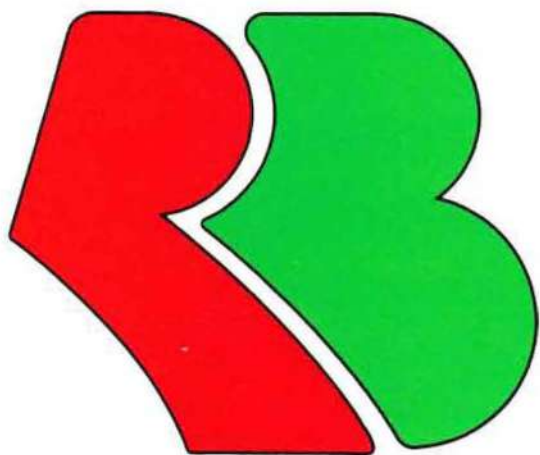


INTERNATIONAL



RACQUETBALL

October 1983

Vol. 1 No. 5

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1983
RACQUET
GUIDE

MARTY COMES BACK

A HEART-STOPPER
IN DAVISON

SPECIAL REPORT



THE AARA AND THE OLYMPICS

BUD MUEHLEISEN • TOURNAMENT COVERAGE • PRO INSTRUCTIONALS



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Vol. 1 No. 5

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FIRST THINGS FIRST



Jason Holloman
Publisher

"You've got to learn to walk before you can run." When I was growing up, that adage was constantly being drummed into me and it irked me just a bit. I was ready to run *now* not later. "Why couldn't I run *now*?" I'd ask, and all I would get is a shake of the head and a, "You'll see when you get older." response. Older. It's a nebulous term. I'm 33 now. Is that older? It depends on whether I have indeed learned to walk. If you take short-cuts on learning how to run, you could very well get crippled by it later.

Racquetball, as a sport, has been wanting to *run* for many years, but it is still just a colt of a sport. Sure, it has the desire, but until recently it was hobbled by insecurity, misdirection, and lack of an organized goal. If you look back on the formative years of racquetball, you can see that it tried to run before it could walk—all the legs ended up going different directions, consequently, it fell flat on its face with eyes blinking in frustration, and the cry heard was, "Why can't I run?"

Of course, it doesn't help when we look around and see other sports doing so well. We hear of basketball stars getting a million dollars a year and we watch tennis on television where tournaments like the U.S. Open have a total purse of two million *for a single event!* The same type of money seems to be repeated in football, baseball. *ad nauseum*. Then, as an additional blow to racquetball's ego, all of the above sports have exposure. The newspapers dote on the favorites in each sport while TV cameras roam through anxious crowds that have thronged to idolize their various sports and the radio gives us constant updates on the successes and failures of the sports stars. Racquetball by comparison is silent.

And racquetball is jealous. We see the magnificent strides of these wonderful, adult sports and we want to join the race. Hold your horses. Let's take a look at things in perspective.

The first U.S. Open took place in 1881. That's over a hundred years ago! And tennis, as a professional sport, didn't get started until the 1960's. Basketball, as a professional sport is a little over 30 years old, and baseball is ancient. Racquetball is a pup. It was invented less than 20 years ago and has just recently become professionally organized, yet, by many accounts, it is one of the fastest growing sports in the world with millions of participants. The key word here is growing. Racquetball has finally gotten on its feet. The steps are sure and walking is easy and all the support musculature is there, but only time can give racquetball the strength, knowledge and assurance it needs to pull its weight as an *adult* sport. As for what racquetball must learn, I have a few suggestions, but that will have to wait until our next issue.

In this issue, we have a treat for you. It's our *Racquet Guide*. Talk about taming wild horses! Trying to get all of the racquets from all of the manufacturers in time for our deadline was a lesson in patience, but thanks to the unselfish help from all concerned, we succeeded and are proud to present the largest guide ever published. Another surprise is the informative article on the AARA. The scope of the possibilities is international and the effects on the future of racquetball are mind-boggling. Read it.

Drew Stoddard, our editor, said the PRO Davison tournament was probably the most enjoyable event he'd been to for a long time. At the same time, but in the city of Atlanta, the WPRA staged their first tour stop. Coverage of these tournaments in detail is inside along with an in-depth interview with Dr. Bud Muehleisen. Dr. Bud was also kind enough to submit an instructional article. Want to know what the most valuable Real Estate is in racquetball? Mike Yellen's instructional will give you some inexpensive but priceless advice. There's more, of course, so sit back and enjoy yourself.

JOIN THE PROS



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THE LAW OF THE HARVEST



Drew Stoddard
Editor

We human beings have a strange method of learning. I once heard life described as a process wherein we spend 65 years struggling to sort out the confusion we accumulated in our first 15. That seems to me to be very close to the mark. When we are young we are bombarded from every direction by the beliefs and principles of countless well-meaning people who would save us from the inevitable routine of blundering our way to wisdom. Then as we stumble along we slowly sift through and test those ideas; many we discard along the way; some we embrace and attempt to pass along to our own disinterested children. A precious few endure so well they become the guiding beacons

of our lives. One of these is called the Law of the Harvest.

Stated simply, the Law of the Harvest says that you always reap exactly what you sow; that you always harvest in direct proportion to how much seed you have planted. It is something we all know by our own experience.

The history of the sport of racquetball is beginning to read like an eloquent testimonial to the Law of the Harvest. Two areas of the sport are only now starting to see the benefits of seeds they bravely planted amidst the storms of the 1970's.

Just four years ago, when the women severed themselves from the NRC, the women's professional game had all the life-signs of a corpse, and the doomsayers were having a field day predicting their demise. Undaunted, they formed the WPRA and began to plan a future harvest. It took nearly 18 months for those seeds to take root and begin to grow. Today, women's professional racquetball is an unqualified success, and the WPRA has become the unchallenged model for all of professional racquetball.

About the same time, the AARA also found itself in an impossible situation. They had been badly beaten, mostly by their own mistakes, in the trenches of the amateur wars. Under the new leadership of Luke St. Onge, the AARA developed a long range plan to gain Olympic recognition that is now beginning to produce some impressive fruit, and may eventually prove to be the most important movement in the history of racquetball.

By now it should be apparent to everyone that there is trouble in the men's professional game. This fall only three sanctioned events have been planned with total prize money of less than \$40,000. That is the worst fall schedule in over 6 years. What is wrong?

Just like the WPRA and the AARA the men are now reaping the harvest of seeds that were planted in the late 1970's. Stated bluntly, the men's game is now suffering because twelve men saw the promise of short term financial gain and refused to say "no" to Charlie Drake, and to a plan they all knew was bad for the sport.

It's an old story, and by now we all know it well. But the men are an easy target—too easy. Much of the blame for what happened in men's professional racquetball has never been properly affixed. When Drake presented his ultimatum, the silence within the industry was deafening. There was no indignant outcry among the manufacturers; there was no criticism by the sport's media. In fact, we all sat back and allowed the men to fight their no-win battle alone, because we were not willing to pay the obvious price for what we wanted. The cost of that silence is now evident, and the blame for what has happened belongs to all of us.

Fortunately, it now looks as if we may have learned our lesson. After years of stagnation, the men's game is starting to move forward; the best strides in a decade have been made in the last year. When Charlie Drake repeated his ultimatum again last November, everyone said "no."

And some of the foresight that seems to be emerging is surprising: the men have formed what appears to be a highly effective players' association in the PRO, that will be responsible for the technical operation of men's pro racquetball; the manufacturers have formed their own association and have already informed at least one group of potential tour sponsors that money alone will never again "buy" the men's professional game. By all appearances, the pro tour will be in full swing by January.

It's time for all of us to do what we can to support the diligent effort that seems to be taking place in all areas of the sport. The best way we can do that is by being patient; we have to understand that growth takes time, and many of the seeds are only now being planted. It does no good to cry about where we might have been had we not made mistakes. We made mistakes. But consider this: for the first time in the 20-year history of our sport no one is fighting; everyone is pulling together. That alone is reason enough to believe that by next fall the seeds we are planting now will yield a truly bountiful harvest.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor & Publisher:

I would like to publicly congratulate you and the *International Racquetball* staff for creating what I feel is the best national racquetball magazine existing. It is a welcome relief to see a publication whose goal is to promote racquetball and resolve problems rather than glorify the individual player alone. While the individual is obviously the backbone of any sport, too much personal focus, especially too much attention to behavior and attitudes that are selfish or negative in other ways can only do harm to racquetball.

The parallel that is most often made regarding racquetball, and it is a good parallel, is that of tennis. Regardless of the wide variety of personalities, superstars, achievers, salaries, prizes, etc., tennis survived its growing pains to become the internationally dynamic sport that we know today. If a player misbehave, or does not in some other way conform to the existing standards or rules, then they are penalized. If their violations are sufficiently severe, then they are prevented from playing.

Racquetball has a ways to go before it "has survived its growing pains," but the first step is very clearly on the grass roots level of amateur play, which in turn develops the strength to maintain a national organization. The second step is an all-encompassing professional organization. Racquetball as a sport will not survive even on the level it now exists if these organizational efforts are not successful.

The American Amateur Racquetball Association is addressing these issues for amateurs on the national level, and through state affiliates such as the California Racquetball Association for whose tabloid newsletter, *Racquetball News*, I am editor. The task is monumental. It seems mostly to come down to a lack of interest by too many local people whose attitude does not seem to be able to break out of the "what can racquetball do for me?" mode. Unfortunately, this does seem to be an attitude birthed on the grass roots level and then is reflected and reinforced on the national level by many, though fortunately not all, "pros."

I am pleased to read in *International Racquetball* #4 that the publication will be addressing amateur racquetball as a part of their regular publishing format.

The women have pulled together a successful pro organization and their needs seem to be much more successfully met than the men's. Women's pro racquetball, while more successful than men's on the organization level, receives much less attention than men's, and again I am pleased to see that Interna-

tional Racquetball will be drawing attention to these dedicated athletes and professional racquetball leaders!

The real organizational need, of course, is pro racquetball for men. The establishment of a men's pro organization, hopefully, now has enough momentum through the efforts chronicled in *International Racquetball* to finally keep its act together! It needs to be a strong organization, responsive to all pro players, and ultimately to all amateur players, for the pros are the leaders of any sport. They are the role models who help shape what racquetball becomes. It needs to be an organization stronger than any individual, willing to stand up against the individual who would harm racquetball, yet be able to subsume its own ego involvement to the betterment of the organization and the sport. Not an easy task any way one looks at it.

Of course, I have made many generalizations here that cannot be accepted as all inclusive. There are enormous numbers of caring, dedicated, hard-working people, both professionally committed and voluntarily committed, whose energies this very moment are helping to keep this sport alive and active on all levels. But so little is heard of them, or seen of them, because they are out there *quietly doing the work!*—whether it is the person assigned to run the tournament desk, or pulling together the car pool for the long tournament trek, or simply donating extra time to raise money—however, whomever—they are there!

But their efforts will be, in the long run, wasted if there is no developed leadership, and a responsible, non-partisan observing medium that will review and applaud, or criticize when necessary, the leadership, the direction, and the content of contemporary racquetball.

From my observations, *International Racquetball* seems to be the medium that is capable of meeting this latter responsibility. I was impressed with the courage and integrity of Drew Stoddard's articles, "The Other Side of Marty Hogan," and "What's Wrong With Professional Racquetball?" Such articles do not often win a great number of friends. Truth, or the exploration of truth, has a way of upsetting people whose views are particularly narrow or self-serving. But it is not only important to ask such questions, and to name and explore such problems, it is absolutely essential! Racquetball *must not* adopt the familiar ostrich attitude of sticking one's head in the sand. The problems will not go away unless they are identified, attacked, and solved.

Richard Bruns, Editor
Racquetball News
Napa, CA

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HOGAN WINS DAVISON

Marty Hogan won the Natural Light Pro Am in Davison, Michigan, the first event of the men's 1983-84 professional season. Hogan defeated Mike Yellen in a five-game final, 11-1, 4-11, 5-11, 11-10, 11-9, coming from behind in the fourth and fifth games. Despite the loss, Yellen maintained his #1 ranking by a very slight margin.

Dan Ferris of Minnesota defeated Sean Moskwa in the open final. (See story on page 17).

ADAMS TAKES ATLANTA

Lynn Adams started the WPRA 1983-84 season off with a victory over Heather McKay in the final of the Big Star Holiday Cup in Atlanta, Georgia, 21-17, 19-21, 21-17, 21-18. The victory moved Adams back into the #1 position in the WPRA rankings for the first time in nearly 6 months.

Adams also teamed with Terri Gilreath to win the doubles title. (See story on page 34).

PRICE WINS STOCKTON EVENT

19-year-old Gerry Price of Castro Valley, California, won the \$4,000 Stockton Pro-Am in Stockton, California, over the Labor Day weekend. Price defeated Scott Oliver in the final. The doubles title was won by the team of Stan Wright and Craig McCoy. (Tournament results on page 40).

CALIFORNIA TOURNAMENTS ANNOUNCED

Three events in the "Wilson Fall Series" were announced for the Southern California area by tournament director Jim Carson. The dates and locations are as follows:

- Sept 29-Oct 2 Newport Beach
Sporting House
Newport Beach, CA
- Oct 19-23 El Cajon RB and
Fitness Club
El Cajon, CA
- Nov 10-13 Racquetball World
Fountain Valley, CA

The events include professional and amateur categories. Interested players should contact Jim Ross at (714) 638-1661. (For other tournaments see page 43).

PRO MEETING HELD

A meeting of the Professional Racquetball Organization was held during the Natural Light Pro-Am in Davison, Michigan, September 1-4. In the meeting committees were formed to begin

working in specific areas such as bylaws, ethics, tournaments, prize money, sponsors, refereeing, etc. The meeting was conducted by Bud Muehleisen.

The next general PRO meeting was planned for November 10-13, in Vancouver, British Columbia. (See story on page 23).



William Tanner

TANNER UNDER INVESTIGATION BY FBI

The headquarters of the William B.

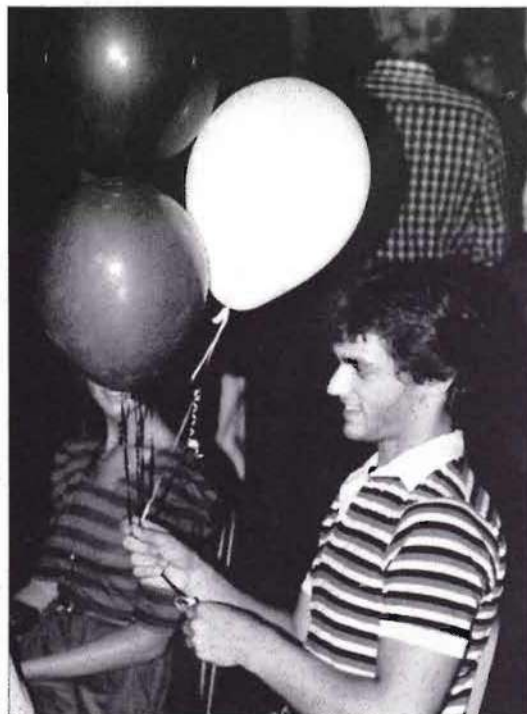
Tanner Co., in Memphis were raided by federal agents on August 12. Searching for evidence of tax fraud, mail fraud, kickbacks and payoffs, the FBI agents seized more than 20 boxes of documents in the raid, which had been approved by a federal judge on the strength of a 17-page FBI affidavit.

William Tanner is the former executive of the International Racquetball Association (IRA), a relationship which ended bitterly in 1978. Under Tanner's direction the IRA attempted to expand into professional racquetball and failed badly.

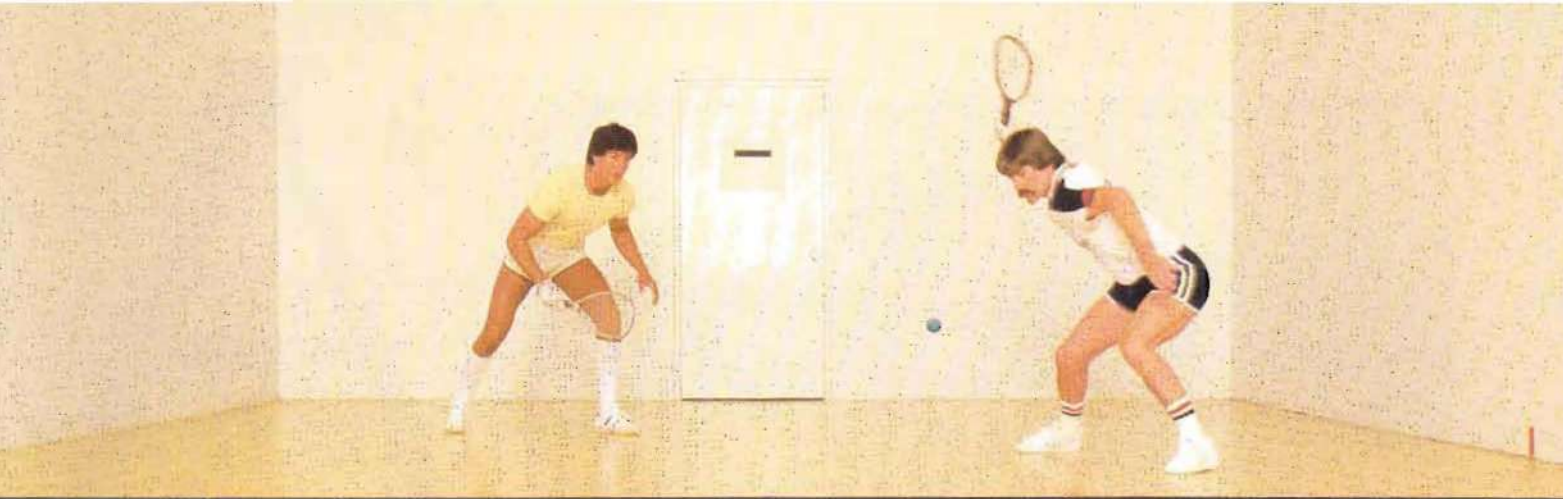
Tanner resigned two weeks ago as the head of his company to fight the government's charges, all of which he denies. The William B. Tanner Co. is involved in a unique system of "advertising barter," and is estimated to have yearly sales in excess of \$100 million.

AARA AND PENN REACH AGREEMENT

Luke St. Onge announced that the Board of Directors of the AARA voted to select the Penn racquetball as the official ball for all AARA national and regional events. The decision was made at a board of directors meeting held at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, September 16-17.



We thought this picture of pro player Doug Cohen was newsworthy but we couldn't think of any caption to go with it. Any suggestions? (Nice balloons, Doug)



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A TALK WITH

Dr. Bud

The 'Legend' Talks About His Past And The Future Of The Professional Sport

Bud Meuhleisen may be the best known name in the sport of racquetball (although at last check not one living human being was able to spell it correctly). He is considered by some the greatest player who ever lifted a racquet. As a pioneer in the sport, he literally invented much of the game as it is played today, and his expertise is still regularly tapped by many of the game's top players. His record of 63 national titles far exceeds that of any other player and will probably never be approached, let alone equaled. At the age of 52 he remains a formidable player. How good is he? In the last two years he has beaten at least one of the top ten ranked men in match play.

Dr. Bud, as he is usually called (he formerly practiced dentistry), also has extensive experience in other areas of the racquetball industry: he is a former club owner and is still active in club construction; he was involved for years in product design and marketing with companies that included Ektelon, Vittert, and Point West; he has been politically active in racquetball since the earliest days of the IRA.

Recently, he was asked by the men professionals to assist them in organizing their players' association, the Professional Racquetball Organization (PRO), and he has been meeting regularly during the last few months, on their behalf, with the Rac-

quetball Manufacturers Association (RMA). He was in Davison, Michigan to attend the PRO meeting held during the PRO stop there. We interviewed Dr. Bud in Flint during the Davison event.

Just about everyone in racquetball is familiar with your accomplishments as a player, but you were also instrumental in helping to develop some of the earlier racquetball racquets, weren't you?

Yes, when I beat Charlie Brumfield at the Nationals in 1969 I used a racquet called the Dayton steel. Charlie was still using the old wooden clunker. Now eve-

ryone thinks the new steel racquets are unusual but that was really the first non-wood racquet we'd used. It was a neat little racquet—it had wire strings in it.

Wire strings? Wasn't that a little tough on the ball?

Yeah, it cut the ball up a little bit. Anyway, it only took them a year or two before they banned it—not because of what it did to the ball, but because they thought it gave me too much of an advantage.

Then I was at Konokai one day, after I'd won the Nationals, and Bud Held (the founder of Ektelon), who had been a friend of mine since high school, came to me and said, "I've got this idea about taking an aluminum extrusion and making a racquetball racquet out of it. Would you be willing to work with me on it?" I said sure. Bud was a terrific engineer and inventor. He had been an Olympic javelin thrower and had developed an aluminum javelin, and a racquet stringing machine that is still considered the best there is.

We went through about 50 prototypes and finally came up with the silver racquet, the "Bud Muehleisen," and that was considered the state-of-the-art for a long time. Then I stayed with Ektelon for about five years designing racquets. I designed all those early racquets, the Rogue, the XL, the Strandemo. That was a good time.

You are probably asked to compare players all the time; to com-

"To put something back into the game now and see things improve gives me as much pleasure as playing ever did. I'll tell you this, what I saw in that meeting today gives me the best feeling I could have."

pare the players who dominated racquetball in the early years with the top players now. Does it bother you when you are asked to compare yourself to Marty Hogan?

No, it doesn't bother me to talk about that at all, in fact it's interesting. But there's really no way to ever know. It's like comparing Joe Lewis with Mohammed Ali—who knows? I'm just thankful for what I had.

I will say this; excluding myself, I believe there have really only been two great players in this game—Charlie Brumfield and Marty Hogan. That's not to say that there aren't other talented players; Mike Yellen, Dave Peck and a handful of others are immensely talented. But I don't think most people realize how much influence Marty and Charlie have had on this sport. Charlie's still tough—he's 35 but he's still the most complete player around. As for myself, I don't really know. You might get a better idea if you asked Charlie.

He's already said publicly that he believes you were the most naturally talented player in the game,

and that you had the greatest eye-hand coordination of any human being he had ever known. That's a pretty strong endorsement.

Well, it's nice to have people say that about you. But I didn't even start to play this game until I was 37. So it's really hard to compare. My strength is control. I may have never been a great player with a fast ball, because I'm not that fast afoot—even in my prime I wasn't really fast. But I had a good head, and could always anticipate pretty well. The best thing about my game has always been my control—it's pretty hard to compare me with the power players today.

Another question I get asked alot is this; "Aren't you mad that you never really got the kind of recognition or earned the kind of money that Hogan has?" No, not at all. I consider myself a pioneer in the sport and I enjoyed that role. You've got to remember that I grew up in a time when Jack Kramer was the top tennis player and he made maybe \$2,000 in his career, and when that amount of money was the first prize in a major golf tournament. How much would a guy like Kramer make today. It's just such a relative thing.

Also, when you get older your priorities change. For me now, racquetball is really a love. To put something back into the game now and see things improve, gives me as much pleasure as playing ever did. I'll tell you this, what I saw in that meeting today (the PRO meeting) gives me the best feeling I could have.

As you mentioned, you've been working with the PRO to help them get the association off the ground. How do you view the progression, if any, of the professional sport?

First of all, everything has to be done in proper sequence. So much of what is going to happen depends on the group right now (the PRO), because the sport is at a very critical time. I'm greatly encouraged by what they're doing. I think they are going to come out of this as a strong cohesive group. And, they will benefit by the effort taking place among the manufacturers (the RMA). Together, I think the two groups are going to be able to elevate the image of racquetball, to give it the class and sta-



"The biggest problem with the racquetball that has been on TV up to now is that the men hit the ball so fast that even people who are sitting there live say 'Well, I could never do that.'"

ture it needs to take its place alongside other professional sports. That is the first step.

The second step is the process of bringing the sport to the media and before the public. Television is the big step. But you first have to get the house in order; that includes setting the rules, player deportment, refereeing, dress codes, etc. All that has to be done before it comes to television.

How do you feel about your involvement with the PRO after today's meeting?

There have been some moments when I questioned whether I was doing any good, I have to admit that. But after today's meeting it was all worth it, because I now feel very strongly that we're going to see this thing through. We may not see the benefits of this whole effort until four or five years from now. But I think someday we're all going to look back and say, "We were in Flint the day the players brought it all together, after starting with nothing but a desire to come together." They did it. This was a crucial day. There have been a few crucial days in our young sport: the day Kendler split was a crucial day; the day Charlie Drake started his tour was a crucial day; and today was a crucial day.

It doesn't really matter now how fast it all takes place; the pro-tour, TV, it will all come with time. But what matters is that the meeting today was a success. Because without today the manufacturers and everyone else would just have said, "You're right, they don't want it, they can't do it." Just think of what that meeting today might someday do to the industry. Just think of what it will mean to the players who decide to play professionally 10 years from now; the millions they will earn will have been made possible by the efforts of the men right now. I feel honored to be a part of it.

Where is the PRO going to go from here, and what is your involvement going to be with them in the future?

Well, the oars are all in the water now, and they are all pulling the same way. I think you'll see the next general meeting will be a real business meeting as all the committees come together to present the things they've worked on. And I

think you're going to see very little debate regarding the issues—maybe a little, and that's good. There will be some compromising, but they'll know it's all for them. And they know that they're not going to do everything right the first time, but they'll be able to change it as they go along. It's going to encourage the manufacturers' association. You're going to see an office structured, where anybody involved with racquetball, be it club owners or sponsors or players or whoever, can go and be handled professionally. And then we'll proceed to get our house in order to get ready for television.

As for my own involvement, I am really here only because the players asked me to be. As soon as the PRO is structured and operating, I won't really be needed, because the players are going to make all of the decisions for themselves. I think that time is coming very soon, and when it does I'll enjoy stepping aside and watching them carry the whole thing forward.

Do you feel like the movement among the manufacturers to

organize their own association is a good one?

I really do. The manufacturers have taken a look now at an industry that has leveled off from its explosive days and they've realized that we need to attract new blood to the sport. They realize it is time for all of us to concentrate on exposure. The manufacturers only have one goal and that's to sell more products. They know that if they are going to do that, all areas of the sport are going to have to proceed with a little more foresight than we have in the past. In my opinion, the manufacturers association is a healthy development because their's is a perspective that is based on business principles, and that has been sorely lacking in racquetball in the past.

Are the manufacturers committed to the pro game?

The manufacturers are committed to selling racquets. They are going to make their decisions based on the best way to reach their market: the amateur player. There is a real debate being waged now about how best to reach them. That's why the movement among the men is so critical. Those decisions are being made right now. The manufacturers will support the pro game only as long as it is a healthy and successful voice for the sport.

One of your concerns in the sport has always been the conduct of the visible players, and racquetball has always had a poor image in that

Continued on page 36

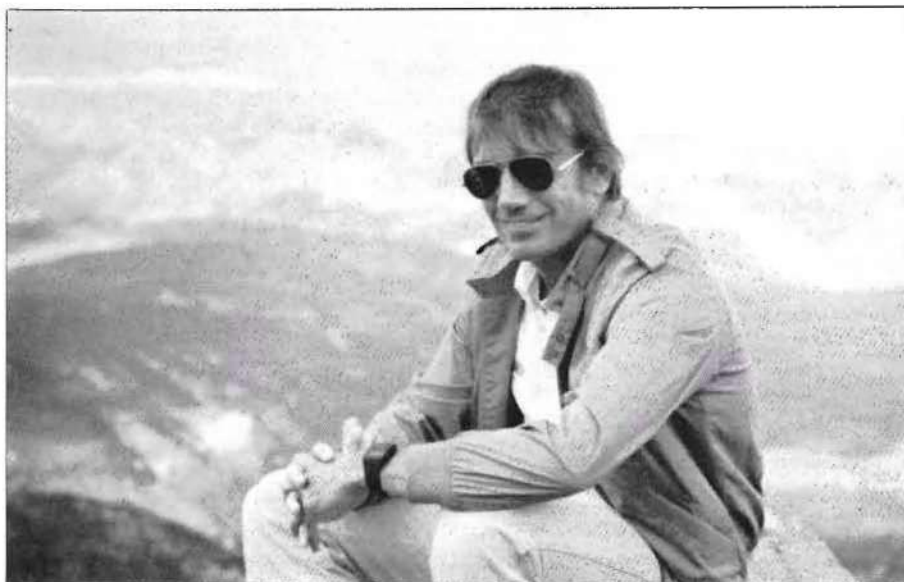
Dr. Bud Muehleisen with Mike Yellen at Davison banquet



The AARA And The OLYMPIC DREAM

In Colorado Springs A Movement Is Underway That Could Change The Course Of Racquetball Forever

by Drew Stoddard



Luke St. Onge sits atop Pikes Peak overlooking Colorado Springs

If you were to randomly select 10 racquetball players on any busy night at any club in this country and ask them what they know about the current state of amateur racquetball in the United States, you would get some amusing answers. Those players who have been part of the sport for many years would probably turn up their noses, mumble the letters IRA and USRA, and say something like, "I don't even want to talk about those crooks." Some of the newer players would reply that there is really nothing being done on the national level for the amateur game. And then one or two of them would start to glowingly extoll the virtues of something called the AARA and someone called St. Onge who is in Colorado Springs trying to put racquetball into the Olympic games. At this point, the older players probably groan (isn't racquetball a little young to already have its own saint?) and walk

away, laughing to themselves about how some people never learn. But as you listen to their fantastic, and sometimes indecipherable, story about the exciting new direction of the amateur game one thing starts to become very clear; something has caught the imagination of these people—something is going on in Colorado Springs.

Something is going on in Colorado Springs.

The story of the AARA and its drive for Olympic recognition is intriguing, and it really goes all the way back to the earliest days of the sport itself. In 1968 the late Bob Kendler organized the IRA (International Racquetball Association, a rather presumptuous name considering racquetball was still unknown in the United States and wouldn't become international in scope for nearly a decade). The IRA became the sole organizational body for the sport of racquet-

ball, until Kendler was ousted in a power struggle in the early 70's. At that time he organized two new groups: the National Racquetball Club (NRC), which was to be the governing body of the professional sport, and the United States Racquetball Association (USRA), an organization intended to compete head-to-head with the IRA for control of the amateur game. Kendler's intention was to take over control of the entire sport, and to put the IRA out of business if possible. He very nearly did.

In 1978 Luke St. Onge, a 38-year-old state director for the IRA in Pennsylvania, came to Memphis, Tennessee, to assume the role of IRA executive director. By his own admission, he assumed control of what he found to be a corrupt and crumbling disaster. Ousted director William Tanner had led the IRA through a pathetic attempted expansion into professional racquetball, and had unwittingly given the USRA nearly complete control of the amateur game. (Coincidentally, Tanner is now being investigated by the FBI for alleged irregularities in his own company, the William B. Tanner Co.).

In his search for some way to reverse the downward trend and to give the failing IRA some credibility, St. Onge came up with a unique idea based upon a suggestion made by William McNamara, then director of the President's Council on Physical Fitness. He suggested that the best way for the IRA to regain its preeminence within the sport was to apply for recognition by the USOC (United States Olympic Committee). Acceptance by the USOC, McNamara said, would not only establish the IRA as the legitimate governing body of amateur racquetball, but it would also give the sport itself a great deal more prestige and influence in the international amateur sports community. With no idea how difficult the process would prove to

"It is significant that the delegates of the USOC recognize the popularity of racquetball as a highly competitive sport. We shall follow with interest, the expansion all over the world."

Don Miller



Don Miller, USOC Director

be, St. Onge set his sights on the Olympic Committee.

The quest for recognition by the USOC would take St. Onge and the IRA's 10-member board of directors nearly five years. In October of 1979, in order to bring the association into compliance with the USOC's requirements, the board voted to change the name IRA to AARA (American Amateur Racquetball Association). Racquetball's application to the USOC was turned down four times—1978, 1979, 1980, and 1981. On April 17, 1982, the AARA was accorded Group C membership (for developing sports) in the United States Olympic Committee. Shortly thereafter, the headquarters of the AARA were moved from Memphis to Colorado Springs to become a part of the USOC Olympic Training Center—the amateur sports capital of the United States.

In 1981 the NRC and the USRA declared bankruptcy. With a membership of 27,000 and growing, the AARA now stands as a legitimate and uncontested governing body of American amateur racquetball.

The mountain community of Colorado Springs seems an unlikely spot to become the amateur sports capital of the United States. The town itself, though it now sports a population of over 100,000, looks deceptively like the myriad of high-country Colorado retreats that became popular during the "earth" movement in the early 1970's, complete with quaint coffee houses and young people dressed in backcountry clothes.

But not far from the center of town lies the USOC Olympic Training Center, a sprawling mixture of refurbished military buildings and ultramodern athletic facilities. The center was established by the Amateur Sports Act of 1978, and was built on the grounds of an abandoned Air Force base that was donated by the US government. It is here that athletes from all over the country come to train for the Olympic Games.

It is also here that the headquarters of the governing bodies of most American amateur sports are located. The major sports, those designated Class A (swimming, bicycling, track, etc.), are located

in buildings "on campus," or right on the OTC grounds. The offices of the AARA, which is currently designated a Class C sport, can be found in a stylishly converted older home a couple of blocks away. There, from two modest sized offices, Luke St. Onge and his only assistant, Mary Ellen Fish, carry out the day-to-day operations of American amateur racquetball.

Along with prestige and credibility, there are some very tangible advantages that come with being a part of the amateur sports community in Colorado Springs. At a separate desk inside the AARA offices sits a computer terminal that is wired directly to the USOC's own IBM System 38 computer that fills the data processing building at the Olympic Training Center. Like all governing bodies, the AARA shares constant access to data, and is supplied the services of a group of full time programmers, all for a ridiculously small monthly fee. St. Onge is quick to point out the obvious; access to that type of data processing would be impossible for a sport like racquetball without the help of the USOC.

"And this is very important to the state organizations," St. Onge observes.

"We have now started to keep national, regional and state rankings on all AARA members. From now on every state will get a read-out of all their rankings every month."

The USOC computer also allows the small AARA staff to stay on top of an overwhelming mail operation, that includes sending membership packets, renewal notices, and monthly correspondence to all 50 state organizations.

Being located near the Olympic Training Center also has some advantages from a visibility standpoint. Says St. Onge, "Being here gives us constant access to the people and the companies that promote amateur sports in the United States. And it gives them a chance to see that we are a part of the whole amateur sports movement."

Perhaps the most lasting impression one receives after visiting the offices of

Mary Ellen Fish enters player rankings into the USOC computer





Luke St. Onge

the AARA in Colorado Springs is that much has changed in amateur racquetball. There are no wars being waged here. There are no ego trips. Gone are the power-hungry czars, the dissension, and the special interest groups that used to characterize the amateur sport. Perhaps best of all, the national amateur sports community seems to have embraced racquetball, and is genuinely eager for it to prosper. Indeed, things have changed in amateur racquetball.

Talking with Luke St. Onge about the Olympic effort within the AARA leaves you with two strong impressions. First, he is totally and sincerely committed to the entire process; he honestly believes that steady growth within the structure of the USOC is the best possible way for racquetball to achieve the recognition it deserves. And second, he is perplexed by those within the sport who fail to see

"Once the Eastern Block countries (Russia, East Germany, etc.) begin to feel that they are proficient enough to embarrass the United States, racquetball will become an Olympic sport."

how much has already been accomplished, and with how much difficulty it has been done; whatever else racquetball's involvement in the Olympic movement may eventually mean, what has already transpired resulted from an unimaginable amount of work.

Basically, if a sport has the potential to eventually participate in the Pan Am or Olympic games, the USOC is encouraged to consider it as a member. New sports are admitted as Group C status, a category designated for developing sports. Any sport applying for Group C acceptance must first establish a national governing body (NGB), and that body must be recognized by an international federation as the sole governing organization for that sport within the United States. But, all of the internal problems within a sport must already have been worked out before the USOC will consider it for membership; i.e., there cannot be disputes between groups each claiming to be the legitimate NGB.

To say that racquetball did not exactly satisfy those requirements in 1978 gives new meaning to the word "understatement." Not only were the IRA and USRA still battling for control of the amateur sport, but there was no

international governing body for racquetball, and no substantial amount of international play. Racquetball's first application for membership was flatly rejected.

"They didn't even know who we (the IRA) were," recalls St. Onge. "They couldn't tell if we were a national governing body, international governing body, or an international federation!"

So, in October of 1979, the board of directors voted to change their name from IRA to AARA, and established a separate organization, the International Amateur Racquetball Federation (IARF), also under the direction of St. Onge.

Again application was made to the USOC, and this time it was rejected because of lack of information about international development of the sport. Not only did the AARA need to be a member of an international federation within its own sport, the federation had to be a member of an international multi-sports federation, preferably one recognized by the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

In October of 1980 the IARF applied for and received "observer status" membership in the GAISF (General Assembly of International Sports Federations), and was invited to compete in the first World Games. It was the first bona-fide international competition for racquetball, a sport which at the time was really only 10 years old.

For the third time the AARA applied for membership in 1981. Once more it was rejected, again on the grounds of insufficient international development. The USOC needed more validation; they wanted IOC recognition of racquetball which was already pending.

In the summer of 1981 racquetball held its first World Championships and participated in the World Games. Following the competition, the GAISF voted to advance racquetball to "provisional" membership.

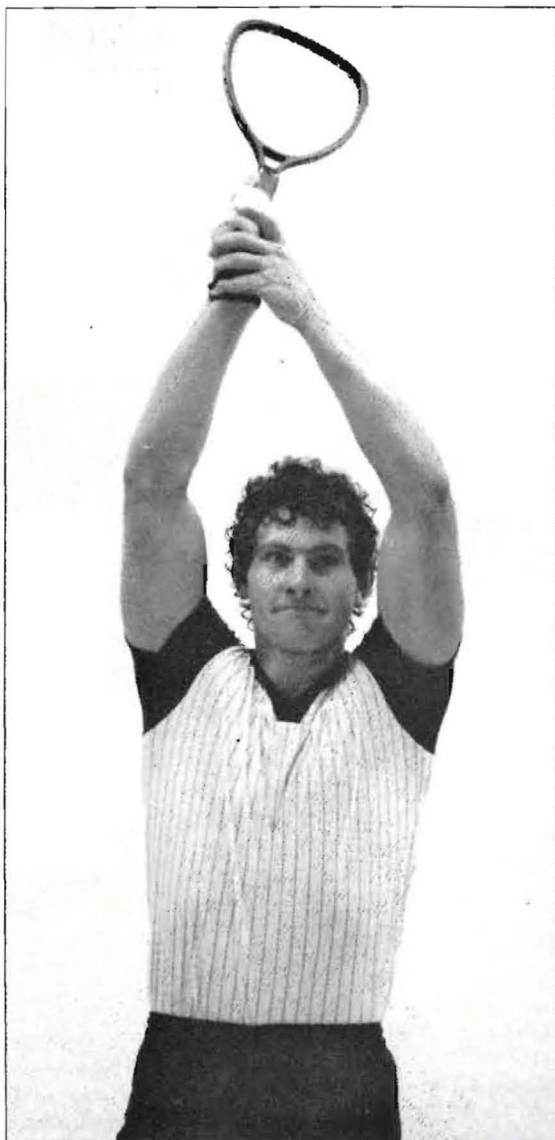
With that bit of encouragement, the AARA approached the USOC once again in December of 1981. This time, St. Onge was offered the chance to make a full presentation before the USOC membership committee. It was a good one. The committee issued a resolution that recommended to the Executive Board of

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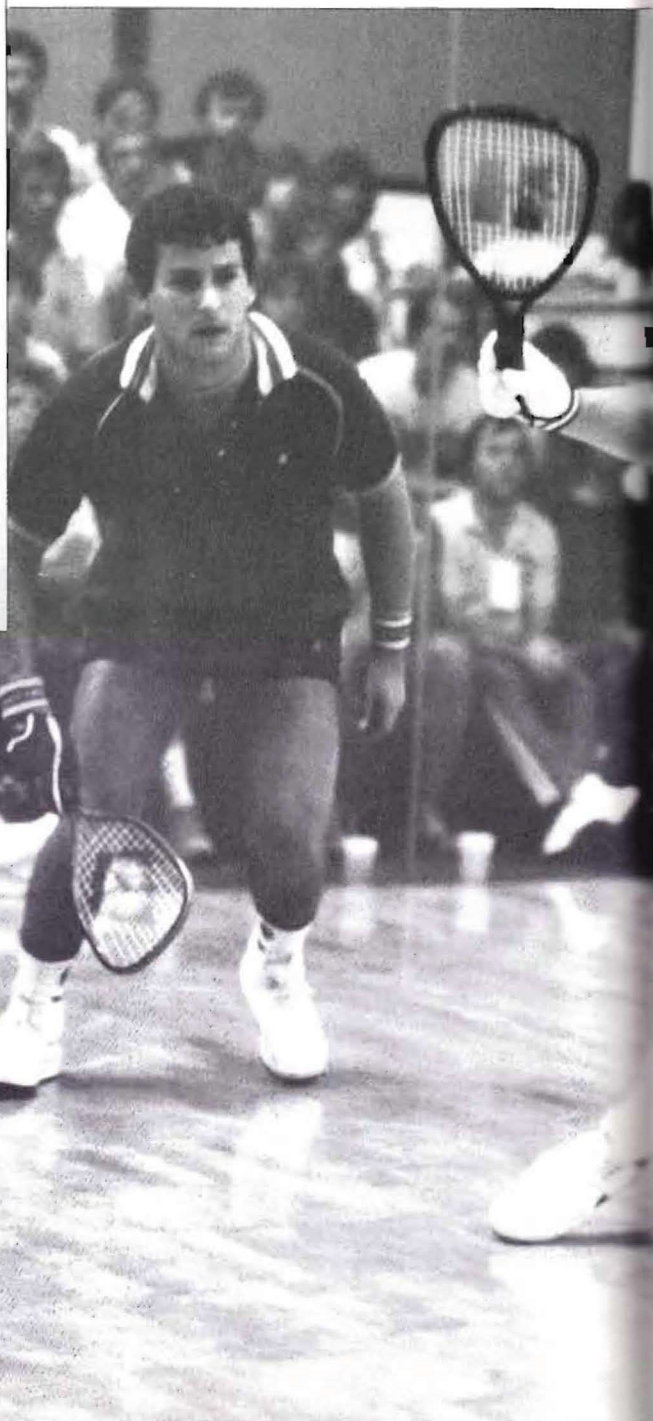
Luke St. Onge conducts AARA business from his Colorado Springs office



DAVISON

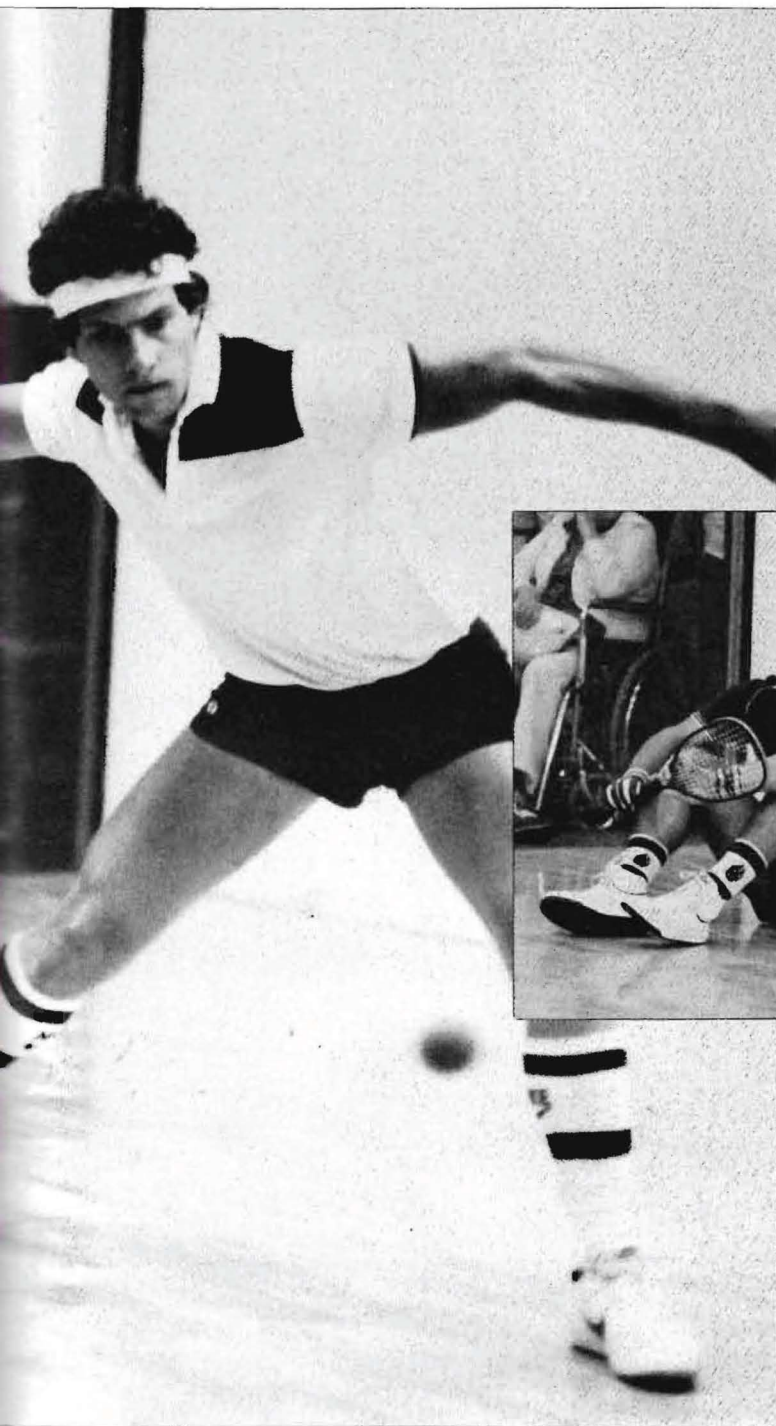


Marty Hogan sets up on a forehand against Mike Yellen



MARTY WANTS HIS TITLE BACK

A Heart Stopper At The Season's First Event



Less than three months ago Marty Hogan suffered one of the bitterest defeats of his professional career—a monumental upset at the hands of Mike Yellen in the final at the DP Leach Nationals that cost him the National Championship and his number one ranking. Not surprisingly, there was a lot of speculation after that match that perhaps the great Hogan was finished. Those who saw his game virtually collapse under the relentless pressure of Yellen's flawless control game were forced to wonder if the Hogan dynasty was about to become a mere part of racquetball history. But Marty's death notice has been prematurely posted by his critics before. And he came to Davison for one purpose; to convince Mike Yellen, and anyone else who cared to watch, that once again the reports of his demise have been greatly exaggerated.

The 1983-84 men's professional racquetball season started with a bang at the \$15,000 Natural Light Open at the Davison Racquet Club in Davison, Michigan, September 1-4. Second seeded Marty Hogan barely avoided a devastating repeat of his Atlanta defeat by storming back at the last possible moment to upset defending National Champion Mike Yellen in one of the most thrilling finals on record. Hogan came back from match-point in the fourth game and scored seven consecutive points in the fifth game to win, 11-1, 4-11, 5-11, 11-10, 11-9, and take home the \$4,000 first prize. In the process he served notice that he fully intends to do what is necessary to take back the title of National Champion.

From the early rounds of the tournament, Hogan's play made it obvious he had spent the summer working on his game and that he was ready to go after Yellen. He bolted from the gates in the first game of the final in what seemed like an eerie replay of the Atlanta match. Rocketing serves from one side to the other, and shooting with extreme accu-

NEW

From DP Leach

Racquet weight —
245 grams.



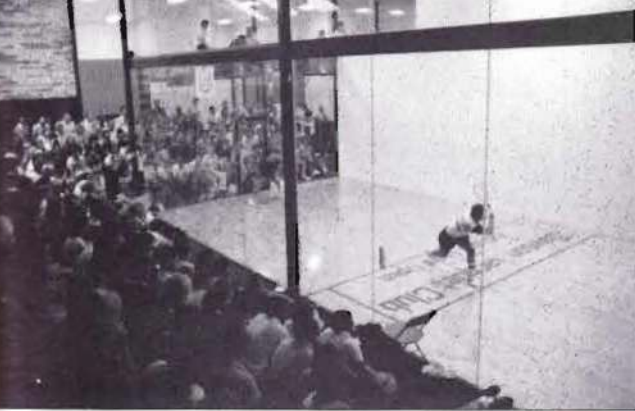
Our newest graphite racquet, the Graphite 260 features an ingenious combination of maple, ash, bamboo and graphite laminates.

This handsomely designed racquet is shipped with an attractive cover that matches the brilliant three-color racquet frame. It also has a contour-molded bumper guard which gives added racquet protection.

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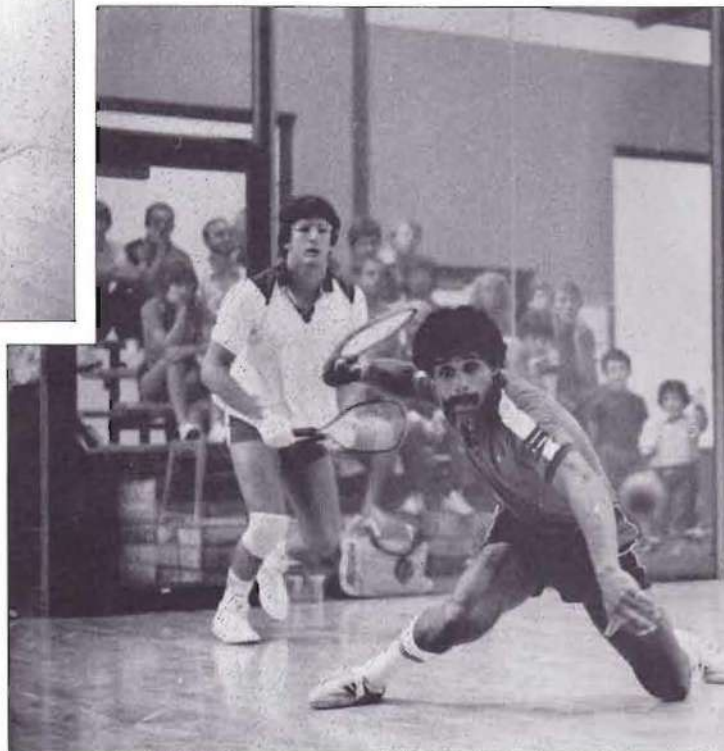


The Davison crowd looks on

racy from deep court, Hogan overwhelmed Yellen in just over six minutes, 11-1. Time after time he buried the ball in the left front corner, seemingly oblivious to Yellen's superior court position. Those who remembered the Atlanta match were flabbergasted. Instead of trying to methodically counter Yellen's control game as everyone predicted, Hogan simply cranked up the power of his shots. His hubristic challenge to Yellen was clear: "I can beat you, and I can do it with my own game style."

Then once again it started to fall apart for Marty as the match wore on. Yellen put his game into high gear and managed to grind down the Hogan power machine long enough to win the second and third games with relative ease, 11-4, 11-5. When Mike came to the court for game four his confidence was palpable. And it seemed he was about ready to lower the blade on Hogan for the fifth consecutive time as he rolled up a 10-7 lead and prepared to serve for match point.

At that moment something strange and very unexpected began to happen; the crowd began to pull for Marty. As the perennial champion, it is always unusual to hear the crowd urge Marty on, but in this case it was particularly



Ruben Gonzalez and Mike Levine in the quarterfinals

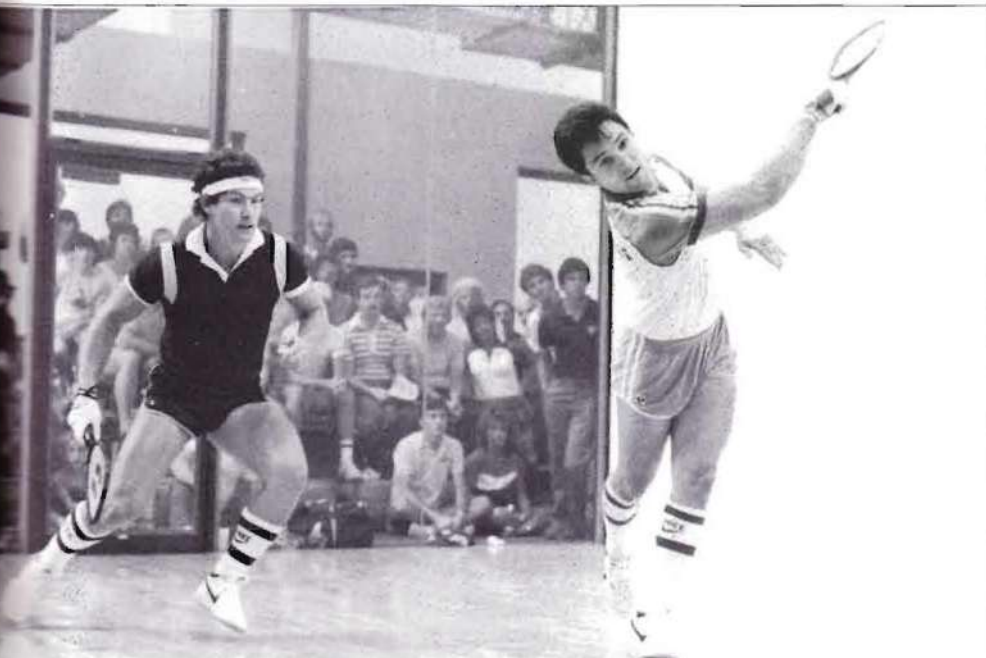
strange because in Michigan Mike Yellen, who lives in nearby Southfield, is considered second in stature only to Lee Iaccoca. The crowd's reaction visibly changed Hogan. He took the serve from Yellen and drilled four quick points to even the match at 2-games-all. The standing-room-only crowd rose and gave Marty a thunderous standing ovation as he left the court, smiling, and obviously pleased.

But Yellen wasn't ready to roll over yet. This was, after all, the same scenario as Atlanta, and there Hogan was simply unable to stay with Yellen under the pressure of the fifth and deciding game. Again Mike played masterfully,

locking Hogan in the backhand corner and watching him nervously drill shot after shot into the floor. He built up leads of 7-3 and 9-4 and Hogan called time-out. Definitely a replay of Atlanta, everyone thought. Again the crowd began to scream wildly for Hogan. Again Hogan took back the serve and they came to their feet, as some began pounding on the glass side-wall. Their cheers were not against Mike. They simply wanted to see what every racquetball player wants to see—vintage Hogan. And they got it.

For the last time Hogan cranked up his devastating power game. And this time Yellen had no defense. Marty

Marty Hogan scrambles for position against Don Thomas



Open winner Dan Ferris





Marty Hogan holds center court against Gonzalez

Brian Hawkes

scored seven straight points with a barrage of shots than can only be imagined by those who have seen Hogan at his best. At match point he stood in the service box and peered through the glass at the people who were roaring him to victory. A broad smile came across his face as he raised his arms to the crowd: "Calm down," he laughed. Moments later Hogan ended the match with a perfect backhand splat and pandemonium broke out.

During the award ceremonies following the match, Hogan said it was a piece of advice he gave an 11-year-old player the previous day that helped him when he was on the verge of losing. The youngster was depressed in the fourth game after blowing a two-game advantage and Hogan told him "That the match is three-out-of-five games and it's not over until the last point. When I was down 7-10 I had to tell myself the same thing."

He also acknowledged the crowd's help: "I don't know where all the people came from who were cheering for me but I guarantee you that I'll be back next year."

Yellen, although visibly frustrated by the match, retained his number one ranking by a slim margin due to his extremely strong finish at the end of last season.

As the inaugural event of the first open professional season since 1981, the Davison tournament was expected to have a big turn-out, and it did. The event, which was being staged for its fifth consecutive year, sported one of the largest and strongest pro draws in memory—42 players, many of whom



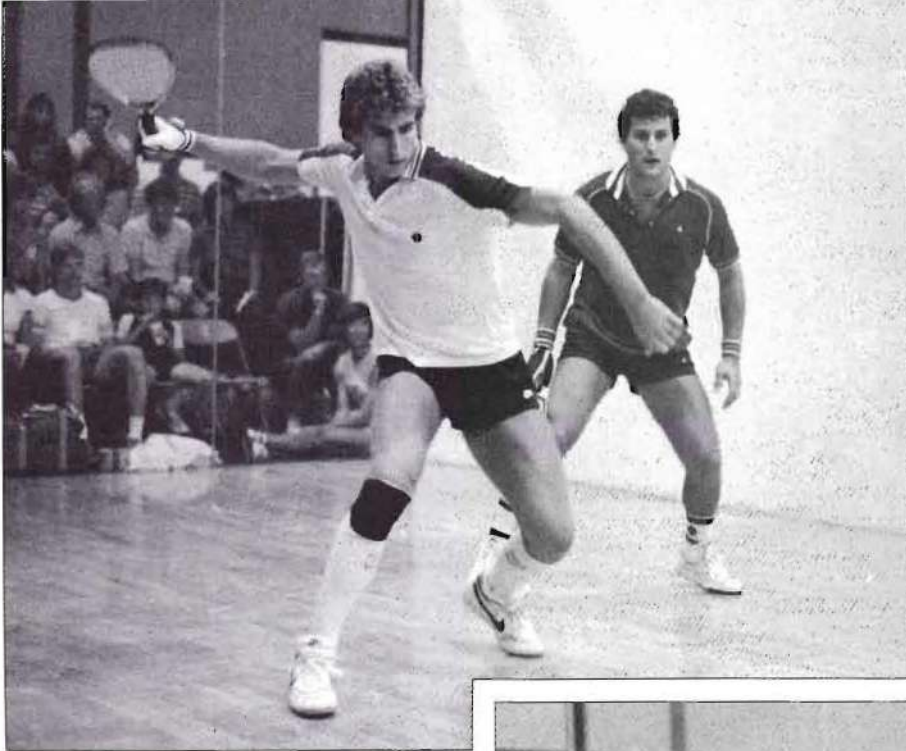
have never had the opportunity to play in the same event as the top pros. More importantly, the draw contained a number of players who were cut off from professional racquetball two years ago by the creation of the closed Catalina tour. To those players, men like Mike Levine of New York, the Davison tournament was a chance for vengeance and an opportunity to re-establish their rightful place in the pro ranks. The juniors were eager, the outcasts were angry, and the big-guns were returning from a three month layoff; there was no shortage of motivation. The fireworks started early.

The first casualty came in the round-of-32 where qualifier Cliff Swain, a 15-year-old from Maine who is the reigning AARA 16-and-under junior champion, destroyed eighth seeded John Eggerman of Boise, Idaho, in a surprisingly quick match, 11-9, 11-10, 11-8. Swain is one of the "hot" juniors who has been talked about in professional circles for the last few months, but who has not, until now, had a chance to go head-to-head with the top pros. His showing against Eggerman, and his close 4-game struggle with Ed Andrews to whom he lost in the 16's, left little doubt about his ability.

The biggest upset of the tournament occurred in the round-of-16 where Mike Levine of New York scored one of his best victories ever by outlasting third seeded Bret Harnett in five games, 6-11, 11-3, 11-5, 4-11, 11-6. Levine was a National Junior Champion in 1979 and

Hilecher slams a forehand by Gregg Peck



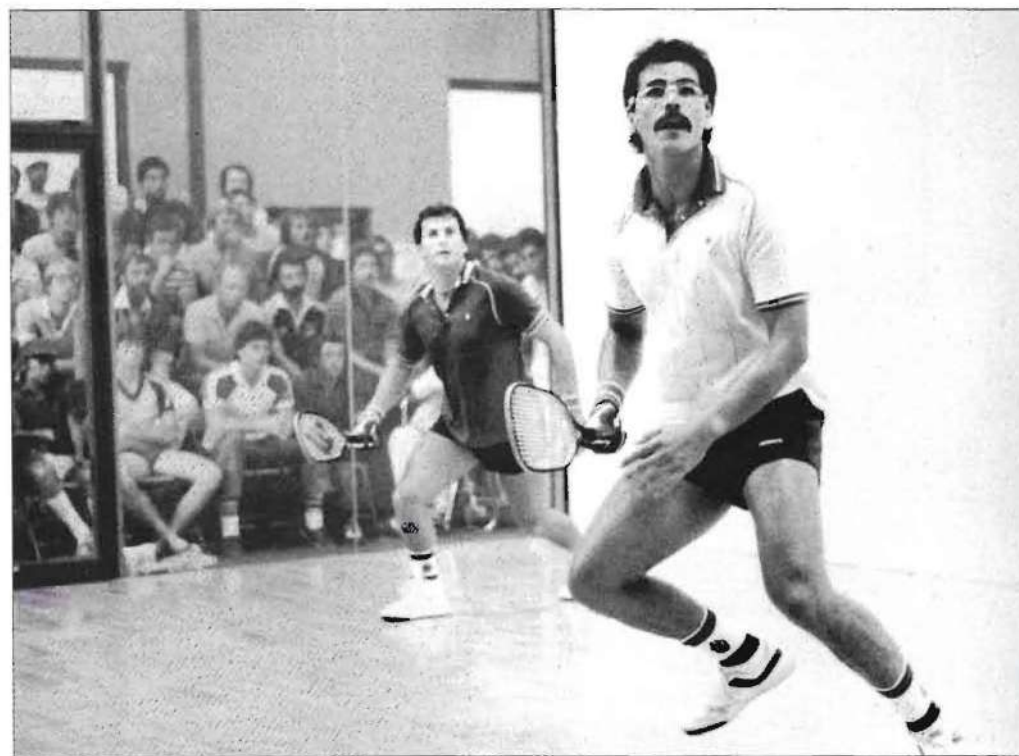


Gregg Peck prepares to end the rally

was perhaps the biggest casualty of the Catalina era, being cut at the age of 17 after making some big noises in the pro ranks. Harnett, who was seeded third due to the absence of Dave Peck, who is still recovering from a leg injury, was obviously suffering from the same early season problems that plagued most of the top pros in Davison, but Levine was sharp. His victory took him to the quarterfinals where he lost to fellow New Yorker Ruben Gonzalez in four games, 5-11, 11-0, 11-9, 11-8.

The round-of-16 matches were brutal. Of the eight matches, five of them went a full five games: Mike Yellen barely got by National Outdoor Champion Brian Hawkes of California, 5-11, 11-9, 11-4, 9-11, 11-1; Jerry Hilecher almost went under to Bill Sell, 11-2, 11-9, 8-11, 8-11, 11-1; Gregg Peck had fits with his own inconsistency as he inched by Ben Koltun of Missouri, 7-11, 11-9, 11-5, 3-11, 11-2; Levine downed Harnett; and Ruben Gonzalez was fortunate to survive his battle with highly talented Jack Newman of Illinois, 11-9, 7-11, 11-5, 2-11, 11-5.

In the quarterfinals Gregg Peck took out Hilecher, 11-6, 11-6, 11-9, Hogan eliminated Don Thomas, 11-10, 11-5, 11-6, and Gonzalez ousted Levine. But the best match was the slugfest between Mike Yellen and Ed Andrews. Andrews, the tournament's #9 seed, came into the match playing well and put Yellen on the ropes immediately by winning the first and third games. After Yellen won game four, Andrews poured it on again and suddenly found himself with a commanding 9-3 lead in the final game. Time after time Andrews was unable to overcome the pressure and put the ball



Ed Andrews and Mike Yellen in their close quarterfinal match

away as Yellen simply continued to chip away the deficit. Yellen won the match, 5-11, 11-8, 8-11, 11-3, 11-9. It was an experience Andrews is likely to remember for some time—nearly everyone who watched agreed that Ed virtually handed the match to Yellen who was in serious trouble until the very last moment.

The semifinals gave the spectators two matchups that almost guaranteed excitement. In the upper bracket Gregg Peck faced off against Mike Yellen in another of what has become a string of very close matches. Last season Yellen held a 2-1 edge, but both matches he won were close 5-gamers and Peck upset

Yellen in their semifinal meeting in Austin. Peck came out blasting from everywhere and stunned Yellen in the first game 11-1. "Everything I shot from the backhand side went in," Gregg would say after the match. "I didn't figure that was going to last." It didn't. Yellen controlled the next two games and came back from a 4-point deficit in the fourth game to win the match, 1-11, 11-7, 11-4, 11-10. Gregg's semifinal finish, combined with Harnett's early elimination, brought Peck to within three points of going ahead of Harnett in the PRO rankings and entering the top four for the first time in his career.

The semifinal match in the lower bracket pitted number 6 seed Ruben Gonzalez against Marty Hogan, a matchup everyone was eager to see. Gon-

zalez has achieved his ranking and reputation almost entirely on his retrieving ability—he is extremely fast. And here he was going up against Marty Hogan, unquestionably the fastest player in the sport when he wants to be. The match started out all Hogan. He easily outpowered Gonzalez in the first two games, 11-2, 11-4, and then in typical Hogan style lost the next two, 9-11, 8-11. In the final game Marty began to show the strength that would eventually take him to victory in the final. The game was never really close as Hogan convincingly dispatched Gonzalez, 11-8, and set the stage for his final contest with Yellen.



Mike Yellen was unable to stop Hogan's fierce shooting

In the amateur division, National Champion Dan Ferris of Minnesota came through a draw that was nearly as rough as the professional division. He defeated Sean Moskwa in the final, but the most talked about match was his semifinal victory over Brian Hawkes. Hawkes won the open division in Atlanta and is one of the most accurate and powerful shooters in the sport. His experience in outdoor racquetball makes his shoot-everything game fascinating to watch, and his battle with Ferris, who is himself a very accurate shooter, was one of the best matches of the tournament. Ferris was forced to come from a two game deficit to win at the last moment in five games.

Much of everyone's enjoyment of the tournament in Davison came not from the matches, which were very good, but from the execution of the tournament itself. Tournament director Jim Hiser ran one of the most relaxed and on-time events anyone was able to recall. The scheduling was meticulous, and some type of social function was planned for the players and the spectators every night of the event. On Friday night an

enormous banquet was held at the Hyatt Regency Flint, where awards were presented to various state players and a special award was given to Mike Yellen for his contributions to Michigan racquetball.

A number of the professional players commented during the tournament about the excellence of the refereeing, which is not generally a topic of conversation at pro events (excellence, that is). One of the suggestions now being considered by the PRO to solve the serious problem of refereeing, is allowing pro players themselves to call matches. That recommendation was given a huge boost when Brian Valin, a pro player from Canada, called one of the most efficient and non-controversial matches in memory during the Yellen-Peck semifinal. It was a good sign that there may finally be some movement towards solving one of racquetball's most debilitating problems.

A PRO (Professional Racquetball Organization) meeting was held on Saturday at the clubhouse adjoining the Davison Racquet Club, during which the players established a number of

committees and discussed the fall and winter PRO schedule (see separate article).

NATURAL LIGHT OPEN DAVISON, MICHIGAN SEPTEMBER 1-4, 1983

ROUND-OF-32:

Yellen def. Juron (Q), 11-10, 11-4, 11-2;
Hawkes def. Valin, 11-10, 11-6, 9-11, 11-9;
Andrews def. Sacco, (default); Swain def.
Egerman, 11-0, 11-10, 11-8; Hilecher def.
Eagle (Q), 11-4, 9-11, 11-5, 7-11, 11-2; Sell
def. Ray, 6-11, 11-4, 11-5, 11-7; Koltun def.
Fantrease, 11-10, 11-10, 11-8; G. Peck def.
Anderson (Q), 11-3, 1-7, 11-3; Harnett def.
Ceresia, 3-11, 11-3, 11-10, 11-0; Levine def.
Moskwa, 11-9, 3-11, 6-11, 11-5, 11-9; New-
man def. D. Gross, 11-0, 11-2, 11-6; Gon-
zalez def. Gervais (Q), 11-1, 11-2, 11-3;
Thomas def. A. Gross (Q), 11-6, 10-11, 11-3,
11-8; Cohen def. Wilhelm, 11-1, 11-2, 11-2;
Mitchell def. Ferris, 11-8, 11-4, 11-9; Hogan
def. Cole, 11-7, 8-11, 11-2, 11-10.

ROUND-OF-16:

Yellen def. Hawkes, 5-11, 11-9, 11-4, 9-11,
11-1; Andrews def. Swain, 11-7, 3-11, 11-3,
11-4; Hilecher def. Sell, 11-2, 11-9, 8-11, 8-
11, 11-1; Peck def. Koltun, 7-11, 11-9, 11-5,
3-11, 11-2; Levine def. Harnett, 6-11, 11-3,
11-5, 4-11, 11-6; Gonzalez def. Newman, 11-
9, 7-11, 11-5, 2-11, 11-5; Thomas def.
Cohen, 11-6, 9-11, 11-3, 11-2; Hogan def.
Mitchell, 5-11, 11-3, 11-2, 11-5.

QUARTERFINAL ROUND:

Yellen def. Andrews, 5-11, 11-8, 8-11, 11-3,
11-9; Peck def. Hilecher, 11-6, 11-6, 11-9;
Gonzalez def. Levine, 5-11, 11-0, 11-9, 11-8;
Hogan def. Thomas, 11-10, 11-5, 11-6.

SEMIFINAL ROUND:

Yellen def. Peck, 1-11, 11-7, 11-4, 11-10;
Hogan def. Gonzalez, 11-2, 11-4, 9-11, 8-11,
11-8.

FINAL ROUND:

HOGAN def. Yellen, 11-1, 4-11, 5-11, 11-10,
11-9.

PRIZE MONEY:

First Place	\$4,000	Second Place	2,000
Semifinalist			1,000
Quarterfinalist			500
Round-of-16			250

Bud Muehleisen with tournament director Jim Hiser



Mike Yellen addresses the banquet



Special Report:

The PRO Meets At Davison Event

The PRO (Professional Racquetball Organization), the male player's association for professional racquetball, met on the afternoon of Friday, September 2, during the first pro event of the 1983-84 season at Davison, Michigan. The purpose of the meeting was described by ad hoc board member Bud Muehleisen; "This event is really the first chance we've had to get all of the players together so that we could begin discussing some of the very important decisions that will need to be made by the men over the next few months."

The meeting was held in the clubhouse that adjoins the Davison Racquet Club. In attendance were; Mike Yellen, Gregg Peck, Ed Andrews, Jerry Hilecher, Bud Muehleisen, Doug Cohen, Jack Newman, Don Thomas, Marshall Gross (representing David and Andy Gross), Mike Levine, Mort Levine, Ruben Gonzalez, Sean Moskwa, Mike Ray, Bill Sell, Brian Hawkes, Peter Britos, Dan Ferris, Cliff Swain, Brian Valin, and Kelvin VanTrease. Those unable to attend because of scheduling problems were noted; John Eggerman, Gerry Price, Scott Oliver and Rich Wagner. Dave Peck was unable to attend the tournament or the meeting



Mike Yellen leads the discussion of the By-Laws committee

because of a healing leg injury.

Bud Muehleisen reported to the players for the first half of the meeting about his meetings and discussions over the last 60 days with members of the newly formed Racquetball Manufacturers Association (RMA). He told the players that the RMA had targeted January 1, 1984, as the date by which they wanted to have all of their work completed, and

hopefully have the office of a commissioner in place. He also informed them that it was the hope of the RMA that the PRO would also complete their initial work by that date, so that a formal men's professional tour could be established by the two groups working together, for 1984.

Muehleisen also addressed the subject of his own involvement with the group. He explained "the only reason I am here is because I was asked by the players following the Anaheim meeting to help form the PRO in its early stages." He went on to say that it was not his desire to assume a long term leadership position with the player's association, but rather to help get the fundamentals established and the leaders chosen and then cease his personal involvement. "As I see it, my job here is to help you get the ball rolling, and then I want to step aside and let you take it," he explained.

Discussion then began among the players concerning how best to go about the initial work within the association. It was decided that four committees would be established, with all the players given the option to choose on which committee they would serve. The

Continued on page 41

Pro members meeting in their various committees



1983

Racquet

Guide

Racquet

Guide

We are proud to present the first International Racquetball Racquet Guide. Presented here is the largest listing of racquets ever assembled in any racquetball publication—72 racquets from 12 different manufacturers; Ektelon, DP Leach, Wilson, Omega, AMF Head, AMF Voit, Slazenger, Geostar, Olympian, Aerolite, Blitz and Pro-Kennex (Marty Hogan Racquetball).

The racquets are divided into three groups according to frame construction:

Injection Molded—These racquets are made of various materials, usually nylon and glass and sometimes have chopped fiber or graphite added for strength. As a group they are less expensive than the composite racquets they sometimes resemble.

Metal—The largest group of racquets, these are usually made of some type of drawn aluminum. Since some of the newer aluminum racquets are designed with exotic aluminum alloys, the type of metal used is designated where it is significant. Also on this year's metal list is one new steel racquet from Ektelon and a unique titanium racquet from Omega.

Composite—These racquets have become the rage of the industry over the last five years. They are made of various mate-

rials, usually including graphite, and sometimes fiberglass, wood, carbon, boron, Kevlar and other assorted exotics. Composite racquets are unique in that they are almost all hand-made and are therefore the most expensive racquets available.

A number of characteristics are listed for each racquet in the guide:

Weight—The swing weight of the racquet is considered by many the most important consideration when comparing different racquets. The weights listed were supplied by the manufacturers and can generally be expected to vary slightly from racquet to racquet. Although opinions vary on the real significance of swing weight, the current trend continues to be toward lighter racquets—250 grams, while once considered featherweight, is now moderate.

Grip Size—Drastic changes have been taking place in this area in the last couple of years. Small grip sizes, in some cases extremely small, are in vogue. Many racquets are now available only in sizes that were not even made a few years ago. Most players feel that the optimum grip size is the smallest size you can use without having difficulty with the racquet twist-

ing in your hand, because the smaller the grip the more movement you are allowed in your wrist. The flare grip is also becoming popular because it allows the use of a smaller grip than is otherwise practical.

Racquet type—This specification involves the construction of the frame itself. It is important because it is what determines the ratio of weight to flexibility. Generally speaking, injection molded racquets are the most flexible, metal are somewhat stiffer, and composite racquets vary. However, the most exotic composites seem to be designed to be extremely stiff. Trends vary, but for now the rage is racquets that are very light and very stiff. Construction also determines the durability of the racquet frame. Again, metal is generally considered more durable than molded, and composites vary according to their purpose. Probably the most durable racquets available are the general purpose composites which are now the most commonly used frames in tournament play.

While we made every effort to include every racquet on the market in this guide, we were unable to obtain information for these companies: EST, Graphite Pulverizer, Olympian (partial), and Aerolite (photos). Also, information was not available at press time on new rac-

quets from AMF Head and Hogan Racquetball.

Injection Molded Racquets



Wilson - Champion

- Weight - 240g
- Grip Size - 3 $\frac{3}{8}$
- Type - Fiberglass/Matrix
- List Price - \$18.00

Racquet Guide



DP Leach - Little Bandido

- Weight - 260g
- Grip - 3 $\frac{3}{8}$
- Type - Glass/Nylon
- List Price - **\$20.00**



Aerolight - Excaliber

- Weight - 262g
- Grip - 3 $\frac{3}{4}$, 4
- Type - graphite/nylon/fiberglass
- Special stringing for larger sweet spot. Oval head.
- List Price - **\$28.00**

AMF/Voit - Nova I

- Weight - 250g
- Grip Size - 4
- Type - Fiberglass/Nylon
- Highest fiberglass percentage of any molded racquet for stiffness.
- List Price - **\$20.00**



DP Leach - Bandido

- Weight - 265g
- Grip - 3 $\frac{3}{8}$
- Type - Glass/Nylon
- World's largest selling glass-filled racquet
- List Price - **\$21.10**

Wilson - Starburst Lite

- Weight - 240g
- Grip - 3 $\frac{3}{8}$
- Type - Fiberglass/Nylon Matrix
- Greater flexibility - intended for women players.
- List Price - **\$26.70**



AMF/Voit - Nova II

- Weight - 250g
- Grip - 3 $\frac{3}{4}$, 4
- Type - Fiberglass/Nylon
- Greater flexibility than Nova I.
- List Price - **\$30.00**



NO
PICTURE
AVAILABLE



Omega - Laser

- Weight - N/A
- Grip - 4
- Type - Nylon/Fiberglass
- Patented Mad-Raq stringing design.
- List Price - \$30.00



DP Leach - Graphite Bandido

- Weight - 245g
- Grip - 3 $\frac{3}{8}$
- Type - glass-filled graphite
- Lighter, stronger version of the popular Bandido
- List Price - \$33.00



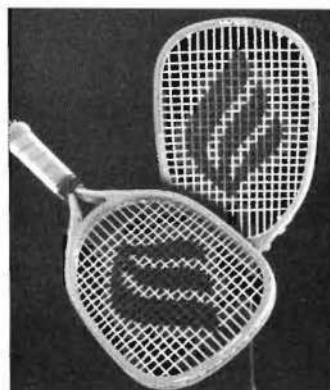
Olympian - Original

- Weight - 260g
- Grip - 3 $\frac{3}{8}$
- Type - Nylon
- List Price - \$34.00



AMF/Voit - Nova III

- Weight - 250g
- Grip - 3 $\frac{3}{4}$, 4
- Type - Graphite/Fiberglass/Nylon
- Graphite added for maximum power and strength.
- List Price - \$40.00



Ektelon - Blue Lite

- Weight - 250g
- Grip - 3 11/16, 3 15/16
- Type - Fiberglass/Nylon Matrix
- Ektelon's most flexible racquet - intended for women.
- List Price - \$40.00



Omega - Galaxy 100G

- Weight - 245g
- Grip - 4
- Type - Graphite Composite
- One year frame and handle warranty.
- List Price - \$44.00



Geostar - Silver Ace

- Weight - 250g
- Grip - 3 $\frac{3}{4}$, 3 15/16
- Type - Fiberglass/Nylon Matrix
- Special flared grip and sun-burst stringing pattern.
- List Price - \$44.95



Geostar - Graphite Master

- Weight - 250g
- Grip - 3 $\frac{3}{4}$, 3 15/16
- Type - Molded graphite
- Traditional quadraform head
- List Price - \$53.95

Ektelon - CR 200

- Weight - 245g
- Grip - 3 11/16, 3 15/16
- Type - Carbon/Fiberglass
- Carbon reinforced for power and durability.
- List Price - \$40.00



Wilson - Graphite Boss

- Weight - 245g
- Grip - 3 $\frac{3}{8}$, 4 $\frac{1}{8}$
- Type - Graphite/Fiberglass/Nylon Matrix
- Foam-filled handle to absorb vibration.
- List Price - \$40.00





Wilson - Sting Graphite

- Weight - 240g
- Grip - 3 $\frac{3}{4}$, 4
- Type - Graphite/Fiberglass/
Nylon Matrix
- Quadrangular headshape,
with graphite added for
stiffness.
- List Price - **\$72.00**

Olympian - Suspension System

- Weight - 255g
- Grip - 3 $\frac{3}{4}$
- Type - Glass/Nylon Matrix
- List Price - **\$60.00**



Aerolite - 253 Graphite Bruce Radford Signature

- Weight - 253g
- Grip - 3 $\frac{3}{4}$, 4
- Type - Graphite/nylon/
fiberglass
- Quadraform head, variable
density and radiate
stringing.
- List Price - **\$75.00**

Metal Racquets



DP Leach - Jr. Hawk

- Weight - 250g
- Grip - 3 $\frac{3}{8}$
- Type - Aluminum
- Lightweight racquet
intended for junior players
- List Price - **\$18.80**



Slazenger - Final

- Weight - N/A
- Grip - N/A
- Type - Aluminum
- Rectangular head design,
anodized finish.
- List Price - **\$20.00**



DP Leach - Eagle

- Weight - 260g
- Grip - 3 $\frac{7}{8}$
- Type - Aluminum
- Intended for beginning or
intermediate player.
- List Price - **\$18.90**



Wilson - Force 250

- Weight - 250g
- Grip - 3 $\frac{7}{8}$
- Type - Aluminum
- Foam-filled handle to
absorb vibration.
- List Price - **\$20.00**



Olympian - Bullet

- Weight - 222g
- Grip - 3 $\frac{1}{2}$
- Type - 6065 Aluminum
- Intended for junior players
- List Price - **\$20.00**



DP Leach - Free Spirit

- Weight - 270g
- Grip - 3 $\frac{7}{8}$
- Type - Aluminum
- Anodized double wall frame
- List Price - **\$22.70**



Ektelon - Comp Jr.

- Weight - 230g
- Grip - 3 11/16
- Type - 7005 Aluminum
- Designed for junior players
- List Price - \$24.95



Wilson - Marksman

- Weight - 250g
- Grip - 3 3/8
- Type - Aluminum
- Comes with raised leather grip and cover.
- List Price \$26.70



DP Leach - Challenger

- Weight - 260g
- Grip - 3 3/8
- Type - 700 Aluminum
- Tubular anodized three-color frame.
- List Price - \$31.10

DP Leach - Falcon

- Weight - 260g
- Grip - 3 3/8
- Type - 7000 Aluminum
- Tubular aluminum for strength and lightness.
- List Price - \$28.00



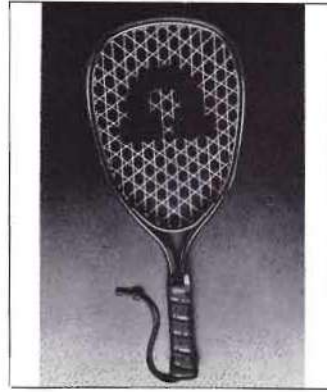
Slazenger - Golden Touch

- Weight - N/A
- Grip - N/A
- Type - Aluminum
- Top grain cowhide grip.
- List Price - \$30.00



Ektelon - Rogue

- Weight - 255g
- Grip - 3 11/16, 3 15/16, 4 1/8, Flared
- Type - 7005 Aluminum
- Ektelon's most durable racquet.
- List Price - \$34.95



Omega - Boomer II

- Weight - N/A
- Grip - 3 3/8, 4
- Type - Aluminum
- Patented Mad-Raq stringing
- List Price - \$34.00



Wilson - Tempest Plus

- Weight - 240g
- Grip - 3 3/8, 4 1/8
- Type - I-Beam Aluminum
- Balanced head-light for more mobility.
- List Price - \$36.00



Olympian - Pro Class

- Weight - 255g
- Grip - 4
- Type - 6065 Aluminum
- C-Beam extrusion, oil-filled nylon strings.
- List Price - \$38.00



Slazenger - Challenge Light

- Weight - 240g
- Grip - 4 1/8
- Type - Tubular Aluminum
- Wishbone design for lighter weight.
- List Price - \$40.00





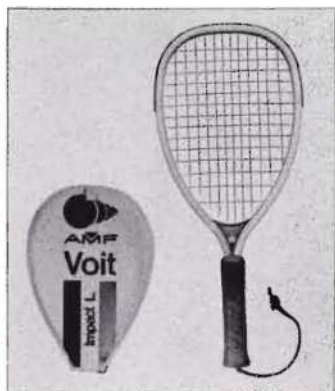
Omega - Olympic I

- Weight - 245g
- Grip - $3\frac{3}{8}$, $4\frac{1}{8}$
- Type - Aluminum
- Patented Mad-Raq stringing.
- List Price - \$44.00



AMF/Head - Standard

- Weight - N/A
- Grip - N/A
- Type - Aluminum
- Quadraform head, unique hourglass handle.
- List Price - \$45.00



AMF Voigt - Impact L

- Weight - 245g
- Grip - $3\frac{3}{4}$, $3\frac{7}{8}$, 4
- Type - I-Beam Aluminum
- Intended for women and juniors.
- List Price - \$45.00



AMF/Voigt - Impact M

- Weight - 245g
- Grip - $3\frac{3}{4}$, $3\frac{7}{8}$, 4
- Type - I-Beam Aluminum
- Patented two section float-ing throat-piece.
- List Price - \$45.00



Wilson - Flare

- Weight - 235g
- Grip - $3\frac{7}{8}$, $4\frac{1}{8}$
- Type - Tubular Aluminum
- Feather-light construction for speed and mobility.
- List Price - \$48.00



Ektelon - Interceptor

- Weight - 245g
- Grip - $3\frac{11}{16}$, $3\frac{15}{16}$, $4\frac{1}{8}$, Flared
- Type - 7005 Aluminum
- Graphite reinforced throat-piece.
- List Price - \$50.00



Olympian - Touch

- Weight - 255g
- Grip - $3\frac{3}{4}$
- Type - 7005 Aluminum
- Designed for power players
- List Price - \$50.00



Omega - Pro II

- Weight - 256g
- Grip - $3\frac{7}{8}$, $4\frac{1}{8}$
- Type - Aluminum
- Black anodized quadraform head.
- List Price - \$50.00



AMF/Head - Master

- Weight - 250g
- Grip - N/A
- Type - Aluminum
- Head light balance for quick wrist snap.
- List Price - \$55.00



AMF/Voigt - Impact One

- Weight - 265g
- Grip - $3\frac{7}{8}$, 4, $4\frac{1}{8}$
- Type - I-Beam Aluminum
- Teardrop head shape for power players.
- List Price - \$55.00



AMF/Voit - Impact Two

- Weight - 255g
- Grip - 3 $\frac{7}{8}$, 4, 4 $\frac{1}{8}$
- Type - I-Beam Aluminum
- Floating nylon throat-piece, leather grip.
- List Price - \$60.00

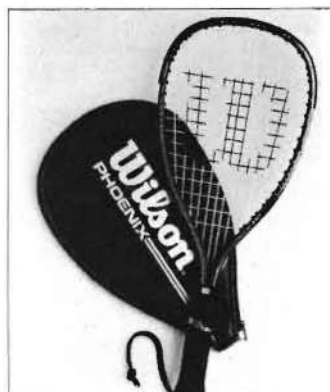


AMF/Head - Professional

- Weight - 260g
- Grip - N/A
- Type - Aluminum
- Aerospace grade aluminum with I-Beam construction.
- List Price - \$65.00

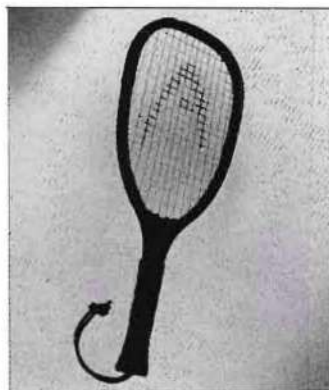
Omega - Alpha 1000

- Weight - NA
- Grip - 3 $\frac{7}{8}$, 4
- Type - Tubular Aluminum
- Patented Mad-Raq stringing.
- List Price - \$60.00



Wilson - Phoenix

- Weight - 240g
- Grip - 3 $\frac{7}{8}$, 4 $\frac{1}{8}$
- Type - Tubular Aluminum
- Wishbone design for lighter weight.
- List Price - \$60.00



Ektelon - Magnum 2

- Weight 245g
- Grip - 3 11/16, 3 15/16, 4 $\frac{1}{8}$, Flared
- Type - High strength aluminum
- Moderate stiffness for all-around players.
- List Price - \$72.50



Ektelon - Citori

- Weight - 240g
- Grip - 3 11/16, 3 15/16, 4 $\frac{1}{8}$, Flared
- Type - 7178TG Aluminum
- Ektelon's stiffest most durable aluminum racquet.
- List Price - \$85.00



DP Leach - Torch

- Weight - 250g
- Grip - 3 $\frac{7}{8}$
- Type - 7178 Aluminum
- For intermediate to advanced players.
- List Price - \$66.50



Ektelon - ST 245

- Weight 245g
- Grip - 3 11/16, 3 15/16, 4 $\frac{1}{8}$, Flared
- Type - Steel
- Varying wall thickness for fine-tuned stiffness.
- List Price - \$100.00



Omega - Titanium

- Weight - N/A
- Grip - 3 $\frac{7}{8}$, 4
- Type - Titanium
- World's only titanium racquet for light-weight strength.
- List Price - \$100.00

Composite Racquets



DP Leach - Graphite 240

- Weight - 240g
- Grip - 3 $\frac{7}{8}$
- Type - Fiberglass wrapped graphite
- Unique diamond shaped head.
- List Price - \$73.20

OMEGA HARNESSSES THE POWER OF TITANIUM.

Introducing the only Titanium racquetball racquet on earth. The strength of steel with half the weight.

Titanium is found in the sun. In meteorites. In the earth's crust. Even in the human body itself. It is prized by man because it has the strength of steel with only half the weight.

This rare power has been exploited primarily in the design of the most sophisticated aircraft and missiles. Until now.

Now, Omega has harnessed one of the great powers of the universe into one awesome racquetball racquet. Lightweight. Strong. Flexible.

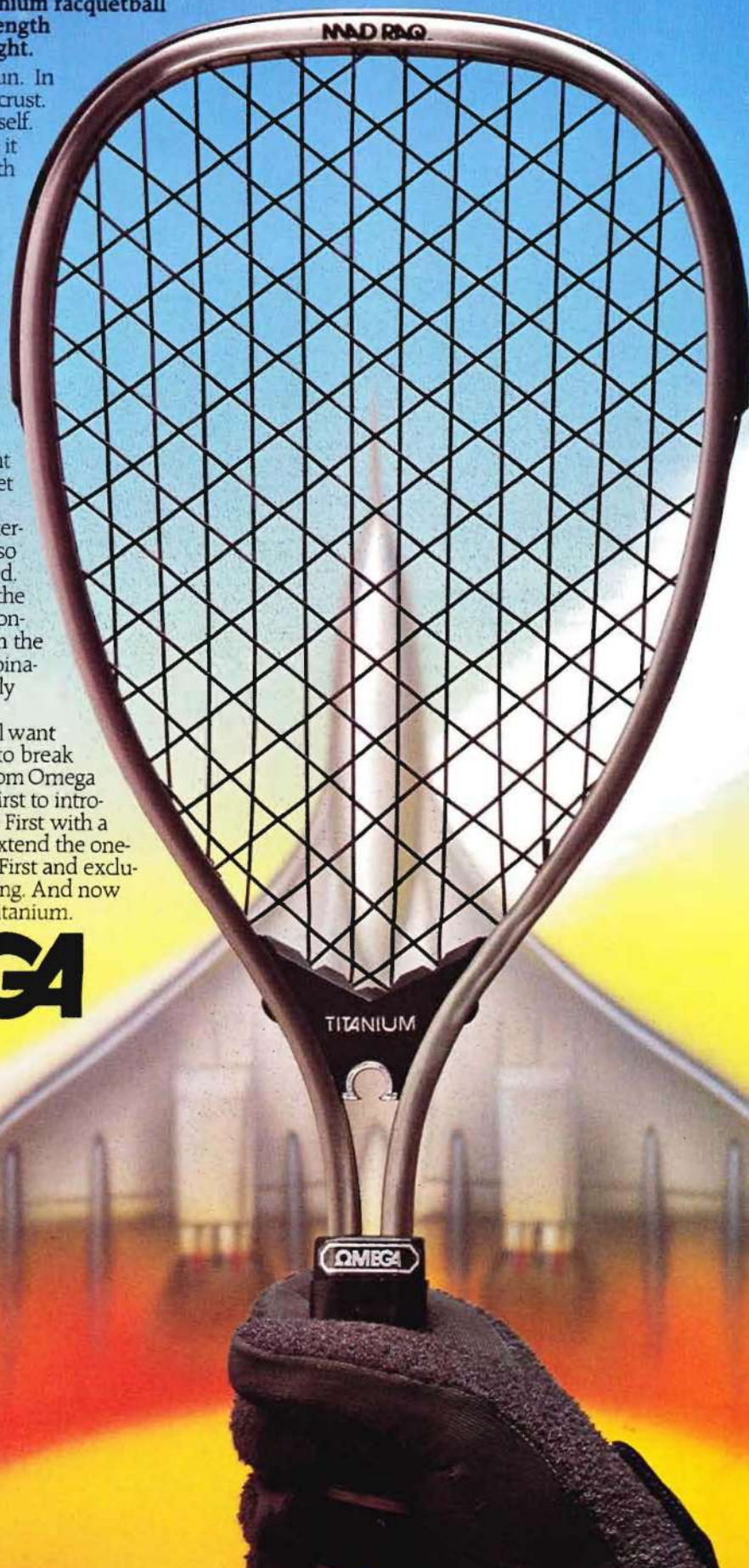
This forceful instrument is strung like no other racquet on earth. Mad Raq™ is a power and finesse computer-designed stringing system so unique it has been patented.

Lightweight power in the Titanium frame. Total ball control and shock absorption in the Mad Raq stringing. A combination with license to kill, only from Omega.

True power players will want this racquet. It is designed to break lesser spirits on the court. From Omega racquetball professionals. First to introduce the throatless racquet. First with a woman's racquet. First to extend the one-piece frame to the buttcap. First and exclusively with Mad Raq stringing. And now first and exclusively with Titanium.

OMEGA

Omega Sports, 9200 Cody
Overland Park, KS 66212





DP Leach - Graphite Gold

- Weight - 240g
- Grip - 3 $\frac{3}{8}$
- Type - Fiberglass wrapped graphite
- Unique diamond shaped head
- List Price - \$73.20



DP Leach - Graphite 260

- Weight - 245g
- Grip - 3 $\frac{3}{8}$
- Type - Maple, ash, bamboo and graphite laminates
- Light weight and very stiff.
- List Price - \$76.40



Geostar - Graphite 240G

- Weight - 240g
- Grip - 3 $\frac{3}{4}$, 3 15/16
- Type - Graphite
- Lifetime frame guarantee.
- List Price - \$79.95



Geostar - Graphite 250G

- Weight - 250g
- Grip - 3 $\frac{3}{4}$, 3 15/16
- Type - Graphite
- Lifetime frame guarantee.
- List Price - \$79.95



AMF/Voit - Pacer*

- Weight - 250g
- Grip - 3 $\frac{3}{8}$, 4, 4 $\frac{1}{8}$
- Type - 100% fiberglass
- Hand-laid fiberglass for extreme strength.
- List Price - \$80.00

*Racquet used by our editor.



Olympian - Graphite XRL

- Weight - N/A
- Grip - N/A
- Type - Graphite
- List Price - \$90.00



DP Leach - Graphite 8000

- Weight - 250g
- Grip - 3 $\frac{3}{8}$, 3 $\frac{7}{8}$
- Type - 80% graphite
- Long lasting graphite strings
- List Price - \$102.60



AMF/Head - Graphite Express

- Weight - 245g
- Grip - N/A
- Type - Hand placed fiber graphite and fiberglass laminations.
- Hollow, unique torsion tube construction.
- List Price - \$105.00



Ektelon - Composite 250G

- Weight - 250g
- Grip - 3 11/16, 3 15/16, 4 $\frac{1}{8}$, Flared
- Type - Fiberglass wrapped graphite
- Racquetball's most widely used tournament racquet.
- List Price - \$115.00



Wilson - Composite Plus

- Weight - 245g
- Grip - 3 $\frac{3}{8}$, 4 $\frac{1}{8}$
- Type - Hand-made graphite-/fiberglass combination
- Unique "torsion-bar" throat design.
- List Price - \$120.00



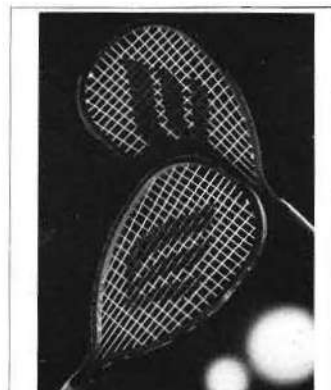
Geostar - Open T 235

- Weight - 235g
- Grip - 3½, 3¾, 4
- Type - Graphite
- Unique open-throat design
- List Price - \$120.95



Olympian-CompuDesign 245

- Weight - 245g
- Grip - N/A
- Type - Graphite
- List Price - \$140.00



Ektelon - GRC 3000

- Weight - 245g
- Grip - 3 11/16, 3 15/16, 4¼, Flared
- Type - Fiberglass wrapped graphite
- Combination wishbone frame, tear-drop shape.
- List Price - \$150.00



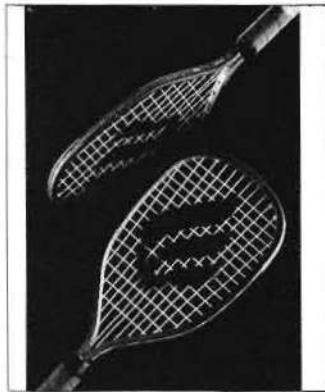
DP Leach - Graphite USA

- Weight - 250g
- Grip - 3¾, 4
- Type - 100% graphite
- New graphite spiral strings, for advanced players.
- List Price - \$152.00



Blitz

- Weight - N/A
- Grip - N/A
- Type - Solid filament foam-core composite
- Especially designed large head.
- List Price - \$175.00



Ektelon - CBK, CBK Light

- Weight - 245g, 230g
- Grip - 3 11/16, 3 15/16, 4¼, Flared
- Type - Carbon, boron, Kevlar, graphite, fiberglass composite
- Hand-made, very stiff. Ektelon's most powerful racquet
- List Price - \$200.00

Manufacturer's Addresses

If you would like to know more about any of the racquets in this guide, we suggest you write to the manufacturer. The addresses are listed in alphabetical order below.

Aerolight

Not Available
Phone: 213-785-0166
Ask for Bob Wattland

AMF/Head

Box CN-5227
Princeton, NJ 08504

AMF/Voit

3801 South Harbor Blvd.
Santa Ana, CA 92704

Blitz

P.O. Box 6214
San Mateo, CA 94403

DP Leach

P.O. Box 100
Opelika, AL 36802

Ektelon

2206 Balboa Avenue
San Diego, CA 92109

Geostar

4300 North Miller Road
Scottsdale, AZ 85251

Hogan Racquetball

Pro-Kennex
7444 Trade Street
San Diego, CA 92121

Olympian

5567 Kearny Villa Road
San Diego, CA 92123

Omega

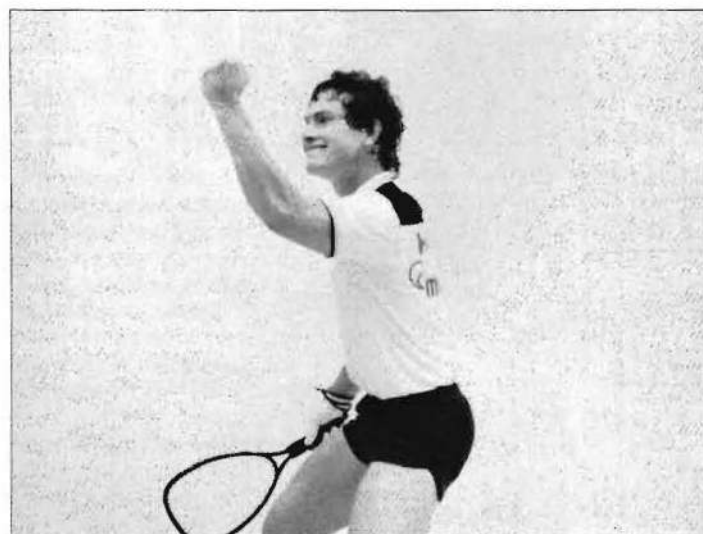
Jason Empire, Inc.
9200 Cody
Overland Park, KS 66212

Slazenger

3161 State Road
Cornwell Heights, PA 19020

Wilson

2233 West Street
River Grove, IL 60171



FIRST LOOK!

The new Marty Hogan Racquetball Racquet has not yet been released to the public, but the fans in Davison got a special preview (above) of the new racquet made by Pro-Kennex.



Lynn Adams holds doubles trophy with partner Terri Gilreath

Photos by Sue Windham

BACK ON TOP

LYNN ADAMS WINS THE WPRA SEASON OPENER AND REGAINS HER NUMBER ONE RANKING

by Sandy Genelius

When Lynn Adams was recently asked to write an essay on "What I Did On My Summer Vacation," she had trouble composing an entertaining story. By her own admission, the months of July and August were not fun for the 26-year-old native of Costa Mesa, California.

Lynn's problem was the fact that she spent the summer playing second fiddle to Heather McKay in the upper echelons of the WPRA rankings. Despite having taken her second straight WPRA National singles title in Chicago in May, Lynn found herself in the second spot in the rankings at the conclusion of the 1982-83 tour.

So Adams spent the summer working on her speed. "I am not the fastest player on the tour," she recently stated, "but I worked a lot over the summer

doing hill sprints and court sprints to try to improve this area of my game."

The work obviously paid off for her at last weekend's kick-off event of the 1983-84 circuit, the \$10,000 Big Star Holiday Cup held at the Racquethouse in Atlanta, as Adams upset McKay, 21-17, 19-21, 21-17, 21-18. The match was decided late in the fourth game when, with McKay leading 17-12, Adams ran off eight straight points to take a 20-17 lead. After McKay hit a solid bank shot to pull to within two, Adams hit a perfect pinch to win the match.

"I felt winded during parts of the fourth game when Heather was stacking up points," Adams said afterwards. "She was making nice shots and had good anticipation. I used my speed, though, to at least reach nearly every ball, even if I didn't always win the

point. Heather then started pressing and thinking that she had to make a perfect shot each time to get any points."

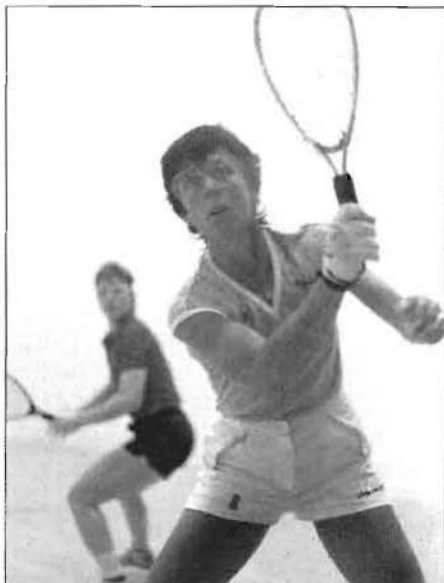
After defeating Babette Bell and Heather Stupp in rounds one and two, respectively, Adams required four games to dispatch eighth-seeded Janell Marriott. Her semifinal victim was sixth-ranked Terri Gilreath, Adams' doubles partner and friend. The two Californians played a great match filled with exciting dives, Gilreath's trademark, daring shots and emotional displays which had the crowd on its feet. Adams finally prevailed, 11-21, 21-12, 21-10, 21-11.

McKay, a native of Australia and current resident of Toronto, swept to the final without any problem as she defeated each of her first three opponents—Babette Bell, Mary Dee and seventh-seeded Marci Greer—in straight games. This set up a semifinal showdown between McKay and third-ranked Shannon Wright Hamilton, a match-up which always aproves to be an intense struggle between these two strong-willed women. McKay emerged the winner this time by upending Hamilton, 19-21, 21-7, 21-14, 21-13, to set up the final battle with Adams.

In the doubles competition at Atlanta, the top-seeded team of Adams and Gilreath pulled out a 15-17, 15-13, 6-15, 15-9, 15-9 victory over the unseeded duo of Brenda Poe-Barrett and Diane Bullard. The triumph enabled Adams to claim a double victory for the second tournament in a row. She also captured both ends of the 1983 WPR Nationals.

The tour now moves to Auburn, Massachusetts for a \$6,000 event to be held at the Auburn Health and Racquet Club October 21-23.

McKay against Hamilton



Bonnie Stoll



Atlanta crowd looks on

BIG STAR HOLIDAY CUP ATLANTA, GEORGIA SEPTEMBER 1-4, 1983

FIRST ROUND:

Heather McKay def. Bonnie Stoll, 21-18, 21-8, 25-23; Mary Dee def. Susan Sanders, 21-13, 21-6, 21-6; Caryn McKinney def. Carol Pranka, 21-6, 21-13, 21-14; Marci Greer def. Molly O'Brien, 21-13, 14-21, 21-9, 21-16; Vicki Panzeri def. Marcy Lynch, 21-9, 22-20, 19-21, 21-19; Francine Davis def. Joyce Jackson, 7-21, 21-12, 21-18, 18-21, 15-12; Martha McDonald def. Peggy Steding, 8-21, 21-7, 12-21, 21-10, 15-1; Shannon Wright Hamilton def. Leslie Clifford, 21-6, 21-18, 21-7; Laura Martino def. Kay Kuhfeld, 21-11, 21-23, 21-10, 21-12; Liz Alvarado def. Diane Bullard, 21-16, 21-14, 21-17; Peggy Gardner def. Carrie Healy, 21-12, 21-6, 21-10; Terry Gilreath def. Rita Hoff Scott, 21-15, 21-15, 21-13; Janell Marriott def. Val Paese, 21-3, 21-2, 21-6; Jennifer Harding def. Lynn Farmer, 21-20, 21-13, 21-14; Heather Stupp def. Brenda Poe Barrett, 21-11, 18-21, 21-12, 21-16; Lynn Adams def. Babette Bell, 21-19, 21-17, 21-13.

SECOND ROUND:

McKay def. Dee, 21-10, 21-12, 21-12; Greer def. McKinney, 21-11, 22-20, 17-21, 12-21, 15-7; Panzeri def. Davis, 21-18, 10-21, 19-21, 22-20, 15-7; Hamilton def. McDonald, 21-9, 21-17, 21-10; Martino def. Alvarado, 21-19, 21-14, 21-5; Gilreath def. Gardner, 21-13, 21-10, 15-21, 21-18; Marriott def. Harding, 15-21, 21-16, 21-18, 21-16; Adams def. Stupp, 21-16, 21-17, 20-22, 26-24.

QUARTERFINAL ROUND:

McKay def. Greer, 21-12, 23-21, 23-21; Hamilton def. Panzeri, 21-7, 21-19, 21-8; Gilreath def. Martino, 21-18, 14-21, 21-13, 21-18; Adams def. Marriott, 21-8, 21-9, 21-15.

SEMIFINAL ROUND:

McKay def. Hamilton, 19-21, 21-7, 21-14, 21-13; Adams def. Gilreath, 11-21, 21-12, 21-10,

21-11.

FINAL ROUND:

ADAMS DEF. MCKAY, 21-17, 19-21, 21-18.

DOUBLES-

QUARTERFINAL ROUND:

Adams/Gilreath def. McDonald/Steding, 15-12, 13-15, 15-10, 15-10; Davis/Harding def. Greer/McKinney, 15-9, 15-10, 15-12; Barrett/Bullard def. McKay/Stupp, 15-12, 15-8, 7-15, 15-9; Panzeri/Stoll def. Clifford/Farmer, 16-14, 15-13, 15-8.

SEMIFINAL ROUND:

Adams/Gilreath def. Davis/Harding, 19-21, 15-12, 12-15, 15-2, 15-4; Barrett/Bullard def. Panzeri/Stoll, 13-15, 15-9, 15-10, 12-15, 15-9.

FINAL ROUND:

ADAMS/GILREATH def. Barrett/Bullard, 15-17, 15-13, 6-15, 15-9, 15-9.

Sweet victory



department. Are things getting any better?

The young players coming up now are doing much better. Tennis is having its problems with its younger players because of the visibility of McEnroe. We had some initial problems with the older group, back in Marty's earlier days. And you really have to be careful of that because the young players copy. If those guys on top could realize the clout they carry with the younger players I think they'd be more careful. They are on display all the time, whether they are on the court or off. But, really, now that the older group is pretty much gone, and Marty and the others have mellowed, the situation is really quite a bit better. After watching the new group of players coming in now, I'm very encouraged. If we can lick the referee situation, we may be close to eliminating what used to be the worst problem in the sport.

Are you impressed with the play-level of the young group?

Very much. What you are seeing right now are some great young players who are fortunate enough to come from areas that have super people who give of their time to work with the juniors. But that's still in very few areas of the country. Racquetball hasn't hit the lower school system yet, and of course it's not on TV very much. But I'll guarantee you this; when it does become visible and the kids see it they will *totally* dominate this game. They will take it over and own it forever. And I'm talking about kids 19 and under.

You think this is a very young man's sport?

Absolutely. Absolutely. This sport is not strength, and it's not speed. It's reflexes. And all you have to do to understand reflexes is watch a youngster play a video game. You can put them up against any adult. This game, at the pro level, was made for those young kids. But the beauty of racquetball is that it was also made for the old codger too. It was made for the fat person, for the uncoordinated person. It was also made for the finest tuned athlete.

Would you encourage young players to look toward a career in professional racquetball?

Racquetball is still the game. The money is not quite there yet, and even if it was, the priority still has to be education. The game will always be there. Professionally, it can be a tough decision. In tennis, McEnroe and Connors dropped out as freshmen in college, but

how can you blame them when they can make millions? A borderline case is Mike Yellen. Mike is extremely intelligent and could be successful in whatever he pursued—law, medicine, anything. He has given that up for now, and he had probably the toughest decision of anybody. Fortunately, he has done very well during the last couple of years.

You obviously feel very strongly that television will eventually embrace racquetball, and that when it does the sport will experience growth something like what took place in tennis. Why do you feel that way?

It's funny. People look at tennis and they see 35 million active players and they assume that it has always been that way. Tennis was nothing until the Bobby Riggs—Billy Jean King match at the Astrodome. It was hyped as a battle of the sexes, but what it really did was expose this small sport that had been around for 150 years to 20 million people. And the match itself turned out to be the perfect showcase—the rallies were long and graceful and people saw that and said "That looks like fun, I think I'll play that." The tennis industry went through the ceiling; everyone went out and bought tennis racquets.

I'm convinced that could happen in this sport. Only with tennis, everyone found out very quickly that it wasn't as easy as it looked. Tennis is tough to learn, and that has now given the sport some longevity problems. I hate to say racquetball is easier because that kind of knocks it, but it really is. It's one of the only games where the beginner has as much fun as the pro; every player has fun at his own level. The player has a total mental release because he doesn't have to worry about lines, and nets, and out-of-bounds, and chasing balls, etc. I don't understand the people who say racquetball will never make it on TV. I think in some ways it is better suited than tennis ever was, from the standpoint of making the industry grow.

But, we can't get the cart before the horse or we'll blow it. We have to be ready for television—we have to have a saleable commodity. We have a tremendous game, one that's fun to play, mentally stimulating and relaxing at the same time. And the market is there. We just have to have the game ready when TV is ready for us.

What do you mean by having the game ready?

I mean that if you just immediately hit the audience with professional racquetball as it exists now, we're going to bomb. The public is not ready for that—they won't understand it, and they cer-

tainly won't want to play it. Look at it this way. You can show the world's greatest high-hurdlers, but it doesn't mean we're all going to go out and take up high-hurdling. In order for the racquetball industry to grow, the people who see it on television have to be able to say, "Hey, that looks like fun, I think I can do that, I think I'll go try it." Because you don't sell racquetball equipment until you get the person on the court playing.

So, what do we do to get the game ready? In my opinion, and I'm not speaking for anyone else here, there must be a longer rally in the game. Now the next question is always, "Oh, then you advocate slowing down the ball?" Yes, that is one of the ways, but there are others. For instance, there are pro-celebrity matches. They were a total failure in tennis as far as I'm concerned, but they could be very good in racquetball. The rally would be slow. Everyone would see how simple it is to stay in the rally and they would like that. Also, the women professionals are an excellent showcase for the sport because their game is slower and the rallies are longer.

But the men's game presents some problems for first time viewers. You can't sell anything on TV that has 2.4 hits per rally. The biggest problem with the racquetball that has been on TV up to now, is that the men hit the ball so hard and it's so fast that even the people who are sitting there live say, "Well, I could never do that." As soon as people say that you are in trouble.

Then you do advocate slowing down the ball for the men's pros?

I do believe, again just my opinion, that if the men were made to play with a somewhat slower ball, there would be longer rallies, there would be more dives, there would be greater gets, and so on. Even doubles would come out again, and that's a great spectator sport.

Let's face it; only five percent of all the people we want to reach have ever or will ever play in a tournament. So when you're talking about the future of the industry, you're talking about the people who haven't even seen racquetball yet, let alone tried it. The sport will sell itself if you can get people out there on the court. But you can't show them how to hit the ball 140 mph and do prone dives.

You sound like you don't believe the men's professional game is the best showcase for the sport.

I think it's one of the ways—eventually it will be the most important way. If I were going to put racquetball on television I would have a gimmick

Continued on page 41

FOR PLAYER & PRO:

How To Prepare For A Clinic

by Mike Yellen

(Editor's Note: Mike Yellen recently won the 1983 National Championships by winning three tournaments in a row, including two national finals. He is a valued member of the Ektelon Pro Advisory Staff.)

What can a racquetball player expect when he attends a clinic given by a club or professional player? For that matter, what can an instructor expect from his audience when he gives a clinic?

Racquetball clinics can often be as exciting and informative as watching paint dry. The pro, unsure of what points he wants to get across and how to get them across, often drones on for an hour. The audience, intimidated and unprepared, sits silently like zombies. It doesn't have to be that way. Not at all. If a pro is prepared and human, and if the audience is inquisitive and attentive, hours of wasted practice can be avoided. Plus, everybody can have fun. At what point is a clinic beneficial? To me, it's when a player stagnates; when his game doesn't seem to improve. A club pro in a clinic or quick lesson can alter mechanics and get you going again.

In my mind, communication makes a good clinic from an instructional standpoint. I want people to laugh. I want them to ask a lot of questions. I want them to be aggressive, to force me to rationalize my ideas. That's the only way they're going to learn.

I always begin my clinics with a spot on safety and then move into a definition of terms. I ask, "What type of player do you want to be?" "What does power-control mean?" With that aside, I shift to the basics. The quickest way to improve your game is by improving your mechanics. (Practice makes perfect, but only if it's perfect practice.) At this point, many clinics miss. The pro slips into his backhand and forehand routine; the audience listens but doesn't always understand.

As an instructor, you have to force people to break that cone of silence. I



usually ask, "What are some of your problems?" "What part of your game needs the most improvement?"; anything—just as long as it opens up conversation. Once the words flow, though, you can't respond with answers like, "Well, you're just not hitting the ball right." Offer specifics. And if you can't answer them, you'd better think twice about being an instructor.

I usually close my clinics with a spot on positioning, service return and serve. Then I allow a half-hour question and answer period. With positioning, I often stick my butt out—way out—and walk around the court. Then I ask, "Have you ever played anybody who does this?" That's often good for a laugh or two and a couple more questions.

In service returns I teach options. You're already on the defensive. The object is to force your opponent from center court. And what most players don't realize—and which I drill into

their heads—is that certain shots at certain levels are automatic in racquetball. I teach them to play percentage racquetball; to hit the right shot at the right time.

As a participant, if you don't understand percentage racquetball or you clinic host doesn't bring it up—ask. Question what you should do when a ball is at shoulder height; when a ball comes down-the-line at your waist. Questions, questions, questions. It can't hurt.

I know what you're thinking: "I don't know what to ask when I get to a clinic." Well, beforehand, analyze your game. What problems are you having; what improvements do you want to make; what shots do you lack confidence in? All you need are two or three ideas. Don't be bashful. Make the pro rationalize his ideas. If you do, both you and the pro—in the long run—will come out as winners.

MUEHLEISEN ON THE MENTAL GAME:

WHAT SEPARATES THE WINNERS FROM THE LOSERS?



by Dr. Bud Muehleisen

IT TAKES MORE THAN JUST TALENT TO BE A CONSISTENT WINNER.

You don't have to be involved in racquetball very long to realize that there are a lot of very talented and highly skilled people playing this game. Go to nearly any tournament, in any city, in any part of the country and you will see them by the dozens. And yet, even with that talent, and even with the years that may be spent developing their skills, relatively few players ever acquire the ability to win matches consistently. Why?

Over the years I think I have probably been asked this question more than any other; "What is it that separates the winners from the losers?" It is one of the most important questions that can be asked by the serious player. Obviously, to cover everything relevant to that question you would need an entire book. It is easy to visualize chapters within that book relating to: a) a person's specific win/loss record; an individual's motivation for playing racquetball and his current relationship to the game itself; c) the application of lessons learned in other areas of life to athletics (and vice versa); and so on. But for the purposes of this article and this publication, both of which are geared primarily to the more advanced levels of play, let's approach the subject from the bottom line and look at the most important part of the complete player; the mental game.

Reflecting on my experience in racquetball as a player, teacher, coach, and ardent observer, I have come to believe



that the most important factor in a given player's tendency towards winning or losing is his ability to make adjustments *when things go wrong*. It is really quite irrelevant to say "when my game is on I can beat anyone." As you probably know, nearly all of us say and believe exactly that, and it is frequently true. Unfortunately, no matter who you are, and no matter what level of skill you

may attain, there are going to be times when things do not go right. And it is when things begin to go sour that the wheels begin turning inside your head and your true ability becomes clear. You can talk about things such as poise, coolness, confidence, and concentration, and they are all very real and very important in their own right, but in the final analysis the winning player will be the one who makes the best adjustment when things go wrong.

It is necessary at this point to talk for a moment about physical skills. It is vital for everyone to understand that launching into discussion of the mental theory of the sport does little good, and can in fact be detrimental, if one does not first develop the basic physical skills necessary to play racquetball well. Therefore, from this point on I will be speaking of players who already have a good understanding of training methods, stroke mechanics, shot selection, shot percentages, serving, returning serve, etc. If you're not quite there yet, that's OK. But remember, strategy is useless if you can't execute the right shot at the right time. And, the more complete player you are, the easier it becomes to make adjustments when they are needed.

Once a player has a good command of the physical skills it is time to begin developing the mental game, and this is where things get a bit tougher. I don't care what sport you are talking about—

at the upper levels, the mental aspect is at least 90% of the game. This is particularly true in racquetball because of the speeds at which the game is played. But many highly skilled players never understand this point. This is why some players who hone their skills to professional level are never successful in tournament play. Only when you perfect both the physical and mental aspects of the game do you find the key to winning in sports: consistency—when things are going well and when they're not.

The best way to understand the mental game is to examine how your mind operates when your game is at it's best. Everyone has "hot" days, times when everything goes right. The next time you are on a hot streak and the ball is rolling out with every graceful whiff of your racquet, stop and evaluate what you are thinking. You will probably find that the hotter you were, the less you were thinking about; no emotion, and no conscious pattern of thought whatever. Perfecting your mental game is simply a matter of learning to recreate the mental model of that moment as often as you can.

Another way to understand this principle is to think about a surfer riding the crest of a wave. The very act of riding a wave is sufficiently complex that if he were to consciously think about his footwork, his balance and so forth, he would fail. His conscious *teller* mind simply identifies the goal, "ride the wave, now," and then quiets down and allows the subconscious *doer* mind to carry out its assigned task. It is that same delicate balance that you must strive for on the racquetball court.

Obviously, this is all much easier said than done. Some of the game's top players (and this applies to all sports), seem to have a natural ability to control their minds—to be able to shift their mood and their focus at will. Can a player who was not born with that ability learn it? Sometimes; but it is not easy. Let's look at how it is done.

When a player comes off the court after a losing effort and I ask him (or her) what went wrong, frequently the answer is something like, "Oh, I had a bad day," or "I didn't get much sleep," or "I guess he wanted it more than I did." Those answers, though they may be true, are not what I want to hear. When things go wrong, there is always a reason: there is a reason why the ball went up or down, left or right; there is a reason why you left setup after setup for your opponent; there is a reason why your shot selection was basically incorrect. You must be able to identify the specific causes of your trouble and make adjustments, all without the emotion and inner turmoil that come with judg-

ing your own play as "good" or "bad." Stated another way, you must develop the ability to make a *detached analysis* of your game.

One way of doing this that I have found effective, is to develop a checklist for yourself. When things start to go sour, stop; then, under control and with poise, run through your list to find the specific cause of the trouble. Everyone's checklist will vary somewhat according to their own strengths and weaknesses, but here are some suggestions:

1—Is my swing out of tempo, or am I overswinging?

2—Am I assuming an offensive or defensive posture everytime I am about to hit the ball, when I should be allowing the shot itself to dictate that?

3—Am I first getting my opponent out of center court?

4—When I get to center court, am I keeping my opponent behind me?

5—Am I taking low percentage shots or attempting kills too often or at the wrong times? Specifically, am I shooting when receiving serve and stand to lose a point?

6—Are my ground strokes contacting the side walls?

7—Are my ground strokes coming off the back wall?

8—Am I getting at least 80% of my

first serves in, and are my serves (first and second) forcing weak returns?

9—Am I getting my opponent out of center court with the serve returns?

10—Am I forcing my opponent to play my game, hitting down on the ball while forcing him to hit up?

These are some suggestions that probably apply to everyone's game. You will most likely have a few individual things that need to be looked at as well. The point here is not to get bogged down with a lot of deep thinking about the game at hand; that will just make things worse. You simply want to identify, as quickly as you can, the specifics in your game that are failing. Once that analysis has been made comes the crucial moment when the *teller* in your mind must turn control back over to the *doer* which then has the difficult task of making the adjustment, totally without emotion and without judgement.

Again, this is not an easy process to perfect. But it is this ability that I believe separates the winners from the losers. And how big a separation is that? Many times it is only one point. Therefore, show me a consistent winner in any sport, and I'll show you a person who has developed the mental control necessary to make correct adjustments when things go wrong.

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Jerry Hilecher
Don Thomas
Ben Koltun
Doug Cohen
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NOW—DON'T YOU WANT IT?

Tournament:

PRICE WINS IN STOCKTON

Gerry Price of Castro Valley, California, won the \$4,000 Stockton Pro Am held at the West Lane Racquet Club in Stockton, California, September 1-4. Price defeated Scott Oliver of Stockton in the final.

In the semifinals Price eliminated Wade Beardsley while Oliver outlasted Craig McCoy of Riverside.

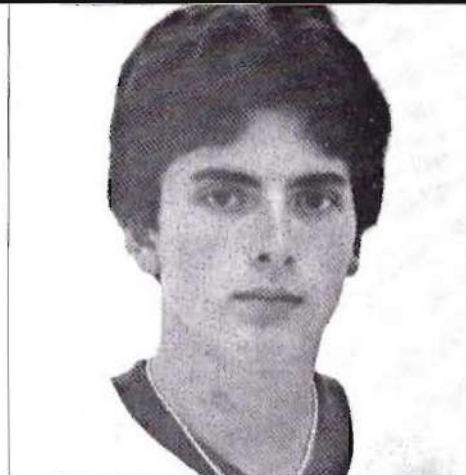
The doubles finals saw Stan Wright and Craig McCoy prevail over the team of Price and Oliver. Wright is a national

doubles champion with Steve Trent, who did not attend the Stockton event.

**STOCKTON PRO-AM
STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA
SEPTEMBER 1-4, 1983**

ROUND OF 16:

Gerry Price def. Bill Sparks; Shawn Fitzpatrick def. Jim Durham; Stan Wright def. Matt Ost; Wade Beardsley def. Mark Martino (Def); Scott Oliver def. Rick Green; Scott Jensen def. Craig Kunket; Bill Hildebrand



Gerry Price

def. Rick Ferrin; Craig McCoy def. Michael Lowe.

QUARTERFINAL ROUND:

Price def. Fitzpatrick; Beardsley def. Wright; Oliver def. Jensen; McCoy def. Hildebrand.

SEMIFINAL ROUND:

Price def. Beardsley; Oliver def. McCoy.

FINAL ROUND:

PRICE def. Oliver.

DOUBLES:

WRIGHT/McCOY def. Price/Oliver

**Smash me.
Crush me.
Splat me.
Kill me. I'll stay forever
true blue.**



Wilson TRU BLUE®

Dr. Bud *continued from page 36*

match, a celebrity match, a junior match, and then a women's and men's pro match. The viewers will be able to watch the early matches and relate to them. Then, when we've gradually built them up to it, we can finally show them what a finely tuned athlete like a man or woman pro can do.

How far in the future do you think we are talking about before racquetball is on television? Five years? Ten years?

It could be on television within ten months. You'd be surprised how fast everything could move if we get our house in order. If the emphasis were put on "What do we have to do to get people to watch the game on TV," I think it can go extremely fast. And, it finally looks like we're all moving in the right direction—it finally looks like we're going to do it.

PRO MEETS *continued from page 23*

groups and their respective responsibilities were divided as follows:

Bylaws—membership, objectives, committees, ethics.

Operations—tournaments, refereeing, public relations, PRO functions.

Budget—internal operations, funding, sanctioning, sponsors.

Ranking—seedings, draws, distribution of prize money, bonus prize pool.

The players divided themselves into committees, with the highest ranked player on each committee assuming the role of chairman. They then split up into groups and spent most of the remaining time working in committee.

Everyone agreed that each group would try to have their initial work done by the PRO stop in Vancouver in November so that recommendations could be made to the general body at that time. Then any additional work that is necessary will be assigned and the final votes taken at the PRO stop in Pleasanton in December.

Two points were repeatedly stressed in the meeting: first, that all policies and decisions within PRO would be established by votes of the general body, with the players being guided by the recommendations of the committees; and second, that only players who intended to try to make their living playing professional racquetball would be allowed to vote until the body has had a chance to decide on the qualifications for membership in PRO.

At the end of the meeting Jerry Hilecher presented a fall schedule of PRO as well as non-PRO events. The

schedule was complete only through January and it was noted that the schedule after that time will be assembled in conjunction with the RMA.

Anyone interested in becoming involved with the PRO should contact either Bud Muehleisen or Jerry Hilecher at 619-436-2468.

AARA *continued from page 15*

Delegates that the application be accepted. That vote would be taken in a general meeting the following April.

To prepare for the crucial April meeting, the AARA Board of Directors drastically revised their Constitution to comply exactly with the requirements of the USOC. The documents were submitted and approved. The AARA membership vote was put on the agenda for the April USOC meeting, and the waiting began.

But the battle wasn't over. At the same time St. Onge and the AARA were gaining confidence that racquetball was about to be accepted, there was a movement taking place within the USOC to change the Group C requirements. The proposed legislative change would require Group C members to also be members of an international federation that was recognized by the IOC. And that recognition was proving difficult for racquetball because of the IOC's requirement that a sport be played in at least 42 countries; at that time racquetball was played in 23.

After years of setbacks and frustrations, it was only fitting that the AARA membership question would come down to a matter of agenda. When the April meeting agenda was published, the Group C membership applications were ahead of the legislative provision that would have eliminated the AARA. "It was going to be very close," recalls St. Onge. "We would have just squeezed in if the legislation passed afterwards."

"We were the fourth item on the agenda," as St. Onge recounts the meeting. "The membership committee recommended our acceptance, the motion was moved and seconded, and then a discussion centering on the legislative provision erupted. The majority voted to table the application until after the legislative provision had been considered." St. Onge and AARA President Keith Calkins were stunned: "Keith and I died! We just couldn't believe it," he recalled.

But the surprises weren't over yet. Due primarily to an intense lobbying effort by the representatives from softball, archery, and volleyball, the legislation was amazingly, and soundly defeated. As the last item of business, a

vote was finally taken, and racquetball was approved for Group C membership by an overwhelming majority. Racquetball, and the AARA, were legitimate.

Don Miller, executive director of the USOC, later commented, "I was delighted that the AARA was elected to Group C membership in the USOC. It is significant that the Delegates to the annual meeting of the USOC recognized the popularity of racquetball as a highly competitive sport. We shall follow with interest, the expansion of racquetball all over the world."

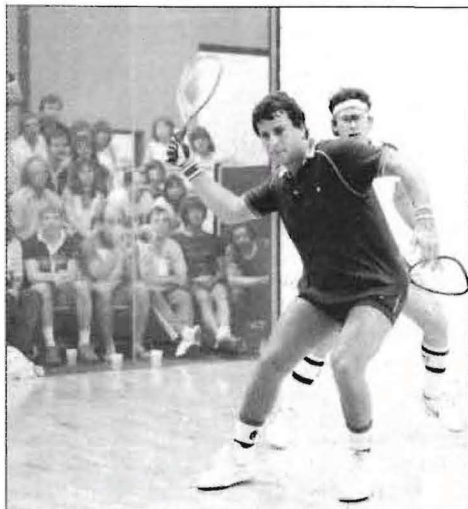
What does USOC Class C recognition mean to the sport of racquetball? St. Onge points out the benefits; "It gives us instant credibility, to be able to take people through the OTC. It allows them to see that we are a part of the group, even though we are not a Class A sport yet. It gives us a day-to-day contact with the people that promote and develop amateur sports in the United States. It gives our players an identity that they never had before. Then, of course we get the services of the OTC; I can't stress enough how important they are to a young sport like racquetball. Class C recognition is really only the first step."

But if Class C status is only the first step, racquetball is much closer to major sport status than most people within the sport seem to assume. "The AARA," explains St. Onge, "is a member of the IARF (International Amateur Racquetball Federation). The IARF has met all the criteria necessary for recognition by the IOC (International Olympic Committee). When the IOC recognizes the IARF, racquetball will effectively become a Class A sport and an application will be submitted to make racquetball part of the Pan American Games. There will also be an application filed to put racquetball into the Olympic Games."

How far into the future are we talking about? St. Onge predicts that the IOC could accept racquetball sometime this year. "It is not beyond possibility," he says, "that racquetball could participate in the 1987 Pan Am games in Quito, Ecuador. We have already located a facility there and everything is in place. It just depends on how fast the IOC acts."

Actual inclusion in the Olympics will be somewhat more difficult. Says St. Onge, "When all of this has taken place, the Eastern block countries (Russia, East Germany, etc.) will begin to look at racquetball as a real sport, and they will then start to pick it up. Once those countries begin to feel that they are proficient enough to embarrass the United States, racquetball will become an

Continued on page 44



RACQUETBALL PRIZED REAL ESTATE

Trying The Back Corners

by Mike Yellen

(Editor's Note: Mike Yellen, currently ranked No. 2 in the pro racquetball tour, is a two-time National Championships finalist and a valued member of the Ektelon Pro Advisory Staff.)

The analogy may be a bit unusual but think about it for a minute. Real estate executives always target specific land areas which they believe will help them achieve monetary goals. The same can be said about racquetball, where targeting certain areas of court "real estate" has proved to be rewarding time and time again.

What court areas am I talking about? The "high yield" back corners, of course. As a control power player, I use the back corners frequently to frustrate my opponents, so there's no reason you can't "cash in" on this bonanza too!

Think of the back corners as commercial rather than residential property. You don't want to live there. You just want to control the land.

To me, maintaining back corner control means keeping control of center court, that seven-foot square behind the short line. What you **DO NOT** want to do is let the ball pass through your center court position, because it may force you to give up center court and put you, instead of your opponent, on the defensive.

Instead, create in your mind two small cubes which invisibly sit in each back corner. The cubes should be three feet high, three feet wide, and three feet deep. To control these corners, you

should strive to hit your shots through these cubes. It doesn't matter how—just as long as the ball, at some point during a rally, moves in and out of that cube.

Obviously, unless you're a glutton for punishment, you want to play to your opponent's weakness, either the back left—or right-hand corner (backhand or forehand). Don't overuse the strategy, though, because you want the element of surprise to be on your side. Keep them guessing.

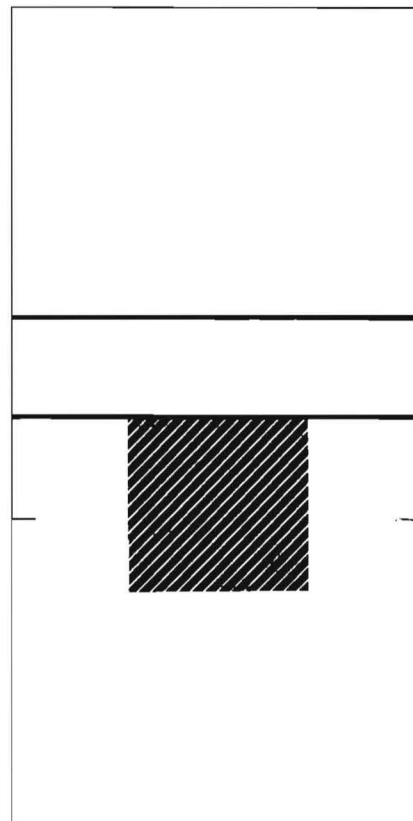
What type back corner shots you use will invariably depend on if you're serving, your opponent's court position, your strength and quickness as a player, and the tempo (and score) of the game.

Basically, down-the-line drive serves, hard and soft Z-serves and even lob serves will serve the purpose of putting your opponent's back to the wall. Cross-courts, drives, passes—pretty much the whole racquetball repertoire—in turn, will keep your playing partner pasted to the corners while a point is in progress. With the area so tight and the angles acute, a mixture of shots which force a player to move his feet for a quick set-up, make him shoot on the run or get "boxed in" a corner will prove effective.

But what happens when the roles are reversed? What happens when you're the person being painted into a corner? The key word in this situation is time. You want to buy yourself time. Unless you're set up, have a clear picture of your next shot—or just want to get the game over quickly—don't make any foolish attempts at kills or cross-court

pinches from 38 feet away. Go to the ceiling. Use the ceiling shot to get yourself back into position, to prolong the point, allowing you time to recover.

Other shots—say, a high pass, around-the-wall ball, even an occasional



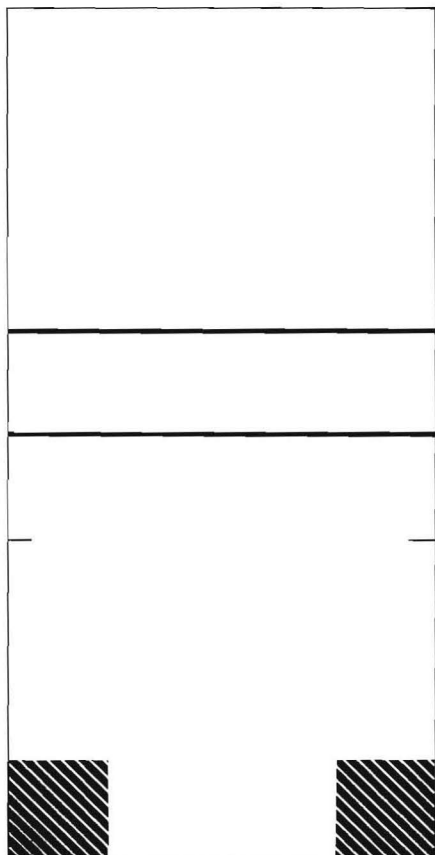
ALL'S TE



For Value

down-the-line drive—may prove effective, but again, a lot depends on how close that corner is and your body/ball position.

Practice these tips on your own and in tournament play. I'm sure you'll find the results most productive.



3-foot boxes in rear corners

Schedule of Events

MEN'S RACQUETBALL SCHEDULE OF EVENTS 1983-84 SEASON

DATE	LOCATION	PRIZE MONEY
SEPT 22-25	STOCKTON, CA	\$ 5,000
OCT 13-16	WALNUT CREEK, CA	6,000
OCT 14-16	TECUMSEH, ONTARIO	4,500
OCT 27-30	ST. PETERSBURG, FL	(AARA Doubles)
NOV 3-6	WOODLAND, CA	5,000
NOV 4-6	WHEELING, WV	7,500
NOV 10-13	VANCOUVER, BC	15,000
NOV (LATE)	TORONTO, ONTARIO	7,500
DEC 8-11	PLEASANTON, CA	15,000
JAN 12-16	FEDERAL WAY, WA	15,000
JAN 19-22	HONOLULU, HI	15,000
FEB 9-12	PALM DESERT, CA	9,000
FEB 16-20*	BEAVERTON, OR	15,000
FEB 20-24	GILLETTE, WY	7,000
MAR 1-4	CHEYENNE, WY	7,500
APR 5-8	AUSTIN, TX	6,000
MAY 2-6	ANAHEIM, CA	22,500
MAY 24-28	HOUSTON, TX	(AARA Nationals)
JUNE 1984	Undetermined DP Leach	40,000
JUNE 20-24	DAVISON, MI	(AARA Juniors)
JULY 16-22	SACRAMENTO, CA	(World Games)

WOMEN'S RACQUETBALL SCHEDULE OF EVENTS 1983-84 SEASON

DATE	LOCATION	PRIZE MONEY
OCT TBA*	CHICAGO, IL	6,000
OCT 21-23	AUBURN, MA	6,000
NOV 10-13	VANCOUVER, BC	8,000
DEC 9-11	PLYMOUTH, MA	6,000
JAN 26-29	BEVERLY, MA	12,000
FEB 2-5	QUEBEC, CANADA	10,000
FEB 9-12*	PALM DESERT, CA	6,000
FEB TBA*	SEATTLE, WN	14,000
MAR 8-11	BANGOR, ME.	6,500
MAR TBA*	MIAMI, FL	15,000
APR TBA*	TORONTO, ONTARIO	6,000
MAY 2-6	ANAHEIM, CA	18,700
MAY 31-JUN 3*	FT WORTH, TX	20,000
JULY 12-15	ANCHORAGE, AK	6,000

*Tentative

For more information, contact:

AARA EVENTS	WOMEN'S EVENTS	MEN'S EVENTS
AARA - LUKE ST. ONGE	IMG - SANDY GENELIUS	INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL
303-635-5396	216-522-1200	801-531-1484

AARA continued from page 41

Olympic sport. Whether we like it or not, at that point it really all comes down to a medal deal. Those countries will never let us dominate another sport like we have basketball."

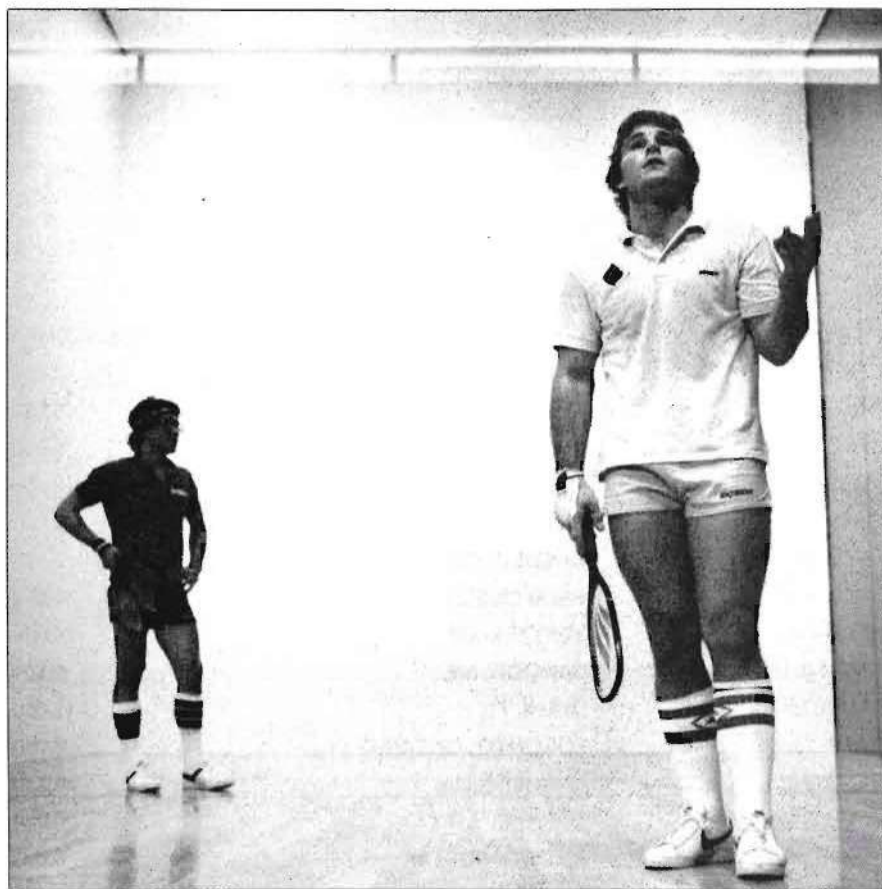
The significance of Class A membership goes well beyond just the games themselves. Class A sports directly participate in the funding of the USOC, a budget which, for the 1980-1984 quadrennial, exceeds \$80 million. The majority of that budget is divided among the national governing bodies of the Class A sports.

Ultimately, the AARA's movement towards USOC and IOC recognition could change the course of racquetball substantially. Perhaps most importantly, there is a possibility that Pan Am

and Olympic exposure may eventually prove to be a much more viable method of achieving overall growth within the sport than professional racquetball. It is a suggestion that some within the industry do not want to hear. But, it is difficult to overstate the power of the Olympic Games within the international athletic community. If you doubt that, simply turn on your television set anytime during the summer of 1984.

One thing seems certain; whatever transpires over the next few years, the AARA's Olympic movement is going to be a strong force within our sport. Since its earliest days, the racquetball industry has sought some way to bring credibility and exposure to the sport. It now seems that the AARA may have found the best way to do exactly that.

THE COURT JESTER



"I'm just warning you, if he says 'here it comes, fatso' one more time I'm going to take his head off."

In November the men's tournament action will swing to the west coast for stops in Stockton and Walnut Creek, California while the women will come north to Naperville, Illinois. The temperatures may start to fall outside, but inside the competition will be hot!



There is a whole slew of new professionals working their way up the ranks and next month we will have a look at one of them: Gerry Price. He has earned the title of "The Little Cannon." Find out why in November.



In a special article by Bob Petersen, International Racquetball will look into what is current in the "Court Club Industry," and we will have a special instructional section on Passing Shots. November is definitely not an issue to let slip by. See you then!

Head to Head Competition

Here are the head to head records of men's and women's professional racquetball for the 1982-83 season.

The women's chart was obtained from the official IMG tournament records. Those tournaments included were: Toronto, CBC, Vancouver, Lafayette, Atlanta, Quebec, Melbourne, Ft. Worth, Tucson, Bangor, San Francisco, Seattle, Anaheim, Chicago, and Atlanta.

The men's chart was tabulated by International Racquetball magazine from tournament records. Those tournaments included were: Stockton, Westminster, Burnsville, CBC, New Haven, Pleasanton, Hawaii, Palm Desert, Beaverton, Cheyenne, Austin, Toronto, Anaheim, Chicago, Atlanta, and Davison.

Women's	McKay	Adams	Wright	Martino	Panzeri	Marriott	Greer	Gilreath	Gardner	Stupp	McKinney	Harding
McKay		3-5	5-1	2-0	2-0	5-0	2-0	2-0	2-0	2-0	2-0	3-0
Adams	5-3		3-0	2-0	1-2	1-0	4-0	5-0	1-0	3-0	1-0	2-0
Wright	1-5	0-3		1-0	3-1	2-1		1-1	1-0		4-0	2-0
Martino	0-2	0-2	0-1		1-2		1-1	0-1	1-0	0-1	1-1	1-0
Panzeri	0-2	2-1	1-3	2-1			2-2				1-0	
Marriott	0-5	0-1	1-2					1-1	2-0	1-0		1-0
Greer	0-2	0-4		1-1	0-1					1-1	1-0	
Gilreath	0-2	0-5	1-1	1-0	2-2	1-1			1-0	1-1	1-0	0-1
Gardner	0-2	0-1	0-1	0-1		1-2		0-1				
Stupp	0-2	0-3		1-0			1-1					
McKinney	0-2	0-1	0-4	1-1		0-1	0-1	0-1				2-0
Harding	0-3	0-2	0-2	0-1	0-1	0-1		1-0			0-2	

Men's	M HOGAN	D PECK	M YELLEN	B HARNETT	G PECK	J HILECHER	G PRICE	E ANDREWS	D THOMAS	S LERNER	J EGERMAN	R WAGNER	S STRANDEMO	D COHEN	C MCCOY	R GONZALES	S HAWKINS	M MARTINO	S OLIVER	L MYERS
MARTY HOGAN		3-1	2-4	3-1	2-0	3-0	1-0	2-0	4-0	2-0	2-0	1-1	1-0	1-0		1-0	1-0	2-0		
DAVE PECK	1-3		3-3	1-3	4-0			1-0	1-0	2-0	1-0	1-0		1-0	1-0			0-1		1-0
MIKE YELLEN	4-2	3-3		1-1	2-1	3-0	1-1	2-0			1-0	1-0		2-0	2-0	2-0			1-0	
BRET HARNETT	1-3	3-1	1-1		0-2		2-0	1-0			0-1	0-1	1-0	1-0	1-0	1-0	1-0	1-0		
GREG PECK	0-2	0-4	1-2	2-0		1-0	1-0	1-0			1-0	2-0		1-1	1-0	0-1				1-0
JERRY HILECHER	0-3		0-3		0-1		0-1	1-0		1-0		1-0		0-1		0-1	1-0		1-0	
GERRY PRICE	0-1		1-1	0-2	0-1	1-0			1-0		1-0	1-0		1-0	1-0	1-0		0-1		
ED ANDREWS	0-2	0-1	0-2	0-1	0-1	0-1			1-0	0-1	0-2			1-1	2-0				1-1	
DON THOMAS	0-4	0-1					0-1	0-1			1-1	0-1		1-0						
STEVE LERNER	0-2	0-2				0-1		1-0							1-0	0-1	1-0	1-0	2-0	
JOHN EGERMAN	3-2	0-1	0-1		0-1		0-1	2-0	1-1					0-1		0-1	1-0	0-1	0-1	
RICH WAGNER	1-1	0-1	0-1	1-0	0-2	0-1	0-1		1-0				1-0			1-1	1-0	1-0	0-1	
STEVE STRANDEMO	0-1			1-0								0-1		1-0		0-1				
DOUG COHEN	0-1	0-1	0-2	0-1	1-1	1-0	0-1	1-1	0-1		1-0		0-1							
CRAIG MCCOY		0-1	0-2	0-1	0-1		0-1	0-2		0-1							1-0		1-0	
REUBEN GONZALES	0-1		0-2	0-1	1-0	1-0	0-1			1-0	1-0	1-1	1-0							1-0
SCOTT HAWKINS	0-1			0-1		0-1				0-1	0-1	0-1			0-1					0-1
MARK MARTINO	0-2	1-0		0-1			1-0			0-1	1-0	0-1			0-1					
SCOTT OLIVER			0-1			0-1		1-1		0-2	1-0	1-0								
LINDSAY MYERS		0-1			0-1										0-1	1-0				

HOW TO READ CHART: For any player the won/loss record against every other player is read horizontally opposite his name. The tournaments used are the same as those used for the IR Computer Rankings and are listed on page 46

WOMEN'S RANKINGS

The rankings listed for the women are the official rankings of the Women's Professional Racquetball Association (WPRA). The upper listing shows the current rankings, and the lower listing shows the final rankings and earnings for the 1982-83 season.

The current rankings include the most recent WPRA stop in Atlanta, Georgia.

MEN'S RANKINGS

The men's rankings are derived using a temporary ranking system instituted by the Professional Racquetball Organization (PRO). This system will be used only until the PRO ranking committee, and the PRO general body adopt a permanent men's professional ranking system. That system is expected to be in effect by December 1983.

The temporary system used here is a modified extension of the 1983 Catalina ranking, but uses a 10-tournament rotating schedule. For each new ranking event that is added to the list, one event (the oldest event on the previous list) is dropped. Since the Davison tournament was the first event of the year, last year's first event (Westminster, CA) has been dropped from each player's record. Only the major ranking events of last season, and the newly sanctioned major events of this season are used on the 10-event list.

This month the ten events used are:

- Burnsville, MN, 1982
- New Haven, CT, 1982
- Honolulu, HI, 1983
- Beaverton, OR, 1983
- Austin, TX, 1983
- Toronto, Ontario, 1983
- Anaheim, CA, 1983
- Chicago, IL, 1983
- Atlanta, GA, 1983
- Davison, MI, 1983

The listing here utilizes the same point system as the old Catalina system. Points per round per event are:

- Winner 120 points
- Second 90 points
- Semifinalist 70 points
- Quarterfinalist 50 points
- Round of 16 30 points

The total points accumulated by a player during the ten listed events are totaled and then divided by the number of events in which he participated. The largest possible divider is 10, and this month the minimum divider is 4.

It should be noted that the men have chosen this ranking system only as a temporary necessity, for the purpose of seeding the sanctioned events scheduled for the next 60 days. The permanent PRO system will be voted on and adopted by the players themselves and will likely be somewhat different than the method used here.

The lower section lists the final rankings and earnings for the 1982-83 season.

MEN'S PRO RANKINGS SEPTEMBER 10, 1983

THIS MO.	LAST MO.	PLAYER	POINTS
1	1	Mike Yellen	93.50
2	2	Marty Hogan	91.00
3	3	Dave Peck	75.00
4	4	Bret Harnett	59.00
5	5	Gregg Peck	56.00
6	8	Ruben Gonzalez	48.57
7T	7	Jerry Hilecher	43.33
7T	9	Don Thomas	43.33
9	11	Ed Andrews	35.56
10T	-	Jack Newman	35.00
10T	-	Gerry Price	35.00
12	10	John Egerman	30.00
13	-	Steve Lerner	28.00
14	12	Rich Wagner	26.25
15	14	Doug Cohen	26.00
16	15	Scott Hawkins	25.00
17	15	Craig McCoy	21.25
18T	-	Mike Levine	20.00
18T	-	Bill Sell	20.00
20T	-	Cory Brysman	15.00
20T	-	Scott Oliver	15.00
22T	-	Brian Hawkes	7.50
22T	-	Mark Martino	7.50
22T	-	Cliff Swain	7.50
22T	-	Lindsay Myers	7.50

WPRA RANKINGS SEPTEMBER 7, 1983

THIS MO.	LAST MO.	PLAYER	POINTS
1	2	Lynn Adams	281.97
2	1	Heather McKay	280.50
3	3	S. Wright Hamilton	196.88
4	4	Laura Martino	133.88
5	5	Vicki Panzeri	114.63
6	6	Terri Gilreath	103.75
7	8	Janell Marriott	78.57
8	7	Marci Greer	78.25
9	9	Peggy Gardner	62.50
10	11	Caryn McKinney	53.57
11	10	Jennifer Harding	50.38
12	13	Heather Stupp	49.67
13	12	Joyce Jackson	42.50
14	14	Stacey Fletcher	38.38
15	15	Brenda Poe Barrett	38.33
16	17	Bonnie Stoll	32.00
17	18	Diane Bullard	31.93
18	19	Francine Davis	31.63
19	20	Martha McDonald	25.63
20	16	Barbara Maltby	22.50
21	22	Carol Pranka	20.50
22	21	Gail Woods	20.00
23	25	Jean Sauser	19.33
24	23	Molly O'Brien	18.86
25	26	Leslie Clifford	16.33

CATALINA FINAL 1983 RANKINGS

RANK	PLAYER	EARNINGS
1	Mike Yellen	\$57,750
2	Marty Hogan	38,200
3	Dave Peck	26,500
4	Bret Harnett	20,150
5	Gregg Peck	12,750
6	Steve Strandemo	3,250
7	Jerry Hilecher	11,350
8	Ruben Gonzalez	8,000
9	Don Thomas	7,650
10	John Egerman	5,250
11	Ed Andrews	5,900
12	Rich Wagner	5,050
13	Gerry Price	2,000
14	Doug Cohen	2,150
15T	Craig McCoy	2,000
15T	Scott Hawkins	—0—

WPRA FINAL 1983 RANKINGS

RANK	PLAYER	EARNINGS
1	Heather McKay	\$17,475
2	Lynn Adams	18,790
3	Shannon Wright	9,299
4	Laura Martino	8,253
5	Vicki Panzeri	6,895
6	Terri Gilreath	7,030
7	Marci Greer	6,896
8	Janell Marriott	4,314
9	Peggy Gardner	3,272
10	Jennifer Harding	5,148
11	Caryn McKinney	4,063
12	Joyce Jackson	2,372
13	Heather Stupp	1,705
14	Stacey Fletcher	2,090
15	Brenda Poe Barrett	1,764
16	Barbara Maltby	1,537
17	Bonnie Stoll	2,714
18	Diane Bullard	1,749
19	Fran Davis	1,688
20	Martha McDonald	1,364

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