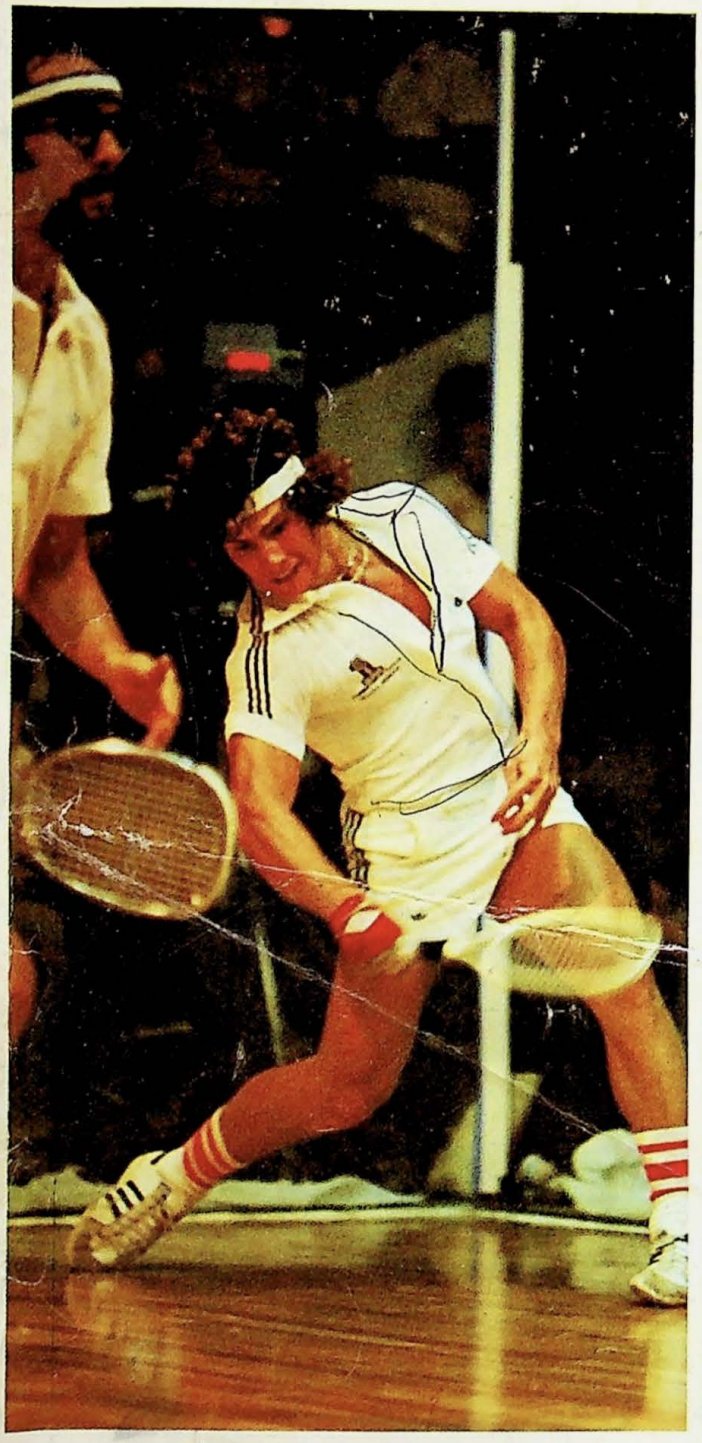
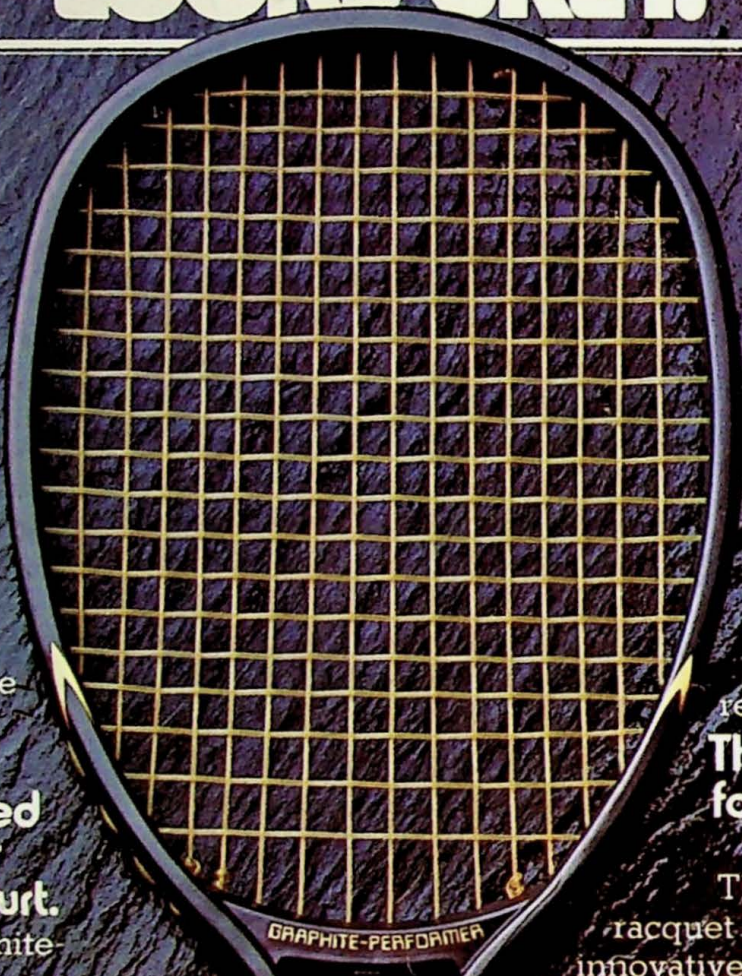
Welcome To The SEAMCO Racquetball Classic



Stop #3 on the Colgate Pro/Am Tour

Co-sponsored
by Seamco/Leach

HE FUTURE OF RACQUETBALL LOOKS GREY.



it's called the ch Graphite- ormer.™

First there was d. Then aluminum. n glass-filled. And v, graphite.

And no one needs to you what graphite can for a sport. Or sales.

And in the hottest, stest-growing sport in the orld, graphite is bound be dynamite.

s priced and designed move, both off your helves and on the court.

For starters, the Graphite- erformer is an incredible 0 grams light. Yet ll packs the power a heavier racquet.

It's rigid enough virtually eliminate bration and excess flexing. Yet still keeps the control of glass-filled.

Its unique narrow-throat, one-piece construction (you won't find anything like it anywhere else) actually turns the entire string area into the sport's biggest "sweet spot."

And it feels great.

All for a suggested retail price tag under $35.

That's right. Graphite for under $35.

You can't miss.

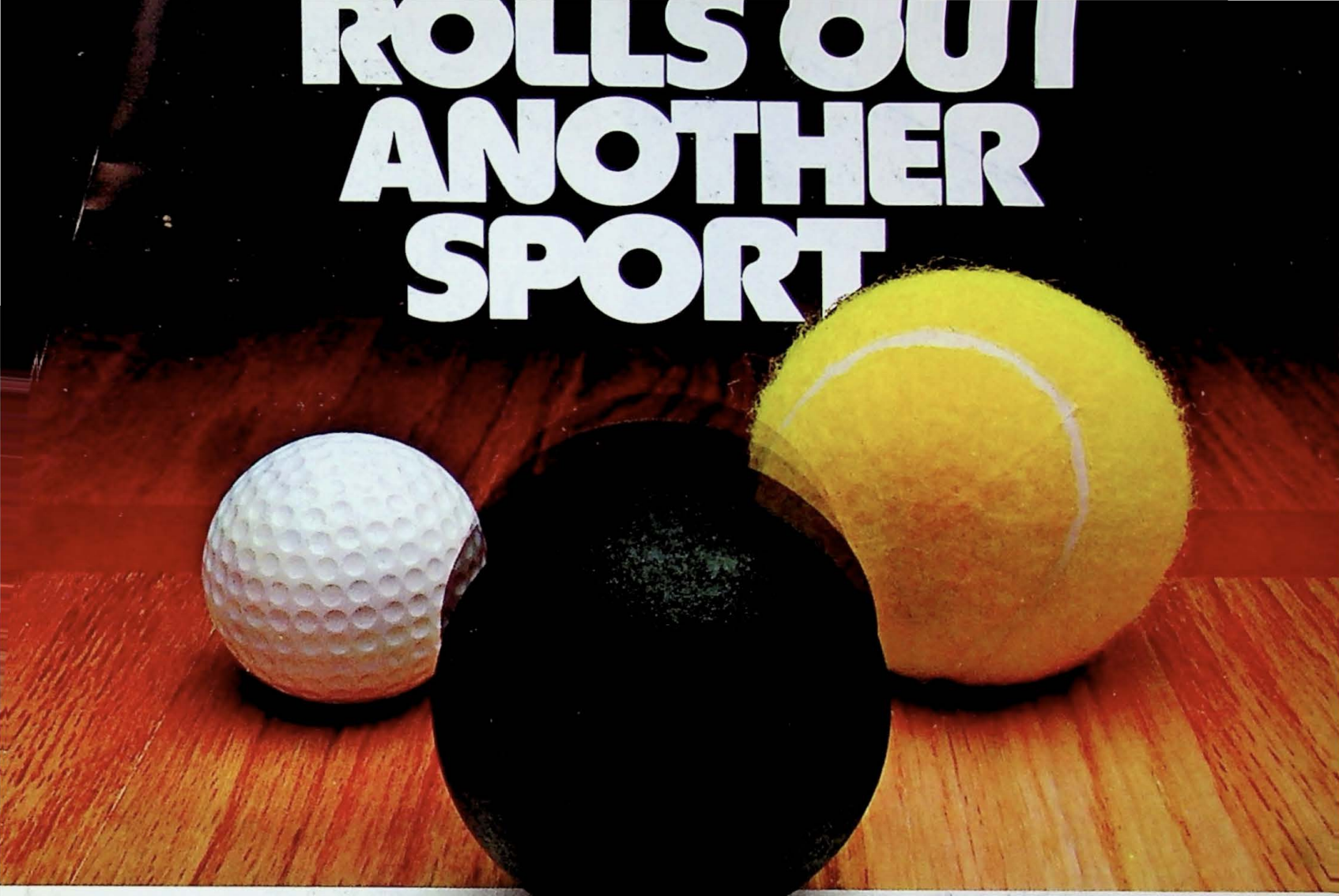
The sport's most innovative racquet from the sport's most innovative name.

The competitively priced and designed Leach Graphite-Performer. The future couldn't look brighter.

LEACH RACQUETBALL

NUMBER ONE BY DESIGN

ROLLS OUT ANOTHER SPORT



INTRODUCING THE RICHEST TOUR IN RACQUETBALL HISTORY.

Colgate — the people who brought the Dinah Shore Winner's Circle to golf and the Colgate Grand Prix to tennis — now rolls into the country's hottest new sport with its biggest purse ever.

It's the Colgate Men's and Women's Pro/Am Racquetball Tour, co-sponsored by Leach Industries and Seamco.

Each of the eight thrilling stops across the country carries a $20,000 to $30,000 purse and the sponsorship of companies like Jack-in-the-Box, Leach Industries, Catalina Sportswear, Seamco and Coors. In addition, the tour is highlighted by a $75,000 Colgate bonus program. But that's not all.

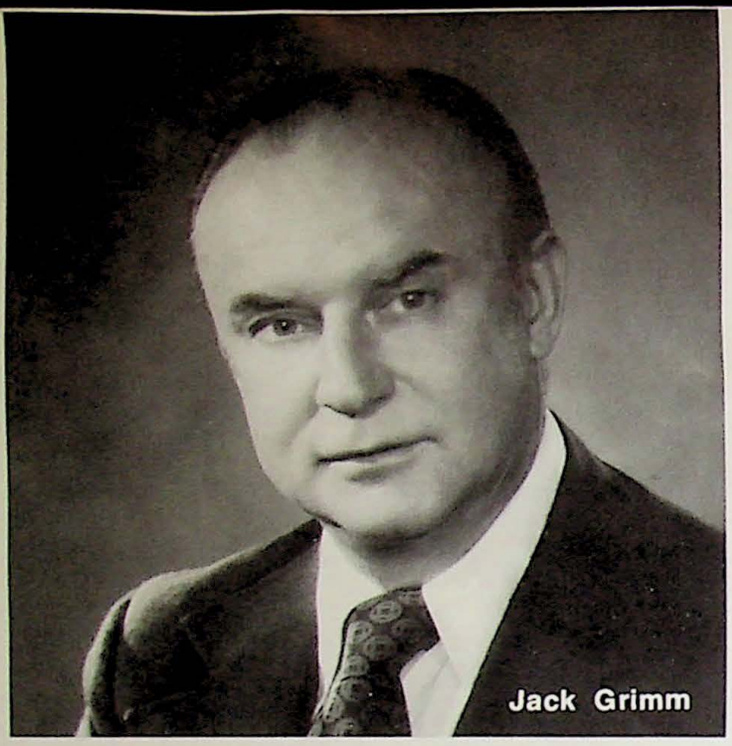
The final stop in Tempe, Arizona is where the sport's top 32 professional men and women will fight it out for their share of an additional $50,000 in Colgate prize money, as well as the National Championship title.

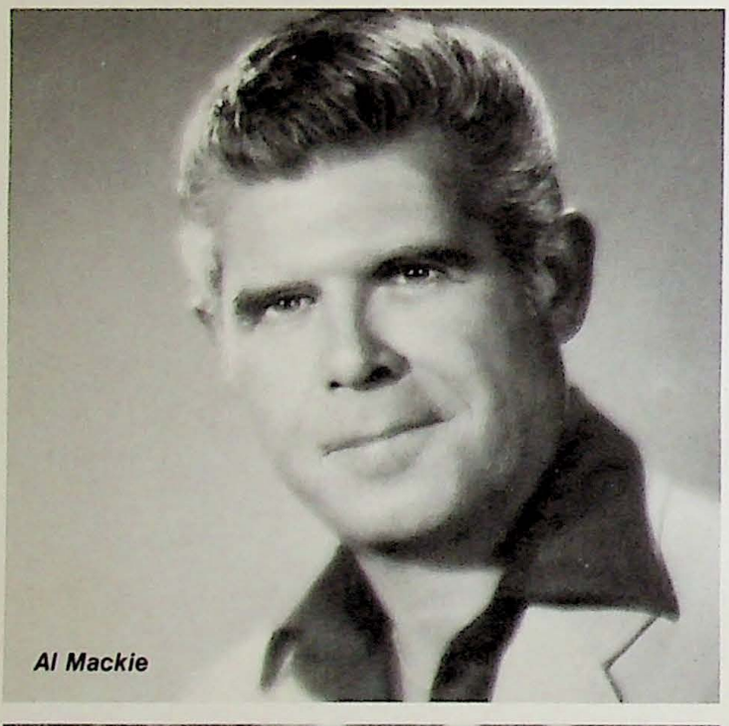
Naturally, we're proud to announce this tour as the newest member of the Colgate family of sports programs. And we hope you'll join us in St. Louis, Detroit, New York, Miami, Los Angeles, Chicago, Denver and Tempe as we roll out the National Championship this year.

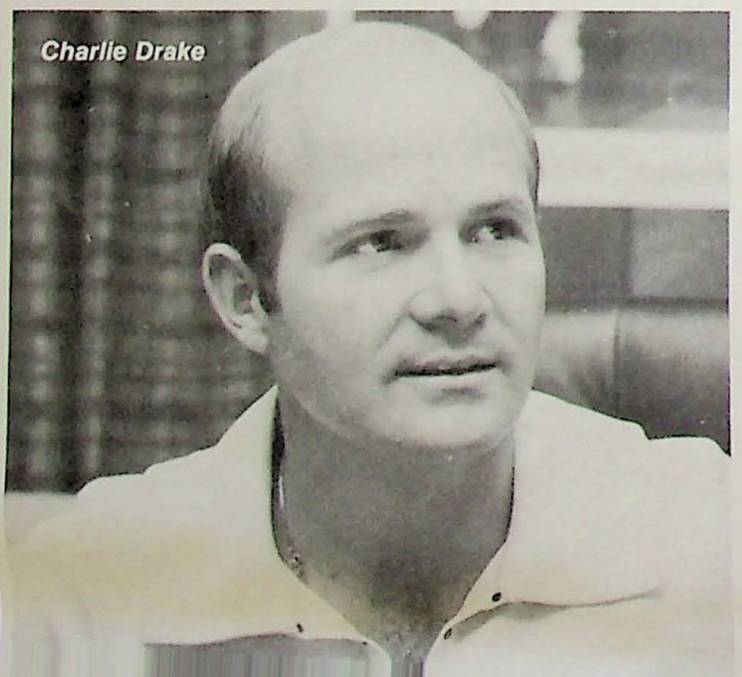
Because we want you there when the very best players in the country make big money, as well as racquetball history.

THE COLGATE MEN'S AND WOMEN'S PRO/AM RACQUETBALL TOUR

CO-SPONSORED BY LEACH INDUSTRIES AND SEAMCO. FOR EXACT DATES AND TIMES, CALL TOLL-FREE (800) 854-2928/(800) 854-2929


Jack Grimm


Al Mackie


Charlie Drake

Colgate, Seamco, Leach Maintain Pro Tour Sponsorship

The overriding sponsorship of the 1978-79 National Racquetball Club's (NRC) pro tour has again been granted to Colgate-Palmolive Company and co-sponsorship to Seamco Sporting Goods and Leach Industries. These three firms thus continue in providing substantial support for the tour, now in its sixth year.

The upcoming season has a new twist, sponsorship-wise, in that additional sponsors of the events. Firms who will be sponsoring single tournaments include Coors and Catalina Sportswear.

But the bulk of the sponsorship dollars will be coming or guaranteed by *"The Big Three,"* Colgate, Seamco and Leach. Colgate will not only be sponsoring the National Championships (June 9-16, 1979) to the tune of $50,000 in prize money, but they will also be putting up another $75,000 in the brand new Colgate Bonus Pool which will be distributed at the end of the season.

"Jack Grimm (V.P. and General Manager of the Sports and Recreation Division of Colgate) *has offered us just a tremendous promotional package,"* said NRC president Bob Kendler. *"I have never met a man who is as enthusiastic and dedicated as Jack. What Colgate is doing for racquetball is marvelous."*

Seamco is the NRC's oldest pro tour sponsor, having been the first firm to donate funds for the prize money and promotion of the tour, dating back to 1975. Al Mackie, president of Seamco, continues to boost the NRC and USRA in every way imaginable — he's an amateur as well as a pro supporter.

"I can't think of a better friend of racquetball than Al Mackie," said Kendler. *"Seamco has been there every time the sport needed them. Their list of 'firsts' is endless."*

Leach Industries, the third member of this triumverate, is in its third season of sponsorship and was instrumental in the organization of the sponsorship structure this year.

"Charlie Drake (president of Leach) *was able to help us increase the prize money nearly 100% this season,"* said Kendler, *"just by a reorganization of the format. It took a lot of hard work and negotiating, but he got the job done."*

The tour's final dollar figure will fall somewhere between $275,000 to $300,000 in actual prize money distributed, along with another nearly equal amount for promotion, publicity and implementation.

"It doesn't do any good to sponsor the events," said Kendler, *"if you don't let the world know that you're sponsoring them."*

With Colgate, Seamco, Leach and the NRC/USRA working hand-in-hand to organize, promote and coordinate the pro racquetball tour, the world will most definitely know about it.

SEAMCO Racquetball Classic

The NRC/USRA is proud to again welcome SEAMCO, racquetball's prime supporter, as sponsor of the famous SEAMCO Classic held at the new Olympic Court Club in Port Washington, New York.

Did you ever give thought to how the popularity of racquetball came to be? Well, SEAMCO was the male partner in the birth of racquetball as we know it today. SEAMCO produced the original official ball in late 1970 and backed its confidence in the sport with more monetary support than any other sponsor. The original ball, specially designed and developed for racquetball, is the popular "558." Shortly thereafter, SEAMCO introduced the very appealing green "559." These racquetballs provided the fuel for the country's fastest-growing sport.

SEAMCO is the world's largest manufacturer of racquetballs and provides the only official balls of all major racquetball organizations in the world.

In professional racquetball circles SEAMCO is widely known as the first company to support the NRC/USRA professional tour with prize money, beginning in February, 1975 and continuing without stop to this very day.

Avid handball and paddleball players prefer the SEAMCO "555" not by coincidence but rather by choice because the "555" is equivalent to the perfect game.

SEAMCO, 101 years old, not only champions racquetball but many other contest sport arenas. The original "Kantleek" valve which is universally used in professional football and basketball was patented by SEAMCO. As the world's largest manufacturer of inflatable bladders just about every American manufacturer of inflated products uses SEAMCO bladders for the top of their line. SEAMCO's basketballs are famous around the globe with exports to 95 countries and is selected as the official world championship ball in many countries.

Then, of course, SEAMCO has produced the H. Harwood professional line of softballs and baseballs since the 19th century — predating most organized teams and related organizations.

Our assignment as a "Ball Master" is to produce a variety of high quality products. If it bounces — SEAMCO makes it — Basketballs, Footballs, Racquetballs, Handballs, Paddleballs, Soccer Balls, Volley Balls, Utility Balls, Platform Tennis Balls, Water Polo Balls, Softballs, Tether Balls, Bounce Balls, Playground Balls, Practice Balls and Accessories.

SEAMCO reflects a history best known in professional circles and it is only natural to expect its originating personality to be displayed at the SEAMCO Racquetball Classic.

Current 1978-79 Professional Rankings

Men

1. Marty Hogan
   St. Louis
2. Richard Wagner
   Paterson, NJ
3. Jerry Hilecher
   St. Louis
4. Craig McCoy
   Riverside, CA
5. Charlie Brumfield
   San Diego
6. Ben Koltun
   St. Louis
7. Steve Strandemo
   San Diego
8. Mike Yellen
   Detroit
9. Davey Bledsoe
   Kingsport, TN
10. David Fleetwood
    Memphis
11. (Tie) Steve Keeley
    Haslett, MI
    Mark Morrow
    Los Angeles
13. Steve Serot
    St. Louis
14. Steve Chase
    Phoenix
15. Mike Zeitman
    Memphis
16. (Tie) Don Thomas
    Phoenix
    Jay Jones
    Los Angeles
18. Dennis McDowell
    Bloomington, IL
19. Jim Wirkus
    Fond du Lac, WI
20. Larry Meyers
    Oceanside, CA
21. Jerry Zuckerman
    St. Louis
22. (Tie) Steve Mondry
    San Diego
    Charlie Rish
    Chicago
24. (Tie) Rick Dern
    Chicago
    Gary Stephens
    Memphis

Women

1. Shannon Wright
   Las Vegas
2. Jennifer Harding
   Portland, OR
3. Janell Marriott
   Salt Lake City
4. Peggy Steding
   Odessa, TX
5. Martha McDonald
   Gainesville, FL
6. Karin Walton
   San Clemente, CA
7. Marci Greer
   San Diego
8. Sarah Green
   Memphis
9. Kathy Williams
   Denver
10. Rita Hoff
    St. Louis
11. Jean Sauser
    Portland, OR
12. Jan Matthews
    San Diego
13. Sue Carow
    Chicago
14. Jan Pasternak
    Houston
15. Alicia Moore
    Soquel, CA
16. Pat Schmidt
    Milwaukee, WI
17. Susie Dugan
    Dallas, TX
18. Jean Oeschger
    Sunnyvale, CA
19. Laura Martino
    Fountain Valley, CA
20. (Tie) Judy Thompson
    Davenport, IA
    Linda Prefontaine
    Eugene, OR

NOT ALL RACQUETBALLS ARE CREATED EQUAL.

Some are rounder than others. At Seamco, we inject superheated rubber into our molds. This gives us a uniform wall thickness and a super round ball.

Being the racquetball originator, no one has greater technical expertise to give you a better playing ball.

SEAMCO RACQUETBALLS
The official ball since the game began.

IF IT BOUNCES SEAMCO MAKES IT.

Copyright © 1978, Dart Industries, Inc. Seamco Sporting Goods Company, LaGrange, Ga 30240. Call toll free 1-800-241-8111.

Coors
AMERICA'S FINE LIGHT BEER®

We are proud
to be associated
with the sport
of racquetball.
Watch for events
sponsored by Coors.

Make it yours.

©1978 ADOLPH COORS COMPANY, GOLDEN, COLORADO

All Time Career Earnings

Men

1. Marty Hogan $70,990
2. Charlie Brumfield $44,400
3. Davey Bledsoe 23,550
4. Steve Serot $23,150
5. Jerry Hilecher $20,720
6. Steve Strandemo $20,110
7. Richard Wagner $19,965
8. Steve Keeley $19,400
9. Craig McCoy $14,605
10. Ben Koltun $9,425
11. Bill Schmidtke $6,506
12. Mike Zeitman $6,225
13. Jay Jones $6,075
14. Mike Yellen $6,050
15. Mark Morrow $4,700
16. Ron Rubenstein $2,885
17. Steve Chase $2,800
18. David Fleetwood $2,750
19. Jerry Zuckerman $2,150
20. Ron Strom $2,080

Women

1. Shannon Wright $18,525
2. Peggy Steding $17,475
3. Jennifer Harding $9,525
4. Janell Marriott $9,225
5. Kathy Williams $6,625
6. Sarah Green $4,225
7. Jean Sauser $3,225
8. Sue Carow $2,925
9. Karin Walton $2,775
10. Martha McDonald $2,625
11. Rita Hoff $2,075
12. Jan Pasternak $1,625

Marty Hogan
St. Louis, 1-22-58

Right handed, fourth year on tour, sponsored by Leach, career pro victories — 19 including 1978 National Championship.

Style: Hogan is the game's premier player. His offensive method of play, the so called serve and shoot style, has become *the* way to play. His shots have been timed at 142 mph. Besides the power he can kill from anywhere on the court, forehand and backhand, and must be considered the odds on favorite in any tournament. When he's on his game he is awesome.

Richard Wagner
Paterson, NJ, 2-11-56

Right handed, fifth year on tour, sponsored by Leach, career pro victories — 1.

Style: Wagner likes to play the serve and shoot game, but lacks a consistent first serve to really take advantage. He makes up for it, though, with his retrieving ability — likes to play a running game. Best shot is back wall forehand kill. He's come a long way in the past few years, with backhand only question.

Craig McCoy
Riverside, CA, 2-20-57

Left handed, fifth year on tour, sponsored by Leach, career pro victories — none.

Style: This smooth southpaw made big strides in 1978, overcoming many of the psychological barriers he had against various opponents. Has the power and control to play even the best (he forced Hogan to tie-breakers three times last year), and this could be his year. Excellent variety of hard serves, especially of the Z variety.

Jerry Hilecher
St. Louis, 7-20-54

Right handed, sixth year on tour, sponsored by Ektelon, career pro victories — 1.

Style: One of the original serve and shooters, Hilecher became famous for his power drive serves. Still one of the feared power players his backhand has not developed the consistency of his forehand. Has ability to top the best, and his retrieving takes a back seat to no one. One of the game's best divers.

Charlie Brumfield
San Diego, 6-9-48

Right handed, sixth year on tour, sponsored by Leach, career pro victories — 10 including 1976, 1977 National Championships.

Style: When winning his titles (three amateur National championships in the pre-professional days) Brumfield set the standard of play in the control method, i.e., placement first, power second. He's known as a mastermind on the court who can think his way out of as many situations as he can shoot his way out. At 30 he usually gives away 8-10 years each time out. Crowd pleaser.

GREAT TEAMWORK...

...WE'RE ON YOUR TEAM!

JACK IN THE BOX
RESTAURANTS

Ben Koltun
St. Louis, 2-3-58

Right handed, third year on tour, sponsored by Leach, career pro victories — none.

Style: The first National juniors champion (1975) has improved each season to his current number four rank. He's a serve and shoot player, with a hedge toward control. Main strong points are quickness and ability to shoot off balance. Pet shots include backhand wide pinch and back wall forehand kill.

Mike Yellen
Detroit, 2-3-60

Right handed, second year on tour, sponsored by Ektelon, career pro victories — none.

Style: Last season's hands down Rookie-of-the-Year winner who finished fast including a semi-final near-miss loss to Brumfield (11-10) in the Nationals. Plays a control game with plenty of wide angle passing shots and only percentage shooting. Looks like a factor this season.

Steve Strandemo
San Diego, 3-4-48

Right handed, fifth year on tour, sponsored by Head, career pro victories — 2.

Style: A control player all the way, Strandemo shocked the tour by capturing the season's opener in St. Louis, dumping Hogan in the 16's, McCoy in the quarters, Wagner in the semi's and Hilecher in the finals. Big win and a boost for the control game. Has put injuries of '77-78 season behind him. Calculatingly smart.

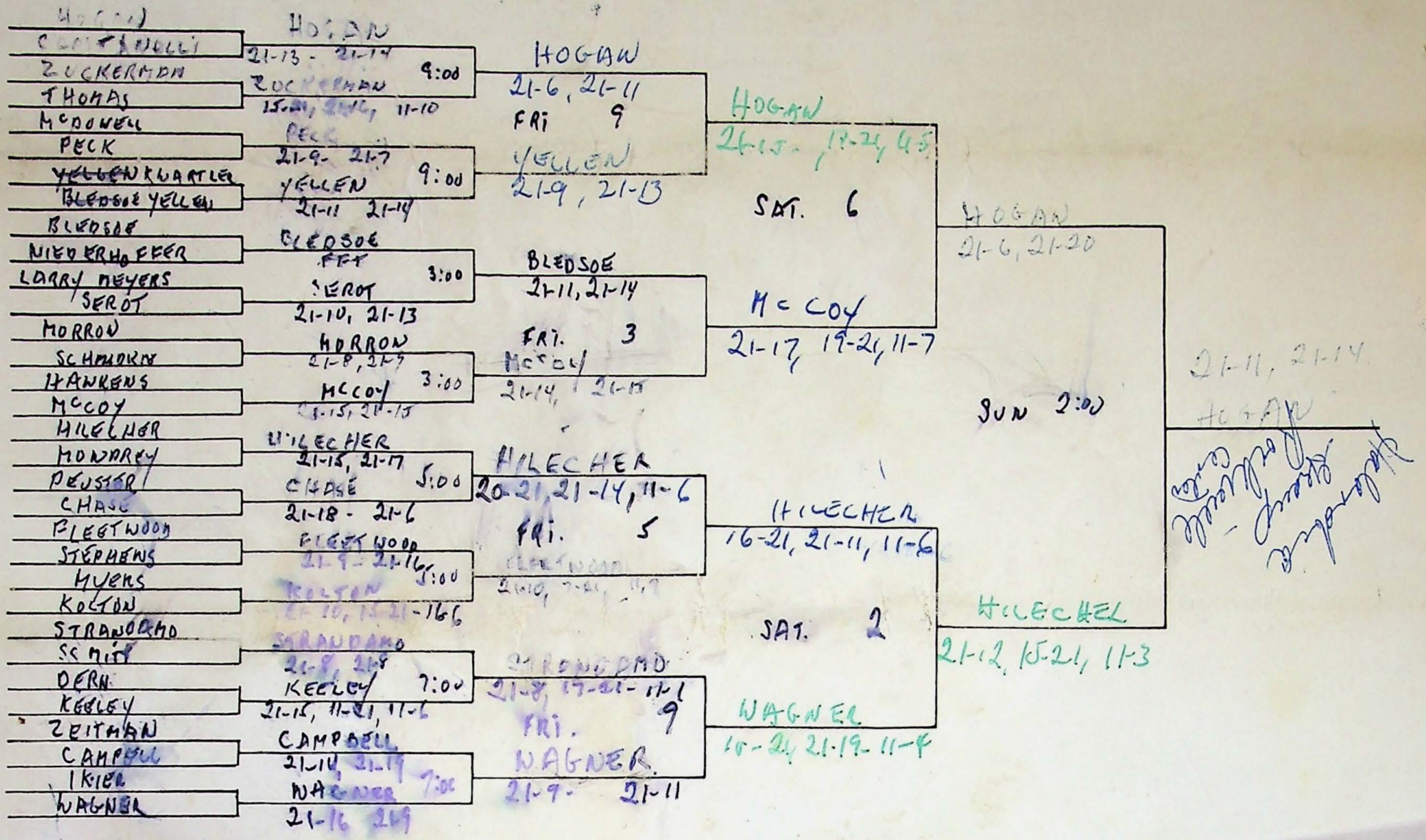
Davey Bledsoe
Kingsport, TN, 3-7-51

Right handed, fifth year on tour, sponsored by Wilson, career pro victories — 2 including 1977 National Championship.

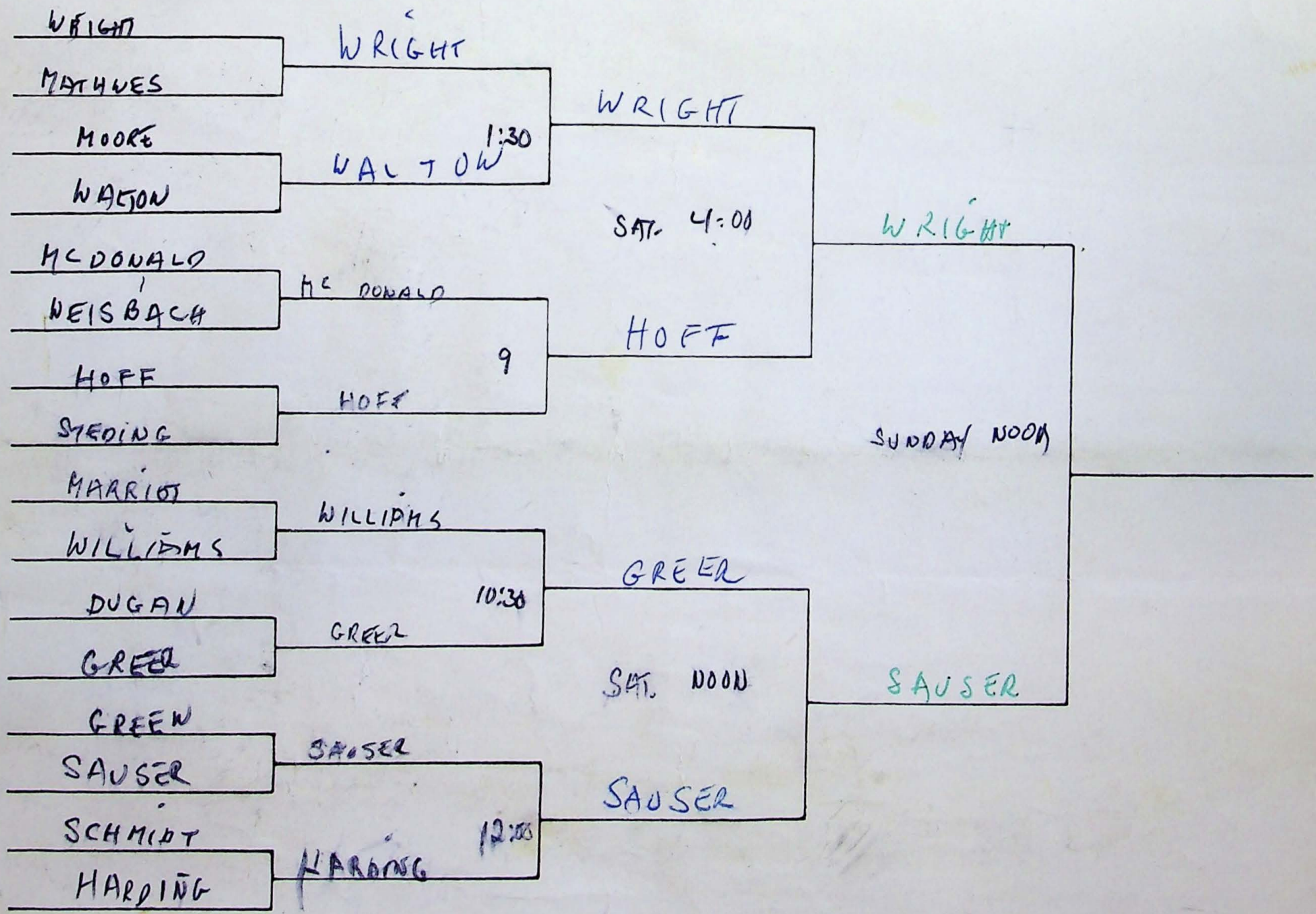
Style: A power player Bledsoe is coming off a discouraging and disappointing season. The championship burden is off his shoulders and most observers figure his game to pick up because of it. He'll need to regain the intensity and forehand corner kills that marked his '77 game.

N.Y.C. NOV 1978

MEN'S PRO



WOMEN'S PRO


WRIGHT
MATHWES
MOORE
WALTON
MCDONALD
WEISBACH
HOFF
SHEDING
MARRIOT
WILLIAMS
DUGAN
GREER
GREEN
SAUSER
SCHMIDT
HARDING
WRIGHT
1:30
WALTON
MC DONALD
9
HOFF
WILLIAMS
10:30
GREER
SAUSER
12:00
HARDING
WRIGHT
SAT. 4:00
HOFF
GREER
SAT. NOON
SAUSER
WRIGHT
SUNDAY NOON
SAUSER

David Fleetwood
Memphis, 4-22-57

Right handed, second year on tour, sponsored by Wilson, career pro victories — none.

Style: A young serve and shooter who made his first visit to the quarter-finals in the Leach Motor City Classic last month. Quickness and natural ability signal bright future as his consistency improves.

Others To Watch

Steve Keeley
Haslett, MI
Probably the last of the true control players, Keeley's percentage game is unable to survive the constant bombardment of power shooting that he sees from the tour's new breed. A smart player Keeley lacks the power and speed that mark today's younger players. Good comeback ability.

Mark Morrow
Los Angeles, 6-21-52 . . .
Hardhitting righty, who's a threat to reach the quarters every time out. Good forehand kills, needs more potency with backhand.

Steve Serot
St. Louis
Serot's roller coaster career is on the down slide after two consecutive round of 32 losses. A former top four player he's still young enough to regain the form that made him one of racquetball's early stars.

Steve Chase
Phoenix, 8-25-51 . . .
Dedication is the key here. Has good deal of ability, but needs to sharpen overall game. Disappointing season just past.

Mike Zeitman
Memphis, 9-27-48 . . .
Sturdy veteran whose game has not received the attention needed the past two seasons. If he puts in the time, could come back.

Don Thomas
Phoenix, 3-9-57 . . .
Rapidly improving with good '78 Nationals behind him (tight three game loss to Brumfield). Needs just a little to become solid performer.

Jay Jones
Los Angeles, 1-31-43 . . .
At 35-years-old, Jones is the oldest tour regular, but his off court occupation of professional stunt man keeps him in shape. Blends power with control but must avoid injuries.

Colgate Bonus Pool

The Colgate Bonus Pool is a new feature to the 1978-79 professional racquetball tour and is one that by the season's end will be creating as much excitement as the actual tour stops.

As part of its sponsorship of the pro tour, Colgate has initiated the Bonus Pool with a $75,000 prize money fund, to be distributed at the Grand Finale National Championships in June, 1979.

The fund goes to the top eight men and top five women finishers in Bonus point accumulation during the season prior to the Nationals.

A bonus of $1,000 is the minimum that a player can receive if he or she qualifies based on performances. The first place prize for men is a whopping $15,000 and the top woman will receive $7,000 — the largest single prize in the history of women's racquetball.

Points are awarded at each tournament on the following basis: 50 to the winner; 40 to the runner-up; 20 to each semi-finalist; and 10 to each quarter-finalist. The points are kept in a cumulative total.

So keep your eyes on the Bonus Pool standings. The players sure are!

Colgate Bonus Pool Current Standings

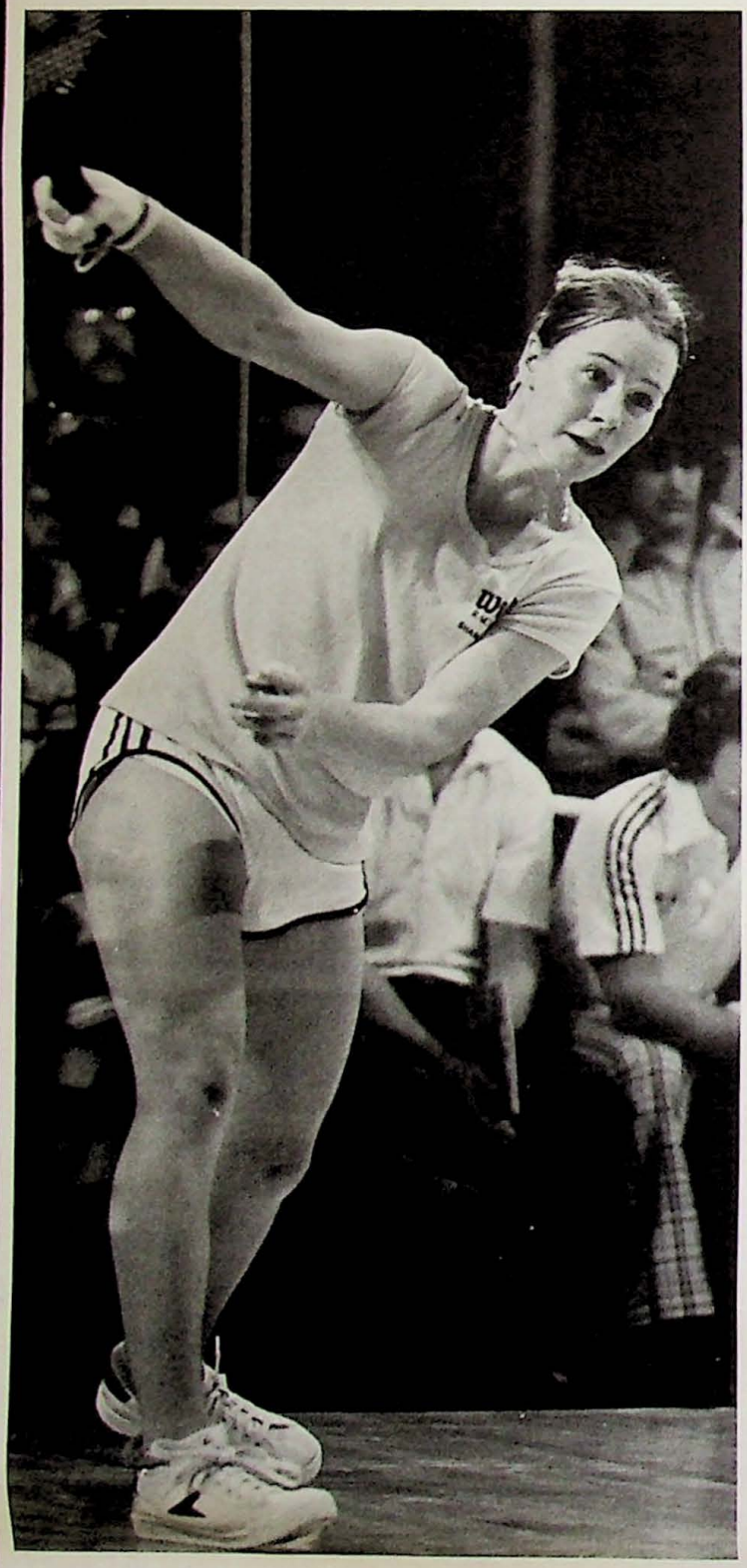
Men	Points	Women	Points
1. Richard Wagner	60	1. Shannon Wright	70
2. Steve Strandemo	50	2. Jennifer Harding	50
Marty Hogan	50	Peggy Steding	50
Jerry Hilecher	50	4. Marci Greer	40
5. Davey Bledsoe	40	5. Sarah Green	30
6. Mike Yellen	30	6. Karin Walton	20
7. Craig McCoy	20	Martha McDonald	20
8. Charlie Brumfield	10	Jean Sauser	20
Dennis McDowell	10	Janell Marriott	20
David Fleetwood	10	10. Kathy Williams	10
Ben Koltun	10	Jan Matthews	10

She doesn't have to borrow from the boys! For those 2 million women playing Racquetball, Catalina has the real thing, the bold colors, the function and freedom the sport demands. You won't see it anywhere but at Catalina. In Racquetball, we've got the court to ourselves.
RACQUETBALL BY CATALINA®
Designers for the agile life.

Shannon Wright
Las Vegas, 9-11-56

Right handed, fourth year on tour, sponsored by Wilson, career pro victories — 12 including 1977 and 1978 National Championships.

Style: Power player, serve and shoot after two year apprenticeship in the control style. Biggest booster is desire to win. Can shoot from anywhere and tends to dominate opponents. Head and shoulders above the rest at the Nationals. If in shape is almost unbeatable.



Jennifer Harding
Portland, OR, 7-6-51

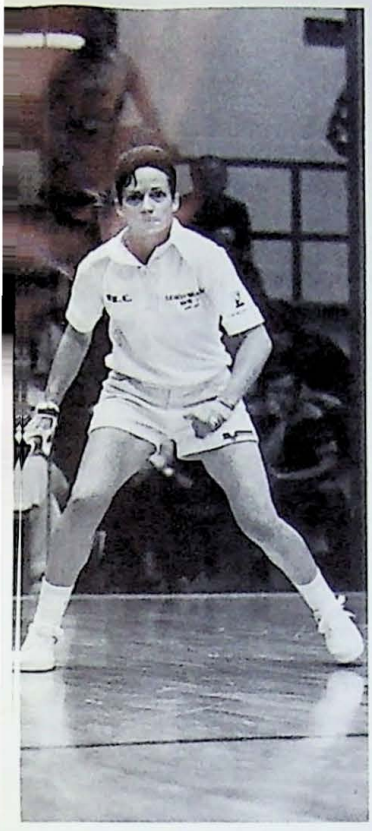
Left handed, fourth year on tour, sponsored by Ektelon, career pro victories — 1.

Style: Combination of power and control; likes to shoot the left corner with her forehand. Rarely went out earlier than semi's and is true threat to reach finals every time out. Was runner-up to Wright in '78 Nationals, but was never in match.

Janell Marriott
Salt Lake City, 12-13-52

Right handed, fourth year on tour, sponsored by Seamco, career pro victories — 1.

Style: Power player with big serve. Likes to shoot forehand and showed marked improvement in overall game toward end of '77-78 season. Is only player to seriously threaten Wright. Has overcome inability to win close matches and should continue to improve.



Peggy Steding
Odessa, TX, 4-17-36

Right handed, fifth year on tour, sponsored by Vittert, career pro victories — 14 including National Championships in 1975, 1976.

Style: Former champ slipped to number three, but still has enough of the power game to threaten. Fly shooting has suffered with more and more glass courts. Not as quick as in prior years, but just as smart and probable consistent finisher.

Karin Walton
San Clemente, CA, 5-2-56

Right handed, second year on tour, sponsored by Leach, career pro victories — none.

Style: Plays good overall game, combining serve and shoot with control. Concentration biggest asset — rarely gets shook. Had big win in '78 Nationals over Steding. Just off good rookie season. Was '77 National amateur champ.

Martha McDonald
Gainesville, FL, 2-3-55

Right handed, second year on tour, sponsored by Ektelon, career pro victories — none.

Style: Power player all the way. Likes to shoot on the fly or off the short hop from center court which makes for unusual style. Grew up on three wall outdoor courts. Was impressive rookie a year ago and with more consistency can move up.

Marci Greer
San Diego 3-21-55

Right handed, second year on tour, sponsored by Ektelon, career pro victories — none.

Style: One of the new breed serve and shooters, whose game has come a long way in a short period of time. Took second place in Leach Motor City Classic last month, her best finish ever, topping Harding, among others en route. Drive serves and forehand kills mark her game. Tender right knee only negative factor.

Sarah Green
Memphis, 1-14-57

Right handed, third year on tour, sponsored by Leach, career pro victories — none.

Style: Sarah strengthened her normal control style with some old fashioned desire and hustle, while making the semi-finals in Detroit last month. The win boosted her back into the top eight, and was her best performance in over eight months. She could be on the way up, if her intensity remains.

Others To Watch

Kathy Williams
Denver, 11-17-47 . . .
The serve and shoot game of Kathy Williams has not been up to her history of fine play recently, in fact for the first time in her career Kathy has dropped out of the top 8. Needs improvement in kill shot department to move back up.

Rita Hoff
St. Louis, 12-15-50 . . .
Power player who had some good wins a year ago. Needs improvement in court coverage and backhand shooting. Goods serves and super intensity.

Jean Sauser
Chicago, 9-23-50 . . .
Control player whose potential has never been reached. Tends to force her play and has trouble with hard hitters. Good quickness and extremely vocal.

Sue Carow
Chicago, 4-28-37 . . .
Another control player, she relies on down-the-line and cross court passes. Great determination, but only occasionally comes up with big win.

Jan Pasternak
Houston, 4-27-53 . . .
Former National amateur champ who's never made it in the pro ranks. Good retriever, but offensive game needs work. Has desire but kill shot would be better.

The United States Racquetball Association

In 1973 Bob Kendler organized the United States Racquetball Association to govern amateur racquetball in this country. The USRA publishes the official rules, puts out its monthly magazine —*National Racquetball,* aids affiliate groups in all 50 states and sponsors more than 500 tournaments ranging from local events to the National Championships held each June.

The USRA rule book, which is revised annually, is free to all Association members and is available through state affiliates or at USRA headquarters.

National Racquetball magazine, also free to USRA members, each month provides instruction by top pros, amateur and professional tournament results, news of state affiliates, court club features and stories about celebrities and other newsworthy people who play racquetball.

USRA affiliates, run by volunteers in each state, sanction tournaments for men, women and juniors. Players and officials at USRA sanctioned tournaments are eligible for free balls, shirts, draw sheets, rule books and other materials in the USRA tournament package.

The USRA sponsors 10 Regional Championships each year, and pays the full air fare round trip to the Nationals for the men and women Open Singles Regional winners.

Beginning in the summer of 1979 the USRA is sponsoring 10 Junior Regionals with winners advancing to the National Juniors Championships in August.

The USRA is an amateur organization, with no player who has accepted more than $1,000 or more in prize money in the previous 12 months eligible to play in USRA events.

The National Racquetball Club

The National Racquetball Club, governing body of professional racquetball, is best known for organizing the annual professional tour from September through June.

The tour, which began in the fall of 1973 with no sponsor and a total of $20,000 in prize money, now has the support of eight sponsors and makes close to $300,000 available to pro tour winners.

A wide geographical range of tour locations gives racquetball fans around the country a chance to see live professional play, with special consideration given to those areas recognized as *"racquetball hotbeds."* Each year facilities in all parts of the country offer their racquetball centers as pro tour stops. Once chosen the host facility puts in months of preparation to guarantee that the event is well attended and is hospitable to players and spectators.

Although the tour is highlighted by the professionals, the tournaments are open to any player who desires to try his or her game against the best. Such players go through a qualification event prior to the tournament, and those who reach the pro level can match their shots, on the court, with the greats of the game.

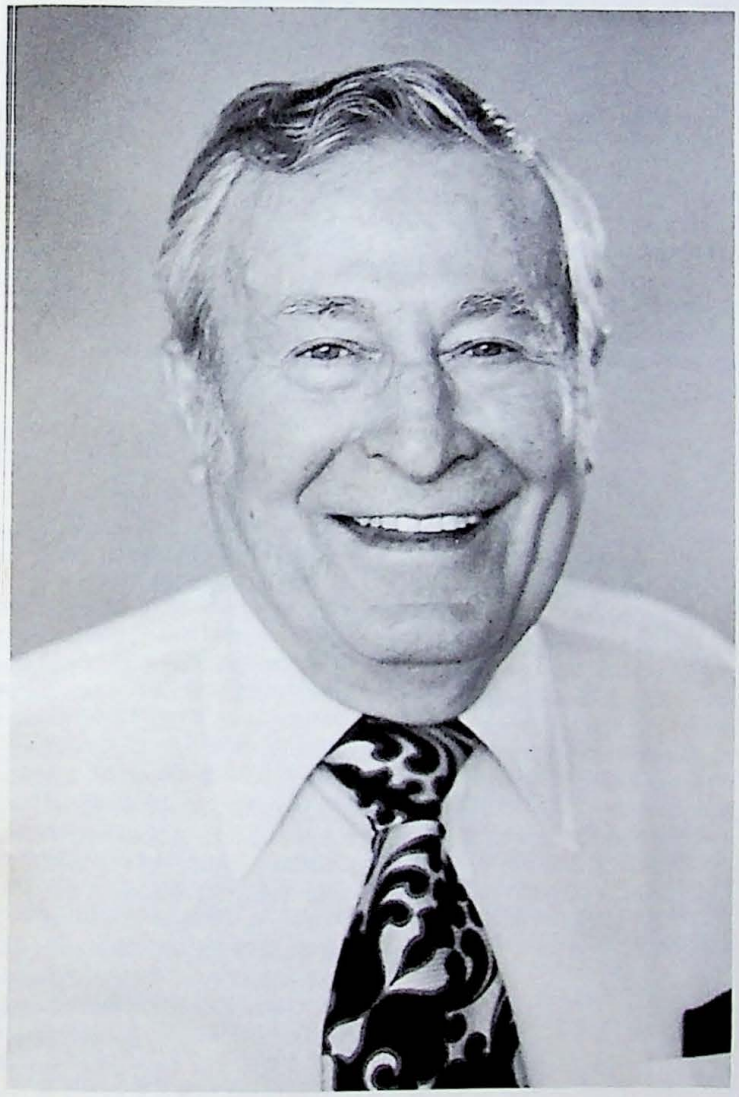
For more information write the National Racquetball Club, 4101 Dempster, Skokie, IL 60076 or phone 312-673-4000.

Robert W. Kendler

Bob Kendler, President and founder of both the United States Racquetball Association and the National Racquetball Club, is the one person most responsible for the growth and improvement of racquetball.

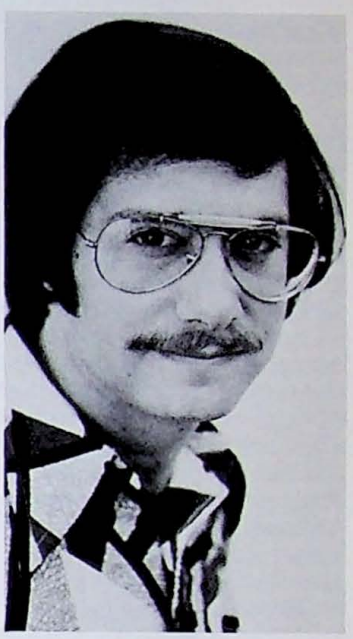
A multimillionaire Chicago real estate developer Kendler began his court career before racquetball ever was imagined, forming the United States Handball Association in 1951. Kendler paved the way for the original racquetball players by encouraging handballers to let the new players on their courts. Recognizing the potential of the young sport Kendler formed the first racquetball association in 1968, then five years later organized the USRA and NRC.

Though often involved in high finance Kendler finds no question or idea too small to consider. He enjoys talking with USRA members and professional players. If you want to speak to the person who gets things done in racquetball, dial 312-673-4000 and ask for Bob Kendler.



Chuck Leve

The National Director of the USRA and NRC Chuck Leve came to work for the Kendler organization in 1970, four days after he received his degree in journalism from the University of Miami in Florida.



Leve's responsibilites center around *National Racquetball* magazine and the pro tour. As editor of the Association's monthly publication Leve establishes policy and writes most of the play-by-play accounts of professional matches. He helps organize the pro tour each season, working closely with players, sponsors and each host club.

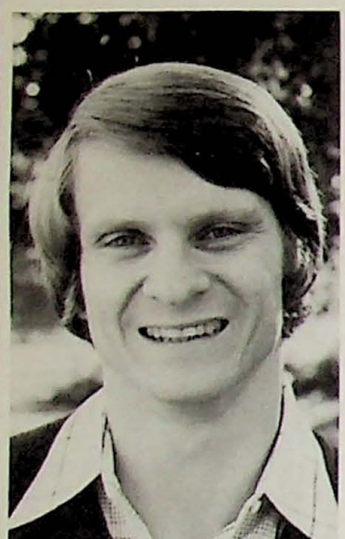
Known as one of the finest referees in racquetball Leve calls most of the final round matches at pro tour stops. He's been an innovator — the 11-point tie-breaker is his idea, as well as the abandonment of the three bounce rule, clarification of the 10 second rule and the use of linesmen at pro matches.

Joe Ardito

Joe Ardito, Business Manager of the NRC and National Commissioner of the USRA, is the man who hands out the checks after each money match.

A person who knows how to make a tournament run smoothly Ardito began his work in handball over 20 years ago and moved over to racquetball in 1973 to help operate the new NRC. Ardito is advertising director of *National Racquetball* magazine and the liaison between the USRA and NRC and the racquetball industry.

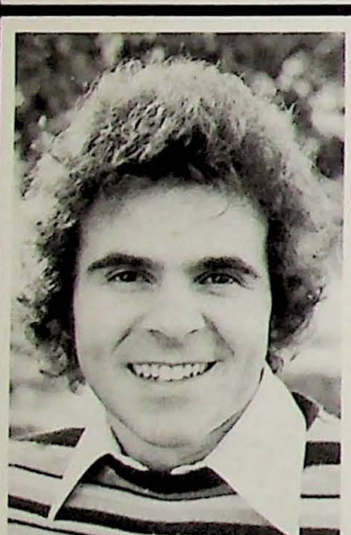
Ardito's focus on the people end of racquetball ranges from being the firm enforcer of NRC rules and policies to helping develop a strong Juniors program that has produced some of the game's top pros.



Terry Fancher

Since Terry Fancher became USRA National Coordinator in 1976, he has developed affiliate organizations in all 50 states by seeking out players around the country willing to volunteer their time for racquetball. Fancher works hand in hand with state chairmen to promote amateur racquetball on a local level.

Formerly one of the top 20 pros Fancher is both a racquetball player and a racquetball scholar. He is the author of *The History of Racquetball,* his masters thesis at the University of Wisconsin, and of *40 Common Errors in Racquetball and How To Correct Them,* written with Photographer Arthur Shay. For *National Racquetball* magazine Fancher coordinates the USRA amateur section and writes instructional articles.



Dan Bertolucci

Dan Bertolucci, USRA Associate Coordinator since 1977, is chief liaison between NRC/USRA headquarters and clubs hosting tournaments. He also helps direct the state affiliate program and referees at pro tour stops, where he's a regular competitor. (He's among the top 50 pros.)

Bertolucci learned to play racquetball at Northern Illinois University, where he earned degrees in psychology and biology. His PROfiles and "What's the Call? Ask an Expert" are popular features of *National Racquetball* magazine.

How We Got Here

Racquetball was formally organized by Bob Kendler only as recently as 1968, but it is a game that has captured the enthusiasm of physical-fitness minded men and women throughout North America. Foundations of our present-day paddleball and racquetball games may be found more than seven centuries ago.

In an idle moment 700 years ago, two French monks began batting a ball around a monastery courtyard with crude wooden paddles. As a result, this impromptu game, which came to be known as court tennis, gained popularity with royalty and Louis X was so over-extended chasing balls that he became ill and died shortly after a match. Also, the Duke of Wellington and Napoleon were both reported to have played the game.

While paddleball is played with a wooden paddle, racquetball is played with a strung racquet, the frame of which is made of wood, aluminum alloy, fiberglass or a similar combination of materials. Since its origin, probably in the 1940's through the efforts of Joe Sebek, the popularity of the game of racquetball has spread and surpassed paddleball; players of all ages and both sexes can now be found playing racquetball. The increase in interest facilities, and the addition of racquetball to the physical curriculum has done much for the promotion of the sport.

Racquetball probably got its earliest start in 1949, the year Sobek was credited with inventing the game. The original name of the game was "paddle-rackets." Prior to that time Sobek had left his profession as a tennis and squash professional and was employed in an executive position in Bridgeport, Connecticut. Sobek had watched paddleball, using the wooden paddle, being played by numerous members of the Greenwich, Connecticut YMCA. Looking for a means to exercise, Sobek thought that paddleball would be a more interesting and entertaining game if a strung racket were used rather than a solid-faced wooden version. Sobek designed the kind of racket thought to be appropriate and took it to a New England manufacturer of tennis, squash, and badminton frames. With the new racket, Sobek started a group of men playing at the Greenwich Y.

The sport spread rapidly from the Greenwich Y as players moved to other towns and introduced the sport nationwide. During those formitive years, "National Championships" were held at the Greenwich Y in Connecticut and identified as Paddle-Rackets Championships.

After having played many racket sports, Sobek felt that paddle-rackets had more to offer than any of the others. It proved to be a stimulating winter activity. Additionally, it was fun, gave tremendous exercise, and was easy to learn. Another advantage was that anyone, young or old, could step into the court and play the game at his own pace.

e game prospered in the s and spread throughout geographic areas, many nt types of balls were n an experimental effort cover which was the satisfactory. Also, during me time period the game layed under a variety of nt names, such as le-rackets," lle-tennis," and lleball."

official adoption of the "racquetball" as the for the game, people till referring to the "gut" all court game as eball. It was stressed e "racquet" spelling be oth for the game, tball, and the ment used, racquet, than racketball and

* * * *

st-moving "lifetime of racquetball is rapidly ing one of the most r leisure time and oning activities. Players ges are participating in doubles, cutthroat ed doubles play. leagues, and ments are being tted, and classes in ll education are giving n an attempt to satisfy ds of the players. The nstant success of ball has caused ners to conduct ents in an attempt to new knowledge and data about the game.

mpt to explain why so ople have become d in this sport, here w of the main reasons been observed.

1. It is easy to learn. The playing techniques, rules, and strategy are simple to learn, to understand, and to put into practice. In a very short time span, the beginner can find himself successfully playing the game.

2. Immediate success is possible and probable. Returning the ball to the front wall after it has already rebounded from the front wall is not a difficult skill. With a little experience and instruction, a person can easily acquire the ability to return a variety of shots to the front wall by means of the many different methods available to him.

3. Conditioning benefits are excellent. In a short period of time, an individual may be the benefactor of a vigorous physical workout which has positive results in cardiovascular endurance, muscular endurance, coordination, agility, and reaction and response time. Muscular strength, flexibility, balance, power and speed are also challenged by racquetball.

4. Psychosocial values are high. The opportunities for emotional growth are great in racquetball. One may experience opportunities to control or release outbursts of temper as well as being afforded opportunities to relieve emotional tensions. Self confidence and social interaction found in fellowship with one's companions can be very rewarding. In doubles, cooperation and teamwork are requsites to success.

5. Skills are easily transferred from other sports. Handball, tennis, badminton, squash, table tennis and paddleball are a few of the sports which have many elements in common with racquetball. The skills, rules, and strategies are very similar and have common values.

6. Safety hazards are few. One must remember not to over-exert oneself initially, to "warm-up" properly and to wear a racquet safety thong around the wrist in order to avoid injuring the opponent by striking him with a loose racquet during play.

* * * * *

The statistical growth of racquetball is astounding. From a mere 50,000 players in 1970 the number of participants swelled to an amazing eight million in September of 1978. With so many new people taking up the game, it is nearly impossible to keep up with the rise in popularity the sport is experiencing.

Five years ago, there were only two private court clubs in existence in North America. The number grew to 80 in two years, then 220 clubs. Today, there are over 700 with almost as many in the planning stages. In addition, the YMCAs, JCC's, military installations and community recreation centers across the country have numerous courts for participation and are adding more.

The sale of racquetballs was a lowly 228,000 in 1970 and now 20 million are sold annually. Prize money on the NRC pro tour has doubled every year beginning with a $25,000 limited tour in 1974. There seems to be a virtually limitless increase to the numbers of players and amount of equipment to be sold in the coming years. With expanded interest from television coverage, sponsorship and promotion, racquetball certainly seems to be the game of the next decade.

Credits:
"History of Racquetball," Fancher, Terry. *"Success of Racquetball–Here's Why,"* Alexander, R. and Matthews, Bill.

A LOT OF WOMEN WILL TAKE US TO COURT BECAUSE OF THIS.

Racquetball is the fastest growing sport in the world.

And an estimated 40% of the players are women.

Yet no one has come up with a glass-filled racquet designed especially for them.

Until now.

Leach introduces the Lady Swinger, the sport's first glass-filled racquet for women.

The Lady Swinger is a racquet dedicated to the proposition that women are every bit as serious on the court as men.

It's a natural competitor.

We've modified the basic teardrop shape to turn the entire string area into one big sweet spot, for more accuracy.

It weighs in at under 250 grams, making it easier to swing.

And the Lady Swinger's narrow-throat design and comfortable 4" grip put a stop to rotational torque on occasional miss-hits around the edge. So it's easier to control.

It's a superb price competitor too, with a suggested retail under $20.00.

That's right. The first women's racquet for *under* $20.00.

And backed by a full one-year guarantee covering both strings and frame.

The Lady Swinger. It's a great new racquet from the company amateurs and pros alike have been taking to court for years. And winning with. We rest our case.

LEACH RACQUETBALL

NUMBER ONE BY DESIGN

5567 Kearny Villa Road, San Diego, CA 92123

National Racquetball®

4101 Dempster Street
Skokie, Illinois 60076
(312) 673-4000

- SUBSCRIBE TO RACQUETBALL'S ONLY MONTHLY MAGAZINE
- MEMBERSHIP IN UNITED STATES RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION
- INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIAL
- EXCITING TOURNAMENT RESULTS
- INTERESTING FEATURES

ONLY $12.00 PER YEAR.....

Actress Adrienne Barbeau • Peter C. Borsari photo

shoot it serve it pass it

belt it splash it whack it

slap it dunk it bounce it

freeze it spin it cream it

chop it wet it dribble it

lob it hit it ace it loft it

hang it clobber it bang it

center it spike it kill it

smash it hook it boot it

buy it, Seamco

SEAMCO SPORTING GOODS COMPANY, DIVISION OF DART INDUSTRIES, LAGRANGE, GEORGIA 30240
FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 1-800-241-8111 TOLL FREE.