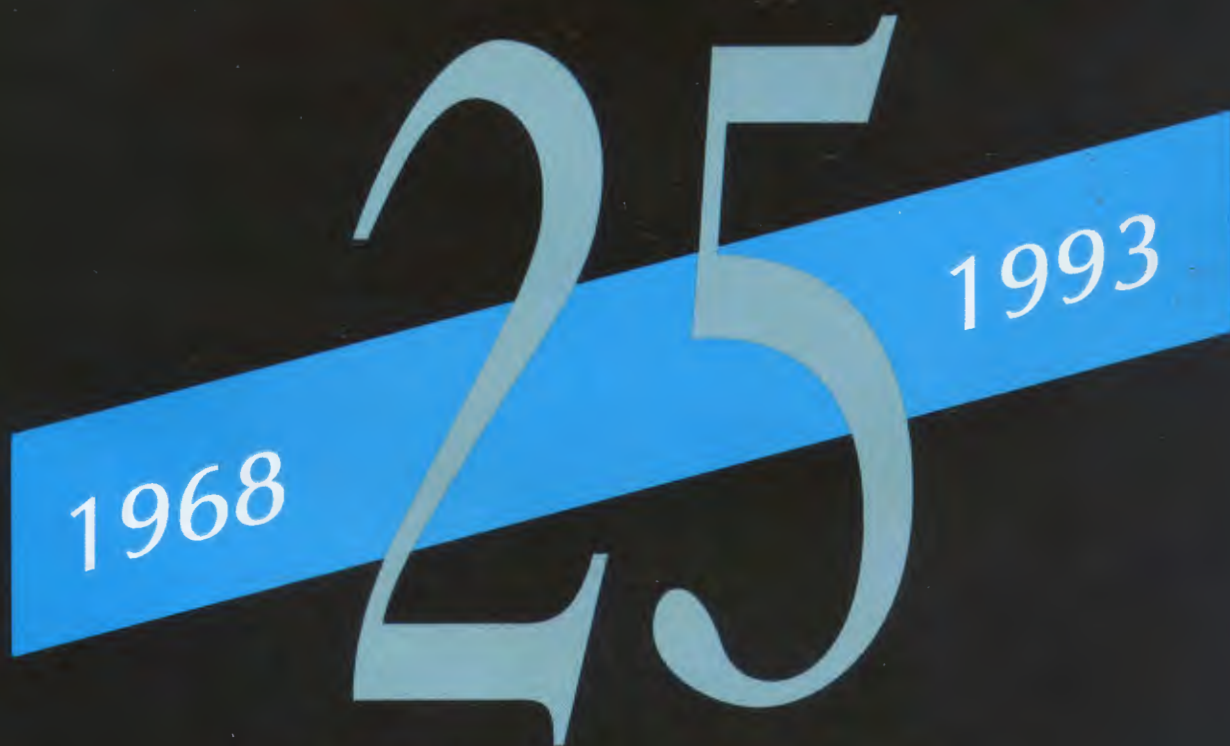


RACQUETBALL

MAGAZINE

January-February 1993
\$4.00



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Racquetball Association
Silver Anniversary

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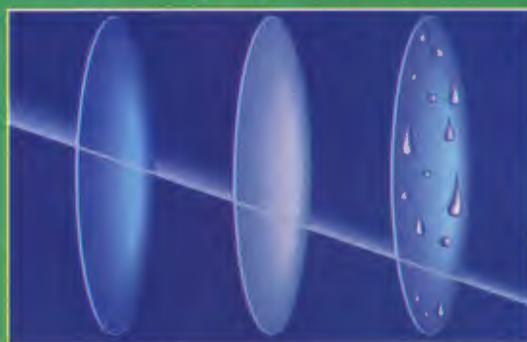
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Use this section to request extra cards. If you wish an additional card issued to a co-applicant over 18 years of age, complete the information below.

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I have read this application, and everything I have stated in it is true. MBNA America Bank, N.A. is authorized to check my credit, employment history or any other information and to report to others such information and credit experience with me. I understand that the acceptance or use of any card issued will be subject to the terms of this application and the Credit Card Agreement that will be sent with the card, and agree to be responsible for all charges incurred according to such terms.

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Photo: John Foust

FROM THE EDITOR

By Linda Mojer

At the close of each year, as a holiday gift and rite of passage, we take the year's full volume of six issues of *RACQUETBALL Magazine* and have them framed as a set and "archived" on what little wall space remains here in the national office. At present, three year's worth hang just outside my office, serving constant notice of the next deadline.

This practice brings with it an inevitable review of the "work in progress." From the preview issue in February of 1989, it took three issues to decide to reclaim the actual title. It took nine issues to upgrade from newsprint to a glossy cover. It's a constant struggle to decide on size, but we're finally comfortable with 72 pages (or more). On those pages, in your hands, we've committed the project to its most expansive improvement to date ...

To commemorate the 25th anniversary of the AARA, *RACQUETBALL Magazine* has become a shiny, silver thing in itself. As promised, fulfilling a goal set from the start of this rejuvenation project, your publication goes "first class" all the way with this issue — the first to be printed on coated stock throughout.

With this new change, look for a visual overhaul as we add more color and improve graphics. We hope you'll like the new look, and that you'll continue to give us your input as we grow.

But even I can't begin to imagine what next year's framed set will look like ...

EDITOR

Linda L. Mojer, Director
AARA Media/Public Relations

PUBLISHER

Luke St. Onge
AARA Executive Director

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Becky Maxedon

COPY EDITOR

Michael Topping

OFFICES

American Amateur
Racquetball Association
815 North Weber
Colorado Springs, CO
80903-2947
TEL: 719/635-5396
FAX: 719/635-0685

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July/August 93 = June 1, 1993
Sept./Oct. 93 = Aug. 1, 1993
Nov./Dec. 93 = Oct. 1, 1993
Jan./Feb. 94 = Dec. 1, 1993

NATIONAL STAFF

Luke St. Onge,
Executive Director
Jim Hiser, Assoc.
Exec. Dir./Programming
Kevin Joyce,
Membership Director
Steve Lerner,
Marketing Director
Linda Mojer, Director of
Media & Public Relations
John Mooney, Assoc.
Exec. Dir./Club Program
Wanda Krasovetz, Exec.
Secretary; Becky Maxedon,
Media Assistant; Rose
Mooney, Data Processing;
David Totura, Distribution;
Barbara Saint Onge,
Archives/Protocol; Melody
Weiss, Accounting Director;
Dalene Werner, Customer
Service/Receptionist.

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RACQUETBALL

MAGAZINE

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The AARA celebrates its 25th Silver Anniversary year with a special logo for use throughout 1993.

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DOUBLES FEEDBACK

I first want to thank you and your staff for producing another fine national tournament in Phoenix. Every national competition I have been to has been excellent.

I would like to address the issue of ex-pros playing in amateur events. In Webster's Dictionary, amateur is "One who does something for pleasure, not for pay. One who is somewhat unskillful, or done by amateurs."

I feel it takes away a lot from amateur competition, since an ex-pro wins easily. It would be like Jimmy Connors playing in a 40+ amateur event, or Arnold Palmer playing in a senior amateur event. It would definitely frustrate any amateur player who spends a lot of time and money to compete in an amateur event.

Most pros have had their day of glory. Racquetball is trying to grow, I feel an amateur will give up on a sport where he travels 2,000 miles, spends a lot of money and meets an ex-pro in his first round, then has to go home the next day.

Mel Hokanson
Claremont, California =====

I am writing in regard to the tournament feature story in the November/December 1992 issue of *RACQUETBALL Magazine*. On page 15 it is written "In a 10-1 tiebreaker, Fenton was credited with outstanding play in earning spots for herself and Greene on the Festival roster." This is true, Laura Fenton played very well. However, the way this is written, it sounds as though I went along for the ride. Did I also go along for the ride to get to the finals of 35+ with Linda Moore?

In the realm of life it's not very important, but I've already received two calls regarding the comment and the magazine just came in the mail today. It has taken some of the thrill of achievement out of the victory for me.

Jane Cohen Green
Topeka, Kansas =====

I recently participated in the National Doubles tournament in Phoenix, Arizona. This was my first Nationals and my partner's second. We were very disappointed that the club was under construction with courts out of commission, uncomfortable viewing areas, and uneven air conditioning. On Thursday the starting times ran further and further behind schedule so that we had to play our fourth match of the day at 1:00 a.m. the next day (our scheduled time was 10 p.m.). Having traveled from the east coast it was 4:00 our time. We understand that it is difficult to have tournaments that run on time but it didn't make it any easier to play at that hour.

Despite all this, the quality of competition was excellent and competing at the national level was a great experience. We like to compete and will put up with a lot in order to do so. However, the sport is not doing much to further itself by running tournaments poorly and charging too much.

This letter is not meant to belittle the AARA or its leadership. We just want to let you know our concerns and hope that by doing so you will be better able to help racquetball improve and prosper.

Susan L. Wyka
Andrew B. Sharpe
Hampden, Massachusetts =====

ELITE CAMP

I just wanted to tell you how much I enjoyed the Elite Camp. Your organizational skills and fantastic staff made the camp an incredible experience... morning runs (limps) and leg lifts included.

Regarding the endowment, I thought that we should try to target a disadvantaged youth (14-18) who could benefit from such a great experience. You'll need to determine the name of the endowment, criteria for potential candidates, along with a selection process. My contribution of \$275.00 to the endowment will be paid to the AARA 30 days prior to the start of each camp for the next five years.

My only request is that you put a short note in *RACQUETBALL Magazine* prior to the Regional Championships. I believe that will increase interest and provide additional exposure for the Elite Camp.

Thanks Again,
Gerry D'Agostino =====

I attended the Elite Training Camp this summer and it was quite an honor and privilege to participate in such a high quality training program with some of the best coaches and clinicians in the world. The activities covered many topics and skills which will enhance my racquetball game and give me a competitive edge. The camp also pushed me to challenge my physical and mental conditioning and prove that I can persevere and go beyond my limits. Thank you very much for providing such a great opportunity for aspiring racquetball players.

Mary E. Tessier
Pacifica, California =====



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SIDE OUT
LETTERS

Thank you for inviting me to the Elite Camp. It was an experience I will never forget, and one I hope to have again some time. Thank you for everything, it was really great.

Chris Choukalas
Glendale, Arizona =====

I can't thank you enough for allowing me to return to the Elite Training camp again. However, my real thanks come from allowing me to attend that first time in 1988. I know the experiences I had at camp -- like doing something really tough that at first seemed almost impossible -- helped me get through some extremely challenging times over the last four years.

Caryn McKinney spoke a little bit about these when she presented me with the award for the most improved player. It was friendships such as hers that helped me triumph over my obstacles. Through some of my experiences at those Elite Training Camps and with friends like her I not only triumphed over what could have been a devastating illness, I emerged stronger than ever before. I owe that not only to myself and friends like Caryn but to you -- since if it wasn't for you accepting my application long after the camp had filled -- I never would have had the opportunity to experience another part of life. Thanks again -- you have a greater impact upon other's lives than you realize.

P.S. I will win a National title one day - even if it takes until I'm 75!

Pat Bornhorst
Centerville, Ohio =====

It was certainly a privilege to meet you and all of the Elite Camp instructors. I would again like to thank you for letting me have the opportunity to be a part of the 1992 Elite Training Camp. It's a great feeling to receive the M.V.P. award and Most Physically Fit award. These awards mean a great deal to me and a wonderful morale booster. I appreciate the recognition.

Mary Kucel
San Francisco, California =====



HAND.

Think of it as a Sherman Tank for your hand, only with better ventilation.

SPREADING THE WORD

Thank you for the generous gift of racquets, shirts and balls. Our physical education teachers will make excellent use of this equipment and perhaps, someday, you'll have a championship quality racquetball player who graduated from Philip Livingston Middle School.

It is farsighted organizations like the AARA that realize that a gift at the right time to the right people will yield favorable results to their own organization in the future. Thank you so much for your generosity.

Gerald Guzik, Principal
Livingston Middle School
Albany, NY =====

I applaud the efforts of Team Ektelon, Ruben Gonzalez, and the many caring professional instructors who are getting racquetball out to the young people. Too often, many are left out because they do not have the means to attend the clinics, or participation is limited due to facility size, and/or they have no knowledge of the sport.

Take racquetball to the public! With the racquetball "Dream Team" and some up-and-coming young players, go out on the road across America. Go to the malls, set up a glass court or two and put on demonstrations, clinics, and contests. Let anyone who cares to try out the sport. Meet and greet the people who are the future of racquetball.

Presently, only club members, tournament players, and the "rich" (classified as those who can afford \$50 to watch the pros play, to attend training camps in Aruba, and to attend \$300 mini-camps) get to watch, and play the sport. The average person does not have many opportunities to get introduced to racquetball.

In 1986, some racquetball players put on a clinic at a military installation in Augsburg, Germany. As a result of the increased interest in racquetball, generated by the clinic, the Post Exchange increased its stock of racquetball equipment. Bring the sport to the people and they will respond.

Mervin Brokke
Huntington, West Virginia =====



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Ektelon player promotions manager Terri Graham (left) and product manager Kerry Lynch draw the first of ten winners to receive a new Eminence racquet.

Maria Lo of New York is the third and latest winner of a free racquetball racquet in Ektelon's Eminence Sweepstakes. Florida is home of lucky racquetball players Bruce Gordon of Orlando and George Sarduy of Tallahassee. Sarduy spotted Ektelon's new Eminence racquet at his racquetball club and wanted one, then the 28-year-old "B" player became the first to win an Eminence, valued at \$300.00!

A total of ten lucky racquetball players will win a free Eminence Graphite RTS oversize racquet from Ektelon to celebrate the introduction of the firm's new flagship frame that features handlaid composition, explosive power and virtually no vibration.

To enter the Eminence Sweepstakes, simply complete and mail the postage paid form found in Ektelon's TOTAL RACQUETBALL Magazine, which is distributed through sporting goods retailers and club pro shops. Or write

Eminence Sweepstakes on a 3x5 card complete with your name, address (no P.O. boxes), city, state, zip and phone number, and send it to Ektelon, 8929 Aero Drive, San Diego, CA 92123. An Eminence Sweepstakes drawing is held at Ektelon's San Diego headquarters on the last day of each month through June, 1993.

ACUPRESSURE WARM-UP GUIDE PUBLISHED

A new guide to athletic preparation and injury management titled "The Acupressure Warm-Up" by Marc Coseo has just been released by Paradigm Publications of Brookline, Massachusetts. Exercises using strategically placed tennis balls offer the benefits of acupressure therapy without the therapist. Clear, easy to follow illustrations guide the athlete through a series of exercises designed to loosen specific muscle groups and reduce stiffness following a workout. For information on ordering a copy of "The Acupressure Warm-Up," call 1-800-873-3946.

KLEERSHOT EYEGUARDS

It was apparent the new Kleershot Eyeguards were a winner when, at National Doubles in Phoenix, inventor Herb Peter popped the lenses out and began stomping on the frame, only to then calmly replace the lenses and resume play.

Kleershots are durable and approved for both racquetball and squash. The eyeguard line features designer colors, availability of prescriptions and replacement lenses, removable sideshields, optional amber lenses and a lightweight graphite frame, at a suggested retail of \$24.95 - \$29.95.

INDUSTRY NEWS



Made in the USA, Kleershot eyeguards are available at your local club or pro shop or from Network Marketing.

PENN PUTS PIZZAZZ INTO ACCESSORY LINE

Penn Racquet Sports recently unveiled its new accessory line of bags, shirts and hats. The new sport bag and luggage collections feature silkscreen designs with embroidered Penn logos. All are water repellent and easy to clean with rugged, self-mending zippers that won't break or rust. Padded adjustable shoulder straps are detachable for comfort and convenience. Ventilation grommets offer plenty of air circulation.

Many of the bags contain high quality 420 denier nylon for strength and durability, others are made of nylon twill that has a special sheen and luster. The 'team bag' is constructed of special nylon and rubberized vinyl for superior strength and durability.

For the first time, Penn is offering new collared shirts as well as their standard t-shirts and sweatshirts. Both are designed for tennis and racquetball players. Penn's apparel is made out of the finest materials available using 100% pre-washed cotton. All of Penn's new products are designed to merchandise together and offer the opportunity to create enticing displays.

These new accessories offer Penn's customers a choice of styles and price points for a successful season. All Penn's top quality products can be purchased at pro shops, sporting goods stores and sports specialty shops.

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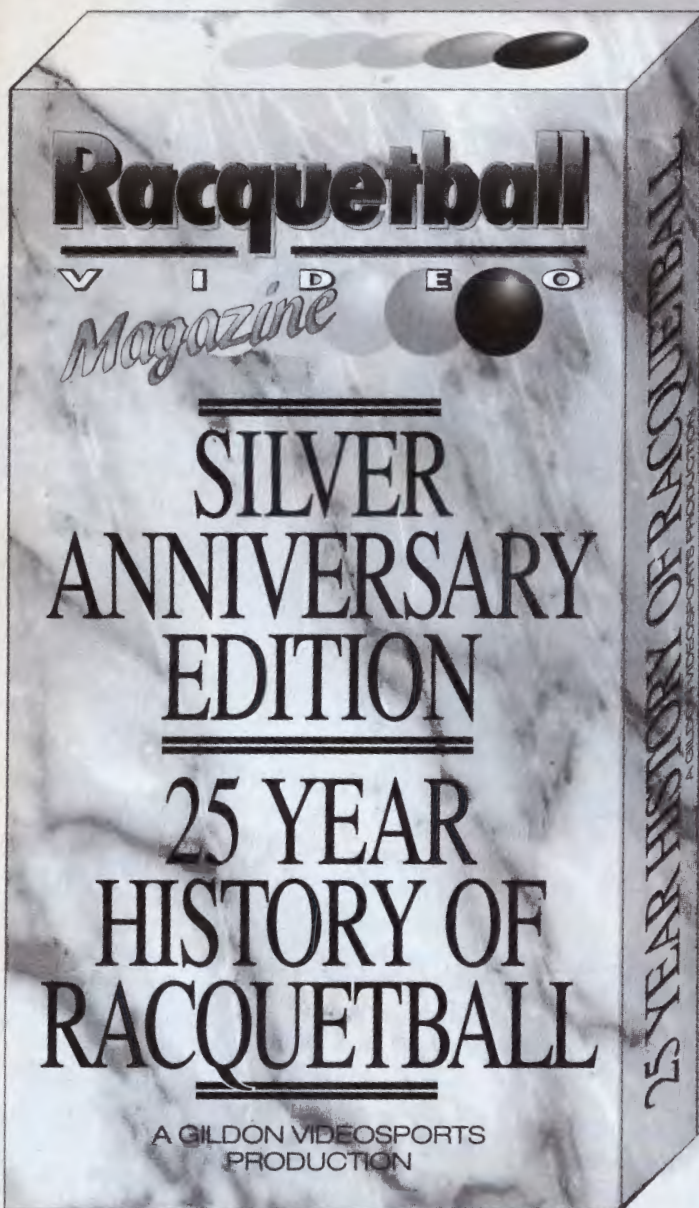
EKTELON TAPS FORMER MATTEL MARKETING EXECUTIVE FOR NEW POSITION

Ektelon recently named Lori Williams as senior product manager with responsibility for the concept and development of fitness products. Williams, a ten-year veteran of Mattel, Inc., was most recently director of marketing research for the giant toymaker.



The firm will be dividing its business into two areas: racquetball and related products, and fitness-related products. Ektelon has made overtures in the fitness market in the past few years with a line of weight training gloves and belts, as well as products for the swimming and cycling enthusiast.

Williams offers Ektelon extensive experience in key aspects of marketing management, with a special focus on market research. As Mattel's director of marketing research, she directed the activities and staff of the research department. Williams' background also includes management positions at Frito Lay and American Can. Williams has an MBA from Golden Gate University, San Francisco, Calif.



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Story by JOHN P. ABBOTT

THE WAY OF THE WORLDS

When the World Championships of racquetball were held for the first time in 1981, you could have crowded the "world" onto a single court with room to spare. Only six countries competed, and of those only the United States had a legitimate racquetball tradition. In fact, U.S. players were warned not to give their opponents donuts for the sake of international relations. Transportation to the tournament and lodging were left up to individual players; some bunked in college dorm rooms. When Team USA won the championship, they took up a collection among themselves to buy a victory cup — the cup they still hold 11 years later — because the International Amateur Racquetball Federation (IARF) didn't have the money to buy them one.

Well, the world has changed ... and we're not talking about the crumbling of the Berlin Wall. In the past decade, the world championships have evolved into a well-organized prime time international event. In the latest installment of the championships, held last August in Montreal, 32 countries competed, giving the tournament the feel of the United Nations. The biggest change, however, was the competition. For the first time, the hegemony of the United States and Canada was seriously challenged. Young players

from Mexico, Japan, Costa Rica, Austria and Bolivia delighted the crowd with their shotmaking and served notice that they're closing the gap on the racquetball world powers quickly.

Like the Super Bowl, the World Championships serve to showcase the sport of racquetball and highlight its best players. "The world championships magnify our sport and show that we're very viable," says AARA President Keith Calkins. Cindy Baxter, a member of the '81, '84 and '86 U.S. teams, compares it to the 1992 men's Olympic basketball "Dream Team" that won the gold medal in Barcelona last summer: "All eyes are on you," she says. "The other countries look up to the United States. They respect us, and see how good they could get if they work hard. They learn what competitiveness is all about from us."

"When the first world championships were held, it was just like any other tournament," says Baxter, now a member of the AARA Hall of Fame. "It didn't dawn on us that we were playing in the *world championships* until after the fact. As the years have gone by, that particular tournament has become one of the most important in the sport."

The worlds have had a dramatic effect on many of the players who have taken part. When Andy Roberts won the men's title in 1988 in Hamburg,



The 1992 U.S. Team with the World Cup in Montreal

Germany, it gave him a boost of confidence that helped him make the jump into professional racquetball. "It made me ready for the pros," he recalls. "At that time I was 100 percent amateur but afterwards I used it as a stepping stone to the pros. You're almost forced to consider playing pro when you win the world championship. It's an obvious step up."

***In 1981, U.S. players
were warned not to
give their opponents
donuts for the sake of
international relations.
Not so today ...***

"It's great because you're playing not only for yourself

but for your country," says Toni Bevelock, a member of the '86, '88 and '90 U.S. teams. "That's a real special feeling. When you win as a team it pulls everybody closer together, and that's important because racquetball is pretty much an individual sport. When you play for your country you always know you have your whole team on your side. There's a lot of pride in playing for your country, too. Playing in the worlds was definitely one of my greatest experiences in racquetball."

The World Championships have seen numerous changes since they were first held in conjunction with the World Games in Santa Clara, California in 1981. For one, the organization has dramatically im-



CINDY BAXTER



KEITH CALKINS



TONI BEVELOCK

proved. In the past, players had the duty of arranging their own transportation, even doing their own laundry; now managers take care of such trivial things. In fact, the '92 U.S. team had a full contingent of specialists, including sports psychologist Diana McNab who helped each player prepare for the event, team leader Margo Daniels who kept track of upcoming matches, team manager Steve Lerner who took care of equipment and racquet stringing, plus full-time, on-call physician Rhett Rainey. Coach Jim Winterton joked that his only job was "to get the towels and water."

The technology of the sport has also reached other countries. A few players brought wooden racquets to the first world championship in 1981; by 1992, virtually all of the players used state of

the art racquets -- thanks primarily to the muscle of U.S. marketing worldwide.

None of the changes have been more pronounced — and more positive — than the increase in competition. "Overall there's more parity now, and that's a healthy sign for the sport," says Keith Calkins, who also serves as secretary general of the International Racquetball Federation [IRF]. "When the worlds first started, people were in awe of the United States and Canada. The social element was more dominant than the action on court. In this year's tournament you could tell that had changed. There was still a lot of socializing among countries but there was a greater emphasis on teams playing well than before."

Toni Bevelock agrees. "When the world championships first started, there was never a time when we thought we weren't going to win. Then in 1986 we shared the cup with Canada. That was sort of a wake-up call for the U.S." Besides the improvement of the Canadians, countries like Mexico and Japan have begun to take a more professional attitude towards the game. "Before, some of the countries looked at us as if we were unreachable," says Michelle (Gilman) Gould, who won the women's title in the '92 championships. "Now they realize that they're getting a little closer each time. They relate to us about the game better, too. They think about strategy, as well as the mental and the physical aspects of the game."

Gould thinks the world championship is the hardest tournament in ... well, the world. "The

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MICHELLE GOULD



LUKE ST. ONGE

first week is very emotional as far as making sure that you cheer everybody else on. You spend a lot of time at the club watching your teammate's matches. Then you get one day off and you have to go through that peak cycle again. It's like playing two tournaments back to back."

How important are the world championships? U.S. players tend to underestimate their impact, but that's not the case in other countries. In Canada, for instance, a world title guarantees the team the full

***In 1986 the world cup
was shared with
Canada. That was sort
of a wake-up call for
the U.S.***

support of Sports Canada for the next twelve months; in Japan, team members receive special recognition and preference for job openings in the nation's best sports clubs. Even more importantly, the success of the world championships can serve as a springboard to

propel racquetball into the realm of Olympic competition.

That's something that IRF & AARA executive director Luke St. Onge has tirelessly promoted since the worlds began in 1981. He's squired International Olympic Committee (IOC) members to watch racquetball being played, helped arrange goodwill tours of foreign countries by U.S. coaches and players, and lobbied the United States Olympic Committee for support. "One of the things the IOC looks for is a sport that is

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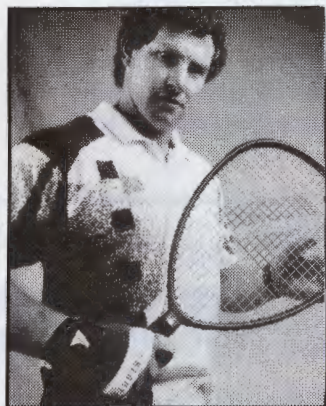
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widely practiced," he says. "For the summer games that means a sport that is played in 75 countries on five continents. Today racquetball is in 87 countries on five continents. They also evaluate what is 'popular' as to whether it takes strenuous physical activity or whether it's just a recreational sport. Another aspect is if the sport can be televised; many sports don't lend themselves to TV. We think racquetball does. That's one of the reasons we're pushing TV so hard."

Those feelings have also rubbed off on U.S. players. "Our coaches stress that if we ever want to get into the Olympics we have to be true ambassadors for our sport," says Chris Cole, a member of the '92 USA team and the flag-bearer at this year's opening ceremonies. "What does that mean? A lot of it is taking the time to talk if someone comes up to you and asks a question. You don't want to blow them off or act superior."

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budget. That's why the world championships are so important for us. Without question the more exposure we get the better our chances are to be considered for full Olympic participation."

In Calkins' view, IOC politics are a very small part of the equation. "After being in Montreal, the feeling I got from talking to the countries there was that we're moving in the right direction, and doing all we need to do to make our

I think we've made great strides in that respect with most of the countries."

Unfortunately, the prospects for Olympic racquetball are not good. By September 1994 the program committee of the IOC is expected to evaluate all current Olympic sports, and most observers feel that they will move to eliminate all demonstration and exhibition sports in upcoming winter and summer games. The program for the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta has already been set and racquetball was not included.

"We're not real strong in Asia and we have little presence in Africa, so that's where we need to concentrate our efforts," St. Onge says. "We also need to give the European federation more support because it has a lot of votes on the program commission. There's an awful lot of money involved and we have a very limited

sport stronger. We are going to be in the 1995 Pan-Am Games. We worked hard to get onto the program but it's a continuous battle for recognition."

Even if the Olympics are out of reach of racquetball promoters at present, it seems a safe bet that the World Championships will continue to grow. Looking ahead, the 1994 tournament will be held in Mexico, and four years from now it will coincide with the Olympics in Atlanta. Playing side by side with that international spectacle, the racquetball world championships will almost certainly gain an extra measure of publicity ... one that might be enough to transform it into the next Olympic event.

NEXT ISSUE: As the Worlds Turn ... a detailed history of the growth of the World Championships and World Games.

AARA

1968

25

1993

American Amateur
Racquetball Association
Silver Anniversary

TIME CAPSULE

In celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the AARA it is important to look back and remember many of the original, colorful cast of characters and the milestones that have been passed to bring the AARA to the start of yet another exciting quarter century. The following is a brief "capsule" history of the association — for starters — that we'll elaborate on in upcoming issues.

Why is 1968 designated as the founding year of the AARA (formerly the International Racquetball Association)? First, the date coincides with the first major interna-

tional tournament for strung racquets, which was held that year at the Jewish Community Center in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. There Bill Schultz of Milwaukee defeated Bill Schmidtke of Michigan 14-21, 21-12, 21-18 to become the first recognized open singles winner in racquetball.

Secondly, an historic organizational meeting was an integral part of that first national championship. Bob Kendler, a driving force in handball who had taken to promoting the new sport, assumed the leadership role, then took less than six months to form the International Racquetball Association.

The popular myth that the racquetball racquet was originally developed as a sawed-off tennis racquet couldn't be further from the truth, according to this 1950 quote from Joe Sobek, "One day I decided that a strung racquet would allow you to make shots you could never make with a dead wooden paddle." Sobek drew up plans using a platform tennis racquet as a pattern, and an initial order of 25 prototypes was filled by the Magnan Racquet Manufacturing Company.

The sport quickly caught on throughout the United States, evolving into racquetball as we know it today. By the early 70's, court clubs could be found in every state and racquetball enjoyed a rapid and steady rise in popularity.

When the "fitness craze" hit the U.S. and Americans found themselves searching for new and challenging athletic activities, the timing was perfect for racquetball — court clubs were available throughout the country and the sport was fun and

easy to learn. The late 70's and early 80's saw racquetball explode in popularity and become one of the fastest growing sports in America. Thousands of new racquetball courts were built to satisfy the demand.

After saturating the market and reaching its peak in the mid-80's, the "racquetball only" club began to evolve into a full fitness facility and the sport leveled off. By 1987 racquetball regained a steady and manageable growth rate which has remained stable in every year since. Currently, some 10 million American players enjoy the sport each year.

***The popular myth
that the racquet-
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couldn't be further
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In its formative years, the sport's leadership recognized the need for international development and quickly identified the "Olympic Dream" as a vital long-term goal. The first racquetball World Championship was held in 1981 and one year later the United States Olympic

Committee recognized racquetball as a developing Olympic sport by granting the AARA "Group C" Olympic membership. Racquetball continued to advance in the Olympic structure and in 1989 reached the highest level of recognition by becoming the youngest sport to ever achieve U.S.O.C. "Group A" status by its national governing body. This accomplishment brought new levels of exposure to the sport, which is now featured in the U.S. Olympic Festival and in the planning phases of future Olympic Games. Even more recently racquetball was confirmed as a full medal sport on the program of the 1995 Pan-American Games.

Racquetball's rapid domestic and international development has been remarkable. Played in 87 countries worldwide, the sport's most recent World Championships featured teams from 32 countries representing six continents, and saw the United States capture its sixth consecutive team world title.

Clearly the 90's promise to be an exciting time for the sport of racquetball. With increasing exposure through cable televi-

sion coverage of national and international events, as well as the continued growth of both men's and women's professional racquetball, the sport's track record of steady annual growth, and the promise of achieving the "Olympic Dream" within its grasp - racquetball is well positioned for the future.

In the remaining five issues of the 1993 anniversary year, *RACQUETBALL Magazine* will focus on some of the legends of racquetball and where they are now. Stay tuned for what promises to be a most exciting year!

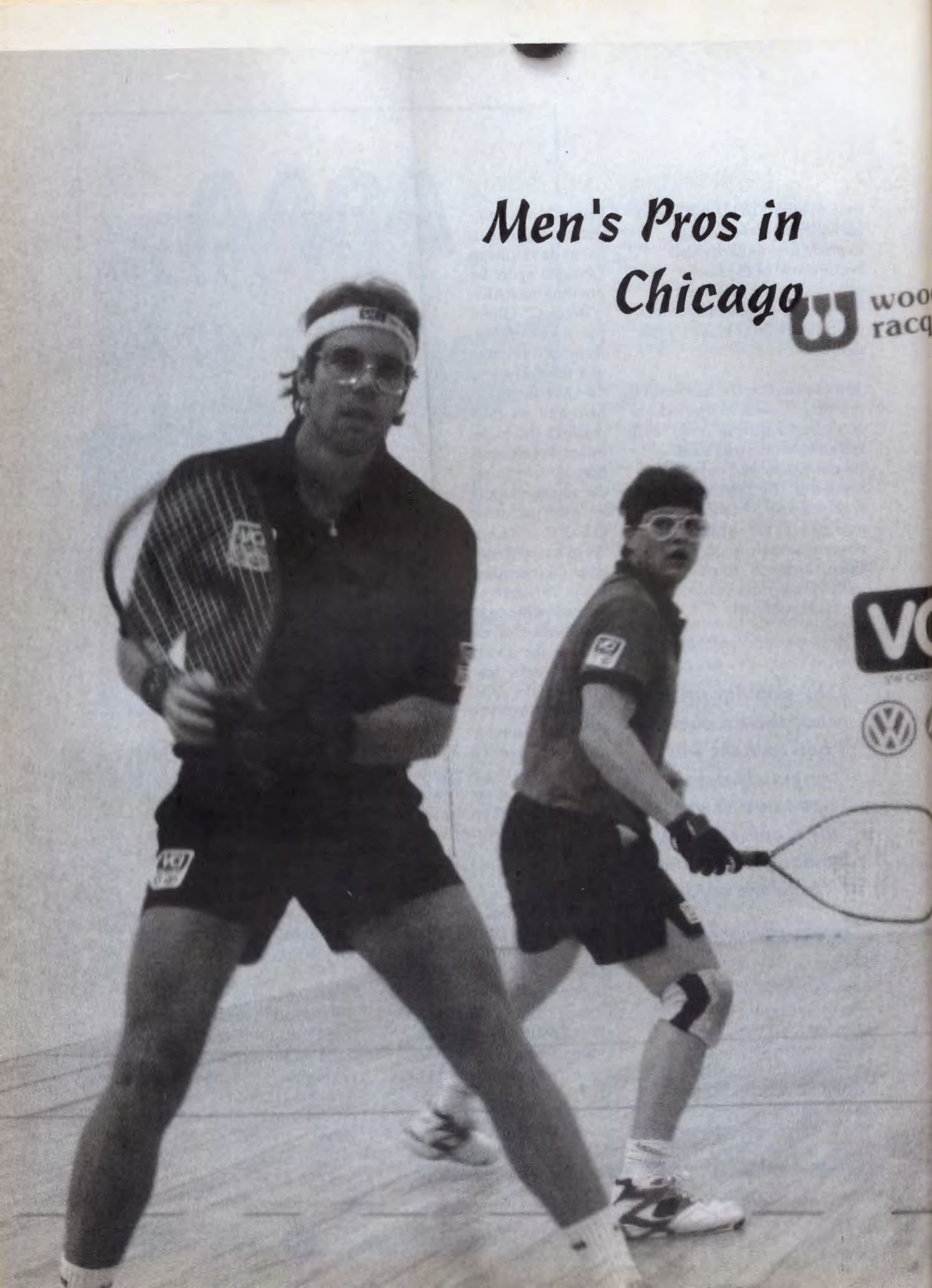
1968-1972
1973-1977
1978-1982
1983-1987
1988-1992
1993 . . .

Men's Pros in Chicago

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ROBERTS OUSTS RAY IN WINDY CITY

By Jim Hiser, Ph.D.

In late October, the International Racquetball Tour invaded Chicago with some of the most exciting men's professional racquetball action seen in many years. With its many rule changes, all which seem directed toward making the game more enjoyable for the average fan and spectator, the IRT has succeeded in making its tour stops fast-moving, strategic and packed with tremendous athleticism.

Although some of the more dynamic former tour personalities are missing, the racquetball skills and physical abilities of current tour players are far from lacking. The great depth in ability creates an atmosphere of unpredictability in which almost anyone can survive as the victor. If you haven't seen a pro event in a few years, I urge you to travel to the next tour stop in your area. You won't be disappointed.

First Round Action: The 32s

The big story in the round of 32's was the large number of first round forfeits. Roger Harripersad, the Canadian star

who has finally decided to test his skills on the tour, received a forfeit from Dave Johnson who had flight problems. Although Roger was happy to finally win money for advancing, he did express concern over not getting a first round match. Bret Harnett and Jason Krikorian also received forfeits from "no shows" Jason Waggoner and Jeff Evans respectively.

In actual first round action, Ruben Gonzalez defeated co-tournament director John Negrete. Prior to the match Ruben indicated that he has always done well in Chicago and was hoping to continue the trend. At 40, Ruben looks as sharp as ever. His new training regime of a 4 or 5 hour workout per day, including nautilus, life cycle and court drills may have something to do with his early season successes.

Mike Yellen took an easy win over Derek Robinson of Seattle, but was unknowingly prophetic afterward. The phantom Woodfield exhibition court is infamous for irregular bounces and fast play. After his match with Robinson, Mike looked bewildered and expressed his concern over never being able to really set-up on any shot. "The court is so fast my pass shots came off the back wall, and when I go to set-up on the ball it always seems to take a bad bounce," he said. Words to remember.

The battle between Estca sponsored players Dan Fowler and Dan Obremski, although

exciting and filled with great dives and gets, was predictable. While Fowler continues to gain the experience necessary to be successful at the top level, he still lacks the mental toughness to handle the "trick bag" of psychological games used by seasoned veterans such as Obremski.

The remaining first round matches featured top seeded players Drew Kachtik, Tim Doyle, Tim Sweeney, Woody Clouse, Cliff Swain, Mike Ray and Mike Ceresia, all of whom advanced easily, as expected.

Round of 16

The first round of 16 match featured top guns from Texas, Drew Kachtik and Mike Guidry. Although the pros have used one serve for almost two years, Guidry's inconsistency in hitting good drive serves eventually lead to his defeat. A total of nine fault serves in the match made it impossible for him to win against an experienced opponent like Kachtik, who won in four games.

The one serve rule does make the match move faster and is much more enjoyable for spectators since there are many more rallies. The rule also returns "strategy" to the pro game, but for the players, some still haven't adjusted.

In a match pitting youth and power against age and quickness, hometown favorite Tim Sweeney seemed primed and ready to dethrone previous tour winner Ruben Gonzalez. But

LEFT: In their semi-final match, Mike Ray winds up a backhand against Texan Drew Kachtik. All photos: Jim Hiser.

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again the one-serve rule was pivotal in negating some of Sweeney's power to Ruben's benefit. At 8-8 and again at 8-10, Sweeney hit long serves which gave Ruben the advantage he needed to dim Chicago's bright light in three.

Perhaps the best match of the day was between ongoing duellists Roger Harripersad of Canada and Tim Doyle of California. These two have a history of battles as amateurs representing their respective countries and renewed it at the previous Toronto stop, where Roger beat Tim in the 32's. Tim was looking for revenge, but his demise was written early after his first three serves fell short and he logged a total of seven fault serves in the first game alone. More motivated in the second game, Doyle became more consistent, a skill he continually struggles with, earning him games two and three. The fourth game became an event highlight as both players finally found a groove and played the type of ball spectators were accustomed to seeing from these fine athletes. The new "win by two" rule, implemented for the first time in Chicago, also forced the season's longest game. Seeming to have the match won with a 10-6 lead in the fourth, Doyle served a fault at 10-8, then skipped a forehand from six feet at 10-9, inviting Roger back into the game. With the serve at 13-13, Roger went to the forehand Z, forcing weak returns and ending rallies for the win. In the tiebreaker, six unforced errors in the last five points gave Harripersad his second consecutive victory over Doyle.

In the Yellen-Clouse match, Woody finally broke his streak of losing in the round of 16's and outlasted Yellen in four games. Although Mike struggled on the fast court that had caught his attention in the previous round, Woody couldn't miss as he flat rolled five overhead reverse pinches in game three.

Another hometown favorite, Jack Newman, found himself on the defensive against a much-improved Bret Harnett. A gallery filled with Newman's relatives and fans were not enough to offset the power and retrieving ability of the athletic Harnett, who sent Newman back to the practice courts with an easy three game win.

The most lopsided match of the 16's was a direct result of the early first round forfeit. Jason Krikorian from Massachusetts, although greatly improved, had never survived a round of 32 match and now found himself facing #2 seed Andy Roberts in the 16's. Andy's experience proved too much for the very nervous Krikorian and Andy won quickly in straight games.

Perhaps the greatest rivalry on the tour exists between Cliff Swain and Dan Obremski. Reminiscent of the old days when Dave Peck and Marty Hogan would use every tactic and strategy to gain whatever advantage they could, the friction between Swain and Obremski seemed to be on the brink of exploding at any moment. With three games decided by 11-9 scores, Cliff survived Obremski's defensive onslaught in the highly volatile atmosphere. Dan's retrievals are perhaps the best in racquetball, but his inability to kill the ball allows his opponents to finish the rallies. Swain capitalized on these opportunities and won the match in five, claiming the last 11-9 tiebreaker for his own.

The final match of the day between #1 seed Mike Ray of South Carolina and Mike Ceresia of Canada went as expected with Ray winning in four. "Top Gun" Ray as his warm-up attire displays, has the best all-around game in professional racquetball today. Mike's nonchalant, almost sleepy court manner often fools players and spectators alike into underestimating his ability. At 6'3" Mike can retrieve with the best and has an almost flawless ceiling and defensive game. His consistent overhead pinch and down-the-line shots keeps opponents guessing, and creates many opportunities for him to capitalize on. Again, the one serve rule and the more strategic game it generates, has definitely helped Ray achieve his "Top Gun" description and #1 ranking.

Quarterfinals

Whenever Drew Kachtik and Ruben Gonzalez play, not only do spectators and fans win, but racquetball gets a shot in the arm. These are two of the most athletic, honest and sportsmanlike players on the tour today. They always give



Gonzalez can't believe Ceresia's call!

100% effort and this match was no exception. At one game apiece, referee Mike Ceresia made two calls that pushed Ruben to the limit of his sportsmanship. At 9-8 and again at 11-10 in Ruben's favor, Mike called two hinders on Drew that looked like clear avoidables to many of the fans. Although Ruben questioned each call, and

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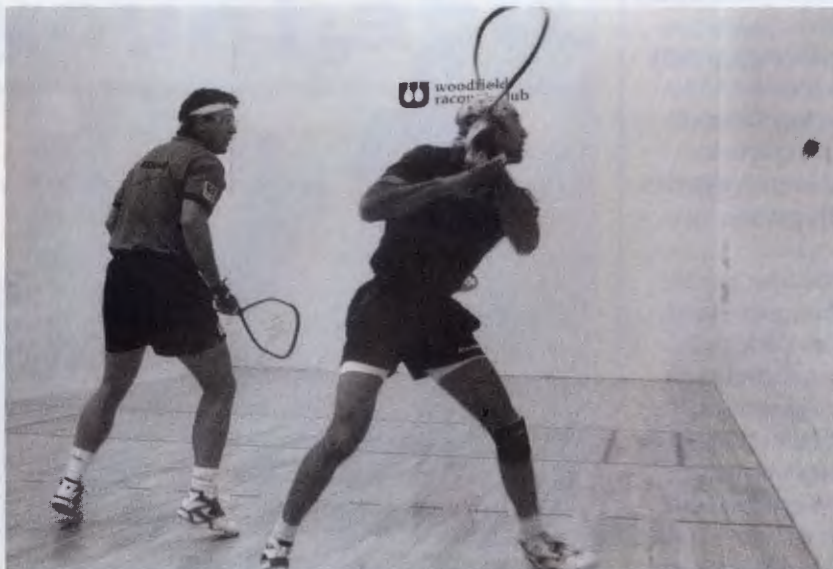
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Roberts on his way to sinking the pirate Harnett

seemed to be bothered by his inability to convince Ceresia of the avoidable, he was unable to recover, and lost the third game 14-12 and the match in four.

The next match was a study in contrasts. Roger Harripersad, the "Mr. Clean" of professional racquetball, dressed in his sterile white shorts and shirt, took to the court against Woody Clouse who wore more contrasting colors of blue than anyone ever imagined. Although both players are Canadian citizens the two had not crossed paths for five years. The first two games seesawed back and forth with neither player really taking control until Woody finally outlasted Roger 11-9 in the tiebreaker. Roger admitted after the match that he was not mentally focused for this type of competition, and Woody's newfound court demeanor was unusual but effective. Normally Woody is very vocal and expressive, but throughout this tournament he was quiet and even introspective at times. Perhaps marriage has tempered Woody, but for whatever reason, the new Woody seems to have found the secret for victory.

Chicago fans gave Andy Roberts slim odds of defeating the impressive Bret Harnett before their match, after witnessing Harnett's stunning victory over Newman. Harnett seemed to have a certain edge, at least in everyone's mind except Roberts'. Both players exhibited periods of brilliance, never further than five points apart in each of the first four games. In the tiebreaker Robert's hard Z serve made all the difference, as he seized every opportunity to kill the ball off weak service returns, winning the tiebreaker 11-4.

Mike Ray's consistency again proved the difference against Cliff Swain. Although Swain

served effectively, Mike made only six unforced errors in the entire match. After losing game three 13-11 on two easy set-up misses, Cliff seemed to lose his concentration and then the final game 11-2. Although Swain has not regained his performance level of three years ago, when he retired to pursue a tennis career, he is slowly returning to his old form and should be a factor for the remainder of the season.

Semifinal Action

Although Woody Clouse seemed to struggle in his match against Roberts, there were many positive signs for his future. After being burned on two calls, one by tour director Hank Marcus who overruled an ace serve and another on a hinder call, a "new" Woody took the calls in stride. The hinder had repeated an earlier situation in which Roberts was granted an avoidable, but Woody maintained his composure in both situations and actually seemed to play better after both calls. Earlier in his pro career, Woody would have erupted into a five minute tirade and never would have been able to regain his composure.

Continued ... Page 26

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ADVANCING IN CHICAGO ...

Round of 32

M. Ray	def. T. Jeffers (2,8,9)
M. Ceresia	def. T. O'Neil (7,5),9,4)
C. Swain	def. S. Reiff (3,10,9)
D. Obremski	def. D. Fowler ((4),2,7,2)
D. Kachtik	def. J. Bonnett (9,6,(7),6)
M. Guidry	def. G. Humphrey ((7),6,3,(10),4)
R. Gonzalez	def. J. Negrete (10,
T. Sweeney	def. S. Liparelli ((0),10,1,5)
W. Clouse	def. D. Sable (5,10,(7),2)
M. Yellen	def. D. Robinson ((9),5,7,4)
J. Harripersad	def. D. Johnson (ff)
T. Doyle	def. D. Negrete (7,7,3)
B. Harnett	def. J. Waggoner (ff)
J. Newman	def. C. Brumwell (1,5,7)
J. Krikorian	def. J. Evans (ff)
A. Roberts	def. M. Locker (3,0,1)

Round of 16

M. Ray	def. M. Ceresia (2,5,(7),7)
C. Swain	def. D. Obremski (9,(6),(9),6,9)
D. Kachtik	def. M. Guidry (4,(8),3,5)
R. Gonzalez	def. T. Sweeney (8,4,8)
W. Clouse	def. M. Yellen ((5),6,1,6)
R. Harripersad	def. T. Doyle (8,(9),(4),13,8)
B. Harnett	def. J. Newman (5,7,6)
A. Roberts	def. J. Krikorian (1,4,6)

Quarterfinals

M. Ray	def. C. Swain (8,(6),11,2)
D. Kachtik	def. R. Gonzalez (6,(6),12,8)
W. Clouse	def. R. Harripersad (8,(14),5,(7),9)
A. Roberts	def. B. Harnett ((3),5,4,(9),4)

Semifinals

M. Ray	def. D. Kachtik ((11),3,(5),4,3)
A. Roberts	def. W. Clouse (10,9,3)

FINAL

A. Roberts def. M. Ray (4,(9),(6),10,2)

Although Roberts prevailed it was not his most impressive match. After the game Roberts exclaimed, "I thought there was something wrong with the front wall, I've never missed so many three wall serves."

Many wonder how Drew Kachtik survives a tour event. Whenever he takes to a court you know you're in for a long, gruelling match, and his semifinal against Mike Ray was no exception.

Although the match went to a tiebreaker, the "no-doze kid" as some of his peers call Mike, seemed to be in control most of the way, nonchalantly hitting perfect ceiling balls and pinpoint serves as Drew struggled to stay in the match. Although Drew took two games, he was continually diving just to return the ball while Mike hardly broke a sweat.

Finals

The finals were all everyone expected them to be. Cheered on by his wife and newborn daughter, Roberts methodically pressed Ray into making uncharacteristic errors. In game four it looked like the match was over with Ray up two games to one and ahead 10-3, but Roberts fought back to win the crucial game 12-10. This rare let down by Ray gave Andy the confidence he needed to take the tiebreaker and the \$5,500 first prize check.

For the Halloween weekend, the Woodfield pro stop continues to be the place to be. With a full draw of amateurs, the excitement of the professionals and perhaps the best party atmosphere of any midwest event, Dave Negrete and his staff does whatever it takes to make sure every single competitor and fan leaves satisfied and excited about a return trip the next year.

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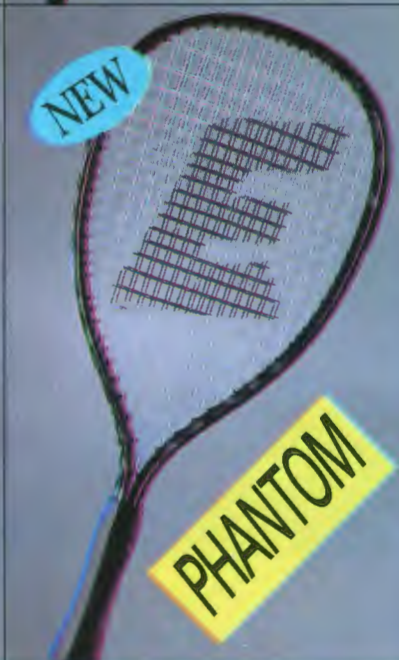
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PRO/FILE

MIKE RAY REGAINS TOP SPOT

Pros return to Baltimore for VCI Event
By Jay Sweren

In a stirring five game final pitting the top two pros on the International Racquetball Tour against each other, Mike Ray of Hilton Head, South Carolina defeated longtime rival Andy Roberts, of Memphis, Tennessee 9-11, 11-9, 2-11, 11-3, 11-6 to take over the top spot in both the IRT rankings as well as the VCI Challenge Cup Series. The match, played at Merritt Athletic Club in Security, capped an exciting week which marked the return of the Men's Pro Tour to the Baltimore area for the first time in many years.

Ray got off to a slow start, losing the first game and falling behind in the second. He then gave an important lesson in sportsmanship by calling a double bounce pickup on himself after drawing even at 9-9 in a game he had to win. He managed to pull out game two, then swapped uninspired wins with Roberts in games three and four before finally holding on to take an exciting tiebreaker and with it the \$5,000 first prize check. Roberts runner-up finish was worth \$2,500.

Roberts reached the final by beating local favorite Maxwell Brooks in the first round, then the legendary Mike Yellen of Bloomfield, Michigan in the quarters and 1992 IRT World Champion Drew Kachtik of Dallas in the semis. Ray's road to the finals included wins over another local favorite, Greg Spiegel, then Tim Doyle of Huntington Beach, California and Cliff Swain of Braintree, Massachusetts. Dave Simonette, winner of the Open Division in the Baltimore Open amateur side of the tournament, won his first-round pro match against Bret Harnett of Las Vegas before losing to Doyle in the 16's.

Other Marylanders testing their skills against "The Big Boys" were Jamal Harris, who actually threw a scare into Kachtik before losing, along with Todd Weller, Dan Fowler, Mike Porter, and Mike Kauffman, who succumbed to Ruben

Gonzalez, Dave Johnson, Swain, and Jack Newman, respectively.

In the amateur draw, marking the inaugural venture of JAMsports into open tournaments, Lynne Coburn won the Women's Open with a stirring 11-9 tiebreaker win over longtime rival Molly O'Brien. Simonette defeated Dick Reck on the men's side in straight games. Other amateur winners included, Rhonda Will (Women's A and 35+A), Barbara Young (B and 35+B), Cathy Jenkins (C), Veronica Yorski (Club C), and Yolanda Jordan (25+). For the men, winners were Mark Maschal (A), Steve Papaminas (B), Paul Lane (C), Ruben Vargas, Jr. (Club C), Louis Lucarelli (Novice), Fred Aarons (25+A), Curtis Schwartz (25+B), John Mautz (50+), and Charles Gross (55+). Rusty Jones won the Boys 18-under. In doubles it was Harris/Noel (Men's Open), McGill/Ackerman (Men's A), Cigna/Gracewski (Men's B), Chandler/Burkland (Men's C), Serafin/Giscomb (Women's A), Cleveland/Wiragh (Mixed Open), George/Harrison (Mixed A), and Franze/Harrison (Mixed B).

STOP NOTES: MONTREAL

Montreal was the first in a series of five elite VCI events on the International Racquetball Tour. In its second year as a major sponsor, VW Credit Inc. will award the VCI Challenge Cup to the most successful player in the series at the close of the season.

The VCI event in Montreal opened with an amazing upset of California's Tim Doyle by Canada's Roger Harripersad. A Canadian national team player for some time, Roger has competed in IRT events since his collegiate days in the U.S. It was a strong showing by one of Canada's best in a rare pro appearance before home fans, but Roger was unable to make it past Bret Harnett in the round of 16.

Fellow Canadian Mike Ceresia also fell in the second round to #1 seed Mike Ray. In the only

other close match of the second round, Mike Guidry came from behind to defeat Jack Newman. After a season of top finishes last year, Mike Yellen logged victories over Woody Clouse, Drew Kachtik and Mike Ray.

In the final, even Yellen was no match for Ruben Gonzalez. As fellow IRT players put it, "Ruben played the best racquetball he's ever played." Taking out top pros Dave Johnson, Andy Roberts, Bret Harnett, and Yellen for the win, Ruben proved the even at age 40, he is still every bit a professional athlete.

Advancing in Montreal ...Round of 16

Mike Ray ----- def. Mike Ceresia (5,8,(8),5)
 Dan Obremski ----- def. Cliff Swain (5,7,3)
 Drew Kachtik ----- def. Tim Sweeney (7,4,9)
 Mike Yellen ----- def. Woody Clouse (4,3,5)
 Bret Harnett ----- def. Roger Harripersad (7,(11),(8),10,5)
 Mike Guidry ----- def. Jack Newman ((4),(6),3,2,4)
 Ruben Gonzalez ----- def. Dave Johnson (4,3,(10),7)
 Andy Roberts ----- def. Todd O'Neil (6,9,10)

Quarterfinals

Mike Ray ----- def. Dan Obremski ((6),2,(9),6,9)
 Mike Yellen ----- def. Drew Kachtik (10,7,(4),9)
 Bret Harnett ----- def. Mike Guidry (9,(4),10,13)
 Ruben Gonzalez ----- def. Andy Roberts (7,8,(8),2)

Semifinals

Mike Yellen ----- def. Mike Ray ((8),1,5,7)
 Ruben Gonzalez ----- def. Bret Harnett (6,(7),(9),5,4,)

FINAL: Ruben Gonzalez def. Mike Yellen (7,5,4)

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Cliff Swain

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PRO/FILE

STOP NOTES: RIVERSIDE

Riverside, California is right in the middle of the hottest racquetball territory in the U.S. In fact, the entire region just outside Los Angeles is famous for the tremendous racquetball talent it has generated for the pro tour.

Early on, three upsets marked the round of 32, with wins by Aaron Katz over Dave Johnson, Jason Krikorian over Todd O'Neil, and Joey Paraiso over Drew Kachtik. Recently Katz has been dropping in to select tour events and producing some major upsets, one of the biggest being a victory over Egan Inoue in New Orleans. Here in Riverside he was able to beat Dave Johnson on "home turf." The next surprise came from Jason Krikorian, who improved his game enough to get past first round stumbling blocks in several events this season and strengthen his position in the field. In Riverside he went even farther in the draw, with a tough five game victory over Todd O'Neil. But the biggest upset came from San Diego's Joey Paraiso. In a tremendous match, Joey was able to beat one of the IRT's best, Texan Drew Kachtik, in only four games.

ADVANCING IN RIVERSIDE ... Round of 16

Andy Roberts ----- def. Mike Ceresia (4,6,3)
Tim Sweeney ----- def. Mike Yellen ((8),(8),5,5,7)
Cliff Swain ----- def. Aaron Katz (8,0,9)
Woody Clouse ----- def. Joey Paraiso (5,2,10)
Ruben Gonzalez ----- def. Dan Obremski (8,6,(3),7)
Jack Newman ----- def. Bret Harnett ((5),9,(8),8,4)
Tim Doyle ----- def. Mike Guidry (5,9,(9),6)
Mike Ray ----- def. Jason Krikorian (8,5,2)

Quarterfinals

Andy Roberts ----- def. Tim Sweeney (3,6,2)
Cliff Swain ----- def. Woody Clouse (10,3,4)
Jack Newman ----- def. Ruben Gonzalez (7,(9),10,(6),10)
Mike Ray ----- def. Tim Doyle ((11),6,6,7)

Semi-finals

Cliff Swain ----- def. Andy Roberts (6,3,2)
Jack Newman ----- def. Mike Ray (6,8,5)
FINAL: Cliff Swain def. Jack Newman (4,5,4)

Rapid-fire turnovers in the round of 16 saw the advances end, with Woody Clouse stopping Paraiso, Cliff Swain stopping Katz and Mike Ray stopping Krikorian. Ruben Gonzalez and Tim Doyle won four-gamers against Dan Obremski and Mike Guidry respectively, while Jack Newman played brilliantly for a win in five against Bret Harnett, and Tim Sweeney came from two games down to upset Mike Yellen.

Top seeds Andy Roberts and Mike Ray faced upsets in the semis at the hands of Cliff Swain and Jack Newman. The final was nearly over before it started as Cliff took out Jack in a swift three. The story of the tournament was Cliff Swain. From the first round, his single game loss was to the hard-hitting Louis Vogel.

ATLANTA PRO/AM EXHIBITION SCHEDULED IN FEBRUARY

In its first cooperative venture of the season, the AARA and the IRT will present an exhibition of racquetball talent for Supershow attendees in February. Scheduled to coincide with the VW Credit Inc. Southern Classic pro stop February 3-7, the special event will also offer a "celebrity draw" which will feature Braves home-run king Hank Aaron and pitcher Tom Glavine in the line-up, plus playoffs between the world's best switch-hitting racquet-handlers in the "Bi Rak It" National Championships.

Atlanta's Club Cobb will host the February VCI Southern Classic, with a portion of the proceeds benefitting the Georgia Council on Child Abuse.

INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL TOUR SIGNS PENN

International Racquetball Tour (IRT) Commissioner Hank Marcus recently announced that the tour has named the Penn racquetball glove line as the official glove of the men's professional tour for the next two seasons.

In the IRT's first year, six tournaments were held, followed by a more than doubled schedule in the second year with 13 and this year, 20 stops are lined up. The tour schedule takes the pros across North America, with numerous stops in Canada, and a first appearance by the pros in Mexico, probably in February or March.

IRT STARS CHAMPION FIGHT AGAINST FIBROMYALGIA

Men's pro players have rallied together in the fight against Fibromyalgia — a painful and confusing syndrome that attacks between 13 and 18 million Americans (90% of which are women) — by pledging to raise funds for research and increasing public awareness.

Fibromyalgia is a microscopic tearing of muscle tissue which causes chronic pain and there is no known cause or cure. Information about fibromyalgia is available by writing: Fibromyalgia, P.O. Box 500, Salem, OR 97308.

IRT PLAYER PROFILES

MIKE RAY

Hometown:
*Hilton Head,
South Carolina*
**Current IRT
Ranking:** #1
Racquet:
Spalding Goliath



Mike is a tall southpaw with a smooth, confident, control-style game. He is noted for his anticipation, court coverage, a deadly forehand, and unorthodox overhead shots. Mike has captured three TransCoastal Grand National titles in the last four years. His recent accomplishments include an early season victory in New Orleans and his endorsement of the Mike Ray signature Champion glove. Mike prefers hinged eyeguards, high string tensions and a big racquet grip. Mike's goal is to hold on to the coveted #1 ranking.

ANDY ROBERTS

Hometown:
Memphis, Tennessee
**Current IRT
Ranking:** #2
Racquet: Ektelon
Eminence



Andy is an awesome competitor with equally awesome power. This right-hander's strongest weapons are his backhand, drive serve, and mental toughness. Andy won last year's TransCoastal Grand Nationals, and the first ever VCI Credit Challenge series event. This year he has claimed victories in Stockton, California and Chicago. Andy chooses hinged eyeguards, low string tensions, and wrap style grips. Andy is striving to be the most well-rounded player on the tour.



TOUR SCHEDULE

January 20-24

Little Rock, Arkansas
Little Rock Athletic Club

February 4-8

Atlanta, Georgia
Club Cobb (VCI Event)

February 17-21

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Racquet Club of Pittsburgh

February 24-28

Memphis, Tennessee
Racquet Club of Memphis

March 10-14

Las Vegas, Nevada
TBA

April 21-25

Los Angeles, California
L.A. Fitness (VCI Event)

May 12-16

Seattle, Washington
Harbor Square Athletic Club

June 2-6

Portland, Oregon
Multnomah Athletic Club

June 16-20

Minneapolis, Minnesota
TBA (VCI Event)

PRO TOUR STANDINGS

IRT RANKINGS

1. Mike Ray, SC
2. Andy Roberts, TN
3. Cliff Swain, MA
4. Drew Kachtik, TX
5. Ruben Gonzalez, NY
6. Tim Doyle, CA
7. Jack Newman, IL
- 8T. Bret Harnett, NV
- 8T. Tim Sweeney, IL
10. Mike Guidry, TX

CREW WEST BONUS POOL STANDINGS

1. Andy Roberts, TN
2. Cliff Swain, MA
3. Tim Doyle, CA
4. Ruben Gonzalez, NY
5. Jack Newman, IL
6. Tim Sweeney, IL
7. Woody Clouse, FL
8. Dave Johnson, CA

VCI CHALLENGE CUP SERIES RANKINGS

1. Mike Ray, SC
- 2T. Andy Roberts, TN
- 2T. Mike Yellen, MI
4. Ruben Gonzalez, NY
5. Drew Kachtik, TX
- 6T. Dan Obremski, PA
- 6T. Mike Guidry, TX
8. Cliff Swain, MA

PENN GLOVE BONUS POOL

The following includes finishes from all TransCoastal IRT events beginning with Vancouver, B.C. and involves all those professionals wearing the Penn Glove, the official glove of the IRT Tour:

1. Cliff Swain, MA
2. Bret Harnett, NV
3. Dave Johnson, CA
4. Jeff Evans, OR



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**RACQUETBALL
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WPRA IN TRANSITION

By Lauren Sheprow



Was it the water at nationals in 1991? Was it the water in Atlanta in 1992? It must have something to do with Atlanta. I was there, carrying "halfway finished" twins, wearing maternity clothes that were already too small for me in my fifth month, but fit Kim Machiran throughout her pregnancy... when it dawned on me.

The babies are coming, there's no doubt about it. The WPRA is experiencing a baby boom like we've never seen before. As the new executive director, I expected a season of transition, but this is ridiculous.

Let's see: Lynn Adams-Clay, Dee Ferreira-Worth, May Chin-Varon, Dottie Fischl-Kelly, who else? Anybody out there I don't know about? And let's not forget that Mary Dee-Jolly, Kim Machiran and I all had ours within the past year! We're gonna have one hellacious baby shower at one of these tournaments!

Back to business. (We don't want to indulge in this kind of thinking... it appears to be contagious.) So what's going on with the Women's Professional Racquetball Association? We're in the midst of a structural transition which is both exciting and intimidating. Change

was imminent after a five-year tenure by the same tour administrators. As an organization, we're more determined than ever to insure continued success. As the new executive director, I'm determined to help the WPRA grow from there.

My goals as executive director are simple and few: secure national tour sponsors, gain media exposure and create more and new sanctioned tour events both here and abroad. These goals will not be accomplished overnight. But through determination and hard work, they will be accomplished.

With organizations such as the AARA, the men's pro tour, strong publications and state associations advancing the sport on a daily basis, women's pro racquetball will continue to reap the benefits, as well as create opportunities for those organizations in return. Racquetball is growing by leaps and bounds once again, and we plan to remain in the spotlight as one of its pillar organizations.

RANKINGS AT THE CLOSE OF THE 1992 SEASON

1. Jackie Paraiso-Gibson, CA
2. Malia Kamahoa Bailey, VA
3. Toni Bevelock, CA
4. Michelle Gould, ID
5. Dottie Fischl-Kelly, PA
6. Marci Drexler, CA
7. Marcy Lynch, PA
8. Lynne Coburn, MD
9. Kaye Kuhfeld, IN
10. Robin Levine, CA

**WPRA Tour
Schedule listed
on next page ...**



1993 TOUR SCHEDULE

January 15-17

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
"Grand Slam"
Shawnee at Highpoint
Chalfont, PA
Contact: Molly O'Brien
215/723-7356

February 20-23 **

Anchorage, Alaska
Silver Racquet Pro Am
Alaska Athletic Club
Anchorage, Alaska
Contact: Jay Wisthoff
907/562-2460

March 4-7 *

Atlanta, Georgia
Pizza Hut Racquetball Challenge
Southlake Athletic Club
Atlanta, Georgia
Contact: Caryn McKinney
404/636-7575

** Indicates date tentative*

*** Indicates confirmation pending*

March 19-21

Los Angeles, California
Racquetball World
Santa Ana, California
Contact: Toni Bevelock
Dee Ferreira-Worth
714/285-2332

March 26-28 **

Syracuse, New York
Track and Racquet Club
Fayetteville, New York
Contact: Jim Hanno
315/446-3141

April 15-18 **

Toronto, Canada
Contact: Lauren Sheprow
305/385-3648

April 29-May 2

Baltimore, Maryland
Diet Pepsi WPRRA National
Championships
Merritt Athletic Club - Security
Contact: Molly O'Brien
215/723-7356

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JANUARY

January 20

Alaska Open
Alaska Ath. Club
Anchorage, AK
907/562-2460

January 21

Attitude Adjustment
Durango Ath. Club
Durango, CO
303/259-2579

Ralph Schomp Invitatnl.
Denver Ath. Club
Denver, CO
303/534-4274

Parkland Med. Ctr. Open
Executive Health & Fitness
Manchester, NH
603/627-4552

January 22

Billings Pro-Am
Billings Ath. Club
Billings, MT

Coors Light Series #7
13th Street Racquet Club
Cleveland, OH
614/548-4188

Frostbite Shootout
Pottstown Health Club
Pottstown, PA
215/326-6216

Great Ft. Lewis Shoot-Out
McVeigh Gym
Ft. Lewis, WA
206/473-2266

Iron Range Open
Supreme Courts
Virginia, MN
218/749-8318

L/A Rollout
Hilltop Community Ctr.
Lewiston, ME

Metroplex Champs.
Maverick Ath. Club
Arlington, TX
817/275-3348

Snowball Rollout
Seward Fit. Ctr.
Seward, NE

Superbowl Open
Westlane Ath. Club
Stockton, CA
209/472-2100

Winter Classic
Southridge Ath. Club
Greenfield, WI
414/421-5770

11th Summit City Open
Summit City Ctr/C
Ft. Wayne, IN
219/485-1671

Courthouse Junior Open
Courthouse Ath. Club No.
Salem, OR
503/585-2582

23rd Peter Cornell Open
Downtown YMCA
Richmond, VA
804/644-9622

January 23

East Coast Open
The Club at Woodbridge
Woodbridge, NJ
908/634-5000

Nashville City Champs
Aerob-A-Fit Sports Ctr.
Nashville, TN
615/832-PLAY

January 27

Doubles Duel
Conditioning Spa
Greeley, CO
303/352-0974

January 28

Winter Kickoff
Las Cruces R/C
Las Cruces, NM
505/526-4477

January 29

Coors Light Series #8
Heights Health & Racquet
Dayton, OH
614/548-4188

Coors Light Winter Open
Royal Court of Kearney
Kearney, NE
308/236-5110

E Force \$35,000 3-Wall
Broward Com. College
Davie, FL
407/738-7973

Erie County Farms Open
Nautilus Fit. Ctr.
Erie, PA
814/459-3033

Hall of Fame Pro-Am
Downtown Tennis & Ath.
Club, Minneapolis, MN
612/343-3131

Michelob Light Tourn.
Grand Forks Tennis Ctr.
Grand Forks, ND
701/746-2790

New Year's Classic
Gastonia YMCA
Gastonia, NC
704/865-8551

Racquetball One #8 Sr/
Masters, Michigan Ath.
Club, East Lansing, MI
616/956-0550

Saranac Pro-Am
Western Racquet & Fitness
Green Bay, WI
414/437-7801

Superbowl Open
Northwest Fitness Ctr.
Houston, TX
713/895-8688

The Maine Open
Holiday Health & Fitness
Bangor, ME

Winter Jam
Maryland Farms
Brentwood, TN
615/373-5120

3rd Ann. Beefeater Classic
Southlake Club, IL
708/949-8180

Winter Open
Snow Creek Ath. Club
Mammoth Lakes, CA
619/934-8511

4th Bell Socialization
Wynfield Club
York, PA
717/848-5767

FEBRUARY

February 3
Southern Classic
Club Cobb
Atlanta, GA
404/256-1963

February 4
Aurora City Open
IAC Aurora
Aurora, CO
303/534-4274

Illinois State Doubles
Excel Health & Racquet
708/748-4810

Kachina Invitational
The Fit. Ctr.
Gallup, NM
505/722-7271

February 5

Blue Hen Open
University of Delaware
Newark, DE
302/737-8994

Boise City Champs.
Court House-Boise
Boise, ID
208/377-0040

Bud Light Classic
Pennyrile
Hopkinsville, KY
502/885-4200

Dr. E.M. Jewusiak Mem.
Williamsburg Hilton
Williamsburg, VA
804/220-2500

Ektelon #7 NJ Doubles
Riverview R/B & Nautilus
New Milford, NJ
201/444-0859

Emerald Winter Classic
Emerald City Ath. Club
Everett, WA
206/743-7029

February Fever
S. Hampshire Racquet
Club, St. Louis, MO
314/353-1500

Heartbreaker Open
Racquetball World
Canoga Park, CA
818/884-5034

Icicle Open
Allentown R/B Club
Allentown, PA
215/821-1300

Kidney Fdn. Benefit
Wood Valley Racquet &
Fitness, Topeka, KS
913/266-8000

ORA Collegiate Doubles
Baldwin Wallace College
Berea, OH
216/826-2286

Old South Open
Fitness USA
Raleigh, NC
919/832-5513

Pocatello City Champs.
Fitness Inc./Pocatello
Pocatello, ID
208/233-8035

Racquets 4 Winter Open
Racquets Four Ath. Club
Indianapolis, IN
317/783-5411

Special K R/B Series #3
Severence Ath. Club
Cleveland, OH
216/247-7549

Stuck in Lodi Open
Twin Arbors Ath. Club
Lodi, CA
209/334-4997

Sundown Winter Open
Liverpool, NY
315/451-5050

The Valentine's Day Open
New England Hlth & Rqt.
Newington, CT
203/649-0883

Westmoreland Open
Racquettime Greensburg
Greensburg, PA
412/832-7050

Winter Carnival Pro-Am
River Valley Ath. Club
Stillwater, MN
612/439-7611

Winternationals
YMCA Family Fitness Ctr.
Butte, MT

13th Track & Racquet
Open, Fayetteville, NY
315/446-3141

Spalding Assault Series
The Woodlands
Houston, TX

Winter Open Tournament
Snowcreek Ath. Club
Mammoth Lakes, CA
619/934-8511

Wintergreen Tournament
Laurel Rac. & Hlt. Club
Laurel, MD
410/987-0980

4-Wall Outdoor Winter
Classic, Sanlondo Park
Altamonte Springs, FL
407/869-5966

February 10
Silver Racquet Pro-Am
Alaska Ath. Club
Anchorage, AK
907/562-2460

February 11
Point Challenge
Point Ath. Club
Lakewood, CO
303/988-1300

NATIONAL CALENDAR

Royal Championships
Royal Spa & Court Club
Farmington, NM
505/326-2211

February 12
Alpha Double Trouble
Alpha R/B Club
Mechanicsburg, PA
717/533-4554

Cupids Splat Open
Garden Hlt. & Fit.
Monterey, CA
408/646-0550

Decathlon Invitational
The Decathlon Club
Bloomington, MN
612/854-7171

Fitness Barn Open
Fitness Barn
Valparaiso, IN
219/762-3191

Harbor Square Pro-Am
Harbor Square Ath. Club
Edmonds, WA
206/778-3546

JDF R/B & Squash Tourn.
Merritt Ath. Club - Security
Baltimore, MD
410/356-4555

Michelob Light Tourn.
Williston Racquet Club
Williston, ND
701/774-8617

NYS Championships
Colonie Court Club
Albany, NY
518/459-4444

One on One Go Blue Series
One on One Ath. Club
Ann Arbor, MI
313/761-4440

Valentine's R/B Shootout
Riverside Wellness & Fit.
Midlothian, VA
804/794-6888

St. Valentine's Day
Massacre, Woodfield R/C
Schaumburg, IL
708/884-0678

St. Valentine's Day Open
North Valley Ath. Club
Chico, CA
916/891-4700

St. Valentine's Massacre
Sports Courts/Lincoln
Lincoln, NE
402/475-5686

St. Valentine's Day
Massacre, Idaho Falls Rgt.
Club, Idaho Fall, ID
208/522-2712

Valentine Classic
North Hills Ath. Club
Menomonee Falls, WI
414/251-1420

Valentines Tournament
Racquetball International
Windham, ME

Winter Classic
Metrosport
Durham, NC
909/286-7529

Yesterdays
Sportsbarn
Chattanooga, TN
615/266-1125

John Marsden Open
N. Conway Ath. Club
N. Conway, NH

9th 7UP R/B Classic
Reno Ath. Club
Reno, NV
702/788-5588

February 13
MN State H.S. Champs.
98th St. Rgt/Swim/Health
Bloomington, MN
612/920-6652

February 18
Midtown Open
Midtown Ath. Club
Albuquerque, NM
505/888-4811

Sporting Club Ladies
Invit., Cherry Creek
Sporting Club, Glendale,
CO—303/399-3050

February 19
Indiana Women's Classic
Shelby County Ath. Club
Shelbyville, IN
317/255-7730

Intercollegiate Regional
Woodfield Racquet Club
Schaumburg, IL
708/394-3972

Intercollegiate Regional
Tyler Junior College
Tyler, TX

Men's Pro Stop
Racquet Club of
Pittsburgh, Monroeville,
PA, 412/856-3930

Mid-Winter Open
Hall of Fame Fitness Ctr.
Canton, OH
216/455-7788

MT State Doubles
Crossroads, Helena, MT

NC State Champs.
Charlotte Rac. & Hlt. Ctr.
Charlotte, NC
919/379-0550

Racquetball One #9
Maple Ath. Club
Troy, MI 616/956-0550

Schaumburg Winter
Classic @ Park District
Schaumburg, IL
708/490-7020

Snoball Open
The Fitness Club
Waterville, ME

So. CA Singles Challenge
L.A. Fitness
Hacienda Heights, CA
714/946-5220

Auburn Courthouse Open
Auburn, CA
916/885-1964

Ultimate R/B Tournament
Ultimate Health & Racquet
Baxter, MN
218/829-6453

Waycross Winter Open
Waycross Sporting Club
Cincinnati, OH
513/851-9400

Tennessee State Singles
Club Vita—Nashville, TN
615/871-4301

Timberhill Jr. R/B
Timberhill Ath. Club
Corvallis, OR
502/757-8559

February 24
3rd Members & Friends
YMCA/Pikes Peak Region
Colorado Springs, CO
719/471-9790

February 25
New Mexico Open
Roswell Spa/Court Club
Roswell, NM
505/622-0962

February 26
Apple Valley Classic
Valley Rac. & Fitness Ctr.
Sunnyside, WA
206/837-7733

DE State Doubles
Dover AFB
Dover, DE
302/478-7919

Devil Mountain Open
Supreme Court Club
Pleasant Hill, CA
510/938-5370

East Side Open
East Side Ath. Club
Bellevue, WA
206/473-2266

Grand Island YMCA Open
Grand Island, NE
308/384-8181

Midwest Sr/Master Reg.
Arena Racquet/Swim/
Health, Minneapolis, MN
612/377-5779

NHRA State Singles
Salem Ath. Club
Salem, NH

Racquetball Classic
Alaska Ath. Club
Fairbanks, AK
907/456-1914

10th UCP Benefit
Suburban Racquet/Swim
Rockville, MN
612/251-3965

13th Hemophilia Benefit
Supreme Courts
Memphis, TN
901/458-6727

Lajolla YMCA Open
Lajolla, CA
619/453-3483

Special Olympics Benefit
Stratford Ath. Club
Stratford, CT
203/378-2211

February 27
Double Barrel Shootout
Incline Court House
Incline Village, NV
702/831-4212

MARCH

March 4
IL State Singles
Glass Court Swim/Fitness
708/394-1616

Duffers/Hackers Invit.
Cherry Creek Sporting
Club, Glendale, CO
303/399-3050

NM State Juniors
Club International
Santa Fe, NM
505/473-9807

March 5
Island Classic @ Mariners
Square Ath. Club
Alameda, CA
510/523-8011

B-C-D Round Robin
Grand Blanc Court Club
Grand Blanc, MI
517/887-0459

Ball Buster
Fitness Inc./Pocatello
Pocatello, ID
208/233-8035

CT State Singles
New England Hlt. & Rac.
Enfield, CT
203/649-0883

Cub Foods Pro-Am
River Valley Ath. Club
Stillwater, MN
612/439-7611

Easter Seals Open
Butler Racquet Club
Butler, PA
412/285-5775

Ektelon #8 NJ Singles
King's Court
Lyndhurst, NJ
201/444-0859

Greater Akron Champs.
Amerimed Ctr. for Fitness
Tallmadge, OH
216/633-2133

Greenbriar Classic
Greenbriar Ath. Club
Indianapolis, IN
317/257-3261

Kalispell Pro-Am
Kalispell Ath. Club
Kalispell, MT

ME State Doubles
Racquetball International
Windham, ME

March Winds
Lincoln YMCA
Lincoln, NE
402/475-9622

Racquetball One #10 Sr/
Masters, Trenton Ath.
Club, Trenton, MI
616/956-0550

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Spring Shootout
Los Caballeros Spt. Vlg.
Fountain Valley, CA
714/546-8560

Courts Plus Open
Courts Plus Fitness Ctr.
 Fargo, ND
701/237-4805

TX State Singles
Downtown YMCA
Dallas, TX

VA State Singles
Richmond Ath. Club
Richmond, VA
804/355-4311

CT State Singles
New England Hlt. & Rac.
Enfield, CT
203/649-0883

March 6
Racquetball One SR.Finale
Trenton Ath. Club
Trenton, MI

March 11
Muniz Memorial
Royal Ath. Club
Burlingame, CA
415/692-3300

ND State Championships
Missouri Valley YMCA
Bismarck, ND
701/255-1525

March 12
Cabin Fever Open
South Tahoe Fit. Ctr.
South Lake Tahoe, NV
916/544-6222

Coors Light Series #9
Congress Park Ath. Club
Dayton, OH
614/548-4188

Midwest Sr/Masters invit.
Lake Country R/C
Hartland, WI
414/367-4999

Northwest Open
Bellingham Ath. Club
Bellingham, WA
206/676-1800

Omni 41 Open
Omni 41 Sport/Flt. Ctr.
Schererville, IN
219/865-6969

Pennbriar Singles Tuneup
The Pennbriar
Erie, PA—814/325-8111

Saco Open
NE Hlt. & Flt., Saco, ME

Shamrock Shootout
Glass Court Swim/Fitness
708/629-3390

Slamrock @ Courtsouth
Murfreesboro, TN
615/896-5123

Snowflake Pro-Am
Forest Lake Hlt. & Rac/C
Forest Lake, MN
612/464-1840

Sequoia Ath. Club Open
Visalia, CA
209/627-1446

Tourn. of Champions
LA Masters R/B & Flt. Ctr.
W. Chester, PA
215/436-6200

13th Lucky Leprechaun
Sundown Liverpool
Liverpool, NY
315/451-5050

Courtsports Juniors
Courtsports Ath. Club
Eugene, OR
503/687-2255

March 13
H.S. State Championships
S.Hampshire Ath. Club
St. Louis, MO
314/353-1500

MD State Singles
Merritt Ath. Club-Security
Baltimore, MD
410/298-8700

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Columbus, Ohio
Westerville Athletic Club
Westerville, Ohio
Doug Ganim, 614/548-4188

MARCH 12-14
South Florida Racquet Club
Ft. Lauderdale, Florida
Mary Lyons, 904/268-8888
Sue Gilberti, 305/987-6410

MARCH 19-21
Modesto Courtroom
Modesto, California
Rose Miano, 209/577-1060

Keystone Fitness Center
Indianapolis, Indiana
Mike Arnold, 317/846-1111
317/926-2766

Sportset — Syosset, New York
Al Seltzman, 516/360-0979

The Laurel Racquet & Fitness
Laurel, Maryland
Jay Sweren, 410/356-4050

Sports Barn
Chattanooga, Tennessee
Johnny Hennen, 615/266-1125

MARCH 26-28
Track & Racquet
Syracuse, New York
Marion Crawford
315/446-3141

The Hiway 100 Racquet & Swim
Minneapolis, Minnesota
Peggy Clark, 612/920-6652

APRIL 2-4
University of Arkansas
Fayetteville, Arkansas
Rex Benham, 501/521-8241 (o)
501/868-9609 (h)

Riverside Courthouse
Riverside, California
Robin Dixon, 714/783-0320

Site TBA — Chicago, Illinois
Geoff Peters, 708/848-4632

APRIL 15-18
Court House In Boise, Idaho
Gloria Eggers, 208/377-0040
208/345-4629

APRIL 16-18
Town and Country
St. Louis, Missouri
Mark Willoughby, 816/358-9794
816/228-7600 (o)

The Racquet Club at Warren
Warren, New Jersey
King George Racquetball Club
Greenbrook, New Jersey
Lisa Gaertner, 201/444-0859

New England Health & Rqt Clubs
Warwick and East Providence,
Rhode Island
Paul Gully, 508/422-8010

Northwest Club, San Antonio, Texas
Bruce Hendin, 512/344-8596

APRIL 21-25
Tom Young's Athletic Club
Albuquerque, New Mexico
Gary Mazaroff, 505/266-8960

APRIL 23-25
Racquetpower, Jacksonville, Florida
Mary Lyons, 904/268-8888

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Billings, Montana
Steve Pinnow, 406/252-3950

APRIL 30-MAY 2
Sports Courts, Lincoln, Nebraska
Linda Moore, 402/454-2765 (h)
402/423-2511 (o)

The Sports Center
Fayetteville, North Carolina
Mike Dimoff, 919/379-0550



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National High School Championships
Women's Senior/Master Invitational
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March 25-27
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PLAYING SMART

EKTELON'S TOP PROS AND AMATEURS TALK RACQUETBALL

This issue marks the first of a series of instructional articles for racquetball players presented by amateur and professional members of Team Ektelon, the largest organization of players and teaching professionals in the sport. The more than 1,000 Team Ektelon members have been successful at introducing people to racquetball through a variety of junior and novice adult programs. This "Playing Smart" feature will offer strategies, tips, drills and other information that will help improve your racquetball game.



HOW TO OUTSMART YOUR OPPONENT

(...and win, even if he's a better player)

By Chris Cole

1992 World Racquetball Champion

After competing in racquetball for more than 14 years, Chris Cole recently captured his third major title in as many attempts, including the Tournament of the Americas, the U.S. National Singles title, and the World Championships. Planned strategy, combined with a slow, controlled game, advanced Cole from "team manager" at the 1990 Worlds in Caracas, to its gold medalist just two years later in Montreal. He is a club professional and director of racquetball at the Davison Racquet and Fitness Club near Flint, Michigan. Cole joined Ektelon's junior playing staff at age fourteen, and has been associated with the company for 10 years.

Many players have asked me how I was able to defeat such power players as Michael Bronfeld, Tim Sweeney and John Ellis at the World Championships. Planned strategy — and not playing the same old game — is how I earned the individual world racquetball title in Montreal.

I'm sure to most of my opponents, victory seemed a remote possibility

for me when I landed in the hospital with an allergic reaction a few days before the team round began. I did feel better in the individual playoffs, but what really helped was that I changed my usual game. I tried not to draw the match out so long. When I'm in shape, I can usually outlast my opponent. In Montreal, I needed to end the matches faster, so I went for more low percentage shots ... and fortunately, executed them.

Discover your opponent's weaknesses

While not wanting to divulge all my trade secrets, the clash between the strategies used by Michael, Tim, John and myself made the difference between winning and losing. Obviously, the difference was slight when you consider that I squeaked by in tight tiebreakers. But it was enough.

The basic premise of any strategy is to first discover weaknesses in your opponent and devise ways of exploiting these vulnerable areas. Quickly find your opponent's weaknesses before he does the same to you. This is the essence of the conflict — the loser of the battle will simply be the one who is unable to either exploit his opponent's weaknesses or defend his own.

Plan your attack

As a history major, I liken each of my matches to a military battle. Using information I have gathered on the player, I formulate plans to attack the opposing force with strengths I have in order to achieve a final goal: victory.

When I'm playing someone for the first time and have no advance scouting of his game, I play the first game as a litmus test to determine what I'm dealing with. I try to be more conservative in my shot selection, allowing myself the opportunity to analyze my opponent's game and the tendencies, strengths, and weaknesses I have to combat.

Analyze your opponent to find out which tendencies you can defeat and which areas and shots should be avoided in your game. Ask yourself:

- Is this a control or power player?
- What types of serves have been hit?
- Is the player quick, slow or plodding?
- Can the player pinch?
- Where do they position themselves during rallies?
- When in trouble, what's their favorite shot?
- Can they hit a ceiling ball?
- How do they handle my pinch, pass or serve?

Once these questions have been answered, a battle plan can be developed and implemented.

Alter your strategy with shot selection

Shot selection is probably the quickest and easiest way to alter your strategy if you are trying to improve your game. To do this, however, you must be willing to totally break down your game and critique what shots are made at what time. In my own case, when I came out of Michigan four years ago to compete on the national level, I was known as someone who pinches all the time. At the national level, guys can eat that for lunch. Until I learned how to hit a down-the-line pass, I

was continually beaten by the top players who exploited my inability to master that shot. One of the reasons for my success lately has been my down-the-line pass to augment the impact of my pinch shot. Now I can hit another shot that my opponent must cover and thus make both shots more effective.

Shot selection needs to be thought of as what shot (particularly one that has a high percentage rate of success) to hit depending on the position and talents of the opponent. From deep court, ceiling balls and passes have a higher percentage of success while kills and pinches have a decidedly lower rate. From every spot on the court there's a shot that will remove the opponent from center court. This is what the first choice should be rather than a killshot. 🔥





THE SERVE

By Michelle Gould
1992 World Racquetball Champion

Michelle Gould has won every major tournament in women's racquetball, including three WPRA Championships, four consecutive AARA National Championship victories in singles, and three AARA Doubles Championships. Although long touted as one of the most exciting racquetball players on the court today, capturing the gold at the World Racquetball Championships in Montreal finally proved to Gould that she is number one. A strong, strategic player from Boise, Idaho,

Gould's service has been clocked at 167 miles per hour. She has been a member of Ektelon's professional playing staff since 1990, and a member of the U.S. National Racquetball Team since 1985.

The two most essential aspects of a match are the skills that players practice the least: the serve and the serve return. This article will focus on the serve, which is generally considered the most important shot in racquetball. Service offers a player one of the few opportunities to be in complete control of the game.

Remember, the object is to produce a weak return of serve from your opponent (a set-up for a rally-ending shot) or no return at all (an ace).

Because few players ever achieve such a high skill level to consistently serve an ace, the best approach is to do everything possible to assure that the return of serve is weak.

Serve strategy and selection

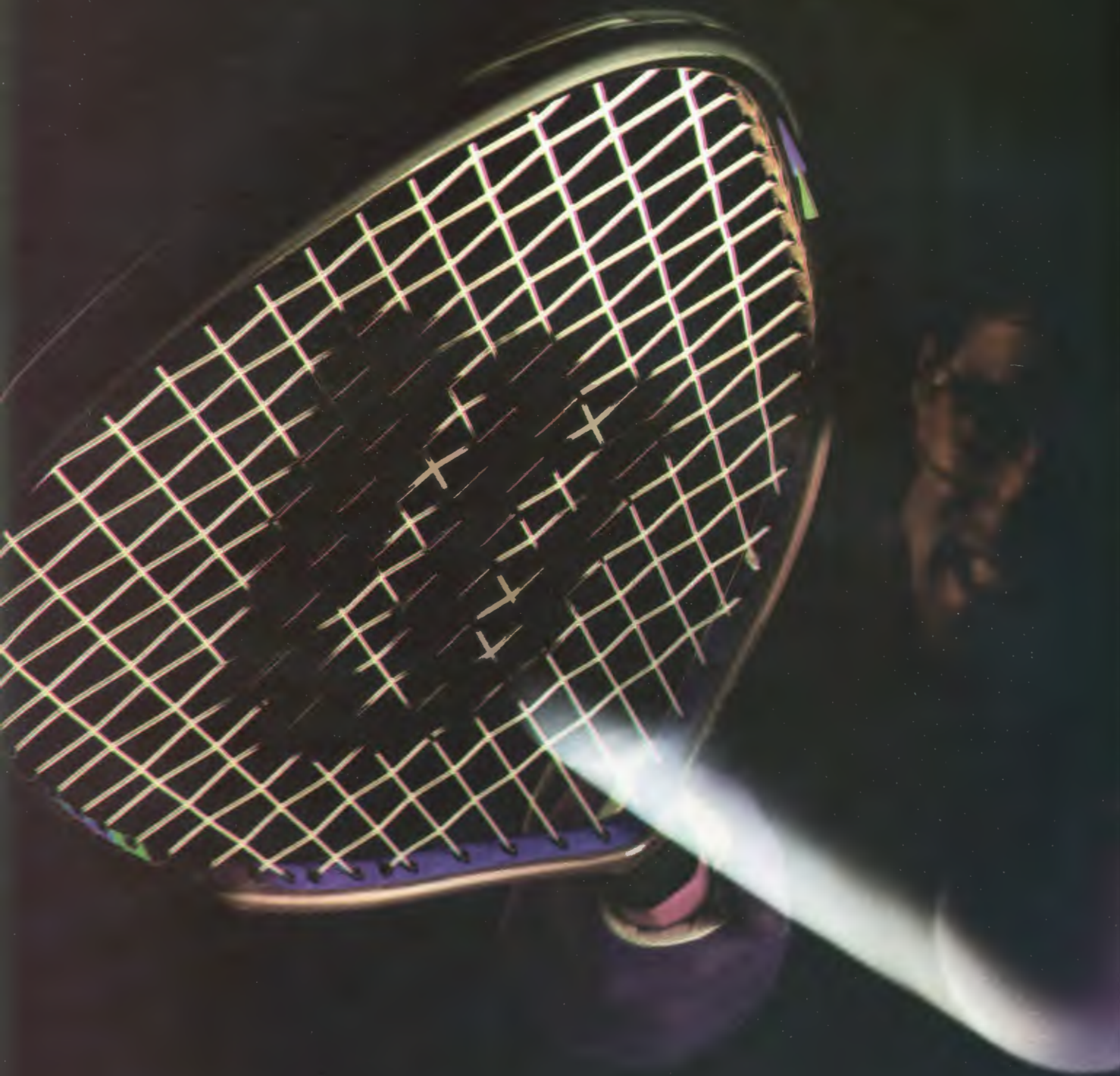
Strategy and serve selection will depend on your playing style. If you're like most players, you'll try an aggressive serve first, then switch to a lob serve as a second serve. But some opponents love to smash the return of serve as hard as they can all of the time. You may find that you

can gain a strategic advantage by taking them out of their normal "smash ball" game style. To do this, create a slower game pace by using more lob serves the first time around. Or to maintain pressure on your opponent, try using two aggressive drive serves.

Use your first six to eight serves in a match to test your opponent's strengths and weaknesses in handling all your serves. Pick two or three serves that produce the weakest returns, and use them throughout the match. Every opponent you play will react differently to each serve you show them, so be sure to practice and utilize a variety of different serves.

Let's focus on the drive and lob serves — both very useful tools to keep the pressure on your opponent. The diagrams on the following pages will illustrate the effective serving positions and techniques.

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Drive serve: a low, powerful, offensive serve. The drive is most frequently served from positions 1, 3 or 5, although you should learn to serve from all five positions. Contact the ball at calf to knee height. The first bounce should land right over the short line, causing the second bounce to die before coming off the back wall. There are several variations of this serve, including:

— *off-speed*, which is similar to a “change-up” by a baseball pitcher. It’s the same basic serve, but at 60-80% of the normal velocity;

— *a walking serve*, in which the server is moving laterally as well as toward the front wall during the service motion;

— *a crack serve*, which is hit in between the short line and encroachment (dotted) line. You really want the ball to “crack out” - hit the front wall, side wall, and two short bounces before it dies;

— and the *jam serve*. Instead of aiming the ball directly at a rear corner, you try to make the ball hit a side wall, rebound toward the feet of the receiver, hit the back wall and come off the opposite wall (almost like “around the world”).

Lob serves: the ball bounces high into the rear corner of the court. There are several types of lob serves available, such as:

— the *full lob*, which is typically served from positions 1, 3 or 5. Using a lifting motion, contact the ball on the rise between waist and shoulder level. Getting as close to the ceiling as possible, the ball should hit the front wall 15'-18' high and as close to the side wall as you can get. The second bounce should die on the back wall knee high or lower, without any chance for your opponent to take it off the back wall for an offensive shot;

— the *half lob*, also hit from positions 1, 3 and 5, uses the

same lifting motion as a full lob. The ball should strike the front wall 10'-12' up, bounce between the short line and encroachment, rebound and approach your opponent shoulder to head high;

— the *angle lob*, served from position 2, 3 or 4, should hit the front wall at an angle causing it to make contact high on the side wall, close to the back wall. This serve usually creates a second bounce in the middle of the court because of the angle, making it difficult for your opponent to get a full arm extension. The goal is to contact the back wall at knee height or lower;

— the *lob Z serve* is hit very high from position 1, 2, 4 or 5 (experiment to determine what works best for you). The ball is hit into either corner of the front wall, leaving your opponent with a difficult return because the ball bounces three-fourths of the way back and hits a side wall. You can vary the

Diagram A
DRIVE SERVE

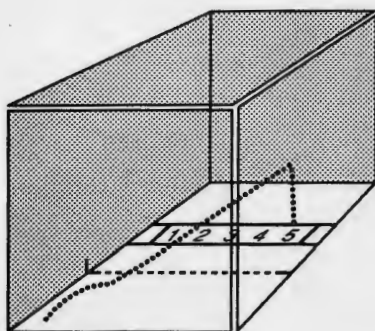


Diagram B
FULL & HALF LOB SERVES

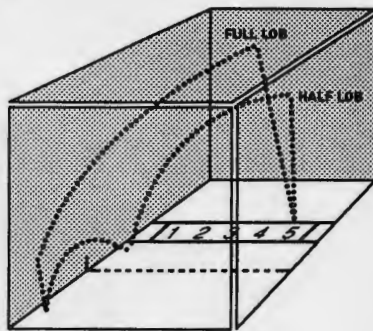
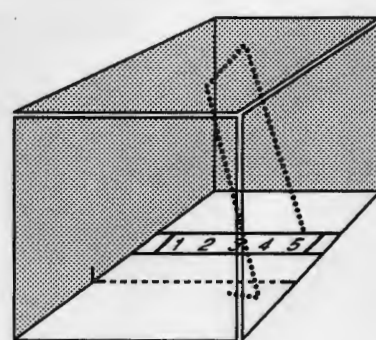


Diagram C
Z LOB SERVE



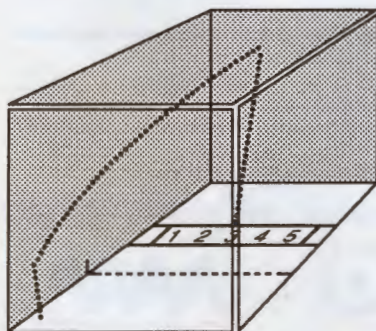
speed of the Z serve from lob to hard drive by changing how hard you strike the ball and how high on the front wall you make initial contact.

Take the time to really learn the serves

Each of these serve variations will create different effects. Take the time to learn a variety of serves, and it will pay off later in match and tournament victories. Find a practice partner who plays a similar skill level to you, schedule a court, and spend an hour a week taking turns serving and returning serves. This type of practice is very hard work, but you will find that the results are worth the effort. Remember to use a combination of serves and vary your pace to keep your opponent guessing - deception is the key to serving success.

If you have further questions about any of these serves, ask your local club pro for help.

Diagram D ANGLE LOB SERVE



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Jan. 29-31	South Plainfield, NJ.	Ricochet Health & Rac. Club	Mar. 12-14	Indianapolis, IN.	Racquetball Club of Green Briar
Feb. 12-14	Tucker, GA. (Atlanta area)	Tucker Racquet & Fitness Club	Apr. 16-18	Minneapolis, MN.	Northeast Racquet Club
Feb. 19-21	Crystal City, VA.	The Skyline Clubs at Crystal Gateway	Jun. 11-13	Cincinnati, OH.	Midtown Athletic Club

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PARI TIP #14: THE LOB SERVE

By Fran Davis
U.S. National Team Coach

Welcome to our 14th PARI Tip. In the last issue we discussed in detail the basic *low hard*, *low off-speed* and *overhead Z* serves. We noted how the drive serves and the Z serves have many similarities such as the same service motion, the same three positions in the service box, the same trajectory of the ball and the same foot work and ball toss. The only major difference is the contact point. This allows for a tremendous amount of deception, which keeps your opponent off balance and guessing, thus forcing a weak return of serve.

Today we'll shift gears and work on the high soft serves, *the lobs*, used primarily as a good defensive, safe second serve (in some cases, especially against a power player, the lob serve can be used effectively as a good offensive first serve because you are keeping the ball out of their hitting zone — shoulder high). Let's take a closer look:

Type of Serve

The basic soft high, half or the Z lob serves are all slower paced serves requiring a smooth deliberate serving motion. All these are hit from an erect position with a semi-bent arm and a stiff or locked wrist so that the main movement is a shoulder rotation and not a wrist snap (see photo 1). Imagine that you are pushing the ball up and over the wallyball net.

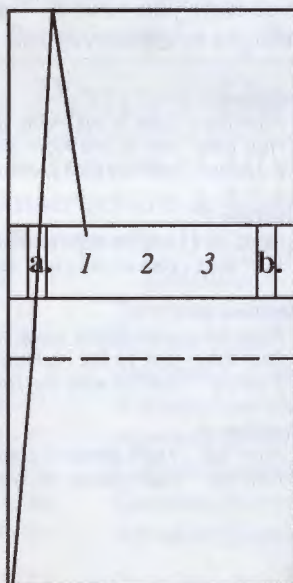


Diagram 1

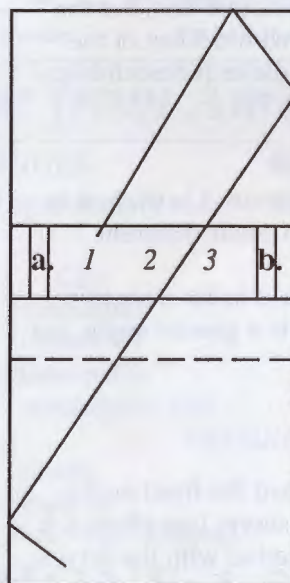


Diagram 2

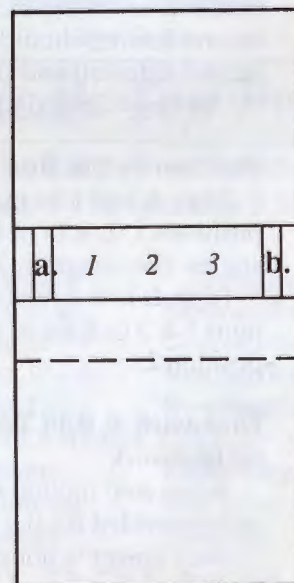


Diagram 3



Contact Point

(a) On your Body

High lob and high Z lob, shoulder high (see photo 2).

Half lob and half Z lob, chest high (photo 3).

(b) On the Front Wall

High lob and high Z lob 3/4 of the way up on the front wall (15-18 feet up).

Half lob and half Z lob 1/2 of the way up on the front wall (10-13 feet up).

(c) On the Floor

Both the high and half lob should bounce first on the 25 foot dotted line and bounce a second time deep in the corner. (See diagram 1).

The high and half Z lob should also have its first bounce on the 25 foot dotted line, but the second bounce should be within 5 feet of the second sidewall and then die as it descends to the backwall. (See diagram 2).

Position in the Box

High & half lobs move around in the box to positions 1, 2, 3, (a or b) to create different angles. (See diagram 3)

High & half Z lobs should be hit from positions 1 & 3 (a & b), to create a greater angle, not position 2.

Footwork & Ball Toss

(a) Footwork

A one step motion toward the front wall is recommended for the lob serves (see photo 4 & 5) since power is not needed as with the drives.

(b) Ball Toss

This is determined by where you want the ball to wind up, on the right side of the court or the left side. Or, whether you want to hit a Z or a straight in lob (refer to PARI tips #12 & 13 on Drive & Z serves).

Trajectory of the Ball

Watch the full path of the ball.

Remember, the serve motion and the footwork for *all lob* serves are the same in order to create deception. Many players change their footwork for the Z. Just change your ball toss, which changes your contact point.

Well now you have it — a total of 15 basic straight in lob serves and three basic Z serves:

Position 1

2 High lobs - one to the right side, one to the left side
2 Half lobs - one to the right side, one to the left side
2 Z serves - one hit with forehand, one hit with backhand

Position 2

2 High lobs - one to the right side, one to the left side
2 Half lobs - one to the right side, one to the left side

Position 3

2 High lobs - one to the right side, one to the left side
2 Half lobs - one to the right side, one to the left side
1 Z serve - one hit with the forehand

Position 4

1 High lob - right along the wall
1 Half lob - right along the wall



serve that works against a particular player. If you know who you are playing, check out your opponents strengths and weaknesses and serve accordingly. If you don't know who you are playing use the first 10-15 serves to try a variety of serves and see how your opponent reacts, then serve accordingly.

Good luck and have fun keeping your opponent guessing and off balance.

Next issue we will address another critical part of the game, the *Return of Serve*. Until then practice those serves!

We have thoroughly completed the service game. We examined in depth both the offensive (41 low & hard) and defensive (19 soft & high) serves, to cover over 60 serve options. With this variety in your service game you can now make better choices of what to serve depending largely on who you are playing. Most players choose their "favorite" serve rather than the "most effective"

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AMERICA'S MOST WANTED: RETURN SERVE

By Andy Roberts

In order to be a successful racquetball player you must be able to serve and — just as important — to return the ball effectively. In this article you will learn the strategy behind the serve return as well as the offensive and defensive shots used against a good server. I'll also address proper court position to best return the serve and we'll see why the goal on the return of serve is to move the server out of front court. The following steps will aid in developing a strong serve return.

Step #1

If possible you should watch your opponent play prior to your match, so you can identify tendencies in their service game. This process will aid you in shaping a return of serve strategy. For example, if the server does not have a good serve to the right side of the court this will allow you to anticipate serves to the left side of the court. You may also pick out serves your opponent hits well, then devise a plan of attack to counter them. An example might be that your opponent has a great Z serve to your backhand. Therefore your plan of attack will be to cut the Z serve off before the ball reaches the sidewall. This strategy keeps the Z serve from getting deep into the backhand corner and forcing you to play a desperation return.

Step #2

Decide what your opponent will do on second serve opportunities. Does your opponent have a good lob serve, or merely one that puts the ball into play? Will you be able to attack the lob serve off the back wall easily or will you be forced to cut the ball off? And finally, how many different lob serves does your opponent hit throughout the match?

Step #3

After all the questions in Step #2 are answered you are ready to move to Step #3. How well do your opponents move out of the service box after each serve? Are they slow to get into position off drive serves or lobs, or do they move into the wrong position after the serve? The movement out of the service box after the ball is put into play is as important as the serve itself.

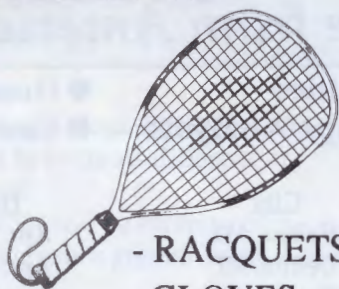
After you have the answers for each step you are ready to devise a plan of attack for your opponent's service game. The return of serve starts with you positioned one arm-length from the back wall and centered on the court. That should give you equal distance to each back corner. Your feet should be at least shoulder width apart with a comfortable bend at the knees. At this point, by scouting your opponents, you should have a general idea of what their favorite serves are, as well as the preferred second serve.

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Remember the goal of moving your opponent out of the center court to the back court on the return of serve? The best way to achieve this goal is by hitting the ball into the deep corners of the court. This strategy forces your opponent to run from the service box to the back court, which is a difficult task to accomplish consistently. When the serve is struck and you move to return the shot your first decision is whether you're going to be offensive or defensive. If your choice is offense, the shots that give the best results are a down-the-line or a cross court.

Remember the key to the return of serve is depth on the shot. The pinch shot is the least advised since it leaves the ball in the front court — in the general area where your opponent is standing.

If you can accomplish all these steps consistently in the match you should experience success on the return of serve. Return of serve is just one of many strategies discussed in America's Most Wanted Racquetball Camps!

Good Luck with your game.

PARI NEWS

By Connie Martin
PARI Commissioner

PARI Goals

The Professional Association of Racquetball Instructors (PARI) is the national association for instructors and potential instructors of racquetball. The purpose of the PARI program is to have a certified professional racquetball instructor in every athletic club in the U.S. in which racquetball is offered. For a brochure listing clinic

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PARI Hosts First Juniors Coaching Clinic

CourtSports in Eugene, Oregon was the first site of the Juniors Coaching Clinic. Twenty-seven coaches, instructors, volunteers and parents attended the six hour seminar with PARI clinician Connie Martin. They covered everything from goal setting to motivation to drills to basic teaching ideas.

We are looking to hire people to conduct the one-day juniors coaching clinics, and to give input into the program. You need to be a PARI Professional to conduct the clinics. If you are interested, fill out the PARI Instructor Report.

Congratulations New PARI Members

The following people completed the PARI Level I/II Clinic & Exam this past summer and fall: Earl Vassar (LA), Ron Strong (OR), Rhonda Grisham-Professional (TX), Carol Clements (MD), Boyd Peters (AL), Bob Chapman (OK), Jerry Dimitratos-Professional (OK), David Wong (TX), Kenneth Greene (GA), Tom Neill (NM), Gary Mazaroff-Professional (NM), Lou Dextraze (CO), Kirk Kuester (NM), G. Michael Rhone (CO), Jack McAfee (OR), Joe Wittenbrink-Professional (NM), Ken Cheshire (NM), Tony Borden (TX), Donna Beldring (NM), Philip Eliana (HI), Osualdo Garcia (PR), Steve Weidlein (PR), Gerardo Latimer (PR), Donato Rivera (PR), Efrain Lopez (PR), Mercedes Ortega-upgrade (PR).

New Clinicians Named

Welcome aboard to Mary Lyons of Florida and Gary Mazaroff of New Mexico, who will be joining the PARI clinician staff beginning in 1993. They will join veteran clinicians Connie Martin (Oregon), Dave George (California) and Fran Davis (New Jersey).



Connie Martin

"SAQ" TRAINING FOR RACQUETBALL

*By Scott M. Phelps
U.S. National
Racquetball Team
Speed Coach*



It's crazy, outrageous, and weird, but most of all SAQ training is fun. Speed, Agility, and Quickness are vital elements in racquetball, and training specifically for these qualities can put new spark into your daily workout routine. SAQ training helps to develop the body's maximum athletic potential; it is the key to optimal performance. Ten years ago, few people would have believed that we can turn mules into racehorses, but we can!

Let's begin by learning a simple principle in speed development: you can't get fast by training slow, you only get fast by training fast. In other words, you must teach your body to perform faster by training specifically for speed and quickness. By forcing the muscular system to fire at or near its top speed, it can be taught to continually fire at a higher rate of speed for longer periods of time. Once the body establishes a pattern of how fast it can really go, this will become its new standard for performance.

The issue now becomes the time devoted to the development of SAQ. Again we can establish a simple principle to follow: quality, not quantity. Practicing more is not always the key; training smarter is. If I am training a group of athletes who are exhausted, forcing them to train for another 10, 20 or 30 minutes will not do much for speed development. Speed training actually takes very little time and will improve your play tremendously. You should perform your speed training while you feel fresh, and 15 minutes per day is all it takes to really improve your game.

Next we will focus on some simple, beginning drills that you should be able to integrate into your practice or warm-up immediately. Skipping is a great exercise. Skipping works on quick foot reactions against the ground. Think of your exercise surface as a bed of hot coals, and you are in bare feet. Just thinking about this gets my feet moving! This series of skipping movements will help your feet to move quicker:

1. **High Knee Skipping:** Skip with the knees coming high up to the chest. Concentrate on "popping" the foot off the ground.
2. **Quick Skipping:** Try to contact the ground as many times as you can while skipping the length of the court. Don't worry about getting much clearance off the ground - the object is to go as fast as you can.
3. **Sideways Skipping:** Facing a wall, skip by crossing one foot over the other. This will get your hips involved and teach good middle-body movements as well as flexibility.
4. **Crossover Skipping:** Face forward as you skip, but bring your knees over one another. If you are doing this correctly, you should once again feel a lot of hip rotation.

It is hard to believe that something as simple as various skipping exercises can help your game, but they can. Try them! If you feel out of place, grab a partner and do them together. The results will put anyone who laughs at you to shame!

SAQ training is increasingly gaining a wide reputation for producing great results. If you can become a better overall athlete, your performance in sports will naturally improve. SAQ training teaches quicker reactions, faster recovery, and an athletic readiness that will permeate your game. Give it a try - it takes very little time and is well worth the extra effort.

DEAR RACQUETBALL DOCTOR

*By Fran Davis, Stu Hastings
& Diana McNab - U.S. Team
Sports Psychologist*

Fear of Failure: Part Two ... Coping

In its second installment, this article will continue to focus on the emotional aspect of the game. Earlier we introduced a topic we all often experience not only in racquetball, but in all walks of life... "fear of failure." We addressed the three areas in racquetball that cause "fear of failure," so let's quickly review:

1. **Anxiety/Expectations** (from self, others & society!) Generalized fear of any situation...what will happen if? (If I lose? If I get nervous/hyper

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and can't hit the ball?) What others expect of us and what we expect of ourselves. (We are the best player at the club and are expected to win the tournament, instead we lose the first round. How can I face them?)

2. Loss of Personal Value/Excuse. Looking bad in front of other people ... and what will they think! (Playing like a "C" player in a tournament when you are really and "A" player. Constantly skipping the ball and missing every set up. What will they think of me?) Making excuses for our performances. (I just got over the flu. I didn't work out for months. I just got back from a business trip.)

3. Feeling of Inferiority. The feeling that you are not as good as you really are.

These three areas illustrate the kind of illogical thinking that goes with the fear of failure ... it's called "self-talk." Dr. David Burns labels this *cognitive distortions*. Plain and simple, it's the "little voice" inside that talks to you.

Too often on the racquetball courts we sabotage ourselves with these very thoughts. Do any of these "little voices" sound familiar to you?

All or Nothing - You see things in black and white categories. If

your performance falls short of perfect, you see yourself as a total failure. For example: "I missed my first backhand of the game, now I'm going to miss them all." "If my serves are not on today I am going to lose."

Overgeneralization - You see a single negative event as a never-ending pattern of defeat. "Oh, no it's not my day." "My strings broke in my favorite racquet, therefore I know I am going to have a bad day." "Looking at the draw ... I've never beaten John Doe, so I might as well lose this round so I don't have to face him next round."

Continued ...

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Disqualifying the Positive - You reject positive experiences by insisting they "don't count" for some reason or another. In this way you can maintain a negative belief that is contradicted by every day experiences. "If I hit a winner, I guess it was lucky." "You played well today ... Oh, no I didn't, he just played worse than I did."

Jumping to Conclusions - You make a negative interpretation even though there are no definite facts that convincingly support your conclusions. "They are up 8 to 1 in the first game, therefore, I am going to lose." "She's a sponsored player, so I'll never beat her." "Look at that racquet he is using ... I can't beat him with my \$29.99 special."

Magnification - Building up your opponent while you put yourself down. "Wow, he won the

last tournament and he's seeded #1. How can I beat him?" "Wow, they've got a dynamite drive serve. Why can't I hit it that hard so I can win?"

Should Statements - You try to motivate yourself with shoulds and should nots, musts and ought to's. The emotional consequence is guilt. "I must win!" "I have to win." "I should win!" "I ought to win."

Labeling - This is an extreme form of overgeneralization. Instead of describing your error, you attach a negative label to yourself. "I am a loser." "I can't do anything right because I skipped the ball three times."

All of these are examples of illogical thinking, which leads to self-destruction. Let's discuss the formulas to change your illogical thinking. Below you will find five skills and strategies to overcome and cope with fear of failure.

#1 Rubber Band Technique: Put a rubber band around your wrist and every time a negative or illogical thought comes into your mind, pull it and let it snap. Keep doing this until eventually the thoughts will be associated with the pain and therefore no longer enter your mind. "Replace the negative thought with a positive one."

#2 Switch Technique (Anthony Robbins): Like a coin, one side love, the other side fear. Whenever a fearful thought enters your mind like "Oh, no. I'm going to lose!" replace it with a warm thought "I love this game and competition takes my game to a higher level!"

#3 S.E.L.F.

S. Stop (the thought) "Snap the band."

E. Evaluate (is this helping/hurting me) "This is not helping me."

L. Label (dysfunctional) exaggeration.

F. Follow through (with positive reinforcement) "I am a great athlete and player!"

#4 Visualization: Using the mind's eye to get what you want in sports and life. What the mind can perceive and you truly believe you can achieve. Rewind the tape and forward the

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correction. "See yourself not skipping the ball, instead of skipping the ball."

#5 Relaxation Techniques: Use during timeouts or in between games.

Shake Out. Let go of racquet and shake all body parts to wrists, hands and shoulders. Increase the circulation and get blood and oxygen back into each muscle group.

Deep Breathing. With chin horizontal, inhale, fill the lungs, pause, then exhale all negativity.

Shoulder Shrug. Inhale, lift up shoulders to ear, pause, then as you exhale relax the whole body.

Pin Point Focus. Pin point focus on the crossing of two strings. Concentrate on the ball hitting the center of the center of the racquet. Helps when you are distracted to get back into the game. Pin point focus on one thing!

These are some of the latest techniques in sports psychology. There is always a skill, strategy or technique to help you get out of your slump or help you cope with the "fear of failure." Try some of these and tell us what you think!

Next we will talk about "Pre-Game Psych Plans for Competition," an area we have a tendency to overlook. We will see you then. Good luck!



PSYCHOLOGY AND RACQUETBALL

What to do when you lose your mind... on the court

By Dr. Les Barbanell

The letters and comments I received following the first article in the July/August edition asked for more information about concentration and post-match learning. One advanced player noted that he had been too gentlemanly during his match, i.e., not aggressive enough. Another reader said she was consumed with the mechanics of her strokes and ignored studying her opponent's strategy. A more common concern has to do with losing concentration for part of a match, and/or an entire match — *Zoning Out!* One player reflected, "It was as if I forgot how to play. My mind and body were disconnected. I felt helpless and humiliated."

Loss of concentration happens to every athlete at some time. However, mental lapses are particularly critical in racquetball because games are of such short duration. Zone-out can carry over into your personal life, evoke depression and even discourage participation in future racquetball events.

There are several reasons why these mental lapses occur. Manifestations of mental fatigue can be due to lack of sleep the night prior to a match, too many pre-match distractions, arriving at the club site too early (oversocializing expends mental energy), playing too many matches (running on empty), and getting over-psyched for one match only to be mentally drained for the next one. These distractions can be neutralized once they are identified, and of course a sound night's sleep helps. However it is difficult to know why you "lose it" at times and the experience can be devastating.

The immediate concern is to recognize that you are in the zoned-out state. There are several behaviors to look for:

- A pattern of missing set-ups.
- Reverting to former bad habits, such as not getting your racquet up to begin your stroke.
- You are losing to an opponent of lesser ability by a wide margin.
- You sense that you are too deliberate in your movements.
- It feels as though you have lead in your sneakers.
- You become aware that you can't wait for the match to be over...you are losing and about to self-destruct.
- Your gray matter has become like jello.
- You are now in the "dead zone."

Now that you know you've lost concentration completely -- definitely call time-out. Acknowledge to yourself that you may feel physically strong, but that you are mentally weak. Think of every which way you can structure your mind. Structure serves as an anchor which can keep your mind from totally slipping away. There are techniques to accomplish this.

To begin, think of your mind as a circle that is empty. Your goal is to "fill" the circle with lines and squares. This is like constructing a grid in an open field. Simply put, you will want to substitute order and structure where there is chaos.

Enough talk, let's do it. During the time-out tell yourself you will try to make certain all ceiling balls leave your opponent in a three foot square

from side to back wall on each side of the court. Plan to call time-out every third or fourth point (one or the other, don't alternate). Hold up your racquet for ten seconds every third serve by your opponent. Walk four feet forward prior to each serve return, etc. Think of other ways you can structure your mind. The more you include numbers in your thoughts and actions, the better.

Your goal is to use simplified, repetitive thought processes to organize your mind and compensate for that dreaded zoned-out feeling. Filling in the blanks in your drained mind can get you back on track and back in the game.

[Editor's Note: Feel free to write to Dr. Barbanell, in care of the national office, with your questions or comments. We'll see that he receives your letters.]

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WHAT'S THE CALL?

by Otto Dietrich

AARA National Rules Commissioner

Q:

Are those eyeguards you're wearing designed for racquet sports?

Otto Dietrich — Atlanta, Georgia

Answer: A question from me? Unfortunately, I find myself asking that question far too often! I don't normally ask unless I already suspect that someone's eyeguards aren't legal, and if the player answers "Yes" (and is telling the truth, of course), that player will have to get legal eyeguards or else forfeit the match immediately. Worse yet -- if the lenses are prescription, then solving the problem becomes more difficult.

The AARA's eyeguard rule (2.5(a)) has been in effect for at least five years -- long enough for nearly everyone to know what it says. But there's still some misunderstanding -- usually involving prescription eyewear. Just because the lenses in your glasses are made of safety glass and your optometrist says they are for use in sports, the glasses (particularly the frames) still



may not be legal for use in racquetball!

Note that the AARA's eyeguard rule *doesn't* say that you must wear safety glasses! It says that you must wear

"lensed eyeguards designed for use in racquet sports."

The glasses that you wear at work or for work in the yard may have safety lenses and can withstand lots of physical damage, but they probably aren't acceptable for racquetball. The key words here are "designed for racquet sports." Unless your eyeguards were specifically "designed for racquet sports" then they aren't approved for racquetball.

The AARA is principally interested in protecting the eyesight of all players. The eyeguard rule not only does that, but also places principal liability for any injury on the manufacturer of the eyeguards.

All of us share the responsibility of enforcing this rule. That includes the player, the player's opponent, the referee, the tournament director, and any AARA officials that might be present at the tournament. At future National events, the staff will have approved eyeguards for sale — including the kind that can be worn *over* prescription eyeglasses. Now I'll be able to tell you how to solve your problem in short order if you tell me that your *unapproved* eyeguards have prescription lenses and you can't see without them.

THE FINAL SHOT: Let's hope that if we meet at a tournament in the future, it's *not* because I have a question about the legality of your eyeguards!



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INSIGHT

By Luke St. Onge

We are most pleased to share the latest stage in the evolution of RACQUETBALL Magazine. With its new look, content and high gloss paper, our publication can now proudly take its place as the true print representative of our sport, both inside and outside the racquetball industry.

In less than two years we have been able to bring our sport's magazine back to a level we can all be proud of. RACQUETBALL Magazine is in good hands under the direction of editor, Linda Mojer and production manager, Becky Maxedon. The publication is in a good economic position thanks to the initial efforts of Mike Arnolt who managed our advertising early on, and now to Steve Lerner

who has handled the steady growth of our advertising revenues, enabling the magazine to improve its quality dramatically.

Finally, a great deal of thanks goes to the industry for its support and faith in the AARA and RACQUETBALL Magazine after the demise of "National Racquetball" in 1989. Without the financial and moral support of our advertisers, the project would have faltered in that same way.

This year the association will celebrate its silver anniversary. We have many plans which include an "old fashioned" division in the Nationals (by invitation only) with 21 point games, slow balls, and small racquets. We will also have an equipment display showing the evolution of the game, a commemorative written history of the sport, with interviews from over 25 leaders and characters from our past. Many other "25th" festivities are planned, so watch for them and let us know your ideas as well.

The Recreational Club membership program has been in place a year now and we are excited that over 150 clubs have joined and over 6000 players are now recreational members. Under the guidance of John Mooney the Recreational Program has become the fastest growing program of the AARA.

On the downside, the United States Olympic Committee recently shifted its support emphasis away from Pan Am sports and to Olympic Sports more so than in the past. Since racquetball has only attained Pan Am status to date, its grants were reduced sharply in this move. With grant funds awarded in the last quadrennial the AARA had expanded its services dramatically, and now must undergo a serious budget review. We'll keep you informed of any necessary budgetary cuts.

1993 promises to bring many challenges and exciting times. Come celebrate with us as we begin our next 25 years!

FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Keith Calkins

Now that the holidays have passed and most racquetball players are directing their attention to the winter season, it's important to give you a brief update. As reported in the last issue, Steve Lerner accepted a staff position with our national office and resigned from the Board of Directors.

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Both a loss and a gain for the AARA, Steve leaves the board after serving with distinction, but will undoubtedly make a major contribution to the organization on its staff. Thanks, Steve, for all your efforts. I have appointed Otto Dietrich to the vacated position of AARA Treasurer for the remainder of Steve's term, and we have decided not to fill the open board spot, but will leave it to the election process.

Regarding the upcoming election, the Nominating Committee has completed its work and you will see the results of their efforts when the ballots appear in the next issue. Thanks go to chairman Mike Arnolt and committee members Mary Dee Jolly, Bruce Hendin, Todd O'Neil, Carlton Vass, Cindy Baxter and Don Goddard. This year the committee was not made up of board members, and the slate was exceptional. I encourage individuals who are interested in serving on the Board but were not selected by the Nominating Committee to use the constitutional petition process for becoming a candidate. Several members of past Boards have been elected in this way. I would also encourage the entire membership to vote in this year's Board election.

In closing I would like to thank the Arizona organizing committee for their superior efforts in making the National Doubles a first class event. Everything was done with professionalism and we appreciated the great results.



St. Onge



Calkins

NOSTALGIA: WHAT'S IN A NAME?

By John Mooney

This year your association will celebrate 25 years of organized racquetball administration under a variety of different names. We've come a long way "baby," and the name you're so used to today — the AARA — took a long time to stick.

Joe Sobek is credited with inventing our sport in 1950 and he called it "Paddle Rackets," and formed the National Paddle Rackets Association (NPRA). However, it wasn't until 1968 when Larry Lederman, athletic director of the Milwaukee Jewish Community Center, incorporated the association as the United States Gut Paddleball Association (USGPA), that our association was born.

The name was changed again in 1968 to the International Paddle Rackets Association (IPRA). In 1969 Joe Sobek and Larry Lederman turned over the

reins of the IPRA to Robert Kendler, president of the U.S. Handball Association (USHA). In following months Kendler dedicated eight pages of the USHA Magazine "ACE" to report news on the IPRA and promote the sport. Shortly thereafter he abbreviated the title again, to the IPA, still referring to the International Paddle Rackets Association. Finally, he came up with the term "racquetball" for the sport and made the most important change, that of naming the association the International Racquetball Association (IRA).

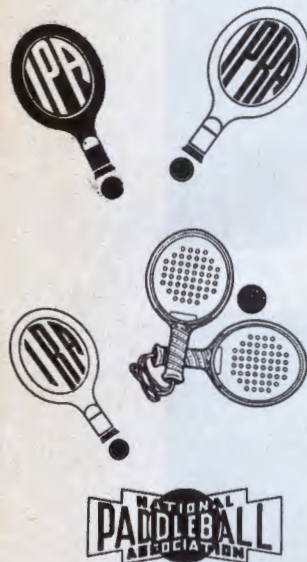
The name and the association was registered and incorporated in the state of Illinois on December 10, 1969. This name stuck with the association until the board of directors changed the name to the American Amateur Racquetball Association in 1979 at which time it



Mooney

AARA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Keith Calkins, President
Carol Pellowski, Exec. VP
Van Dubolsky, Secretary
Otto Dietrich, Treasurer & National Rules Commissioner
Margo Daniels, National Tournament Commissioner
At large: Michael Arnolt, Ivan Bruner, John Foust, Doug Ganim, Jackie Paraiso Gibson,



was registered and incorporated as a non-profit organization in the state of Tennessee.

While all the name changes were going on, the association headquarters were originally in Skokie, Illinois, before moving to Stillwater, Oklahoma, then to Memphis, Tennessee, then to Dallas, Texas, then back to Memphis. In 1983 the national office made its final move to its Weber Street address in Colorado Springs, Colorado, where it remains to this day.

A lot of good things have happened through the years, and we'll look at them throughout this anniversary year. I hope to see you at National Singles in Houston to celebrate 25 years of history and help launch the AARA into the next quarter of a century!

AARA NEWSBRIEFS

IRSA TO HELP CELEBRATE 25TH ANNIVERSARY

You are cordially invited to be IRSA's guest at the 25th Anniversary celebration of racquetball. Come join old friends and acquaintances as they honor the sport that launched the club industry, on Tuesday, March 23, 1993 at the Mission Valley Athletic Club (formerly the Atlas Athletic Club) in San Diego, California.

Sponsored in part by Ektelon, Penn Racquet Sports, Pro-Kennex, and Racquetball Video Magazine, the 25th Anniversary Celebration will begin with a Generation Gap Doubles Tournament, Challenge Play, and a Skills Competition. Demonstrations and exhibitions will take place from 3 to 6 pm, followed by a reception from 6 to 8 pm.

The celebration will also feature a gallery of racquetball memorabilia including photographs, event programs, posters, and videos, all rekindling the thrilling first quarter century of the sport. For the club owner, manager, event organizer, manufacturer, professional, player of fan it is a special day not to be missed. To be included on the Racquetball 25th Anniversary Celebration guest list, R.S.V.P. to Gregg Shapiro at IRSA, 800/228-4472.

EKTELON RENEWS CONTRACT

Ektelon recently exercised a contract option to extend its term as the official sponsor of the AARA for an additional two years. By renewing the terms of its current contract, Ektelon will remain the organization's official sponsor through 1994, and will retain title sponsorship of AARA national championships. Marketing communications manager Tom Odishoo commented "Ektelon is proud to continue its work with the AARA in support of the competitive player base, but we are equally excited about the opportunity to reach out to the recreational players who represent the true growth potential of our sport."

MBNA EXPANDS BENEFITS FOR ITS AARA CARD HOLDERS

Beginning in January all current AARA/MBNA MasterCard holders will enjoy expanded benefits with a 17.9% interest rate, plus a 10% discount on memberships, clothing, videos, and entries to national events charged to the card. New card holders will also receive a can of Penn racquetballs. Each time you use the MBNA Racquetball Card, a portion of the purchase price is refunded to the

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AARA for grassroots and "Olympic Dream" projects. This is a perfect way to support the AARA each time you use your card. To sign up, use application on page 1.

PENN NAMED OFFICIAL BALL FOR 1993 SEASON

The Penn ball has been named the official ball of the AARA for 1993, and will be used in all AARA Regional and National events in the coming season. The AARA Board of Directors made the selection from among five approved ball manufacturers, basing their decision on quality, distribution and the overall sponsorship package. This marks the 11th consecutive year that Penn has been awarded "official ball" status for these events.

MEMBERS' LONG DISTANCE ADVANTAGE SAVES ON PHONE BILLS

By signing up for Members' Long Distance Advantage you can now save up to 25% on your current long distance phone bill and help promote the sport. Not only do you have fantastic savings on your long distance phone bill, you continue to help promote your sport with a percentage of

each long distance phone charge going to the AARA to promote developmental and "Olympic Dream" projects.

PRO KENNEX ANNOUNCES JUNIOR PROGRAM SUPPORT

Pro Kennex recently announced its support of a new grassroots program for Junior development, to include the donation of over 2500 racquets to state junior programs. Committed to the development of aspiring young players, Pro Kennex hopes to insure the future of racquetball by its generous equipment donation.

EKTELON SPONSORS RECREATIONAL PROGRAM

Ektelon has joined the AARA in supporting what is considered one of the fastest growing and the most important programs within the industry—the AARA Club Recreational Program. The program is designed to support club managers and program directors in attracting new members, retaining current members and showing bottom line profits. For information about the program, call 1-800/234-5396.

PEOPLE & PLACES

CONINE JOINS MARLINS

Jeff Conine, formerly of the Kansas City Royals recently signed with the Florida Marlins, the new American League Baseball expansion team. Conine, who played first base/outfield with the Royals will probably be positioned at first base with the Marlins. A former junior national champion, Conine continues to play and promote racquetball in the off-season. "It's a great opportunity. It's exciting for me to go down there and be a part of a new organization," Conine said. He plans on moving to the Miami area prior to Spring Training Camp in February.

PLAYER PROFILE: LORRAINE GALLOWAY

Lorraine Galloway of Jamaica Estates, New York has an enthusiastic one-man fan club in Lester

Mike Hurling, who submitted her to the "People" section with a six-page letter outlining her accomplishments. Here are some of his comments:

Lorraine Galloway is a young woman with the heart of a lamb, and the will of a lion, who is at the top of her game. I've watched her upset a lot of players, win a lot of matches, and lose a few, but her attitude always stays the same. She smiles, win or lose.

When I started playing (with bad knees), she told me that as you play the game you have to get court smarts and learn where the ball is going to be so you can set up for it. She told me "you can do it — anybody can do it if they really want to." I started a year ago as a novice, and now I'm playing A/Open, all thanks to her.



Lorraine has a heart of gold, but she's low key. She's devoted to her mom, and once left a final match just to check up on her, without a second thought. She

promotes racquetball, runs from club to club in New Jersey and New York, plays all over the country and collects wall to wall trophies. She's got dreams and is working hard on them. I've watched her grow stronger mentally and physically, and I know she deserves a "spotlight."

UNIQUE PROPOSAL

Two time National Racquetball Association of the Deaf [NRAD] defending champion Lori Mellen and Robert Capece recently made the scene on the court. They have been playing and practicing together since they first met at a racquetball tournament. One day Robert had to leave the court in the middle of a game as the crowd looked on in wonder. Robert returned to the middle of the court and kneeling in front of Lori he signed, "Will you marry me?" Lori was stunned and shed joyful tears. They embraced and the crowd cheered. NRAD wishes Lori and Robert a bright and happy future.



Egan Inoue and Alice Leary were wed on July 12 in Honolulu, then honeymooned with a cruise around the Carribean Islands. Congratulations!

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OTHER NRAD ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Russos are the proud parents of their third child, Charlie, born June 11. Charlie weighed 9 lbs, 12 1/4 oz and was 20 1/2 inches long ... Congratulations to former treasurer and secretary, Tom and Randi Wille who were married on July 9th.

PLAYER PROFILE:

MARCEE PATTON

Marcee Patton, a skilled New Mexico racquetball player, wife, and mother of three, has recently returned to the racquetball court. Marcee took up racquetball in 1977 and played consistently for seven years before she stopped playing on the advice of her doctor when she became pregnant with her third child. But her interest was rekindled when she was later diagnosed with multiple sclerosis (MS) and was told that she could not get overheated or fatigued and that she would not be able to sustain her balance. Marcee finds the sport a challenge after being told "You cannot do it!" and now plays four times a week.

She has three goals for her racquetball game. The first is to continue to meet the physical and mental requirements of the game. Second, she hopes to move up from the A's to open level play. Finally, she would like to beat Donna Beldring and Roseann Andrade, two of New Mexico's top women players.

As for MS affecting her playing ability, Marcee feels that she is learning to concentrate more. "Before, I

could get away with a lot, and now I need to focus all the time!" She focuses on things she used to take for granted, such as balance, stamina, and vision.

She feels her experience with MS may serve to help others who wish to excel in whatever they are doing. "I have learned that when the almighty doctor tells you what is wrong and gives you your limitations, your mindset begins to limit rather than expand your experiences."

Lynn Adams, a world class athlete well-known to the racquetball community, was also diagnosed with MS and recently retired from the sport because of her condition. Marcee has watched Lynn for years and is inspired. "She's already accomplished her goal as a player, as a world class athlete, and now she is serving to educate the public about arthritis and MS. I know that she understands her limitations and I hope and trust that she remains active."

Marcee helped with the coordination of the World Senior Racquetball Championships in September. Her eight-year-old son, Dana is enrolled in the summer junior instructional program at Tom Young's Athletic Club. As a final statement to the New Mexico racquetball community, Marcee says, "Don't use your aches and pains as excuses to keep you from participating in something you enjoy!" (By Gary Mazaroff, reprinted courtesy N.M.R.A. News)

CALIFORNIA: I WANT MY RACQUETBALL TV!
C.A.R.A. member Steve DuFour wrote Teri Couch of ESPN to request that they broadcast racquetball on their channel. She wrote back stating that due to low ratings and advertiser interest ESPN does not televise racquetball on a regular basis. She went on to say that she feels racquetball is a quality sport and that ESPN will continue to evaluate the potential for expanded television coverage. If you would like to get your word in you can write Teri Couch, Viewer Response Coordinator, ESPN, ESPN Plaza, Bristol, CT 06010-9454. (Reprinted from the C.A.R.A. Newsletter)

PENNSYLVANIA CLINIC FEEDBACK
For those of you Pennsylvania club managers or programmers who are wondering how to generate more interest in racquetball at your club, a great way to begin is through a Pennsylvania Racquetball Association sponsored clinic. Over the past 13 months 17 clinics and 2 junior camps were con-

4th Annual Women's Senior/Master National Invitational Championships March 25 - 27

Ballwin Racquetball & Fitness Center
15448 Clayton Rd. —Ballwin, MO 63011
314/391-8087

Entry Fees & Deadline

Monday, March 8th by 10:00 PM. No refunds after entry deadline - No phone entries - Limited enrollment (125).

Starting Times

Available Tuesday, March 23rd after 2:00 PM (CST) by calling 314/391-8087.

Rules

Current AARA rules will apply. AARA membership required. Matches will be self-officiated. **Level Five Regional Qualifier for Divisions 45+ and over.**

For more information

See page 66 for tournament details. Bring your own lock and warm-up balls.

Accommodations

Doubletree Hotel and Resort, 16625 Swindley Ridge Road, Chesterfield, MO 63017, 314/532-5000 - \$65 per night for up to four people (mention racquetball tournament).

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(above), ATTN: Karen Venditti.*

ducted throughout the state. These clinics and camps were partially funded by the AARA and by PRA fund raising efforts. All it takes is a phone call to PRA President, Julee Nicolia, to arrange a date.

Lynn Adams, Ruben Gonzalez and PARI Professional Karin Sobotta conducted these clinics. Along with expert instruction, each participant received a bag of "give-a-ways," food and beverages. In addition, numerous door prizes were awarded. Junior campers also received an AARA membership, junior camp sweatshirt and framed certificate of participation. Strategy, conditioning, equipment and rules were discussed and the benefits of AARA membership explained. Video taping was available and pictures were taken for use in club and the PRA newsletters.

At a recent clinic at the McCandless Health Club, 35 people attended, and everyone received a special

racquetball souvenir package. Refreshments and additional door prizes were also provided. But more importantly, those in attendance received a valuable racquetball lesson and review. Everyone learned something, from beginners to veteran tournament players. Program director Caryn Soergel agreed "We are fortunate to have folks as dedicated to our sport as teaching pro, Karin Sobotta and PRA President Julee Nicolia to provide such a service. Their enthusiasm is contagious, and I encourage all clubs to take advantage of this opportunity. We certainly enjoyed it." (Reprinted from the Pennsylvania Racquetball Assn. Newsletter)

TOURNAMENT PREVIEW

4TH WOMEN'S SENIOR/MASTER INVITATIONAL SET FOR ST. LOUIS

All women competitors over the age of 35 are invited to enter the 4th Annual Women's Senior/Master Invitational Championships in St. Louis, March 25-27. This year's event will be held at the Ballwin Racquetball and Fitness Center in Ballwin, a suburb on the west side of St. Louis.

Karen Venditti of the Ballwin Racquetball and Fitness Center hopes that the central location will draw the largest event yet to be held for the Seniors/Masters women. The event is also a Level 5 sanctioned AARA tournament and a designated Regional Qualifier for women in divisions 45 and over who plan to attend the U.S. National Singles in Houston.

The format is a round robin, two games to 11, with one point bonus for each game won and a two point bonus for each match won. Total earned points determine winners in each division. In divisions with entries over 10, players are divided into flights, and top point winners (1st & 2nd) from each flight play-off for the division title.

A very special time is being planned for those attending so get your travel and hotel plans



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MARCH 5 - 7

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314-353-1500*

JUNIOR TEAM USA QUALIFIER — Gold division winners will qualify for a team trial spot for "Junior Team U.S.A."

Tournament Information ...

ENTRY FEES: \$35.00 First Event (includes referee fee), \$15.00 Second Event.

DIVISIONS: Singles, doubles and mixed doubles. Players may enter singles and doubles (in doubles, both players must be from the same school).

ENTRY DEADLINE: Received no later than **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1993.**

PLAY BEGINS: 3:00 PM on **FRIDAY, March 5th.** Local players may begin on Thursday evening.

LODGING: Holiday Inn Southwest, 10709 Watson Road, St. Louis. Rate: \$55.00 per night for up to four persons to a room. For reservations call 1-800-682-6338 or 314-821-6600 and mention the High School Championship to receive special rate.



APRIL 14 - 18

*City Square Sports Club
100 West Clarendon
Phoenix, Arizona
601/279-9633*

U.S. NATIONAL TEAM QUALIFIER — #1 Singles Division Winners will be appointed to the U.S. National Racquetball Team.

Tournament Information ...

ENTRY FEES: \$45.00 First event per person (includes referee fee), \$15.00 Second event.

DIVISIONS: Men's Team: Singles, #1, #2, #3, #4, #5, #6 Doubles #1, #2, #3. Women's Team: Singles, #1, #2, #3, #4, #5, #6 Doubles #1, #2, #3.

ENTRY DEADLINE: Received no later than **MONDAY, MARCH 20, 1993.**

PLAY BEGINS: 8:00 a.m. **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14.** No Exceptions.

LODGING: Lexington Hotel, in the same building as the club, offers a room rate of \$65.00 per night, for up to four guests per room. For reservations, call 1-800-272-2439 or 602/279-9811 and mention the World Championship to receive special rate.

Official Events of the American Amateur Racquetball Association and the International Racquetball Federation

TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS: Margo Daniels & Jim Hiser, (AARA, 719/635-5396.), plus High School Commissioner Jim Murphy @ 314/353-1500 and ACRA/Intercollegiate Commissioner Neil Shapiro @ 518/436-9522.

OFFICIAL BALL: Penn Tournament. **ALL ENTRIES ARE FINAL** and positively no application will be accepted after published deadlines. Absolutely no refunds after deadlines have passed. **AARA MEMBERSHIP REQUIRED:** Non AARA members should add \$15.00 for a one-year competitive license membership. (Note: If you have recently joined the AARA and have not received your membership card, you must present your receipt copy of the membership application or a cancelled check upon registration.) **UNITED AIRLINES** offers you their lowest fares to sanctioned events. For reservations, phone United's Olympic Travel Desk at 1-800-521-4041 between 8:30 am and 8:00 pm EST daily, and reference the special AARA conference account number 529WW.

TO RECEIVE AN OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM — BY MAIL OR FAX— CALL THE AARA NATIONAL OFFICE @ 1-800-234-5396

confirmed, your entry forms in early (enrollment is limited to 125), and start practicing your toughest 11 point game for the competition! Deadline for entries is March 8, 1993, and you'll find an entry form on page 65.

For any questions about the tournament, contact any of the Seniors/Masters Committee: Julie Jacobsen-Wis., Bev Powell-Ill., Carol Pellowski-Wis., Kathy Mueller-Minn., Jo Kenyon-Fla., and Mary Low Acuff-N. Carolina. Sincere thanks go to Karen Venditti and the Ballwin Racquetball & Fitness Center for hosting the 4th Annual event.

NRAD PLANS ANNUAL TOURNAMENT

The NRAD 10th Annual Tournament will be held on April 23-25 in Lombard, Illinois at The Glass Court. The site has been changed and this year's

tournament chairman is Steve Horwich - TTY 708/679-8106. Anyone who is interested in playing but is not a NRAD member can contact Mike Russo at TTY 203/322-4402 for a new membership application.

THE U.S. NATIONAL SENIOR SPORTS CLASSIC

Racquetball has officially been included in the 1993 U.S. National Senior Sports Classic in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, June 12-18, 1993, an event for senior citizens 55 years old and older.

To qualify for the USNSS Classic you must have placed first, second, or third in any of the 1992 state and local qualifying games published in *RACQUETBALL Magazine*. In addition to these qualifiers you are eligible to participate in the 1993 USNSS Classic if you placed first, second or third in the following events:

- 1992 World Senior Racquetball Championships (Albuquerque, NM)*
- 1992 AARA National Singles (Houston, TX)*
- 1992 Golden Masters National Invitational Championship (Pittsburgh, PA)*
- 1993 National Master's Invitational Championship (Fullerton, CA)*

Athletes wishing to enter the USNSS Classic must send verification of qualifying in any of the specified events to: USNSSO
14323 South Outer Forty Road, Suite N300,
Chesterfield, MO 63017
ATTN: Linda Surtin.

Entry packets will be sent to each qualified entrant in January with an entry deadline of March 15, 1993.

As of this writing, 222 players have qualified for the racquetball portion of this prestigious national event. The USNSSO tells us that historically, about one third of all qualified entrants actually enter the final playoff. Since it took two years of lobbying to get racquetball approved as a sport in the USNSS Classic, let's support the event in 1993 to insure that racquetball remains on the agenda.

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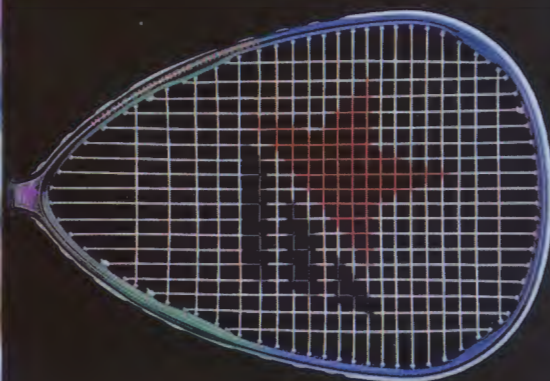
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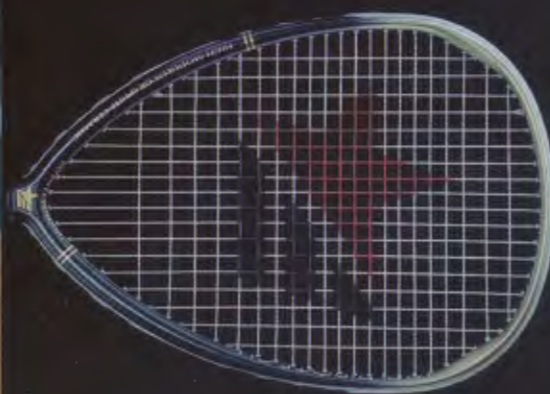
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MEN'S OPEN

1. Chris Cole, MI
- 2.T Michael Bronfeld, CA
- 2.T Doug Ganlm, OH
4. Tim Hansen, GA
5. Mike Guidry, TX
6. Tony Jelso, NM
7. Jim Floyd, MI
8. John Ellis, CA
9. Chris Marshall, NC
10. Dan Fowler, MD

MEN'S A

1. Kip Atwell, TX
2. Rich Barker, MA
3. Grant Giles, GA
4. Kevin O'Callahan, NJ
5. Bill McCormick, TN
- 6.T James Demass, SC
- 6.T Grant Morain, GA
8. Steve Kalal, IL
9. Herve Bony, FL
10. John Wong, WA

MEN'S B

- 1.T Rick Decastro, MA
- 1.T Robert Matheny, FL
3. Andrew Haywood, GA
4. Ruben Roa, CA
5. Carlos Cespedes, TX
6. Bill Marshall, MI
7. Bob Paradiso, NJ
8. Brian Sisneros, CA
9. Charlie Church, VA
10. Glenn Garrison, NJ

MEN'S C

1. Joe Cutuli, CT
2. Rocco Mazza, NJ
3. Dereck Whittenberg, CO
- 4.T Robin Davis, CA
- 4.T Jay Hauenstein, MS
6. Rick Beck, MI
7. John Hunter, SC
8. Stanley McGinnis, CA
9. Ron Fox, GA
10. Wilbert Smith, MS

MEN'S D

- 1.T Jeff Johnson, MA
- 1.T Bruce Schaff, CO
- 1.T Keith Vansickle, WA
4. Anthony Williams, CA
5. Brad Shapiro, GA
6. Andy Schoenfeld, CA
7. Kyle Bordelon, TX
8. Herminio Alicea, Jr., NJ
9. Dan Carver, NJ
10. Shawn Storm, CA

MEN'S NOVICE

1. John Hogan, NJ
2. Martin Sewell, GA
3. Allan Smith, FL
4. John Lasher, NY
5. Elan Levy, TX
6. Armando Cabrera, NJ
7. James Conlon, NY
8. Jason Crosby, MA
9. Dan McGaha, CA
10. Royce Reece, TX

MEN'S 19+

1. Dan Fowler, MD
2. Derek Robinson, MO
- 3.T Sameer Hadid, CA
- 3.T David Hunter, TN
- 3.T Eric Muller, KS
6. Scott Liparelli, NY
7. Grant Giles, GA
8. Adam Karp, CA
9. Pete McCarthy, MN
10. Nicholas Strike, OH

MEN'S 25+

1. Jimmy Lowe, AK
2. Bruce Erickson, MO
3. Curtis Winter, FL
- 4.T Clay Griffin, SC
- 4.T John Winnings, CA
6. Trevor Sudweeks, UT
7. Mike Jalette, ME
8. Brad McCunniff, IA
9. Ross Smith, Jr., TX
10. Wayne Sweatt, NC

MEN'S 30+

1. Dave Peck, TX
2. Bill Lyman, IL
- 3.T Dave Negrete, IL
- 3.T Johnny Northern, MI
- 5.T Vinnie Ganley, FL
- 5.T John Yorkey, UT
7. Jim Daly, VA
8. Mike Hollenbeck, CA
9. Jeff Kristjansen, FL
10. Chuck Muller, GA

MEN'S 35+

1. Jim Young, PA
2. Dave Kovanda, OH
3. Mitt Layton, FL
4. Dane Crisp, TX
- 5.T Dave Peck, TX
- 5.T Rick Strout, UT
7. Scott Worthy, MI
8. Denny Southwick, CO
9. Glen Huey, TX
10. Jerry Hilecher, CA

MEN'S 40+

1. Fielding Snow, WA
- 2.T Mitt Layton, FL
- 2.T Gary Mazaroff, NM
4. Marty Mangino, MI
5. Dave Kovanda, OH
6. Jim Bailey, VA

7. Russ Montague, PA
8. Dave George, CA
9. Issac Laughinghouse, MA
10. Jerry Wickliffe, GA

MEN'S 45+

1. Johnny Hennen, TN
2. Jay Schwartz, FL
3. Herb Grigg, IL
4. Bill Wolfe, NY
5. Ray Huss, OH
6. Frank Ciocloia, NY
7. Ken Bonnett, MI
8. Dick Melhart, WA
9. Craig Olsen, NE
10. Jack Crowther, CA

MEN'S 50+

1. Ron Johnson, IL
2. Fred Letter, NJ
3. Ron Galbreath, PA
4. Charlie Garfinkel, NY
- 5.T Luis Guerrero, CA
- 5.T Dario Mas, DE
7. Les Barbanell, NJ
8. Jerry Davis, OH
9. Don Harrington, CT
10. Glenn Allen, VA

MEN'S 55+

1. Art Johnson, CO
2. Ken Moore, CA
3. Paul Banales, AZ
4. Ray Kasl, OH
5. Charlie Hamon, WA
6. Rex Benham, AR
7. Don Alt, FL
8. Hal Lackey, NC
9. Hank Gates, MI
10. Russ Bates, CA

MEN'S 60+

1. Don Alt, FL
- 2.T Red Horton, CO
- 2.T Pierre Miller, IN
4. Dan Llacera, Sr., NY
5. Fintan Kilbride, CN
6. Ken Karmel, AR
7. Clement McIntosh, GA
8. John Bogasky, VA
9. Vance Lerner, CA
10. Lynn Hahn, MI

MEN'S 65+

1. Fintan Kilbride, CN
2. Mal Roberts, FL
3. Victor Sacco, NY
4. Earl Acuff, NC
5. Jimmy Miller, NC
6. Bill Beesley, UT
7. Richard Davis, TX
8. Tony Duarte, CA
9. Tex Hoesch, IL
10. Ed Witham, OH

MEN'S 70+

1. Nick Sans, CA
2. Earl Acuff, NC
3. Luzell Wilde, UT
4. Don Goddard, MT
5. Carlos Sena, FL
6. Allen Shepherd, MD
7. Cam Snowberger, PA
8. Irv Zeitman, KY
9. Charles Russell, CA
10. Jerome Singer, CA

MEN'S 75+

1. Allen Shepherd, MD
2. Fred Felton, TX
3. Andy Trozzi, MA
4. John Pearce, TX
5. Jack Daly, VA
6. George Drake, MN
7. Harmon Minor, CO
8. Jimmy White, TX
9. Joe Sawbridge, AZ
10. George Spear, NY

MEN'S 80+

1. Jack Daly, VA
2. John Pearce, TX
3. Tony Zengaly, NJ

8. Jan Stelma, NC
9. April Crossman, TN
10. Lori Schreck, NY

WOMEN'S C

1. Ann Mocchi, CO
2. Sue Smith, ND
3. Roxanne Asay, WA
4. Nancy Rocha, IL
5. Tina Steele, CA
6. Dawn Evans, WA
7. Natalie Russell, NJ
8. Kim Grasso, NJ
9. Betsy Lorenz, MO
10. Anna Tang, CA

WOMEN'S D

- 1.T Wendy Chesters, NE
- 1.T Rochelle McHugh, WA
- 1.T Tracy Parfenchuck, MA
4. Kim Grasso, NJ
5. Kathy Collins, NC
6. Anna Ross, GA
7. Holly Schieber, AR
8. Modie Holden, TX
9. Debbie Imbraguglio, LA
10. Candi Kirchhoff, OH

WOMEN'S NOVICE

1. Treena Muller, NY
2. Donna Everett, CA
3. Marci Carter, AR
4. Kelly Deeb, NY
5. Toni Dilonzo, RI
6. Lisa Ferguson, SC
7. Karla McVey, NJ
8. Sue Rinehart, OH
9. Sabine Brown, NM
10. Victoria Romero, AZ

WOMEN'S 19+

- 1.T Cheryl Gudinas, IL
- 1.T Amy Kilbane, OH
3. Stacy Sour, CO
- 4.T Susan Cox, FL
- 4.T Kim Russell, GA
6. Ellen Crawford, NY
7. Karen Forbes, OH
8. Diane Gronkiewicz, IN
9. Debra Bryant, NC
10. Heather Dunn, MA

WOMEN'S 25+

1. B.J. Ehrgott, CT
2. Lorraine Galloway, NY
3. Kersten Hallander, FL
4. Megan O'Malley, IL
5. Amy Anair, AZ
6. Debra Bryant, NC
7. Holly Desportes, VA
8. Teri Gatarz, NJ
9. Joann Slater, TX
10. Louise Winter, CA

WOMEN

WOMEN'S OPEN

- 1.T Malia Bailey, VA
- 1.T Michelle Gould, ID
3. Kim Russell, GA
4. Diane Adams, CO
5. Cheryl Gudinas, IL
6. Nadine Akimoto, NC
7. Kersten Hallander, FL
8. Dot Fischl-Kelly, PA
9. Val Springer, MI
10. Marianne Walsh, UT

WOMEN'S A

1. Andrea Beugen, MN
2. Dee Jenkins, CO
3. Beth Katz, NY
4. Naomi Morgan, TX
5. Cindy Tipton, WA
6. Cari Kresa, FL
7. Karen Locke, GA
8. Lori Thorell, VA
9. Kristi Hale, NC
10. Sheri Viscount, DE

WOMEN'S B

1. Diane Pearson, MI
- 2.T Lynne Beresford, VA
- 2.T Hilda Reedom, NJ
- 2.T Jan Watson, FL
5. Jessica Rogers, TX
6. Mickey Girup, IL
7. Liz Hietala, CO

NATIONAL RANKINGS

WOMEN'S 30+

1. Brenda Kyzer, SC
2. Kathy Treadway, TN
3. Dee Ferreira-Worth, CA
4. Marianne Walsh, UT
5. Mary Bickley, PA
6. Carol Bastien, IL
7. Ansula Liu, MN
8. Janet Tyler, FL
9. Martha Lenolr, GA
10. Susan Morgan-Pfahler, FL

WOMEN'S 35+

1. Vicki Luque, GA
- 2.T Cindy Baxter, PA
- 2.T Gloria Eggers, ID
- 4.T Janelle Marriott, RI
- 4.T Linda Moore, NE
- 4.T Laura Patterson, MI
7. Laurel Davis, IL
8. Susan Morgan-Pfahler, FL
9. Joanne Pomodoro, MA
10. Val Shewfelt, UT

WOMEN'S 40+

1. Janet Myers, NC
- 2.T Agatha Falso, FL
- 2.T Willie Grover, GA
- 4.T Darcy Chastain, MN
- 4.T Madelon Eichorn, CO
- 4.T Gerri Stoffregen, OH
- 4.T Jayne Vigil, TX
8. Nancy Kronenfeld, IL
9. Elaine Dexter, CA
10. Andi Glansberg, NY

WOMEN'S 45+

1. Agatha Falso, FL
2. Gerri Stoffregen, OH
- 3.T Nidia Funes, CA
- 3.T Jan Howard, VA
- 5.T Merijeau Kelley, CA
- 5.T Pat Tarzon, IL
- 7.T Marta Groess, MN
- 7.T Grace Touhy, IL
9. Jean Heckman, NY
10. Sylvia Sawyer, UT

WOMEN'S 50+

1. Sharon Hastings-Welty, OR
- 2.T Nancy Kay Butts, WI
- 2.T Mildred Gwinn, NC
4. Sylvia Sawyer, UT
5. Marion Johnson, TX
6. Kathy Mueller, MN
7. Jo Kenyon, FL
8. Pauline Kelly, IL
9. Marion Crawford, NY
10. Susan Embry, CA

WOMEN'S 55+

1. Jo Kenyon, FL
2. Kathy Mueller, MN
3. Joanna Raida, PA
4. Norma Carlisle, UT
5. Mary Walker, CA
6. Susan Embry, CA
7. Mary Low Acuff, NC
8. Marion Crawford, NY
9. Cleata Ching, PA
10. Helen Dunsmoor, ID

WOMEN'S 60+

- 1.T Mary Low Acuff, NC
- 1.T Lola Markus, IL
3. B.G. Railey, CA
4. Jane Peterson, FL
5. Judy Fetherston, CO
6. Rita Turner, FL

WOMEN'S 65+

- 1.T Mary Low Acuff, NC
- 1.T Joann Jones, CT
3. Phyllis Melvey, ND
4. Dorothy Vezetinski, WA

WOMEN'S 70+

1. Mary Low Acuff, NC
2. Eleanor Quackenbush, OR
3. Zelda Friedland, NM

WOMEN'S 80+

1. Zelda Friedland, NM

JUNIORS

BOYS 8 & UNDER

1. Jack Huczek, MI
2. Jim Godden, TX
3. Jon Hellner, OR
4. Matt Trujillo, OR
5. Bo Galbreth, NM
6. Geoffrey Mora, CA
7. Daniel Rogers, KS
8. Steve Buschbom, GA
9. Ricky Doukakis, CO
10. Josh Epstein, NY

MULTIBOUNCE

1. Evan Honigsfeld, TX
2. Chris Meyer, OR
3. Geoffrey Mora, CA
4. Matthew Trujillo, OR
5. Tyler Hollingsworth, OR
- 6.T Jon Hellner, OR
- 6.T Jon White, GA
8. James Boykin, DE
9. Alexis Martinez, IL
10. Dain Taylor, IN

BOYS 10-

1. Shane Vanderson, OH
2. Jason Jansen, ND
3. Lane Mershon, GA
4. Jason Kerwood, OR
5. Jordan Fought, NM
6. Jeffrey Markins, AZ
7. Dan Thompson, WI
8. Jim Gooden, TX
9. Phillip Hammond, OH
10. Jon White, GA

BOYS 12-

1. Jeffrey Garner, AL
2. Rocky Carson, CA
3. Gabe Gose, NM
4. Willie Tilton, CO
- 5.T Wes Bateman, PA
- 5.T Brandon Henline, GA
- 5.T Corey Limehouse, SC
- 5.T Brent McDade, TN
- 5.T Andrew Tucknott, NE
- 5.T Shane Vanderson, OH

BOYS 14-

1. Mark Hurst, FL
2. Alan Thomas, OH
3. Eric Storey, UT
4. Brent Zimmerman, MI
5. Abe Valdez, OR
- 6.T Jed Bhuta, AL
- 6.T Bucky Freeman, TX
- 6.T Chris Gose, NM
9. Brandon Terry, OR
10. Jeremy Bernerth, GA

BOYS 16-

1. Shane Wood, MA
2. Jason Armbrrecht, NC
3. Shane Dodge, ID
4. Brian Siegel, NJ
5. Geoff Heskett, PA
6. David Hamilton, OH
7. Brian Berlin, NY
8. Chance Mims, NM
9. Jack Long, NM
10. Joel Koppel, CA

BOYS 18-

1. Jason Thoerner, GA
2. James Mulcock, NM
3. Jason Mannino, NY
4. Craig Rappaport, PA
5. Javed Aghaloo, MO
6. Andy Yambrek, KY
- 7.T Adam Anderson, UT
- 7.T Sudsy Monchik, NY
9. Morgan Silver, FL
10. Chris Thomas, NC

GIRLS 8 & UNDER

1. Molly Law, CO
2. Kim Markins, AZ
3. Sarah Breneman, FL
4. Jeni Fuller, NM
5. Megan Hollowell, NM
6. Jessica Fuller, NM
7. Amy Jo Hollingsworth, OR
8. Ashley Markus, OR
9. Nicole Steketee, MI
10. Larissa Rohan, TX

MULTIBOUNCE

1. Molly Law, CO
2. Kim Markins, AZ
3. Leslie Luna, NM
4. Kim Irons, OH
5. Amy Jo Hollingsworth, OR
6. Laura Roth, IL

GIRLS 10-

1. Kristen Walsh, UT
2. Rebecca Doloff, NM
3. Molly Law, CO
4. Sandra Plaza, OH
- 5.T Lisa Brookens, CO
- 5.T Lindsay Ringle, MD
7. Sara Borland, IA
8. Kristen Darr, OH
9. Starr Beardsley, NM
10. Christy Herman, OH

GIRLS 12-

1. Boobie Markus, OR
2. Erin Rogers, OR
3. Jamie Trachsel, MN
- 4.T Sara Borland, IA
- 4.T Jennifer Hardeman, TN
6. Rhessa Grady, FL
- 7.T Katie Gould, MO
- 7.T Sharon Lacher, MD
- 7.T Kelly Ruhl, CO
- 7.T Elizabeth Smith, OH

GIRLS 14-

1. Sadie Gross, MN
2. Debra Derr, FL
3. Erin Frost, OR
4. Vanessa Tulao, TN
5. Amy Meyer, CO
6. Rhonda Rajsich, AZ
- 7.T Elizabeth Smith, OH
- 7.T Dianne Torrey, MA
9. Leslie Buschbom, GA
10. Shannon Feaster, DC

GIRLS 16-

1. Tammy Brockbank, ID
2. Jenny Meyer, CO
3. Shannon Feaster, DC
4. Kristi Hale, NC
5. Mandi Hubble, OR
- 6.T Andrea Beugen, MN
- 6.T Andrea Luque, GA

8. Amy Gurley, GA
9. Allison Thomas, OH
10. Stephanie Torrey, MA

GIRLS 18-

1. Elkova Icenogle, CA
- 2.T Britt Engel, FL
- 2.T Rachel Gellman, NM
4. Letisha Bussell, ID
5. Amber Frisch, TX
6. Dawn Peterson, WI
- 7.T Kristi Hale, NC
- 7.T Leslie Reeder, AL
9. Kerri Stoffregen, OH
10. Tammy Brockbank, ID

WHEELCHAIR

WHEELCHAIR OPEN

1. Chip Parmelly, CA
2. Gary Baker, IN
3. Steve Kuketz, MA
4. Les Gorsline, WI
5. Joe Hager, PA
6. Bob Nichol, MA
7. Joe Soares, FL
8. Doug Champa, MA
9. Raleigh Perry, FL
10. Tom Bosco, MA

DEAF

DEAF MEN'S OPEN

1. Victor Peterman, OH
2. Erick Johnson, MA
3. Wayne Delatte, WA
4. Mike Russo, CT
5. Greg Brown, CA
6. Ron Tkachuk, WI
7. Richard Nell, WI
8. Kevin Hall, MD
9. John Critser, CA
10. Frank Coenen, NY

DEAF WOMEN'S OPEN

1. Lori Mellen, CT
2. Barbara Glanfriddo, CT
3. Lynn Kizner, NY
4. Sherry Merrill, NJ
5. Winnie Bessant, NJ
6. Anne Richardson, NJ
7. Mary Radich, OH
8. Cathy Oshrain, FL
9. Sue Burness, MA
10. Regina Russo, NY

RANKINGS

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