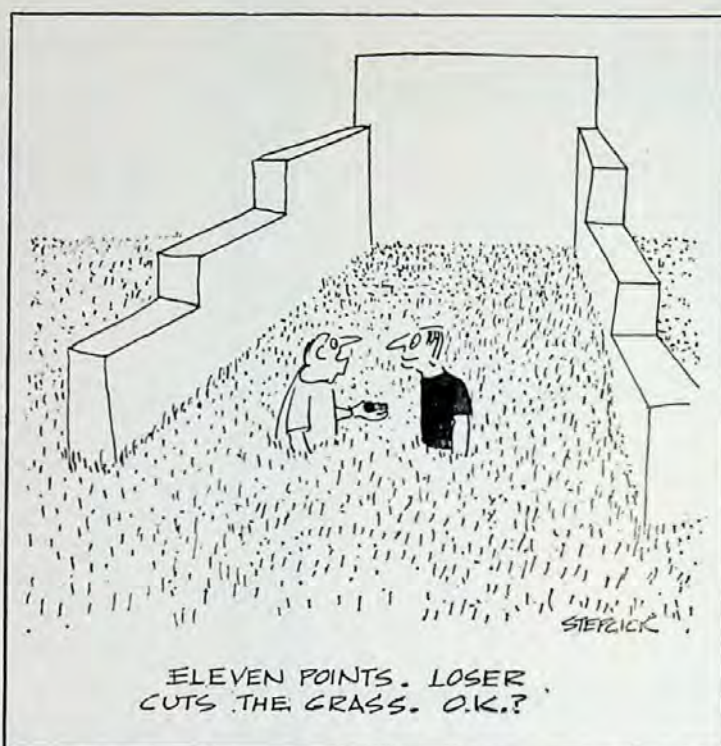
The Master's singles had a stronger field than last year but the same finalists. Ageless Alex (Boisseree that is) from Inglewood exhibited his colorful style in going all the way again to win over Bob Little, San Francisco, 21-3, 21-20. Alex has been in the finals all four times in this tournament, winning the last three. In an early match against Frank Vaiarello, Fresno, Alex had to go three games to win and did not seem to have his usual zip. However, he came back strong in defeating Howie Wyrsh in the semis. Wyrsh went on to take third over Dale Daniels, Fresno, 21-19, 21-3.

The open doubles went all the way to the wire with Harry Packer and Ron Spivak, Los Angeles, winning over the last year's champs Jerry Cooke and Bud Miller, Sacramento, 21-11, 8-21, 21-20. The sharp left hand of Packer and steady play of Spivak finally told the tale in a match that was highlighted on the other side by the deceptive hooks of Cooke and phenomenal defensive play by Miller. Mike Kelly and Jim O'Brien, San Francisco, who lost a very close match to Cooke and Miller took third over Jay Kent and Larry Beals, Los Angeles, 18-21, 21-12, 21-18. Kent and Beals scored an earlier upset over second seeded Dick Langdon and Spencer Johnston, San Francisco, who had bested Packer and Spivak in July to win the Santa Barbara tournament.

The finals in the open singles featured a rematch between Harold Price, Los Angeles and Bob Bourbeau, Reno. However, it ended before it really got started when Bourbeau snapped an achilles tendon just a few points into the first game. Neither Price nor Bourbeau had lost a game going into the finals although Harold had to go hard to down Tom Fleming, San Francisco, in the semis. Fleming took third over Len Rosen, Los Angeles, 21-13, 21-18.

Frow the player's standpoint it was another great tournament. The hospitality and banquet by the San Jose YMCA were again outstanding and the four well kept perfect courts are a pleasure to use.

From the host's standpoint it was doubly successful. The hard work put in by the committee was well rewarded by the cooperative response and complements of the players. Also the large participation from such a wide geographical area was very gratifying to the tournament committee. The sign-up now is about the maximum that can be handled with the four courts in three days. Thus in four years the tournament has grown to capacity and we have heard only good things from all our participants.



Although many persons contributed to the success of the tournament, special acknowledgement is in order to Herm Bass, tournament director; Mitch Uco-ovich, banquet chef; Ed Patronski, game scheduling; Bobbie Berry, Jackie Yarbrough, and Cathy Davis, hostesses; Barbara Piazza, correspondence; and Bill Yarbrough, Y physical director.

READY—1968 NATIONALS FILM...

Just saw a showing of our color 16 mm. film of the 1968 nationals at St. Louis — and it is sensational. Best we have ever seen and it echoes Jim Jacobs' statement, "Izzy Mankofsky has caught the suspense and thrilling play of the Singer-Neveau finals that built up to 18-18 in the third game. This is without a doubt the finest film on championship handball."

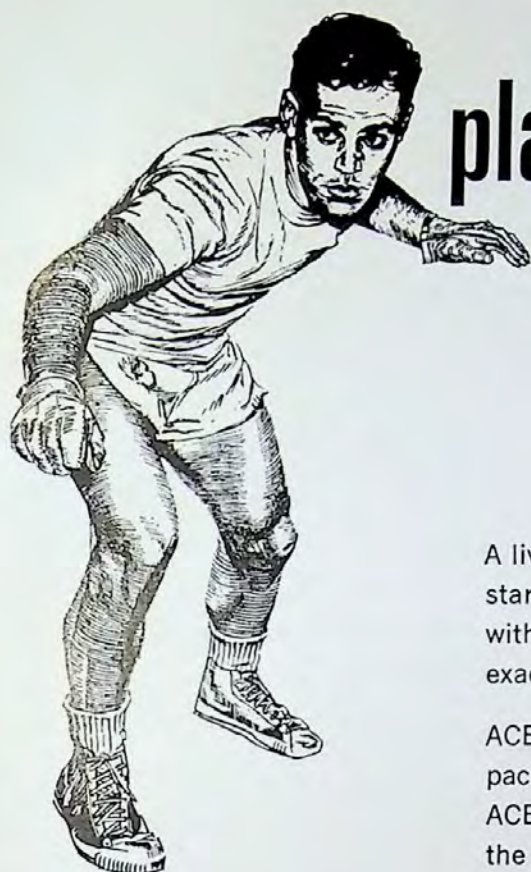
Mankofsky, professional photographer from Los Angeles, has been on the handball scenes for years and knows just what is needed for such a picture. The film was edited at Jacobs' Big Fights Inc. offices in New York and Jim does an outstanding narration. In addition to the spotlight on the singles finals, there is ample footage on the open doubles and the Masters doubles, all pictured in the glass Jack Srenco Memorial Court at the St. Louis JCCA.

The film is being offered on a three-day rental basis for \$25, or for sale at \$150. Write: USHA, 4101 Dempster St., Skokie, Ill. 60076. Telephone Number—(Area Code 312 — ORchard 3-4000).

SPECIFICATIONS BOOKLET...

USHA has available the latest specifications for conventional and glass courts — one-wall, three-wall and four-wall.

The booklet was produced to accommodate the many requests that come into the headquarters office and guide architects, new building committees, and individuals interested in court construction. It is available for \$2, USHA, 4101 Dempster St., Skokie, Ill. 60076.



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JACK GILLESPIE

I think it is time I tell you about some of the unrecognized champions in handball. To me all players are champions. Matters not if they win or lose — they are still champions. But the greatest are the quiet ones with no thought of titles who still substantially give of their time and money.

In my book, page one belongs to guys like Jack Gillespie and Joe Holtzman. One still very active, the other very interested. Both have given substantially of their time and money with never a thought of gain or glory.

Wouldn't you be pleased to have two long time players casually hand you substantial checks and then say, "Use this for some deserving kid in handball" and "put this to work for handball"? Joe Holtzman and Jack Gillespie did just that! They couldn't have done it at a more psychological time. Let me tell you why.

Ever since modern handball began our expenses have exceeded our income. Even though our membership dues and product royalties have increased considerably, we are often forced into deficit spending. This has made it easy for our New York friends to spread the tale, "when Kendler goes, the USHA goes." I think the boys in the ivory tower are now convinced I do not plan to go. Nevertheless I have no contract with God so I plan to provide for handball after I pass away.

I have found there are a lot of fellows like Joe Holtzman and Jack Gillespie who want to see handball endure forever, without the control of the AAU. They want handball administered by the players, and for the players. They want a sure future for our Association. We have always had men who are fully qualified to take over my administrative duties. All they need is the financial support our Association has been blessed with. That is where the Handball Perpetuation Trust comes in.

For several years we talked about it but only recently have taken positive steps. Since we have always needed about \$50,000 a year more than we take in, a fund of \$1,000,000 should be set up to provide for the time when the present sponsors pass away. Wisely invested, \$1,000,000 could easily earn \$50,000 annually without ever touching the principal. This

LEST WE FORGET ...



JOE HOLTZMAN

would enable our successors to promote handball just as vigorously as we have, and give them the feeling of security that comes with a sound financial base.

There are a number of ways to raise this sum. The most direct way is by contributions such as Joe Holtzman's and Jack Gillespie's. They will become the first Life Members of the USHA and I hope their generosity will lead hundreds of other handballers to do likewise. Our insurance program offers players a similar opportunity. For just a few dollars a year they can sign a bequest to the Association for up to \$15,000. We hope some of our more affluent members will include us in their annual charitable contributions. Since we are an eleemosynary corporation, fully approved by the Treasury Department, these contributions are tax deductible. Finally, we hope everyone will remember us in their will. I know a few who already have. With all of us helping a little it won't be long before we will have our Million Dollar Handball Perpetuation Trust.

You can be sure this project will be administered by the most capable men in Handball. And, we have some great ones. Men like Joe Shane, George Brotemarkle, Hymie Goldstein and Ken Schneider have assured me they would dedicate themselves to perpetuating this one dream of Al Schaufelberger, Jack Srenco and myself.

Maybe now you understand why we today salute Joe Holtzman and Jack Gillespie. This is the time when we announce our Life Membership Plan as the first step in raising a million dollars for handball's future. For just \$100 you can join those of us who want to perpetuate the United States Handball Association. You will get everything the regular members get plus a little extra consideration at the national tournaments and the satisfaction of having your name recorded on our Honor Page in ACE Magazine.

Thank you Joe, thank you Jack. Handball was good to you ... and you were good to Handball. I hope everyone who reads this editorial will follow your example and send in \$100 for their Life Membership!

Gratefully —

Bob Kendler

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