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NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 1992

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Holiday Buyer's Guide

Cover: Drew Kachtik
photographed by Charlie Palek



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SHORT SERVES

...and returns

Fibromyalgia

The IRT has recently announced that it will help in increasing public awareness of fibromyalgia. This painful and confusing syndrome attacks between 13 and 18 million Americans (90% of which are women). With the disease, microscopic tearing of muscle tissue causes chronic pain and victims are often unable to perform even simple day to day tasks. There is no known cause or cure for Fibromyalgia.

Hey, What's in the can?

As racquetball enters the '90's collecting racquetball memorabilia seems to be on the rise. Players and manufacturer's reps are beginning to collect balls, cans, racquets, and publications. Michigan's Jim Easterling is the definitive ball and container collector with a collection of 126 different containers and 109 racquetballs.

Easterling is looking for others who collect racquetballs and containers who might like to trade or sell items not currently in his collection.

Jim can be reached at 321 Village, Lansing, Michigan, 48911.



Charlie Palek

Hot Wheels!

For fast-paced action and all out excitement it's hard to beat wheelchair-racquetball. The growth of the sport, due largely to the efforts of the Wheelchair Racquetball Association and its director Joe Haeger and Canadian David Hinton, is apparent in the number of professional and amateur tournaments that feature a wheelchair division.

Chip Parmelly has fought to the top of the sport and is seen at left with Jake Smellie. The speed of play is matched by the amazing maneuverability of the players and is usually accompanied by remarkable diving (yes, diving) gets.

You will be seeing more coverage in future issues as the number of wheelchair events continues to grow.



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Double Vision

No, there really isn't two of Robin Levine, it just seems that way to the other players on the WPRA tour. Robin has attacked racquetball with a vengeance this past season with a high-level of intensity that keeps the crowd actively involved with her every match.

Horizontal, diving gets, and a fearless attitude mark her style of play, a style that has seen some remarkable accomplishments in a short time. Robin won the World Amateur Doubles title with partner Malia Bailey, made the semi's at the Women's Nationals and lost a close final in Philadelphia to Jacqueline Paraiso-Gibson, all in her first season on the tour.

We'll probably be seeing more of Ms. Levine as this season progresses.



Norm Blum's

Passing Shots

Trivia Question: Mike Yellen honestly can't remember the last tournament he won. Having won twice in '92, the former five-time national champion is racking his brain trying to figure out the question. "Maybe it was 1987," Yellen says. It was assumed among the pros that Yellen's days of winning tournaments were behind him. Yellen was aware of the talk and the thirty-two-year-old says it was warranted. "The thoughts were that a great tournament for me would be the semifinals. I was still capable of beating the top guys but wasn't able to do it for three to four straight matches."

Quite frankly, Yellen knew it really didn't matter if he won another title. After five national championships he was assured of going down in racquetball history as one of the all-time greats. Yellen still felt in shape and didn't think age had robbed him of his skills. However, he had been playing professionally since age six-

teen and was beginning to lose the intensity. He had nothing to prove and pushing himself to practice on a daily basis wasn't easy. "I wasn't hungry and regardless of how old I was, players still consider beating a Yellen or Hogan a good win."

Yellen, never a big believer in weights, has started pumping the iron and has added some needed zip to his shots. Combine that with the one-serve rule and suddenly Yellen was more competitive. "Winning these tournaments has been more meaningful than tournament wins 15 through 40. I'm hitting the ball real well and am playing with confidence."

Front Desk Complaints: After six weeks on the job a club receptionist has made these generalizations: 1) If they play at a certain time players expect that court to be available even without a reservation. 2) They express anger when their favorite court isn't available. 3) They all want the glass court even though they can barely hit the front wall. "That's pretty much what they are obnoxious about," said the receptionist.



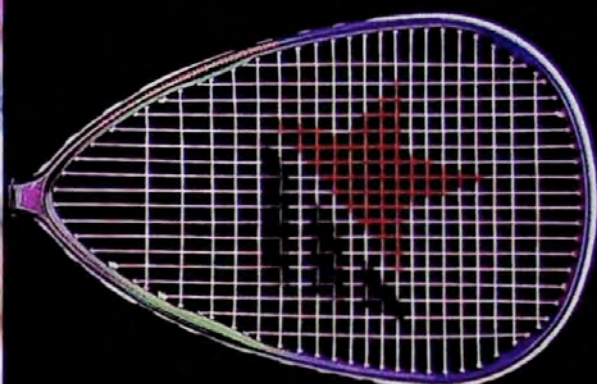
DAN OBREMSKI

Mens two-time professional singles and World Doubles Racquetball Champion. His racquet: ESTCA

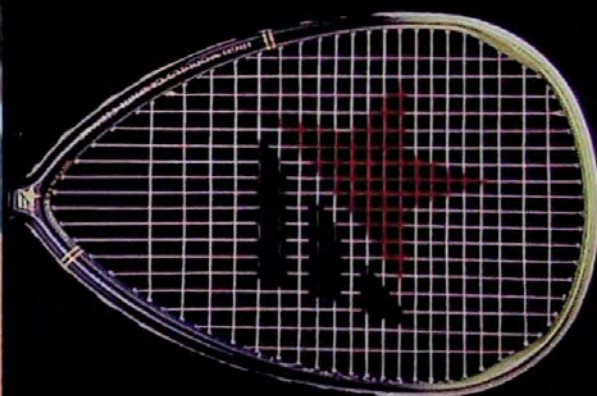
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(Editorial Comments)

I Wanted Mickey Mantle, I Got The Checklist Card

You remember--standing in line to buy that nickel (okay, so it's been a couple of years) pack of printed cardboard with the brittle gum and a shiny metal player disc. Nervous with anticipation, it was always a challenge to actually exit the store before opening the pack of baseball cards, dreaming of finding a Mantle, or Mays, maybe a Maris or an Aaron; even a Rocky Colavito or Norm Cash would have been okay.

As the parcel was religiously unwrapped, the sweet powerful aroma of bubblegum was almost overwhelming and as a purely sensual experience couldn't be matched until much later in life (I guess that's a whole other story). But there was never a superstar nestled-in among the one season wonders or the managers of American League cellar teams. Inevitably positioned somewhere in the middle of the stack was the always bland, always boring

checklist card.

That was before the days of investment baseball cards. Before the days when kids traded cards based on monetary value rather than a love or hate of teams and players.

I could have had one of the best checklist card collections in the country, I suppose but I preferred to grumble and complain about the conspiracy of card companies to jip (sorry, it was also before the days of rip-off) all of us pre-adolescent examples of All American childhood.

So, what's the point in all this and what on earth is the tie-in to racquetball?

Point is, it is just too easy for the racquetball community to grumble about what isn't happening in the sport -- too easy to be the neglected step-child in the world of glitz athletics. Too easy to focus on the checklist and miss the experience of being part of a sport that is making phenomenal

strides and building a strong following nationally, even internationally.

Take a few minutes to spin through the Holiday Buyer's Guide on page 42. Check out the many diverse products and indispensable pieces of equipment. Notice the manufacturers. These companies are supporting the sport in a financial as well as motivational way. Then look through the issue and notice the ads for the manufacturers, distributors, and mail-order houses. Again, these are the real supporters of the game and we are lucky to have such a terrific group.

By the way, I learned to love and appreciate those checklist cards (more than a few years after mine had disappeared). Anybody have an extra from 1964? You know, the one that lists Mickey Mantle.

--SQ

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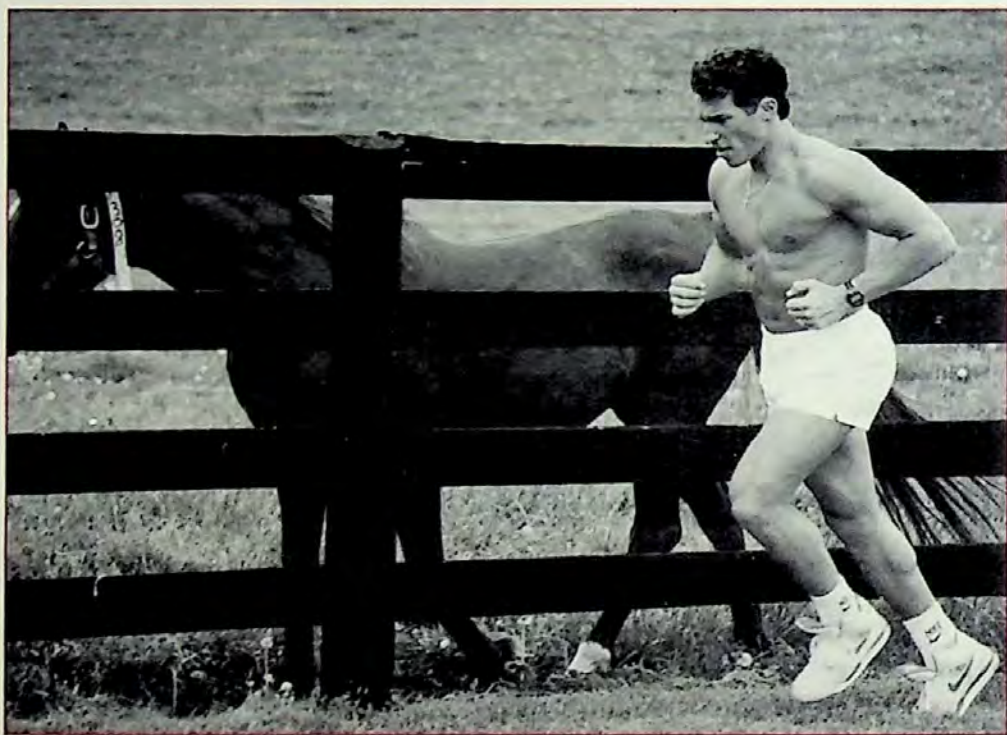
Born to Run

By Dan Obremski
Fitness Editor

Throughout the last twelve years, my thirst for knowledge about the game of racquetball has never been quenched. Not for a lack of information, but for the desire to know intricacies about every aspect of the game and training for the game that will benefit future players.

Please understand though, that my personal goal within the pro ranks is to acquire the number one ranking for the next seven years. This is the reason I have ingested information from the best instructors in the world at the Elite Training Camp over the past eight years, taken my knocks on the tour, learned fitness techniques from experts all over the world and have read as much literature as possible about training for sports. This frenzy for wisdom has given me the opportunity, through **KILLSHOT**, to help improve your game and your training methods.

It is important to realize that racquetball players throughout the world are divided into different competitive and training segments. There are players, like my dad, who use the sport as a sole means of cardiovascular conditioning and weight control. These players play with as much intensity as the tournament player, but



closer to sprinting. Over the duration of a match, the sprints fatigue us as a long distance run and weight workout would. In a technical sense, these two types of effort expended during a match are called aerobic and anaerobic work. Anaerobic is the short sprints requiring little oxygen. Aerobic is the lengthy exercise requiring considerable

amounts of oxygen. choose to compete with their regular group or partner. If you compete in this category, and want to improve your game to a level above the other regulars, sneak in to the club an extra few hours a week and implement this routine. Your level of conditioning will surpass your buddies in a short time.

The second segment of players compete in leagues or tournaments. Most of these players have definite goals that cannot be reached by just playing. Therefore, supplementation of the game with other training is necessary. Regardless of the segment in which you play, this routine implemented consistently, will improve your first and last step.

When we play racquetball we run. But running, in the sense of the word is not what we mean.

Running in racquetball is actually

amounts of oxygen.

Much speculation has arisen about the proper way to train for a racquetball match. Should we run long distances, run sprints, run steps, or all of the above? How much of each is necessary?

Through extensive studies on many athletes at the Elite Camp, as well as a year of experimentation on my own, Dr. James Hiser, Dr. Alan Salmoni, and I have proven that racquetball is primarily an anaerobic sport, with undertones of aerobic benefits. Actually, the game is 60% to 70% anaerobic and 30% to 40% aerobic.

You need aerobic conditioning and muscular endurance as well as anaerobic conditioning to sustain long matches. The methods we will discuss have worked for me, your routine might need to be adjusted to fit your particular needs.

American Running & Fitness Association Running Tips

Aerobic Conditioning
Distance running, consistently over the course of a month

Anaerobic Conditioning
Short sprints, plyometrics (explosive jumps or movements), bleacher sprints

Muscular Endurance
Weight training, step-ups with weights

Off Season
60% aerobic work to build your cardiovascular endurance for the season

The remaining 40% can be a combination of anaerobic and muscular endurance work.

Week 1 & 2
Run 1 to 2 miles, 3 days per week
10 25-yard sprints, 2 days per week
150 step-ups (no weights), 2 days per week

Week 3 & 4
Run 1 to 2 miles, 3 days per week (increase intensity)
Court sprints (length of court 25 times), 2 days per week
150 step-ups (no weights) 2 days per week

Week 5 through 12
Increase intensity in running instead of distance to avoid burnout, 3 days per week
Increase intensity in sprints, 2 days per week
150 step-ups (add handweights, gradually increasing weight) 2 days per week

As the season gets closer you might want to combine some aerobic and anaerobic work to give yourself more time on the court.

Additional exercises

Step up class

If the class is well rounded it will provide plyometrics, cardiovascular conditioning, and muscular endurance movements.

The Jim Hiser 15 minute long distance run and sprint

Begin running around a track. Every ten to thirty seconds sprint for 5 to 10 seconds.

The 10% Rule - Do not increase mileage by more than 10% per week, or 20% every two weeks. Exercise places stress on the body. The body grows stronger if it is stressed in small increments, but breaks down if stressed too much. Studies show that increasing mileage by 10% a week helps most people grow stronger and avoid injury.

Hard/Easy Concept - A hard run one day should be followed by an easy run the next. Exercise damages muscles and they need time to repair themselves. If given time to heal, muscles come back stronger than before. If, however, muscles aren't given time to rest and repair themselves, they run the risk of being injured.

Warm-ups, cool-downs, and stretches - It is more difficult to strain or "pull" a muscle that has been warmed up. Cooling down slowly allows you to bring your heart rate back to normal. Stretching reduces the risk of pulling a muscle later.

Provided by Mark Vance, Physical Therapist

This simulates the stop-and-go action of a match while working your aerobic and anaerobic capacities.

During Season

During the season it is difficult to try to improve cardiovascular conditioning

weights, 2 days per week

B. Step-up class, 1 day per week

Alternate weekly between A and B. This will alleviate any boredom.

Is running good for your game? If done correctly, it is a MUST.

without risking burnout. A good maintenance program coupled with a good anaerobic program should allow you to keep your wind and possibly improve your first step. Three days before a tournament you should rest your legs. Be cautious of overtraining.

A. Step-up class, 3 days per week

A. Run and sprint routine, 2 days per week

B. Jog 2 miles, 2 days per week

B. Step-ups with

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Is There Life After Racquetball?



What do you do when you retire from a career as a touring pro on the racquetball circuit? For many of the game's retiring players the answer is easy. You stay involved with the sport in another capacity.

Two of the most recent to make the change are racquetball superstars Lynn Adams and Dave Peck.

Ektelon vice president of sales, Leo Riley, has recently announced that both Adams and Peck are working with Ektelon.

Adams has won more matches, titles, and money than any other player on the Women's Professional Racquetball Association WPRA Tour. She has been named as sales promotion manager based in Chicago, Illinois. Her responsibilities will include education and community relations for all levels of the sport, including coordination and execution of VIP Club clinics, event appearances and broadcast color commentary. She is the co-author with Irwin Goldbloom of *Racquetball Today*. "It is really great to be able to stay with the same company that has been so good to me for the past twelve years," said Adams. "There is life after a pro career, and I appreciate the chance to stay in the game by promoting the sport of racquetball."

Peck was regarded as one of racquetball's premiere players before his retirement from the pro tour four years ago and is serving as the company's western sales manager.

Peck still competes in racquetball at the highest amateur level -- recently capturing the men's singles titles in both 30 and over, and 35 and over divisions at the U.S. Nationals Championships in Houston. Most of his time is now spent in Austin, Texas, supervising 20 sales reps. Peck is the co-author (with Armen Keteyian) of *Dave Peck's Championship Racquetball System; Learning to Play by the Numbers*.

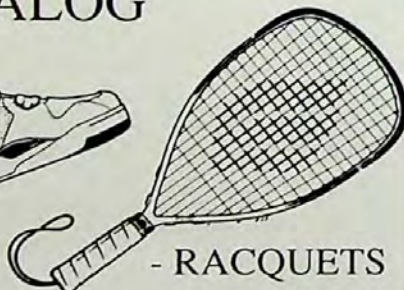
"Just a few years ago, my business was racquetball as a professional touring player," said Peck. "Today, I represent Ektelon, the biggest name in the industry. I couldn't think of a better transition for a career that has always been focused on racquetball."

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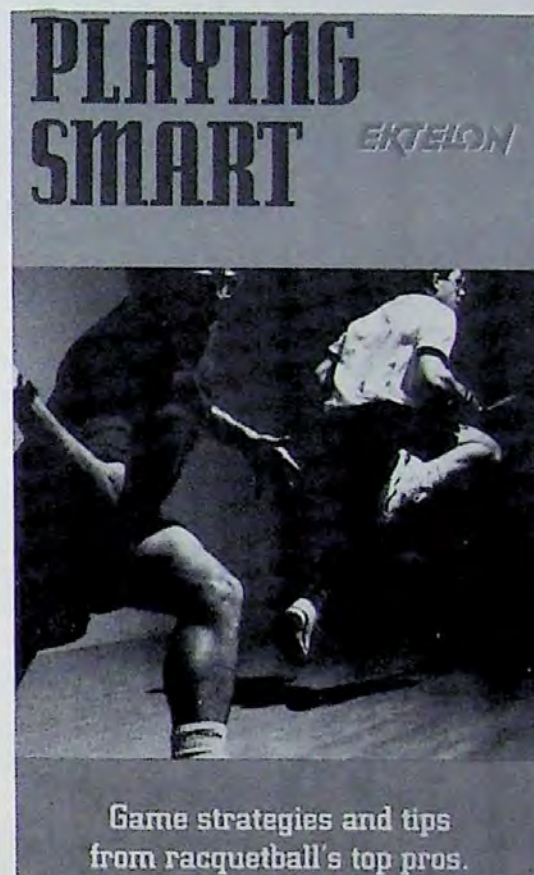


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Temperature & Your Equipment

By John Boudman
"The Racquet Stringer"

Heat and cold are two of the greatest enemies for your racquet and string. Heat extremes, as found in the trunk of your car, or on the back ledge of your 300ZX can do irreversible damage to string tension. You would be well advised not to store your racquet in a hot car during the day. This will (or could) make you very angry at your stringer, because your racquet could play like mush, or be very stiff and you will be blaming the stringer when the Heat Monster got to your racquet.

The Industry has done its part by providing a full length thermo cover for the top quality frames. But ultimately, it is the responsibility of the player to take care of the racquet.

Over the past six or seven years, several experiments have been conducted to identify and measure tension loss in string exposed to high temperatures. (It gets to over 140 degrees Fahrenheit in the inside of a car in direct sunlight.) This heat dissipates

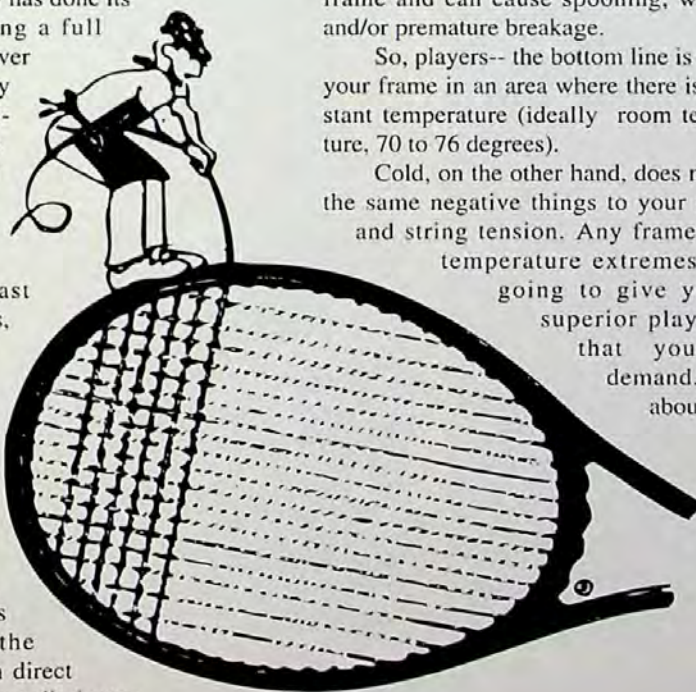
string tension as much as 40% if the racquet is left unattended in an area that is in direct sunlight.

This heat dissipates
string tension as
much as 40%...

Heat also damages your expensive frame and can cause spooning, warping, and/or premature breakage.

So, players-- the bottom line is to keep your frame in an area where there is a constant temperature (ideally room temperature, 70 to 76 degrees).

Cold, on the other hand, does many of the same negative things to your racquet and string tension. Any frame left in temperature extremes is not going to give you the superior playability that you may demand. Think about it...



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Offensive Shot Selection

By Steve Strandemo

In previous articles, we have talked about the importance of getting back to cover left-up shots, and being able to cut the ball off to score a quick point on the third shot of the rally. This will be the last sequence in an overall strategy of how to put together a rally. We will deal with shot selection from different areas on the court. I know if you start to incorporate some of these ideas with what you have already learned, you will see some real improvement in your game.

Let's look at some of our options when a ball shows up in certain parts of the court. For the purpose of this article, we will not deal with ceiling ball rallies, but focus on low rallies, examining shot selection options at different points after the service return is hit.

Photo 1 & 2

These photos cover the many situations that occur when the hitter is near the left wall in an offensive scoring position. Also realize this

offensive positioning will be nearly identical when the receiver is returning the serve from the back left corner.

In photo 1, as the ball is left-up to the hitter's backhand in Zone 3, his best scoring options are to cut the ball off and re-pinch the left corner or to cross-court pass

his opponent to the back right corner.

In photo 2, the left-up ball is now approaching the hitter's forehand, and the best scoring possibilities will be a down-the-right wall kill-pass, or a pinch in the front right corner.

In both cases, realize from photos 1

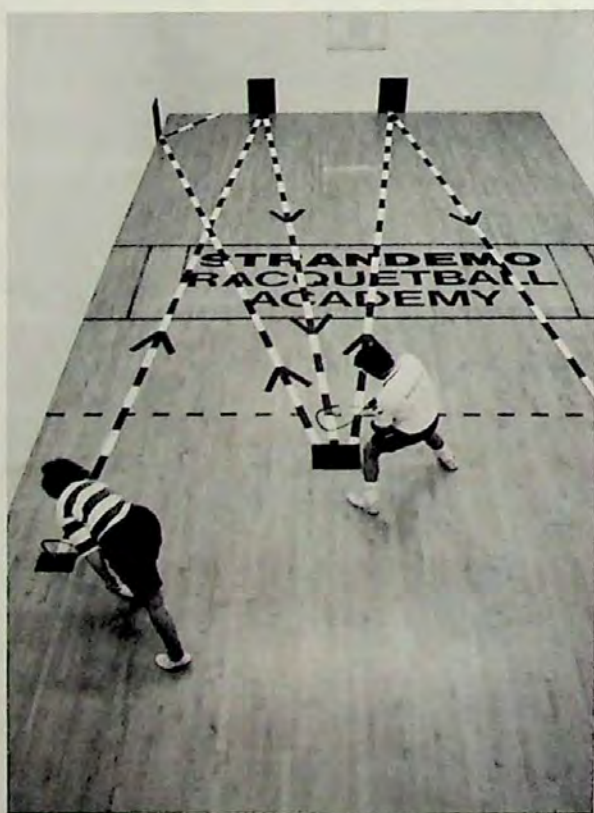


Photo 1

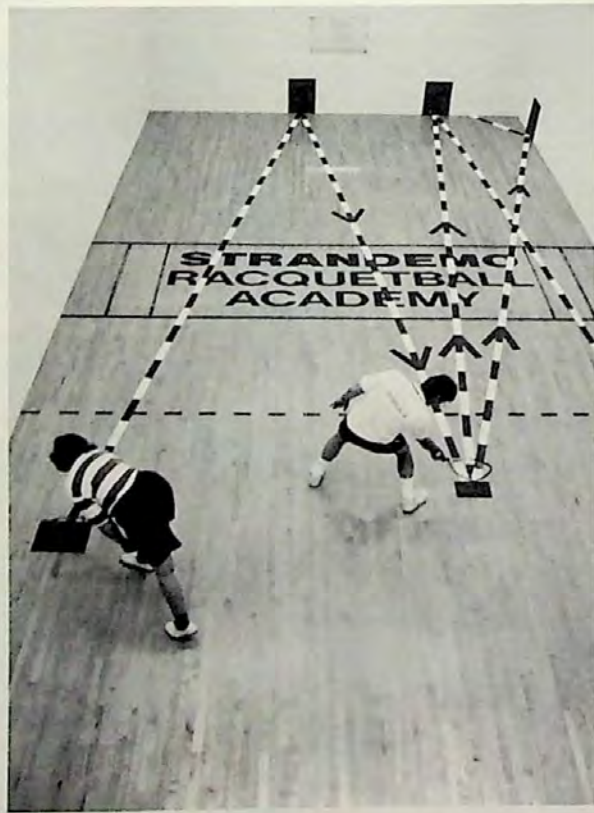


Photo 2

& 2 that the player in Zone 3 will be hitting from an open stance in quick reaction situations. Unfortunately, this is contrary to the way a lot of players have been taught. In reality, this is the normal, standard way to execute these offensive shots. (Open stance, ball contact at knees to waist level and also ball contact deep in the hitter's stance.)

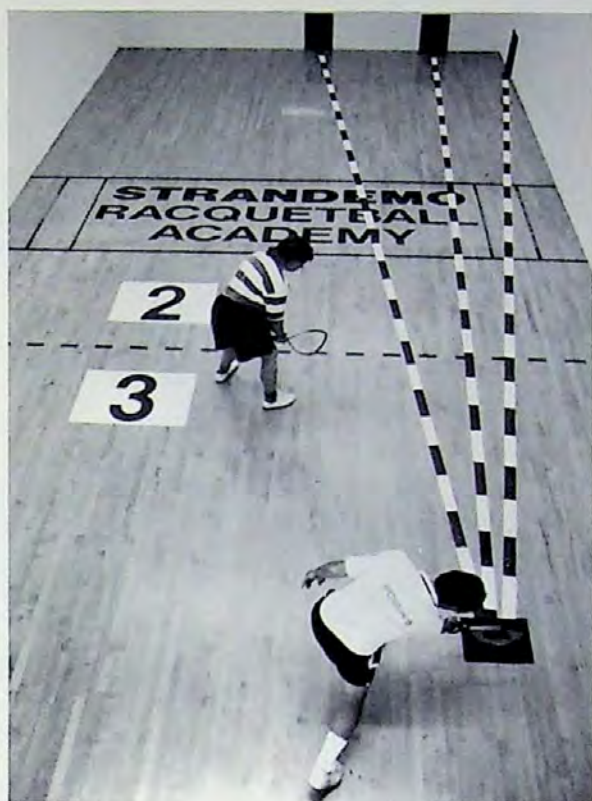
Photo 3

This photo shows the three offensive shots the hitter should be allowed to take in every scoring situation: 1) straight shot to the front wall 2) pinch to the side wall you are closest to 3) cross-court pass to the side of the court the defender is on. In this case, the defender is logically and strategically positioned in Zone 3 and should be mentally ready for the left-up shots. Now, the challenge in this rally is to see which player can most effectively make offensive shots and/or which player can effectively cover his opponent's left-up shots and *rescore*.

Photo 4

This is the same deep-court scoring opportunity as Photo 3, but the defender has now positioned herself in Zone 2 to cover her opponent's offensive shots.

The hitter should be able to see out of the corner of his eye, as well as feel that the defender's position is too far forward on the court. The logical offensive shot is to exploit this defensive position by hitting either a pass down the right wall or by hitting a wide-angle cross-court pass. The wide-angle pass should catch the side wall in the air, in the same zone (Zone 2) that the defender is positioned. It is best for the offensive player not to try to kill the ball in front of the defender, but rather drive the ball around and behind his opponent. Make the defender *pay* for playing too far forward.



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Slashin'-up the Tour

Texan Drew Kachtik has attacked pro racquetball with a vengeance and really made the chips fly.

By Lesa Patrick

In talking with Drew Kachtik about his racquetball career, I began to wonder if he had failed to let his ego in on a very important fact: that at that time, he was the number one ranked pro player in the world. A true phenomenon he is, in racquetball and professional sports.

The 24-year old Texan reached the number one spot quicker than anyone in the sport ever has. He did it with determination, keen observation, and a whole lot of heart. And he did it modestly.

The first time I interviewed Drew several months ago, he said he *thought* he was ranked number two. Later, he was *pretty sure* he was number one. Was I talking to a professional athlete without an ego?

On the court, Drew is one of the most aggressive, outwardly competitive players on the pro tour. He is known for retrieving the ball no matter what his body might have to take and his kamikaze-style dives have made him a crowd pleaser. But perhaps it is the modesty that has elevated him through the ranks so quickly. He is able to consciously put his ego aside to evaluate his game.

"I know my weaknesses and I think

that's part of my strengths -- knowing what weaknesses I do have," he says.

Finishing the '90 - '91 season at number four doesn't exactly allow for a lot of weaknesses. The season was his first as a pro and Drew won the first tournament. "I didn't want to start the tour unless I could make an impact. I waited until I was ready," he says. "I took it match by match. Winning the first pro stop was kind of a surprise." *Kind of?* No other player has ever won his first tournament as a rookie on the pro tour. Drew won two stops that season. But his ego never quite absorbed it.

"There is a very fine line between

having the confidence and ego necessary to be a professional athlete in an individual sport and also in being able to put that ego aside and accept your weaknesses and incorporate other people's strengths," says fellow pro Aaron Katz. "I don't think a lot of players do that as well as Drew."

Before taking the big step to travel on the tour full time, Kachtik worked in health clubs and played in state and regional tournaments, competing in two to three pro stops a year since age twenty. As the son of a former football coach and athletic director, Kachtik learned the value of sports at an early age. He picked up his first racquet at his father's health club



Charlie Palek

Kachtik has become legendary for his scrambling and his kamikaze diving gets.

Kachtik's irrepressible enthusiasm in the face of a disputed call surfaces against Dan Obremski.

when he was seven, taking a few lessons from Charlie Brumfield, one of the early racquetball greats. But the sport didn't really peak his interest until he was fourteen, when he began playing in local tournaments around his home town of McAllen, Texas.

"I was just taking racquetball for what was happening. I wasn't really looking for being a pro some day. I was playing and enjoying every level," he says. "My goal was to be the best around San Antonio, then the best in the state. That was when I thought I was good enough to be a pro. At nineteen or twenty, I kind of had my eye set on playing some pro events."

Kachtik feels fortunate to have grown up in Texas, where he was able to take advantage of regularly watching and occasionally playing Texas pros Dave and Greg Peck and Katz. "I was able to get experience at the pro level by playing these guys.

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It was good to watch them to improve my game. I think I learned more by watching them than anything else."

Drew Kachtik possesses the insight to scrutinize other players' games and implement moves and strategies into his own game. "I took what I thought I could emulate out of each of the top player's games and tried to put it in my game. It was like a collage from all the good players that I did watch. I think that's one of the best ways to learn -- by watching. You learn not only what you can improve upon yourself, but also what you can do when you're playing against them."

Although not to minimize his physical strength and ability, Kachtik plays a tough mental game and maintains a steadfast positive attitude, often admired by his oppo-

nents. "Last year Drew climbed the rankings by beating players who were superior to him skills-wise because of his mental ability," says Katz. "Now his skills have caught up to his mental game. He's got the shots -- the game -- in addition to the mental toughness."

The positive attitude, a strong driving force for Kachtik, was nurtured by his parents, particularly his father, from an early age. "I told him from the beginning that he could be as good as he was willing or wanted to be, as long as he put forth the effort," says his father, Ken Kachtik, also an avid racquetball player. "His attitude is very good."

When he loses, he still has a good attitude.

I've never seen him be a bad loser. He *hates* to lose, but he handles it well. He never quits."

As long as Kachtik is on the court, in his mind, he cannot lose. "Sometimes I play a little emotionally. I always believe there's a chance," he says. "I never feel like I'm out of a match no matter what the score is. I play with a lot of heart...I play from point one until the match is over. You can't go wrong when you do that."

Kachtik learned from his father that there is a solution, not a rational to losing. There is a reason for losing -- not just because the opponent is better. When Drew loses, he always learns from it. "It's a never-ending story of what you're improving on. Every tournament you play and lose, you're learning something different, something new," he says. "If you're not learning, you're in trouble."

Other players have learned from Kachtik's lob serves. He is comfortable playing without drive serves and uses lobs

90-95% of the time. But he is most well-known for his astounding ability to retrieve the ball. His insatiable appetite for competition makes him a fearsome opponent. "Drew is more deadly and dangerous when he's behind than when he's ahead," says former top-ranked pro Dave Peck.

The attitude that has brought Kachtik to the top of the professional ranks has also given other young players a new outlook. "Drew proved that if you work hard on your game, you're dedicated and have the right attitude, you can be number one," says Katz. "He has had a tremendous impact on the sport because he was the first young player that didn't come from a high-profile junior and amateur background."

And now that he does have a high-profile professional career, he spends much of his "free" time helping young racquetball enthusiasts improve their abilities. For the past three years, the Texas threesome of Kachtik, Aaron Katz, and Mike Guidry have travelled regionally organizing ten to twelve racquetball youth "Best of Texas" camps a year.

The hours he is not training or playing on the tour are spent playing tennis or basketball and visiting friends and family. His dad manages the Elmwood Fitness Center in New Orleans, so Drew vacations with a full schedule of training in the evening and fishing during the day. He plans to spend more time with off-the-court training methods like running, biking, and using the StairMaster.

The world of racquetball has been influenced by a young man named Drew Kachtik, and if he has his way, he will continue to shape it for several years. "I would like to make it my career. I'll take it as far as I can, playing-wise, and after I'm done on the tour, I'd like to stay in the field of racquetball...maybe in the health club business, or something related to the sport."

A few years ago, he toyed with the idea of going to college; but decided that racquetball posed an opportunity not to be missed. "I figure I'm only young once and I've got one shot at doing what I want to do with racquetball. I can go to college later. I don't want to be one of those guys that said 'I could have done it.'"

It's evident that Kachtik plays because he loves to. "What better way to make a living than doing something I enjoy. There are so many people with jobs they don't enjoy. I enjoy it so much there's really nothing else I'd rather be doing."

His ego agrees.



Joel Roberston



Charlie Palek

Left: Drew Kachtik waits for the shot off the back wall. Above: Kachtik displays his patented form in his assault on the top players on the tour.

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VCI Spreadsheet

IRT

1. Mike Ray
Hilton Head, South Carolina
2. Andy Roberts
Memphis, Tennessee
3. Mike Yellen
Bloomfield, Michigan
4. Ruben Gonzalez
Staten Island, New York
- 5T. Tim Doyle
Huntington Beach, California
- 5T. Drew Kachtik
Dallas, Texas
7. Jack Newman
Des Plaines, Illinois
8. Cliff Swain
Braintree, Massachusetts
9. Dan Obremski
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
10. Bret Harnett
Las Vegas, Nevada
11. Dave Johnson
Huntington Beach, California
12. Mike Guidry
Dallas, Texas
13. Tim Sweeney
Chicago, Illinois
14. Woody Clouse
Jacksonville, Florida
15. Jeff Evans
Portland, Oregon
16. Mike Ceresia
Montreal, Quebec, Canada

WPRA

1. Jacqueline Paraiso-Gibson
San Diego, California
2. Malia Bailey
Norfolk, Virginia
3. Toni Bevelock
Santa Ana, California
4. Miochelle (Gilman) Gould
Boise, Idaho
5. Dotty Kelly
Allentown, Pennsylvania
6. Marcy Drexler
San Diego, California
7. Marcy Lynch
North Wales, Pennsylvania
8. Lynne Coburn
Baltimore, Maryland
9. Kaye Kuhfeld
Indianapolis, Indiana
10. Robin Levine
Sacramento, California
11. Chris Evon
San Diego, California
12. Dee Ferreira-Worth
Anaheim Hills, California
13. Robin Whitmire
Atlanta, Georgia
14. Sandy Robson
Mission Viejo, California
15. Janelle Mariott
West Warwick, Rhode Island
16. Ellen Crawford
Syracuse, New York

VCI Challenge Cup Series

1. Ruben Gonzalez
2. Mike Yellen
- 3T. Mike Ray
- 3T. Bret Harnett
- 5T. Dan Obremski
- 5T. Drew Kachtik
- 5T. Mike Guidry
- 5T. Andy Roberts

American Amateur Racquetball Association

1. Chris Cole
 2. Doug Ganim
 3. Michael Bronfeld
 4. Tim Hansen
 5. John Ellis
-
1. Malia Bailey
 2. Michelle (Gilman) Gould
 3. Cheryl Gudinas
 4. Kersten Hallander
 5. Kim Russell

Racquetball Canada

1. Sherman Grenfeld
 2. Simon Roy
 3. Roger Harripersad
 4. Mike Ceresia
 5. Haydn Jones
-
1. Heather Stupp
 2. Carol McFetridge
 3. Sue McTaggart
 4. Jose Grandmaitre
 5. Vicki Brown

Oregon Racquetball Association

(ORA Ektelon - RC Cola Tour)

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2. Vince Kelley
3. John Wetherbee
4. Darin Campbell
5. Curt Ballantyne

A

1. Kenny Franks
2. Jason Muth
3. Scott Fisher
4. Sal Gonzalez
5. Steve Boughton

1. Jo Judy
2. Karen Gaarde
3. Kim Witt
4. Belinda Larson

B

1. Abe Valdez
2. Todd Washington
3. Jim Trujillo
4. Dan Reeves
5. Don Nimz

1. Cari Price
2. Mary Goffrier
3. Ashley Wetherbee
4. Andrea McNish
5. Carol Pekrol

The featured state in the next issue
of VCI Spreadsheet will be Texas



VW CREDIT, INC.



The Three R's: Ray, Roberts, Ruben

What I Learned on Tour Today

By Mark Henry
Photos by Charlie Palek

New Orleans: Ray's Cool Win in the Big Easy

New Orleans' Elmwood Fitness Center opened its doors to the IRT in mid August for the second event of the '92 - '93 tour. One of the best organized in the country, this multi-sport club is, without a doubt, one of the most "user - friendly" facilities ever. New Orleans afforded a prime location to draw some of the south's best racquetball talent which included entries from racquetball hot spots Dallas and Memphis.

In the round of thirty-two, Texas' Todd O'Neil proved that he can consistently advance in pro play even though he competes in only a few tour stops. His trip to the second round took him past #23 Dave Sable. #9 seed Cliff Swain found he had his hands full with Memphis State's Scott Reiff. While adding experience on the IRT, Reiff just gets better and better. In New Orleans, he was able to take the master to five before bowing out. Likewise,

tough Baltimore rookie Dan Fowler surprised Andy Roberts by forcing him to five in the same round.

The biggest surprise of the round came from the Egan Inoue/Aaron Katz match. After a knee injury in Riverside, California last fall that was much more serious than Inoue or his fans had realized, the hard-hitting Hawaiian has missed numerous tour events and valuable practice time. Even though a strong showing in Los Angeles had fans' hopes high, Inoue couldn't come up with the magic to get past a pumped up

Katz. An always- thinking player that is capable of taking out anyone on the tour, Katz took time out from law school in Dallas to drop in for a big win in New Orleans.

In the sixteens, #10 seed Ruben Gonzalez bested #7 Dave Johnson in a breathtaking exhibition of kill or be killed. #11 Bret Harnett continued his climb back up the rankings with a quick win over #6 Jack Newman in three. Roberts handed a similar fate to a stunned Swain at the top of the draw. Mike Ray nearly suffered an upset at the hands of Oregon giant killer Jeff Evans. But the real surprise upset came from Texas' Mike Guidry as he out

Andy Roberts blasts a forehand against Mike Yellen.

Mike Ray

11-1, 6-11, 11-7, 11-2
Drew Kachtik

SEMIS

Ray d. Roberts
11-8, 11-7, 5-11, 11-8
Kachtik d. Harnett
10-12, 11-4, 11-6, 11-5

QUARTERS

Roberts d. Yellen
11-4, 10-12, 11-3, 11-8
Ray d. Obremski
11-8, 2-11, 11-1, 11-2
Harnett d. Guidry
7-11, 11-3, 11-9, 11-7
Kachtik d. Gonzalez
11-5, 14-12, 11-7

SIXTEENS

Yellen d. Katz
6-11, 11-8, 11-5, 10-12, 11-2
Roberts d. Swain
11-3, 11-5, 11-5
Obremski d. Clouse
10-12, 11-7, 2-11, 11-9, 11-5
Ray d. Evans
7-11, 14-12, 11-0, 5-11, 11-4
Guidry d. Doyle
8-11, 9-11, 11-5, 11-3, 12-10
Harnett d. Newman
12-10, 11-1, 11-4
Gonzalez d. Johnson
11-8, 7-11, 11-2, 3-11, 11-8
Kachtik d. O'Neil
6-11, 12-10, 11-7, 11-8

New Orleans





Mike Ray signals for the double bounce.

tured the match. In his typically smooth and powerful manner, Harnett dismissed a frustrated but hustling Guidry. The remaining quarter saw Roberts jockey for control with #1 seed Mike Yellen, and in the end gain momentum and the win in four.

The semi's saw this crowd's favorite Kachtik rebound from a first game loss to capture the win from Harnett. In their gazillionth meeting rivals Ray and Roberts played a solid four that proved that Ray on a roll is an awesome thing.

Even though Kachtik came in pumped for the final, he could do nothing with Ray. Returning to championship form for his second victory in the last three events, Ray would not be denied. Kachtik, usual-

ly uncontrollable, fell completely into Ray's command, barely getting started in two of the four games. Ray left New Orleans with the win and the number one ranking.

Stockton, California: Roberts Fights Back to Second Place

With one of the longest running series of professional events, Stockton is an early

lasted #2 seed Tim Doyle in an ultra-close five. While a lot of top young players try their luck in the IRT only to meet disappointment, Guidry is here to stay.

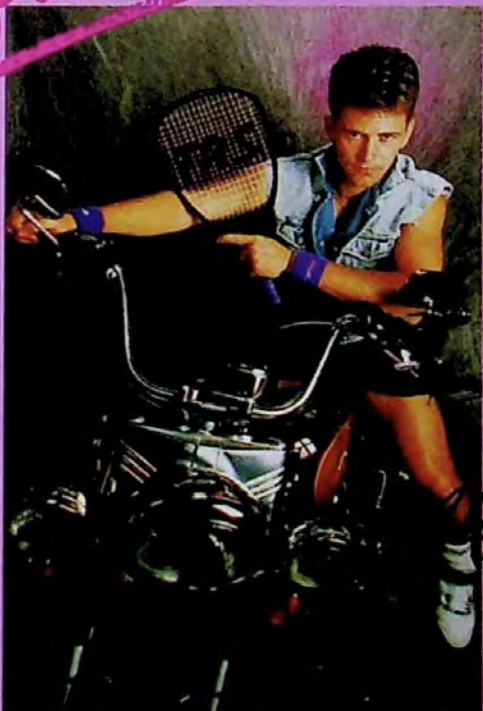
In the quarters, Drew Kachtik found his pace to eliminate Gonzalez in a quick three. He looked as though he had this event in the bag. Ray's spectacular control game kept #5 seed Dan Obremski from settling into his get-and-gun style and cap-

Tim Doyle lunges for a backhand.



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Andy Roberts

6-11, 11-4, 11-4, 11-5

Tim Doyle

SEMIS

Roberts d. Ray

2-11, 11-5, 8-11, 11-9, 11-2

Doyle d. Newman

11-8, 11-7, 10-12, 11-6

QUARTERS

Ray d. Gonzalez

4-11, 8-11, 11-2, 11-7, 11-3

Roberts d. Sweeney

10-12, 9-11, 11-6, 13-11, 11-5

Doyle d. Johnson

11-7, 4-11, 11-6, 11-5

Newman d. Kachtik

11-4, 7-11, 2-11, 11-7, 11-7

SIXTEENS

Ray d. Kelley

11-2, 11-3, 11-2

Gonzalez d. Swain

11-7, 11-5, 2-11, 11-3

Sweeney d. Obremski

8-11, 11-0, 11-4, 8-11, 11-7

Roberts d. O'Neil

11-5, 11-2, 11-4

Doyle d. Evans

11-4, 11-5, 11-4

Johnson d. Guidry

11-7, 11-6, 10-12, 11-7

Newman d. Clouse

11-1, 9-11, 11-8, 11-7

Kachtik d. Harnett

11-7, 8-11, 11-7, 11-8

Stockton

season tradition on the IRT. With one of the friendliest and most attractive staffs in the business, Rob Farrens and the Westlane Racquet Club host one exciting tournament.

In an extremely unusual occurrence on the IRT, the round of thirty-two in Stockton provided no upsets. All fourteen stars from the top sixteen that were present in Stockton advanced to the second round in a manner befitting the professionals they are. The two vacant positions left by an absent Yellen and Mike Ceresia were occupied by #18 O'Neil and Oregon's rocket launcher Vince Kelley. The best match in the round came from #12 seed Woody Clouse and

semi retired tour veteran Gerry Price. Clouse found his mark here for a win in a close four.

In the sixteens, #16 seed Tim Sweeney upset Pittsburgh's Obremski in the surprise of the round. Famous for their raw power, smart play and amazing gets, neither man could take control of this one. Also in this round, Gonzalez prevailed in a super fast-paced match with Swain. At the bottom of the draw, Kachtik continued his streak against Las Vegas' Harnett.

In the quarters, Ray managed to come from two games down to take out Gonzalez in five. Roberts repeated the accomplishment against Sweeney. Doyle took out Johnson in a battle of Southern California shooters. Newman pulled the upset of the round by controlling Kachtik for the win in five. Typically the scrambling king of rekill, Kachtik looked frustrated and more than a little bewildered by the match.

Roberts' crushing backhands brought him some tough passes and more than his share of kills for the win over Ray in the semi's. Doyle's serve was right on the money as he blasted Newman off his pace for the win.

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After dropping the first game, Roberts came back for the win in the final in four. Roberts captured the cash and the number two ranking.

**Montreal:
VW Credit Series
Gonzalez Dominates**

Recently crowned Canadian National Champion Mike Ceresia welcomed the IRT to his home Club 230 in Montreal for the tour's first stop of the season outside the US. The most prestigious series in the sport, the VW Credit Series, brings with it a chance at top prize money and top international exposure. The IRT players descended on Montreal like a pack of hungry wolves.

Odds on favorites going into the event were current number one - Ray, previous number one - Yellen, and last year's VW Credit Cup winner - Doyle. Always a threat and frequent top spot holders Roberts and Kachtik weren't far behind.

Victim to the first upset of the tournament, Doyle lost an incredibly close five, to one of the top Canadian national team

players, Roger Harripersad. An occasional player on the IRT, Harripersad is a former world intercollegiate champ. His unpredictable style kept Doyle out of his trademark power game long enough to capture the win. This one was a big win for Harripersad, but an even bigger loss for Doyle who needed a strong finish for his VCI Series standing.

Ray held off local hero Ceresia and super athlete Obremski for a good position in the semi's where he fell to Yellen. In an amazing display of the control game, with more than a little phenomenal anticipation thrown in, Yellen called the shots in the end and headed for the final.

Another victim of Yellen's streak was Kachtik. After neatly dispatching Sweeney in the sixteens, Kachtik proved that he finds his biggest problems matched against control players.

Swain had trouble getting off the starting blocks with a disheartening loss to Obremski in the sixteens. Harnett had as much trouble from Harripersad as Doyle, however, Harnett did manage to come out on top. Guidry came from two down to out hustle Newman for the upset.

The story of this tournament was

Gonzalez. Just past his fortieth birthday, he had not been able to put together a consistent string of wins that would net him a pro stop victory in several seasons. This time out, the former national champion and national doubles champion played some of the best ball of his entire career. In a series that saw him face Johnson, Roberts, Harnett, and Yellen in four consecutive days, Gonzalez perfectly hit nearly every ball.

The race for the cup under way, it will be interesting to see how the results stack up. Strong contenders for last year's cup, Roberts and Swain each missed one event and gave up any chance at winning. Neither was able to get to that crucial semi or final round here. Doyle now has a tough fight back in his defense of the cup due to his first round loss in Montreal. Marty Hogan who took home one VCI victory last season is now out of this year's race all together because of his retirement from touring. At any rate, today Gonzalez is the man and Yellen, Ray, and Harnett are the next in line to knock him off. The only problem is: do we have to wait until Baltimore for our next installment of VCI racquetball?

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Ruben Gonzalez sets to rip a forehand.

Ruben Gonzalez

11-7, 11-5, 11-4

Mike Yellen

SEMIS

Yellen d. Ray

8-11, 11-1, 11-5, 11-7

Gonzalez d. Harnett

11-6, 7-11, 9-11, 11-5, 11-4

QUARTERS

Ray d. Obremski

6-11, 11-2, 9-11, 11-6, 11-9

Yellen d. Kachtik

12-10, 11-7, 4-11, 11-9

Harnett d. Guidry

11-9, 4-11, 12-10, 15-13

Gonzalez d. Roberts

11-7, 11-8, 8-11, 11-2

SIXTEENS

Ray d. Ceresia

11-5, 11-8, 8-11, 11-5

Obremski d. Swain

11-5, 11-7, 11-3

Kachtik d. Sweeney

11-7, 11-4, 11-9

Yellen d. Clouse

11-4, 11-3, 11-5

Harnett d. Harripersad

11-7, 11-13, 8-11, 12-10, 11-5

Guidry d. Newman

4-11, 6-11, 11-3, 11-2, 11-4

Gonzalez d. Johnson

11-4, 11-3, 10-12, 11-7

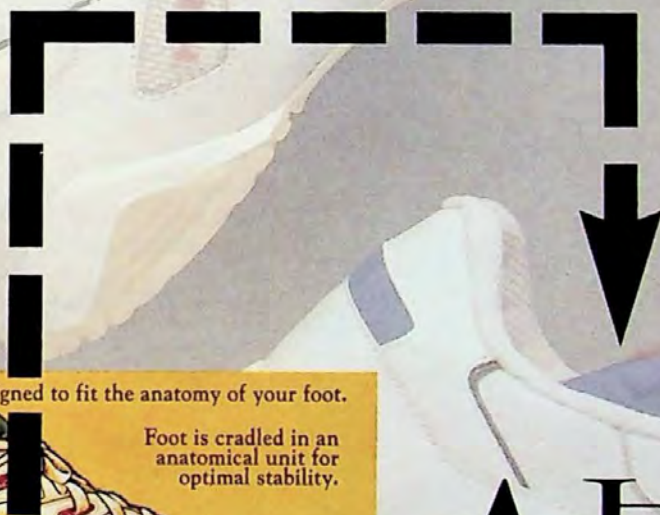
Roberts d. O'Neil

11-6, 11-9, 12-10

Montreal

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Who Are These Guys, Anyway?

By Hank Marcus

Commissioner, TransCoastal International Racquetball Tour

With apologies to Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid who popularized the question twenty years ago we will dedicate this column to addressing just that question and some other common inquiries.

When does the season begin and end?

The professional racquetball season has traditionally begun in September and ended with the Nationals in May. The 1992-93 season will be the first time in the history of professional racquetball that there will be no off season. Due to the demand for pro events the IRT season will conclude June 3-7 in Portland, with the TransCoastal Tournament of Champions, featuring the top eight ranked players from the total season. The pros will turn right around and

begin the next season two weeks later in Anaheim with one of the VCI Challenge Cup Series events. The summer will also include a July stop in Scottsdale, Arizona and August in New Orleans. Not much time off for athletes who abuse their bodies not just by running, jumping, and climbing walls, but by throwing themselves all over hardwood floors to catch up with a ball moving 180 mph.

Is the player who wins the TransCoastal Grand Nationals the National Champion?

Yes, No, Maybe. That should make it simple. Really, this is a pretty simple (yet confusing) topic. The winner of the Nationals is the winner of the Nationals. The National Champion is the player who finishes the tour season ranked #1. Therefore, it can be the same person as Mike Ray proved the

last few years by winning the Nationals and being ranked #1. Or, it can be two different players. If Drew Kachtik, currently ranked #1, loses in the finals to Andy Roberts this May, but Kachtik has 900 points and Roberts 870, then Kachtik is the National Champion for his season long accomplishment and Roberts is the winner of the TransCoastal Grand Nationals.

Why do all these events and tour start with TransCoastal?

TransCoastal Mortgage Corporation, based in Bellevue, Washington, is the major sponsor of the International Racquetball Tour and a number of the sport's major events. TransCoastal has been the major corporate sponsor involved with our sport over the past five years and the success that professional racquetball enjoys right now can be traced to the support and guidance of TransCoastal CEO, John Delaney.

What is the VCI series?

VCI, often referred to as VW Credit, Inc., in conjunction with the tour and in an effort to expose its services to the public has created a three tournament series within the tour with stops in Dallas, New York, and Los Angeles. These are the events that can be seen on television on the Prime Network.

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Two Tough... a matter of choice, not chance.



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Pros and Cons

Racquetball's right way and wrong way

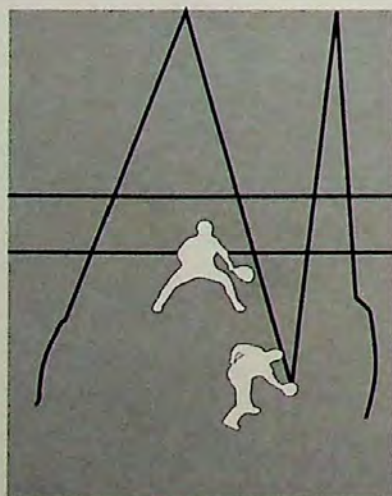
By Fran Davis & Stu Hastings

Last issue we continued the building process by introducing two offensive shots, the pinch and the reverse pinch. We are now ready to move on to two other basic offensive shots, the pass and the kill.

The pass shot hits 18" and lower on the front wall (see photo 1) and bounces two times before the back wall (see diagram 2). The kill hits 6" and lower on the front wall (see photo 1) and bounces two times before the short line (see diagram 1).

Down-the-line (D-T-L) is defined as hitting the ball between you and the closest side wall, whereas crosscourt (C-C) is

Below left: The pass is directed crosscourt and down-the-line. Below right: The kill is directed crosscourt and down-the-line.



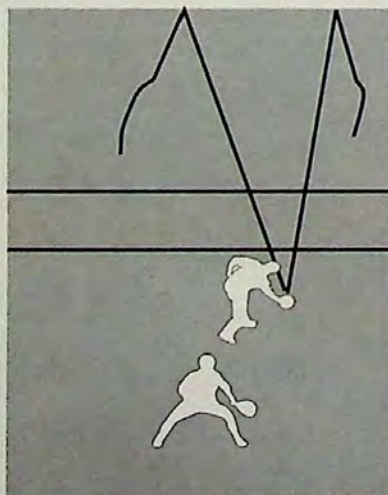
Left: The killshot hits below 6" on the front wall and bounces twice before the short line. The pass shot hits below 18" on the front wall and bounces twice before the back wall.

Below: Pros: Contact for the kill is ankle to sock high with the racquet head flat and level. Contact for the pass is shin to knee high with the racquet head flat and level.

defined as hitting the ball between you and the furthest sidewall.

Two important things must be determined:

1. When do you go for the pass or kill?
2. When do you choose down-the-line or crosscourt?



Just as with the pinch and reverse pinch as well as the ceiling ball, your choice of shots depends on several things, but most importantly, your opponent's position. Generally speaking, when your opponent is in front of you, you want to go for the pass. When your opponent is behind you, you want to go for the kill. After deciding whether to hit a pass or a kill,

your next choice is down-the-line or cross-court, depending on where your opponent ends up.

The critical factor of the kill or pass is the contact point. Everything like the grip, ready position, swing, and follow-through are the same as other offensive shots. The only changes between the two is contact point:

1. kill - ankle to sock high
2. pass - chin to knee high

Since the pass is hit higher on the frontwall (18" and lower) than the kill, the pass is considered a higher percentage shot. As a result, when you have a choice to pass or kill, go for the pass. The pass is the "easy way out". It is considered the "sure thing". Why gamble unnecessarily, pass first, kill second.

With your battery of offensive shots, you are totally equipped to keep your opponent on his toes and guessing. By developing your variety of shots (shot selection) you will not become predictable. We encourage you to practice these shots first and then use them in a game. You will see that by using the right shot at the right time your game will begin to improve. Good luck.

Cons: Contact for the kill is thigh to waist high with the racquet head turned slightly down.

Contact for the pass is chest to shoulder high with the racquet head turned slightly up.



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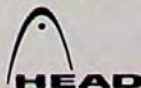
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When Your Opponent is Playing with Power ...

By Jack Newman

Over the past few seasons, the pros have strongly emphasized the importance of the power game. Emerging among mainstream players worldwide with the birth of lighter, stiffer, oversize racquets, the power game actually took root in the pro ranks in the late 1970's. Even players considered control players for years have added speed to their drives necessary to adapt to the faster pace. At the club level, like the professional level, most players' games fall somewhere between the extremes of power and control. A good assessment of your own and your opponent's game style with regard to where each falls on the spectrum of power/control may provide a strategic edge in any match.

Power vs. Control

One of the most noted power players on the TransCoastal International

Racquetball Tour is Memphis Tennessee's Andy Roberts. Currently ranked # 2 on the IRT, Roberts has frequently held the #1 spot in the past two years. While Andy definitely has a well developed all-around game, he still relies most heavily on his amazing power.

In a reverse situation, my game mixes power and control with control taking the lead roll. Since my game tends to rely more heavily on control, playing Andy on the pro tour last year provided me with some great insights on the power vs. control match.

We match up with similar backgrounds, including an amateur national championship, an intercollegiate championship, victories on the pro tour, and play on the world champion Memphis State University team. Our goals, however, were different by mid season, as Andy was

battling for the hotly contested #1 spot, while I was fighting to end the season in the top eight and seeding in the elite Tournament of Champions.

Andy and I met in three events last season with the outcome of each having a significant effect on the season's final rankings. Always in the quarter finals, our matches were in Toronto and Chicago in October, 1991, and Seattle in May, 1992.

For each player, the game plan going in was to force his opponent to play at his pace. Andy's goal was to up the tempo with drive serves and powerful passes that would keep me moving and off balance. I knew that I had to keep changing the pace to keep him from completely setting up or getting into a rhythm to blast. My two best weapons to accomplish this became soft pinches in each corner and lob serves.

By starting each rally with lob serves, I was able to keep the match at a slower pace. Not allowing Andy to blast his

return of serve, the lob serve was intended to bring about a weaker, more defensive return. In each of the three matches from last season, the plan worked, and I was able to capture the win in four games. You can then easily see how important it is to realize your own game style and avoid being caught playing your opponent's game. Remember, it is an on going process. As soon as you are able to do this, your opponent will be trying to turn the tables on you just as Andy will be trying to do against me this season.

Power vs. Power

Over the past two seasons, Tim Sweeney has become one of the hottest players on the IRT. A national amateur champ and two time intercollegiate champ, Tim captured his first pro stop victory in the fall of 1990. Using, among other weapons, a lightning serve, Tim puts most emphasis on the power aspect of his game.

While ranked #13 on the pro tour, Tim has never defeated #2 Andy Roberts. These classic power players met in the quarter finals in Stockton in September.

Playing Andy smarter than ever before, Tim tried to avoid the power struggle by going repeatedly to the lob serve. Tim's approach earned him a serve at match point in the fourth game. Andy, however, was able to hold out, mount a comeback, and capture the fifth game for the match.

Andy used a constantly changing mix of serves to keep Tim guessing and off his pace for the service return. The important factor is that each player realized that allowing the other to establish momentum with power shots would be fatal. The most positive aspect for Tim was that his innovation in slowing the pace proved effective even though he is typically a power player. I'm sure that if we keep an eye on Tim, we will see that he will soon be able to turn this information into a victory over Andy.

At any rate, the key to any match is to consider the game style of your opponent and yourself and make the proper adjustments to gain control. If you can set the tempo, you can win the match. All the America's Most Wanted team emphasize the importance of controlling the pace in our camps, as well as in our own matches on the pro tour.

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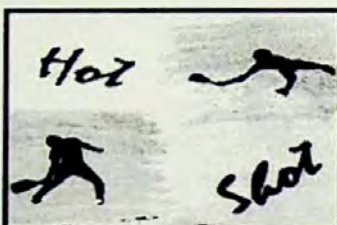
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The Stormin' of Atlanta

Hammerin' Hank Aaron, A Host of Celebrities, and 32 IRT Pros Will Hit the Courts at the *VCI Southern Classic* in February



VW Credit Inc., host of the most prestigious event series on the professional racquetball tour will welcome the top IRT pro's and dozens of other famous faces to Atlanta, Georgia February 4 - 7. The pro's, battling for top prize money and a shot at the VW Credit Cup, will be joined by home run king Hank Aaron and pitcher Tom Glavine, among others for the televised event.

Club Cobb, the site of the extravaganza is located at 1775 Water Place, (just off Windy Hill Road) in suburban Marietta. The promotional group responsible for Atlanta's hosting the 1996, World Racquetball Championships, Racquetball 96, has coordinated the professional VCI event, a large sanctioned amateur tournament, and the celebrity involvement, to benefit the Georgia Council on Child Abuse.

With all eyes in the sports world turning to the National Sporting Goods Association Supershow also in Atlanta on the same dates, the event will echo the enthusiasm felt throughout the city. The biggest trade show in the sports industry, the Supershow packs thousands of sporting goods representatives, the cream of the crop of pro athletes, and all manner of wanna-be's into Atlanta.

The VCI Southern Classic will be the third in the series of five events sponsored by VW Credit Inc. The first in the series was won by Ruben Gonzalez in Montreal in September. The second event slated for November 18 - 22 for Baltimore's Merritt Athletic Club, promises to be one of the premiere tournaments of the year. The Atlanta event will be televised regionally on the Prime Sports Network. Dates and times for the broadcasts will be available

later. The series will also feature later events in Los Angeles and Minneapolis.

Tickets for reserved seating will be available soon, as well as entry forms for the amateur tournament. The amateur draw will include all skill levels and entries are tax deductible as a donation to the Georgia Council on Child Abuse.

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Women of the Tour



**By Dee
Ferreira-Worth**
President, Women's
Professional
Racquetball
Association

While I was in Toronto, Canada, I was approached by a spectator who wanted to know more about the average player on the WPRA tour. I thought about it for a while and then said to her, that there wasn't any "average" profile.

The women involved in the tour are both young and old (depending on your frame of reference). There are some who are still in their teens or early twenties, and others who are in their thirties and a few that admit to forty.

The group took a few moments at a recent pro stop to gather for a group photo.

We come from every background, education, and occupation. There are some who play racquetball for a living, and some have jobs that have absolutely nothing to do with our sport. There are a couple of nurses, a lawyer, a couple of engineers, a few sales representatives, a handful of teachers, a vice president, an owner of a retail sports shop, a travel agent, some students, and a housewife or two.

Some of us are married with or without children, a few divorced and some single. Many of us have had long term relationships and some are young enough to still live with parents.

Practice time and coaching varies as well. Some practice hours and hours every day, while some only have a few hours to practice each week. Some have coaches, some do not. Some weight train, others avoid weights like the plague. Some watch everything they eat and make sure that every meal is balanced and nutritional, while others stuff fries and shakes into their bodies as if it were a religious experience.

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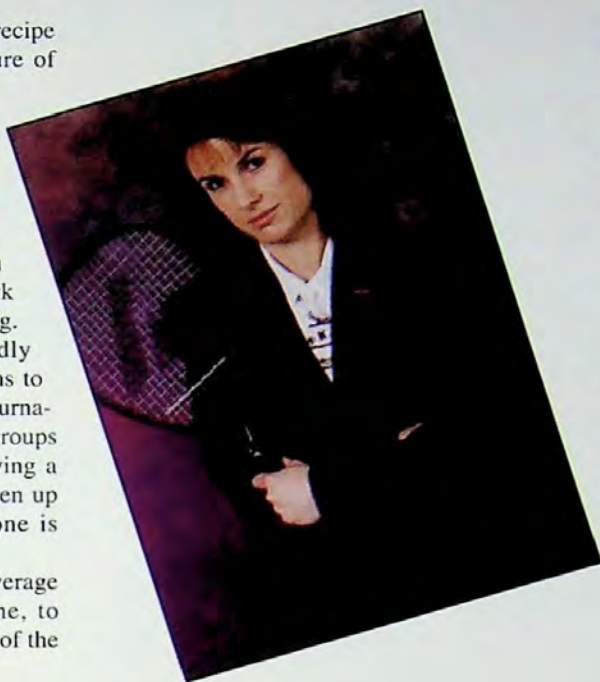
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The funny thing is, there is no recipe for success on the court. Any mixture of the above can and has won. One thing, however, that bonds us together is our love of the game. We all have a respect for each other and our abilities. I don't think any of us take another player lightly. Arguments, egos, and moods get in the way; but we can usually work together to keep the organization going.

Even though we are each deadly serious on the court, here never seems to be a shortage of fun. At any given tournament you can look around and see groups of players together laughing and having a great time. A few practical jokers liven up the place and make sure that no one is exempt from a prank.

With a severe lack of media coverage for the women's professional game, to some it might appear that the women of the



tour are basically all the same. This is certainly not the case. Each player has a story to tell, as well as a personality complete with good days and bad days. There are many of us whose personalities could not be repressed on the court if we had to.

The common thread running through each of us is our driving competitiveness and our commitment to professionalism. We play the game with passion, but also with cool calculation. Seeing us in the heat of competition allows a good look at some very talented and colorful professional athletes. I think that the spectators are in for a few pleasant surprises over the next year or so, so keep your eyes peeled!



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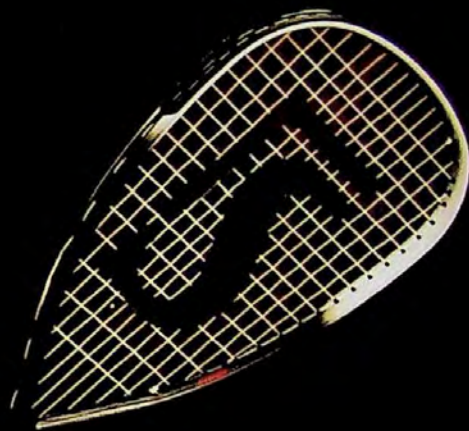


Clockwise from upper left: Pro Kennex Ovation glove for just the right feel; 1993 Audi, the perfect high-end gift; BI RAK IT for a little two-fisted fun; Pro Kennex Marty Hogan line of racquets, Asymetric S/O, Graphite ASM 31, Composite ASM 31; Gexco GX grip for that added racquet control.



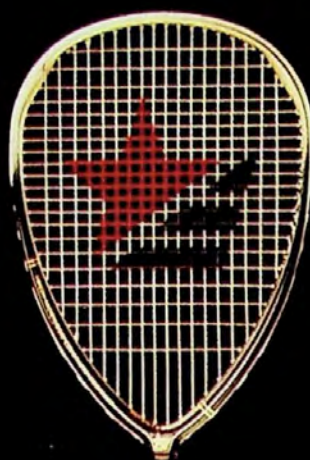


Left:
Composite and
Graphite mod-
els of Spalding
Goliath.
Right: Spalding
Assault.
Below: First
Coast's *Court
Rat* Tee is sur-
rounded by
the official
footwear of the
IRT, the Head
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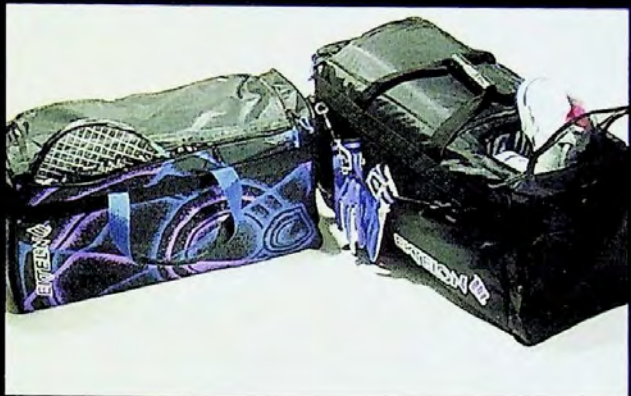


Left: Spalding's exten-
sive line of bag's and
cases.
Right: Integrity, Ruben
Gonzalez' fragrance for
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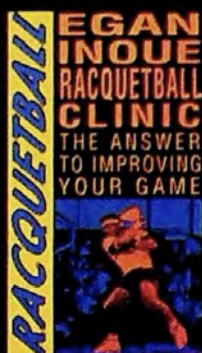


Top left: First Coast *Kill it!* shirt; Above and upper right: ESTCA has stormed the racquetball world with their new series. Above right: Penn Tournament Tackified glove, the IRT's official glove. Right: Penn's line of accessories including their famous ball.



Clockwise from top left: Ektelon's *Playing Smart* video with tips from the pros; the top-of-the-line Eminence racquet; Ektelon footwear, designed to stand up to anything; Ektelon eyeguards not only look good they protect those precious peepers; Underglove to keep your playing glove dry; Ektelon bags to transport your gear to the club in style; Volkswagen Cabriolet may not help your game but it sure improves your lifestyle.





Clockwise from top left: *Egan Inoue Racquetball Clinic* video to improve your game; the amazing No-Fog cloth keeps eyeguards and glasses fog free; E-Force racquetball string for just the right amount of tension; three new frames from E-Force, Flame, Weapon, Real Deal; Wristlacer to keep your racquet in reach and your opponent safe. Center: E-Force bags and cases to protect and store and their new line of attractive warm-ups.





Top: Glovbonz for drying those soaked gloves (Network Marketing); Center: Transition Club bag designed for practicality and durability; Above: Neumann Tackified Glove improves control and power; tacki-mac racquet grip (Network Marketing) Left: Transition Racquet's line includes the Phase One, the Dave Johnson, and the Bad Influence Cliff Swain signature models.

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