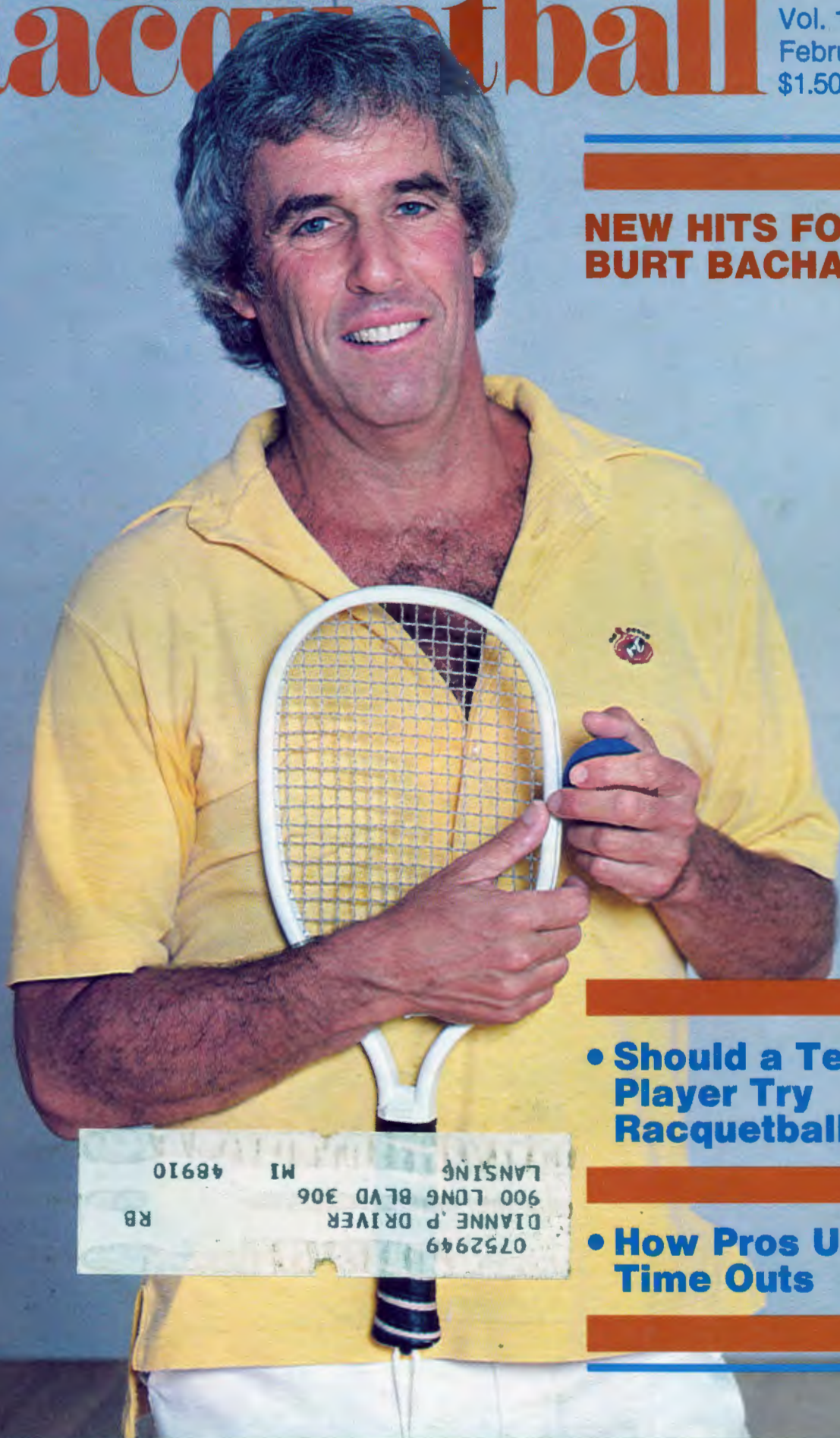


National Racquetball®

Vol. 10 No. 2
February, 1981
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Racquetball?

• How Pros Use
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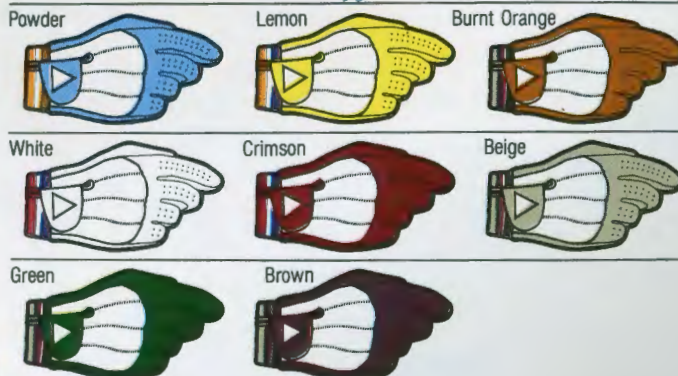


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On the Cover . . .

Two Time Academy Award Winning Songwriter Burt Bacharach made a childhood choice of music over athletics, but now he finds time for both pursuits, and his sports include racquetball. Turn to page 16 for Kris Gilmore's story.

— Peter Borsari photo

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Why Marty won't go to court without graphite.

Graphite is probably the perfect racquet frame material. Ounce for ounce, it's several times lighter than aluminum. Yet, even stronger and stiffer.

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Obviously, not everyone needs the awesome power of 100% graphite. So Leach created three other racquets that harness graphite's winning ways.

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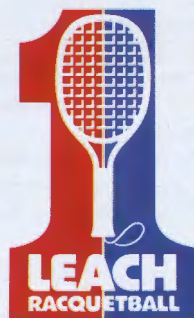
Collectively, our Leach racquets are the winningest graphites on the pro tour. Bar none. With the largest selection of graphite racquets available from any single source.

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Opinions

From Bob Kendler



It Is Not One Day Too Soon . . .

Before the general public begins to think of racquetball in terms of bingo, we better correct our course. Everyone wants something for nothing. Free balls, shirts, sweat suits, shoes, racquets, eyeguards . . . where it will end, nobody knows.

It seems to me the manufacturers would best serve the sport by raising quality instead of reducing cost. It is common sense that if they are going to give away their product, they are going to make this product as cheaply as possible. Wouldn't it be better if all the manufacturers put an end to the freebies and concentrated on quality?

Now I can understand a sponsor backing a pro tour with substantial cash awards, in view of the fact that racquetball has become a livelihood for the true professionals. I can also understand scholarship awards for amateur winners, particularly those who really need the help. We didn't have them when I was a boy so, like all kids in our neighborhood, we went to work at the age of 12 which was the earliest the law allowed at that time.

In the beginning sampling balls was understandable. But now clubs choose the manufacturer who will give them the most for nothing. Whether it's good for the player or the tournament seems to make little difference. Clubs frequently overstate their entries and sell the leftovers in the pro shop. Now the fact that the "gift" balls may have been old stock or rejects is given little thought.

Take the recent rash of amateur prizes . . . trips, motorcycles, TV sets and assorted appliances. These kinds of giveaways don't lend any dignity to our sport, although exceptions should be made for a worthwhile charity. But the day we take the circus out of our very sophisticated sport, (and it is not one day too soon!) is the day we take a giant stride toward respectability.

Not that we are above criticism. We have given our share of balls and some pretty good prizes as well. But I am sure the manufacturers would be just as happy to be rid of giveaways as Detroit was to be rid of rebates. It didn't work there, and it won't work here. Instead let's give the players what they want . . . a quality product and a prestige sport!

In a very real way this may be the most important issue in racquetball's future. Simply put success ceases when people decide it is their right to take and not to give, when they reject the need to be responsible for their own lives. Whether it's the government or the company, the idea is rampant that others have the obligation to take care of us. When this happens, we cease to be free. More than anything else it is freedom and the complications of freedom that are causing people to deny a love of liberty and to rush toward total dependence. When manufacturers give something, they expect something, and your rights and privileges are abridged. Something for nothing? There is no such thing!

Speaking to the honor students at Fort Hays State College in Kansas Vice President for Academic Affairs John D. Garwood concluded with these words: *"The real frontier of America today is that of recapturing what was once the American myth, the American dream . . . a lifestyle committed to integrity, honor, values which motivate and elevate society, a love of country, an abiding interest in its purposes and dynamics, and a desire to make the world a better place to live . . ."*

In a very real way this is the message of racquetball. Today racquetball, like handball, stands on the human frontier. We think we save lives, we think we preserve lives. The kids we take off the streets and put into the courts (the racquetball courts and the handball courts, not the criminal courts) are our symbols of victory.

More than anything else we believe that self improvement has a ripple effect on the world in which we live, and this ripple effect motivates our actions. *"It is in the nature of things that a man cannot really improve himself without, in some degree, improving other men."*

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So we get back to the beginning. Let's not build a false racquetball economy. Let it assume a commanding position on its own merit without gimmicks, freebies or bribes. Let the manufacturers realize that they can keep their giveaways and strive instead to win the support of the players by turning out the product that turns out the best racquetball.

How can you love racquetball and not be proud of the byproducts . . . sportsmanship, honor, integrity and the built-in "lifts" that are physical, mental and moral? It is not one day too soon to take a firm stand.

Evie & Bob Kendler

Evie and Bob Kendler

From the National Commissioner



Progress on the White Glass Court

In the past two years you have been hearing or reading about the new white glass (registered as Twin-Vue) produced and marketed by W & W Products International.

Recently I had the opportunity to attend the unveiling of the first three wall Twin-Vue glass racquetball court, which is the main center court feature of Lyndhurst, NJ's King's Court. Jerry Turco, the owner and builder, went first class all the way in putting up this 28 court racquetball and health spa.

I was pleased to be invited to the pre-opening press party which was covered by all of the local newspapers, TV and radio stations. The highlight of the festivities was viewing the racquetball matches in the new white glass exhibition court.

All the spectators agreed that the viewing was clear—free of reflections. They felt it was much easier to follow the ball than it was through conventional glass. The players were elated about the playability of the glass walls. They reported that agonizing reflections were gone and that the texture of the glass assured a true bounce and eliminated the freaky sliders that sometimes occur on smooth glass.

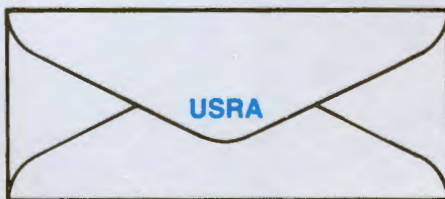
The TV cameraman and photographers judged Twin-Vue a boon to their trade. Watch *National Racquetball* for some excellent pictures taken through Twin-Vue walls.

I want to extend the congratulations of the USRA to the Turco family for pioneering the white glass exhibition court. I know it will help make King's Court a tremendous success at the same time it promotes the sport of racquetball.

Joe Ardito

Joe Ardito

From Our Readers



They All Want Posters

Dear Carol:

My desk has been swamped with poster requests ever since your October issue hit the streets. And if the variety is any indication, your readership must span the racquetball spectrum: Men, women, young, old, court clubs, YMCAs, high schools. You name it—they want Ektelon posters.

We're doing our best to fill those needs, especially with a new Dave Peck poster on the way. Anyway, thanks again, Carol, and also to the people who cared enough to write.

Armen Keteyian
San Diego, CA

Three Hundred Pushups in a Minute

Dear Sir:

Concerning the September, 1979 issue the "*Baby Ox Theory of Conditioning*" by Charlie Brumfield was excellent, but I really questioned the pushups. Three sets of 100, I would think, is almost impossible. I really thought this was a misprint but would be a worthwhile goal if anyone could reach it. I assume you should not rest more than two to three minutes between sets.

In addition I would like to say that I and several other players in the Army stationed in Berlin, Germany have profited from your magazine.

Robert K. Cox
CPT, MSC, U.S. Army
Berlin, Germany

Charlie Siddle, who advises Charlie Brumfield and other pros on racquetball conditioning, says you should aim at three sets of 10 pushups with a 30 second rest between sets. The September, 1979 article, "Conditioning with the Baby Ox Theory," does suggest three sets of 100 pushups. But that would be for someone in exceptional condition. One of those superbly conditioned people is Charlie Siddle, now owner-manager of the Stadium Family Fitness Center, Mission Valley, in San Diego. Siddle, who trimmed himself down from a 225 pound Louisiana State University football player to 190, without losing any of his strength, does 300 pushups in a minute. ED

The Finer Points

Dear Dan:

I would like to thank you very much for allowing me the opportunity to work with you and the NRC/USRA on the third Annual Robert W. Kendler Pro/Am Racquetball Classic. I greatly appreciate your taking the time to teach me the finer points that go into making a racquetball tournament a success. I learned a great deal about the organization and administration that go into running a tournament of this caliber from observing you and your top notch staff in action. The long hours and hard work were well worth it in the end.

I won't ever be able to thank you enough for the knowledge you have given me for there hasn't been a book written that could have taught me the things that you and your staff have. You are a true professional.

Reenie Turek
Palatine, IL



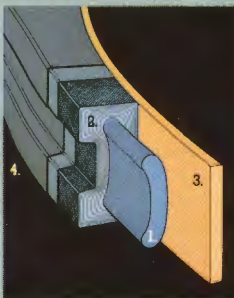
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Point Five: Winning Points. The popularity of the 250G among knowledgeable players points to just one thing: performance. Its innovative features add up to surer passes, harder kills, fewer skips, more points game after game and match after match. And that's the whole point of a racquetball racquet.

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Wonderful in Chicago

Dear Sirs:

I just thought it would be proper to drop you a line and thank you for the wonderful tournament that you put on in Chicago in November.

The Best Western & Charlie Club was without a doubt the best equipped facility I've ever seen. It was by far the most convenient setup for players, making it easy to be to matches on time. The hospitality was superb!

Keep up the good work. You're putting on excellent tournaments along with a fine magazine.

Dave Doeher
San Diego, CA

Peck's Pleasure

Dear Renee:

It was a pleasure meeting you in Chicago at the last pro stop. Dave and Gregg and I would like to extend our thanks to the entire NRC staff for the outstanding job which they have done with the pro tour during the last couple of years.

Jerry Day
Oklahoma City, OK

A Plus Resources

Dear Mr. Kendler:

Thanks for the information you sent me on racquetball. It was very helpful. In fact I got an A plus on my speech and my teacher said I had excellent resources.

Susan Davidsmeyer
Naperville, IL

Good Start on the Pro Tour

Dear Dani:

Thank you for making my first pro tour stop a most enjoyable one. I can hardly wait until the one in St. Louis! I had fun watching the pros and meeting all the people. You do a great job. And thanks for the eyeguards.

Scott Pufahl
Indianapolis

Any Racquetball in Mexico?

Dear Editor:

I truly enjoyed the excellent article, published in your November issue, about racquetball in Ecuador. I'm glad the sport is being introduced in South America.

Are there any similar efforts being made to introduce the game in Mexico City or any other state in Mexico? I visit Mexico frequently and I would enjoy playing down there if there are racquetball facilities.

Alfredo Jimenez
Santa Fe, NM

Our Mexican connections haven't come up with any courts, though U.S. players often ask us if there are. Readers who uncover courts in Mexico are welcome to share the information with National Racquetball. ED



National Racquetball Club Rankings

(Coming out of the December
stop in Memphis)

1. Marty Hogan
2. Mike Yellen
3. Jerry Hilecher
4. Dave Peck
5. Don Peck
6. Rich Wagner
7. Lindsay Myers
8. Steve Strandemo
9. Craig McCoy
10. Ben Koltun
11. Bob Bolan
12. Gregg Peck
Bruce Christensen
14. Doug Cohen
15. Dave Bledsoe
16. John Engerman
17. Dave Fleetwood
18. Keith Dunlap
19. Scott Hawkins
20. Charlie Brumfield
21. Mike Levine
22. Dennis McDowell
23. Mark Morrow
24. Larry Meyers



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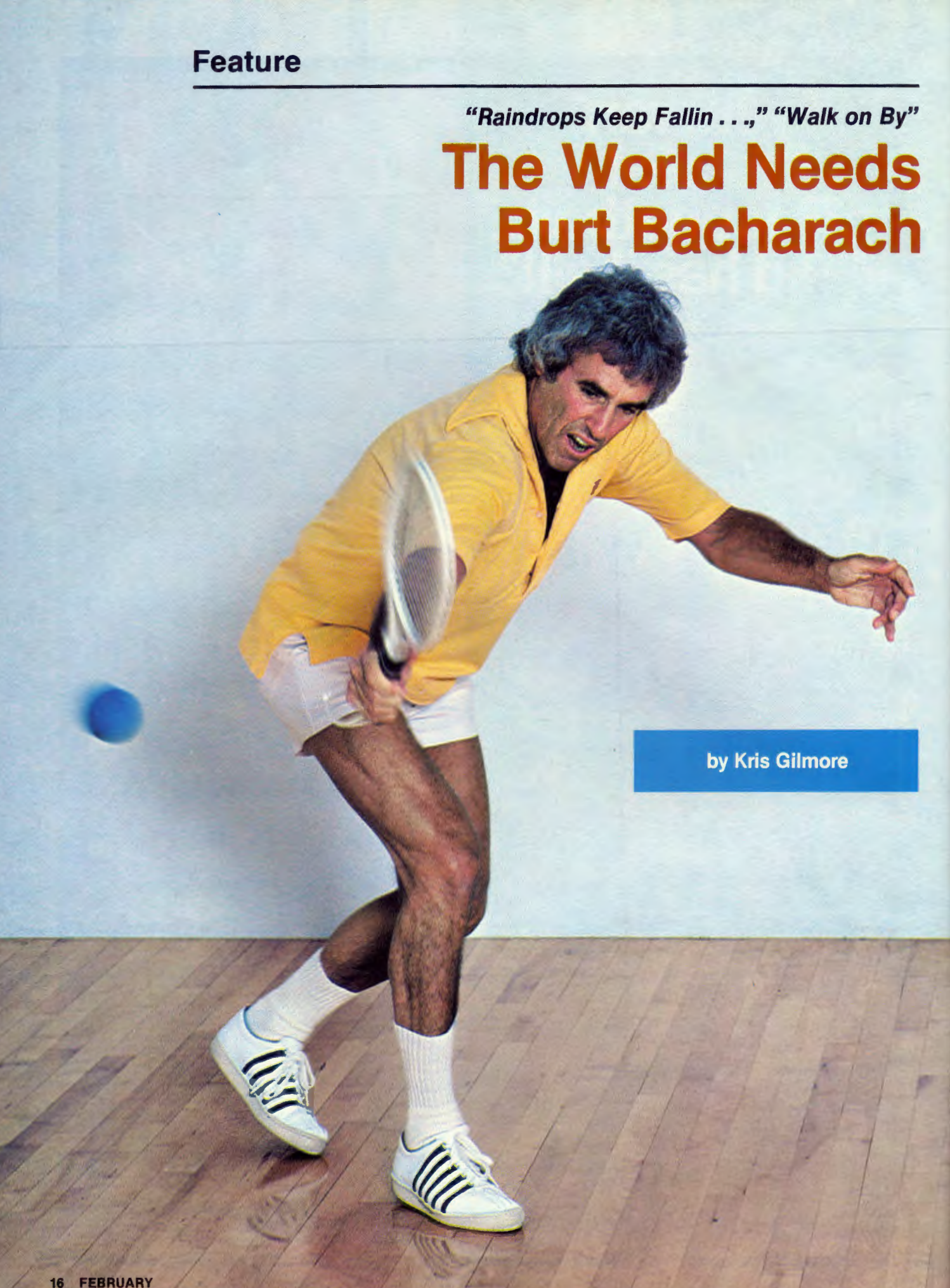
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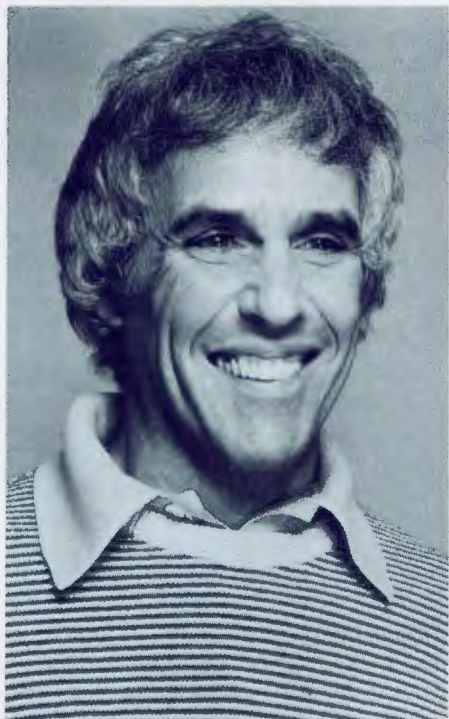
"Raindrops Keep Fallin . . .," "Walk on By"

The World Needs Burt Bacharach



by Kris Gilmore

And Bacharach Needs Racquetball



Burt Bacharach has become a legend over the past two decades by compiling a remarkable record of smash hits. Along with the Beatles, Bob Dylan and Paul Simon Bacharach revolutionized the music of the 60s.

Today Bacharach is recording new hits but in addition to the ones which spin around the discs his hits now include killshots, pinches, down-the-lines and ceiling shots.

Bacharach has discovered racquetball.

Burt plays three or four times a week at The Racquet Club near his recording studio in Studio City and at the Del Mar Racquetball Club near his beach house in San Diego County.

His favorite and most frequent partner is his 14-year-old daughter, Nikki.

"Nikki introduced me to the game about three years ago," Burt says. "And we play together as much as possible."

"It's a great meeting ground for a parent and child. You're in an enclosed area and you have a controlled situation without many of the frustrating elements often found in other sports. A game like tennis can strain a child's patience when you spend half your time chasing balls. Racquetball is a game which anyone can pick up quickly. We play a fast game and some of Nikki's shots are packed with power. As a matter of fact it gets pretty dangerous out there and we have decided to start wearing eye protection."

"Nikki loves the game and plays with her mother (Angie Dickinson) as well as me. They're both pretty good players."

Burt and Angie devote tremendous amounts of time to their daughter. Born three months premature and weighing only one pound, eight ounces Nikki was once a frail child. Sports helped give her coordination, skills and strength.

Famous Father

Sports involvement goes back to Bacharach's own roots. His father, Bert Bacharach (same name, different spelling) is a nationally syndicated newspaper columnist and author. Prior to entering the journalism profession Bert played football and basketball for professional teams in Baltimore and Washington DC.

"Dad's sports background strongly influenced my own goals," Burt says. "I would look through old newspaper clips from his college days when he was a fullback at the Virginia Military Institute and the clips from his pro career and imagine myself in the same spot."

Music and sports met in a head-to-head showdown for Burt when he was 12 years old.

Burt began taking piano lessons while in elementary school and each day practiced several hours after school let out.

"I would have to practice while the other boys in my neighborhood were out playing football. I complained about it constantly."

"Finally my mom gave me an ultimatum. 'If you want to play ball, play ball. You decide what it's to be,' she said. I didn't want to disappoint her and decided to stick with the music."

"I'm glad I did."

If Bacharach had opted for a football career, he would have left a void in contemporary music. His stockpile of American popular music includes numerous top 10 hits which appeal to a cross section of listeners from eight to 80.

With Dionne Warwick alone, Bacharach scored an incredible 39 chart records in 10 years. Among tunes composed by Bacharach with lyrics by Hal David are "Walk on By," "I Say A Little Prayer for You," "Alfie," "I'll Never Fall in Love Again," "Message to Michael," "Reach Out for Me," "The April Fools" and "There's Always Something There to Remind Me."

Among other hits were Jackie De Shannon's "What the World Needs Now is Love," Dusty Springfield's "Wishin' and Hopin'" and, of course, B.J. Thomas', "Raindrops Keep Falling on My Head."

Academy Awards

In addition to individual compositions Bacharach has written scores to films such as *What's New Pussycat?* and the movie for which he received two Academy Awards, *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*.

Bacharach took a three year hiatus from his musical career and has just recently resumed songwriting, this time in conjunction with lyricist Carol Bayer Sager. The duo recently recorded Michael Jackson's single "Just Friends" and two tunes the Pointer Sisters perform from the movie "Middle-Aged Crazy."

The hummable tunes which slip easily into the public's mind don't roll off of Bacharach's pen with the same ease.

"Composing is difficult, lonely, intense and exhausting," Bacharach says. "You have to work at it. I wasn't born with talent. I had to work at it and persevere in the same way my father had to work at becoming a good writer and my mother developed her style as a portrait painter."

"You have to learn all the rules before you can break any of them. Composing is painful for me and I'm never quite satisfied."



"But the pleasure I receive in seeing an audience's positive response and appreciation of my work compensates for the pressure of producing the material. Performing my work is the frosting on the cake."

Bacharach occasionally sings his compositions. His voice quality reflects his personality—there is a soft tone and personal intensity.

When people say that no one can sing a song like its composer, they're talking about Bacharach.

Bacharach balances his mental workload with a consistent and ongoing exercise program.

"It's essential to exercise every day and I do for about two and a half hours. I always feel better after working out," he says. "I play racquetball, jump rope, and swim and run in the ocean."

"I believe there is an energy one gets out of the ocean. I run waist high and against the tide. I always feel good after walking out of the ocean. It's totally invigorating—physically and mentally."

Other favorite Bacharach pastimes include horseracing, major league baseball, tennis and pro football.

Racing with Shoemaker

He has owned and raced sires of racehorses including one named for his daughter, *"Nikki's Promise"*, and *"Advance Guard"*, which his close friend, Willie Shoemaker, rode to several victories at Del Mar and Santa Anita.

"Advance Guard—now that was a horse," Burt reminisces. "This year I stabled four horses at Del Mar. Only one, Becauseofrainbows, started. But she won. I still can't believe she won. She's a dog. I urged my friends not to bet on her."

Burt grew up in Forest Hills, NY, the former site of the U.S. Open tennis tournament, and predictably began playing tennis at an early age. He has entered several celebrity and amateur tournaments.

"My most memorable pro-celebrity tennis event was three years ago at the RFK Tournament which precedes the U.S. Open. Before a crowd of 16,000 my partner, former Wimbledon champion Arthur Ashe, and I made it to the semis."

"That's where we lost. Old Arthur let me down," Bacharach explains with a mischievous grin.

Bacharach is now giving thought to developing his racquetball game to the point where he can enter similar celebrity and pro-celebrity tournaments, such as Steve Garvey's annual racquetball event in Los Angeles.

"I really don't know if I'm any good," Burt admits. "Most of the time I play against Nikki and we have developed our own set of rules to produce longer rallies. For instance we play with two bounces rather than one. I wouldn't get too far in a tournament with that 'style'."

To accurately determine Bacharach's ability *National Racquetball* enlists the participation and counsel of two racquetball enthusiasts, Greg Evigan, star of *B.J. and the Bear* and a fellow member of The Racquet Club, and Lance King, club manager.

Following matches with Bacharach Evigan and King pronounce him a B player.

"Burt shows good court sense and has a strong backhand," King says. *"You can tell he plays tennis by the top spin he uses. That's rather unconventional in racquetball but he uses it effectively."*

Evigan agrees. *"He gave me a good workout. Burt's twice my age (Bacharach is 50) but you wouldn't guess it on the court. He's in great shape."*

And in fine condition to pursue his goals, both immediate—including more performances, more compositions and more time with Nikki—and future. A symphony and a ballet are two items on Bacharach's *"to do"* list. *"Then there's always that special film waiting down the road..."*

To make it easy on himself he plans to play a lot more racquetball. ●

Passage from India

Chuck Sheftel's the Only Teaching Pro who Taught Farming in the Peace Corps.

by Marilyn R. Abbey

This is another of *National Racquetball's* stories about people who have made important contributions to our sport.

The man who was to become the president of APRO checks the germination in a wheat field in India.



Chuck Sheftel, 32, has taught agriculture in India, for which his previous training, he says, was mowing the lawn. He's taught jogging. He played golf once and figures that, while he might not burn up the course as a player, he could teach the techniques.

"I think I could teach anything," muses Sheftel, who has that indefinable mix of communicating ability, confidence and pizzazz which jells in the born teacher.

Sheftel wrote the book, literally, on teaching beginners to play racquetball (with his Deerfield, IL neighbor, *National Racquetball* photographer/writer Art Shay). He is founder and president of the American Professional Racquetball Organization (APRO), which he started in 1977 with the goal of raising standards among teaching pros. His present job is as general manager, sports director and teacher of tennis and racquetball at Forest Grove Swim and Racquet Club in Palatine, IL.

So when Sheftel comments on what's new with racquetball instructors, people listen. "A racquetball teacher's not just a teacher anymore," he says. "Racquetball is coming of age; it's becoming a business. Now clubs place ads for PR people. Well who's better at public relations than the racquetball pro? The teacher is always the good guy in the club. He never asks you for money, he's out there helping you have fun, he's setting up the tournaments. Ask anyone who they know in the club, and it's the pro."

The game as business was one factor in the establishment of APRO (say "A Pro") with the idea of certifying all around racquetball professionals—teachers who can bring people into the clubs and keep them there with luncheons, ladders, leagues, whatever, as well as give them good, solid on-court instruction.

Such refinements come naturally to Sheftel, who was an advertising/sociology major in college, and has been teaching since the age of 16 when, as a member of his high school tennis team, several women on a court next to him asked for some tips on their forehands. From that he established his first class, at \$2.50 an hour.

After college and the Peace Corps, Sheftel worked as a tennis pro for the Highland Park (IL) Racquet Club, the Elk Grove (IL) Tennis Club and the Highland Park Park District. It was while he was on the park district faculty in 1975 that someone suggested he teach racquetball also.

"I said, 'The only thing is, I can't play racquetball,'" recalls Sheftel, who, as a member of the U.S. Professional Tennis Association (USPTA), secretly thought he probably could.

Lind Loss

Turned out he couldn't. "I played this woman, Shirley Lind. She's a former state champ. The score was 21-1. I lost," he confesses.

One tennis lesson and five dates after they met Barbara and Chuck were married.



That just spurred him on to read books on the sport, study all the pros in the area—"good or bad"—and work on his own game. "A few racquetball people used to kid me about 'here's the tennis pro'," he says. "I played racquetball on the last court for six months, where nobody could see me. Then I went back and said, 'Okay, you want to play the tennis pro?' and beat the best player."

It wasn't long before Sheftel was formulating programs for teaching racquetball, something that had rarely been done up to that time. "I analyze my own game," he says. "I'd go on the court and hit for hours, to find out the angles, see what happens to the ball. I had a written program all worked out.

"A lot of people were teaching racquetball who didn't know how," Sheftel feels. "I thought, well, it's an offshoot of tennis; we'll teach it like tennis." He broke the game down into all its components and developed complete lesson plans which

Early on in Chuck Sheftel's racquetball teaching career he was using new techniques to pique his students' interest in the game. Here he videotapes a semi-private lesson.



Two-year-old Bradley Sheftel knows the difference between tennis and racquetball.



include everything from the warm-ups and first hello on the court to the wrapup critique at the end. In 1978 he and Arthur Shay collaborated on a book, *"Contemporary Racquetball"* (Contemporary Books, Inc., \$3.95), which details in words and pictures a set of eight beginners' lessons.

Believing that people work out for fun as much as for exercise—and that development of skill ranks last in most students' priorities—Sheftel spends a great deal of time devising drills that not only teach the game but also add to the enjoyment of the lesson. "I can go on for years and they won't know they're just learning the forehand," he laughs. "I stayed up nights thinking of names for these," he adds,

citing such dullness defiers as the wallpaper drop shot, around-the-world, touch-and-go, quick yarn play, bicycle ceiling drill and racquetball-baseball. (In touch-and-go, for instance, the player must hit the ball, then run to a side wall and touch it with his racquet before going after the shot.)

Teachers who come to APRO to improve their teaching techniques are "dumb-founded when they hear about all the programs and drills," says Sheftel.

APRO evolved quite naturally out of Sheftel's own teaching and playing success, both in tennis and racquetball. At the time he founded the group, he was working as director of all six Court House clubs in Illinois. "Even there they were saying, 'Do you need an APRO?'" recalls Sheftel. But he had strong feelings that things should be done properly from the beginning, and racquetball was still a new sport.

Unanswered

When people ask "Why Chuck Sheftel?" as the founder of the pro organization, he counters with "Who started the AMA? Who started the PGA? Who knows? But somebody had to start them."

For the initial gathering he drew a dozen key racquetball people from around the country to Chicago. Organization was hammered out partly by sifting the 50 year experience of the USPTA. Testing procedures were devised. It was important to have a group which certified members, where "you couldn't just pay your money and say you're a pro." Sheftel, for instance, doesn't call anybody a pro until they have passed the APRO course, which includes a 12 hour clinic followed the next day by tests in teaching and playing skills and overall knowledge of racquetball.

A passing grade is possible at three levels: "recognition of teaching," which means that the person is an established teacher, but that some skills still need improvement; "instructor," which means that all parts of the test were passed, with minor areas needing work; and "professional,"

used to designate those who pass with high scores in all areas, including managerial proficiency.

Testing was begun at that first meeting in 1977, and those who passed with the professional rating could then give the test themselves. Now APRO is represented in almost all states and has a fulltime coordinator. New club managers from Japan and Canada have come to Sheftel for assistance in setting up their facilities by APRO standards.

The organization is in the process of developing a standardized racquetball player rating system which can be used throughout the country, as well as a teachers' manual of instruction. It also has a job bureau.

In addition to its clinics for teachers and an annual convention in Chicago tentatively scheduled for the last week in July with Dave Peck as main speaker, APRO sponsors joint clinics with the USPTA and the U.S. Tennis Association (USTA). Sheftel or a member of his organization also provides a regular APRO column for *National Racquetball*.

A recent survey of 43 members indicates that the certified APRO pro is probably the holder of a bachelor's degree, at least, with almost a third of those surveyed having a master's degree or doctorate as well. He or she fits the profile of the solid citizen, with well over half being married homeowners. Close to 70 percent of APRO's pros teach at court clubs, many of them part time, and the vast majority are locally, sectionally or nationally ranked players. Most presumably are not supporting themselves on their racquetball fees: the largest group reported annual income from racquetball as under \$10,000, with only a few in the over \$30,000 class.

One thing the survey doesn't show is the number of APRO pros who have balanced the frenetic pace of their lives with time in India. For Sheftel driving oxen in a small village in India was a logical step after his graduation from the University of Illinois, and remains a very significant part of his

life. He still wears a luxuriant, neatly trimmed beard and mustache which go back to those days.

Fed by His Mata-ji

"I had a good experience," he says. "I acquired an Indian mother—my mata-ji—from Day One. She'd take care of me, yell at me, feed me..." He not only served out his two year term, but signed up for another year.

Eventually he returned to the United States to pick up the career in advertising for which his college education had prepared him. "But when I thought of advertising, my head wasn't ready, he says. "For three months I didn't work at all. In India it was a simple life. I had culture shock coming back. Here you're going crazy; it's such a fast pace, you can't calm down."

When he did go to work, he decided to pick up the other thread of his life, tennis. While the choice seems a natural, the life-style to which it led is not simple, what with teaching, club managing, consulting, writing and APRO administration. Now he might get in a couple of games of tennis and a couple of racquetball in a week, "if I'm lucky, and really push myself."

For regular exercise he runs every other morning at 6:30 near his home, five miles most days, some tens on weekends. He ran the Chicago marathon once, to prove to himself he could do it, but he doesn't like racing. "It's too competitive," says the man for whom competition was a way of life during his tennis and racquetball tournament days. Furthermore, he adds, "I run alone."

One of the pro's biggest successes as a teacher was the winning of his wife, Barbara, who came in for a half hour lesson on her tennis serve a few years ago. "Five dates and we were married," says Sheftel. "We're still working on her serve."

Their son Bradley, who is almost two, has gone along to the courts from an early age, though his teacher father had to correct his grip the first time he picked up a racquetball racquet. "He was using the 'frying pan grip,'" jokes Sheftel. "I said 'No, you've got to use the Eastern forehand.'"

Bradley has had a couple of racquets of his own already, and he now knows what tennis is. (At a year and a half, he yelled "golf" while watching his grandfather play tennis.) He's learned one of the main

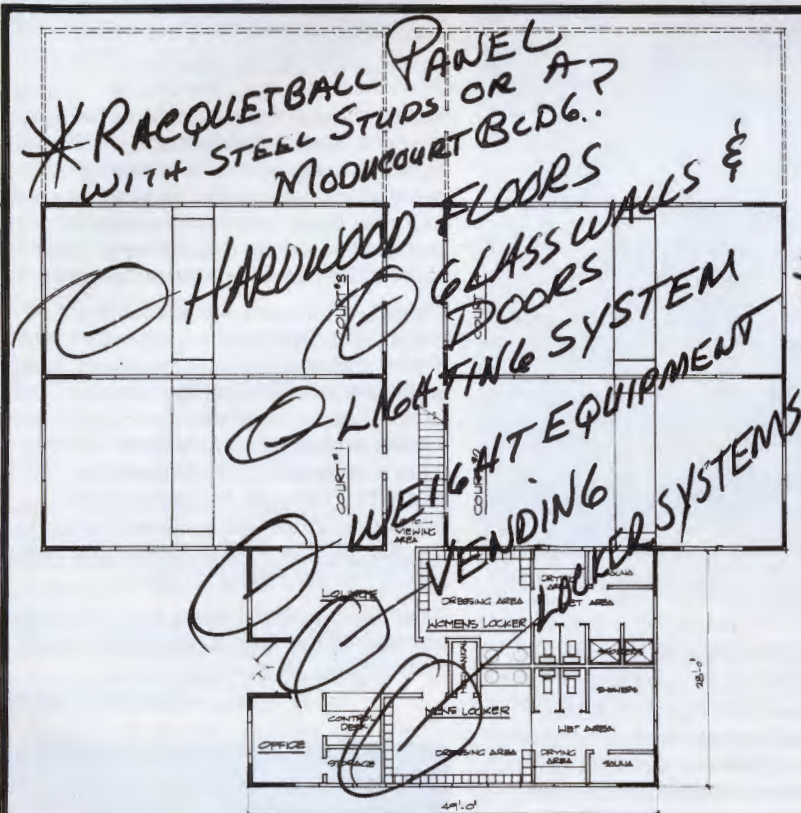
distinctions between the graceful, measured moves of tennis and the walloping action of racquetball, too: He watched a racquetball game at the club one day, and soon was swinging and chopping his arm violently, and gritting his teeth.

Bradley is a man after the APRO ace's heart. When someone asked Sheftel what legacy he wanted to leave his racquetball students he answered "I want to leave them sweating. When their tongues are hanging out, that's when they're done." ●

Does This APRO Profile Describe Your Racquetball Teacher?

The typical APRO member — according to answers from a recent sampling of its membership — holds a bachelor's degree, is married and owns a home. That typical member is locally, sectionally or nationally ranked, teaches part time and earns under \$10,000 from racquetball lessons.

See Chuck Sheftel's ideas on tennis and racquetball in the instructional feature, page 23



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Who's Playing Racquetball?

Dale McCarren:

Has Mike, Will Travel

He covered the riots outside the Democratic convention in Chicago in 68; he reported from Viet Nam in 65; he took in the Six Day War in the Mideast in 67; and he has brought back news stories from Peking, Moscow and Cairo.

Dale McCarren, 46, top Chicago radio newsmen, also flew into Beirut in 1978, on his way to Jordan to interview King Hussein. "Civil war broke out just as I was landing. Fortunately there was no way to get out," smiles the indefatigable reporter. It's a serious smile, reconciling a serious event with the unbudging commitment of the rock-solid journalist.

About the only story McCarren seems to have missed is the King Hussein interview. He hasn't gotten that yet.

Back in Chicago, where McCarren holds down the 6 to 10 a.m. spot with co-anchor man John Hultman on WBBM-CBS Newsradio, his broadcasts have received awards from Associated Press and United Press International as the best regularly scheduled metropolitan newscasts in 10 of the 13 years that he has been with the station. WBBM, with McCarren as a key member of the team, also has won awards for its on-the-spot coverage of such events as the crash of the DC-10 at O'Hare Field and the taking of hostages in the German consulate in Chicago by Croatian terrorists in 1978.

To ward off any complacency that might set in when he's not out checking powder kegs, McCarren plays racquetball, usually at the Downtown Court Club in Chicago, at least twice a week. "I never was in any kind of organized sports except a little basketball. I never was a fitness bug," he confesses while cooling down after a recent game. "I just felt impelled to do something besides become sedentary in my old age." He has been playing for about five years.

"I ran four miles yesterday," he volunteers. "Jogging is boring. I count the laps on my fingers. I might run a mile after an easy racquetball game, but it's still dull." The wiry McCarren, who calls himself a C plus racquetball player—"or I could be optimistic and call it a low B"—keeps that game exciting by playing with partners such as fellow journalist Gary Lee, who is built roughly to the specs of the Chicago Bears.

McCarren also sails. "On somebody else's boat," he hastens to add. "It's like going bowling; I don't want to commit myself to something every Tuesday and Thursday."

Here's the face behind the voice familiar to Chicago's radio listeners.



McCarren reports on the Mackinac race from his press yacht.

He is the only broadcaster to give live coverage each year to the Chicago-Mackinac race, the longest (333 miles) freshwater sailing race in the world. Last July he was out there at the starting line in choppy, stormy Lake Michigan, in well-worn Givenchy jeans and floppy brimmed golfer's hat, putting questions over the mike to a former Mac winner, topside of a rolling press yacht.



The newsmen rates his game "a low B."

For a man who makes a habit of being in the right place at the right time McCarren almost missed out on the whole ball game. He started as a business major at Michigan State. "I wanted to be an accountant," he says, "but I never could make those balance sheets balance."

Instead he followed where an interest in history and current events logically took him—radio announcing, freelance writing and finally to WBBM. Now he takes working vacations pretty much as he wishes, and they're bound to be where there's news to dig out. Recently he headed for Portugal, to check on the Portuguese Angolans who were forced to flee that African country several years ago. Next it may be mainland China.

Wherever the news breaks, Dale McCarren probably will be somewhere in the middle of it, digging. ●

—Marilyn R. Abbey

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

The Net and the Wall

Smooth Switching from Tennis to Racquetball

by Dorothy Weinberg

Joel Luchak of Lake Oswego, OR thought the Milwaukie Racquet Club was a place to play tennis when he received a gift membership. To his surprise he learned he had joined a racquetball club, so he decided to give the game a try.

After he tried it, he liked it better than tennis. *"I found it was a faster game in which I would get a better workout,"* recalls this A-Open racquetball player who is also an A-Open tennis player. While he still plays both games, his weekly racquetball matches now outnumber tennis three to one.

Luchak is one of the players who have made the switch that *National Racquetball* examined through interviews with amateurs and pros who had formerly played tennis and now play racquetball.

The biggest adjustment Luchak had to make in learning racquetball was to replace tennis' stiff wrist with racquetball's snap wrist. He also found racquetball required more concentration, though his tennis strategy and retrieve shots carried over into racquetball.

Luchak's teacher was Jean Sauser, who is program director and teaching pro at the Milwaukie Racquet Club and author of *Inside Racquetball for Women*, which *National Racquetball* serializes in the instructional section. After playing tennis as a teenager she took up racquetball to lose weight and dropped from 135 to the 106 she now weighs.

Switching from tennis to racquetball presented no problem for Sauser. *"I felt like I had more ball control in racquetball. I found no stroke problem at all, and I preferred the shorter racquetball racquet. It was a pleasant switch,"* she says.

Sauser advises tennis players to be positive about the change. *"See if your tennis stroke helps your racquetball game. If it does, then use it."*

Marty Hogan, three time and current national racquetball champion, played tennis as a youngster. The San Diego based pro has been a racquetball competitor for the last 12 years and now plays tennis just for fun.

"During the racquetball season I just play tennis twice a month because it takes away from my racquetball game. The strokes are so different," he explains.

Marty Hogan: "Tennis just twice a month during tournament season."



Mental Challenge

"I enjoy racquetball more because there's more action involved and a greater mental challenge. It's a much faster game, so you need to think quicker and concentrate harder."

Racquetball requires more physical conditioning, according to Hogan. *"In tennis you're not running as hard, and there's more time to anticipate."*

Like other converts Hogan found it was hardest to change from a stiff to a bent wrist. *"But both games follow a basic rule—'down the line.'"*

Peggy Steding, three time national winner from Odessa TX, started playing racquetball at age 35, but had played tennis since her sophomore year in high school and went on to become Texas women's singles champ in 1955 and 1956. She still plays tennis in mixed doubles games and also plays racquetball at the Odessa YMCA four times a week.

"My racquetball and tennis go hand in hand," she says. *"I used my wrist in my tennis serve. I had no problem playing both games. Racquetball is a lot faster than tennis, and if a person's a good athlete, it can help the tennis game."*

Steding tells tennis players who want to play racquetball to take lessons to avoid bad habits and to remember to (1) break the wrist, (2) hit off the same foot as in tennis, (3) shorten the stroke and (4) develop quicker reactions.

Jean Sauser: "More control in racquetball... a pleasant switch."



Front Court

Although Jack Fruin of Naugatuck, CT found that racquetball helped his front court game in tennis, he decided to give up tennis and concentrate on racquetball because of the conflicting skills and two different types of swings.

Fruin, former USRA state chairman, is general manager of the Lakewood Racquetball Club in Waterbury and the Courtside Club in Cromwell.

Fruin learned racquetball first, six years ago, and then took up tennis, but found racquetball a more rewarding game. *"The response and reaction is a lot quicker in racquetball,"* he says.

Dirk Burgard, USRA Idaho chairman and Idaho Falls YMCA racquetball teacher, played in tennis tournaments while he was also playing racquetball. *"The overhead kill shot helped my tennis serve,"* he says. Nevertheless he's concentrating on racquetball because *"You can't play both equally well."*

Tom Jones, Idaho USRA assistant chairman, agrees. *"The two different strokes are like night and day,"* Jones says. He switched from tennis to racquetball because *"It's easy to pick up and is the ultimate exercise."*

Camille McCarthy of Indianapolis, IN, The Court Club program director, won the USRA National Women's Veteran title in June of 1980. She played tennis eight years ago and was a good A club amateur player.

Judy Sawicki: "Racquetball improved my tennis backhand."



Jack Fruin: "Racquetball helped my tennis front court game."

Peggy Steding: "I used my wrist in my tennis serve."



A racquetball-only player now McCarthy says shortening her forehand took some relearning, but that much of her tennis strategy carried over. *"The ceiling shot is like the lob, and they both use down the line shots."*

In the Chicago area Sue Prusching teaches racquetball at the Oak Park-River Forest Club. Like Jean Sauser the former tennis player switched to racquetball to lose weight. Prusching, a teaching pro since 1978, won the Illinois state singles title that year and shared the state doubles winner spot with Glenda Young in 1980.

Prusching still plays tennis and finds no conflict between the sports. *"Racquetball helps my tennis game. I use the wrist snap in the tennis serve, and I now get a longer hit in tennis."*

Judy Sawicki, who teaches at Lehmann Courts in Chicago, played competitive tennis in high school and college. *"It was difficult for me to switch from the tennis to racquetball forehand. However my tennis backhand improved since I've been playing racquetball."*

Waiting

The main things to overcome, as Sawicki sees it, are the stiff wrist on the forehand, the tendency to pull back and hitting from the waist. The positive transfer from tennis to racquetball, she says, is in the basic hand-eye coordination. Sawicki felt she'd made a successful switch when she learned to hit the rebounds off the side wall and to wait for the ball to approach her.

What's the Same—What's Different?

	Tennis	Racquetball
Grips	same	
Stance	same	
Back swing	wrist firm and low	wrist flexible and cocked up
Racquet face	slightly upward	slightly downward
Contact point in relations to body	same	
Contact point in relation to height	ascending ball	descending ball
Follow through in relation to body	same	
Follow through in relation to height	high	low
Tennis serve or racquetball ceiling shot	wrist snaps down at completion	no wrist snap, just out motion
Slices	same	same motion, less prevelant
Angles	on the court	off the walls
Placement	same	
Strategy	same	

—Chuck Sheftel

James Bixler, Arkansas state chairman and manager-teaching pro at the Racquetball and Fitness Center in Pine Bluff, played on the York College tennis team in Harding.

"I switched to racquetball because it's more challenging and better for cardiovascular conditioning," says Bixler, whose "tennis complex" chart you'll find on these pages.

Chuck Sheftel is another pro who's particularly qualified to compare the two games. He is president and founder of the American Professional Racquetball

Organization and is a certified professional member of the United States Professional Tennis Association. Sheftel's the general manager and sports director of the Forest Grove Swim and Racquet Club in Palatine, IL where he teaches both tennis and racquetball.

"A tennis player of any ability except rank beginner can easily get into racquetball," he says. *"Each game has its own challenges. In racquetball you have to learn the angles of the wall. In tennis you have to learn to clear a three foot barrier—the net."*

James Bixler: "I switched because raquetball is more challenging."



Dirk Burgard, left, and Tom Jones: "You can't play both equally well."



Switch Guidelines

Here's how a tennis player can make the transition to racquetball:

1. Be aware of the differences and similarities between tennis and racquetball.
2. Use the same strategy. For example "down the line shots" in tennis are similar to "down the wall pass shots" in racquetball, and in both sports the object is to get your opponent out of position.
3. Learn to put the ball away.
4. Improve your physical condition.
5. Get into a warm-up routine. Stretch your arms and legs to get ready for the fast action in racquetball.
6. Erase the habit of hitting low to high. Get your shots down a little.
7. Learn the angles by hitting the side and front wall and the ceiling. Hit the ball around and see where it bounces.
8. Watch the people who are just having fun playing racquetball. After a few lessons observe the good players.
9. Learn how to move faster by doing stop and go drills, running and walking to get used to the gliding motion of racquetball.
10. If you know both tennis and racquetball strategies and strokes, then try to interchange them in both games.

Although tennis and racquetball players don't always agree on whether or not you can play both games equally well, all say that having tennis skills or experience in any racquet sport will give you an advantage in learning racquetball.

—Chuck Sheftel

See page 19 for a profile of Chuck Sheftel.

To learn how a teaching pro can help a student switch from racquetball to tennis, turn to APRO Teaches on page 36.

Curing the Tennis Complex To Mix or Not to Mix

Tennis Complex

Hit the ball high or at its peak (sometimes rush the ball).

Swing—circular or angular

Wrist—Keep wrist still and swing from shoulder.

Shoulders—Keep shoulders level or parallel to ground.

Proper Racquetball Technique

Step back when possible hit ball as low as possible. BE PATIENT!

Swing—level through the contact zone

Wrist—Snap wrist through contact contact zone (swing level).

Shoulders—Drop shoulder facing the front wall to aid in a level stroke (both forehand and backhand).

—James Bixler

To Mix

Racquetball wrist snap can help your tennis serve.

The punch action of the racquetball volley is effective at the net in tennis.

Racquetball improves your tennis reaction time.

Racquetball's cardio-vascular conditioning gives you endurance in both games.

Racquetball is free of restrictions of net and lines.

"Tricks" in racquetball make the game more entertaining.

Racquetball is easier for beginners

Not to Mix

You must remember to avoid tennis' firm arm in racquetball.

During a series of tournaments playing both games may keep you from playing your best in the tournament sport.

After playing tennis you must remember to speed up your reactions for racquetball.

You need to do more physical conditioning before you play racquetball.

Psychologically you have to get used to being within four walls.

Racquetball is played at a more frantic pace.

Racquetball takes as much effort and practice to become excellent.

—Chuck Sheftel

Sheftel encourages racquetball and tennis players to keep up both games "for variety," an aspect of his job he enjoys. "My favorite day is teaching or playing both tennis and racquetball. I hope I've turned on a lot of people to both sports."

Of course there are adjustments.

"Racquetball entails more gamesmanship," Sheftel says. "It's more of an 'acting game'—there are a lot more tricks in racquetball than in tennis."

And a lot more of a workout. Sheftel recalls the six-hour-a-day tennis player who turned to him 15 minutes into his first racquetball lesson and asked "Is my hour up?"

He Played Bjorn Borg in Fiji

by Marilyn R. Abbey

When Lynton Franzi, 34, left the land of the billabongs and the coolibahs last year, he and his wife, Cheryl, toured the United States and Canada before landing at the brand new Lake-ridge Tennis Club in Reno, NV, where Lynton took over the sports program, including tennis, racquetball and club activities.

A tennis pro who bounced along on the world circuit long enough to tangle with Bjorn Borg, when Borg was regarded as an up-and-coming 18-year-old, Franzi is still ranked number seven in his native South Australia.

He had never played racquetball before coming to Lakeridge, although he played squash. *"I practiced on these courts for two months,"* he says. *"I read books. Then I played in the City of Reno tournament and lost in the A finals. So then I thought, perhaps I can be a racquetball player."*

Franzi went on to the Incline Court House North Lake Tahoe Open 1980, which drew players from San Francisco and Los Angeles as well as a number of touring professionals. There he finished quite respectably, losing in the quarter-finals to the eventual tournament winner.

While he hasn't decided whether to become a pro on the racquetball circuit, Franzi is stirring up enthusiasm for the game at his own club, where there are now about 60 players. *"We started with none,"* he notes. He conducts free clinics, offers group lessons for a minimal fee and has set up a challenge ladder. The club has two tournaments a week to promote the game. Cheryl is women's club champion. *"She had the benefit of my instruction; I suppose that's what it amounts to,"* says the coach with a disarming smile.

Franzi inherited his tennis ability from his mother. Since racquetball hadn't been invented, and there were no tennis pros in South Australia in those days, she had to settle for being a good amateur tennis player and golfer.

"By three years of age I was hitting at the side of the court with a wooden paddle," he recalls. *"It was in my blood from the time I was a little tyke."*

By the age of nine, he was playing in state tournaments. He distinctly remembers his first match: *"I lost, 6 games to 5. I cried my eyes out."*

Lynton went on to become the top player in his age group, but when at 16 he had to decide whether to devote full time to the sport, he chose not to do it. *"I would have had to go interstate, to Melbourne, and work for a racquet company,"* he explains. *"They sponsored you; that was the way it worked. But I didn't do it."*

Instead he continued in school, getting a degree in electronic engineering and a job in that field. (Currently he is on leave from his engineering job with the Australian Broadcasting Commission.) He still competed, however, on all the tennis circuits in his country, and at one time was ranked number one in southern Australia.

The match with Bjorn Borg took place in Fiji, the only place in which Franzi competed outside Australia. *"Oh, yes, I lost,"* he nods, *"6-3, 6-4."*



He did win over the Italian Adriano Panatta, who went on to win both the French and Italian Opens. *"That was probably my best week,"* says Franzi, in a fine show of Commonwealth understatement.

Now that he plays both tennis and racquetball in his new role as a teaching pro, Franzi says they are totally different. *"In tennis you keep a stiff wrist,"* he says. *"In racquetball it's a loose wrist—you use a snap of the wrist."*

A well established tennis player probably can make the transition, he says, and people who are primarily interested in enjoyment and fitness certainly can keep up both sports. *"But if you want to become a really good racquetball player,"* says Franzi, *"you'd have to concentrate on racquetball."*

Franzi thinks racquetball is great for fitness, and for real personal competition. *"It's great for humbling yourself, too. It requires you to be really mentally alert, or you can get blown away."*

"The attitude, quickness of the ball, court lighting, the boards, your mental alertness—all these factors affect the game. It's much more unpredictable than tennis."

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Ask the Champ

by Marty Hogan

Three Time and Current Champion Marty Hogan, a Leach player who won the \$30,000 first prize in the June Nationals in Las Vegas, answers questions about improving your game in this exclusive *National Racquetball* series. Send your questions to Marty Hogan, c/o Ask the Champ, Managing Editor, *National Racquetball*, 4101 Dempster, Skokie, IL 60076.

Question: I have been playing about a year and a half and I was wondering about all these new stringing systems that are coming out. Will the new Interlocking and the Omega Galaxy 21 help the power shots more? And can you tell me if they will be legal in tournaments?

Norman McNutt, Charlestown, IN

Hogan: What many people fail to remember is that racquetball is still a very young sport. Take a look back at all the years that the sport of tennis only had wooden rackets to play with. For our sport to be in only our 12th year of existence we have come a long way. I believe racquetball has made great leaps and bounds, not only in the quality of play, but also in the equipment we have available. All of the major manufacturers now have graphite, metal and fiberglass racquets in their product lines. What I am trying to say is that our sport may be changing too fast. I really don't believe that after only 12 years we can say which racquets are the best because we haven't given any one of them a long enough trial and error period.

Yes I have heard of this new interlocking stringing system. And yes this stringing will be legal in tournaments. However I do not believe this racquet will possess any playing benefits. Racquetball, unlike tennis, does not take advantage of the different spins that one can put on the ball. In tennis a top spin or a slice can be an important element to everyone's game. But in racquetball these terms are non-existent. No matter what spin you put on a ball that spin is greatly reduced once the ball strikes the front wall.

That's because the smoothness and softness of a racquetball ball, as compared to a tennis ball, makes it more difficult to produce spin in racquetball. The interlocking strings may give a look of potential power, but in playing they will be of no advantage to your game.

Question: I need some answers for a graduate course I'm taking, "*The History of Physical Education and Sport*," At the State University of New York at Cortland. Mindy Lu Gaffney, Binghamton, NY

1. At what age and where did you start playing?

Hogan: I started playing racquetball at the JCCA in St. Louis at the ripe old age of eight.

2. What individual do you credit with influencing you skillwise to the level of professional talent?

Hogan: My mother has always been the inspiration and motivation behind my pursuing a professional racquetball career.

3. What was the first professional tournament you played in?

Hogan: The first professional tournament I played in was the Aurora Pro/Am in 1975. I won \$50 that tournament.

4. How long had you been playing on the professional circuit before winning the Nationals in 1978?

Hogan: Three years, but I had been ranked number one in the world for a year and a half before finally winning at the Detroit Nationals.

5. When did the Leach Industries approach you on endorsing their products?

Hogan: The beginning of the 1976 racquetball season. I've been with Leach since the very beginning of my career.

6. Do you participate in any racquetball camps or educational sessions for players and if so what?

Hogan: At the present time—no I don't. However in the years to come I would like to start a Marty Hogan Racquetball Camp.

7. What do you foresee as your goal in racquetball and the future?

Hogan: To maintain the quality of my tournament play at a very high level and keep setting unprecedented records.

8. What was the most difficult tournament for you?

Hogan: The JCCA Hanukkah Festival of Lights at age 13. I've never been that nervous before or since.

9. Who is your most difficult adversary on the court?

Hogan: At the present time Gregg Peck is my number one nemesis. ●

Watch for: The answer to Mark Wilson's question about crotch shots.

Don't Be Read By Your Opponent

by Mike Yellen

In this exclusive *National Racquetball* series Mike Yellen, second place winner at the 1980 Nationals, discusses topics that come up in clinics he runs for his sponsor, Ektelon.

You'll recall that last month we discussed how you can read your opponent's strengths, weaknesses and body mechanics to give yourself that extra edge in court coverage and shot placement.

At the same time you want to prevent your opponent from doing this to you. At the upper levels of play this can involve camouflage and deception.

However you can accomplish far more in this area simply by disciplining yourself to avoid giving your opponent those same little clues you are looking for.

Reading your opponent and preventing your opponent from reading you are two sides of the same coin.

The cardinal rule of the latter is **DON'T BE PREDICTABLE.**

If you always go to the ceiling on your backhand, you're telling your opponent that your backhand is weak. If you always stand to the far left or right of the server's box for your Z serves, you're telegraphing that shot.

If you have a tendency to rely on your bread-and-butter shots—be they down-the-line passes for back court forehands or pinch shots whenever you are in the forecourt—you'll soon find those shots starting to fail because your opponent will be there waiting for them.

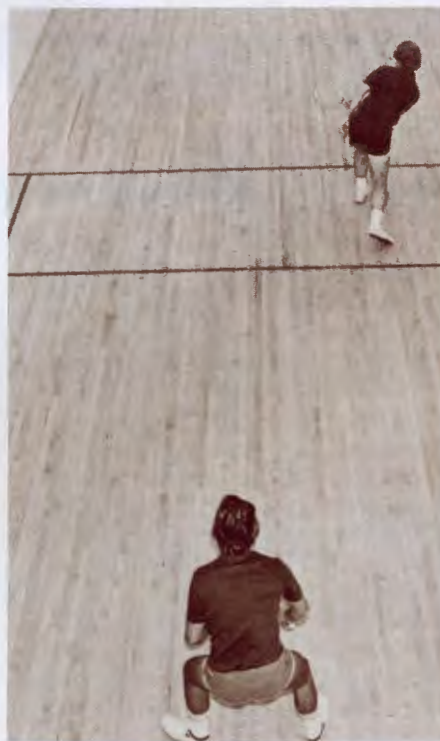
The dulllest bulb will have you figured out midway through the first game and a guy like Charlie Brumfield could tell you your mother's maiden name and favorite color.

75-25

There are always at least two choices for every shooting situation. You can get away with hitting your favorite shot 75 percent of the time only if you hit its complement the other 25 percent in order to keep your opponent honest.

For example the complement of a pinch in the left front corner is a cross court pass to the right rear corner. The complement of a roll-corner kill in the right front corner is a down-the-line pass to the right rear.

Figure 1: While it is illegal to screen your opponent, you don't have to go out of your way to give him the best possible view of the ball either. A common example is your positioning on the court during service. Here Wally Hirsch has a good view of Doug Brennecke's serve from the time it leaves the racquet until it reaches the back court. He, therefore, has plenty of time to react.

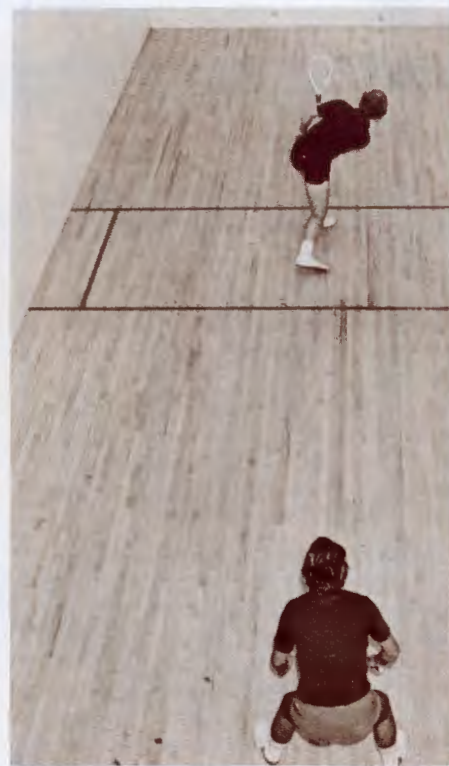


Nobody can be on two sides of the court at the same time.

You can even get cute here and try to lull your opponent into guessing wrong by hitting the same shot in a particular situation two or three times and then changing up on him for the third or fourth.

In the case of your body mechanics there is only so much that you can do. Racquetball isn't a game like basketball where you can look toward the right and pass behind your back to the left.

Figure 2: Wally's view of the ball and his reaction time are obviously reduced here as Doug has moved closer to the left wall for his backhand serve. As long as the ball passes a racquet's distance from Doug's body, a screen won't be called. Much the same strategy to prevent your opponent from reading your shot can be used during rallies.



Players in the upper ranks are able to set up one way and change the shot at the last second by changing the angle of the racquet face. But unless you have very good form already, you may end up ruining your stroke by trying to change it.

Like baseball pitchers we all have our own little stylistic peculiarities in the windup and that's okay, as long as those peculiarities don't vary from shot to shot.

Naturally your body mechanics aren't the same for a ceiling ball as for a killshot, but

Figure 3: There's not much you can do to camouflage body mechanics for the ceiling shot.



you should at least set up the same way for all your offensive shots.

It's when an opponent can match body movements to a particular shot that you become predictable. This is especially true during service.

Service Receivers

Consistent Approach

Always approach the ball in the same fashion both to develop a consistency to your stroke and to avoid telegraphing the serve. Don't worry if your movements differ for your high Zs and lobs, since you can't fool anyone with those shots anyway. But make all your low, offensive serves look identical.

Changing Spots

Likewise don't always serve from the same spot or serve up the same shot from the same spot. Execute each and every kind of serve from a variety of different spots in the server's box. Simply being unpredictable is the most consistently effective form of deception.

Blocking

As for camouflage it is possible to partially block your opponent's view during service and at some points in a rally and still not be screening.

Figure 4: To keep your partner guessing try to set up the same way for all your offensive shots.



—Mike Hogan photos

The rules say that your opponent must have a good enough view of the ball to give him a fair chance at it and that the ball can't come within a racquet's length of your body when it passes you on the serve. Fine. But that doesn't mean that you have to stumble over yourself to give your opponent the *optimum* view either.

For example if you stand to the far right of the box and serve to the left, your opponent will have a view of the ball from the time it leaves your racquet until the time it lands in the back court.

By moving to left of center, though, you obviously decrease his or her viewing time. During the rallies give your opponent an alley, but don't step outside the court just to provide enough room for the shot.

Your Guess or Mine

Ultimately reading an opponent comes down to a split second guessing game played while one of you is setting up for a shot. While the ball is dropping, you are watching your opponent out of the corner of your eye to see where he or she is and is headed.

Meanwhile your opponent is watching your foot placement and body positioning to try to anticipate your shot. Both of you are factoring in shot percentages and what you know about each other's strengths and weaknesses.

Finally someone commits and the issue turns on how well the shot is executed and how well the receiver reacts.

The classic example is what happens when your opponent hits one of those high bloopers off the back wall. You race forward to cover it, watching him with your peripheral vision.

If he races to the forecourt, you blast a low hard pass by him. If he hangs back to cover that, you dink or pinch the ball in a corner.

Or suppose one of your ceiling balls falls short. Your opponent sets up with her feet pointing into the side wall, so you know it will be an offensive return. But will it be a pinch or pass? And to which side of the court?

She hopes that she will see you either move up or back before she has to decide. Very tricky situation.

In summary you can keep your opponent from reading you by not being predictable in your shot selection, by having uniform body movements for all your shots and by anticipating your opponent's reactions before he anticipates yours.

Simply put he or she is going to try to figure you out. Try to do the figuring first. ●

Slop Your Opponent to Death

by Jerry Hilecher

Mike Yellen

Over the past few years, instructionals have stressed power! power!! and more power!!! For those players who can't mesmerize their opponents with their cannon ball shots, there is a new and more destructive game style—slop. Something had to be done to protect poor, slim, defenseless players like me from big, mean ogers of the court who feel they must crack the cement with every shot.

Slop is a game philosophy which successfully counters the power game. Three of the top professionals on the tour—Peck, Yellen and I—use variations of this approach and find it successful.

No Cold Streaks

Since slop's doctrine is to pressure and frustrate the opponent, an offensive and defensive game plan is developed to accomplish this. Offensively the strategy is to keep the opponent off balance by continually changing the tempo as well as the angles of your shots. While this strategy isn't as offensive as the serve and shoot style, it doesn't have the same limitations. The serve and shoot player is generally prone to hot and cold streaks. This all or nothing style of play is very inconsistent. Slop's offensive strategy puts conservative yet effective pressure on the opponent, generally devoid of cold spells. Defensively slop can be looked upon as the flex defense in football, or the full court press in basketball. The intention of this defensive strategy is to put as much pressure as possible on the power player.

Peck's Slop Serve

Because the serve is the first offensive shot a player can hit, it is one of the most important. There are thousands of combinations of serves available. By mixing up the speeds and angles of these serves a player effectively keeps his opponent off balance. Dave Peck was one of the first professionals to use a slop serve. Standing next to the right side wall he would gaze at an imaginary spot about five feet from both the ceiling and right wall. By hitting that area the ball would be lofted in a high arc, bounce a few feet past the short line and finish up high and deep in the rear corner of the court. Dave would sometimes deceive his opponent by staring at the spot, then quickly change his motion and hit either a low drive serve to the left or a low Z serve to the right. The lob serve has been highly successful



since the advent of the five foot rule. Since the lob serve finishes up high and deep, the only return of serve would be a ceiling ball. Since one of the power player's favorite shots is blasting the serve return, he is invariably frustrated by this service and the need for a defensive return.

Offensive Slops

There exist three offensive categories of slop shots, and these can be utilized once the serve has been returned. These categories of shots are (1) Killshots, (2) Pressure shots and (3) Safety shots.

(1) **Killshots** The doctrine of the slop kill is to hit the ball at various speeds and angles, keeping the opponent flat footed. Power is certainly not a prerequisite to hitting an effective killshot. My favorite slop kill is to take some power off of a deep backhand setup and let the ball float straight into the front left corner. (Bruce Christensen says the shot "looks gay.") Mike Yellen hits his deep backhand slop kills with some variation. He hits the ball with a large amount of under spin, causing the ball to roll off the left wall into the front wall for a perfect pinch shot.

The advantage of taking some speed off the ball when opposing a power player can be compared to throwing a change-up pitch to a home run hitter. The opponent is kept off balance, which in return destroys his timing. The end result often finds the opponent on his heels, unable to move forward quick enough to return the shot.

A variation of the slop kill is the forehand misdirection shot. Charlie Brumfield is the supreme master of this strategy. Charlie's favorite is when a setup comes to center court and his opponent is standing close and to the left of his body. Brumfield then thrusts his hips into his opponent's side and nonchalantly places the ball gently into the right corner. His opponent is left watching the play while embracing the left side wall.

Fly kills are another weapon in the slop kill arsenal. When a power player attempts to blast a shot past his opponent, an effective return would be to cut the ball off on the fly and redirect it into the opposite corner. These sluggers put so much effort into their powerful stroke, they are momentarily off balance and unable to recover the soft fly kill.

Charlie Brumfield



Marty Hogan



Although you don't want to hit all your killshots softly, you will find that by varying the speeds of these shots, each one becomes more effective.

(2) **Pressure shots** Certainly a player can't kill every shot. Therefore the backbone of slop can be found in its pressure strategy. When an easy kill isn't available, it is important to hit a shot that will keep an opponent from hitting his grooved stroke. Keeping the ball waist to shoulder level in the back half of the court forces the opponent to hit defensive returns. Power players will often attempt to force these shots down, and in doing so, make mistakes. Overhead drives are being utilized more often by many of the touring professionals. An overhead drive may catch an opponent on his heels waiting for an expected ceiling ball. Many pressure shots also utilize the side walls either to redirect the ball into an opponent's body or to run alongside it making a return difficult. Marty Hogan likes to rip his backhand into the left side wall, a couple of feet from the front wall, at chest level. This shot, after hitting the front wall, moves quickly into the right side wall and back into his opponent's body, jamming his stroke. My favorite is to hit the backhand hard into the right corner at shoulder level. If the ball catches the front wall first, the ball will whiz by the

opponent's head on its way to a Z shot. If the ball hits the right wall first, it will move quickly into the front wall, bounce, hit the left wall and move high into the opponent's body. Both situations result in favorable shots, keeping my competitor off balance and unable to generate an effective shot.

(3) **Safety shots** When unable to hit a good percentage offensive shot it is important to utilize safety shots. These shots should be perceived as an escape valve in difficult situations. Ceiling balls are the obvious favorite because they keep the ball high and deep. During a volley a player should be able to hit a

ceiling shot from any position and in every situation on the court. Dave Peck likes to mix up his ceiling shots with high around-the-wall shots. The A.T.W. shot hits the side wall a couple of feet in front of his point of contact and around 10 feet off the floor. The ball hits the front wall, opposite side wall, bounces and ends up with a high arc in the deep rear corner.

As I've explained in describing the offensive slop game, its purpose is to keep an opponent off balance while maintaining constant pressure. Keying on the mistakes of your opponent and minimizing your own you can "slop your opponent to death." ●

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Stop Playing—to Win

How Time Outs Can Help Your Game

Are you making the most of Rule 4.12 on page 25 of the USRA rule book? The rule that says each player in singles or each side in doubles, while serving or receiving, may request three 30 second time outs?

If you're using time outs only when you're too tired to go on, you're missing an element of racquetball strategy that can help you win more games.

Last month *National Racquetball* readers learned how women pros use time outs to their advantage. Here you'll discover ways in which the men on the pro tour work time outs into their game plans. *National Racquetball* interviewed both veterans and new players on the tour for a sampling of views from which you can pick the tips that apply to your own matches.

"I like to have my coach help me. Carl Loveday will see things I didn't see and he'll help me during my time outs—he'll pick up key things that I didn't notice like the fact that my opponent isn't getting cross court drives to the forehand, and that I should hit more of those than the straight down-the-line shots I like. If my coach isn't there, I might talk to myself during the time out—reviewing what worked and what didn't, trying to remember shots I hit and what I did with them."

"Most of the top players know how to use time outs. When my opponent takes a time out and I know I've been in the groove—I relax. The time out he takes doesn't change my game plan—his time outs don't affect me."

Steve Mondry

"It takes mental toughness to call a time out and review the situation. I usually follow the formula that if four points are scored against me in a row—take a time out."

"I call a time out to stop the other guy's momentum and to help me regroup. I hope my opponent will lose his mental edge—his intensity. During the 30 seconds I take two or three deep breaths, take a hard look at the ball to regain my concentration and then replay the points in my mind to find out what the problem's been."

Richard Wagner

"I always go out of the court for a time out. You're more alone. In glass everyone's looking at you. I don't want people to watch me think."

"I use a time out when my opponent scores a bunch of points and gets a hot streak going—when the momentum is in his direction. Or if I get tired or if there's a crucial point at stake."



For instance in this [Kendler Classic] tournament against Ross Harvey, I was serving and the score was 20-20. I took a strategic time out. I want him to think 'what's going to happen here?' I want him to get nervous."



"If my opponent takes a time out, I try to retain my concentration—I don't look up and fool around with the people in the stands. I keep telling myself why I'm winning and remind myself to keep up the same pattern of play."

Lindsay Myers

"I take a time out to regroup my thoughts and make a game plan for the next few points. If the point spread runs to five between me and the guy who's winning, I'll call a time out."

"I also take a time out when I'm winning—if I'm wondering 'how did I get those points?'"



"When I take a time out, I want to get my concentration back. I'll stare at the ball, grab it, feel it, bounce it. I want to make the ball my friend."

"If my opponent takes a time out, I try to let my mind go blank—pick a point on the wall to stare it or look at a box in my mind, so the time out doesn't affect me."

Mike Levine

"I don't use time outs because I'm tired. I'm 16 and I train."

"Jim Winterton helped me with time outs when I started to play. I seemed to get the hang of it from the beginning. I remember a couple of years ago—I was 13. It was one of the first times I called a time out—and Jim told me that was the right time to call one."



"I like to take time outs when I'm serving, though sometimes I have to take one when the server is stringing up points. Since the service is where you can score points, you want to slow the other player down. There's no better place to get my momentum back than in the service box."

"My dad sometimes helps me when I take a time out. If it's a tough situation, he'll come down to the court with a suggestion. I might go out and get a drink while I'm trying to rearrange my game. But really—I'm not sending that many things through my mind."

"If I'm on a hot streak and the opponent calls a time out, I'll stay in the court and keep hitting the ball."

Jerry Hilecher

"I'd put time outs in four categories."

"I'll always take a time out if I feel I'm not concentrating. That could be right at the beginning, when the score gets to 4-0 in his favor."

"Then I'll take one if my opponent has scored a number of points—three or more—and I think the game's going too fast. If I feel I can't think between rallies. (The speed of the game isn't necessarily due to my opponent's momentum. It could be that I'm hitting ceiling ball returns that come off the back wall. I have to slow them down.)"

Jerry Hilecher, standing, and Marty Hogan stay in their private worlds during a time out in a typically hard fought match between the top pros.



—Arthur Sharf photo

"Another time I might take one is at the end of the game. Let's say the score is 20-20. I feel confident and I want him to tighten up—to think about the score. A player is inclined to want to get in and get it over with—the time out makes him cool down and take off his edge."

"The fourth reason I might take one is if I'm tired."

"When I take a time out, I'll either leave the court to concentrate and try to imagine the strokes I want to execute, or I'll stay in and practice certain shots."

"The same when my opponent takes a time out. If I'm tired, I'll leave the court—maybe get a drink. Or I might want to stay loose—in the groove—by hitting some easy shots. Either way I try to stay in my own world."

John Eggerman

"I don't take as many as I should. I used to be afraid of time outs. I'd think 'It's just going to help him.' I'd shy away if he was winning."

"Now I see how time outs are used. I've learned by playing with Steve Strandemo. Steve starts out hard and fast. As soon as he sees me adjust to his game, he'll call a time out. At first I'd slow down. Then I began to realize why Steve was using the time outs. He wants to slow my momentum. So I immediately psych up. I try to erase the game score and make up a false score to convince myself that I'm starting the game from the beginning."



"I think I learned how to deal with Steve's time outs in Omaha. Every time he called a time out, I'd run up points afterwards. I beat him at his time out. I was down 16-0 and came back to 11, despite time outs. I lost—but for other reasons."

"I usually go out of the court during a time out. I take a time out even when I'm leading, if I feel the momentum changing—if I'm in the box, but stagnant. When I call a time out I analyze what's been happening over the last five minutes."

Steve Strandemo

"I can kind of feel out when there's a really strong momentum building up in my opponent. There are so many that are shooters."



"They want to keep blasting. I use the time out to keep my opponent from streaking. I know I have two ways of stopping him—by skill or by thinking. I don't get emotional any more over my opponent's runs, thinking I have to be re-hitting a bunch of good shots to turn him around."

"I consider a time out after three points by my opponent. If I let my opponent run five points, three times—that's 15. I start feeling a time out at three, call it at four. Five, six or seven are way too big. When the spread hits three or four, I start thinking."

"When I call a time out I think about changing my strategy. I review the whole game and the most recent points. I'll walk out of the court to get a drink. That allows me to remove myself from the action. There's no time to use tricks of concentration."

"One of the benefits of being through the wars as I have is that I know when I should call a time out and I sense when my opponent will call one on me. If I'm causing him some discomfort—things aren't going well for him—and I want to continue to apply pressure or maintain my slow game, I'll talk to myself. I keep the score in mind—sometimes a player gets so tight, he can't remember his own name."

"Sometimes a novice wins the first game, gets into the second and relaxes—and the opponent is ahead 9-1 and he hasn't called a time out. Then the pattern continues and he loses in the tie-breaker. The time out might have avoided that tie-breaker."

"If I can't outshoot or outpoint, at least I can stop him three times in his march to 21. All of a sudden his mind wanders during a time out—and mine doesn't."

"It's a whole little con game."



The score was 19-11 in Dave Peck's favor in the quarters of the Kendler Classic when Lindsay Myers took back to back time outs and re-entered the game with a string of six winners. But Peck's subsequent time out—his second of the game—led Dave to victory.



Turn to page 65 for Marty Hogan's views on Dave Peck's fatal time out at the Memphis pro stop. It's part of Thomas J. Morrow's exclusive National Racquetball interview with the three time national champ.

Playing Tips for Women

by Jean Sausser and Arthur Shay

Here's a reminder about a phase of racquetball that's so fundamental, it may be escaping you. Like all the tips *National Racquetball* is excerpting from this exclusive series it runs from *Inside Racquetball for Women*, the advice on receiving position should inspire you to take a look at your own game. If you're receiving too close to the server, now's the time to step back in the court.

National Racquetball has permission of Contemporary Books, Inc., Chicago, to reprint chapters from Pro Jean Sausser and Photographer Arthur Shay's mistake-correction analysis that's available in hard cover and paperback at pro shops, as well as sporting goods and book stores.

Mistake: Receiving Too Close to Server

The dangerous practice of receiving the serve too close to the server will cost you many a point. If you aren't hit by misplaced serves, you will find that serves pass you on both sides. Your opponent will have a field day making aces past you on either side, with the ball going deeply into the back court. By the time you lurch to the rear to retrieve those serves, you will make weak returns—if you get to the ball—or your body will be out of position for any following shot.



Correction: Wait in the Middle of Back Court.

The best all-around position to hold while awaiting a serve is in the middle of the back court—your body equidistant from both side walls and about three or four feet in from the back wall. From this central location you can always run forward for a serve that comes in shorter than you expected it to. The back wall makes it possible for your opponent to serve behind you. She must serve more strategically to ace you on either side. ●



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APRO Teaches . . . The Grand Conversion From Tennis to Racquetball

by James Sylvis

Sylvis is associate professor of Physical Education at Canisius College, Buffalo, NY and racquetball program consultant at Buffalo's Boulevard Mall Racquetball Club.

Racquetball has been widely promoted as a game which is easily learned and one which offers the player early success and enjoyment. This message has not been lost on the tennis players of America. They have flocked to racquetball clubs hoping that their tennis skills can be readily adapted to the game of racquetball. In most cases they find that this transition is not that smooth.

Interested friends and teaching professionals quickly become frustrated in their attempt to adapt tennis behaviors to a *completely* different game, racquetball. These frustrations, and the players difficulties, arise from something which C. L. Hull termed proactive inhibition (a form of negative transfer). This phenomenon occurs when a previously learned skill interferes with the acquisition of a similar skill attempted at a later date. In this case tennis has a deleterious effect on the performance of essential racquetball skills. If we as instructors and players hope to save our hair and our friends, we must deal with these problems effectively.

Transformation of a tennis player to a racquetball enthusiast entails a progressive instructional program based upon diagnostic teaching. The realization that proactive inhibition does occur makes observation and critical analysis crucial to the teaching process. Observation of tennis/racquetball players indicates that their difficulties fall into two general categories: (1) the mechanics of stroke execution, and (2) court movement. An in depth analysis of these two areas reveals several specific movement patterns inherent to tennis players that interfere with the acquisition of racquetball skills.

The first general area of concern centers around stroke execution. A sub-skill analysis of both the tennis and the racquetball forehand stroke (the backhand exhibits similar elements and problems)

reveals that they are composed of the same basic elements. Each stroke has the following components:

1. Grip
2. Footwork (stance)
3. Focal point
4. Backswing
5. Racquet path (movement)
6. Contact point
7. Wrist action and follow through
8. Shot placement

It is in the execution of these various elements that the strokes differ. We have found that the major interference occurs in elements (4) backswing, (5) racquet path, (6) contact point, and (7) wrist action and follow through. Therefore in order to eliminate the effects of proactive inhibition we must identify the differences in each element and then attempt to change them.

Backswing

The tennis player's problems begin with the backswing. In moving from the ready position to the backswing the racquet is brought almost straight back and in line with the flight of the ball. The ensuing racquet position is usually low, with the arm and racquet relatively straight and pointing directly backward (Photo one). This racquet position allows the player to hit the ball up and over the net. Since this is not the objective in racquetball, the backswing must be changed. The traditional description of the racquetball backswing places the elbow at a height at least equal to the shoulder with the forearm perpendicular to the upper arm and the racquet cocked toward the head. The racquet must be brought to a higher position to build racquet speed and to allow the player to hit down on the ball to produce a low flight (Photo two). This position is alien to the tennis player and must be practiced so that it becomes an automatic movement.





To Contact

The path which the racquet follows in going from the backswing to the contact point is critical to the correct racquetball stroking pattern. The tennis player who has achieved a good racquetball backswing will often initiate the stroke by dropping the arm down to the low straight position with the racquet pointing directly backward (Photos one and three). This will

force him to swing from the shoulder in the familiar tennis style. The racquetball swing begins with the elbow and handle butt leading as the racquet is pulled toward the ball and the contact point. The racquet arm remains bent and the wrist cocked until just prior to contact, at which time the arm straightens and the wrist is vigorously flexed to create racquet speed and force (Photo four). We have had some success in simulating the correct racquet path by asking the player to imagine that he is pulling a bell rope from the high backswing to the contact point. This simulation provides a feel for the bent to straight arm swing.

Contact Point

The next problem which must be tackled is the contact point. The tennis player has a mental set to contact the ball at the peak of its flight (Photo five). This causes two problems—first the return shot is always high on the front wall and second the player is constantly moving forward in order to hit the ball at its highest point. In contrast the racquetball player attempts to contact the ball at the lowest point in its flight (Photo six). Therefore on returns in which the tennis player is moving forward the racquetball player is moving backward to the hitting position. The following drills (along with constant verbal feedback from a friend) can help to eliminate this problem:

First the player assumes a forehand position and drops the ball from mid thigh and attempts to hit it before it hits the floor. Second he drops the ball, allows it to bounce and then attempts to hit it after it has peaked and is headed for the floor. Third one player hits the ball off the front wall at about waist height as the other player attempts to move into a hitting position so that they can both contact the ball at its lowest point. These three drills along with constant verbal reminders can help to change the tennis player's mental set.

Wrist Action

Wrist action and follow through are the two elements which differentiate the racquetball from the tennis stroke and give each its character. The tennis player has been instructed to maintain a straight arm and wrist position throughout the swing and to finish with the racquet pointing forward toward the top of the opposite fence (Photo seven). In contrast the racquetball player gets to the contact point with the wrist cocked and ready to unload. The explosion of the wrist carries the racquet arm across the body to finish pointing toward the wall behind the player

(Photo eight). The wrist action is critical to the development of power and consistency in the stroke and can be developed through simulated movements—having the player kneel on one knee and hit the ball using only the wrist; and by continually checking the finishing position during hitting drills.

Positioning

The previous suggestions can be helpful in changing the mechanics of the individual's stroke but do little for their court movement or positioning. We have found this to be another aspect of the tennis game which interferes with success in racquetball. Tennis players are accustomed to watching the opponent hit the ball at them. They never have to turn and track a ball which originates from a point behind them. The majority of the movements which they make are side to side at the baseline or in a diagonally forward direction. They are hardly ever forced to move diagonally backward. Racquetball is composed of movements in all directions. More importantly the players are constantly moving forward to take over the center court position and then diagonally backward to hit the next shot. Tennis/racquetball players cannot be content to play the baseline. They must move up after every shot and they must learn to visually track balls which are being hit from behind them. Eyeguards and a lot of situational practice enhance the way tennis/racquetball players cover the court.

Although racquetball is an easily learned game, it can be both frustrating and challenging to an athlete from another sport. The problems are especially acute for a tennis player because of the similarities in the activities. It takes an awareness of the differences in the games and a conscious effort on the part of the player to overcome the effects of proactive inhibition. Once you—the teacher—are able to demonstrate the differences, your student will be on the way to racquetball pleasure. ●

APRO Teaches, a regular feature of *National Racquetball*, provides teaching information to racquetball instructors. American Professional Racquetball Organization headquarters are at 730 Pine St., Deerfield, IL.

Turn to page 23 to learn how Marty Hogan and other touring pros, as well as instructors around the country, feel about the tennis-racquetball combination.

What's the Call?

by Dan Bertolucci



Situations arise in which a referee can't find an exact answer in the rule book but must interpret on the spot. Just when we at the USRA/NRC think everything that could possibly occur is covered by the rule book, some top pro player creates a whole new situation. Two such instances serve as my topics this month.

The first involves the wearing of eyeguards in an improper position and their subsequent interference with ensuing play. Are they treated as having been properly fastened or not? In this particular instance our player chose to rest his eyeguards above his forehead instead of over his eyes. Although the eyeguards were securely fastened, they were not positioned properly on his head. So should the play have been stopped when they fell off of our player's head or should

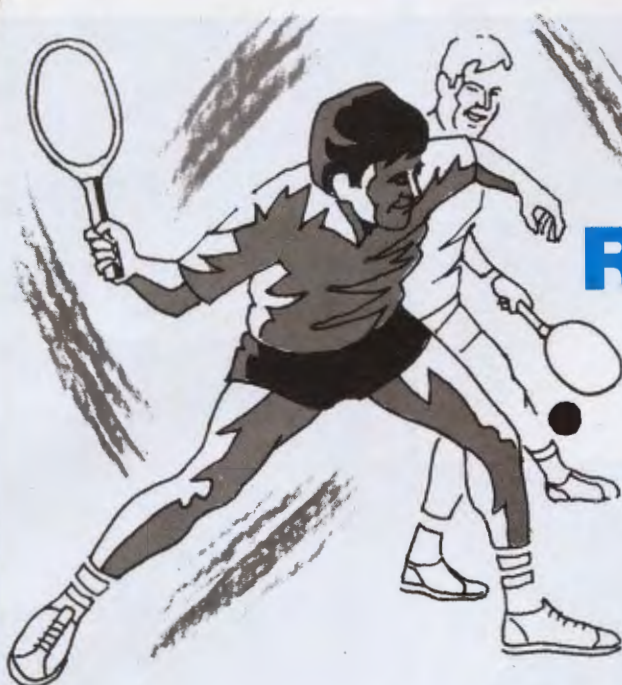
"no play stoppage call" result as a consequence of the eyeguard interference with the rally? As rule 4.9 - Rallies (e) (i) Play stoppage states . . . (2) "Players wearing protective eye glasses have the responsibility of having such eye glasses securely fastened. In the event that such protective eye glasses should become unfastened and enter the court, the play shall be stopped as long as such eye glasses were fastened initially. In the event that such eye glasses are not securely fastened, no stoppage of play shall result and the player wearing such glasses plays at his own risk." Our situation was interpreted not as an "automatic stoppage of play" call, because—since our player elected to wear his eyeguards improperly—he played at his own risk.

Situation Two requires that you picture the sequence of events so you can focus on the critical point of controversy. Player 1 commits a foot fault violation (as is called by the referee) before making contact with the ball. Subsequent contact with the ball is made and it is determined that the ball was broken on the first serve attempt. What's the call — second serve? or replay with two serves? I cannot seem to uncover anywhere in the current edition of the USRA rule book where this particular ruling is interpreted and I assure you that it will appear in the next edition. However a decision was necessary during a recent professional match and it was determined that since the foot fault violation preceded the initial striking of the ball on the serve, that it would take precedence over the broken ball situation, thereby resulting in a second serve situation.

To satisfy any other questions on this particular situation—should the above occur on a second serve situation a side out would have resulted with a new ball having been thrown into play for the new server. ●

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





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Court Clubs

52 Week Vacation



That's Nancy Williams in center court for an ad that's been promoting memberships for the Del Amo All-Pro Athletic Club in Torrance, CA, five miles away from the source of the sand—the Pacific Ocean.

The club's well tanned racquetball and aerobic dance instructor posed for the picture that Club Member Tim Hants suggested to Manager and Co-Owner Dave Valentine. The sandy court, with "sunshine" pouring in from a single source light, appeared in local quarter page newspaper ads and in 8½" by 11" fliers mailed to area residents.

"The ad ran every week for a month starting in mid-September," says Dave Jepsen, club supervisor. "Each time it appeared people came in to check out the club. We consider this a very successful promotion." ●

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EXTRA!

Exercise Jewel

Racquetball was a winner in a quiz that 200 Jewel food stores in the Chicago area recently distributed among shoppers as part of the food chain's educational service to its customers.

The answer to the question "Which exercise burns up the most calories?" was "Racquetball uses the most calories followed by rope skipping and roller skating. Actually all three are good activities compared to many other exercises."

The Jewel handout urged shoppers to "Get into shape for the 80s . . ." and noted that "exercise goes hand in hand with good nutrition for health, happiness and well being." The flier also called attention to the week's "Menu Planner" which compared calories used by different kinds of exercise with calories consumed in common foods.

Among "Menu Planner" examples: Eating an apple or drinking a Coke at around 100 calories would be balanced by 10 minutes of running;

Eric Erickson, center, prepares to deliver a forehand smash to partner Robbie Robinson and Rita Hoff, Natural Light beer director of racquetball, during an instructional clinic at the Dec. 5 grand opening of the indoor sports complex at Marriott's Tan-Tar-A Resort on Lake of the Ozarks, MO.



downing a 350 calorie hamburger requires 33 minutes; eating a piece of apple pie at 380 calories— 36 minutes;

consuming 190 calories in a medium portion of ice cream— 18 minutes.

You can apply those same

numbers to racquetball, which carries the same calorie expenditure (600 an hour) as running at five and a half miles an hour.

When Both Sides Lose

The ideal weight losing combination may turn out to be two racquetball players who face each other regularly on the court.

Consider the information that came out of a recent University of Rochester (NY) study in which people watched what they ate, exercised and learned

about nutrition during a 10 week program. According to a *Chicago Tribune* story the subjects were assigned to five groups: treatment only, treatment supported by a buddy, treatment supported by a spouse, treatment supported by both and no treatment.

When they tabulated the results, researchers found that the people who teamed up with a buddy lost 14.5 pounds, while those who got support from buddies and spouses lost 9.6 pounds and the men and women who relied on their spouses alone for help lost 8.8 pounds. (The no treatment

group gained a half pound each.)

So if you want to be thinner, find an overweight opponent and form your own two-person Weight Watchers club. Then take turns on the locker room scale, comparing your weight changes between weekly racquetball matches.

The Hand Beats the Racquet

"I'll beat any racquet with my bare hands," claims Jerry Reed, shown here in a challenge match against Bill Austin, pro at the Palo Alto (CA) Supreme Court Club.

Austin lost two out of three games in the Sept. 27 competition against Reed, a former Los Angeles Angels farm team member who's current occupations are finding opponents for his bare hand racquetball challenge and producing an electronic poker table he patented.

Reed says he "will travel anywhere to take on anyone who will put up money that they can beat me with a racquet while I play with my bare hands."



According to his rules Reed may catch the ball with either hand, take one step and throw the ball. It's official USRA rules for Reed's challengers.

Sport of the Month



Racquetball is the sport featured in October in the 1981 calendar distributed to customers of the Georgia Pacific Company printing and specialty paper division, headquartered in Darien, CT. Other sports that mark off the year are downhill and cross country skiing, bowling, jogging, paddle tennis, golf, swimming, tennis, bicycling and handball.

Georgia Pacific calls racquetball "the newest and most rapidly growing of all the racquet sports . . . a year round competitive game for young and old . . . that provides a vigorous workout for the heart and lungs and can be played enjoyably without a great deal of skill."

Glove Tourney in Green Bay

Green Bay, WI, famous for its football team, is building itself a reputation as a competitive town for professional racquetball.

For the fourth straight year the Saranac Glove Company, headquartered in Green Bay, is sponsoring a pro-am tournament. Saranac is offering \$1,500 in prize money for the top men's pro and \$1,000 to the first place professional woman.



Ben Koltun



Rita Hoff



Doug Cohen



Pat Schmidt

This year's Saranac Pro-Am will take place March 6 through 8. In past years tournament competitors have included Ben Koltun, Doug Cohen, Steve Mondry, Joe Wirkus, Don Constable, Bill Schmidtke, Paul Ikier, Rita Hoff, Mary Dee, Dan Ferris, Jim Sheyer, Pat Schmidt, Judy Thomas and Sheryl Mathiew.

Tournament Director Dave Neubauer has sent invitations to the pros. For more information call him at 414-435-3737.

Send your classified ad to Joe Ardito,
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Deadline for classifieds,
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Larry Lee's an amateur player, but he's been designated a professional referee, officiating at pro matches like this one at the Kendler Classic.

Meet Your Ref

Arizona's Larry Lee

Reprinted from the November, 1980 Arizona Athletic Club Newsletter with permission of the publisher.

When Larry Lee started playing racquetball at the Arizona Athletic Club five and a half years ago, he didn't realize what a driving force it would be for him. Before long he was going to every tournament, staying all day and trying to watch every match. Only one thing about the matches bothered him.

"I realized how many players had a bad match because of poor officiating," he says. He decided to try to call some games himself, to see if he could do it any better.

Larry did do it better. Today he is one of three professional racquetball officials in the nation, making the calls on Hogan, Hillecher, Yellen and every other star of the pro tour.

It didn't happen overnight, however. Lee worked for four years perfecting his refereeing skills in amateur tournaments, working his way up to the point where he was in demand for the top matches. Then, when the AAC hosted the national championships in June, 1979, he was introduced to Dan Bertolucci, who directs the pro tour for the National Racquetball Club.

"Dan asked me to help out in officiating the pro matches," Larry says, *"and after the tournament he invited me along on the pro tour."*

It was tough in the beginning, Larry says, because the pro game is so much faster, the players have quicker reflexes and they play such an intelligent game. Not only that every pro plays each of his opponents differently, and there are different things to look for.

Which are the toughest calls to make?

"I'd rate the two bounce pickup and the screen as the two most difficult calls," says Larry, *"although a skip is also very hard to see sometimes, especially when the ball is traveling 130 to 140 miles an hour."*



—Lauren Shrey photo

Certain players can make the officiating more difficult, according to Lee. One of those is Charles Brumfield, a veteran pro who once reigned as national champion.

"He's 'Mr. Psych'," Larry says. *"He knows all the rules backwards and forwards, and will use every trick in the book to intimidate his opponent and the referee. He even tries to get the spectators on his side when he harasses the referee."*

Lee tells of one match when he called a skip on Brumfield. The wily pro came out of the court, walked back near the referee's chair and faced the crowd. *"People,"* he called to them with a hurt look on his face, *"can you believe he called a skip ball on me?"*

Lee tried to ignore the crowd's reaction and turned to the former champion. *"Mr. Brumfield,"* he said, *"do you want to appeal the call?"*

Brumfield stood with his hands on his hips and looked incredulously at the official. *"Well,"* he said, *"What else do you suppose I'm standing here outside the court for?"*

The crowd loved it, and from that point they harassed the official every time he made a call against Brumfield.

Another difficulty, Lee says, is refereeing matches of hometown players like Don Thomas, John Barrett and Bobby Bolen. *"I've known those guys for years,"* he says, *"and I can't help feeling close to them. It's a real struggle within myself to remain completely detached."*

The 33-year-old official, who is also a teaching pro, was asked why so much poor sportsmanship appears to be displayed in racquetball tournaments.

"It's because of the high intensity of the game," he replies, *"and because of the close proximity of the players."* But he points out another possible reason: racquetball derives from the game of handball, which was strictly a rugged men's game. *"Why women weren't even allowed into the facilities,"* Lee says, *"because the language was so foul."*

This season's pro tour takes Larry Lee to clubs in L.A., Miami, Chicago, Omaha, St. Louis, Memphis, Honolulu and other cities. *"I've been in 70 to 75 different clubs where tournaments are held,"* Lee says, *"and I have to say that our own AAC is one of the very best in the country. They're still talking about the nationals that were held here."*



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Massachusetts, Maine and Indiana Wrap Up 1980 Most Improved Player Stories

Five Months Til the 1981 Contest Opens

This trio of players who made notable progress in their racquetball games last year is *National Racquetball's* reminder to get ready for the third annual Most Improved Player contest.

Your scorecards, club newsletter or local newspaper stories will help verify the description of your progress from June of 1980 to June of 1981. Each year *National Racquetball* rewards state winners with lifetime subscriptions (with built in lifetime memberships in the USRA), certificates and a variety of other prizes.



Michael Killian, Massachusetts • USRA State Co-chairman Joanne Johnson says that 19-year-old Michael Killian is getting known as the "new face" in the Men's Open division in Massachusetts tournaments. "Working hard on his game," she reports, "Mike has improved 100 percent." Michael was a low B in November 1979, won second in the Bs in the USRA state championships in the spring and then got as far as the quarter-finals in a spring club tournament at Racquetball International in Burlington, his home court.

Tournament Results Wisconsin

The Falls Racquetball Club in Menomonee Falls held its third annual Falls Open Oct. 3-5.

Results

Men's Open

Quarters: Joe Wirkus d. Mark Forrer 21-5, 21-12; Bob Kohl d. Craig Steichen 21-8, 21-9; Steve Peck d. Ron Johnson 21-12, 21-18; Jim Wirkus d. Pat Schmidt 21-6, 21-7

Semis: Kohl d. Joe Wirkus 17-21, 21-20, 11-4; Jim Wirkus d. Steve Peck 21-11, 21-15

Finals: Jim Wirkus d. Kohl 21-9, 21-15

Men's B

Quarters: Mike Manning d. Bo Bergstrom (forfeit); Laura Sidello d. Jeff Bakken 21-10, 15-21, 11-7; Mike Jarecki d. Scott Hernke 21-18, 21-12; Dan Schrader d. Dave Aumiller 17-21, 21-4, 11-18

Semis: Manning d. Sidello 21-16, 21-11; Schrader d. Jarecki 21-3, 21-11

Finals: Schrader d. Manning 21-8, 21-9

Men's B

Quarters: Mike Manning d. Bo Bergstrom (forfeit); Laura Sidello d. Jeff Bakken 21-10, 15-21, 11-7; Mike Jarecki d. Scott Hernke 21-18, 21-12; Dan Schrader d. Dave Aumiller 17-21, 21-4, 11-18

Semis: Manning d. Sidello 21-16, 21-11; Schrader d. Jarecki 21-3, 21-11

Finals: Schrader d. Manning 21-8, 21-9

Men's C:

Quarters: Brain Sippy d. Mark Seefeldt 18-21, 21-7, 11-9; Elliott Papermaster d. Joe Colwin 21-15, 21-8; Greg Sheahan d. Brian Knoebel 17-21, 21-18, 11-4; Jeff Bakken d. Charles Goad 21-4, 21-0

Semis: Papermaster d. Sippy 21-8, 21-19; Bakken d. Sheahan 21-13, 21-16

Finals: Bakken d. Papermaster 21-20, 5-21, 11-6

Men's D

Quarters: Romy Pena d. Ken Hansen 21-20, 21-4; Mike Kommer d. Eric Graf 21-13, 21-8; George Berman d. Doc D'Amato 21-14, 17-21, 11-3; Carl Evers d. Al Behnke 21-6, 21-5

Semis: Pena d. Kommer 21-19, 21-17; Evers d. Berman 21-18, 21-20

Finals: Pena d. Evers 21-18, 21-14

Men's Veteran

Quarters: Wayne Franke d. Earl Farr 21-3, 21-11; Terry McCusker d. Bob Kohl 18-21, 21-9, 11-6; Dan Skalecki d. Joe Bray 21-4, 21-14; Sam Vitchar d. Ted Moreau 20-21, 21-14, 11-5

Semis: Franke d. McCusker 21-9, 21-8; Skalecki d. Vitchar 21-13, 21-9

Finals: Skalecki d. Franke 21-18, 21-14

Men's Seniors

Quarters: Art Guenther d. Frank Neu 21-11, 21-13; Wayne Krueger d. John Lallensack 21-6, 21-7; Ron Johnson d. George Poirier 21-10, 19-21, 11-0; Richard Ricco d. Steinmiller 21-4, 21-4

Semis: Guenther d. Krueger 21-20, 8-21, 11-5; Johnson d. Ricco 21-20, 21-2

Finals: Johnson d. Guenther 21-13, 21-19

Men's Masters:

Semis: Mike Mackedon d. Dick Kalal 21-5, 21-11; Glenn Sievers d. Wally Plazak 21-12, 21-6

Finals: Mackedon d. Sievers 21-9, 21-8

Women's B

Quarters: Kathy Roskopf d. Nancy Freyer 21-13, 21-13; Gina Steinke d. Karen Riemersma 21-17, 21-20; Janie Robbins d. Shelly Pruett 21-20, 21-1; Shirley Prikstas d. Alta Littell 21-5, 21-8

Semis: Roskopf d. Steinke 21-17, 21-20; Prikstas d. Robbins 21-13, 21-4

Finals: Prikstas d. Roskopf 21-18, 21-16

Women's C

Semis: Melissa Reimer d. Janis Merten 21-18, 21-8; Nancy Vitchar d. Sue Knuth 12-21, 21-20, 11-3

Finals: Vitchar d. Reimer 21-17, 21-8



Linda Fitzpatrick, Maine • The Fitzpatricks from Falmouth have dominated Main's Most Improved Player award since the contest began. Maine's first winner was Gene Fitzpatrick, whose sister—Linda—submitted his name to *National Racquetball* without his knowledge. Now Gene returned the favor, and the 15-year-old was the one to receive the surprise letter last August congratulating her for being her state's Most Improved Player. Linda is now a regular in Women's Open play, winning that division in the Last Blast Tourney and other local tournaments. She also won first in the Girls 17 and Under USRA Maine Closed matches. Linda, an honor student who competes on her high school field hockey and track teams, works part time at the club where her family plays—Playoff Racquetball in South Portland.

Kevin Smith, Indiana • Kevin Smith, who's plucky entry into racquetball was the subject of a previous *National Racquetball* article in this section, made excellent improvement in his game last year despite the handicap of having lost an arm to cancer. Kevin, who's 23, now lives in Indianapolis, but he learned to play racquetball at the Levee Court Club in West Lafayette.

Between June of 1979 and 1980 Kevin progressed from the C-Novice division to winning the Bs in a club competition.

"The game of racquetball has been very good to me," Kevin wrote, as he thanked *National Racquetball* for the award. "When I started playing I was overweight and had no self confidence, believing that having but one arm ended my athletic activities. Now I'm in good shape and have self confidence bordering on cocky. I'm in love with life and the challenges it presents and realize that having one arm is at times a nuisance, but never a handicap. I thank those who encouraged me, especially Terry Hunt and Kathy Jan King, manager and assistant manager of the Levee Court House."



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Women's D

Quarters: Mary Ann Wagner d. Kathy Chentnik 21-8, 21-5; Dee Hollenbeck d. Kara Giuffre 21-4, 21-7; Sandy Weise d. Mary Ann McGuire 11-21, 21-10, 11-6; Angela Casper d. Carol Morgenstern 21-3, 8-21, 11-4

Semis: Wagner d. Hollenbeck 21-18, 21-14; Casper d. Weise 21-12, 21-4

Finals: Wagner d. Casper 21-10, 21-4

Mixed Doubles

Quarters: Bob Kohl/Pat Schmidt d. Scott Moore/Kathy Roskopf, George Poirier/Maureen Poirier d. George Butler/Vicki Emmerson; Jim Rupnow/Teresa Gneuwich d. Andy Gutierrez/Sue Otto; Art Guenther/Laura Sidello d. Jerry Kommer/Laura Merkel

Semis: Kohl/Schmidt d. Poirier/Poirier; Guenther/Sidello d. Rupnow/Gneuwich

Finals: Kohl/Schmidt d. Guenther/Sidello

Women's Veteran: 1st-Vicki Emmerson, 2nd-Sue Ricco

Kentucky

The YMCA Autumn Open took place Oct. 3-5 at the YMCA in Louisville.

Results

Juniors Open: 1st-Neil Weinberg, 2nd-Gary Edlin, 3rd-Ken Bradley, 4th-Eric Hogge, Cons-Harry Hales

Men's Open: 1st-Jack Roudebush, 2nd-Dave Brown, 3rd-Dave Fleischaker, 4th-Jon Fleischaker, Cons-Frank Brohm

Women's Novice: 1st-Teresa Cooper, 2nd-Abby Reinhard, 3rd-Maggie D'Ambrosia, 4th-Bytha Decker, Cons-Debbie Larrick

Men's Novice: 1st-Larry Dostal, 2nd-Jeff Spalding, 3rd-Jeff Jenkins, 4th-Keith Hankins, Cons-Mark Frische

Women's Open: 1st-Beth Marcum, 2nd-Emily Burke, 3rd-Sharon Russell, 4th-Emilie Pinto, Cons-Julie Trinkle

Women's C: 1st-Debbie Snelling, 2nd-Jennifer Doyal, 3rd-Karen Mitchell, 4th-Ginger Rose, Cons-Mary McNutt

Men's B: 1st-Chas. Podgursky, 2nd-Save Johnson, 3rd-Gary Hogge, 4th-Neil Weinberg, Cons-Rudy Mylar

Master's: 1st-Pierre Miller, 2nd-Gary Foy, 3rd-Gil Coulter, 4th-Jerry Freeman, Cons-Save Payne

Men's C: 1st-Tom Dickens, 2nd-Tom Miller, 3rd-Robert Forseberg, 4th-Gary Edlin, Cons-Save Moore

Washington

Bellevue Athletic Club's Mentholatum Deep Heating Rub Open Racquetball Tournament took place Oct. 3-5.

Results

Men's Open Singles: Mike Hoonan d. Jeff Lowery 21-9, 19-21, 11-7

Men's B Singles: Taddonio d. DeBower 21-9, 21-15

Men's C Singles: Packebush d. D. Smith 21-3, 21-6

Men's Novice Singles: Stewart d. Jarvella 21-9, 21-11

Men's Beg. Novice Singles: M. Becker d. J. Cook 21-0, 21-0

Men's Seniors: Bill Adkisson d. Dean DeBower

Women's Singles: K. Trepanier d. F. Hansmann 21-12, 21-7

Women's C Singles: Whitney d. Mannakee

Women's Novice Singles: N. Scharf d. P. Hopper

Women's Beg. Novice Singles: Swope d. Christean

Men's Open Doubles: Hoonan/Lowery d. Berry/Adkisson 21-7, 21-10

Men's B Doubles: Taulbee/Ziccardi d. Baydo/Bates

Men's C Doubles: Japhet/Winters d. Greening/Lemna 21-6, 21-4

Mixed B Doubles: Springer/Trepanier d. Seminoff/Seminoff 21-10, 21-17

Mixed C Doubles: Miller/Johnson d. Evans/Funk 21-12, 20-21, 11-8

Texas

The Mentholatum Deep Heating Rub Open Racquetball Tournament was held Oct. 3-5 at the American Racquetball Club in Dallas.

Results

Men's Open Singles: Gary Brown d. Carlos Nieves 21-20, 21-13

Men's B Singles: Steve Kuykendall d. Ray Aronowitz 17-21, 21-19, 11-10

Men's C Singles: S. Hollander d. D. Walker 21-13, 21-18

Men's Novice Singles: K. Fern d. C. Petsch 21-14, 21-13

Men's Seniors Singles: L. Bernstein d. R. Loyd 21-11, 20-21, 11-7

Women's Open Singles: Susie Dugan d. Leslie Moughon 21-8, 21-9

Women's B Singles: D. Palomino d. E. Viescas 21-14, 21-12

Women's C Singles: M. Guevara d. R. Herreran 17-21, 21-16, 11-8

Men's Open Doubles: Nieves/Nael d. Walker/Walker 21-18, 21-16

Men's B Doubles: Adcock/Cook d. Lemon/Walker 21-11, 13-21, 11-9

Mixed Open Doubles: Dugan/Dayidson d. Moughon/Nieves 21-12, 21-12

Mixed B Doubles: Fuentes/Christensen d. Reese/Dowlen 21-19, 18-21, 11-9

California

The San Diego Tennis & Racquet Club hosted the Mentholatum Deep Heating Rub Open Racquetball Tournament Oct. 9-12.

Results

Men's Open: Kevin Williams d. Bill Stevens 21-18, 21-14

Men's B Singles: Bob Driscoll d. Sal Concha 21-12, 17-21, 11-6

Men's C Singles: Randy Reid d. Fred Hollowell 21-18, 21-17

Men's Novice Singles: Robert Church d. Paul Pollero 21-11, 21-19

Men's Beg. Novice Singles: Wes Bryan d. Scott Slade 21-14, 21-9

Seniors: Bud Muehleisen d. Jay Streim 21-11, 21-9

Masters: Muehleisen d. Streim

Women's Open Singles: Laura Martino d. Hope Weisbach

Women's B Singles: Lori Cox d. Sue Willson 21-19, 18-21, 11-8

Women's C Singles: Fran White d. Cathy Welch 17-21, 21-10, 11-5

Women's Novice Singles: Janeen Dell'Acqua d. Linda Lee 21-9, 21-15

Men's Open Doubles: Maddocks/Laughter d. Stevens/Pawka 21-18, 17-21, 11-9

Men's B Doubles: Fitzgerald/Paxton d. Entrikin/Myers 21-11, 21-19

Men's C Doubles: Muto/Vincent d. Brumfield/Gillcrest 21-15, 13-21, 11-9

Mixed Open Doubles: Martino/Doehr d. Brunmeyer/Armenta 21-8, 21-10

Mixed B Doubles: Entrikin/Willson d. Dickson/Seymoore

Mixed C Doubles: Acquire/Salgado d. Anderson/Keyte 21-18, 21-9

Oklahoma

The Mentholatum Deep Heating Rub Open Racquetball Tournament took place Oct. 9-12 at the O K Racquet Club in Oklahoma City.

Results

Men's Open Singles: Dan Massari d. Greg Sheffield 21-16, 11-21, 11-4

Men's B Singles: B. Fleetwood d. C. Rahlfs 21-19, 20-21, 11-8

Men's C Singles: M. Hollman d. H. Baldrige 21-18, 21-16

Men's Novice Singles: W. Stephensen d. D. Beasley 21-20, 21-19

Men's Beg. Novice Singles: J. Abrams d. J. Fisher 21-20, 21-18

Men's Seniors Singles: J. Trickett d. B. Thornton 21-20, 18-21, 11-6

Women's Open Singles: Leslie Hall d. Candy Overstake 21-14, 12-21, 11-9

Women's C Singles: W. Stephenson d. L. Hill 21-18, 17-21, 11-8

Men's Open Doubles: Smith/Hinkle d. Massari/Taylor 21-16, 21-18

Men's B Doubles: Trickett/Rahlfs d. Wathen/Downey 21-18, 21-15

Texas

The King's Court Racquetball & Health Club held it's first racquetball tournament Oct. 10-12.

Results

Men's A: 1st-Dino Owens d. Larry Fuller 21-10, 21-15, Cons-Dennis Stewart

Men's B: 1st-Kip Luna d. Mike Kowalske 21-19, 21-11, Cons-Don Alexander

Men's C: 1st-Ronnie Pittman d. Tanilo Garcia 21-12, 21-16, Cons-Rick Higgins

Men's Novice: 1st-Jay Lundgren d. Bryan Whitson 21-7, 21-4, Cons-Johnny Cruz

Men's A Doubles: 1st-Bob Lindsay/Mike Jennings d. Larry Fuller/Scott Cullins 21-11, 21-10, Cons-Gary Hyatt/Denis Jalbert

Men's B Doubles: 1st-Shawn Regan/Jeff Newman d. Edgar Wood/Ray Helmcamp injury default; Cons-Craig Owens/David Riddlespurger

Men's 30 and Over: 1st-Rob Lindsay d. David Martel, Cons-Edgar Wood

Women's A: 1st-Linda Schulte d. Ann Wootten 21-2, 21-5, Cons-Doris Reed

Women's C: 1st-Carrie McGavock d. Strecia McCaig 21-8, 15-21, 11-10; Cons-Gayle Brazil

Women's Novice: 1st-Karlan Richards d. Connie Hutcherson 21-14, 21-10, Cons-Denise Cockrell

Women's Doubles: 1st-Candy Smith/Doris Reed d. Connie Hutcherson/Denise Cockrell 21-2, 21-0, Cons-Brenda Frazier/Carrie Riddlespurger

New Jersey

The Hopewell Valley Racquetball and Health Club in Pennington was the site of the USRA/New Jersey State Championships Oct. 10-12.

Results

Men's Open

Round of 16: Doug Clark d. Al Horne, Mike Miksa d. Rich Katz, Gary Hartman d. Lonnie Allgood, Greg Levine d. Stan Danzig, John Bierman d. Rick Platas, Bob Francavilla d. Bill Ramirez, Jim Turner d. Rocco Mazza, Bill Lynch d. Willie Wang, Ray Capitanelli d. Rick Englander

Quarters: Clark d. Miksa, Levine d. Hartman, Bierman d. Francavilla, Capitanelli d. Turner

Semis: Clark d. Levine, Capitaneili d. Bierman
Finals: Clark d. Capitaneili

Men's B

Quarters: Demarco d. Shawn, Klein d. Petrini, Greenberg d. Buonocore, Katz d. Munson

Semis: Klein d. Demarco, Greenberg d. Katz

Finals: Klein d. Greenberg

Men's C

Quarters: Demianovich d. Maineniti, Sitren d. Mirnov, Solomon d. Berson, Vaccaro d. Bauer

Semis: Sitren d. Demianovich, Solomon d. Vaccaro

Finals: Solomon d. Sitren

Men's Novice

Quarters: Berson d. Caldera, Ousouljoglou d. Denley, Hook d. Holtsma, Matejek d. Ginsberg

Semis: Hook d. Matejek, Ousouljoglou d. Berson

Finals: Ousouljoglou d. Hook

Men's Veteran Open

Quarters: Elia d. Berwick, Danzig d. Letter, Wang d. Welaj, Booker d. Nurczyk

Semis: Elia d. Danzig, Wang d. Booker

Finals: Wang d. Elia

Men's Seniors

Quarters: Letter d. Prucha, Kohout d. Munson, Wilson d. Lingle, Sergeantanis d. Barreto

Semis: Letter d. Kohout, Wilson d. Sergeantanis

Finals: Letter d. Wilson

Boys 17 and Under

Quarters: Billhimer d. Mazzo, Marshall d. Schaffner, Rooney d. Summers, Keswani d. Jackson

Semis: Marshall d. Billhimer, Keswani d. Rooney

Finals: Marshall d. Keswani

Boys 15 and Under

Quarters: Vaccaro d. Vazzano, Kohout d. Steiner, Cirillo d. Pierce, Solomon d. Salvato

Semis: Solomon d. Cirillo, Vaccaro d. Kohout

Finals: Vaccaro d. Solomon

Men's Masters

Quarters: Talbot d. McGill, Iwaskow d. Koerner, Harper d. Nadelman, O'Hea d. Christmas

Semis: Talbot d. Iwaskow, Harper d. O'Hea

Finals: Talbot d. Harper

Men's Golden Masters

Quarters: Goldstein d. Goffus, Madam d. Eristavi, Travers d. Koliba, Bennett d. Reeves

Semis: Madam d. Goldstein, Bennett d. Travers

Finals: Madam d. Bennett

Men's Open Doubles

Quarters: Elia/Elia d. Booker/Ramirez, Sherman/Berwick d. Allgood/Platas, Bierman/Horne d. Vanore/Munson, Capitaneili/Sergeantanis d. Bloxom/Wilson

Semis: Elia/Elia d. Sherman/Berwick, Bierman/Horne d. Capitaneili/Sergeantanis

Finals: Bierman/Horne d. Elia/Elia

Women's Open

Quarters: Borgia d. Thomas, Struthers d. Englander, Nickerson d. Swayze, Manchini d. Goffus

Semis: Borgia d. Struthers, Nickerson d. Marchini

Finals: Borgia d. Nickerson

Women's B

Quarters: Lacey d. Gambuto, McKenzie d. Vavolo, Desrosiers d. Dowd, Goffus d. Tur

Semis: Lacey d. McKenzie, Goffus d. Desrosiers

Finals: Lacey d. Goffus

Women's C

Quarters: Bottger d. Walker, Dowd d. Thompson, Nurczyk d. Pincus, Vavolo d. Gentile

Semis: Vavolo d. Nurczyk, Dowd d. Bottger

Finals: Vavolo d. Dowd

Women's Novice

Quarters: Brittle d. Nathanson, Austad d. Cataldi, Birdsall d. Pilling, Traonese d. Coen

Semis: Austad d. Brittle, Birdsall d. Traonese

Finals: Austad d. Birdsall

Women's Veteran Open

Quarters: Lacey d. Watts, Gussely d. Gentile, Rose d. Vanore, Donahue d. Koerner

Semis: Lacey d. Gessely, Rose d. Donahue

Finals: Lacey d. Rose

Women's Open Doubles

Semis: Nickerson/Bednarski d. Thomas/Gessley, Scott/Borga d. Desrosiers/McKenzie

Finals: Nickerson/Bednarski d. Scott/Borga

California

La Mirada Athletic Club was the site Oct. 16-19 of the Oktoberfest.

Results

Men's Open Singles: Gary Berberet d. Tim Berberet 21-18, 21-20

Men's B Singles: Steve Ivers d. Dave Perkins 21-15, 15-21, 11-7

Men's C Singles: M. Wisheagram d. T. Coggins 20-21, 21-18, 11-8

Men's Novice Singles: G. Botts d. J. Green 21-17, 21-9

Men's Beg. Novice Singles: E. Meza d. J. Laur 21-10, 21-17

Men's Seniors Singles: Jay Corbett d. Ivin Agrums 21-16, 21-17

Men's Open Doubles: R.C. Carson/M. Noack d. D. Delaney/B. Chadwick 21-18, 16-21, 11-4

Men's B Doubles: B.J. Jenkins/M. Anderson d. C. Han/G. Yothers 21-4, 21-13

Men's C Doubles: Tilden/Jimenez d. Jones/Coggins 21-17, 17-21, 11-9

Women's B Singles: C. Hillman d. C. Alumbaugh 20-21, 21-13, 11-4

Women's C Singles: J. Braasch d. K. Marrs 21-13, 21-17

Women's Novice Singles: L. Leinen d. T. Larsen 10-21, 21-14, 11-7

Mixed Open Doubles: Rippy/Carson d. Braasch/Texiera 19-21, 21-15, 11-9

Mixed C Doubles: Tilden/Tilden d. Pearson/Pearson 21-0, 21-0

Texas

The Great Pumpkin Open took place at the Western Trails Racquet Club in Austin October 17-19.

Results

Men's Open: 1st-Cris Kincade, 2nd-Steve Bernard, Cons-Luther Bernstein

Men's B: 1st-Marty Skolnik, 2nd-Floyd Chapman, Cons-Marty Lynch

Men's C: 1st-Richard McCormick, 2nd-Keith Cargile, Cons-Adam Pippin

Men's D: 1st-Ed Mahler, 2nd-Bill Crum, Cons-Chuck Clinton

Men's Novice: 1st-Thomas Gilleran, 2nd-Gary Rhodes, Cons-Fred Lockwood

Men's Seniors: 1st-Luther Bernstein, 2nd-Tripp Owens, Cons-Gary Bernhard

Women's Open: 1st-Becky Bladau, 2nd-Margaret Lucas, Cons-Dallia Palomino

Women's B: 1st-Diane Wang, 2nd-Claudia Siegal, Cons-Amy Lauterback

Women's C: 1st-Sally Grant, 2nd-Kathy McCormick, Cons-Melanie Milner

Women's D: 1st-Cheryl Lyman, 2nd-Valerie Saad, Cons-Jane Prewitt

Women's Novice: 1st-Linda Henderson, 2nd-Cher Penhorn, Cons-Rexine Howell

Ohio

Courtrooms I Racquetball Club in Brunswick held its Fall Frolic open tournament on October 17-19.

Men's Open: Clark Pittman d. Dave Rosenblum

Men's B: Jim Durant d. Larry Barnes

Men's C: Steve Finowski d. Mike Moritz

Men's Seniors: Bobby Saunders d. Pete Keiser

Men's Novice: Robert Tomko d. Tony Piazzo

Women's Open: Becky Callahan d. Karen Perlco

Women's B: Ruth Samuels d. Bonnie Kowalski

Women's C: Diane Mause d. Jacqueline Hanzlik

Wisconsin

The second annual Southcentral Regional Racquetball Tournament took place Oct. 24-25.

Results

Men's A: 1st-Ron LaBelle, 2nd-Gary Hart, 3rd-Tom Zurek, 4th-R. Rudolph, 5th-Larry Rosenberg

Men's B: 1st-Jerry Beehler, 2nd-Alan Stoudinger, 3rd-Mike Russ, 4th-Gary Holly, 5th-Don Harrison

Men's C: 1st-Al Thorrez, 2nd-Todd Leuthjohann, 3rd-Don Steffen, Cons-Mike Brink

Women's C: (A) 1st-Kathy Skudlarick, 2nd-Marilyn Hasfurther, 3rd-Belinda Ridgley, 4th-Vickie LaBelle, 5th-Beckie Fry

(B) 1st-Elaine Warren, 2nd-Pattie Ballard, 3rd-Karen Skudlarick, 4th-Marilyn Stoudinger

(A & B Final): 1st-Elain Warren, 2nd-Kathy Skudlarick

Wisconsin

The Racquet Ball Club Tournament of Champions was held Oct. 24 and 25 at the Racquetball Club in west Allis.

Results

Women's 2.5: 1st-Dee Hollenbeck, 2nd-Sue Knoll, 3rd-Rhonda Jordan, Cons-Anna Jarecki

Women's 3.0: 1st-Suzi Franklin, 2nd-Sharon Lapp, 3rd-Sandy Engel, Cons-Debbie Hirtz

Women's 3.5: 1st-Pat Grash, 2nd-Cheryl Totero, 3rd-Kay McKowen, Cons-Barb Salick Shaffer

Women's 4.0: 1st-Jane Fisher, 2nd-Nancy Vitchar, 3rd-Val Klein, Cons-Sue Drake

Women's 5.0: 1st-Marge Fish, 2nd-Ginny Walsh, 3rd-Karen Anderson, Cons-Judy Mottl

Men's 2.5: 1st-Gary Borkenhagen, 2nd-Larry Bucholz, 3rd-Jeff Rude, Cons-Craig Coffman

Men's 3.0: 1st-Jim Melville, 2nd-Larry Gust, 3rd-Tim Fisher, Cons-Tony Caronna

Men's 3.5: 1st-Chris Weber, 2nd-Gale Woelffer, 3rd-Mike Knoll, Cons-Ted Janka

Men's 4.0: 1st-Paul Nelson, 2nd-Jim Leininger, 3rd-Larry Arnold, Cons-Craig Jordan

Men's 4.5: 1st-Mike Jarecki, 2nd-Pat Hay, 3rd-Dave Fox, Cons-Jay Guenther

Men's 5.0: 1st-Pat Starken, 2nd-Gary Gerschke, Cons-Dick Ricco

Seniors: 1st-Bruce Vincent, 2nd-Fran Odden, Cons-Bill Altice

Illinois

Finally's-Metro Club Open took place Oct. 24-26 at the Arlington Heights Court House in Arlington Heights.

Results

Men's Open: 1st-Dave Negrete, 2nd-Jack Newman, 3rd-Bob Deuster, 4th-Jim Scheyer, Cons-Kelth Vanderveen

Men's A: 1st-Jim Babbitt, 2nd-Jerry Belcaster, 3rd-Neal Scheyer, 4th-Mike Frintner, Cons-Craig Steichen

Men's B: 1st-John Negrete, 2nd-Scott Martin, 3rd-Jim Jeffers, 4th-Rick Farmer, Cons-Bob Bergstron

Men's C: 1st-Todd Dalman, 2nd-Dave Jones, 3rd-John Reichwein, 4th-Scott Schlinto, Cons-Elliott Newman

Men's D: 1st-John Novi, 2nd-Chris Farmer, 3rd-Mike Saltzman, 4th-Bob Cornwell, Cons-John Cole

Men's Seniors: 1st-Barry Siegel, 2nd-Ron Paul, 3rd-Ron Johnson, 4th-Barry Buske, Cons-Steve Cohen

Women's C: 1st-Donna Radeke, 2nd-Sandy Peterson, 3rd-Ree Keca, 4th-Barb Blitzen, Cons-Debbie Lome

Women's D: 1st-Barb Solomon, 2nd-Carolyn Wedekind, 3rd-Pat Franklin, 4th-Randi Cohan, Cons-Meg Kilton

Indiana

The Court Club in Indianapolis hosted the third annual Sweetheart Open tournament Oct. 24-26.

Results

Women's Open: Becky Callahan d. Kay Kuhfeld

Women's B: Debbie Adams d. Pat Floor

Women's C: Ann Goelz d. Cathy King

Women's Vet: Betty Stevens d. Jean Crag

New York

Sixteen year-old Mike Levine of Rochester, NY soundly defeated Steve Mondry of San Diego 21-11, 21-3 to take the Men's Open of the 1980 Natural Light Racquetball Classic Oct. 31-Nov.2 at All Sport Fitness & Racquetball Club in Poughkeepsie. Levine took top prize money of \$500. Hal Greg of Essex Junction, VT, Master's winner, won a seven day trip for two to Barbados when his name was drawn on Sunday, the day of his 25th anniversary.

Results

Men's Open

Quarters: Mike Levine d. Bill Burnett 21-8, 21-5; Ruben Gonzalez d. Brian Dehm 21-13, 14-21, 11-1; Steve Mondry d. Art Diemar 21-9, 21-7

Semis: Steve Mondry d. Vic Niederhoffer 15-21, 21-11, 11-4; Mike Levine d. Ruben Gonzalez 21-19, 21-5

Finals: Mike Levine d. Steve Mondry 21-10, 21-8

Eileen Ehrlich, right, beat Squash Champ Barbara Maltby, a new racquetball player, in the finals of the Women's Open at the Natural Light Classic.



Women's Open

Quarters: Eileen Ehrlich d. Laura Baker 21-6, 21-12; Diana Nyad d. Elena Milderberger 21-9, 21-4; Barbara Maltby d. Cira Nickerson 21-6, 21-10; Ginger Sottile d. Jackie Adler 18-21, 21-11, 11-10

Semis: Eileen Ehrlich d. Laura Baker 21-3, 21-4; Barbara Maltby d. Ginger Sottile 21-0, 21-7

Finals: Eileen Ehrlich d. Barbara Maltby 14-21, 21-20, 11-9

Doubles: 1st-Mike Levine/Mike Luciw, 2nd-Steve Mondry/John Peterson, 3rd-John Moshides/Leo Marsocci

Open Veterans (30-34): 1st-Leo Marsocci, 2nd-Mike Luciw, 3rd-Barry Russell

Seniors: 1st-Charles Garfinkel, 2nd-Herman Neumeier, 3rd-Ron Burdo

Masters: 1st-Hal Greg, 2nd-Don King, 3rd-Vin Gabrielle

Men's B: 1st-Mike Aquino, 2nd-David Berard, 3rd-Mike Clifford

Men's C: 1st-Tom Hohensee, 2nd-Drew Draper, 3rd-Jim Clark

Men's B Doubles: 1st-Rich DeVito/Jerry Martin, 2nd-Dan Delaporte/Rob Gravino, 3rd-Nastasi/Crispi

Women's B: 1st-Jean Ende, 2nd-Laura King, 3rd-Susan Cole

Women's C: 1st-Pat McCarrick, 2nd-Marylou Grassl, 3rd-Chris Jacobson

Men's Novice: 1st-Tom Dillon, 2nd-Tom Foster, 3rd-Mario Vilardi

Women's Novice: 1st-Pat McCarrick, 2nd-Debbie Wong, 3rd-Karen Cantor

Golden Masters: 1st-Robert Eckis, 2nd-Francis Anderson, 3rd-Dave Carlin

Girls 17 and Under: 1st-Laura King, 2nd-Randy Friedman, 3rd-Robin Saraconi

Boys 17 and Under: 1st-Pete Chardovoyne, 2nd-Mark Freiser, 3rd-Dave Cardillo

Boys 12 and Under: 1st-Chip Barbre, 2nd-Nolan Glantz, 3rd-Mike Kaufman

Boys 15 and Under: 1st-Eric Seybold, 2nd-Peter Luiso, 3rd-John Farr

Girls 12 and Under: 1st-Heather Alder, 2nd-Chris Upson, 3rd-Tim Doyle

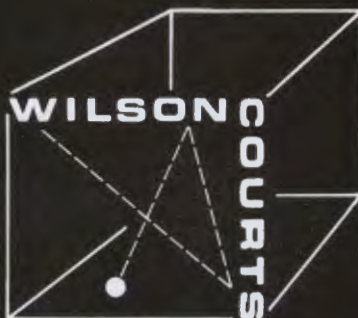
Ohio

The Powel Crosley Jr. Y.M.C.A. held its third annual open city racquetball tournament Oct. 31-Nov. 2, at the Powel Crosley Jr. Y.M.C.A.

Results

Men's Open

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Mike Levine, left, shown with his former coach, Jim Winterton, won the Men's Open at the 1980 Natural Light Classic at All Sport Fitness and Racquetball Club in Poughkeepsie.

Quarters: Mike Gehler d. Charles Casuto, Dave Eagle d. Eric Banks, Rick Manners d. Eddie Lutz, Rick Taylor d. Steve Miller

Semis: Eagle d. Gehler, Taylor d. Manners

Finals: Eagle d. Taylor, Cons-Miller d. Banks

Men's B

Quarters: Don Bates d. Pic Brandenburg, David Keller d. Randy Morningstar, Sol Fahuna d. Joe Eckert, Greg Henn d. Paul Wimmers

Semis: Bates d. Keller, Fahuna d. Henn

Finals: Fahuna d. Bates Cons-Steve Shephard d. Ken Millecker

Men's C

Quarters: Warren Turner d. Jeff Reece, Neil Dougherty d. Bob Murrell, Wayne Bain d. Melvin Craig, Tony Florimonti d. Ron Neises

Semis: Dougherty d. Turner, Florimonti d. Bain

Finals: Fahuna d. Florimonti Cons: Gary Stansbury d. Dave Eddenfield

Men's C

Quarters: Bill Garbarino d. Woody Janese 21-9, 21-19; Jeff Lattimer d. Dan Kelly 21-16, 21-17; Dave Fachko d. Bill Duplicki 21-3, 21-12

Semis: Lattimer d. Garbarino 18-21, 21-15, 11-6; Fachko d. Woods 21-4, 21-10

Finals: Lattimer d. Fachko 21-10, 12-21, 11-7

Women's C-Novice

Quarters: Marie Bechtold d. Angie Eggleston, Linda Abbott d. Peggy Nebolsky, Deb Brandenburg d. Karen Bain, Hayman d. Sara Knox

Semis: Bechtold d. Abbott, Brandenburg d. Hayman

Finals: Brandenburg d. Bechtold Cons: Maria Eckhoff d. Cheryl Eagleson

Racquetball Tournament took place Nov. 7 - 9 in Rota.

Results

Men's Open

Loser's Bracket Finals: Mark Wakeman (USN) d. Roger Sellers (USN) forfeit

Championship: Gary Humphrey (USN) d. M. Wakeman 21-9, 21-17

Men's Seniors

Loser's Bracket Finals: Jack Kules (USN) d. William Dowd (USN) 21-1, 21-1

Championship: J. Kules d. Bob Linville (USN) and Linville d. Kules second match

Women's

Loser's Bracket Finals: Colleen MacKenzie (USN) d. Ginny Lagrove (USN) 21-4, 21-7

Championship: Chris Koch (USMC) d. C. MacKenzie 21-7, 21-18

Canada

Nov. 14-16 were the dates of the Omega 1980 Racquetball Classic at the Aidenlea Racquetball Club in Oakville, Ontario.

Results

Men's Open: 1st-Allan Lee, 2nd-Manny Gregorio, 3rd-Bill Birch, Cons-Neil Petroff

Men's B: 1st-Greg Keogh, 2nd-Paul Sinclair, 3rd-Richard Cooper, Cons-Trevor Harrison

Men's C: 1st-Gord Campbell, 2nd-John Gowan, 3rd-Stacey Merritt, Cons-Carl Maragno

Men's D: 1st-Tony Jacobino, 2nd-Haydn Jones, 3rd-Rick Wilcox, Cons-Arnie Lenssen

Men's Master: 1st-Frank Young, 2nd-Fintan Kilbridge, 3rd-Rudy Wasylenky, Cons-A.W. Micelli

Men's Seniors: 1st-Stan Tamre, 2nd-Chuck Wurzer, 3rd-Fred Bowler, Cons-Jack Armstrong

Women's Open: 1st-Carol McFetridge, 2nd-Donna Allan, 3rd-Sue McTaggart, Cons-Esther Horowitz

Women's C: 1st-Valla Mezei, 2nd-Danusch Patrick, 3rd-Nancy Bolin, Cons-Diane Oldershaw

Women's D: 1st-Anne Dudman, 2nd-Debbie Evans, 3rd-Dina Bragalone, Cons-Joanne Pearce

California

The Turkey Ball was held Nov. 20 - 23 at The Center Courts in Van Nuys.

Results

Men's Open Singles: Bruce Radford d. Jon Woodard 21-19, 18-21, 11-7

Men's B Singles: Chuck Garabedian d. Bill Martinez 21-9, 21-15

Men's C Singles: Danny Trager d. Scott MacKechnie 21-11, 21-9

Men's Novice Singles: S. MacIntyre d. Bob Hidalgo 21-6, 21-4

Men's Beg. Novice: P. Mitchell d. M. Hirman 21-10, 21-12

Men's Seniors: Gary Guilette d. Chuck Garabedian 21-10, 21-10

Men's Masters: Lee Pretner d. Donn Gartrell 21-19, 21-19

Boys 15 and Under: Kevin Watson d. J. Gonzales 21-11, 21-16

Boys 13 and Under: Mark Silva d. D. Goodman 21-3, 21-8

Boys 11 and Under: John DeSantis d. Jeff Von Stetten 21-16, 21-7

Men's Open Doubles: B. Bible/B. Chadwick d. G. Hogan/S. Fishader 21-20, 21-6

Men's B Doubles: V. Iannolo/W. Trelolgen d. B.J. Jenkins/M. Anderson 20-21, 21-13, 11-10

Men's C Doubles: Yamano/Slaton d. B. Adelman/M. Burnbaum 21-14, 20-21, 11-6

Mixed B Doubles: V. Iannolo/C. Jones d. V. Parry/F. Martelli 21-12, 21-15

Mixed C Doubles: M. Chin/D. MacKechnie d. S. VanOstrand/McAllister

Women's Open: Cindy Moore d. Pat Nishi 21-5, 21-9

Women's B Singles: Kathy Gartrell d. Christie Alumbaugh 21-16, 21-4

Women's C Singles: Mae Chin d. Pam Diverde 21-18, 21-17

Women's Novice Singles: Karen Holly d. Ruth Franco 21-4, 21-12

Women's Beg. Novice Singles: Gloria Beim d. Sharon Michelson 15-21, 21-5, 11-6

Colorado



Racquetball competitors last fall at the Aspen (CO) Club's tournament included Janice Brown, second place in the Women's As, and in the Men's A finals Marc Sanford, right, and Second Place Winner Jack O'Connor.



Upcoming Events

Third Annual Leukemia Racquetball Classic, Greenville Racquetball Club, Wilmington, DE, Tournament Director Eric Faddis 302-366-1868



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Note: All entrants report to tournament site March 13, 3 p.m. CST.

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

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

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

ENTRY DEADLINE: Monday, March 6, 1981. Entry fee must accompany application. Entries postmarked later than March 6, 1981 will be returned unopened. No phone entries.

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

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

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

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

TOURNAMENT ACCOMMODATIONS: Hotel reservations may be made at the Ramada Inn, 1505 S. Neil St., Champaign, IL 61820, 217-352-7891. Due to local state basketball tournament we strongly suggest motel accommodations be made well in advance. (University dormitory accommodations not available).

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

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

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

Quarterfinalists - 2 pts.

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

Quarterfinalists - 2 pts.

EYEGUARDS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED

Name of School _____

Singles

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

1. _____ Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

2. _____ Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

3. _____ Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

4. _____ Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Doubles Team (Two Names)

1. _____ Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

2. _____ Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Individual Entry (Not Representing School Team) Singles Only

_____ Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

_____ Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

_____ Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Beyond the Open

Optical Expert Changes the Way He Looks

by Arthur Shay

Herb Smolinsky, at 300 pounds and before racquetball.



He owns a chain of Chicago area optical shops called the Better Vision stores. "So I knew what I looked like," says Herb Smolinsky. "I looked like this terrible snapshot—a 300 pounder who ate, ate, ate—and did no exercise. My doctor was amazed that I even showed up for check-ups. I could read his pity for me—and anger—on his face. My blood pressure was sky high!"

He was 52 years old, well over six feet tall, successful, intelligent—and miserable.

"One day," Herb recalls, "a friend dragged me onto a racquetball court. That was the turning point of my life. I wanted to move faster and not rumble around like a leviathan. I wanted to learn how to win. How not to get tired so quickly. I took a good look at myself in the locker room mirror. For the first time in my life I was able to see myself as the world saw me—and clenching that first racquet I resolved to do something about it!"

Do something about it he did—as many of his defeated partners will tell you around Spaulding's Northbrook (IL) Club. He has even taken a game or two from some of the legendary resident Fruit Juices!!

Between July 77 and January 78 Herb Smolinsky dropped from 300 pounds to 185! He stopped eating sweets, starches and other junk foods and concentrated on salads, fish and broiled meats. He cut out in-between meals eating. He played five or six times a week. "Each five pounds lost, I could feel my blood pressure drop and my game improve. About midway I could get to the back wall for retrieving!"

Herb Smolinsky, right, playing here against Bill Bruin, says the more he improves his racquetball game, the better he looks.



At the end of his 115 pound loss Herb's blood pressure stabilized at a teen-count 110/60. "My doctor is proud of me now," he says. "He thinks I've added 15 years to my life." Herb's only problem after his tremendous feat: Too much skin hung at his waist—the skin that used to contain his fat. He underwent "apron" surgery and some three pounds of this unnecessary flab disappeared—the easiest three pounds he lost!

Now fairly flat waisted, and holding well under 200 pounds, the formerly fat Herb Smolinsky is working on slenderizing his hind quarters. A widower who remarried

mid-transformation Smolinsky says "The racquetball doesn't take the weight off by itself. It gives you the gift of personal achievement—of something to aim for—improvement in your game and an improvement in your attitude towards the image your locker room mirror reflects. Racquetball changed my life."

It's a lifetime program—keeping weight off and playing racquetball to help keep it off and harden up the body, but what is life, Herb feels, if not a lifetime program?

For a man who owns four Better Vision stores, Herb Smolinsky's best optical job was on himself. A far-sighted man! ●

—Arthur Shay photo

The Dating Game

by Steven L. Stern

Why don't we play a game, Tom? It'll be more fun than just hitting the ball around.

Look at him showing off. I can't stand it. Our third date, and he's still trying to impress me. I wish he would just relax.

What do you mean, "what's the point?" You don't think I'm good enough to play against?

Watch it Buster. You can keep the macho act. If I wanted to date Superjock, I'd hang out at the gym. It would be a lot cheaper than paying two bucks a drink at Stan's Swingles Scene.

Yes I'm well aware that you're a guy and I'm a girl. Were you a bio major in college? I hope you're not suggesting that men and women can't compete.

Because if you are, I'm going to strangle you with your dirty blue headband—which, by the way, with that haircut makes you look like a derelict Apache.

Only against each other? Only against each other! Am I hearing right? Did you really say that, you male chauvinist?

I can't believe this. Last week he was Captain Gallant. This week put him in a sweaty set of Adidas sneakers and a pair of Salvation Army cutoffs and—POOF!—he's transformed into General Ego.

Exciting? Who's excited? I'm not excited. I just can't believe your attitude. I didn't say I wanted to play for the league championship, you know. I just want to play a game. So what if you beat me—that doesn't mean we can't play. I've been playing racquetball for almost a year, my friend, and I'm certainly good enough to score a few points off your masculine Highness.

The nerve of this guy. How can someone so cute be so infuriating? This locker room mentality is the pits. Why must men equate sports with war and women with jumpy?

Oh my humble thanks, your Majesty. I can even serve first? What can I say—you are too kind. No of course not. I'm not angry.

I'm outraged. He wasn't so all-fired superior when I helped him change that flat tire in the rain last week. My hands smelled from axle grease for days. Next time I'll stay in the car and do my nails, you ingrate!

Sarcastic? Me sarcastic?

Oh here it comes. The placating smile. Look at those Chiclets teeth. Turning on the old charm. There, there, honeybunch.

Aw, now that's not fair. Don't look at me that way. I've always been a sucker for deep brown eyes. Handsome men and Irish setters—they always get to me with their eyes.

Yes I know you didn't mean anything by it. It's just that I like to be taken seriously. I'm not a bad racquetball player, you know. I also play a fair game of tennis, and I just started taking karate lessons. And if one more guy tells me I've come a long way, baby, I'm going to demonstrate something I read about in Shogun.

Nuts I wish I could stay mad at him. That's the problem with male chauvinists—too many of them are sexy.

Well now that I've opened my mouth, I'd better give him that game I've been talking about.

Here goes. Bend the knees, step in, snap the wrist...

Thank you. I've been working on that serve.

That was a gorgeous serve, if I do say so myself. Even if he did kill it from back court. The showoff.

Yes I'm ready. Gimme your best serve, Killer.

Omigosh I didn't even see it. Talk about faster than a speeding bullet. He really is good. Maybe I should've kept my mouth shut.

No of course you didn't hit it too hard. Just caught me off guard, that's all. You sure it wasn't long?

There he goes again. That patronizing tone. Did the widdle bally-wally scare you, poopsie? Yuk.

I can't believe I spent money on a new outfit for tonight. For him.

Uh-oh. He's crouching to serve. Concentrate. Show him what you're made of girl.

Got it!

Whoa it's over there now. Go, go, go.

Take that, Black Bart!

Yes I've been practicing ceiling shots. See I told you I wasn't a novice.

Those were the two best ceiling shots I ever hit in my life! Boy did it feel great to make him run. Twice, yet! So what if I didn't get the point. At least he had to hustle.

He's ready to serve again. Okay brace yourself.

What a lucky shot. I can't believe I actually hit a kill from all the way over here.

Amazing. No not amazing. Miraculous!

Oh that? No big deal. Just another shot I've been working on. Thanks. Naturally I don't always make it quite that well.

I wonder if he was really impressed, or whether he just wanted to make me feel good.

Think I'll try my lob Z serve. He'll never expect that from me.

Ah perfect.

Oops. Hmmm. Diane never hits it back that way.

Got it. Geez my ceiling ball is really on tonight. It's saving my life.

He missed it! Oh thank you Great Racquetball God in the Sky. My point! I scored, I scored! Mr. Macho missed!

Nice try, Tom.

Oh did that feel terrific. I wonder if he's embarrassed. He really shouldn't be. As a matter of fact, even if I could beat him at racquetball—which I couldn't even if his legs were chained together—I wouldn't hold it against him. These guys and their fragile male egos. What's the big deal? It's just a game.

Aaahhh hit the deck, troops! What a smash! He almost took my head off, the vicious maniac. Gee-sus. You want to serve so bad, all you have to do is ask.

All right, Champ, I'm ready. Fire away.

Wow. That's some Z-ball. At this rate I may not make it to three. I barely managed to touch that shot. Maybe I should ask him to play just a tad easier...

Never. I have my pride, too.

What's the score? Seven-one? You have seven already?

Well at least he's sweating. A little. That's something. I remember the first time I played racquetball on a date. That creep with the Howdy-Doody personality. Not only wasn't that newt sweating, he was actually whistling. Whistling, can you imagine? The gall of that nitwit. I'm glad I didn't go out with him again. That's the last time I date an insurance salesman.

Oh I'm sorry. Are you all right? Are you sure?

I'm mortified. I can't believe I hit him with the ball. In his head, yet. Well, he's laughing, so I guess I haven't killed him.

— Pat Huggins illustration



He really is a good natured guy. Nice bod, too.

Umph. Made it! A great pass shot. My serve.

Hooray! Another point! I don't know why he missed it. Trying for another far court kill, I guess, and grounded it.

He sure does move well. And he's in great shape. I feel like last week's soufflé, but he looks like he just walked onto the court. Well if I can score five points, I'll consider it a major victory.

And there's three! Heather McKay look out tonight. He really looked shocked by that shot. You're no more surprised that I am kid.

Maybe those four lessons I took from that chest fixated instructor are paying off after all.

What is it now, 12-3? Oh, 13. Well what's another point among friends.

He's got a nice smile. And he hasn't made one negative remark since we started playing. Maybe the fact that I'm not falling over my feet or hitting myself with my racquet—OUCH—

No I'm fine. Just slipped. No really, fine.

That's sweet. He's genuinely concerned. That turkey insurance salesman laughed when I tripped over his size 24 foot.

Yes. Sure. I'm ready. Thanks.

This is fun actually. He seems to be relaxing more, not showing off so much. We had a nice volley for that point.

Strong forehand. He'd do well in my karate class. I wonder how many other girls he's dating.

Got it. Boy am I beat. Much more of this and I'll be too pooped to pucker, as they say.

At least I'm returning most of his shots. And he's running—or walking fast—that's something. He *could* be whistling.

19-4? Guess I'd better stop fooling around, huh?

I'm exhausted. Hope that new roll-on is working. Next time I think we'll go to the movies.

Hey that's five! A cross court pinch, no less.

Really? You really think I have a good forehand? You're not just saying that?

I must look a mess. Why is it that men look rugged when they sweat, while women just look . . . sweaty.

Court Shorts

Six! I can't believe it. An ace serve! He did look impressed that time, I'm sure of it. Well, maybe he sees things a little differently now. I may not play as well as his male friends do, but I'm no slouch. I bet I—OWW!

The big ape hit me with one of his laser shots. Geez what a place to be hit. I may never sit again. Ow, my aching—

No, no, I'm okay. Hardly felt it. I guess we're even now—I hit you once, you hit me once.

Of course my shot didn't bother you in the least, you oaf, while yours probably shattered my coccyx.

No thanks just the same. You don't have to rub it.

Everybody loves a smartass. I wonder if he'll mind when I eat dinner standing up.

Okay. I'm ready. 20 to six. Serve away.

Uh-oh. One of those maddening lob serves. Ouch I'm sore. Wonder if I'll have a black and blue mark there. I bet he wonders whether he'll get to see it...

Made it. Perfect ceiling ball. Back to the center, charge!

Oh no. Don't tell me I have to run all the way over *there*. Nuts.

Whew. Got it.

Another one. Mother am I tired.

Just made it.

Oh no.

Uncle, uncle! The women's movement will just have to be happy with six points this game. My liberated lungs cannot stand one more dash across the court.

Thank you. You played well yourself. I wish my backhand was as accurate as yours.

Do I need a shower! And my hair—I must look like Raggedy Ann.

Wonder where he'll take me for dinner. There's a nice Italian place—

What? What did you say? What do you mean I played well for a woman? What does my sex have to do with it? Either I played well or I didn't... No I'm not starting anything again. You're the one who... ●

Lampert Tours in Chicago is handling travel, car rental and hotel arrangements for players attending Terry Fancher's Winter Racquetball Camp in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. To sign up for one week sessions starting Feb. 2, Feb. 9, March 7 and April 4 call Janet Lampert at 312-951-2866 . . .



Martin N. Hogan, also known as Three Time National Champ Marty, is on the advisory board of Grand Central Racquetball Club, due to open in May in New York City's train station. "Mostly honorary," says a club spokesman about the role of Marty and the other board members who include Racquetball Granddaddy Joe Sobek and Designer Diane Von Furstenberg... The USRA supplied racquetball information for the Women's Sportsline which the Women's Sports Foundation in San Francisco has opened to answer questions about getting involved in sports... For those who are seeking the easiest way to get involved in racquetball while away on business, there's US, which stands for United Sports-clubs. Members of the network

receive a list of the country's member clubs and details about the club's facilities which US members are entitled to use while they travel... David R. Grant has been named president of Penn Athletic Products Company, headquartered in Monroeville, PA... Charles S. Leve, executive director of the National Court Clubs Association in Northbrook, IL, is a member of the National Society to Prevent Blindness sports eye safety advisory committee... BioStrength Athletic Laboratories in San Diego has expanded its line of vitamins, minerals and supplements for athletes... Bancroft Sport Goods in Woonsocket, RI has come out with a new line of sports luggage... The people at Universal Gym in Cedar Rapids, IA, say that adding their adjustable bench to their high pulley unit prevents athletes from being "lifted... off the ground"... Omega has joined the companies making eye protectors. Theirs is the "Omegard"... Good news for women who play racquetball comes in two stories in *The Physician and Sportsmedicine*. One (October, 1980) reports that at least eight companies make sports bras, which means the special support product is readily available, in contrast to its status when *National Racquetball* first discussed sports bras in its November, 1977 issue. The other article (November, 1980) comes as reassurance for the pregnant player. Studies of five trained swimmers showed that fetal heartbeats increased within safe limits as the mothers-to-be exercised moderately... Module Mobile, Inc. of Atlanta is introducing a coin operated, modular Racqueton Meter Court equipped with a meter,



custom tokens, benches, awning, lockers, viewing glass, security light and door. ●

Scoring Experiment

What was Good and Bad in Women's Pro Test?

by Carole C. George

Charles Darwin would have been amazed at the rapid evolution of the sport of racquetball. In the last five years racquetball courts have sprung up in every region across the country, the pro prize money has jumped from a few hundred dollars to a hundred thousand per season and players barely in their teens are competing for national titles. But to assure that the sport will never have to face extinction, one step in the evolutionary process is still necessary: television.

But we keep hearing that there are problems particular to racquetball which make it difficult to film. One of the roadblocks is a scoring system that doesn't allow for natural commercial breaks.

The players on the Women's Professional Racquetball Association tour have been looking into the future and decided to introduce a new experimental scoring system at the third W.P.R.A. stop of the season in November at the Court House in Boise, ID. This system shortened the games to 11 points with a point awarded on each rally, regardless of who served. The first player to win three games earned the first set. A second set was played and then an 11 point tie-breaker followed in case the players split sets. There was a one minute rest between games and a five minute break between sets.

New score cards had to be printed up before the tournament. Matches were timed throughout the tournament. Afterwards questionnaires distributed among the pros and officials determined what people thought was good about the new system and what still need modifying.

In general the system won a favorable response. The players felt as if every point counted and anything could happen. The referees didn't have to worry about who served the rally and they didn't have to hassle with time outs. And the audience didn't have to sit through 21-5 blowouts.

Questionnaires came back unanimously in favor of the new scoring system for a variety of reasons and with a range of recommendations.

Fran Davis prefers scoring on serves only.



—Carole C. George photos

Too Much That's New

The score-on-every-rally setup was familiar to Barbara Maltby, five time champion of U.S. squash, in which every rally also ends in a point. But "I don't think this particular method is it," said Maltby, taking part in her first W.P.R.A. event.

"I think it's going in the right direction. The number of games is too many so you lose track of where you are all the time. I think the solution would be less games and more points, such as two out of three games to 15 or something like that. But I do like scoring on every rally."

* Fran Davis disagreed. "I think the new scoring system is good, except I would not score on every point, only because the spectators cannot follow the game. If you throw all these new things at them they're going to get lost. I like the short games, but maybe three out of five to 11, scoring only when you serve—like we did at the mixed doubles in New Jersey."

"I don't think we should underestimate the intelligence of the spectators," countered Janell Marriott, W.P.R.A. president. "Also I think that we should keep the uniqueness of our sport instead

Janell Marriott doesn't want to cut length of matches.



of trying to adapt it to be more like squash or more like tennis. I don't think it's necessary to cut down the length of matches to accomodate television. Look at how long football games, tennis matches and golf tournaments are."

Bob Peterson, Court House general manager, called the scoring system "dynamite." "There are more conclusion points, so it's better for the spectators. With shorter games a blowout is over quickly and it's time for a new game. I would suggest three out of five games to 15, but either way it's better for the spectators. If someone is ahead 11-2 in the old system you have to wait 20 minutes for the next game. Nobody wants to do that. The players don't want to do that. This has got to be better."

Spectator Jim Reed of Boise was "impressed with the scoring system. It's something I'm going to be trying myself because I feel that any weakness in one or the other individual can possibly be offset by this system. As a spectator it's even easier to follow because you know that there is a definite point scored on every rally."

Barbara Maltby likes to score on every rally.



John Egberman says the new system's exciting for the fans, but not enough work for the players.



Ceiling Back

Rita Hoff agreed with Forcade that the play tended to be more conservative. Hoff observed that "ceiling ball rallies seem to be back in existence. I think this scoring system can change the outcome of a match. I think it's helped to take away a little from the serve. You can be receiving at 6-10 and win the game by putting out the server."

The scoring system must have helped determine the winners. Five of the seeded players were upset in the first round matches. Number One Seed Heather McKay went down in the semis. Several players' rankings took nose dives, while others, like Peggy Garner, moved up.

Gardner went from 21st rank as of Sept. 1 to number 12 by beating Marriott and Kippi Bishop-Boatright before losing to Lynn Adams in the Quarters. "I like it," Gardner said about the new scoring system. "I think it evens out the games for the newcomers who might not have the concentration, but do have the intensity. It's good for the morale. If you lose 11-3, it's just not as bad as being wiped out 21-6. Momentum can shift so quickly, perhaps four or five times in one game. I think it will demand more talent."

But less work. Which is why the only representative of the men's pro tour—Boise local, John Egberman—cast an unofficial dissenting vote. Egberman, who tried out the system himself and watched most of the women pros play their matches, agreed that the short game-three set arrangement was exciting for spectators.

"But the 11 point games, especially since you score every rally, were over too quickly for me as a player, I didn't feel I got a real workout." ●

Who's Advantage?

Jim Renthal, floor director, said the matches were running about the same length as last year, perhaps even slightly shorter. The referees he assigned were adapting "as well as ever." Renthal said "I think it's exciting. It produces a lot of comebacks and the underdog can stay in the match longer. I also like the idea of scoring on every rally for the same reason."

One pro who was pro the new system was Tournament Winner Shannon Wright, who said the scoring plan benefited her because "my game is consistent." Vicki Panzeri felt that the new scoring system helped her game because it is "inconsistent" and she has a "short attention span" suited to 11 point games.

Karin Walton-Trent also liked the shorter game. "It's good if you're out of shape because you don't have to serve to score. If I have 10 points, I feel the pressure's off because all I have to do is put the server out to win the game. I must have won three games that way in my match against Marci [Greer]."

Linda Forcade, Canada's number two player behind McKay, suggested winning by two points to put back the suspense in a 10-10 game. She felt the Boise trial system missed the excitement of exchanging the serve several times at game or match point all. Forcade also believed that the scoring system made the players more conservative because they give away a point on every rally, not just when the opponent is serving.

Veteran Pro Peggy Steding disagreed. "I think it makes for very exciting, aggressive racquetball because there's not a whole lot of defense. You're not just going to lose your serve, but a point as well, so you can't afford to lolly gag around. Of course it depends on the player. What I like about it is even if there is a four or five point spread, it's nothing. Even though the games are only to 11, you can still make a comeback quite easily. It cuts out stalling, too."

Check *National Racquetball* to learn how the W.P.R.A. modifies their new system as their season progresses. And watch the system in action when your local PBS station broadcasts the Boise tournament.

1981 Kunnan/Leach Tournament of Champions Pro/Am Racquetball Classic

DATES: March 19, 20, 21, 22, 1981. Play begins at 2 P.M. on March 20, 1981 In Amateur Divisions.

SITE: Sportrooms of Coral Gables, 1500 Douglas Road, Coral Gables, Florida 33134 telephone (305) 443-4228

ENTRY FEE: \$25 (*limit one event per player*). Make checks payable to SPORTROOMS TOURNAMENT. All entries must be at the host club prior to 6:00 P.M. on March 13, 1981. No entry will be accepted without the entry fee.

OFFICIAL BALL: Seamco 600 (Blue) in all amateur events and Seamco 559 (Green) in professional event.

SANCTION: By United States Racquetball Association and National Racquetball Club as part of the NRC Pro/Am Tour Co-sponsored by Seamco/Leach.

RULES: USRA rules and regulations apply. All match winners must referee the next match.

HOSPITALITY: *Compliments of Publix Supermarkets*

ELIGIBILITY: All players must present a current USRA membership card or purchase a membership prior to competing. Six month memberships will be available for \$3 at the tournament.

PARTICIPATION: Eight players are needed to contest a division. Souvenir item to all entrants. Starting times will be available on Wednesday, March 18, at 6 P.M. at Sportrooms of Coral Gables. The Tournament Director, Carl Dean, reserves the right to reclassify an entrant based on previous tournament experience or a division's availability.

TOURNAMENT HEADQUARTERS: Marriott Hotel and Racquet Club, 1201 N.W. 42 Avenue, Miami, Florida 33126 telephone (305) 649-5000. *Request Racquetball Tournament Rates.*

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE (residence) _____ (business) _____

MEN'S: ■ Professional (Invitation only)

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|---|
| ☐ Open | ☐ Novice* | ☐ Masters (40+) |
| ☐ B | ☐ Veteran Open (30+) | ☐ Masters (45+) |
| ☐ C | ☐ Seniors (35+) | ☐ Golden Masters (50+) |

WOMEN'S:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| ☐ Open | ☐ Novice* |
| ☐ B | ☐ Veteran Open (30+) |
| ☐ C | ☐ Seniors (35+) |

*Novice—never won a tournament match

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

I also hereby for myself and my agents waive and release any and all rights and claims for damages I may have against the U.S. Racquetball Association, the National Racquetball Club, the Sportrooms, Seamco Inc., Leach Industries and Kunnan/Kennex and any of their agents, for any and all injuries received by me in connection with this tournament.

SIGNATURE _____ PARENT (If under 21) _____

Make checks payable to **SPORTROOMS TOURNAMENT**. Return completed form and entry fee to:

SPORTROOMS OF CORAL GABLES 1500 Douglas Road, Coral Gables, Florida 33134

1981 Kunnan/Leach Tournament of Champions Pro Seating Reservations March 19 - 22

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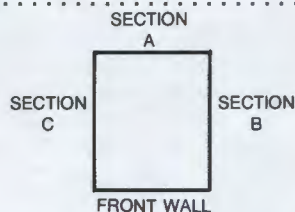
SECTION A	4 Day pass	\$50
SECTION B	4 Day pass	\$40
SECTION C	4 Day pass	\$35
*VIP	4 Day pass	\$100

*Includes complimentary beverage service

To reserve seats send a check or money order to SPORTROOMS TOURNAMENT with the order form below. Ticket sales will begin on February 1, 1981 (no telephone reservations). All tickets must be picked up at SPORTROOMS OF CORAL GABLES beginning on March 19, 1981 at the TOURNAMENT DESK. No single day tickets will be available for advance sales. For information call (305) 443-4228 and ask for TICKET SALES.

.....

_____	SECTION A	4 day pass @ \$50 per seat	_____
_____	SECTION B	4 day pass @ \$40 per seat	_____
_____	SECTION C	4 day pass @ \$35 per seat	_____
_____	VIP	4 day pass @ \$100 per seat	_____
	TOTAL		_____



MAIL TO: SPORTROOMS TOURNAMENT, 1500 Douglas Road, Coral Gables, Florida 33134

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—Lauren Shay photos



Splat Dazzles Memphis

Marty Returns to Number One Rank as NRC's Top Quartet Take Turns Winning First Four Tournaments

by Thomas J. Morrow

Jerry Hilecher's close coverage of his longtime rival leads to a tie-breaker, but Marty Hogan hits the winners he needs for a final match victory.

It took four times to make a charm for racquetball's golden boy as tournament victory finally became a reality for Marty Hogan in this 1980-81 National Racquetball Club season.

For nearly four years Hogan, 22, dominated professional racquetball and he won most of the tournaments. For five straight years Hogan played in the final round of the nationals, winning the last three. The NRC defending national champ, however, was denied victory three times in as many starts this season co-sponsored by Leach and Seamco. Westminster belonged to arch rival Jerry Hilecher; Omaha went to Mike Yellen and with it Hogan's top seed honor; in Palatine Dave Peck blew everyone off the court, but in Memphis, at the Tanner/Coca Cola Classic Dec. 10-14, Hogan finally got his revenge, erasing doubt in nearly everyone's mind that the powerful racqueteer from San Diego is still the man to beat in the race for the finals.

Like Westminster and Palatine by the semi-final round the Memphis tournament narrowed to the four top seeds: Yellen, Hogan, Hilecher and Dave Peck. With only one exception the matches in Memphis were less intense than they'd been at the season's earlier stops.

Although Hogan is considered by many to be the best in professional racquetball, he has had difficulty this season with consistency in his play, falling short of victory the first three stops. He was embarrassed with elimination in the quarter-final round of the Coors Grand Prix I in Omaha by the 17-year-old rookie, Gregg Peck of El Paso. The younger brother of Dave Peck played inspired racquetball to oust the champ.

After losing his top seed honor to Yellen, Hogan seemed to have difficulty with the pressure of the chase for the number one spot. But if Hogan was having a tough time with the quest for the top seed position, Yellen seemed to be having an equally tough time handling the pressure of being pursued.

After Omaha Yellen's play seemed to waiver from his usual consistent and steady style. With this pressure on the game's top two players, the way was open for Hilecher, Peck and others to take advantage—and they did.

Peck downed both Yellen and Hogan in the Palatine tournament, and Hilecher easily defeated Yellen in Memphis. Peck and Hilecher both took Hogan into tie-breakers in the semi-finals and final round at the Memphis State University tournament site.

The round of 32 in Memphis produced a few surprises: Sixth-ranked Steve Strandemo was eliminated by 16-year-old Mike Levine of Rochester, NY; Keith Dunlap of Memphis ousted 12th ranked Doug Cohen of St. Louis; Dave Fleetwood of Memphis, who was ranked 25th in the NRC, defeated fifth ranked Don Thomas of Mesa, AZ and another 25th ranked player, Gary Merritt of Houston, downed 11th ranked Gregg Peck.

In the round of 16 Fleetwood continued to play well before the hometown audience defeating Merritt; Hogan edged a stubborn Ben Koltun (16th seed) of St. Louis; Levine surprised Scott Hawkins of Santa Clara, CA; Dave Peck easily eliminated Keith Dunlap; Hilecher downed John Egerman of Boise, ID; Lindsay Myers, seventh ranked from Vancouver, BC., handily downed ninth ranked Craig McCoy of Riverside, CA; eighth seeded Rich Wagner of San Diego beat Bob Bolan of Tempe, AZ and Yellen defeated Dave Bledsoe of Aurora, CO.

During the quarter-final play Hogan toyed with Fleetwood, allowing the Memphis player only 11 points in each game. Hogan exerted little effort in downing Fleetwood. The same was true with Dave Peck ousting young Levine. Though Peck easily defeated the youngster, Levine showed signs of becoming one of the top NRC players within the next two to three years.

The Hilecher-Myers quarter-final match amounted to more of a who could out-stall the other event. The pair of games lasted far longer than necessary with each player using tactics that noticeably annoyed both



Dave Peck's toe dance backs up a hard hit forehand that Hogan is ready for as Marty wins the semi-final match.

the audience and officials. In the quarter-final nightcap Yellen came from behind in both games to down the stubborn, fine play of Wagner.

Without exception the semi-final match between Marty Hogan and Dave Peck was the finest played during the first four tournaments of the NRC season. Playing close to perfect racquetball the game's all-time top money winner defeated Peck 21-16 in the first game. Had Hogan been playing the style of ball he had in the first three tournaments the outcome of the second game might have been different.

But there are two players Hogan cannot intimidate—Jerry Hilecher is one and Dave Peck is the other. Not to be discouraged Peck came back with some of the best shots of the season to clobber Hogan 21-10 in the second round.

In that second game with the score 4-4, Peck serving, the Texan ran four unanswered points on the champ from three skips as gifts before Hogan could recover. Hogan managed two more good shots, but at 8-6 Peck again started scoring with a pass, an ace, two skips and two kills to put the score at 14-6. Hogan recovered somewhat with a pass, skip and ace to put the score at 14-9, but Peck was clearly in control.

Peck scored another four unanswered points before skipping Hogan his 10th and final point. With a pass, a right corner backhand pinch and a wallop front wall killshot Peck ended the second game to take the match into the tie-breaker.

The play that followed is still being debated. Most agree that Peck had the match won at 10-7, but choked, allowing the champ to recover. Here's what happened:

With a capacity crowd of more than 200, standing room only the two professionals began slamming each other power serves. Peck led off, having scored the most points in the first two games. He would win and lose the serve six times before scoring his first point—it took Hogan five times.

Hogan was the first to put points on the board in the final stanza with a powerful ace down the right back court. Peck quickly came back with three killshots in a row to jump ahead 3-1. Then the two players exchanged points on skips, making the tally 4-3. Another ace by Hogan tied the score 4-all. Each player gained two serves apiece before scoring again—first Peck, then Hogan. Another skip by Hogan gave Peck his sixth point and a pass shot by Hogan made it 6-5.

Peck shot a beautiful left corner pinch with the backhand, a kill and a skip from Hogan to put the score at 9-6.

The champ was visibly upset with his play, yelling loudly to warn himself of another defeat that was on the horizon. Peck was more than ever in control of the game and was on the verge of his second victory over Hogan in less than three weeks.

Hogan managed another crashing forehand killshot to bring the score 9-7, then Peck slammed another left corner pinch, this time with the forehand. Hogan became more upset. The crowd seemed equally divided in their allegiance to these two great players. There was no doubt in anyone's mind that professional racquetball, at its finest, was being exhibited at Memphis State University's Physical Education Center.

With Hogan apparently on the ropes, Peck interrupted his serve for the final game and match point to call time out. In retrospect it would seem the turning point of the match. After play resumed, Hogan quickly regained the offense and scored two points on a kill and a skip. With the score at 10-9 Peck immediately lost his serve and promptly skipped Hogan his 10th point.

With the tension mounting and the score tied 10-all, Peck regained and again lost the offense. Hogan then smashed one of the sensational shots of his career and certainly of this season with a 39 foot backhand left corner side wall, front wall splat to cap the match, regain his pride and the respect of those who doubted his abilities.

The Yellen-Hilecher match in the semi-final round at Memphis was anticlimatic after Hogan and Peck left the court. Much of the capacity audience also left as the 26-year-old Hilecher and the 20-year-old top seed began to play at what seemed like slow motion.

The slow motion of the Yellen-Hilecher game was simply in comparison with the intensity of the previous match. But Yellen clearly was having trouble with his concentration and Hilecher took advantage.

Mike Yellen and semi-final winner Hilecher go to the ceiling in a cautious meeting that is crucial to both of their NRC rankings.

In the first game Hilecher ran five points on the top seed before Yellen could put points of his own on the board. Yellen had the offense four times before he could get his racquet on target. With a backhand left corner pinch shot Yellen made it 5-3.

Hilecher managed another two points with a pass and a right corner pinch before Yellen added another three points, two of them courtesy of Hilecher skips.

Though the play seemed to be rather even, Hilecher clearly controlled the game, slowly adding points to his side of the scoreboard. 7-6, then 9-6, 11-7. Yellen played catch up with an ace, a skip and a forehand right corner pinch to come within one of Hilecher at 11-10.

But Hilecher, again, ran another five unanswered points on Yellen making it 16-10 with two kills, two passes and a skip. At 16-12 Hilecher took away any momentum Yellen was gaining by slamming three kill shots in a row, making the score 19-12.

Yellen was able to score on three more points in the first stanza with Hilecher ending the game after more than 50 minutes of play with a front wall killshot, 21-15.

The second game was worse for Yellen. The top seed managed to get in front for the first time in the match, 3-2, but the lead was short lived as Hilecher quickly eliminated whatever hopes Yellen had of winning by running 10 unanswered points, bringing the tally to 12-3.

Neither Hilecher nor Yellen were playing their best games—Hilecher was simply playing better than Yellen, and the match was ended with Hilecher winning the second game 21-10.

Hilecher and Hogan, both St. Louis natives-turned Californians and longtime friends, were again pitted against one another in a final round. Hilecher has been a well known figure in semi-final and final round play during the past two years. But until the season opener in Westminster victory had been denied him for nearly four years . . . it was Hilecher and Hogan in the finals at Westminster and it was also the first victory by Hilecher over the champ in four years.



The respect that has developed between Hogan and Hilecher over the years has carried with it a fierce rivalry, heightened by Hilecher's recent victory. The two players were tied for second in the NRC rankings going into the Memphis finals.

In the first game of the final round Hilecher won the toss and immediately proceeded to slam points against Hogan. He ran five points with a pinch in each corner, two soft front wall rollouts and a helpful skip from Hogan to put the score 5-0.

Hogan found his target (to the crowd's delight) and slammed a kill, and then Hilecher skipped a second point. It was with Hilecher's skip shot that Hogan drew a laugh when Jerry's mother, who was in the back court audience, thought her son had accomplished a side out and showed her enthusiasm with a cheer. The champ looked up at her and said "Thanks, Ann," then turned to Hilecher with a smile and told him he appreciated the parental support.

Peck beats Mike Levine, making his quarter-final pro tour debut, in the lower left photo. Other contenders in the Tanner/Coca Cola quarters are, counterclockwise, Dave Fleetwood, bowing to Hogan; Lindsay Myers, downed by Hilecher, and Rich Wagner, Yellen's victim.

But Hilecher was not amused and he regained the offensive and ran another nine points bringing the score to 14-2.

It was at this point that Hogan drew another laugh when he told Hilecher "I've given you your lead—I'm gonna win this doggone game." Hogan then served the ball, but skipped it, turning the offensive back over to Hilecher.

The game seemed to bog down at 14-3 and Hogan lost his good humor. After a series of exchanges the champ began to concentrate more on his play and promptly slammed two aces, two passes and a soft front wall rollout to make it 14-8.

But concentration was very much the routine of the day for Hilecher as he answered back with three more points on a skip, a right corner forehand pinch kill and a front wall kill.

With the score 17-8 Hogan again regained concentration and slammed another ace, a pass and a forehand powerful killshot from the back court that left the audience cheering. It was now 17-11. Hilecher scored four more quick points with a skip, a kill and two right corner pinch shots to take the first game 21-11.

If Hilecher dominated the first game, he switched roles in the second.

Hogan served first and took advantage of two Hilecher skips, slammed a kill, a series of pinches and an ace to make it 8-0 before Hilecher could zero in on his shots.

Hilecher hit a tremendous backhand killshot from the back court to show the audience that Hogan wasn't the only one playing power racquetball. Another pass and killshot brought the score to 8-3.

Hilecher only scored two more points while Hogan was busy running nine. At 16-5 Hogan kept up the pressure with another pass and an ace to bring the score to 18-5, before Hilecher could answer with a kill and a pass. Seven points would be the limit for Hilecher as Hogan ran three more points to end the game 21-7.



After the hot and cold action during the first two games the tie-breaker seemed to be a tossup. But as soon as the action started, it was apparent that Hogan had found his mark and would continue piling up the points at a faster rate than Hilecher.

Hogan scored two quick points, then Hilecher put three tallies on his side. With the score 3-2 Hogan put two very determined shots into the front court, which made the score 4-3. Hilecher got his fourth point courtesy of Mr. Hogan's skip.



Hogan regained the offensive and ran six points with an ace, a pinch, a front wall rollout and three skips from Hilecher to make it 10-4. Hilecher slammed another killshot, but Hogan regained the serve and ended the match exactly as he had the day before against Peck with a long backhand shot from the back court into the right corner for a beautiful pinch splat. ●

Hogan's Mind Back in the Game

Where was Marty Hogan during the first half of the 1980-81 Leach/Seamco National Racquetball Club tour? He wasn't in the winner's circle and often he wasn't in the competition—mentally at least. Marty is the first to admit all of the above.

"It's a wonder that I made it past the first round in Westminster, Omaha and Palatine," muses Hogan while sitting in his San Diego living room. *"My mental attitude was the worst of my playing career. I didn't prepare mentally for what I needed to do."*

Losing is something Marty Hogan doesn't like. The word is almost foreign to him. He became well acquainted with the term and the feeling during the NRC's first three stops and it made him feel terrible.

"When I lose, I take it quite hard. I work out twice as hard afterward, but mental preparation is just as important as physical. Going into Westminster I just wasn't prepared mentally." His longtime playing rival, Jerry Hilecher, beat him in the semi-finals at Westminster.

Then insult was added to injury during the quarter-finals of the Omaha tournament when 17-year-old Gregg Peck, younger brother of Dave, ousted the three time defending national champion from the second NRC stop.

"It was the biggest defeat of my career," Hogan admits. *"Gregg caught me sleeping. He has great potential as a professional, but he's certainly not there yet. With that defeat I lost my top seed ranking. Nobody won it—I simply gave it away."*

Hogan and just about everyone else knows that he's the best there is. He's the best because, when he wants to, he can dominate and dominate and dominate.

"I still possess the wickedest game of all the pros," he says. *"I know I can win every time I walk out on that court. I just have to ask myself if I want to put out the effort. I wasn't putting out the effort until Memphis."*

In Memphis Hogan made his comeback. He beat Dave Peck in the semi-final round in one of the most exciting and best played matches of the season and went on to avenge the Westminster defeat by downing Hilecher.

Hogan on Dave Peck:

"Dave is a great player and always tough to beat. In that first game in Memphis it was the easiest I had played in five years. In the second game I wasn't very consistent. I can go quickly from one extreme to the other and that's what happened there. In the tie-breaker it was a see-saw battle."

Peck had Hogan 10-7 in the tie-breaker and it looked as though he would deny the champ a fourth tournament victory.

"Dave definitely had me on the ropes," admits Hogan. *"Did Peck's time out hurt him?"*

"I teach in my clinics that you never call time out when you're serving. You're not the one who needs to think about what is happening—you know exactly what's happening. That probably was Dave's critical mistake. The basic fundamental of racquetball is that you don't change anything when you're winning and Dave was certainly winning."

Hogan concedes he didn't beat Peck in physical playing ability. *"I beat him mentally!"*

Hogan on Jerry Hilecher:

"Jerry and I can virtually blow out anyone in professional racquetball at any time—he's just a tremendous player, gifted with great physical attributes and speed," says Hogan. *"In that first game of the Memphis finals the score should have been 21-2. I didn't warm up properly or prepare myself mentally—I wasn't ready to play until the second game. It's a miracle I scored more than two points."*

"I'd hate to see the amount of mistakes I made during that first game. During the second game and the tie-breaker, however, I gained control and won."

Hogan on Hogan in comparison with other top pros:

"It's not that I've lost anything—I haven't. Some of the other players are getting better. Hilecher and Peck are playing the best in their careers. I will guarantee you that my dominance will resume with the Memphis victory. It's a matter of me taking the game and the tournaments seriously. I have everything to lose. Mike (Yellen), Dave and Jerry have little to lose and one heck of a lot to gain."

Someone closer to Hogan than anyone else realized just how far he had slipped during the Palatine tourney.

"My mom came up from St. Louis to watch me play. Everyone was telling me how great I was playing, patting me on the back. After my semi-final round win my mom told me it was the 'worst you have ever played,' and that's a direct quote."

Hogan devotes two to three hours daily to playing racquetball and another hour or so working out and getting in shape. The rest of his waking hours are spent on the mental process.

"The difference between an 'also ran' and the best in the world is the way you put your everyday life together with your racquetball life," explains Hogan. *"Some guys have a hard time merging the two and holding on to that concentration. The racquetball season is very long and it takes more than just working out a week before a tournament and then playing the games."*

Has he learned anything from those long first four months of the season?

"You'd better believe it, and I'm not going to forget it either!"

—Thomas J. Morrow

A Round of Trophies



Upstaged by the giant trophy that Memphis State University displays in honor of the winners of its annual tournament are, left to right, Tournament Co-Sponsor Bill Tanner; Tournament Winner Marty Hogan, whose name is now engraved on the trophy; Runner-up Jerry Hilecher and Roger Catarino, general manager of Coca Cola Bottling Company of Memphis, tournament co-sponsor. Tanner holds the special Coke bottle trophy that Catarino presented in honor of Tanner's contribution to the game of racquetball. ●

Round of 32: Mike Yellen d. Kyle Kamalu 21-8, 21-18; Dave Bledsoe d. Steve Mondry 21-12, 21-13; Bob Bolan d. Steve Ginsberg 21-13, 18-21, 11-3; Rich Wagner d. Gary Berberet 21-3, 21-17; Lindsay Myers d. Jack Roudebush 21-10, 21-8; John Eggerman d. Dennis McDowell 21-9, 21-1; Jerry Hilecher d. Steve Lerner 21-12, 21-8; Dave Peck d. John Dunlap 21-7, 21-13; Keith Dunlop d. Doug Cohen 21-9, 12-21, 11-9; Scott Hawkins d. Beaver Wickham 21-9, 21-3; Mike Levine d. Steve Strandemo 21-19, 13-21, 11-10; Dave Fleetwood d. Don Thomas 21-4, 21-12; Gary Merritt d. Gregg Peck 21-14, 21-6; Ben Koltun d. Jerry Zuckerman 21-12, 21-15; Marty Hogan d. Ross Harvey 21-12, 21-20

Round of 16: Yellen d. Bledsoe 21-14, 21-4; Wagner d. Bolan 21-13, 21-4; Myers d. McCoy 21-10, 21-8; Hilecher d. Eggerman 21-9, 21-1; D. Peck d. Dunlop 21-4, 21-3; Levine d. Hawkins 16-21, 21-18, 11-2; Fleetwood d. Merritt 16-21, 21-12, 11-8; Hogan d. Koltun 21-16, 20-21, 11-9

Quarter-Finals: Yellen d. Wagner 21-10, 21-15; Hilecher d. Myers 21-7, 21-20; D. Peck d. Levine 21-10, 21-11; Hogan d. Fleetwood 21-11, 21-11

Semi-Finals: Hilecher d. Yellen 21-15, 21-10; Hogan d. D. Peck 21-16, 10-21, 11-10

Finals: Hogan d. Hilecher 11-21, 21-7, 11-5

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