

National Racquetball®

Vol. 9 No. 5
May, 1980
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National Racquetball®

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On The Cover...

Marilyn Winter steps off the MGM Hilton stage on Las Vegas' Strip to welcome USRA members to the June 1-7 1980 USRA/NRC Pro/Am Nationals co-sponsored by Leach and Seamco. Turn to page 18 for Tom Reinman's story on Las Vegas' racquetball playing show people.

—bil mannina photo

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From Bob Kendler



Voyage to Vegas . . .

This is really a handball story, so if you want to pass it, we'll understand. But because the setting and the characters are pretty much the same as at our Nationals this year, it is entirely possible you might have a brush with fame, as we did.

Our little episode took place about 25 years ago, and it was one of our first glamorous vacations. What with all our tournaments (we ran hundreds then, too) and new babies, there just wasn't enough time for traipsing around. If our racquetball Nationals in June is your first trip to the Wonderful, Wonderful World of Stars, then put yourselves in our shoes on our maiden voyage to Vegas.

We decided to go to Ensenada, Mexico, for a long needed vacation. When we discovered the drinking water was playing miserable tricks with us, we turned back to Los Angeles before turning completely green. Don't laugh . . . it wasn't funny! I went directly to the Los Angeles Athletic Club to cash a check for \$500. Our second choice for a vacation had been Las Vegas, and now it became our first. Late Saturday night we arrived at the Flamingo without a reservation or cash. It was natural for Evie to say, "*Okay Smarty, what do we do now?*" I replied "*Watch me.*"

Can you imagine anyone walking up to the cashier's window at the fabulous Flamingo and, while writing out a check, asking "*Can I cash this?*" I could see the "*detective look*" narrowing in the cashier's eyes, thinking to himself "*Who does this hayseed think he is?*"

Now was the time for all good members to come to the aid of their president. One of them did. It was Bill Bressler, the ice cream king from Chicago. Imagine my luck! Without hesitation he pointed his finger at the pile of cash and said "*He's okay.*" I don't know to this day what that meant except the cashier warmed to the occasion and asked briskly "*How much*

do you want?" Very casually I said that five would be plenty. As he peeled off five thousand dollars, my mouth fell open. "*I meant five hundred!*"

He looked shocked. "*Five hundred! That won't last you 15 minutes.*"

Then he discovered the real Kendler who said, "*It won't? Just try me.*" And we settled for five hundred.

One day — months later — my banker, Fred Heitman, asked "*How was your vacation?*"

"*How did you find out I was on a vacation?*" I replied, because — of course — you never tell your banker that you go to Las Vegas. Imagine my surprise when he said "*I had a call one morning from the Flamingo asking about your credit. I couldn't believe he was inquiring about MY friend, Kendler, but I replied 'If you are SURE it's Kendler, give him anything he wants.'*" Fred was absolutely certain I never gambled. And 10 days after arriving in Las Vegas I still had \$200 of the \$500.

I won't blame you if you don't believe the rest of our story, but let me tell it anyhow. We brought our darling daughter, Kim, with us wherever we went. At age four she had eyes as big as washtubs. And she loved to see shows. You can imagine how spoiled she became because every entertainer would come right into the audience and take her on stage. That little stinker could stay up all night when there was a celebrity involved. For Papa she would fall asleep no matter how enthusiastically I read her stories!

Now this is the point of our story. I don't say it's going to happen to you, but it DID happen to us. And I have pictures to prove it. The one you see here shows Prince Charming (that's me) with Phil Silvers. And I hesitate to add that, since then, he has made entertainment history while I managed to add pounds. Wait till you hear the rest of it! As I look back, I can't believe it ever happened. But it did and, as I said, it could happen to you! And you don't need \$5,000 either.

Jane Frohman was the first to be smitten by our little kitten. She sang songs on the stage with Kim in her arms as the tears poured out of our eyes. Not to be outdone Ray Bolger took her on stage and danced all over the place, and if you think our Dresden doll didn't love it, well! Next came Danny Thomas, that great humanitarian the whole world adores. In nothing flat he came up with stories about little girls, and he came by them naturally. Then he sang "*Daddy's Little Girl.*" If this ever happens to you, don't use a handkerchief. You'll need a bedsheet. You can imagine how Shecky Green enjoyed Kim.

But everybody's comedian was Phil Silvers. He not only ruined our little angel with his affection during the show, he came over to see her during the day. (Now don't confuse our little Kim with the "*Hulk*" sitting next to Phil in this picture.) Phil was the nicest performer I ever met, and I hope you meet someone like Phil if you go to Las Vegas for the racquetball Nationals.

Phil Silvers, left, and Bob Kendler



If this is your first voyage to Vegas, we are going to do our best to make this an *Adventure* for you, as it was for us. We can't guarantee you will be in the front row, but we can guarantee you will absolutely love every show and the stars who will be appearing during racquetball week. Here are some . . . Diana Ross, Paul Anka, Donna Sommer, Tony Orlando, Bobby Vinton, and David Brenner! That's what happened to us. We hope it happens to you. Bon Voyage! ●

Evie & Bob Kendler
Evie and Bob Kendler

Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.

I John 4:7



Kim

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From the National Commissioner



Better than the Telephone

The magnetic magic and glamour of Vegas have made it the entertainment capitol of the world.

The first week in June Las Vegas also becomes the racquetball capitol of the world, as close to a thousand eager and active racquetball players converge on this Nevada town to participate in the NRC/USRA 1980 Pro/Am Nationals.

This year we are holding our very successful annual state chairmen convention right before our Nationals. All 50 of our state chairmen are spending many hours working out the programs and events that will take place in 1980 and 1981. These once a year get togethers are keeping us growing so we can build on the success we enjoy today.

I am sure everybody recognizes the Nationals as the zenith event of the year for the NRC and USRA. The Nationals are also the beginning of future accomplishments. No matter how much you accomplish in racquetball (or in life), there is always more you can do. Just watch us.

The greatest pleasure I personally get out of the Nationals is in meeting all the people I work with every day on the phone and through the mail.

I look forward to seeing you in Vegas. ●

Joe Ardito

Joe Ardito

From Our Readers



Where Are the Women Pros?

Dear Mr. Kendler:

What exactly is the status of the ladies pro circuit? It would be a shame not to see the ladies on tour anymore.

Denice Santangelo
St. Louis, MO

As of this writing the women are not part of the 1979-80 NRC pro tour, except for exhibition matches, such as the one held in Coral Gables, FL, between Heather McKay and Karin Walton. The money earmarked for the women is going into prizes for the amateurs—both men and women—who play at the NRC Pro/Am tournaments. There is a possibility that—at any time—the NRC could restore a women's pro tour. It all depends on the sponsors. ED

Wants to Change Amateur Scoring

Dear Sir:

As an ardent player and passionate advocate of racquetball I am concerned at the needless necessity of having all the smaller tournaments adhere to professional standards. There is no need for mandatory three games (21 point, 21 point and 11 point tie-breakers) to be continued in tournaments at the state and local level. Certainly not in anything below open or A class. For the pros, regional or larger open tournaments okay, let the more masochistic players have their day. But for the working man, the housewife or the college student? Ridiculous! The great majority of racquetball players are able to play a few hours per week at the most. Who but the smallest percentage of extraordinary players are able to go full steam for several hours on a Saturday after being up for late matches Friday night? Almost no one can! Yet this is what seems to be required at all tournaments. Though skill at the game is important, it is often not as important as the ability to keep one's fluid and electrolytes under control. These secondary criteria should not be so overwhelmingly important at the lower amateur levels.

I recently attended weekend tournament at which *everyone* was exhausted by 5 p.m. Saturday. Yet the most important matches were yet to come. Limits could undoubtedly be set for individuals if everyone entered only in one division. However the excitement and temptation of entry into two divisions gives the tournaments much extra "kick" and this should not be discounted.

We need a scoring system that will reduce the overall time per match to under 45 minutes so that the average player can give it his above average effort for three or four strong matches on a tournament day. This can't be done at present when three game matches often go for an hour and a half. Without question tournaments composed primarily of average players would be immensely more enjoyable if they weren't such marathons.

Why not 15 points, 15 points and 11 points for B divisions, all the senior classes and 11 points, 11 points, and 7 points for C divisions and novice class. There is also much to be said for a single 31 point game with a mandatory five minute time out after the first player to reach 21 points gets there. The best player could still triumph and the overall outcome of the tournament would be the same—except that your average Joe would still have enough life to make the drive home. As an added bonus the improved scoring system would also insure that matches will get off on schedule.

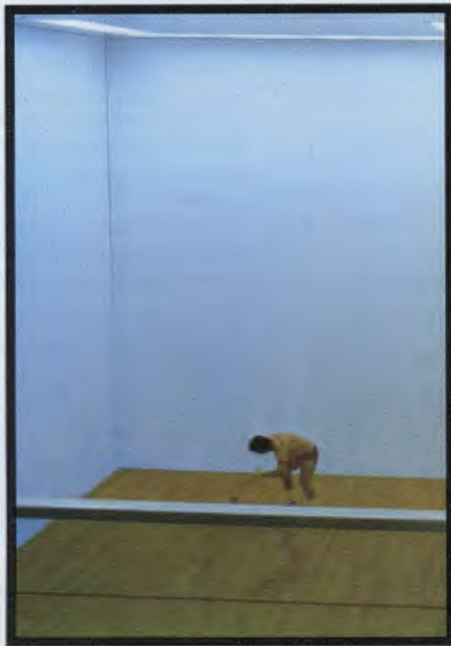
Players must feel that tournaments are decided primarily on the basis of skill and only secondarily on endurance and conditioning if there is to be continued growth of racquetball through the 1980s. When the initial glamour of "tournament life" wears off, average players will not continue to support tournaments if they continually feel they are losing out because they can't find time to jog six miles a day and also play racquetball. And average players are the very essence of the game! Their interest, enthusiasm and collective needs must be nurtured. Making them adhere to professional standards doesn't serve that purpose. Adjustments for amateurs have been made in tennis and every other American sport that has sought participation in large numbers. It is time for the powers that be in racquetball to give this matter serious consideration. Toward this end I suggest you print this letter in the opinions section of *National Racquetball* and welcome responses from other players and tournament devotees.

Martin E. Margolies, M.D.
Dothan, AL

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Eyeguard Response

Dear Carol [Brusslan]:

I thought you would be interested in knowing the type of response we had after you published a picture of our eyeguard poster in the December issue of *National Racquetball* magazine. We received over 250 calls from individuals, club owners, YMCAs and others. Everyone shared our concern for eye protection and that is an encouraging trend. Unfortunately we were unable to respond to all individuals who asked for the eyeguard poster but did send them to all organizations with racquetball courts.

We appreciate your help in fostering eye safety.

John S. Wineman, Jr.
Highland Park, IL

Connecticut Ski Slopes

Dear Editor:

Here I was, reading through the December '79 issue of *National Racquetball* and came upon the annual ski-racquetball guide. Lo and Behold! There was no mention of any of Connecticut's ski areas or court clubs.

Connecticut proudly has three ski areas and the Connecticut Court Club Association proudly has 27 member clubs. Almost all clubs are within an hour of at least one if not all three ski areas (Connecticut isn't very large) and many clubs are within 10-30 minutes of a ski area.

C'mon guys, give Connecticut a break! We may not have as many court clubs as California and our hills may not be as steep as Colorado's but we are here and we're proud of our facilities and sure are tired of being ignored.

Debra Lewis
Cromwell, CT

Another Resort with Racquetball

Dear Sirs:

We enjoyed your "Resort Racquetball" story in January, and we would like to have you know that there's racquetball at the Cody Athletic Club and Motel at West Yellowstone Highway (next to Rodeo) here in Cody (zip code 82414). We look forward to playing host to any racquetball players who come this way.

Susan Diehl
Cody, WY

Looking for Competition

Gentlemen:

I would be interested in knowing if you have any sort of clearing house or single source for information on tourneys. I am interested in tournament racquetball but am finding it very difficult to obtain much information other than what may be mailed to our local club, Medford Superior Courts. I will be 55 in October and am planning on competing in Golden Masters after that date. I have been told that I should do well at the national level so I am anxious to try.

Can you put me in touch with someone who would have access to tourney schedules. Is there a mailing list maintained for such purposes?

Any information you can give me would be most appreciated.

Thank you very much.

George C. Huggins
Medford, OR

The best source of current tourney information in any state is the state chairman, listed each month in the amateur section of National Racquetball. The Oregon chairman is Mollie Mankertz. As for your age division you'll be competing in the Veteran Masters should you participate in the June Nationals in Las Vegas, but you'll be a Golden Master after your October birthday. Good luck in both categories! ED

Not Really High

Dear Sir:

As the manufacturer of one of the grips covered in the article "Coming to Grips with Your Racquet" in your March, 1980, issue, I feel that an important piece of information about our grip, the V-Grip, was missing. The cost was listed as "high". True the V-Grip kit retails for about \$5, but this is the initial cost. Thereafter only replacement terrycloth strips need be purchased at \$2 or less. The Velcro tape stays glued to the racquet handle while the terrycloth is readily removable for washing or replacement.

An additional factor to be considered in evaluating cost is whether a glove is needed or not.

May I take the opportunity to compliment you on the excellence of your magazine. It sparkles from cover to cover.

Saul Tickin
Pointe Claire, Quebec, Canada

Gripping

Dear Ms. Brusslan:

I'm writing in response to your March article by Christopher Hyde, "Coming to Grips with Your Racquet." I'm interested in several grips but don't know where to get them. How can I find out where to buy Supreme Grip and Tourna Grip?

Clint Koble

Write to Christopher S. Hyde, Hunts Hill Road, Gray, ME 05039 or call him at 207-657-2231. ED

Racquetball Addict

Dear Bob:

Thanks for your note of appreciation with regard to the Proclamation. You and I met the year before at the first Tournament of Champions, at which time it was my pleasure to present you with the County medallion. This year, in addition to having the pleasure of presenting the Proclamation to Dan, I was most pleased to give the key to the County to Marty Hogan.

If you have not guessed by now, I am a racquetball addict who loves playing the sport even more than I enjoy promoting it.

I look forward to next year when perhaps your schedule will permit a trip to Miami for the 1981 Tournament of Champions.

Harvey Ruvin
Miami, FL



Kip Kendler

P.S. Your daughter represented you well.

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Judy Hichta

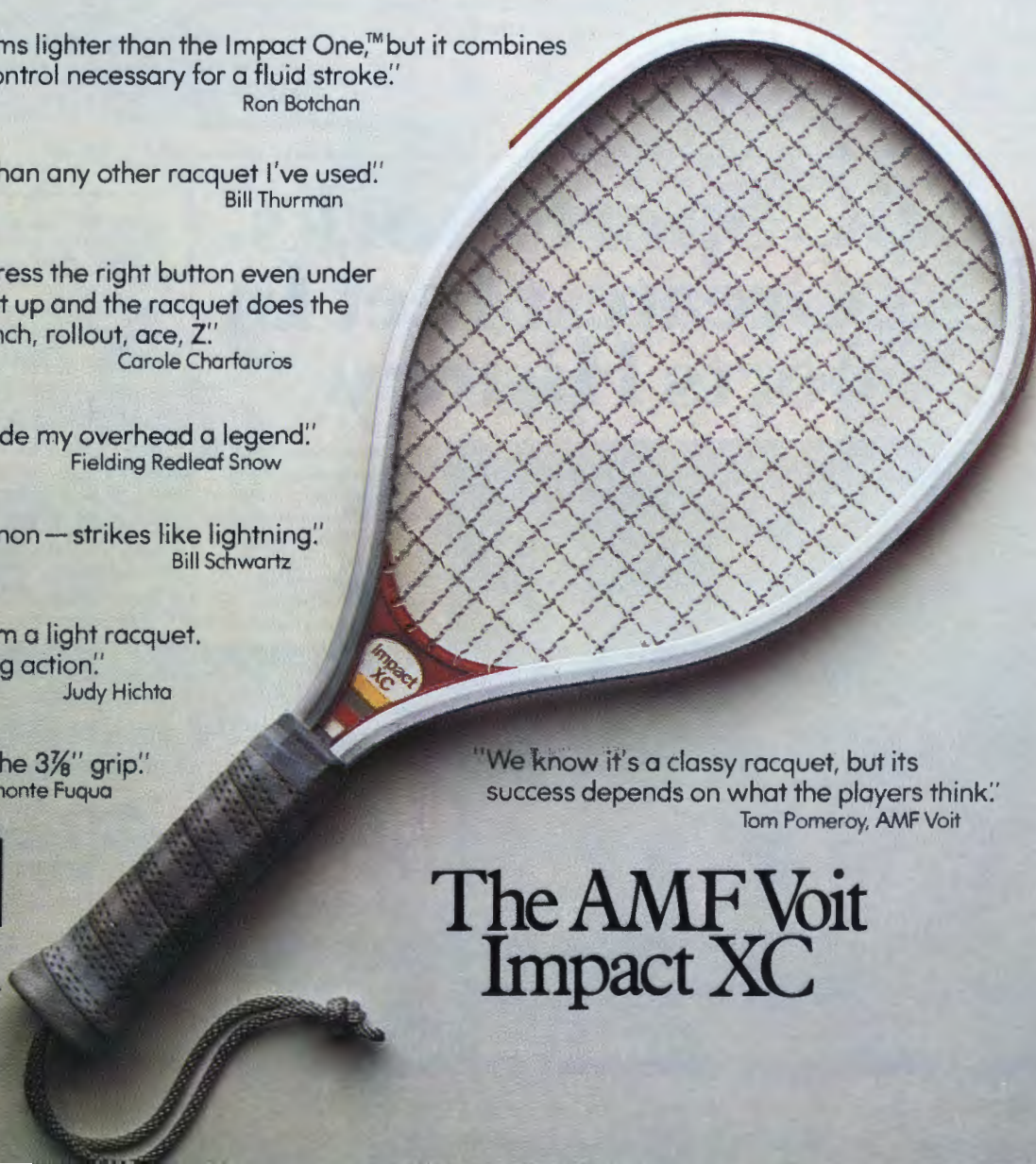
"It's great! I love the 3 7/8" grip."
Lllemonte Fuqua

"We know it's a classy racquet, but its success depends on what the players think."
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The AMF Voit Impact XC



Bertolucci in Control

Dear Editor:

I must admit that when Terry Fancher and Chuck Leve parted company with USRA/NRC many of us in South Florida had our doubts about the abilities of Dan Bertolucci to assume control of NRC. Comments that I heard after the 1980 Tournament of Champions were very complimentary of Dan's organization and businesslike attitude throughout the tournament.

Many compliments were directed at Dan's refereeing job in the finals. I overheard comments like *"in complete control"*, *"fair but firm"*, *"timely call"*, etc. It was a performance worthy of the calibre of play exhibited by finalists Marty Hogan and Lindsay Myers.

Carl P. Dean
Miami, FL

Repaying Soda Loan

Dear Mr. Kendler:

Thank you for the 40 cent loan for a soda last year at the Pro/Am in Connecticut.

You said that the terms of the loan were 75 times interest. Here is our payment in full. Thank you for all you've done to make racquetball the great sport that it is.

Kimberly and Jimmy Pruitt
Graterford, PA

Thanks from Memphis

Dear Carol [Brusslan]:

Bob and I appreciated the wonderful coverage you gave the Memphis tournament, Sarah and the Green family. That week was one of the highlights of our lives. Your stories were warm, personal and tremendously encouraging to Sarah.

Our sincere thanks goes to Bob Kendler, the NRC and to Dan Bertolucci for the professionalism and competence he brought to the tournament. We would also like to thank the local sponsors, Roger Catarino and Pat Vaughn of Coca Cola and Bill Tanner, whose support of national racquetball and of Sarah, personally, has been constant.

June Green
Memphis, TN

White Glass Report

Dear Bob:

We have just finished the Tennessee State Championships, with over 300 entries. It was an exceedingly successful tournament. Of course what we liked best of all was the rave notices from our out-of-town visitors and the way they were quoted in the newspapers as saying this was the *"most functional and most beautiful"* racquetball/physical fitness center in the country.

But what I think you will be more interested in is the reaction to the white glass. First my own. I haven't played in that court more than three or four times since it was installed for various reasons. I played against Ed Lowrance in the finals in that court, he and I having met last in the finals of the National Championships in June in Tempe.

Ed said it was the best court he had ever played in, liking particularly the very bright lighting. I don't believe that either one of us missed a shot because of the white glass sidewall or ever really gave any thought to whether the wall was different or not.

Alex Guerry
Chattanooga, TN

Winnipeg's in Manitoba

Dear Sirs:

We have been receiving your magazine for over a year now and find each issue interesting and informative.

For about two to three issues you have provided a schedule of the up coming events for the 1979/1980 Pro/Am Tour. There is an event on this page that requires a major correction. The city of Winnipeg is not in the province of Ontario; but in the province of Manitoba. Even though I live in Edmonton, the number one centre in Canada for racquetball (more courts than the rest of Canada combined) we feel that this most obvious error should be rectified in your earliest issue.

Bob & Barb Walker
Sherwood Park, Alberta

We've already corrected the June 26-29 tournament location, but appreciate your comments. ED



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Feature

Hallelujah, Racquetball

MGM Cast
Plays Weekly Game

by Tom Reinman

—bil mannina photos



In *"Electric Horseman"* Robert Redford steals a horse, a \$12 million corporate symbol, and a little way down Las Vegas Boulevard pulls the plug on his light bulb suit and vanishes into the night.

Fantasy, pure fantasy. A lot of fortunes vanish into the night on Las Vegas Boulevard, but the lights never go out on the Strip.

Energy crunch? Figuratively at least, it's about as remote from the city as Iraq. If the vitality on that street could somehow be harnessed, Iranian oil would be as necessary as an appendix, and not one in the back of a book.

Millions of lights in hundreds of patterns and dozens of colors light up the lives on Syracuse supermarket owners, Pocatello potatomen and everyone else who daily comes to town to send his fortune vanishing into the night.

In the casinos dice are thrown, wheels are spun, levers are pulled, drinks are drunk. On stage songs are sung, jokes are told, dances are danced. And through it all, all day, all year long, the lights are on.

They're on in the racquetball clubs too, places where some people go to recharge. Like the cast of the *"Hallelujah Hollywood"* show at the MGM Grand Hotel on the Strip. Friday mornings, after their two long and lavish productions in the 1,000-seat dinner theatre, after the dancing and singing, costume changes and curtain calls about two dozen members of the Strip's largest company repair to the Las Vegas Sporting House for a little R&R, Vegas style, which means more high energy.

The organizer of this weekly cast party is Dean Hammond, who, at 6-foot-3, 185 pounds, looks more like a football hero than the show's leading singer.

"I did play basketball and run track in high school," says Hammond. *"But tennis is really my game. The switch to racquetball, with the different strokes and the walls has been, ah, interesting."*

Dean Hammond, leading singer of *"Hallelujah Hollywood,"* organized the cast's weekly racquetball party.



Dean Hammond introduces Robin Renée to racquetball.

Stage Right

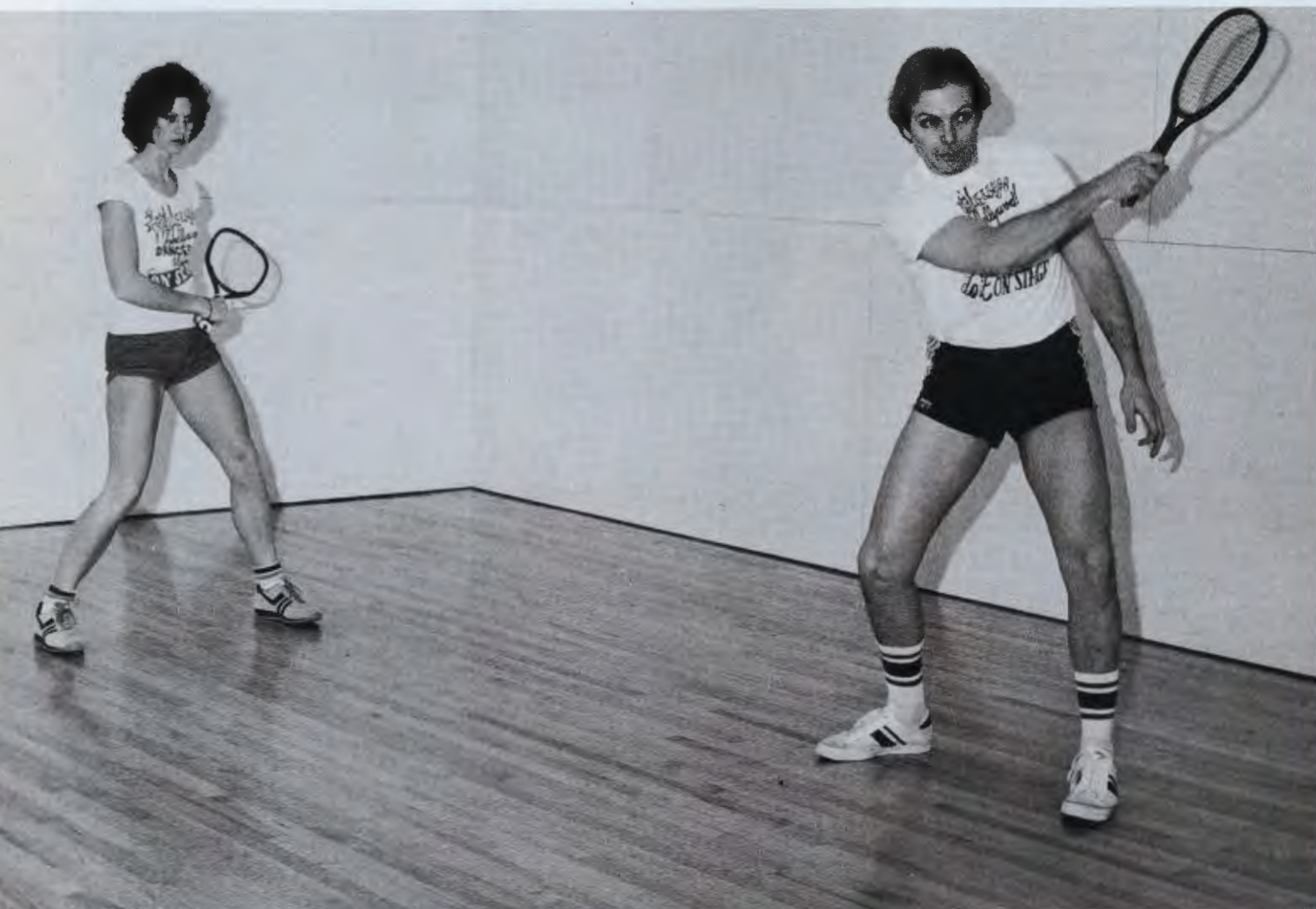
Hammond assembled a baseball team to play against performer Mac Davis' troupe during the summer months, and the group had so much fun it wanted to continue after the season. As the desert temperatures decreased and the interest increased, he looked to the great indoors, and found racquetball, volleyball and basketball waiting in the wings at the big new club, an easy exit, stage right from the MGM.

"It's a great opportunity for us to get together in a non-working situation," he says. "When I'm at the show it's all business; it has to be. So when we had the chance to come here and get away from it, to play some racquetball and get to know one another a little better, we jumped at it. And it's worked out fine for all of us."

One of the dancers for whom it has worked out is Marilyn Winter, a Las Vegas native who has been dancing



Stripped of costumes and makeup Marilyn Winter and Dean Park still strike a show biz pose before they compete on the Sporting House courts.



since she was in grade school, but who has been playing racquetball only since joining the club late last year.

"I joined here the first night I came in with the group," reports the lively lady who limbers up by holding the knee of her outstretched leg to her nose. "I'd heard so much about the game and I was eager to try it. When I first played and saw what a great natural conditioner it was, I really fell for it."

"I love my work," she says after hitting for 40 minutes. "I've been dancing for nearly all my life, and it's become my life. It's become a feeling I have with me all the time. Now this may sound funny, but racquetball is about the closest thing I've found to that feeling."

While Winter admits to being a novice, she's also a quick study, and she has the athletic ability to become a serious competitor. She may be a natural for a game which demands large measures of quickness and endurance. Between each dance number in the two-hour show there are two flights of stairs to be climbed backstage, on the way to a costume switch and back to the floor. In a hurry.

"I venture to say we put out as much energy there as onstage," she laughs. "Actually the show is an assembly line. We do it night after night at the same speed, with the same smile, everything. The excitement is in playing to one person in the audience. Those certain people make the show for us."

Dancer's Foil

"I'm really getting serious about this game," she says later as she takes to the courts again. "I'd like to get to the point where it's as natural as dancing. But it's funny, because in some ways it's the opposite of dance. There everything is so set, in the show, anyway. I guess that's why I like racquetball so much, because you never know what you're going to do in the next second. That's not contradictory, really, because in both you express yourself through body movement."

When last seen, Marilyn was moving her body on a racquetball court at 6:45 a.m., after two shows, two racquetball games, a practice session and three volleyball games.

Her partner, who had just escaped with a 21-19 win, was Dennis Park, a singer in the show which has played to a full house for more than five and a half years.

"I used to box," he says, "and I still work out in a gym. But racquetball's my game right now, and we're all getting better at it."

The youngest member of the show, which has a cast of more than 120 members, is Robin Renee. The hours might be odd enough even for the most seasoned dancer on the Strip, but they are downright tough on a 17-year-old who has to make a high school class at 9 a.m. Friday after leaving the club a little after 6.

"This was the first time I tried the game," admits Renee, "and it was hilarious. I got hit with the ball a couple of times. Dancers are the biggest klutzes, really. It's hard for me to think quick enough to stay ahead of the game. But I'll keep after it."

One has to believe she will. Despite morning classes and evening dances — and all the demands made on a high schooler/professional dancer — she'll have energy left for racquetball.

The same goes for Winter and Park and Hammond and a lot of others who work and play day and night along the Strip. After all they're in Las Vegas, where the lights never go out. ●

"Hallelujah, Hollywood" is one of the shows you can see when you come to the USRA/NRC Pro-Am Nationals co-sponsored by Leach and Seamco June 1-7 in Las Vegas. Check the USRA's special Nationals package to Las Vegas and the entry form on page 63.

Turn the page for a story on night shift racquetball players around the country.

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Racquet Round the Clock



—Lauren Shay photos

Late night racquetball's a regular routine for Leonard Rucka, left, and Adonna Davis.

**"If You Can't Sleep . . .
Try Racquetball"**

by Marilyn R. Abbey

The fast-paced thwack! of the ball signals a good rally and provides a comforting background for the conversation on the spectators' side of the court. Diana and Lenny are playing racquetball. Diana's sister, Bernie, has come over to watch. Don just got off a court and is sitting on the floor, munching on a glassful of ice cubes. Adonna, who works here, is off duty and sits on the floor propped against the glass wall of the court, chatting. It's for sure no one is in a hurry.

It's 2 o'clock in the morning.

The group at Lehmann Courts in Chicago, which stays open all night Wednesdays and Thursdays, is pretty much composed of regulars tonight.

Diana Horman and her sister, Bernie George, are waitresses who get off work after midnight. Today was Bernie's day off, but she came to the courts anyway; after all, bedtime for her isn't until 8 a.m. Don Bierman is a *Sun-Times* photographer who pulls the evening shift every two or three weeks, and comes over after work. He usually stays until 3 or 4 in the morning, picking up games, talking, maybe lifting a few weights. He figures whatever time he goes to bed, he'll sleep until 12 or 1, so he might as well not go too early. Leonard Rucka is a policeman. Policemen are a big part of the night owl crowd at Lehmann, with their odd hours and on-the-job tensions.



Business is brisk at the sign-in desk and at the bar on Wednesdays and Thursdays when courts are open all night at Chicago's Lehmann Courts.



"I love working with people, especially racquetball people," says Adonna Davis, who has been in this line of work since she ventured into the Lake Shore Racquet Club out of boredom a couple of years ago, made new friends, learned a new sport and found a home. (Adonna worked as night desk person at Lake Shore until the club's roof caved in as a result of Chicago's Blizzard of '79. Lake Shore now is back in business, and open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.)

"Racquetball people are more laid back," she says, comparing them to other court sport folk. "They're not demanding. They come in wearing whatever they feel like; they don't have to get dressed up in their whites." What Adonna feels like

wearing this night is gym shorts and a Mickey Mouse T-shirt. "The midnight crowd is different, too — it's even more laid back."

When you think about it, you'd expect to be able to play racquetball in the middle of the night in a place like Chicago, with its hospitals, police stations, newspapers, radio and TV stations, bars, night clubs, factories, all teeming with activity while the small towns are sacked out. Sure Chicago is a 24-hour town.

No Clocks

Clubs are open all night in Vegas, too — Supreme Courts, Las Vegas Racquetball and the Sporting House, biggest racquetball club in the country and the site of the June 1-7

USRA/NRC Pro/Am Nationals co-sponsored by Leach and Seamco. But that's not unexpected. After all, as racquetball consultant Mort Leve says, "They don't have clocks in Las Vegas."

But *National Racquetball* magazine started staying up nights and scouting around, and came up with 24-hour courts all over the map. Our list undoubtedly is not complete, but we'll bet it contains some surprises. There's a club open in the "Silicone Valley" north of San Jose, as well as the resort areas of Mission Valley, near San Diego, and Lake Tahoe, CA; Philadelphia, right off the Main Line; towns near Detroit and Milwaukee; Schererville, IN, in the Gary-Hammond industrial belt; Erie and Allentown, PA.



Adonna Davis and Don Bierman get a night owl view of the city through the windows of Lehmann Court's jogging track.

Swing Shift Social

If you're single, a racquetball club may be just the answer to a social life that could well be less than swinging when you work a swing shift. Charles Bunch and his two roommates, all 22-year-old electronics technicians who work in the so-called "Silicone Valley" on the California coast ("It's full of electronics firms"), go over to Perfect Racquet in Sunnyvale for two or three hours several nights a week. Aside from the fact that "It's just about our only form of athletic activity," Bunch notes that "It's a wonderful way to meet girls."

"One of the things that's always amazed me," notes Dan Dubitsky of the Norwood Racquetball International Club, which fills its nighttime play with members from the electronics firms along Route 128 outside Boston, "is that the atmosphere is what you'd see at 8 p.m. There's competitive play, cheering — for a while we had a league going at 3 a.m."

At the top of the list of diehard night people must be former squash champion Victor Niederhoffer, principal in the Manhattan investment firm of Niederhoffer, Cross, Zeckhauser, who works by day, plays racquetball virtually every night from midnight to 2 a.m. at the Manhattan Squash Club, and sleeps the remaining three or four hours.

Niederhoffer, five time winner of the national amateur squash championship as well as winner of the North American Open in squash, gave up the game a couple of years ago when he decided that in order to continue at the top he would have to spend half his time training as a marathon runner. Racquetball, he decided, was more suited to a man in his mid-30's ("I'm just about twice the age of most of my opponents," he notes.)

Now he finds he can get lots of practice by playing at night, but games are a different matter. "I haven't found many people who like to play at midnight," he says. "But at least there's no one around the courts to bother you."

Schererville? Erie?

We think we've discovered a bona fide trend. The people who would rather play racquetball are doing it, at all hours and in many heretofore unsuspected parts of the country. The Omni 41 Sports Club in Schererville, in fact, may be the granddaddy of the whole phenomenon; it's been open 24 hours a day for the past seven years.

"We tried closing at night in the summer and people complained," says Jeanne Scheffner Peck, manager of Kings Courts in Erie, which draws regular groups from such plants as GE and Kaiser Aluminum, college students from Mercyhurst and Behrend College of Penn State, and

has off-duty policemen both as players and as night attendants. "We had to stay open. We're generally booked up pretty good until 2 or 3."

"We decided when people were still playing at midnight to try opening all night," says Betsy Hepfinger, program coordinator at Riverside Tennis Club outside Philadelphia. Her club gets shift workers from nearby plants, plus waiters and waitresses, nurses, and people who are just plain wide awake at 1 a.m. "We have people who have gone to parties and say, 'Let's make our own party.' So they'll come in and play racquetball."

Out in Las Vegas Mike Stewart, a box man (game supervisor) at a craps table in the Flamingo Hilton and an A player at Las Vegas Sporting House, echoes the lament about games. Mike works from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. and usually goes to the Sporting House after work. He'll stretch for half an hour, take a Jacuzzi, maybe give a racquetball lesson or work out alone, but *"I rarely get a game,"* he says. If he does, it's apt to be with A player Bill Henry, a craps dealer at the Barbary Coast who is also Mike's roommate. *"We have our best games together,"* affirms Mike, but such meetings are by chance since, he adds staunchly, *"I never plan."*



Don Bierman, Chicago Sun-Times photographer, left, and Leonard Rucka, Chicago policeman, meet on the court at midnight, as do Adonna Davis, right, Lehmann Court desk person, and Diana Horman, a waitress.



Before the Laundry

Many people play with a regular group, however. One such is Lorian Kelly, a 21 dealer at the California Hotel in Las Vegas, who plays at Supreme Courts at least twice a week with a group from the California.

"When you get off work at 4 a.m., you want to do something physical," says Lorian. After playing racquetball for an hour or two, she may go on to her parents' ranch at the south end of town and ride her horse. Or, casino people being not so different from the rest of us, she may go home and do laundry.

Most of the clubs which stay open all night analyzed the economics and decided, why not? *"We were so busy*

during the other 18 hours that the only time anyone could come in and clean was after midnight, so the lights were on anyway," says Racquetball International's Dubitsky, while acknowledging that only one club in the chain is in an area with enough night people to stay open 24 hours. About the only added expense noted by any of the clubs was salaries for night attendants.

For the players there are the benefits of discounted prices, often less-crowded courts, and the availability of a healthy substitute for drinking, usually the only other late night game in town.

Whether it's called night owl play, the graveyard special, the midnight shift

or midnight madness, however, nighttime play must be promoted until people get the hang of it. The Sporting House's "graveyard special" includes a separate menu, discounts, lower guest rates, casino specials and night leagues. Its appeal is mostly to the people who work swing shift at the casinos and hotels.

"We'll go down to Caesar's Palace and say next Wednesday is Caesar's Palace night; we'll give them a free clinic and play," explains Ray Anderson, assistant manager of Las Vegas Racquetball. *"Maybe we'll know a pit boss who's already a member, and he'll bring others in."* Special pitches often are made to policemen, too, and some clubs have special corporate group memberships.

A few hours before dawn the late night regulars leave the club ready for a good day's sleep.



It's 5 o'clock in the morning and Mike Stewart, right, and Bill Henry are getting in a game after work, Stewart as a box man at Las Vegas' Flamingo Hilton and Henry as a craps dealer at the Barbary Coast



—bil mannina photos

"I Play" T-Shirts

When Lake Shore in Chicago first opened all night, it gave out T-shirts proclaiming "I play all night at Lake Shore Racquet Club." At Vantage Point in Allentown, PA, the club ran clinics at 11 p.m. to get the night crowd going, and now, if people play for an hour at night they get an extra half hour thrown in. Riverside in Philadelphia staged a "Racquet 'Round the Clock" promotion, a party from midnight to 6 a.m., at which people literally played racquetball all night. Perfect Racquet's pitch in Sunnyvale, CA, was an ad saying "If you can't sleep in the middle of the night, and need relief, play racquetball."

Despite the enthusiasm of the clubs that espouse a 24-hour open door policy, not all parts of the country have tried it. In New York City, for instance, the Manhattan Squash Club is the only late night facility, and that closes at 3 a.m. This spring, however, a club was to open in the Lincoln Center area, and in a neighborhood like that, says Manhattan Squash Club's Leon Von Billingham, it will "automatically be open 24 hours."

Security can be a determining factor in a big city, Von Billingham points out. His club, on 42nd Street, while in a "lousy kind of area," with porno places and prostitutes, is in a 50-story

office building which is well lighted and populated, and served by radio cabs. At another club, over on 10th Avenue, "it wouldn't be safe to stay open all night," he says.

In south Florida, which lives by the sun, a couple of clubs are open at night, but only until 4 a.m. In the south in general there seems to be a dearth of 24-hour facilities, according to USRA state affiliates, even in otherwise booming racquetball areas.

But it still looks like a definite trend. Won't somebody tell Memphis and Atlanta?

Late-Night Racquetball

Club	Address	Phone	# Courts	*24-Hour Play	Open to Non-Mbrs.?	Night Fee/hr.	Res. Accepted?	Other Facilities
Court Sports III	271 Houret Dr. Milpitas, CA	408-946-0600	10	6 a.m. T-midnight F	yes	\$2 non-mbrs, less for mbrs	yes	sauna, whirlpool, exercise room
Perfect Racquet	405 Camino del Rio S. San Diego, CA	714-297-6062	13	7 nights	yes	\$3.50	yes	health club & gym, spa
Perfect Racquet	1202 Apollo Way Sunnyvale, CA	408-738-4545	11	except weekends	yes	\$2.50	yes	health club & gym, spa
Sierra Tahoe Athletic Club	2565 Lake Tahoe Blvd. S. Lake Tahoe, CA	916-544-6222	11	T-Sat	yes	\$3.50	from mbrs. only	exercise rooms, sauna
The Courtrooms	750 W. Sunrise Fort Lauderdale, FL	305-764-8700	20	T-F, to 4 a.m. only	no (\$5 wk. membership for snowbirds)	\$3	yes	Indoor pool, gym, running track, exercise room, sauna, whirlpool, steam
Sportrooms at the Coliseum	1500 Douglas Rd. Coral Gables, FL	305-448-9782	24	M-F to 4 a.m. only	yes	\$3	from mbrs. only	steam, sauna, whirlpool
Lake Shore Racquet Club	1320 W. Fullerton Chicago, IL	312-477-9888	8	7 nights	3 times as guest	\$7 Sun-Th, \$8 F-Sat	yes	tennis, platform tennis, whirlpool, sauna, steam
Lehmann Courts	2700 N. Lehmann Ct. Chicago, IL	312-871-8300	14	W, Th	yes	\$8	yes	running track, exercise room, steam, sauna, whirlpool
Omni 41 Sports Club	222 S. Rt. 41 Schererville, IN	219-865-6969	9	7 nights	yes	free to mbrs. \$12 walk-in	yes	tennis, pool, exercise room, whirlpool, sauna steam
Coliseum I	34250 Ford Rd. Westland, MI	313-729-0600	16	W, Th	public	\$7	yes	exercise room, sauna
Coliseum II	8715 Telegraph Rd. Taylor, MI	313-292-3940	15	T, Th, F	public	\$7	yes	exercise room, sauna
Las Vegas Racquetball	1070 E. Sahara Las Vegas, NE	702-733-1919	12	7 nights	yes	\$6	yes	exercise room, steam, sauna, whirlpool
Sporting House	3025 S. Industrial Las Vegas, NE	702-733-8999	21	7 nights	yes	\$15	yes	squash, basketball, volleyball, pool, running track, platform tennis, exercise room, sauna, steam, whirlpool
Supreme Courts	3315 Spring Mountain Las Vegas, NE	702-873-5660	18	7 nights	yes	\$5	yes	exercise room, steam, sauna, whirlpool
Manhattan Squash Club	41 W. 42nd St. New York, NY	212-869-8969	4	M-F to 3 a.m.	yes	\$5 per half hour	no	squash
Kings Courts	100 Pennbriar Dr. Erie, PA	814-868-9626	10	7 nights	yes	\$4	yes	exercise room, sauna, whirlpool
Riverside Indoor Tennis and Racquetball Club	600 Righters Ferry Philadelphia, PA	215-664-6464	13	7 nights	yes	\$5	yes	tennis, sauna
Vantage Point	Rts. 22 & 309 Allentown, PA	215-395-3337	5	7 nights	yes	\$5.50	yes	tennis, health club
Highlander Racquet Club	13825 W. Burleigh St. Brookfield, WI	414-786-0880	5	T, Th, F to 3 a.m.	yes	\$6	yes	tennis, sauna, steam, whirlpool, exercise room
Le Club	2001 W. Good Hope Rd., Glendale, WI	414-352-4900	6	T, F	public	\$5	yes	tennis

* Some night hours are seasonal. Call before going for the first time.

Racquetball is Victor Niederhoffer's lullaby of Broadway.



Linda Whitaker, left, and Donna Fracalossi, who work the 4 to 12 shift at Panax Publishing Company, have a regular 12:30 to 2:30 a.m. racquetball game at Omni 41 Health/Racquetball Club in Schererville, IN.



EXTRA!

Hogan Third in World

Marty Hogan, professional racquetball's top ranked player, placed third in the World Superstars competition in Freeport, Grand Bahamas, March 18-20.

Hogan's fifth place finish in the U.S. Superstars in February earned him an invitation to compete against the top athletes from

around the world in March.

At the World Superstars the 22-year-old's third place finish led the U.S. Team, which included February's winner, Heisman Trophy winner Charles White of USC; New England Patriots' Russ Francis, and Washington Redskins' Joe Theismann.

Hogan won the tennis event, took thirds in rowing, swimming, soccer kick and the obstacle course, and a fourth in the 100 yard dash for a total of 26 points, behind Canadian Soccer Player Brian Budd, whose 51 points made him winner for the third straight year, and British Olympic Hurdler

Brian Sherwood, who placed second with 34 points.

Hogan passed up the \$15,000 Catalina Racquetball Classic West in San Francisco, the fifth stop on the National Racquetball Club Pro-Am tour, to compete in the World Superstars.

Big City Paper Hypes Racquetball

The biggest promotion in racquetball history opened March 16 when *The Chicago Sun-Times* initiated — with the help of an array of other sponsors — its month long Shootout.

Jim Bronner, the immediate past president of the National Court Clubs Association and a member of the five man operating board of the Chicago area's sprawling Metro Club facilities, and Len Ziehm, assistant sports editor and recreation columnist of *The Sun-Times*, spearheaded the development of the racquetball festival, which brought the sport before more than half a million *Sun-Times* readers in full page ads and stories.

Approximately 1,300 players — the exact number couldn't be determined before *National Racquetball*

press time — entered the Shootout's eight divisions. Men and women entries categorized themselves into advanced, intermediate, novice or I've-Never-Played-Before divisions, the latter of which required participation in a two-hour clinic prior to the matches. The entry figure topped the previous record for a racquetball event in one city of 917 at the USRA/NRC 1979 national championship in Tucson, AZ.

In addition to *The Sun-Times*, the sponsors included the Wendy City Corporation, which conducted a sweepstakes event in conjunction with the Shootout at its approximately 50 Wendy's hamburger locations in the Chicago area and financed about \$25,000 in prizes for playing and sweepstakes

Chicago Sun-Times Assistant Sports Editor Len Ziehm, right, who's been writing about racquetball since 1976, and Club Owner Jim Bronner put together a massive racquetball promotion in Chicago during March and April.



winners, and Wilson Sporting Goods, which provided monogrammed travel bags to each participant. Matches were held over 130 courts at 15 indoor clubs, 12 of them members of the Metro Club and the other three operated by Follett Corporation. Rick Legue, president of the recreation division of Follett Corp. and

chairman of the similar *Sun-Times*' TennisFest for recreational tennis players, assisted Bronner as chairman of Shootout. A portion of the proceeds from each playing and sweepstakes entry, as well as the admission charges at the April 20 "Beat the Pro" climax to Shootout, went to the American Cancer Society.

Rains Help and Hurt Racquetball Clubs in San Diego

6:12 p.m., Feb. 20, the power went out. Within a matter of seconds the 20 racquetball players at Different Strokes Racquetball Club were waist deep in water. One woman panicked, but most remained calm. A man in a van went floating through the parking lot. In answer to his screams a "human chain" of racquetball players stretched out and saved him.

Fifteen-year-old Channey, the youngest son of Bob and Carol Doud, was the only one working at Different Strokes that night. Channey led the customers upstairs until the water receded two hours later and everyone was able to walk out unharmed.

"It was kind of fun," laughs Channey afterwards, but it wasn't much fun for his parents who had just taken over ownership of the club three days before the flood. It took a month and a half and \$50,000 to remodel because their insurance didn't cover flood damage. All of the floors in the six court facility had to be replaced and the first batch

of wood had to be sent back because it got soaked by later rains.

Different Strokes was affected much more than most of the clubs in San Diego, but it was not the only one. Stadium Racquetball & Athletic Club is located in what is normally the dry bed of the San Diego River. But for several days the parking lot was under water and some of the asphalt "crumbled off into the river," according to manager Chris Vile.

Stadium cooperated with the police chief's request for all of Mission Valley to evacuate on Feb. 21, because the worst storm yet was expected that night. But the storm blew out to sea instead.

"We needed a tape recording," says Vile, "to tell everyone we were open the day after the evacuation because we must have gotten 300 calls." Stadium's landscaping was also washed away, bringing the total damages to \$10,000.

The Atlas Health Club and Perfect Racquet, both in Mission Valley, had to be

Pro Marci Greer views the Stadium Racquetball & Athletic Club parking lot, which became part of the San Diego River during the southern California floods.



closed for a day, but suffered little rain damage. Most of the other clubs in the county were happy for the rain because it meant more business, especially from construction workers and others who can't work in the rain.

"Our day improves almost 50 percent whenever it rains," says Cindy Whitehead, the manager of American Courts in Chula Vista. "When the Sweetwater dam busted, the

drainage ditch behind us overflowed. It's four feet deep, but you couldn't even see it. Luckily it didn't get any higher."

Don Duarte, the manager of Courtsports, was also pleased with the increased business. His sentiments reflect those of most the racquetball clubs. "Sure we got a little dirt slide into our parking lot, and the rugs got wet, but I'll take that any time we fill all of our court time!"

—Carole Charfauros

The New Wave

At last. An on-the-spot antidote for the lavish cuisine that cruises are famous for.

Norwegian Caribbean Lines has put racquetball courts into the S/S Norway, which — starting early this summer — will sail every Sunday out of Miami. The luxury liner was the former



S/S France, reconditioned, rechristened and refitted with a 665-seat theater, an International Promenade deck wrapping around the ship, bars, "sidewalk" cafes, a disco called "The Club that Dazzles" — and racquetball courts.

Now that the game's on land and sea, will the next step be racquetball in a jet?



Leach Industries, the country's biggest producer of racquetball racquets and accessories, has moved into a new 60,000 square foot facility on the Scripps Ranch Business Park in San Diego . . . Chuck Sheftel, coordinator of *National Racquetball's* APRO Teaches series for racquetball instructors, will lead a clinic at the International Symposium on the Effective Teaching of Racquet Sports June 11-14 at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. For information on the conference for professional teachers of tennis, badminton, racquetball or squash write to Mary Kennedy, Conferences and Institutes, 116 Illini Hall, University of Illinois, 725 S. Wright, Champaign, IL 61820 or call 217-333-2881 . . . Jeff Millar, co-creator of the Tank McNamara comic strip which *National Racquetball* recently featured in a racquetball-centered sequence, is author of *Private Sector*, a crime thriller published by Dial . . . Phoenix Books/Publishers has put out *The Tennis & Racquetball Player's Self-Guide to Injury Free Fun* . . . The Board of Health is a padded exercise board that switches into 15 positions that help counteract the stress of gravity on the body . . . Tennis Togs is making a four inch elbow band with a Velcro closure . . . Applications are open for booth space at the Greater St. Louis Physical Fitness Exposition August 13-17.

Off to Camp at 65

by Mike Grant



The brochures tend to favor photos of students in the bloom of youth, but Al Shepherd didn't hesitate when he made up his mind to go to racquetball camp last summer.

He was in good shape at 5' 10" and 135 pounds, he was playing an hour or more a day three or four times a week and he was on the go in his job as field supervisor and estimator for a roofing contractor in Rockville, MD. He knew his age might work against him, but not much. Al Shepherd figured that, at age 64, he was in the prime of life.

"I couldn't wait to go," Shepherd says of his first camp experience. "I think I surprised 'em with my stamina."

Shepherd took up racquetball two years ago.

"I got sick of tennis," he says, "because I couldn't play the game. I didn't have a backhand. I fell in love with racquetball the first game I played. Haven't picked up a tennis racquet since. I still don't have a backhand, but you can play a decent game of racquetball without having much of a backhand."

Most of his everyday opponents at the Chevy Chase Athletic Club were younger than Shepherd. "Nobody my age was playing," he says. "I was getting beat pretty bad in the B's and seniors, but I'd win some. I'd win some," he repeats, implying "some" wasn't enough.

"I got sick of getting beat," he says. "Then I read about Steve Strandemo in *National Racquetball*, and then somebody told me about his camp."

Older by 20

Shepherd was the oldest student at that camp last summer by about 20 years. But he was among the better students.

"He was very attentive," Strandemo recalls. "He was very receptive to learning, and he always had a question. He was always on the go. You couldn't help but like him. He added a spark. He was a personality. He had good legs and could move pretty good, but nobody had ever told him how to hit a backhand."

Shepherd liked Strandemo's strategic approach to the game.

"You don't have to hit every ball with power," he says. "I was out there just bang-bang-bangin' until I learned about strategy. My game improved 100 percent in three weeks. I went back home and played some of those guys a lot better. Some of them won't play me any more," he says with a chuckle. "They don't say anything about it; they just kinda dodge me."

Shepherd still has his troubles with the B level players, but his intention now is to win the 60 over USRA national championship.

"I'm going back to Steve's camp this summer to absorb what I didn't get last time," says Shepherd, who turned 65 Feb. 13. He and Muriel, his wife of 35 years, have two daughters — a third died in an auto accident — and seven grandchildren, all of whom play racquetball.

"I play against my granddaughter, who is 16, and a grandson who is 14, Shepherd says with a twinkle. "I spot 'em 14 points and beat 'em 15-14."

Williams, Reese and Rizzuto

He has always been athletically inclined. He was an all state football and baseball player in high school and later in the Navy played service baseball with people like Ted Williams, Pee Wee Reese and Phil Rizzuto. He still plays slow pitch softball for his church team. *"I'm the best pitcher they've got," he says.*



From age 40 to 50 he was relatively inactive, he recalls, and he smoked heavily. Then he joined the Mormon Church, quit smoking and took up softball again. *"Man, it was hard for awhile," he laughs. Then he picked up his tennis game, and eventually moved on to racquetball.*

"Anybody can play sports after age 50," he says, "if you watch what you eat, don't overdo it and get proper exercise." His weight stayed at about 145, he says, until he started playing racquetball. "Then it went right to 135."

He knows he should be practicing his backhand for this summer's camp, but he hasn't been. *"I like to play too much to practice."*

"This year at camp I'm gonna play more," he says. "Last year I didn't follow up the practice sessions with games. This year, after the training sessions, I'm gonna challenge some of the players and play matches in the evening."

"He was competitive last year with the players in his group," says Strandemo, "but he was driving back to Maryland every night."

"My wife was sick at the time," Shepherd explains. It was a three and a half hour drive, one way.

He plans more travel, though, in his quest of a national title.

"I'm lucky, because we're fixed well enough that I can travel," he says.

"I'm going to start going to all the national tournaments. I should win the thing. I'm just gonna improve from here on out." ●

See Camp Guide on page 71 and Steve Strandemo's getting ready for camp story on page 44.





Eye Injury Dangers

As the Experts See Them

If your eye doctor has been warning you lately about the dangers of racquetball to unguarded eyes, it might be because he or she saw an extensive exhibit on the subject at the November American Academy of Ophthalmology meeting in San Francisco.

Michael Easterbrook, M.D., the Canadian ophthalmologist who's been leading a crusade to get squash and racquetball players to wear eyeguards, won third prize for his portable exhibit which eventually, he says, "will be available on both sides of the border for any organization wishing to use it."



IN THE 1970'S THROUGHOUT NORTH AMERICA, THERE HAS BEEN A TREMENDOUS SURGE IN INDOOR RACQUET SPORTS, PARTICULARLY SQUASH AND RACQUETBALL. THERE ARE MANY REASONS FOR THIS LARGE INCREASE IN PARTICIPATION AT THE AMATEUR LEVEL:

1. IN CONTRAST TO BLOOD, SQUASH PLAYERS MAY BECOME REMARKABLY COMPETITIVE WITHIN A FEW WEEKS OF PICKING UP A RACQUET.
2. THE GAME ITSELF IS INTENSIVELY COMPETITIVE.
3. SECONDARY OFFER WORKERS BENEFIT IN A REGULAR PROGRAM OF EXERCISE, SUCH AS ACQUAINT WITH THE ASSOCIATED STRESS ON CARDIO-PULMONARY FITNESS AND WEIGHT LOSS.
4. UNIVERSITIES, COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS ARE BUILDING INDOOR RACQUET CLUBS.
5. NEW APARTMENT BUILDINGS ARE USING SQUASH COURTS AS ONE ATTRACTION TO ENTICE CLIENTS.
6. SQUASH CLUBS AND RESORTS ARE PROVIDING DAY CARE FACILITIES, THIS INCREASING THE CLUBS' REPUTATION WHILE ENCOURAGING PARENTS TO PLAY.
7. "TINY AS IN PLAY" CLUBS ARE ATTRACTING MANY PLAYERS WHO MIGHT NOT JOIN PRIVATE CLUBS BECAUSE OF THE HIGH INITIATION AND SOCIAL FEES ASSOCIATED WITH THE CLUBS CLUBS.

THIS EXHIBIT REFERS, FOR THE MOST PART, TO EYE INJURIES ASSOCIATED WITH SQUASH, ALTHOUGH THE TYPES OF INJURY AND AVAILABLE PROTECTION IS SIMILAR FOR RACQUETBALL AND SQUASH.

INCREASED POTENTIAL FOR EYE INJURY

- (A) COURT: CONTINUED SPACE, PARTICULARLY THE NORTH AMERICAN COURT.
- (B) PLAYER: 1. PLAYERS ARE IN CLOSE PROXIMITY.
2. COMPETITIVE GAME ATTRACTS COMPETITIVE PLAYERS.
3. INCOMPETENCE MAY BE A FACTOR.
4. LESS THAN FIT, OR OVERWEIGHT-INCREASED RISK OF INJURY.
5. NO EYE PROTECTION.
6. IMPROPER GLASS MAY BREAK-REYE INJURY.
- (C) RACQUET: POTENTIALLY A FAST, DESTRUCTIVE WEAPON WHICH MAY BREAK, OR STRIKE THE GLOBE IF WIELDED EDGE-ON FROM THE TEMPORAL SIDE.
- (D) BALL: FAST, SMALL WHICH MAY SCRAMBLE WITHIN THE PROTECTIVE RIM OF THE SPECIAL MASK.

DIMENSIONS

SQUASH	VELOCITY (MILES/HOUR)	RACQUETBALL
BALL: 10-15 DIRECT HIT	24-35 AFTER REBOUND	BALL: 11' MAXIMUM OFF FRONT WALL
RACQUET: 30-40 AT IMPACT	24-35 DURING FOLLOW THROUGH	

EYE PROTECTION FOR SQUASH AND RACQUETBALL PLAYERS WHO REQUIRE A CORRECTIVE REFRACTIVE LENS.

NAME	MANUFACTURER	APPROXIMATE RETAIL COST	SOME EXAMPLES OF EYE GUARDS	
1. SPORTS SPEC	SPORTS SPEC OPTICAL CORP. 5000 S. 10TH AVE. DENVER, CO 80202 (303) 441-1158	\$60.00*		
2. PROTEC WIRE GUARD	PRO-TEC INC. 532 INDUSTRY DR. TUKWILA, WASHINGTON 98188 U.S.A. (206) 243-4227	\$15.00		
3. COMBAT GLASS	RAINBOW PRESCRIPTION ALL-SPORT EYE GUARD 241 NORTH BEVERLY DR. BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90210 (800) 423-6221	\$120.00*		
4. ALL AMERICAN (ALL SPORT)	5000 OPTICAL MANUFACTURING CO. HAWK CREEK AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701 U.S.A. (512) 775-6340	\$75.00* * WITH A -2.50 LENS 30 MM CENTRE THICKNESS OR 38" PLASTIC		

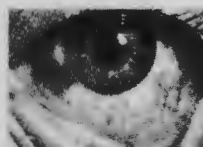
OCULAR INJURIES SEEN IN SQUASH PLAYERS WEARING NO CORRECTIVE REFRACTIVE LENSES



NASAL FRACTURE



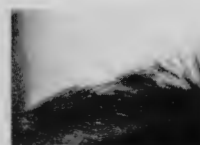
SUBCONJUNCTIVAL HAEMORRHAGE



HYPHEMA



LID CONTUSION



LID LACERATION



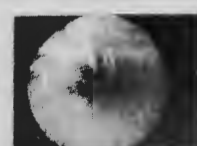
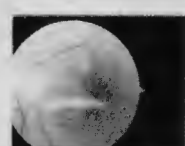
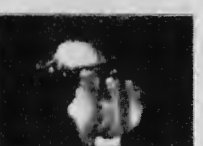
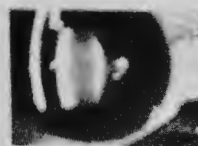
IRIS RUPTURE



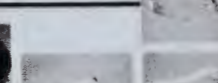
CATARACT



CHOROIDAL TEAR



EYE PROTECTION FOR SQUASH AND RACQUETBALL PLAYERS WHO REQUIRE NO CORRECTIVE REFRACTIVE LENS.

NAME	MANUFACTURER	APPROXIMATE RETAIL COST (CANADIAN DOLLARS)	SOME EXAMPLES OF EYE GUARDS
1. SPORTS SPEC WITH PLANO LENS	SPORTS SPEC CORRECT OPTICS DIV. OF SAFETY RACING CO. BOX 17, EAST WINDSOR ONT. L9A 4K1 (416) 451-5426	\$30.00	
2. SPORTS SPEC BUBBLE	SPORTS SPEC CORRECT OPTICS DIV. OF SAFETY RACING CO. BOX 17, EAST WINDSOR ONT. L9A 4K1 (416) 451-5426	\$40.00	
3. EKTELON GOGGLES	EKTELON 2215 KOSKIN GORGE RD. SAN DIEGO, CA 92106 U.S.A. (602) 546-2800	\$17.00	
4. COMBAT GLASSES WITH PLANO LENSES	FAHSON PROTECTION ALL SPORT EYE GUARD 281 NORTH BERRY DR. SUNNYVALE, CA 94086 (415) 463-2821	\$60.00	
5. PROTEC EYE GUARD	PROTEC INDUSTRIES 5307 INDUSTRIAL DR. TULSA, OKLAHOMA 74116 U.S.A.	\$10.00	
6. EKTELON EYE GUARD	EKTELON 2215 KOSKIN GORGE RD. SAN DIEGO, CA 92106 U.S.A. (602) 546-2800	\$10.00	
7. CHAMPION GUARDS	CHAMPION GLOVE CO. 1000 W. 10TH AVE. DENVER, CO 80202 (303) 733-1227	\$15.00 SINGLE BRIDGE (MODEL 103) \$15.00 DOUBLE BRIDGE	
8. SOLARI	MAJOR SPORTS PRODUCTS VIA RAY 1000 W. 10TH AVE. DENVER, CO 80202 (303) 733-1227	\$15.00	

CONCLUSIONS

1. THE POPULARITY OF INDOOR RACQUET SPORTS IS INCREASING THROUGHOUT NORTH AMERICA.
2. THE INCIDENCE OF EYE INJURIES IS INCREASING AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO IN THE FUTURE.
3. EXPERIENCE DOES NOT APPEAR TO PROTECT A PLAYER AGAINST A POTENTIALLY SERIOUS INJURY: BOTH A RETROSPECTIVE STUDY AND A PROSPECTIVE CANADIAN SURVEY SUGGEST THAT OUR PATIENTS ARE SUFFERING AN EYE INJURY AFTER 4-6 YEARS OF PLAYING SQUASH.
4. THE CHANCE OF HOSPITALIZATION FROM AN EYE INJURY IN SQUASH IS 50-60%.
5. THE WIDER (2.5 FEET) INTERNATIONAL SQUASH COURT APPEARS TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH FEWER EYE INJURIES THAN THE NARROWER NORTH AMERICAN COURT.
6. PLAYERS WHO WEAR GLASS LENSES FOR CORRECTION OF A REFRACTIVE ERROR RISK THE HIGHEST INCIDENCE OF OCULAR INJURY, SURGICAL OPERATION AND PERMANENT VISUAL LOSS.
7. EFFECTIVE EYE PROTECTION IS BEING MANUFACTURED NOW AND IS COMMERCIALY AVAILABLE.

RECOMMENDATIONS

(A) ON A NATIONAL LEVEL

1. EMPHASIS ON GOOD COORDINATE A STRESS ON THE DETERMINATE FIRST OF THE GAME AND USE OF EYE GUARDS BY COACHES AND PROFESSIONALS AS AN EXAMPLE TO YOUNGER PLAYERS.
2. CONSIDERATION, AT LEAST AT A JUNIOR LEVEL, OF MANDATORY EYE PROTECTION.
3. THE REGULATIONS OF THE CANADIAN RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 1978, STATE THAT AN EYEGUARD MAY BE WORN AT ANY OF THEIR SANCTIONED TOURNAMENTS REGARDING THE ASSURMENT OF THE ADULT PLAYERS TO CHOOSE WHETHER TO HAVE HIM/HERSELF OF EYE PROTECTION SHOULD NOT REMOTE THE QUALITY OF ADULT PLAYERS TO PROTECT THE FUTURE VISION OF JUNIOR COMPETITORS. THE VIRTUAL ELIMINATION OF SERIOUS EYE INJURIES IN JUNIOR CANADIAN RACQUETBALL PLAYERS COULD BE DUPLICATED IN SQUASH AND RACQUETBALL PLAYERS, AT LEAST AT THE JUNIOR LEVEL.
3. PROMOTION OF EYE GUARDS FOR INFORMATIONAL AND POSTED PHOTOGRAPHS IN NATIONAL PUBLICATIONS.

(B) AT THE CLUB LEVEL

1. A STANDARD THAT EYE PROTECTION IS RECOMMENDED ON THE CLUB AFFILIATION FORM.
2. FORMER RECOMMENDATIONS EYE PROTECTORS.
3. CLUB PROVIDING RETAIL EYE GUARDS.
4. THE PRO SHOP PROMINENTLY DISPLAYING A WIDE SELECTION OF EYE GUARDS.
5. THE CLUB INSTRUCTORS WEARING EYE GUARDS DURING ALL TEACHING SESSIONS.

(C) THE PLAYERS

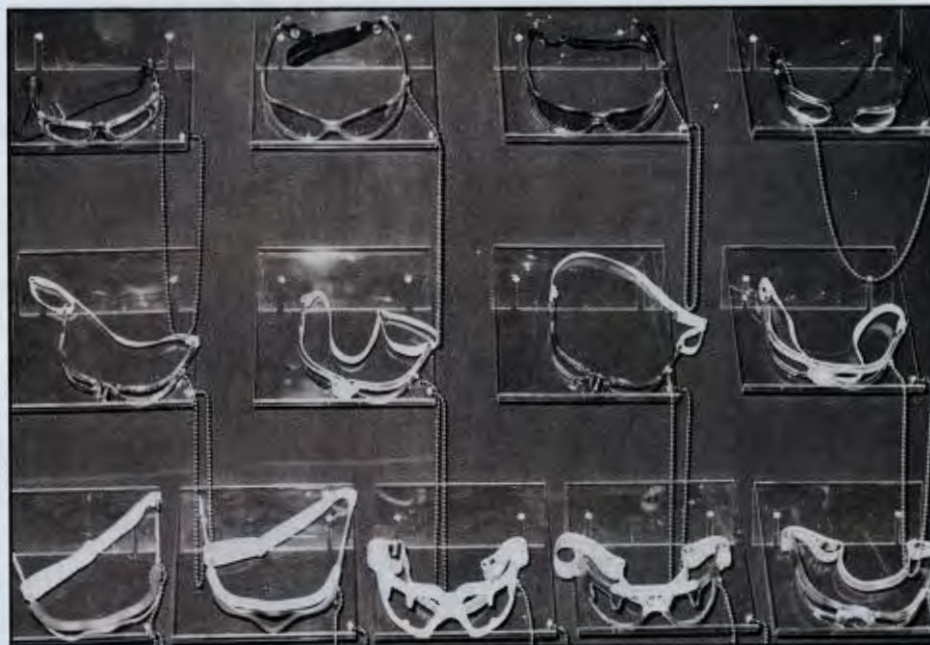
1. BE DEFENSIVE: DO NOT CROWD YOUR OPPONENT.
2. GIVE THE NONKE PLAYER MORE ROOM.
3. TAKE MORE CARE AT THE END OF A TIGHT MATCH OR WHEN TIRED.
4. DO NOT HOLD THE "T".
5. GIVE THE OPPONENT A FAIR SHOT AT THE BALL.
6. SHORTEN YOUR SWING.
7. CALL LETS BEFORE YOU HIT YOUR OPPONENT WITH THE BALL AND GIVE UP LETS BEFORE IT IS OUT A GAME.

(D) THE PLAYER WITH NO REFRACTIVE ERROR

1. MANY EYE GUARDS ARE AVAILABLE AND SOME ARE DEMONSTRATED IN THIS EXHIBIT.
2. THE BUBBLE TYPE GUARDS GIVE EXCELLENT PROTECTION THE OCCASIONAL PLAYER COMPLAINS OF FOSSING.
3. A NEW GENERATION OF EYE GUARDS IS APPEARING WHICH WITH A PLANO LENS SHOULD REMOVE ANY POTENTIAL RISK OF A BALL OR RACQUET EDGE TRAUMATIZING THE EYE THROUGH THE OPENING BETWEEN UPPER AND LOWER FRAME EDGE.

(E) THE PLAYER WITH A REFRACTIVE ERROR

- THE NEW GUARDS WITH POLYCARBONATE LENSES ARE THE GREATEST PROTECTION AGAINST A SERIOUS EYE INJURY. THESE LENSES ARE AVAILABLE WITH A PRESCRIPTION RANGE FROM -8 TO +4, UP TO A 12 CURVATURE. HOWEVER, THE OR 360 PLASTIC LENS, WITH 3.0 MILLIMETER CENTRE THICKNESS IS MORE READILY ACCESSIBLE FROM ANY OPTICIAN AND IN A GREATER RANGE OF POWERS. IT IS THESE HIGH RISK PATIENTS TO WHOM WE SHOULD STRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF EYE PROTECTION.

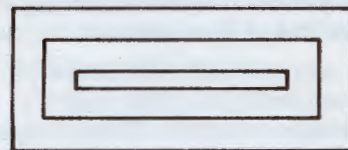


The clinical teacher at the University of Toronto and staff ophthalmologist for Toronto General and Wellesley hospitals has given *National Racquetball* permission to present some of the material from the display.

Another exhibit at the Academy's annual convention — put together by the National Society to Prevent Blindness — included a photo the United States Racquetball Association provided to demonstrate how ball and racquet can injure the eyes. ●

Inside the Master's Mind

by Charlie Brumfield



Before Four Time National Champion Charlie Brumfield begins his second series of exclusive instructional stories for *National Racquetball*, the sport's most entertaining and authoritative spokesman is filling reader requests for a review of the stories that have appeared on these pages since March of 1979. In the coming months *National Racquetball* will present some revolutionary approaches to practice and other original thoughts about the game by Brumfield, Leach sponsored player and touring pro for the Sportrooms Racquetball clubs.

Twelve Story Review: Putting Together Serves, Power, Strokes, Footwork and Strategy



I opened my series in March 1979 with an editorial on the need for service rule changes. It wasn't so many years ago that racquetball was a game of control and strategy. The serve was always an important factor, but not the only factor as it is today with the power players and faster ball. The serve should not be allowed to dominate the sport because it means

shorter rallies which takes away the fun and exercise for amateurs, means less exciting rallies for spectators and makes the sport too hard to televise.

Therefore I recommend the following changes:

1. Eliminating the shadow serve by dividing the court into quadrants, similar to tennis and table tennis. This would also give the receiver a better

chance of returning the serve because there would be less area to cover.

2. Eliminating the second serve so that the action would be more continuous. Also the server would be less inclined to go for a risky ace if a short would result in a side out. This would also eliminate the number of appeals, which break up the continuity of the game.

The Philosophy of Serving: Making the Most out of This Weapon

As I've said before, in racquetball as it's played today, the serve is the major weapon available. Therefore you should do everything you can to develop an effective arsenal of serves.

The first method of learning serves is to be taught by someone more experienced. But use this only as a stepping stone to the second method of developing a variety of serves: experimenting on your own. The third method is watching other players, not only the pros, but any tournament player. C players may have some unorthodox serves, but they might be as effective as many of the pros' serves and even more surprising to your opponent.

During the rally you only have a split second to decide which shot to hit. Then it becomes imperative to have only two or three basic shots from key positions. But on the serve you have 10 seconds or even longer if you know how to stall, so you should be able to master 15 or 20 varieties of serves, motions, and zone positions. With so many different kinds of opponents, you can never have too large an arsenal of serves up your sleeve. I listed and diagrammed 25 serves which are just a jumping off point. Everyone needs to develop his or her own portfolio of serves.

Applying Serves to the Game

In April I went on to explain how to apply the serves to your game. Once you've mastered a wide variety of serves, the next step is to keep practicing. I recommend that every amateur keep a little black book of serves, complete with diagrams, memory keynotes and reminders of common faults.

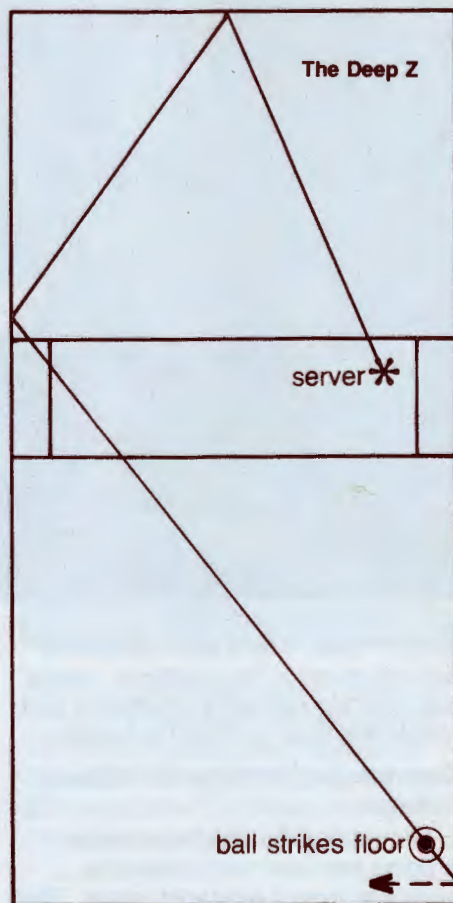
Another practice technique is the black tape method. Mark the spot in the service area where you want to contact the ball, then mark where you want the ball to hit the front wall. Adjust the tape until you have the perfect angle. Then practice with someone watching because you shouldn't see the ball hit the front wall if your eye contact is concentrating on the serve.

Even though Marty Hogan's bullet will probably be an ace even if you *knew* where it was going, most players need a little deception to catch the receiver off guard. To do this you should learn to hit two or three different serves from each position, using virtually the same approach.

Other deceptive techniques are the short hop, the running serve, right foot forward step back, the Strandemo step back, overhead motion and the "bolo" motion.

I now recommend safe, yet aggressive second serves. Most players try to be ultra-conservative about their second serve, yet they'll shoot a shoulder high back hand. With the offensive advantage of the serve I think the second one is just as important in forcing a weak return.

In order of effectiveness I recommend these as second serves: deep Z, deep angle crack, wide jam, overhead smash Z and down-the-line garbage.



Different serves dictate different types of serve returns. If you're playing a power shooter, use these serves to force the serve return to skip, give you a setup or go to the ceiling: garbage, soft shoulder high Z, overhead Z or side wall jam.

If you want to hit an aggressive serve that usually forces your opponent to go cross court I recommend these: short angle crack, jam and fly, and deep Z, all to the backhand. All of the serves mentioned in this article are described in detail in the April issue.

Power

The topic for May was putting power into your game. I outlined the development of racquetball from the time when all the players were converts from other sports to today, when we have our first generation of pure racquetball players — kids who learned how to hit a racquetball shortly after learning how to walk. While I was on top, I excelled at a control game which evolved out of my earlier paddleball days. With well-placed shots I was able to give my opponent the "tour" of the court until he dropped from exhaustion.

But even back then Hilecher had a booming serve, Steve Serot would shoot from anywhere on the court and Mike Zeitman hit every shot as hard as possible; it wasn't until Marty Hogan put all three elements together that I realized how effective power can be.

There are other factors which have made power effective: (1) Racquetball is the most offensive of all the racquet sports because you don't have to worry about hitting into the net, into the tin, out of bounds or off the table; (2) Young players are learning racquetball first; (3) The ball is faster; (4) Courts have glasswalls; (5) Conditioning is less important because the tie-breaker was shortened from 21 to 11 points.

Therefore it's important for everyone to learn to hit with power. Actual strength only makes up a small part of power — the majority is generated by timing. It's the old formula that force

equals mass times velocity squared ($F = M \times V^2$). Therefore it's the timing of the racquet head speed that produces maximum power.

It's also important to use every part of your body, but most people don't realize that the legs, hips and shoulders have to start milliseconds before the less bulky elements of the swing (arm, forearm, wrist). It's easy to remember if you think from the ground up.

A pro may look smooth when he or she strokes the ball, but the actual motion is more like the crack of a whip, the snap of a towel, or the whip of a frisbee. This is necessary to create torque.



Even though tennis players and golfers make contact with the ball off the front foot, I finally realized, through experimentation and analysis, that for racquetball the proper hitting zone is in line with the hitting shoulder. If you hit off the front foot you really end up pushing the ball, rather than snapping it.

Another element which adds power to your stroke is the creation of a long arc or loop which increases racquet head speed. The traditional method of the straight back/straight through

swing interrupts the momentum of the stroke, while the looping motion that Hogan uses has more time to build up good speed and thus power.

Just as the jump shot revolutionized basketball, now too, the great young power players have showed us that they can hit with more power and more control on the run and in the air. I no longer recommend getting "set up" for a shot by planting your feet.

Power is definitely here to stay and we can only reminisce about the good old days when opponents dropped dead from the tour of the court.

Backhand Loop

In June we talked about the backhand loop. Most players have more problems with their backhands because they're more acclimated to

their right side (or left if they're left handed) from throwing, hitting and shooting in other sports.

In 1972 Steve Serot hit his backhand harder than he or anyone else hit the forehand, so I know that power is possible with the backhand. It'll be easier for you if you remember the analogy of the frisbee, or snapping a towel. The problem a lot of people have is in the extra length of this motion. Some people have an extra long backhand stroke, but most of it is follow through, which adds nothing to power at impact.

The power is developed in winding up the loop. The elements needed for the loop are: (1) Continuous motion, (2) Height, (3) Deeper stance, (4) Maximum shoulder turn.



Drills for the Backhand

In July I continued with the backhand and added drills for the muscles. You need to get down on the ball and then lift with your thighs at impact. The weight shift should be slightly backwards to accommodate the power of the racquet flashing through the ball.

Just as on the forehand you want to contact the ball off the hitting shoulder, not the front foot. Also the forearm motion, rather than the wrist, produces most of the power. The wrist motion is primarily for direction.

The traditional eastern grip is a slight change for the backhand. Hogan uses the same grip for the forehand and backhand because he feels that there isn't enough time to change grips. The important thing is that the position of the wrist and forearm gives the ball its flat trajectory.

"Watch where the ball was at impact; don't turn to see where it went or it's not going anywhere." This old golf adage applies to racquetball as well.

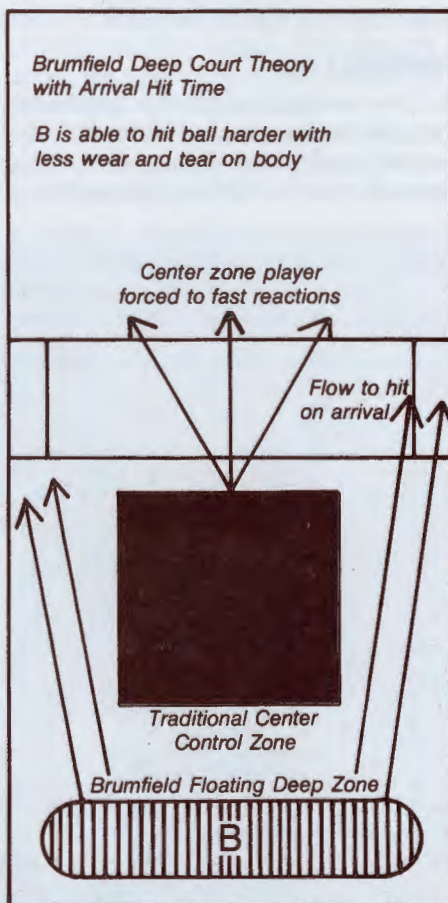


Since the backhand motion is seldom used in everyday life I recommend (1) pulley exercises and (2) swinging 50 backhands every day with a tennis racquet with the cover on.

While most people set up flat footed and lunge into the ball, the ideal way is to lift and throw yourself into the ball to produce enough torque. This timing is not easy to master, which is why only a few of the pros have ever been able to do it.

Out of Center Court

In August we blasted the old center court theory. This was a theory that I myself helped to develop; but with the numerous changes in the sport, it has now become obsolete.



The old theory said that the best place to be in order to cover any shot is dead center, because you would be an equal distance from all four corners. It was also believed that you could shoot better from up front, rather than deep court.

But with the faster ball and power hitters racquetball has become an execution game, not a retrieving one.

When the ball travels at higher speeds, it is smarter to position yourself deeper in the court.

The aggressive player who rushes up and attacks the ball may be on the same road as the dinosaur. Players like Hogan wait in the back court and hit the ball at the last possible moment. But when Hogan hits the ball, he goes for a winner; he doesn't try to keep the ball in play.

The new method I call the moving pocket defense. By that I mean that I eliminate any shots that I feel are too difficult to execute, such as down-the-line, and assume that most shots will end up cross court. Therefore I am able to flow into that area and cover the shot much earlier and with less effort than the player who waits to see for sure where the ball is going.

There are three positions to cut off the angle of your opponent's shots. One is to move up front, which is the style of the aggressive front court player. Another position is the closest to you, where you step to the side wall, cut the ball off and drive it down the line. But I think the best method is to wait and step back, taking the ball low in the back corner.

Besides realizing that three-quarters of all shots go cross court, you can also dictate your opponent's shot by your positioning during the rally. You can also learn to pick up on what your opponent's favorite shots are. And especially against a beginner you can anticipate where the shot will go by watching the stroke.

One final change is in watching your opponent. If you're playing a power player it's best to watch up to a point, but then turn and watch the front wall where you expect it to go. Otherwise you can't focus fast enough and the ball becomes a blur.

Conditioning

September's topic was conditioning. This is the area that most people would like to skip, but I feel that it's extremely important if you want to be in top tournament shape.

For flexibility and warm-up I suggest the following exercises: arm circles, torso twist, cross leg toe touches, leg



overs, groin stretches, achilles tendon stretch, jumping jacks, backward running, side shuffle and skipping.

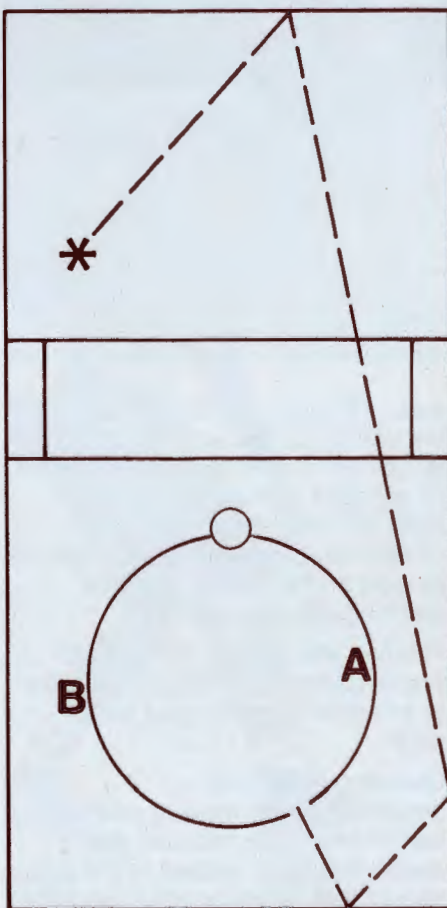
Now that you're already exhausted it's time for the ABC Loveday System of Agility Exercise, making figure eights around Loveday frisbees.

The main part of your cardiovascular conditioning or strengthening the legs and back are: monster walks, half squats, heel raises, single leg hops back hyperextensions.

To strengthen the racquetball swing I recommend: side twisting situps, side hyperextensions, pullover torso machine and forehand armswing. For general arm strength you can do: triceps extensions, parallel bar dips, alternate dumbbell curls and burpies.

Now for speed conditioning. Jogging, sprinting in sand, squat jumping and bunny hopping all help increase quickness.

For those of you who can't stomach the idea of this much work I also outlined a mini program. Whichever regime you decide on it's best to start with what you can handle and then work up.



Twinkie Move — With a traditional move to the ball, indicated by letter A, the ball jams your body. By taking path B your momentum is directed toward your shot, instead of away.

Footwork

In October I replaced the old ideas about footwork. The ideal footwork is not the old cross over step that most players learned, but more like what Bjorn Borg uses in tennis. Borg pushes off with his opposite foot to get momentum going in the opposite direction.

When making a desperation attempt I used to advocate pulling the ball back to the front wall at all costs. Now I've finally conceded that what used to be thought of as only a beginner's ploy is actually the best way to retrieve a desperation return: turn and slam the ball into the back wall. The power hitter does not like to hit the ball when it's high and lobbing, which is what this shot will do after hitting the front wall.

The "twinkie" move is a faster way to get to the ball off the back wall and adds momentum to your shot. To do it you take your eyes off the ball temporarily and turn the opposite way, rather than following the ball around. But this takes good court sense and should only be attempted by experienced players.

When your opponent's in the way there are three ways you can move: (1) Step in front of your opponent and cut the ball off and pinch it; (2) Step into your opponent and go for the hinder; (3) Take the ball behind the player and drive it.

The running-through-the-get approach is the new offensive way of thinking. You want to use your fist not your face to score points in the boxing ring and the same applies to racquetball: think offense. Therefore you don't want to wait to see what happens. Make it happen.

Gambling

In November I outlined how to gamble — not in Las Vegas — but in your court coverage.

When your opponent has a setup, you can (1) Wait in center court until you're sure where the ball's going; (2) Gamble one way or the other as you're tippy toeing in from behind; (3) Show one look and reverse your

If the follow through that Craig McCoy, right, uses, was any bigger, Rich Wagner would have felt it. Crowding is not always a recommended tactic for distracting your opponent.



position. I would recommend alternating between numbers two and three and forget number one against a power player.

When you're returning the serve, you can either play it like Strandemo or like Hogan. Strandemo positions himself an arm's distance from the back wall and then tries to hustle after the ace has been served. Hogan, on the other hand, never has to play against himself so he doesn't worry about getting aced too often. Therefore he casually waits for the kill.

But most of us have to search for another alternative. This I call *"flowing into the shot."* I've experimented with standing against the back wall and then getting a running start on the

serve. I'll usually gamble to the backhand side because that's where 90 percent of all serves go, so maybe I'll get aced a few times, but I still think the odds are in my favor. Otherwise I'd be lucky even to get my racquet on the ball, let alone do anything offensive with it.

You can also use the momentum you've generated when you flowed in to add extra power to your serve return.

Crowding is not only unsportsmanlike, it's also wear and tear on your body because you're always jerking it. Instead I think you should flow in behind your opponent which will give you a better chance to hit on balance and won't tire you as much.

Overhead

In December we appropriately finished off the year, discussing the shot of the 80's: the overhead.

The ceiling ball is still the major defensive shot above the shoulder, but no longer recommended in today's highly offensive game.

Offensively you can choose from the overhead drive, the overhead kill, the "eyeball" shot, the "Scheinbaum overhead", the "slash" or around the head shot.



The Niederhoffer shoulder high pass shot is neither offensive nor defensive, which is why it is so deceptive. It looks harmless, yet it's very hard to do anything with it.

To hit the overhead stroke you start with your body parallel to the side wall. The swing is just like the ceiling ball, even though some people contact the ball a little more out in front in order to bring it down. But that way you give up some deception.

Overhead strokes come in three varieties: badminton, Hogan's smash and the tennis smash. The most important fundamentals of all three varieties are watching the ball, using the looping motion and having your back arched.

Head Game: Preparing

January's topic was my favorite: the Head Game. Basically there are three ways to prepare mentally for a tournament. You can play a recording of your favorite stimulating music — often a march. You can develop an artificial hatred of your opponent. Or better yet you can get yourself a Dumbo's Feather, known more scientifically as a fetish. It can be an article of clothing, something you eat, or something silly, but as long as you feel prepared when you have your feather, then by all means bring it along.

Orange juice was once Charlie Brumfield's food Feather but now it's tea.



It's a good idea to analyze your game and your opponent's, but overanalysis can result in paralysis. I don't feel that Inner Tennis is the right technique, but others have been quite successful just letting their body do it.

The best psych is to be technically and mentally prepared. But there also is a certain amount of showmanship, which I've engaged in quite often. There's a lot that can be done to bother your opponent which is within the rules, but besides being a matter of ethics, trying to psych your opponent may also ruin your concentration.

This is one of those articles that if you missed it the first time, check your back copies.

After such a successful article last month I almost considered retiring while I was ahead. To compromise I took the month of February off to rest the Master's Mind from overexhaustion.

Head Game: Playing (One)

March continued with game strategy. It's important to know ahead of time what the possibilities are against a certain opponent, so you won't have to worry about it during the match.

The first step is to write down your game plan. This helps to organize your thoughts and also reinforces them in your mind.

There are two rules to remember: (1) Play your own game and (2) Use a game style which forces your opponent out of his or her game style. The ideal is to develop several game

styles so that both one and two apply.

In the following sample game plans I've used stereotypes for simplification, but many opponents will be a combination of two or more types.

The "*Bull*" is the stereotypical power player, such as Marty Hogan. To foil the Bull you should keep the ball outside of the Bull's power zone, with ceiling balls, garbage shots, wide angle passes and jam shots. It is also effective to slow the game down against the Bull with softer shots and by taking your time to put the ball into play.

The "*Rabbit*" is the retriever, who actually hits better on the run. Therefore you want to hit the ball to the Rabbit. This will throw off the Rabbit's timing. Be ready to anticipate that the Rabbit will run down everything.



Steve Keeley has an apparent easy shot to the left, but for Davey Bledsoe (a Rabbit) it's just a matter of a few hops to recover the shot.

Head Game: Playing (Two)

After a month of suspense I revealed part two of planning your game strategy in April.

The *"Shootist"* is the player with the killer instinct — the one who will shoot anytime and anywhere. To make it really tough on the Shootist give him or her the worst possible percentage shot to shoot, usually deep to the backhand. If you know the person is going to shoot the ball 99 percent of the time, you can move in early to cover the shot. When the Shootist realizes that you're re-killing everything, he or she will get anxious and start skipping everything.

You should serve conservatively against the Shootist. Also you should shoot before the Shootist gets a chance to.

Playing the *"Crowder"* requires total concentration. The best thing to do is to hit the shot so that you are between the Crowder and the ball. The Crowder won't be able to go through you and probably won't get a hinder either.

If the Crowder insists on blocking your shot, even after you've asked him or her to give you room to hit the ball, the only alternative is to hit the Crowder, but not where you will do any harm.

The *"One Armed Bandit"* is the player who has a strong forehand and no backhand. Contrary to common sense you should play the One Armed Bandit's strength. Not only will a serve to the Bandit's forehand be a surprise, it may also be demoralizing. It also keeps the player in center position, without favoring one side or the other.

If you do play only to the One Armed Bandit's weakness, it will eventually become stronger during the match. If you start out by playing the strength, you can still switch and exploit the weakness.

Playing the *"Dinker"* can be a frustrating experience. Whatever you do don't try to outdink or overpower the Dinker. The Dinker will outdink you or else just dump your power shot into the corner.

Brumfield's defense against Shootist Steve Serot was "shoot first."



Instead play the Dinker just as you would the Shootist. The only difference will be that your coverage zone will be closer to the front wall against the Dinker because the ball won't rebound as far.

"Turtles" are the most fun to give the tour to. A Turtle is usually overweight and out of shape, but an excellent shooter. You should treat the Turtle

just like the old donkey, by just barely dangling the ball outside of his or her reach. If you hit the ball too far away from the turtle, she or he will make no attempt to retrieve it and you've lost the advantage of tiring the Turtle.

Jerk the Turtle around on the serve by using walking screen serves, hard drives, short angle cracks and the drive and fly. ●

Ask the Champ

by Marty Hogan

Two Time and Current National Champion Marty Hogan, a Leach player, answers questions about improving your game in this exclusive *National Racquetball* series. Write to Marty Hogan, c/o Ask the Champ, *National Racquetball*, 4101 Dempster, Skokie, IL 60076.

Question: In action shots of the pros I've noticed that their eyes are usually found to be glued to the ball, even at the instant of contact with the racquet face. But I've also noticed in some photos that their eyes are still focused on this spot after the ball has moved away by as much as five feet.

If eyes are to follow the ball at all times, shouldn't they be on that outbound ball with the same constancy and exactitude as on the inbound ball—even more so, if anything, because of the follow through and placement concerns?

J.C. Fahey
Hampton, NH

Hogan: Most pros have their swings grooved to the point where if they watch the ball all the way to the racquet face, they already know where the ball is going to go. To answer your question pros do watch the outbound ball as much as the inbound ball.

When the ball hits the front wall it slows down. So if you contact the ball after one bounce in deep court, the ball has slowed down considerably. Therefore after you hit the ball it goes off the racquet two or three times faster than it comes at you. The speed the ball leaves your racquet upon impact is too great to follow with the naked eye.

Yes it is very important to watch the ball at all times in order to make contact in the "sweet spot". Do not be misled, the pros follow the ball at all times both coming and going.

Question: Do you know an effective way to eliminate pre-tournament jitters?

Cathy Isham
Glenview, IL

Hogan: Experience. The only way to rid yourself of all the pre-tournament butterflies is to play in tournaments. The experience that comes with the playing in a dozen or so tournaments will relieve all the nervousness you used to get.

Also butterflies and confidence go hand and hand. As your abilities begin to develop, your confidence level is much higher. You are not worried so much about how you will do, because you know that one day you will perform to the best of your abilities. Just have patience with yourself and the jitters will go away as you become a racquetball veteran.

Question: I have been playing racquetball for about six months and have two problems. (1) How can I concentrate at the beginning of a game so my opponent doesn't pile up so many points I can't catch up with him? (2) How can I stop myself from hitting the ball too high and straight back to my opponent?

Michael Rosenberg
Greenville, SC

Hogan: First you have to start preparing yourself for a match long before you get to the club. Start thinking about your game plan while you are at home getting ready. What are your strengths and weaknesses? These questions should all be answered before you step on the court. Begin to analyze what shot to hit at different situations. Think back on matches where you let yourself get into trouble. Be able to recall those situations and not let them happen again.

Also you don't have to start a match until you are ready. So make sure you

are good and warmed up and don't go into a match cold.

When all your shots are going back into the center of the court, remember it is better to pass your shots too wide than not wide enough. If you angle your shots too wide, the ball will at least get behind your opponent instead of hitting right back at him.

Question: Would you please explain how to play the following two situations in such a way that, on my forehand side, the ball ends up in line with my back leg: (1) The ball goes from the front wall to the back wall without bouncing; (2) The ball hits the front wall, bounces and hits the back wall.

Tim Pattison
Columbus, OH

Hogan: It is easy to see when the ball is going to carry to the back wall while in the air. When you recognize this happening, start making your way up to the front court. You will have enough time to run around your backhand and position yourself to hit the forehand. Note how fast the ball is rebounding off the back wall. Then get set up so that the ball drops to the height of your knee at the same time as when it's even with your back leg. Good judgment comes with playing time.

When having to take the ball off the back wall in the air, again note the speed of the ball. Get back far enough so that the ball does not drop behind you. Then position yourself again so that when the ball drops to the height of the knee, it will then be even with your back leg. Again this comes with experience. ●

Open Your Mind To Racquetball Camp

by Steve Strandemo

So you're going to a racquetball camp this summer. You've made your deposit, planned your trip, kept the brochures by the bed to look at every night. You're dreaming of the weeks after you come back from camp and zoom up the rankings ladder at your club.

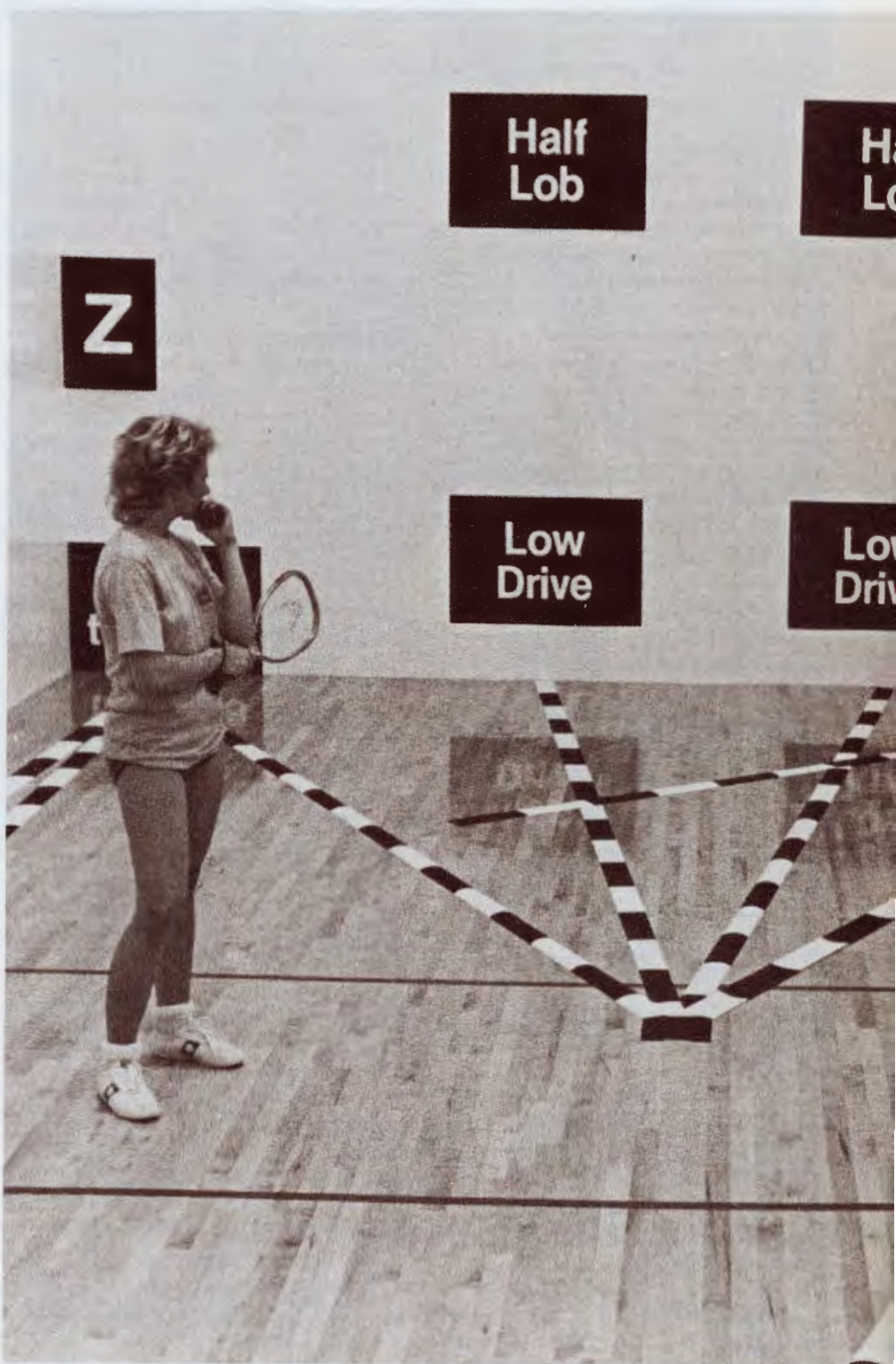
You want to get the most out of the camp experience, so you're working steadily, getting in good shape, playing a lot. And yet in the back of your mind a nagging question keeps popping up: How can I prepare myself properly when I don't know exactly what to prepare for?

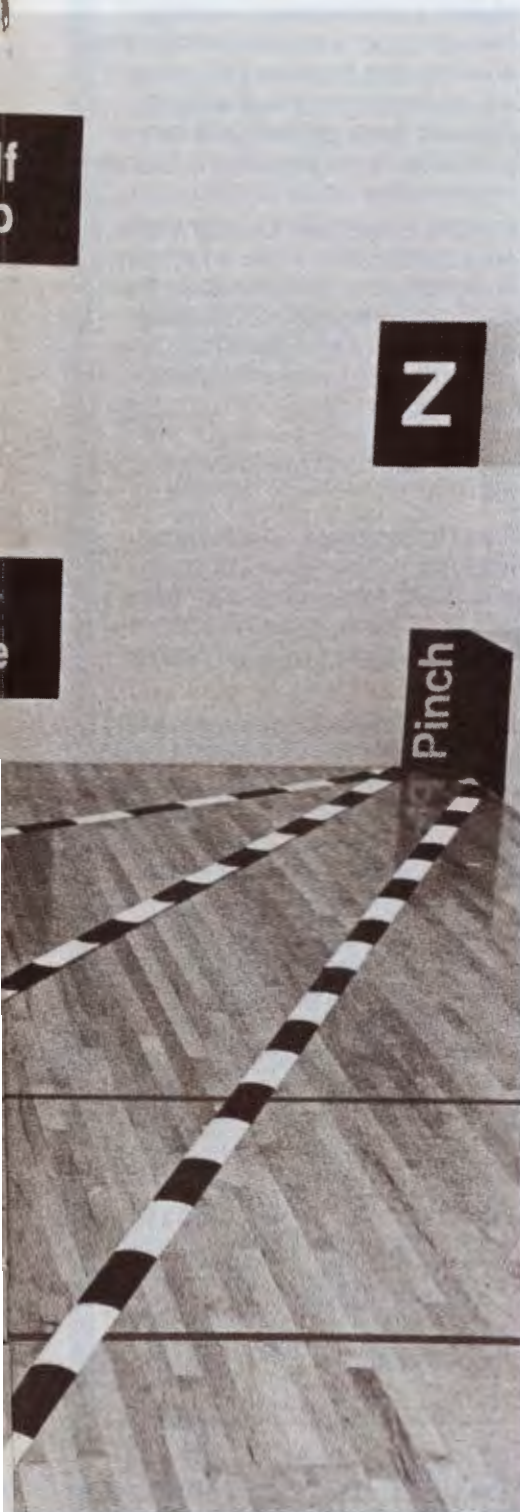
Every ninth grader suffers the same doubts. He wants to make good grades in high school, and would like to get a jump on the others if he could. But how can he study algebra until somebody teaches it to him?

I can't teach you everything there is to know about racquetball camp in this article. It's an experience, something that has to be lived. Besides you may not be going to one of my camps, and telling you how we do things might not help you much at another pro's camp.

I do, however, think I can offer a few tips on getting in the proper frame of mind for going to camp. As you are working physically to get ready, remember to work in some mental exercise too, to limber up your learning circuits. It can make a tremendous difference in your camp performance, and what you get out of it.

First of all be realistic. I can't transform your game in four days; nobody can. But if I can't add 21 points to your game, I can add maybe five, and you can take it from there.





I'm not going to give you a devastating new swing. If you've been playing for any length of time, the swing you have now is basically the one you're likely to have 10 years from now. We'll work on improving and refining it — quicker setup on the ball and more forceful use of your shoulders in your swings, but basically your swing is your own.

Yet many people come to camp thinking that if they improve their swings, all their problems are solved. That reflects the sort of lack of mental preparation I'm talking about. Though we'll work hard on your form, there's more to improving than form alone. I want to teach you good, solid, fundamental racquetball strategy in addition to good form.

To get ready for camp work on your form, by all means. Get good position, get a good setup on the ball, flex your knees, cock your wrist, use good body rotation, keep the feet anchored, get good wrist snap, follow through. Those are basics that are important at any time. But don't try to change your swing just because you're going to camp.

As you're working on your swing, hit some new shots; shots you've never tried before. You'll need those shots when we work on strategy at camp. If you always hit cross court passes, then try hitting a few down the line. If your favorite shot is the pinch, hit some cross court and down the line. Don't worry about getting them down pat. Just hit them and see where they go. If you've never hit a Z serve in actual game play, hit a few for practice.

Racquetball is a game of many options. The student who comes to camp prepared to examine these options will acquire a sound knowledge of the game's strategy, and what appears confusing will become easy to understand. Obviously this player has discovered there is more involved than just hitting the ball.

Study as much as you want about the game before coming to camp. Expose yourself to its different styles and strategies. As you read, remember to jot down any questions you'd like answered at camp. Also formulate goals you would like to achieve at camp and write them down.



Try standing in center court and cutting off some shots. If you always are defensive on the service return, try to kill a return. Don't worry if you miss the shot. What you are doing is exposing yourself to a few more of the many things that can and should happen on a racquetball court. Then when you're at camp, and we're talking about strategy — and we talk about strategy a lot — you can remember your own experimenting and say "Yeah, I know what he's talking about."

Watching other players can be most instructive as you prepare mentally for camp. From the better players you will get an idea of the game's many options. You will see other players sticking to pet shots. Look for the ones who know how to play the center court, and the ones that don't.



When you're hitting these new shots, you'll miss most of them and that's all right. Even the pros miss a lot of their shots, because the margin for error in racquetball shot making is very small. That is a very good bit of information to keep in mind.

Now watch where the missed shots go. They go back to center court, don't they? Therefore what part of the court do you want to be able to cover best? You get the idea.

Watch other matches at your club, and take in a pro tournament if one is being played near you. I know the temptation is just to watch the hard hitters and good shot makers, just as you want to watch the ball in a football game. People who really know football, though, will tell you to watch the dull old linemen. Why? Because the linemen with their first step will tell you where the ball is going to go.

Apply that same mental exercise to racquetball. When you're watching a match, watch position. Position is such a big part of the game. If you can develop an appreciation for good position, you will find that you're much more aware of the flow of the game, which in turn gives you the power of anticipation, which gives you more time to get set up to hit a good shot. Winning racquetball does not consist of just one skill. It is a game of many pieces that all fit together, once you understand them.

There is a natural resistance to trying something new, however. Remember the first day of school when the algebra books were passed out? Did you leaf through yours and wonder how you'd ever learn that stuff? Many a student at that point has wondered what in the world was wrong with good old arithmetic.

Some students approach camp the same way. It's natural. They have a pretty decent game, and a couple of shots that always work for them, and they say why mess around with a good thing? Until they overcome that fear, it's difficult to begin to learn anything at camp. It's much better to arrive at camp with a receptive mind, knowing the first steps to a better game may be faltering ones.

Here is a good point to keep in mind: Good racquetball is relative. In camp we will have players from all levels of the game, from novice through open. Naturally you will play in your own category, but you also will have the opportunity to meet players from other levels, testing yourself against the more advanced players and gaining confidence against players who don't have as much experience as you. There is a place for every player at camp, and a challenge for every one. You can always learn to do things better.

That's my philosophy. When you have a good foundation in the game, you can always get better. And if you have a solid foundation, who knows how good you can become? My goal, and the goal of my camps, is to provide that foundation.

I teach a lot of strategy; winning through good percentage racquetball. A novice and the advanced student will approach this information in different ways, but both will learn a great deal about the game if they are in a receptive frame of mind.

If you are taking lessons right now, go ahead with them. If you already are competitive, don't worry about your own particular style. Do, however, watch other players and their styles. See how many different styles there are. Watch for the people who play center court well, and watch the people who don't play center court at all.

If you have access to the various instructional books and magazine articles on racquetball, read them. The more you know about racquetball in general, the more you can learn at camp.

Any time a question pops up during your preparation, write it down. Also think about your goals at camp, and if you can formulate them, write them down too. Every student should come to camp with questions and goals.

I look at each person who comes to camp as an individual challenge. I'm not trying to find all your faults; I'm trying to analyze your game and make you a better player. I know what I want to see in you at the end of camp, and I know it takes both mental and physical effort to get there.

For you to maximize the benefits of camp and to grasp the concepts I'm trying to get across, our minds have to be open, so we can communicate. Then — if you are willing to work hard — we will make some very worthwhile advances.

Think about it. ●

Turn to page 71 for *National Racquetball's* 1980 Camp Guide.

More Rules for Getting Ready

Racquetball camp is not four days at hard labor. The instructor who turns his retreat into a concentration camp won't keep his students long.

On the other hand racquetball is a strenuous game, one of the best for physical conditioning. Naturally the students who are in good shape will get much more out of camp than those who tire easily. It's a good idea, both for the learning experience and your own enjoyment, to work on conditioning in the weeks before you come to camp.

Jogging

Jogging is very beneficial. Don't go out the first day and try to do five miles. In fact don't overload yourself in any conditioning regimen. I don't want you to arrive at camp worn out. Any of a number of fitness books offer guidance in starting a jogging program. As a rule of thumb start with an easy mile — don't be embarrassed if you have to walk part of it — and work up gradually.

Playing

Step up your frequency of play before camp. If you can play four or five times a week, fine. But then in the last couple of days before camp opens put your racquet in the closet and rest. You want to arrive in camp refreshed. The extra play will hone your hand eye coordination, which I feel is an essential part of conditioning the body for camp.

Along with my jogging I like to work in a side-to-side drill, preferably in sand, but on grass is okay. Change directions quickly, digging hard back and forth. It helps agility, leg strength and stamina.

Stretching

Stretching exercises are very important at any time. Do plenty of

You don't want to travel light when you come to camp. Besides shoes and racquets you'll need plenty of cotton shorts, socks, T-shirts and underwear, plus sweatbands, a warm-up suit, if you desire, and eyeguards.



stretching exercises every day, whether you play or not. If you're jogging, stretch not only before but after your run, when your muscles are taut from exertion. The same goes for play.

Work especially on the hamstring, the large muscle in the back of your thigh. The torso and upper body also should be stretched. Make it a routine.

Packing

Start taking an inventory of your equipment. You'll want to bring two pairs of playing shoes to camp, so one can be drying out as you wear the other.

Bring a good supply of underwear, shorts and T-shirts. Nobody ever brings enough T-shirts. Bring all you've got; you'll probably need them. Cotton is preferable for its absorbency. Bring enough athletic socks to have two dry pair available

for each morning and afternoon session, and again for night play if you want the extra court time.

You will need wristbands, headbands if you wear them, and gloves. If you have extra racquets, bring a couple. Many students like to slip into a warm-up suit after the session so they won't cool down too quickly.

Eyeguards

I strongly recommend the use of eyeguards, both for safety and confidence. I can't force my students to wear them, but I do teach them the importance of watching the ball, and how much easier this is if they don't fear eye injury. And of course the only sure way to prevent eye injury is to wear eyeguards. It makes a noticeable difference in a player's confidence, and that makes it easier to concentrate. ●

—Steve Strandemo

Killshots for Pacifists

by Mike Yellen

Mike Yellen, National Champ Marty Hogan's 1979 finals opponent, is consistently among the top half dozen men on the NRC pro circuit. Yellen writes this exclusive series for *National Racquetball*, covering areas of instruction players ask him about at clinics he runs around the country for his sponsor, Ektelon.

The killshot has become more than just a way to end a rally. In these days of shoot-to-kill racquetball a whole cult has developed around standing square in center court and smashing the ball so hard that it rolls "dead" off the front wall or, at least, dribbles out meekly.

You're supposed to snarl or curl your lip when you hit it and issue some appropriately ego-destructive remark to the ball and/or your opponent. It's kind of a throwback to our caveman days when we clubbed our food to death and ate it raw.

The trouble is that clubs aren't very accurate weapons and, as often as not, the poor little ball doesn't roll out and die the way it is supposed to. Instead you find your opponent chuckling as it bores a hole in the floorboards or pops out high into his lap, while you're left with your snarl down around your ankles.

I'm as aggressive as the next guy on the court, but I prefer to take a pacifist's approach to the killshot: you know — nonviolent. I let the side wall do most of my work for me. It may not be as emotionally satisfying as knocking the label off the ball, but it's a much safer and surer way of getting the point.

There are three ways you can take advantage of the side walls to increase your killshot percentages and save your arm sockets, assuming that you lack either the skill or killer instinct to put the ball straight and low into the front wall every time. The first way is with a corner kill.

Whether hit off your forehand or backhand the corner kill goes directly to the front wall corner on the same side of your body as the arm you used

to shoot. Hit within a six-inch square box on the front wall next to its seam with the side wall, the ball will be trapped by the side wall and roll or dribble out from there.

The shot's advantage over the straight in kill is that it doesn't have to be hit as low to prevent it from coming back into center court because the side wall is going to take the pace off the ball and help bring it down quickly, even if you're a couple of inches off the mark one way or the other.

A variation on this theme is the reverse corner kill which also uses the side wall to trap the ball in the corner. However with the reverse corner kill, the side wall is contacted first. You'll frequently hit this shot across your body; that is to the front corner on the other side of your body from your shooting arm.

The third and final way to use the side walls is with the roll-corner kill. Here you are simply letting the side wall take the pace off the ball for you so that, by the time it reaches the front wall, the ball is so low and slow that it has little rebounding ability.

The roll-corner is hit into the side wall on the same side of your body as your shooting arm. The distance of the point of contact from the front wall depends on the pace and height of the ball, but try three feet for starters and adjust to your own ability to get low and the speed of the ball. It should not be a hard hit shot.

An excellent time to use the shot is when you see your opponent sneaking up to cover your regular corner kill because a not-quite-perfect roll-corner will send the ball to the other side of the court from the normal corner kill.

Diagram 1: The execution of the corner killshot is similar to the basic-straight in kill, except that you are using the side wall to trap the ball in the corner, where it usually dies. It can be hit with a forehand or backhand to the corner on the same side of your body as the ball, as Player A demonstrates. Note that his opponent, Player B, is behind him during this shot.

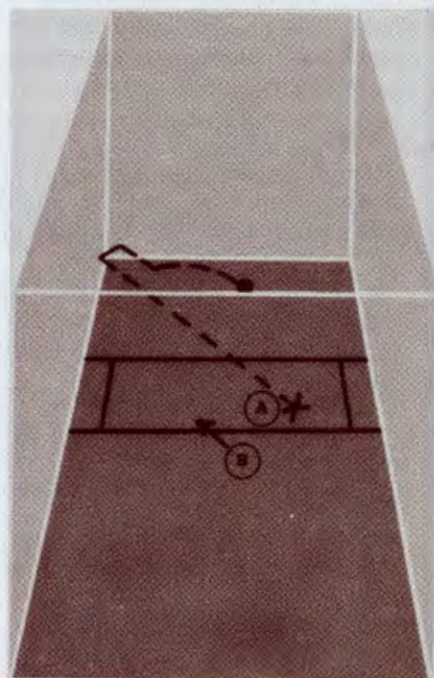
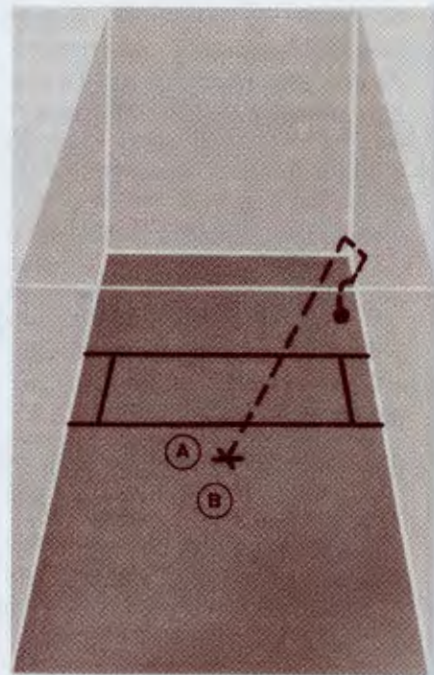


Diagram 2: The reverse corner kill also uses the side wall to trap the ball, but here, the ball contacts the side wall first. This shot can be hit either across the body, as shown by Player A, or to the corner on the same side of the body as the ball.

Diagram 3: In the roll-corner kill the side wall is used to take the pace off the ball before it hits the front wall, rather than to trap the ball in the corner. Contact the side wall first up to about three feet from the front wall. This kill is especially useful if your opponent is sneaking up to cover the regular corner kill as Player B is doing.

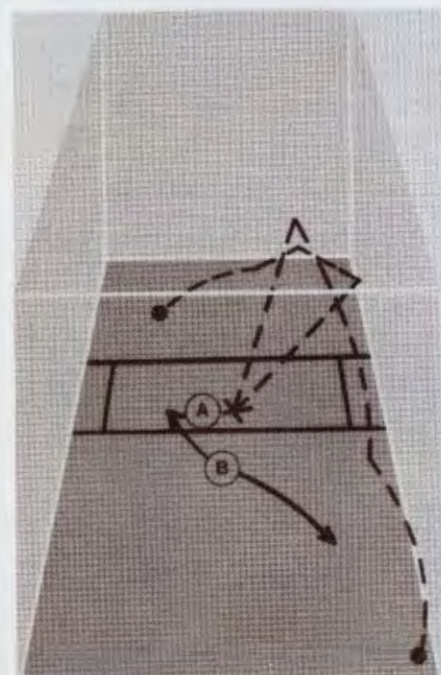
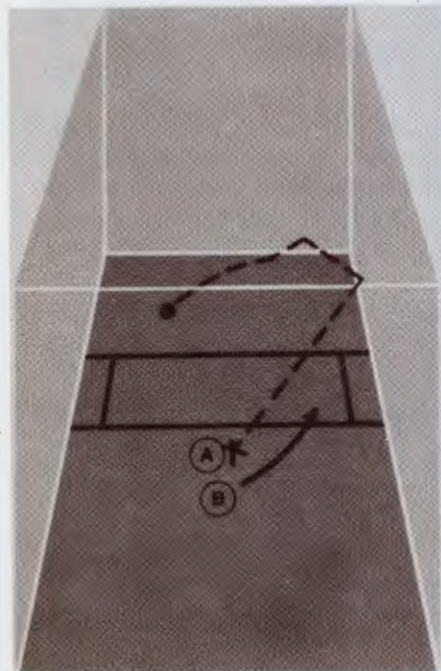
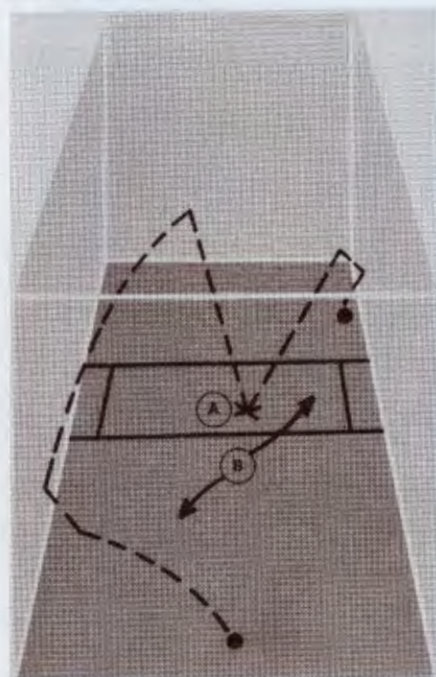


Diagram 4: The roll-corner kill is the perfect complement of the down-the-line pass, forcing your opponent to move in two directions at once to cover the shot.

Diagram 5: The corner kill is, likewise, the complement of the cross court drive. The three pacifist variations of the straight in kill shot are, in many respects, more conducive to sound court strategy.



As with the straight in kill you want to let the ball drop below your waist and, preferably, below your knee when executing these variations. The big advantage to these pacifist versions of the kill is that they can form the nucleus of a good court strategy.

Because they are fairly consistent ways to place the ball in one of the front corners, they are good complements to passing shots which put the ball in one of the rear corners. The roll-corner, for instance, is a good complement to the down-the-line pass and the complement of the cross court pass. In both cases your opponent is forced to choose between moving in two opposite directions to cover the shots.

So we are left with three kill variations that increase your margin for error and your shot combination alternatives, while reducing the need for muscle and that visceral satisfaction you get from using it to smash the ball. In fact the pace on the ball is so slow and these shots so nonviolent that they hardly deserve the name "killshot." I promise, though, they will get the job done.

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What's the Call?

by Dan Bertolucci

Dan Bertolucci has his prematch conference with Pros Mike Yellen, left, and Marty Hogan.



What should the referee say to the players in the prematch briefing?

This was one of the questions brought up at the March Indiana State Racquetball Association Rules, Regulations and Referees Clinic, a pilot session for the National Racquetball Referees Association, run by Indiana Chairman Jim Stevens. Let me repeat a typical referee's prematch monologue I delivered to the Indiana group.

"Gentleman can I have your attention, please. You'll be able to complete your warm-up after we're through. First of all I'd like to introduce the linesmen to you. They are Mr. (or Miss or Mrs.)—on my left and —on my right. (Linesmen should shake hands with players, if possible.) At no time should you talk to or request a ruling from the linesman. All appeals must be made directly to the referee, who then will request a ruling from the linesmen.

"There are no automatic court hinders. Only if in my opinion the ball takes an erratic bounce will I call a hinder. If not play everything.

"As always I request and expect your help on double bounce pickups and skip balls. This includes calling your own skips and double bounces.

"I don't want you to serve until I call the score. Once I call the score, you have 10 seconds either to serve or to be ready to receive. If you are the receiver and wish to take your allotted 10 seconds, just hold your racquet over your head. I'll make sure you receive your allotted time. I'll be watching. If you are serving and you feel your opponent is taking too much time, you can serve the ball. If correct it will be a legal serve. If not I will ask you to serve again.

"I call avoidable hinders and technical fouls. I never give warnings on avoidables and generally never give them on technicals, so don't expect one.

"If contact occurs on the backswing, this is an automatic hinder that you must call immediately. I will not give you an option. All other hinders will be my call and are not appealable.

"Do you have any questions? Okay then good luck to you both." (Shake each player's hand.)

Although this speech seems somewhat elaborate, it takes only a few minutes. These are important minutes — probably the *most* important minutes of the match for the referee. If you've done your job, you've succeeded in putting the players at ease and informing them that you have control of the match.

Note that you should call players Mr., Miss or Mrs., not just to add class to the event, but also to display your respect for the players. *"Time out Mr. Hogan"* carries more weight than *"Time out Marty."* And your judgments gain respect when they are objective — delivered on a non-personal level. You also reinforce your authority by making sure players direct appeals to you — the referee — not to the linesmen.

As for the reference to the back swing — that's important to bring up because the referee must rely on the players for that call.

Emphasizing avoidable hinders and technicals also is an important part of the prematch speech; those two calls are the most potent weapons in controlling the match. ●

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



Who's Playing Racquetball?

John Foust:

"Handicap? What Handicap?"

"Attitude" has made racquetball Instructor John Foust, stricken with polio as a child, into one of the most respected players in Colorado. At one time he wore a brace from the hip down, just to keep his knee from collapsing.

After 17 operations and more than three years in the hospital Foust has reached incredible heights as both player and instructor. At age 29 he is racquetball instructor for both Denver and Cherry Creek Sporting Clubs (two of Denver's largest and most exclusive clubs), Ektelon's program director for the southwest region, tournament director for most major tournaments (including the recent Coors National Pro/Am Tournament, co-sponsored by Seamco and Leach) and on the board of the Colorado Racquetball Association. And he's an opponent to contend with in competition.

Because there was no vaccine available in Foust's small Oklahoma town, he contracted polio as an infant. (Polio is a virus characterized by motor paralysis, with permanent disability to the spinal cord and skeletal muscles.)

Ignoring his mother's warnings about "shouldn't do's" Foust began playing racquetball for conditioning in college. At the time he recalls thinking "I must have the 'wrong attitude' for my body." But it was this same "wrong attitude" that has allowed Foust to play football plastered in a cast up to his hip, wrestle, ski the advanced slopes and become one of Colorado's most proficient racquetball players.

His early inspiration came from Steve Strandemo, Foust's first "honest to God lesson"; Jerry Hilecher, Steve Keeley, and Hal O'Leary, Winter Park's Handicap Ski instructor.

Perhaps these people have helped Foust to inspire so many others. His own learning experiences are also a major contributing factor in his teaching success. Beginning players, who lack confidence, come away saying "if he can be that good, so can I".



Foust feels that 85 percent of the game is thinking. He claims that he has lost more games mentally than physically.

"John helped me work on my head game—strategy and shot selection," says Christy Dallmann, one of Colorado's top AA players.

"It's his ability to decipher what the problem is and suggest a solution. Diagnosis is his main asset," says Lydia Emerick, another top ranked player.

Foust's immediate plans are to continue teaching and promoting racquetball and—especially—to work with more youngsters like 11-year-old Chris Brown, one of the state's promising juniors.

His dreams for the future? To build and manage the perfect racquetball facility. Is that an outrageous dream? Not for someone with John Foust's attitude. ●

—Kati Beck

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



—Steve Reid photos

Pat Schmidt's Gentle Touch

by Marilyn Ruby

Watching Pat Schmidt care for Barb Blashka, a burn patient at St. Mary's Hospital, it's clear why the 27-year-old is reluctant to give up nursing to become a full time racquetball pro.

Pat Schmidt is a special kind of nurse, not because of her training, but because of the special kind of patients she works with and her way of caring for them. Schmidt is a nurse in the burn unit at St. Mary's Hospital in Milwaukee, WI.

It is Schmidt's gentle touch and caring manner that set her apart. A burn is probably the most painful injury a human can endure; therefore most of these patients would prefer to lie in one position and not be touched. It is Schmidt's job to get them up and moving so their lungs don't become congested with fluid. They must constantly be gently turned so that air can reach their wounds. As part of her daily routine Schmidt washes open burns, cuts away dead skin, changes sheets and cleans bed pans. Sometimes she watches people die. To deal with such pain and suffering a nurse must have a very gentle soul.

Pat Schmidt is a special kind of racquetball player. She plays with a killer instinct, showing little mercy on her opponents. She placed second in her first city tournament; she won the next time. She has held the Wisconsin state title for the past five years. Nationally she has ranked as high as ninth among the women pros and she placed second in the amateur Nationals in 1977. At 5'6", 115 pounds she hits a ball harder than most men. Racquetball and nursing are both Pat Schmidt's professions. At age 27 she has learned to balance the two.



Science Talent

Schmidt excelled in science courses in high school, and nursing seemed like a logical extension of her talents. Her mother's side of the family includes many people in the health professions.

"I did a paper on burns while in nursing school, and I became so interested in the field that I took a tour of the burn unit at St. Mary's," Schmidt recalls. *"I got a job here right out of nursing school, and received 'on the job training' in the care of burn victims."*

Though Schmidt loves the nursing profession, she says with a smile, *"Sometimes I feel like a public relations agent trying to keep everyone happy. We must relate to all kinds of people. It's not always easy to understand and interact."*



At times the best way to handle the pressures of such sensitive work is to become a bit detached. *"Certain nurses are good for certain things, and the patients seem to sense this. I don't mind caring for a critical or dying patient, but I prefer not to get really personally involved with the patients. I've only had a couple of patients or their family members open up to me about the emotional and psychological aspects of being a burn victim."*

But Schmidt feels these burn patients have a special quality about them. *"These people have learned to handle pain, some better than others. They are very brave. They're on the floor a long time, so we get to know them well."* She still stays in contact with one patient — an artist who lost several fingers due to burns on her hands.



Ready for Home

"Believe it or not, there is great happiness on this floor," Schmidt says. "For instance I've seen some very critically burned people, and I was sure they would die. When I see that patient go home — it's just great. About three-fourths of the patients make it."

Just as Schmidt had excelled in science courses, athletics also came very easily to her. Her father often played football and basketball with her, and she became active in women's sports in high school.

"I was on the tennis team at UW-Milwaukee in 1973 when my father suggested I try racquetball," she says. "Now I find tennis boring. Racquetball is more convenient, less expensive and a much better workout."

When Schmidt began placing first in all city and state amateur tournaments, she began considering turning professional. *"My parents encouraged me to try," she says. "I was brought up to finish school and get a steady job, but this was something I just had to try. I really wanted to see just how good I could be."*

Schmidt switched from full to part-time at St. Mary's, which allows her to compete in national tournaments and to teach at a local racquetball club.

Just how talented a player is she? Schmidt herself will probably never know the whole range of her abilities. *"If racquetball was included in the Olympics, I'd have something substantial to work toward," she explains. "But right now it's more of a sport and a hobby. I don't have the resources to have a fulltime coach and work at my game as a professional should."*

Full Time Test

"I would like to try racquetball full time on a limited basis just to see how good I really could be, and to develop the discipline needed to get to the top. I've had coaches in the past, but they taught me all they could. Now I would need a coach who could make me work; I need a regular training program."

Schmidt enjoys playing in tournaments because of the practice it gives her, and because she loves the competition. To sharpen her game she plays with men; she outclassed all the local amateur women players long ago. She admits she sometimes plays against her boyfriend of eight years. *"It's practice — but not a good workout," she laughs.*

Schmidt, who describes her style as "control", is an Ektelon-sponsored player who this year for the first time went over the \$1,000 annual prize money limit that separates amateurs from professionals. Because she earned \$1,200, she was not eligible to defend her title at the Wisconsin state amateur tournament in late January.

"This was the first time I couldn't compete in five years," she says sadly, though she adds with appreciation that the Wisconsin USRA Association presented her with a "player of the decade" award.

"Sure I'm at a disadvantage — I can't compete as much as the other women pros because I work as a nurse," Schmidt says. (Most women professionals either manage or teach at racquetball clubs.)

"But I wouldn't change anything. Racquetball is fun and exciting, but nursing is very fulfilling. Racquetball is not my life — I'll always go back to nursing."

"I wouldn't change anything. I now enjoy the best of both worlds. I just do whatever feels comfortable for me." ●

Wheelchairs Welcome

A Few Thousand Dollars Make Celebrity Courts Barrier Free



Shrubbbery hides the ramp for wheelchair players who can enter through the main first floor door or via an outside ramp that leads to the second floor viewing area.



— Frank Rawcliffe photos

Thirty-two-year-old Frank Rawcliffe has a "couple of friends who are paraplegics—one in a car accident and one in Vietnam"—but Rawcliffe had more than two people in mind when he decided to make Celebrity Courts accessible to the handicapped.

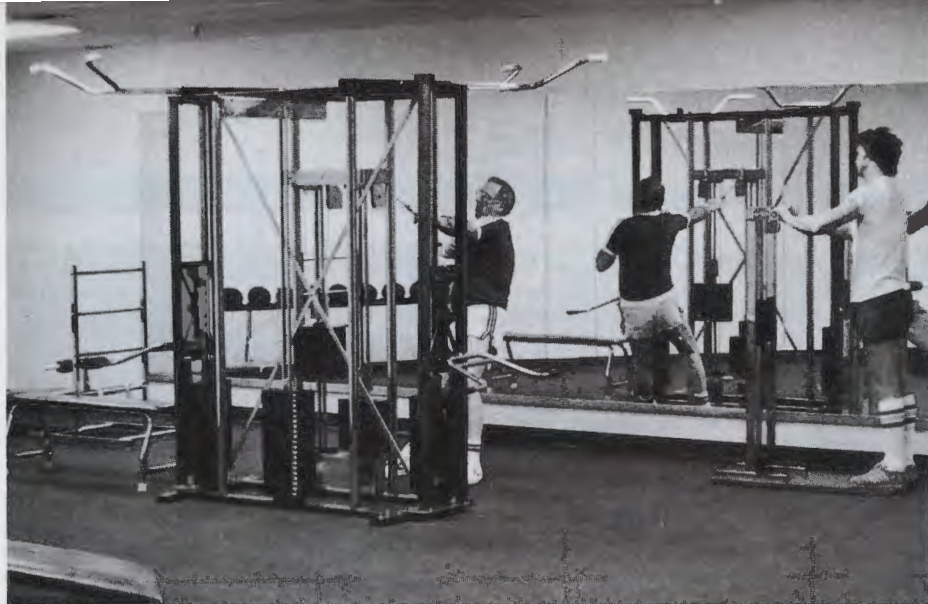
"We had a wheelchair basketball team in the area, and I'd heard about racquetball for the handicapped. Then I read in National Racquetball how you could make a club accessible. I knew it wouldn't be that expensive to

do it from the beginning," explains Rawcliffe, who—a year ago—started thinking about putting up a club in Warwick, RI. His partners, Wally Menders and Buster Bonoff, agreed to make their club the country's first racquetball facility with total access for the handicapped. Jim Vaughn of Marteg Corporation, architects and builders, was able to fill the owners' orders with specifications from Paul DePace, a wheelchair player who heads the Paraplegic Association of Rhode Island (PARI).



Oversize corridors in the first floor locker rooms and court areas provide space for wheelchairs.





There's plenty of room for a wheelchair through the double doors of the weight room, where a handicapped player can roll up to the equipment, and—with a boost from a fellow member—get in position for a workout.

New Court Club Listings



Other first floor amenities geared to the handicapped: top left, a sauna with an oversized door and a level floor (floor was recessed in the sauna and covered with six inch planking); top right, a sink with an opening for a wheelchair and a lowered hair dryer; lower left, an extra long rail at the whirlpool; lower right, a grab rail, seat and hand held shower.



"The costs were minimal," Rawcliffe says. "It wasn't more than a thousand dollars to make small changes while we were doing the original construction." The photos on these pages show how Vaughn adjusted his plans to serve the handicapped.

About 20 handicapped players have joined Celebrity Courts since the club opened Dec. 2, 1979. At the grand opening a wheelchair exhibition match received seven minutes of local TV coverage and brought in handicapped members from as far away as Attleboro, MA, 22 miles from Warwick.

Rawcliffe is so pleased with his project he'd like to see more people think about the handicapped when they build a new club. "If anyone wants more information, they can call me at 401-826-1800." ●

Or you can contact the author of *National Racquetball's* March, 1979, article, "Making Your Facility Available to the Handicapped," Joseph Pisciotta, A.I.A. at 714-295-2127.

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Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Casa de Courts
104 Aegean Way
Vacaville, CA 95688

The Circuit Courts
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Mansfield, OH 44906

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Ludington, MI 49431

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515 N. 12th Ave.
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Most Improved?
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See Page 57.



Hawaii — The Island Region

A year ago the USRA expanded the number of regions from 10 to 14 to allow more players to participate in regional competition nearer their homes.

But there was still a special problem for Hawaiian players who had to spend big money for air fares if they wanted to compete.

Well thanks to the persistence of Hawaiian State Chairperson Jane Goodsill and to Leach Industries Hawaii became the USRA's 15th official region. *"I feel we can draw 400 participants and send our top players to the Nationals,"* Jane told me.

With that kind of enthusiasm I couldn't help but lend the USRA's assistance. The men and women's Open division winners receive round trip air fare to the Nationals in Las Vegas via a joint effort by *"Hui-O Racquetball,"* Leach and the USRA. Leach furnished shirts to help offset host site costs and the USRA and the Hawaiian State Association are sharing air fare expenses.

The Hawaiian Regionals were contested May 1-4 at The Courthouse, 45608 Kam Hwy, Kaneohe.

With Hawaii on board the USRA is now awarding a record 30 trips to the Nationals — an expenditure of more than \$8,000.

Welcome Hawaii!

— Bob Keenan

Bob Keenan, USRA director, coordinates amateur competition around the country, working hand in hand with the USRA state chairmen listed on this page.



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June 30 Is Deadline

National Racquetball's second annual Most Improved Player of the Year contest will be open for entries in June, with June 30 set as the deadline.

The contest, aimed at recognizing the amateur player whose name might not always make headlines in tournament results, will honor the men, women and juniors who have made the most exceptional progress while playing racquetball from June, 1979, to June, 1980.

One winner will be announced for each state in which a player qualifies for the award. (If 50 states come up with qualified candidates, we'll have 50 winners, but *National Racquetball* will make the awards only in those states where there's a player whose progress has been outstanding.)

Winners, whose stories and photos will highlight a fall issue of *National Racquetball*, will receive lifetime memberships in the United States Racquetball Association (including a subscription to *National Racquetball*) and a variety of equipment and instructional prizes. USRA staff members will select winners with the help of USRA state chairmen.

We'll be looking for your entry!

Send your classified ad to Joe Ardito,
National Racquetball,
4101 Dempster, Skokie, IL 60076.
Deadline for classifieds,
at \$2.50 a word, is 45 days
before the month of publication.

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Upcoming Events

May 2-4

The Westchester Open, Pelham Racquetball and Health Club, 6 Pelham Pkwy, Pelham Manor, NY 10803, 914-738-1800, Tournament Director Bob Anderson, Check on late entries.

May 10 and 11

Second annual Vermont State Doubles Championships, Racquet's Edge, 4 Morse Dr., Essex Junction, VT 05452, 802-879-7734, Eyeguards mandatory.

May 16-18

Indy Open, The Court Club, 3455 Harper Rd., Indianapolis, IN 46240, 314-846-1111, Tournament Director Camille McCarthy.

May 30-June 1

First Annual Genesee Open Racquetball Tournament to benefit Muscular Dystrophy, The Court Club, 100 Elm St., North Haven, CT, Tournament Director Wes DuBois 203-239-5665.



Save Your Records for the 1980 National Racquetball Most Improved Player contest

honoring those amateur
players in each state whose
games have improved most
between June of 1979 and
June of 1980. See entry.

Entry for National Racquetball's Most Improved Player Contest

Name _____

Address _____
number street

city

state

zip

Phone _____
(area code)

Age _____ ☐ Male ☐ Female

When did you start playing? _____

(name of facility and address)

List evidence that indicates your improvement

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Please enclose all supporting evidence (label each piece with your name) including score cards, draw sheets and letters of recommendation from pros or other instructors. Name of person submitting the entry if not the contestant.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____
(area code)

Please mail to Bob Keenan, USRA,
4101 Dempster St., Skokie, IL 60076

Tournament Results

Maine 1979-80 Winner Gene Fitzpatrick



From Maine to California

Two players from two coasts prove there was no typical winner among the men and women named in *National Racquetball's* first annual Most Improved Player contest.

One is Gene Fitzpatrick, Maine's winner. Since the contest ended last June the 20-year-old became his state's premier player and in January moved to San Diego to give himself a minimum of six months on the pro circuit. Dave Travis, Maine USRA state chairman, headed up a December exhibition event at the Falmouth Playoff Club that — along with a "cookie jar" donation effort at the USRA Maine State Championships — raised \$5,000 to finance Fitzpatrick's pro tour tryout.

Far from pro status, but just as determined to master the game to the best of his ability, Bob Holcomb, 19, is California's 1979-80 Most Improved Player. Holcomb's best win for the year was a first in the novice division in a tournament in Riverside near his Buena Park home. He was recommended by Jerry Northwood, general manager and vice president of the Anaheim Racquetball Athletic Club, who wrote "Bob didn't start out as a natural athlete . . . his . . . accomplishments . . . are primarily due to . . . dedication, determination and most important of all, the proper attitude."

So whatever your skill or your age — whether you're a man or a woman — your entry will be welcome and will receive serious consideration in *National Racquetball's* second annual Most Improved Player Contest.



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

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

Ohio

The third annual 13 Strong Racquetball Tournament sponsored by Channel 13-WTVG in Toledo was held Jan. 24-27 at the three Supreme Courts Racquetball/Swim Clubs.

Results

Men's Open: 1st-Jeff Riehl, 2nd-Lee VanTrease
Men's B: 1st-Justin VanTrease, 2nd-R. Hackbarth
Men's C: 1st-Bob Olwin, 2nd-Charles Woolford
Men's Senior: 1st-Bobby Sanders, 2nd-Tom Perna
Men's Masters: 1st-Lynn Hahn, 2nd-Ken Mitchell
Men's Golden Masters: 1st-T. Stern, 2nd-Ed Kaufman
Men's Novice: 1st-B. Tessmar, 2nd-V. Roberts
Men's Senior C: 1st-David Bone, 2nd-Jack Wahl
Men's Novice Senior: 1st-Frank Daniher, 2nd-Paul Drake
Junior Boys 16-17: 1st-Bill Linhorts, 2nd-J. Wyman
Junior Boys 14-15: 1st-Jeff Garrison, 2nd-James Crestelli
Junior Boys 11-13: 1st-Ken Stern, 2nd-Mark Daniher
Junior Boys 8-10: 1st-Aaron Metaz, 2nd-Jim Floyd
Women's Open: 1st-Laurie Thomas, 2nd-Jan Helfrich
Women's B: 1st-Brenda Box, 2nd-Chris Fischer
Women's C: 1st-Pat Johnson, 2nd-Brigitte Hartz
Women's Novice: 1st-Beatrice Hardy, 2nd-Julie Clark
Women's Senior C: 1st-Kit Daniher, 2nd-Ceni Craig
Women's Novice Seniors: 1st-Nancy Bukownick, 2nd-Elaine Gutowitz
Girl's Juniors 16-17: 1st-Lisa Ecker, 2nd-Denise Dagostino
Girl's Juniors 11-13: 1st-Josephine Finazzo, 2nd-Melissa Buck
Girl's Juniors 8-10: 1st-Margaret Buck, 2nd-Jodi Gray

Vermont

Racquet's Edge in Essex Junction was the site of the second annual Junior Invitational Dec. 29.

Results

Boys
8-9: 1st-Troy LaBounty, 2nd-Jason Stanard
10-11: 1st-Kent Donahue, 2nd-Tom Anderson, 3rd-John Rashleigh
12-14: 1st-Tim LaBounty, 2nd-David Halpine, 3rd-Robbie Donahue
Open: 1st-Mike Donahue, 2nd-Todd O'Neil, 3rd-Joe Donahue
Girls
8-9: 1st-Andrea Verkaide, 2nd-Missy Donahue
12-14: 1st-Karen Verkaide, 2nd-Kim Verkaide, 3rd-Brenda Rashleigh



California 1979-80 Winner Bob Holcomb

Vermont

The second annual Harvest Classic Invitational took place Nov. 30-Dec. 2 at the Racquet's Edge in Essex Junction.

Results

Men's Open: 1st-Bill Burnett, 2nd-Michael Cain, Cons-Jon Swick

Men's B: 1st-Andy Rickard, 2nd-Randy Viens, Cons-Michael Donahue

Men's C: 1st-John Bostwick, 2nd-Richard Gallant, Cons-Dave Callaway

Men's Novice: 1st-Scott Light, 2nd-Peter McMillian, Cons-Leo Beliveau

Men's Senior A: 1st-Townsend Gilbert, 2nd-Chuck Bigalow, Cons-Hal Grieg

Men's Senior B: 1st-Lou LaBounty, 2nd-Mike Gadway, Cons-Bill Deming

Men's Doubles: 1st-Mike Cain/Burt Moffatt, 2nd-Bob Pattison/Greg Adams

Women's Open: 1st-Delia O'Dwyer, 2nd-K.C. Barton, Cons-Barb Gannon

Women's B: 1st-Mona Bibb, 2nd-Leslie Thiede, Cons-Mindy Carlson

Women's C: 1st-Joui Larson, 2nd-Rhonda Coluard, Cons-Dorothy Armstrong

Women's Novice: 1st-Karen Lynch, 2nd-Melissa Carter, Cons-Lori Springer

Women's Doubles: 1st-Barton/Gannon, 2nd-O'Dwyer/Lynette Donahue

Wisconsin

The Miller Brewing Company sponsored the fourth annual Lite/USRA Singles Racquet Ball Championship Jan. 25-27 at the Racquet Ball Club of West Allis. Bob Keenan, USRA director, presented the USRA Best Club of the Year for the state of Wisconsin to The Racquet Ball Club and the Wisconsin Racquetball Athlete of the Decade award to Pat Schmidt.

Results

Men's Open

Quarter-finals: Jim Wirkus d. Ken Frank 21-2, 21-11; Brian Parrott d. Dieter Schmidt 9-21, 21-11, 11-7; Bruce Thompson d. Dan Murray 21-15, 21-5; Joe Wirkus d. Dan Frank 21-15, 21-15

Semis: Jim Wirkus d. Parrott 21-6, 21-12; Joe Wirkus d. Thompson 21-8, 21-12

Finals: Joe Wirkus d. Jim Wirkus 21-9, 20-21, 11-10

—Gary Schlein photos



Joe Wirkus, left,
and Jim Wirkus

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Sheryl Kraus, left,
and Julie Jacobsen

Men's B

Quarter-finals: Jim Luzar d. Rick Winn 16-21, 21-13, 11-9; Dan Skalecki d. Ray Carney 21-11, 21-4; Randy Hyack d. Tim Usher 21-16, 19-21, 11-4; Todd Taylor d. Dan Schrader 21-15, 21-9

Semis: Skalecki d. Luzar 14-21, 21-11, 11-4; Taylor d. Hyack 21-12, 21-14

Finals: Taylor d. Skaleck 21-19, 14-21, 11-7

Men's C

Quarter-finals: Ryan Walter d. Mike Langer 21-12, 16-21, 11-7; Chris Erickson d. Jim Leininger 21-11, 21-18; Doug Hoffman d. Fred Debelak 21-10, 21-16; Larry Arnold d. Dirk Anderson 21-19, 21-15

Semis: Walter d. Erickson, injury forfeit; Hoffman d. Arnold 21-13, 17-21, 11-4

Finals: Hoffman d. Walter 21-11, 21-9

Men's Seniors

Quarter-finals: Jon Derksen d. Dennis Stannard 21-17, 21-15; Dan Trost d. Al Sterner 21-9, 21-11; Dan Klyve-Wood d. Dick Ricco 21-8, 21-4; Jim Compton d. Brod Armstrong 15-21, 21-14, 11-10

Semis: Derksen d. Trost 21-15, 21-9; Klyve-Wood d. Compton 21-19, 21-17

Finals: Klyve-Wood d. Derksen 21-16, 18-21, 11-7

Men's Masters

Quarter-finals: Jim White d. Tom Murray 21-8, 21-4; Mike Mackedon d. Mike Jacobi 21-4, 21-5; Joe Carini d. Ralph Kraussel 21-7, 21-3; Joe Bechard d. Glen Bestor 21-14, 21-11

Semis: White d. Mackedon 21-6, 21-14; Carini d. Bechard 13-21, 21-9, 11-0

Finals: White d. Carini 20-21, 21-15, 11-4

Golden Masters

Semis: Dick Kalal d. Don Diamond 21-1, 21-2; Chet Howard d. Hank Krause 21-8, 21-3

Finals: Kalal d. Howard 21-19, 21-1



Women's Open

Quarter-finals: Sheryl Kraus d. LuAnn Brookins 21-2, 21-1; Nola Ward d. Lynn Janke 21-10, 21-10; Laura Sidello d. Dyanne Singler 21-16, 21-17; Julie Jacobsen d. Marty Peterson 21-10, 21-9

Semis: Kraus d. Wood 21-0, 21-12; Jacobson d. Sidello 18-21, 21-14, 11-10

Finals: Kraus d. Jacobson 21-13, 21-10

Women's B

Quarter-finals: Diana Gagliano d. Carol Hansen 21-12, 14-21, 11-8; Joan Schallern d. Ro Grzesk 21-19, 21-9; Clair Palmer d. Joan Schloemer 21-9, 18-21, 11-3; Laura Merkel d. Pat Molinaro 21-16, 20-21, 11-6

Semis: Schallern d. Gagliano 21-8, 21-17; Merkel d. Palmer 21-20, 21-11

Finals: Merkel d. Schallern 21-12, 21-10

Women's C

Quarter-finals: Janelle Campbell d. Nancy Vitchar 21-14, 21-13; Maureen Kinyon d. Jane Fisher 21-7, 21-13; Karen Anderson d. Jean Wilfer 21-9, 21-13; Pat Wagner d. Mary Velosky 21-6, 21-6

Semis: Kenyon d. Campbell 19-21, 21-1, 11-6; Anderson d. Wagner 21-9, 10-21, 11-4

Finals: Anderson d. Kinyon 21-13, 13-21, 11-0

Women's Seniors

Quarter-finals: Vick Emmerson d. Janice Lucht 21-6, 21-8; Ann Heckel d. Gale Jensen 14-21, 21-13, 11-6; Nola Ward d. Sue Bechard 21-15, 21-10; Sue Joy Sabota d. Joan Schallern 17-21, 21-10, 11-6

Semis: Heckel d. Emmerson 10-21, 21-6, 11-7; Ward d. Sabota 21-5, 21-4

Finals: Ward d. Heckel 21-3, 21-8

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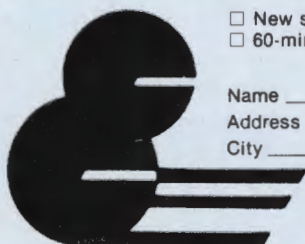
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8303 E. Thomas Rd., Scottsdale, AZ. 85251.
a/c 602. 991-0253

Spain

Torrejon Air Base, Spain, hosted the second annual Holiday Racquetball tournament Dec. 14-18 at the Base gym.

Results

Men's Open: 1st-Gabe Ayala, 2nd-Mike Corcoran, 3rd-Ray Kingston

Men's Seniors: 1st-Larry Greer, 2nd-Dave Roberts, 3rd-Roosevelt Brown

Men's Doubles: 1st-Ayala/Corcoran, 2nd-Brown/Gene Palmer, 3rd-Greer/Roberts

Women's Open: 1st-Millie Loud, 2nd-Carol Seth, 3rd-Sylvia Thorpe

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

Okinawa

The Island's top racquetball players gathered in January at the Makiminato gym to compete in the 1980 Doubles Racquetball Championship tournament. Sponsored by the Okinawa Racquetball Association the tournament was conducted in benefit of Navy Relief and allowed players of all skill levels the opportunity to compete.

Results

Men's Open: Glenn Allen, U.S. Navy/Chuck Myers, USAF, d. Kent Allison, USN/Ed Hornung, USAF, 21-19, 21-14 in finals of double elimination tournament.

Women's Open: Luz Mendez/Bobbie Correa, US Army went undefeated in the round robin event to capture the first place trophy.

Men's Novice: Greg Hack/Jim Carson, USMC d. John Watts/Larry Minor, USMC, 20-21, 21-5, 21-4



Women's Open Doubles Racquetball Champs Luz Mendez, left, and Bobbie Correa, US Army, receive plaques from John Sornell, Okinawa tournament director.



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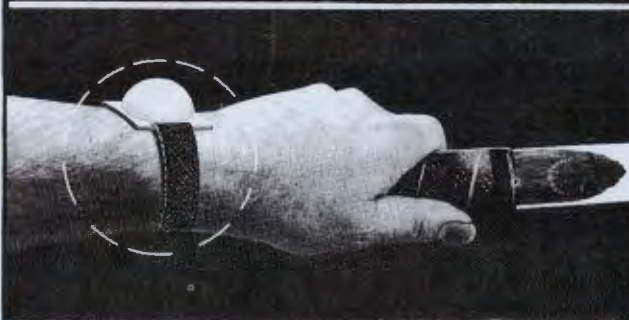
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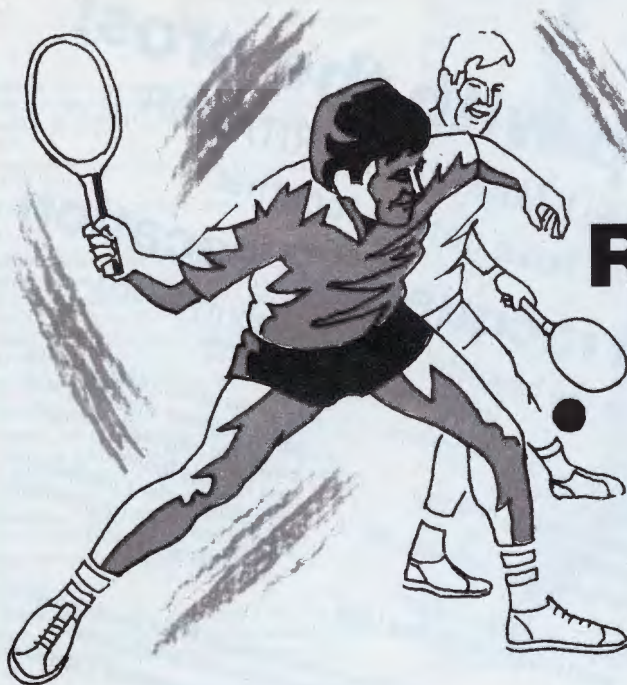
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Each year the Nationals has become more exciting, more challenging and more lucrative for you, the player. 1980 should prove to be the best ever, and the USRA is working to make it as easy as possible to participate.

This year we have selected an official USRA Travel Coordinator Group to assist with entries, air transportation arrangements, hotel accommodations and any requests you have while in attendance in Las Vegas. With their help, we have been able to negotiate a special value for you to make it possible for you to stay as many nights as you wish. We are also pleased to assist you in your air transportation in obtaining the lowest air fares possible and eliminating the need for you to reserve, book and purchase from the airlines.

I am very much excited about the 1980 tournament and look forward to seeing you personally in Las Vegas in June.

Due to the continued generous sponsorship of Leach Industries the 1980 National Championships will be the richest tour event ever.

This \$100,000 Tournament will have a \$30,000 First Place Prize to the winner — and where else but Las Vegas should this large a purse be distributed!

"We are extremely pleased to be able to continue our support of racquetball's upward spiral," said Charlie Drake, Executive Director of Leach Industries and a tour co-sponsor. Also noteworthy are the contributions of the other tour sponsors who have helped make this season the best ever in racquetball's short history, particularly Seamco Sporting Goods, co-sponsor of the entire tour.

One of Las Vegas' new landmarks is the Tower of the Tropicana Hotel, headquarters for players and their families at the USRA/NRC Pro-Am Nationals, co-sponsored by Leach and Seamco.



The Las Vegas Sporting House with its 22 courts, swimming pools, restaurant and complete with all the amenities any racquetball facility could hope for is getting ready to host the 1980 NRC/USRA National Championships co-sponsored by Leach/Seamco.

The tournament June 1-7 will feature the same divisions of play as last year's nationals with the addition of the new Veterans Open Division 30+ for both men & women along with the Men's Professional Singles and

amateur competition ranging from the Open to Veteran Golden Masters Divisions.

Those besides Leach and Seamco who have sponsored events include Robert W. Kendler, Jack-in-the-Box, Kunnan/Kennex, Coors, Catalina, Bank of Newport, Holiday Health & Racquet Club, Alex Guerry Sports Bar, W.B. Tanner and Coca-Cola. Wagner Thirst Quencher has provided their drink at pro stops. Our hats are off to them all.

— Dan Bertolucci

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A second entrant may share a room for the cost of \$ 75.00

For those not wishing housing but wish to attend the banquet \$ 25.00

(Costs for additional hotel nights will be paid by you directly to the hotel upon check-out)

- Yes, I will be attending the Nationals in Las Vegas. Please book me for the initial two night package.

I will arrive on (date) _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED

\$ _____

- I will depart Las Vegas on _____. Please book me for those additional nights.

(Please note: LAS VEGAS HOTELS WILL NOT ALLOW CHECK-IN OR OUT ON SATURDAYS)

- I would like to register for the tournament only. ☐ Amateur \$50.00 ☐ Professional \$100.00

\$ _____

- I am entered in a second event. (Add'l. \$15.00)

\$ _____

- I will be sharing a room with: _____

\$ _____

- I would like to purchase banquet ticket(s) only. (\$25.00 per ticket)

\$ _____

- USRA Membership (new memberships \$12.00)

\$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED . . . \$ _____

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Yes, I will need air transportation from:

City: _____

Arriving (date) _____ Departing (date) _____

(Invoices will be issued for all airline tickets and must be paid prior to departure.)

Any cancellations of the hotel package arrangement after May 1, 1980 will result in a \$30 charge.

NRC/USRA 1979-1980 National Pro-Am Racquetball Championships

Co-sponsored by LEACH/SEAMCO



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ELIGIBILITY: Any USRA member (memberships available at the tournament, cost is \$12 per year). Be prepared to show your USRA membership card at registration.

ENTRY FEES: \$100 in professional events; \$50 in amateur events. Limit 2 events per player-no exceptions. See package price info.

ENTRY DEADLINE: In our possession by 6 p.m. Monday, May 12, 1980. Entry fee and/or Hotel Package must accompany entry form. Entries received after deadline will be returned unopened. Entries received unsigned or without entry fee will not be accepted. No phone entries-no exceptions.

SANCTION: By U.S. Racquetball Association (USRA) and National Racquetball Club (NRC) as part of the NRC Pro/Am Racquetball Tour, co-sponsored by Seamco and Leach.

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AWARDS: Every tournament participant will receive, along with the benefits of the entry & hotel package, a "La Coste style souvenir shirt of the Nationals" and a souvenir trophy cup. Top four finishers in all amateur events will receive trophy awards and Men's & Women's Open Single winners will receive air expenses, round trip coach for two and entry in Hawaiian Sports Pro/Am Racquetball week in Honolulu July 10-13. No consolation rounds.

STARTING TIMES: All participants will be notified by mail of starting time(s).

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Trip Travel Services.

MAIL CHECKS AND COMPLETED ENTRY FORM TO: Trip Travel Services, 9701-W. Higgins, Rosemont, IL 60018

RULES, REGULATIONS AND NOTES:

- (1) All match winners will be expected to referee in amateur events or be subject to forfeiture.
- (2) No partner changes will be allowed in doubles events after entry deadline.
- (3) Entry fees are non-refundable.
- (4) All USRA/NRC rules apply including 5 minutes rest between all games and all matches played two games to 21 and third game to 11, if necessary.
- (5) A minimum of 8 entrants or teams is required for a division of play to occur. If 8 entrants or teams are not attained, then those players or teams will be automatically placed in the next youngest applicable division of play.

PLEASE ENTER ME IN: (check events desired-maximum of two)

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ Men Pro Singles (Invitation Top 32 Only) | ☐ Women Amateur Singles Open |
| ☐ Men Amateur Singles Open | ☐ Women Veteran Singles (30+) |
| ☐ Men Veteran Singles (30+) | ☐ Women Senior Singles (35+) |
| ☐ Men Senior Singles (35+) | ☐ Women Veteran Singles (40+) |
| ☐ Men Veteran Senior Singles (40+) | ☐ Women Masters Singles (45+) |
| ☐ Men Masters Singles (45+) | ☐ Women Veteran Masters Singles (50+) |
| ☐ Men Veteran Masters Singles (50+) | ☐ Women Amateur Doubles Open |
| ☐ Men Golden Masters Singles (55+) | ☐ Women Veteran Doubles (30+) |
| ☐ Men Veteran Golden Masters Singles (60+) | ☐ Women Senior Doubles (35+) |
| ☐ Men Amateur Doubles Open | ☐ Women Masters Doubles (45+) |
| ☐ Men Veteran Doubles (30+) | |
| ☐ Men Senior Doubles (35+) | |
| ☐ Men Masters Doubles (45+) | |
| ☐ Men Golden Masters Doubles (55+) | |

WAIVER: I understand that it is your intention to have my participation hereunder recorded on videotape for presentation on television and elsewhere, and I expressly agree that you shall have the unlimited right and authority to use and exploit your coverage of the series, the videotape and any and all forms of reproduction thereof in any and all media in perpetuity in whatever manner and by whatever means and wherever you may desire without any obligation to pay any monies to me except as hereinabove expressly provided. Such recordings shall without limitations be the sole property of NRC/USRA to deal with, broadcast, sell, license, rent, exhibit and otherwise use or reuse in whole or in part as the NRC/USRA sees fit.

I hereby acknowledge and agree to the limitations and conditions of all tournament rules. Furthermore, I hereby certify that I am fully qualified under said limitations and conditions.

I hereby for myself and my agents waive and release any and all rights and claims for damages I might have against the Las Vegas Sporting House, The U.S. Racquetball Association, the National Racquetball Club, the Seamco Sporting Goods Company, Leach Industries and any of their agents, for any and all injuries received by me in connection with this tournament.

Signature _____

Parent (If Under 18) _____

Date _____

Name _____ Age _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone () Area Code _____ Work Phone _____

USRA Card Expiration Date _____ Signature _____

Doubles Partner's Name _____ Age _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone () Area Code _____ Work Phone _____

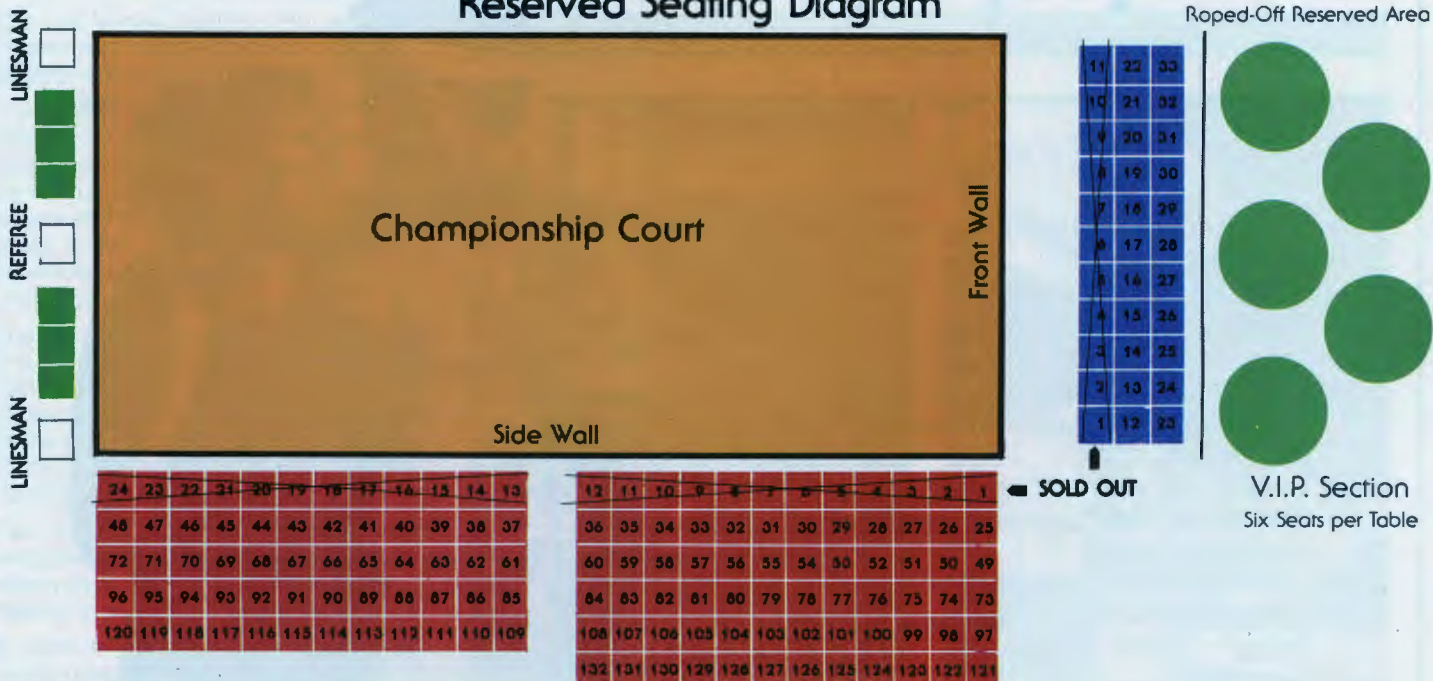
USRA Card Expiration Date _____

Ticket Order Form

1980 NRC-USRA National Racquetball Championships

Reserved tickets and general admission tickets are now available on a first come, first serve basis for the 1980 NRC-USRA National Championships. The tournament will be played at the beautiful Las Vegas Sporting House beginning Sunday, June 1 and climaxing with the championship finals on Saturday, June 7.

Reserved Seating Diagram



TICKET INFORMATION—Reserved

All reserved ticket holders are entitled to a seat for the entire seven-day event.

- Red seats are located along side glass wall and cost \$200.00 each.
- Blue seats are located in front of front glass wall and cost \$250.00 each.
- Five green V.I.P. tables are located on an elevated terrace facing directly into the front glass wall in front part of the luxurious bar and restaurant area and cost \$4,000.00 each. Purchasers of tables are entitled to the following:
 - Table with excellent view over the entire championship court area.
 - Free ten foot Product Exhibition show booth in convention area.
 - Food, beverage and cocktail service.
 - Free access to facilities of club for guests during the seven days of the tournament.

TICKET INFORMATION—General Admission

Daily general admission tickets will be available at a cost of \$10.00. This ticket will entitle the holder to view the Nationals on closed-circuit television as well as to watch the matches played on all courts excluding the championship court. Please be advised that this ticket does not entitle the bearer to use the facilities without paying the normal guest fee of \$15.00 per day.

TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

Location: Las Vegas Sporting House
3025 Industrial Road
Las Vegas, Nevada 89109
(702) 733-8999

Dates: June 1, 1980-June 7, 1980

Ticket Order Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Seating Section: _____ Front Wall _____ Side Wall _____ V.I.P. Table

Reserved Seat No.: _____

Please send this order form with check payable to "Las Vegas Sporting House," 3025 Industrial Road, Las Vegas, Nevada 89109, to the attention of Mr. John Galasso.

Please note that the specific reserved seat assignments are dependent upon how soon we receive the check. Seat assignments will be made on a first come, first serve basis.

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Where people like you
meet people you like.

See us today...

- 21 Racquetball/Handball courts
- 2 Squash courts
- Platform Tennis courts
- Complete conditioning and circuit training Nautilus equipment
- Special classes (jazznastics, Yoga, Slim and Trim Dance, Swimnastics, and MORE)
- Indoor and outdoor jogging tracks
- Swimming pool and sun decks (co-ed and priv.)
- Gymnasium (basketball/volleyball)
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Sporting House Plush Site For 1980 Pro/Am Nationals

The Las Vegas Sporting House is the largest and most elaborate racquetball/athletic club in the country.

It serves as the pampering spot for celebrities who seek rest, relaxation and work outs before and after their performances. They enjoy the spa, sauna and steam facilities and large plush locker rooms where they can luxuriate in style and receive massages in serenity.

The Sporting House is home to the All Pro Racquetball tournaments and nationally recognized professional players who enjoy tough competition in the glass-walled exhibition court. Richly carpeted grandstands provide comfortable viewing for fans.

Two squash and 22 racquetball courts are provided with a convenient court reservation system that eliminates having to wait.

A plant-lined restaurant and bar with wood-paneling and stained glass serve members and guests around the clock while they enjoy an unobstructed view of joggers, weightlifters, racquetball matches and basketball players.



Tourists appreciate the indoor swimming pool, and for sun worshippers, the club provides areas for private or co-ed sunbathing.

The various classes in dance, fitness and martial arts, as well as the indoor and outdoor jogging tracks, basketball courts and conference room, make the Las Vegas Sporting House the most self-contained athletic club in the country. ●

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Racquetball Camps from Coast to Coast

One 1980 Version Travels to Players

Racquetball camps, which for half a decade have improved the games of vacationing players, are looking different this summer.

The newest approach comes from pioneer camp director, Steve Strandemo, fifth ranked National Racquetball Club pro.

Strandemo is going to *"save players the money of traveling great distances"* by running camps in seven different cities — Los Angeles, San Francisco, Cleveland, Chicago, Atlanta, Philadelphia and Boston.

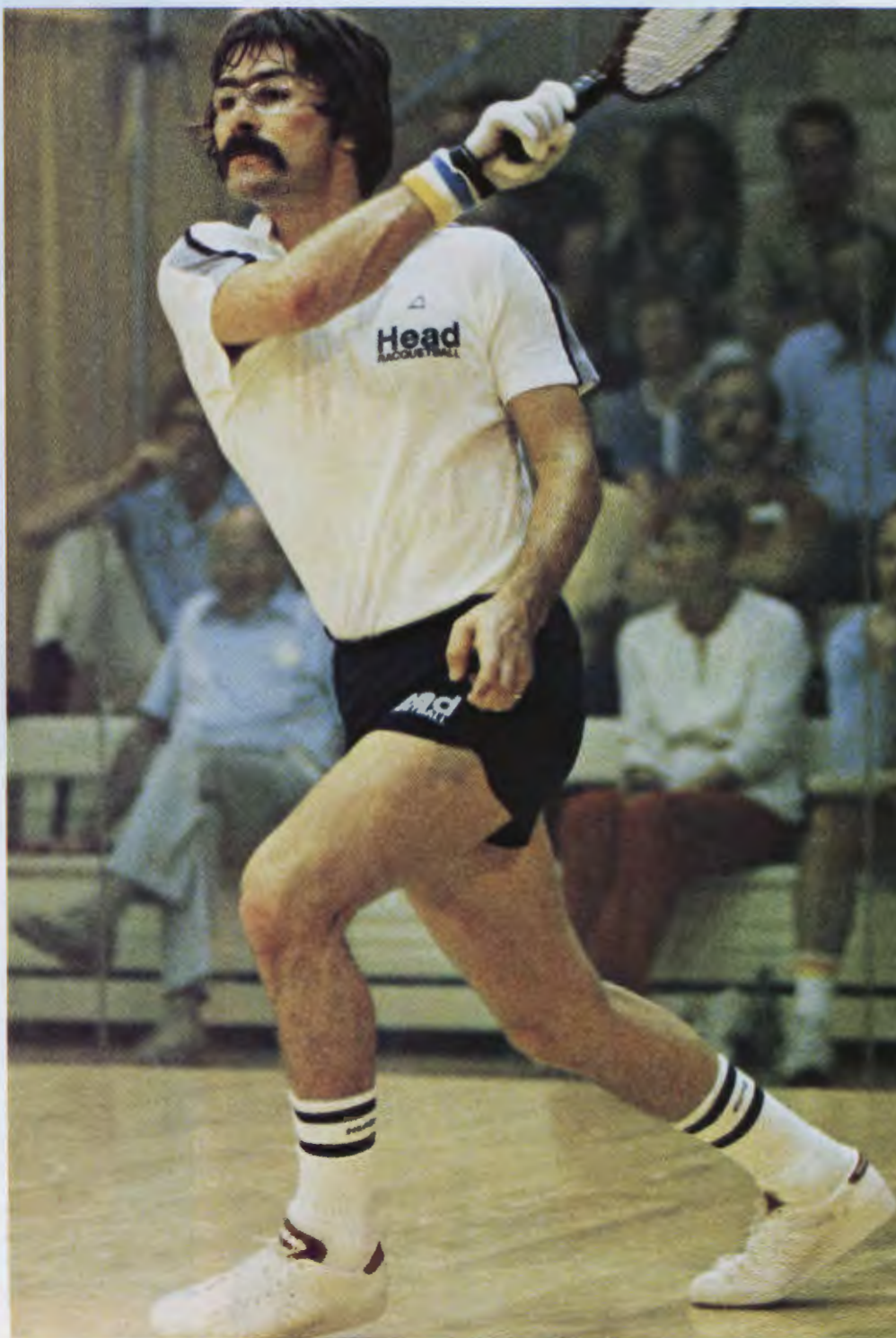
A one-site operation with a new twist is the Hoff-Marriott Camp at Celebrity Courts in Warwick, RI. As part of their camp package players will take in a show starring Neil Sedaka or Johnny Mathis at the club's next door neighbor — the Warwick Musical Theater.

Back again for 1980 are the proven winners — Atlas Health Club, with an early August session in San Diego, and Davey Bledsoe's camps at both Steamboat Springs, CO, and Seven Springs, PA.

All the camps are geared to all ability levels and they welcome adult players of any age. This issue's *"Beyond the Open"* feature on page 30 describes a 65-year-old camper who had such a good time at racquetball camp last year, he's signed up for his second summer.

Steve Strandemo

Also see Steve Strandemo's tips on getting ready for camp on page 44.



Janell Marriott



National Racquetball's 1980 Camp Guide



Aspen Club Racquetball Camp

1450 Crystal Lake Road

Aspen, CO 81611

303-925-8900

Call the club for dates and details

Atlas Health Club

901 Hotel Circle S.

P.O. Box 80097

San Diego, CA 92138

714-298-9321

July 30-August 4

Lodging at the Mission Valley Inn

Price for five days and four nights, including lodging, \$355 double, \$405 single; clinic only is \$175.

Head instructor is Bud Muehleisen

Instruction hours total minimum of 18

Extras include camp T-shirt, group photo, transportation to and from the airport, trip to the San Diego zoo or Sea World, luncheon and final banquet.

Rita Hoff



Davey Bledsoe Racquetball Ranch
Box 1566
Steamboat Springs, CO 80477
303-879-3335

August 3-9, August 10-16

Lodging at Storm Meadows Condominiums

Price for five days and six nights is \$275 for the camp; room cost is \$225 for single occupancy of a studio unit, \$150 for double and \$75 for triple and \$300 for a larger studio that sleeps up to six.

Head instructor is Davey Bledsoe.

Instruction runs daily through early afternoon.

Extras include get acquainted cocktail party, awards party, rafting, plus opportunity for kayaking or riding the gondola up Mt. Werner. Babysitters are available.

Hoff/Marriott Racquetball Camp

Celebrity Courts
500 Quaker Lane
Warwick, RI 02886
401-826-1800

Junior Week June 30-July 3 (must provide own lodging); Adult sessions July 6-11, July 13-18

Lodging at Howard Johnson Motor Lodge or Quality Inn.

Price for five days of instruction is \$200.

Double occupancy accommodations are \$25-30 per night per room.

Head instructors are Rita Hoff and Janell Marriott.

Instruction runs five hours a day, including play the pro every night.

Extras include continental breakfast, T-shirts, shorts, gym bag, balls, bag tags, socks, wrist bands, beer-pizza party, cookout on Narragansett Bay beach and Warwick Musical Theater show featuring Neil Sedaka or Johnny Mathis.

Head/Strandemo Racquetball Camps

Seven different cities
P.O. Box 26683
San Diego, CA 92126
714-268-8707

Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m. through Sundays at 5 p.m. from July 9 through August 24 in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Atlanta, Chicago, Cleveland, Philadelphia and Boston clubs with a minimum of 12 courts. Lodging in top hotels. Price of \$300 covers five days of instruction. Double occupancy ranges from \$18 to \$35 per person per night depending on specific rates in each city.

Head instructor is Steve Strandemo.

Instruction will total a minimum of 40 hours.

Extras include shirt, shorts, camp posters, unlimited videotaping, films of 1979-80 pro matches, exhibition matches and two cocktail parties.

Third Annual Seven Springs Racquetball Camp
c/o Jeff Shearer

Steven Springs Mountain Resort
Champion, PA 15622
814-352-7777, Extension 7984

Four one week sessions beginning Sunday, July 6, July 13, July 20 and July 27

Lodging at the Seven Springs main lodge

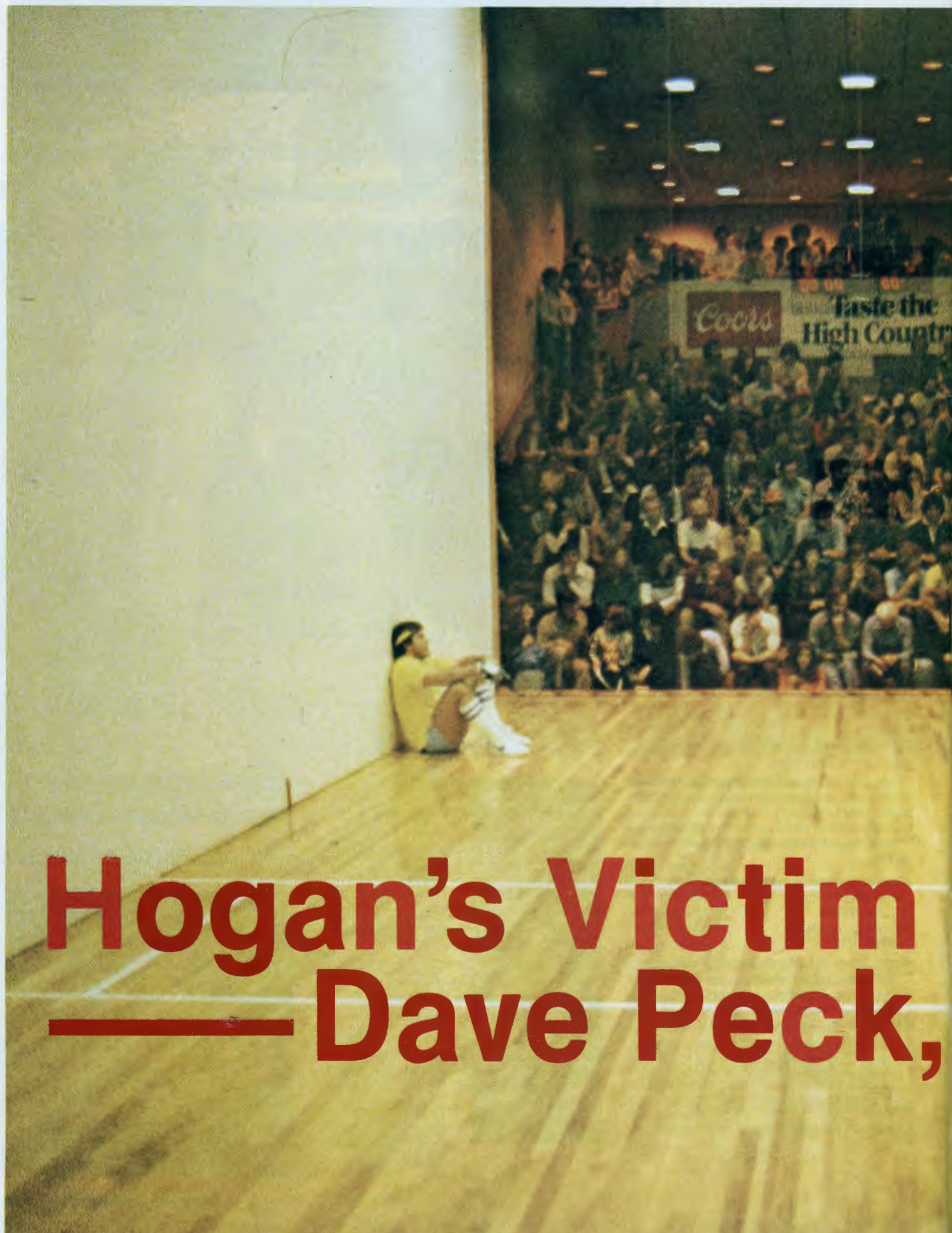
Price for six days of instruction and seven nights of lodging is \$385 double occupancy.

Head instructor is Davey Bledsoe.

Instruction runs eight hours a day.

Extras include camp shorts and shirt, two cocktail parties, three dinners, an Alpine slide and a lakeside picnic. ●

Most Improved?
Enter National Racquetball's
second annual
Most Improved Player
Contest.
See page 57.



Hogan's Victim — Dave Peck,

National Champ Adopts Toy-a-Little Style in Denver Matches

Marty Hogan, Marty Hogan, Marty Hogan.

He won, again, defended a title, again, and proved, again, that he is the best racquetball player alive.

The event was the \$15,000 Coors Racquetball Classic Feb. 20-24 co-sponsored by Leach and Seamco at the Denver Sporting Club in suburban Englewood, CO.

The victim was Dave Peck, again, this time a 21-14, 21-8 loser in a match which was only as close as the score indicates.



Again

by Tom Reinman

— Mike Zeitman photos

And if Hogan's earlier preliminary matches were a little tighter than might have been expected, the ending, at least, was predictable.

Hogan's style this year apparently has been to inject a little excitement into what otherwise might be a fairly routine tour.

The one time bad boy has spent much of his time on the courts this year lounging through matches with lesser lights, toying with tots, simply, playing.



Marty Hogan's game is flawless as he has Dave Peck leaping clear of his driving forehand or pinned into a losing back court position.

Of the six tie-breakers he has played this season three have been with qualifiers and two others have been with fellow Leach teammates.

At other times, despite having lost only seven games all year, he has looked less than dominating, at least less than interested, and the feeling is often expressed that the field is catching up, that his days at the top of the heap may be numbered in real, rather than imaginary numbers.

His on-court comportment has changed from earlier days, too. It is said that when things didn't go his way, he used to make Daddy Amin look like a Boy Scout. He still doesn't put one in mind of Rodney Dangerfield when there's a few grand on the line and the referees miss calls. But he's better, much better, and he is fun to watch.

"Fun?," he asked after his last win. "This is a riot! I'm going to keep playing as long as I'm winning. And I've got a ways to go."

"Dave's number two ranking is well deserved, but if he's not on, like today, he can't stay with me. And he's about the best of the rest."

His behavior might have gotten a little easier to take, but he's still, uh, confident.

But then so is Number Two, and he even makes it look like he's trying harder.

"I said earlier in the year I was looking forward to playing Marty consistently. I'm doing that. Now I have to play well against him consistently. He can really rip, and I've got to learn to handle him. I'm working on it."

No one has worked against him as often in competition this season. Peck lost in the quarters in Chicago's Kendler Classic to open the season and then lost in the finals of the next two tournaments co-sponsored by Seamco and Leach—the Jack-in-the-Box at Tempe and the Coors Classic in Denver.

But if it has been proved that Peck can't beat Hogan, yet, it's also been proved that nobody else has been as successful as Peck, either.



In Denver third seeded Davey Bledsoe, who two months before had vanquished Hogan 21-18, 21-11 in the Memphis semi-finals, struggled through his first round match with Bobby Bolan, the current National Amateur champion who has yet to make it through the first day on the pro circuit.

The scores there were 21-12, 19-21, 11-7. Bolan, with the help of a high priced coach, hung in against the veteran after getting blown out in the first game. And he led 7-5 in the tie-breaker before proving once again that there's no substitute for experience.

In his afternoon match with qualifier John Egberman of Boise, ID, Bledsoe had met his match and sensed it from early on. Egberman is a blaster, and he hit with Bledsoe, ran him around the floor and even nailed him with a shot which swelled the back of "The Golden Retriever's" knee in the second game.

After winning the first 21-18 and losing the second 21-13 Bledsoe didn't look or play like he had much left. He lost 11-6.

"I've been to a bunch of doctors with this cold and I still can't shake it. I got beat up out there in the match, too. But these aren't excuses. I just didn't play at all like I'm capable of playing, and he probably played the best match of his life."



Divers' duel between Jerry Hilecher and Marty Hogan gives the reigning Champ a 21-20, 21-17 semi-final win.

Egerman then went out in the quarters against Steve Strandemo, who, at age 32, is the most successful of the "Old Men". A holdover from the early days of the game Strandemo is now ranked fifth, while guys like Brumfield (eighth), McCoy, Keeley, Zeitman and Serot are either treading water or going down for the third time.

Strandemo lost the first game 21-16, but closed strong, scoring coming back from 19-7. At that point a couple of knowledgeable observers went for a beer after conceding the match to the guy once known as "The Rat."

The final was 16-21, 21-13, 11-7.

In other semi-final Jerry Hilecher auditioned for the *Gong Show*.

Hilecher, 25, regaled the crowd with his tantrums throughout the match and served as the perfect foil for Hogan who appeared to be carrying the guy for long stretches of the match.

Hilecher started strong in both games, leading 9-3 in the first and 10-4 in the second. But Hogan turned it on in both games, tying the first game at 14-all and cutting it to 16-13 in the second.

In the first game, with Hogan serving at 19-20, a long rally ended with a hinder called on Hilecher. He, uh, appealed the call while Hogan smirked and the crowd howled at this latest burst, although it was no easy call by the ref.

Dave Peck pulverizes Steve Strandemo in their semi-final match.



In the quarters Mike Yellen, left, searches for Marty Hogan's corner kill, to no avail.

Finally Hogan served again, and Hilecher jumped on an overhead return which skipped at the front wall 20-20. Hogan switched from a smirk to a grin.

He then rolled out a forehand for the win.

In the second game Hogan went from a 10-4 deficit to a 13-11 lead on a side wall-front wall from 40 feet, a skipped service return, a forehand kill from the back wall, another backhand skip, another forehand rollout, an avoidable hinder, a passing shot left, a backhand side wall-front wall and another skipped backhand service return. Hilecher went to 16-13 with only one service break.

And then, as has happened so often before, it looked like Hogan became bored with the thing and decided that a shower would be more fun than more court time. It took just less than nine minutes for him to outscore Hilecher 8-1 and win the match.

That brought it down to Hogan and Peck in the finals, the match most people were waiting for and expecting—Hogan because, well who was going to beat him before this, and Peck because he was playing so well and perhaps due to beat Hogan.

Peck had demolished Strandemo the night before 21-5, 21-9, after running up 14-0 and 11-2 leads in both games.



Playing six matches in two and a half days John Egberman, right,—after an upset against Third Seed Dave Bledsoe in the 16s—comes close to a quarter-final win, which Steve Strandemo grabs away in the tie-breaker.



Larry Myers, left, plays a strong second game against Dave Peck in Myers' first quarter-final pro game, but Peck's the winner.

Ben Koltun, left, has Jerry Hilecher out of position, but not long enough to stop Hilecher from winning their quarter-final match.



"I was feeling great and playing pretty well," said Strandemo after the debacle. *"We had split our other two matches last year and I was really looking forward to playing him. And I guess after those scores he was really looking forward to playing me, too."*

"I didn't do anything special," said Peck of his Strandemo match after his Hogan defeat. *"I was just up for it and looking forward to playing Marty again."* He might have added Strandemo's closing line, as well.

Peck took a 7-2 lead in the first game, but after that led just three times by one point. He scored after his time out to make trail 16-14, but again Hogan quickly wrapped up a game, this time as Peck went to work on his skipped balls and lost 21-14, giving up the last four points on two service returns and two forehands.

It was all Hogan in Game Two, as he took leads of 6-1 and 12-4 before Peck staged a modest rally to 12-8. By that time Hogan was on, and Peck's largesse, while appreciated, really wasn't necessary. Of the final nine points seven were winners by Hogan, including two of the last three which went for aces.

"Whenever you lose like this you look back at the mistakes," said Peck, who was not savoring the view. *"He really kept me moving today and that's how you beat a shooter. I played better the last time we played, but I'm already looking forward to the next one. Just have to do a little more work, that's all. It'll come."*

If some of the spectators were a little anxious about Hogan's preliminary performances, their fears had to be allayed in the finals.

"Dave's normally a strong, steady player," said Hogan. *"That's why it's important to keep the pressure on him all the time. I did that today. If you let him get into the rallies and get his confidence up you're in trouble."*

"I'm not shooting as much as I used to because I don't really have to," he pointed out. *"A good down-the-line shot is always the best shot to have, no matter what anyone says. But if you can get a guy backing up and moving for that, then come in with the cross courts and pinches, you will win."*

Again and again and again. ●

(Qualifiers): Ric Newcomer, Kirk Williams, Mike Levine, Ross Harvey, John Egerman, G. Peck, Doug Cohen, John Klearman

(First round): Hogan d. Zeitman 21-17, 21-17; Fleetwood d. Newcomer 21-16, 21-17; Thomas d. Serot 21-10, 21-13; Yellen d. Williams 21-17, 21-13; Koltun d. Chase, F; Wagner d. Levine 21-11, 21-16; Morrow d. Keeley 21-10, 21-16; Hilecher d. Harvey 21-15, 21-14; Bledsoe d. Bolan 21-12, 19-21, 11-7; Egerman d. Zuckerman 21-7, 21-5; Mondry d. McCoy 21-14, 21-11; Strandemo d. G. Peck, 21-11, 21-5; Brumfield d. Stephens 21-10, 21-7; Meyers d. Cohen 21-18, 21-9; Lindsay Myers d. Hartnett 21-12, 21-20; Peck d. Klearman 21-12, 21-9

(Second round): Hogan d. Fleetwood 21-20, 21-17; Yellen d. Thomas 17-21, 21-8, 11-4; Koltun d. Wagner 21-17, 21-20; Hilecher d. Morrow 21-7, 21-7; Egerman d. Bledsoe 18-21, 21-13; Strandemo d. Mondry 21-4, 21-9; Meyers d. Brumfield 15-21, 21-14, 11-6; Peck d. Myers 21-16, 21-19

(Quarter-finals): Hogan d. Yellen 21-11, 21-19; Hilecher d. Koltun 21-19, 21-18; Strandemo d. Egerman 16-21, 21-13, 11-7; Peck d. Meyers 21-8, 21-19

(Semi-finals): Hogan d. Hilecher 21-20, 21-17; Peck d. Strandemo 21-5, 21-9

(Finals): Hogan d. Peck 21-14, 21-9



Two high ranked National Juniors—El Paso's Gregg Peck, left, and Rochester, NY's Mike Levine—play it close in the Men's Open finals, which the Texas wins 21-13, 21-17



Air Force Cadet Barb Faulkenberry displays picture perfect form in defeating St. Louis' Mary Dee in the Women's Open finals.

Notes of the Tournament . . .

Coors Racquetball Classic Pro Runner-up Dave Peck's brother, Gregg, featured in the March issue of *National Racquetball*, won the Men's Open by defeating Mike Levine, of Rochester, NY. Gregg, who's from El Paso, Mike and Quarter-finalists Brett Hamett, of Las Vegas, and John Klearman, of St. Louis, had played in the 15 and Unders in the 1979 USRA National Junior Championships. Gregg, Mike, John, John Egerman, of Boise, ID, and Doug Cohen, of St. Louis, who are all under 18, filled five of the eight qualifier spots by defeating some of the top notch seasoned players taking part in the largest pro qualifier of the season . . . It was a family affair for a number of the amateurs among the 400 entries. Simon Alvarado, whose daughter, Liz, won the Girls 17 and Unders at the 1979 USRA National Juniors, won the Seniors Men's by upsetting Reigning Seniors Champ Bill Schmidtke in the quarters and defeating Dan Hamett, Brett's father, in the semis. Alvarado won over Dan Groves in the finals . . . Barb Faulkenberry, USRA 1979 Intercollegiate champ, and a cadet at the U.S. Air Force Academy in nearby Colorado Springs, beat Mary Dee, of St. Louis, in the Women's Open finals . . . Chris Brown, who was nine when he traveled alone from Denver to the 1978 USRA Junior Championships in King of Prussia, PA, this year was playing in the Men's B and serving as official floor wiper . . . Georgia winner of *National Racquetball's* Most Improved Player Contest for 1979, Caryn McKinney, proved she's getting even better by beating

Liz Alvarado in the quarters of the Women's Open . . . Five-month-old Justin Hilecher was vocal in his disapproval when his dad, Jerry, fourth ranked men's pro, was losing his match. Being an active spectator is a trait Justin inherited from his grandfather, Dan Hilecher, a pro tour regular . . .

Jerry Hilecher shows off Justin, while Mother and Grandfather look on.



Much of the credit for this smooth running tournament goes to Don DeCesare, Sporting Clubs director of Operations and to John Foust, who directed the tournament with the help of Andy Sabo and of Kati Beck, author of *National Racquetball's* recent story on yoga for racquetball . . . Vicki Adamo, Adolph Coors sports and special events promotion representative, saw to it that there was free Coors beer for everyone at this Coors sponsored NRC tournament co-sponsored by Leach and Seamco . . . People watchers were watching tennis great, Stan Smith, who was watching racquetball great, Marty Hogan, win the \$15,000 first prize. ●

See "Who's Playing Racquetball?" on page 51 for a story on John Foust.

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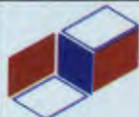
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Men's and Women's Pro/Am Tour • 1979-1980

Those events marked with an asterik (*) are approved. All others are sanctioned. Check future issues of *National Racquetball* for updating on tour sites and additional tour stops.

• **June 1-7**

NRC/USRA National Pro/Am Championships
Las Vegas, NE
Open

• **June 26-29 ***

CBC International Classic
Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada
Invitational

• **July 10-13**

Hawaiian Sports Week Pro/Am
Honolulu, HI
Invitational



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Get a quicker return on your investment.

Shaving fifteen to twenty grams off a racquet is no easy job. But after months of redesigning, we finally found the answer: a lightweight new double-wall extrusion.

Combine it with the MI's teardrop headshape, the MII's rectangular and the MIII's quadriform, and you've got great power, superb balance and incredible headspeed.

Not to mention three eye-dazzling new racquets.

And now, a flexible new member of the family.

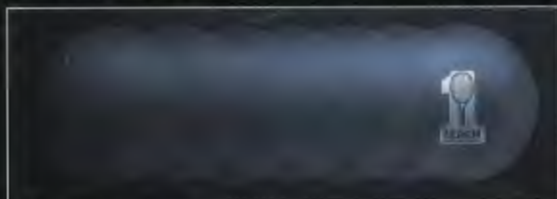
Leach then took the basic quadriform headshape, added a lightweight single-wall alloy extrusion, and came up with the brand new M-Flex.

Powerful, flexible, it's the only racquet of its kind.

And like all the rest, it boasts a competitive new narrow throat design, handsome leather grip, tournament-grade strings, cadmium-plated rolled grommets...

And an amazingly light weight.

Which means that, for the first time in its long and innovative history, Leach is now proud to offer you *less* for your money.



NUMBER ONE BY DESIGN™



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