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National Racquetball

VOLUME 4 NUMBER 1 • \$1.00 • JANUARY, 1976

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE U.S. RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION

- 5 PAGES ON THE BACKHAND
- INTERVIEW WITH STEVE KEELEY
- HOGAN WINS VERMONT PRO-AM





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National Racquetball

VOLUME 4 NUMBER 1 • \$1.00 • JANUARY, 1976

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On the Cover:

Seventeen-year-old Marty Hogan shocked the entire racquetball world as well as his fellow professionals by winning the New England Pro-Am Tournament. En route to his victory he topped Charlie Brumfield, Steve Serot (also on cover) and Steve Keeley.

—photo by Arthur Shay

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National Racquetball magazine will pay \$25 to the author, upon publication, of any instructional, feature, or first person racquetball article submitted. All articles must conform to the specifications outlined in the table of contents and are subject to revision, alteration or rejection by the editor. Photographs of high quality in color or black and white are welcomed.

Changing of the Guard



Because of our close association with Seamco Sporting Goods and their vitally important contributions to racquetball, we thought you would want to know that they have more dividends in store for us. It is no secret that substantial Seamco royalties made racquetball's promotion possible and there is no way to truly measure the immense good they have done. Their faith in racquetball and its future was expressed in royalty contributions over the past few years amounting to several hundred thousand dollars. The pro tour that bears their name was made possible by an annual contribution of \$25,000. Is it any wonder then that we are delighted with every giant stride they take? La Grange, Georgia, for example.

Here in the Booming South, close to Atlanta, a huge new Seamco plant is emerging. Along with other sporting goods, racquetball has been a winner for Seamco and it couldn't happen to a more deserving organization. In the beginning, when there was more confusion than order, Seamco gave our balls every improvement we asked for. When we asked for more speed, we got it. When we asked for color, we got it. When we asked for pressurized cans to guarantee freshness, we got it. But more important than anything else, when we asked them to reduce breakage to an absolute minimum, we got that, too. You just couldn't ask for anything more.

Now comes the good news. In the new year the new plant will give us not only more production, but more quality as well. Seamco has

updated its equipment as well as its plant. That can only mean better production, more production. It has been hard for Seamco to meet the demand for their superior balls. And because they are superior, they are used by more players and in more tournaments than any other ball in America.

With the new Seamco facilities, the new colors we are thinking about will be possible, along with an expanded pro tour and some innovations in our amateur tournaments. We can now bear down on the eastern seaboard where racquetball will soon be number one.

The spadework for all this took place at a meeting recently with Seamco's new president, Albert J. Mackie, Chuck Leve and myself. To say that we were inspired by the meeting and Seamco's new leader is an understatement.

Al Mackie succeeds Arthur J. Van De Venter, who moves up to the presidency of the Consumer Specialties Division, also a subsidiary of Dart Industries. And our good friend Don Strong has chosen to remain in New England where I am sure he will continue to help racquetball as a sporting goods supplier.

Saying farewell to an old and very dear friend is not always easy, and usually is fraught with regrets. However, I am thoroughly convinced that the changing of the guard will not change the deep dedication Seamco has to racquetball. It was a considerable

pleasure to discuss numerous innovations with Al Mackie whose second nature is growth,—precisely what he'll get from racquetball. I came away convinced that as we make giant strides, Seamco will have the plant and the personnel by our side to cope with the unlimited potential of racquetball.

Al Mackie is a superb businessman. He has already taken up racquetball and will visit a number of our pro tour stops and amateur tournaments this season. That's what I really liked when I met him. He wants to meet the players, hear them out, and make every improvement possible. That means we have more than a new president, we have a personal concern by one of the most genuine men I have ever met. You can feel perfectly free to write Al directly as you do us. In talking with some of the soldiers in the Seamco organization, I have found they hold the General in very high regard. I also learned he has an enviable history with one corporate success after another. All of this will certainly be great for our Association as we build a worldwide organization that will give racquetball its proper place in the sun.

I am glad to have Al Mackie on our team.

Bob Kendler

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Over My Shoulder



A new year is upon us, can it be 1976 already? To look back at the past and compare it to the present is perhaps an exercise in self-back slapping. However, due to the frivolity of my current mood along with the great strides that racquetball and our Association have taken, I believe that a look over our shoulder is worthwhile.

Many of our members are new players, players who weren't on the courts in the late 60's and the first few years of this decade. For their benefit and for those who believe nostalgia is therapy, I think we should take a quick look back to those early days, I guess to remind the more impatient among us that we, too have come a long way baby.

Some of the memories are fond, some not. But all of them evoke an emotion strong enough to send our consciousness back, to bring a smile to our faces and a nod of recognition for us old-timers.

Remember when mandatory equipment included a hypodermic needle? Ah yes, the balls were so squishy if you squeezed very hard opposite sides of the rubber would meet in your palm. The needle was used to inject air into the ball, thereby increasing the pressure from the inside, resulting in livelier balls.

Remember when Paul Nelson used to insist that he be allowed to switch hands in tournament play? Paul, who was a fine player with one hand, claimed he never had a racquet slip out of his hands. Switching hands was outlawed in 1969 as a safety factor.

Remember when there used to be

more trophies in the women's events than there were entrants? How many gals lost their first match and went on to capture third place in the championship round? And also took home a consolation trophy?

Remember when balls used to break like popcorn? I once saw 16 balls break in one doubles match,—gotta be an all-time record. Advancements in rubber compound techniques, freshness due to pressurized cans, and competition in the market place have led to greatly improved balls.

Remember when you used to be able to play both singles and doubles in one tournament,—just to be sure you got a work-out?

Remember when you were a nobody if you didn't have a wooden-framed racquet?

Remember when the best players in the world lived in Michigan and Wisconsin?

Remember when racquetball news used to be a four page spread in ACE magazine?

Remember ACE magazine?

Remember when racquetball wasn't allowed on the courts at your Y, because (they said) it damaged the walls?

Remember when Bob Yellin and Don Wallace blocked their way to the National Doubles title? And set the all-time record for most ball bruises in a single tournament?

Remember Yellin saying, "*Only the racquet hurts.*"

Remember Bill Schmidtke running 18 straight points on Craig Finger to

win the third game of the '71 National Championships?

Remember Craig Finger?

Remember when they said plastic racquets would never make it?

Remember when hands vs. racquet was the big controversy?

Remember when there was no such thing as a ceiling ball?

Remember when Brumfield invented the Z-ball?

Remember when you had to have your secretary hold the last digit of the Y's phone number, hoping to get through at precisely 10 o'clock so you could get a court?

Remember trying to get a court when she couldn't get through?

Remember when people said you couldn't see the green ball?

Remember when tournaments always had banquets?

Remember when Dave Charlson used to wear his Coors hat on the court?

Remember when Dorance Frymire used to play barefoot?

Remember when people used to call racquetball paddleball? Or paddle rackets?

Can we really be growing up? Is the future really now? We are, and it is. Eight years from now I hope to write another column surveying the 1976-84 era. What the next eight years will bring nobody really knows. But it will monitor the glamour, the progress, the growth of the greatest sport in the history of America. Nothing can stop racquetball.

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Time For Local Organization



Everywhere we go the same question arises, put to us by New Englanders, west Coasters, and Midwesterners alike. The querie? When are you going to start organizing the U.S. Racquetball Association on a local level? When are you going to establish state chapters of the U.S.R.A.?

The answer is now.

The demand for local promotion by the U.S.R.A. has grown to such magnitude that we would be derelict in our duty and dedication to racquetball if we did not continue the strong promotion. This continuation takes the form of local, state and regional U.S.R.A. chapters.

The formula for the organization is still being worked out here at U.S.R.A. headquarters, and you can be sure it will be one that will help both the state organization and the National Association. We are aware that in order to organize a State U.S.R.A. chapter, that this new body needs funds with which to operate. Therefore, we will establish a method of channelling appropriate funds to our State Chapters.

Secondly, we are also aware that we need competent individuals to serve as State Chairmen (persons). These Chairmen must have the authority to institute programs within their state working with the National headquarters at the same time.

The State Chairman must be able to organize his chapter, call for election of state officers, and promote racquetball with a strong group within his state. He also must carry on the direction and

philosophy of the U.S.R.A. in his area and therefore work closely with the National headquarters. A program that is successful in California might not be the best program for Connecticut and vice versa.

In the larger states the State Chairman must have the authority to designate city and local sub-chapters and chairmen to carry out the promotion of racquetball in a cohesive manner. And all of this must meet the needs and requirements of the National U.S.R.A.

Each State Chapter must promote the sport with a certain minimum of tournaments, to crown U.S.R.A. State champions in singles, doubles, women, juniors, B and novice players. The State must feed the National with information on existing as well as new courts in his area so that we can funnel information and solicit membership from these places. The chairman must also bear the burden of sending tournament information, results and pictures to the National headquarters for publication in *National Racquetball* magazine.

Currently there is a void on the local level in racquetball, with 50 states each going their own way trying to promote racquetball. An affiliation, a bond must exist between the state and local people with the National organization. We can help local racquetball, we want to help local racquetball and you can help us.

The formula to carry out these bold plans has not been finalized yet, although by the time you read this, we may have already begun to contact people in your state. Rest

assured it will be a dynamic program, yet fair and equitable for both the National and State organizations. We both have something to offer each other.

If you or somebody you know has the dedication, time and energy to take this responsibility upon him or herself, we would appreciate you contacting us. We will outline our plans to you, and start the ball rolling. Nothing could be more important right now than a cohesive, national promotional campaign in our sport. It needs to be done and done now.

I couldn't let the new year come in without wishing racquetball players everywhere a happy 1976. I certainly hope that this new year holds an abundance of kill shots for you.

The remainder of the '75-'76 season offers a great deal in racquetball. The four pro tour stops plus the National Championships in June, along with Regional tournaments mark the culmination of a tremendous season. I have never been as excited nor as optimistic as I am now about the future of not only racquetball, but the U.S.R.A. and N.R.C. as well.

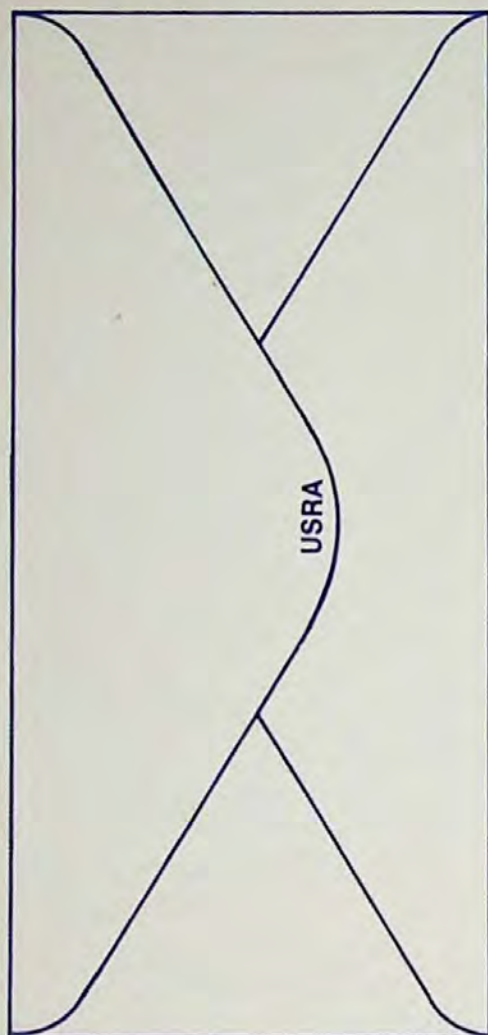
As my colleague Chuck Leve stated someplace else in this issue,—we certainly have come a long way. But to come this far and start congratulating ourselves is not the thing to do. Now is the time to initiate new programs, to continue to promote racquetball and establish new ideas, make further gains in the eyes of the sports world. This is what we plan to do and this is what we will do. Our team is sturdy and strong, and we're glad you're on it.

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SEAMCO 



Mr. Charles S. Leve
National Director & Editor
National Racquetball Magazine
4101 Dempster Street
Skokie, IL 60076

Dear Mr. Leve:

I have just finished reading the November issue of *National Racquetball* and was somewhat dismayed by the information contained in an article which appears on pages 28 and 29 entitled "Destroying the Sugar Myth" written by Frances S. Goulart.

Approximately halfway through the article there is a short paragraph which reads, "The evil substance [sugar] comes not only in candy-bar form; it lurks in every mouthful of Gatorade, every blob of peanut butter, every spoonful of catsup." This statement quite simply stated, is *incorrect* with reference to Gatorade thirst quencher. The ingredient statement displayed on each bottle of Gatorade thirst quencher reads as follows: water, glucose, fructose, citric acid, salt, sodium citrate, polyglycerol esters, sodium orthophosphate, potassium orthophosphate, potassium chloride, natural and artificial flavors, sodium saccharin (.009%) and artificial color. In addition, the product contains approximately 4.9 calories and 1.35 gms. of carbohydrates per fluid ounce. Gatorade contains no sugar (sucrose). Gatorade is essentially a 5% glucose solution with 21.0 meq./liter of sodium, 2.5 meq./liter of potassium, 17.0 meq./liter of chloride and 6.8 meq./liter of phosphate.

Glucose is a nutritive sweetener as is fructose (which is mentioned later in the article). Both of these nutritive sweeteners are converted almost

instantaneously by the body into an energy form. In fact, glucose is converted slightly faster than fructose, acts as an electrolyte transfer agent, and is also instrumental in the metabolic functions of the body.

Gatorade was developed by a team of researchers to quench an active thirst in a pleasant tasting and efficient manner. The whole concept of Gatorade is to replace fluids and electrolytes lost by a sweating body as quickly as possible. Realizing, as Ms. Goulart does, that sugar (sucrose) takes a rather lengthy time to be converted by the body into an acceptable energy form, we have never used sugar (sucrose) in our product.

Mr. Leve, we here at Stokely-Van Camp, Inc. and Gatorade thirst quencher appreciate this opportunity to "set the record straight" and to inform you and hopefully some of our fine Gatorade thirst quencher customers as to what exactly Gatorade thirst quencher is.

Mr. W. J. Ruby, III
Product Manager
Powdered Gatorade thirst quencher

Dear Chuck:

Thanks for the letter and for sending the racquetballs along. Believe me the pleasure associated with the pro-am tournament in Vermont was all mine. You have a very tough job and you handle it very well. I wish you and the U.S. Racquetball Association all the luck in the world.

You and your people have done such a great job of promoting racquetball which has meant so much to me personally that I was only too glad to be of service to you. I hope we will meet again and that I may help you in the near future.

Dr. David Yurgaitis
Wolcott, CT

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EKTELON



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Dear Chuck,

Thank you for your very kind and encouraging letter.

Chuck, we only did what you and Mort suggested be done. Perhaps others have not followed your recommendations as closely as we.

High standards of design, execution, and operations are the real key to the great future for the small court sports. That will do more to the rapid development of these sports and clubs than anything else. You should, and I am sure do, emphasize this fact. Your organization reflects this, and some day—soon I expect—you will get the big-time media people and sponsors to recognize this fact.

Hope to see you soon.

Charles J. Hubbard
Burlington, Vermont

Dear Chuck:

Thanks again for your help in the making of my racquetball story. The article has been accepted; when it will run is up to the editor. It'll appear in the Chicago Tribune's Weekend section which is published each Friday.

Finally got your *Inside Racquetball* at the Evanston library. Now I'm polishing my serves and returns but the current racquetball champs needn't worry—yet.

Thanks again.

Helen Sierra
Evanston, IL

Dear Chuck,

I think the tie breaker suggestion in your memo of October 4th is excellent. A third, eleven point, game with a two point margin is more than sufficient.

Charles Drake
LEACH INDUSTRIES

Dear Chuck:

Today Jean Sauser showed me a copy of *National Racquetball* with its smashing new look. I just finished reading it from cover to cover.

Your new design makes the most of each story. We're pleased that the SkyHarbor article and sketches were shown to such advantage.

Thanks for including our story and for all your help while I was being initiated into the wonderful world of racquetball.

Carol Brusslan
Northbrook, Ill.

Dear Mr. Kendler:

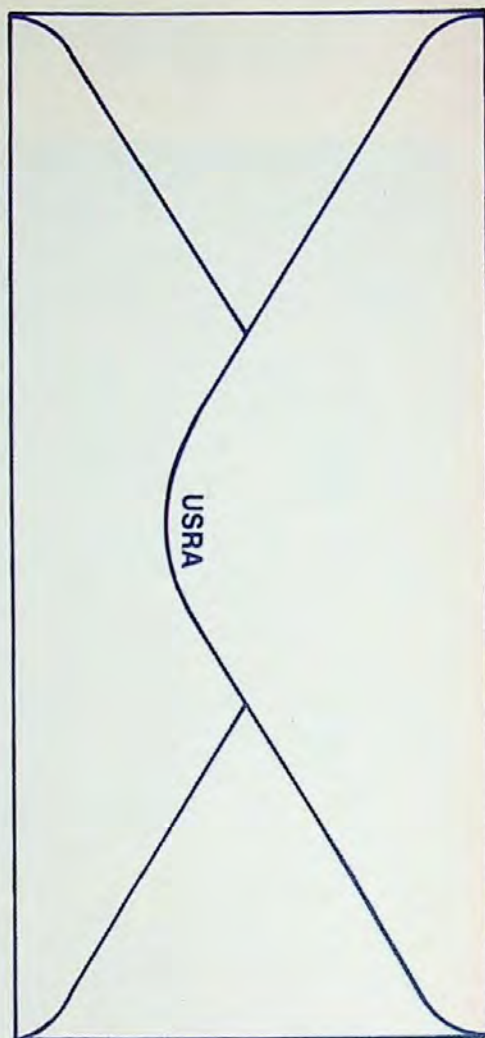
How is everything going? I hope you're in good health and all is fine.

I just wanted to drop you a short line to thank you for sending me to the Denver and New England Pro Racquetball Tournaments. I really wish I could have done better in both, especially Denver, but it's just like any sport, I guess.

I would also like to thank you for the interest you have shown in the younger players in racquetball. The results in Vermont I think show how much your traveling of players can do. It has helped develop a young player like Marty Hogan into a national contender. All types of sports need the up-and-comers and we all appreciate your time and effort in giving us this chance.

Once again thank you, and I hope to see you soon.

Richard Wagner
San Diego, CA



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Illustrious Brethren, Distinguished Illini, and Dear Ladies . . .

There is a familiar passage in the Bible which tells us, "THIS is the day the Lord hath made . . . rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for GREAT is the joy in Heaven." As respondent for the Illinois Class, who this day reached the Summit, I liken this immortal verse to this distinguished class and say for all of us, "INDEED we rejoice, INDEED we are glad . . . for this certainly IS the day the Lord hath made." The honor that has been conferred upon us this day will carry us ALL the days of our lives, and we shall dwell in its ecstasy forever.

There certainly is joy in our hearts. To be elevated by the Craft brings one of the great days of a Mason's life. But to be elevated by the Supreme Council brings the supreme day the Lord hath made, and our gratitude is no less significant than our pride.

You bet we are proud. It is the unbelievable dream come true. In my case . . . and perhaps in all others . . . if this is all there is in life for me, *I thank you, God*, . . . I'll need nothing more.

For what greater reward can there be than acceptance by our peers, the noblest of all men, and to be regarded as equal. The Supreme Council has done MORE than reward us; it has inspired us to nobler deeds, to higher thoughts, to greater achievements. It seems we have heard from Him, who sitteth as the judge supreme, the welcome words, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant, you have entered into the joy of your Lord."

You certainly know NOW that the Supreme Council confers the Supreme Honor. The spoken word could little describe the prayerful thanks that engulfs us all. Those of us who have dedicated our lives to the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man find this the most rewarding experience of all. It makes a reality of the secret hope that lies deep in the heart of every true Mason. All other honors fade into insignificance alongside THIS, the 33rd and last Degree. Candidates have always been impressed with the high character of the brethren and the high principle of the Fraternity. The

candidates only concern is their own worthiness. When the Supreme Council took us into its fold, it laid aside all our fears, it crystalized all our hopes, it gave us a soul-satisfying salute. If their purpose was to endear themselves to us forever, they succeeded! Our response will come in deeds rather than words.

It would be very easy to be mesmerized by all this glorious ritual. This would be to look away from God and see only human glorification. Let's give all the glory to God and not to man. Let's let it be the beginning of a renewed dedication to Brotherhood through increased service to Scottish Rite Freemasonry. Unless we see in this a spiritual rebirth . . . a re-dedication to the moral philosophy of the Masonic Order . . . this edification will not serve the noble purpose of the Supreme Council.

Here in the headquarters of Mary Baker Eddy, I found the inscription, "Divine love always has met, and always will meet, every human need." And in the headquarters of George A. Newberry, I found the inscription, "The difference between a Good man and a Great man is just a little extra effort." With "God's love" and "extra effort" we all intend to carry the torch of brotherhood "from here to eternity" with heartfelt thanks for your confidence and trust.

Let us all go back and make that little extra effort for those who gave us fraternal direction and for the OPPORTUNITY they now pass on to our generation. THEN let us acknowledge that foremost among those who made this day a reality are the understanding wives whose reward for patience is a pride that could only come from seeing her husband become an honorary member of the Supreme Council. For the class of Illinois from the Land of Lincoln, this is our greatest hour, and to the Supreme Council goes our total gratitude. For me, I'll treasure this honor more than anything on earth . . . EXCEPT the love and affection of my wonderful wife, Evie, who inspired me to become a Mason.

Editor's Note:

On Wednesday, September 24, 1975, at the Annual Meeting of the Supreme Council of Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, in Boston, Mass. Bob Kendler was coronated a Sovereign Grand Inspector General, 33°, and Honorary Member of the Supreme Council. The 33rd and last degree is the most coveted of all Masonic honors and is awarded as recognition for some outstanding civic, religious, or fraternal contribution. Since there are many Masonic racquetball players, we felt they would want to know that racquetball is not Bob's *only* religion. If there are any other 33's in the racquetball fraternity, Bob would like to hear from them. The following is the respondents speech given by Bob for the class of 1975.

Eye

Dr. Benjamin D. Fisher is the optometric consultant for the Industrial Division of the American Safety Equipment Corporation, Santa Clara, California. A graduate of the College of Optometry at Ohio State University, Dr. Fisher is the inventor of SPEC/STRAP, an adjustable eye glass holder.

Himself an avid player, Dr. Fisher writes, *"If we can save one eye from trauma because one player became educated, or shamed into wearing an eye protective device, then I think you will agree the space has been well used."*

We agree.

This past year in my new job assignment I have traveled to most of the major cities in this great country of ours. The sawed-off tennis racquet is as much a part of my carry-on luggage as the hanger bag. I have played on many of the plush, super plush and not so plush courts about the U.S.A.

When I enter an unknown club that first time my eyes go to work scanning the walls, reading the posted signs, rules etc. I honestly believe we all try to comply with local customs and regulations.

One can get real guidance from

posted signs in racquetball, handball and squash sweat parlors about the country. Shower before entering the pool, shower before entering the sauna, shower before entering the steam room and shirts must be worn while playing etc. I have yet to read one single sign pertaining to the dangers of playing the above mentioned sports without proper eye protection.

Congress has legislated eye protection in industry with the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970. This covers those who even come near eye hazardous areas. The Surgeon General has posted the dangers to your health as the result of smoking on every cigarette package.

In my professional experience over the past 17 years the greatest number of eye injuries from the court sports happen to those with 20/20 or better vision. These people are under the impression that their virility, quality of play and alertness will be decreased by wearing an ocular protective device. The contact lens wearer also needs an external protective device.

The prescription spectacle wearer today has a shatter resistant lens by Federal Law. However a majority of the public wearing full time glasses use a flimsy wire or rimless frame which negates any form of protection.

An excellent way to protect your vision while taking part in our court

sports is simply to employ the same means used in heavy, eye hazardous industry. Buy a pair of Industrial Safety Glasses. If you wear no prescription or contact lenses get a plano pair—cost under \$10.00.

If you wear a prescription, Industrial Safety Glasses can be purchased which are ground to your exact eye needs for about \$25.00 single vision. I might add that patients over age 40 who wear bifocals and trifocals enjoy having a pair of glasses for playing court sports that do not have the troublesome reading portion in the way.

Industrial Safety Glasses can have the lenses beat on with a hammer and they will not break under normal blows. The lenses will not become dislodged from the frame.

Look at the eye injury options and statistics. Usually only one eye is involved, the pain is excruciating, loss of visual acuity can be total but seldom is greater than partial, permanent but in most cases temporary returning to near pre-injury level in about three months, the injured often has loss of work productivity etc.

Let's get with it. Signs on court doors and locker room walls should read in big red letters: CAUTION—Playing without eye protection could be injurious to your SIGHT.

The most important step in stamping out court sports eye injuries is protect your eyes while the ball is in play.



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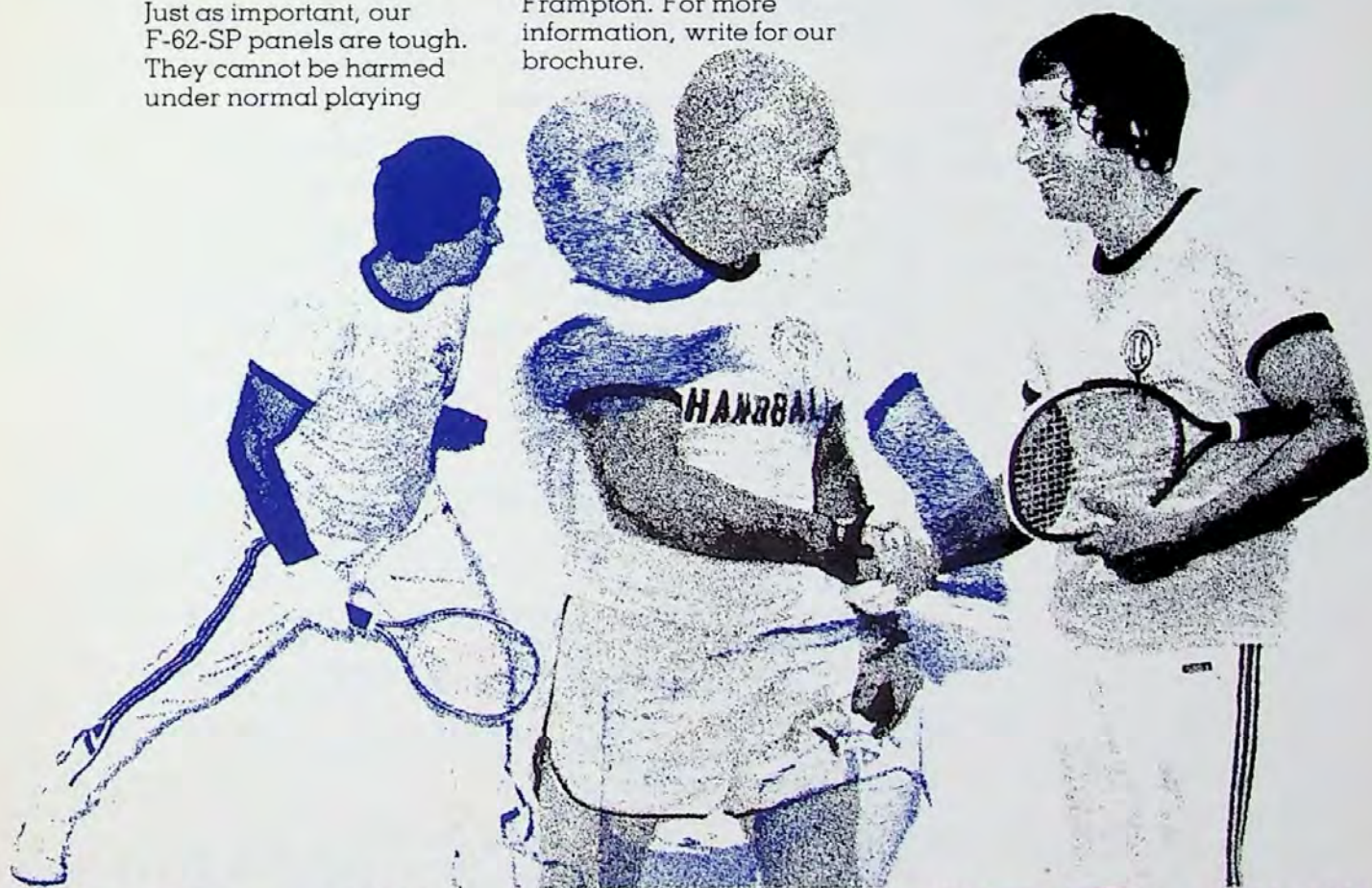
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The U.S. Racquetball Association needs your help so that we may help the rapidly growing racquetball industry. We often receive inquiries from banks, builders and potential court club owners regarding the "average" person who plays racquetball. Having no concrete answer we have devised the following questionnaire in order to obtain the data necessary for these people. The U.S.R.A. feels that it is providing a function in the best interests of the sport and we hope you will co-operate with us by answering the questions below.

Please tear out this page when you are finished and send it to: U.S.R.A. Research, 4101 Dempster St., Skokie, Illinois 60076. We thank you.

I. Playing Habits

1. Check the number of years you have played racquetball actively.
A ☐ Less than 1 year B ☐ 1-2 years
C ☐ 2-5 years D ☐ 10 or more years
2. Check frequency of play.
A ☐ Every day B ☐ Approx. 3 times per week C ☐ once a week
D ☐ irregular.
3. Check other members of family that play on a regular basis.
A ☐ spouse B ☐ son 5-10 yrs.
C ☐ son 10-15 yrs. D ☐ son 15-20 yrs.
E ☐ daughter 5-10 yrs.
F ☐ daughter 10-15 yrs.
G ☐ daughter 15-20 yrs.
4. Check type of facility where you usually play. A ☐ membership club
B ☐ Y.M.C.A. C ☐ public facility
D ☐ school or university E ☐ Other (please specify) _____
5. When you travel for business or pleasure, do you locate courts to continue your play? A ☐ Yes
B ☐ No
6. What are your monthly court time costs? (Please exclude any membership fees.) A ☐ \$2-\$5
B ☐ \$5-\$10 C ☐ \$10-\$25 D ☐ \$25 or more

7. Do you anticipate this will be an on-going sport for you? You—
A ☐ yes B ☐ no C ☐ uncertain
Family—D ☐ yes E ☐ no
F ☐ uncertain

II. Other Pleasure Patterns

1. Is your soft drink consumption primarily A ☐ sugar content
B ☐ sugar-less (diet) C ☐ don't indulge
2. Is your preferred brand of soft drink available at your court of play? A ☐ yes B ☐ no
3. In alcoholic beverages, what is your preference? A ☐ wine
B ☐ beer C ☐ scotch D ☐ bourbon
E ☐ vodka F ☐ gin G ☐ other (please specify) _____
H ☐ don't indulge.
4. Does your place of play have an alcoholic bar for social drinking of players? A ☐ yes B ☐ no
5. If "no" is the answer to 4 (above), is there a bar nearby to which you go after you play? A ☐ yes B ☐ no
6. What is your smoking pattern?
A ☐ 2 or more packs per day B ☐ 1 pack per day C ☐ occasionally
D ☐ never smoke
7. Check the following to which you or your spouse subscribe.
A ☐ Time B ☐ Newsweek C ☐ Wall Street Journal D ☐ Forbes E ☐ U.S. News & World Report F ☐ Readers Digest
G ☐ Ms. H ☐ Ladies Home Journal I ☐ Good Housekeeping
J ☐ McCall's K ☐ TV Guide L ☐ Fortune M ☐ Money N ☐ Field & Stream
O ☐ Sports Illustrated P ☐ WomenSports Q ☐ Tennis R ☐ Tennis World
S ☐ Boating T ☐ Golf Digest U ☐ National Geographic V ☐ Playboy
W ☐ Penthouse X ☐ People Y ☐ Business Week Z ☐ Other (please specify) _____
8. What is your primary means of transportation? Family Vacations—
A ☐ Air B ☐ Air & Rental Car C ☐ Automobile D ☐ Rail E ☐ Bus
F ☐ Do very little travel Business Trips—G ☐ Air H ☐ Air & Rental Car
I ☐ Automobile J ☐ Rail K ☐ Bus L ☐ Do very little travel
9. What credit cards do you use?
A ☐ American Express B ☐ BankAmericard C ☐ Master Charge
D ☐ Carte Blanche E ☐ Diners Club F ☐ Oil Company Card

III. Demographics

1. How do you classify your Primary Residence—A ☐ Home ownership B ☐ Condominium C ☐ Home Rental D ☐ Apartment Rental E ☐ Other (please specify) _____
Secondary Residence—F ☐ Home ownership G ☐ Condominium H ☐ Home Rental I ☐ Apartment Rental J ☐ None

2. Is your primary residence located in A ☐ City 250,000 or more B ☐ City 250,000 to 50,000 C ☐ Town 50,000 or less (excluding suburbs) D ☐ Suburb of major metropolitan area E ☐ Rural area

3. What are the income producing classifications of the adults in the household? Male—
A ☐ Professional B ☐ Executive C ☐ Supervisory D ☐ Sales E ☐ Managerial F ☐ Clerical

G ☐ Laborer H ☐ Self-employed I ☐ None Female—
J ☐ Professional K ☐ Executive L ☐ Supervisory M ☐ Sales N ☐ Managerial O ☐ Clerical P ☐ Laborer Q ☐ Self-employed R ☐ None

4. What is the combined annual income level of the family?
A ☐ \$100,000 or more B ☐ \$75,000 to \$100,000 C ☐ \$50,000 to \$75,000 D ☐ \$30,000 to \$50,000 E ☐ \$20,000 to \$30,000 F ☐ \$15,000 to \$20,000 G ☐ \$10,000 to \$15,000 H ☐ less than \$10,000

5. What is the make-up of the household? A ☐ Single male B ☐ Single female C ☐ Couple only Couple with—D ☐ 1 school-age child E ☐ 2 school-age children F ☐ 3 school-age children G ☐ 4 school-age children H ☐ 5 school-age children I ☐ 6 or more school-age children

6. What is the age classification of the adult head(s) of the household? Male Age—A ☐ 20 or less B ☐ 21 to 25 C ☐ 26 to 30 D ☐ 31 to 40 E ☐ 41 to 50 F ☐ 51 to 60 G ☐ over 60 Female Age—
H ☐ 20 or less I ☐ 21 to 25 J ☐ 26 to 30 K ☐ 31 to 40 L ☐ 41 to 50 M ☐ 51 to 60 N ☐ over 60

7. The adults in the household have reached the following educational levels. Male—A ☐ High School B ☐ High School Grad. C ☐ College or Junior College D ☐ College Grad. E ☐ Graduate School F ☐ Graduate School Grad. Female—G ☐ High School H ☐ High School Grad. I ☐ College or Junior College J ☐ College Grad. K ☐ Graduate School L ☐ Graduate School Grad.

8. This questionnaire was completed by an adult A ☐ Male B ☐ Female C ☐ both co-operatively

9. (OPTIONAL) Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____

Thank you for supplying us with this much-needed information, necessary for the continued growth of our great sport.

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Prize Money . . .

Due to Marty Hogan's stunning upset win in the New England Pro-Am stop of the Seamco-Leach Pro Racquetball tour, four players are now tied for the top spot in the 1975-76 prize money standings. The statistics that are discussed in this article do not include the Tucson Pro-Am, which was held after this issue went to press.

Did you know that Steve Serot is the all-time leading N.R.C. prize money winner? And that Steve Keeley is second? Of course, Keeley and Serot had an easy time of it last season when some other top players were contractually prohibited from competing on the N.R.C. circuit.

Nevertheless, \$12,200 has gone into Serot's bank accounts somewhere and Keeley has added a cool \$10,760. Charlie Brumfield is third with \$10,400. Brum was second but he and Keeley switched places after the New England event. Steve Strandemo, with \$7,660 is the only other player to accumulate a substantial amount of prize money in the two and one-half year totals.

"It's hard to believe we've given away that much money," said

N.R.C. president Bob Kendler, who personally gave much of it away direct from his own pocket in the early years.

The grand total to date is \$66,330 with another \$5,000 from Tucson bringing it to \$71,330 going into 1976. Seventy-six players from the United States and Canada have shared a piece of the N.R.C. pie since the first pro tournament in September of 1973.

Leading money winner in the Ladies division is still Kathy Williams, despite her quarter-final round loss (and empty pockets) in the first Ladies stop of the year in Denver. Peggy Steding and Sue Carow each share second place with \$600 apiece.

Has the investment been worth it?

"No doubt about it," said Kendler. "The excitement, publicity, and promotion that racquetball has experienced from the pro tour has tremendously helped the sport. I have no qualms about the way pro racquetball has gone."

It was Kendler who formed the N.R.C. and pro racquetball back in '73 and it was he who secured

Seamco to sponsor the last three events of 1975, as well as getting Seamco and Leach to co-sponsor the entire tour this season.

"Sure, we're grateful for the sponsorship of Leach and Seamco," said Kendler. "But remember, it's more of an investment on their part, than a donation. Seamco and Leach are getting in on the ground floor of an elevator that can go no place but up. It's an investment that is paying off."

The figures don't lie, as both Leach and Seamco have had dramatic rises in sales since they began their affiliation with the N.R.C. and the pro tour.

"We're going crazy out here," said Charlie Drake, Leach's racquetball division manager. "Since I've been in business I have never seen a boom like we're experiencing in racquetball. The publicity and promotion from the pro tour has been the catalyst."

So for all you Luis Conchas, Guy Spencers, Tom Weigands, John Chambers as well as Brumfield, Serot, Keeley and the rest, you'll all go down in racquetball's history. Don't spend it all in one place.

All Time Men's N.R.C. Prize Money Earnings

Rank	Player	Prize Money
1.	Steve Serot, San Diego	\$12,200
2.	Steve Keeley, San Diego	10,760
3.	Charlie Brumfield, San Diego	10,400
4.	Steve Strandemo, San Diego	7,660
5.	Bill Schmidtke, Minneapolis	3,265
6.	Ron Rubenstein, Chicago	2,435
7.	Jerry Hilecher, St. Louis	2,420
8.	Marty Hogan, St. Louis	2,215
9.	Mike Zeitman, Memphis	2,200
10.	Ron Strom, Minneapolis	1,980
11.	Richard Wagner, San Diego	1,690
12.	Dan Alder, Milwaukee	1,530
13.	Charlie Drake, San Diego	1,195
14.	Davey Bledsoe, Memphis	500
15.	Craig McCoy, Riverside, Cal.	480
16.	Bill Thurman, San Francisco	415
17.	Ken Wong, St. Louis	350
18.	Joe Ycaza, Atlanta	330
19.	Paul Ikier, Minneapolis	310
20.	Bill Dunn, San Francisco	285
21.	Dave Charlson, San Diego	285
22.	Victor Niederhoffer, New York	250
23.	Jeff Bowman, Chicago	200
24.	Randy Stafford, Memphis	200
25.	Gordon Kelly, Grand Rapids, Mich.	185

1975-76 Men's N.R.C. Prize Money Earnings

Rank	Player	Prize Money
1. (tie)	Steve Keeley, San Diego	\$1,700
	Charlie Brumfield, San Diego	1,700
	Steve Strandemo, San Diego	1,700
	Marty Hogan, St. Louis	1,700
5.	Steve Serot, San Diego	1,200
6.	Jerry Hilecher, St. Louis	400
7. (tie)	Bill Schmidtke, Minneapolis	250
	Davey Bledsoe, Memphis	250
	Richard Wagner, San Diego	250
10.	Mike Zeitman, Memphis	200
11. (tie)	Charlie Drake, San Diego	100
	Jeff Bowman, Chicago	100

All Time Women's N.R.C. Prize Money Earnings

Rank	Player	Prize Money
1.	Kathy Williams, Hazel Park, Mich.	\$1,125
2. (tie)	Peggy Steding, Odessa, Tex.	600
	Sue Carow, Glenview, Ill.	600
4.	Shannon Wright, Dallas	350
5.	Jan Pasternak, Houston	250
6.	Janell Marriott, Salt Lake City	200
7.	Jennifer Harding, Portland	125
8. (tie)	Betty Johnson, San Diego	100
	Jan Campbell, San Diego	100

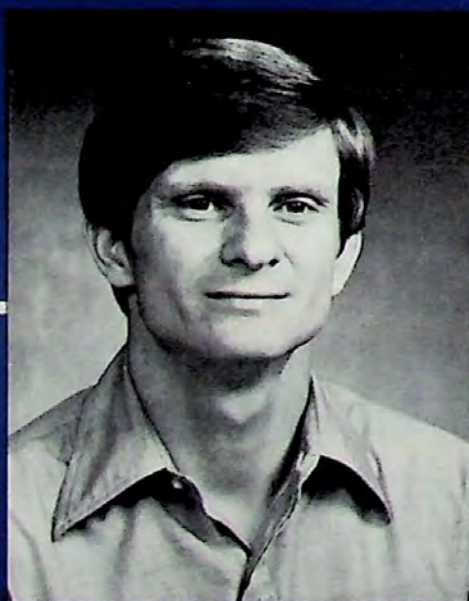
1975-76 Women's N.R.C. Prize Money Earnings

Rank	Player	Prize Money
1.	Shannon Wright, Dallas	\$350
2.	Janell Marriott, Salt Lake City	200
3. (tie)	Peggy Steding, Odessa, Tex.	100
	Jan Campbell, San Diego	100

The History of Racquetball

SERIES/Part 3

This is the third of a series in *National Racquetball* magazine on the history of racquetball. The work of Mr. Fancher is from his thesis "A History of Racquetball," written in partial fulfillment for a Master of Science degree in physical education at the University of Wisconsin. Any comments, additions or opinions regarding this paper should be addressed to Mr. Terry Fancher, Mid-Town Court House, 1235 N. LaSalle St., Chicago, Illinois 60610, where he recently accepted a court club managerial position.



Organization and Leadership

Prior to the 1969 national tournament, Larry Lederman, Physical Director of the Milwaukee JCC, had hoped racquetball would move forward more rapidly than handball. Lederman realized that almost instant success was possible with racquetball and the only means to accomplish this goal was to turn the control of racquetball over to the United States Handball Association. Their magazine could improve and promote racquetball as it should be; however, Lederman's committee which organized the first national tournament the U.S. Gut Paddle Association (USGPA) had been opposed to this loss of control.

Even though the USGPA committee was against the proposal they were not in a position to subsidize a magazine; it took a great deal of money and they simply did not have the revenue. It was through Lederman's contact with Kendler, President of the USHA, and a personal friend, that he was asked to attend the players' meeting at the 1968 national tournament. Lederman explained to Kendler his intention to turn the racquetball organization over to the USHA in order that it might reach its full potential. The arguments for this were accepted by Kendler and the visit was agreed to.

A meeting for all interested players was conducted at the JCC Health Club after the 1968 championship match and Lederman presented his plan to the players. It met with some resistance, but with some assurances and Kendler's persuasive nature, the players were convinced of the value of the plan. Kendler immediately proposed a plan of action to get royalties from the sale of an official ball and outlined the business needs of the game. At that point Lederman knew the game was on its way to success.

An official meeting to begin proceedings for the formation of the International Paddle Rackets Association was held on August 1, 1969, at the USHA offices in Skokie, Illinois. In attendance were Lederman; Gerard Lapierre; J. Lawrence Meyer, Physical Director of the Evanston, Illinois YMCA; USHA President, Kendler; Mort Leve, USHA Executive Secretary; and Samuel Carl, one of the leading players at the Evanston YMCA. Topics of discussion included plans for a uniform ball, initial administrative structure of the IPRA, first year tournaments, and a unified set of rules for four-wall and one-wall paddle rackets. Particulars on membership subscription and official operation of the Association were to be carried in the October edition of USHA's *ACE Magazine*. A dual membership was to be offered to any players who participated in both paddle rackets and handball.

Kendler assumed the role of President of the IPRA, the same capacity he had held with the USHA, guiding the promotion and growth of the paddle game, and working to unite the paddle rackets enthusiasts into one viable democratic organization with uniform operation and equipment. Lederman, who had conducted a very successful national tournament that previous May in 1968, was elected to serve as the Association's National Commissioner. Meyer, who was a well-known promoter of squash and paddleball in Chicago, was announced as the Midwest Area Commissioner, and Lapierre was designated as Eastern Area Commissioner. Other area commissioners were to be named. A plan which originated at this meeting was to hold four area (or divisional) tournaments in 1969 with provisions for the singles and doubles winners to be awarded a special air coach trip to the national tournament.

Divisional tournament boundaries became flexible after their inception in 1969. The idea had always been to give good competition over an area of several states and was patterned after the same regional tournaments as the USHA sponsored handball competition had. In selecting divisional tournament sites the IPRA tried to take into account locale, density of players, facilities and other pertinent factors. The ideal host would be the club that already had several good players to provide

the foundation of the tournament.

The IPRA's Canadian members, who had in previous years found that high expenses took a heavy toll in entries, were also considered in divisional organization. Many times these players would forego regional competition for the more important trip to the international tournament. In 1970 the national finals were in St. Louis, Missouri, and that was even more inducement to bypass the regionals because of the distance to be travelled from many areas in Canada and expenses involved. The divisional structure was made even more entertaining and attractive with the advent of women's competition. Not since the women's one-wall handball competition in New York in the mid-1960s had so much interest been evident among women in the handball-type games.

As in the past, the IPRA continued to have three other areas of competition, Masters doubles, open singles, and open doubles. Masters singles for players over forty years of age was optional for the host club and was dependent on availability of courts. Players were limited to entering one event only. The IPRA continued to pay for sending the open singles and open doubles champions from each divisional tournament as it had done in the past.

Opposition by Handball Players

In response to the outcry by handball players who were opposed to the promotion of paddle rackets (as it was called in 1968) by the

USHA, the aim of the USHA was explained as peaceful co-existence with the racquet sport:

Let's get one fact straight—and above board. The U.S. Handball Association is NOT trying to sell the paddleball game. However, we do feel that the handball and paddle racket sports can definitely co-exist, and that we must respect the wishes of athletic directors who seek maximum participation in the court activity.

In the early beginnings of organized racquetball, handball and racquetball players were quite different. According to Kendler, the racquetball players were considerably more courteous on the court than handball players; there was less contact and more good sportsmanship displayed in racquetball games than there was in handball. This could have evolved from tennis where at least in amateur tennis there was a great deal of courtesy and consideration. The violent competition of handball carried over into racquetball and the sportsmanship of that game emerged in handball.

There was also a severe backlash from some of the oldtime handball players. There was, of course, a tremendous lack of handball courts and the complaint was that introducing racquetball players and particularly women players into the area where there was already a shortage would simply compound the problem.

Kendler received some very derogatory letters and had many arguments and many discussions at the USHA conventions, but his theory was that there should not be fewer players on the handball courts as a result of the increased popularity of racquetball. The point was that everyone needed more courts. The solution was not keeping the racquetball players out but developing more facilities. Kendler felt that the two games were companion sports and that one would complement the other, and it was discovered that although this was not the case in the beginning, there was a great interest by racquetball players to try handball and by handball players to try racquetball. Suddenly some very good nationally recognized handball players became exceptionally good racquetball players.

The introduction of racquetball into the handball arena had made it possible for owners of handball courts to begin making money on handball. Handball players were using the handball courts for perhaps six hours a day; when racquetball became popular the courts were occupied for sixteen hours a day. Women and children were playing in the morning and in the afternoon when the businessmen were not there, and before long an industry that had

been a "loser" for years was suddenly a winner.

Charles Leve, Executive Secretary of the IRA, discovered a great deal of resentment to racquetball in the courts throughout the country and actually received about two dozen letters a week from racquetball players complaining that they were not allowed to play on their local courts. Leve replied to these letters and wrote to the proprietors of the facility where the complaint originated and explained three points:

1. The transition from wooden-framed racquets to metal and fiberglass will eliminate court damage;
2. The black marks on the walls result from years of handball play, racquetballs do not leave a mark;
3. Most important is that racquetball will bring new members to the clubs along with women and children as racquetball is a more family-oriented game.

The opposition in the beginning was somewhat understandable. The handball participants who had supported their game for 50 years suddenly found it was difficult to reserve courts, even though the courts were built originally for handball. The fact remained that if people who had never played either game wanted to play, they chose

racquetball since it was basically much easier to learn.

Game Changes

Equipment

Early in 1968 in a letter to Marlowe Phillips, Mort Leve described the early problems with development of an official ball. Leve felt that getting a good cross-section of sample balls and testing them was the most democratic way to proceed. Several balls were available from various sporting goods companies and included the Seamless 556, the Sobek blue that Seamless also made, the Spalding hi-bouncer, the Pennsylvania Pinky, and the Pennsylvania official paddleball, a ball with a pin-point hole in it.

Lederman had noted that the Sobek ball was not ideal as it flattened out too much off the front wall and lacked firmness. The Seamless 556 was found to have an acceptable bounce but the rubber was so heavy that it had too much reaction off the racquet. Leve concluded that a ball incorporating the best of the two Seamless balls might be the best solution. Later, in November of 1968, Mort Leve wrote Lederman that no other company was willing to change from the ball they were then making, including Spalding, so the organization was going to work with Seamless.

Mort Leve reported in February, 1969, that the first set of test balls to arrive did not reach desired performance standards in the effort to produce an official IPRA ball.

These sample balls were mailed to test sites at the Evanston, Illinois, and Madison, Wisconsin YMCAs and the Milwaukee and St. Louis JCCs. After those tests, modifications were made and another set was being readied before the division IPRA tournaments were held.

Leve believed that the second sample ball would meet with a variety of reactions but that a start had to be made somewhere. The consensus of the membership was to develop a relatively lively ball that would enable the players to use the four-wall courts and ceiling to their full advantage. A dead ball was seen to be a hindrance to the progress of the game because it was assumed that the success of modern handball was based on a lively ball. Racquetball was placed in the same category. There was concern about a squishy ball that would not carry to the back wall of the court. Only through trial and error could any decisions be made.

In a letter from the Seamless Rubber Company to the International Paddle Rackets Association dated April 10, 1969, William O'Brien, the Chemical Engineering Manager, apologized that the official IPRA ball was not found to be lively enough for tournament play. O'Brien explained to Leve:

In our telephone conversation on February 27, we agreed to make 200 dozen balls simply coloring the Sobek Ball black because of the urgency of the situation; and this is

what we did. In all probability, the black pigment gives the ball a different characteristic than the blue pigment which is in the Sobek Ball. We noticed that the balls were somewhat softer than the regular Sobek Ball, but we did not know if this would influence their playability.

O'Brien went on to explain that since the IPRA had requested a ball about 15% livelier than the Sobek ball, it would be necessary to run some experimental batches to determine the degree of liveliness. The few balls tested in the laboratory were found not to have the same playing characteristics as those made in production; therefore, it was necessary to run small production lots before finding a suitable ball.

In 1970 only one official ball was approved by the IRA and that was the black Seamless 558 which was advertised as tournament tested for two years by top racquetball players across the country. Indeed, it had undergone thorough examination, and had been distributed to stores, clubs, and YMCAs throughout the country. The ball was produced and distributed by Seamless.

In a letter written to Lederman, Donald Strong, then Executive Vice-President of Seamco, formerly Seamless, reflected the early manufacturers' problems:

Just for the record, I want you to realize what Seamco Sporting Goods has gone through the past 3-

4 years on this great game of racquetball. At the beginning, we were contracted to make "a ball" that bounced this high and weighed almost so many ounces. . . . people wanted immediate delivery. In addition, the standards were changed several times, which means that ingredients are changed also.

Strong stated that although the company's costs were extremely high and a high royalty rate was still paid for every dozen racquetballs they produced. Seamco lost money, but helped promote the sport.

In addition to the development of a lively ball, color for uniforms was a topic in early 1969. Leve suggested that racquetball should be a more colorful game and make use of coloring—why should racquetball uniforms remain white just because the established rules for other court games of yesterday had failed to be changed? The pastel shades were not bright enough to cause a player to be hindered in following a black ball, and, in fact, the referee would have an easier time of following the play in both singles and doubles if players had contrasting colors. Thus, official IRA uniforms consisted of all-cotton shirts and trunks bearing the official IRA seal, and a choice of blue or yellow was available, as well as white.

In October, 1969, it was announced that General Sportcraft would become the manufacturer of official racquets and would use the IRA seal. Kenneth Edelson of Sportcraft guaranteed that an extensive line of racquets would be offered. At that time, both steel and aluminum racquets had been tested. The steel racquet had proved to be the more desirable and the IRA decided that it would be included as one of the association's officially sanctioned racquets.

In December of 1969 Sportcraft decided to include both steel and aluminum racquets as part of the line of official IRA equipment for 1970. Both sample racquets had been tested by leading players and had been given a vote of confidence. The aluminum racquets became more popular and were within the rules, and they were light, allowing for excellent whip action on the stroke. One official racquet as advertised by ACE was the Sportcraft model with the "flaw-free extruded aluminum frame for rugged championship tourney play." It was made with nylon stringing, had a leather grip and end-attached wrist strap.

A wooden racquet was also designed to have a high quality craftsmanship fashioned in a seven-ply laminated racquet with two fiber inserts for maximum strength and warp resistance. Breakage of previous wooden racquets was

Albert J. Mackie Named President, Seamco Sporting Goods

Dart Industries, Inc. has announced that Albert J. Mackie has been named president of Seamco Sporting Goods Company, a division of the company's Consumer Products Group. Seamco, formerly located in New Haven, Connecticut has recently moved its headquarters and principal manufacturing facilities to LaGrange, Georgia.

He succeeds Arthur J. VanDeventer, who has become president of the Consumer Specialties Division.

Al Mackie, 41, formerly president of American Gasket and Rubber Company,

joined Dart Industries in 1970 as director of manufacturing for Thompson Industries. In 1972 he was promoted to vice president and in early 1973 was made president of American Gasket and Rubber. Prior to joining Dart, Mackie was employed as general manager of several companies in the consumer products field.

A native of Long Island, New York Mackie holds a BS degree in Industrial Engineering from Cornell University and an MBA degree from Wagner College.

Mackie, his wife Nancy, and two sons, Lawrence and James, will reside in LaGrange after January. A third son, Steven, is a student at Arizona State University.

common. A sturdier frame was needed. Also, warping was common with wooden racquets. The new racquet was strung with twisted nylon, had a perforated brown leather grip and a braided wrist strap. These IRA racquets were all manufactured by General Sportcraft Company. The head of Saranac Glove Company, John Fabry, also began to produce an official IRA glove providing a firm fit and a better grip for the racquet hand.

As had always been the case in handball, the support of the IRA membership of official products was required in the promotion of the game itself. This support also helped to provide better tournaments, produce films, give clinics and exhibitions, and to put back into the game funds that were accrued through royalties.

Next issue: rules, women and business growth.

Albert J. Mackie



The Backhand

If you are a beginner, you're probably scared to death of the backhand. There are even fairly good players who will go to great lengths just to avoid hitting a backhand. However, it is perhaps strange to find that among the top players a large percentage of them have better backhands than forehands (Marty Hogan, Steve Serot, Steve Keeley, Craig McCoy). The backhand is usually easier to perfect because physiologically it is a more natural stroke than the forehand, but it is rarely easier to learn. By working on some simple drills to build those "backhand muscles," you too, can add a strong backhand to your already devastating (hopefully) forehand. This article will discuss the mechanics of the backhand, give some examples of common faults, and outline a development program.

Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Stroke Mechanics

As in the forehand, there are three parts to the backhand: grip, preparation, and forward swing. The basic principles of the forehand apply to the backhand, but the fact that the right shoulder is now in front of the body instead of behind the body will require a few modifications of the principles of shot execution.

The grip used for the forehand can be used for the backhand with a slight adjustment. Figures 1 and 2 show the proper backhand grip. The V formed by the thumb and the rest of the hand should be to the left of the center of the grip. By bringing the fingers closer together so that they resemble more of a hammer grip, you will gain more control and power.

This grip may be assumed by tilting the racquet toward your body as you get in position for the backhand and should require very little adjustment. One common mistake is to place the thumb flat behind the grip and rotate the racquet too far to the right. Try assuming the backhand grip by just closing the amount of finger spread used in the forehand grip. This grip will allow you to hit any ball on the court with almost no grip adjustment necessary and therefore simplify part of the stroke.

The next part of the stroke is shot preparation; again, it is the most important part of the stroke. It really consists of several smaller parts: wrist cock, foot movement, shoulder rotation, and racquet backswing. *The first reaction to a ball hit to the backhand side should be to assume a full wrist cock.*

Figure 3 shows the proper ready position if you are waiting for a return from deep, left court. From this position, a full wrist cock and grip change can be assumed by pulling the racquet head toward the body.

I emphasize that the first motion should be the full wrist cock; this will allow you to react early to any ball which may be hit at you. Note that at this point the feet are spread about shoulder width apart; but as you are cocking your wrist, you should turn your body so that you are in a closed stance (figure 4) and bring your feet together (about one foot apart).

Meanwhile, the racquet should be brought back into the set position with the shoulders turned slightly away from the front wall and the wrist cocked (figure 5). The wrist cock should cause the racquet face to lie in the plane formed by the forearm and the upper arm. A common mistake is to cock the wrist so that the racquet face is perpendicular to the floor.

Note that the throat of the racquet (near the head) should be held firmly in the fingers of the left hand; this will help bring the racquet back to the same position for every set up. Also the racquet should be below the shoulders on the set-up even though you will see some pros bring the racquet in a very high set position. The lower set-up will aid in hitting a much more consistent backhand.



Fig. 3



Fig. 4

The third part of the swing is the forward swing. Figures 5-10 show the different stages of the swing from the set position to the follow through. Figure 5 shows how the feet start close together, the knees are slightly bent, the weight is on the back foot, and the shoulders are turned slightly away from the front wall. The swing begins by a motion which can best be described as a drop of the front shoulder followed by a pulling of the racquet with the heel of the hand (figures 6 and 9); the initial motion should look like you are trying to hit the ball with the butt of the racquet handle. As you step forward, the swing should level out about a foot behind the front foot and the wrist should come around and break naturally until you meet the ball right in front of the front foot (figures 7 and 10). The racquet face should be perpendicular to the floor. The follow through should end up in front of the body with the racquet face pointing up with an open face, but the follow through should not come over the head.

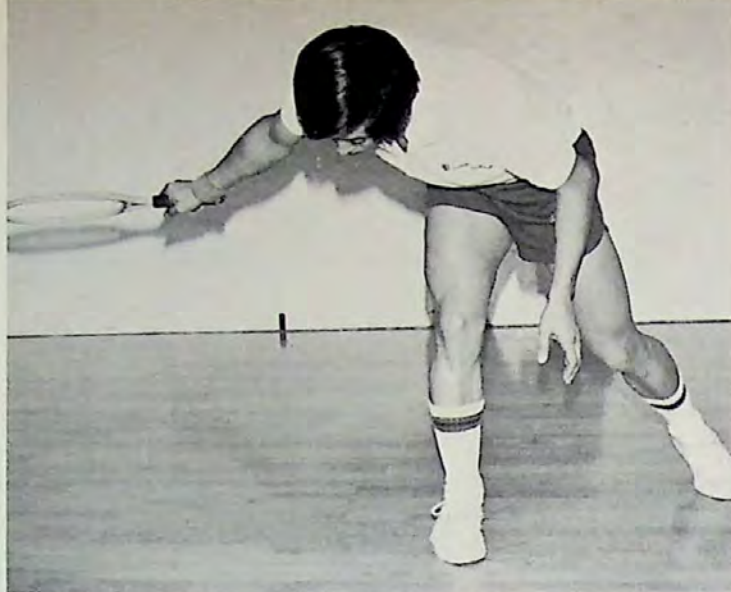


Fig. 8



Fig. 9



Fig. 10

Fig. 5



Fig. 6



Fig. 7





Fig. 11



Fig. 12

Faulty Techniques

The backhand does not require a great deal of strength. But it does require good timing and some confidence. Because many players are afraid of the backhand, they try to compensate by hitting the ball using many faulty techniques. For instance most players use an improper wrist motion where they try to *slap the ball* with the back of their hand. This type of motion lacks the power and control found in the pulling action described in the last paragraph because it does not allow the ball to ride on the strings of the racquet.

Another faulty technique is the *I'm afraid of the backhand* technique

where the player leans away from the ball as he hits the ball (figure 11). Try to always lean into the shot so that your weight ends up on the front foot after the shot is completed.

Note that my weight is on the front foot, and I am in a closed stance. The swing should be a pendulum motion, and you should meet the ball low. If you have swung properly with the proper wrist break, you should hear a "swish" confined to a one foot interval centered at the point of contact in front of the leading foot. This backhand technique uses all the muscles of the body to efficiently hit the ball with very little wasted motion.

A third technique is the *poke* or the reverse poke shown in figure 12; in St. Louis, it's called the *Gloria Fine backhand* because Gloria has mastered the shot to its limit. The thumb is usually flat against the back of the grip and all strength comes from an elbow action. It's very hard to convince a piker to change because poking will allow you to control the ball well enough to return many balls at medium speed and height. But little improvement can be expected from the technique, and it leads to *racquetball elbow*.

A fourth faulty technique is the *look at my home run* technique where a player looks like he's trying to hit the ball into the left field bleachers. This combined with a two-handed backhand is called the *Mikolas backhand* in St. Louis. This technique usually involves a half circle, round house swing and either results in *racquetball elbow* after a few weeks of play or loss of a partner because the follow through removed his front teeth.

Finally there's the *nine iron golf swing*. Really this faulty technique is not too bad because the proper stroke resembles a golf swing; however, all the balls will go into the ceiling. Basically, only three corrections need to be made: 1) keep the racquet face above the wrist during the entire stroke; 2) keep the shoulders level; and 3) follow through towards the front wall instead of over the shoulders.

Drills

So what do you do to develop or improve your backhand? You can use the same program outlined in my article on the forehand, but start slower and expect less rapid improvement. Set lower goals. Perhaps the first thing to do is to condition yourself mentally to hit the ball properly. This can be done by using the *drop and hit* drill where you stand facing the side wall with your feet close together at about three quarter court, with your racquet below the shoulders. Toss the ball about two feet toward the front wall and about a foot in front of your body. Step toward the ball, and swing through it. Try this drill meeting the ball about waist high; as the drill feels more comfortable, meet the ball lower and lower. As you meet the ball lower, try bending more at the waist and knees. This is essential to keep the stroke from becoming a golf swing. As with the forehand drill, do not hit more than one ball in a row.

When you become proficient at the drop and hit drill, move to the *set-up and hit* drill where you pat yourself an easy setup which allows you to step into the ball and then hit the ball to the front wall once. Pick up the ball and repeat this perhaps 25 or 50 times. Give yourself a goal such as keeping the ball between you and the side wall at a height under four feet. Counting the number of good balls versus bad balls will help you concentrate more and give you an indication of your progress. Do not overdo the drill: if your arm starts getting tired, rest because a tired stroke usually results in an improper stroke which will be reinforced as you continue to practice. These drills will help you develop a proper, grooved swing if you continually work on all parts of the stroke.

You should work on each part of the backhand using a *drop and hit* drill and the *set-up and hit* drill. When playing, try to prepare very early for the shot by cocking the wrist first, moving your feet close

together, and getting the racquet back early. Don't be afraid of the backhand; swing away at the ball so that you become accustomed to taking a full swing. Follow the development program and you too will develop a good backhand.

The next article will discuss serves. As you can see the articles are covering shot execution; it is important that as a beginner that you feel comfortable on the court; this can best be accomplished by practice using the drills which I have described. Once the basic shots can be hit reasonably well in practice, you should start playing more games, but in the beginning, it is better to spend more time practicing and correcting your faults. Only then can you move to the next phase of racquetball which is strategy.

Know Your Pro

As more and more racquetball-handball clubs spring up around the country each one strives to offer the player just a little more when enticing he or she to join and play. One of the amenities offered by some clubs is a lesson program to aid those players who want to learn the game correctly or want to substantially improve their game.

Caution, however, must be exercised by the player prior to taking lessons. As in all competitive commodities, you should know what you are buying. In other words, find out who the pro is going to be and what kind of instruction you will be receiving.

A good teaching professional will have each of the following four qualities: 1) knows the game; 2) is an experienced teacher; 3) is personable; and most importantly 4) is effective.

Taking the points in order, your teaching pro must know the game. Although this may seem so obvious as to not even warrant mention, racquetballers would be surprised at the number of teaching professionals who are not familiar with all the rules.

On the surface this means being able to instruct the beginner to carry on a legal rally. Beneath the surface it means explaining many of the subtleties such as avoidable hinders, crotch balls, screens and so forth. Eventually a player of any caliber must learn the rules and a good instructor can work this into his teaching program without just saying, "read the rules." Secondly, the teacher should be experienced. Sure, there are some instructors who might be good right off the bat, but this is a phenomenon that is the exception rather than the rule.

Find out something about the pro. How long has he or she been teaching? Does he work better with women than men? Is he favorable to the advanced player rather than the beginner? These are all things you should know prior to your investing in a lesson program.

Thirdly, the teaching professional should be personable. The pro's attitude on the court should evoke the personality of the game as well as his own. The game, when played correctly is as enjoyable as any activity in sports. The personality of your pro should show this.

Again, anybody can have a bad day. But the teaching professional is just that, getting paid to instruct in racquetball. If you don't feel comfortable on the court, if he makes you nervous, or afraid to make mistakes, then he's the wrong person for you.

All of the above is important, but the real reason for taking lessons in the first place, is to improve your game. Therefore, if the objectives you have in mind prior to taking lessons are not achieved, it is most likely the fault of the pro.

Sure, you will have to practice on your own what the instructor preaches. It is not enough to take a lesson once a week and not play in-between. However, the pro should be able to instill the enthusiasm and dedication necessary for you to continue improving your game. This can be done partly by good technique and partly by his showing how the game can be enjoyed. The more results you find, the more likely you will be to return to the court.

Many people ask if it is important or even necessary for the teaching pro to be a top tournament player. The answer is no, it is not necessary; however, it usually can't hurt either.

If the club you belong to has hired a professional, that pro won't be around long if he can't communicate the fundamentals to the players taking lessons. A top tournament player, you can be sure, knows the rules well, and since he or she has achieved a certain level of competency, you can bet that that person knows how to play the game correctly. The only question that remains in this area, then, is can the pro transmit that knowledge to your racquet?

The advantage of the pro being just a good player, rather than National Champion, is that this person might try to make up for his competitive shortcomings by studying the game more, and working more on his teaching technique, rather than his own game.

There are four key items which you should be able to learn from a good teaching professional: 1) you'll learn the game and rules; 2) you'll learn the fundamentals correctly; 3) initially, your rate of improvement will be rapid; and 4) you will have fun.

If any of the above do not occur, then first examine yourself. If you are convinced that you have been applying yourself in your pursuit of improving your game, then the problem could be your pro.

An inadequate instructor can actually do more harm to your game than good. If his knowledge of the rules and fundamentals is not up to par, you could have inadequacies in your game for years due to him. Secondly, a poor instructor seems to have the ability to make the game frustrating, thereby taking out of it the one basic ingredient that we must find in racquetball—it is fun. And it always should be.

I recommend that before you plunge recklessly into a lesson program that you find out all the details you can about it. Who is the instructor? How long has he or she been teaching? What is his background?

Talk to players who have gone through the lesson program. How did they like it? Was it effective? Was it fun?

And if possible, watch the pro in action first. Go on over to the club and watch a series of group lessons, or a couple of individual lessons. You should be able to tell from the gallery what it will be like on the court.

And good luck!

R.B. Gloves Aid Your Game

Although originally popularized by the leading players, the racquetball glove today is considered to be a necessary piece of equipment for participants of every ability level.

"Even if I didn't play the sport, I still would urge the use of a glove to provide better racquet control," says John Fabry, president of Saranac Glove Co.

"The racquetball glove is like a second skin, and especially for women players prevents blisters and calluses," says Ken Konkol, vice president and co-owner of the Champion Glove Co.

Leaders in the field, both companies agree that the key to a properly functioning racquetball glove is its weight, which must be as slight as possible without sacrificing quality and purpose.

The palm of the glove should be leather faced with top-grade deerskin or calfskin.

"There are quite a few cloth gloves on the market and they don't do the job," Konkol says. *"Leather can be cut to a mere thinness, stays soft, lasts longer and best absorbs moisture."*

Handball gloves are far different from their racquetball counterparts and for good reason. The weight of the glove is not a factor and the primary concerns are protection and absorption of moisture. Racquetball gloves also are responsible for keeping the hand dry but at the same time must allow for hand-finger sensitivity on the racquet.

Fabry believes that the wearing of a glove can actually improve a players "racquet feel."

"The thinness of the glove along with a proper fit can provide the utmost in hand-racquet sensitivity," he says. *"And you also get a better grip."*

Saranac's pro model glove is tapered to assist in providing a custom fit. It's also full-fingered and stretchless, with an all deerskin palm and an elastic back with adjustable Velco tab. Fabry reports that the company soon will introduce a "super pro" model, an extension of the present "pro" glove with a total wraparound Velco strap that can be adjusted to an individual desired tightness.

Other styles available and especially appealing to beginning or intermediate players feature calfskin palms with terricloth backing.

"Hand protection should be a major concern of the intermediate or beginning player," Fabry suggests.

Champion has five glove styles, all made with lightweight deerskin leather. One has a doubleknit terricloth backing while a nylon elastic material appeals to many players and is a feature of two popular models.

The company also produces two types of the "cut-off" or "half-finger" glove style, a recent favorite of several leading professionals. Champion has a glove that exposes the fingers starting at the first joint. The other style is more daring and is cut off almost to the palm.

"Some pros believe they can 'feel' the racquet better without any covering of their fingers," Konkol says. *"It's a matter of preference but with a proper glove fit of a top quality glove a player can have the utmost in sensitivity of the racquet handle."*

Saranac also produces a "half-finger" glove.

When purchasing a racquetball glove the player should seek quality lightweight leather and strive for as snug a fit as possible. The use of a glove, either full fingered or down to no fingers at all, now seems to be an accepted and necessary practice.

John Fabry



Ken Konkol



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New England 2 Pro-Am Tour

The ecstasy of victory is written all over Hogan's face after his thrilling tournament win.



The souvenir program for the New England Pro-Am in Burlington, Vermont had a tiny picture and one sentence caption. The picture was of Marty Hogan and the caption read, *"The youngest pro racquetballer in the nation, this 17-year-old is the player to watch if the fans are hoping for an upset."*

But who would have believed it? After just squeaking by his first two matches, the cocky and confident

Hogan proceeded to defeat three time and current National Champ Charlie Brumfield in the quarters, all-time leading N.R.C. money winner Steve Serot in the semi-finals, and super-pro Steve Keeley in the finals.

A win over any one of them would have been enough to satisfy virtually any other player in the nation, especially an up-and-coming 17-year-old. But to defeat



Cliff Johnson, (left) and Charlie Hubbard, the two main men at the Court Club in Burlington, take a few minutes to relax during the tournament. There couldn't be a better host anywhere than the Court Club.

Steve Keeley, sporting the duo-colored shoes, races after a Hogan drive down the right wall in the finals.



A shot from the lower front wall gives a good view of the packed gallery which squeezed in over 300 spectators on each of Friday, Saturday and Sunday. They were literally hanging from the balcony.



Pro Results (First Round) Brumfield, Strandemo, Keeley byes; Rish def. Mondry 19-21, 21-15, 21-13; Hogan def. Kruger 21-14, 21-20; Bowman def. Sergentanis 21-15, 21-20; S. Dubord def. Zeitman (forfeit); Wagner def. Spencer 21-9, 21-4; Luciw def. Sluby 21-1, 21-0; Serot def. Reuschel 21-5, 21-12; Romano def. Gaeta 21-2, 21-0; Drake def. Moore, 21-11, 21-14; Hilecher def. Sulikowski 21-6, 21-4; Bledsoe def. Capitanelli 21-5, 21-8; Schmidtke def. B. Dubord 21-9, 21-7; Yurgaitis def. Lazure 21-11, 21-11.

(Second Round) Brumfield def. Rish 21-2, 21-4; Hogan def. Bowman 21-17, 21-18; Wagner def. S. Dubord 21-7, 21-8; Serot def. Luciw 21-10, 21-4; Keeley def. Romano 21-5, 18-21, 21-4; Hilecher def. Drake 21-7, 21-12; Schmidtke def. Bledsoe 21-17, 21-12; Strandemo def. Yurgaitis 21-5, 21-9.



The most thrilling match of the tournament found Serot (here following through on a backhand) and Hogan in a 21-20 third game. The intensity was incredible.



As Hogan frantically signals for help, Serot lies writhing in pain after colliding with the side wall in their semi-final match. Fortunately, the injury was not serious and the fans were treated to another game and a-half of superb racquetball.



Dr. David Yurgaitis works on Serot's left elbow following Steve's collision with the side wall. After a 15-minute injury time-out Serot continued. Watching every move are (l. to r.) N.R.C. National Director Chuck Leve, Serot, Leach Industries' Charlie Drake, and N.R.C. National Commissioner Joe Ardito.

all three has to go down as one of the most incredible racquetball performances of all time.

How did Hogan do it? Take a combination of solid shot-making, devastating serves, tremendous confidence, and an almost rampaging desire to win,—and you have the combination for victory.

"The big win was over Brumfield," said Hogan after the tournament, while tightly clutching his \$1,500 first place prize money check. "After I beat Charlie I knew I could beat anybody."

The irony of the whole tournament is that Hogan almost never made it. A series of adventures and misadventures caused him to miss four plane flights in two days and nearly forced him to default.

"I was supposed to go out from St. Louis Wednesday on the same flight as Jerry Hilecher," said Hogan. "But I never made it. Just blew the flight. Then I was supposed to take the same flight Thursday, but there was a car accident on the feeder highway to

the airport and it was backed up so far I missed that one too.

"I caught the next flight out, but had already missed my connection in Detroit. When I finally caught a plane to Boston, I had missed all the flights to Burlington. Then I got lucky."

Lucky, indeed. A stranger happened to overhear Hogan's plight as he discussed his situation with airline officials, and this congenial New Englander offered to fly Marty direct to Burlington in his private jet, since he was headed that way anyhow. Hogan jumped at the chance, called the tournament to let them know he was alive, and made it by 10 p.m.

The plane touched down, Marty grabbed a cab, and headed directly for the Court Club, the marvelous host for the tournament. He went straight to the locker room, changed and was put right on the court against his first round opponent, Court Club manager and pro John Kruger.

"I was lucky to win," said Hogan. "After all the hassling with the

airlines I could hardly hit the ball, and Kruger was playing well on his home court."

Hogan slid by 21-14, 21-20.

Next up was another fast-rising youngster, University of Illinois senior Jeff Bowman. Playing consistently only five points from the top players, Bowman gave Hogan all he cared to handle in Friday's a.m. round of 16 matches.

After a tough 21-17 loss in game one, Bowman held a fat 18-13 lead in the second game as visions of three games danced in his head. With the serve Bowman shot a deep forehand cross court for a winner, and assumed point 19. But a claim by Hogan that the ball hit his leg on the way up was upheld by the referee forcing the rally to be replayed and causing Bowman to lose all concentration.

"No way that ball could have hit him," said a dejected Jeff after failing to score another point in the match. "No way."

"No question about it," smiled Marty. "It brushed my leg on the way up."

Steve Strandemo, semi-final loser to Keeley, here readies a forehand in that match. Note the perfect form and concentration.



Other round of 16'ers that were tough included Bill Schmidtke's win over Memphis' Davey Bledsoe 21-17, 21-12, and Mike Romano shocked the good sized crowd by taking a game off Keeley, before bowing.

When Friday night rolled around, the spectators were ready for some real action. Brumfield had been receiving the big build-up with two television interviews and as the subject of a newspaper feature during the week. Nobody expected Hogan to give him much of a battle, for this was the invincible Charlie Brumfield, a legend in New England, where he had never before performed.

But Marty Hogan enjoyed the giant-killer role.

"There's nothing wrong with being the underdog," he said later. *"I've got no pressure on me. I don't have to win."*

It was a full house gallery the Friday night of the quarters, as over 300 fans elbowed their way to the Court Club's court number eight, full glass side wall and all. What they eventually saw was hard to believe.

Using a variety of serves but relying on a low hard drive, both to the forehand and backhand Hogan vaulted to a big lead in game one from 8-1 to 13-3. He was playing perfectly, hitting his shots consistently and forcing Brumfield errors. Charlie was having a difficult time getting into the rhythm of play as Hogan's shots kept him continually off balance.

Then the Brum crept back, etching single point after single point off the deficit. Spectators nodded as if they knew it all the time.

"Charlie's got him now," said one. *"He let the kid play around for a while and now he's gonna stick it to him."*

When Brumfield tied the score at 15-all a few fans went to the draw sheet to find out who he'd play next. But in professional racquetball quarter-finals, the victories don't come that easily.

It was Hogan who did the sticking. A series of tremendous serves and fine shooting re-gained the momentum for the St. Louis youngster. And the howl heard all the way to Maine was Hogan's

scream of delight when he tallied 21 for the initial game win. Brumfield still had 16.

As game two commenced neither player scored their first few times in with the serve. At 3-0 Brumfield turned to Hogan and with a cruel smile said, *"You're going to take a little tour this game, sonny."*

Was he ever right. Completely controlling the play as many had expected him to do, Brumfield blew out Hogan to even the match. It was 8-0 before Hogan broke a sweat and 13-1 before many people had returned to their seats. Charlie coasted to a 21-3 victory as both players went through the motions the second half of the game, playing for the third.

Having taken charge both physically and mentally during game two, nobody expected Brumfield to lose the third.

"Impossible said one, the kid is beat."

But Hogan was sky-high for the third game. This time the tables were turned as Brumfield could do



THE big win for Hogan was his defeat of Brumfield in the quarters. Serve and shoot was his strategy.

Charlie Brumfield, despite his quarter-final loss, was still man enough to conduct a clinic the next morning for the eager Burlington players.

nothing with the booming drive serves and fantastic shooting that emerged from Hogan's racquet. At 9-1 Charlie called a time out futilely attempting to break Hogan's momentum.

But this was Marty's night. Amid cries of "I'm going to win this tournament!" he continued to blast away. Soon it was 17-3 and Brumfield frustratedly showed outward signs of anger. At 20-5 Hogan was in and everyone knew it.

"Will somebody get my mother on the phone?" he asked the gallery as he served match point.

The point didn't come on that rally but moments later it did for an amazing 21-7 third game triumph.

"It was the serve primarily," said Brumfield. "He aced me five times and I barely got to I don't know how many other serves. If he plays like this the rest of the way, he'll win the tournament."

That didn't seem likely, however as Hogan's next opponent was a revived Steve Serot, showing the





KODAK TRI X PAN FILM

→12

→12A

→13

→13A

KODAK TRI X PAN FILM →14

→17

→17A

→18

→18A

→19

This great sequence by Arthur Shay shows the final point of the stunning Hogan upset over Brumfield. Note in frame 12 Hogan has a perfect front court set-up with his forehand, and although he obviously is shooting for right front corner, Brumfield, elected to cover the left. By frame 15 Hogan has already hit the winner as the ball rolls past Brumfield into deep court. At frame 18 Hogan savors the victory while his sponsor Charlie Drake (bald spectator) is already on his feet and Brumfield begins the long walk to the door. As the frames run out, the dejected Brumfield disappears from site as Hogan continues his bask in the light of victory.

AN FILM





Richard Wagner, in his first trip to the quarters this season dives for a shot from Steve Serot. Wagner was in a retrieving position such as this for most of the match.



Jerry Hilecher, making it two quarter-final finishes in a row pivots to move to deeper court against Steve Keeley.



Bill Schmidtke was not on his normal game against Strandemo in the quarters. Here Bill shoots his deadly forehand attempting a side wall-front wall pinch shot as Strandemo covers.

form of a few years ago that marked him as the next main man in the sport. In the other top bracket quarter-final Serot totally dominated Richard Wagner 21-6, 21-15.

Diving, blasting, shooting, killing and passing.—Serot had it all this night. Wagner never got into the first game, probably Serot's single best game of the tournament.

The second was close to 14 when Steve vaulted ahead on a flurry of kills and retrieves that made the spectators dizzy.

Keeley and Hilecher, a couple of old nemeses matched up in another quarter-final battle, one that appeared to be too close to call. Hilecher was coming off as easy 21-7, 21-12 win over San Diego's Charlie Drake, while Keeley had been forced to three games by Mike Romano, Fitchburg, Mass.

However, Steve played very well, rounding his game to the form that would eventually take him to the finals. Utilizing his great concentration and newly developed

patience, Keeley took most of the key rallies for 21-13, 21-16 victories.

The final quarter-final match pitted former National Champ Bill Schmidtke against San Diego's Strandemo. Bill still has been unable to bring his game to the peak of a few years ago, although he claims to be working harder than ever. Could be a matter of age, for at 34, Schmidtke doesn't seem to have the old zip.

In any event what could have been a close and exciting match wasn't either as Strandemo handled Schmidtke easily 21-10, 21-10.

Keeley and Strandemo met Saturday night in the first semi-final encounter, again playing to a full house. The first game was the best of the eventual three, with the lead constantly changing hands and Strandemo coming from behind to capture a 21-19 victory.

The win was a costly one to him, however, for the next game Strandemo was sluggish and never got going. Keeley kept plugging in the style that only Keeley has, and methodically destroyed Strandemo in the next two games 21-6, 21-10.

That set the stage for the most exciting match of the tournament, and one that will probably emerge as one of the best of the year. It was the Hogan-Serot semi, the match in which Hogan's dream for victory was to have ended.

Three well-played, close and stimulating games kept the fans on the edge of their seats all the way. Serot, who is by far the most exciting player to watch on the tour, dove so many times nobody bothered to keep count. His fantastic retrieving led him to a 21-18 first game win, but it convinced nobody, least of all Hogan, that Marty couldn't come back to take the match.

And so it was, but not without some incredible action and near disaster. Battling for every point of every rally, Hogan's superb shotmaking kept Serot on the floor much of the play. When the inevitable occurred, it drew the breath out of everyone in attendance.

Near the mid-way point of game two, Serot finally dove once too often, and as he did he collided with



Super-fotog Arthur Shay caught one of the many beautiful Vermont sunsets from inside the sky-line at the Court Club in Burlington. Perfect fall weather greeted the tournament.

the left wall smashing his left elbow into the concrete. Writhing in pain, the dreaded announcement came over the loudspeaker, *"If there is a doctor in the house, please report to court eight."*

There was, and Serot was awarded a 15 minute injury time-out. What occurred, in layman's terms was a temporary numbing of the elbow, forearm and hand due to the collision of elbow with wall. A super knock on the funny bone. Serot survived the ordeal after receiving solid care and counseling from Dr. Dave Yurgaitis, himself a semi-finalist in the amateur open, and play went on.

Hogan regained the momentum as Serot seemed a bit tentative with some of his shots. However, not three points later, Steve ignored advice from both Yurgaitis and his Leach Industries mentor Drake, and began diving with abandon in an effort to end the match in two straight.

"If I don't dive I'm not worth anything," said Serot. *"It's my game, I've got to dive."*

But it was Hogan who captured the

A portion of the gallery is mirrored against itself along the full glass side wall at the Court Club. Standing room only for three consecutive nights really got the players' adrenaline flowing.



A closer shot of Brumfield discussing the game finds Serot (upper right) an eager listener, although Hogan (lower left) seems to know it all.



John Kruger (second from left) and Joe Ardito (right) award the trophies to the women's top three. They are (l. to r.) Sue Churchill, second, Jackie Boyer, third, and Phyllis Dumont, first.



Mike Luciw draws a bead on a center court set-up against Mike Romano in the Amateur Open finals.



second game, 21-16 despite Serot's valiant play. The third game was nothing short of all-time.

Throughout the match Hogan played the role of self-cheerleader, howling and screaming with each point. Serot, who has outgrown such ploys stoically played the game, saving energy for the play rather than the commentary. Finally, the honeymoon was over. After Hogan comments like, "he's a C player," and "you're nothing Serot," Steve waited for his opportunity.

Leading 19-12 Hogan put on some theatrics.

"This floor is too slippery," he wailed to the referee. "Can't you get some little kid to wipe it up?"

"Use Hogan," said Serot.

The ensuing laughter broke the mental ice for Serot and he came roaring back much on the strength of his newly found vocal cords, 15-19, 18-19, and finally put out. Hogan tallied once for 20-18, Serot came back with two for a 20-20 tie and each put the other out twice more before Hogan, with a series of

excellent passes applied the coup de grace, a pin-point forehand right corner kill.

The five minute standing ovation was well deserved.

Prior to Sunday's finals nobody could believe what they knew to be true. Hogan was still in the tournament. Yea, but Keeley, the veteran would take him, Untrue, untrue.

This weekend was Hogan's, all Hogan's. Like the Mets of '69 or Joe Willie's Jets, it was Hogan the giant killer at work. Down 7-1 and 8-3, Marty began hitting his shots, getting his first serves in, and wittling down the spread. Finally, he took over at 12-11 and won going away for a 21-13 first game win.

Game two was decidedly different as each player battled the other to a seven-all deadlock before Keeley showed signs of the play expected of him and bolted to a 13-8 and then 15-9 advantage.

But nobody told Hogan he was through. Serving boldly and effectively he came back to 15-16 then tied the score with an ace to

the crack at the left side wall just behind the short line. At 17-all a perfect side wall-front wall roll off regained the serve and then an ace to Keeley's vaunted backhand on a soft lob made it 18-17. Another point made 19 and then the boomer, another ace, this one rolling out of the crotch where floor met glass to Keeley's forehand, at the five foot line. Point 21 came a few seconds later.

"I was tired of losing to all these guys," said Hogan after the win. "I know I'm as good as they are, and now they know it too."

Touche.

In the Men's Amateur open all four top seeds made it to the semi's with number one Mike Luciw, New Britain, Conn. besting Yurgaitis in the top bracket and number two Mike Romano, Fitchburg, Mass. defeating Paul Lazure, East Brookfield, Conn. 21-13, 21-4 in the bottom.

The finals went three games with Luciw coming out on top 21-6, 9-21,



Arthur Shay, photographer extraordinaire, as taken by his son Dick, and vice versa as Dick is caught in the act of adjusting his lens.



21-10. Yurgaitis captured third place 21-14, 21-17 over Lazure. Number one seed Pat Colombo, Scarsdale, N.Y. won the Seniors singles title besting Newton, Connecticut's Tom Waltz 21-9, 21-14. The best match of the Seniors, however, was the semi-final between Colombo and Pittsburgh's Gene Grapes. It went three with Colombo finally emerging victorious 21-14, 12-21, 21-14. Hal Grieg, Essex, Vermont, lost to Waltz in the bottom bracket semi-final and also to Grapes for third place. Seniors consolation was won by Don Houghton, Springfield, Mass. The Ladies Amateur Open was captured by number one seed Phylis Dumont, from Old Orchard Beach, Maine. She defeated Portland, Maine's Sue Churchill for the victory 13-21, 21-7, 21-8. Jackie Boyer defeated Jane Flahive for third place and Laurie Peltier took the consolation.

NOTES OF THE TOURNAMENT: Not enough can be said about the fantastic hospitality shown everybody at the tournament from pros to amateurs. The Court Club is a truly great facility and manager John Kruger did everything imaginable to make the New England pro-am so successful . . . Owners Charlie Hubbard, Cliff Johnson and Harvey Corman did their utmost to make everybody feel at home in beautiful Vermont . . . Hats off too, to all the wonderful staff and volunteers who did so much, guys and gals like Bob Comolli, Becky Kruger, Dab Bourneuf, Bunky and JoAnne Johnson, Ode Hubbard and many, many more . . . Referees like Romano, Yurgaitis, Lazure, Rish, Bowman, Luciw and all the others, we thank you . . .

Hogan's ritual of calling his mother after every upset victory, probably took a pretty big chunk out of that \$1,500; the win vaulted him from

13th to eighth on the N.R.C.'s all time prize money earnings list . . . The rumor that some of the San Diego players were going to take home red, orange and yellow leaves ("a miracle of nature," said one) is true and they did . . . each entrant in the pro division was recipient of a half gallon of pure Vermont maple syrup . . . after Keeley's semi-final win Drake bought a round of drinks for the house, how could he afford it? . . . each of the pros to a man said the Court Club was the finest tournament court club they had ever seen . . . bloc-bond walls played very well and architecturally no club in the nation could be more beautiful . . . tournament committee requested and received permission to hold the tournament again next season.

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Interior Design For Your Court Club

design/plus

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Tennis Industry Magazine*

You hear a lot these days about the "total concept". Perhaps you are building a new club, or redecorating an existing one. You want to create this total concept that everyone seems to be talking about. You want your club to be a beautiful, functional, easily maintained and comfortable part of your members' social and racquetball existence, because this is what the total concept is all about; satisfying these requirements while keeping within your budget.

A total concept is created by combining the component parts (the pro shop, nursery, lounge, refreshment area, offices, locker room and, of course, the racquetball courts) into a smoothly functioning whole. It is the creation of an atmosphere where members feel relaxed and comfortable, yet doesn't take away from the central reason for existence, the ability to give members a place to play racquetball, watch racquetball being played and to hold racquetball parties.

With all these diverse services being offered, and with a variety of members with different tastes and needs, is it really possible to form this total concept and still remain within the parameters of your budget, whether large or small?

Yes, say the professional interior designers, and yes, say the equipment and locker room



design/plus

specialists. They feel the size of your budget is the least important factor. They believe the total concept is definitely possible, but there is nothing accidental or haphazard about it. It is a creation of well thought out, well planned arrangements provided at the beginning of a remodeling program or planning of a new club. It means working with a definite plan and goal in mind and taking the time and effort to pay attention to the smallest detail.

"It should have the total design," according to Joseph Mintzer, Vice-President of design/plus, a Scarsdale, New York interior design firm, and President of tennis/plus, the national successor. *"Total design is what is important. You have to show that you care, right down to the last item."*

One way to achieve this is to approach your decorating or remodeling as a designer would. By keeping in mind some of the basic ground rules of design you can approach your club in an objective way. This means lots of initial thought and planning before the first coat of paint is applied or the first chair selected.

During a remodeling job, designers would not necessarily be bound by already existing colors and schemes, but would either try to incorporate them into a total design, or reject them and begin again. In the case of a new club, designers feel it is ideal if they can work with the architect. *"The best thing,"* said Mintzer, *"is to work with the initial plans. Designers can*

contribute in other ways than just color schemes and wallpaper."

According to Ed Torkleson of Universal Recreation and Fitness Consultants, equipment and locker room specialists, it is very important that consultants be included in the initial planning.

"Our capability," he said, *"is to take a given budget and a given number of square feet, modify this by the type of orientation the club is going to have and provide them with the best and most complete facilities for that amount of budget."*

Initially, a designer approaches the

design/plus



floor plan as a whole and decides how the space is to be utilized. "In the allocation of space for various areas—pro shop, nursery, lounge, office, refreshment area and locker room—obviously the total size of the club, number of members and the average daily traffic are basic factors," according to Mintzer.

"These are the basic determining criteria about how you break up and use the space. In none of these areas should the space allotment be based on the maximum anticipated usage because not everybody will be there at the same time." He added that, "In keeping within the overall budget the optimum space allotment—striking a satisfactory space, cost and utility ratio—is desirable and possible."

By necessity, because your club, your membership, your requirements and your location are totally different from any other, this space/cost/utility ratio will be unique and will have to be designed for your specific situation. As Torkleson said:

"Clubs are like fingerprints. They're all individual. There's a different mix, a different population and a different purpose to satisfy in each community. Each one of these things requires a different formula. It's a specialized project that must be looked at and tailored."

In spite of this difference, each design project contains similar ingredients that are adaptable to your own needs. The first would be the traffic flow of your club. Some people will enter your club and head directly toward the refreshment area. Some will want to sit down in the lounge and wait for the rest of their party, others

will head for the locker room or the pro shop or the nursery. "I think you want to give complete freedom of movement once they're in the entrance way," said Mintzer, "without having to go through one area to get to another. You can't walk through a club as though you're in a maze."

This will mean lots of open areas, and lots of room for people to move around freely, but you have to be careful not to have the club look underfurnished. "There's a balance to be struck," said Mintzer. "The furnishings should give the club a feeling of being well-filled, but spacious and airy."

He also feels that the most important thing, when entering the club, is for people to be faced with a focal point where they can quickly locate who is in charge. "We're not dealing necessarily with regular members, but with guests, visitors, etc.," he said. "There can be a rather large, semi-circular counter or a small desk, but the important thing is that there should be quick visibility of the person in charge."

"The second most important thing is the ability to see through the club and beyond. People should be able to look out to the playing surface, and that means plenty of glass inside. Thirdly," he added, *"since all these things will be seen almost simultaneously, the pro shop has got to be accessible. It should be near the front door or near the entrance to the locker room or playing area. If you've got a choice between putting your*

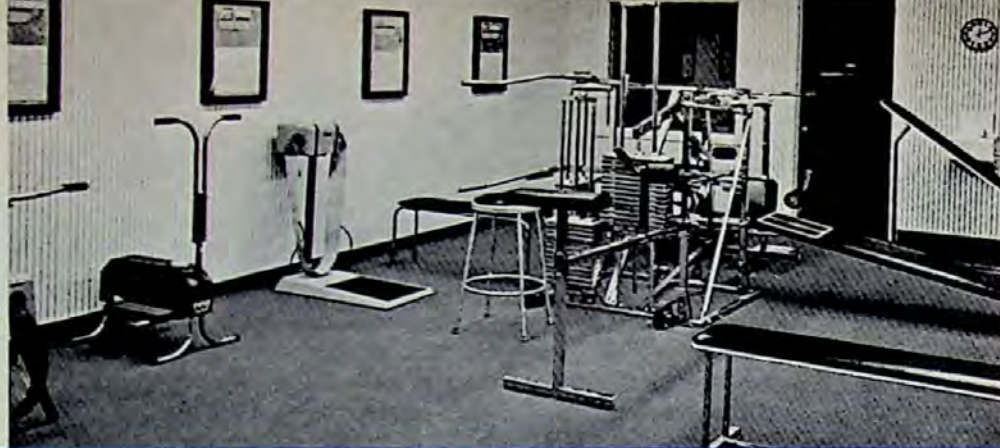
office or the pro shop near the front, obviously the pro shop has got to be close to the area where the people are."

Although your space allocations will depend primarily upon your own situation and type of club, some general estimates can be made. For a club with five or six courts, Mintzer says that: "In our view, the refreshment area should have a minimum of 300 square feet, and sufficient seating for at least 30 people at 8 or 10 small tables.

Remember, with a six court facility, you may have 24 people on the courts at any one time, plus others waiting in the clubhouse." Of this area, unless you plan on running a full-service restaurant and bar operation for your members, the kitchen facilities should be kept at a minimum, perhaps 100 to 150 square feet. Some clubs have found, in fact, that the kitchen isn't necessary, and use a vending machine, wet bar and refrigerator set-up which doesn't occupy more than 75 to 100 square feet and still gives adequate service.

"Design decisions regarding the kitchen, with food and beverage service, would really depend upon how much the club wants to be in the restaurant or bar, or just in the simple refreshment business," Mintzer added. *"We say that because most clubs today are still not in the restaurant business."*

Once your basic square footage requirements are established and you have placed areas so that your membership has free access to them, you have to begin to consider your decorating plan, including furnishings, color schemes, accessory pieces,



lighting and a multitude of other items. Unlike laymen, designers will view a room as a whole. The walls, ceiling and floors are basic to the overall decorating plan and provide the background to the furniture you choose.

Mintzer's firm feels that racquetball club lighting should all be of the overhead fluorescent type or so-called "track lighting". *"Floor and table lamps present too much of a problem,"* he feels. These fixtures could be recessed behind soffits, or above a drop ceiling with translucent panels, but should be used uniformly throughout the club.

Floor coverings, particularly in the lounge area, should be a good quality carpeting. *"We think it should be soft,"* said Mintzer, *"but not too plush."* A good quality short weave will aid in noise reduction and provide comfort, but an extremely thick, plush carpeting can provide too great a contrast between the lounge area and the racquetball courts. *"It's like going from hot to cold suddenly,"* Mintzer explained. *"If you come into a soft and plush carpeting, and then you go out on the court, suddenly it feels like a rock. On the other hand, you don't want the lounge to feel like a board, because it is a room for relaxing. You can have a nice comfortable carpet without getting two inches of piling on it."*

The exceptions to this rule would be the refreshment area and the nursery, and occasionally the entrance area. In these areas you want durable, easily cleaned flooring. Vinyl is often used with good results, but you can also go into other flooring materials such

as ceramic tile, brick or wood. Many times your choice of flooring, as well as your wall treatment, will be determined by both the area of the country where your club is located, and the style of architecture and design you choose.

For example, the contemporary look can be dramatic with stark white walls and a black slate floor. The English country style can be emphasized by a large fieldstone wall with a fireplace in the lounge. Or for an American colonial style club you may wish to use maple planks or red brick floors in the entrance, refreshment area and even the pro shop. A Spanish or Mediterranean style can be highlighted with lots of ceramic tile, both on floors and on the walls. The use of native materials and the surrounding area will all help determine the style of your club and what materials you wish to use for flooring and wall covering.

"There's another point to be careful about," feels Mintzer. *"In designing today, we are dealing with both sides of the equation. A racquetball club cannot be too feminine in appearance, and by the same token it cannot be too masculine."* Here again, you are trying for a balance which will appeal to all members. This appeal will add to their comfort, and comfort is what will keep your members happy. Along this line, for example, be sure to have lots of ash trays available. A small item, perhaps, but one that can add immeasurably to members' comfort. This is another of those little details that contribute to the total concept of the club.

"The pro shop," said Mintzer, *"is an area where there is room for questioning and innovation. This is a relatively low-overhead, high-volume, dollar producing area to which the maximum eye appeal and sales appeal should be provided."* Although the overall size of the pro shop will vary depending on how active and how much of your dollar return you wish it to be, it can be run adequately on a ratio of three feet of selling and display space to every one foot of storage space.

"First of all," explained Mintzer, *"I think the pro shop has to take its cue from the way the retail stores and the fashion stores merchandise. Stock is not under glass and counters where you can't get at it. It's on open merchandise racks. You've got to be able to see, touch and feel the merchandise."*

Customers in your pro shop have to be able to move around and through the merchandise. *"The pegboard walls are feasible,"* said Mintzer, *"but your customer has to be able to get at them."* Rotary floor displays, chrome racks, rattan and full length mannequins can all be used to maximum benefit. And, above all, the pro shop has to be accessible to your customers. In the past, many clubs allotted space at the back or away from the main areas for pro shops. As racquetball has matured and expanded, good merchandisers are finding that to sell it, it has to be seen, and this means making your pro shop the central focus of your overall designing plan.

If your club includes a nursery, this is an area where most designers

believe solidly in plastic. There are cubicle shelving and storage systems and "kid-sized" tables and chairs in heavy-duty colorful plastics that are virtually unbreakable. They can be wiped off with a damp cloth, and with children to watch, your nursery attendants shouldn't have to worry about damage to furniture. With vinyl flooring and heavy plastic furniture your nursery will be maintenance free, attractive and a fun place for the kids.

There is no way that you could have gotten to this point in your design planning without considering color schemes. You will start wondering what colors to use to blend, contrast, coordinate and highlight your decor.

This is a difficult decision, because color is so much a matter of personal taste and preference. What it really becomes is a matter of exercising judgment on a step-by-step basis; but doing it very carefully because it is easy to make a mistake. The firm of tennis/plus leans towards the yellows, pale greens and white. They find these cool colors create an attractive atmosphere, and they feel they lend maximum eye appeal to a pro shop. However, they use those colors most preferred by the owners.

"These things get down to a matter of taste," said Mintzer. "Basically, I think to color coordinate with a uniform color throughout can be monotonous." Areas can flow into each other, without using the same

color scheme throughout. So-called formal colors such as reds and blues can be made more informal through use of furniture. Earth tones of browns and beiges can be brightened through the use of yellows, oranges, greens or blues, to name just a few.

If you are trying for an ultra modern look, you can use bright, dynamic colors like orange, blue and yellow—along with attention-getting, eye-catching murals and graphics—and still tie it all together with grey carpeting. Almost anything will work, and there are just no hard and fast rules. However, it must be done carefully and tastefully.

Another facet of the total concept in racquetball clubs is the trend toward having it fulfill both the social and athletic needs of members. A well-planned clubhouse with refreshment area, and comfortable, aesthetic furnishings and decor, will be appropriate for social functions and informal gatherings.

Can a racquetball club cater to athletic needs, other than the main function of providing a place for people to meet and play racquetball? Many clubs are finding that, with a moderate amount of space and money, they can install exercise and athletic amenities in or near the locker room area, making their clubs a complete athletic complex for their racquetball oriented members.

Generally, your locker room will be removed from the lounge and pro shop areas of your club. Located at a far end of the building or down a flight of stairs, it has often been

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considered one of the least important areas. A few showers, some lockers and maybe a bench or two are installed in a tiled room, and that would suffice—because, traditionally, that is all that is needed for a locker room.

Maybe that used to be the case, but with the increase of clubs being built across the country, and with the racquetball boom continuing, clubs offering the broadest range of amenities are those that attract and keep members. Keeping in mind the wide range of amenities currently available, the ability to choose those with the widest appeal and the most dollar return for your club becomes most important.

The most popular and widely accepted amenities are showers, lockers, whirlpool, sauna and exercise equipment, in that order. Racquetball clubs are a revenue producing business venture, based on dollar return per square foot. The more things you can get to yield that return, the better off you are. Cost-wise, you can outfit a club with these amenities for less than the cost of one court.

The three main criteria that must be considered in planning a locker room/exercise area are: traffic, plumbing and electrical. A fourth important factor is proper access for delivery and installation of equipment. For proper placement of plumbing and electrical, as well as for doorways and hallways that are wide enough to bring in the equipment, consultants feel it is important that they be included in on the initial planning of a new club. If you are remodeling your

West Hills Racquet Club



club and wish to install these amenities, existing lines must be considered in your planning.

Traffic flow decisions through the exercise area are made much the same way as those in the clubhouse section. You must follow a person through a normal progression of steps. The whole key to traffic flow is logic. It is planning layout in terms of activity progression rather than planning in terms of what will fit best in a given space. The ideal is to take each activity in its normal time-frame and lay out your locker and exercise area that way.

A major consideration for plumbing installations concerns the necessity of keeping "wet areas" together.

The showers, sauna, toilet facilities and whirlpool all come under the heading of "wet" equipment and should be installed in the same general area, with access to a nearby towel room. *"Many people don't realize that sauna is wet,"* said Torkleson, *"but it is. People come out perspiring heavily and want to go right into a cool shower. This is, in fact, recommended for sauna, and people shouldn't have to walk across a room. A lot of people may think it looks better to have a sauna somewhere else, but it doesn't really make practical sense."*

An extremely good set-up would be showers on one wall, and saunas directly opposite. One extra touch, available at minimum cost, is the installation of pulsating shower heads, to help relax and refresh your members following their workout on the courts. The recommended amount of access hallway space between the showers and the sauna is a width of seven feet, which gives adequate and comfortable passage to people using this area.

Saunas range in size from 4 x 5 to 10 x 7 and they are all seven feet high. Placement of your sauna will depend on where the electrical wiring is, and the amount of power entering the building. Generally, a 6 x 6 size, which comfortably seats five or six people, is recommended for clubs. This size sauna will take 36 square feet.

Immediately adjoining this area could be the remainder of the "wet areas", the whirlpool in one room and sinks and toilet facilities in another. Still allowing for six courts, four sinks and four toilets



West Hills Racquet Club

should serve adequately. You should allow 20 square feet for the sinks because a vanity top should be included. Your members need a place to set down a hairdryer, electric razor or other personal accessory items. In line with this, there should be several electrical outlets provided above the sinks for any member who might need them. As mentioned before, attention to the smallest detail is what keeps your members comfortable and happy.

Individual toilet stalls, including a door, take up 12 square feet each, or a total of 48 square feet. Although you can save a small amount of money and space by using common shower rooms and toilet facilities, most clubs and club members appreciate the privacy afforded by the enclosures.

Like saunas, whirlpools come in a variety of sizes and shapes. Here again, plumbing is important, not only in its placement but in the size of the pipes required for

installation of a whirlpool. For a whirlpool to have any therapeutic value, it's got to have 70 gallons per minute coming through the jets. Another area where equipment consultants can help your architect in the original planning is by determining needs like this.

Based on his designing experience, Torkleson recommends an 8 x 7 whirlpool, which can comfortably seat five people. "You usually don't get more than five people in a whirlpool at once," he said. Also, you should keep in mind when buying a whirlpool, sauna or any other prefabricated product, that it must be able to fit through door openings. In a new club, your architect and designer, working together, can allow sufficient access for this equipment. If you have an existing club, and have any doubt about the ability to have this equipment installed, your best bet would be to check with your local equipment consultants. They can best advise you as to specifications and other needed information. A whirlpool of this size, with the recommended allowance of five feet of open surrounding area, will take 156 square feet of space.

Immediately adjacent to these "wet areas" should be your locker room. The number of lockers you will need depends on the type of club you have. Your needs will be different if you have a private club, or if you are selling court time. In a private club, most people want a locker so you will need 100%. If you're selling court time, maybe all you need is seven or eight lockers per court. It has to be tailored specifically to each club.

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Your space needs would also depend upon the type of lockers you choose. Most are a standard 18 inches deep, but they range all the way from 12 inches high to seven feet. Choosing the proper size locker depends on your situation. *"Through years of experience,"* Torkleson said, *"we've found that many owners have what we call 'pigeon hole' lockers in their plans. Now that's not good, because when a businessman wants to hang up his suit, he's not going to be too happy putting it into one of those and leaving the club looking like he's slept in his clothes. For this situation, we feel that in between each bank of six lockers the owner place a rod with permanent coat hangers. That way someone can lock all his valuables in the locker and still have his suit or her dress stay fresh and unwrinkled."*

One thing that is never recommended is placing your installation of lockers back to back, in the middle of the room. Lockers can be a little unsteady, and should be secured to the wall. However, if your set-up demands that type of installation you will have to allow a little extra room for freedom of movement through the area.

Lockers today are considered accessory pieces that come, not only in many sizes and arrangements, but in many decorator colors as well. This means that although your wet areas will probably have some type of tile flooring, your locker room can be carpeted, and both can be color coordinated with the lockers themselves, and with the rest of the club. Rather than being the forgotten but necessary area, your

total concept can now extend throughout the club.

For the best arrangement, if room permits, this locker room/sauna/whirlpool plan should be duplicated with one section for the men and one for the women. An ideal allocation of space would place them at either side of a large central room, the common exercise area. If this is the plan you choose, and both locker areas have access to the exercise room, be sure you provide for privacy by placing a screening arrangement or baffle behind the doorways. That way, if someone is exercising and the locker room door is open, they don't look right in.

Although an exercise room may not seem like a standard amenity for a racquetball club, many clubs are finding that the appeal to their members of such an area is great. Used as a place to warm-up before a match, or an auxiliary exercise set-up for trimming and slimming, an exercise area can be a boon to a racquetball club in these health-conscious days. This is particularly true when you realize that racquetball players are among the most health and figure conscious people in the country. Many times people will belong to both a health and racquetball club which wouldn't be necessary if the equipment was available to them at their racquetball club as part of the total concept of fulfilling athletic needs.

The minimum amount of space recommended for an exercise room is 20 x 25. Although these dimensions are variable, depending on the amount of equipment you choose to have installed, this size

gives a nice, open feeling to the room, and plenty of freedom of movement for people using the equipment.

As part of the design of the room, a mirrored wall is absolutely necessary. First of all, it gives depth and size to the room. Secondly, people like to watch themselves when they work out or exercise. Your color scheme will depend upon the total design of your club. The chrome equipment will show up to advantage against almost any color you choose, but to make this locker room/exercise room combination an integral part of your total concept, the colors should be blended or coordinated with your overall scheme.

The decisions that go into planning for this total design treatment, this total concept for your club, are by necessity painstaking, careful and thoughtful. Mistakes can be costly, but can be avoided by having a well-thought out plan and goal before any design decisions are made.

You can do the designing yourself using the basic design guidelines, or you can have the work done by professional designers and equipment specialists. Whichever method you choose, you know that fulfillment of this total concept will create happy and satisfied members, and that is the way to generate revenue. Care, patience and good thoughtful planning will accomplish these results for you. Total design and total concept can help contribute to total success for your club.



Artist's rendering of Schoeber's Handball/Racquetball Health Spa, showing the 8,000 square feet of landscaping on the one acre lot.

Schoeber's Handball-Racquetball Health Spa, site of the 1976 U.S.R.A. Northwest Regional tournament is one of the most convenient court clubs in the nation, just five minutes by car from San Francisco's International Airport.

Ten air conditioned courts of tilt-up concrete construction, two with glass back walls, make the club an ideal tournament site. Spacious locker rooms of over 3,000 square feet, whirlpools for both men and women, plus steam and sauna,

television lounge and one of the most extensive co-ed gym and exercise equipment layouts in the nation make Schoeber's THE place to play.

The club is located in the Cabot, Cabot and Forbes Industrial park, which has a working population of 3,500 people, matched with an adjacent park resulting in over 7,000 employees within a one mile radius. In addition, the thousands of airline industry people, hotels, restaurants and other airport-related businesses just a stone's throw away, ensure a heavily patronized club.

The managing partner of the club is Howard Wasserteil, who formed the idea for Schoeber's and who will manage the club. Further information can be obtained by contacting Schoeber's Handball/Racquetball Health Spa, 425 Eccles Ave., South San Francisco, California 94080. Phone: (415) 583-3154.



Walls of the Schoeber's club on the way up with tilt-up concrete construction. In the foreground are club manager Howard Wasserteil (r.) and exercise physiologist Ben Friedlander.



Padre pitcher Randy Jones (Striped Shirt) signs as the first member of the Rose Canyon Racquetball Club, as the playing court panels are lifted into place. The San Diego facility will be completed in February. From left, the first student member, Keith Mullin, Gen. Partner John Mullin and architect Wm. A. Smith.

Concrete panels are being lifted into place, forming the eight-inch thick walls for the Rose Canyon Racquetball Club at 4411 Morena Blvd. Completion of the facility is scheduled for February of the new year, according to John Mullin, general partner.

Mullin also announced that San Diego Padre pitcher Randy Jones has received membership card number one as the first club member. Jones said that racquetball will be one of his main conditioning methods to stay in shape for the 1976 baseball season.

The recreational facility will have eight air-conditioned and dehumidified racquetball courts on the ground level, plus a viewing mezzanine that will overlook the courts. Duplicate facilities for men and women will include carpeted dressing rooms, showers, lockers and hydro-therapy pools. The \$600,000 club is located in a 1.62 acre site and will provide parking for 30 cars.

Rose Canyon Racquetball Club will feature a viewing lounge located behind a free-standing glass partition, including its own door. The British-made glass is completely free from distortion, made by a well-guarded, secret process. Plans call for a television lounge, vending area and pro shop where equipment can be purchased or rented. A laundry service will be available.

Architect William A. Smith, AIA designed the 11,000 sq. ft. club and the supergraphics which will be used on the interior and the exterior in a rainbow of colors to identify the facility's location above Interstate 5 facing Mt. Soledad. The Rose Canyon site was selected for its accessibility serving Pacific Beach, La Jolla and Clairemont.



Written by a professor of Psychology and professional salesman.

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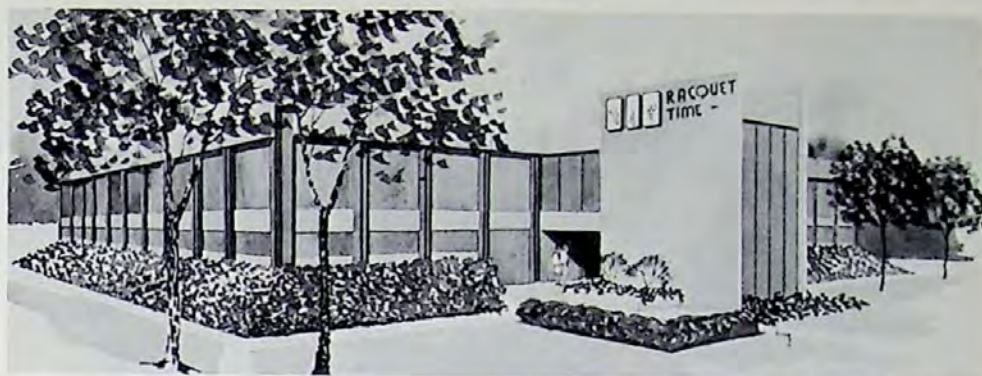
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DYNAMIC RACQUETBALL
Dept. 300 — Box 2023
Hammond, Indiana 46323

Construction has commenced on a new 10 court racquetball/handball club, Racquet Time of Lexington, with the opening date scheduled for March 1.

The facility, located at 151 West Zandale Drive, will have 10 championship courts, lockers and shower areas for men and women, whirlpool and steam baths, exercise room, attended nursery and a spacious viewing lounge (measuring 45 by 80 feet).

Norman Padgett, President of



Racquet Time, Inc. stated that *"Every effort has been made to provide the Lexington community with the finest facility possible!"* Other Racquet Time facilities are presently being built in San Fernando Valley (Los Angeles),

Little Rock, Arkansas and Kansas City.

John Chapman is the manager and is presently engaged in a comprehensive promotional program introducing racquetball and Racquet Time to Lexington.

COURT PRODUCTS, INC. PARAPHERNALIA FOR CONSCIENTIOUS RACQUETBALL ENTHUSIASTS:

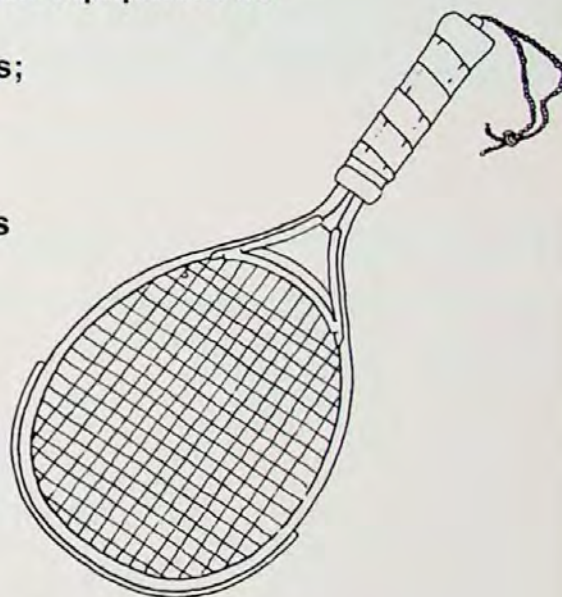
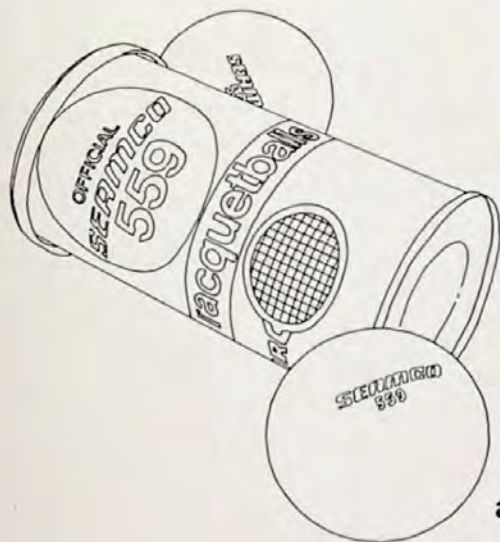
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Charlie Brumfield gives individual attention to the women in his group sessions on his recent stop at Court Sports. Houston is no exception to the tremendous influx of women getting involved in racquetball.

Since the opening of Court Sports in Houston, racquetball and handball have found a home deep in the heart of Texas.

People, especially women, are getting involved in racquetball all over the country and Charlie Brumfield, National Racquetball Champion, believes Houston is in touch with the growth of the sport. Charlie attracted many anxious students to the group sessions he conducted during his recent visit to Court Sports. Both beginners and advanced students were coached in different playing techniques.

Libby Lufred, President of Court Sports, Inc., designed the club and its facilities with her husband-player Peter to provide a comfortable atmosphere for both men and women, players and spectators. Both locker rooms are fully carpeted and include showers,

drying rooms, extra-large lockers, redwood saunas, and a whirlpool. Downstairs in the mirrored exercise room there is a \$2500 Universal Machine for those who want a complete professional work-out; wall charts illustrate techniques that show how to get the maximum benefit from the exercises. For those with tiny tots, there is a nursery designed just for them, filled with different toys and a full-time nursery worker to keep them from wandering.

"The only thing limiting racquetball's growth is the lack of facilities," Charlie Brumfield said while in Houston. The memberships at Court Sports are growing so rapidly that the Lufreds are adding more courts to the club and picked three other sites to build more clubs in order to meet Houston's demand. The first court added to Court Sports has a glass back-wall and is designed primarily for competition. It also has a seating gallery for 500 people. This addition enables Court Sports to provide a facility for national tournament requirements including ways to utilize the playing surface of the entire court and various four wall techniques, as well as an enjoyment for spectators.

Court Sports has its own pro; Kevin Meyer. Classes are provided for beginners and advanced students in both individual and group sessions for people of all ages. Kevin says, *"There is a tremendous amount of talent among Houston's young players. I think we will be seeing some of them in national tournaments in the near future."* Women are especially involved in racquetball. Kevin thinks that, *"All of the women are really beginning to enjoy racquetball since it is so easy for them to learn."*

Racquetball Loses Friends

Smith Schippers

Smith Schippers, 52, long-time racquetball player, fan, supporter and member of the Board of Directors of the International Racquetball Association, passed away October 20.

Smitty, as he was known by his racquetball friends and foes alike was president of Marx and Bensdorf, Inc., a Memphis-based firm, where Smitty and his family lived.

Along the racquetball trail, Smitty and partner DeWitt Shy captured second place in the Master Doubles Nationals, which followed a third place finish the year before. He served ably for many years as Southeast Regional Commissioner.

Smitty is survived by his wife Verna and two children.

Allan Levine

Allan Levine, 34, reigning Illinois State doubles champ, met an untimely death October 26. Levine, who was to manage the just-opened Illinois Center Racquet and Health Club in Chicago, had been active in Illinois racquetball for the past five years.

Levine and partner Ron Rubenstein were three time Illinois state doubles champions dating back to 1972.

The Illinois Racquetball Association has instituted an Al Levine Memorial Sportsmanship Award in his honor to be presented at the annual Illinois State Doubles Tournament.

A fun-loving bachelor, we will always remember the happy times spent with Al at countless racquetball events. His passing is a great loss to the entire racquetball community.

**Bicentennial
NATIONAL RACQUETBALL
CHAMPIONSHIPS**

- LOCATION:** ATLAS HEALTH CLUB, San Diego, California
DATE: June 13-18, 1976
SANCTION: By the National Racquetball Club (N.R.C.) and the U.S. Racquetball Assn. (U.S.R.A.)
OFFICIAL BALL: Seamco 558 (black) in all amateur events; Seamco 559 (green) in all professional events.
RULES: U.S.R.A.-N.R.C. rules and regulations apply. If two events entered, players may have back to back matches.
TROPHIES: To first four places in amateur events.
ENTRY FEE: \$25 per person for first event. If player enters second event, that event is \$15. Men or women's pro singles — \$50.00
ENTRY DEADLINE: In our possession by 6 p.m. May 30, 1976. Prescribed fee must accompany entry form. Entries received after the deadline or unsigned, or without fee will not be accepted.
PRIZE MONEY: \$12,000 Men's Pro Singles;
 \$ 3,000 Women's Pro Singles.

OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM AND/OR ATLAS HOTEL ROOM RESERVATION

NAME	AGE	CLUB
ADDRESS	CITY	STATE ZIP
NAME OF DOUBLES PARTNER	AGE	CLUB

Please enter me in:

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| ☐ Amateur Open Singles | ☐ Women's Amateur Singles | ☐ Golden Master Doubles (55 & over) |
| ☐ Pro Men's Singles | ☐ Open Doubles | ☐ Women's Doubles |
| ☐ Senior Singles (35 & over) | ☐ Men's Senior Doubles (35 & over) | ☐ Women's Pro Singles |
| ☐ Master Singles (45 & over) | ☐ Men's Master Doubles (45 & over) | |

Each of the following Atlas Hotels have set aside a block of 150 rooms for participants and guests during the tournament

Mission Valley Inn Room Rates (per day)

Single	\$17.00
Double	\$22.00

Town & Country Hotel Room Rates (per day)

	Garden	Highrise
Single	\$22.00	\$24.00
Double	\$27.00	\$29.00

Add \$4.00 for each additional person in the same room.
 A 6% city room tax will be added as applicable to the above net rates.

Please reserve, and confirm by return mail, () room(s) at The Mission Valley Inn _____, Town & Country Hotel _____

Enclosed one nights deposit _____ Arrival Date _____ Departure Date _____

If you cancel reservations at least 15 days prior to start of the tournament your deposit will be refunded.

WAIVER: 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 Atlas Health Club, the U.S. Racquetball Assn. or National Racquetball Club, their respective agents, or any facility used for this tournament, for any and all injuries which may be suffered by me in connection with my competition in said tournament.

Signature _____ Ph. _____ Partner's Signature _____ Ph. _____

Please make room reservation or entry check (money order) payable to: **Atlas Health Club.**
Mail Entry Form and/or Room Reservation to: Atlas Health Club, 901 Hotel Circle San Diego, CA 92138

UPCOMING EVENTS

TOUR SITES AND DATES

January begins the new year and the second half of the racquetball season. On tap are four more pro-am tournaments, five U.S.R.A. regionals and, of course, the National Championships, which culminates the season in San Diego June 13-18, 1976.

Aurora, Illinois is not a strange town to veteran racquetballers. About 40 miles outside Chicago, the Y.M.C.A. there possesses one of the most outstanding spectator courts in the nation. Full glass side walls on both sides, and a glass back wall make seating for over 500 fans possible. Excellent lighting both inside and outside of the court cuts down glare and shadows making play that much better.

Host of one of last season's pro tour stops, Aurora has also hosted Illinois State tournaments, and various open events. Y.M.C.A. physical director Jim Stotz has an experienced, well co-ordinated crew ready to do an outstanding job.

The Aurora pro-am will be stop number four on the Leach-Seamco pro tour, sanctioned by the National Racquetball Club. The first three events, Denver, Burlington, Vermont and Tucson each continued the great momentum that builds toward the Nationals.

The pro events were followed by the National Juniors Championships (details in the March *National Racquetball*) one of the most enjoyable and fun events to come along in some time.

So the first half of the 1975-76 year is over, and things are bright as could be for phase two. That phase will start in Aurora, move to Milwaukee in February, down to Miami in March, Peoria, Illinois in late April, and the Nationals in San Diego in June. A week prior to Peoria will be the April 22-25 U.S.R.A. regional tournaments, for amateurs only in five key spots around the country.

"It's going to be an exciting season for racquetball," said U.S.R.A.

National Commissioner Joe Ardito. *"The pro tournaments mixed in with the amateur events promise a great showcase for our sport."*

After Aurora the tour moves to the Wisconsin Athletic Club, formerly the Milwaukee Handball/Racquetball Club. Not only is the club under new ownership, also new managership, with Dan Adler, a familiar name in racquetball now managing the club.

Dates for the Milwaukee tournament are February 26-29. It will be the third consecutive year that Art Patch's club has hosted an N.R.C. pro racquetball event, the only facility in the nation to be able to so boast.

Miami, the winter wonderland follows Milwaukee, and if the February Wisconsin weather hasn't gotten to you yet, you should be able to handle Miami in March. Hosted by the Miami Lakes Athletic Club, we're sure that players and spectators alike will love this

1975-76 N.R.C.—U.S.R.A. Major Tournament Schedule

Date	Event	Site	City
January 22-25	Aurora Pro-Am	Aurora, Y.M.C.A.	Aurora, Illinois
February 26-29	Milwaukee Pro-Am	Wisconsin Athletic Club	Wauwatosa, Wisconsin
March 25-28	Miami Pro-Am	Miami Court Club	Miami, Florida
April 22-25	U.S.R.A. West Regional	Shoeber's Handball/Racquetball Health Spa	San Francisco, California
	U.S.R.A. Southwest Regional	HB/RB Club	San Antonio, Texas
	U.S.R.A. East Regional	4 Wall Courts, Inc.	Buffalo, New York
	U.S.R.A. Mid-west Regional	Illinois Ctr. Racquet Club	Chicago
April 29-May 2	Tournament of Champions	Courtside	Peoria, Illinois
June 13-18	National Championships	Atlas Health Club	San Diego, California

N.R.C. PRO-AM TOURNAMENT
MILWAUKEE, WISC.
FEBRUARY 26-29, 1976

Site: Wisconsin Athletic Club, Wauwatosa, Wisc.

Facilities: 6 regulation, indoor, 4-wall courts.

Dates: February 26-29, 1976

Entry Fee: \$12 per person in amateur events; \$20 per person in pro event.

Sanction: By the U.S. Racquetball Association and National Racquetball Club.

Official Ball: In all amateur events: Seamco 558 (black). In all professional events: Seamco 559 (green).

Rules: U.S.R.A. and N.R.C. rules and regulations apply. If two events entered, players may have back to back matches. No player having accepted \$200 or more in prize money within the past 12 months may enter amateur events.

Trophies: To first four places in amateur events. First two places in consolation. \$4,500 prize money in Men's Pro Singles. \$500 in Women's Pro-Am.

Entry Deadline: In our possession by midnight, Tuesday Feb. 17, 1976. Prescribed fee must accompany entry form. Entries received after the deadline or without fee will not be accepted.

Mail Entries: Dan Alder, c/o Wisconsin Athletic Club and Fair Lady, Inc., 2930 N. 117th St., Wauwatosa, Wisc. 53222. Phone: 414-475-0777.

Make Checks Payable To: Wisconsin Athletic Club.

CONSOLATION IN ALL AMATEUR EVENTS IF COURT TIME ALLOWS.

Please enter me in: ☐ Pro Singles ☐ Amateur Open Singles
☐ Ladies Pro-Am Singles ☐ Senior Singles (35 and over)

PLAYERS ARE ALLOWED TO ENTER NO MORE THAN TWO EVENTS.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____



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tournament.

Since the Miami Lakes A.C. has only three courts the events will be pro-am (open) singles and pro-am (open) Ladies Singles. This means that anybody may enter the pros, but that there will be no strictly amateur events.

"We had hoped to have our new addition done by March," said owner Bruno Carchiai, "but we just couldn't make the deadline. Even so, there's plenty of spectator room and we know it will be an outstanding event."

The April Regionals are not qualifying tournaments in any way, but are just as billed, amateur regional events. Any player who has won \$200 or more in prize money in the past 12 calendar months will be ineligible for the Regionals. The western regional will be in San Francisco at the new Schoeber's Handball-Racquetball Health Spa. Other Regionals include the Four Wall Courts, Inc. in Buffalo, New York, the

Handball/Racquetball Club of San Antonio (featured in November *National Racquetball*) and the brand new Illinois Center Racquet and Health Club in Chicago.

The following week is the Tournament of Champions in Peoria, Illinois. The site is Courtside, a nine court facility with all the amenities. The Tournament of Champions has the only closed tournament of the season, with the top 12 men and top eight women prize money winners the only players eligible in the pro bracket.

"We wanted some excitement, something different," said club owner Mike Hart. "We didn't just want another tournament. There will be amateur events, of course."

That something different, besides the format also includes \$5,000 additional prize money which was donated by the host. Therefore, the men in Peoria will play for \$8,000 total money and the women for \$2,000, making the Tournament of Champions the biggest prize tournament of the year outside of the National Championships.

And then to San Diego. Chronicled beautifully in the November *National Racquetball* the Atlas Health Club is a facility that tournament co-ordinators dream of. There is no question that this will be racquetball's biggest and best season ever. We certainly hope you will be a part of it.

**Free Rule Books,
Draw Sheets and
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The U.S. Racquetball Association will donate to any sanctioned tournament this season rule books, draw sheets and scorecards. That's right, will donate these articles, - free of charge to tournament hosts.

Just fill out the coupon below and we'll get in touch with you to make sure your tournament has enough of these materials.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Telephone _____

N.R.C. PRO-AM TOURNAMENT
MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA
MARCH 25-28, 1976

Site: Miami Lakes Athletic Club, Miami Lakes, FL

Facilities: 3 regulation, indoor, 4-wall courts.

Dates: March 25-28, 1976.

Entry Fee: \$20 per person.

Sanction: By the National Racquetball Club.

Official Ball: Seamco 559 (green).

Rules: N.R.C. rules and regulations apply.

Awards: \$4,500 in Men's Pro-Am; \$500 in Women's Pro-Am.

Entry Deadline: In our possession by midnight, Monday, March 15, 1976. Prescribed fee must accompany entry form. Entries received after the deadline or without fee will not be accepted.

Mail Entries: Bruno Cerchiai, Miami Lakes Athletic Club, 5885 N.W. 151st St., Miami Lakes, FL 33014. Phone (305) 558-7780.

Make Checks Payable To: Miami Lakes Pro-Am.

CONSOLATION IN ALL EVENTS.

Please enter me in: ☐ Men Pro-Am Singles
☐ Ladies Pro-Am Singles

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Racquetball: A jeans and T-shirt sport for quick feet and minds

From: Chicago Tribune, November 14, 1975

Tennis is out; racquetball is in. Racking up is passe; phoning for court reservations is trendy. Status tennis togs should pass to charity: cutoff blue jeans and T-shirts should be cherished.

What manner of game is racquetball?

It is the latest scion in a line of racquet games: platform paddle tennis, squash, badminton, paddleball, and tennis. A sport for nimble feet and minds, racquetball basics are easy to learn, fans say. Like jogging, bicycling, and other manifestations of the quest for physical fitness, racquetball relieves competitive urges . . . and burns off 882 calories an hour.

"It's a Space Age development. The game uses a highly compressed ball, the volleys are fast and hard, the play is rapid," explains Terry Fancher, 28-year-old racquetball pro.

It all started in 1949, when a Connecticut squash and tennis pro named Joe Sobek wearied of paddleball's relatively heavy wood paddle.

"Sobek thought it would be a more interesting and entertaining game played with a strung racket," Fancher wrote in his master's thesis. Sobek designed a racket, persuaded a New England manufacturer to produce it, cornered the nation's supply of a children's red, white, and blue rubber ball, and coerced people to play the new version of paddleball. Presto! A new game was born.

Sobek was so enthused about his invention that he sent complimentary rackets and balls to 223 YMCAs around the country as inducements to try the game.

During the next decade, the popularity grew for "paddle-rackets," "paddle-tennis," and "paddle-ball"—various monikers for Sobek's game.

Ultimately christened racquetball, the game gained momentum through the efforts of Bob Kendler, 71-year-old owner of Skokie's Community Builders, Inc. Kendler, while president of the United States Handball Association, promoted racquetball in the late 1960s and early '70s and was instrumental in forming the International Racquetball Association in 1969. He now heads the U.S. Racquetball Association [USRA] and National Racquetball Club, both headquartered in Skokie.

Did the tennis explosion influence racquetball? *"Yes, it may have slid in on tennis' coattails because of the identification with racket sports,"* says Chuck Leve, USRA director.

"Racquetball really boomed in 1970," Leve says. *"We've got 12,500 members, more than half of whom joined within the last year."* Chicago membership comprises several thousand avid players.

The game's appeal comes from the nature of the game itself, Leve says. *"It's easy to play, easy to learn, easy to become competent. It comes off better than tennis because you get a better workout in a shorter time. Equipment is cheaper, and it's not a status game; you don't have to buy name garments."*

Racquetball is played on an enclosed handball court, with basic handball rules and scoring. That means the four walls and the ceiling are your enemy, as is your opponent. A strung racket, about 18 inches long, is used to smack a hollow, 1.4-ounce ball.

"It's an extremely active game," explains Turk Glazebrook, manager of the Mid-Town Court House at Carl Sandburg Village; *"so people who are playing get a good workout."*

Initial forays into the world of racquetball can be confusing. And

devastating. Blisters, overheated bodies, bruises, exhaustion, and acute embarrassment are the marks of novices. Beginners may forget strategy to concentrate on conquering fear of balls whizzing past at incredible speeds. Yet, players report remarkable gains after several sessions.

Although any enclosed handball court will suffice, private clubs featuring handball, paddleball, and racquetball courts are popping up in Chicagoland like mushrooms after rain. This year alone, local court space has tripled with the advent of six facilities. These clubs offer sports without jockism. Separate men's and women's locker facilities, attended nurseries, and family memberships mean the game is *not* for men only. The new clubs have a minimum of *eau de sweatsox* and a maximum of creature comforts such as saunas, whirlpools, exercise equipment, and television.

Most clubs require membership and court fees. For example, introductory rates at the Evanston Court Club, 1101 Dodge Av., are \$25 for individuals, \$35 for families; hour-long court fees range from \$6 to \$8. The month-old Mid-Town Court House, 1236 N. La Salle St. [part of a five-club city and suburban chain] offers \$30 adult memberships; \$45, family; court fees, \$8 to \$10. At Woodfield Racquet Club, 1415 N. Payne Rd., Schaumburg, a half-mile west of Woodfield Shopping Center, rates for its new handball-racquetball courts are \$30 for men; \$15, women; \$45, family; court fees, \$6 to \$8.

Enrollment at the Illinois Center Racquet and Health Club, 111 E. Wacker Dr. costs \$350 for women, \$450 for men. Fees include use of all exercise and recreation facilities, not just racquetball.

TOURNAMENT RESULTS

3-Wall Cal.

Costa Mesa's Jim Carson swept through the open division without a loss to capture the top prize in the California State Outdoor Singles Racquetball Tournament held November 1-2 at Orange Coast College.

Carson, seeded second in the Open Division, beat No. 1 seed Rick Kossier 21-17, 21-20, in the finals to nail down the first place trophy. Darryl Keene finished third.

Unheralded Fred Moreno put on an awesome display of shooting ability to whip all the favorites in the B Division. Moreno blitzed No. 2 seed Don Delany 21-8, 21-10 in the quarterfinals, topped Gary Orgill 21-15, 21-13 in the semi-finals, and polished off top-seeded Bruce Bergevin 21-15, 21-19 in the finals.

Chuck Bridges beat Orgill 21-16, 21-9 for third place.

Scott Crawford muscled his way past Jim Hicks 21-13, 21-14 to capture the C crown, while Nancy Gick defeated Mindy Martin 21-8, 21-13 for the Women's title.

Steve Dunney took third in the C Division, and Dana Dunning, who lost a tough three-game match to Gick in the semi-finals, finished third in the Women's Division.

In the Senior Division (35 and older), Bob Bible captured the first place trophy with a 21-9, 21-15 victory over Al Forsyth. Keith Brubaker took third.

Missouri Open

Labor Day Weekend brought out some of the top racquetball players in the mid-west area who gathered at the beautiful, new Castle Oak Country Club in St. Louis. Castle Oak donated the use of their courts, supplied all the hospitality—use of the swimming pool for a beer and hot dog party plus the use of a full-size ice skating rink for a Saturday night skating party. Our thanks to the owner of the club plus all his

staff that helped make this tournament such a success.

There were 117 entries from Tennessee, Oklahoma, Kentucky, Kansas, Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin and Missouri. The Men's Open included five of the top players in the country: Jerry Hilecher, Marty Hogan, Dave Bledsoe (who had to withdraw at the last minute due to a dislocated shoulder), Mike Zeitman and Ken Wong. With Bledsoe dropping out, the semi-final matches came down to Hilecher playing Wong and Hogan playing Zeitman.

In the first semi-final match, Jerry could do no wrong against Wong. Jerry played very well keeping Wong moving and not giving him a chance to shoot the ball. The match was over in two, 21-9, 21-11. Afterwards Kenny said he wasn't mentally ready for the match. Tourney directors kept changing the times of the match due to lack of available courts and this did upset him.

In the second semi-final match, it was a contest of two fired-up players Zeitman against Hogan. Mike, coming into town from a second place finish to Bledsoe in Michigan, wanted to meet and beat Marty in the worst way. Marty, on the other hand, had just come in from San Diego where he had been winning matches for four weeks. Hogan took game one 21-13, Zeitman won the second game 21-15 and in the third game, Zeitman took the lead but Hogan came back at 18-15 to win in an exciting 21-18 match.

This set the stage for one versus two seed finals. In the first game, Hilecher shot every ball from every end of the court and won 21-10. The second game was different as Hogan gained confidence and started shooting right from the beginning. He took an early lead and before he knew what was happening, Jerry was down 12-4. At this point, Jerry started putting on the pressure and tied up the score at 13 all. After that, it was downhill again and Marty came up with what

he needed and the final score was 21-14.

The third game started with both players shooting backhand and forehand shots off the other's serves. After the first 12 innings of play, the score was only 4-3. Hogan then built a lead to 19-9. Jerry did not give up and he played his usual game of gambling and it took Marty 12 serves to make the 21st point, nine of them he served at 20-13. The final score was 21-13.

Third place went to Zeitman over Wong in another hard fought three games 21-15, 15-21 and 21-19. Consolation round was won by Fred Michels, Louisville over Don Webb, Champaign, Illinois.

Men's B Division had a 32 draw with a lot of people playing the night before the tournament to be able to play their way in. A newcomer in racquetball, unseeded Wayne Campbell from Wichita, Kansas, beat top seed Denny Kottkamp to reach the semi-finals. He met another unseeded player, Dennis McDowell, Bloomington, Illinois who beat the fourth seed, Jeff Gitt.

In the bottom bracket, the second seed, David Kinberg and number three Alan Hilecher both won their matches to play in the semi-finals. McDowell and Kinberg won their matches 21-13, 8-21 and 21-4.

The first two games of the finals were both exciting with McDowell winning the first 21-15 and Kinberg the second, 21-19. The third game was all McDowell, 21-5. Kinberg was too busy yelling and screaming to be able to concentrate on the game. He will have to mature more if he wants to be a winner. Wayne Campbell defeated Alan Hilecher in three games to win third place. Marshall Peterson, another Bloomington player, beat Bo Champagne, Kansas City 21-4, 21-11 for the Consolation trophy.

Seniors—All seeds finished the way they were placed in the draw. Top seed Don Webb, Champaign, Illinois, beat number two Bill Williamson also from Champaign. Third place went to V. Z. Lawton, Norman, Oklahoma over Max Scharf, St. Louis 21-12, 18-21 and

21-20. John Lehey, Paxton, Illinois won the consolation round over Thad Strobach, St. Louis.

Masters—Ike Gumer, Louisville upset top seed Joe Zelson, St. Louis in the semi-finals only to lose to Irv Rozelman, St. Louis 21-9 and 21-9 in the finals. For third place, Zelson played Dan Hilecher, St. Louis (one of the best blockers in the business) being that I am writing this, I could not remember the first game score—only the second. In a hard fought second game, Zelson came from behind at the last minute to ease out a victory at 21-19. Charles Sarne, St. Louis defeated Larry Carlisle, St. Louis for the consolation round.

Golden Masters were played to 31 points. Len Marks, who made up

the draw, received two byes and a forfeit to meet Ike Gumer who had to play five rounds before meeting Lenny. Gumer won the tough match, 31-19. Third place went to Herman Beitch, St. Louis over Walter Cadwallader.

Novice Men—This was a fun group with a round of 16 players who just started playing the game. First place was won by Mike Bodker, St. Louis over Carl Hudson, Paxton, Illinois. Third place went to Bill Donnelly, St. Louis over Patrick Barrow, Harlboro, Missouri. Steve Weinstock, St. Louis beat Fred Shapiro, Chicago for the consolation round. Shapiro had an excuse for losing. He had a grueling two game match with Gene Ferman of St. Louis and had no strength left

to play Barrow. We will be hearing a lot from some of these novice players in the future.

Women's Open—We only had a draw of eight but a lot of exciting matches with new, good woman players on the scene. Upsets were many. Top seed, Chris Ackerman, St. Louis lost to unseeded Judy Thompson, Davenport, Iowa in the round of four. Judy beat Barbara Halpern in the first round to play Chris. In the bottom bracket, second seed, Nancy Zelson, St. Louis lost to Goldie Hogan, St. Louis. The finals were won by Thompson 13-21, 21-14 and 21-17. Third place went to Ackerman over Zelson. Consolation round went to Nancy Greer, Emporia, Kansas over Iona Long, St. Louis.

Women's B—Another new racquetball player, Frances Maxon, Independence, Missouri beat Iona Long, St. Louis 21-16 and 21-18 for the championship. Karen Shippy, captured third place and Alice Becker won the consolation round over Linda Hogan.

I would like to thank Len Marks who stayed at his post throughout the tournament making sure all the matches got off on time. Alan Hilecher and his wife, Linda handled all the jobs Lenny and I didn't want. A special thanks to Sara Marks and Anne Hilecher for handling hospitality, all complaints and putting up with Lenny and I.

SOMRA (State of Missouri Racquetball Association) wishes to thank all the referees that helped and to Ward Leber who kept wiping the floors during the championship matches. Looking forward to the Third Annual Missouri Open next year. Any club wishing to hold the Open next year, drop me a note as no site has yet been chosen.

Dan Hilecher
Missouri State Chairman

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Some weeks ago, over 110 racquetballers, the largest number of entries ever to play in an all-military racquetball tournament, participated in the first East Coast Military Racquetball Championships. Three days of rigorous competition were held at the racquetball facilities of the Special Services Department of Little Creek's Naval Amphibious Base, and other military installations in the Norfolk, Va., area. An awards ceremony capped the play on October 5, 1975.

This first East Coast military racquetball tournament attracted players from Maine to Florida. Over 220 matches were played, with top players crowned in the Open Singles, Open Doubles, B Singles and Consolation Singles Divisions. These military men and women may go on to regional and national competition later this year.

Open Singles

In the finals of the Open Singles Division, Dan Giordano, an Air Force Staff Sergeant from Hanscomb AFB, Mass., defeated Glenn Allen, a Lieutenant Commander on the Surface Force, Atlantic staff in Norfolk, Va. Giordano won two straight games with a score of 21-8 and 21-7 on his way to becoming the first East Coast Open Singles champion. SSgt. Giordano's roll outs were the deciding factors against his quarterfinals opponent, Army Captain Kevin Dorr of Fort Belvoir, Va. 21-17, 21-12; and, against Marine Corps Captain Steve Melgard of Cherry Point, N.C. 21-1, 21-3 in the semifinals.

Open Doubles

After 36 doubles teams participated

in Open Doubles competition, SSgt. Giordano and Army Major Peter Crummey of Fort Deven, Mass., had defeated LCdr. Allen and Tom Madison, a Navy Senior Chief Aviation Boatswain's Mate from Norfolk, Va., in the finals 21-12, 21-15 for the championship.

The Giordano-Crummey team topped two Marine Corps Captains, Steve Melgard and Larry Grandy 21-10, 21-10 enroute to the championship. Melgard-Grandy defaulted, allowing Lieutenant Tom Lytle and Captain Bob Spooner, Marine officers from Quantico, Va., to capture the third place trophy.

So that all participants could play at least two matches, a Consolation Singles Division was set up for first round singles losers (both Open and B Singles). Richard Brown, a Norfolk-based Navy Lieutenant Commander, played a tough three game match to topple Marine Corps Captain Bob Spooner of Quantico, Va.

Women Represented

When the smoke had cleared a young woman Marine from Parris Island, S.C., Helen F. Rios, was declared the 1975 East Coast Women's Racquetball Champion and awarded a Voit "Roll Out," aluminum racquet. Ms. Rios also competed in the B Division Singles, upsetting a couple of her male counterparts in the early rounds. Future tournament success is predicted for Ms. Rios as she grows in confidence and experience.

The top four teams or players in each division received racquetball trophies and Voit "Roll Out" racquets, or racquetball bags.

Bigger and better things are predicted for East Coast all-military racquetball in 1976. A Seniors Division will be added to next year's tournament and a three day, holiday weekend will be picked to provide more time between matches will be added. An all-military racquetball play-off is tentatively being planned to allow top East Coast players the opportunity to compete against West Coast racquetballer leaders.

East Coast Rankings

Open Singles Division

1. SSgt. Daniel Giordano, USAF, Hanscomb AFB, Mass.
2. LCdr. Glenn R. Allen, USN, ComNavSurfLant Staff, Norfolk, Va.
3. Major Peter Crummey, USA, Fort Devens, Mass.
4. Captain Steve Melgard, USMC, Cherry Point MCAS, N.C.
5. Captain Larry Grandy, USMC, New River MCAS, N.C.
6. Lennis Lich, USA, Fort Bragg, N.C.
7. Fred Mehne, USA, Fort Bragg, N.C.
8. Captain Kevin Dorr, USA, Fort Belvoir, Va.

Open Doubles Division

1. SSgt. Daniel Giordano/Major Pete Crummey
2. LCdr. Glenn Allen/ABCS Tom Madison, USN, Norfolk, Va.
3. Captain Bob Spooner, USMC, Quantico, Va./Lieutenant Tom Lytle, USMC, Quantico, Va.
4. Captain Steve Melgard/Captain Larry Grandy

B Singles Division

1. Captain Terry Wong, USA, Fort Monroe, Va.
2. Lt(jg) Richard Morrow, USN, NAS Oceana, Va.
3. Petty Officer Roger Lowe, USN, NAS Oceana, Va.
4. Lieutenant Wrightmeyer, USN, Naval Base, Norfolk, Va.

Las Vegas

Dan Seaton won the 1975 Las Vegas Fall Racquetball tournament sponsored by the Las Vegas Racquetball Association. Seaton defeated Dewey Sparger in the finals of the Men's A bracket. Jimmy Johnson captured third place 5-21, 21-12, 21-9 over Phil Waldman.

In the women's open, Priscilla Connelly won her second consecutive Las Vegas tournament, topping Dee Eckhoff in the finals 21-10, 21-10. Rio Harnett took third place over Sandi Grey.

Chris Barnbeck won the Men's B division stopping Ron Eckhoff in the championship match 21-5, 19-21, 21-7. Dan Harnett won third place by topping Tony Pepe 21-16, 21-12.

Forty-three entrants made up the

Men's C bracket with Herb Tobman finally emerging victorious with a thrilling 18-21, 21-19, 21-20 victory over J. M. Prince. Jerry Ridgeway finished third by virtue of a 14-21,

21-5, 21-14 win over Allen Brooks. Dave Olden captured the consolation crown by defeating Ron Ruegge 21-12, 21-20.



(L. to r.) Barnbeck, R. Harnett, Connelley, D. Harnett, Seaton, Sparger, Olden, D. Eckhoff, R. Eckhoff, Prince. Not shown—Johnson, Tobman, Ridgeway.

Woodfield Exhibition

Bill Schmidtke, the wily, old veteran tarnished Marty Hogan's rising star a bit by topping the St. Louis youngster in an exciting three-game exhibition in Schaumburg, Illinois November 2. Scores were 21-14, 5-21, 21-17.

The event was to celebrate the grand opening of the Woodfield Racquet Club's eight new racquetball/handball courts in this northwest Chicago suburb. Over 200 people squeezed into the gallery of the glass back-walled exhibition court at Woodfield. In fact so many fans showed up that the gallery had to be cleared between the first two games, in order that everybody be assured of seeing part of the match.

Hogan, who just weeks earlier had won the first pro tournament of his career, blew an 11-2 third game lead. The shotmaking and retrieving shown by both players was a treat for the rapidly developing Chicago area fans.

Prior to the Schmidtke-Hogan

feature, Sue Carow, reigning Illinois State champ defeated Illinois' number three, Beverly Franks 21-10. The opening match on the Sunday afternoon exhibition was a mixed doubles game with Schmidtke and Carow topping Franks and Hogan 21-19.

Paddleball

Far Rockaway, New York's Bobby Schwarz captured his sixth consecutive National One Wall Paddleball doubles championship this fall as he and partner Howard Solomon, Brooklyn defeated Ken Levine and Anton Lowry, both of Brooklyn. Scores were 21-8, 21-5.

The tournament, sanctioned by the American Paddleball Association was played at Cow Meadow Park in Freeport, New York.

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First In Chicago?

Claimant for beginnings of racquetball in the Chicago area, if not the Midwest, is Jack Smith, who has operated the successful Riviera Athletic Club in the Outer Drive East apartments for the past 11 years, and prior to that had a club in the McCormick Building at 332 S. Michigan. Jack used to peel tennis balls and play with handball rules, using a paddle, as far back as 1946. Later the players used the Joe Sobek ball.

Steve Keeley

Steve Keeley is without doubt the most respected and likeable player in professional racquetball. He is also the most interesting character to come into the sport since its inception eight years ago.

Born in Schenectady, New York February 8, 1949 Steve along with his family moved about a lot during his growing up days, living in such places as San Francisco, Idaho Falls, Pittsburgh and finally settling in Jackson, Michigan. It was during this last phase that Steve enrolled in Michigan State University where he took two years of pre-vet studies and followed that with four years of veterinary medicine and a D.V.M. degree. He passed the Michigan State Veterinary Boards on his first attempt and then moved to San Diego to continue his then fledgling racquetball career and to take up veterinary medicine. After a six month lay-off from classroom work he passed the California Boards on his first attempt, making him a registered veterinarian in two states.

Racquetball has intruded on his desires to make a career out of veterinary medicine, a career he feels he will eventually pursue.

While at Michigan State Steve took up paddleball and after one year became M.S.U.'s intramural champ and a year later (1971) became National Paddleball Champ defeating Charlie Brumfield for the title. He eventually won the paddleball title three times.

A brief introduction to racquetball came in 1971 and he shortly thereafter entered the National Championships in Salt Lake City, only to lose in the round of 16 to Ron Rubenstein. After the tournament he went back to paddleball, "because I didn't think racquetball would make it."

When he saw otherwise and moved to San Diego in January of 1973 Steve became hooked on the game, playing and practicing for hours per day. His game developed to the point where he now holds the number two spot in all-time N.R.C. prize money winnings, although he has yet to win the racquetball National Championships.

Fiercely independent and highly individualistic, Steve's high moral philosophy has been severely tested during a somewhat turbulent career. "You couldn't buy Steve Keeley with a million dollars," says Charlie Drake of Leach Industries, the racquet manufacturer for whom Steve plays. His down-to-earth honesty which sometimes borders on the brutal is nevertheless refreshing and well-meant.

A few unfortunate incidents have soured Steve on the politics involved in racquetball. Two of these specifically have "taken the fun out of the game for me," he says. One occurred when tournament officials refused to forfeit Brumfield out of a match after he had left the court with cramps against referee's orders (Keeley eventually lost the match). The other was when Steve and Steve Serot travelled from San Diego to Houston for an I.R.A. pro tournament and were not allowed to play.

Yet through it all Steve has been able to secure and retain the friendship of virtually every player in the game. His fun-loving, easy-going attitude, along with his clean and honest court play make him an ideal racquetball player. His game is marked by intense concentration, almost self-hypnosis and a superb backhand.

Also known for a rather strange personal life, it will become obvious to the reader that Steve's racquetball success has not gone to his head, nor his style of living. The following interview, conducted by *National Racquetball* editor Chuck Leve, tells the Steve Keeley story.

Leve: Most people consider you a control player. Would you agree with that general analysis?

Keeley: I'm not a control player to the degree that Charlie Brumfield is, but I'm not a killer to the degree that say, Steve Serot or Jerry Hilecher or Marty Hogan are. I'm sort of in between. I'd say I'm more of a kill shot player. I hit for control when I'm presented with a defensive shot, and I kill or hit an offensive shot when I'm presented with that opportunity. I try never to squander an offensive opportunity with a control type shot, a ceiling or Z-ball.

Leve: If you were writing a book on racquetball, isn't that the theory you would teach players?

Keeley: The way I teach is considered the offensive theory of play. Your first thought in any situation is to take the most offensive shot,—that would be a kill shot. Now, if you can't kill the ball, say you're back in three-quarters court and it wouldn't be a good percentage shot to go for the kill, then you think of the second most offensive shot,—a pass. Only when you've gone through the kill and the pass and you can't hit either one, say, you're stepping on your shoelaces, or your opponent's covering real close, only then do you think of a defensive shot: a ceiling, or Z, or around-the-wall ball.

In other words, when you get a set-up, don't go for a defensive shot.

Leve: It's been said that you're biggest weakness on the court is lack of patience. Would you agree with that?

Keeley: No, not at all.

Leve: By that I meant that you always seem to be the player that would initiate the rally. You'd hit three or four ceiling balls, and you

would always be the player to hit the first other shot, usually around-the-walls.

Keeley: It depends on who I'm playing. Against most guys, you can hit around-the-walls, against players like Bud Muehleisen or Brumfield you can't do that, so I stay on the ceiling with them. Serot's another you can't go around-the-walls against. The old racquetball adage is the only effective return off a ceiling ball is another ceiling ball, and that's true against good players. But against somebody out of the top four pros, you can hit an around-the-wall ball, or sometimes you can drive it.

Leve: Do you agree with those players who say that you hit the ball softer than any other top player?

Keeley: Yea. Hogan says I hit it so soft you can read the Seamco 559 as the ball goes by. I hit it fairly soft, not because I try to, but because that's my stroke. I taught myself to play the game, therefore, my strokes are not the best. I know how to swing, the text-book method, but I don't use it. I was brought up playing paddleball, which is another reason I hit so softly, because in paddleball you can't overpower the ball. So for those two

reasons, one, I taught myself improperly and two, I started playing paddleball, I probably don't hit the ball as hard as the other guys, especially the gang from St. Louis.

Leve: Do you consider that either an advantage or a disadvantage?

Keeley: Well, as some tennis coaches say, it's not how hard you hit it, it's where you hit it. In some cases, I suppose, it's better to hit it hard. For example, when you miss a soft shot, it's an easy set-up for your opponent. However, when you hit it hard, like Hogan, and he leaves it a foot high, it still comes blazing back at you 100 miles an hour and you don't have time to react, and make a defensive shot. So, it's a disadvantage in that regard.

Leve: You have probably as much natural ability as any player in the game. Many people in that situation tend to rely on that natural ability and not work as hard on their game. Have you ever found yourself saying, well, I'll probably make the semi's anyhow, why work harder? I guess what I'm asking is, do you practice much?

Keeley: Not any more. I don't practice any more.

Keeley shows the anticipation and quickness necessary to be a top pro as he begins to cover a front court shot against Marty Hogan.





As with his forehand, note the excellent form and concentration used by Keeley. That's following the ball!

Leve: *Why?*

Keeley: I'm not that interested. I don't enjoy racquetball that much.

Leve: *You seem to have an on-again, off-again desire for the game. Why is that?*

Keeley: Well, it's mostly off-again. There's a number of reasons. One, some of the players in the game turn me off. I dislike bickering and you and I both know that before the introduction of linesmen, there was a lot of bickering and a lot of cheating, a lot of win-at-all-costs attitude on the court. There were a lot of cases where the referee and even the tournament commissioners wouldn't uphold the rules. To me it just got ridiculous and it wasn't worth the battle. Second, the ball situation has been ridiculous. There's no way you can practice,—it's not like this in any other sport, where the ball is so uniform. Denver, for example, like Brumfield said, the balls were so live, they were virtually unplayable. But then you go to the next tournament and the balls could be a

lot deader. Or if you change balls in the middle of the game, the new ball might be 10-20 percent less or more lively than the ball that just broke. Third, a lot of things that have happened to me and other players in the past regarding politics in the game. Like when the I.R.A. barred me from tournaments just because I played in N.R.C. events. Things like this just got so discouraging that it took the fun out of the game for me.

So those are the reasons I don't practice that much. I had a three month lay-off last summer and then started up again. I only played 10 times in the four months prior to Denver, just because it isn't fun anymore.

Leve: *Judging by what you've said, it seems to me that the practicing would be the fun for you, and playing tournaments not fun.*

Keeley: Well, I have to practice in order to play well in tournaments. I don't practice for enjoyment any more. Now I'll practice against Charlie Drake in San Diego and set

my mind like it's a tournament. To me it's not practice, it is a tournament.

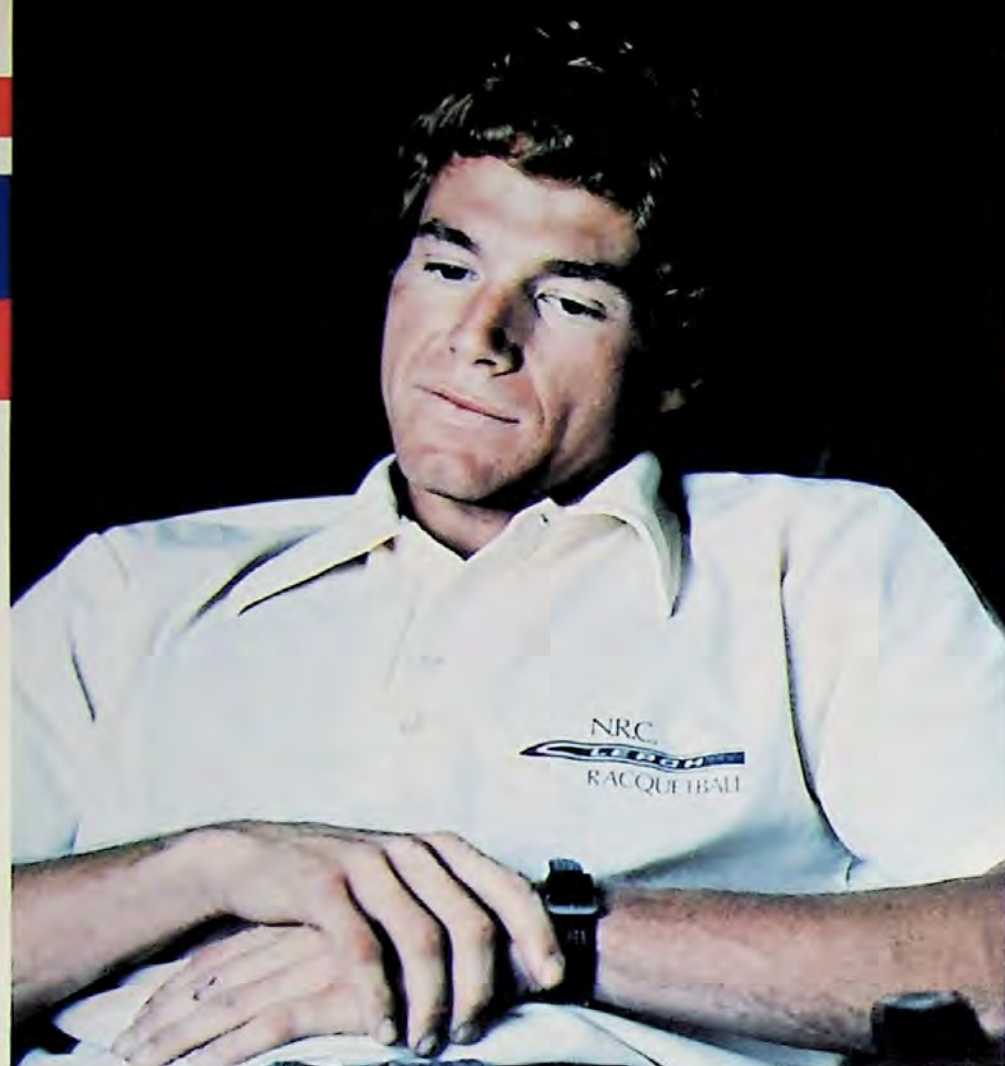
Leve: *How then, can you consistently do so well in tournaments?*

Keeley: Because I want the money and I've got a lot of pride. I don't completely not care. There are incentives: money and pride.

Leve: *Wasn't there a time when you used to spend hours on the court?*

Keeley: Yes, the first year I played racquetball. And before that paddleball, which I enjoyed. This is before we got into the big leagues of prize money and all that. Back in paddleball days there was only one tournament a year and you played in it for t-shirts and trophies. It was a fun game. Then I would practice for hours just to get good, for my own personal edification. My first year of racquetball, when I went out to San Diego, that feeling carried over.

Leve: *You mentioned one of the reasons for your disenchantment*



Some of the players in the game turn me off. I dislike bickering, a lot of cheating and win-at-all costs attitude. To me it just got ridiculous and it wasn't worth the battle.

with racquetball was due to the bickering on the court. Don't you feel that the inclusion of linesmen now is a step in the right direction?

Keeley: Oh, for sure it was a good step. As long as you guys will put your foot down when it needs to be put down, everything will work out. The case I was referring to specifically, the one that still stays with me, was when Schmidtke was refereeing my semi-final match against Brumfield in the Chicago pro tournament in 1974. Brumfield walked off the court with cramps and wasn't to be found. Schmidtke, told him to get back on the court or the match would be forfeited, but Brumfield was no where to be found in the catacombs of the University of Illinois in Chicago. Well, the tournament chairman

said, we'll give him some time, and to make the story short, he came back when his cramps were gone and proceeded to beat me. That's just one case, there have been others, where the referee changes his mind, or something just wasn't done professionally.

It's getting better. Pro racquetball is still in the neo-phyte stage, which is a valid excuse. It is getting better.

Leve: *How do you view professionalism, prize money and how has it all affected you?*

Keeley: It has allowed me a lifestyle I couldn't have any other way. Pro racquetball was a great thing for me. Every little kid dreams of being either a fireman, policemen or big league ball player. My dream as a little kid and jock of all trades was

to travel around, have somebody else pick up the tab, and play sports. I never thought it would be racquetball, but that's the way it turned out. And like I said, it's allowed me to do what I want to do and I couldn't do that without the money that I win.

Leve: *You mentioned that you started your court career in paddleball. Can you give me some background on those years?*

Keeley: Yea, the good ol' days of paddleball. I first picked up a court weapon in 1967 when I entered Michigan State University. For some reason, I have always been good at sports, although perhaps not great at any kind of sport. I'm especially good at the diddly sports like marbles, walking-the-fence, one-on-one basketball, hula hoop, things like that. Finally, I found paddleball and for some reason after a year of playing I became intramural champ. After another year of playing I became national champ. That was in 1971.

Leve: *When did you switch from paddles to racquets?*

Keeley: I had never even heard of racquetball at this time. I remember getting a phone call from Muehleisen in the fall of 1971 and he said there's a new sport taking over and it's called racquetball. That was the first time I ever heard of it. He said no one's going to be playing paddleball in the future. I didn't believe him, of course, because I was at Michigan State where everyone was playing paddleball. It was second only to football on the scholastic program. But it turned out to be a pretty clairvoyant statement and all this came to pass. I picked up my first racquet about three weeks prior to the Nationals in Salt Lake City in 1971 and went to the Nationals. Drake and I beat the number one seeded doubles team before being



Keeley shows the strain of top level pro play as he uses the side wall for support after a fierce rally with Jerry Hilecher in the New England Pro-Am quarter-finals.

eliminated ourselves. I played on two sprained ankles and managed to lose to Ron Rubenstein in singles.

The next year was Memphis for the Nationals and I didn't play there because I couldn't get away from school, mainly. Another reason was that I had given up racquetball because I still didn't think it would make it. I still didn't play or have a chance to play racquetball at Michigan State,—not until Brumfield came out one summer to play. We played every day for three months. In other words I didn't get my start in racquetball until I moved to San Diego three years ago, January 1, 1973. That's when I picked up racquetball in earnest.

Leve: What was that summer with Brumfield like?

Keeley: The worst summer of my life. And the best.

Leve: Seems to me that that was the real beginning of your racquetball career.

Keeley: Yes, it was. We played racquetball all summer. Charlie came out because I think he wanted to play paddleball. His first suggestion when he came out was, "why don't we play paddleball." I managed to change it around and convince him that I wanted to play racquetball. I don't think that he thought at that time that racquetball was going to take over. And since I had just beaten him in the Nationals in paddleball, I think he wanted to make sure that he would beat me the next year. So he moved out, we lived together for three months and played racquetball every day. That was my introduction to racquetball.

Leve: If he came out with the idea of playing paddleball, and you preferred paddleball to racquetball, how did you two end up playing racquetball?

Keeley: I can't really remember. Maybe I was just starting to get bored with paddleball. Also, I didn't really consider Charlie Brumfield a threat in paddleball, just because I'd never heard of him. I considered the fish in my own pool, small as they might have been, to be the big honchoes. Guys like Paul Lawrence, Craig Finger, and Gale Mikles. I just didn't think Brumfield would give me a game.

Leve: But he did give you everything you could handle didn't he?

Keeley: He did in the Nationals. But the only reason he gave me a game was because he b.s.'d around so much. Otherwise it was a wipe-out.

Leve: How did you enjoy that summer? It must have been an experience.

Keeley: Racquetball was good. Charlie and I had a great time.

That's where we innovated a lot of the shots you see today. The ceiling ball did not exist prior to then. We invented the Z-ball. We invented the around-the-wall ball, discussed it's use and strategy and kind of discarded it. We more or less got the game down to a science, mainly through experience and trial and error. Nothing had ever been written, nobody really played the game right, just because it was a new game.

Leve: Does it bother you that, although you've been right up there, you've never won the National Championship in racquetball?

Keeley: It used to be a goal of mine, especially the first year I played when I was excited about the game. It isn't so anymore.

I always try my best, and do as well as I can. But it won't be traumatic if I never win the Nationals, not like with some of the younger players who are so intensely into the game. It isn't traumatic at all.

Leve: Do you feel, perhaps, that this is an advantage for you, that you don't take a tournament as a life-or-death situation?

Keeley: Pressure-wise that might be so. I'm into a new thing now, you could call it the Zen of racquetball, but that might sound like I'm some sort of meditating nut. I blank my mind when I go into the court. A lot of it is contained in a book, *The Inner Game of Tennis*, by Gallwey. You may have noted it in some of my articles like, *Blinkess of the Thinkess*, and *Paralysis via Analysis*, in other words, overthinking and trying too hard.

I've developed the ability to just blank my mind when I enter the court. I don't know who I'm playing, I'm in another world. It's the ozone,

as some of my hippy-friends in San Diego would say. Often I won't know the game is over at 21. I've done that a number of times. Therefore, there's no pressure.

Leve: *Yes, but you must realize the difference when you go in against Brumfield as opposed to say, Serot.*

Keeley: The thing is, there's two games going on at once,—the outer game and the inner game, as Gallwey says. You have to remember there are also two things involved when you play, your mind and your body. It's hard to explain.

People screw up when they begin thinking too much. This is Brumfield's main problem. For sure it's Serot's main problem. Serot is far and above the best player in the game, bar none, Brumfield or anyone. Serot can do things physically no one else can. But his head gets in the way. If he could do what I do now, just blank his mind and let his body take over, he'd be fine.

You asked if I play differently against certain players. Yes, but I do that naturally without thinking. My body just adapts. For example, when playing against a left-hander I don't think or have to think so intensely about hitting cross-court to his backhand. I just let it happen, I don't need to make it happen.

Leve: *Prior to your disenchantment in racquetball did you do a lot of conditioning?*

Keeley: I still do condition work for racquetball and for myself. No more than I used to, or no less. Now I play racquetball every other day for an hour and a-half and I run either six or 12 miles every other day. The only reason I run those numbers is that happens to be (six miles) the distance to do one lap around the beach. So, that's my conditioning

program now, and I didn't do any more when I was really interested in racquetball.

Now any top player, and the following specifically: Brumfield, Schmidtke, Strandemo, Hogan, all these guys went through a training period where they were devoted to the game. Racquetball was their narcotic. They went in and played hours a day. The only exception to this that I know of is Ron Rubenstein. These guys played hours on end. The racquetball court became their Walden Pond.

While I was in school Brumfield used to practice by himself. He'd go in the court and count 100 ceiling balls with his backhand, another 100 with his forehand, play me, then practice for another hour, and finally go and play basketball or something else.

Strandemo came out to San Diego from Minnesota as a nothing, but he had the energy and desire to learn. He was amazing. He did train a lot, although the legends of him running 10 miles of sprints in the sand on the beach are a bit exaggerated. But every time I went to the courts he was there.

Same with Serot. We've all read where he played hours a day.

Leve: *Have you ever worked with weights in relation to racquetball?*

Keeley: No, with one exception. First of all, it helps to be strong in any sport,—whether ping pong, golf or tiddly winks. The stronger person will most likely be the better person. The nature of racquetball is such that you don't need to be that strong, especially in the upper body. And especially with the live balls. Back in the beginning stages of the sport it was helpful to be strong since the ball was so much deader.

Now, the only weight work I do

specifically is with legs. I do squats, and I have a chronic bad knee, so I do weight work for that, with a program that Los Angeles Dodger pitcher Mike Marshall gave to me.

Leve: *I never knew you had such a bad knee, until the Voit Summer Open in Schaumburg, Illinois, when it flared up in the finals against Wagner. Is this something that has been getting worse?*

Keeley: Well, maybe chronic is the wrong word. Re-occurring would be better. In 1969 I had a cartilage removed and actually it didn't bother me much at all until I played Wagner last summer. I banged it with my own racquet and it swelled up to basketball size. I had it drained and an orthoscopy performed after the tournament. That's where they stick a little periscope inside your knee and peer around to see what the matter is. The doctor told me it wasn't serious, it would heal, but it could happen again. And it did happen again, about a month later in Spokane when I lost to Hogan. The same thing happened, so I knew what it was and didn't bother with another orthoscopy. I did the same treatment I had done before and started lifting weights for it, according to the program Marshall had given me, which is specifically designed for this injury. Reggie Jackson, another baseball name, had the same injury, a lateral meniscus problem.

I started to do a lot more leg work with weights, not only for my knee but for my legs in general. It seems to have helped. I also began wearing a knee pad on it, not that it bothers me, but to protect it from my racquet, or banging it into the wall. So now that won't happen any more and all's well with my knee.

Leve: *I understand you've played a little handball from time-to-time.*

Keeley: Now handball I enjoy, much more than racquetball. I suppose it's because I'm not a top flight player so it's more of a challenge. It demands you be much more of an athlete to play or excel in handball. The balls are more uniform so you can practice and become good in handball. You can't do that in racquetball. Plus, I have a lot more natural ability for handball than racquetball. I think because it takes a better athlete for handball. I'm semi-ambidexterous and have some ability with my left hand, mostly from playing paddleball and racquetball left-handed.

Serot and I played in the California state handball tournament last October. It was kind of strange. He plays racquetball left-handed and I play right-handed, however I played the left in handball. It's unbelievable, but he can't hit a ball with his left hand in handball. You know the story on that, he's really right-handed, although he plays racquetball lefty. I seem to take the ball off the back wall better with my left than my right because I don't know what I'm doing.

Handball's fun, I really enjoy it. I play once every few months, whenever a tournament comes up.

Leve: Have you ever seriously considered taking up handball and discarding racquetball for a while?

Keeley: No. Again, I taught myself to play handball. I have these really awkward, half-blanked strokes and I can't hit the ball hard at all. You can see the seams on the ball as it goes up to the front wall. My whole handball game is finesse. I soft serve, something you rarely see in top handball play, with the exception of Haber. I can't hop the ball,—I just win on hustle, and being able to retrieve. And handball is so much easier than racquetball,



My dad would obviously like me to go into veterinary medicine. I don't know if he wants to retire and clean the kennels or what. But, they're happy and proud that I'm playing racquetball.

to me it's not as much of a workout. The whole game is in slow motion, and I don't have to move as fast. It's because the ball travels so much slower than a racquetball.

Leve: Why did you take up veterinary medicine?

Keeley: Stock question, have a stock answer. I've been asked that a lot. I've always liked animals and I've always liked medicine. So you combine animals and medicine and you come out with veterinary medicine.

Leve: Why haven't you gone into practice?

Keeley: If it wasn't for racquetball, I would have. I moved to San Diego with all intentions of going into veterinary medicine. I had to take my state boards first and I couldn't

take those until six months after I arrived, in June. In a six-month period, of course, you forget a lot of knowledge, something like 50 per cent of what you've learned. It comes back a lot easier, though, as I found out later.

During this six-month period I got into racquetball pretty heavily, there were all these tournaments going on all the time and there was talk about the N.R.C. starting a pro tour. In other words, I got enthused about racquetball.

Six months later I took and passed the boards, but I was too hyped about racquetball to go into medicine and I knew I couldn't do both. I would have had to sacrifice one or the other,—I couldn't have excelled in both simultaneously.

Leve: Do you do any further

studying or in any way keep up on your veterinary work?

Keeley: I still subscribe to the journals and anything that ever comes up medically whether animal or people, I'm still interested.

Leve: *Do you ever plan to practice?*

Keeley: I'm sure I will one of these days. When I hurt my knee last summer I thought it was going to be all over for racquetball. Prior to the orthoscopy the doctor said there was a 50 per cent chance I'd have to have another operation, but after the periscope gig, he said it wasn't necessary. Therefore, I was able to get back to racquetball and didn't have to go into veterinary medicine. One of these days I'll get to it. It's like a form of security right now. I

have too many other projects, too many other things to do before I get into veterinary medicine. My lifestyle just doesn't lend itself to being that tied down right now.

Leve: *Let's go into that lifestyle, one which many people consider a bit strange. Is it true, for example, that you rented a friend's garage for \$10 a week as your home?*

Keeley: Yes, it's true. The things I value in a living place are, well let's put it this way, I'd be really happy in a cave. I don't like anybody coming in, and perhaps it makes me sound like an introvert, but I like darkness, I don't like anybody around, I like it to be quiet, and I like it to be cold.

In a garage I had all of this. Garages, basements and attics,—

I've lived in them since I moved away from home.

I guess I should tell you about my pipe dream,—I've always wanted to live in a pipe.

Leve: *What do you mean by a pipe?*

Keeley: I think you'd better leave this out.

Leve: *Let me get it straight. You've always wanted to live in a pipe?*

Keeley: Yea, you know those big things,—the six foot tall ones. I want to live in one of those, with little pipes adjoining. You know,—sewer pipes.

Leve: *Oh.*

Keeley: You see why I don't want it in the magazine? Or live in a tree house. Don't put that in.

Leve: *Why? Does it embarrass you?*

Keeley: Uh, yea. I mean, to live in a pipe? When you hit somebody with that it does sound a little strange.

Anyhow, the garage had all those nice ingredients. Nobody around and nice and dark and quiet. Plus, I had access to the house. It wasn't like I was stranded.

I've been wanting to move out of the garage, simply because it's become too much of a hassle, with dogs and cats and chanters and so forth.

Leve: *Chanters?*

Keeley: Yea, my roommates chant every night. They kneel before an altar and chant and it keeps me awake. They just moved in. It sounds sort of like an enraged beehive for half an hour.

There are five cats and a dog besides.

Leve: *What about your van? You seem to have some kind of love affair going with it.*

Keeley: I had considered moving into my van, in fact, I did go to the mountains for three weeks and

Concentration is the name of the game. How about this shot for keeping your eyes on the ball?



Concentration, eye contact and pendulum swing are all apparent as Keeley takes a forehand shot off the back wall.



lived in it. Just to get away from the house and experience the things I wanted to experience. I'm upgrading the van now, putting in cabinets, cruise control and so forth. It's my home on wheels.

Leve: *Is it true that you rode your bicycle from San Diego to St. Louis last year prior to a major tournament?*

Keeley: Yes. I just like to have little goals, little projects. I like to experience life in different ways, and that was one of them. I started off to do it once, but didn't make it. I had all sorts of luggage and ended up freezing in the mountains.

This tournament presented the opportunity to try it again, because I had my travel expenses paid by Leach Industries, so that covered my motel and food bills along the way. I didn't care about doing that well in the tournament, since it was sponsored by the I.R.A. and I was greatly disenchanted with them.

So I rode my bike to St. Louis and then went on to Michigan.

Leve: *Did you encounter any interesting experiences along the way?*

Keeley: The main problem was that I never did make it to my final goal, East Lansing. I got 10 miles away and I passed out because I had stomach flu. I got up the last morning early because I couldn't sleep and I had diarrhea all night, and I figured I might as well be sitting on my bike as on the john. So I got up and started pedaling my last day. I had 100 miles to go. I made 90 miles of it and I just couldn't go any farther. I had a fever and was semi-delirious,—I couldn't tell north from south on my map and I got lost. I finally fell down on somebody's lawn and passed out.

So there I was sort of semi-conscious for about an hour until a guy in a station wagon came by and woke me up and asked me if everything was all right. I said I didn't feel very well, and he took me to the nearest town where I called my parents and they came out and gave me a ride. I made it 2,490 miles but I couldn't make the last 10

miles. However, two days later when I had recovered I went back and rode the extra 20 miles just to say I did it.

Leve: *Your most recent experience, I understand, was a trip to the mountains for three weeks. I have been told your main goal was to collect spiders. Is this right?*

Keeley: That was one of the reasons I went. Also I went to write and to read and to backpack. But I did want to start collecting spiders, and bugs and so forth.

When I was out running one night at dusk, it happened to be the first time I had ever run at dusk, and here I was running along and all of a sudden my left foot almost came down on this big critter. He was almost the size of my foot. I did a quick two-step to get out of his way, and it turned out to be a tarantula. I knew tarantulas were in that area, but I had never seen one, so it was kind of a shock. There are three things to describe them, one, they're big, two they're ugly and three, they're hairy. They're monstrous.



People screw up when they begin thinking too much. This is Serot's main problem. He is far and above the best player in the game, bar none, Brumfield or anyone. But his head gets in the way.

Leve: Are they dangerous?

Keeley: The Southern California species supposedly won't kill you. I haven't tested it out personally. If you look at them, Terry Tarantula, my first one . . .

Leve: Terry. That's the name you gave him?

Keeley: Yea. I have Terry, Theodore and Thomas. *(Laughter)* And then there's Harold. Harold is my fake one. *(More laughter)* They live in my tarantula hotel. *(More laughter, nearing convulsions, -ed.)* Harold is my rubber one, I named him after the famous character, Weird Harold. He looks more like the real thing than the real thing. I use him to scare people.

I was planning on getting a whole load of them, and either giving them

away or selling them. So I made an eight room hotel for them, the Tarantula Hotel. It has sliding peg-board doors and a sun roof made out of wire and their rooms are numbered. But I ended up only getting three, Terry, Thomas and Theodore. Terry was the first one, and the biggest, about four and a-half inches long.

I didn't step on Terry, fortunately for both of us. I did the quickest half mile back to camp that I've ever done in my life and I got a coffee can and a couple of sticks. When I got back he was just sitting there in the middle of the road,—those things are so dumb. I herded him into the coffee can and set him beside the road and continued my run. I saw two more along the way, but I was about three miles down the road and I couldn't go back to

camp to get more coffee cans. So I kept running, in paranoia, afraid I was going to step on these things and it was then that I determined to forget all the other spiders and just collect tarantulas. From that day on for the next 10 days I went out every night with my lantern to try and catch some. They come out at dusk,—they hunt by feel at night. They have six or eight eyes, but they don't see very well. I only caught two more, though.

Leve: Were you disappointed?

Keeley: Yea! I wanted more.

I did get a rattlesnake while I was out hunting. I was out with my lantern and backpack and all this gear to catch tarantulas with and I heard this rustling over on a bank. I turned my lantern over there and it was a snake. I wasn't sure what type or kind it was but I thought maybe it could be a rattler, and if it was I wanted it. So I took my little army shovel and chopped his head off and took him back to camp. I was going to dissect him but I never got the chance because the spiders got out that night. So I was busy scrounging around on my hands and knees around camp at night trying to re-capture the spiders. Anyway I saved the rattles and head, but never got to dissect him.

Leve: That must have been a great disappointment to you.

Keeley: It was. He was still writhing around the next day. He was a headless snake but the next day he was still moving just because of neuro-muscular activity.

Leve: Have we reached your new project yet?

Keeley: No. My new project is I'm going to walk down the Baja Peninsula.

Leve: You're going to walk it?

Keeley: Yea. It's 1,058 miles from San Diego down to La Paz and I'm

going to do this after the Nationals next June. Actually it's a bad time of year to be doing it because it's going to be 100 degrees plus, it's a desert area.

Leve: *Would you call yourself weird?*

Keeley: To me I'm not weird. I've got many friends like myself. Within our own group we don't think of ourselves as bizarre. Of course, people in insane asylums think everybody else is insane, too.

Leve: *What do you see Steve Keeley doing or being when he's 40 or 45 years old?*

Keeley: I don't even think about that. New things come along all the time, there'll be new projects.

Leve: *You've won substantial sums of money in racquetball the past few years. In the event the prize money should be radically increased in the next year or two, do you think your enthusiasm will return?*

Keeley: I don't know that I play that much for the money. The money hasn't changed my lifestyle, obviously. I live the same way now as I did earlier.

So more money isn't going to change my lifestyle or make me play any harder.

Leve: *Getting back to racquetball for a while,—there are a lot of things you have said that might be discouraging to young players taking up racquetball. I don't think you meant for your remarks to be interpreted that way.*

Keeley: I should have mentioned that I do not mean to discourage young people who are just starting in the game.

Leve: *I don't necessarily mean people who want to one day become National Champ. I'm talking about people who play or*

take up racquetball for the healthful aspects of the game. How do you look at racquetball in this sense?

Keeley: Oh, it's the best, no doubt about it. I've been giving lessons and clinics for the past two and one-half years, probably more than anybody else in the country. I can identify with the average Joe, who is playing after work or school just for a workout. And you can get a workout in just an hour. Just because you're using a high tension racquet and lively ball doesn't mean you can't get a workout. Actually the contrary is true,—for the beginner it's easy to get a workout. I alluded to this earlier when I compared racquetball and handball and said that racquetball is a much harder game physically.

Racquetball is the best. It's a good game in that you get a workout in a short period of time and it's fun for the beginner. A grandmother or a young kid or the average person can pick up a racquet and after once or twice out he can play with enough competence so that it's fun.

In tennis it takes lessons and hours of play before you can even get the serve in or carry on a rally.

Leve: *Do you enjoy giving lessons?*

Keeley: I don't give very many personal lessons any more. I give them, but I don't charge. The only circumstances under which I'll give personal lessons is if the person is really hyped up on the game or has a great deal of potential and really wants to learn. Those kind of lessons I enjoy, where you can derive some type of gratification.

For example, Serot and I did our annual Keeley-Serot racquetball camp where we had 25 kids in and they stayed a week, rooming at San Diego State University. These kids were so enthusiastic and they were bombarded with racquetball. We had them for three, two-hour

sessions every day and we found out that they were getting up nearly at dawn so they could go play on the courts before their lessons. They also played late at night. We had chalk-talk meetings every night from eight to 10 and they all expressed so much enthusiasm that they want to come back next year.

Those are the type of situations that I don't mind.

It gets kind of frustrating at other times. Like when I had a weekly clinic at Gorham's Sport Center in San Diego where I had 40 girls come in every Monday night. You can't polish pig iron as Charlie Brumfield says. That's where it becomes frustrating. Other than the fact that they were girls I didn't get much enjoyment out of that.

Leve: *I almost didn't recognize you this tournament. Four years ago you curled your hair, now everybody has their hair curled and you cut yours short. Is this the continuing Steve Keeley anti-normalcy campaign?*

Keeley: Well, I didn't curl it, it's just that way naturally. It will grow out and be that way in another few months.

Leve: *Why did you cut it?*

Keeley: Well, it was another of my projects. Just for a change, to see how I would react. I still push the hair out of the way when I go to shave, except there's no hair there now. A few days after I cut it, I almost gave myself a concussion when I was doing sit-ups. I hit my head on my knee where I used to have some padding there. I did it just as an experiment. I got the old Navy cut. I went down in the basement and my dad got out the old dog clippers and there it went. It

was pretty short too, about 1963 hair style length. It was cropped down.

It sort of went along with another of my projects, to see if I could lose weight. I dropped 16 pounds, from 172 to 156, just to see what would happen. When I went off the diet I gained back eight or nine pounds in two weeks.

Leve: *Do you and your parents get along?*

Keeley: Oh sure. We get along well.

Leve: *What is their reaction to their son the veterinarian who isn't?*

Keeley: My dad would obviously like me to go into veterinarian medicine. I don't know if he wants to retire and clean the kennels or what. But, they're happy and proud that I'm playing racquetball. I guess they think it's kind of strange that I do these weird projects.

I come from an athletic family,—my brother wrestles for Athletes In Action and he does the same thing I do, tours the country to an even higher degree than I do.

Leve: *Just a few brief questions on some of the other players in the game. I'd like to know how you feel playing against these people and their styles, although it seems almost inappropriate to even ask you since you claim to block out your mind when you play. But anyhow, what's it like to play Charlie Brumfield?*

Keeley: I don't know. When I play Charlie Drake in practice, I might as well be playing Charlie Brumfield. I don't like playing Brumfield because I know there will be so many shenanigans going on that it just gets preposterous.

Leve: *What would it take to make racquetball fun for you?*

Keeley: Well, you've got the rules,

all you have to do is start enforcing them.

Leve: *How about all the hollering and hooting that goes on. Are these the shenanigans you talk about?*

Keeley: It depends. If you want that, then it's fine. It does add color to the game. If you don't want that, then as you said you were this close to calling a Technical Foul. Well, you should just call the Technical. One Technical Foul would stop all of that. But I don't know that you would want to put a damper on that.

You've got to stop the blatant cheating and the arguing with the referee. There shouldn't be any arguing with the referee. There shouldn't be players walking off the court. You've got to stop the long serve (*where a player intentionally serves the ball long for rest—ed.*). There's too many loop holes in the game. The other thing is the ball,—it's just ridiculous. I don't care if we have a lively ball, I don't care if we have a dead ball, as long as it's uniform.

Leve: *Yet aren't we always going to have this problem? There's such a difference in courts with new types of construction going on all the time, for one, and the altitude, like in Denver, where players brought balls from all over the country and they were just as lively as those we opened in new cans.*

Keeley: The altitude definitely had something to do with it, because of the thin air. Handball doesn't have that problem, and paddleball never really did. You know the balls are anything but consistent.

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