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Vol. 9 No. 3
March, 1980
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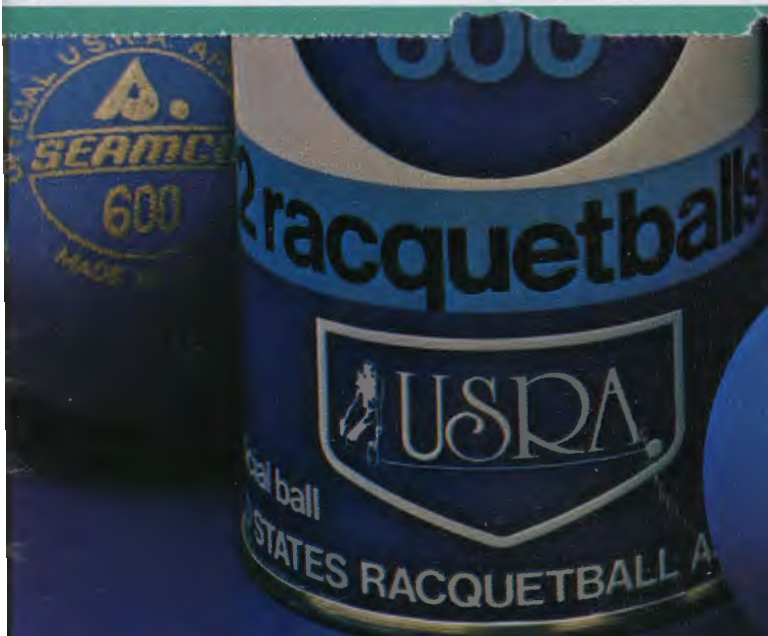
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On The Cover . . .

Dave Peck, number one pro in Memphis (see page 80), coaches an El Paso gang of hopefuls. For story and pictures see page 18.
— Arthur Shay photo

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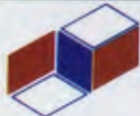
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Opinions

From Bob Kendler



The Amateurs Will Like This

Two of our wonderful sponsors, Seamco and Leach, have just volunteered to give \$3,000 in prizes to our men and women amateurs. Starting with the Catalina event in March, outstanding prizes will reward outstanding performance. This will continue through the Nationals in June, and will be the first step in what we hope will be a very rewarding new incentive for our deserving amateurs.

In a previous editorial I promised this would be the year of the amateur. The prize program is the first step in this direction. At the moment it seems like an insignificant step, but it just could be a giant stride. After all, our prize money started out very humbly, and look at it today . . . \$100,000 for the next Nationals alone!

But that's not all. In January we sent a team of handball stars to Dublin, Ireland, for the first of a series of international matches. This was strictly for the amateurs and was remarkably well received. Here again it is another beginning. Return matches are scheduled for the United States. Our players were rewarded with some absolutely magnificent Waterford crystal. Oh how the wives loved this! The Bank of Ireland and Aer Lingus Airlines picked up the per diem and travel, plus cars and entertainment for eight days. Royalty could not have received better treatment, nor could the matches have been more successful. The Irish Television Network taped the entire three day series and is showing it to Dublin viewers.

We learned long ago that whatever is good for handball is good for racquetball. So we are now planning an International Series for racquetball, and you will be reading about it soon. Here again, we are thinking amateur, not professional.

At our press party in New York I spoke about racquetball as well as handball and learned (although I had heard it before) that racquetball is absolutely forbidden in the Irish handball courts. I don't think the men of Erin were too happy when I told them this was the reverse of what they should have done. I described the ordeal I went through in the late 60s, and how violently handball resisted racquetball. I also pointed out that 10 years later handball is still growing and that we lost nothing by sharing handball courts with racquetball. Now with tens of thousands of racquetball courts being built it suddenly becomes a fact of life that every new racquetball court is also a new handball court.

As the evening grew more mellow, the president of the Bank of Ireland, Bill Burke, confided to me that there is SOME racquetball in Dublin . . . maybe 10 or more courts. They were trying to confine racquetball to the squash courts, which doesn't do much for racquetball. He didn't know how they could stem the tide and I personally think it would be a mistake to try.

It is my educated guess that before long we'll have recreational racquetball players competing in USRA tournaments in Ireland, as well as in Canada, Japan, Mexico, Hawaii and even Australia.

Start planning some nice trips, amateurs.

Evie & Bob Kendler

Evie and Bob Kendler

Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

Matthew, Chap 5, Verse 9

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From the National Commissioner



Now's the Time to Talk Up College Courts

With the second annual USRA Intercollegiates coming up March 28-30 it's a good time to think about getting more racquetball into more colleges and universities around the country.

As players you know the benefits of the game — both as recreation and as a serious form of competition. Racquetball's been an overwhelming success on campuses wherever there are courts.

Nothing could be better for our sport than having it part of a school's regular athletic program. College racquetball creates life-time racquetball enthusiasts.

And no one can have more influence in bringing more racquetball to a campus than the students themselves.

So I'm suggesting that you get involved in our Intercollegiates. Come play for \$10,000 in scholarships for you and your school, courtesy of the USRA, Leach and Seamco. See what a well run 23 court racquetball complex like the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign's looks like. And bring along someone from your school's athletic department. Watching all those fine players and observing their enthusiasm will inspire the powers that be to build more courts at *your* school.

Bob Keenan — in his column in the USRA section — lists the 31 colleges represented at the 1979 Intercollegiate Championships. It's an impressive list of schools spread across the United States.

Check Bob's column and the entry form in the same section of this issue of *National Racquetball*. Then compete for your school. Our USRA people will be on hand to welcome you and give you ideas about how you can help make racquetball a widespread collegiate sport.

Joe Ardito

Joe Ardito

From Our Readers



All This and Lunch, Too

Dear Sirs:

I am chairman of the women's racquetball organization at the Decathlon Athletic Club, and I'm a great supporter of *National Racquetball*, which our club receives. I feel the articles improve a player's game and keep one current with the latest trends in racquetball. I like your magazine so much I'm using it as an award at our club's ladies racquetball luncheon.

April Carroll
Excelsior, MN

Economic Success

Dear Editor:

Racquetball has made the difference at Ponderosa Forest's former swim/tennis/social club, which we converted to a swim/tennis/social/racquetball club last year. Since we added racquetball courts to the center, which serves a residential development, our membership has gone up 150 percent. What's more the addition of a quality racquetball facility has brought renewed life to the Ponderosa Racquet Club and has made the venture an economic success.

We're convinced that racquetball is a must in any recreational center.

David R. Murphy
Houston, TX

4,000 More in Mammoth Lakes

Dear Editor:

After reading the recent December issue of *National Racquetball* I was impressed with the wide variety of instructional and educational articles. However the article written by Carole Charfauros, "Moving Racquetball to the Mountain," was in error as to the number of permanent residents in Mammoth Lakes. There are closer to 6,000 than 2,000.

I'd like to give recognition to the contractor, Dempsey Construction Corporation, and Tom Dempsey, owner of Snowcreek Racquet Club, for providing the community of Mammoth Lakes with an athletic facility such as this. It will include numerous tennis courts, eight racquetball courts, two weight rooms, three jacuzzis, two steam rooms, full gymnasium equipped for small conventions or seminars, two sport shops, two lounges, large swimming pool, nursery, outdoor jogging and cross country ski trails.

Dave Huisman
Mammoth Lakes, CA

Lead Him to Eyegard Expert

Dear Editor:

I'm a consumer reporter for the *Louisville Times* and would like more information on eye protection for racquetball players. Where can I reach Dr. James Gregg, whose most recent story for *National Racquetball* was on contact lenses?

Les Whitely
Louisville, KY

The optometrist—one of the country's most well informed experts on eye protection—is at 412 S. Rolling Hills Pl., Anaheim, CA 92807. Watch for more of Gregg's stories on racquetball and your eyes. ED

Most Improved Runnerup Challenges Hogan

Dear Gentlemen and
Fellow Racquetball Players:

Thank you for mentioning my name on page 58 of your September issue as one of the honorable mentions in your Most Improved Player contest. I hereby challenge Marty Hogan to a winner take all match ... I am willing to put up \$1.98 cash.

Al Freedman
Philadelphia, PA

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Memphis Win More than a Dream

Dear Mr. Kendler:

I want to thank you for the chance to play in my hometown of Memphis. It was a dream come true to be able to win my first pro stop here at my alma mater in front of my family and friends.

Sarah Green
Memphis, TN

Keeley's Taking Orders

Dear Editor:

I enjoyed your article on the racquetball books in your January issue and am especially interested in Steve Keeley's *It's A Racquet*. Where can I purchase this book?

Linda Hoffman
Redmond, WA

You can buy Steve's book by mail by sending a check for \$3.95 made out to Service Press to Service Press, 6369 Reynolds Rd., Haslett, MI 48840. ED

Looking Easy

Dear Dan [Bertolucci]:

I wish to express my gratitude for having had the opportunity to work with you at the Tanner/Coca Cola tournament. The matches were initiated on time throughout the competition, despite the fact that three sites had to be controlled. Your commitment to the pros, as well as the amateurs, was obvious. You, Ken Strong and Don Green operated so smoothly and efficiently, you made it all look easy. Ken most certainly impressed me because of his enthusiasm for the game and his professional approach to the job of refereeing.

I certainly appreciated your cooperation and dedication.

Irv Zeitman
Louisville, KY

Bad Cover Cosmetics

Dear Sir:

In regard to your December *National Racquetball* magazine, I can not help but make an issue of your front cover.

It seems to me that eyeguards should be worn by all people participating in this sport whether on the cover or not. Cosmetically speaking someone with glasses on looks better than someone with no eye sight.

Adrienne Ayton
London, Ontario

Agreed. Our cover girls should have covered their eyes for their own safety and as an example to National Racquetball readers. Ed

Booming in Quebec

Dear Editor:

The French daily newspaper, *Le Soleil*, in Quebec City, Canada, is now publishing a weekly column on racquetball. The boom in this sport has been that important here the last two years!

As a racquetball writer and member of the sports section staff I have read with much interest one of your latest editions and appreciate the complete information *National Racquetball* provides on the sport.

Jacques Arteau
Quebec City, Canada

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Callahan Won Third

To Whomever:

I'm writing angrily about a mistake in your magazine. Specifically you made an error about tournament results. On page 71 you reported that Beverly Bell won third in women's B at the Montgomery, AL, Sportsrooms Classic. She didn't. Obviously I did. You know how it is when you win and finally anticipate seeing your name in the USRA magazine (and it even arrived on time this month!). Recognition is sometimes as comforting as sweat after a match.

Hope my name is correct in your magazine many more times to come.

Rita Callahan
Atlanta, GA





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COORS LIGHT

A man with a wide smile, wearing a grey baseball cap and a red and blue plaid shirt, is holding a can of Coors Light beer. He is leaning on a wooden post. The background is a bright, slightly blurred outdoor scene with green grass and a blue sky with white clouds.

The
surprise
is how good
it tastes.

Feature

Peck's Bad Boys and Girls

Putting El Paso on the Racquetball Map



by Mike Hogan

Way, way down in a dusty corner of the American Southwest on the dry side of the Pecos and just this side of the Rio Grande is a former cowtown-cum-cactus preserve whose national profile, to date, has rested on just three pillars:

- Mexican revolutionary Pancho Villa once slept there.
- Country balladeer Marty Robbins once wrote a hit song about it.
- Racquetball professional Dave Peck makes his home there.

For all most of us know about life "down in the West Texas town of El Paso," though, folks might still spend their days in gunfights, punching cows and downing one more tequila at Rosa's Cantina. They don't. They have since discovered other pursuits, even racquetball.

Of course El Paso isn't exactly a bright spot on the racquetball map, either. It has only one court club to serve 350,000 people spread out over more than 1,000 square miles. Still, because of what Dave Peck is doing down there, El Paso's name is about to be better known, at least in racquetball circles.

Peck's hometown is due for fame not just because of his own performance on the pro tour which, incidentally, has brought him to the circuit's uppermost ranks in only his second season. He also has gathered together a modern day Hole-in-the-Wall Gang of junior sharpshooters on whom he spends a lot of effort and who have been doing very well for themselves during periodic forays to other parts of the country.

Peck's Bad Boys (that's bad as in "ba-a-ad", meaning good) include Carlos and Luis Miranda, Ray Navarro, Steve and Edmund "The Hulk" Fuentes and Dave's brother, Gregg, among others. Dave sometimes tutors Luis' sister, Adriana, and his own sister, Cyd, but claims to "get embarrassed" when he teaches girls and leaves most of their lessons to Women's Texas Open Champ Leslie Moughan. All of the juniors, though, benefit from his attention.

Although the oldest is only 16 and most of the others about 13, Peck's Bad Boys and Girls are already a racquetball dynasty in the southwest.

Raw Meat

"I have a bunch of animals here," says Peck of his male crew. "These guys eat raw meat."

That's not intended to be a comment on their dietary habits, merely a former middle linebacker's way of saying that his kids play very tough racquetball. They may have the faces of angels, but their records show that Peck's charges do tend to get caniverous on the court.

Ray won the National Juniors 13 and Under championship in Tucson this year without losing a game. Gregg, a three-time Texas State Juniors champ and a two-time Southcentral Regionals champ, was runner-up in the Junior Nationals' tough 15 and Under category. Luis, who lost in the Junior 13 and Under semis to Ray, is the Texas 13 and Under champ, while sister Adriana holds both the girls' 10 and Under and 13 and Under state championships. There are any number of other impressive tournament wins and high finishes distributed among the group, but being a child racquetball prodigy isn't a prerequisite to membership.

"I'll teach anyone who has a sincere desire to learn," asserts Peck.

Actually most of his kids didn't start winning until after he took them under his wing. Asked if Peck had taught him very much of what he knows about racquetball 12-year-old Luis replies "David has taught me everything that I know about racquetball."

Peck gives each youngster an individual lesson once a week and the whole group will get together periodically, especially before a tournament. Basically, though, as the Supreme Court Club's teaching pro, he is just always there, keeping an eye on their progress.

"It's real loose," says Dave. "A lot of times when they are just playing for fun, I'll sit in the gallery and check them out. Then I tell them what they are doing wrong and they adjust it in the next game."

An easy going guy always ready with a joke or a smile Peck's relationship with his charges goes way beyond the club pro-to-student variety. He takes as much interest in their schoolwork as he does in their training, expecting them to excel in both. Schoolwork is one thing, but Peck is careful never to push his kids too hard in racquetball or make it seem like work to them. His laid back exterior, though, hides a real intensity about the sport.

"I always tell them just to go out and have fun," says Dave, "that it's a game first and that we should have a good time. But there's method to my madness. I work on them, challenge them. I make sure that they have the desire to win because, without that, there's no use in me teaching them anything."

Pinball Challenge

They all spend a lot of time together and there is an air of camaraderie among the group. But whether at the club or around the corner at the local pinball constabulary Peck finds ways to teach the kids to challenge themselves and each other.

"I think that just being competitive with them overall helps," he says. "We play backgammon, chess and pinball, too. I always tell them, 'Okay, I'm going to kick your butt.' That really gets them going."

It's the time honored technique called "the old needle." It was used effectively on Dave during his bubble-gum years by an older sister who, although only a slender five foot two, used to beat him with impunity in all their childhood sports and let him know about it afterward.

"It got to the point," recalls Dave, "that I just hated to lose so much that I stopped losing. She made me a half decent football player and an okay basketball player."

Peck's sister went on to play basketball for the University of North Carolina but, before she left, she introduced him to a sport she and her boyfriend had lately discovered: racquetball. Peck didn't have a regular racquet so—shades of Joe Sobek—he sawed off a tennis racquet and wrapped tape around the handle.

Gregg Peck



Edmund Fuentes



Adriana Miranda



Steve Fuentes



Cyd Peck



Carlos Miranda



Luis Miranda



Ray Navarro





That was in 1975 when he had just completed four years as a middle linebacker for El Paso's Andress High School and had moved into the same spot for the University of Texas, El Paso. It didn't take Dave long to realize, though, that racquetball professionals have a longer life expectancy than middle linebackers. He changed his sports major.

"The guys kept getting bigger as I went along," recalls Peck who himself weighed in at 215 lbs. during his football days. *"And, you have to remember, I don't like pain; I hate pain."*

He claims to be one of the lucky ones who got out of football with only minor assorted injuries and no broken bones. He is a "svelte" 185 lbs. now but still can't shake the "Beef" monicker Davey Bledsoe once hung on him during a match.

There may be no need. Scouting reports are that he is deceptively quick on the court with the kind of good lateral motion you might expect from a guy who spent five years having fullbacks run at him. Bledsoe discovered that at the Tanner Classic in Memphis this year where "Beef" snatched the finals victory from him after Bledsoe had done the hard work by beating Marty Hogan in the semis.

That gave Dave his first pro win and a number two national ranking.

Peck likes to incorporate some of the fun drills he used to do under 30 lbs. of football pads into the kids' pre-tournament sessions. Of course there's always competition to see who can do the most sit-ups, push-ups, windsprints et al. There is also both individual and group instruction.

"He spent a lot of time with me on my service return before the Nationals," recalls Ray, who believes his no-loss record in Tucson also was aided by Peck's presence at the big tournament.

Peck's Gang West

Another Peck fan is San Diegan Nancy Martin, racquetball mom to 13-year-old Nathan Martin who forms the West Coast chapter of Peck's gang.

"I think David is a special person," she says. *"He really takes time out, not just for the kids in El Paso, but also for Nathan and people in general. He's very sensitive to the needs of others and generous with his family and friends."*

Peck disdains credit for the El Paso group's success, pointing out that others like open players Joe Wittenbrunk and John Hellard also pitch in to help the youngsters. It's teamwork, he says, that makes it possible for such a relatively small group to accomplish so much.

"The El Paso kids are developing, not because Dave Peck is here," he maintains, *"but because we all care about what happens to each other out here. Gregg isn't worried about Ray coming up and beating him. He wants Ramon to get better and, if he isn't doing something right, Gregg tells him. It's just like one big family and, when Nathan comes to town, he's just like one of the gang."*

His kids are going to continue to be successful, says Peck, because the El Paso talent isn't spread out among 30 or 40 different clubs as it is in many cities.

"I don't like to brag," brags Peck, *"but El Paso is dominating juniors racquetball in Texas right now and it's all because we play together at the same club."*

That dominance is about to spill over into the adult ranks as well. Six foot two, 16-year-old Gregg, says Dave is *"the best Open player in the state right now."* Joe and John are right up there and, lately, Ray and Luis have begun playing in B tournaments *"just for the experience."* Then, of course, there's the top Texas gun himself who plans to be around for a few more years.

This rising of the El Paso cream doesn't mean, though, that the nation's juniors can look forward to a respite. Two time Texas juniors champ Adriana is only 10 years old; Peck's sister, Cyd, is only 12. Then there is seven-year-old Hamilton Peck who has been seen hitting the ball around lately.

"No backhand, but a mean forehand," says Dave.

It looks like racquetball will be hearing from El Paso for a long time to come. ●



Battle of the Network Stars

by Gregory W. Schmidt

Saturday evening, middle of November . . . I'm alone in the house. It's a free, unplanned night. I can occupy my time with the television, I guess. It faces me from the side of the room. Too common, this response of resorting to TV when preferring another diversion, any other.

On it comes, shadowing the room like the colored light of a Vegas sideshow. "The Bible", channel three—CBS. Having already seen it, in its entirety, I turn to channel six. Routinely I pass over NBC due to poor reception. I arrive on ABC's offering, annoyed at myself for not having fixed the antenna for UHF stations.

I see familiar faces washed in smiles and sunshine. What's the special occasion? "Battle of the Network Stars?" Is that what he said? Thousands in winnings? Must be for charities, like a telethon. They keep the money? These people seem fairly well off. I reach out. People do that when they need a change. The screen returns to its normal dark shade. I circle the room seeing that final image of commercial personalities in competition for money. My coat hangs near the door. I go for it.

The sunny, smile filled image is gone from my mind, now. All I see are the crystal reflections of ice in the trees. All I hear is the frozen slush under my feet. At the corner I realize I will have to make a decision after all, this evening. I turn right towards the lights. The street seems to be mine alone. It hits me. I run through my mind the fact that the television, itself, had actually prompted me out of my own warm house. I'd relied too much on it, then.

The lights in the rest home are still on. What am I doing? Casually—casually, mind you—I walk up the steps and straight into the lobby. Any other time this would be an uncomfortable effort for someone as reserved as myself. I loosen my coat and enter the lounge. Here they are—so old, so lonely together. Some sleep, but most gaze at it. It, the television, gazes back. The sadness of this sight comes like weight to my feet. I sit with them. Maybe they haven't yet seen "The Bible". Soon there is a stare from the one next to me. He mouths hello, though I don't hear his voice. Another looks. I ask how she is. Before an answer she's over next to me. Her face brightens; she wants to know my name. Other faces turn—more smiles, more warmth. Who am I here to visit, one asks. The image on the TV moves far into the background as the room comes alive with conversation.

What seems as too short an introduction to their thoughts is interrupted by the night nurse. Lights out. Ten more minutes on the television. I take my leave. As I walk, my senses are airborne. I almost begin to whistle, grateful for such an experience.

Not far, now. The library will save me from the elements. Still open. I'm inside. Bright eyes . . . fresh young faces . . . books to last a lifetime. Children laughing in the side room attract me. A puppet show—a real live puppet show! I study the bouncing characters, then I study the kids. I smile and nod to myself, amazed at how the young people relate to a performance staged in the cabinet of an old television set. As I move quietly from the room, knowing gazes follow me to the exit.

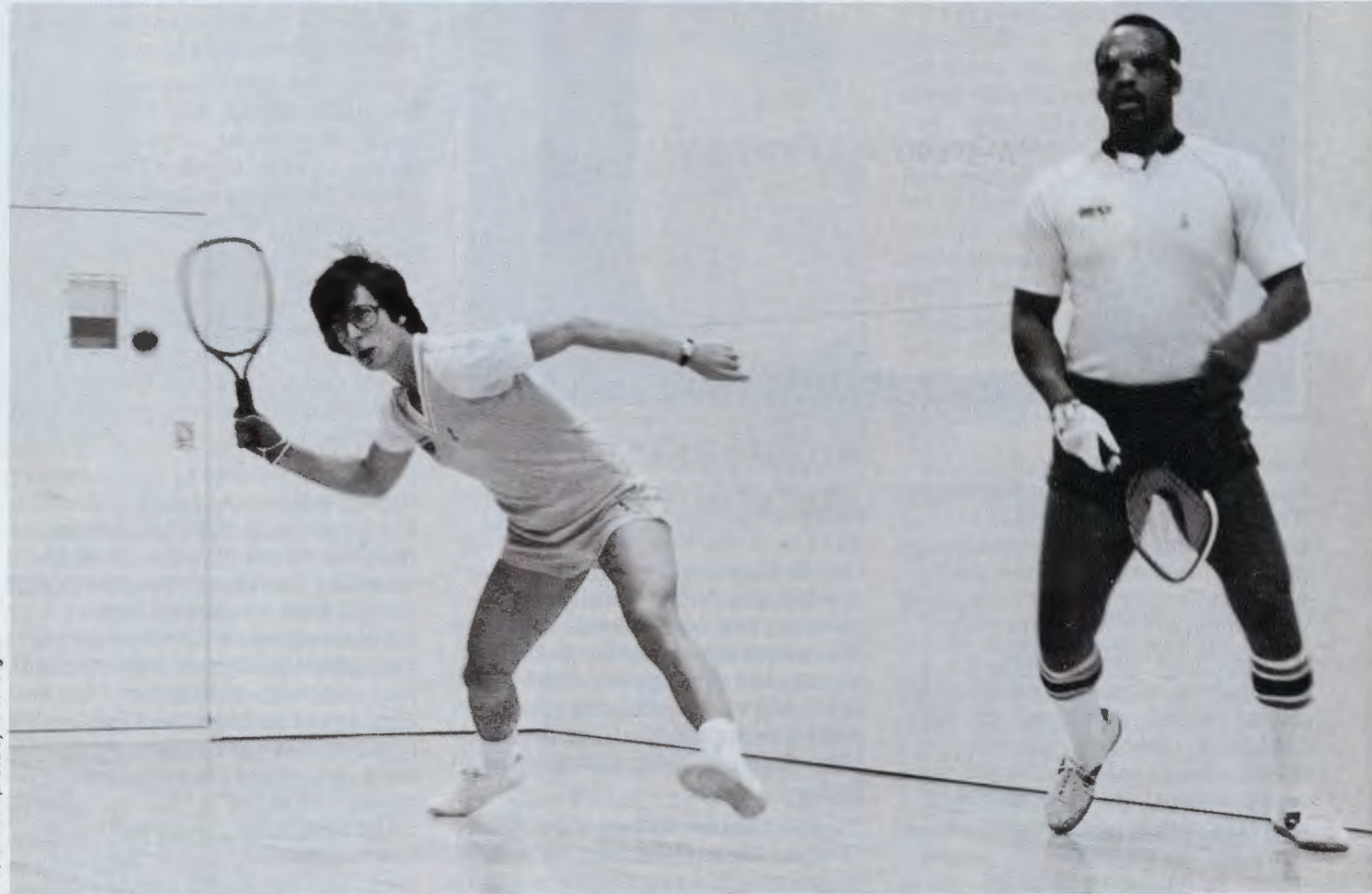
Still unsure if I need to find something to pass the evening hours, I continue along the street. A rhythmic noise falls into my mind's pace. I hear its bouncing, slamming. I hear the energy coming from the second story windows of the "Y". I stare remotely through the front door. A healthy red face comes toward me. He holds the door for me as he leaves. Open, huh? A nod here, a glance there. A small television behind the front desk entertains itself. The NBC reception is better here, but no one watches. A greeting and a pointed finger direct me toward the courts. I must look the type. After 20 minutes of watching the precision play and feeling the energy, I decide it's for me. On leaving I grab a brochure—the schedule for beginners racquetball.

The return is accompanied by new images and fresh thoughts made more emotional by the chill of the air. I'm back in the house, alone again. The hours were spent more fruitfully than I would have thought. I look down at the TV . . . still dark, still quiet. A sneaking smile emits over my little victory over it.

I realize what it was . . . thank you "Battle of the Network Stars." You really filled my evening. ●

Heather McKay All Pro Champion

Heather McKay defeated Al Oliver 21-20, 21-17 on her way to winning the Coors All Pro Championship Grand Finals.



— Studio One photo by G. J. Knight

Squash Champion Heather McKay played better racquetball than five professional male athletes to win \$40,000 for her first place finish in the Coors All Pro Racquetball Tour Grand Finals Jan. 11-13 at the Las Vegas Sporting House.

Total points determined the winner and order of finish in the \$100,000 Grand Finals. McKay accumulated 209 points, dropping only one game. Runner-up, Mike Michel, former Miami Dolphin and Philadelphia Eagle, earned 192 points for \$22,500; Texas Ranger Al Oliver finished third with 189 points for \$15,000; Dallas Cowboys Rafael Septien finished with 168 in fourth place, collecting \$10,000; Gail Goodrich, formerly of the Utah

Jazz, followed with 156 for \$7,500 and Washington Redskin Joe Theismann (substituting for injured Don Kessinger) was sixth with 127, receiving \$5,000.

"All my matches were difficult," McKay said. "I couldn't slacken off with any of my opponents because the points were so critical."

The 38-year-old Australian native who now lives in Toronto was one of six athletes who advanced to the Grand Finals from preliminary rounds held throughout 1979. More than 100 professional athletes from major league baseball, the NFL, NBA, NHL and such individual sports as golf, car racing, squash and motorcross competed in the qualifiers.

Results

McKay d. Michel 21-19, 21-13; Oliver d. Goodrich 21-10, 21-14; Septien d. Theismann 21-11, 21-15; Oliver d. Theismann 21-6, 21-14; Septien d. Michel 6-21, 21-20, 11-6; McKay d. Goodrich 21-14, 21-20, 11-7; Goodrich d. Theismann 21-16, 21-19; Oliver d. Michel 18-21, 21-14, 11-2; McKay d. Septien 21-15, 21-11.

McKay d. Oliver 21-20, 21-17; Michel d. Theismann 21-20, 21-6; Septien d. Goodrich 21-14, 21-16.

Eyeguards Forever for Don Kessinger

"Checkers" Success No Surprise, Says Squash Expert

by Tom Reinman

Frank Satterthwaite, a longtime squash competitor, observer and author of the widely acclaimed book, *The Three-Wall Nick and Other Angles*, was asked about Heather McKay after her \$40,000 win in the Coors All Pro Racquetball tournament in January.

The man who devoted a nearly 40-page chapter in his book to her squash exploits was not bashful.

"Heather is a very talented athlete who has won everything possible in squash. Her switch to racquetball and her success there is not much of a surprise."

Squash racquets has long been considered a game for purists, maybe even elitists, who have played for big trophies and small purses. The question of whether McKay (pronounced McHigh) was thought to be "defecting" to such a populist, Johnny-come-lately game as racquetball was posed.

"Going from squash to racquetball is like going from chess to checkers," said Satterthwaite. *"Understand, we have the greatest respect for the top racquetball players. Marty Hogan and some of the others are truly gifted athletes. What we mean by that is that it's easier to make the switch from squash to racquetball. That's why Heather's success is no great surprise. But as far as using the word 'defection,' how can you put bounds on the world's greatest athlete?"*

Dominant

Athlete means different things to different people, but McKay has been a world champion in squash 20 times. In the last 17 years she has lost no matches and only four games. No other competitor, on two legs or four, has ever been so dominant in any sport.

"There is hardly anyone more deserving [of the \$40,000] than Heather," offered Victor Neiderhoffer, a squash legend who has turned his attention to racquetball in recent months, and one who's attention has been riveted on capitalism for years.

"The key is, the more money anyone wins, the better it is for everyone. The fact that anyone can make that much is an incentive to succeed through hard work. In squash they want to keep money from players so they won't get spoiled. Racquetball is bringing out the best by offering money as a reward for effort."

Forty thousand dollars would easily make McKay the leading women's money winner, is more than the numbers six through 10 women have earned in total, and would place her fourth on the men's list.

While some of her rivals on the women's pro circuit are reluctant to say so publicly, they are very much aware of her overwhelming edge in experience and winning ways.

"I think they may be aware of my record," allowed McKay, *"but once they play me I don't think it's much of a consideration. I haven't been playing racquetball all those years, and they have to realize that once we play."*

And yet, as Satterthwaite pointed out, *"Given the edge she has in going from squash to racquetball and the fact that she is a great, great athlete, she's still only playing racquetball against somebody's uncle in Toronto. There's no competition up there. And yet she's still winning consistently."*

Knockout

"Bear in mind," advised Neiderhoffer, *"squash experience is helpful in bringing you to maybe the top five in racquetball, to a certain level. But after that it's harmful. The whole game of squash is one of tactics, gaining an advantage and improving that to a win. In racquetball you're looking for the knockout punch. The stroke is different. You're playing at a greater depth than in squash where corner shots and pinches are more important."*

"Heather is still playing like a squash player. With this success she's in a great position to grow. It would be terrible if her game stagnated."

McKay is the first to point out her weaknesses. Following her win at her first pro tour stop of this season in Tempe in November she said she was going home to work on her serve and her power game. That she does either before or after her working day as a squash teacher at the Toronto Squash Club, where she and her husband run the pro shop and give lessons.

"I'm looking forward to this," she said in Tempe. *"The girls are great and playing well, winning, is always fun. But I don't really play racquetball. They play racquetball."*

Call it racquetball, call it squash with a shorter racquet. Whatever, Heather McKay is playing it. And she has jumped from 15th to fourth in the women's rankings this year.

Leaving Them off Left Him out of \$40,000 Competition

Saturday, Jan. 5, at 9 p.m. Don Kessinger, playing at his club in Memphis, turned around to see how his wife, Carolyn, was reacting to his ace serve.

Trouble was — it wasn't an ace.

"Carolyn barely got the ball back, but she reached it and suddenly the ball had slammed right into my eye," recounts the former Chicago Cub and past manager of the Chicago White Sox.

"It didn't hurt, but it was bleeding. We went to the emergency room that night. They said it was okay — no vision impairment. But they told me I'd better not play for a while or I'd be taking a chance on getting a detached retina."

The "while" included the Grand Finals of the Coors All Pro Championship that started the following Friday in Las Vegas. Kessinger had qualified for the Grand Finals by winning the major league baseball preliminary competition in January of 1979. And odds were good that he would have left Las Vegas with a fat share of the \$100,000 Grand Final pot, if not the \$40,000 first prize.

"The money's not the issue," Kessinger says. *"The issue was*



Don Kessinger

my eyesight. It was a dumb thing to do — my fault all the way. To think that the eyeguards were right in front in the pro shop.

"I hadn't been wearing eyeguards as much as I should. But from now on I'll never be without them." ●

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Racquetball in the News

Tailgate Adventure

To Catch a Thief

by Mike Royko

Article by Mike Royko. Reprinted with
permission from *The Chicago Sun-Times*,
Nov. 21, 1979.

A Chicago street scene:

It's the Near North Side. Hope Hanley, an attractive young woman, is walking briskly toward a bus stop. She is on her way to play raquetball.

Sneaking up behind her is a skinny young man in jeans, a plaid jacket and long brown hair that falls across his brow.

The young man reaches out and grabs Ms. Hanley's purse. She feels the tug and pulls back. He pulls harder, so she pulls harder. For a moment, it is a standoff. Racquetball is apparently making modern young women stronger.

The impasse ends when the strap breaks. The young man takes off running with the cash end of the purse.

But Ms. Hanley doesn't just stand there trembling or swooning or stamping her dainty foot in frustration, as her granny might have done.

She bellows: "Hey, he has my purse! Stop him! Stop him!" And she runs after him at a rapid pace. Racquetball is apparently also making modern young women faster.

She is still yelling and is closing the gap when they get to the end of the block.

At that point, the young man jumps into a Cadillac driven by an accomplice. That's right, a Caddy. We talk about hard times coming in this country. But name me any other country on the face of the Earth where purse snatchers escape in Cadillacs. Damn it, it makes me proud to be an American.

Anyway, the thieves drive away. But Ms. Hanley isn't finished.

At that moment, a woman was parking her small Japanese car. She leaned out the window and said: "What's wrong?"

Ms. Hanley pointed at the departing Cadillac and said: "Those guys have my purse."

"Get in," said the woman in the Japanese car. "My name's Sheila. Let's catch them."

Sheila shifted into gear and away they went. The Caddy swung up Lincoln Ave., and Sheila zipped past a couple of cars, weaved in and out of traffic and began to close in.

She was very calm. "Now here's what you do. There is a paper and pen in my purse. Take it out and write down a description of the car, the color, the make and all that. Then when we get close enough, write down the license number. And write down a description of that man. Anything you can remember. Got that?"

"Got it," said Hope. It was just like on TV.

As Sheila tailed the Caddy, she kept blowing her horn, hoping to attract a police car or let other motorists know something was going on.

And that's what happened. Two men in another car somehow figured out that the two women were chasing the Caddy.

So they pulled ahead of the Caddy, slowed down, cut the wheel, stopped and blocked the way. The Caddy stopped. Sheila pulled her car up the Caddy's rear bumper so it couldn't back up without ramming her.

The Caddy was trapped.

The thief rolled down his window and tossed out the purse. The cowardly pup obviously hoped that would satisfy Ms. Hanley.

Computerized 33-page Report on the Racquetball Court Club Industry Now Available

World Court Clubs Association, in coordination with the Leisure Studies School, University of Illinois, has published this "must" report gained from a questionnaire that went out to court clubs in operation a year or more. You can gain the full insight into operations, costs, problem areas, trends, developments.



World Court Clubs Association
8303 E. Thomas Rd.
Scottsdale, AZ 85251
a/c 602 991-0253
Mort Leve, director.

She got out of the car, picked up her purse, looked in it and barked:

"Where's my wallet?"

"I don't have your wallet."

"Listen, you've got my wallet. And you're not going anywhere until I get it back."

"Honest, I don't."

"Shut up and give me my wallet."

"Listen lady, so help me, you looked just like the woman who snatched my sister's purse last week. I was just trying to get my sister's purse back for her."

"Your sister's purse?"

"Yeah, honest."

"Oh, come off it. Are you going to give me my wallet or am I...?"

Just then, the two men in the car that had cut off the Caddy opened their doors and got out.

They were much larger than the purse snatcher. The purse snatcher obviously noticed that because Ms. Hanley's wallet came flying out of the Caddy.

She picked it up and went through it. The cash was still there. So were the credit cards and the rest of her IDs.

"Is everything OK, lady?" one of the two men in the front car asked.

Ms. Hanley looked at the purse snatcher. He looked on the verge of fainting. His partner at the wheel was breathing hard enough to hyperventilate.

"Yeah, everything's OK now," Ms. Hanley said.

The two men got back in their car and left. The Caddy's tires squealed for half a block as it sped away.

"I figured that we couldn't hold them there forever," Ms. Hanley said. "We were blocking traffic. But I had their license number and description to give to the police."

Hope Hanley: Racquetball guards her against big city dangers.

As they drove back to their street, Sheila said: "That was fun. But I hope I didn't lose my parking space." Modern women are not only stronger and faster. But they are cool.

When Sheila gave the license number and description to the police, one of them said:

"Good work. They've been operating in this neighborhood for quite a while. But we ought to be able to pick them up with this. I think I know the kid who snatched your purse. He's no good. He's the kind of punk that'll be dead before he's 21."

Yeah. Probably of fright. ●

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— Jim Weiner photo



Racquetball

AVIS Avis and USRA We try harder. Team Up for 25 Percent Discount

In the rent-a-car world nobody knows for sure anymore just who number one really is. One thing is for sure — Avis does "try harder" and they are indeed number one in the eyes of the USRA.

Effective March 1 all USRA members will be given a 25 percent discount off normal time and mileage rates at computerized Avis Wizard locations in the 48 contiguous U.S. states and District of Columbia. Internationally, including Hawaii and Alaska, Avis will offer a 10 percent discount off the normal rate.

Avis' discount is not good on the special unlimited mileage programs periodically offered by the car rental firm. The program does not include collision damage waiver, personal accident insurance, local taxes or gasoline charges.

Studies show that many of our members do moderate to extensive traveling and require a rental car in their day to day business. One member recently told me that the new Avis discount could realistically save him over \$600 a year.

Avis will provide the USRA with specially imprinted cards good at 3,400 locations worldwide. These cards will then be distributed to members through sanctioned tournaments, state chairmen and our Skokie headquarters.

Needless to say we are pleased to be able to offer this type of program to our members. We are happy, indeed, that joining the USRA can save you money.

New Brackets for Open Players and Juniors

After testing it at a number of tournaments the USRA has decided to add a new competitive age bracket — an exciting division of play for the now mature Open player. The division — Veterans Open — will be an official bracket of play at both the regional and national Championships in 1980. Past Open stalwarts and highly successful competitors will now be able to play in an age bracket with many individuals closer to their own ages. The age bracket includes those 30 to 34 years old. All other USRA sanctioned tournaments are encouraged to offer this division in any and all of their competitions.

We feel the introduction of this division will rekindle a new sense of drive and competitive attitude for those that have left the tournament scene because of a frustration experienced by having to compete in many instances against someone from 10 to 18 years younger and because of not being able to devote the time to their game development due to work commitments.

In the Junior division — after observing our National Juniors Championships — we've decided to introduce a Girls 12 and Under. At both the Juniors Regionals and the Nationals there will be Girls 17 and Under, 15 and Under and 12 and Under.

For the Juniors boys 17 and Under, 15 and Under and 13 and Under divisions will be augmented by a 10 and Under age bracket at the 1980 Regionals and Nationals.

USRA Regionals Expanded to 14; Upwards of 9,000 Entrants Expected

A record 9,000 participants are expected in the 14 USRA Regional Championships slated for April 10-13, 1980. (Due to site availability, two regional championships will be contested the weekend of April 3-6. Check the entry blank in this issue for those two events.)

Regional Champions in both the Men's and Women's Open divisions will be awarded round trip air fare to the USRA National Championships June 1-7 in Las Vegas.

This year expanding from 12 to 14 regions will enable more players to attend regions more geographically convenient to them. Also players this year will be allowed to cross regional boundaries if a selected site is not convenient to them. But, in doing so, the following limitations have been set to assure fairness.

Any player choosing to play in other than his or her "home" regions may participate in a region only immediately adjacent to their home region. In addition these players must receive prior approval in writing from USRA headquarters. If you plan to do this, please give me a call at 312-673-4000.

Any player participating in an "away" region automatically disqualifies him or herself from all benefits derived from winning the Open division. The trip to the Nationals and resulting rankings will be awarded to the runner-up if an "away" player wins the Open division.

Entry blanks will appear in this and next month's issues of *National Racquetball*, along with listing of regional host sites.

All participants must be USRA members. A special new and renewal discount is available at \$8 for one year. Players may join prior to the event or at each specific tournament site.

Again Leach and Seamco will be providing specially designed shirts, and Seamco will provide the 600 ball.

Call me if you have any questions about the regionals.



United States Racquetball Association 1980 Regional Championships

* NOTE: the "Southeast" and "Central" Regionals will be contested April 3-6 — See Below
 ** NOTE: The "New England" Regional will be contested April 17-20 — See Below

ENTRY DEADLINE: All entry blanks and corresponding entry fees must be in the possession of tournament director by Friday, March 28, 1980 ("Southeast" and "Central" Regionals deadline is March 21, 1980)

ENTRY FEE: \$18 for one event, \$22 per Doubles Team, \$12 for second Singles event. Limit two events per player. (\$8 additional for non-USRA members).

OFFICIAL BALL: Seamco 600 (blue) in all events.

RULES OF SANCTION PLAY: All current USRA rules will govern play. No player having accepted \$1000 or more in prize money on NRC Pro Tour within last 12 months may enter amateur events.

ELIGIBILITY: All participants must be current USRA members. Membership applications and renewals will be available at host facility for an additional \$8.

AWARDS: Trophies to first three places in all events. Round-trip coach air fare for the winners of the men's and women's open divisions to the 1980 USRA National Championships June 1-7, 1980 in Las Vegas. Trips will only be awarded to those winners who play in the same event in the Nationals as they won in the regionals. Players crossing Regional boundaries not eligible for trip.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE AND MAIL ENTRIES TO: See reverse side this form. Starting times may be obtained by contacting host facility. See regional tournament information page.

NOTE: All entrants must play in the regional in which they reside as depicted by the boundaries set forth on the accompanying map. Players wishing to cross regional boundaries must obtain approval in writing from USRA Headquarters.

Region*1 - New England: Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Connecticut, Upstate New York

Region 2 - Northeast: Pennsylvania, Ontario, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Northern Virginia, New York City

Region 3 - Atlantic Coast: North Carolina, South Carolina, Southern Virginia, West Virginia

Region* 4 - Southeast: Georgia, Alabama, Florida

Region 5 - Ohio Valley: Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee

Region* 6 - Central: Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan

Region 7 - Southern: Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi

Region 8 - Northern: Minnesota, North & South Dakota

Region 9 - Midwest: Nebraska, Kansas, Iowa, Missouri

Region 10 - South Central: Texas, Oklahoma

Region 11 - Northwest: Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, Alaska

Region 12 - Rocky Mountain: Utah, Colorado, Wyoming

Region 13 - Southwest: Arizona, New Mexico

Region 14 - Western: California, Nevada, Hawaii

Please Enter Me In:

Mens Events

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ Open Singles | ☐ Super Golden Master Singles (60+) |
| ☐ Veteran Open (30+) | ☐ Mens B |
| ☐ Senior Singles (35+) | ☐ Mens C |
| ☐ Veteran Senior Singles (40+) | ☐ Open Doubles |
| ☐ Master Singles (45+) | ☐ Senior Doubles |
| ☐ Veteran Master Singles (50+) | ☐ Masters Doubles |
| ☐ Golden Master Singles (55+) | ☐ Golden Master Doubles |

Womens Events

- | |
|---------------------------------------|
| ☐ Open Singles |
| ☐ Womens B |
| ☐ Womens C |
| ☐ Open Doubles |

SHIRT SIZE: _____ Small _____ Medium _____ Large _____ X-Large

Name _____ Regional Number _____

State representing _____ Please print

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

USRA Membership card Exp. Date _____

Business phone _____ Home phone _____

Doubles Partner _____

Please print

WAIVER

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

Date _____

Signature _____



1980 USRA Regional Tournament Information

** Region 1 - New England

SITE: Court House One, 47 Hartford Turnpike, Vernon, CT 06066

PHONE: (203) 649-0547

DIRECTOR: Ron Mirek

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO AND MAIL ENTRY TO:
Court House One

Region 2 - Northeast

SITE: Branmar Racquetball Club, 1812 Marsh Road, Wilmington, DE 19810

PHONE: (302) 475-2125

DIRECTOR: Debbie Mayhart

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO AND MAIL ENTRY TO:
Branmar Racquetball Club

Region 3 - Atlantic Coast

SITE: Carolina Courts of Raleigh, 1207 Front St., Raleigh, N. Carolina 27609

PHONE: (919) 832-5513

DIRECTOR: Jim Adams

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO AND MAIL ENTRIES TO:
Carolina Courts

* Region 4 - Southeast

*This Regional being played April 3-6, 1980

SITE: COURT SOUTH - Akers Mill Square, 2971 Cobb Parkway, Atlanta, GA 30339

PHONE: (404) 261-6065

DIRECTOR: Wayne Vincent

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO AND MAIL ENTRIES TO:

Region 5 - Ohio Valley

SITE: Arlington Court Club, 5005 Arlington Centre Blvd., Columbus, OH 43220

PHONE: (614) 451-1930

DIRECTOR: Phil Stepp

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO AND MAIL ENTRIES TO:
Arlington Court Club

* Region 6 - Central

*Note - This Regional will be played April 3-6, 1980

SITE: Killshot Ltd., 321 Edgewater Drive, Bloomington, IL 61810

DIRECTOR: Al Shetzer

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO AND MAIL ENTRIES TO:
Triple S Promotions, Box "D", Posen, IL 60469,
(312) 371-2555

TOURNAMENT HEADQUARTERS: Carson Inn, Itasca, IL
(312) 773-2750

Region 7 - Southern

SITE: Wallbanger Court Clubs, 7069 Perkins Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70808

PHONE: (504) 789-4120

DIRECTOR: Don Griffin

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO AND MAIL ENTRIES TO:
Wallbanger

Region 8 - Northern

SITE: The Blain Racquet Club, 9199 Central Ave. N.E., Minneapolis, MN 55434

PHONE: (612) 780-1400

DIRECTOR: Dave Hart

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE AND MAIL ENTRIES TO:
Blain Racquet Club

TOURNAMENT HEADQUARTERS: McGuire's Restaurant
and Inn, 1201 W. County Road E, Roseville, MN 55112
(612) 636-4123

Region 9 - Midwest

SITE: Dales Courts, 11301 W. 88th St., Overland Park, KS 66214

PHONE: (913) 888-9247

DIRECTOR: Rick Newcomer

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO AND MAIL ENTRIES TO:
Dales Courts

Region 10 - South Central

SITES: Racquetball & Handball Club of San Antonio,
7700 Torino Drive, San Antonio, TX 78229 and
Racquetball & Handball Club of San Antonio, 121
N.W. Loop 410, San Antonio, TX 78216

PHONE: (512) 344-8596

DIRECTOR: Bruce Hendin

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO AND MAIL TO:
Racquetball

Clubs of San Antonio, Box 32145, San Antonio,
TX 78216

TOURNAMENT HEADQUARTERS: LaQuinta, Attn: Harold
Hooper, 9542 IH 10W, San Antonio, TX 78230

Region 11 - Northwest

SITE: Lloyd Center Court, 815 N. Halsey, Portland, OR 97232

PHONE: (503) 287-4594

DIRECTOR: Molly Mankertz

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO AND MAIL ENTRIES TO:
Lloyd Center Court

Region 12 - Rocky Mountain

SITE: Fountain of Youth, Town & Country Racquet Club
2250 So. 800 W., Salt Lake City, UT 84107

PHONE: (801) 262-7487

DIRECTOR: Vincent Brown

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO AND MAIL ENTRIES TO:
Fountain of Youth, Town & Country Racquet Club,
2250 So. 800 W., Salt Lake City, UT 84107

TOURNAMENT HEADQUARTERS: Quality Inn, 4465
Century Dr., Murray, UT 84107 (801) 268-2533

Region 13 - Southwest

SITE: Santa Fe Court House & Spa, 1931 Warner Ave.,
Santa Fe, New Mex. 87501

PHONE: (505) 471-5011

DIRECTORS: Richard Paulson - Eric Sanchez

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO AND MAIL ENTRIES TO:
Santa Fe Courthouse & Spa

Region 14 - Western

SITE: Tournament House Racquetball Club, 6250
Brockton

Ave., Riverside, CA 92506

PHONE: (714) 682-7511, (714) 825-2072

DIRECTORS: Vance Lerner - Jerry Connine

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO AND MAIL TO:
Tournament House, Vance Lerner

Dates • April 10-13, 1980

* NOTE: The "Southeast" and "Central"
Regionals will be contested
April 3-6 — See Below

** NOTE: The "New England"
Regional will be contested
April 17-20 — See Below



Is Your Racquetball Improving?

Keep track of your records — scorecards, local newspaper clips, club lists, etc. — to submit to *National Racquetball's* second annual Most Improved Player contest. Improvement between June of 1979 and June 1980 counts in the contest, with winners announced next fall. Each state's winners (in only those states where winners qualify) receive a lifetime membership in the USRA (with its built in subscription to *National Racquetball*) and other valuable prizes.



South Dakota We Need Your Help

We're looking for a racquetball lover — a man or a woman — who would like to volunteer to promote racquetball in that great state of South Dakota. We're waiting for your collect call (to Bob Keenan) at 312-673-4000.

Upcoming Events

March 21-23

Oklahoma State Singles Championships, Benien Courts East, 11444 E. 20th Pl., Tulsa 74128, 918-438-0193, Tournament Director Bill Stewart

March 21-23

Kansas State Singles and Doubles Championships, Dales Courts, 11301 W. 88th, Overland Park 66204, Tournament Director Rick Newcomer

March 28-30

Massachusetts State Singles Championships, Racquetball International, 12 A St., Burlington 01803, 617-273-1025, Tournament Director Joann Johnson

March 28-30

Vermont State Doubles Championships, The Racquets Edge, 4 Morse Dr., Essex Junction 05452, 802-879-7734, Tournament Director Tom O'Dwyer



USRA State Affiliates

Alabama

Jerry O'Neal
2704 Mont Royal Cir.
Birmingham 35205
205-326-0036

Alaska

Kevin Delaney/Pres.
Deno Paolini/V. Pres.
4025 MacInnes
Anchorage 99504
907-344-0541

Arizona

Chuck Hallock
Marc's Backwall
P.O. Box 275
Tempe 85281
602-967-0001
John Marsh
Phoenix/Metro Chairman
(Central)
602-247-2041
Casey Blitt
Tucson/Metro Chairman
(Southern)
602-626-6239

Arkansas

James Bixier
1205 Caddo Apt. #9
Arkadelphia 71923
501-246-9864

California

Scott Deeds
5920 Appian Way
Long Beach 90803
213-439-5838

Colorado

Paul Swoboda
c/o City Hall
1777 Broadway
Boulder 80307
303-441-3400

Connecticut

Jack Fruin
The Courtside
at Cromwell
10 Hillside Rd.
Cromwell 06416
203-635-5400

Delaware

Eric Faddis
75 East Main St.
Box 174
Newark 19711
302-366-1868

Florida

Sabra Hadaway
Corner Court House
1301 W. Copens Rd.
Pompano Beach 33064
305-974-4310

Georgia

Wayne Vincent
3288 Cochise Dr.
Atlanta 30339
404-432-2120

Hawaii

Jane Goodwill
Central YMCA
401 Atkinson Dr.
Honolulu 96814
808-941-3344

Idaho

Dirk Burgard
130 N. Placer
Idaho Falls 83401
208-523-0600

Illinois

Alan Shetzer
570 East Higgins Rd.
Elk Grove Village 60007
312-439-3030

Indiana

Jim Stevens
7590 Harcourt Rd.
Indianapolis 46260
317-297-1713

Iowa

Greg Steger
(Co-Chairman)
2526 Nevada
Davenport 52804
319-386-6310
Nick Palen
(Co-Chairman)
3352 Fodthill Dr.
Dubuque 52001
319-556-7007

Kansas

Rick Newcomer
11301 W. 88th St.
Overland Park 66214
913-888-9247

Kentucky

Ray Sabbatine Jr.
500 Lake Tower Dr.
Unit #110
Lexington 40502
606-269-4280

Louisiana

Larry Bobbitt
117 Doucet Rd.
Lafayette 70503
318-984-7256

Maine

Danny Sullivan
7 Arlington Ave.
Westbrook 04902
207-854-8623

Dave Travis

Co-Chairman
27 Rocky Hill Rd.
Cape Elizabeth 04107
Joanne Johnson
Co-Chairman
RB International
12 "A" Street
Burlington 01803

Massachusetts

Jim McConchie
RB International
12 "A" Street
Burlington 01803
617-273-1025

Michigan

Dennis Wood
2808 S. Deerfield
Lansing 48910
517-882-8789

Minnesota

Robert M. Adam
Diamond Intl. Corp.
7600 Parklawn Ave.
Suite 228
Edina 55435
612-835-6515

Mississippi

Chuck Miner
2625 Courthouse Circle
Jackson 39208
601-932-4800

Missouri

Ron York
1012 W. 104th St.
Kansas City 64114
816-942-6436

Montana

Russ Miller
Shepherd 59070
406-373-6390

Nebraska

Kerry Fosse
Racqueteer Ltd.
1336 South 119th St.
Omaha 68144
402-334-2222
Dick Kincaid
Co-Chairman
Sports Courts
222 North 44th St.
Lincoln 68503

Nevada

Phil Waldman
5248 Caspian Dr.
Las Vegas 89118
702-873-7349

New Hampshire

Robert Blier
P.O. Box 333
Manchester 03105
603-627-2254

New Jersey

Doug Clark
23 Holmes Lane
Marlton 08053
609-983-3600

New Mexico

Gary Mazaroff
8100 Mountain Rd. N.E.
Albuquerque 87110
505-266-9213

New York (Mid-Hudson)

Tom Flannery
3A Alpine Dr.
Wappingers Falls 12590
914-297-5010

New York (Upstate Assn.)

Lori Nave
115 Westminster Rd.
Rochester 14607
716-423-1217

North Carolina

Jim Adams
Carolina Court Inc.
1207 Front St.
Raleigh 27609
919-332-5513 (Off.)
919-556-1256 (Res.)

South Carolina

Charlie White
RPA Clemson Univ.
Clemson 29631
803-656-2477

North Dakota

Kathy Schwartz
YMCA 400 1st Ave. South
Fargo 58103
701-293-9622

Ohio

Ron Akins
2500 Hollyview, N.E.
North Canton 44721
216-492-7210

Oklahoma

Bill Stewart
12235 E. 38th Pl.
Tulsa 74145
918-628-0575 (Res.)
918-832-2453 (Off.)

Oregon

Mollie Mankertz
Lloyd Center Court
815 N. Halsey
Portland 97232
503-287-4594

Pennsylvania

Jim Pruitt
Center City Sports Club
1818 Market St.
Philadelphia 19103
215-963-0963

Rhode Island

Jerry Melaragno
15 Reva Street
N. Providence 02911
401-274-4900 #569

Tennessee

Lyle Adams
5050 Poplar
Suite #303
Memphis 38157
901-761-2214

Texas

Dewey Strickland
2505 Inwood
Houston 77019
713-528-7202

Utah

Vincent Brown
4300 South 300 West
Murray 84107
801-262-9414

Vermont

Tom O'Dwyer
9 Elsom Parkway
S. Burlington 05401
802-862-3435

Virginia

Ed Remen
P.O. Box 218
Sterling 22170
703-430-0666

Washington

Douglas A. Wilson
5817 - 57 Ave., N.E.
Seattle 98105
206-524-3037

West Virginia

Dave Taylor
Rec. —
Intramural Sports Off.
Stansbury Hall, —
W.V.U.
Morgantown 26506
304-293-5221

Wisconsin

Joe Wirkus
4912 Hammersley Rd.
Madison 53711
608-274-8746

Wyoming

Dan Sell
2311 Hanway
Casper 82601
307-237-2208

Canada

Canadian Racquetball
Assoc.
333 River Rd.
Vanier City, Ontario
K1L 8B9
613-745-1247



Second Annual Men's and Women's USRA National Intercollegiate Championships

March 28-30, 1980

Note: All entrants report to tournament site March 28, 3 p.m. CST.

ELIGIBILITY: Participant must be an *undergraduate* student at an accredited university or college who is a full time student as defined by the regulations of the institution. Players may take part in ONE EVENT ONLY, and a player who has accepted any prize money in any National Racquetball Club professional event is ineligible for this tournament. All players must submit valid proof of being a full time student along with the entry form on the bottom of this page, or the entry will be disallowed.

SITE: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign • Room 170 Intramural-Physical Education Building • 201 Peabody Drive • Champaign, IL 61820 • Phone 217-328-3143 (after 6 p.m. CST).

FACILITIES: 23 regulation courts, one glass wall championship exhibition court (seating for 200), complete athletic facilities.

ENTRY FEES: \$20 per individual (\$75 per four-person team 2 singles, 2 doubles) both men and women.

ENTRY DEADLINE: Monday, March 17, 1980. Entry fee must accompany application. Entries postmarked later than March 17, 1980, will be returned unopened. No phone entries.

SANCTION: By United States Racquetball Association (USRA). Tournament seeding and final jurisdiction in all matters pertaining to rules interpretations and tournament procedure is the sole responsibility of the USRA. Participants must be in compliance with USRA official rules (with the exception of the USRA \$1,000 amateur rule).

OFFICIAL BALL: Seamco 600 (blue) in all events.

AWARDS: Joseph G. Sobek Cup goes to championship men's and women's teams. Trophies awarded to first four places in all divisions. 'All American' certificates to first four places in all singles divisions and first two teams in all doubles events. Hospitality and souvenir item to all players.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Donald Webb

MAIL CHECKS AND ENTRY FORM TO: Donald Webb, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Room 170 Intramural-Physical Education Building, 201 Peabody Drive, Champaign, IL 61820.

TOURNAMENT ACCOMMODATIONS: Dormitory reservations one block from the tournament site are available through Robert J. Henderson, 150 Clark Hall, Conference Housing, Champaign, IL 61820, 217-333-1766. Rates are \$7.50 per night, per person, double occupancy for March 28-30 plus 5 percent tax. No reservations accepted after March 17. Hotel reservations may be made at the Ramada Inn, 1505 S. Neil St., Champaign, IL 61820, 217-352-7891 or 800-228-2828. Due to local state basketball tournament we strongly suggest motel accommodations be made well in advance.

TEAM AND INDIVIDUAL SCORING: Only one four-person official team per school (two singles and two doubles players) in both men's and women's divisions can score points toward the team championships (Sobek Cup). Team players must be ranked according to #1 singles and #2 singles as decided by each school. Individual players, in both singles and doubles, can enter, but those wins do not count toward team championship points. Scoring shall be as follows: Only one team may compete for scholarship.

#1 Singles 1st-10 pts. • 2nd-8 pts. • 3rd-6 pts. • 4th-4 pts.

#2 Singles 1st-8 pts. • 2nd-6 pts. • 3rd-4 pts. • 4th-2 pts.

Quarterfinalists-2 pts.

Doubles 1st-10 pts. • 2nd-8 pts. • 3rd-6 pts. • 4th-4 pts.

Quarterfinalists-2 pts.

EYEGUARDS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED!

Name of School _____

Singles

Official School Team Entry: Male ☐ Female ☐ (Must Have Four Names)

1. _____ Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

2. _____ Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

3. _____ Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

4. _____ Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Doubles Team (Two Names)

1. _____ Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

2. _____ Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Individual Entry (Not Representing School Team) Singles Only

_____ Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Waiver: I hereby for myself and my agents waive and release any and all rights and claims for damages I might have against the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and the United States Racquetball Association (USRA) and any of their agents, for any and all injuries received by me in connection with this tournament.

Signature _____ Date _____ If 18 or under, Parent or Guardian _____ Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____ If 18 or under, Parent or Guardian _____ Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____ If 18 or under, Parent or Guardian _____ Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____ If 18 or under, Parent or Guardian _____ Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____ If 18 or under, Parent or Guardian _____ Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____ If 18 or under, Parent or Guardian _____ Date _____

1980 USRA Intercollegiates set for March 28-30; \$10,000 in Scholarships Awaits The Winners

The USRA Intercollegiate Championships will again be hosted by the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana, and Leach and Seamco will again provide \$10,000 in scholarships to the winners and their respective universities.

Donald Webb, who will direct the event for the second year, says *"The interest created last year for this year's event has been overwhelming. If we don't double the number of universities that participate, I'd be surprised."*

Entry blanks and complete guidelines and instructions to students are available in this issue (page 32). Once again only full time students from recognized colleges will be eligible and proof of this eligibility must accompany the entry form. Any indi-

vidual player or university with questions should contact Don Webb at U of I (217-333-6847) or USRA headquarters (312-673-4000).

Listed below are the participant universities from last year. Let's hear from yours this year!

University of Texas - Austin . . .
University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee . . .
Southern Illinois University - Carbondale . . .
Lake Superior State College - Sault Ste. Marie, MI . . .
University of Wisconsin - Madison . . .
Erie Community College - Erie, PA . . .
State University College - Oneonta, NY . . .
University of Wisconsin - Oshkosh . . .
Lake Forest College - Lake Forest, IL . . .
College of Lake County - Lake County, IL . . .
University of Wisconsin - Wausau . . .
University of Minnesota - St. Paul . . .
Bethel College - Minnetonka, MN . . .
University of

Texas - Arlington . . .
Arizona State University - Tempe . . .
Utah State University - Logan . . .
Canisius College - Williamsville, NY . . .
U.S.A.F. Academy - Colorado Springs, CO . . .
University of Illinois (Chicago Circle Campus) . . .
Stanford University - Palo Alto, CA . . .
University of Michigan - Ann Arbor . . .
Scottsdale Community College - Tempe, AZ . . .
Dawson College - Westmount, Quebec . . .
University of Colorado - Boulder . . .
University of New York - Buffalo . . .
St. Cloud State University - St. Cloud, MN . . .
Indiana University - Bloomington . . .
Eastern Illinois University - Charleston . . .
University of Illinois - Urbana . . .
Memphis State University . . .
Purdue University - West Lafayette, IN . . .



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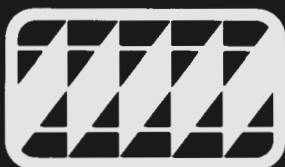
by **inventing** a simple and efficient installation method complete with the technical supervision which allows

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(901) 795-3722

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Toronto, Canada

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.

Manager Health Club

Builder has under construction ultra modern health club, racquetball and squash (30 courts); restaurant seating approximately 250 people, with liquor license.

Seeking manager for racquetball and health club.

Opening early spring. Excellent location in Bergen County, N.J.; few miles from sports complex. Tremendous opportunity for qualified individual. Send resume to King's Court, 590 Belleville Turnpike, Kearny, NJ 07032

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North Palm Beach,
Florida 33408

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School Sports &
Physical Education

Tournament Results

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.

Michigan

The fifth annual Scottish Open was held Nov. 3 and 4 at Alma College in Alma in cooperation with Ithaca Community Education.

Results

Men's A

Quarter-finals: Tom Brownlee d. John Raducha 21-12, 21-6, Tim Hahn d. Harley Davis 21-12, 19-21, 11-5, Lee Bentsen d. Jack Raducha 21-13, 21-6, Lynn Hahn d. Brent Campbell 21-14, 21-16

Semi-finals: Brownlee d. T. Hahn 21-15, 21-9, L. Hahn d. Bentsen 21-9, 21-19

Finals: Brownlee d. L. Hahn 21-15, 21-5 3rd: T. Hahn d. Bentsen 21-14, 21-14, Cons: Jack Raducha d. John Raducha, 21-20, 21-20

Men's B (Double Elimination)

Quarter-finals: Vic Beard d. Terry Cheney 21-18, 21-10, Doug Sheperdigian d. Rob Penner 21-12, 21-10, Rob Penner d. Terry Cheney 21-10, 21-20

Semi-finals: Beard d. Sheperdigian 21-10, 16-21, 11-5, Sheperdigian d. Penner, 21-17, 21-15

Finals: Sheperdigian d. Beard (default)

Women's B: (Double Elimination)

Quarter-finals: Joey Ancona d. Dianne Driver 21-5, 21-4, Pam Bauer d. Kathy Brownlee 21-14, 17-21, 11-4, Kathy Brownlee d. Dianne Driver 21-18, 21-7

Semi-finals: Ancona d. Bauer 21-13, 21-8, Bauer d. Brownlee 21-17, 21-5

Finals: Ancona d. Bauer 21-5, 21-5

Men's C

Quarter-finals: Keith Haske d. Daniel David 21-17, 21-16, Gordon Smith d. Steven Marx 4-21, 21-20, 11-4, Steve Lutenski d. Peter Del Favero forfeit, Carl Ludtke d. Bob Conner 9-21, 21-13, 11-7

Semi-finals: Haske d. Smith 21-4, 21-3, Lutenski d. Ludtke 21-20, 21-16

Finals: Haske d. Ludtke 21-13, 21-6 3rd: Ludtke d. Smith 21-2, 21-4, Cons: David d. Conner 21-15, 21-13

Men's Doubles

Quarter-finals: Tom Brownlee/Rob Penner d. Robert Coles/Gordon Smith 21-6, 21-4, Lee Bentsen/Doug Sheperdigian d. Steve Marx/Brent Campbell forfeit, Jack Raducha/John Raducha d. Will Sagmoen/Paul Sweeney 21-16, 21-8

Semi-finals: Brownlee/Penner d. Hahn/Hahn 21-14, 21-12, Bentsen/Sheperdigian d. Raducha/Raducha 21-16, 14-21, 11-9

Finals: Brownlee/Penner d. Bentsen/Sheperdigian 21-20, 13-21, 11-0 3rd: Hahn/Hahn d. Raducha/Raducha 18-21, 21-14, 11-9

Juniors (Double Elimination)

Quarter-finals: Chris Cole d. Kregg Raducha 21-10, 21-15, Jason Cole d. Scott Showers 21-2, 21-3, Raducha d. Showers 21-2, 21-5

Semi-finals: C. Cole d. J. Cole 21-1, 21-3, Raducha d. J. Cole 21-13, 21-6

Finals: Cole d. Raducha 21-2, 21-2

Indiana

Racquetball South in Indianapolis hosted the second annual Turkey Tournament Nov. 30-Dec. 2. The three day event drew 167 participants from Racquetball East, Racquetball South and Racquetball West.

Results

Men's A

Quarter-finals: Charles Gordon d. Ron Collins, Chuck McCallion d. Geoffrey Gooch, Mike McClay d. John Ramsay, Barry Kiesel d. Paul Kruger for qualifier, Kiesel d. Bob Fisher

Semi-finals: McCallion d. Gordon, McClay d. Kiesel

Final: McCallion d. McClay; 3rd-Kiesel d. Gordon, Cons: Ramsay d. Gooch

Men's B

Quarter-finals: Dean Olson d. Gerald Kraus, Vince Griffin d. Robert Danner, Bud Wade d. Tom Turnbaugh, Dave Vallancourt d. Ray Watts

Semi-finals: Griffin d. Olson, Vallancourt d. Wade

Finals: Griffin d. Vallancourt, 3rd-Wade d. Olson, Cons: Denny Dodson d. Danner

Men's C

Quarter-finals: Matt Harrell d. Ed Roberson, Bill Benz d. Michael Maurer, Vernie May d. Michael Sublette, Rich Fuhs d. Dave Visker

Semi-finals: Fuhs d. May, Harrell d. Benz

Final: Fuhs d. Harrell, 3rd-May d. Benz, Cons: Steve Hartman d. Bob Chaney

Men's Novice

Quarter-finals: Steve Seiler d. Dave Gandolph, Pete Murphy d. Jeff West, Bob Brown d. Brian Freese, Don Browning d. Mike McClaskey

Semi-finals: Murphy d. Seiler, Brown d. Browning

Finals: Brown d. Murphy, 3rd-Browning d. Seiler, Cons: Mike Hackett d. Bob LeClerc

Men's 35 and Over

Quarter-finals: Leo Cox d. James Donnelly, Richard Frye d. Jim Klein forfeit, Ed Rankin d. John Saunders, Charles Douglass d. Don Timmerman

Semi-finals: Cox d. Frye, Douglass d. Rankin

Finals: Cox d. Douglass, 3rd-Rankin d. Frye, Cons: Jim Klein d. Bill Lindner

Women's B

Qualifying Rounds Division I: Beth Pennington d. Karey Hollandbeck, Michelle Overton d. Brenda Hawkins, Hollandbeck d. Hawkins, Overton d. Pennington, Overton d. Hollandbeck, Pennington d. Hawkins

Qualifying Rounds Division II: Teresa Shidler d. Carol Taylor, Mary Van Hoy d. Veronica Krupinski, Shidler d. Van Hoy, Krupinski d. Taylor, Krupinski d. Shidler, Van Hoy d. Taylor

Playoff Division II: Shidler d. Van Hoy

Championship: Shidler d. Overton, 3rd-Van Hoy d. Pennington

Women's C

Quarter-finals: Jan Armstrong d. Kathy Cantrell, Janet Junk d. Barb Mohr, Joyce Wyatt d. Ginny Burney, Arlene Sebert d. Jan Denton

Semi-finals: Junk d. Armstrong, Sebert d. Wyatt

Finals: Sebert d. Junk, 3rd-Armstrong d. Wyatt, Cons: Judy Reed d. Mohr

Women's Novice

Quarter-finals: Ann Gandolph d. Anna Gunnion, Maria Smith d. Sarah Beckman, Leslie Richardson d. Toni Lea McClamon, Pam Owen d. Judy Klein

Semi-finals: Gandolph d. Smith, Richardson d. Owen

Finals: Gandolph d. Richardson, 3rd-Owen d. Smith, Cons: Linda Breedlove d. Linda Whitfield

Ohio

Bowling Green State University's new nine million dollar student recreation center was the site of a USRA tournament Nov. 2-4.

Results

Men's Open: 1st-Kelvin Vantrease, 2nd-Mark Nash, Cons: Keith Tidd

Kelvin Vantrease, left, beat Mark Nash in the Men's Open finals of the Bowling Green tourney.



Connie Warley, left, defeated Linda Dolgin in the semis to become the Women's Open champion at the Bowling Green State University tournament.

Women's Open: 1st-Connie Warley, 2nd-Sue Tarquinto

Men's B: 1st-Gary Hasselschwert, 2nd-Gary Thorton

Women's B: 1st-Connie Zilli, 2nd-Sue Brown

Men's C: 1st-Dave Foos, 2nd-Dave Egan, Cons-Joe Geary

Women's C: 1st-Sue Williams, 2nd-Connie Rehfeldt, Cons-Laura Radice

Ohio

Fourteen Dayton area racquetball facilities sent over sixty men and women players to participate in the Second Annual WHIO Radio Racquetball Championship Tournament, which was held at four Dayton area Circuit Courts clubs Dec. 13-16.

Results

Women's Open

Quarter-finals: Sandy Brickley d. Eileen Crotty 21-1, 21-11, Cherly Moore d. Jennifer Plotter 21-13, 21-14, Barb Warnick d. Becky Sheehan 21-14, 21-10, Barb Young d. Deb Shartle 21-11, 21-9

Semi-finals: Brickley d. Moore 21-11, 15-21, 11-8, Young d. Warnick 21-4, 21-13

Finals: Young d. Brickley 21-20, 21-12 3rd: Moore d. Warnick 21-14, 21-14

Sandy Brickley sets up for a backwall shot against Barb Young in the women's open finals of the WHIO Radio Racquetball Championship Tournament.

— Tim Hemker photo



Men's Doubles

Quarter-finals: Jim Marsh/Ray Huss (DCEE) d. Cole Kiser/Russ Schneider (KTC) 21-10, 21-7, Tony Berkemeier/Carl Fischer (ECC) d. Tom Spence/Dave Rauhoff (DCCS) 21-11, 9-21, 11-2, Randy Frees/Dave Miller (DCH) d. Dave Kronour/Alan Elovitz (JCC) 21-12, 21-8, Don Smith/Dan Cartee (WPAFB) d. Terry Murray/Don Boyer (YMCA) 21-19, 21-9

Semi-finals: Marsh/Huss d. Berkemeier/Fischer 21-6, 21-15, Smith/Cartee d. Frees/Miller 21-8, 21-17

Finals: Smith/Cartee d. Marsh/Huss 12-21, 21-20, 11-6

Women's Doubles (Round-robin, 5 rounds)

Round 1: Shirley Sabo/Barb Charnock (ECC) d. Rosie Kidd/Donna Christian (DCEE) 20-21, 21-13, 11-9, Deb Shartle/Barb Warnick (DCCS) d. Karen Weber/Pat Stallard (DCCN) 21-19, 21-8

Round 2: Weber/Stallard d. Sabo/Charnock 21-14, 21-12, Kidd/Christian d. Debby Myers/Pam Swaim (DCH) 21-15, 21-19

Round 3: Shartle/Warnick d. Sabo/Charnock 21-8, 21-3, Weber/Stallard d. Myers/Swaim 18-21, 21-4, 11-6

Round 4: Sabo/Charnock d. Myers/Swaim 21-16, 18-21, 11-1, Shartle/Warnick d. Kidd/Christian 21-5, 21-11

Round 5: Weber/Stallard d. Kidd/Christian 21-15, 15-21, 11-1, Shartle/Warnick d. Myers/Swaim 21-8, 21-19

Men's Open

Quarter-finals: Jim Marsh d. Don Smith 21-14, 21-6, Dave Miller d. Randy Frees 21-4, 21-15, Ray Huss d. Textor 21-13, 21-13, Danny Cartee d. Tony Berkemeier 21-10, 21-16

Semi-finals: Marsh d. Miller 21-11, 21-6, Cartee d. Huss 21-18, 7-21, 11-6

Finals: Marsh d. Cartee 20-21, 21-19, 11-5 3rd: Miller d. Huss, 15-21, 21-10, 11-3

Alabama

The first annual Tiger Open was held at The Racquet Club in Auburn Jan. 4-6.

Results

Men's Open: 1st: Jim Cullen, 2nd: Bryce Anderson, 3rd: Jay Schwartz

Men's B: 1st: Bob Latham, 2nd: Tim Tracy, 3rd: Tico Fernandez

Men's C: 1st: Jim Cannon, 2nd: Mike Bowden, 3rd: Ricky Rife

Women's Open: 1st: Babette Burkett, 2nd: Janet Marshall, 3rd: Anne Burbach

Women's C: 1st: Letha Daniel, 2nd: Darlene Conrad, 3rd: Shelley Zeiden

Men's Open Doubles: Cullen/Wayne Vincent d. Mike Ray/Pete Olsen

Men's B Doubles: Cochell/Thomas d. Shields/Marshall

Juniors: 1st: Tim Tracy, 2nd: Herb Weaver, 3rd: Grant Anderson

Seniors: 1st: Roger Wehrle, 2nd: Ronald Clark, 3rd: Andy Anderson

Minnesota

Woodbury Racquet and Golf Club of Woodbury held its open tournament Dec. 7-9.

Results

Men's Open: 1st-Jerry Trooien, 2nd-Richard Hill, 3rd-Mike Bukovich, Cons-Tom Anderson

Men's B: 1st-Pete Katzung, 2nd-Bill LeCuyer, 3rd-Todd Taylor, Cons-Neil Bonstrom

Men's C: 1st-Jeff Easton, 2nd-Ricardo Rouillon, 3rd-Terry Poirier, Cons-Bob Stolk

Men's Senior: 1st-Dick Pearson, 2nd-Mike Wagner, Cons-Steve McCue

Women's B: 1st-Merrisue Soutor, 2nd-Kindra Stirtz, 3rd-Vicki Hodgson, Cons-Karin Grossman

Women's C: 1st-Pamela Rowe, 2nd-Becky Ruby, 3rd-Diane Anger, Cons-Teri Melhorn

Missouri

The first annual Olympic Racquetball and TV-12 Open Racquetball Tournament to benefit the American Heart Association took place in Joplin Nov. 30-Dec. 2 at Olympic Racquetball Courts. The tournament raised \$400 for the American Heart Association.

Results

Men's Open: 1st-Glen Walls, 2nd-Brian Ahern, Cons-Wayne Kennedy

Men's B: 1st-Brian Rea, 2nd-Mike Mosbauer, Cons-Kenny Waggoner

Men's C: 1st-Steve Stratton, 2nd-Garry Church, Cons-Don Wade

Men's Novice: 1st-Gary Golden, 2nd-Darylle Goade, Cons-Mike Beckham

Women's B: 1st-Sue Mosbauer, 2nd-Cindy Mitchell, Cons-Sandy Markward

Women's C: 1st-Tammy Olgischlaeger, 2nd-Paige Harmon, Cons-Donata Mott

Women's Novice: 1st-Sharon Havens, 2nd-Cathy Bigando, Cons-Karen Edwards

Oregon

The 1979 Summer Classic Pro-Am sponsored by U.S.A. Oregon Athletic Club and Nike was held in Portland Sept. 22-28.

Results

Men's Pros

Quarters: Bill Dunn d. Mike Zeitman 21-19, 21-11, John Eggerman d. Doug Cohen 21-7, 21-17, Scott Hawkins d. Bob Peterson 21-8, 21-5, Tony Krause d. Bruce Radford 21-20, 21-13

Semis: Dunn d. Eggerman 21-14, 21-11, Hawkins d. Krause 19-21, 21-13, 11-0

Finals: Hawkins d. Dunn 21-13, 21-14

Men's A: 1st-Jeff Smith, 2nd-Jerry Henderson, 3rd-Russ Baker

Men's B: 1st-Jim Peters, 2nd-Kip Reeder, 3rd-Bob Lewis

Men's C: 1st-Dave Smith, 2nd-Greg Batdorf, 3rd-Butch Lindblad

Men's D: 1st-Marc Eisenzimmer, 2nd-John Persen, 3rd-Bill Breitstein

Open Doubles: 1st-Bob Peterson/Jerry Henderson, 2nd-Andy Wasilewski/Jim Peters, 3rd-Pete Lood/Butch Lindblad

Women's Open: 1st-Sheryl Ambler, 2nd-Momi Lee, 3rd-Gail Allert

Women's C: 1st-Jennifer Stuhr, 2nd-Phyllis Williams, 3rd-Jean Densem

Tennessee



— Larry Kaufman photo

Leonard Weiner played in the Masters division in the Tanner/Coca Cola Pro/Am tournament in Memphis.

Illinois

Metro Club-Pro Keds South Suburban High School Racquetball Shootout was held Dec. 15-16 at The Olympian Court Club, in Olympia Fields. Rich Central won the team competition and received a \$100 check for its athletic department.

Results

Girls: 1st-Tina Heath, 2nd-Kim Lenski, 3rd-Lisa Birkle, 4th-Linda Dalfino, Cons-Ann Bender

Boys' Fresh-Soph: 1st-Vince Delgiveince, 2nd-Mike Hepp, 3rd-Alex Kaz, 4th-David Lee, Cons-John Lowy

Boys' Junior-Senior: 1st-Andy Ross, 2nd-Mike Wehr, 3rd-John Sanders, 4th-Scott Giffney, Cons-Ken Fitzgerald

Illinois

— Linda Schwartz photo



Bev Franks, left, and Sue Prisching are two regulars on the Chicago Women's AA league that meets Wednesday afternoons at the Northbrook (IL) Court House. First half AA winners were 1st-Lynne Farmer, 2nd-Prisching, 3rd-Linda Schwartz and 4th-Hope Schwartz.

Illinois

Thirty-nine high school students took part in the first North Suburban High School Racquetball Shootout Dec. 8 and 9 at Northbrook Court House.

The participating students were divided into three divisions which included male freshmen and sophomores, male juniors and seniors, and a separate division for females. All the boys played in a single elimination format while the girls played a round robin.

In addition to the individual competition, there was also a team competition in which students who won matches received points for their school. Evanston Township High School students won the school competition and \$100 for the school's athletic department.

Metro Club and Pro Keds were co-sponsors of the event.

Results

Boys Fresh-Soph: 1st-John Negrete, 2nd-Brian Hillebrand, 3rd-Tom Croissant, 4th-John Titus, Cons-John Baumeister

Boys Junior-Senior: 1st-Eric Scheyer, 2nd-Bob Clar, 3rd-Barry Chaplik, 4th-Richard Rosenblum, Cons-Paul Baumeister

Girl's Round Robin: 1st-Kim Cooling, 2nd-Jenny Pyne, 3rd-Andrea Hollingshead, 4th-Dana Davenport

Connecticut

Over 200 entrants participated in the Roll Out, the holidays tournament, at the Roll Out Club in Rocky Hill, Dec. 7-9.

Results

Men's Open Doubles: Jack Fruin/Dick Wells d. Bruce Daly/Dick Wolverton

Men's Open: Phil Pannarella Jr. d. Dave Maturah 21-10, 21-10

Men's B: John Cassese d. Marshall Naimo 21-1, 21-15

Men's B Doubles: Joe Abbate/Jeff Rosenblatt d. Julian Gershaw/Gerald Greitzer 21-10, 21-19

Men's Seniors: Sal Marci d. Bruce Daly

Men's C: Jeff Stefanski d. Brian Sullivan 21-15, 21-17

Women's B: Karen VanKamper d. Peggy Oberg 8-21, 21-17, 11-9

Women's C: Rory McCormack d. Fran Moura 21-14, 21-6

Korea

The United National Command Racquetball Association in conjunction with the Area-Central Sports Office sponsored the 1979 Yongsan Holiday Racquetball Tournament Dec. 22-30 at Trent Gymnasium in Seoul.

Results

Men's Open: 1st-Otto Dietrich, 2nd-Bob Doughtie, 3rd-Butch Simcoe

Women's Open: 1st-Jan Brown, 2nd-Charla Mills, 3rd-Mariannette Miller

Men's Senior: 1st-J. D. Douglass, 2nd-Dean Knox, 3rd-Kim, Chong Pae

Men's B: 1st-Miguel Roman, 2nd-Al Santoro, 3rd (Tie)-Joe Scalo and Bob Torres

Men's C: 1st-Lim, Sung Soo, 2nd-John Adams, 3rd (Tie)-Tom Lawson and Jim Treadway



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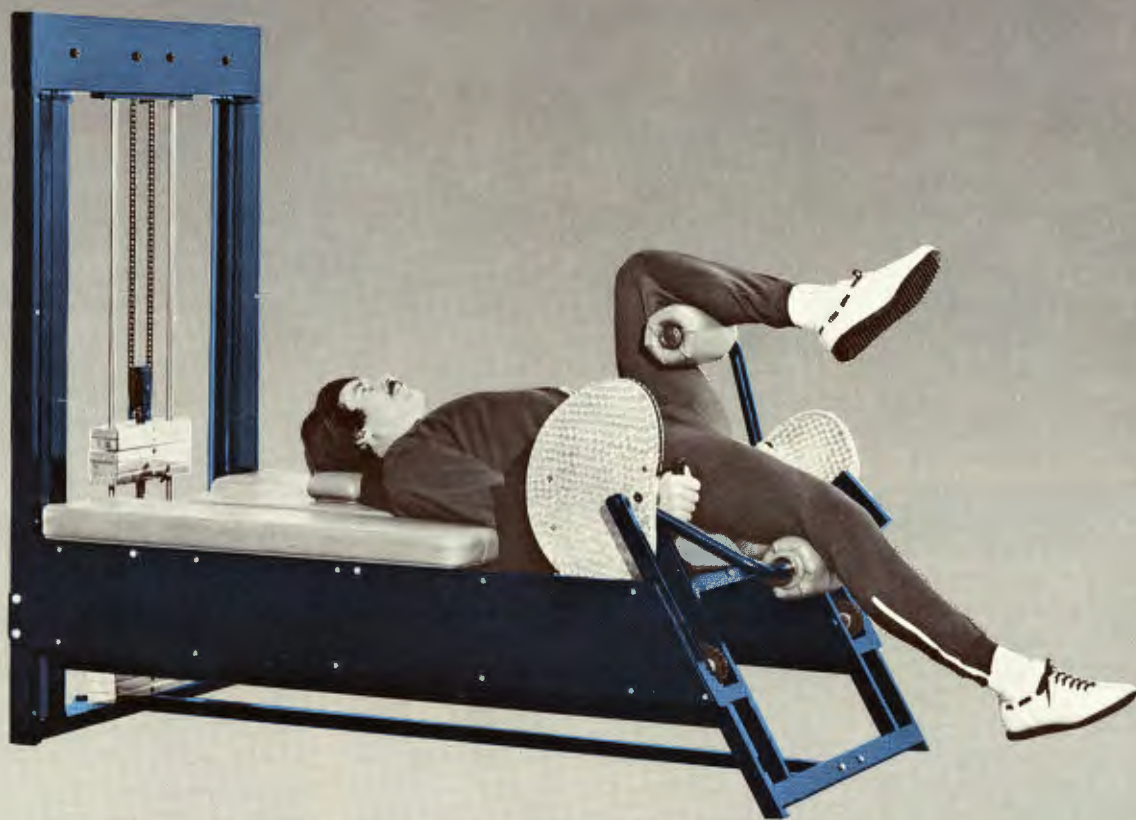
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Which "Iso" Builds Strength —

Isometric? Isotonic? Isokinetic?

by Ellington Darden, Ph.D.

It is a proved fact that stronger muscles not only improve racquetball performance, but prevent injuries as well. Since the United States is in the midst of a racquetball/fitness boom, it seems logical to assume that more people are becoming interested in strength training as a means of improving performance and preventing and rehabilitating injuries.

Americans spend millions of dollars each year on strength training equipment. This equipment is used in various settings: racquetball centers, health clubs, high schools and colleges, professional sports training rooms, laboratory testing situations, rehabilitation clinics and home gyms.

Although the interest is at an all time high, so is myth and ignorance. Some manufacturers make extravagant claims. Others make impossible promises. The strength training situation is confused to the point that millions of people simply do not know what to believe.

The sad truth is that if significant results are produced from strength training, the majority of these results can be attributed to two things:

(1) Since most people have very weak skeletal muscles, almost anything harder than they are used to doing produces fairly good results for about six weeks.

(2) People expect exercise to produce dramatic results (haven't the advertisers promised it for years?), and because of this expectancy, or "placebo effect," some results do occur if only in the mind. George Sheehan M.D. has stated that the faith individuals place in a remedy or routine can produce improvement in 60 to 70 percent of the cases.

Yet despite the massive amount of myth and ignorance the science of strength training has never had more to offer than it has today. The first step in unraveling the misunderstanding is to define strength.

Barbell lifting exercises is a traditional way to test an individual's maximum strength.



Strength Defined

Muscular strength is the maximum amount of force that can be exerted by a muscle or muscle group.

Strength is usually measured by the maximum amount of weight a person can lift on a barbell. (photo 1) Movements like the bench press or standing curl are frequently used. Or cable tensiometers may be employed to measure strength without movement.

Types of Strength

There are three types of strength: positive, holding and negative.

(1) *Positive Strength* — Muscle is shortening against resistance.

(2) *Holding Strength* — Muscle is exerting force, but very limited movement is occurring.

(3) *Negative Strength* — Muscle is lengthening against resistance.

Using the barbell curl as a strength testing movement let us assume that an individual can curl 100 pounds in a

maximum effort. Thus *his positive strength in the curl is 100 pounds*. If the individual can curl 100 pounds, he can hold 120 pounds in the mid range position. Thus *his holding strength is 120 pounds*. And that same individual will be able to successfully lower 140 pounds in a smooth, steady fashion. So *his negative strength is recorded at 140 pounds*.

The above example reveals that a person of average neuromuscular efficiency would be able to hold 20 percent more resistance than he can lift. He would be able to lower 20 percent more than he could hold or 40 percent more than he could lift. Thus the average person's negative strength is much greater than his positive strength.

If skill is removed from a strength test, increasing either positive or negative strength always results in a corresponding increase in the other. Concentrating on the negative phase of the movement, *however*, has proved to produce better results than emphasizing the positive phase. This may be due to the fact that it is easier to isolate a large muscle group on the negative phase of an exercise.

Understanding *those* basics is the first step to getting to the facts of strength training. The next words concern *how* to train for strength.

Modes of Strength Training

Isometric or static — Tension develops positively, but there is only limited shortening of the muscle fibers. (An example would be a person pushing on two sides of a door jam with elbows locked.)

Isotonic or dynamic — Both positive and negative movement occurs against tension (photo 2).

Isokinetic or accommodating — Tension or resistance is based on friction of one kind or another, and it is produced only by moving positively (photo 3).

Freehand exercises, such as situps and pushups, are isotonic since the individual's bodyweight provides both positive and negative work.



Friction based, isokinetic devices like these produce limited results because no negative work is performed.

To clarify the confusion and cast light on the controversy that surrounds the three methods let's outline their pros and cons.

Isometric

Advantages

1. Applicable for limited range of movement during initial stages of rehabilitation
2. Resistance available when muscle is in full contracted position
3. Expensive equipment not needed.

Disadvantages

1. Range of movement very short
2. No negative work potential
3. No flexibility potential
4. No pre-stretching
5. Difficult to measure progression
6. Motivation a problem because nothing moves
7. Can be dangerous because all out effort can occur before muscle structure is warmed up

Isotonic

Advantages

1. Both positive and negative work potential
2. Large range of movement possible on some exercises
3. Pre-stretching possible
4. Progression is easily noted

Disadvantages

1. Many barbell and conventional exercises have severe limitations
2. Can be dangerous if used explosively

Isokinetic

Advantages

None

Disadvantages

1. No negative work potential
2. No flexibility potential
3. No pre-stretching
4. Does not alter existing strength curve

5. No resistance in fully contracted position

6. Can be dangerous if used explosively

There is yet another factor to consider in selecting the kind of exercise that does the most to increase strength. It involves a phrase which exercise physiologists call "*full range exercise*."

Full Range Exercise

Full range exercise has 10 basic requirements. If any one of the requirements is missing, a person is only working part of a muscle. An individual cannot build a maximum level of strength by exercising only part of a muscle. Full range exercise incorporates all of the following factors:

1. *Rotary-form resistance* that rotates on a common axis with the body part that is directly moved by the muscle being exercised.
2. *Direct resistance* that is directly applied against the body part that is actually moved by the muscles being exercised. For example in working the buttocks, resistance must be applied directly to the thighs. Or to work the torso muscles the resistance must be directly applied to the upper arms.
3. *Automatically variable resistance* that changes as a person's leverage and strength change throughout the range of movement.
4. *Balanced resistance* that varies in accord with the individual's potential strength in all positions. In effect it must be balanced in relation to his strength in various positions. This must be done for each large muscle group.
5. *Positive work* that shortens the muscles against resistance.
6. *Negative work* that lengthens the muscles against resistance. Without negative work no stretching or pre-stretching is possible.
7. *Stretching* that is accomplished when a body part is pulled or pushed

into a position that temporarily exceeds the existing range of movement. Stretching is related to the joints, muscles and connective tissue.

8. *Pre-stretching* that occurs when a muscle is pulled into a position of increased tension prior to the start of a positive contraction. Pre-stretching is related not only to the muscles, but also has important effect on the nerves that trigger muscular contraction.

9. *Resistance in the position of full muscular contraction* in order to involve the greatest number of muscle fibers.

10. *Unrestricted speed of movement* to provide a high intensity of muscular contraction.

Rating the Strength Training Modes

Application of the isometric, isokinetic and isotonic training modes to the 10 requirements of full-range exercise is shown in the table. A "yes" across from the requirement rates a score of 10. A "yes/no" indicates the mode provides the requirements under certain conditions or in some exercise. It rates five. "No" in the table scores no points.

A quick study of the table shows that the isokinetic style of strength training, at 20 points, is the *least* productive. Isometric strength training is only slightly better at 25 points.

With a rating of 70 points (and it can be over 90 points if certain Nautilus machines are used) the best mode of strength training is isotonic.

Isotonic Strength Training Guidelines

Regardless of the type of isotonic equipment available the following rules should be adhered to for best possible results:

- Perform one set of four to six exercises for the lower body and six to eight exercises for the upper body, and no more than 12 exercises in any workout.

- Select a resistance on each exercise that allows the performance of between eight to 12 repetitions.
- Continue each exercise until no additional repetitions are possible. When 12 or more repetitions are performed, increase the resistance by approximately five percent at the next workout.
- Work the largest muscles first and move quickly from one exercise to the next. This procedure develops cardiovascular endurance.
- Concentrate on flexibility by slowly stretching during the first three repetitions of each exercise.
- Accentuate the lowering or negative portion of each repetition.
- Move slower, never faster, if in doubt about speed of movement.

- Do everything possible to isolate and work each large muscle group to exhaustion.
- Attempt constantly to increase the number of repetitions or the amount of weight, or both. But do not sacrifice form in an attempt to produce results.
- Train no more than three times a week.
- Keep accurate records — date, resistance, repetitions and overall training time — of each workout.
- Vary the workouts often.

Conclusion

Isotonic strength training is the most productive form of exercise in existence today. Properly performed it can improve the performance of all racquetball players and provide valuable protection against injury. ●

How Do the Modes Measure Up?

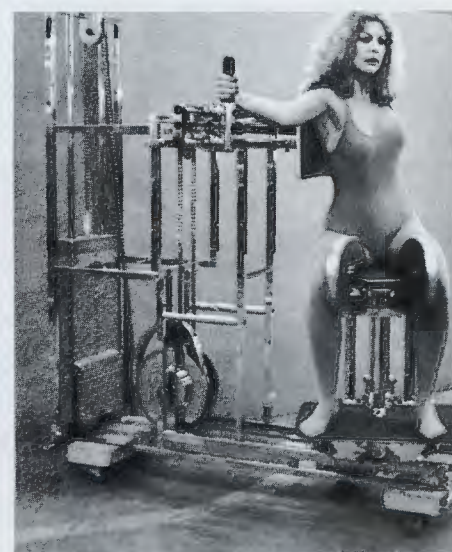
Meeting Basic Exercise Requirements

	<i>Isometric</i>	<i>Isokinetic</i>	<i>Isotonic</i>
1. Rotary-form resistance	No	Yes/No	Yes/No
2. Direct resistance	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No
3. Automatically variable resistance	No	No	Yes/No
4. Balanced resistance	No	No	Yes/No
5. Positive work	Yes	Yes	Yes
6. Negative work	No	No	Yes
7. Stretching	No	No	Yes/No
8. Pre-stretching	No	No	Yes
9. Resistance in position of full muscular contraction	Yes	No	Yes/No
10. Unrestricted speed of movement	No	No	Yes
Yes/No means the mode provides the requirements under certain conditions or in some exercise	Total: 25	20	70

Scoring: Yes = 10

Yes/No = 5

No = 0



Nautilus, Universal and Dyna Cam machines use the Isotonic exercise mode.

Billboard Players

Each day 22,000 drivers on Highway 90, the scenic route between Biloxi, MS, and Mobile, AL, watch a racquetball game.

Which is what the owners of the Gulf Coast Fitness and Racquet club in Ocean Springs, MS, had in mind.

"The idea of putting in a glass wall facing the highway came as a collective suggestion," says Steve Broussard, one of the owners and an almost daily player.

"We knew we had the Keeler Air Force Base—the world's biggest air training command—in one direction, and we had the huge Litton Industries shipyard in the other direction, and that all the people working in those two places drove east and west on Highway 90 just 75 feet from our courts."

A glass wall seemed the most natural way to publicize the game two years ago when the management decided to add three racquetball courts to a six-year-old health club. Broussard estimates that the wall's been *"worth \$10,000 in advertising."*

The six by 15 foot panel is in the middle of the back court, where it catches the action, and is made of three-quarter inch tempered glass on the inside, a six inch air space and then one-quarter inch plate glass on the outside. *"The air space eliminates fogging,"* Broussard explains. *"We have absolutely no extra maintenance problems."*



The only occasional problem is a traffic slowdown brought on by drivers following an especially fast moving rally.

"That's most likely to happen at night, when the court's most visible," Broussard says. *"The other time when viewing's best is when the sun is angled just right—and that's usually between 4 and 5 p.m. when traffic is heaviest."*

Playing to the crowd appeals to some players—Broussard likes to use the outside court—but beginners tend to shy away from the club's display case.

Actually the Highway 90 audience is minuscule, compared to the numbers who will view the game through the world's *second* glass outside wall installation (Broussard believes his is the first). The Japan Racquetball Association plans to let the residents of Tokyo learn about our game by putting in an entire wall of glass when they build a highrise of stacked up racquetball courts. ●

New Court Club Listings

Centralia Racquetball Club
1827 S. Pine
Centralia, IL 62801

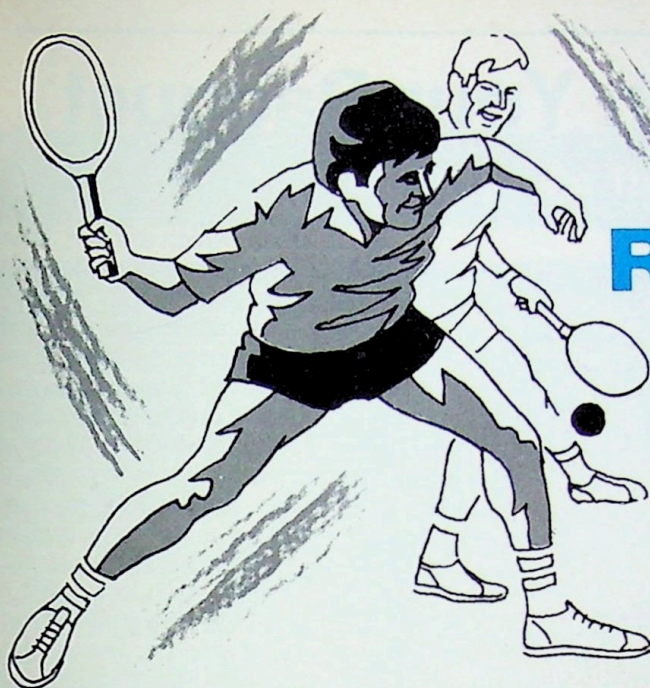
Court Club and Physical Fitness Center
70 Farrell Rd.
South Burlington, VT 05401

Lake Shore Place Health/Racquet Club
91 Glenwood Ave.
Glens Falls, NY 12801

The Rivercenter Tennis Club
2 Poydras at the Mississippi River
New Orleans, LA 70140

The Sporting House
3 Weymouth Rd.
Enfield, CT 06082

Westside Racquet Club
11 Vaughns Gap
Nashville, TN 37205



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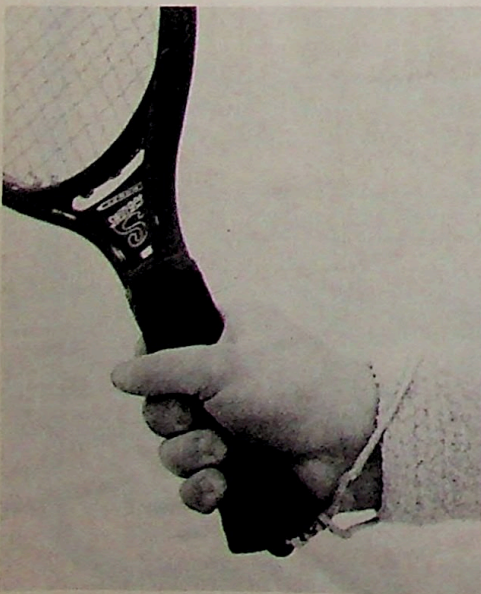
Coming to Grips with Your Racquet

by Christopher Hyde

In the past racquet manufacturers devoted a great amount of time and considerable engineering talent to racquet design, shape, weight, balance and stiffness but relatively little to the critical point where the racquet meets the hand. A racquetball grip was sized to fit a small, medium or large player and that was that.

This attitude toward grips is now changing as players become more attuned to the finer points of the game. Most grips sold as original equipment are still smooth leather — although even that is changing — but there is a bewildering variety of surfaces that can be applied over or used as a replacement for the original grip. Grip materials can be divided into four major categories: leather, rubber (rare), cloth and synthetics. Each is primarily an attempt at solving the moisture problem — slippery when wet.

Loss of friction, slipping and blisters are common ills of perspiring tennis players, but in racquetball — a fast game played indoors — the problems are compounded, to the point where manufacturers attach thongs to prevent a slippery racquet from following the ball across the court. Some modern solutions to the wet friction problem are listed here to help you select the grip that's best for you:



Leather

Traditional leather offers an excellent combination of characteristics for grips, which is why it is still original equipment on most racquets. It is strong, attractive, resilient and wear resistant, and it will absorb moisture, up to a point. When dry, it has a high coefficient of friction with the hand. Once saturated with perspiration, however, it becomes very slippery.

Many factors influence the amount of moisture a leather grip can take before it turns on you. Natural oils used in tanning and dyeing may reduce the absorption (wicking) of moisture into the leather pores. Also as the grip gets older, the pores tend to clog with dirt, further reducing the wicking effect. Other characteristics being equal the thicker the leather the more moisture it will absorb before becoming slippery, but thicker leather means a larger grip size.

The leather surface also influences moisture absorption. Punched holes are thought to speed the process but mainly add decoration or disguise blemishes in low-quality leather. Some players try to increase the amount of wicking by roughening the surface or cleaning it with solvents, although there is some question whether these methods are more than psychologically successful. A ridged surface, formed by sewing welts in the leather, will provide a grip even when the leather is saturated, but at the expense of the player's hand.

The best leather grip for moisture absorption is suede. This type of grip, however, requires a great deal of care and cleaning. Otherwise it becomes hard and abrasive after repeated soaking and drying, and the edges of the wrapping tend to warp out in an "orange peel" effect.

Cloth

Cloth wrapping has been introduced recently for racquetball. These come in two types: gauze tapes and terry cloth strips such as the *Lifetimer V-Grip*.

Gauze tapes, which are thin, have very little moisture absorption. Instead, they provide an abrasive, tacky surface. They are inexpensive and easily applied over the existing grip. When peeled off later they leave a sticky residue on the leather which is impossible to remove. The only way you can get rid of it is to re-grip your racquet. The effect of the residue is almost the same as the no slip sprays now on the market. The tape's abrasive effect is not long lasting and it will have to be changed regularly, but this is easy to do. The main problem is the effect of the abrasive surface on moist, blister prone hands ... and the fact that once you use gauze tape you have to stick with it.

Some players have made their own grips from terry cloth, cutting up old towels and wrapping the strips over an existing grip. The surface is moisture absorbent and feels soft and comfortable. The effect lasts only until the grip has been soaked and dried a few times, when the remaining terry cloth loops, if any, acquire the hardness of coarse sandpaper. The grip then has to be washed and re-wrapped, or replaced with a new strip of towel.

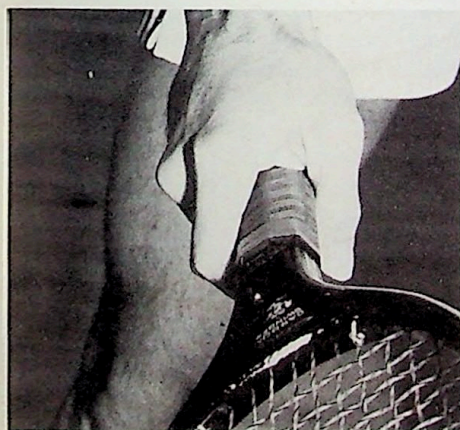
Manufacturers have alleviated the chore by selling ready-cut strips. Those with adhesive backing have the advantages and disadvantages of gauze tape and are better for replacing an old grip than for wrapping over an existing one. The *Lifetimer V-Grip* has Velcro™ strips on both ends of the handle that hold the grip in place and permit easy removal for washing. Frequent washing keeps the cloth soft. (The manufacturer recommends that the wrapping be reversed end to end or front to back after washing to prevent wear in one place.) Since applying both Velcro and cloth over an old grip make it bulky, V-Grip is generally used as a replacement.

Rubber

Rubber grips at present have not caught on in racquetball, again because of the moisture problem.

How Do These Grab You?

* Low, from \$1-\$3; Moderate, \$3-\$5; High, over \$5 retail	Moisture Absorption	Traction (Dry) (Wet)		Durability	Resilience	Cost*	Washable	Cleanable
Smooth Leather	good	high	low	good	good (depends on thickness)	moderate	no	yes
Suede	high	high	moderate	good	good	moderate	no	yes
Cotton Terry Cloth (Adhesive Back)	good	good	good	low	moderate	low	no	no
V-Grip	good	good	good	good	moderate	high	yes	no
Gauze Tape	low	good	good	low	low	low	no	no
Rubber	low	high	low	high	good	moderate	yes	no
Touma Grip	high	high	good	low	good	low	no	no
Supreme Grip	high	good	high	high	good	high	yes	yes



They are relatively non-absorbent, compared to leather, cloth or synthetics. This type of grip is similar to rubber golf grips in resilience and texture, and slips onto the racquet instead of being wrapped. Such grips are said to have very high traction when dry but tend to be hard on the hands after prolonged use.

Synthetics

Synthetic materials, although they have not yet displaced leather with original equipment manufacturers, appear to be the wave of the future, because they can be tailor made for specific sporting goods applications.

One of these, introduced last year, is *Touma Grip*, a blue synthetic tape that is self-adhesive and is wrapped over the existing grip without adhesive or tacks. The material has a soft, cushiony feel, similar to that of chamois, and according to the manufacturer, has excellent moisture absorption.

The material is purchased in kit form, with enough tape for four racquetball wrappings. The maker, however, claims only a four to eight week lifespan for each wrapping.

Another synthetic, *Supreme Grip*®, introduced this year for racquetball, has become the most popular of the synthetics. A polyether/polyurethane material — filled with microscopic pores — it was developed specifically for sports grips. It feels like heavy suede and the manufacturer claims that the wicking ability of the material far exceeds that of natural leather. Its pore filled structure, which looks like a sponge under the microscope, provides high traction and reduction of torque and dissipates perspiration as fast as it develops.

This grip is generally applied by the pro shop with adhesive and tacks like a leather grip. It is relatively expensive compared to other grips but can be cleaned with a liquid detergent for continued use.

The grip has become popular on the tournament circuit, with some players using it without a glove, and others discovering a Velcro-like adherence between glove and grip.

Since no grip is perfect for everyone, check the accompanying table to find the grip that best serves your racquetball needs. ●



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Women In Racquetball



Carol Brusslan

Farewell, Me First

Now that we're four months out of the "me decade", we can hope that the 80's will bring back in fashion that axiom from another era: "You're happiest when you're making others happy."

We're happy to remind you that racquetball can give you a chance to see if that rule-to-live-by suits you.

The "others" we have in mind deserve any happiness that comes their way. They are the mentally retarded children and adults whose greatest need is to feel good about themselves. You can provide them with confidence in their own abilities through racquetball, the game with an "instant success" factor that makes anyone feel like an athlete.



Specifically you can help organize a Special Olympics racquetball program in your state. Special Olympics Executive Director Robert Montague says your first step is to contact your state's Special Olympics director, who will suggest that you set up a clinic to introduce your sport. (Call us at 312-673-4000 for the name of your state's director.) We're confident you'll find a club, Y or JCC where the Special Olympics kids can try racquetball free of charge.

Next you'll organize some instruction (you'll find most club pros will be glad to volunteer) and — finally — you'll put together local Special Olympics racquetball competition. When there are enough local competitors around your state, you can bring racquetball into the annual chapter games.

As you break down the procedure, it's simple, but Montague says "it takes time — sometimes two or three years before the program's extensive enough to be a part of the chapter games."

But if enough people like you start right now, we'll have time to create full blown Special Olympics events in ten states, so that in 1983 — at the next International Summer Special Olympics Games — competitors will play racquetball for medals.

That would make a lot of others happy.

A 1979 Special Olympics winner gets her reward.

Greens Win One, Lose Three
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Greens' Score: Three to One

June Green entered the Women's Cs at the Tanner/Coca Cola Pro Am tournament in Memphis. Mary Green competed in the Women's Ds. John Green took part in the Men's Cs. And Sarah Green played in the Women's Pros. They all lost, but Sarah.

"Sarah's the athlete in the family," explains June, who thinks her 21-year-old daughter (22 on Jan. 24) "showed courage, guts, determination and emotional strength" as she fought back to beat a favored Heather McKay in the women's finals of the December stop on the NRC pro tour.

The house was Sarah's, of course. Dozens of friends, including Father Vieron, a racquetball playing Greek Orthodox priest, gathered in the stands at Memphis State University to cheer for their hometown girl. Also on hand were classmates from Memphis State, where Sarah received a bachelors degree with honors last August.

Family fans included Sarah's father, Bob, whose first view of the pro tour coincided with his daughter's first pro tour win, and June, who broke tradition by viewing Sarah's matches. "I don't usually watch her. I've traveled all over where she's played — Denver,

Her parents, June and Bob Green, and her twin sister, Mary, pull for Sarah.



— Mike Zeitman photo

Phoenix, Tuscon — and I've watched everyone but Sarah. You hate to see your child disappointed when you know how much she cares."

Winning a pro stop is the goal Sarah set for herself at 16, a pro circuit novice the year Peggy Steding won her first Nationals. Sarah was 10 when she stepped into a court at Memphis' Racquet Club, where she'd been practicing a different kind of stroke five miles a day every day as a competitive swimmer.

"It was those 10 years of competitive swimming that put Sarah in top physical condition," June says of her daughter, who looks more like a fashionably skinny model than an athlete.

And now, June says, Sarah has the mental condition she needs to be a winner. Commenting on Charlie Brumfield's pre-Memphis description in *National Racquetball* of Sarah Green as "too nice to win" June Green reports "Sarah's working on being more aggressive. She's beginning to thrive on pressure.

"Memphis proved to her that she can put together four hard days of racquetball. Now she knows she can go all the way."



— Arthur Shay photo

Until Memphis June Green had limited her viewing to everyone's matches but her daughter's. She's seen here at a 1978 tournament with, left to right, Helen Anderson (Jennifer Harding's mother), Virginia Sauser (Jean's mother), Rita Hoff (Rita's mother) and Johanna Schmidt (Pat's mother).

Mother-Daughter Finalists

by Steve Shay

Ruth Wojcik, a racquetball instructor at the Tucson Athletic Club, glowered at her 14-year-old opponent, then served a near ace, which the younger player returned for a cross court side out. And who is that hard-hitting look-alike 14-year-old coming in to serve? None other than Lynn Wojcik — Ruth's daughter!

Ruth and Lynn have been playing each other in more and more Arizona tournament finals, and while it is impossible even for experts to predict who will triumph in the speedy, sweaty, hard fought competitions, Ruth is not really surprised to meet her well trained daughter in the finals.

Ruth says *"When Lynn and I enter the same match, we are always bracketed separately — that is, wide apart."* This intelligent placing by tournament committees merely postpones the inevitable Wojcik family reunion until the final round!

Although Ruth doesn't give an inch of leeway to her onrushing young daughter and opponent, Ruth does admit to the strange feeling of being proud when her daughter drives a backhand past her, or kills with a pinch in the left corner. *"It's strange. Of course as a player I want to win, and as a mother I'm really proud — so I guess the net result is we're good for each other's game!"*

Naturally Lynn's age — plus having such a good instructor — make it almost inevitable that she will eventually do to her mother what Marty Hogan did to his player-mother, Goldie, when he was Lynn's age — start to beat her consistently.

Meanwhile in the recent Tempe Pro-Am, playing to a packed balcony, Ruth played her daughter for first place and beat her 21-15, 21-20. More recently in a Tucson Athletic Club tournament Lynn did get even, sliding past her mother to win first place.

Lynn, a Palo Verde high schooler,

Ruth Wojcik with her very apt pupil . . .



likes photography and printmaking and is an all-star athlete in soccer, softball and waterpolo. She competes with women and men in events open to both, and enjoys the challenge. *"Mom passed on her winning attitude to me,"* says Lynn, who practices racquetball with Ruth six or seven times a week and has so far won two junior National Championships.

Originally from Cleveland, OH Ruth moved to sunny Tucson to take advantage of the climate. In addition to teaching at the Tucson Athletic Club she also teaches at the Old Pueblo Court House and is also an operating room nurse. She has two other children, Steve, 15, and Rina, 10, who so far *"prefer books to ball."*

Ruth and Lynn are a strong sturdy pair. Together they pump iron, work out on the Nautilus gear, run and bicycle scores of miles on a tough exercising regimen. How does Lynn handle the sporting competitive life-with-mother? Says Lynn *"We work for each other's improvement — you know, help each other out."*

She pauses, and with an impish smile, adds *"Except of course when we must play each other for first place . . . Then it's every woman for herself."* Another grin — then with a smile full of love and appreciation she says *"Just like she taught me."*

—Steve Shay photos

When a Woman Plays a Man

by Jean Oeschger

"The pride these men originally felt rubbing elbows with a woman professional soon turns either to jealousy or to disdain . . ."

When my boyfriend was glad I had lost a racquetball match, I knew something was lacking in our relationship. My loss was an obvious upset and he was hoping he could embarrass me enough so I would give up the sport. He actually said *"If you keep losing like that, you might as well give it up and spend your weekends at home where you belong!"* I rather doubt that Bjorn Borg's gal gave him that kind of static when he lost to young upstart John McEnroe!

Aspiring to become a professional racquetball player little did I know that not once in these first two years would I play a man who failed to resent my work wholeheartedly. Through my teaching and working in this male oriented endeavor I thought I could date all types of interesting, attractive men — casual and serious players, club managers. And I have. But two evils soon creep into all my relationships: the pride these men originally felt rubbing elbows with a woman professional soon turns either to jealousy or to disdain for my *"lack of femininity"*.

The jealousy stems from several different aspects of my career. Most of my weekends are taken up with tournaments, clinics or exhibitions, but I certainly don't expect a boyfriend to wait for me at the club all day instead of pursuing his own interests. You don't have to do everything together! One of my close male friends sail raced almost every weekend, and wanted me to be on the boat with him. At first I was flattered, but eventually the newness of both the sailing and the relationship wore off. I can remember how frustrated I was on several weekends sitting on a boat becalmed on a flat ocean, wishing I were playing racquetball, wondering why we couldn't just as well



have met in the yacht club at the end of the day. Thus both challenges would be satisfied. Let's face it. I didn't like sitting on boats all weekends, and I didn't expect him to like hanging around racquetball clubs.

Whose Time Is Time Off?

Men seem to resent my semi-independent lifestyle of travel and flexible scheduling for lessons and workouts, while they are tied to an office job. It is not infrequent that I may have a day off or get to sleep in a few mornings a week. When this occurs, they try to make me feel guilty about being lazy, though I would be forgiven if I spent my time off doing errands for them.





Traveling itself is not the great life it is made out to be — it's strenuous and time consuming. One time, for example, it took me 17 travel hours to get from Connecticut to California, including helicopter, taxi, limo, plane and constant delays. So I feel my time off, whenever it is, is well deserved.

One man I was beginning to get serious about ended the relationship abruptly by stating that, because of very basic and entrenched insecurities, he didn't think he would ever be able to handle my occupation and lifestyle without eventually trying to tie me down. At least he was honest and probably spared both of us a lot of grief.

Men consider my racquetball to be all fun and games, never considering it my profession, mostly because when they play, it's usually to relieve tension, get some exercise or socialize with a friend. I put in as much or more training and mental work as on any other job. I have to be constantly in shape. The racquetball playing itself is not enough, so there is always additional training.

According to the usual male attitude I'm not even supposed to sweat. However I work when I play; I mean I *really* work and I'm not ashamed of it. And I feel fortunate that I have the body chemistry that allows me to perspire. But when I'm drenched from head to toe during and immediately after a match, it is not uncommon, when I walk off the court, for some guy to say "Oh, just take a shower?", or "Is it raining inside the courts today?"

Hard for a Man to Accept

The male ego is constantly being threatened when a man walks on the court with me. I'm a better athlete than the men I date, and usually better than or equal to the men I work out with. None of these men can accept superior athletic ability in a woman, especially coupled with the aggressiveness of racquetball. If I play a boyfriend who is not very good, I don't want to humiliate him, so I won't play all out. Then he will be upset and say I didn't try. On the other hand, however, if my boyfriend can play even with me, I go all out. If he loses, there is usually a pretty cool period after that match. In the long run I can't win. In these particular situations I have decided after frequent tries, never to play someone I am personally involved with.

Competitive racquetball is dominated by men, although more and more women are playing in tournaments. Consequently all of my workout and practice games are with men, as there are no professional women in the area (I only play against women in tournaments). Over the years most of the club regulars I work out with have developed respect for my game, but there are some who cannot handle losing to a woman, under any circumstance. Even in the clean, hard working arena of a racquetball court, when the play is between a man and a woman, it is virtually impossible to separate the ball game from the sexual game, even if the relationship doesn't extend past the walls of the court. On several occasions when I have made a good shot, an opponent will turn to me right on the court, and say "You're a girl, you're not supposed to do that". I can bet, if these guys lose in our practice games, they are loaded with all kinds of excuses.

When I chose racquetball as my profession, I had no idea that it would have such a strain on both my personal relationships and the male misconception about my femininity. With all the hurdles I've mentioned, I still believe it's possible to have a secure relationship in my profession. Billie Jean King and Chris Evert finally found supportive men, maybe there's hope for me. So please hurry, guy, hurry!



Who's Playing Racquetball?

Ade Crabtree: Putting Her Life Back Together

One night in May of 1972 Tony Crabtree called a casual goodbye to his wife, climbed on his motorcycle and took off into a beautiful spring evening.

The next time Adé Crabtree saw her husband he was lying in intensive care, attached to life support systems. No one is sure how it happened, but he was found in the nearby forest preserve entangled in a mass of machinery. Seven days later Tony Crabtree died, leaving Adé a 32-year-old widow with a nine-year-old daughter and a 10-year-old son.

With the death of her husband the rest of Adé Crabtree's life fell apart. She discovered that a young, beautiful widow was considered a threat to her married friends, and soon the social invitations came to a halt. Then a dispute with her husband's family over shares in a hobby shop business left her without financial resources.

But Adé had her own resources.

First she left the shop where she had worked part time as a beautician and set up a beauty parlor in her Wheeling, IL, home, so she could keep an eye on her children.

Second she turned to racquetball.

"One of my customers — Jean Stickrod — had just introduced me to the game," she says. "The timing was perfect. I hadn't been playing that much, but after Tony died, racquetball became the sport and my main outside interest. I started playing twice a week and then every day.

"I began playing in the early days of Chicago racquetball at the Northbrook Y and the Court House. And I'd often take my children along. I think the kind of people Deanne and Michael met at the courts had a stabilizing effect on them."



Racquetball helped Adé Crabtree through a difficult time in her life, shortly after Jean Stickrod, pictured here, introduced her beautician to the game.



Now with Michael in the army and Deanne a high school senior Adé Crabtree is enlarging her interests — she likes disco dancing and she skis with a local club. She wants to travel — perhaps to Holland, where she lived until she was 14. And she's thinking of enlarging her career — going back to school and taking business courses that could lead to an expanded beauty operation.

But racquetball will always be a big part of her life. She remembers that it was the thread that held those lonely days and nights together.

— Velva Lee Heraty

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

EXTRA!

Ciarco Recaptures Marathon Record

It took less than three days for Phil Ciarco, teaching pro at Courtime-Meadowlands Racquetball Club in Lyndhurst, NJ, to break the 155 hour racquetball playing record that Ken Eigel set at the Mill Creek Park Racquetball Club in Feasterville, PA, last October.

Thirty-five-year-old Ciarco, who set his previous marathon record of 102 hours over Labor Day week-end in 1978, logged 158 hours between Oct. 27 at 10 a.m. and Nov. 2 at 11 p.m.

Ciarco used three Seamco 600 balls to face 170 opponents in 330 games, cheered on by Greg Forbush, Seamco's eastern regional manager; Dick



Michael Wurttenburg, Bergen County (NJ) Muscular Dystrophy Association poster child, with Phil Ciarco.

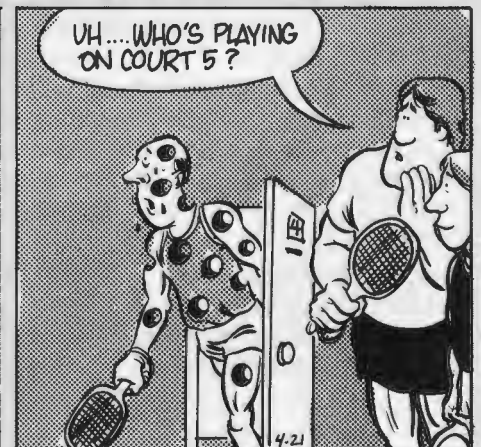
Booker, club manager; Bob Tarantino, D.C., Ciarco's chiropractor, who put the marathoner on a diet and vitamin program, and Coaches Chet Moskal and Ron Bilowith.

"The legs were the key," says Ciarco, who tuned up a week before his racquetball feat by running the last 15 miles of the New York Marathon. "Mental fatigue hit me at 110 hours, but my coaches inspired me by reminding me where the money was going."

At a minimum of \$10 a game from his opponents — and with other contributions added to the total — Ciarco raised \$6,000 to fight muscular dystrophy, \$2,000 more than he raised in his 1978 marathon.

TANK McNAMARA

by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds



The Man Who Makes Bob Hope Funny

Even Writes Jokes on the Racquetball Court

by Stella Hart

"Racquetball is an easy game to play," says Ray Seery. "When you win, you don't have to jump over the net.

"In fact it's a lot like playing pool," he continues, "except that when I'm on the court, and the ball comes racing at me, it seems to have MY number on it!!

Ray Seery is a jokewriter. The joke-writer who has put smiles on the faces of millions of Americans by making Bob Hope, Rodney Dangerfield, Phyllis Diller and Steve Allen funny.

"You might say that I put words in their mouths," says Seery.

And he means it.

Seery, whose job puts him in elbow rubbing range of celebrities like Lucille Ball, Danny Thomas, Pearl Bailey and Elizabeth Taylor, has even had a hand in making President Jimmy Carter sound funny. And it was the president's daughter, Amy, who pleased Seery by saying *"aren't you the man who makes Bob Hope funny?"*

But even though putting laughs onto the faces of many may be Seery's business, playing racquetball is no joke to him.

"I enjoy the relaxation I get from the game," he says enthusiastically. "For me it relieves tension and anxieties. It's exhilarating."

Playing the game at the Olympic Racquetball and Health Club in Randolph, NJ, with Milton J. Mintz, a Denville, NJ, doctor, Seery remembers the first time he introduced his brother, Jerry, to the game.

"Jerry couldn't believe my enthusiasm. I guess you might say he just wasn't used to my being THAT serious about anything."

Ray Seery started writing jokes for Bob Hope 35 years ago.



Seery says that racquetball allows him to forget the frustration of his everyday life. *"No matter how glamorous life may seem, we do need that release."*

Laurel's Letters

Seery, whose jokes have appeared in *Parade* magazine, is a sentimental man who cherishes his contacts with "the great ones" in his business, contacts such as the letters he received from Stan Laurel of Laurel and Hardy fame.

In President Jimmy Carter's lighter moments he might be using a Ray Seery quip.



It may not look that way in this photo with Milton Mintz, right, but Jokewriter Ray Seery says he's a serious racquetball player.



Golf in the Bathroom

Noting that "racquetball is somewhat like driving golf balls in a tile bathroom," Seery reasons that racquetball has opened a whole new world of laughter.

"There is always more room for comedy," says Seery seriously. "We need new comedy and new comedians. Comedians to take the place of the Bob Hopes and the George Burns' — natural, young talent to 'keep 'em laughing.'"

Seery started his jokewriting career by writing for Steve Allen. "Soon after that I found out that one of Bob Hope's writers had left him, so I applied for the job and got it, and that's dating back some 35 years.

"I am most fortunate in having met men such as Hope. Someone who always has time for the public who adore him.

"But I also feel fortunate to be able to be doing something I so love. Writing jokes."

And with that Seery picks up his racquet for another attempt at playing racquetball. "I find an awful lot of humor in what I am about to do," says Seery, "and that's NOTHING to joke about." ●

"This great man created most of his own material," Seery says. "Just as with the teams of Abbott and Costello and Martin and Lewis, Costello and Lewis were the creative ones in the act. Abbott and Martin, like Oliver Hardy, were fine straight men but had little or no creative ability," he says.

Seery, who lives in Randolph, usually has a pad and pencil in his hand.

"I even carry them with me when I'm on the racquetball court," says Seery. "It doesn't matter where I am, because there is a funny side to everything as far as I am concerned.

"I keep a pad at my bedside in case I think of something during the night, and my home is crammed with bits of paper on which I have something written that I may be able to use for a gag. It could be a key word, a gesture or even the whole gag.

"Sometimes when I'm on the racquetball court I spend a great deal of time enjoying the competition of the game. I know I'd win more often if they would only allow designated hitters!"



Stan Laurel and Bob Hope — two of Seery's favorites — look on while the jokester plays a game of pool.

"10"

Reviewing racquetball books requires a thick skin.

One publisher wrote to me regarding a review I did of one of his books, saying in part:

"Your review was poorly conceived, weakly executed and patently unfair. It nit-picked to death a book that has otherwise received high critical acclaim. Wake up or I'll pinch shot you into the nearest corner!"

And that was one of the better missives sent hurtling my way.

Not to worry. Some of the more discerning readers sent hearty notes of appreciation. Like this one:

"Terry, gud going. I really lik your artikle. Keep up the gud work."

And now for the reviews.

Shay, Arthur, and Leve, Chuck.
Winning Racquetball. Chicago: CBI,
1979. 165 pages, rules included.

If a pothead smoked ganga as often as Art Shay writes racquetball books, we'd call him an addict. At last count Shay had his name affixed to seven books on racquetball, and had a couple more in his pipe about ready to cloud forth.

Shay's modus operandi is to collaborate on a book with a racquetball professional, either player or official, and produce a work devoted to some aspect of the game. *Winning Racquetball* claims to be a "comprehensive illustrated guide, showing how to advance from beginner to winning professional."

The Search for the Perfect Racquetball Book (Part II)

by Terry Muck



Comprehensive it's not. Although the book is 165 pages long, 70 of those pages are swallowed up by the index, a photo essay on a racquetball pro stop, the rules, and a section of brief interviews with pros and their ideas on winning. Not that these are bad; the rules and index are axiomatic to any good racquetball instructional book, the photo essay displays Shay's photographic skills at their best (his son Dick helped with this work), and the interviews give some exciting insights into how the big boys think.

That leaves 90 pages for the "comprehensive" guide and it just can't be done.

This is unfair, of course—asking a book to live up to its advertising department inspired cover captions is like asking the president to live up to his campaign promises, or a young bride to live up to her promise.

What this book does do is go a step beyond the beginners level and offer some valuable insights on self-improvement, strategy and conditioning. If read thoughtfully the book might help a competent club player advance a notch or two.

Shay writes as well as he takes pictures, and for a former *Life* magazine photographer that's saying a lot. His folksy style and dry wit make the most technical subjects sound like homespun remedies for the hiccups.

The book is a good one, but it's not comprehensive.

Ranking: 7

Sauser, Jean, and Shay, Arthur. *Teaching Your Child Racquetball*. Chicago: Contemporary books, Inc., 1978. 65 pages.

It would be unAmerican, antisocial and misanthropic to knock a book teaching the great sport of racquetball to kids, even if the book deserved it.

Fortunately this book doesn't deserve it. Shay combines his photo-journalistic skills with Sauser, a woman racquetball professional who has spent thousands of hours in the court teaching all ages of racquetball players the game's fundamentals. Many of her students have been youngsters of all ages.

The book is organized according to traditional classroom teaching technique—analytic lesson, practice, play, new material, review. The lessons are well graded, each suggesting creative exercises to practice the new skills introduced in every chapter.

The length of the lessons would have to be varied according to age. Shay-Sauser base the lessons on a one hour time period: five warm-up minutes, 40 lesson minutes, and 50 play minutes, but for very young children the 40 lesson minutes would be far too long no matter how interestingly and creatively conceived.

The book is nicely organized, although the two photos on page 47 should be exchanged with one another. Volley is used consistently throughout the book when rally is meant (this is an old racquetball use since discarded, analogous to spelling racquet "racket").

The writing style is straightforward after a meager page one sentence ("*Children are at their best as they achieve and as they pick up the strength and knowledge that they are indeed achieving and that others who love or like them are watching them achieve.*")

One could ask the question, I suppose, if the analytic teaching method is the best way to start youngsters playing racquetball, but the argument would be long, convoluted, and, in the end, inconclusive.

The important thing is to get the kids playing and, as the authors say, "praise, praise, praise" them at every opportunity.

This is a fine work, an absolutely essential addition to your racquetball library; you'll find that as you teach some youngster, you'll learn a great deal about the game yourself.

Ranking: 8

Shay, Arthur, and Sheftel, Chuck. *Contemporary Racquetball*. Chicago: Contemporary Books, Inc., 1978.

The premise of this book is first rate, the illustration abominable, and the text somewhere in between.

It's a series of eight one hour lessons designed by Sheftel, a teaching pro and leader of APRO (the American Professional Racquetball Organization) for the rank beginner. It's an attempt to structure a beginning player's first flailings into something constructive, something that will accelerate even faster racquetball's already mercurial learning curve.

Arthur Shay, Sheftel's collaborator, polishes the text and succinctly states the book's purpose when, on page 56, he says "*The point is to practice creatively with goals, rather than just hitting the ball around at random.*"

A point worth considering is whether or not you want your beginning strokes to be that structured. Some people might not want to spend five minutes warming up, three minutes on drill A, 10 minutes on drill B, etc., which is how tightly the lessons are structured.

I suspect some people will find this cookbook approach to their leisure time activity a bit too confining. Many people can follow a recipe quite faithfully, adding a teaspoon of this a cup of that, and a pound of whatever, secure in the knowledge they're doing what is right.

Others prefer the pinch-of-this, smidgeon-of-that method, realizing full well it might take a little longer to find the right combination, but enjoying equally well the unexpected stews they encounter along the way.

The content of the book is solid, although the language tends to be loose in spots, such as descriptions

of the center court theory being merely a defensive maneuver (p. 61) and saying the drive serve demands more accuracy than other serves (p. 53).

Some of the drills are particularly creative, such as the touch-and-go drill on pages 63 and 64. One drill has a photo showing it done but no text to identify further its purpose (p.69).

Oh yes the illustrations. I would be interested in the editorial process that led to the decision to use line drawings for illustration when one of the authors (Shay) is one of the greatest sports photographers in the world. Nobody does it better than Shay, certainly not the drawings used in this book.

Ranking: 7

Spear, Victor. *How To Win At Racquetball*. Chicago: Rand-McNally, 1976. 80 pages.

Victor Spear's philosophy of winning racquetball sounds simple: "*Hit a dead winner every time you have a good opportunity. If you can't hit a dead winner, hit a perfect defensive shot. Never hit anything in between.*" (p. 7)

It's how he goes about coaching this principle that makes this short book much more complex than it looks at first sweep.

Spear does not waste time teaching you how to hit the shots. What he does tell you is what to do with the shots you have in your arsenal.

It's a strategy book and Spear's purpose is to get players thinking about their modus operandi when playing, because he firmly believes that the marginal athlete who analyzes his strategy can keep up with the gifted athletes who don't have to rationalize to do the things that just come naturally.

Spear likens racquetball to chess, an action-reaction endeavor that keeps the mind going as fast as the feet. This cerebral demension to the game makes choosing the right shot more important than executing it, or at least as important.

He takes pleasure in qualifying some of the hoary truths of racquetball strategy: center court position is not

always exactly center court depending on your opponent's location as he strikes the ball; the offensive-defensive distinctions between receiver and server lose validity after the serve is made; ice is not the first reaction to a twisted ankle, pressure is.

Some minor quarrels with the book: service aces aren't as rare as the author suggests; the diagrams are out of proportion to a true court; the layout is too informal; the subjects are sometimes treated too superficially; and the explanation of the frontwall-backwall-frontwall shot on page 49 is confusing.

The writing is, however, alive, the insights are generally sound, and the author's love for the game comes shining through his strategic pronouncements. Thus the essay-poem at the end of the book telling how much he loves the game is overkill. It makes him sound like a racquetball fanatic—come to think of it, that's not so rare nowadays.

Ranking: 7

Spear, Victor. *Sports Illustrated Racquetball*. New York: J.B. Lippencott Co., 1979. 173 pages.

Victor Spear includes all the good points of his *How To Win At Racquetball* in this new book for *Sports Illustrated*, and adds so many more good things that he comes up with a superior product.

He bases his whole book on the same foundational premise that he presents in *How to Win*, that touchstone of racquetball strategy: "*Hit a dead winner whenever you get a chance; if you feel you can't hit a dead winner hit a perfect defensive shot; never hit anything in between.*" (p. 77)

Spear downplays the importance of teaching actual stroke technique in an instructional book, saying that expertise can be better learned from a pro in the court. Instead, he says, the guts of an instructional book should be the strategy section.

Although this theory is seductively attractive, it is overstated, because the same thing Spear claims for stroke technique can be claimed, with equal validity, for strategy—that is, it can

best be learned from a discussion with a knowledgeable pro, and a book can only serve as a temporary aid.

Still one is willing to concede Spear his point, if only provisionally, because he teaches strategy so well in his book—far better than anyone else. What most racquetball authors make a four or five page incidental chapter in their book, Spear focuses on. And he does it masterfully.

Spear writes beautifully, and waxes poetic when it comes to speaking of the values of racquetball:

You can't hide your weaknesses in these (other) sports. You can in racquetball. You can't select your opponent's shots in other sports; you can in racquetball. Imagine forcing your golf opponent to drive with his putter; in the figurative sense you can do this in racquetball. Imagine hitting his ball behind a tree and forcing him to hit the next one; you can do this in racquetball. You can be a devious, shrewd, scheming puppeteer manipulating the other player to your heart's desire . . . if you understand. Racquetball is the great equalizer." (p. 76)

This book is superb. Buy it.

Ranking: 9

Shay, Arthur, and Fancher, Terry. *Forty Common Errors in Racquetball*. Chicago: Contemporary books, Inc., 1978. 108 pages.

The format of this book is quite different than all of the other racquetball instructional books. It consists of identifying a mistake made by inexperienced players and then demonstrating the correct form or procedure necessary to rectify that error. Both mistake and correction are illustrated by large photographs taken by coauthor Art Shay.

The method is based on the premise that racquetball beginners make very common errors that they share with all their other brethren. They're mistakes that coauthor Fancher saw time after time in his days as a teaching pro. Errors of grip, positioning, stroke, shot-making, and basic strategy are simple enough for the trained observer to identify and correct. This book takes the place of the trained observer.

In spite of the limited scope the authors pack a lot of material into their photo captions, which really turn out to be mini-lessons. The lessons can't be considered analytical, of course, but valuable information is imparted in an easy to digest style.

Some of the mistakes and corrections are difficult to photograph.

Several of the corrections really don't show what they claim to correct. Arm crimp (p. 44) is not really corrected in the photo on page 45. The correction for jammed service (p. 34) shows a player hitting the ball while out of the service area (p. 35).

The book can be considered a useful review of some simple racquetball problems, but chances of it changing your game around are slim. You'll be lucky if you find your particular faux pas in the book and even luckier if the terse text is enough to help you correct it.

But it might help you diagnose some touchy areas in your game.

Ranking: 6

Sausser, Jean, and Shay, Arthur. *Racquetball Strategy*. Chicago: Contemporary Books, Inc., 1979. 87 pages.

One day Arthur Shay had a book deadline. He thought and he thought and thought: "*How can I meet my book deadline? What kind of racquetball book can I do now?*"

He called up one of his coauthors, Jean Sausser, who had already done two racquetball books with Shay, *Teaching Your Child Racquetball*, and *Inside Racquetball For Women*, and he said, "*Jean, we have to do another book. What can we do?*" "A strategy book, Art," was Wonder Woman's reply. "*The strokes have been covered in other books. We've already hit the special interest groups with our two books for children and women. But a good strategy book is needed. Let's get to work.*"

They decided on some situations that called for strategy planning such as a male playing a female, a female playing a male, playing an older player, playing an out-of-shape player, or playing a younger player, and then they devised strategy to deal with

those situations. Shay took photos to illustrate the situations, and Sauser wrote the text to describe the strategies.

Soon they had 82 strategies for aspiring players to digest. True, some of the photos don't always describe the action related in the text (such as hitting into the back wall first, page 36), but most of them do, and descriptions of what to do are excellent.

And the moral? Necessity is the mother of many a good racquetball book.

Ranking: 7

Sauser, Jean, and Shay, Arthur. *Inside Racquetball For Women*. Chicago: Contemporary Books, Inc., 1977. 107 pages.

If you're a woman and want to learn how to play racquetball, this book is a must buy. It does the job. Sauser and Shay use the mistake-correction technique Shay has pioneered; a photo and accompanying text describe a mistake common to beginning racquetball players and then another photo with text shows the correction.

It's a technique Shay used with less success in *Forty Common Errors In Racquetball*; here the photos are clearer and more descriptive, the text is more complete, and the book holds together better as a teaching tool.

Much of the credit must go to Sauser, a woman pro player who teaches racquetball for a living. She has started thousands of women on the road to healthy living through racquetball, and she understands the beginner's problems intimately.

The authors identify each mistake with a name, and their terminology easily qualifies as the most creative portion of the book. The beginning racquetball player is liable to fall prey to the dreaded Dancer's Step, get tossed into the Frying Pan or be ambushed by the Arabesque—all fates worse than death.

Rest assured Sauser-Shay ride to the rescue with their corrections.

Ranking: 7

Note: *National Racquetball* frequently runs excerpts from *Inside Racquetball for Women* in the "Women in Racquetball" section.



Hogan, Marty, Brumfield, Charlie, and Shay, Arthur. *Marty Hogan's Power Racquetball*. Chicago: Contemporary Books, Inc., 1978. 135 pages.

Why is this instructional book so much more interesting than other racquetball books that teach basically the same things? Two reasons.

First it purports to teach something entirely new—power racquetball. There is a fascination in something entirely new, something that will, once mastered, change your life completely. In this case if you learn to hit the racquetball hard, like Marty Hogan, you will practically overnight change your game around, and, even if you don't become the next national champion, you should at least begin to contend for the club championship.

Second the instruction is molded around the paradigmatic example of racquetball's charismatic superstar, Marty Hogan. The grip taught is Marty Hogan's grip, the exercise program is the one Marty uses, the forehand and backhand come straight from the game of a young man who thoroughly dominates the current world of racquetball, and Hogan is not just any homerun hitter, he is a bona fide Babe Ruth.

Go to a racquetball pro tournament and you'll see all matches pale in comparison with Hogan's; you can feel the excitement in the gallery as he takes the court and begins to warm up. He has star quality.

It is to the author's credit that they have been able to impart this charisma into the book—the whole book says that since Marty does it this way, it must be right.

Marty Hogan's Power Racquetball takes these elements, the great game of racquetball, the "new, improved" concept, and Marty Hogan's charisma, and puts them together in a very pleasing formula. It teaches both beginning skills and some advanced theorizing that make it a winner, so much so that even the minor errors don't bother (identification of Ben Koltun as Ben Holtun on page 84, an irritating overuse of the word microsecond and calling the back wall a player's alley instead of an ally on page 68.).

The book is one of the better efforts on behalf of racquetball.

Ranking: 8 ●

Making Them Try Harder

French, Dutch, Germans Learn from Americans

by John Parry

Slowly but surely racquetball is edging its way towards acceptance as a serious sport in Europe. It's still not the booming leisure activity it's become in the States, but the seeds have been sown and a band of dedicated promoters is at work making sure they sprout.

Last fall representatives of racquetballer players in Britain, Germany, Holland, France and Switzerland got together to found the European Racquetball Federation, which will administer the sport on a Europe-wide basis. The longer established European Racquetball Association will continue to occupy itself exclusively with governing racquetball as played by the U.S. military on bases in Europe and the Near East, but will provide badly needed technical assistance for the fledgling European body.

"We recognize we can't play the game correctly without American instruction and for that reason we consider ourselves fortunate to have a pool of American players attached to the ERA who can put us on the right road," says ERF Vice-President Raetke Muller of Germany. The gulf between the Americans and their European pupils remains wide, however: in the four Open tournaments staged so far at Racket Center Westvliet in The Hague, Holland, no European player has ever beaten an American!

Muller, who is in the electronics business, has been active in promoting the game throughout Europe and last fall made a one month swing through the States talking with promoters, court club officials, equipment manufacturers and tournament organizers to pick up tips for future development in Europe.

"We're all agreed that the way to go is to build court clubs in Europe similar to those which exist in the States," he says. *"The problem is to find the financing for them, especially with European bankers coping with the current economic squeeze."*

Tony Luyckx, right, beat Theo Truys in the finals of the Dutch Singles Championships in December.



Two in the Netherlands

Nevertheless courts are slowly but surely being built. At Racket Center Westvliet Han (cq) Van der Heijden, president of the Dutch Racquetball Association and the man who brought the sport to the Netherlands, now has four courts fully operational at his indoor tennis/squash club, and plans four more in 1981. A second racquetball club with four courts opened recently at Zwijndrecht and the Holiday Inn at Leiden, near Amsterdam Airport, has begun operations with one court.

In France a six court facility is under construction near Paris and the promoters are actively looking for sites (and investors) for more courts in the Paris area. Aiding them is the French Racquetball Federation under President Daniel Roveri, a devoted

enthusiast who built France's first court in an old barn and is so keen to play he'll drive 100 miles (an enormous distance in Europe) for a game at a U.S. military base in Germany.

In northern Germany a complex of six racquetball and six squash courts is under construction in the Hamburg area and Muller is engaged in talks with a group of investors who would like to build another court club in the Freiburg area, in southern Germany. By the end of 1981, therefore, the number of active courts in use in Europe (excluding military facilities) should have more than doubled from 10 to 25, with more on the drawing board. Not a very spectacular development perhaps — but seen against the fact that three years ago there were no European racquetball courts at all, it's got to be a sign of the times.

Inside the Master's Mind

1979 Dutch Women's Singles Champ Mirjam Wiekeusen, left, anticipates Lucia van de Burg's shot.



The first European/Open Championships are scheduled for Racketcenter Westvliet April 26 and 27 with players from eight countries competing. A lively debate is now raging in the ERF as to whether American members of the ERA should be allowed to compete, since if they do it's obvious they're going to win everything. One who believes the Americans *should* be allowed to compete is Tony Luykcx, who won the Dutch Singles Championship at Westvliet Dec. 2, beating Theo Truys in the final 21-3, 21-8. It was Tony's second straight Dutch Championship.

All out

"I know my game is better when I play against American visitors because they make me try harder," he says. "Sure they're going to walk away with the championship if they play, but we're all going to learn from having to go all out against them."

Meanwhile in Britain, where racquetball is played on squash courts, the two rival bodies which have been grappling for power appear to be moving towards some kind of compromise which would mean that only one game is being played there.

Whatever decision is reached it still won't provide Britons with racquetball as it's known in the States and on the continent of Europe. No clubs built specifically for racquetball exist in Britain and none are planned.

The two versions of racquetball currently played on squash courts use American rules adapted to the different size of the court, and two different balls, one much slower than the U.S. ball. The compromise being worked out by Dunlop and Slazenger, the two largest British sports equipment manufacturers, is expected to bring about a game which adheres approximately to the U.S. rules, with some concessions made to the dimensions of the court and, perhaps, to the scoring.

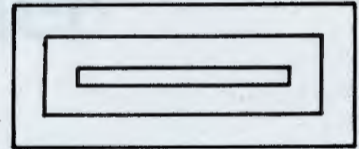
If the British don't build American style racquetball clubs, where do they go from here? Chester Nobbs, vice-president of the British Racquetball Association and a man in whom hope springs eternal, is convinced that *his* game, not the American version, is the game of the future. Putting his racquet where his mouth is Nobbs has organized a two leg tournament for Easter pitting Britain's best racquetball/squash players against a team of G.I.'s from the U.S. air base at Upper Heyford, near Oxford. The first leg will be played on a regulation racquetball court at the base, the second on a squash court.

"Then," says Nobbs confidently, "we shall see who's best at whose game!" ●

Watch for a report on that contest in a future issue of *National Racquetball*.

Inside the Master's Mind

by Charlie Brumfield



With this article Charlie Brumfield, four time national champion and touring pro for the Sportrooms Racquetball Clubs, continues his exclusive series for *National Racquetball*.

The Head Game: Part II — While You're Playing the Match

In our January article we discussed some of the mental aspects of prematch preparation. Now we're ready to get into the specifics of formulating an actual game plan.

I can't emphasize too strongly the importance of going into the match knowing what you're going to do. In addition know what your fall back plan will be in case of temporary failure. By that, I mean, go into the match with a specific game plan, tailored to play against the strengths and weaknesses of this particular opponent. In the event that Plan A doesn't work, have Plans B and C already formulated so that there is no confusion or anxiety, but rather a systematic approach at exhausting the possibilities of beating this particular opponent.

Essentially a game plan is the analytic, systematized method of attacking a certain game style. If you watch closely while someone plays, you'll realize that the shot taken in a certain situation becomes very predictable. Every player has a different style, but within that style he or she is usually pretty consistent. If you're playing someone who has a strong forehand and likes to shoot, you know what to expect when you give him a setup to the forehand. On the other hand you may realize that when given a setup to the backhand this same opponent always goes defensive. By being aware of this ahead of time you'll be one step ahead of your opponent.

I might add strongly that it's a very, very good idea to sit down with your coach, or a person you respect, before the match and map out your game plan on paper. It's an old trick that you

probably learned as a school kid: repetition makes things stick in your mind. I'll diagram four or five serves that I want to concentrate on. I'll also make a list of do's and don'ts against that particular opponent. I'll even map out specific situations that are likely to occur, so that there will be fewer surprises during the match. You'll find that one of the best ways of improving your percentage of success is to know what you're going to do beforehand, rather than having to make a split second decision in the course of a heated match. If you've already thought your game plan through ahead of time, all you have to do during the match is execute.

Let's keep in mind that in organizing a game plan we are presupposing that you have acquired the adequate technical skills necessary to be able to hit a pass shot or kill or ceiling ball. Obviously it won't do you a bit of good to say you're going to shoot everything off the back wall if your percentage of skips is triple your percentage of kills. Knowing what to do and being able to do it are two different things; so for the purposes of this article we're assuming that your game plan will only include shots that are in your own individual repertoire.

I'd also like to point out that when we discuss these different types of players or playing styles, we're not strictly talking stereotypes because you'll never face a player who is purely a runner or purely a retriever or purely a power player. Everybody's game style is a mixture of several styles, but for the sake of simplicity it's probably easier for us to break these down into categories as if the stereotypes existed in reality.

Game Plan Rules

Basically there are two rules for devising a game plan, with the ideal being a combination of the two. Rule number one is: play your own game. Rule number two is: use a game style which forces your opponent out of his or her game style. The ideal is to master a number of different styles so that you can always play your own game, which is Rule number one, but at the same time you'll be forcing your opponent out of his or her game style, which is Rule number two.

For example if you're playing a power player like Marty Hogan and you're basically a power player also, you're still going to lose to Hogan because you're letting him do what he does best. If you were a more versatile player, you would realize that you would be better off playing a slow, garbage game, keeping the ball high enough so that Hogan couldn't generate his tremendous power. At the same time if by switching to the slow, garbage game, you actually do yourself more harm than good because the only style you can play is power, then stick to your game. Then it becomes a contest to see who can overpower the other.

Steve Strandemo at one time was probably in better shape physically than any other player. Strandemo circa 1975 never killed the ball under any circumstances, but he moved his opponents around until they dropped from exhaustion after a tour of the court. If that's the case, I would recommend stepping into the passing lane to cut the ball off and end the rally with a kill shot at the earliest possible convenience. A good player

You might put your game plan on tape.



—Carole Charraus photo

would be able to switch to that game plan, but if you were unable to kill the ball, I would still recommend Rule number one: play your own game.

No one wants to match up against the stronger points of an opponent if there's a chance to go up against an opponent's weaker points. If you can kill the ball against the Steve Strandemo type player, then you have a better chance of easily coping with his game style — that of the stereotyped retriever. But, under no circumstances, should you try to take the other person out of his or her game if at the same time it hurts your game even more.

The greatest players in the history of individual sports have been the ones who can master a variety of styles. During the course of your development as a racquetball player I would suggest that you take the time to develop alternate styles. That way you'll be following both Rule one and Rule two and also will find that few opponents will give you any trouble. Good players can handle certain opponents, while being thrown off by others. Great players can handle them all.

The Bull

Let's kick off the discussion with the so-called pro style of play, which, of course, includes Marty Hogan, the premier player in racquetball today. We'll describe Hogan's style, for sake of stereotype, as the "Bull".

Now how do you confront the Bull? Generally speaking there are areas in every power player's game where he can't hit with power. Therefore you will want to aim for this area.

The typical Bull musculature does not permit for a tight swing when reaching for shots in the area of the high backhand. Marty Hogan is the exception to this, which is why he is so unusually deadly. But most Bulls cannot hit hard from there, and it frustrates the power mentality. The power player has to hit hard at all times to avoid the "powderpuff" feeling.

What you want to do is try to move the Bull out of his or her natural habitat. You want to move the Bull into an alien position where he or she is forced to play pitty-pat racquetball, which is more to your style of play (Rule one). If there is an area where the Bull can't hit the ball hard, keep the ball there the majority of the time and you'll tend to frustrate your opponent (Rule two).

If, on the other hand, you run into a Bull who seems to have no weak area to aim to, then at least aim away from the area that he hits the ball hardest from. One method is to keep the ball as high as possible without having the ball carom off the back wall. You'll find that power players, no matter what their ability to hit with power,

Diagram 1

When killing from a higher angle the ball will hit the front wall at such an angle that the ball will pop up.



have a more difficult time killing from a higher angle. From that height the Bull's power tends to work negatively because the ball will hit the front wall at such an acute angle that it pops up and gives you a chance to recover it. (See diagram one.)

Shot Defenses against the Bull

Ceiling

Now the shots that you can use to keep the ball above the waist to prevent the Bull from hitting with full force are the ceiling ball, lob shot, and garbage — medium speed returns. I was probably the all time advocate of the ceiling ball. I was able to keep power players, like the young Steve Serot, at bay by keeping any ceiling ball deep within two or three feet of the back wall at chest height. Because this is above the optimum power zone, the Bull has problems trying to use power effectively against a well placed ceiling ball.

Lob

The lob shot goes back in history to the earliest racquetball players, among them Carl Loveday. Now keep in mind that the balls were considerably slower at that time, so today we virtually have to remove the lob from our game plan, except as a desperation attempt when we have no other swing at the ball. In that case only hit the lob shot to the Bull.

Garbage

The garbage ball is a five foot high, medium speed, pass shot that's designed to go either cross court or down-the-line. The leading modern advocate of the garbage pass is Victor Niederhoffer, who registered a stunning victory over top ranked Richard

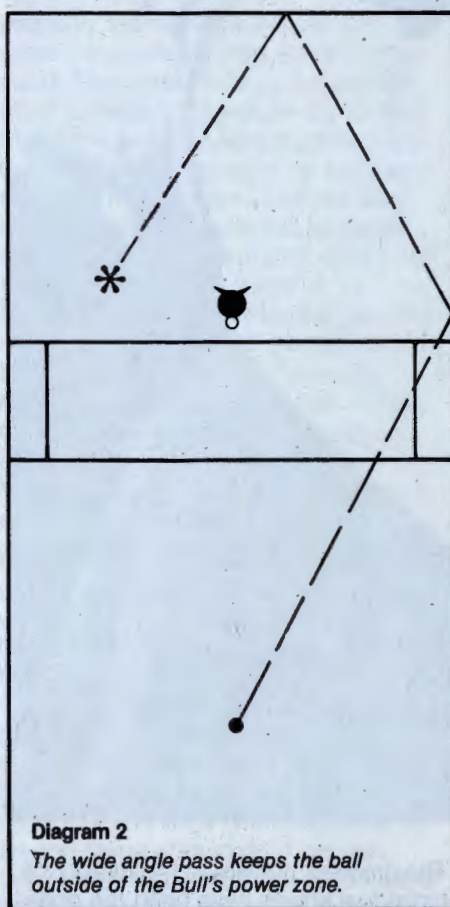


Diagram 2

The wide angle pass keeps the ball outside of the Bull's power zone.

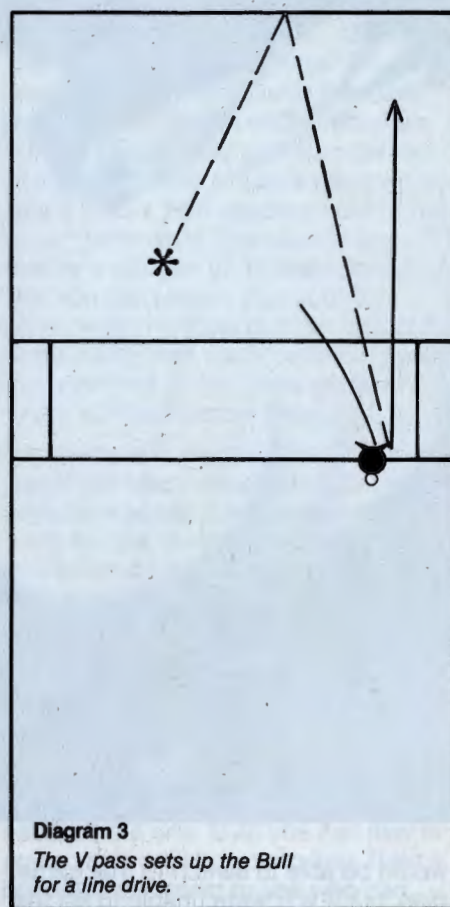


Diagram 3

The V pass sets up the Bull for a line drive.

Wagner in a recent pro stop, using this very same shot — a medium speed pass that is frustratingly and tantalizingly high as it passes, yet the ball slows down from lack of speed as it catches the side wall or before it has a chance to carom off the back wall.

Wide Angle Pass

Another method of playing against the Bull is to hit the ball outside the power zone. Most power players have

to be able to extend the arm and torque through the ball with the entire body to generate power ("Crack the whip" as we discussed in the *National Racquetball* May, 1979, story, "Putting Power into Your Game.") You'll find that there are really two ways of keeping the ball out of the power zone. One is to hit the ball in such a way that it is beyond the swinging reach of the power player. This is normally done by what we call the wide angle pass. (See diagram two.)

It's designed to hit the side wall slightly behind your opponent and carry in behind, dying as it reaches the back wall. This shot is very often combined with the Niederhoffer garbage trajectory where you keep the ball high so that even if your opponent does try to cut the ball off prior to the time it reaches the side wall, it is really too high to do anything with it without running into the acute angle pop-up problem. However you must hit this shot with some type of touch or else the Bull will either be able to cut it off or get a setup off the back wall.

Jamming

The second method of keeping the ball outside of your opponent's power zone is to keep it inside the zone. In other words jam the Bull. Hit the ball right at the Bull.

Serve Defenses against the Bull

You can use this ploy on your serve by hitting the interior jam serve we discussed in the article on serves in the March, 1979, issue of *National Racquetball*. The drive and fly is also an excellent serve against Bulls because it tends to force them to hit in front of the power zone. (Remember that you have to contact the ball between the middle of your stance and your back foot to generate maximum power. — Refer back to May, 1979.)

Other serves to use against the Bull are the high lob which catches the sidewall, the garbage serve to take advantage of the acute angle pop up problem and the short angle crack which forces your power opponent to reach in front and lift the ball. It's impossible to hit hard if you have to reach in front of the proper contact position.

Now during the rally against the Bull you'll often find that he or she is a lumbering person who uses bulk and strength to hit the ball hard. This is not necessarily so because a relatively fragile athlete like Marci Greer or Davey Bledsoe, who has conquered the basic fundamentals of the power swing, can hit the ball hard. However it is a general stereotype that most Bulls are husky macho type players who feel that they must attempt to overpower you rather than outthink you.

Marci Greer is a Bull without the typical build.

Bring the Bull Back

When you're playing that type of player, you want to move the ball around and force the Bull to constantly go back rather than being able to stand and slug. Try, if you can without violation of Rule one, not to slug it out with a slugger. Try to use the system we just talked about — attack with height, move the Bull out of the power zone and jam the Bull. Whatever you do, don't hit the pure V pass. (See diagram three.) The V is right up the Bull's alley in more ways than one so that he or she will be able to drill the ball into the bottom board before you realize what's happening.



Slow the Game

A final method to include in your game plan against the Bull is to slow the game down, not only the pace of the game, but also the pace of your shot. The Bull likes to play a jet powered slam-bam game in order to overpower. Instead give the Bull something offspeed to hit. Along the same lines you would be crazy to pitch a fast ball to slugger Reggie Jackson. Pitch Reggie something offspeed so that he has to time it in order to hit hard. Make him supply his own power. The same applies to the sluggers in racquetball.

To slow down the pace of the game try taking your time before putting the ball in play. Think about your shot before you hit it. Try to play the type of game that's going to make your opponent antsy. When the Bull gets antsy, he or she will overswing when finally getting it so that the ball carries off the back wall, or else skips directly into the floor and bounces almost to the ceiling.

You shouldn't hit slammers to the Bull any more than you'd pitch a fast ball to Reggie Jackson.



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.



— Arthur Shay photo

The Rabbit

Now let's talk about playing the Rabbit, the retriever, the runner. As a stereotype this player doesn't have a lot of shots. What the Rabbit usually does is set you up for what appears to be an easy shot with an open lane to hit into. You try to blow it by the Rabbit and all of a sudden — zooooom! You can't really understand it — your opponent has stepped over and rekilld the shot!

The Rabbit loves to run. He or she loves to be in off balance position where there's a need to chase down the ball. That's what the fans love. It gives Rabbits an adrenaline burst. They feel like they're contributing to the match and giving it their all.

Now what a Rabbit tends to do is take a position, which is usually well out of center court, because the Rabbit is generally not a shotmaker. Pro players like Heather McKay and Davey Bledsoe are the exceptions because they can both hit and run, but generally Rabbits are in poor position most of the time simply because they hit poor shots.

Stay Away from the Cavern

Your natural instinct is "Boy, there's a cavern to hit the ball in and it'll be a winner..." until the Rabbit sprints over with three quick steps and rekills your "winner." You're so shocked, so you can't even move.

Heather McKay is an exceptional Rabbit.

Never Quit

That brings us up to point number two in your game plan against a Rabbit: expect a Rabbit to retrieve every ball. Never quit on the rally until the ball has bounced three times and then, if you're playing the Cheater, you still can't quit.

There also is no question that Rabbits tend to be able to hit most effectively

on the run. They've been in that situation so much that they've gotten good at hitting while retrieving. On the other hand what would be an easy kill to anyone else really throws off Rabbits' timing. They're not used to someone executing the ball so they don't have to run.

When I played a Rabbit in the old days I almost exclusively went to the ceiling. That way the Rabbit was stuck in the back corner. No one was doing much running and it became a game of patience, intellect and execution which, as a rule, the Rabbit does not excel at.

Therefore hit the ball to Rabbits and you'll find they do less running and less scoring. Don't attempt to play the Rabbit's game, expecting the Rabbit to tire, because Rabbits can run forever and you'll probably be the first to tire. ●



Coming up in April: Brumfield's strategy against Shootists, Crowders, One Armed Bandits, Dinkers, Turtles and the player who's "hot."

Ask the Champ

by Marty Hogan

Two Time and Current National Champion Marty Hogan 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: Do you play mixed doubles? How do you change your game?

Dave and Connie Ohlendorf, Lakewood, CO

Hogan: Personally I do not engage in mixed doubles, but I think it's an essential division to be played in any well run amateur tournament. If run correctly mixed doubles can become one of your tournament's biggest crowd pleasers. There should be separate rules for mixed doubles. For instance girls would have to serve to girls and guys to guys.

Some day racquetball will follow tennis and there will be tournaments during the season set aside for professional mixed doubles. When this happens I will take part.

Question: Is playing tennis bad for a person's racquetball game?

Judy Brown, Middlebury, VT

Hogan: I believe that any sport which takes advantage of hand and eye coordination could not be bad for your racquetball game. These sports include badminton, squash, table tennis and that even includes hitting a baseball. In racquetball when you hit the ball, the snap of your wrist, timing and your hand-eye are very important. These factors are just as important in the other sports I named.

I do not agree with the argument that because in racquetball your wrist snaps through the ball and in tennis your wrist is stiff upon contact and you swing with your arm, playing one game hurts the other. If you were a weekend tennis player and a full time racquetball player, the difference in the wrist snap would never have a bad effect on either game. I do not play tennis very often, but when I do it does not bother my racquetball game.

Take a break from the indoor four-walled sport and go outside to play tennis. You will be surprised at how much stronger your arm feels without lifting weights. This gives you greater power in your racquetball game. I am all for tennis!

Question: Do you ever lose concentration during a game? How do you regain it?

Lori Kamber, Eureka, CA

Hogan: Yes there are times during the course of a match when I lose my concentration. I will also find myself losing my intensity. It is very easy to regain your concentration. Just block out everything around you, like the referee and the gallery, and just study each point. If you play each point like the first point of the match, it's hard to worry about past mistakes. When I lose my concentration, it's always a result of errors I have made.

When your intensity leaves, your concentration wanders and your whole game falls off. It is very hard for a person to regain their intensity. Most players do not get very intense before the start of a match. They should. This is something that does not just happen in the middle of the second game. Also the more intense a player comes out the chances are greater that he will break out to a lead in the first game. Prepare yourself hours before an important match to clearly get your mind ready to play the best racquetball possible.

Question: What do you eat between meals during a tournament, especially when you have to play twice in one day? What does your pre-game meal consist of?

Steve Musgrave, Norfolk, VA

Hogan: The worst thing you can do at a tournament is shock your system by eating things you do not usually eat.

Whatever your normal eating habits are continue these habits throughout the tournament. A shock to your body could end up with a reverse effect and make you tired at game time.

Normally I eat three meals a day with very little snacking in between. I also eat this way at tournaments. When I have to play twice a day, then I make sure that I eat at least three hours before my match starts. This gives me plenty of time to digest the meal.

If you insist on having something before a match, let me recommend pancakes or spaghetti. Both of these foods are high in carbohydrates and are a good quick energy source.

My pre-game meal might consist of anything from steak to Chinese food, because I will eat anything that is available!

Question: What can I do about an opponent who consistently fields my ceiling shots from above his head, and drills them into the corners at a 45 degree angle with the ball ending up about one inch off the floor?

Barrie Camelon, Seattle, WA

Hogan: The safest service return in the game is still the ceiling ball. The problem that arises with ceiling balls is carrying deep and coming off the back wall for a setup.

If your opponent is killing your ceiling shots, then you must change your defensive shots. Usually players will not bring down and shoot the first ceiling ball hit to them. If you mix up your ceiling balls with around-the-wall-balls, your opponent will never get into a rhythm to bring the ball down and shoot it. In most instances shooting the ceiling ball is one of the hardest shots in the game; therefore let your opponent take that shot, because sooner or later the percentages will catch up with him. ●

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Instructional

When in Doubt Go to the Ceiling

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.

You've heard the expression used in and out of football: "*When in doubt, punt.*" In racquetball when in doubt, go to the ceiling. A ceiling ball is your safety valve, an escape shot which, when properly executed, can get you out of almost any jam.

Of course you don't punt a football unless you have to and the same rule applies in racquetball. Whenever you have an offensive opportunity, go for it by all means. You can't win a racquetball match on ceiling shots alone.

But you really shouldn't be hitting kills, pinches or even most of your passes when the ball is above your waist. Then, too, there are times when you are off balance, cramped in a corner or against a side wall or just don't have time to get set up for a good offensive shot. That's when the ceiling starts looking good.

A well hit ceiling shot will drive an opponent to the back wall where the ball will still be shoulder level or higher. Usually his only option is a ceiling return of his own so you sometimes get what seems to be an interminable ceiling rally, a kind of stalemate in which both players are on the defensive.

However, just like a football punt, a ceiling shot has a certain offensive quality. A punter will try to kick the ball out of bounds inside the other team's five yard line so that it has "*its back to the wall.*" A smart racquetball player will try to maneuver his opponent into one of the back corners, preferably the one on the opponent's backhand side.

The only danger here is that you will lose your patience and/or control during this game within a game. If you do, one of two bad things could happen.

The first is that you will try to get your opponent over into the corner too quickly and put too much angle on your ceiling ball. This is a common occurrence which usually results in the ball caromming off the side wall and dropping neatly into the middle of the court after which you can kiss the point goodbye.

Remember I said to "*maneuver*" your opponent. Do it a little at a time during a couple of returns until you have him returning down-the-wall ceiling shots with his backhand. Concentrate on just hitting your ceiling shots perfectly so that they contact the ceiling about five feet back from the front wall and then arc back nicely from the front wall to slide right down the back wall.

Some players, like my Ektelon teammate, Jerry Hilecher, like to hit ceiling balls sort of sidearm for more lift. I prefer to go overhead except on my backhand. Steve Keeley is probably the all time virtuoso of the ceiling ball, not because he hits it hard, but because he exercises near perfect control. And that takes concentration and patience, right? Which brings us to the second bad thing that can happen if you lose either.



On the backhand ceiling ball, you will almost always find it easier to use a sidearm stroke as shown here.



When the ball approaches you at about shoulder level, however, you may wish to hit your ceiling ball sidearm as is shown here. Some feel that this gives them more lift to the ceiling.



The ceiling ball is usually an overhand shot as shown here where the ball has approached above head level, has been hit and is dropping from five feet in front of the front wall on the ceiling to the front wall.

Sometimes during a long ceiling rally you may become impatient and try to snatch a high ball out of the air, shooting down on it for a pinch or kill. Lindsay Myers likes to do this and he often gets away with it, but you probably won't. It's a very low percentage play and there is just no good reason why you should want to go out on a limb anyway.

Better to outwait your opponent, letting him take the chances. Let him go against the percentages. He might make two out of 10 shots that way that look pretty spectacular, but you'll scoop up his other eight failures.

Then, too, there's always the possibility that he'll make a poor ceiling return which, again, is another reason to play the waiting game.

On the other hand, don't be afraid to go for the low pinch or kill — even from the back court — if your opponent's ceiling ball drops far enough away from the back wall or rebounds high enough off the wall.

Again the rule here is not to rush your shot. Be patient, get set up and wait for the ball to drop nice and low. Don't swing wildly, but rather, finesse the ball into a front corner.

In summary, then, when you have both the time and room to get set up and swing, go for it. Offense is the name of the game. When in doubt, though, punt. ●

See Steve Strandemo's story next in *National Racquetball's* Instructional section for advice on breaking up a ceiling rally.

Breaking Up a Ceiling Rally

by Steve Strandemo

Racquetball is a game meant to be played on offense. The object of the game is to score. But there are times when you will run into an opponent who wants to hit nothing but ceiling balls. Lots of things may cause this.

Maybe he sees that you seem to be controlling the center court area too well. He becomes determined to pull you out of it.

Maybe he has forced YOU to hit a ceiling ball, and yours was so well placed that all he could do was hit another ceiling ball, and so on.

Any number of things can lead to a ceiling ball rally. The question is, how can you break it up, and restore a faster pace to the game?

Ironically the answer is that you have to be patient.

Given the opportunity I would go for a good offensive shot — preferably a kill attempt — every time I hit the ball. Sometimes, though, it just isn't possible. The ceiling ball rally is one of those times. To understand why let's look at what the ceiling ball does when it is hit properly.

The ceiling ball basically is a defensive shot, as everybody knows, but, when you think about it, you realize that it is a shot you hit with offense in the back of your mind. The player who hits one has been pulled, for one reason or another, to the back part of the court and isn't in good position to hit a pinch, down-the-line pass or cross court pass. He is on the defensive.

But when he goes for the ceiling shot, he knows that it will pull his opponent out of center court, too.

As he stands in the back court, he aims for a target on the ceiling about three feet back of the front wall. The ball hits there, then caroms off the front wall and down to the floor, where it bounces in the front court. It then travels in a high arc over the center court area, out of the reach of anyone standing there, and it comes down again, hitting the back wall about two feet above the floor.

The designated areas on the floor and back wall show where the ceiling ball will finish:
Area (1) The ceiling ball has been hit short; an offensive shot is appropriate; Area (2) The ceiling ball has been hit perfectly; it's best to hit another ceiling ball or an overhead drive (if you can angle the ball away from your opponent and keep it off the back wall). An overhead kill is risky because it's too hard to hit consistently. Area (3) The ceiling ball has been hit too long; it will rebound high off the back wall and an offensive shot is appropriate.

Photo 1



To know how to position yourself to return a ceiling ball you have to know where the ceiling ball might land. Analyze photo 1 for the three possible options. If the ball has been hit long, it will come high off the back wall (area 3) and give you a decent attempt at an offensive shot. The good ceiling ball hits lower on the back wall (area 2), no higher than two feet. If it hits the floor first (area 1), it's too short. The most difficult ball to reach is the one that hits low on the back wall (area 2).

When the ceiling ball is hit short (photo 2), there's no chance of it reaching the back wall. In that case you have to play it as it is coming down off its arc from the front court. You should have plenty of room to set up and hit a good offensive shot, either a pinch, down-the-line kill or pass or cross court kill or pass.

Let's assume, though, that your opponent hits a good ceiling ball following your well hit ceiling ball. Now both of you are in the back court, hitting ceiling balls. Now what? How do you break up the rally?

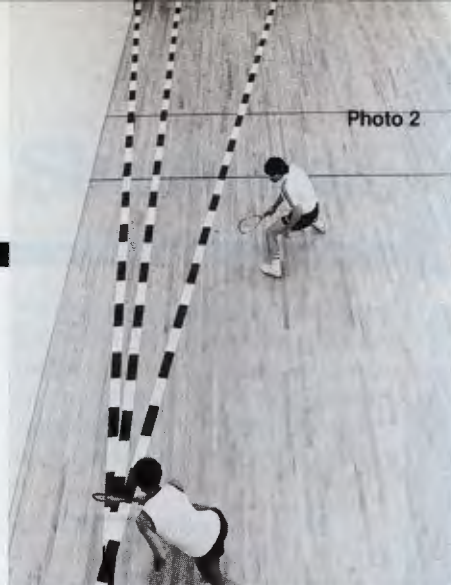


Photo 2

When the ceiling ball has been hit too short or too long, the offensive options are (1) down-the-line-kill or pass, (2) pinch, (3) cross court kill or pass.

Patience, Patience, Patience

Remember first of all to be patient. Stay with the rally until your opponent makes a mistake. It might take a long time. Sooner or later, though, one of you will hit a ceiling ball either too long or too short. You hope it will be your opponent. Then you can make your move.

The best choice is to go for a good offensive shot; a kill attempt down-the-line or cross court or a pinch shot. Frequently, though, your opponent's ceiling ball error won't be bad enough to give you a good opportunity for a kill attempt. In that case you should know what your other options are. None of them are particularly promising.

For example you can go for a reverse overhead pinch shot attempt, but it is an extremely low-percentage shot. It has about as much of a chance as breaking the bank in Vegas.

You can hit an around-the-wall-ball, a shot that hits all three walls before coming down in the back court. It can confuse a player who isn't familiar with it, as we discussed in our last article, but it is effective only against someone who doesn't know how to play it. The perfectly hit ATWB always crosses the center court area on the way down, and the good player will cut it off on the fly there.

So when you hit an ATWB and try to break up a ceiling ball rally, you may have broken it up in your opponent's favor, if he knows to move into center court and cut it off.

The Z ball resembles the ATWB, except it hits the front wall first, then the side wall, and caroms to the side wall in the opposite back court. It can confuse a novice, but smarter players know they can wait for a Z ball to come off that second side wall and usually get a good offensive shot off of it.

The best way to break away from a series of excellent ceiling balls is with the overhead drive. Remember to hit the shot low on the front wall to keep it from rebounding off the back wall for a setup.

Risky

A very good player sometimes can hit a winning overhead kill off of a ceiling ball, but is such a risky shot and hard to hit that it should be used only by a very experienced player, and very infrequently, just to change the pace (photo 3).

There are two types of overheads; the kill and the drive. Both use the same overhead motion that resembles a tennis serve. The kill is extremely difficult; the drive (photo 4) looks easier, but isn't, really, because it must be hit very accurately to keep the ball low enough. The front-wall target area is only three to four feet high, and you want to take some velocity off the shot so it doesn't come off the back wall too high and give your opponent a chance to set up for a kill attempt.

I'm not saying you shouldn't even bother to practice the overheads. If you play tennis, you know the motion. Otherwise, pretend you're throwing a ball overhand. Get plenty of snap in the wrist, and remember to keep the ball low.

The better idea, though, is to keep practicing ceiling balls. It sounds like an odd way to break up a ceiling ball rally, but if yours are better than your opponent's, eventually you'll get the break. As they say in football, sometimes the best offense is a good defense.

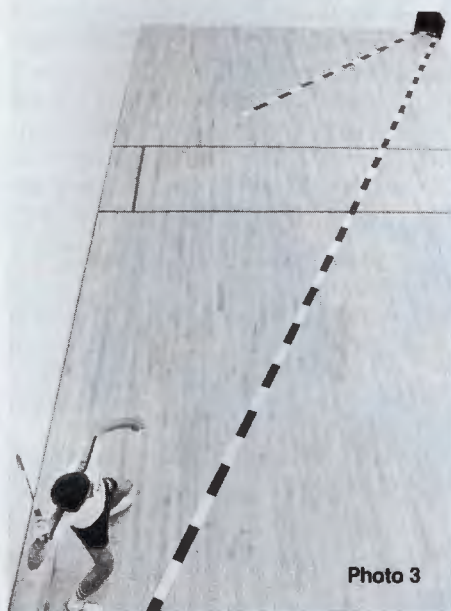


Photo 3

An overhead kill is one way to deal with a series of perfect ceiling balls. Notice how low it must be hit into the corner so it will not rebound out to center court. This is a low percentage shot.

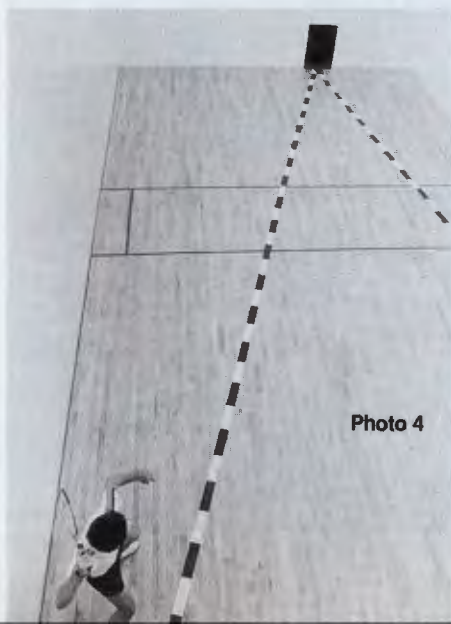


Photo 4

Encore! How to teach racquetball like the man who wrote the book.



Racquetball instructors nationwide asked for a truly professional method to teach the game. Here are three more opportunities to learn it.

With a better instructional program, a club will have better players. That means players that play more often, use more services and fill more court time. Instructors themselves are well aware that their programs can be a focus for club expansion and fill summer court time . . . if the method is right.

The Head/Strandemo Racquetball Instructor Program

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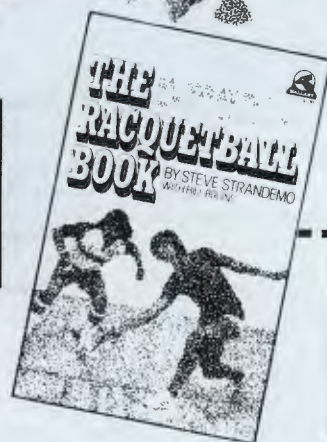
The body of knowledge Steve Strandemo acquired while writing *The Racquetball Book* forms the background for these intense weekends of on-court instruction and practice supplemented by classroom discussion and *Lecture*. Steve's teaching and coaching experience, tempered by six years on the pro tour, enables him to present his system of racquetball instruction clearly and professionally.

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Strandemo Instructs the Pros

Racquetball teachers from clubs, community centers and municipal recreation departments in almost half of the 50 states met with Steve Strandemo at his first instructors' clinic at the Killshot in Bloomington, IL.

The response was so great, Strandemo is planning three more weekend clinics within the next few months in other parts of the country.

Strandemo, who writes instructional stories for *National Racquetball* and has been consistently ranked among the top 10 men pros on the NRC tour for the last four years, is presenting the clinics in conjunction with his sponsor, Head. Head also sponsors racquetball camps that Strandemo directs.

The Strandemo instructors' clinics cover how to teach, how to attract people to the clubs, how to fill courts in the summer, how to use video tape in instruction and how to create programs for non-prime times. The



San Diego-based pro uses questions and answers, blackboard lectures, on-court demonstrations and video tapes of pro and amateur matches during his teaching seminars.

Call 312-397-0505 or write to Instructors' Programs, 2015 Post Oak Pl., Schaumburg, IL 60194 for more information. ●



Can you find your racquetball teacher in this photo from Strandemo's first instructors' clinic?

APRO Teaches . . . How to Prevent Injuries

by Chuck Wurzer

Members of the American Professional Racquetball Organization write this regular *National Racquetball* feature for club pros and other racquetball teachers. Chuck Wurzer is pro at Four Walls, Buffalo, NY.

Because racquetball is such an easy game to play, altogether too many people play without learning anything about the safety rules.

People should realize that they are in an enclosed room swinging a racquet. When a ball bounces and it is close to someone, it is natural for a beginner to swing at it, but he only does this because he never took the time to learn the safety rules.

Before a student walks on the court for the first time, please make sure he or she has learned the safety rules:

(1) Never swing at a ball that is too close to anyone. In racquetball whenever the ball is in position too close to anyone, you call "*hinder*" and the hinder rule means play it over again. This will prevent anyone from getting hit with the racquet.

(2) Be careful that you do not step behind anyone swinging at the ball. It is a blind spot and you could be hit by the racquet.

(3) Never turn around and face anyone swinging at the front wall. Always face the front wall! In racquetball you must follow the ball with your eyes, but when the ball is behind you put your racquet up in front of your face.

(4) Never play racquetball when you are cold. Before you start the opening serve, you must make sure your body is prepared. Do any exercise you want to warm up, but do not play cold.

(5) It is easy to pull a muscle or tear a ligament. One of the easiest ways to warm up is to volley on the court with two people. Never volley with more than two people.

Chuck Wurzer checks to see that the lanyard is firmly wrapped around his student's wrist.



(6) At the end of the handle of a racquet there is a rope known as the "*lanyard*". Remember that you may never play racquetball with any type of racquet without a lanyard. During play the palm of the hand can become sweaty, and after a hard swing a player could lose his racquet. The lanyard prevents the racquet from flying all over the court. In racquetball you cannot switch hands; the lanyard will prevent you from doing this.

(7) At the end of all aluminum racquets there is a rubber bumper. The rubber bumper is there for three important reasons: (a) it adds balance to the racquet; (b) it will prevent the aluminum from putting dents and

holes in the walls of the court, and (c) if by accident you strike someone with your racquet, it will absorb some of the shock. The aluminum will do more damage than the rubber.

(8) Before entering a court that has a solid back wall, make sure play stops before you open the door. If a player is running for the ball near the door, and you swing it open, it could cause an injury.

(9) Remember to protect your eyes while on the court. Eye protection is available in a variety of styles to suit your needs. The use of eye guards is mandatory in many tournaments.

Let's prevent injuries in racquetball! Teach the safety rules. ●

What's the Call?

by Dan Bertolucci



At the Tanner/Coca Cola Racquetball Classic in Memphis an interesting development occurred in — yes believe it or not — the pro division. This month's "What's the Call?" will direct itself to that specific situation.

The question that came up: What's the call when the server has checked to see that the receiver is ready and then assumes a serving position, only to have his or her concentration broken and so in order to regain the lost composure the server strikes the ball into the side wall with the racquet and then resumes his or her serving position? Answer *Side Out*; Why? As rule 4.6-Out Servers reads, "Any one of the following serves results in a side or handout . . . (C) Non-Front Serve. Any served ball that strikes the server's partner, or the ceiling, *floor or sidewall* before striking the front wall." Although I'm sure the player who committed this error was not intentionally violating the rule, he was somewhat surprised — even embarrassed — over the outcome. So you see even the pros make mistakes.

Corrections from January "What's the Call?" Phil Simborg, chairman of the Illinois State Racquetball Association rules and referees committee, pointed out some unintentional errors in the January "What's the Call?" that might need clarification to avoid any further confusion.

(1) Under what can or cannot be appealed — all fault serves can be appealed instead of just short serves.

(2) For clarification purposes if one linesman agrees with the ref's call stands. If, however, one linesman had no opinion, the play will either go over, or the ref's call will stand, depending on what the other linesman signals.

(3) If one linesman didn't see the play and the other linesman disagrees with the ref, the rally is replayed.

(4) If both linesman signal that they didn't see the shot, the ref's call will stand.

Thanks to an alert Phil Simborg for his thoroughness and concern for the rules and their correct interpretation. ●

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.



Chuck Leve, National Court Clubs Association executive director, has announced that the organization moved to larger quarters at 666 Dundee Rd., Northbrook, IL . . . Prefabricated, relocatable racquetball courts are now available through



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Racquetball Courts International, Inc. of Atlanta, GA . . . Ultra-Max is a new moderately textured black tri-polymer racquet string introduced by Ashaway Line and Twine Manufacturing Co. . . . Bjorn Borg stringing machines made by Ektelon, which has recently come out with a 30 page instructional booklet, are now available . . . Louis Zahn Data Service Corp., in cooperation with the Sweda International division of Litton Industries, has installed new Sweda L-25 electronic registers at two Chicago tennis/ racquet ball clubs . . . Chuck Carlson of Cranker Enterprises in Manhattan Beach, CA, is producing The Cranker, which uses a resistance principle "to build strength and flexibility in all parts of the arm." . . . The Women's Sports Association has established a New Jersey chapter at 58 Main St., in Chester . . . The Cresta Marauder, a new handcrafted racquetball racquet from England, is now available in the United States . . . Southern Prosthetic Supply Co. in Atlanta has developed a spiral knee brace which the company says allows the knee to make only beneficial movements. ●

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Peck Rings a Southern Bell

by Tom Reinman

Backhand blasts were part of Dave Peck's arsenal in his tie-breaker win against Davey Bledsoe, right, in the Memphis finals.

Dave's first pro stop win follows Bledsoe's triumph over Hogan.

It had to end sometime, and looking at the schedule, maybe Memphis, where Elvis, *"The King"* himself, is laid to rest, was the logical place for it to happen.

There weren't tons of flowers sent in, or hordes of people from Tupelo lined up outside the exhibition court at Memphis State University when the news hit. No one was ranting *"The Streak is Dead, Long Live the Streak."*

Maybe because people in Memphis have come to expect Davey Bledsoe's treatment of Marty Hogan. In 1976, in the same round of the same event on the same court, Bledsoe eliminated Hogan and went on to win his first pro tournament.

Well Bledsoe beat Hogan in the \$21,000 Tanner/Coca-Cola Classic Dec. 13-16, ending Hogan's nine tournament winning streak. But the guy who won his first tournament this time was Dave Peck, when he defeated Bledsoe 21-10, 7-21, 11-4.

"Dave's a good player," said the fourth seeded Bledsoe after his loss, *"and he'll get even better. I won my first here, and I'm happy to see him get his. I'm just sorry it was against me."*

"This is great," said Peck, the tourney's second seed. *"Just being ranked second was a thrill, and now I get this win. I'm in this game for fun, and this is fun. And the paycheck ain't bad, either."*

He had to earn it, though, and while it wasn't like digging for coal, neither was it like manning the pumps at a self service station.

Scott Hawkins fell to Peck in the first round 21-10, 21-16. Jerry Zuckerman was next, 21-6, 21-3. After his 21-13, 21-20 quarter-final win against Don Thomas, about all Peck could say was *"I'm glad that's over. He was playin' nothin' but tough."*

That came to be Peck's line of the week, one he borrowed from a playing

partner of his in El Paso, one he used on just about everyone else in the field, one which applied pretty well to himself.

In the semi-finals Peck met Jerry Hilecher, from whom he had just usurped the number two ranking on the NRC charts.

"That didn't affect my thinking much," said the affable Peck. *"I do know he's one of the top players around, and if I want to keep my place I've got to beat guys like him consistently. I look forward to that."*

If he continues to play as he has this season, his hopes for the future are understandable. Trailing 14-12 in the first game he rattled off nine points to win with just two service breaks. In the second game he led 11-5 and 17-8 before wrapping it up with four straight points.

That meant a Sunday afternoon date with the winner of Bledsoe-Hogan, a winner who had to plan on playin' nothin' but tough.

After losing to Hogan in Tempe Bledsoe maintained, repeatedly, that he could beat Hogan. It sounded to some like it used to sound when Columbus maintained that the world was round, but then came 1492. For Bledsoe, that was Saturday night.

The match started slowly, with a long feeling out process featuring lob serves by Hogan and quick side outs by both players. It meandered to 10-10, 16-13 Hogan, 18-16 Bledsoe, 18-all.

Bledsoe then won the serve, passed Hogan down the right line for one, took a skipped ball for two, and called time out.

"In the '77 Nationals (when he beat Hogan for the title) I had the same situation and I didn't want to rush into it again," explained Bledsoe. *"I wanted to be very sure about what I was going to do."*

What he did was dance with the girl that brung him. He floated a high lob



— Mike Zeitman photo

In the semi-finals Peck beat Jerry Hilecher, the man he'd just replaced in the number two spot in the rankings.



into the backhand corner, one Hogan returned weakly. Bledsoe waited, then ripped a backhand killshot.

In the second game it was 9-3 before everyone was back in his seat. Hogan came back for two more, and the crowd settled in for what it thought would be a match.

But Bledsoe called time again, this time to kill momentum. Effectively. The next time Hogan served he was down 18-5.

In those first 18 points Marty Hogan, winner of 26 of the last 30 tournaments, winner of nine straight, holder

of The Streak, that Marty Hogan fanned on four balls. Either missed them completely or clubbed them into the floor.

Hogan was the first to admit his game was, well, off. "I played terrible," he said immediately after the death march. "No question about it, I stunk the place out."

Bledsoe seemed ready for that reaction.

"Hey if a guy plays lousy, there's usually a reason. I've been watching him for a long time, like everybody else, and I noticed something. I found

a weakness in his backhand and I exploited it. That's why I knew I could beat him."

It was clear the next afternoon that Bledsoe had a strategy for Peck. The latter was a pupil of Bledsoe's just prior to the start of his pro career last season. Bledsoe must have done something right, because Peck was voted the Rookie of the Year.

He may have been on the right track last year, but in the first game of this match he was taking on a locomotive with a handcar.

Bledsoe assumes a typical Hogan killer stance in a win against the reigning champ that observers called "more brilliant than Bledsoe's 1977 Nationals victory over Hogan."

"He made no errors," said Bledsoe, who struggled offensively. "He had a red hot shooting game, and he left me virtually nothing. It's tough to beat people like that."

The two reversed roles for the second game, with Bledsoe blasting to a quick 9-0 lead, and then being broken only once after 11-7.

"I was really counting on winning this thing in two games," said Peck. "When I went out for the second one I was floating, I thought I had the thing wrapped. Actually I was lulled into his game after the first one, and I never did get going."

Bledsoe had opened the match with his high lob and soft Z serves, and played the ceiling and sidewalls trying to offset the Texan's propensity for being quick on the draw with the kill shot from anywhere on the court. In the second game, when Bledsoe broke out the power drive serve and started shooting, Peck lost 21-7.

"My concentration just stank in the second game," said the loser. "And of course Bledsoe was nothin' but tough. He was turning tough gets into great offensive shots. I just decided to go for it in the tie-breaker."

"I wanted to go with aggressive serves, hoping for a weak return so I could bury it."

That is precisely what transpired, and it was over, quickly. Peck led 6-1 and 10-3, scoring virtually every possible way, and almost all of it was set up by his thundering drive serve.

"The drive was great," admitted Bledsoe, who now has a final round appearance to add to two semis this season. "I couldn't even get in a good return on it. I felt like he outplayed me in the tie-breaker. But I didn't get any calls, and that's really starting to get to me. The officiating just has to get better in this game."

Officiating didn't play a major role in the comeback of the tournament. In an opening round match Steve Keeley led Craig McCoy 10-5 in the tie-breaker after winning the first



game and losing the second. But McCoy stormed back to break Keeley's serve eight times before winning 11-10. He then was eliminated in the round of 16 by third seeded Jerry Hilecher. It was McCoy's third straight round of 16 exit.

While he hasn't had the most successful season, he and Steve Strandemo share the honors for most consistent. Strandemo has made the quarters three times. Bledsoe has made the semis once and the finals once. Hogan, rest his Streak, has won two of three.

And Peck, quarter-finalist, finalist, and winner, is playin' nothin' but tough.

See page 18 for Mike Hogan's feature story on Dave Peck.

Men's Pro Results

(Qualifiers): Dunlap, Levine, Christiansen, Wirkus, Wickham, Barrett, Niederhoffer, Hawkins

(First round): Hogan d. Dunlap 21-14, 21-13; Mondry d. Zeitman 21-8, 14-21, 11-4; Meyers d. Morrow 21-20, 16-21, 11-6; Yellen d. Levine 21-14, 21-16; Brumfield d. Christiansen 21-11, 6-21, 11-4; Fleetwood d. Chase, forfeit; Koltun d. Harnett 21-13, 21-11; Bledsoe d. Wirkus 21-10, 21-10; Hilecher d. Wickham 21-10, 21-9; McCoy d. Keeley 16-21, 21-9, 11-10; Stephens d. Myers 21-14, 12-21, 11-10; Strandemo d. Barrett 21-18, 21-4; Niederhoffer d. Wagner 21-12, 18-21, 11-9; Thomas d. Serot 21-6, 21-9; Zuckerman d. Bolan 21-16, 21-11; Peck d. Hawkins, 21-10, 21-16

(Second round): Hogan d. Mondry 21-5, 20-21, 11-1; Meyers d. Yellen 9-21, 21-16, 11-10; Fleetwood d. Brumfield 21-6, 21-19; Bledsoe d. Koltun 21-13, 21-16; Hilecher d. McCoy 21-11, 21-6; Strandemo d. Stephens 21-6, 21-1; Thomas d. Neiderhoffer 21-12, 21-10; Peck d. Zuckerman 21-6, 21-3

(Quarter-finals): Hogan d. Meyers 21-2, 21-13; Bledsoe d. Fleetwood 21-16, 18-21, 11-1; Hilecher d. Strandemo 21-10, 7-21, 11-5; Peck d. Thomas 21-14, 21-20

(Semi-finals): Bledsoe d. Hogan 21-18, 21-11; Peck d. Hilecher 21-16, 21-10

(Finals): Peck d. Bledsoe 21-10, 7-21, 11-5

Sarah's



Hometown groans changed to cheers as Sarah Green, right, turned the finals match around to win over Heather McKay.

Win Makes Memphis Happy

Green keeps McKay in back court to take her first pro victory before a hometown crowd.

Charles Reich called his look at the future *The Greening of America*. A look at the current women's pro circuit might be called the "*Greening of the Pro Tour*."

Sarah Green, who graduated from Memphis State University last August, took a step into her recent past in December, returning to her alma mater to win her first pro tournament, the \$21,000 Tanner/Coca-Cola Classic.

To win the \$1,500 first prize she toppled Heather McKay 7-21, 21-17, 11-7. In doing so she gained not only that prize, but a measure of revenge for her finals round loss to McKay in November's JACK-IN-THE-BOX Classic in Tempe, AZ.

"I knew what I wanted to do and then what I should have done in Tempe," said Green after her Memphis victory. *"This time I was able to do it. I'm glad it was here. This is the best place for my first win."*

It would have been a nice place for McKay's second win. The 38-year-old, 20 time world champion squash player vaulted from 21st to fifth on the NRC's computer after defeating Green the previous month. Though that jump surprised some people, her game was no surprise, and the competition, for the most part, developed a healthy respect. Two straight wins may have developed something else.

While remarks from other pros ranged from *"She has as much potential as anyone on the tour,"* to *"Let her play Shannon and let's see what happens,"* what happened in Memphis was that McKay got to within five points of winning her second straight meet and going home to Toronto without the first prize money.

McKay, the reigning National Amateur champion, was still playing as an amateur to retain her position in the Coors All Pro Racquetball Championship in January. She competed there as a squash professional, but a racquetball amateur. (For the story of McKay's All Pro win see page 00.)

In Memphis McKay won against Sharon Fanning 21-3, 21-7 in the opening round, Hope Weisbach 21-3, 21-12, fifth seeded Jennifer Harding 21-5, 21-9 and Peggy Steding 21-18, 21-19.

Green's final round appearance in Tempe was, for her, slightly diminished because she made the finals on a forfeit by the injured Shannon Wright. *"It's great to make the finals,"* she said when told of Wright's forfeiture in the Arizona tournament, *"but I was really anxious to play her. Living in Las Vegas (as Wright does and where Green spends a lot of time), there's a little competition built up, you know."*

Certainly more satisfying, then, was the route to the top in the Tanner, where Green had to win tie-breakers against three of the top eight seeds in what amounted to the toughest draw for any winner on the tour this season.

When she wasn't being mistaken for her twin — Mary — Green was busy beating Colleen Shields in the first round 21-9, 21-16, Elaine Lee 21-4, 21-16, sixth seeded Rita Hoff 12-21, 21-9, 11-2, and second seeded Karin Walton 15-21, 21-18, 11-6, before meeting the fourth seeded McKay.

"Rita helped me quite a bit in Tempe," offered Green. *"Here I think I was just playing better myself."*

Walton, in her second semi-final round showing of the year, appeared



Green fought through another tie-breaker in her semi-final victory against Karin Walton.

to be in control in her match with Green. She won the first game 21-15 after trailing 12-10. But in the second game, leading 17-13, she and Green crashed together, and ended up sprawled on the floor.

"I've never gone down like that before," said Walton. "We really collided and for a minute I thought I had broken my nose. It really shook me up, and it cost me the momentum."

Green went on to win that game 21-18, scoring the last seven straight, and then took the tie-breaker 11-6.

Although the average age of the players in the afternoon semi-final bracket was 18 years greater than Green-Walton, Peggy Steding and Heather McKay did not report with canes and shawls.

Neither, though, was it a match between the game's great sluggers, and Charlie Brumfield took in the match, gleefully proclaiming *"That's the way racquetball was played in the old days!"* Indeed visions of Steve

Keeley and Bill Schmidtke must have danced in his head with all the long rallies filled with three wall shots, pinches and passes.

With McKay leading 19-14 in the first game Steding dusted off her storied overhead right corner pinch from the backhand corner to help herself to a 19-19 tie, but a couple of missed forehands gave the game to McKay.

"There's no question I'm playing better now than I have in, oh, a year and a half," said Steding, the women's second all time money winner. "I've been playing pretty well in spots so far this season, but I haven't been placing too well. It's really come together for me this week, though."

For instance in the tie-breaker against top seeded Marci Greer. Steding was down 7-2 but serving in the tie-breaker when Greer was assessed a technical for calling time after the score was announced. That made it 6-2, and Steding went on to win, 11-6. *"I think that call kind of shattered her concentration,"* understated Steding.

But Steding's charmed life came to an end in her second game with McKay. Leading 17-14 she gave way to McKay, who scored on two passes, two pinches and two kills to gain her second final round date in as many months.

"That was fun," said the native of Queanbeyan, Australia, who moved to Toronto in 1974. *"Sarah's playing very well, though. That will be a tough match. I've beaten her, but that was a month ago."*

It did look like a different shade of Green early in the match when she delighted the crowd by taking a 4-1 lead, but as the game wore on the crowd became deathly still as she piled up unforced errors and McKay piled up a 15-5 lead before winning 21-7. Green committed 14 unforced errors.

The second game started inauspiciously, as well, and the customers began to get edgy as their choice fell behind 8-3. But she stayed in the game, breaking service here, scoring there, and it was 9-5, McKay, 10-8 McKay, but momentum, Green.

She had gone to a ceiling game, playing the ball along the left wall, forcing McKay to hit high backhands, shots she could handle, but not control the game with. Green's first game errors turned to rollouts, her skips to kills, the fans' groans to cheers, and Green took a 16-10 lead, held on at 18-15 and scored three straight kills to win 21-17.

It was much the same in the tie-breaker, with Green's ceiling game setting up so-so returns which she killed whenever possible. The final was 11-7.

Bowing to Heather McKay in the semis was nine-year pro veteran, Peggy Steding, whose most recent National title was the 1976 championship.

"In Tempe I learned that if I hit my shots I can beat her," said the newest champion. "Heather is a great player already. Nobody can beat her at the passing game. But she can't pass from 30 feet out, so I wanted to keep her back there with the ceiling shots, and then put away anything she left up."

"Yes, I left some shots up," said McKay with a knowing smile. "But then my shots are almost always a bit higher than I'd like them to be."

"Shooting isn't my strongpoint, so I was trying to move her around. But she was shooting very well later in the match. She played well."

So the steady climb into the future continues for the lithe right hander: a quarter-final loss to Hoff in Chicago; a finals loss and then a win against McKay in November and December; defeating three top seeded players before an expectant hometown crowd for her first pro win.

All of that and more. Sarah Green is the leading money winner on the women's circuit this season. And for her, if not for the competition, that certainly could be called "The Greening of the Pro Tour."

Turn to the "Women in Racquetball" section for more about Sarah Green and the people who watched her hometown victory.



Women's Pro Results

(Qualifiers): Taylor, Kronenfeld, Ferguson, Fanning, Shields, Copley, Woods, D. Green

(First round): Greer d. Taylor, forfeit; Steding d. Jackson 21-12, 21-2; Sauser d. Carow 20-21, 21-15, 11-0; Marriott d. Kronenfeld 21-6, 21-9; Harding d. Ferguson 21-1, 21-4; Moore d. Stoll 21-6, 21-5; Weisbach d. Thompson 21-6, 19-21, 11-8; McKay d. Fanning 21-3, 21-7; Green d. Shields 21-9, 21-16; Lee d. Peterson 21-11, 21-19; McDonald d. Dee 9-21, 21-6, 11-7; Hoff d. Copley 21-2, 21-3; Prefontaine d. Woods 21-11, 21-10; Dugan d. Callahan 21-13, 21-18; Ambler d. Schmidt 21-7, 21-7; Walton d. Green 21-11, 21-7

(Second round): Steding d. Greer 20-21, 21-7, 11-6; Sauser d. Marriott 12-21, 21-18, 11-9; Harding d. Moore 21-5, 21-1; McKay d. Weisbach 21-3, 21-12; Green d. Lee 21-4, 21-16; Hoff d. McDonald 21-5, 21-11; Prefontaine d. Dugan 21-7, 21-8; Walton d. Ambler 21-6, 21-7

(Quarter-finals): Steding d. Sauser 21-20, 21-17; McKay d. Harding 21-5, 21-9; Green d. Hoff 12-21, 21-9, 11-2; Walton d. Prefontaine 21-14, 21-14

(Semi-finals): McKay d. Steding 21-19, 21-18; Green d. Walton 15-21, 21-18, 11-8

(Finals): Green d. McKay 7-21, 21-17, 11-7

Notes of the Tournament ...

Irv Zeitman, father of pro player and photographer, Mike Zeitman, was a competent and energetic floor manager, as well as the runner-up winner in the Golden Masters division ... Bloomington, IN's Ken Strong traveled to Memphis, as he does to all NRC competitions, to provide professional refereeing ... Traveling a shorter distance was Art Orlowski, Seamco national marketing manager, up from LaGrange, GA ... 15-year-old Mike Levine of Rochester, NY, Men's Open winner, turned the tables on his Junior Nationals rival, Bret Harnett by defeating the Las Vegas teenager enroute to the finals, where he beat Keith Dunlap, of San Antonio ... Mary Dee, of St. Louis, beat Connie Peterson, of Eugene, OR, to win the Women's Open ... USRA Tennessee Chairman Lyle Adams and Larry Lyles, of Memphis State University, kept the matches running smoothly ... Thanks again to Pat Vaughn of Coca Cola and Bill Tanner for bringing the pros to Memphis. ●

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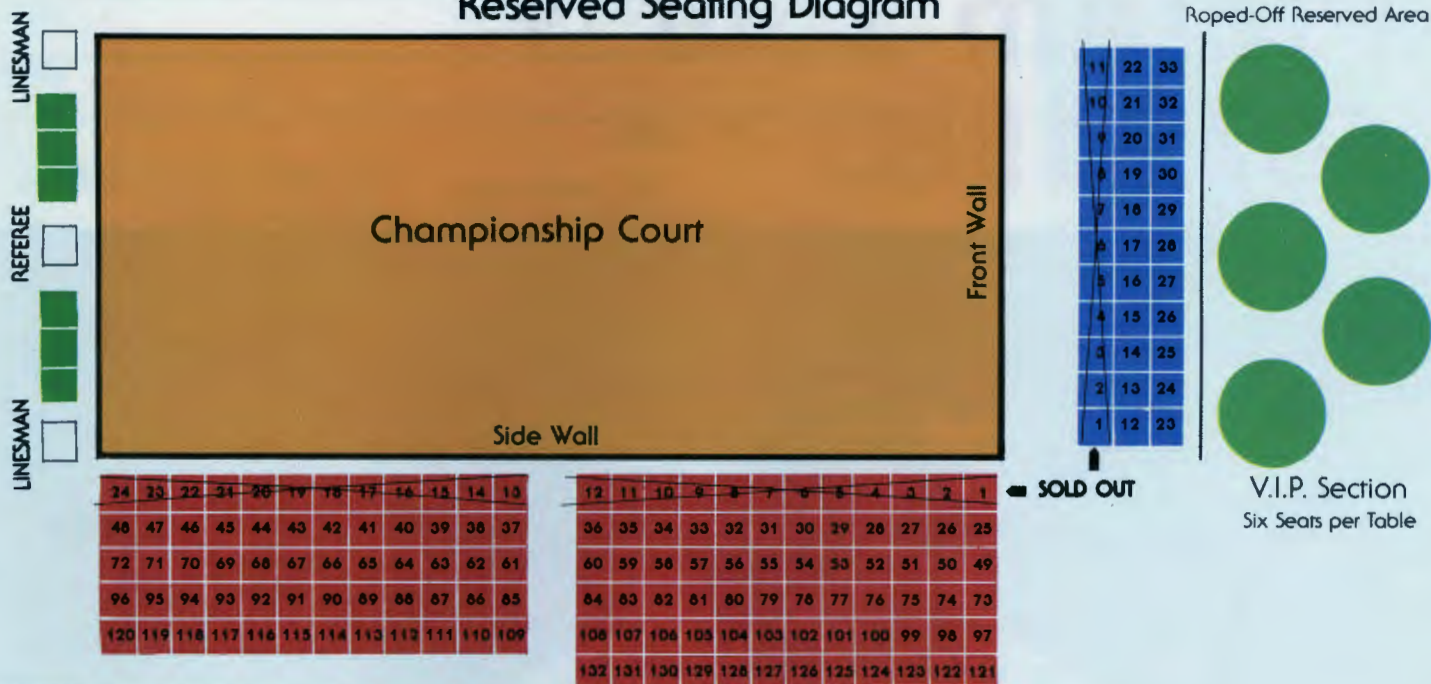
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Reserved tickets and general admission tickets are now available on a first come, first serve basis for the 1980 NRC-USRA National Championships. The tournament will be played at the beautiful Las Vegas Sporting House beginning Sunday, June 1 and climaxing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

Reserved Seating Diagram



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TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

Location: Las Vegas Sporting House
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National Racquetball Club

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.



- **March 19-23**
Catalina Classic West
San Francisco, CA
Open

- **March 26-30**
Bank of Newport Beach Classic
Los Angeles, CA
Open

- **April 9-13**
Seamco Classic
Boston, MA
Open

- **April 30-May 3**
Catalina Classic East—Atlanta, GA
Open

- **June 1-7**
NRC/USRA National Pro/Am Championships
Las Vegas, NE
Open

- **June 26-29 ***
CBC International Classic
Winnipeg, Ontario, Canada
Invitational

- **July 10-13**
Hawaiian Sports Week Pro/Am
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