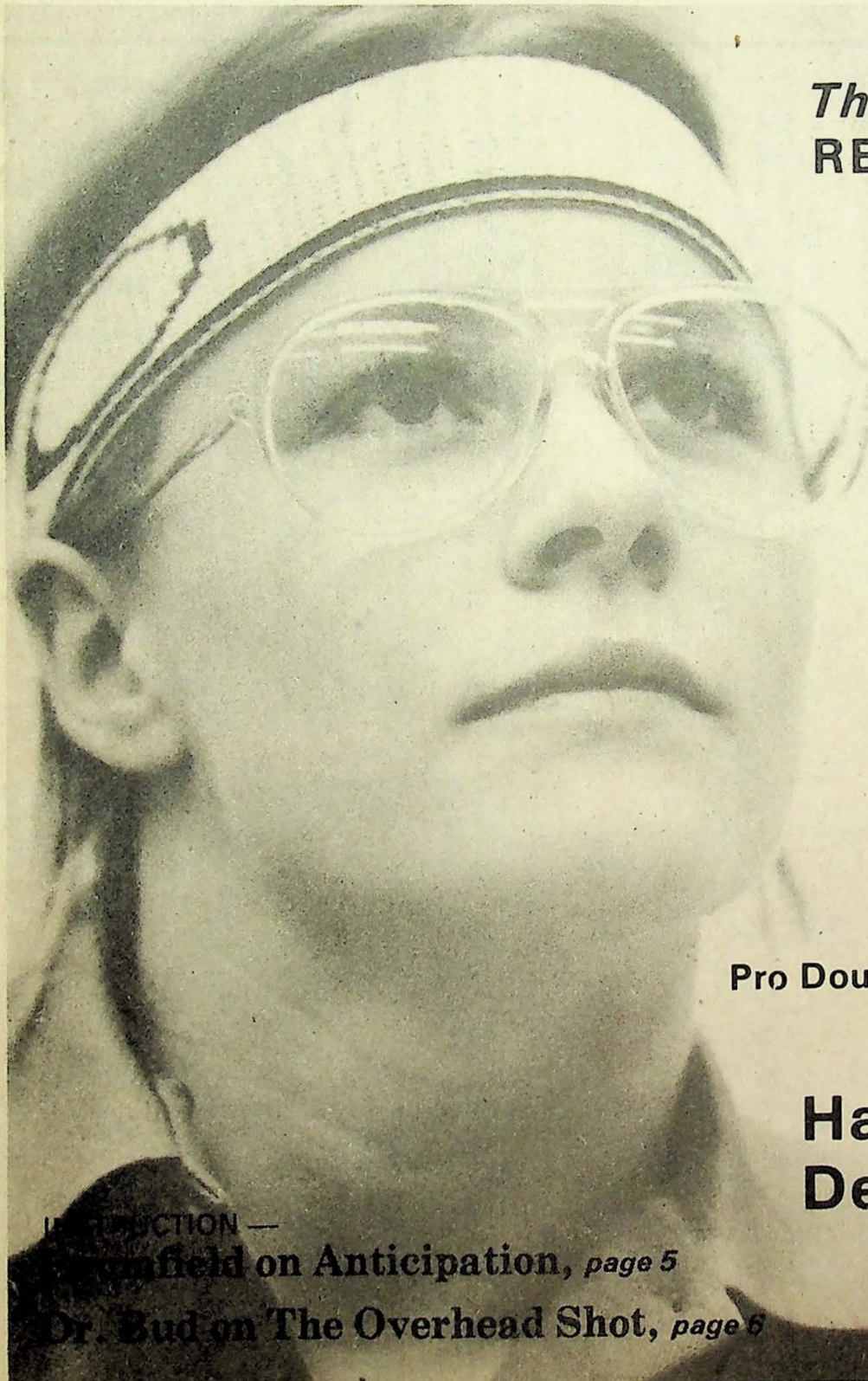


# RACQUETBALL HANDBALL NEWS

Vol. 1 No. 11

December 1976



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## national dateline

IRA • NRC • USRA • NHC • USHA

### RACQUETBALL

#### NATIONAL RACQUETBALL CLUB (NRC) Pro Tournament Schedule for 1976-77

Men's events will offer at least \$6,000 in prize money. Women's events will offer at least \$2,000. (Note changes from last month in January.)

DEC 2-5: The Courtrooms, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.  
 JAN 13-16: Tropicana Hotel, Las Vegas  
 FEB 10-13: Downtown YMCA, Houston, Texas  
 MAR 5-8: Sporting House, Denver, Colo.  
 MAR 24-27: University of Tennessee, Chattanooga, Tenn.  
 APR 16-19: Racquettime Center, Southfield, Mich.  
 APR 30-MAY 3: The Glass Court, Lombard, Ill.  
 MAY 14-17: Courtside, Peoria, Ill.  
 JUN 4-11: Atlas Health Club (Nationals), San Diego

#### U.S. RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION (USRA) Amateur Tournament Schedule for 1976-77

REGIONALS: MAR 31- APR 3  
 The Northeast: Down East Court Club, Falmouth, Maine  
 The Midwest: Supreme Court, Toledo, Ohio  
 The Southeast: To be announced  
 The Central: The Racquetball Club, Milwaukee, Wis.  
 The South Central: Stern's Health Club, Dallas, Texas  
 The Northwest: Cornell Court Club, Portland, Ore.  
 The Midwest: Sports Courts, Lincoln, Neb.  
 The Southwest: University of Nevada, Las Vegas

#### NATIONAL JUNIORS

July Fourth Weekend  
 Evergreen Bath & Tennis Club, Evergreen Park, Ill.

#### INTERNATIONAL RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION (IRA) Tournament Schedule for 1976-77

Some dates and sites are still under negotiation.

DEC 10-12: Tanner Pro-I, Memphis State University, Memphis, Tenn., (901) 320-4246.  
 JAN 20-23: Tucson, Ariz. (possibly Tucson Athletic Club)  
 FEB 18-20: Women's State Invitational, The Bent Tree Country Club, Dallas, Texas. Call Pete Wright for invitation, (214) 233-9131.  
 MAY 28-31: International Singles Championships, Racquettime of Southfield, Mich. (suburb of Detroit) (Prize money has not been determined yet.)

### HANDBALL

#### NATIONAL HANDBALL CLUB (NHC) Pro tournament Schedule for 1976-77

DEC 2-5: Atlas Health Club, San Diego  
 JAN 21-23: Washington Athletic Club, Seattle, Wash.  
 FEB 4-6: Wilmington YMCA, Wilmington, N.C.  
 FEB 18-20: Denver Athletic Club  
 MAR 3-6: University of Texas at Austin  
 MAR 20-22: Northwest Suburban YMCA, Des Plaines, Ill.  
 APR 14-17: Tucson Athletic Club, Tucson, Ariz.  
 MAY 8-15: Town and Country Racquet Club, St. Louis, Mo. (NHC and USHA Nationals)

#### U.S. HANDBALL ASSOCIATION (USHA) Amateur Tournament Schedule for 1976-77

NATIONAL JUNIORS: (15 and under, 17 and under, and 19 and under), December 28-30, Knoxville, Tenn.

MASTERS INVITATIONAL DOUBLES: January 28-31, Northwest Suburban YMCA, Des Plaines, Ill.

MASTERS INVITATIONAL SINGLES: February 6-7, YMCA, Norfolk, Va.

NATIONAL INTERCOLLEGIATE: March 3-6, University of Tennessee at Knoxville.

USHA DIVISIONALS: Not available. Will be in January edition of this paper.

## California RB Association geared for amateur action

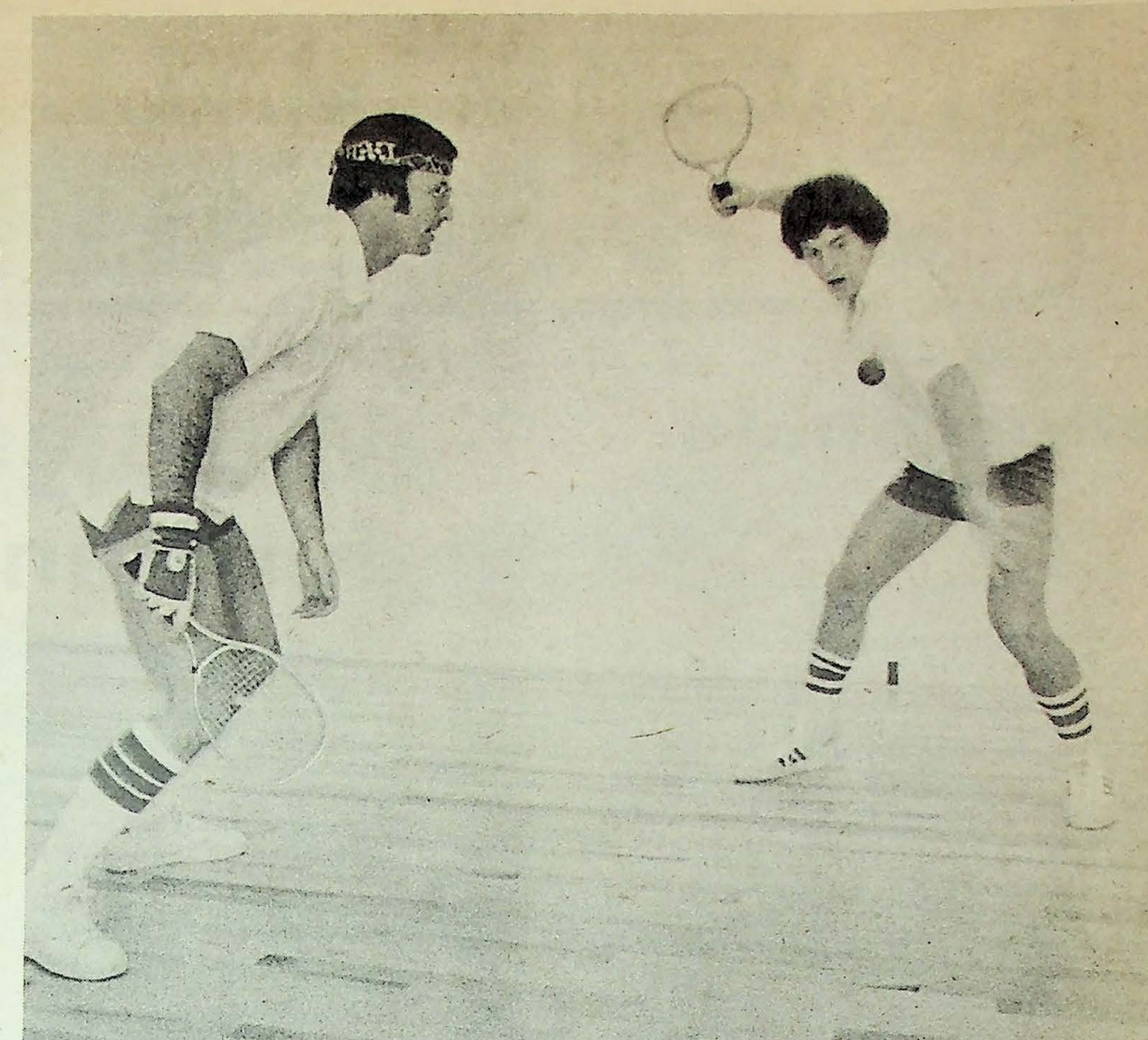
SAN DIEGO — Dr. Chuck Hanna has just announced the formation of the California Racquetball Association. The new organization is affiliated with the USRA, the amateur national organization, but will sponsor its own state-wide and regional tournaments as well as USRA events.

Hanna, who has played RB since the sport began, is gearing the CRA to every amateur player, not just to those willing to travel to the State Championships. That's why the CRA will be stressing the regional tournaments in each area of California and will be holding other special

tournaments.

"We want to hold a 'winners-excluded' tournament," Hanna said. "Anyone who has won any trophy in any racquetball tournament anywhere will not be eligible to enter."

The CRA will use *Racquetball News* as its official newsletter each month. A subscription to the newspaper is included in the \$10 application fee. The paper will have a special section devoted to CRA news and reader's communications and this special section will not be available in the regular editions of the paper.



Jay Jones (left) scored the upset of the tournament by defeating Marty Hogan in the first round of the California Way \$2,000 pro invitational. Photo by Thom Bancroft

## Jay Jones knocks off Hogan but gets cooled by 'The Brum'

By FRANK MORAN

PASADENA, Calif. — Playing almost flawless racquetball, top-seeded Charlie Brumfield bested Jay Jones 21-19, 21-12 to capture top money at the October 22-24 Pro Invitational Tournament held at the California Way Health Racquetball Club.

Brumfield, five-times national champion, was narrowly favored to beat out eight of the world's best racquetball pro's for top spot in the \$2000 tourney.

Biggest surprise of the tournament was Jay Jones, who knocked off second-seeded Marty Hogan in the first round.

Hogan, a 19-year old superstar from St. Louis, hasn't been beaten often in tournament play since this year's season began in August. But he was repeatedly outmaneuvered by the 33-year-old Jones, a part-time touring pro from Los Angeles.

Jones then earned his shot at Brumfield by edging past Rich Wagner in the semi-final by scores of 11-21, 21-16 and 11-10 in the tie-breaker. Third spot in the tourney went to Wagner, who beat Davey Bledsoe in a runners-up consolation match.

The Pro Invitational Tournament highlighted Grand Opening Weekend for

California Way, a \$1.0 million Club combining 10 racquetball courts, a completely equipped health spa and extensive recreational facilities. Courts and all facilities are open to both men and women members every day from 7 a.m. until midnight. For membership information, call 795-5906.

## CRA plans 'Little League' RB format for Juniors

The California Racquetball Association wants to get more Juniors involved in the game. Dr. Chuck Hanna, director, says racquetball is now the No. 1 elective sport in the schools and wants to get a "Little League" format going for the Juniors, with 7th & 8th grade championships.

"Parents want their kids to get exercise in a sport, but look at baseball. There's a lot of

players standing around and one player pitching; there's a tremendous amount of inactivity out there," Hanna said.

He continued, "I read where baseball players are the most poorly conditioned of all. But in racquetball, you work up a sweat. And the cost of equipment is minimal."

It is expected that the CRA will set up a Juniors program throughout California, shortly.

## Keeley glad to be home after touring nation

SAN DIEGO — After months of touring around the nation to different cities as part of the National Racquetball Clinic, pro Steve Keeley is glad to be back home. He says right now he's tired of touring.

"Even eating steak everynight gets tiring," he said.

However, he did have some positive comments about doing national clinics. "It's a lot better than staying in one place," he said.

What was the first thing he did upon reaching San Diego? He called up to find out what local tournaments were being held and when he found out that the Helix Court House was holding an Open event, he asked them if he could get in on the action in the A division and because he is a pro, he offered to play with his left-hand, as he is a right-handed player. They let him in. For the full story of Keeley playing left-handed, see page 9.

# Marathon RB: breaking the wrong record

## VERMONT PRO-AM

from page 1

The record for the most continuous hours spent playing racquetball is not an easy one to break — especially when there is doubt as to what the existing record is.

Since April, four players are known to have set out to break the marathon record for continuous Singles play. Only one succeeded. Each one of the other three did succeed in passing what he had been informed was the existing record, but, none of the three topped the *real* record, the one they didn't know about. Discouraging? Frustrating? Yes, of course. (It must be a little like the feeling you get when you know you've hit a good kill shot in a tournament tie-breaker game, and the ref calls it a skip ball.)

The standing world record for Singles RB, according to all received reports, is 48 hours, no minutes. For Doubles, the record stands at 22 hours, 5 minutes.

The following are briefs on those players known who have tried for a new record since April, including the story of the current record-holder, John Rodriguez.

### JOHN RODRIGUEZ

48 hours, April 26-28, 1976

*This is the current world record*

(from Steve Dunn in *Racquetball* (IRA))

Supreme Court IV, Hayward, Calif — Rodriguez began at 7 p.m. on Monday and ended at 7 p.m. Wednesday. He followed the IRA's marathon rules and played 154 games, winning 81 games for a total of 2,530 points. His opponents amassed 2,416 points.

He drank Gatorade and ate bologna sandwiches, "Big Macs," and apples.

He was given a Seiko watch and a complete RB outfit by the court's concession stand owners, DGW Associates. The player who lasted the longest

against him received a dinner for two at the Hungry Hunter. That went to Carl Nisely who played for 19 hours against Rodriguez.

Garry Lusk, of San Diego, held the previous record, set last year, of 38 1/2 hours.

### "TIGER" BILL HOLDEN

40 hours, 19 minutes

May 16, 1976

California State (Los Angeles) racquetball court No. 1 — Holden also set out to break Lusk's record, not knowing it had already been beaten. He was successful in raising close to \$100 for the Garfield High School band. He played 124 games against 64 opponents for 2,604 points. His opponents got 650 points on him, but he lost only 8 games.

### LAYNE SCOTT

45 hours, 14 minutes

July 27, 1976

(from Rich Muir)

Anderson YMCA, Anderson, Ind. — He set out to beat 40 hours, 14 minutes, which he thought was the standing record. He did raise money to send some young people to camp that would not have made it otherwise. People in Anderson pledged money for each hour that Scott went over the "old" record. According to Muir, "...the area outside the courts looked like a production from *MASH*. There was a cot, First Aid box, 8 quarts of Gatorade, coolers of food, extra gym shoes, plenty of socks, lots of powder, and a group of friends and spectators on hand to cheer and help."

### AL JOHNSON

43 hours, 5 minutes

October 24-26

(from Richard Bowers)

Spring Valley Racquetball Club, Spring Valley, Calif. — Eating pizza, hamburgers and banana splits (lots of carbohydrates), during breaks, Johnson played a different player every hour. He got a 5 minute break every hour and a

15 minute break every 5 hours.

From Trenway (racquet manufacturers) he received racquets, shirts, Z-balls and 00 for his efforts. Ektelon also gave him a couple of racquets and some playing clothes. His purpose was just to break the record. But, like the two before him, he broke the wrong record.

### DOUBLES MARATHON RECORD

WAYNE CLARK

BILL FLAHIVE

BILL RICH

PHIL SOULE

22 hours, 5 minutes

May 22, 1976

(from *National Racquetball* (NRC) Sept. 1976)

## WRIGHT JOINS LEACH

from page 1

"She is a very pleasant young woman who is dedicated to racquetball and wants to share her enthusiasm with others. Leach believes she will be an outstanding ambassador for the sport, helping the company to administer its educational programs among women throughout the country."

Ms. Wright, 20, usually is ranked no lower than second in tournament competition and often enjoys the top-seed. The Dallas native has won the Denver Pro-Am, the San Antonio Championships and the Chattanooga Nationals. She was a finalist in Memphis, Peoria, Sacramento, St. Louis and the Nationals last year in San Diego.

An all-sport star in high school, Ms. Wright was a top girls tennis player, winning the Ft. Worth Juniors championship at age 14. She started playing racquetball three years ago at the invitation of a neighbor.

"I enjoy talking with women

about racquetball, they relate to the sport immediately," she said. "Racquetball is easier to learn than tennis for a woman. And it's not nearly as frustrating. A woman discovers she can play an interesting racquetball match nearly immediately after she first plays the sport."

"I believe women are the key to the growth of the sport, especially on an amateur level. They have the time to make the local clubs flourish and they can have a definite

influence on the development of racquetball as a family recreation.

"I'm also grateful that my association with Leach will give me the opportunity to promote racquetball in the high sch schools and colleges. I'd like to see the sport be treated just like tennis. That will come when young people realize what the sport can accomplish for them, that by playing racquetball they can do other things pretty good," said Ms. Wright.

Down East Court Club, Falmouth, Maine — To set a world record for Doubles play and to raise money for the Pine Tree Society for Crippled Children and Adults, these four played hard racquetball.

According to *National Racquetball*, "Throughout the event, the players were diving and flailing as if it were the biggest tournament in the history of the game."

In over 52 games, and over 1600 points, they raised \$1000 for the Society.

Before the marathon, they consulted Dr. Hanley, the Olympic doctor, on what they should eat. During the event, they consumed peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, pizza and plenty of liquids.

Hogan was challenged by one of the old pros in the semi-finals. Steve Strandemo dropped the most exciting match of the tournament to Marty by the scores of 21-20, 20-21, and 11-4.

Strandemo commented following the match, "It was a good match, an excellent workout and I enjoyed it immensely. Marty plays to a different pace or beat from all the other pros and, consequently, it is necessary to make a few slight adjustments to play him effectively."

The match was tight due to the fact that Strandemo succeeded in returning Hogan's serves to the ceiling to induce more rallies. The resulting excitement even found Charlie Brumfield, in rare form, commenting at courtside. When asked what he thought about the match going three games with Brumfield waiting to play the winner, the "Brum" classically stated, "I would have enjoyed it more if it had gone four."

In the other semi-finals match, Brumfield handled Rich Wagner, a newly wed of one week, by the scores of 21-13 and 21-12. This was a long awaited good finish for Wagner since his win in the Buffalo Tournament last season and he seemed to be pleased with his performance.

There were interesting matches in the quarter-finals and Round of Sixteen which should be noted.

Mike Zeitman def. Bill Schmidtke, 21-16, 18-21, 11-7.

Rich Wagner def. John Lynch, 21-10 and 21-3.

Ben Kolton def. Steve Keeley, 21-9, 10-21, 11-8.

Davey Bledsoe def. Steve Serot, 13-21, 21-18, 11-7.

In the quarter-finals:

Charlie Brumfield def. Mike Zeitman, 6-21, 21-9, 11-0.

See VERMONT, page 13

## THE FIRST APPEARANCE OF LIGHT

The beginning of a new day brings with it the excitement of things to come.

For racquetball, the present is just a beginning. There is a constant stream of new court clubs, novice players, new types of tournaments, improved equipment and new ideas flowing into the sport. And there's no end in sight.

One state can testify to this — California. With more amateur players than any other state, California is a big part of the dawn of racquetball. Yet, so far, there has been no official state-wide organization to provide unity, communication and tournaments. But now there is a new light on the horizon. An organization emerges that promises action for the amateur player in California.

CRA membership provides:

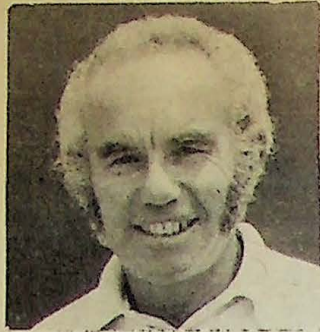
- automatic USRA membership and eligibility to play in USRA tournaments
- eligibility to play in the upcoming CRA State Singles and Doubles Championships (the winner will go on to the USRA Nationals)
- eligibility to play in the CRA Regional Championships (winner goes on to the State tournament)
- receive the USRA's National Racquetball magazine, bi-monthly
- receive Racquetball-Handball News, monthly, which will contain a special section for CRA news and a CRA player's forum, not available in the regular editions
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## Ben Press

### For our young stars

As we have discussed on prior occasions, there is little room for argument about San Diego being the racquetball center of the United States. Most of the related products are manufactured here and certainly the majority of all the talent plays here. But unless we take steps to insure the proliferation of our future stars our dominance is in jeopardy.

Again, equating to a like tennis situation, racquetball would do well to follow a similar pattern. For over 20 years the program of the San Diego Tennis Patrons has guaranteed a constant flow of tournament players into tennis' main stream. Today, for example, there are more girls on the Virginia Slims and satellite circuit from San Diego than any other city in America. This is no accident nor is that statistic surprising.

The Patrons in conjunction with our recreation department conduct a year round tournament and instructional program that encompasses every interested youngster regardless of his present ability. Certainly most tennis clubs or recreation areas have some kind of a junior development program which indeed is helpful. But all the efforts are coordinated under the Patron's umbrella which makes for a total cohesive package.

This is not to say that many of our city's racquetball facilities do not conduct some kind of junior development program. But it

is my feeling that this in itself is not enough. Racquetball would do well to pattern some of its guidelines after our truly super tennis program. In this manner, they could avoid much of the trial and error and many of the pitfalls. San Diego is still not so large that a junior program of type would become too unwieldy. There are enough racquetball centers here with enough young players to insure a meaningful program. Certainly there are local junior tournaments and some organized activities but if a total program was in effect with some definitive guidelines for everyone involved, much more would be accomplished.

A single person or committee would be needed to oversee and coordinate such an idea and a central office available to everyone would be of additional help. Racquetball now has enough devotees with new players being introduced to the game almost daily. We are all interested in seeing the game grow and prosper and a strong junior development program is one of the better ways we can insure this happening.

This premise has proven itself in tennis, baseball (Little League), football (Pop Warner), and all the remaining organized sports. San Diego could easily lead the way and every racquetball oriented community could do the same. It's good for the sport.

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## IRA DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIPS

from page 1

Strandemo categorized as close. While certainly not without their brilliant moments, Steve's and Charlie's play could best be described as steady. They simply refused to make many errors of shot selection or coverage. This combination coupled with Serots diving "gets" on the left and Brumfield's ownership of the right corner eventually overwhelmed their opponents.

The surprise team of the pro division were the "youngsters," Hogan and Wagner. Most seasoned analysts figured Hogan's penchant for the back court would leave the team vulnerable up front. However with Hogan firing like a howitzer from the back-left corner and Wagner playing superbly on the right and digging everything up front, they upset the team of Mike Zeitman and Craig McCoy in the quarters and Dave

See IRA'S FIRST, page 6




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INSTRUCTION

# 3 Methods of Anticipation

By **CHARLIE BRUMFIELD**  
as told to  
**DAVID T. NORTHCUTT**  
Assistant Editor

Being able to anticipate your opponent's shots in advance is probably one of the most important assets to a player's game. One extra step can mean the difference of winning or losing the rally. There are three methods of preparing yourself to anticipate your opponent's next movement. Every player

has certain movements preparatory to hitting different kinds of shots, that more or less pre-figure what is going to come about. One of the simplest methods of anticipation is the more a player lets the ball drop, the more apt he is to be shooting a kill shot. As the ball drops, the defensive player should anticipate a kill. A player may move his wrist in a different manner on his backswing, preparatory to hitting a cross-court pass versus a down-the-line pass. Or in a ceiling ball rally, if the offensive player decides to shoot the ball he may have certain quirks or mannerisms that indicate to the defensive player that such is going to be the case.

In order to take advantage of these movements you must use the proper stance. By standing with your body open to the offensive player, (facing the side wall), you will be able to watch both the front wall and your opponent simultaneously. This enables you to know well before the ball is hit, where it probably is going.

The second method of anticipation is knowing what your opponent's favorite shots are. If your opponent continually kills in the right corner, that is one of his strong shots. When the score is tight, a pressure situation is created. In this pressure situation, you are more likely to see that strong shot than any other. By utilizing this knowledge, you can place yourself into the coverage pattern of probable play. That's the key to anticipation.

See ANTICIPATION, page 12



Alana

## Women's leagues

Guess what's new in San Diego for women? They have a women's league.

All the girls are really enjoying the varied competition and the chance to play at new clubs. It has given the girls some goals in racquetball.

Everyone has pitched in to make this an enjoyable get-together for everyone. The girls are making many new friends and improving their games. Many of the girls see the league as a step to entering tournaments.

Playing in league, for many girls, has eliminated the "hum-drum" routine of playing the same person all of the time. It's nice for the girls to know that they will automatically have a game set up every Tuesday. The girls play a series in which they meet with each club four times. They alternate so that they will play each club once a month. This gives the girls the opportunity for rematches against girls they may have lost to, and also lets them see each other improve over the four month span.

Each girl, who has contributed \$3 to the kitty, can look forward to a grand luncheon at the end of the season on January 4, 1976. At this time, the winning team will receive the perpetual trophy that was purchased from the kitty.

It's all very official. The girls have learned how to ref and become more observant of the game and more aware of the rules. This will help them later if they become interested in playing in tournament competition.

The San Diego league is currently made up of C and Novice players. This group was most representative of the four clubs currently participating in the league.

League is currently played on Tuesday mornings. The girls chose mornings to try and fill up empty court time, but would now like to change to evening during the next season.

They feel more women will be able to participate if leagues were held in the evening. Many working women have already said they would love to play, but due to working all day have not been able to. This would also include B and Open division players.

See ALANA, page 14

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## Dr. Bud Muehleisen

### The overhead shot

The overhead shot is not used too often in racquetball because a ball which passes over a player's head will usually be played off the back wall, depending on its velocity. However, there is a time and a place for the overhead shot, so it will be explained in order that you may know how to properly execute it.

From the forehand side, the overhead shot is one which possesses good power and many alternatives. The mechanics of the swing can be compared to throwing a ball. As the ball approaches high to the forehand side, turn your body and feet so you are almost facing the side wall that the ball is on. Shift your weight to the back foot and, when possible, skip backward until you are slightly behind the dropping ball. This is the hitting stance. As you move backward, the racquet arm should be raised with the wrist fully cocked. The racquet is held behind the head and shoulders, racquet head down, with the hand close to the ear.

As the stroke is made, several things happen very quickly: (1) Your weight shifts from the back to the front foot as the torso is rotated, so you are facing the target area as the swing is made;

(2) There is an upper extension of the arm led by the elbow, with an inward rotation of the forearm and wrist; (3) On contact, the wrist will uncock naturally, so that the arm is fully extended with a straight wrist and the face of the racquet flat to the target area; (4) The racquet head begins pointing downward with the wrist at chest level as complete rotation is made; (5) The followthrough is across the body.

The overhead swing can be used effectively to hit the ceiling, "Z", or around-the-wall shots, or to pass or drive the ball by an opponent. It can also be employed from center-court position when you merely wish to hold your position and not chase the ball to the back wall.

The overhead shot may be used in an attempt to 'kill' the ball low to the front wall or in the corner, but it is a poor percentage shot for even the most advanced player. This is because the ball will usually take a high bounce if it is not hit for an absolute winner. Also, with the overhead shot, there is a good chance of hitting the ball short when an attempt is made to hit the ball low to the front wall.

Summing up, it would be wise to limit the forehand overhead to mostly defensive shots, with an occasional offensive 'shooter' just thrown in for a little variety and as a means of keeping your opponent off balance.

From the backhand, the overhead shot should be treated as a high volley, with the player remembering to reach for the ball as it approaches and to contact it off the front foot. This is an extremely difficult ball to do anything with, so the percentages dictate that you strive for control in this situation and return a defensive shot in almost all instances.

### Gonsor wins Singles but loses Doubles

By AMOS ROSENBLOOM  
Area Representative

EAU CLAIRE, Wis. — The Eau Claire Racquetball Tournament took place November 12-14 featuring two divisions: Singles and Doubles.

Pat Paige of Edina, Minn. teamed up on the right side with Mike Wiem of Richfield, Minn. to win the Doubles in a tie-breaker, 15-4 against Tom Gonsor and Gregg Covah of Edina.

Gonsor had just won the Singles in a tie-breaker, 15-7, over Bill Harper of Eau Claire. He left a little energy on the court; Harper is no pussy cat and Gonsor was pushed. However, he kept rolling them out to win.

In the Doubles, it was the ceiling shot until Gonsor tried to roll-out. The ball was up a smidge and Wiem would corner the ball for the point.

## IRA'S FIRST PRO DOUBLES WON BY BRUMFIELD-SEROT

from page 4

Charlson-Jerry Hilecher in the semis. Their relaxed pre-match approach amazed everyone.

When it came time to warm-up for the finals Hogan and Wagner had disappeared. A quick check found them shooting baskets in the nearby gym with two Y members. On the court though, they were

ready and they meshed well together.

Third place was captured by Muehleisen-Strandemo in a two game victory over Charlson-Hilecher. While Bud has the reputation of a control player, in Doubles he is very much the aggressor substituting hard drives at his opponents instead of the

expected ceiling balls. This upset any rhythm the other team tried to establish and Strandemo was busy cleaning up any mistakes they made.

In play-downs for the remaining two prize money positions, McCoy-Zeitman defeated Bill Thurman-Len Stream, and Bill and Steve Dunn defeated Pete Wright-Marc Auerback.

### TOURNAMENT NOTES

The prize money breakdown in the pros was as follows:  
1st Place Team: \$1,500  
2nd Place Team: \$1,000  
3rd Place Team: \$700  
4th Place Team: \$600  
5th Place Team: \$300  
6th Place Team: \$300

The winners and runners-up in the amateur division received beautiful inscribed Seiko watches as their awards. Places three, four and the consolation winners were awarded trophies.

Missing was the two-time defending Masters Doubles championship team of Jim White-John Fazio of Milwaukee. Unfortunately, John tore his achilles tendon about two weeks before the tournament. We look forward to seeing him back in the courts.

About 200 spectators watched the finals as the new glass backwalls provided excellent viewing. The Houston Y has taken a lead that other Y's may follow by knocking out a corridor between the courts and a gym, installing glass backwalls in two courts and then setting up temporary bleachers in the gym for tournament viewing.

The IRA helped kick off the Houston Racquetball Association membership drive by co-hosting a party Saturday night at the Metropolitan

See IRA DOUBLES, page 9

### Five reasons why you'll enjoy being a member of the... International Racquetball Association

1. You are eligible for all IRA tournaments.
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Centralized, easily accessible Mission Valley Hotel Circle location is ideal for business and professional people—those who appreciate a work-day work-out... a revitalizing hour on one of the tennis or racquetball/handball courts... a few invigorating laps around the jogging track... a skin-cleansing session in the steam room... a muscle relaxing jacuzzi bath.

Evening and weekends will find the location equally suitable... in the heart of vibrant Mission Valley with shopping centers, theatres, clubs, and restaurants nearby.

Design and operation reflects the same high level of quality and attention to detail that has been a standard throughout the 20-year growth of the successful Atlas chain of hotel and restaurants.

Facilities include: six lighted tennis courts (one exhibition court); separate saunas for men and women; steam room; therapy pool; separate fully equipped exercise rooms for men and women; twenty-five meter, three-lane lap-pool; jogging track; club lounge; color t.v., snack shop for light meals, beer, soft drinks, pro shop; barber shop; separate massage rooms for men and women; game room; volleyball court; and video-tape system.

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Both Persons Participate  
\$200.00/person
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- PLAN III  
Single Room Occupancy  
Single Participant  
\$280.00/person

Located in exciting Mission Valley in San Diego's newest and most exclusive health club facility, the Atlas Health Club. The club in conjunction with National Racquetball Clinic, Inc. offers 4 days and 4 nights/20 hours of instruction by 3 of the nation's top professionals. The instructors staff consists of: Charlie Brumfield, Steve Keeley, Steve Serot, Rich Wagner, Marty Hogan, and Davey Bledsoe.

These professionals believe in both the practical and theoretical approach to teaching. Court time consists of applying classroom knowledge and concepts to the game. The Atlas Health Club Racquetball Camp is designed to utilize the best teaching and most successful techniques developed by the professionals.

Package includes: room accommodations at Atlas Hotel's Mission Valley Inn, cocktails and banquet; Zoofari and Sea World passes; equipment package (t-shirt, bag, racquet, balls, "The Complete Book of Racquetball"); 20 hours of instruction; pros subject to change.

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CHECK PLAN DESIRED  
DATE DESIRED:

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|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Plan I   | <input type="checkbox"/> Nov. 12-15 | <input type="checkbox"/> April 5-8 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Plan II  | <input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 11-14 | <input type="checkbox"/> July 5-8  |
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Annual Meeting**  
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**One-day Seminar**  
*for those interested in the viability  
of the Court Club business*

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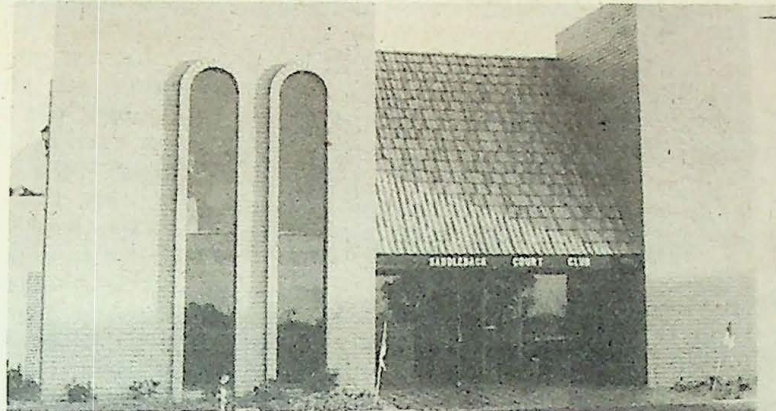
**MORT LEVE** EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NATIONAL COURT CLUBS ASSOCIATION

360 Park Drive, Northbrook, Ill. 60062  
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(above) Pros Jerry Hilecher and Steve Strandemo instruct club members on some of the basics of playing racquetball. (below) Front view of new club.

Staff photos by David T. Northcutt



**New club  
opens with  
pro clinic**

By **DAVID T. NORTHCUTT**  
Assistant Editor

Steve Strandemo and Jerry Hilecher, both of the Ektelon Racquetball Clinic, highlighted the grand opening of the Saddleback Court Club in Mission Viejo, Calif.

Over 300 members and guests intently watched and listened to the 2 1/2 hour instructional clinic.

The facilities were closed to allow people to wander freely and see what the club has to offer. For some, it was their first time inside a health club. Many expressed their approval of the simple, yet attractive decor of the club.

Woody Woods, general manager of the club, said he was very happy about how well the grand opening went.

"Our members have never seen any of the pros play before," said Woods. "They were all very impressed."

Woods said that the club stresses women and family memberships.

Club facilities include: 10 championship racquetball/handball courts, two of which have glass backwalls for tournament viewing. Men's and women's locker rooms including lockers, showers, sauna, steam bath, cool-down pool, jacuzzi, rest area lounge and grooming vanities.

Saddleback Court Club has increased its membership potential by including a lounge with color TV, pool and game tables, racquetball and handball instruction, child care room with attendant, running track on roof, weight and exercise room, exercise programs and a juice bar.

For further information, contact the club by writing or calling, Saddleback Court Club, 25732 Taladro Circle, Mission Viejo, CA 92675 (714) 586-1010.

**PHOTOGRAPHS**

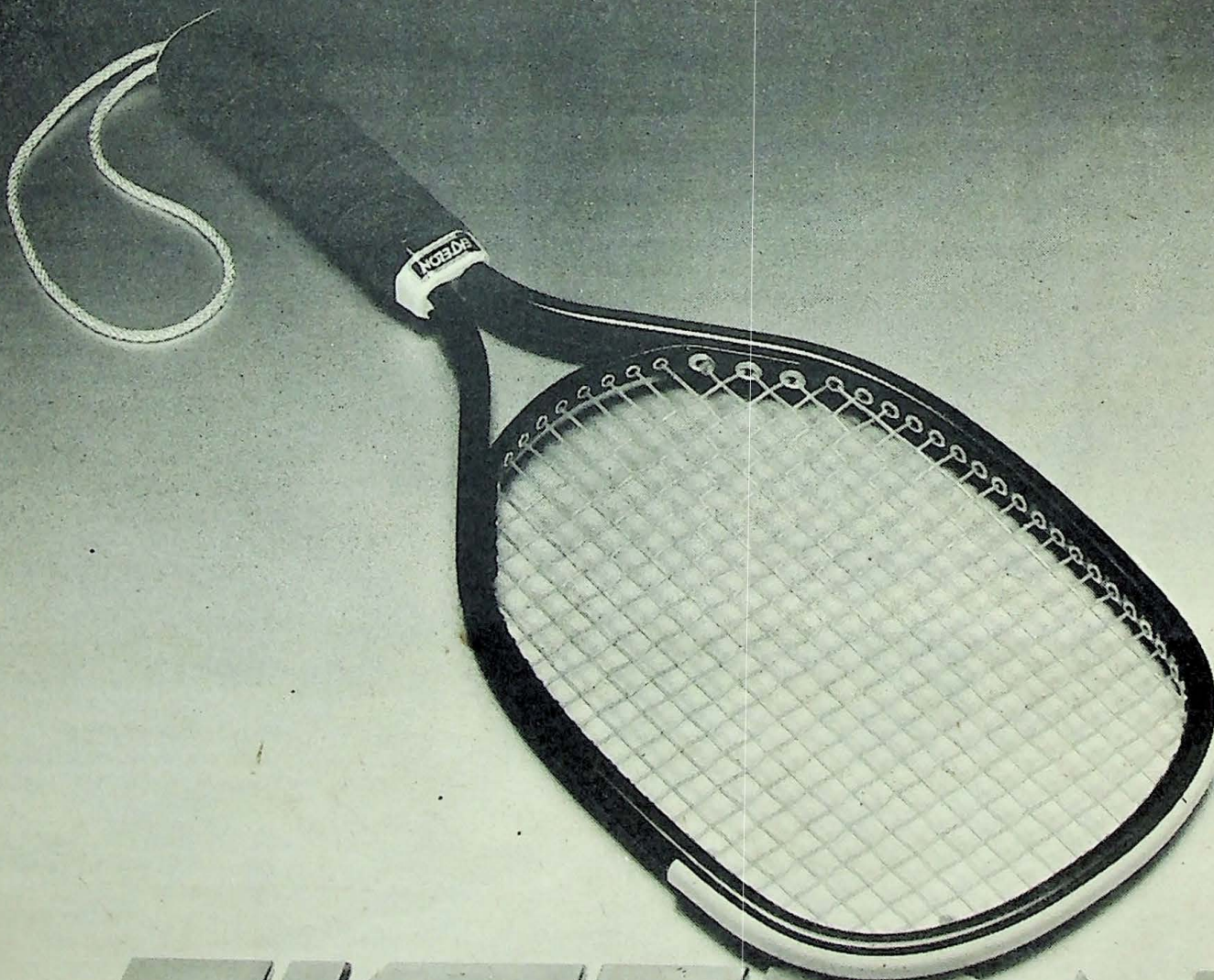
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Photos will be returned only when a self-addressed envelope with proper postage is provided.

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SPRING VALLEY, Calif. — One hundred seventy five players from all over California came to the Helix Court House Fall Racquetball Tournament to win in one of 13 divisions.

It was a tough fight from the start, but several players wanted to be in on all the action and entered both Singles and Doubles competition. Only one of the double entrants came out with a double victory — San Diego's Garry Lusk. According to Bette Weed, who ran the tournament and owns Helix with her husband, Chuck, Lusk was nearly exhausted on the third day. But he "knocked out" Steve Trent, 21-18, 21-18 in the Men's A finals and with partner John Godwin out-shot Alan Kent and Wayne Weightman for a 15-7, 15-10 victory in Open Doubles. Now Lusk has two more trophies to add to his growing collection.

Jim and Steve Trent, father and son, didn't get past the competition in Doubles, but Jim pulled out ahead in the Seniors division and took the trophy in a tough battle with Keith Luhnnow, 17-21, 21-20, 11-4, and Steve got past everyone in the A Singles until he met Lusk in the finals.

One hundred eighty five dollars of Caesar's spaghetti was the main dish in the hospitality room and that's a lot of pasta. Bette says it didn't get even half-eaten on Saturday, but on Sunday night, at the party, they finished it off.

One of the problems with the double entries, besides the players getting too tired to play all-out in the finals matches, was that they had to wait around on Sunday until everyone got done with other divisions so they could play finals.

*Helix:*  
**They came to win**

After winning the Chula Vista Doubles and placing 4th in the IRA Doubles, Garry Lusk goes all out and mows down all competition in both Singles and Open Doubles.



Jim Trent could be praying for points or standing for the Star Spangled Banner, but he is discussing a call with the ref. Such discussions were frequent in the Open Doubles matches.

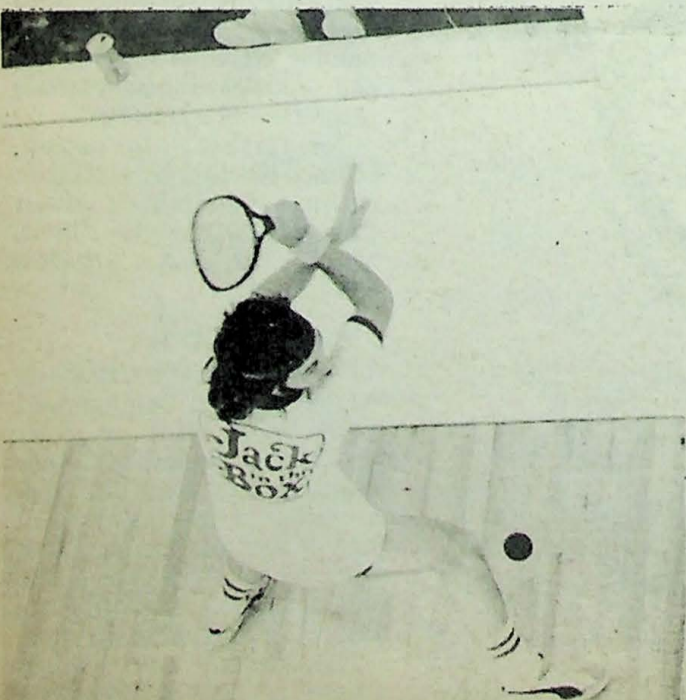
Photos of Steve Trent and Garry Lusk (below left and right) by Chuck Weed. All other photos, and stories by Mike Packard



Gary Stovall said he learned a lot in match with pro Steve Keeley.



(above) Alan Kent is all concentration as he gets ready for a forehand kill-shot off the back wall. Kent and Wayne Weightman (face hidden by ball) defeated Jim (right) and Steve (left) Trent in the Open Doubles semi-finals.



A backhand kill-shot is taken off the back wall by Steve Trent while spectators watch through glass.



Garry Lusk (left) won the A Singles in a close battle with Steve Trent (right).

Gary Stovall had a surprise and a bit of a shock at first when he found out who he drew to play in the Helix Court House tournament A division.

He was scheduled to play against Steve Keeley, a veteran racquetball pro with one of the best backhands in the game. What is a pro doing in an A division? That's what Gary asked.

Steve Keeley managed to get in the A division at Helix by offering to play left-handed while he is a right-handed player. And although Keeley has played before with his left hand, and he knows how to swing left-handed from playing handball, he is still at a pretty big disadvantage when it comes to playing with a racquet as a lefty.

Right-handed, Keeley uses a control style of game, left-handed, he says, "I just bash the ball. I don't have that much control when I'm playing left-handed, so I play just like Serot." (Steve Serot, one of the pros).

Keeley, just back from a tour of the nation on the National Racquetball Clinic, entered left-handed because he just wanted to get in and play in a tournament.

Stovall said before the match that he didn't expect to win. After the first game, which he lost, he said he was "learning alot." Stovall said he was surprised at first by Keeley's attitude.

"He's so confident and relaxed in there, it threw me off balance at first," Stovall said. "He's very patient. He just waits for the ball."

Someone else asked Stovall how he was doing and he replied, "I'm getting an education."

Stovall took the second game away from the pro and several people wondered if Keeley was really trying or just playing around. "I'm playing all out," Keeley said. "As a matter of fact I'm dying." Sweat was pouring down off of Keeley's forehead as he drank from the water fountain.

What did he think of Stovall? Keeley replied, "He's adapting very well. He's playing a lot better this game. And I'm making errors."

Stovall got it all together in the tie-breaker and won the match over Steve Keeley — to his surprise.

## drawsheet finals

SPRING VALLEY, Calif.  
November 11-14

The Fall Racquetball Tournament  
(Go-pher-it Open)  
Helix Court House

MEN'S A: Garry Lusk def. Steve Trent, 21-18, 21-18

MEN'S B: George Geronsin def. Mike Maddocks, 21-18, 21-9

MEN'S C: Tony Alfaro def. Robert Lee, 13-21, 21-9, 11-2

MEN'S NOVICE: Ron Cathro def. Burt Johnson, 16-21, 21-17, 11-4

JUNIORS: Butch Vandenburg def. Eric Georgeon, 21-11, 21-17

OPEN DOUBLES: Garry Lusk-John Godwin def. Alan Kent-Wayne Weightman, 15-7, 15-10

B DOUBLES: Dave Mathews-Stu Bloom def. Mike Maddocks-Jerry Monnell, 15-11, 9-15, 15-2

SENIORS: Jim Trent def. Keith Luhnow, 17-21, 21-20, 11-4

MIXED B DOUBLES: Guy Spencer-Patti Berneathy def. Darryl Weed-Karen Seavello, by forfeit

MIXED C DOUBLES: Barb McGowan-Roger Fairchild def. Robert Loveday-Terry Weaver, 15-5, 4-15, 15-8

WOMEN'S OPEN: Shirley Mitchell def. Barb McGowan, 13-21, 21-18, 11-6

WOMEN'S C: Cathy Bauman def. Sandy McLaughlin, 21-13, 11-21, 11-3

WOMEN'S NOVICE: Susan Hunt def. Alana Keppler, 21-5, 21-20

### IRA DOUBLES

from page 6

Racquet Club. IRA President Bill Tanner added some excitement to the gathering by challenging Pro Dave Charlson to match — Tanner in his racquetball clothes and Charlson in his street clothes and inch and a half rubber heeled street shoes. D.C. ripped his pants stretching for the first point of the game but he quickly whipped Tanner two straight before a wildly cheering gallery.

One of the most popular items of the tourney was the yellow with blue and white shoulder stripes tournament shirts. The extras sold like hot cakes and about twice as many could have been sold if they had been available. Also popular were the new IRA warm-ups being made by Jog-Joy.

The tournament balls were supplied by Seamco and Gookinaid provided the beverages.

Evident was a marked increase in the use of eyeguards which is an excellent step in the right direction.

### OPEN DIVISION

1st: Bob Kraut-Gene Gibbs, Sunnyvale, CA

2nd: Gary Stephens-David Fleetwood, Memphis

3rd: Tom McKie-Eric Campbell, Dallas

4th: Jim Pool-Gary Lusk, San Diego

### MASTERS DIVISION

1st: Bill Sellars-Richard Walker, Dallas

2nd: Bob McNamara, Minneapolis - Dewey Strickland, Houston

3rd: Gene Grapes-Al Schattner, Pittsburgh

4th: Bailey Prichard-Bill Tanner, Memphis

### GOLDEN MASTERS DIVISION

1st: Ike Gumer-Irving Zeitman, Louisville

2nd: Brud Turner, Cleveland - Art Payne, Columbus

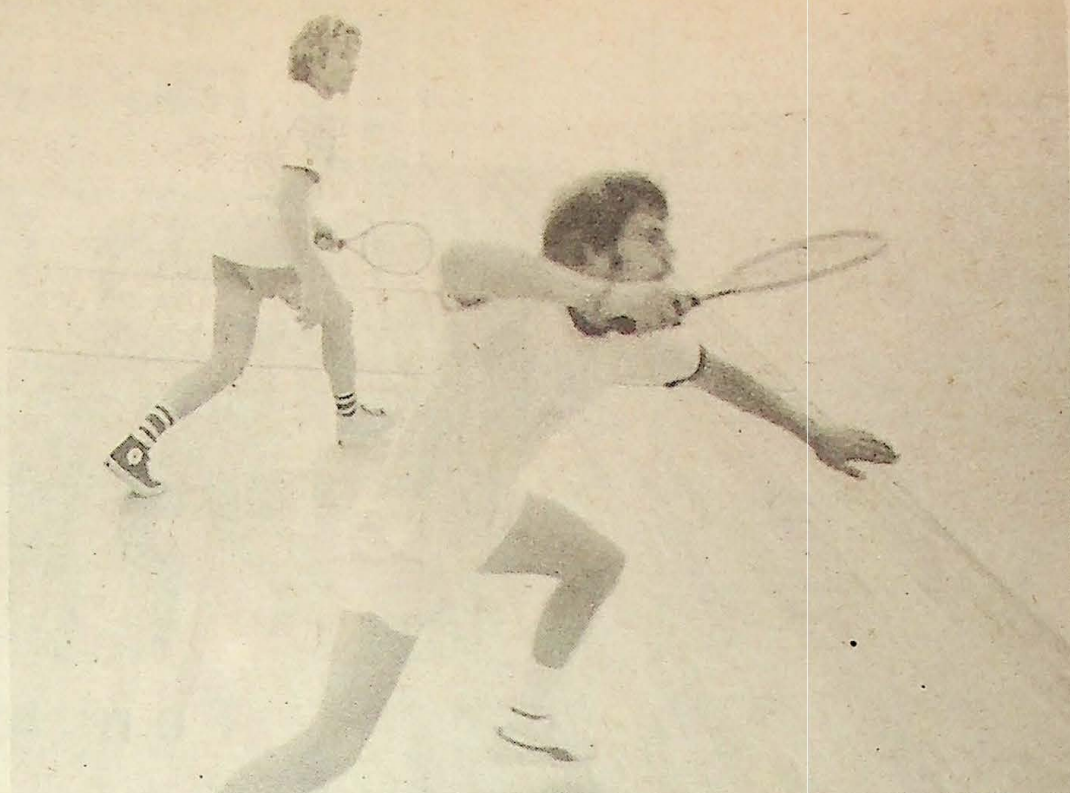
3rd: Cal Murphy, San Diego - Don Green, Hayward, CA

4th: Stan Berney, San Diego - Fred Vetter, Milwaukee, WI

See IRA DOUBLES, page 13

Amateur vs pro

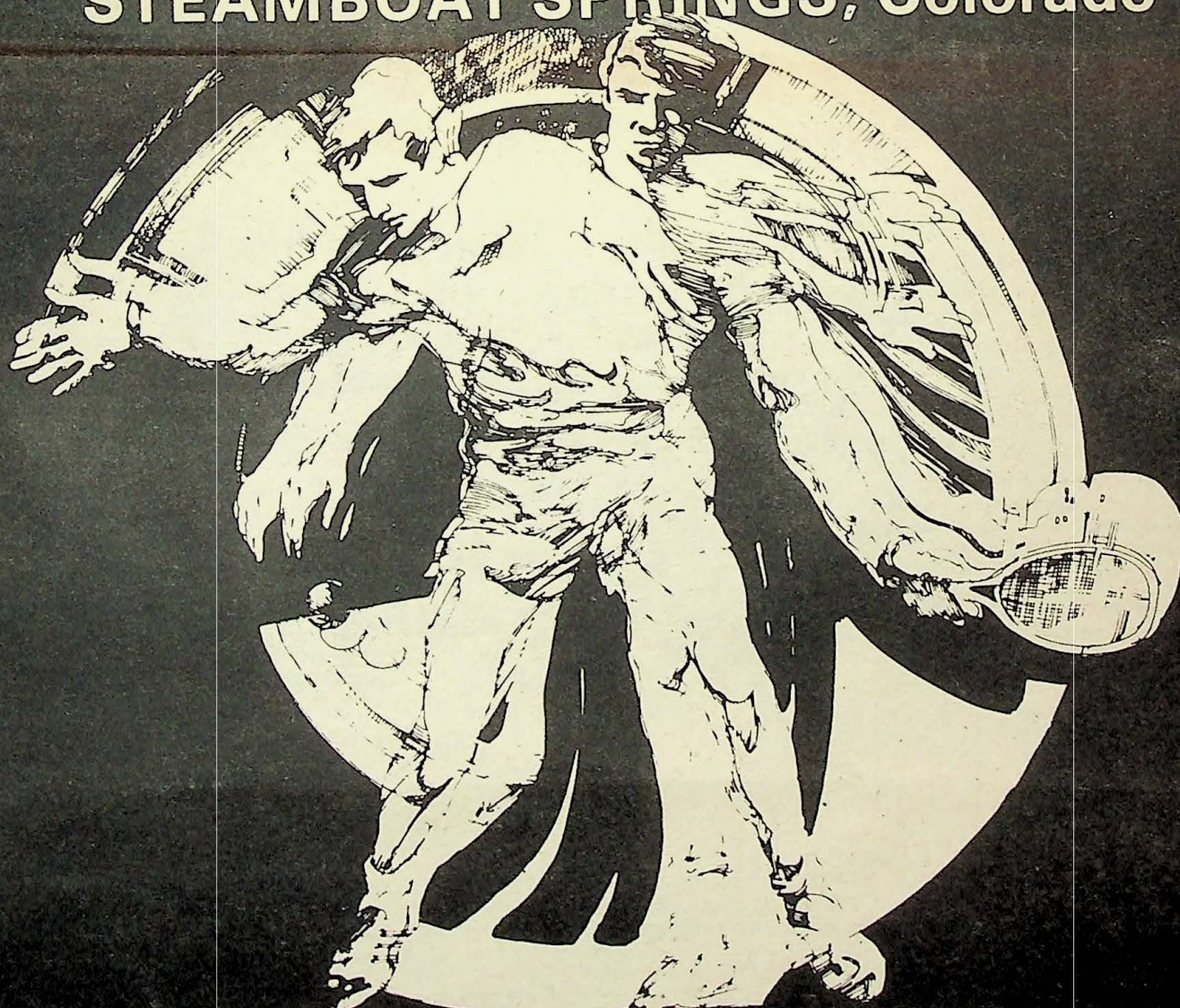
## He didn't expect to win



In center court, Keeley waits in his different-colored tennis shoes for Stovall's forehand shot.

He lost the first game and knew he wasn't going to beat the pro. Then he figured out a way to adapt to Keeley's shooting style.

# STEVE KEELEY RACQUETBALL CAMP STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, Colorado



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## Doc Hanna

### Down 'Malady Lane'

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Doc is the current National Senior Doubles champion of both the USRA and IRA plus third in USRA Singles. He has treated athletes in all sports over the preceding 10 years. He has served as team doctor for pro basketball, college and high school football, and is sports doctor for 12 professional racquetball players. He is down to earth and possesses a great sense of humor which will add a great deal of color to our pages.

For starters, I want everyone to know what a genuine pleasure it truly is to treat the athlete, as opposed to the average patient that a doctor treats in his office every day. An athlete is truly an extra-special patient, and when I see any athletes name on my appointment sheet each day, my day is made! Know why? It's all due to attitude and superb motivation to get well. Compare this to Joe Average and it's like comparing night versus day. The athlete's desire to return to competition sometimes boggles the mind.

A few month back, Steve Serot, possessing the most powerful backhand ever seen in racquetball, so far, by generating unbelievable power with a revolutionary looping of the racquet at the top of the backswing, ran into a wall diving for a shot. The wall won, of course, and Steve sustained a fracture nose and a shoulder separation. Steve possesses that great quality that all you athletes share in common — the spectacular motivation to recover, and to recover as quickly as possible. He was back competing professionally within 20 days when all my other "private" patients average at least 28 day to return to just normal daily activities and another 2 weeks to return to golf or social tennis. It makes any doctor smile to see someone do anything near that.

In 1967, Charlie Brumfield was in a car accident that resulted in a fracture of his femur (the thigh bone, largest bone in body). He was in a long leg cast for 6 weeks and at cast removal time, his thigh looked like it had a case of rickets from the ghetto. The shrinking of the muscle from disuse had reduced it's circumference over 3 1/2 inches as compared to his opposite thigh. Despite his 3.9 scholastic school average and all statements to the contrary, Charlie does have some common sense. He was told that his future court speed and coverage would depend on how his thigh muscle rehabilitated. He was given specific instructions and he promptly outdid all others in fervor and application intensity. He did the routine plus extra stair running, rope jumping, weight lifting, bicycle riding, and one-legged hopping. His thighs are proportionately the biggest I've seen in racquetball and are responsible for his great, legendary speed from the red lines to the front wall. That's why you athletes are so great for us doctors to treat. You ought to insist on a 10 percent bill reduction due to your rapid healing and motivation! Ha!

Future issues of this humble column will discuss not only medical problems involving not only ankles, elbows, nutrition, heat, rashes, and even sex (nothing around this column won't touch). You will also get some philosophy about sports, back home sayings, humor (plenty of that) as well as some inspirational and sad stories. One thing for sure, you won't be bored. If there is something you readers want to see discussed, please drop a note to the paper.

My sports "pearl of the month:" I overheard two years ago at a banquet and wrote it down. It says: "You can tell more about an athlete by what he says about others, than you can by what others say about him."

Signing off for now — your friendly Doc.

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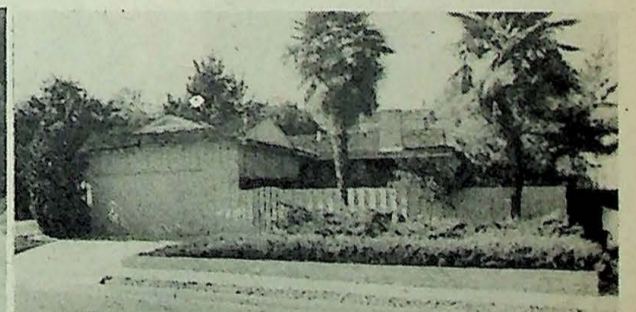
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**Magazine now pays well for articles**

The official NRC/USRA magazine *National Racquetball* has upped their payment for contributions. They are now paying \$200 for instructionals, first person articles and health articles. Pictures, cartoons or drawings will pay \$50. For further details and minimum requirements see page 17 of *National Racquetball* magazine, September 1976 issue. Or write to The Editor, *National Racquetball*, 4101 Dempster Street, Skokie, IL 60076.

**From the IRA:**

**How do the French play?**

The IRA is establishing a new 11th region — Europe. The European regional winners will be given travel allowances to the Nationals here in the U.S. The language differences should make for some interesting matches. How do you say "skip-ball" in German?

**Old opponents may become friends**

The IRA Board of Directors has moved and passed, unanimously, that IRA President William Tanner is to "make social contact with Kendler (USRA/NRC president) at the NRC tournament and if the opportunity presents itself look at working relationship possibilities."

**Balls, balls and more balls**

The IRA has adopted an "open ball policy" which means that no one ball will be the official one, and any ball that meets their minimum standards will receive the official ball designation. However, the ball company must also agree to the "uniform financial arrangements" set by the IRA.

**What do you think of 15-point games?**

You can help make a decision that affects you as a player, and help the IRA at the same time, by sending them your comments on the 15-point games. The IRA will decide whether to adopt this new policy next spring. Now, they are experimenting with match play consisting of three 15-point games. Each game must be won by two points or play continues until one player reaches 21 points and wins. Write International Racquetball Association, P.O. Box 31481, Suite 1012, Dallas, Texas 75231wo 75231.

**The game is for everyone**

*How To Get Started Playing Racquetball*, is recommended reading for anyone thinking about taking up the sport, or for those still unsure about it. This article appears in the September/October issue of the IRA's official magazine, *Racquetball*, on pages 50 and 51. You can get a hold of a copy by asking around your local court club — someone is bound to have one. Or, write to International Racquetball Association, P.O. Box 31481, Suite 1012, Dallas, Texas 75231. The article is written by Steve Strandemo, a top pro and one of the all-time top money winners in racquetball.

**ONE ON ONE**  
Strandemo Instructs

By DAVID T. NORTH CUTT  
Assistant Editor

*NOTE: This article is intended not only for those players who aspire to become professional racquetball players, but also for those players who just want to improve their game and remedy any flaws in technique, which may be hindering their improvement.*

What does it take to be a professional racquetball player? What type of dedication to practice and individual desire for improvement is necessary in order to join the ranks of those handful of people who are racquetball's top players?

I wondered how an average player would begin the long road to the top. How would players find out what parts of their game are correct and which are not? How do they improve their mental game?

For the answers to these and more questions I went to Steve Strandemo, one of the top rated professionals on tour today. While discussing requirements for becoming a pro, Steve and I decided to work in conjunction on monthly articles which would bring out valuable information about the steps involved with not only becoming a pro, but in the general improvement of play from one skill level to the next.

We decided that the best way to relate the information to the players would be to follow the progress of a player desiring to become a professional. Being an average player with that desire, I will be the person whose progress we will be following.

Steve said that most players have the same flaws in their techniques. It is our desire that through the explanation and correction of flaws in my game, other players will be able to find and correct their own flaws.

"You don't go from a high C player to pro in one step," said Steve. "First you must become a low B player, then a solid B, a high B, a low A, a solid A and so forth.

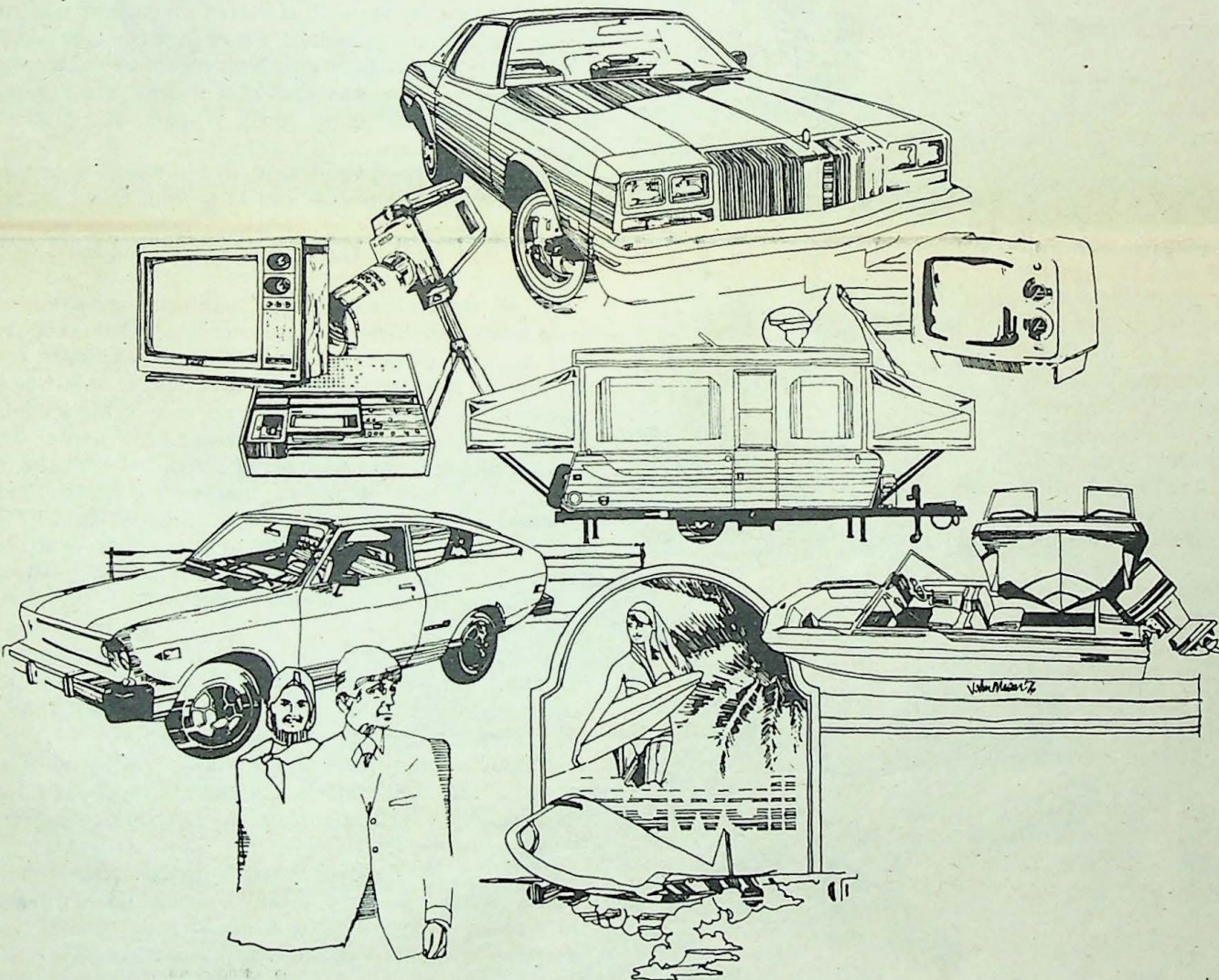
"Progress is gradual and will be dependent upon how much time you can practice."

Not everyone has four hours a day they can devote to improving their racquetball game. The articles I will write each month will be designed so that each player will have a good idea as to what they must do to improve their game and approximately how much time is required for them to perfect certain skills.

Both Steve and myself want to stress that the articles are intended for Novice to Open division players. We are hopeful that these articles will improve your ability to play the game of racquetball, which, in turn, will enhance your enjoyment of the sport. In next month's article: instruction and my first progress report.

**TRENWAY INTERNATIONAL HANDICAP RACQUETBALL TOURNAMENT 1976-77**

in cooperation with the International Racquetball Association



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**HOW TO ENTER**

To enter the tournament simply go to your favorite racquetball facility and obtain a Tournament Information Packet which includes an entry form, handicap chart, and all tournament rules. Entry fee is \$12.00 which includes a Tournament T-shirt and two official tournament balls, the Trenway Z-Ball. Deadline for all entries will be December 15, 1976.

**PLAY BEGINS SOON**

Play begins January 1, 1977 at the Facility level. Six regional

winners will be flown to San Diego, all expenses paid, to play in the International Tournament Finals in July, 1977.

**GREAT PRIZES**

Trenway Products will be awarding over \$40,000.00 in prizes. Some of the prizes to be given away include a 1977 Oldsmobile Cutlass Brougham, an all expenses paid vacation to Hawaii, and a 1977 Chrysler outboard motor boat.

**ENTER NOW!**

If you enjoy racquetball, get in on the fun and excitement of tournament play and give yourself a great chance to win some great prizes!

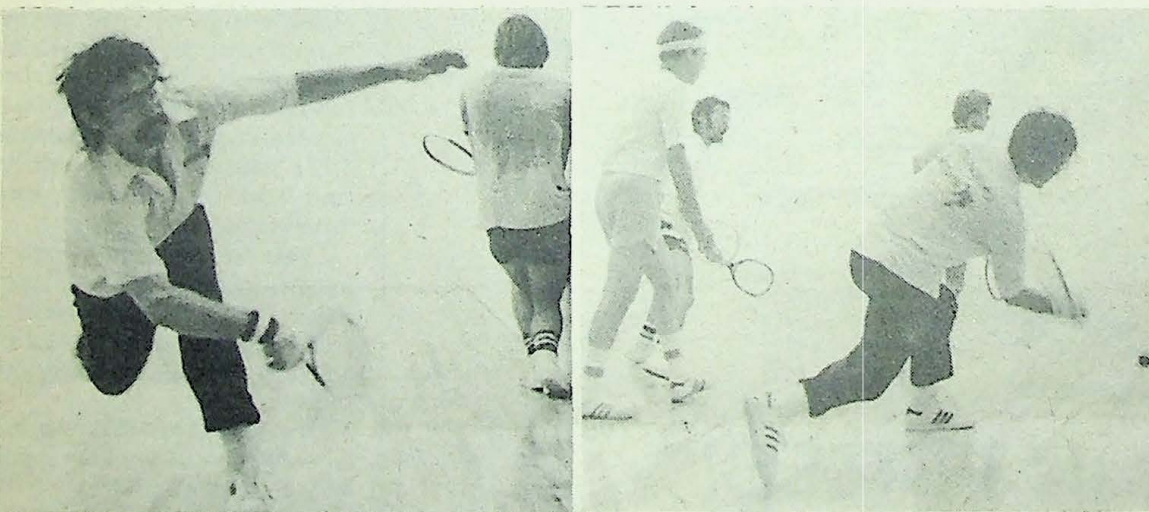




(left to right) Charlie Brumfield, Dr. Bud Muehleisen, Steve Strandemo and Rich Wagner playing Doubles at San Diego's La Mesa Racquetball. Staff photos by Mike Packard



Brumfield, the current NRC national champ, hits a pass by the head of Strandemo.



Strandemo has to hustle to get to the ball in time. As Strandemo swings, the others watch the path the ball will take.

**ANTICIPATION**  
from page 5

This brings us to the third method of anticipation, which is the more or less scientific method, which indicates there are certain coverage patterns that must be covered. Many players make the mistake of trying to cover all the areas of the court at once. If your opponent has a set-up and you try to cover everything that he could possibly hit, you in effect end up covering nothing. What you have to do is eliminate the most difficult shot he could hit. That shot being the down-the-line pass.

Brumfield says that if his opponent has a backhand set-

up at 30 feet, the shot he is least likely to win with is a backhand down-the-line pass.

"That shot has to be hit perfectly or it will come off the back wall for a set-up," Brumfield says. "I'm looking for a pinch in the cross-court. It has been my experience over the last 10 years that 75 percent of all balls move into a cross-court coverage pattern. By virtue of either hitting the side wall in an attempted pinch, by missing the down-the-line pass and having it come off the side wall, or by an actual cross-court driving shot.

"Therefore, when my opponent hits the ball from

one side to the other, I anticipate cross-court in my first coverage movement, allowing for my animal reaction to compensate, if, for some reason, he has hit one of those one-out-of-ten down-the-line shots."

Whatever the situation is, you must know what shot you are going to hit — before the situation arises.

"That's the key to mental quickness," Brumfield says. "You can't just go out there and when the guy hits a shot you don't know what you're going to do or where you're going to go.

See ANTICIPATION, page 13



**Dan Bialk**

**Professional exhibitions**

I had an opportunity recently to view a Doubles match in San Diego at the new La Mesa Racquetball club. It wasn't what you might call an ordinary Doubles match, because it featured four of the top professionals in the game.

The crowd began arriving one-half hour early taking choice seats in comfortable lounge chairs in full view of the glass court. Some 20 people were seated before Charlie Brumfield and Richard Wagner walked in. Brumfield relaxed deeply in a lounge chair and talked about the problem he was having with the new lively balls. Charlie said he was playing twice daily and was in top shape. Wagner said nothing. He just glanced in his bag and grabbed a couple of balls. Both players came dressed in shorts, apparently coming directly from a previous workout for this late afternoon match.

Wagner waited patiently for Brumfield to make his move before entering the court. Charlie fumbled over a half-dozen half-gloves strapped to his bag before finding one he liked. Once satisfied, both players entered the court simultaneously, Brumfield to the right-front corner, and Wagner placing ceiling shots to the left side. Pop-blip, pop-blip. Brumfield coaxed a ball to the right-front wall before killing it gently, but with undying accuracy aimed at the crotch. He worked with the hands of a master, delicate yet consistent. Meanwhile, Wagner continued his precision ceiling shots.

Brumfield viewed the crowd occasionally in anticipation of his opponents. The first to arrive was Bud Muehleisen in his warm-ups. In contrast to his opponents, Bud wore no glove. He doesn't perspire much, he says. Bud waited for his partner, and soon to arrive was Steve Strandemo. Steve in warm-ups also, hurriedly selected a full-glove before both players joined their opponents at center court. Brumfield and Muehleisen had rubber grips on their signature racquets, while Wagner and Strandemo had leather.

Brumfield immediately went to his practice of v-passes and then down-the-line passes and kills from the right rear corner. Wagner stoically rested, while Muehleisen and Strandemo selected favorite practice shots from ceiling balls to passes and kill-shots.

Wagner served the opener with an excellent execution of a low drive serve. Muehleisen, expressionless but relaxed, returned it. And so the game continued. Brumfield with an uncanny backhand, constantly talking to himself, made a number of increasingly difficult shots appear matter-of-fact. And, Strandemo, the all-around hustler, hit shots back-handed occasionally and even once backhanded between the legs.

Brumfield took charge of his team's control game with a mastery of ceiling shots that on occasion started at the left-rear corner, went to the middle of the front wall, and ended hopelessly dropping in the right-rear corner without a return. Wagner forced the opponents to hustle with his hard, low drives to the front wall.

Strandemo hustled more as the match progressed and perspired futilely. Muehleisen didn't. Bud simply executed accurately an unbelievable selection of shots that comes only with years of play and Doubles competition.

Although Brumfield didn't smile until the middle of the second game, the break in his expression occurred after several front wall/side wall kills from the left-rear corner cross-court to the right-front corner.

Who won? Who cares? A treat of this nature is fairly common in the San Diego area. Many racquetball professionals make their home in this self-proclaimed Racquetball Capital of the World, and exhibitions and work-outs like this one can be seen readily. The point is this — rarely in a tournament match will you have an opportunity to see talent matched of this calibre. So, when a Singles or Doubles match comes to your area, support your local club and plan to see it. Chances are there won't even be a charge. You'll be surprised how much you'll learn by just watching.

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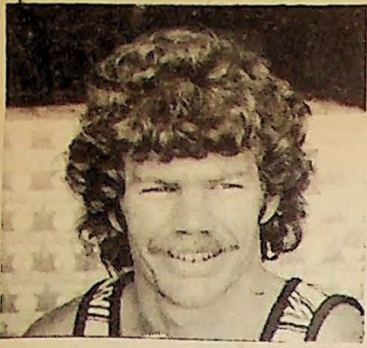
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**Bill Stevens**

**Court conduct and refs**

The week of October 22 thru 26 marked the Second Annual Atlas Health Club Fall Classic Racquetball Tournament. This year the tourney was quite small and very well organized. One of the drawbacks of any racquetball tournament is finding qualified referees. In the Atlas tourney the winner of the previous match reffed the next match on that court. Good Idea? Well, maybe not. That arrangement does solve the problem of finding a ref for each match but sometimes forces players to ref when they are not qualified.

What does a player do when the ref is so bad that every call is a shot in the dark? I wrote an article on sportsmanlike conduct in which I tried to explain what a good sport is. I found out in the Atlas tournament, that it isn't that easy to be calm and cool when the ref can't see and the points keep adding on to the other guy's score.

What this is leading up to is an apology to all the people who have looked to this writer for some kind of leadership in being a good sport. I was in a match with a young man named Bob Bolon, being refereed by a guy named John. Due to my own lack of preparation for this tournament, I was not exactly on top of my game. Things weren't going my way. When I got a couple of bad calls, I yelled at the ref. We continued to get a rash of bad calls and I continued to yell at the ref. I was a very poor sport and lost the match, probably because of my attitude and more likely because of Bolon's fine play. Bob Bolon was a picture perfect sport. He was all smiles. I was all mouth.

When the match was over, and none of my friends would speak to me, I realized what I had done. I made a fool of myself and I offer my most sincere apology to John the ref, Bob the opponent, and all the people who experienced the circus on court 1.

Furthermore, the same thing happened the following day in Doubles. Only in Doubles all four of us were trying to be the loudest. I found out that it's tough to be calm when the pressure's on.

Finally, I want to thank Mike Maddocks for consoling me when I was down and out, when it was all over.

Next month: What to do when you have a bad ref.

**ANTICIPATION**

from page 12

"You've got to know, if he gets a position here, you're going to flow here. If he doesn't hit there, you're going to jerk back here and punch it to the ceiling. If he does hit it into the coverage pattern, you're already there and you just put the ball away."

To summarize the three methods, you must first begin to analyze your opponents. Understand what it means to pick out the preparatory movements that signal or forecast what a player is going to do. Pick out your opponent's favorite shots. Realize, in pressure situations, these are the shots you are most likely to see. Also, realize what the most difficult shots to score on are, from various positions in the rally, and eliminate those and cover the 75 percent shot — the cross-court pass. If you try to cover everything, then that 75 percent shot becomes that much tougher to cover and you misplay that more often.

**IRA DOUBLES**

from page 9

**SENIOR DIVISION**

- 1st: Jim Austin, Houston - Chuck Hanna, San Diego
- 2nd: Mark Wayne, Fremont, CA - Bill King, Radford, VA
- 3rd: Jerry Linton, Altus, OK - Jim McPherson, Oklahoma City

**JUNIOR DIVISION**

- 1st: Mark Malowitz-Jeff Kwartler, Houston
- 2nd: Steve Sulli, Chicago - Jon Zukerman, St. Louis
- 3rd: Barry Smith-David Baccus, Houston
- 4th: Ken Kaihlanen, San Antonio - Andy Hodges, Shreveport

**VERMONT PRO-AM**

from page 3

- Wagner def. Jerry Hilecher, 21-13 and 21-11.
- Steve Strandemo def. Ben Kolton, 21-13 and 21-8.
- Marty Hogan def. Davey Bledsoe, 21-7 and 21-13.

In the women's professional bracket, Peggy Steding edged out Janell Marriott in three games, 21-7, 15,21 and 11-1. Steding advanced to the finals by easily defeating Kathy Williams, 21-10 and 21-7. In the other semi-final match, Marriott upset Shannon Wright 21-18 and 21-16.


Shannon commented, "I just signed a contract with Leach Industries and I need some time to adjust to the new equipment I am using."

In the quarter-finals, there were two close matches. Kathy Williams def. Jean Sauser, 19-21, 21-17, 11-3. Janell Marriott def. Sarah Green, 7-21, 21-10, 11-7.

Sarah Green is the current Amateur National Champion and she is playing her first year as a professional. Sarah is young and is the woman to watch in the future.

The Amateur Division was captured by Steve Mondry, San Diego, in a down-to-the-wire race with Mike Luciw. The match went three games and the scores were 21-14, 12-21 and 11-10. Mondry was extended to three games by Dollinger in the quarters and Callahan in the semi-finals while Luciw went three with Mike Romano in the semi-finals.

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## Clay Scott

### Off the court

Ever wonder what professional athletes do when they're not playing their sport? Well, I got the story on racquetball professionals.

A few weeks ago I was invited to a get-together at Dr. Chuck Hanna's home. Chuck is the California USRA director from San Diego. When I got there, which was late, it was about 6 p.m. and the party had started at 4 in the afternoon. There in the back of the house, below the pool, was a large group of people yelling and cheering. Whatever was going on must have been exciting.

I could see flood lights out back and beyond that, the intersecting freeway system of California far below in the valley. As I approached the merry making I could hear tinkling sounds that I remembered from my *other life* in Illinois. Sure nuf, it was horseshoes. Here was the NRC Champion Charlie Brumfield with his partner Rich Wagner playing against Charlie Drake, marketing director of Leach Industries, and Dr. Hanna were on the other pit playing Bud Leach and Ray Bayer, operations manager at Leach.

Charlie said to grab a beer and catch the next match. I believe I've played horseshoes once or twice in my life, usually just sitting and watching everyone else.

Davey Bledsoe just arrived and he didn't have a partner either. So here we are; a photographer with no camera and a racquetball pro with no racquet. But we did have two pieces of iron that King Kong bent into a "U", back in Michigan. So here we go, against Charlie Drake and Dr. Hanna. The match didn't take too long, the score went back and forth, but the winners turned out to be Scott and Bledsoe.

Of course, we couldn't let just one game go by, so we played another just to see if we really had natural talent. Things didn't look so good the second game, but the tie-breaker made everyone a believer. Scott and Bledsoe came out the victors. We were challenged a couple of more times, all bringing the same results. In the last series, Bledsoe had to pull us out by making three straight ringers in order for us to win.

The entire evening was a great success with such great racquetball players all playing a pretty mean game of horseshoes, after which everyone enjoyed a Mexican dinner.

Dr. Hanna is a real horseshoe nut and is building an additional two more pits in another location. I'm not a nut yet, I only just started on my first two.

One of the best things going for racquetball right now in San Diego, as far as getting on a court on a busy night, is the Spring Valley Racquetball Club in Spring Valley.

This beautiful new court has just been open a few weeks, and its location is hard to find. The courts are located behind a shopping center and can not be seen from Sweetwater Road. If you take the time to hunt for the club, you're sure to find a court available. Call 462-4260 for directions.

## new products

A NEW RACQUETBALL RACQUET, the *Grafighter*, has been introduced by Groves-Kelco Sales, Inc., Minneapolis, Minn. It is made of a combination of natural and synthetic materials, which, Groves-Kelco says, will not mar court surfaces and does not require the addition of a bumper. The *Grafighter* was designed to eliminate the danger of splintering, chipping or bending.

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For more information on the *Grafighter*, write Groves-Kelco Sales, Inc., 7900 Chicago Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55420. Or call their toll free number (800) 328-1970.

**NEW SUPERIOR "RB" LOCKERS**, by List Industries Inc., are designed specifically for installation in racquetball locker rooms.

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Lockers are ventilated for odor-free freshness and sanitation. Available in variable sizes and configurations required for a club's particular use and traffic flow.

List Industries offers a free, locker room planning and design service. For additional information and literature, contact List Industries Ind., 16400 S. Lathrop Avenue, Harvey, IL 60426.

## ALANA

from page 5

Marti Ricketts, president of the San Diego league, is a young married woman. She works at the Poway Racquet Club and Gym. Marti's three assistants in running the league are: Sandy Atherton of North County Racquet Center who is doing public relations; Sara Wilson of Muehleisen Courts is the secretary and Kathy Mechling of Rose Canyon Courts helps with miscellaneous jobs, such as the luncheon itinerary.

Another successful league located in Chicago is Jean Sauser's league at Sky Harbor Racquet Club. Many women's leagues are springing up around the country and proving to be very successful and popular with the women.

## letters to the editor

About women's championships

Not enough about women

Dear Editor,

We recently acquired an issue of your R-ball and H-ball News. It was our first exposure to your publication. We have come to expect few articles by and about women in sports publications and you have lived up to our expectation. Our disappointment was turned to anger when we read about the NRC sponsored tourney with a \$4,000 discrepancy in prize money on the basis of sex.

Women can play, practice and enjoy racquetball with as much enthusiasm and dedication as men. When the opportunity arises to compete for money, the rewards should also be equal. This is one step toward an end to the blatant discrimination and sexism in our society.

We cannot support any activity or organization which does not demand equal respect and opportunity for women.

J.S. Kelling  
K.A. Maxwell  
Vista, Calif.

### EDITOR'S NOTE:

We have tried many times to get women to write for Racquetball News, in regards to their activities in racquetball. I've been promised many articles, but haven't received any. When the women get off their butts and start doing something instead of writing letters such as yours then I'll go along with your theory about being left out of publications. I do agree with you about the prize money, but, of course, Racquetball News doesn't have anything to do with the pro tournament awards.

Dear Sir:

Does your monthly publication cover tournaments throughout the United States? I would like to see past issues of who won the U. S. Championship in Women's divisions for last year and the year before. Also would like to know where the U. S. Championships are played and when, as I would like to attend them. Do they have State Finals?

Please let me know if you have this information and how much the copies will cost.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Michelle Schroeder  
Altadena, Calif.

### EDITOR'S NOTE:

Forty-year-old Texas housewife Peggy Steding, who is wonderful to watch in action, is the current National Racquetball Club's (NRC) champ and was also last year's winner. A hard-hitting 20-year old, Shannon Wright, also from Texas, is this year's International Racquetball Association (IRA) champ. Shannon has been in the finals against Peggy many times, but not until this year has succeeded in outplaying her for a national title.

We did cover the NRC Nationals last June and the story of Peggy's win appears in our July 1976 issue. Back issues are in very limited supply and we are asking for \$1 to help cover costs and mailing for each issue.

All the info on pro and amateur tournaments, both for NRC/USRA and IRA, you will find on page two of this paper every month under "national dateline."

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**SPARTENBURG, So. Carolina**  
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Spartenburg YMCA Open

**MIAMI, Fla.**  
December 24-26  
Maimi Beach Handball  
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Tournament  
Open  
Flamingo Park  
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### Minnesota Handball Association

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1976-77

**ST. PAUL**  
January 7-19  
Midtown Court Club  
Open Doubles

February 21-26  
Downtown YMCA  
Master Doubles

**ROSEVILLE**  
December 10, 12, 14, 16  
Kings Court  
Golden Masters Singles

**ST. PAUL**  
April 4-7  
SP Athletic Club  
Golden Masters Doubles

April 21-24  
St. Paul Court House  
State A-Club Tournament of  
Champions

April 28- May 1  
St. Paul Eastside YMCA  
State B-Club Tournament of  
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**NILES, Ill.**  
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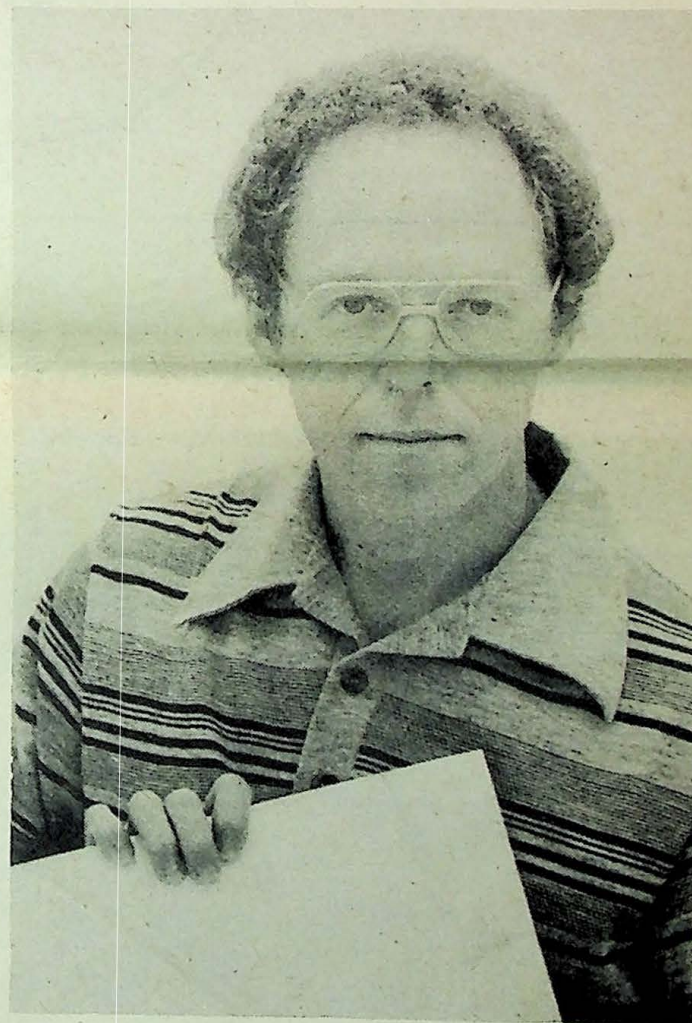
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