

RACQUETBALL

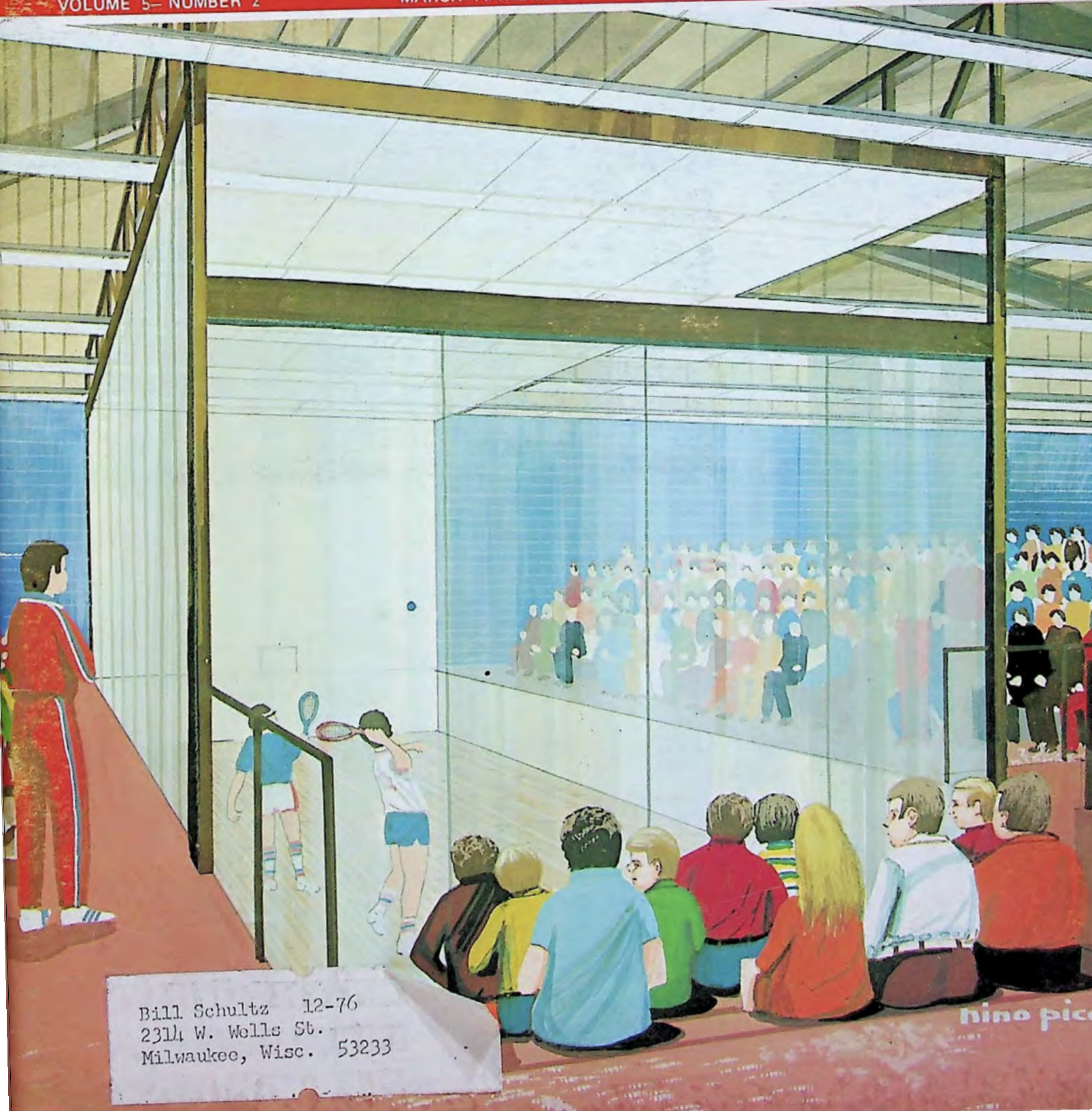


OFFICIAL BI-MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF
THE INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION

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MARCH—APRIL 1976

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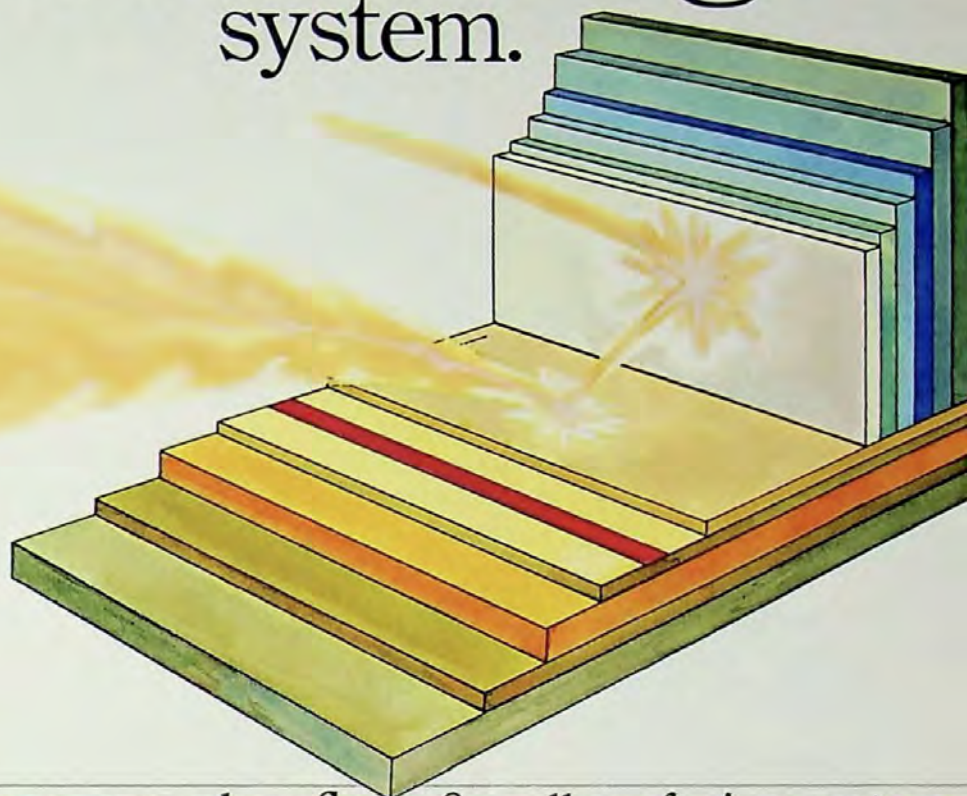
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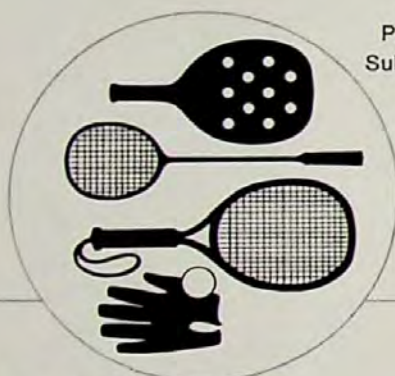
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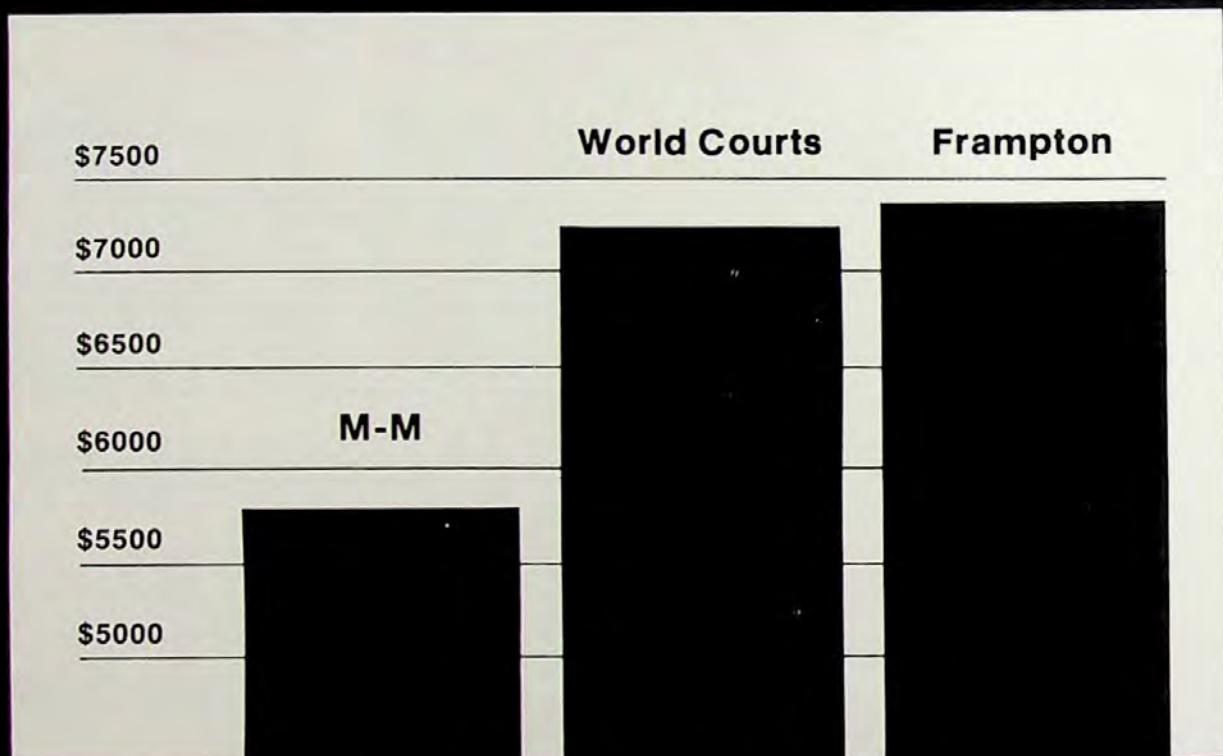
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What members are saying . . .

Speak the speech

!#&*+&#! trippingly
on the tongue . . .

• Again ol' Shakespeare said it best when he commented on the vulnerability of the human condition by saying, "All the world is a stage." Truly all of us in our day to day living reveal the inner man for all to see—both our good qualities and the bad. And if this be true in the world at large, how much more so is it in that microcosm of the racquetball court.

Here, a score of floodlights focus on the near naked man in a white walled pit. In this confined cubicle, one does not need giant telescopic lenses to peer beneath helmeted facemasks as gridiron cameramen attempt to do. Here, every facial grimace, every movement, every word is carefully recorded upon the spectators.

Were Shakespeare alive today, methinks he would smell something foul not only in Denmark but also in the victory charged atmosphere of tournament play,

specifically racquetball championships. The lack of sportsmanship that too often struts and frets on the stage at racquetball tournaments is largely due to a Lombardian ethic that winning is everything.

Sometimes tainted advantages are sought under the guise of "psyching" an opponent, i.e., upsetting his mental state so that his physical play is impaired. Many social sins are committed under the name of this so-called "psyching." No need to list these devices to those who play the game. Suffice it to say that they are legion and become the ugly racqueteer.

This is not to say that psychology has no place on a racquetball court. Just as our everyday transactions are filled with psychological ploys, so too do they filter into our play—consciously or unconsciously. It is the unhealthy "psyching" that I abhor; the type that poisons the perpetrator as well as the atmosphere of those who look down from the galleries. Unhealthy psyching is the last resort of desperate men—men who ultimately

lack confidence in their ability to beat an opponent on talent and heart alone.

It bears stating that the vast majority of racquetball games are what they should be—a fantastically fast and gripping game of compatriots who believe in fun and fair play. I pen these words more as a caveat than an indictment of tournament play, lest a cancer grow that could curtail the increasing popularity of a game we all love.

Shakespeare was right and Lombardi wrong. All the world is a stage, including the racquetball court where the mark of the man is extremely visible for all to see. Grimaces, a smile, dark looks, how a ball is retrieved for an opponent after a point lost—all reveal the inner man to be a gentleman, a scoundrel, or some gradation in between.

There is a substitute for winning (despite Lombardi's dictum) and that is walking off the racquetball stage a better man, rather than merely a better racquetball player, though I suspect the two are very closely aligned.

John J. Lepore
Melrose, Mass.



John J. Lepore, avid racquetballer, former Navy officer (received Purple Heart while with Marines in Vietnam), and former Catholic priest, is now school psychologist. With background in P.R.

• I just finished reading the Massachusetts chairman's derogatory remarks about pro-players. Mr. Crummey, I disagree with you completely.

I have viewed and enjoyed pro-am racquetball tournaments all over the United States. I have served as hospitality chairman to a good number of tournaments. Many of the players have been our house guests and we welcome all of them.

I think they are beautiful people, with healthy and wonderful attitudes. Also, they have a knack for performing so well in such a great sport.

It isn't possible for me to see anything wrong in a beer or two after a tough match. I find it refreshing.

To all racquetballers—professional and

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RACQUETBALL

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Glass walled exhibition court at University of Tennessee, Chattanooga, provides unparalleled spectator viewing and permanent seating for hundreds.

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IRA Board of Directors

President—DeWitt Shy, Memphis. National Commissioner—Ivan Bruner, Madison, Wisconsin. National Rules Commissioner—Charlie Brumfield, San Diego. Directors—John W. Chambers, West Vancouver, B.C.; William R. Dunn, Union City, Calif.; Dr. Halford R. Price, Phoenix; Peggy Steding, Odessa, Texas; William B. Tanner, Memphis; Gene Grapes, Pittsburgh; Leonard Marks, St. Louis, Missouri. Tom McKie, Executive Director, Memphis, Tennessee.

Along the IRA racquetball trail



PENNSYLVANIA DOUBLES players, in the front row, from the left are Tom Ranker, Joe Ross, Rich Cuneo, Al Schatnner, Tim Grapes, Gene Grapes, Allan Miller, Don Bechtold, Carmen Fellicetti and Herb Meyers.

In the middle: Joe McAndrew and John Musewicz. In the back row, from the left: Luke St. Onge, Duke George, Stan Lindner, Matt Bevevino, Joe Cuccinelli, Len Perretti, Guy Natale, Jim Jones, Ray Sobata, Art Goldberg and Emil Scarano.



BADGER STATE finalists seem to be eyeing Tom Wirkus' beard. Tom and brother Joe Wirkus, at his left, were defeated

in the Badger doubles by Ron Strom, at the right, and partner Jack Strommen. Strom also won the Badger's singles title.

Along the IRA racquetball trail

The Grapes family wins another one

Twelve top teams played 66 matches in a round robin format that ended with the father-son team of Gene and Tim Grapes champions of the Third Annual Pennsylvania Doubles.

Playing power-packed ball, the "family" faltered only once, according to reports from the tournament, losing to Len Perretti and Guy Natale in the fourth round.

Rich Cuneo and Al Schattner squeezed into second place ahead of John Musewicz and Joe McAndrew by playing consistent, high-scoring, ball while losing three matches—one more than the third place team.



Schmidtke — racquetball practitioner

Bill Schmidtke not only won the New Delhi Invitational tournament at the Salina, Kansas, YMCA, but also conducted a clinic for 40 contestants. Schmidtke, center in the above photo, with two players, won the Class A singles. Ernie Rulas, Hutchison, won the Class B. Marci Greer, Emporia, won the women's division. Harlan Rimmerman, director, said the New Deli Invitational will be repeated this coming year.

Badger state alliteration . . .

Strom 'n Strommen over Wirkus 'n Wirkus in doubles 'n . . .

You may *think* you're prepared to arrange most tournament bracketing, but the Third Annual Badger State Open Singles field would put most veteran bracketers to shame.

There were no less than 40 Class A participants in a very formidable field of Mid-Western enthusiasts led by the likes of Bill Schmidtke, Dan Alder, Ron Strom, Joe Wirkus and many other fine players. The big trick was arranging this fine field with only eight byes. That should provide some food for thought for most anyone.

Ron Strom of St. Cloud, Minnesota, was the eventual champ taking the final match in three exciting games with Joe Wirkus, the Wisconsin champion, 14-21, 21-17, and 21-13. Bill Schmidtke was defeated in the semifinals by Strom

and Dan Alder was defeated in the semis by Wirkus. Ken Frank took the consolation finals defeating Tom Luke, 15-21, 21-16, and 21-8.

In the open doubles, twenty teams took to the competition with the same familiar names popping out on top, as Ron Strom and Jack Strommen defeated Joe Wirkus and brother Tom, 10-21, 21-11 and 21-11. Craig Corah and Tom Keyes snuck away with the consolation championship.

The masters bracking was less involved (15 entrants), but the competition was by no means less fierce with Jerry Hoff, of Wausau, ultimately defeating Frank Low, of Decorah, Iowa, 21-11 and 21-14. Malin Greenberg of Minneapolis, Minnesota, took the masters consolation treaty.

More IRA racquetball trails on page 38

The director says . . .

Chattanooga promises excitement



INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION

P. O. Box 12490 • Memphis, Tennessee 38112 • (901) 274-7325

TOM McKIE
Executive Director
Res. Ph. (901) 767-8906

Dear Fellow Racquetballer:

As you will see in this issue plans are rapidly being implemented for our 1976 IRA Championships, May 28-31 in Chattanooga, Tennessee. I recently returned from an inspection of the facilities and you are going to be thrilled with all the excellent viewing. No more of that standing on one leg, leaning around the corner, and still only seeing one quarter of the court. Details for entry, housing and tickets are enclosed and space is limited so make your arrangements now.

We held a very successful Pro-Am Tournament in San Antonio (story enclosed) recently amid their beautiful February weather. Unfortunately, we were not able to reach financial agreements with the hosts in San Francisco and Cleveland and these tournaments have been cancelled. Our next pro event will be pro divisions at the Internationals in Chattanooga.

We all know racquetball is growing fast as evidenced by all the interest around us. One excellent example of this growth was the interest it created at the recent National Sporting Goods Association convention at Chicago. Sixty-six companies proudly displayed their racquetball merchandise and their booths were beehives of activity writing orders from buyers.

Our official ball--the Vittert V-77 is now packed in pressurized cans. The new two-balls-to-a-can arrangement should do much to eliminate any shelf life problem and insure uniformity of bounce. As they have indicated to us many times in the past, the Vittert people are dedicated to giving us the best product on the market and this is another example of their dedication to this goal.

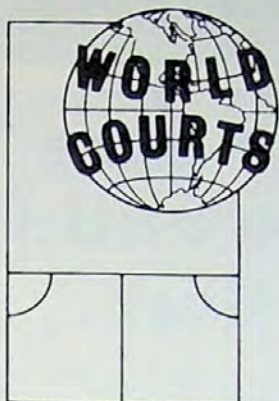
Good luck in the regionals. I am looking forward to seeing many of you at Chattanooga.



Sincerely,

Tom McKie

Tom McKie
Executive Director



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The 5th

annual Cowboy Open Racquetball Tournament was held in the Colvin Center, Oklahoma State University campus, Stillwater, Oklahoma, and played over three beautiful days. This year the weather cooperated and gave us some brisk but beautiful days to play. About 275 matches were played between 152 entries (largest ever) in those three days.

Fourteen brackets were played this year—A, B, women A, women novice, men novice, seniors, "masters" (over 40), open doubles, B doubles, masters doubles and special Stillwater division (men's and women's brackets).

The new Stillwater bracket included local residents and OSU students who had not played in any racquetball tournament except past Cowboy Opens. This division was completed prior to the regular tournament matches. Gordon Reese won the men's bracket over Bob Klass. Randy Fitzgerald defeated Tom Stewart for third and Bob Thomas took fifth over Kenneth Frank. In the

women's bracket, Cathy Gose defeated Louise Gonsoulin for first and Ruth Wright took third over Mary Grula.

A highlight of the tourney was the awarding of door prizes, including metal racquets, travel bags, vitamins and other racquetball accessories.

Besides the competition being keen, the contestants were not short on appetites as revealed in the participation in the Hospitality Room, which was open during the tournament.

Things were hopping around the building since a swim meet was also scheduled for the weekend. This allowed for a lot of exposure to racquetball for a large number of people and they saw a lot of good racquetball over the weekend.

Myron Roderick continued to reign as King of Racquetball in Stillwater as he swept first place honors in the Open bracket. He was not extended to three games in any of his matches. He defeated Tom McKie, 21-12, 21-4, third place went to Eric Campbell, who defeated Jerry Linton 12-21, 21-13, 21-16. Harold Youngentob took consolation honors over Jim Martin.

Out of a full B bracket, Phil Stepp was the champ. He defeated Larry Curts, 21-10, 21-17. Ronald Meek defeated Mendy Katzman, 21-7, 21-19 for 3rd place, and consolation champ was Carlos Nieves who beat Arnold Davis, 7-21, 21-11, 21-17.

Seniors singles saw V. Z. Lawton

take first over Jim McPherson, 21-15, 21-1. Dave Hessell took third over Carl Provence, 21-16, 21-13. Consolation honors went to Dave Dalke, who defeated Pat Lewis, 21-17, 21-6.

Kenney Denney won first in Masters singles, by defeating Dean Lemmon, 18-21, 21-18, 21-7. Third went to Joe Durrrough when he outscored Sid Ruffin, 15-21, 21-18, 21-7. Consolation champ was Ray Crowley over Ed Grula, 21-15, 21-13.

This year there were two women's brackets (A and novice). The women's A was operated as a round-robin. The list of players (as they placed) was 1st—Marcilene Greer; 2nd—Jan Wilson; 3rd—Virginia Davis; 4th—Patti Campbell; 5th—Grace Provence. The novice bracket was won by Linda Guerrero when she defeated Faith Ragow, 21-9, 21-16. Sherry Runnels took third by beating L. D. Harbour, 21-7, 21-12. Jean Lehr won consolations by outscoring Vicki Calloway, 21-3, 21-18.

Novice Singles saw Pat McGinty come out on top over Bob Klass by scores of 16-21, 21-9, 21-19 for the top prize. Third was taken by Steve Ragow when he beat Larry Fuller, 21-17, 21-3. Cary Youngblood won the consolation bracket by defeating Rick Newcomer, 21-9, 16-21, 21-16.

Doubles in the open division saw Roderick and Randy Stafford defeat Tom McKie and Eric Campbell, 21-9, 21-20. Third was claimed by Gary



5th Annual Cowboy Open

By Richard Shannon

COWBOY FINALISTS in the above photos, from left to right: Jim McPherson, second in senior singles, and winner, V. Z. Lawton. Masters finalists: Joe Durrrough, Dean Lemmon, Ken Denney and Ray Crowley. Masters doubles, front row: Durrrough, Lawton, Ed Grula, Lemmon; back row: Crowley, Denney, Sidney Shiprock and Carl Provence.

Hinkle and Ken Smith over Roland Treat and Jim Martin, 21-12, 21-12. B doubles saw Carlos Nieves and Arnold Davis overcome Pat Lewis and Jerry Brusewitz, 17-21, 21-15, 21-14. Jim McPherson and Jerry Myers teamed to take third over Bob Oldham and Mac Robbins by scores of 7-21, 21-6, 21-17.

Masters doubles was a round-robin. V. Z. Lawton and Joe Durrough took first place. Other teams (in order of finish) are: Dean Lemmon and Ed Grula; Ken Denney and Ray Crowley; Ed Shupock and Carl Provence; John Jobe and Sid Ruffin.

See Scoreboard for additional results.



OPEN SINGLES finalists, top left: Harold Youngentab, Eric Campbell, Tom McKie, and first place winner, Myron Roderick. In the Stillwater men's division immediately above, are, from the left, Kenneth Frank, Randy Fitzgerald, Bob Klass, Gordon Reese (division winner), and Tom Stewart. Pictured on the right side of the page, reading from the top: B-doubles Jerry Brusewitz, Arnold Davis, Carlos Nieves, and Pat Lewis. Stillwater women's division players: Ruth Wright, Louise Gonsoulin, Cathy Gose and Mary Grula. B-Singles: Larry Curtis, Phil Stepp and Ronald Meek. Women's novice: Faith Ragow, second and Linda Guerrero, first. Men's novice: Pat McGinty, first, and Bob Klass, second.

Del Mar Women's Invitational turns out to be . . .

A surprise party

Nine of the best woman racquetball players in the nation showed up at the beautiful Muehleisen courts in Del Mar, California, in response to invitations sent out by Dr. Bud Muehleisen. The event wasn't a party. It was to decide who's best.

To that extent it was a surprise party, and sitting in the position of the guest least likely to be surprised was the unflappable, and unbeatable Peggy Steding. Peggy knew that. Thousands of miles away, in New York, Charlie the Gar" Garfinkel knew it. Somehow Janell Marriott did not know that.

On the closing day of the tournament Peggy and Janell met in the last match of the tournament. Each had taken the measure of seven other players. Odds-makers were already assuming they knew the outcome of this one, but with Peggy Steding deserting her usually strong offensive game in favor of a defensive attack—ceiling balls, rather than shooting—the tables were turned and Janell, unquestionably one of the sport's best women players wrapped up the one game 31-point match by a score of 23-31.

She had dropped Peggy Steding—

Super-Girl, cape and all—by a surprisingly sound margin of 8 points.

Garfinkel, on being asked to write the story on the Del Mar Invitational, replied that his readers already entertained a credibility gap that would not withstand further onslaught. Being assured that Steding had in fact lost by eight points, Gar expressed his congratulations to Ms. Marriott, Commiserations to Ms. Steding, and said, "Yes, but have you heard what she did to the opposition in Milwaukee!"

The invitational had been accepted by nine players: Marriott, Steding, Jenny Harding, Jan Pasternak, Sue Carow, Jean Sauser, Ruth Knudson, Bette Weed, and Camille McCarthy.

With an array of talent such as this, anything could have happened. Only by the accidental luck of the draw was it that the most suspenseful game was also the final game. Throughout the Invitational fans were treated to continuously exciting exhibitions of top-flight action by these pro and semi-professional players.

The news media was on hand. Two newspapers and a television crew covered all or parts of the tournament. The

spectator viewing at the courts was excellent, and the crowds enthusiastic.

One of the women remarked that, win-or-lose (and she much prefers winning), the receipt of an invitation to play in the Del Mar surroundings, was in itself an honor, and Dr. Bud's hospitality made the acceptance a pleasure. Too, there was prize money.

Janell Marriott's eight-straight game round-robin victory over competitors who are not accustomed to losing was sweetened by the award of \$250 prize money. The Utah lass earned it, and the invitational could well be an indication of where she will place in national standings for 1976. Incidentally, the prize money came to about \$1 for every point she scored in her eight games.

In the Marriott-Steding match, the crowd was on the edges of their seats throughout the affray. Until the game reached 14-all, there were never more than two points separating the two women.

From that point on the action became more intense as the scoring proceeded by never being more than one point apart until 23-all was reached. Ensuing rallies were long and punishing.

ROUND ROBIN SCOREBOARD

	Marriott 8/0	Steding 7/1	Harding 6/2	Pasternak 5/3	Carow 4/4	Sauser 3/5	Knudson 2/6	Weed 1/7	McCarthy 0/8
Janell Marriott	—	31-23	31-13	31-23	31-20	31-26	31-18	31-20	31-16
Peggy Steding	23-31	—	31-17	31-7	31-9	31-20	31-15	31-6	31-18
Jenny Harding	13-31	17-31	—	31-16	31-28	31-4	31-26	31-9	31-21
Jan Pasternak	23-31	7-31	16-31	—	31-23	31-25	31-10	31-16	31-26
Sue Carow	20-31	9-31	28-31	23-31	—	31-22	31-24	31-17	31-25
Jean Sauser	26-31	20-31	4-31	25-31	22-31	—	31-30	31-21	31-7
Ruth Knudson	18-31	15-31	26-31	16-31	24-31	30-31	—	31-26	31-20
Bette Weed	20-31	6-31	9-31	16-31	17-31	21-31	26-31	—	31-19
Camille McCarthy	16-31	18-31	21-31	25-31	25-31	7-31	20-31	19-31	—

Although Steding never scored again after 23-all, there were numerous side-outs between almost every point. Marriott won the game much as a sculptor creates a masterpiece. One stroke at a time.

Marriott seemed to gain strength during the tournament with each match she played. Her ability to force the action and drive the ball with control were definitely her strong points.

FINAL RESULTS, with total points scored, in order were: Marriott 73.6; Steding 69; Harding 61.2; Pasternak 55.2; Carow 52.8; Sauser 47; Knudson 43; Weed 32.2; McCarthy 30.4.

Purse distribution for the invitational was \$250 for first place; \$200, second; \$150, third; \$100, fourth; and \$50, fifth.



PEGGY STEDING, right, congratulates an elated Janell Marriott. Pictured at the left are, from left to right, front row: Marriott, Jan Pasternak, Steding and Jennifer Harding. Top row: Ruth Knudson, Bette Weed, Sue Carow, Jean Sauser and Camille McCarthy.



New England Military Championships

Giordano by two! 21-20; 21-20

By Peter F. Crummey

As the sun set on the second annual New England Military Racquetball Championships, the last ball was a flat roll out, and a new champion was crowned. SSG Danny Giordano (USAF), Hanscomb AFB, Mass., deflated his arch rival, Major Peter F. Crummey by the scores of 21-20, 21-20, to take the title.

The game was refereed by "Honest Joe Fenster" (of used car fame), who placed third in the seniors over Colonel Robert Browne. After the match, Giordano was heard saying, "Crummey? Crummey? Never heard of him. Does he play this game?"

A few others who do play the game are Lt. Col. Don Patterson, Plattsburgh AFB, who placed first in the seniors over Crummey by scores of 21-15, 10-21, 21-18. Patterson also took third place in the open division by downing Colonel Browne, Ft. Devens, 21-14, 21-8.

In the seniors consolation Ed Hurley defeated Norm LaCompte, 21-7, 21-9, to determine first and second in that bracket.

In a special Commanders Division, open only to post or base commanders,

Col. Edward Buck, Hanscomb AFB, became the Champion Commander, or Commander Champion, by defeating Col. Forrest S. Rittgers, Jr., Ft. Devens.

The women's round-robin event was won by Sgt. Cruz, Ft. Devens, over Sp/4 Laura McPeak, Ft. Dix, N.J., 21-18, 21-10.

Capt. John Hill, Hanscomb AFB, had little trouble winning the B-division. He went the entire route without losing a game and defeated a determined John LePorte, 21-9, 21-19, to clinch the title. Arpad Toth won the B-consolation over Ken Erdela, 21-9, 10-21, 21-12, in the longest match of the day.

Cpt. Arthur Wood, Newport, R.I., bested Larry Rudolph, Pease AFB, in the open consolation, 21-15, 21-16.

Special thanks for making the tournament pleasant and possible go to Vitert Sports Company for providing the new V-77 blue balls, and racquets that were awarded as door prizes . . . to our friends at the Chazy Orchards for their donations of Chazy McIntosh apples . . . to Jon Perkins, Major and Mrs. (Jo Ann) Brumble.

See Scoreboard for additional tournament results.

NEW CHAMPION Danny Giordano at the right. Pictured below from left to right are Don Patterson, first place in seniors; John Hill, and Pete Crummey. In the lower picture are finalists in the women's division: Syria Cruz, Laura McPeak and JoAnn Brumble.



Tidewater Military Championships

Army over Navy; Parker pulls upset

By Glenn R. Allen

The weekend of 16, 17, and 18 January attracted some of the top military racquetball players on the East Coast to the Naval Amphibious Base, Little Creek, Va., for the 1976 Tidewater Military Racquetball Championships. Over sixty players participated in men and women singles competition, with a consolation tournament conducted for all first and second round losers.

In the prestigious men's open singles tournament, Captain Buzz Parker, USA, Ft. Monroe, Va., upset the number one seed LCDR Glenn Allen, USN, Comnavsurlant, Norfolk, Va., in a tightly contested three game match. Final scores were 21-6, 11-21, and 21-19. Enroute to the finals, two of the top eight seeds from a draw of 52 were upset; with LCDR Pat Drennan, USN, Washington, D.C., defeating ABCS Tom Madison, USN, Norfolk, number four seed in the round of 16,

and LTCOL Chuck Lake, USA, Norfolk, upsetting LT Larry Ryan, USN, Norfolk, number six seed in the round of 32.

Men's semifinal action was completed Sunday morning, with both matches drawing large numbers of spectators. In the upper bracket, Allen defeated Fred Mehne, USA, Ft. Bragg, N.C., 21-19, 21-11, after losing the first game, 20-21. This match was one of the best of the tournament, lasted two hours, and resulted in the destruction of racquets by Allen, before finally win-

Continued on page 23

Military Newsletter Number 5

Dear Military Racquetball Players,

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize two hard-working service commissioners: Lt. Cdr. Glenn Allen, Navy Commissioner, and Major Mike Stankosky, Marine Commissioner. Both new commissioners have been active in the advancement of racquetball.

Glenn Allen was the tournament director for the biggest military tournament ever held. He and Tom Madrin ran the East Coast Interservice Championships at Little Creek, Virginia, and did a superb job with 110 players.

One of my goals as Military Commissioner was to establish a true inter-service championship tournament to find out what we have in the way of players, and who might be number one.

This dream has now come true. The first annual Interservice Racquetball Championships will be held this September (1976) at West Point, New York. We will have open, B, seniors, masters, women, and open doubles.

Transportation, lodging, and food will be at the players' expense. West Point has under construction at this time ten regulation courts. Applications will be sent to all military bases in the U.S. Watch for them. The winner goes directly to the national finals.

Points of contact are still needed at many posts and bases. Please write your service commissioner if you would like to help promote military racquetball.

Many military tournaments are programmed for the year. Jack Rashleigh, European Commissioner, has the first European Championships coming up soon. The New England military tournament was recently completed as was the Tidewater military championships, both of which are reported in this issue of the IRA magazine.

NOTE to tournament directors: be sure to get your tournament results typed and mailed to the IRA as quickly following an event as possible. For brackets to appear in the Scoreboard, have a typist follow the style in the magazine. When photos accompany your stories, be sure to identify everyone in the picture.

In my conversations with racquetball players around the country I have found the growth of this fantastic sport is even greater in the military than it is in the civilian community. A few things bother me about the sport at the military level. Foremost is the issuing of wooden rackets, and along with that, the lack of tournament experience by military players.

We want to take some positive steps to expose as many players as possible to the intricacies of this game. The knowledge gained by watching a state level tourney will greatly increase anyone's game. Participating is even better. Here in Massachusetts the military has been well represented, and placed as follows in the 1976 state singles: open, 2, 4; seniors, 1; B-division, 3, 6, 7, 8.

In every state we should have at least one military player in the semifinals of every event. Get hot.

TIPS: If you are having trouble getting what you feel is proper support for racquetball from the special services officer, try this course of action: ask the special services officer to play with you. Give him the old sales pitch. He might not understand the game, or its popularity. Financial support only comes after he is on your side, and has a feel for the game.

Try to get a few of the key officers and NCO's on post interested in playing. Their support will open many doors that otherwise might be closed.

A good racquetball program on post requires Special Services support, interest of key people, and enthusiasm of all players (dedication helps), and finally a place to view the game. These key factors are all present at Fort Huachuca, Arizona; Fort Devens, Mass.; and Little Creek, Va., where some of the best players in the military have come from.

If you have any problems, please contact your service commissioner. Last: get a friend to join the IRA this month.

Happy flat rollouts,

PETER F. CRUMMEY
84-C Walnut Street
Ft. Devens, Massachusetts 01433

Phone 617-796-2174

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Annapolis, Md. 21402
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AIR FORCE

Major Buck Brumble
118-A US Oval
Plattsburgh AFB, New York
12903

“... the best,

BILL SELLARS wasn't really standing on his head, but to the right Earl Dixon and Richard Walker really collided. At far right, Gene Grapes receives the winners cup from YMCA director George House. (Photos by Tom Coats and Joe Wallles).

By Tom Coat
Staff Writer for the
Clearwater, Florida, Sun



CLEARWATER, FLA.—If he had made the statement after winning the 1976 National Invitational Masters Singles Tournament, it would have sounded conceited.

But, in sizing up the field before the tournament held January 24-26 at the Clearwater YMCA courts, Gene Grapes of Irwin, Pa., came off as honest and prophetic.

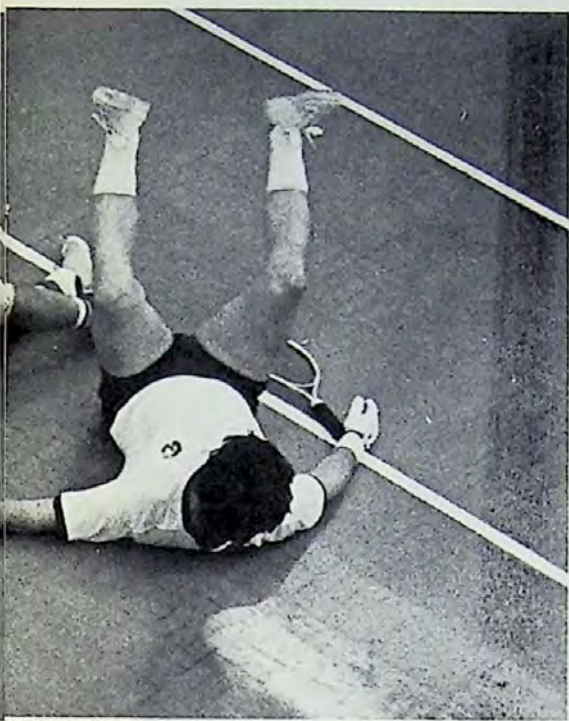
“This will be the best, the toughest Masters tournament ever,” wrote Grapes in accepting a bid to play.

As he predicted, the talent in the tournament was so close that Grapes won the title on the last day of the tourney, edging an exhausted Bill Sellars of Dallas, Tex., 186-185.

“Upsets” became the order of play as each of the eight players who completed the 10-man, round-robin tournament managed at least one victory.

Fittingly, an “upset” decided the title as Sellars, the 1973 champion, lost, 27-13, to Earl Dixon of Indianapolis, Ind. Sellars went into the match knowing he needed 14 points to tie Grapes,

the toughest invitational ever."



who earlier that day had defeated Bob Troyer of Lake Bluffs, Ill., 27-24, after coming back from a 10-point deficit.

The battle for third place was also close as Pat Whitehill of Cheney, Wash., edged Dixon, 27-24, in the last match of the tourney to wind up with 175 points. Dixon had 172 points.

Richard Walker of Dallas, Tex., was fifth with 154 points. He was followed by Troyer, 148, Tom Stidham of Clearwater, 140, and Joe Zelson of St. Louis, 101.

The tournament's two casualties were Joe Brechard of Waukesha, Wis., who suffered a shoulder injury after running into a wall while chasing a ball, and Ivan Bruner of Madison, Wis., who was forced out with a foot injury.

"Even though John Halverson (the defending national masters singles champion from San Diego) couldn't make it this year, I think we had the strongest masters tournament ever," said Stidham, who, as president of the Clearwater YMCA, was the official host for the tournament, and, as a mem-

ber of the selection committee, had a hand in choosing the players.

"I feel a lot better about placing seventh here than eighth last year. This tournament was a lot stronger. Every time two of these guys walked out on the court, one was capable of taking the other," he said.

As if to prove his point, Stidham knocked Sellars's title hopes for a loop by beating the Texas doctor, 27-22, on the tourney's opening day.

Other "upsets" included Stidham over Dixon, 27-15, Zelson over Walker, 27-6, Walker over Grapes, 27-19, and, of course, Dixon over Sellars, 27-13.

Despite the upsets, Grapes didn't back into his title. He won five of seven matches, defeating Stidham, 27-17; Zelson, 27-5; Troyer, 27-24; Dixon, 27-13, and Whitehill, 27-11.

His only losses came against Walker, 27-19, and Sellars, 27-17.

Grapes, a former handball player who waits until the last second before striking the ball, played his final match

of the tournament early Sunday and then waited with a 186-point total as the action drew to a close.

Sellars, the only player with a chance to catch Grapes, saw the title escape in the 27-13 loss to Dixon, but he probably lost the championship in an earlier match that day against Walker. Although he won, 27-25, Sellars was on the court for more than an hour and a half against Walker and came into the match against the fast-moving Dixon tired.

As the score mounted against him, Sellars tried to summon reserve energy and climbed to a point of tying Grapes before the end came.

Grapes is a former Golden Masters-50 Doubles Champion, having won the title with Sam Caliazza of New Castle, Pa., in 1973.

The tournament was the first national racquetball tournament held in Florida, an indication of the tremendous growth of the sport in the state.

See Scoreboard for point summary.



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It was a good day for the Maryland doubles

By Tom Whipple

Twenty-two racquetball fanatics gathered together in order to do combat for the Maryland Doubles Championship January 3. Each team was a story in itself as racquetball novices and tournament veterans alike dueled for the distinction of being "number-one" team in the area.

Players were only too familiar with one another through the Maryland team league, where Rockville JCC reigns as king. Rockville boasted four strong contenders for the doubles crown. Mike Halperin-Bill Corby, Dennis Baker-Tom Cutler (4th seeded), Howard Walker-Paul Goldberg, and Brian Meringoff-Mel Goldstein all had visions of the finals, as they had clearly demonstrated their superiority in team league matches.

The University of Maryland was represented by Maryland Doubles Champs John Devlin and Charlie "Joe" Sullivan (1st seeded) and the much underrated Chuck Duda-John Cowan combo. The Players Club, congenial host to the tourney, was represented by two promising athletes Rick Kroos and Doug Creamer. Mike Stankowsky and Fred White of Whitemarsh had high hopes, as did veterans Don Potter and Don Huber from Towson. Rich Dreisen of Rockville and Tom Whipple of the Players Club (2nd seeded) rounded out a contingent ripe for upsets.

First round action pitted Devlin-Sullivan against Halperin-Corby in what was expected to be a "routine" match.

As it turned out, John and Charlie had their hands full with a hustling, shooting team, and got by 21-13, 21-15. Stankowsky-White and Walker-Goldberg fought long and hard, with Howard and Paul coming out on top in a tough three game, 21-7, 16-21, 21-16. Fred White suffered a badly bruised shoulder during the match, causing the Whitemarsh duo to forfeit in the consolation rounds. Rick Kroos and Doug Creamer were psyched for their match against Meringoff and Goldstein, but the veterans manipulated the volleys in their favor winning, 21-9, 21-5.

Second-round activity was less heated than expected, with Cutler-Baker downing Duda-Cowan, 21-9, 21-7, Whipple-Dreisen defeating Walker-Goldberg, 21-6, 21-4 and Potter-Huber defeating Goldstein-Meringoff, 21-13, 21-20.

In the upper bracket of the semifinals, spectators got tense as Dennis Baker and Tom Cutler took game one away from Sullivan and Devlin, 12-21. Games two and three had Baker-Cutler with early leads, but the Sullivan-Devlin team were cool-headed and won, 21-15, 21-11. In the lower bracket, Don Huber's deadly pinch was falling short of its mark and Whipple-Dreisen were hot as they rolled to a 21-4, 21-13 win.

Consolation rounds to this point saw Walker-Goldberg defeat Kroos-Creamer, 21-5, 21-10, to advance to the finals, while Halperin-Corby surprised

Meringoff-Goldstein, but then lost to Cowan-Duda in the semis.

The gallery was definitely pro-Sullivan-Devlin with Robin Confino leading the cheers for them, and Christy Pearson doing the same for Dreisen and Whipple. Thus encouraged, the University of Maryland team came out smokin' and won the first game, 21-19. The second game, however, Whipple and Dreisen jumped out to an early lead and held on to win, 21-15. The third game was a humdinger, with Sullivan diving and Dreisen shooting all the way. John Devlin put his team ahead early in the game with several overhand roll-outs from rear court, but Whipple and Dreisen played percentage to win the game, match and championship, 21-17.

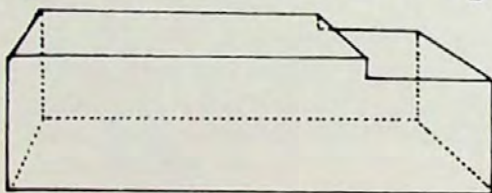
Third place was a one-sided contest with Cutler-Baker (disappointed in their semifinal loss) taking revenge on Don Potter and Don Huber, 21-4, 21-9. Final standings were (1st) Whipple-Dreisen, (2nd) Sullivan-Devlin, (3rd) Cutler-Baker, (4th) Potter-Huber. Consolation was won by Howard Walker and Paul Goldberg over John Cowan and Chuck Duda in a match that looked so exhausting that the spectators were sweating. Paul and Howard came through, 21-18, 21-10.

and an even better day for Dreisen and Whipple

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An electronic court monitor that shows when a court is open—or is scheduled to be open—has been introduced by Universal Fitness and Recreation Consultants (a division of Olympic Sports Products), a Miami, Florida, based firm that is associated with Sports Unlimited, Stillwater, Oklahoma, in supplying quality equipment to court clubs.

Players regard the Monitor as the greatest innovation since the game was invented. At a glance they can tell how much longer their scheduled court will be tied up, and with the aid of remote availability panels, the Monitor extends its information service to any part of the club—the lounge, locker rooms, refreshment bar, or pro-shop.

The electronic panel saves players the bother of continuously checking to see whether their court is open . . . wondering how much longer it will be, and endless trips from the lounge to the court. The convenience for any court

club is obvious, and for tournament play its performance is a life saver to floor managers.

Both management and players have been plagued with keeping track of court time, and associated problems. The Monitor operates most efficiently, says Universal's consultants, with six or more courts. The electronic system registers availability, time the court is in use, and overtime. Electronic recording of these items simplifies bookkeeping, and is generally regarded by players as more accurate. Time, and overtime are recorded on digital readouts and indicated by a red light on the Monitor panel.

The operator, at a glance, can tell a player what courts are open, and when others are due to be open.

Players and court club managers are familiar with the player who consistently abuses his time schedule. Although the Monitor can't cure him, it can do much to curb his abuses. It is difficult to

argue with, or brow-beat a time clock.

Optional equipment increases the effective use of the Monitor. The system can include an inter-com, public address system, control for locking and unlocking court doors, and a remote light signal to alert players their scheduled time has been used (after which the Monitor records overtime).

The console can be designed to include separate controls for lighting and air-conditioning in each court—a huge dollar savings when courts are not in use, and a huge player bonus when additional cooling is demanded.

The remote availability panels are also optional, and efficiency would depend on the size of the club. Such extensions can be placed anywhere in the club for easy reference.

Detailed information on the Monitor can be obtained by writing Universal Recreation and Fitness Consultants, 5885 N.W. 151, Miami Lakes, Florida 33014.

Tidewater Military Continued from page 16

ning. In the bottom bracket of the semifinals, Parker easily defeated Drennan, 21-16, 21-8, in a warmup for the finals. Third place was captured by Drennan, in a tough three game, 8-21, 21-10, 21-15, victory over Mehne.

For the first time in military racquetball competition, a women's division was conducted and resulted in much interest, and some hard fought matches. The women's finals pitted 1975 Military East Coast Champ, Helen Rios, USMC, Parris Island, S.C., against former Eastern Regional Women's Champ, Patti Gurson of Norfolk, Va. When the match was completed, Miss Gurson had won with a surprisingly easy 21-14, 21-8 victory. In the semifinals, Miss Rios defeated Sue Cumming, Norfolk, Va., while Gurson

defeated Judee Lyons, Norfolk, Va., in two well played matches. The third place award in the women's competition was captured by Cumming, who defeated Lyons, 21-3, 21-17.

In women's consolation, Lou Hledik of Norfolk, Va., captured top honors, with a 21-14, 21-15 victory over Marge Leach also of Norfolk. The women's competition added much to the interest and participation in this first Tidewater tournament, and reflects the tremendous growth of both men and women's racquetball on military bases around the country.

The men's consolation tournament commenced with 32 entries, and was finally decided in a close three game match, 21-6, 16-21, 21-15; won by Major Gene Elias over Major Tom Young. Both Young and Elias are stationed at the Armed Forces Staff Col-

lege, Norfolk, and are members of the United States Air Force. Third place in men's consolation was won by Petty Officer Kurt Heber, USN, CINCLANTFLT, Norfolk, who defeated Ryan in three close games.

Naval Amphibious Base, Little Creek, Recreational Services graciously assisted in the planning of this tournament, and reserved all three courts for the weekend so the matches could be played without interference. Their cooperation and assistance, as usual, was outstanding in all respects. Glenn Allen, Tom Madison and Richard Brown organized and ran the tournament. It is anticipated that many of the same top military players will meet again in the Fifth Naval District Racquetball tournament to be held in February, at the Naval Amphibious Base, Little Creek.

See Scoreboard for additional results.

Getting strung out . . . by Steve Dunn

Probably the most common questions asked by new members deal with racquets. Obviously, from the way the pro shop is stocked, there are lots to choose from.

All racquets have different qualities and all react differently when the ball rebounds off the front wall, strikes the strings (hopefully, square on the middle) and then zings back to the wall at

a controlled velocity and height. (At least, that's the theory.) Most common are racquets of fiberglass, aluminum and laminated wood and graphite.

Materials

Aluminum: These are extremely durable while still being very light and easy to wield. Usually a year's guarantee on frame breakage because of durability. One disadvantage is that aluminum is rather inflexible and so sacrifices somewhat in ball control.

Fiberglass: Not as durable as aluminum but much more flexible giving better ball control. Flex allows the ball to be "held" on the strings longer, making it more probable the ball will go where your arms is directing it. A 90-day guarantee is the usual.

Graphite: Both durable and flexible. Graphite is a more expensive racquet material and so can be prohibitive.

Strings

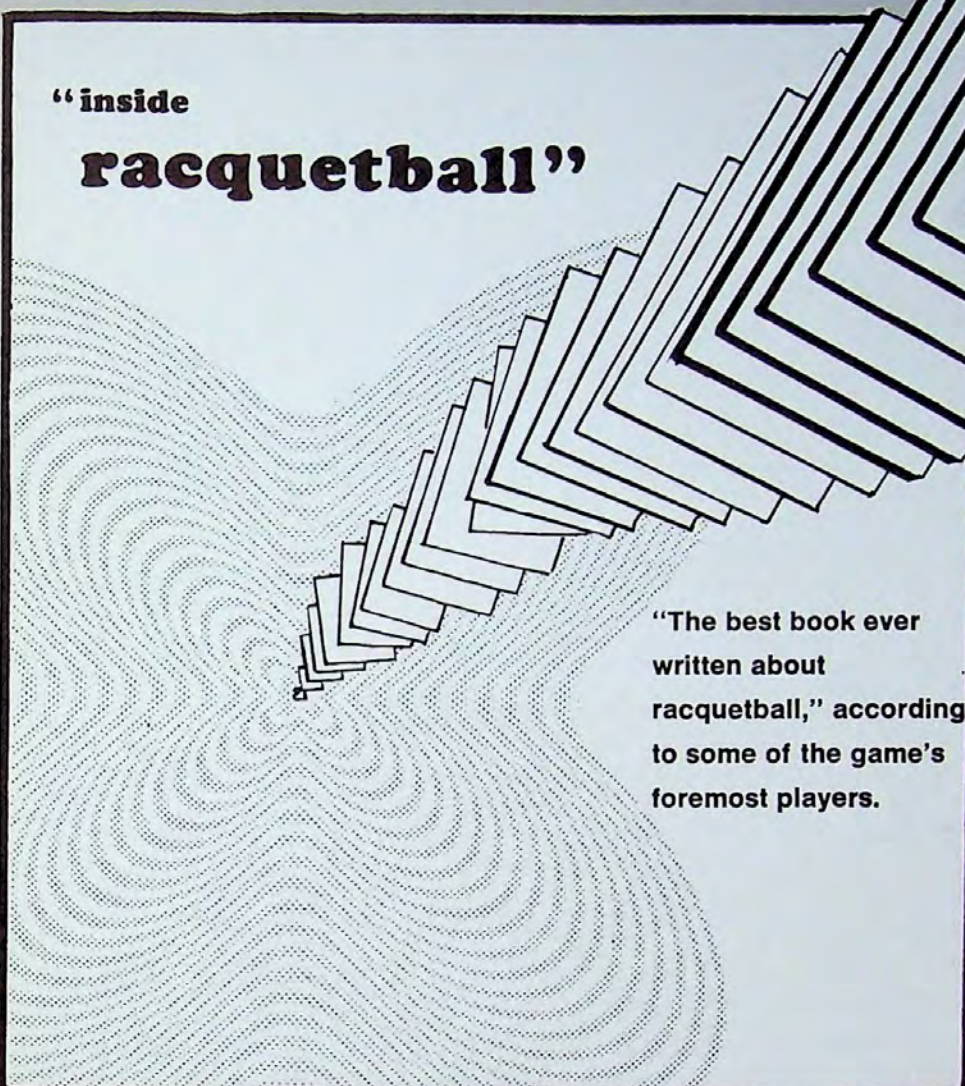
Tension: No racquet should be strung tightly, certainly never as tightly as a tennis racquet. The tighter the strings, the more chance that the ball is going to rebound too quickly off the strings without control. Strings should be no tighter than 28 pounds. Charlie Brumfield, national champ, strings his racquets at 18 pounds.

Strings: Gut strings aren't very common in racquetball. They tend to shred too quickly due to the excess friction caused by the rubber ball. A good nylon string such as Victor Sta-Tite is recommended.

Grip

Size is the important determinant. Don't equate with the grip of a tennis racquet. Tennis grips are big for one reason, to keep the user from "breaking" his wrist in guiding the ball over the net. In racquetball, using the wrist is vital to giving the ball speed. Find a grip that is comfortable and allows ample wrist movement.





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The General Membership Meeting and Election of board members is scheduled for Sunday morning, May 30, 1976.

The annual membership meeting is often overshadowed by the championship tournaments, but it is at this meeting, and through the actions of the dues-paid IRA members present that leadership of the IRA is established.

The men and women selected—by the members present—will direct the affairs of the IRA. Board members are elected to three year terms, with a rotation of one-third (four members) going off the board each year, and being replaced by four more.

In some years, due to death or resignation of board members, more than one-third of the board is voted on by the membership.

Although the championship tournaments are more exciting, the annual membership meeting (convention) is considered by many as being of greater long-term importance.

8th Annual General Membership Meeting

AGENDA

HEADQUARTERS—Holiday Inn, I-124,

401 W. Ninth St., Chattanooga, Tennessee

125 rooms have been set aside on a first-come, first-served basis. Use the coupon on this page in making your reservation, or inform the Holiday Inn that you are an IRA member in order to receive the benefit of the special IRA rates.

TRANSPORTATION—The Inn will provide transportation to and from the airport.

REGISTRATION—Thursday, May 27, 6-10 p.m. at Holiday Inn. Friday, May 28, all-day at De Sales Harrison Racquet Center.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING—Sunday, May 30, Holiday Inn

8:30 am—Breakfast

9:30-11 am—General Membership meeting (open to all current IRA members).

Welcome to Chattanooga

TOURNAMENT TICKETS

Use the order blank on this page. Seating on the exhibition court is being sold on a first-come, first-served basis. The "season" ticket entitles holder to a permanent reserved seat at the exhibition court, and general admission to all other courts (for all days of the tournament). The price discount applies only to those orders received before May 17.

General admission tickets entitle the holder to "space available" viewing. Players will also have "space available" viewing status.

and International Championships

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No. of nights _____ No. of persons _____

Name _____

Address _____

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Mail to:

IRA CHAMPIONSHIPS
Dr. Leroy Fanning, MacLellan Gym
University of Tenn., Chattanooga
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402

No. _____ \$30 Season Reserved Seat; directly behind back wall of exhibition court. (\$35 after May 17)

No. _____ \$20 Season Reserved seat; facing side walls of exhibition court. (\$25 after May 17)

No. _____ \$10 Season General Admission (\$15 after May 17)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____



An unexpected treat: over 800 seating capacity

Competitors at the 8th annual IRA international championships this Memorial day weekend, will provide an initiation—a baptism as it were—of the newest set of courts available. At press time construction was still underway, with promise by the contractor that all work would be completed on or before April 10.

It is hard to find newer facilities than this.

Alex Guerry describes the courts as providing some of the best spectator arrangements he has seen. The exhibition court has a full glass backwall, side-walls of glass from the four-foot level to the ceiling, and in the front wall a television window. More than 400 people can be seated about the main court.

All courts provide permanent seating, and some of the best viewing is made possible by having the courts sunk four feet below floor level. Glass back-wall panels to within three-feet of the ceiling provides excellent viewing. These six courts, seat an estimated 75 people each.

From the spectator's point of view the all glass courts are most attractive; from the player's point of view, those with no glass are preferable. The Chattanooga courts in the DeSales Harrison Racquet Center on the University of Tennessee campus provide a compromise, giving viewing facilities without unduly interfering with play.

As the game continues to attract public attention, news media—television, radio, and newspaper personnel, as well as fans—must have a means for covering the major events. Guerry feels the Chattanooga courts have been ideally designed for just such news coverage . . . and fan viewing.

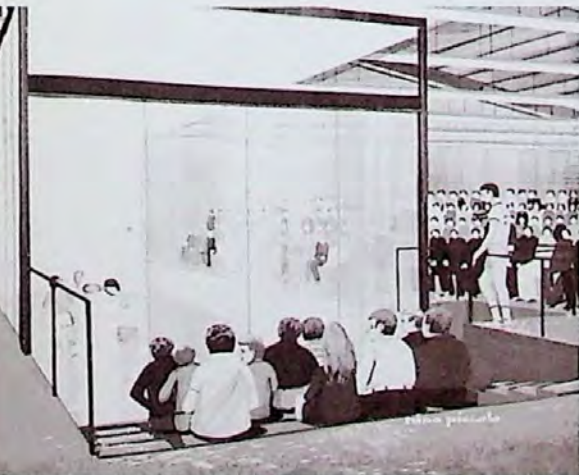
The building in which the University of Tennessee courts are located is an un-pretentious all metal building, with little in the way of "creature comforts." Guerry said the DeSales Harrison Center will be used 98 per cent of the time for university students and faculty, and to an extent by local high school players from the Chattanooga area.

Locker rooms are quite simple but adequate, having been designed for student use, rather than catering to a paid membership clientele, as would be found in many private clubs.

The DeSales Center, on campus, is seven blocks from downtown Chattanooga, ten blocks from the YMCA, and nine to ten blocks from the main motels.

The university gymnasium, with two racquetball courts and larger dressing room facilities is one block from the DeSales courts. The YMCA has four very fine courts and excellent dressing room facilities.

The IRA invites as many members as can possibly make the trip to attend the 8th annual membership meeting and international championships; Chattanooga welcomes you!



Official Entry Blank EIGHTH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIPS

MAY 28-31, 1976

CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE



Please enter me in the event checked:

Age _____ as of May 28, 1976

- ☐ Men's Pro Singles (\$25 Entry Fee)
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- ☐ Masters Singles (45 or over)
- ☐ Golden Masters Singles (55 or over)
- ☐ Women's Open Singles
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- ☐ Women's Doubles —

Name of Partner _____

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\$25 Pro Events

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ENTRY DEADLINE

Monday, May 17, 1976

TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR

Dr. Leroy Fanning 615-755-4323

TOURNAMENT SITE

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De Sales Harrison Center
Douglass Ave. at 4th St.
Chattanooga, TN.

TOURNAMENT HEADQUARTERS

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RESERVATIONS: Tell them you will be a participant in the IRA Championships
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Qualifying — 8:00 a.m. Thurs., May 27, 1976
All Singles — 8:00 a.m. Friday, May 28, 1976
Women's Doubles — Saturday, May 29, 1976

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Dr. Leroy Fanning 615-755-4323 or
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Make check payable to: IRA

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Business Phone _____ Home Phone _____ Estimated time of arrival _____

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

Date _____ Signature _____

In San Antonio...

Hendin lit the fuse for a racquetball explosion

The pro-am tournament was more than competition. It was a rare opportunity for San Antonio residents to see the best possible racquetball being played under ideal circumstances.

The news media gave the tournament beautiful coverage. Action was recapped daily in the newspapers. Radio and television crews carried the action to thousands of homes in the San Antonio broadcasting area.

Bruce Hendin has been teaching San Antonio how to play the game. The Pro-Tour showed them how well it can be played. To Hendin and his staff the IRA owes vast congratulations. Without his advance work the media would have wondered what the word racquetball meant. To his staff, we stress our appreciation. Taking care of, and keeping track of over 230 entries is a mammoth chore. We repeat our thanks to floor managers Jesse Reininger, Rick Medders, Jackie Black, and Dana Hendin.

La Quinta West served as tournament headquarters, providing shuttle service between the courts, the motel, and the airport. Their management and personnel were wonderfully attentive and cooperative.

Prior to the official opening of the tournament, two days of racquetball clinics were conducted by pros Mike Zeitman, Charlie Brumfield, and Davey Bledsoe. This schooling sharpened the abilities of newcomers to the sport, and heightened their ability to appreciate the fine exhibition of professional play the following days.

San Antonio, we thank you!

San Antonio Pro-Am Tour report

By Tom McKie ➤



San Antonio makes it three in a row for Steding and Brumfield

The second leg of the 1975-76 IRA Pro-Am racquetball tour was held in sunny San Antonio, Texas, at the Racquetball and Handball Club of San Antonio. After three and a half days and some 300 matches the results were the same as they had been in the last three IRA Pro-Ams—Charlie Brumfield and Peggy Steding carted off the titles.

Winners in other events were Eric Campbell, Dallas, in the men's open; Lyn McKie, Memphis, in the women's open; Dr. Bud Muchleisen, San Diego, in the seniors; Dewey Strickland, Houston, in the masters; Mark Malowitz, Houston, in both the juniors and "B" division; Mark Norenberg, Houston, in the men's novice; and Neysa Buckley of College Station, Texas, in the women's novice.

In the women's pro-division, Peggy Steding was devastating. Anyone who thinks she has slowed down just hasn't seen her play lately. In the finals she met Shannon Wright, who many consider heir to the throne.

It was no contest, as Steding came out firing. An 11-0 lead in the first game led to a 21-5 victory. In the second game the final score was 21-16, but Steding took it more easily than the score indicates. She was

hitting the ball so hard she gave Wright no chance to set-up, and constantly kept her off balance.

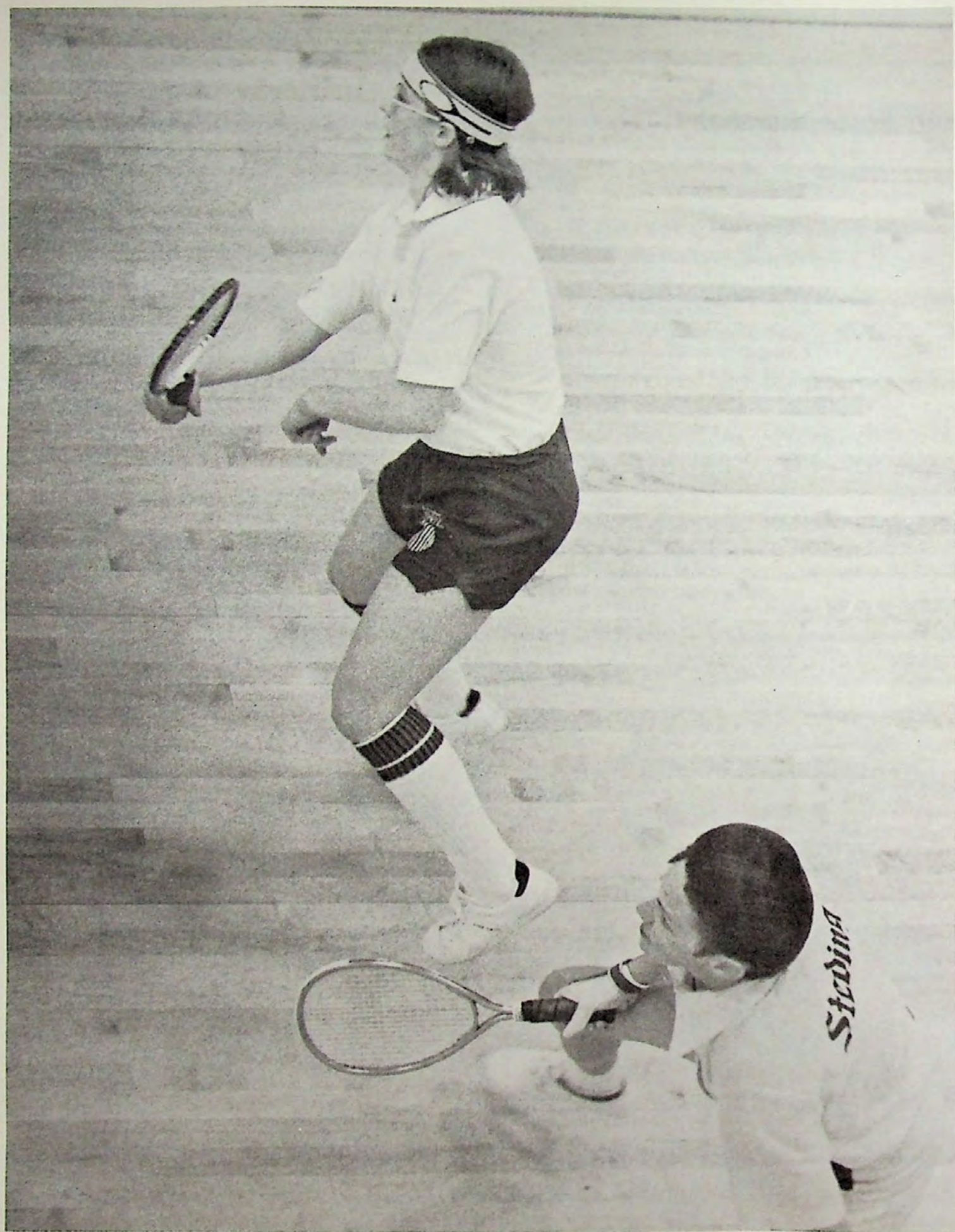
The semifinals contained one close match, and one that was not. Shannon Wright and Jan Campbell, San Diego, staged a tight battle with Wright winning 21-11, 18-21, 21-14. Campbell showed no ill-effects from her recent knee troubles, and the match was nip and tuck until midway through the third game when Wright's serve forced several weak returns and she gained a commanding lead.

Continued



TOM McKIE presents finalist check to Peggy Steding, left, and Shannon Wright in the above picture. At the left Fred Bristner makes Steding, Mike Zeitman and Brumfield Ambassadors At Large. On the facing page is pro-champion Brumfield in action.





Two days before the tournament, his racquet broke

Steding had little trouble with Jennifer Harding, Portland, Oregon, in the other semi—21-12, 21-8. Harding played well throughout the tournament including a quarterfinal win over Jan Pasternak. However, Steding simply dominated the match and forced her the play.

Harding came back to gather in the third place check with a two game victory over Jan Campbell. Winning the two fifth place checks were Pasternak and Lynn McKie (a quarterfinal loser to Campbell).

Men's Pro

The men's pro was not a typical Brumfield breeze. When asked what he was going to do after the tournament, he replied, "Go back to San Diego and practice. I'm worn out." It was not that Brumfield was not in condition, so much as it was the ever increasing strength of the competition.

In the six pro-tournaments—San Antonio and five previous ones—only one name has appeared more than once in the top two finishes—Brumfield. Seven other players have made the finals but only once each.

The surprise of the tournament was St. Louisan Jerry Hilecher, who blasted his way past Schmidtke, Serot and Hogan to reach the finals. Hilecher's game had not been what he wanted it to be lately, so a week before the tournament he dug deep in his discarded

racquet bag and pulled out his old favorite—a 1971 Ektelon with a blue bumper. The racquet looked as though it had been through several wars, and had an odd configuration to match. But, suddenly Jerry Hilecher was playing the best racquetball of his life.

Then, two days before the tournament, the racquet broke. Somewhat skeptically Hilecher began again with a brand new racquet. Evidently the old racquet had helped him get over his psychological hump, for Jerry continued to play brilliantly.

The finals—as the saying goes—were closer than the score indicates. In the first game Brumfield jumped off to a fast lead, and everytime it appeared Hilecher was about to turn things around, Brumfield would spurt out again.

In game two Hilecher built a 12-7 lead. Brum reversed the margin, 14-12. Several innings went past with little scoring. Then, Charlie found an ace. It was the spark he needed, and he soared ahead to win.

Both semifinals were packed with excitement. In the top bracket it was a familiar battle—Brumfield and Keeley meeting for the n-th time. Steve Keeley probably plays Brumfield tougher than anyone else. He came close in the first game, leading most of the way, only to go down 21-18. In the second game he took a decisive victory over Brum, 21-9. In the third game



ERIC CAMPBELL, Randy Stafford and Mike Carr, above from left to right, with some earned hardware. Jerry Hilecher, at the right of the left picture receives his runner-up check and trophy from club owner Harris Sterling as Bruce Hendin looks on. Brumfield at their right seems to have his check glued to his racquet strings—appropriately. On the facing page Shannon Wright, center, and Peggy Steding on the court at San Antonio.



Keeley plays Brumfield tougher than anyone else

Brumfield was back in control, and allowed Keeley but five points.

The bottom bracket matched two products of the St. Louis JCCA. Hilecher and Hogan. Jerry Hilecher had been the star for quite some time, but lately Marty Hogan had been getting the headlines. This match was definitely not a quiet uneventful, unemotional, Sunday afternoon tea party. It was more like the Boston tea-party.

The three game match brought displays of exceptional shooting and shouting (not always in that order). When it was over Marty was still the "new boy on the block." The match belonged to Hilecher: 21-14, 20-21, 21-18.

The quarterfinals provided what might be called three upsets and one almost. Brumfield squeezed past Richie Wagner, San Diego, 21-19, 11-21, 21-14. Wagner showed his game is there with his win over Craig McCoy in the 16's, and pushed Brumfield hard. Wagner's speed and quickness on the court was unbelievable.

In a rematch of the Memphis quarterfinals, Steve Keeley reversed the outcome, defeating Davey Bledsoe, 5-21, 21-17, 21-17. Bledsoe was unbeatable in the first game, rolling everything out. Keeley kept plugging along and eventually worked himself back into contention. In the third game, it appeared Bledsoe got impatient, and it cost him too many points.

The other two quarterfinals were not nearly so close. Hilecher shot the eyes out of the ball to defeat Steve Serot, 21-6, 21-16, stunning many viewers who thought it would be routine the other way. Hogan did likewise to Steve Strandemo, 21-8, 21-14, never allowing Strandemo much control in either game, and none over the match. Hogan shot, shot, shot, either winning or losing the rally because of it. Fortunately for him, he won more than he lost, in the process.

Notable victories in the earlier rounds include Hilecher's win over Bill Schmidtke, and Bledsoe's sudden awakening in the third game against Dr. Bud Muehleisen. Bledsoe was behind, 6-16. Abruptly he

rattled off 15 straight points. Other early round victories include Randy Stafford knocking off Jim Austin, and Tom McKie upsetting Bill Dunn.

Women's Open

The women's open was easily captured by Lyn McKie, Memphis. Except for a brief mental lapse in her semifinal match she swept through her games with little trouble. A hard hitting lefty, she defeated Marcilene Greer, Wichita, in the finals. Third place was captured by Janice Segall over Libby Bernhard, both from Austin.



LYN McKIE receives trophy from husband, Tom, while in lower photo, Marci Greer receives trophy from club co-owner Phil Barshop. On the facing page Steve Strandemo warming up.



A 64-man draw in the novice!

Eric Campbell, Dallas, fought his way to victory in the men's open over Randy Stafford. It was a run and gun type of match with Eric still standing at the end. Third place belonged to Mike Carr, Houston, over Ed Barziza, Austin.

One of the strongest events at the tournament was the seniors. Old master Dr. Bud Muehleisen tamed them all, beating Jim Austin, Houston, in the finals by 21-17, 21-9. Earlier Austin had been pushed hard by Jerry "the Judge" Winsberg, New Orleans, in a semifinal match that went 13-21, 21-13, 21-19, while Dr. Bud was toying with Richard Walker, Dallas, 21-5, 21-10. Winsberg captured third place.

Dewey Strickland, Houston, kept Jack Hood, San Antonio, out of the center court position and easily won the master's title, 21-4, 21-10. When Strickland is in the center court, it is hard to know what is going on anywhere in the court. Simon Wiederman, Houston, defeated Bill Reese, Dallas, 21-14, 21-12.

An up and coming left hander from Houston entered both the B division and junior division, and swept the title in both. Mark Malowitz, with a powerful backhand (all lefties have strong backhands) defeated fellow Houstonian, Jeff Kwartler, to capture the juniors, and—long after everyone else had gone home—triumphed over Carlos Nieves, Dallas, to win the B division. Another young player from Houston was involved in both third place matches, winning the

juniors by default over Mark Sandler, Chicago, and losing the B's to Ron Meek, Austin.

The novice division strained the score-keepers. A 64-man draw demands a lot of writing. To climb to the top of a 64-man bracket takes a lot of power, and indicates a lot of talent. Among the promising young players in the huge novice class, Mark Norenberg, Houston, put down Lonnie Parsons, San Antonio, in the finals. Third was Angel Diaz, San Antonio, followed by Don Jensen, Dallas.

In the women's novice, Neysa Buckley, College Station, Texas, took top honors over Faith Ragow, Dallas, 21-7, 21-16. Kathy Kelly defeated Connie Karcher for third.

PURSE DISTRIBUTION: In the men's division, the pro-am paid \$1,400 to Brumfield; \$900 to Hilecher; \$650 to Keeley and Hogan; \$300 each to Bledsoe, Serot, Wagner, Strickland; \$100 each to McKee, Wright, Stafford, Muehleisen, Charlson, Schmidtke, McCoy and Zeitman.

In the women's pro-division, \$400 went to Steding; \$250 to Wright; \$150 to Harding; \$100 to Campbell; and \$50 each to Pasternak and McKie.

See Scoreboard for additional results.



JIM AUSTIN, left, congratulates senior winner Dr. Bud Muehleisen, with smiling approval from Hendin.



JERRY WINSBERG receives third place senior's division trophy from Phil Barshop.

If you have a current address on anyone whose name is on this list, please write IRA Headquarters, P.O. Box 12490, Memphis, Tennessee 38112. We are anxious to get them back on our mailing list so they can once again receive our magazine. Thank you for your help.

Some of our members are missing

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Columbus discovers new city champion — Don Schiefer

The 6th Annual Columbus, Ohio, City Racquetball tournament was held at the Central YMCA February 13, 14, 15. Thirty players were entered in open and masters singles divisions.

Last year's open champion Dr. John Norton of Columbus, Ohio, was eliminated in the semifinals by Les Armstrong of Zanesville, Ohio. A new City Champion was crowned when Don

Schiefer defeated Gene Erwine of Zanesville. Art Payne retained the masters open crown which he won last year by defeating Dick Fairchild of Marion, Ohio.

Consolation winners were Mike Thomas over Leo Neff in the open, and John Gibbons defeated Joe Brigrmore in the masters.

See Scoreboard for additional results.

Penn State racquetball schedule churns out top competition

More than 72 players paced the third annual Nittany Lions Fall classic at Penn State University's new 12-court facility. Taking first place was Luke St. Onge, Centre Hall, Pa., who downed Joe Willey, 21-14, 20-21, 21-6, in the finals.

The Nittany Lions racquetball club boasts over 100 members, and sponsors many in-house clinics, and nationally open tournaments.

Taking third place in the Classic was Denny Onkotz who defeated Russ Cooper, 17-21, 21-12, 21-18.

The Classic ran true to seeding. St. Onge had been seeded number one before the contest began, and Willey was number two. Willey had run through the lower bracket without being forced to three games in any match.

In the finals, Willey's only three game, but losing, effort, found him coming close to overturning St. Onge's tower with a win in the second game and a show of strength in the first. But Willey appeared to tire quickly in the deciding game which saw the match go to St. Onge in a fairly routine manner.

Despite the name . . .

Players stayed for both days

By Art Redford

December 13-14 was the second annual Redford "Honey Bucket Quickie Open," Tacoma, Washington, which held 65 matches the first round. In spite of the successfully large turnout, the competition was completed on three courts, in two days.

Saturday's play ran from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m., and courts were kept hot Sunday from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. Scheduling was assisted by the help of a point on each serve, and consolation matches 2-3 to 15 points.

Jeff Larson won the open round-robin event, not losing a match. Each game loss was five points and each match loss was five points. All points scored against a player were counted. Larson came through with 135 points in the seven-round tournament.

In the doubles, partners were drawn to pair class A with class C partners, or two "B" class partners. The games were a lot of run, but difficult, due to playing with unknown strengths and weaknesses. A five-serve rule taken from ping-pong worked out very well.

Being the only tournament other than the Nationals to grace the pages of Sports Illustrated, we were disappointed the press didn't slip in to see the Honey Bucket Quickie in action. Maybe they were touchy about the sponsor. We will admit that a few balls got in



NITTANY LION winner Charlie Garfinkel, center, recently won the fourth annual Lion open, and Luke St. Onge, right, won the third Lion Fall classic. Floor manager Jim Beamsderffer, left, pauses for a between tourney breather.

Along the IRA racquetball trail, continued

the wrong can (but didn't feel that would offend the news-media), and became real sliders.

Finalists in order were: Open—Jeff Larson, Sid Williams, Mike Call, and consolation winner Bruce Brookens. Class C—Dave Dimitre, Marry Roehner, Mike Rittenhouse, and consolation winner Dave Bishop.

In the Class C—Jim Wilson, Leonard Winchell, Joel Cohen, and consolation winner Jeff Bland. Doubles—Bill LeRoy-Sid Williams; Mike Call-Leonard Winchell; Jerry Henderson-Mike Stephenson; and in the consolation, Joel Cohen-John O'Brien.



In top dozen . . .

HART JOHNSON, St. Paul, Minn., and one of the top trophies from the first annual USRA Junior National tournaments in Orlando, Florida.

More than 90 youngsters competed in two age brackets—18 and under and 15 and under. The tournament was co-sponsored by R. B. Frampton and Champion Glove companies.

Evans and Rentz are 1-2 in E. Kentucky's women's open

Kay Evans, Louisville, former Kentucky state champion took first place in the Eastern Kentucky Women's open February 6-8 at the Ashland area YMCA.

Evans defeated Holly Rentz, Lexington, 21-14, 21-14. Rentz, apparently then defeated the winner of the

elimination bracket, Diana Sanders, 31-28, to again meet Evans. (Brackets supplied to the IRA were not legible at the critical right-hand side.)

In the semifinals Evans downed Bobbie Brennan, 21-14, 21-14, while Rentz was turning back Laura Perkins, 21-6, 21-10.

In the quarterfinals Evans defeated Lucy Bennett, Frankfort; Brennan defeated Judy Shirrell, Frankfort; Rentz defeated Mary Crockett; and Perkins defeated Sandy Britt, Lexington.



Kay Evans

GREG DOWDY, at far left with finalists Holly Rentz, center and Diana Sanders. Photo by Phil Benton, Ashland Daily Independent.

Along the IRA racquetball trail, continued



1976 YMCA finalists, top row, from the left are Joe Wirkus, Diz Kronenberg, Bill Schmidtke, Bill Harper and Mike Weum. In front are Gary Rivet, Jerry Hoff and Dan Alder.

Wausau-Woodson YMCA completes sixth; begins seventh racquetball season

Two-time national champion Bill Schmidtke of Minneapolis won the singles title and combined with Mike Weum, to win the doubles title in the sixth annual Wausau Chemical-Woodson YMCA Racquetball Tournament January 17, 18.

Dan Alder of Milwaukee was third in singles, while Gary Rivet of St. Paul downed Wausau's Jerry Hoff for the consolation title.

Schmidtke defeated five opponents on the way to his title. After an opening win over Ron Tanko of Stevens Point, he beat Wayne Graves of St. Paul, 21-

3, 21-5, Roger Dolato of LaCrosse, 21-12, 21-12, and nationally ranked Dan Alder of Milwaukee, 21-18, 21-8. In the championship contest, he beat nationally ranked Joe Wirkus of Milwaukee, 21-13, 21-10.

Alder's third place win came over Weum, 14-15, 15-7, 15-7.

After losing his first round game, 31-22, to Joe Derksen of Appleton, Hoff earned the consolation finals by beating Jerry Johnson of Sawyer Air Force Base, 31-25, Ron Merino, also of Sawyer, 31-10, and Jim Hall of Madison, 31-24. He lost the final set to Rivet,

21-9, 15-21, 21-11.

Randy Kerswill of Wausau lost his first two singles contests.

In doubles, Schmidtke and Weum started out by beating Ron and Carl Cook of Stevens Point, 31-7. They then defeated Bill Schultz and Joe Bechard of Milwaukee, 31-27. In the championship contest, they downed Bill Harper and Diz Kronenberg of Eau Claire, 21-14, 21-14.

Hoff and Tom Lang of Eau Claire lost their opening doubles contest to Wirkus and Bob Keenan of Milwaukee, 31-24.

See Scoreboard for additional results.

Sweeties are . . .

For women only

In the first, of what may be an annual event, Pat DeNeui took first place in the women's open "Sweeties Tournament" organized by Mrs. Richard (Donna) Reinhard.

Other finalists in the women's only tourney were Taffy Savard, second in the open; and Lynne Murdock, consolation winner.

Novice division finalists were: 1, Marilyn Salcedo; 2, Chris Urling; and consolation winner, Carolyn Grimes. In the Class C, Lynne took first; Sallie Parr, second; and Janet Dobbins, consolation.

The doubles action saw first go to Pat DeNeui-Nancy Martin. Second was Taffy Savard-Lynne Murdock; and consolation winners were Janet Dobbins and Sallie Parr.

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Scoreboard

Ashland, Kentucky

EASTERN KENTUCKY WOMEN'S OPEN
February 6-7-8

First Round: Kay Evans def. Val Hampton, 21-3, 21-4; Lucy Bennett def. Dottie Knickerbocker, 21-14, 16-21, 21-9; Bobbie Brennan def. Carolyn Dye, 21-1, 21-9; Judy Shirrell def. Donna Sexton, 21-20, 21-5; Marjorie Polites def. Holly Rentz, 21-16, 21-14; Mary Crockett def. Brenda Montgomery, 21-4, 21-13; Laura Perkins def. Carolyn Bratt, 21-6, 21-4; Sandy Britt def. Eileen Ernst, 21-12, 21-10.

Quarterfinals: Kay Evans def. Lucy Bennett, 21-14, 21-2; Bobbie Brennan def. Judy Shirrell, 21-6, 21-19; Holly Rentz def. Mary Crockett, 21-6, 21-3; Laura Perkins def. Sandy Britt, 21-16, 17-21, 21-9.

Semifinals: Kay Evans def. Bobbie Brennan, 21-14, 21-14; Molly Rentz def. Laura Perkins, 21-6, 21-10.

Finals: Kay Evans def. Holly Rentz, 21-14, 21-14.

TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS

To improve the accuracy of Scoreboard reports, please type the results of your tournament, following format shown in this section. (Printers often do not understand brackets, names are badly written, and some scores are omitted. Only you can correct this.)

PS

Don't overlook adding the Place and Date.

Milwaukee, Wisc.

WOMEN'S CITY RACQUETBALL
CHAMPIONSHIPS
December, 1975

CLASS A

Quarterfinals: Pat Schmidt def. Lori Meyers, 21-9, 21-3; Nancy Baillie def. Cynthia Anderson, 21-9, 14-21, 21-14; Sandra Coffman def. Barb Strain, 21-7, 21-16; Sue Bechard def. Anne Jackson, 21-11, 21-2.

Semifinals: Pat Schmidt def. Nancy Baillie, 21-4, 21-5; Sue Bechard def. Sandra Coffman, 21-15, 21-14.

Finals: Pat Schmidt def. Sue Bechard, 21-1, 21-10.

Third Place: Sandra Coffman def. Nancy Baillie, 21-7, 21-20.

CLASS B

First Round: Vikki Emmerson def. Pat Lindner, 21-19, 21-4; Barb Klaeser def. Judi Mottl, 21-18, 21-12; Lynn Zafis def. Pat Peck, 21-10, 21-5; Sue Chatterton def. Robin Jasinski, 21-6, 21-9; Karen Jakubowski def. Chris Frank, 21-9, 21-10; Marge Huffman def. Sue Wells, 21-9, 21-1; Rose Brandenburg def. Carrie Gingras, 21-7, 21-10; Nancy Lawrence def. Virginia Luscomb, 21-8, 21-2.

Quarterfinals: Vikki Emmerson def. Barb Klaeser, 21-19, 21-4; Lynn Zafis def. Sue Chatterton, 21-19, 15-21, 21-11; Karen Jakubowski def. Marge Huffman, 21-16, 21-15; Rose Brandenburg def. Nancy Lawrence, 21-16, 10-21, 21-17.

Semifinals: Lynn Zafis def. Vikki Emmerson, 21-17, 3-21, 21-18; Karen Jakubowski def. Rose Brandenburg, 21-8, 21-12.

Finals: Lynn Zafis def. Karen Jakubowski, 21-19, 21-20.

Third Place: Emmerson def. Brandenburg, 21-11, 21-17.

Little Creek, Va.

TIDEWATER MILITARY CHAMPIONSHIPS
January 16-17-18, 1976
MEN'S OPEN SINGLES

Quarterfinals: Allen def. Larkin, 21-13, 21-14; Mehne def. Brown, 21-17, 21-13; Parker def. Luque, 21-18, 12-21, 21-17; Drennan def. Truxall, 21-16, 21-18.

Semifinals: Allen def. Mehne, 20-21, 21-19, 21-11; Parker def. Drennan, 21-3, 21-16.

Finals: Parker def. Allen, 21-6, 11-21, 21-19.
3rd Place: Drennan def. Mehne, 8-21, 21-10, 21-15.

WOMEN'S OPEN SINGLES

Quarterfinals: Rios def. Leach, 21-15, 21-16; Cumminger def. Drennan; Lyons def. Elm; Gurson def. Hledik.

Semifinals: Rios def. Cumminger; Gurson def. Lyons.

Finals: Gurson def. Rios, 21-14, 21-8. **3rd Place:** Cumminger def. Lyons, 21-3, 21-17.

MEN'S CONSOLATION SINGLES

Quarterfinals: Elias def. Smith; Heber def. Keith; Ryan def. Gossett; Young def. Rieve.

Semifinals: Elias def. Heber; Young def. Ryan, 13-21, 21-14, 21-16.

Finals: Elias def. Young, 21-16, 16-21, 21-15.
3rd Place: Heber def. Ryan.

WOMEN'S CONSOLATION SINGLES

Semifinals: Leach def. Bradley; Hledik def. Brennan.

Finals: Hledik def. Leach, 21-14, 21-15.

Ft. Devens, Mass.

NEW ENGLAND MILITARY

Seniors: (in order listed) Don Patterson, Peter Crummey, Joe Fenster, Robert Browne, Francis Lowry, Charles Beall, Ronald G. Bourque, John LePore, Lawrence Rudolph, Edward Hurley.

Women: Syria Cruz, Laura McPeak, Joann Brumble, Deborah Deeney, Maxine Evans.

B-Division: John Hill, John Lepore, Ron Bessling, Oscar Colvin, David Chinn, Larry Lewis, Max Puckett, Robert Antone, Bill Larson, Drew Landrus.

Open: Danny Giordana, Peter Crummey, Don Patterson, Robert Browne, Charles Beall, Charles Vehlou, Norbert LeCompte, Mike Farro, Arthur Wood, Mike Howser.

Columbus, Ohio

City Championships
February 13, 14, 15, 1976
OPEN SINGLES

Quarterfinals: Les Armstrong def. Dr. Jon Norton; Gene Erwine def. Doug Martin; Don Schiefer def. Bob Levy; George Geisbuhler def. Dr. Rod Naro.

Semifinals: Gene Erwine def. Les Armstrong, 21-18, 21-16; Don Schiefer def. George Geisbuhler, 14-21, 21-18, 21-16.

Finals: Schiefer def. Erwine, 21-11, 21-6.

MASTERS

Semifinals: Art Payne def. Scotty Patrick, 21-4, 21-8; Dick Fairchild def. Bill White, 21-16, 21-17.

Finals: Payne def. Fairchild, 21-11, 21-17.

Madison, Wisc.

January 16-17-18
SINGLES

First Round: Schmidtke def. Tanro; Graves def. Murray; Dolato def. Hall; Neuille def. Schultz; G. Johnson def. J. Johnson; Derkson def. Hoff; Davidson def. Dennis Hinz; Alder def. Withrow; Harper def. Reck; Lindeman def. Schrader; Bell def. Kerswill; Weum def. Lang; Schmidt def. Rivet; Bechard def. Brickson; DeVaul def. Ward; Wirkus def. Wilson.

Second Round: Schmidtke def. Graves; Dolato def. Neuille; G. Johnson def. Derkson; Alder def. Davidson; Harper def. Lindeman; Weum def. Bell; Bechard def. Schmidt; Wirkus def. DeVaul.

Quarterfinals: Schmidtke def. Dolato; Alder def. Johnson; Weum def. Harper; Wirkus def. Bechard.

Semifinals: Schmidtke def. Alder, 21-18; 21-8; Wirkus def. Weum, 21-9, 21-3.

Finals: Schmidtke def. Wirkus, 21-13, 21-10. **Third:** Alder def. Weum.

DOUBLES

First Round: Cook-Cook def. Merino-Klein; Rivet-Graves def. Johnson-Wilson.

Quarterfinals: Schmidtke-Weum def. Cook-Cook, 31-17; Schultz-Bechard def. Alder-Neuille, 31-27; Wirkus-Keenan def. Hoff-Lang, 31-24; Harper-Kronenberg def. Rivet-Graves, 31-11.

Semifinals: Schmidtke-Weum def. Schultz-Bechard, 31-20; Harper-Kronenberg def. Wirkus-Keenan, 31-26.

Finals: Schmidtke-Weum def. Harper-Kronenberg, 21-14, 21-14.

Scoreboard



IT WAS (ONLY ?) third place, but Virginia Davis' trophy in the Women's A singles shows the super-charged atmosphere of the entire Cowboy open. With her is second place winner Jan Wilson.

Stillwater, Okla.

COWBOY OPEN OPEN SINGLES

First Round: Myron Roderick def. Eddie Polk; Kevin Chambliss def. Gary Hinkle; Jim Benein def. Bob Chessmore; Eric Campbell def. Kent Taylor; Jerry Linton def. Randy Stafford; Roland Treat def. Wayne Campbell; Tom McKie def. Ken Smith; Mike Carr def. Terry Eichor.

Quarterfinals: Roderick def. Chambliss, 21-18, 21-2; Campbell def. Benein, 18-21, 21-11, 21-4; Linton def. Treat, 21-5, 21-20; McKie def. Carr, 21-7, 21-20.

Semifinals: Roderick def. Campbell, 21-8, 21-15; McKie def. Linton, 21-20, 21-9.

Finals: Roderick def. McKie, 21-12, 21-4. **3rd Place:** Campbell def. Linton, 12-21, 21-13, 21-16.

Consolation Finals: Harold Youngentob def. Jim Martin, 21-19, 21-4.

B SINGLES

First Round: David Rippetoe def. Jerry Myers; Mendy Katzman def. Malcom Phelps; Phil Stepp def. Gordon Reese; John Trickett def. Ted Edwards; Larry Curts def. Sandy McPherson; Enos Stover def. John Carignan; Jerry Brazil def. Pat Woodward; Ronald Meek def. Roger Glick.

Quarterfinals: Katzman def. Rippetoe, 21-15, 21-10; Stepp def. Trickett, 21-7, 21-10; Curts def. Stover, 21-19, 19-21, 21-20; Meek def. Brazil, 21-14, 21-4.

Semifinals: Stepp def. Katzman, 21-13, 21-9; Curts def. Meek, 8-21, 21-17, 21-20.

Finals: Stepp def. Curts, 21-10, 21-17. **Third Place:** Meek def. Katzman, 21-7, 21-19.

Consolation Finals: Carlos Nieves def. Arnold Davis, 7-21, 21-11, 21-17.

SENIOR SINGLES

Quarterfinals: V. Z. Lawton def. David Dalke, 19-21, 21-13, 21-13; Dave Hessel def. Jim Matheson, 21-15, 21-3; Carl Provence def. Cal Roberts, 21-10, 21-14; Jim McPherson def. Provence, 21-9, 21-16.

Semifinals: Lawton def. Hessel, 21-10, 21-19; McPherson def. Provence, 21-9, 21-16.

Finals: Lawton def. McPherson, 21-15, 21-1. **Third Place:** Hessel def. Provence, 21-16, 21-13.

Consolation Finals: Dalke def. Lewis, 21-17, 21-6.

WOMEN'S NOVICE SINGLES

Quarterfinals: Linda Guerrero def. Jean Lehr, 10-21, 21-20, 21-18; Sherry Runnels def. Louise Gonsoulin, 31-18; L. D. Harbour def. Vicki Calloway, 31-18; Faith Ragow def. Turlington, 21-18, 21-8.

Semifinals: Guerrero def. Runnels, 21-7, 7-21, 21-9; Ragow def. Harbour, 21-9, 21-16.

3rd Place: Runnels def. Harbour, 21-7, 21-12.

1st Place: Guerrero def. Ragow, 21-9, 21-16.

Consolation Final: Lehr def. Calloway, 21-3, 21-18.

MASTER'S SINGLES

Quarterfinals: Joe Dorrough def. Ray Crowley, 21-14, 10-21, 21-18; Ken Denney def. Ed Brown, 21-5, 21-20; Ruffin def. Dirks, 21-15, 21-10.

Semifinals: Dean Lemmon def. Dorrough, 20-21, 21-6, 21-13; Denney def. Ruffin, 21-5, 21-13.

3rd Place: Dorrough def. Ruffin, 15-21, 21-11, 21-6.

1st Place: Denney def. Lemmon, 18-21, 21-18, 21-7.

Consolation Finals: Growley def. Grula, 21-15, 21-13.

OPEN DOUBLES

First Round: Chambliss-Snipes def. Youngentob-Lemmon; Treat-Martin def. Farley-Eichor; Linton-Lawton def. Stepp-Gann; Jobe-Aichele def. Collins-Carr.

Quarterfinals: Roderick-Stafford def. Campbell-Taylor, 21-4, 21-13; Treat-Martin def. Chambliss-Snipes, 21-17, 5-21, 21-8; McKie-Campbell def. Linton-Lawton, 21-3, 21-11; Hinkle-Smith def. Jobe-Aichele, 21-16, 21-5.

Semifinals: Roderick-Stafford def. Treat-Martin, 21-10, 21-4; McKie-Campbell def. Hinkle-Smith, 21-16, 21-5.

3rd Place: Hinkle-Smith def. Treat-Martin, 21-12, 21-12.

1st Place: Roderick-Stafford def. McKie-Campbell, 21-9, 21-20.

B DOUBLES

First Round: McGinty-Fuller def. Rimmerman-Kindlespaiger; Edwards-Bayne def. Hazell-Randell; Ellington-Keller def. Chapman-Myers; Carignan-Tripp def. Shapack-Aronowitz; Losik-McMillen def. Fitzgerald-Fitzgerald; Davis-Nieves def. Edmundson-Conrad; Saugstad-Hamby def. Hert-Steward; Brazil-Ragow def. Neace-McMillan; Glick-Newcomer def. Curts-McPherson; Trickett-Matheson def. Brown-Tower; Meek-Katzman def. Provence-Hessel; Rippetoe-Ball def. Phariss-Ruff; Robbins-Oldham def. Dolke-Paulin; Stone-Al-Shaieb def. Jung-Winchester.

Second Round: McPherson-Myers def. McGinty-Fuller; Edwards-Bayne def. Ellington-Keller; Carignan-Tripp def. Losik-McMillen; Davis-Nieves def. Saugstad-Hamby; Lewis-Brusewitz def. Brazil-Ragow; Glick-Newcomer def. Trickett-Matheson; Meek-Katzman def. Rippetoe-Ball; Oldham-Robbins def. Stone-Al-Shaieb.

Quarterfinals: McPherson-Myers def. Edwards-Bayne, 21-11, 21-2; Nieves-Davis def. Carignan-Tripp, 21-20, 21-5; Lewis-Brusewitz def. Glick-Newcomer, 21-18, 21-17; Oldham-Robbins def. Meek-Katzman, 21-11, 21-17.

Semifinals: Nieves-Davis def. McPherson-Myers, 21-19, 21-11; Lewis-Brusewitz def. Oldham-Robbins, 21-10, 17-21, 21-14.

3rd Place: McPherson-Myers def. Oldham-Robbins, 7-21, 21-6, 21-17.

1st Place: Nieves-Davis def. Lewis-Brusewitz, 17-21, 21-15, 21-14.

WOMEN'S OPEN SINGLES

Round Robin: Marcilene Greer def. Patti Campbell, 21-2, 21-2; Greer def. Jan Wilson, 21-12, 21-10; Greer def. Virginia Davis, 21-7, 21-11; Greer def. Grace Provence, 21-5, 21-2; Wilson def. Campbell, 21-10, 21-7; Wilson def. Davis, 18-21, 21-17, 21-16; Wilson def. Provence, 21-2, 21-15; Davis def. Campbell, 21-4, 21-8; Davis def. Provence, 21-2, 21-2; Campbell def. Provence, 21-15, 19-21, 21-13.

Finalists: 1st, Greer; 2nd, Wilson; 3rd, Davis; 4th, Campbell; 5th, Provence.

MASTER'S DOUBLES

Round Robin: Lemmon-Grula def. Jobe-Ruffin, 31-13; Lawton-Dorrough def. Jobe-Ruffin, 31-30; Denney-Crowley def. Jobe-Ruffin, 31-17; Shupock-Provence def. Jobe-Ruffin, Forfeit; Lawton-Dorrough def. Lemmon-Grula, 31-30; Lemmon-Grula def. Denney-Crowley, 31-19; Shupock-Provence def. Lemmon-Grula, 31-29; Lawton-Dorrough def. Denney-Crowley, 31-14; Lawton-Dorrough def. Shupock-Provence, 31-11; Denney-Crowley def. Shupock-Provence, 31-20.

Finalists: 1st—Lawton-Dorrough, 2nd—Lemmon-Grula, 3rd—Denney-Crowley, 4th—Shupock-Provence, 5th—Jobe-Ruffin.

Men's pro division — San Antonio

Charlie Brumfield	Brumfield	
Bye		
Gary Stephens	Wright	Brumfield
Pete Wright		21-3, 21-11
Craig McCoy	McCoy	Brumfield
Ed Barzizo		21-18, 9-21,
Bob Lampley	Wagner	21-5
Rich Wagner		19-21, 21-7, 21-11
Davey Bledsoe	Bledsoe	Brumfield
Bye		21-18, 9-21,
Eric Campbell	Muehleisen	21-5
Bud Muehleisen		13-21, 21-9, 21-16
Steve Keeley	Keeley	Keeley
Richard Cramer		21-17, 21-17,
Tom McKie	McKie	5-21
Bill Dunn		21-5, 21-10
Steve Serot	Serot	
Bye		
Dave Charlson	Charlson	Serot
Rudy Loesche		21-6, 21-12
Bill Schmidtke	Schmidtke	Hilecher
Ron Meeks		21-16, 21-16
Ashley Houser	Hilecher	Hilecher
Jerry Hilecher		20-21, 21-7, 21-1
Marty Hogan	Hogan	Hilecher
Bye		21-14, 20-21
Jim Austin	Stafford	21-18
Randy Stafford		21-14, 21-16
Steve Strandemo	Strandemo	Hogan
Marc Auerbach		21-8, 21-14
Steve Pothos	Zeitman	Strandemo
Mike Zeitman		21-7, 21-17

MEN'S OPEN SINGLES

First Round: Randy Stafford def. Jay Solinger; Charles Croft def. Ashley Houser; Joe Gibbs def. John Bonde; Wayne Campbell def. Doug Rasor; Mike Carr def. Jim Coles; Luther Bernstein def. Rinaldo Gonzalez; Kevin Meyer def. Rick Gray; David Mathews def. Jerry Friesen; Ron Pinkstaff def. Bob Ellis; Gary Hinkle def. Kent Taylor; Tom Nissalke def. David Gouan; Ed Barzizo def. Gary Dion; Eric Campbell def. Jeff Kwartler; Mike Clegg def. Brad Walker; Mark Auerbach def. Ken Smith; Andy Hodges def. John Jameson.

Second Round: Stafford def. Carr; Campbell def. Gibbs; Carr def. Bernstein; Hinkle def. Pinkstaff; Barzizo def. Nissalke; Campbell def. Clegg; Auerbach def. Hodges.

Quarterfinals: Stafford def. Campbell, 21-5, 21-8; Carr def. Meyer, 21-15, 10-21, 21-11; Barzizo def. Hinkle, 21-14, 21-13; Campbell def. Auerbach, 21-11, 21-17.

Semifinals: Stafford def. Carr, 21-9, 21-18; Campbell def. Barzizo, 21-16, 21-8.

Finals: Eric Campbell def. Randy Stafford, 7-21, 21-16, 21-12.

Third Place: Carr def. Barzizo, 21-10, 21-16.

BRUMFIELD

21-12, 21-14

MEN'S SENIORS

First Round: Bud Muehleisen def. Jim Siegel; John Watson def. Jim McPherson; Richard Walker def. Don Starr; V. Z. Lawton def. George Hall; Jim Austin def. Joe Nunnelee; Joe Gibbs def. Tom Nissalke; Jerry Winsberg def. Ed Burford; Luther Bernstein def. Charles Croft.

Quarterfinals: Muehleisen def. Watson; Walker def. Lawton; Austin def. Gibbs; Winsberg def. Bernstein.

Semifinals: Muehleisen def. Walker, 21-5, 21-10; Austin def. Winsberg, 13-21, 21-13, 21-9.

Finals: Muehleisen def. Austin, 21-17, 21-9. Third place won by Winsberg over Walker, 21-12, 13-21, 21-7.

MEN'S MASTERS

Quarterfinals: Dewey Strickland def. Jack Brooks; Bill Reece def. Ned Gates; Jack Hood def. Bill Tanner; Simon Weideman def. Larry Lambert.

Semifinals: Dewey Strickland def. Bill Reece, 16-21, 21-19, 21-3; Jack Hood def. Simon Weideman, 10-21, 21-12, 21-11.

Finals: Strickland def. Hood, 21-4, 21-10.

WOMEN'S AMATEUR

Quarterfinals: Janice Segall def. Shelly Armistage, 21-3, 21-4; Marcilene Greer def. Wilmette Soon, 21-12, 21-17; Lyn McKie def. Faith Ragow, 21-4, 21-6; Libby Bernhard def. Linda Guerrero, 12-21, 21-18, 21-6.

Semifinals: Marcilene Greer def. Janice Segall, 21-19, 21-19; Lyn McKie def. Libby Bernhard, 16-21, 21-8, 21-12.

Finals: Lyn McKie def. Marcilene Greer, 21-6, 21-5.

Continued

Women's pro division

Peggy Steding	Peggy Steding	
Marcilene Greer		Peggy Steding
Jan Pasternak	J. Harding	21-21, 21-8
Jennifer Harding		PEGGY STEDING
Shannon Wright	S. Wright	21-5, 21-16
Janice Segall		Shannon Wright
Jan Campbell	Jan Campbell	21-11, 18-21,
Lyn McKie		21-14

IRA INTERNATIONALS MAY 28 - 29 - 30 - 31

Scoreboard



Rich Wagner

San Antonio Pro-Am, continued

WOMEN'S NOVICE SINGLES

Quarterfinals: Faith Ragow def. Carolyn Turlington; Connie Karcher def. Shelly Armistage; Neysa Buckley def. Sue Neustadt; Kathy Kelly def. Morgan Bresett.

Semifinals: Faith Ragow def. Connie Karcher, 21-16, 21-20; Neysa Buckley def. Kathy Kelly, 21-12, 21-8.

Finals: Neysa Buckley def. Faith Ragow, 21-7, 21-16.

JUNIORS

Quarterfinals: Mark Malowitz def. Andy Hodges, 21-14, 21-9; Mark Sandler def. John Rattan, 21-4, 21-5; Larry Nitishin def. Jim Hammiter, 21-15, 21-14; Jeff Kwartler def. Bobby Stone, 21-8, 19-21, 21-9.

Semifinals: Malowitz def. Sandler, 21-17, 21-12; Kwartler def. Nitishin, 21-12, 21-10.

Finals: Mark Malowitz def. Jeff Kwartler, 21-19, 21-15.

MEN'S "B" SINGLES

First Round: Meek def. Stone; Heideman def. Curtis; Cooper def. Miller; Sandler def. Gray; Malowitz def. Brooke; Hartzel def. Hall; Pinkstaff def. Evertet; Booker def. Cortez; Brazil def. Peters; Sollinger def. Couch; Nieves def. Arsdall; Ellis def. Wish; Privett def. Taber; Nitishin def. Horton; Robles def. Cooper; Goerner def. Milburn.

Second Round: Meek def. Heideman; Sandler def. Cooper; Malowitz def. Hartzel; Pinkstaff def. Booker; Sollinger def. Brazil; Nieves def. Ellis; Nitishin def. Privett; Goerner def. Robles.

Quarterfinals: Meek def. Sandler, 21-10, 21-14; Malowitz def. Pinkstaff, 21-20, 21-14; Nieves def. Sollinger, 21-10, 19-21, 21-2; Nitishin def. Goerner, 21-6, 21-11.

Semifinals: Malowitz def. Meek, 21-10, 21-12; Nieves def. Nitishin, 21-13, 21-6.

Finals: Malowitz def. Nieves. (Meek, third; Nitishin, fourth.)

MEN'S "C"

Round of 16: Woodard def. Ferguson; Jennings def. Euzalde; Diaz def. Stone; Fredrick def. Riehl; Hirsch def. Jacob; Parsons def. G. Jennings; Troberman def. Rattan; Allen def. Kramer; McGinty def. Ragow; Campbell def. Underwood; Norenberg def. Edwards; Rios def. Pierce; Jensen def. Maas; Brown def. Dunman; Noel def. O'Brien; Mammarella def. Goodman.

Round of 8: Jennings def. Woodard; Diaz def. Fredrick; Parsons def. Hirsch; Troberman def. Allen; McGinty def. Campbell; Norenberg def. Rios; Jensen def. Brown; Mammarella def. Noel.

Quarterfinals: Diaz def. Jennings, 21-14, 20-21, 21-11; Parsons def. Troberman, 21-5, 21-12; Norenberg def. McGinty, 17-21, 21-8, 21-10; Jensen def. Mammarella, 10-21, 21-4, 21-13.

Semifinals: Parsons def. Diaz, 21-20, 21-17; Norenberg def. Jensen, 21-3, 21-7.

Finals: Norenberg def. Parsons, 21-6, 21-5. (Diaz, third; Jensen, fourth.)

Clearwater, Fla.

January 24-25-26, 1976

ROUND ROBIN

Scores, in order: Gene Grapes, 1st, 186 points, def. Stidham, Selson, Troyer, Dixon, Whitehill; lost to Walker and Sellars. Sellars, 185 points, def. Grapes, Zelson, Troyer, Whitehill, Walker; lost to Stidham and Dixon. Whitehill, 175 points, def. Stidham, Zelson, Troyer, Dixon, Walker; lost to Grapes and Sellars.

Fourth, Dixon, 172 points def. Zelson, Troyer, Walker; lost to Stidham, Grapes, Whitehill. Walker, 154 points, def. Stidham, Grapes; lost to Zelson, Troyer, Dixon, Whitehill, Sellars. Troyer, 148 points, def. Stidham, Zelson, Walker; lost to Grapes, Dixon, Whitehill, Sellars.

Seventh, Stidham, 140 points, def. Zelson, Dixon, Sellars; lost to Grapes, Troyer, Whitehill, Walker. Zelson, 101 points, def. Walker for sole win. Ninth and tenth place positions voided by injuries or absence of Bruner and Bechard.

Albany, New York

February 7, 1976

North Country Cluster

Open Division: Neil Shapiro, 1st; Barry Russell, 2nd; Terry Jandreau, 3rd.

B Division: In order named—Dave Coffey, Albany; Rich Lloyd, Saratoga Springs; Tom Flynn, Pittsfield, Mass.

Over 40: In order named—Maury Keroack, Albany; Frank Anderson, Albany; William Briell, Saratoga Springs.

Seoul, Korea

KIRA Tournament

Open Singles: Bob Alford, 1st; Charlie Herrera, runnerup.

Open Doubles: Charlie Herrera-Bob Alford, first; Joe Assad-Bill Miller, second.

Senior Singles: Bobbie Gascon, first; Charles Bowling, second.



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Eye injuries hit one in 20

By Phil Smith

Director, Health & Physical Education
Jewish Community Centers
St. Louis

The JCCA in St. Louis, Mo., has developed a new policy concerning the

wearing of eye guards while participating in court sports. Beginning April 1, all JCCA members, guests, visitors who use the courts for the purpose of playing handball, racquetball or squash will be required to wear either shatterproof glasses or some form of acceptable eye guards while playing.

This bold, forward policy to help enforce an important safety function is reminiscent of the original struggle to have in the rules the use of the wrist strap to be worn at all times by the racquetball players.

A record of injuries to the eyes and the area about the face near the eyes has indicated there is an urgent need for this policy. The statistical calculation during the year 1975 indicated that approximately five per cent of all the people who play handball, racquetball or squash sustained some form of eye injury. And five per cent of those injuries which did occur were serious enough to have some permanent effect, even though slight, such as scarring of the cornea or resulting in other visual problems.

MANY OF THESE cases required hospital rest and individuals suffered great pain and loss of work for from one to six weeks; in a few cases major eye surgery was necessary.

The JCCA in St. Louis has adopted a policy which accept glasses as protection as well as a variety of eye guards. The action in St. Louis may well portend the necessary action for court sport lovers all over the country in order to hold down the serious outgrowth of eye injuries. The JCCA has hosted several national tournaments and none has been completed without eye injury. It is not panic time; it is time to intelligently consider ways and means of protecting individuals who are involved in court sports. All of us love our game and we would like to share these joys with as many people as possible.

In order to keep court sports viable, the protection of eyes becomes a neces-

sity. If one cuts or bruises a normal muscle anywhere else in the body, it will heal and ultimately function as well as it did originally. The eye is different. A cut or bruise or scar in the eye forever deters one's ability to see. This most precious gift must be protected.

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Calendar of racquetball events

APRIL

2-3-4: IRA REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS.

16-18: South Bend YMCA Open tournament. Men & Women's divisions. Contact Ron Anderson, 219-233-6273, 1201 Northside Blvd., South Bend, Ind. 46615. Six courts; three with glass walls.

23-25: "Holiday in Dixie" Racquetball Tournament, Central YMCA, Shreveport, La., contact Chuck Croft.

29-May 1-2: Western region, **Canadian Regionals**, Edmonton Court Club.

30-May 1-2: Eastern region, **Canadian Regionals**, Cote De Liesse Racquet Club, 8305 Cote De Liesse Road, Montreal, Quebec.

30, May 1-2: 4th Annual Idaho State Open singles and doubles. Deadline April 21, contact Bob Peterson (208-375-8966) or Mike Thomsen (208-344-5501). \$15 first event; \$10, second.

30, May 1-2: Minnesota State Championships, Rochester. Contact Fred Danfield.

MAY

14-16: Annual Patterson Open, Patterson, N.J., YMCA. Contact Fred Rizzo.

28-31: **IRA SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIPS**, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga; and **8TH ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**, Holiday Inn, Chattanooga, Tn., Sunday, May 30.

JUNE

4-5-6: Cleveland, Ohio. Ohio Racquetball Association State championships. Back Wall Racquetball Club, contact Don Nelson or Jack Stones, Cuyahoga Falls YMC, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44221, 216-923-5223.

JUNE

18-20: Annual three wall schedule changed to July 2-3-4.

JULY

2-3-4: (NEW DATE) Annual three-wall nationals. Orange Coast College. Write: Barry Wallace, 2701 Fairview Rd., Costa Mesa, Ca. 92626.

16-17-18: Edina, Minn., King's Court Aquatennial racquetball tournament. Write Tuck Peterson, 7001 Cahill Rd., Edina 55435. Phone 612-941-6391.

AUGUST

5-6-7: Cheney & Spokane, Washington—Third World Racquetball Championships tourney. Pat Whitehill or Thorne Tibbitts, director of R.P.A., Eastern Washington State College, Cheney, Wa. 99004.



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REPORT OF 5TH

SEMINAR — DEC. 12-14, 1975

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Letters

Continued from page 3

amateur—keep up the good work. We love and enjoy your performances.

Anne Hilecher
St. Louis, Mo.

(Editor's note: Mrs. Hilecher is wife of the Missouri State Chairman, an officer in the SOMRA—State of Missouri Racquetball Association—and mother of pro-player Jerry Hilecher.)

• We want statesside racquetballers to know of KIRA and KATUSA. KIRA is the newly created Korean International Racquetball Association, and KATUSA refers to Korean soldiers assigned to the US Army.

We completed our first tournament in the Eighth Army gym at Seoul, and would like for the results to be included in the IRA Scoreboard. Racquetball is a growing sport here, and our Korean sol-

diers show a strong interest, and increasing ability.

Bob Alford
Seoul, Korea

• A serious gaffe, slip of the proof-reader, etc., was committed in the letter about Roy Moats' Valley of the Balls. The word illegitimate was supposed to have been crossed out. Marked off. Eliminated.

The letter would then have read, illiter-son of etc., which was to the point, though obviously in jest.

We apologize for not having made the correction, elimination, and crossing out. We do our best to avoid such errors, but no matter how many times we read and re-read, some mistakes slip past.

Editor
Stillwater, Oklahoma

• At the Maryland state doubles tournament, special thanks should go to Nancy Whipple and Tess Collison for preparing the banquet, and to Fred White and Mel Goldstein for taking charge and doing a fine job officiating.

There were some sidelights, making this event different from many state tournaments: a between-matches backgammon contest was held, with Mike Komack taking the title. John Joynor sprained both wrists—which "friends" say improved his game.

We missed the competition from the Towson YMCA whose players were sidelined during the tournament.

Host for the event was the layer's Club, a new three-court facility about 12 miles west of Washington, D.C., complete with saunas, television lounge area, and pro-shop.

Tom Whipple
Gaithersburg, Md.

Davey Bledsoe is the eldest of the youngsters who have been making their presence felt at the top of the racquetball world. A 24-year-old resident of Memphis, Tennessee, Davey has shown promise ever since he switched from paddleball to racquetball, three years ago.

However, for two years he never seemed to win that one match that would push him over the hurdle and up toward the top.

A year ago in the Tanner Pro-Am at Memphis, he finally got that victory. Playing stunning racquetball, he defeated Charlie Brumfield, 21-14, 21-5. He was on his way.

In this interview the old-young pro, or the young older-pro, shares his feelings about the game, some of its top players, and what he sees for the sport's future.

Player Profile--Davey Bledsoe

By Tom McKie

McKie: Davey, I don't think many racquetball fans really know much about Davey Bledsoe, where he's from . . . how he started playing?

Bledsoe: I grew up in Kingsport, Tennessee, which is in the northeast corner of the state . . . went to school at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and this is where I picked up the game. Actually I started with a paddleball group. Ray DePue and Andy Koser, who is one of the originators of paddleball, started me at the four-wall game. I played in two national tournaments and managed to get to rounds of eight both times.

After that I switched to racquetball. I think that is when everyone made the change, and paddleball fell to the wayside.

McKie: What kind of athletic background have you? I assume you played other sports?

Bledsoe: I was fairly active in high school, but in college the only sports I took part in were in the intramurals. All the intramurals, and was proficient in most. In high school I did well in track. I was a distance runner, and ran the mile when I was in the ninth or tenth grade in 4 minutes, 38 seconds.

McKie: How about other racquet sports—other than paddleball?

Bledsoe: No, although I took six weeks of tennis while in high school, but that is it.

McKie: You have really come along this last year, Davey. Before this year, you had played well, but it seems that suddenly something has changed. You are considered as one of the top players in the nation. Is there any particular reason that your game has improved so much in such a short time?

Bledsoe: It only appears sudden. Actually it has been a gradual progression. A combining of several things. Probably the most important one thing that has happened in the last year or so, was the entire summer spent practicing in what I call "static time" on the court. I would go into the court and practice one particular shot. Instead of practicing ten or fifteen different shots in thirty minutes, I would spend all of that time on one shot until I got proficient at it.

McKie: You spent all summer playing and practicing?

Bledsoe: Except for one day of lying in the sun, I spent almost the entire time in the courts, working, playing, practicing, and most of the time by myself. That's one reason I've looked like a ghost all fall, while everyone else was tanned.

**At 17 he could run the mile
in less than 5-minutes;
seven years later
and he's still running**

Player profile

McKie: When a player reaches top-level competition he must have developed a sound, all-around game. But, there are certain parts of it that he feels are stronger than others. In analyzing your own game, what would you say are your strengths?

Bledsoe: My basic strength is my speed, of course. That is what everybody seems to think. However, this can be a disadvantage as well as an advantage. If you rely on speed you sometimes don't think and concentrate as much as you should because you know you can get there and so it can work against you as well as for you. I think Dr. Bill King was very instrumental in pointing this out to me. We used to play regularly when he was here in Memphis. I remem-

ber when I had beaten him. I had really concentrated, thought well, and consequently hadn't had to retrieve as many balls. But when I came off the court, I didn't feel I played all that good, and told him so. "On the contrary," King said, "You were playing the best I've seen you do in quite a while." In other words, I was judging my game more on agility than ability.

McKie: And like you mentioned, it takes a lot of concentration when you are actually in the game.

Bledsoe: Right. You have to concentrate. You have to think. You can't rely on your retrieving ability, your speed, or your strength to hit the ball hard.

Davey Bledsoe, left, and Tom McKie, discuss the sport, Brumfield, player attitudes, the game and Davey's future in it.



Given the choice between

McKie: You have been playing now for a couple of years in professional tournaments. What do you think the future of professional racquetball is?

Bledsoe: I think it is down the road as far as we want it to be. I think it can come into its own any time we get down to business as far as really concentrating on promoting it—not only as a business, but for the sport itself. The pros and the promoters need to give more of ourselves, instead of concentrating on the profit end of it, in order to expose the sport to the public. I think too many of us are getting involved in the profit end of the business. We want to make big money and make it fast. We're not looking at what is best for the sport itself.

McKie: You pretty much answered my next question—what else does professional racquetball need?

Bledsoe: It needs better facilities. It needs some people working hard for it. I think it needs a cooperative effort. I feel many people are going the wrong route. Going back to what I said earlier, they are too much concerned with their profit and their money.

McKie: By everybody, you are talking about promoters, players, industries, and clubs?

Bledsoe: Yes. I don't think we have a single body. We have communications within the IRA, but I don't think efforts of all groups concerned are being channeled toward one common goal. We need to establish a common purpose in order to accomplish anything.

McKie: Everybody has trouble playing Charlie Brumfield, and no racquetball interview would be complete without discussing the top player in the game. What do you think makes Brumfield so tough?

Bledsoe: Charlie chews up young players—and I include myself here—because so many of us have one basic strength, and one basic game. Charlie, on the other hand, has several. I don't really know how many. He might not even know.

He is tough because of this. Of course, he is a great athlete. But along with physical ability, he is a thinker. When one game isn't working, Charlie can turn on another. If you think back on the players that he has met in the finals of recent tournaments, it is as though one top young player will emerge to challenge Brumfield . . . be defeated . . . and another will emerge in time for the next tournament . . . but never the same one.

McKie: In addition to Brumfield, who gives you the most trouble?

Bledsoe: I think it is the hard hitters, and the people who gear toward the same kind of game I play. Say Serot or Hogan. If I play either of these two, it is going to be physical—very physical.

McKie: Whomever is the hottest will win?

Bledsoe: Right. And that is why you may either see a tough, close, three game match, or you might see one of them blow the other off the court.

McKie: What other interests have you besides racquetball—hobbies, career ambitions . . .

Bledsoe: As you know, I am interested in medicine. After obtaining my bachelor's degree in biology (McKie's note: Bledsoe graduated with honors in this field), I intended to go on to med school, but for the present, this has been set aside.

Right now I am so involved in the sport of racquetball, not just professional play, but the entire spectrum, that I have no other time-consuming interests. To me the game is a challenge. I want to see it promoted. I want to see it grow and become as recognized, say, as tennis.

McKie: Some of what we call our "stars" have personalities that become very evident in display on the courts. Do you feel this type of color is good for racquetball? Bad for the game? Needed?

Bledsoe: I know what you mean. Given the choice between vulgar excitement and sterile monotony, there is but

vulgar excitement and sterile monotony

Player profile

one answer. But, I think we can have excitement and color without licensing bad taste.

Professional players are on exhibit. In this way we are showmen, and it seems that fans get a kick out of seeing and hearing the off-handed, candid, lurid, exclamations that are a natural part of all-out effort. I do not think they are offended. In the heat of a tough battle, the raw, emotional side of a man will come through. I feel this is important to the sport.

At the same time I am saying this, I recall the tournament that I just returned from. I was very discouraged in the fact that many of the professionals are using what I feel is too much profanity.

Most of the time their comments are as funny and entertaining to me as to anyone else, but I also heard some of the remarks from the fans who had sat there listening to the cussing, and know many of them didn't like it at all. We can't afford for people to look on us as a bunch of barbarians.

McKie: In other words, showmanship is good for the sport, but it has to be something that is in good taste as well?

Bledsoe: You don't want to subject your wife, kids, boss, friends or other guests to a couple jokers yelling profanities back and forth. It is embarrassing. It isn't necessary. It is hard to control your emotions, because you do get all wound up. All your attention is within that court, and you forget there is anyone else in the world, let alone a crowd of people with ears as well as eyes. But, as professionals, concerned with a paying audience, we must remember. We must make an effort to remember.

McKie: Do you feel the tournament personnel need to do a better job laying down the law on this?

Bledsoe: I believe this is true. The IRA instituted a technical foul, but I have yet to see it called. I think excessive profanity is one instance where it should be used. Automatically.

McKie: Davey, the trend to some extent for the guy who wants to be number one has been, "If he didn't grow up in San Diego, he should migrate to San Diego." Do you feel this is necessary?



**"I'd work an hour
on one single shot . . ."**

Bledsoe: The first thing to consider is why do the people go there? I think it is because some of the manufacturers are there for one, and two there is good competition. We need good competition. If you are in an area where there is little competition it means you have to work harder on your own. You're going to reach a level, especially professional, where you don't need competition as much as you need individual attention to your own game. Like I said earlier, "static time" on the court. Until you get that good you do need competition. It just depends on the individual. If you can analyze your own mistakes and work with yourself well. A lot of people say they don't like to go into the court and practice by themselves because it is boring. They would rather compete. You have to sacrifice a willingness to compete and maybe a willingness to beat Joe Blow who you play every day (because you don't want him going out telling people, well he beat Bledsoe today). You can't worry about that. You have to say to yourself, "All right, I am working on a particular part of my game and who wins in practice is not important."

McKie: This is something we probably should emphasize at all levels of play and not just the top player. You can get in a court and you can play to win and you may win but may not improve your game at all. You have to practice the things that you don't do well and when you are trying to win you only use the things that you do do well.

Bledsoe: Yes, that is exactly right. I think to find any improvement you need to concentrate on a particular part of your game or a particular type of game. When I first started at the University of Tennessee with Randy Stafford, we used to go in the court and play ceiling ball games. This helped our ceiling ball rallies considerably and you have to make up little gimmicks to entertain yourself or you will be bored. It takes a lot of discipline though, to rule out the competitive effort every time and practice.

McKie: When it's a back hand shot you hit a back hand shot instead of running around to your forehand?

Bledsoe: Yes, and this is what I teach when I am giving lessons. You can't improve something unless you use it, and I find that most beginners will run around to hit around that forehand every time. What they have to do is mentally convince themselves that they love to hit backhands and once they convince themselves of that they will start running around forehands to hit backhands. When they start doing that they have equalled it out.

McKie: You'll be in Chattanooga Memorial Day weekend?

Bledsoe: I'll be there. Will you . . . ?



This season started slowly for Davey Bledsoe, following a shoulder separation in the summer (playing softball), but lately he's been razor-sharp. In his last five pro-tournaments he has earned his way to the semi-finals four times, and to the finals once. In a year when competition has been so strong that top players from last year are not always making it past the round of 16, Bledsoe's record is outstanding.



the 'Gar'

the best player on the east coast

A mistake was made in asking Garfinkel for his selection of the best player on the east coast . . . when he was asked to write a story on his selection, he said that would appear immodest. So, with liberal quotes . . .

Charlie Garfinkel, also known as "the Gar," has accepted the nomination of being Buffalo's finest all-time racquetball player, and perhaps even the best player in the history of the east coast. Sources for the nomination have not been named, and, therefore, have not been polled. Later, some may wish to pole them.

Racquetball magazine readers have been known to wonder about the Gar's penchant for writing. He comes about it naturally, which it is one of the few things Gar takes seriously.

Garfinkel is a Reading Resource Teacher at School 80 in Buffalo, has his master's degree in School Administration, and about 20 hours graduate work on his doctorate. He is married to the former Leslie Kwasman, has two children, Bradley, age six, and Adina, age four-and-a-half.

Those who associate Gar's name with racquetball will be pleased to know he does something besides play and report the play of others—some of whom do nothing but play, and read what Gar reports.

Gar is a graduate of Buffalo State, where he was in the men's glee club (he says) and the Acapella choir. He was known then as a sort of "poor man's Henny Youngman." Buffalo still claims him, and in 1971 he received the Amateur Athlete of the Year Award from the Buffalo Athletic Club. Bob Lanier and Calvin Murphy had won it the year before.

Last year he received the Distinguished Alumni Award from Buffalo State.

Racket and racquet sports have been an obsession with Garfinkel. He plays tennis, squash and racquetball—excelling at all three. In racquetball he has ranked 5th, 10th, 7th and 8th, nationally from 1971 through 1974.

In a national poll, he placed 11th on the list of all-time players (which was headed by Brumfield and Schmidtke, both of whom he has beaten at one time), and ranked 7th in the category of "Smartest Players" on the court.

Gar says he is prouder, however, of his fourth place ranking in the "Sportsmanship" category.

When asked about games that stand out in his memory, Gar said perhaps one of the games—not necessarily his greatest—was the one with Victor Niederhoffer, the three-time world squash champion. "It was a gruelling challenge-match, and as Niederhoffer showed at St. Louis later in the year, he is a player to take seriously."

Gar won the game, but then, as he points out, he "can beat anyone if I am playing well, hitting my sidewall shots, hitting my controlled shots, and am in condition. If I had started playing this game before I was 30, I have no doubts that I would rank myself (who else) in the top five of all time."

Charlie Garfinkel's humility just grows and grows.

In local competition, the Gar has won the City singles title the past nine years. In doubles, he and his partner, Chuck Wurzer, have won the City Doubles the past six years, and the New York State doubles the past five out of

six years. Nationally, they finished third in 1971.

At one time or another, the Gar has won almost every singles title offered on the East coast.

In tennis the Gar is a two time National Parks Doubles champion (with the Reverend Bob Hetherington) and has won the City singles four times. He has been co-winner in the city doubles competition ten different years.

In 1970 Gar played an exhibition tennis match with Wimbledon champion Arthur Ashe. Gar says, "Arthur played like Arthur, and I played like his brother, Jack . . ."

In 1969 Gar won the City Squash championship, and is the only person to date to hold the city title in all three racquet sports the same year.

"Racquetball is my game," Gar says. "It is a great game. I love to compete and to stay in shape. By playing racquetball I can do both. There aren't many sports that do that."

Fortunately, Gar has an understanding wife, for between his profession, work on a doctorate, and racquetball, his kids must sometimes think his name is "bye-bye."

The Gar admits he sometimes goes too far with his love of sports. "Even on our honeymoon, I played in a ping-pong tournament at the resort where we were staying." Naturally, he won that too.

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E. PLURIBUS UNUM (FROM MANY... ONE). WHY, FROM THE MANY RACQUETBALLS ON THE MARKET, WAS ONE — THE V-77 BLUE — CHOSEN AS THE ONLY OFFICIAL BALL OF THE I.R.A.? BECAUSE IT COMBINES ALL OF THE BEST INDIVIDUAL CHARACTERISTICS INTO ONE UNIQUELY SUPERIOR BALL. CONSISTENCY, DURABILITY, DEPENDABILITY. ONE-PIECE VULCANIZED, NOT TWO-PIECE GLUED. LONGER LIFE. BETTER FEEL. THAT'S WHY ITS OFFICIAL. SO JOIN THE V FORCE. PLAY THE V BALL, AND SEE THAT WE PRACTICE WHAT WE PREACH. E. PLURIBUS UNUM.



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