

National Racquetball®

Vol. 6 No. 1
January, 1978
\$1.50

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STEDING
WIN AGAIN

• NEW! R.B.
IN THE NEWS

• 4 PAGES
ON SERVES BY
STEVE KEELEY

• RWK HONORED

• ACTRESS
ADRIENNE
BARBEAU



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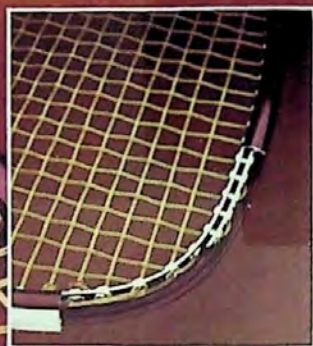
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National Racquetball®

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On The Cover . . .

Actress Adrienne Barbeau readies herself for a return during one of her many racquetball workouts. For the inside story on Ms. Barbeau's entry into r.b. see page 14.

—Photo by Peter C. Borsar

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"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to His purpose."

9 Romans 28



Roll Call . . .

There isn't a better time to have an accounting than at the end of the old year and beginning of the new. It is also the time that we should resolve to do good, more good and still more good through the medium of racquetball.

Let's call the roll for the past 12 months, good ol' 1977 . . .

Seamco and Leach have again stood firmly by our side. And to these large racquetball firms, each number one in their product categories, we have added Colgate-Palmolive. You just can't find them any finer.

Then we added the Public Broadcasting System, a potential of 271 stations, coast-to-coast, full one hour show . . . not bad for openers! First time in history, too, although we'll see to it that it's just the beginning of many.

To this we add Xentex, an Exxon affiliate. No one doubts they will revolutionize the court club building business with their new, patented panels.

Sports Illustrated Court Clubs added another merit badge to our collection, and we are proud as can be that they will be hosting the National Championships this June. Craig Hall and Henry Luce III are certainly doing their part.

Along came the computer, the Louis Zahn Data Corporation, and soon our membership backlog will dissolve. Our circulation department will be more efficient and up to date, meaning that you will get your magazine on time!

Most welcome of all is that magazine, — which beginning with this issue is now a monthly publication. This is without question our biggest step forward.

Our dear ladies came into their own this

year with two separate professional women's events, which will prove that the gals can stand on their own as a viable commodity in the racquetball world.

Double the flavor is the word for the men. Twice as much prize money and numerous endorsement opportunities. Things are going their way, and the players couldn't be happier.

An outstanding organization of 47 state affiliates, — all with financial aid from national headquarters, amounting to over \$100,000.

New funding for the state and regional tournaments with added travel allowances for more categories of play to the nationals.

More money has gone into amateur promotion, with free balls and other tournament items, a superb juniors national championship, and more USRA administered events than we even care to count.

Then we added a couple of wives. Chuck Leve has a little doll, — Terry Fancher has a little wildcat, — and the main office has my adorable Evie.

Our biggest catch of the year is Danny Bertolucci. Handling national tournaments is his specialty. Now we are going to teach him how to handle the ladies . . . and then let one catch him!

Our staff continued to grow with Milt Presler, Carol Brusslan, and Jack Kendler serving aces for the new monthly *National Racquetball*, which could not have been accomplished without their expertise.

The roll call goes on and on, — there could be pages and pages of honorable mention, — particularly the wives who offered their services like Inez Ardito and Mary Ellen Lancaster.

That's besides the angels who volunteer from our construction offices when the other dozen or so staff members become overburdened. People like Noubhar, Dorothy and the two Eileens, — bless you, — every one of you.

None of these achievements came easy. But we didn't expect any easy victories. Nor did we expect some of the intrigue that makes targets of all successful pioneers. We have stopped the greedy from taking advantage of the players on other occasions in both racquetball and handball simply by showing the players that they will do themselves more good by sticking with us. And we'll do it again if we must.

Our course is clear for the New Year. Our resolution is to protect racquetball, all of it, from those "get rich" boys who do nothing but take out of the sport, — never putting anything in. To fragment racquetball, — to make a three ring circus out of a healthy and character building sport is just not going to happen.

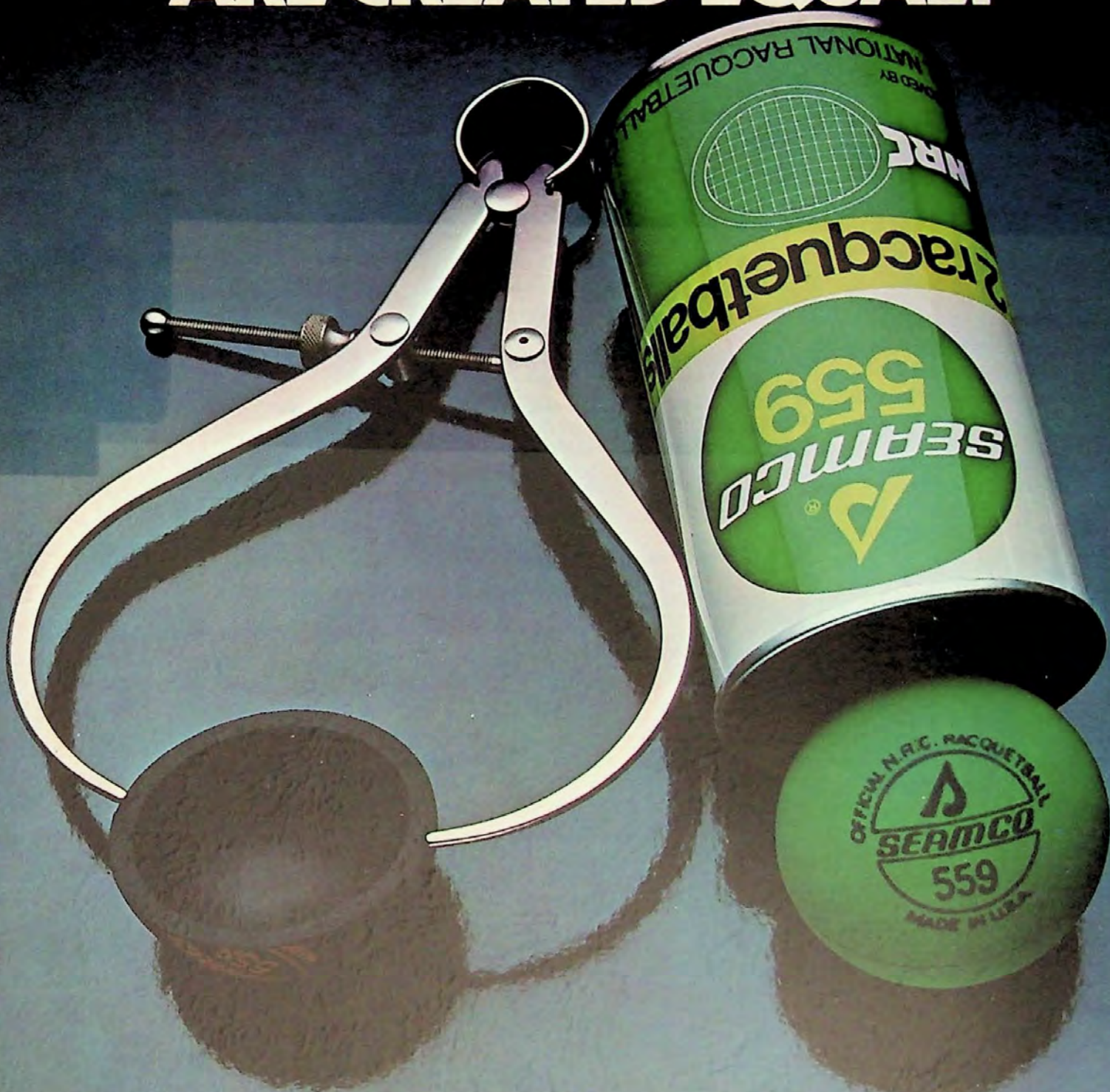
History has long since made clear that our involvement in the court sports is totally without personal gain. Everywhere around us are those who have other ideas, — selfish ideas, with no concern for the future of the sport or the character of the players. We stand firm on the resolution that we will build this sport for the players and not the promoters.

The forces of evil have already shown their ugly heads. In this New Year, let us stand together in ridding our trust of anyone with less than principle as his purpose.

Happy New Year! •

Bob Kendler

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The racquetball world is made up of many, many factions, each representing a different, albeit related, interest in our sport. The racquetball world is comparable to any other world in which all strive to live together while at the same time improving one's life among the others.

In this blossoming sport, the USRA's position among the different "nations" is similar to that of the United Nations. One of our main responsibilities is to keep peace among all of the varied interest groups, while at the same time promoting the sport for the good of everybody.

Although simply stated, this amounts to a Herculean task, yet one which we feel is the most crucial to the future of the sport, lest chaos ensue.

Private racquetball facilities, a phenomenon of the last five years is certainly a key to the future. Well-financed, successful clubs are crucial. Intelligent growth to this phase of the racquetball industry will lead to more court building and the exposure of the sport to millions who have yet to be brought the health and good will of racquetball.

These facilities also serve as tournament hosts, in order that we continue to showcase racquetball with the best competition possible for all the world to see. We must work to see that these clubs find tournaments financially successful, while at the same time providing the maximum benefits for competitors.

As guest of these facilities and as ambassadors for the sport, it is

imperative that at all times the respect due the club is shown by all players, administrators and spectators.

As well, the players are due the respect they deserve as the upper echelon of racquetball competition, both in personal relationships with the facility and in tournament benefits.

The players can help everybody by showing the cooperation that is expected of all competitors, amateur and pro alike. That includes showing up for matches on time, ready to play; conduct both on and off the court that enhances the image of racquetball; general neatness of appearance; and making sure that his or her entry form is sent in prior to the deadline.

On the state level, chairman and committees must carry out these general philosophies in order to continue to effectively promote the sport. The discipline that has to be shown on the pro tour, should be carried out locally as well, whether in state competition, regional tournaments or pro tour stops in their area.

Manufacturers and sponsors are always looking to protect their interests and investments and rightly so. The respect that is due the people who are putting up the money should be uppermost in everybody's mind - for without their substantial investment there would be no money to play for.

The responsibility of the USRA and NRC is first to its members - to ensure that they receive all of the benefits they deserve as members of the association. That includes receiving



National Racquetball on time in a form that they can enjoy and that will help their game.

In that mold there are advertisers who are paying substantial fees to alert the racquetball public about their products, and their interests must be looked after as well.

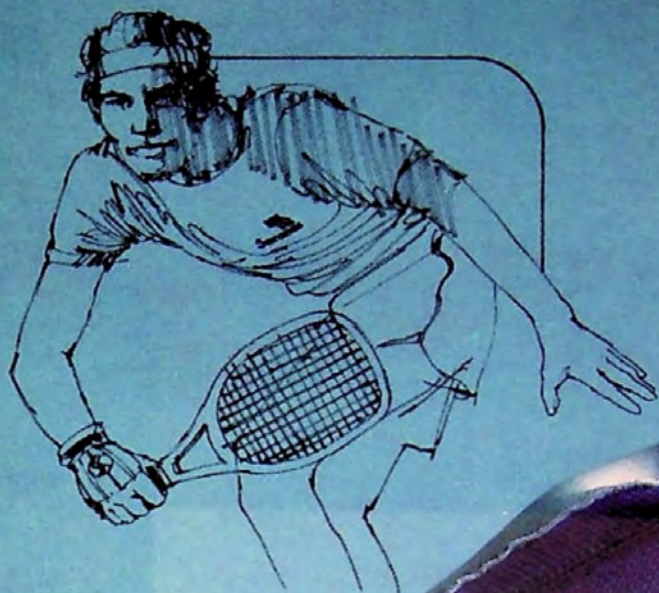
What it boils down to is a huge task that the USRA and NRC must undertake to keep all nations of the racquetball world at peace. As racquetball grows the task becomes more complex, more involved and more difficult.

In order to meet that challenge, new staff members are added periodically to help the associations keep pace with the sport. We are constantly reviewing policy to keep an eye open to revisions dictated by racquetball's growing up.

At the same time, our job would be far easier if we would receive the cooperation of all the nations, since our goals are truly their goals. If racquetball is promoted properly, all the nations will find not only peace with each other but financial success as well.

Respect, understanding, humility - these are all ingredients to peace and success. We will not shy away from our responsibility to racquetball; rather we intend to rise up and meet it.

We all will be most successful if everybody pitches in and does their share, sort of a golden rule of racquetball. Perhaps this is an unattainable dream, perhaps not. One thing is for certain, - we owe it to racquetball to give it our best shot. ●



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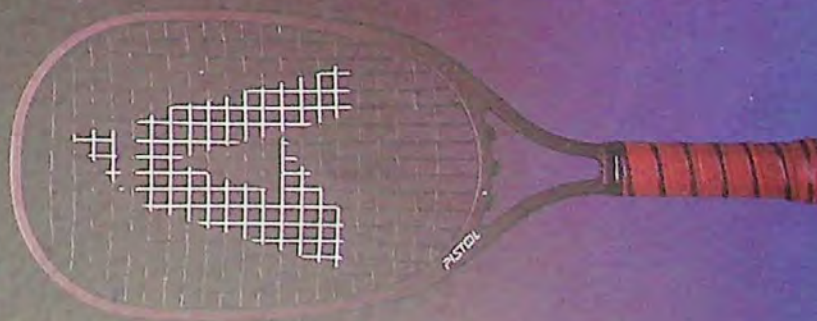
The **urethane foam handle** is molded to the frame; unlike the plastic pallet handles of other racquets, which tend to rattle and come loose. Also, urethane foam eliminates all shock and vibration.

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Adrienne Barbeau



by Nick Longhurst

It was a traumatic day for sexy actress Adrienne Barbeau the co-star of the hit *Maude* tv series as she warmed up for a televised sports event at a California university.

The TV stars competing in a *Challenge of the Network Stars* tournament had attracted a horde of pretty co-eds to the ocean view campus of Pepperdine University.

"Looking at them, I realized I had passed the point in my life when my body was going to take care of itself," she explained.

And that presented just as much a problem for Adrienne as the rest of us, for her television career, with the upcoming chance of a series of her own depended on her staying in shape.

Now the talented actress and singer (she is about to release a pop rock record) zips around Hollywood unselfconsciously in short shorts and sneakers . . . and it is all thanks to racquetball.

She took time out from her third weekly session at the Center Courts in West Los Angeles to talk about the calorie burning tournaround in her life.

Adrienne first set foot on stage when she was three as a ballerina, but she only hit the big time when she was signed to play Tevy's second daughter in the 1968 Broadway production of *Fiddler on the Roof*. Then she won a Theater World Award as the most promising young actress for playing Rizzo in the Broadway show *Grease*.

That award brought her to the attention of producer Norman Lear and he signed her for the role of Carol, the counterfoil daughter in *Maude*.

But coincidentally it was the long running role in *Maude* which caused Adrienne the biggest problem . . . how to keep fit within the tough television time schedule.

"I was totally turned off by athletics and since my parents were both the same way, I didn't really get any sort of exercise. I took tennis lessons and I hated them but when I got to Hollywood I tried to take up the game again.

"It seems everyone from Johnny Carson down plays that dumb game," she joked.

"But it didn't work for me. I quickly tired of the politics. The difficulty finding a court and the big problem—finding someone good enough to improve my game and not too good so I would ruin theirs.

"And that's like trying to find a husband," she laughed.

"It is hard trying to find any enjoyable sport that doesn't take all day to play, but in the spring, when I saw all those pretty young things, I knew that I was going to have to do something.

"I hadn't worn shorts since I left school . . . and guess why."

But Adrienne's try-anything once attitude took her along to a racquetball court with a friend, and after only a couple of sessions she knew she found what she was looking for.

"I was hooked," she explained.

"Now I play every spare moment I have . . . at least three times a week and sometimes more. First I could only go for a short time but now I have built up my stamina, and muscles and I have lost those important few pounds. With me it wasn't so much weight except everything needed tightening up a little."



After a couple of months playing with friends Adrienne took her first lesson and luckily found out she wasn't doing too many things wrong.

"I have good court sense and the pro told me I could really excel at racquetball . . . and that's what I am going to do."

There is an added bonus for our sport too. For Adrienne, each time she gets invited to appear on a television talk show, explains as much as she can about racquetball. And she has already introduced a group of her friends to the game.

"And without exception they have become just as enthusiastic as I am."

"There is just one thing I want to complain about though. When are we going to get our own feminine style of clothes. There are times when even we get tired of wearing oversize mens' t-shirts and baggy shorts."

"It's time the clothing manufacturers started realizing that women racquetball players want to look just as good as tennis players. After all, we know we have the better game." ●

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Welcome to Raggedball

by James H. Rutz

Let's see if you're a good guesser.

At a tennis/racquetball club there were two men standing in the game room talking with each other. One was a racquetball player, the other a tennis player.

One of them — I won't say which — was wearing a navy Pierre Cardin sweat suit over a color-coordinated white-and-vermilion shirt and shorts. His matching socks were newish and his white shoes were freshly cleaned. Although he had been playing for a while, he had taken time to re-comb his well-trimmed hair.

The other man had been playing, too — obviously. His gummy hair was as non-directional as a chrysanthemum. His untucked, faded tan Coors t-shirt clashed quietly with his once-yellow shorts, which were actually a pair of vintage 1968 pants with the legs apparently hacked off in a rage by a blind chimpanzee with a very dull hatchet. Any traces of elasticity must have left his socks by the time General Tojo marched into the rubber plantations in Malaya. His shoes — what was left of them — if discarded in a skid row alley, would have been rejected as emergency housing by any self-respecting drunk mouse with even the worst head cold.

But enough of these subtle hints. I shan't say more. You'll have to guess on your own which one was the racquetball player. If you have any trouble deciding, then you've never been around racquetball courts.



Editor's Note: A number of women players objected to Chuck Leve's blast at the fair sex's racquetball fashions in a recent *National Racquetball* story. "Unfair," they cried, "the men look worse." Now we have a story that gives equal time to the behavior and dress of men and women who play (and watch) our sport.

How Gritty Is Your Nitty?

Our beloved game is in danger of going as far down in status as it is going up in popularity.

With as much established tradition as a week-old freeway, racquetball is in desperate need of a clear style and good image to go along with its exploding institutional growth. If we don't keep working at developing such an image, the game could suffer badly.

Racquetball is a nitty-gritty sort of game which offers anyone a chance to get all the muscular and cardiovascular exercise he or she can handle. Tennis dropouts by the thousands are making the delightful discovery that they no longer need to concentrate on threading the ball through a narrow 18-inch band just above the net. All they have to do is wind up and let 'er rip at four hundred square feet of front wall. The most awkward beginner can let it all hang out and yet sustain an exhausting rally.

The problems begin to creep in at the point where we let it all hang out in regard to personal appearance and conduct, with little restraint or taste applied.

I've been thinking about this subject for some time; what finally moved me to write this piece was the tragic report (as yet unverified) of the death of a young racquetballer in Florida. According to the story he was inadvertently locked in at closing time in the men's locker room of a racquetball club which did not require its members to clean out their lockers periodically. He was found dead by an attendant the next morning with his nose thrust desperately into the crack under the door.

Let's Hear It for the (aaaaghh!) Ladies

California leads the nation in many trends, including racquetball. Although I am a loyal citizen of the state, I hope we're not leading in racquetball style. Almost every day that I play I see women players stumbling toward new lows in taste and decorum.

The bra, for instance, seems to be on its way out as an item of dress on some

courts. Some women (of whatever endowment) seem oblivious to its benefits, which include the maintenance of modesty. A halter top can be an adequate substitute, but a t-shirt can't. As a match progresses a woman can get rather hot and soggy. The initial opacity of her t-shirt can dwindle to something between clingy gauze and saran wrap.

The total impact of the no-bra look sometimes is considerably heightened by imprinted mottoes on t-shirts. At a recent tournament I saw a full-figured young "lady" sporting the notice, "Kona's Knockers" across her chest. At various other times I've been startled to find normal-looking women advertising in giant letters such mottoes as "Bitch," "Racquetballers do it lower," and "I'm a Virgin (This is a very old t-shirt)." Even more astounding was a pneumatic bombshell with the strategically-placed message from Coca-Cola, "It's the real thing!" I've seen others even too obscene to be mentioned.

Add to these gross breaches of propriety the increasing use of bikini tops and see-through styles, and you have a pretty crummy picture. Sexy, yes. Funny, often. Attention-getting, always. But such displays of loose morals can only drag the game down.

Let's Hear It for the (urp!) Guys

The national three-wall (outdoor) championship this summer was an exciting affair. Three-wall play is somewhat more demanding physically than four-wall, and spectators get to see a lot of great effort as the players hustle to cover the larger effective playing area. The tournament was held at Orange Coast College in California.

The ladies put on a great show, but the men weren't quite as impressive. Oh, the talent and competition were there, all right — in spades. Neither Rich Wagner nor newly-crowned U.S. indoor champion Dave Bledsoe could even fight their way into the finals.

Style was almost non-existent. Few of the guys wore anything special for the tournament. And the finals match was

as poor in dress as it was rich in skill. It featured Rick Kossler, the slim, hyperenergetic defending champion against muscular Dave Tritten, a handballer who plays racquetball when he can't find a handball match!

Throughout both games (which he won) Rick kept pausing just before his serves to tug desperately at his defunct knee-length socks, which immediately collapsed into a set of concentric anklets. (We know you've got good ones at home, Rick!) Dave, who also has better at home, wore an ancient cut-off sweat shirt proclaiming "Mater Dei Varsity." The grey shirt had a prominent pink hole the size of a modest cannonball.

Is this what we are wanting sponsors to spend their money promoting? The drama and skill were good enough for television, but that's where it ends.

Beer and Boos

A camera panning around the courts at that championship would have shown 300 spectators seated among signs saying, "No Alcoholic Beverages or Dogs Allowed on Campus." It also would have picked up several dogs and over a hundred empty beer cans, some with part of their aromatic contents spilled out on the asphalt. Wimbledon is wasn't.

Another recent tournament offered an official beer-chugging contest at the awards bash afterward. A chug-a-lug may be fun for many people, but it's a poor bet for setting a quality tone. Can you imagine, for instance, Augusta National Golf Course sponsoring a chug after the Masters?

And just to show that the indoor crowd has no more couth than the outdoor crowd, I would remind you of the national indoor championship finals match between Dave Bledsoe and Marty Hogan. The gallery, described by *National Racquetball* "as vicious as they were rabid," repeatedly booed and cheered against Hogan. The belittlement even bothered Bledsoe.

who said later, "He's a fair and honest champion and didn't deserve the riding." The scene was reminiscent of pre-Christian Romans lustily rooting for the lions.

Watch Your !#*)@! Language

There are over 600,000 words in the English language. The average college student has a vocabulary of over 60,000 words. Some racquetball players have a working vocabulary of six words. These same six tired words, muttered, shouted, and shrieked over and over, are becoming the lingua franca of racquetball. They don't convey much of a range of ideas. I once had a cocker spaniel who could express a wider variety of sentiments than that by barking.

To swear is neither brave, polite, nor wise. Forcing offensive language upon opponents and others in neighboring courts is rude and selfish; some neighbors don't mind, but some do. And the indiscriminate mixing of terms for excrement, sex, and deity serves only to advertise the hollow and disgusting condition of the swearer's value system.

Some players try to make a case that playing racquetball is supposed to let off steam. That's true, but it does so by providing exercise, not a big box in which to yell epithets. If all that was needed to let off steam were a place to give vent to profanities, vulgarities, and obscenities, then a closet or phone booth would do. According to this school of thought tensions could be dissipated simply by walking out to the garage, hopping in the car, rolling up the windows, and primal screaming until the muffler fell off. Don't you believe it. Champion athletes from a hundred sports have testified that they did not begin to excel until they mastered their tempers.

A quiet comment of anger or disgust after a particularly poor shot will relieve some tension, but a continual stream of blue-air blasphemy will only leave a person more agitated than before. And it won't do the sport any good, either.

No Yachts, No Skateboards

We are the pioneers of racquetball. Our style of dress and decorum will set the tone of the sport for the next 30 years.

If we blow it, we'll have a major battle getting up to the level of respect that tennis players now enjoy. We might even be classified just a notch or two above aficionados of pong, girl watching, pinball machines, cock fighting, dodge ball, and poker. (Just think of how many decades it took to restore pool to a respectable family game.)

Imagine the difficulty of trying to get

time off from work to play a match in a racquetball tournament if your boss classifies racquetball in with skateboarding. Imagine your position in trying to set up a racquetball game with a client or a date if he or she classifies racquetball with wrestling.

I'm not arguing for affectation. Racquetball will always be a rugged sport. We'll never have the genteel image of polo players, archers or trimaran racers.

But we do have to begin showing a little more class sometime, somewhere. And the effort starts with you, pardner! ●

At last. A book on how to WIN at racquetball!



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Kendler Honored With Humanitarian Award

U.S. Racquetball Association president Robert W. Kendler was honored the evening of October 23rd with the annual Humanitarian of the Year Award, presented by the American Jewish Committee.

The award was presented before more than 500 of Kendler's business, personal and fraternal friends who paid \$125 a plate to attend the dinner.

The proceeds of the evening went to the charitable causes of the American Jewish Committee, which furthers understanding of one's fellow man, regardless of race, ethnic or religious affiliations.

Kendler, who was unable to attend due to a recent illness, had his son Richard receive the award and present his acceptance speech.

Kendler joins prestigious company as a recipient of the Humanitarian Award. Past winners include the late Senator William Benton (Connecticut), former publisher of the *Encyclopedia Britannica*; Albert E. Jenner, Jr., senior partner of the Jenner and Block law firm; Robert D. Lilly, former president of American Telephone and Telegraph; Joe L. Albritton, publisher of the *Washington Star*; Donald M. Graham, former board chairman of the Continental Illinois Bank; and Oscar Getz, chairman of Barton Distilling.

The evening was superbly M.C.'d by Joel Hillman, a close business associate and personal friend of Kendler.

Introductory salutes were delivered by Maynard I. Wishner of the American Jewish Committee, who explained the aims and purposes of the AJC's activities; Jim Jacobs, former handball great, whose remarks outlined the contributions made by Kendler in the fields of handball and racquetball; William Stratton, former Governor of Illinois, who related Kendler's accomplishments in the Lincoln Academy of Illinois; and Robert L. Giesel, who commented on Kendler's contributions and accomplishments in the fraternity of freemasonry.

Mr. Kendler's acceptance speech follows:

From the day that Maynard Wishner talked to me about the Humanitarian Award, there has been a fierce struggle taking place within me concerning my fitness for the award. Also, there has been a tremendous temptation to relate the story of my life . . . I suppose because it began in poverty and prospered without the benefit of education. Fortunately for you, the struggle has ended, and the temptation has been suffocated, so I can tell you about a Great Humanitarian instead . . . one Abraham Lincoln. Now I don't think you are expecting a page out of history, nor do I plan to give you one. There is a unique chapter in Lincoln's life that bears telling at this time and on this occasion.

His life, like mine, began in poverty and also succeeded without benefit of education. Strangely enough, the great joy of his life, like mine also, was handball. And both of us grew up alongside an alley with all the prejudice that goes hand in hand with ignorance. It wasn't hard for me to become his disciple because he believed Plato's philosophy that all men are by nature equal, all of the same earth, by the same Creator and, however we deceive ourselves, as dear to God is the poor peasant and the mighty prince.

A long time ago I learned that if you feel sorry for yourself, you have a full time job. That is the trouble with self-pity. It monopolizes our thinking and leaves us helpless to deal with life itself. It is like a fog that closes in and obscures the mountain peaks, leaving our horizons too low to be challenging.

It was said of Lincoln that he was the "saddest of men" and yet, in his times of defeat and failure, he could tell humorous stories that left his friends rollicking in laughter. He was sad, not because he was sorry for himself, but because he felt burdened by the

suffering and pain of others. The Civil War was a cross he carried with agony, and there were times when he suffered acutely, but he never retreated from the fray. That made him, in my book, the greatest Humanitarian of modern times, and a proper subject for this occasion.

How can I feel otherwise about the man who said, *"I hold that while man exists, it is his duty to improve not only his own condition, but to assist in ameliorating mankind and, therefore, without entering upon the details of the question, will simply say that I am for those means which give the greatest good to the greatest number."*

The story of my own life began alongside an alley in Milwaukee. The Abraham Lincoln story also began alongside an alley in Springfield, Illinois. In 1860 the Illinois State Journal occupied #116 North Sixth Street, and the Carmody Store occupied #114 North Sixth Street. The three-story building at the south end of the block was owned by Judge Stephen T. Logan.

The vacant lots between the Carmody Store and the Logan building were in an alley which one day became a handball court. The two other sides were enclosed by board fences six or eight feet high. Inside the fences were seats for visitors and players who were waiting their turn.

The ball, when in play, was tossed against the north wall of the Logan building. The game required six players, three on a side. The three players who lost, paid 10 cents each . . . making a profit for the winning team of 30 cents a game. History tells us that during one of these games, a political convention was taking place in Chicago and, on that day, one man won both the handball game and the presidential nomination. His name was Abraham Lincoln.

Mr. Lincoln did not attend the convention. He was not enough of a



candidate, he said, to go to Chicago, and too much of a candidate to stay away. Because he was always a humble man, he remained in Springfield and found comfort for his restlessness (as we all do) by playing handball. On the last day of the convention, Mr. Lincoln was out bright and early. He talked on the streets with neighbors and friends, as had been his custom for years. He was anxious and depressed.

The anxiety and depression disappeared, however, upon his reading the bulletin showing the result of the second ballot.

It is not actually proven that Mr. Lincoln was engaged in play at the moment he first received news of his nomination. But we do know he played handball on every day of the convention.

As the final balloting for the presidency was taking place, Mr. Lincoln and others went over to the Journal office. Soon afterward, the editor announced he would go to the telegraph office for the third ballot. What happened when he returned is best told by the gate-keeper of the handball alley. His account is in substantial harmony with

other printed reports, and is now told in full for the first time. I quote William Donnelly:

"I worked in the Carmody Store and usually had charge of the ball court. I smoothed the wall and leveled the ground. I made the balls. Old stockings were raveled out and wound into balls . . . then covered with buckskin. Mr. Lincoln was not a good player. He learned the game when he was too old, but he liked to play and did tolerably well.

"I remember when he was nominated as though it were yesterday!

It was the last day of the convention, and he was plainly nervous. He played handball a good deal during every day of the convention, evidently to relieve his overstrained mind.

"I was standing down in front of the Carmody Store when Edward Baker, Charlie Zane, and one or two others brought word from the telegraph office that he was nominated. It was the bulletin showing the result of the third and last ballot. I naturally followed the crowd upstairs to the Editorial Room on the second floor. The telegram was read, then handed to Mr. Lincoln who read it aloud again. After a lot of hand-shaking, we returned to the street below. Mr. Lincoln appeared anxious to get away. When he came to the entrance of the handball court, the players gathered round, congratulated him and pledged their support. He thanked them, looked at the telegram he held in his hand and said, 'There's a little woman over on Eighth Street who will be glad to hear the news. If you'll excuse me, I'll go and tell her.' Then he left for his home. I can see him now as he walked away. He leaned forward and walked mighty fast. The boy who went with him had to run, almost, to keep up with him. Mr. Lincoln never came back to the court or played handball after the day he was nominated."

This incident confirms the fact that the girl upon whom he bestowed the ring inscribed with the words "Love is Eternal" was always first and uppermost in his thoughts.

In an affidavit signed by Henry Butler regarding the history of the Lincoln portrait, he includes a statement that he played at the personal request of Mr. Lincoln himself! I just wish I could have had that distinction of playing with Mr. Lincoln. When I tell the young kids about some of the great old timers I have played, I imagine they suspect that Lincoln was one of them!

The closest I ever came to Mr. Lincoln was in meeting his great-grandson, Robert Todd Lincoln Beckwith. This remarkable, gentle man was elected to receive the Lincoln Academy's Regent Award and be decorated with the Order of Lincoln . . . a great honor awarded to laureates adjudged as having made the most outstanding and deserving contribution to human endeavor and betterment in the State of Illinois. As the last living descendant of Abraham Lincoln, Beckwith has maintained the honor and dignity which his illustrious great-grandfather bestowed on the family name. He has been generous to his native state with gifts of historical records and furnishings, so that future generations can enjoy their public display at the Illinois State Historical Library . . . and, may I add, at the handball Hall of Fame. This will soon be under construction right next door to this resort. Mr. Beckwith very generously made a present of three priceless papers from the Lincoln collection to Evie at the convocation in Peoria this spring. I am proud to be a Regent of the Lincoln Academy, and it was our privilege to spend several days with Mr. Lincoln's great grandson.

Rufus Rockwell Wilson, in his book *Intimate Memories of Lincoln*, states, "A further personal knowledge of Mr. Lincoln which impressed me was his love of handball. Immediately south of

the Journal office, I saw Mr. Lincoln play handball a number of times. My memory is clear that he got as much real enjoyment in these games as any of the others. His suppleness, leaps, and strides to strike the ball were comical in the extreme.

One incident took place during the ball games which I will never forget. I had a nephew named Patrick Johnson who was expert in the game. He struck the ball at one time, and it came in contact with Mr. Lincoln's ear. I ran to sympathize with him, and ask if he was hurt. He answered in the negative, but reached both of his hands toward heaven.

In viewing his countenance, I had to strain my sight, he being so many feet taller than me. I exclaimed, 'Mr. Lincoln, if you are going to heaven, take us both!'"

Mr. Lincoln's towering sense of equality could find expression in no better sport than handball. As he abolished slavery and injustice, so the United States Handball Association abolished all the practices that denied players absolute freedom. By the law of God, given by Him to humanity, all men are free, are brothers, and are equals. Travel permits, sanctions, membership restrictions relating to race, color, and creed were treated exactly as Mr. Lincoln treated slavery. In the gates of eternity, the black hand and the white hold each other with an equal clasp.

SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 10/21/77
PMS 1977 HUMANITARIAN AWARD
BOB KENDLER
1111 E. WESTLEIGH ROAD
LAKE FOREST, IL. 60045

DEAR BOB,

I WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE YOU ON BEING THE RECIPIENT OF THE 1977 HUMANITARIAN AWARD FROM THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE. YOUR OUTSTANDING RECORD OF ACHIEVEMENT IN THE PROGRAMS UPHELD BY THE JEWISH COMMITTEE SHOWS THIS AWARD IS WELL DESERVED.

BEST WISHES FOR EVERY SUCCESS IN THE FUTURE.

SINCERELY,
JAMES R. THOMPSON
GOVERNOR OF ILLINOIS

JOEL HILLMAN
1421 NORTH STATE PKWY.
CHICAGO, IL. 60610

PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER JOINS HIS
PRESIDENTS COUNCIL ON PHYSICAL
FITNESS AND SPORTS IN EXTENDING
CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES
TO MR. ROBERT W. KENDLER UPON HIS
RECEIPT OF THE 1977 HUMANITARIAN
OF THE YEAR AWARD.

FEW AMERICANS CAN ASPIRE TO
INDUCTION INTO EVEN ONE SPORTS
HALL OF FAME. THE FACT THAT MR.
KENDLER IS A MEMBER OF FIVE HALLS
OF FAME INDICATES THE MAGNITUDE
OF HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE
WORLD OF SPORTS AND
PARTICULARLY TO THE GROWTH OF
HANDBALL AND RACQUETBALL IN THIS
COUNTRY.

CONGRATULATIONS UPON THE
RECEIPT OF THIS RICHLY DESERVED
HONOR.

C. CARSON CONRAD
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL ON
PHYSICAL FITNESS AND SPORTS

am sure that handball taught Lincoln that the measure of man was his character and sportsmanship . . . and not his color or creed. Kings and their subjects, masters and slaves, find a common level in two places . . . at the foot of the cross and in the grave. This was clearly expressed when Lincoln said, "As I would not be a slave, so I would not be a master. This expresses my idea of democracy. Whatever differs from this, to the extent of the difference, is no democracy."

Another Lincoln biographer, Benjamin P. Thomas, recognized the fact that Lincoln's greatness was not solely the result of any unique abilities; rather he combined his abilities with moral and spiritual fibers. It was his deep belief that the universal liberty of mankind was surely the will of God and, therefore, a goal worthy of our nation. We all know people and nations who seem to defy decency, honor, and human dignity. They find it necessary to torture, imprison, and exile those who challenge their power. They really fear the truth and doubt their power and are, therefore, frightened by the thought of freedom. Lincoln expressed

it like this: "Neither let us be slandered from our duty by false accusation against us, nor frightened from it by menaces of destruction to the government nor of dungeons to ourselves. Let us have faith that right makes might; and in that faith let us, to the end, dare to do our duty as we understand it."

There's a wonderful parable in the Bible about the house founded on a rock, and it is a clear call to our generation, and future generations, to build on *ethical* foundations that will not fail us when rain, flood, and wind lash against the nation. If we bow to God's wisdom, as Lincoln did, we will build both our lives and our nation on the rock. We will understand there is no greatness without goodness, no strength without integrity, no power without justice, and no humanitarianism without principle.

In our business, everything we do is based on principle. The homes we build and restore indicate a devotion to the welfare of the community, which is one definition of a humanitarian.

In our handball and racquetball associations, "we hold these rules to be self-evident; that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with inalienable rights, and that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" . . . in sports as well as life. In racquetball we have introduced a lifetime sport to millions of people throughout the world. Together with handball, we have undoubtedly brought fun, health, and exercise to untold millions of men, women, and children. More than all else, it has given the players *character*, whether they experienced victory or defeat.

In the words of Abraham Lincoln, "Character is like a tree, and reputation is its shadow. The shadow is what we think of the tree, but the tree is the real thing." Good sportsmanship is now the common denominator in our sport which consists solely of the common man who has found this the sport for *all* the people. Each one of us is bound to make the little circle in which he lives better and happier. Bound to see that out of that small circle, the widest good may flow. Each may have fixed in his mind the thought that out of a single household may flow influences that shall stimulate the whole commonwealth and the whole civilized world.

To top it all off, we publish two magazines that have become the bibles of our sports. They are totally free of scandal, gimmicks, and criticism. Both product and editorial are conducive to the well-being of our players . . . physically, mentally, and spiritually. There are not many magazines like that on the market, are there? In recognition of this philosophy, we have been honored with the Centurion Award which is given only to those who devote their lives to a sport without personal gain. In this day of commercialism, there are not many sports like this either!

PMS MR. ROBERT KENDLER
CARE MR. JOEL HILLMAN RDM REPORT
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CONGRATULATIONS BOB ON YOUR
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RECOGNITION IS WELL MERITED
BECAUSE OF YOUR INTEGRITY IN YOUR
DEALINGS WITH PEOPLE AND YOUR
UNSELFISH INTEREST IN THOSE LESS
FORTUNATE.

DESPITE THE PRESSURES OF YOUR
BUSINESS ACTIVITIES YOU HAVE
NEVER BEEN TOO BUSY TO TAKE TIME
TO HELP OTHERS. SO WE OF THE
CHICAGO BEARS SALUTE A GREAT GUY
AND A TRUE HUMANITARIAN.

GEORGE S. HALAS
CHICAGO BEARS FOOTBALL CLUB
55 EAST JACKSON CHICAGO IL 60604

There is only one thing dearer to my heart than handball, and that is Evie. No man, living or dead, was ever more in love than I am. For me, she is the perfect wife. If you see any character in me, it brushed off from Evie. She has always seen the good in everyone; she recognizes the need in all . . . for understanding and love; she has an inexhaustible well of compassion sufficient for all mankind. Believe it or not, it is through handball that I first met my little sweetheart. My happiness, my success and, yes, my humanitarianism spring from Evie's inspiration and love.

Every man is said to have his peculiar ambition. Whether it be true or not, I can say, for one, that I have no other ambition so great as that of being held in genuine esteem by my fellow men, by rendering myself worthy of their esteem. And I hope, for all of us, that the lamp of liberty will burn in our hearts so that there shall no longer be a doubt that all men are created free and equal.

One of the noblest men who ever lived, Mr. Lincoln has placed a halo over handball, just as the American Jewish Committee has placed a halo over the humanitarian. This is such a strong word, with such wholesome and charitable connotations, that I feel extremely humble to find myself in the Chair of Honor this evening. In the

global happenings of our anxious and aggressive society, and even in our own affluent communities, we all know there is much work to be done. I know my prayers join with yours in the brotherhood of men who, recognizing life's difficulties, try to overcome them with those simple, sought-after qualities . . . honesty and love of mankind. These two qualities are, to me, the essence of humanitarianism; and know that they, coupled with the wholesome game of handball, give me the creed by which I live.

I want you to know that I regard every one of you as humanitarians also. You, too, have a regard for the interests of mankind, and your attendance here demonstrates *your* benevolence. So please join with me in accepting this award . . . it is yours to enjoy as well as mine. Everything I say tonight, I say for you. And everything I receive, I share with you . . . because without you and your generosity, our goal of helping others could not be achieved. There is no way I can thank you except by trying to do more of the good for which you honor me.

I was blessed with a Jewish foster father whose beautiful philosophy brought me many memorable honors. But I consider *this* award my most precious one. For it comes from people I hold dear . . . not only because of their good deeds but because so many who are near and dear to me are of Jewish faith. You are in my heart, my sport, my fraternity, my business and my family. So I deeply thank the American Jewish Committee for finding the fitness that justifies this high honor . . . a good measure of which I owe to the untiring efforts of my dear friend, Joel Hillman, and all of his capable volunteers. The task that he performed defies description. Let me just say that this should be a two-part award, and Joel should be honored for zeal. I have never witnessed such total dedication to a cause that honored another. But for you, Joel, this would not be the proudest moment of my life.

"No man has a right to leave the world as he found it. He must add something to it; either he must make its people better or happier, or he must make the face of the world more beautiful or fairer to look at." I hope I did . . . for my family's sake.

I expect to pass through this life but once. If therefore, there be any kindness I can show, or any good thing I can do for my fellow being, let me do it now and not defer or neglect it, as I shall not pass this way again. ●

Frozen Arctic's Hot for Racquetball

by Tom Koch

Just above the Arctic Circle and 800 miles south of the North Pole in Thule, Greenland, Americans and Danes are promoting and competing in racquetball.

When I first arrived at Thule Air Base in August, 1976, to assume my new position as Chief, Information Division, I was surprised to find three regulation racquetball/handball courts in the base gymnasium. For an Air Base with only 200 American Air Force personnel and 1,300 Danish/American civilian contractor employees, the courts were more than I ever expected. Coming from Chicago, IL., where I served as the advertising and publicity officer with Air Force Recruiting Detachment 501, I had become very interested in the United States Racquetball Association (USRA) and their efforts to promote racquetball. After playing racquetball for 10 years and having the opportunity while in Chicago to compete in several local and state tournaments and racquetball leagues, I was eager for the chance to help promote racquetball.

As the United States Air Force's northernmost Air Base Thule supports the North American Air Defense Command (NORAD) by operating the Ballistic Missile Early Warning System (BMEWS) — the world's largest radar installation. Our mission is vital to American defense and everyone at Thule has an important role in our mission. It is also important that recreation and leisure time activities be readily available for all base personnel to keep active and busy during their one-year tours at this remote isolated location. Here at "The Top of the World" we have 24-hour total darkness for three months of the year and temperatures will dip to a frigid minus 40°F and winds can reach up to 200 miles per hour causing zero visibility and a chill factor of minus 90°F.

We thought racquetball would be the ideal outlet for many of our base personnel at this arctic outpost. We



Chris Uggerholt (left) and Captain Tom Koch stand on the Thule pier which stretches out into the North Star Bay with Mount Dundas in the background. The North Star Bay is the free world's only Arctic deep water port. For eight months of the year (Oct. - May) the salt water bay freezes over five to seven feet thick. The port is open to fuel and resupply ships only during the months of July and August.

began with offering group and private beginner/intermediate lessons to men, women and children. And, after some very successful tournaments and clinics, enthusiasm for the game grew.

Less than a year ago 10-12 men were regularly playing the game. Now — five tournaments later — more than 80 players are positioned on the men's A, B, C and ladies' challenge ladders.

In addition to trophies, racquetball equipment and souvenir T-shirts, the awarding of USRA memberships to our tournament winners has been a major factor in our success to promote the

game at Thule. The majority of our residents at Thule Air Base are Danish nationals who have never seen or heard of racquetball except for what they have learned from the Air Force servicemen stationed here.

We are confident that racquetball will continue to thrive here at "The Top of the World" at Thule, Greenland — only 800 miles from the North Pole. ●

Four Basic Serves

by Steve Keeley

Editor's note: The following instructional article on the racquetball service is an excerpt from Steve Keeley's cassette tape instructional course "Racquetball Lessons Made Easy." This six-lesson package includes two one-hour cassette tapes and a course booklet of photos and diagrams. It is available for \$9.95 plus 25 cents postage from: "Cassette Course," 8864 Betelgeuse Way, San Diego, Ca., 92126.

The most important part of Racquetball is the serve. You may coast by with weak strokes or leaky strategies, but not with ineffective services. Therefore this — lesson number three — is the most significant of all.

Preview

Before going into the four specific services understand four things. First the serve is *not* a totally offensive shot as in handball or tennis. In racquetball serve either to put the ball safely into play or to elicit a weak return. The pure ace is more often inadvertent than intended in our sport. Second serve from approximately the *center* of the service box. When you stand too close to either side wall, you sacrifice the all-important center court position at a time when that strategic central station is free for the taking. Third serve to your rival's weaker stroke — almost always his *backhand* — most the time. Fourth choose about *three services* from the ones described here. Inventing exotic variations each time you step into the service box confuses you more than your opponent.

Now for the *four basic serves*. They are the garbage, lob, drive and Z. In each case I will provide a starting position in the service zone, a bull's-eye to aim for on the front wall, and the resulting presentation to the receiver. Thus, each serve boils down to standing at position "X", hitting bull's-eye "Y" and having the ball go to presentation "Z".

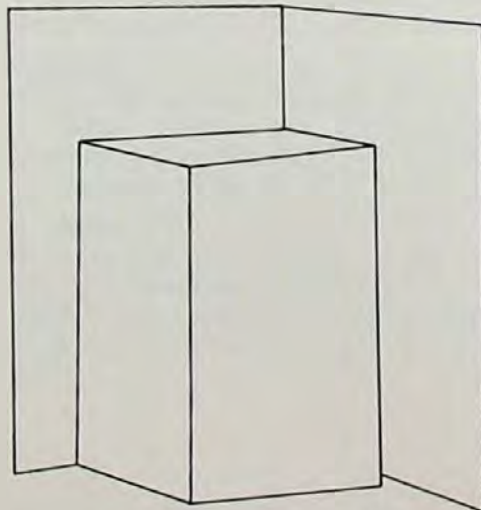


Figure 1. Imagine or place a box in the rear corner for a drop in target for the garbage serve.

Garbage

The garbage is short on looks but long on effectiveness. The starting position is within the central service area. The bull's-eye for the garbage to the *backhand* is midway up the front wall and a foot to the left of center. If you follow these directions, then the ball presents itself to the receiver shoulder high and deep in the left rear corner.

The garbage is half-way between a lob and a low-hard serve. It is often called a half or low lob. To execute it bounce the ball to the floor in such a way that the rebound peaks at about chest height. Contact the sphere at this chest high peak. The stroke is a *push* rather than the normal forceful forehand swing. Pretend you are a shot-putter putting the ball rather than hitting. Tap it into the front wall and it drifts with deceptive ease at the receiver. It bounces four or five feet behind the short line and rebounds upward and to back court.

If you wish to utilize a "crutch" with the garbage serve, try the Box Theory. Envision a four-foot square box with an open top in the left rear court corner. Try to drop your garbage (after its single floor bounce) into the top of this box to achieve optimal effectiveness. Note figure 1.

The garbage to the *forehand* is equally as deceptive and equally as easy to execute as to the backhand. The starting station and receiver presentation are the same as with the serve to the backhand side. Use a chest high push or putt of the ball. The bull's-eye for this service is midway up the front wall and a foot to the right of center. With both garbages to either side make sure the ball does *not* hit the side wall more than three feet from the rear wall, if indeed there is side wall contact at all.

Lob

Now for the *lob*. The lob serve is simply a loftier version of the garbage with a side wall thrown in. See figure 2. Initial positioning is three or four feet to the right of center. The front wall bull's-eye is three-quarters of the way up on the front wall and about a foot to the left of center. The receiver presentation is similar to the garbage serve — around head high. As with the garbage contact the lob at the zenith of its chest high bounce from the floor. Push or putt or softly loft the ball upwards at the front wall target area. It must rebound high and traverse the upper court atmosphere toward the left corner. During the sphere's downward trajectory, it strikes the left *side wall* approximately six feet up from the floor and six feet out from the back wall. The dampening effect of this side wall contact prevents the ball from rebounding hard off the rear wall for a set up.

Thus the main difference between the garbage and the lob is that the garbage avoids side wall contact unless very near the back wall, whereas the lob must brush that side wall during its downward plummet. Also, the higher altitude lob is much more difficult to serve up with control. I recommend the garbage over the lob.

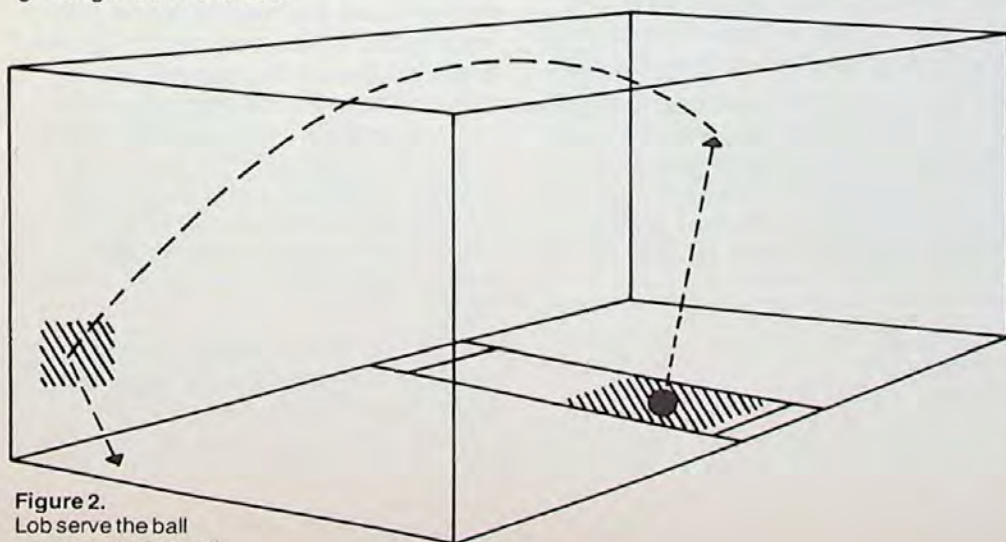
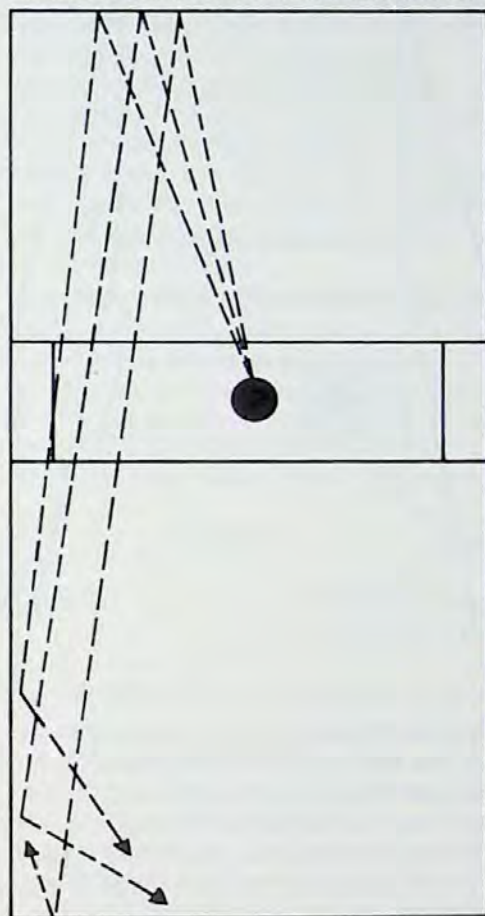


Figure 2.
Lob serve the ball must brush side wall to be effective.

Figure 3. Drive serve center court position. Three basic paths of the drive to the backhand.



Drives

Let's look at the *low hard services*. The drive serve to the backhand probably elicits more weak returns than any other service. Unfortunately, it is also the most difficult of the serves to control. Examine figure 3. The starting stance is in the center or a foot to the left of the central service box. The front wall bull's-eye is about three feet up from the floor and a foot to the left of center. When driven into this target area, the ball rebounds, hits the floor a few feet behind the short line and skips quickly to the receiver at about knee height.

The stroke for the low drive serve is the basic drop-and-hit. Bounce the ball so it peaks off your front foot at knee height or lower. Strike it with 80 per cent power at the knee high or lower bounce zenith. The most common errors among greenhorn servers in this regard are to clobber the low drive too hard and too high. Both these misexecutions cause the ball to rebound off the back wall for a routine set up.

The Box Theory may also be applied to the drive serve. Imagine a three foot square box sitting in the left rear corner. The side of the box facing the front wall is open and the idea here is to drive the ball *through* — not bounce it into as before — this box. Stated in terms of dimensions, the drive serve is effectual if it rebounds (1) off the back wall lower than three feet up from the floor, (2) off the back wall less than three feet toward the center from the left side wall and (3) off the left side wall first less than three feet in from the back wall. It's obviously much easier to visualize an imaginary box.

In conclusion the low hard or drive serve is a potent means of initiating play, provided you execute it with thread-the-needle accuracy. It is a favorite of many of the professional

players late in the second or third games when the receiver's accuracy is shakey due to fatigue. Another helpful hint is that the livelier the ball the more effective the controlled drive serve. Serve up most of your drives to the *backhand*, though an infrequent well-camouflaged drive to the forehand may earn an ace. Generally do not aim for the crack (the exact juncture between the side wall and the floor) on the low hard serve. The beginner will as often as not miss the crack and serve up an easy plum ball.

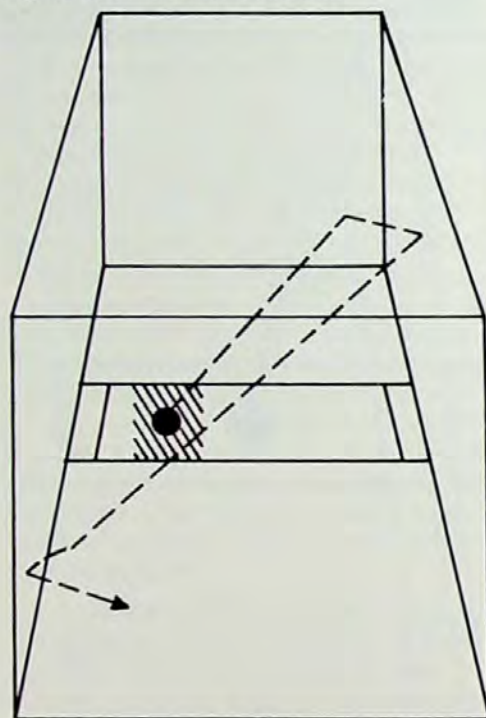
Z's

The final serve of the basic four is the *Z* or *Garfinkle*. There are the high and the low *Z*'s to the backhand, and the high and the low *X*'s to the forehand. The most effective of these are the low *Z* to the backhand and the high *Z* to the forehand.

First the Low Z to the backhand.

Assume a starting serving stance three to six feet to the left of the center service box, as in figure 4. Aim for a bull's-eye on the front wall about four feet up from the floor and one foot in from the right side wall. After a few trial runs on the court you'll discover the more significant dimension here is the latter one — the foot in from the right side wall. The ball presents itself to the receiver about chest high after angling rather sharply into his body off the left side wall.

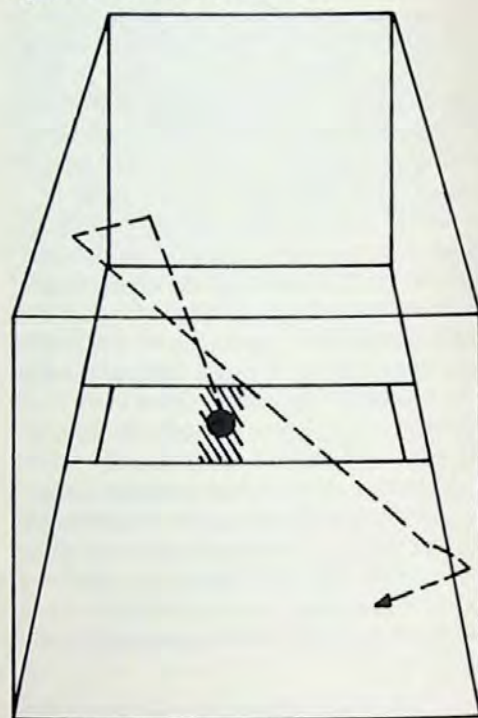
Figure 4. "Z" serve to backhand.



The stroke for the low *Z* is the same as for the low hard drive. Only now drive the ball into the forementioned *Z*-ball front wall target area. The sphere strikes the front wall, ricochetes briskly into the right side wall and then travels cross-court and posteriorly. After the floor bounce it hits the left side wall three to five feet in from the back wall and three to five feet up from the floor.

Try the low *Z* to the backhand a few times and have someone retrieve your attempts. You'll be surprised at how fast you pick it up. Next try it in a game. You will be further amazed at the number of forced weak returns. When

Figure 5. "Z" serve to forehand.



someone comes to me and asks for a five point improvement in their game in just five minutes, I teach them the low hard *Z*.

Now for the High Z to the forehand.

This serve is as multi-angled as its kindred lower *Z* to the backhand, but that is where the resemblance stops. Note figure 5. Starting stance for the forehand *Z* is in the service box midpoint from either side wall. Front wall bull's-eye is one foot in from the left side wall and six to eight feet up from the floor. The ball carooms off this target into the left side wall and courses cross-court toward the right rear corner. Receiver presentation is head high.

The stroke for this serve is more of a garbage-like push then a drive-like slam. Propel the ball into the bull's-eye

with about 50 per cent power. After the floor bounce the ball comes off the right side wall four to six feet high and four to six feet in from the back wall. Obviously this is not that difficult a serve to return, but it's effective because it's easily executed and cannot be blasted back offensively, unless the receiver rushes up to volley it on the fly.

Ruminate a moment on these two Z variations with their respective angles, heights and velocities. Restudy their diagrams. It becomes apparent that the low hard Z to the backhand is essentially a multi-walled drive serve to the backhand. The higher Z to the forehand is essentially a multi-walled garbage to the forehand.

Practice

These have been the four fundamental racquetball serves. Unlike strokework, you will master the services after just a couple of one-half hour *practice sessions*. And since service is the cornerstone of good overall play, the time spent drilling garbages, lobs, drives and Z's is worthwhile. By the way solitary service practice is boring unless you employ a bagful of balls, or a retriever, or both.

Diagram 1 outlines the starting stance, bull's-eye and receiver presentation for each of the four serves. Take this synopsis into the court and start with the garbage serve. Hit thirty to the backhand and ten to the forehand. Then practice the lob to the backhand.

Then go to the drive serves. Hit thirty to the backhand and ten to the forehand. Do the same for the low backhand and high forehand Z's.

As you practice *innovate*. Does it help to hit the garbage serve higher up on the front wall than I recommended? Maybe you attain more side wall english on the low hard Z by adding a slice to the served ball. Also, as you play, ask for *feedback* from your practice opponent. Ask "Which serves were hardest to return?" "Which were easiest?" An offshoot quotation is particularly applicable here: "If only we could see our serves as other people see them." ●

Diagram 1

SERVE	STARTING STANCE	FRONT WALL BULLSEYE	RECEIVER PRESENTATION
GARBAGE (TO BACKHAND) (TO FOREHAND)	CENTER OF SERVICE BOX CENTER OF SERVICE BOX	MIDWAY UP AND 1 FOOT LEFT OF CENTER MIDWAY UP AND 1 FOOT RIGHT OF CENTER	SOFT AND SHOULDER HIGH SOFT AND SHOULDER HIGH
LOB (TO BACKHAND)	3-4 FEET RIGHT OF CENTER IN SERVICE BOX	THREE-QUARTER UP AND 1 FOOT LEFT OF CENTER	SOFT AND SHOULDER HIGH
DRIVE (TO BACKHAND) (TO FOREHAND)	CENTER OR 1 FOOT LEFT OF CENTER IN SERVICE BOX CENTER OF SERVICE BOX	3 FEET UP AND 1 FOOT LEFT OF CENTER 3 FEET UP AND 1 FOOT RIGHT OF CENTER	HARD AND KNEE HIGH HARD AND KNEE HIGH
LOW Z TO BACKHAND	3-6 FEET LEFT OF CENTER IN SERVICE BOX	4 FEET UP AND 1 FOOT LEFT OF RIGHT SIDE WALL	MEDIUM HARD, ANGLED AND WAIST HIGH
HIGH Z TO FOREHAND	CENTER OF SERVICE BOX	6-8 FEET UP AND 1 FOOT RIGHT OF LEFT SIDE WALL	SOFT, ANGLED AND CHEST HIGH

XENTEX

The Ultimate Court Construction Material



Michael J. Roman (L), Marketing Director of Xentex, and Dr. Stephen S. Dorn, Division Manager, inspect the construction of the court built adjacent to the company's headquarters in Londonderry, New Hampshire.

Nestled amidst the autumn splendor of central New England is a new and excitingly different racquetball court. So far, it's been played by a handful of enthusiasts and given a thorough shakedown by pros like Mike Romano of Fitchburg, Massachusetts, who have called it the best court construction material they have ever played against. Romano, who is one of the top doubles players in the U.S., and tops in New England, proclaims its playing surfaces to be fast, lively and true. He also marvels at the way the surface grabs the ball during a kill or putaway shot.

The court, erected in Londonderry, New Hampshire, on the sprawling grounds of Xentex Company, a division of giant Exxon Enterprises, is strictly a prototype. It was designed by the company to demonstrate a unique structural material called, simply, Xentex, a completely new type of court panel that offers many tangible benefits to racquetball players and court owners alike.

The material has made a strong impression on USRA officials. So much so that, after a recent workout on the court, they subjected the material to further tests, then selected it as the official and exclusive panel of the USRA.

Barely three years old, Xentex was dubbed a phenomenon at birth and remains so today because it is truly a new material in the strictest sense of the word. At the time of its introduction, it caught on immediately with the nation's major truck manufacturers who began using it for tough, over-the-road hauling and for containerizing cargo for transportation by ship. It is also being used

A technician checks panel thickness as part of the Xentex quality control procedure.

successfully in drying ovens, noise suppressors, hockey rinks, swimming pools, and is being evaluated for dozens of other applications both routine and exotic as the versatile design properties of the material are recognized.

Basically, Xentex is a thermoset plastic surfaced with TedlarTM, a practically indestructible protective film made by DuPont. As compounded for court use, it has a solid smooth surface throughout for uniformity of ball bounce and a core filled with glass fibers for exceptional strength and rigidity. The panels can match or surpass the structural strength of most composite panels yet weigh less. At the same time, Xentex offers high insulating quality per unit of weight and volume, boasts a long-lasting appearance and performance life, comes ready to use without painting or other finishing and can be easily cut, shaped and joined.

"The finished sheets," emphasizes Tim Sullivan, Xentex Sales Engineer, *"is not a sandwich structure. It's a completely homogeneous material that won't crack, craze, chip, peel, delaminate, absorb moisture, or disintegrate."*

Sullivan, who is an impressive and rather aggressive racquetball player himself, is fond of demonstrating most of these features on court by unexpectedly slashing at the walls with his expensive racquet.

"You can keep this up all day," he says in all seriousness, *"If you have the stamina, but you won't end up with marred walls and chips all over the floor."*

What also makes Xentex so suitable for racquetball courts is the panel size which is admirably suited to the overall dimensions of the regulation court. But first, a look at the sheet-molding process, an operation that's calculated to hold one's undivided attention.



Xentex maintains a full equipped laboratory for performing continuous tests to control the physical and chemical properties of the product.



A large 10' x 45' panel as it comes from the molding machine. While panels are available in this size, other sizes—such as, 4' x 4', 4' x 8', 5' x 10', 5' x 20', or 10' x 20'—are available.

Picture, if you will, a covered cookie sheet or mold 10 feet wide and 40 feet long. You mix a batch of 'dough' weighing nearly 1,000 pounds, pack it into special mixing machinery that looks like a mechanized cake decorator and then squeeze it all into a mold. In reality, this process is the world's largest Reaction Injection Molding (RIM) machine. After the materials 'bake' in the heat generated by the reaction of the ingredients, the mold is opened, revealing a seamless glistening white 10 x 40 feet panel, about an inch thick. The material is then cut into convenient sizes such as 4' x 4', 4' x 8', 5' x 10', 5' x 20', or 10' x 20'.

A court constructed of 5 x 20 feet panels requires only four such panels installed vertically for the front and rear walls and eight panels for each side wall and the ceiling. Since the panels are large, courts constructed from Xentex have far fewer seams for the ball to play off than conventional panel systems which use 4 x 8 feet sheets. And even when a ball hits a seam, it isn't deflected because the court designs used with the Xentex method, including a novel spline system, keep the seams absolutely flush regardless of the temperature or humidity. The few and near-invisible seams, as observed on the Londonderry court would also lend a definitely aesthetic appearance to the structure.

Although Xentex is somewhat more expensive than wood panels, it can provide substantial savings in both installation and maintenance costs for court owners. For example, each panel covers more than three times the area of a conventional 4 x 8 foot sheet of Formica or Melamine-surfaced particle



Kathy Terlaga gives the Xentex court her own test. Ms. Terlaga is with the company's Marketing Department.

board, yet can be handled without the aid of fork-lift trucks or cranes. Therefore, it can be put up in the same time and with the same effort, thus cutting overall handling time by two-thirds.

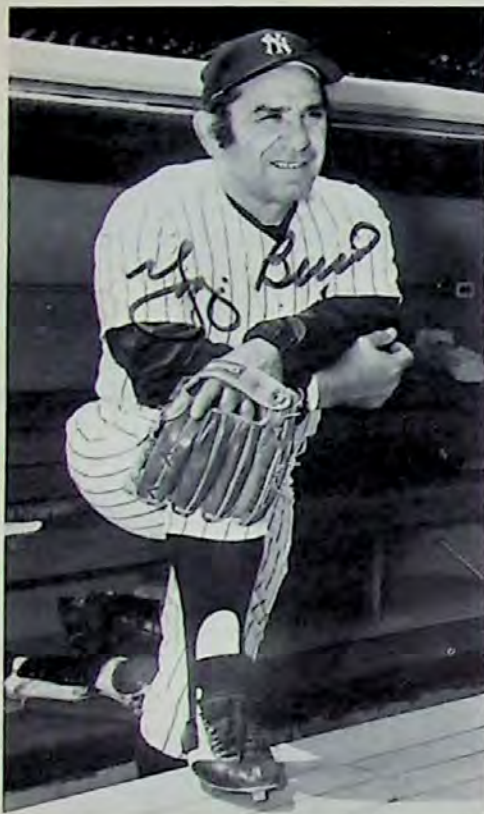
Once Xentex panels are in place, they remain virtually maintenance-free throughout the life of the court. About the only care they need is an occasional swipe with a mild detergent to remove the glove and racquet marks which result from normal playing. Because of its inherent insulating properties, Xentex will not sweat, and it saves on fuel and power requirements too. Courts stay cooler in summer and warmer in winter.

Damage inflicted by vandals, or by players taking out their frustrations with something other than racquets, can be repaired very easily.

Says Sullivan, "We simply sand the scuffed surface, fill it with a good commercial filler and coat it with matching Tedlar paint. The whole repair is absolutely invisible." Further, he adds, "it doesn't affect the playing surface because the patched area has precisely the same characteristics as the original panel."

How long will it be before you can play such a court? According to Sullivan, Xentex will be shortly replacing a number of conventional panel and wet-wall systems. The company has substantial orders in hand for new construction projects beginning in December.

We welcome court club news that you send us typed double or triple (preferred) spaced with one-inch margins all around.



Fairfield, NJ

Yogi Berra has announced an early 1978 opening for New Jersey's largest racquetball-handball-squash club — Yogi Berra's Hall of Fame Racquetball Club — at 333 Route 46 West, Fairfield, New Jersey.

"After seeing the game played," Yogi said, "my family and I decided to help start the racquetball boom in New Jersey." Yogi's son, Tim, a former wide receiver with Colts and Giants, will manage the facility, and another son, Dale, third baseman with the Pittsburgh Pirates, will work at the club and stay in shape for baseball by playing the game as much as possible this winter.

The Hall of Fame, which includes two regulation squash courts and spacious locker rooms, plans to provide interclub racquetball leagues, in-club women's leagues, a college league, free clinics, ladder competitions, club teams, special membership rates and racquetball parties.

"In my trips with the Yankees," Yogi said, "I've seen how sports conscious a nation this is, especially the women. This is why we plan a special effort to bring the women in to play the game. I know what athletes need to stay or get in shape, and racquetball is just about the best game for the greatest number of people."

The club phone number is 201-227-4000.

The Courtroom at the Mall is part of a new 18-acre office-recreational complex in Deptford, NJ.



Deptford, NJ

The Courtrooms introduces the first Racquetball facility in the area and the largest in the Delaware Valley.

The club is located off Route 42 a quarter mile from the Deptford Mall in the middle of an 18 acre paradise. The site is shared by both The Courtrooms and the International Headquarters of Flower World of America Inc. Robert Sheets, president of Flower World and Bernard McGuigan of The Courtrooms announced plans in October to create an exotic office-recreational complex around an eight acre lake complete with formal gardens. Upon completion The Courtrooms promises to be the most lavishly landscaped club in the country.

Willie Wang is the Club Director. The club will feature 16 championship courts with glass side and back walls, housed in a facility in excess of 25,000 square feet. Also offered will be a custom pro shop, atrium lounge, fireplace, four private party facilities, plush locker facilities and more.

One of the major attractions will be the Adam & Eve Health Spa. Andy and Gladys Gropp, with 27 years experience in physical fitness, will structure and manage racquetball/fitness programs within the Spa and Club complex.

Andy also will offer an outdoor jogging track with 21 exercise stations around the lake. The Spa will house separate facilities for men and women including whirlpools, sun, steam and sauna rooms along with a free nursery service. Also an exclusive unisex salon will be included.

An Accapulco-style swim club will be offered for summer family recreation. Included will be outdoor platform tennis, three wall racquetball courts and boating.

Ragan-Stein of Philadelphia, Pa., nationally known architect firm, has designed the club to blend the exterior landscaping with an equally lavish interior. "Much of the design and amenities lend themselves to the attraction of women to the club for daytime activity," says Rick Ragan.

An aggressive pre-sale campaign has been successful and the Courtrooms plan three additional clubs in the Philadelphia area.

For additional membership information write: Willie Wang, The Courtrooms at the Mall, P.O. Box 230, Deptford, NJ 08096, or call (609) 853-0110. Please direct other inquiries to Bernard J. McGuigan, Courtrooms International Inc., P.O. Box 569, Moorestown, NJ 08057.

Ridgewood, NJ

Mahwah, NJ's new Courthouse opened in early December at 10 Leighton Place. The 10-court club features carpeted lounges and locker rooms, separate rooms for TV, parties, and exercise; saunas; whirlpools and a nursery.

Owners Norman Leighton and Philip Cali, Jr., plan social events, tournaments and ladder matches with free instruction and free use of racquets and balls for members. Daily hours are 7 a.m. to midnight.

Ocean, NJ

Ocean Racquetball/Handball Club, Inc., 1602 Highway 35, Ocean Township, Monmouth County, New Jersey, was scheduled to open in late December.

The club offers 16 championship racquetball courts, each of which is individually air conditioned. All 16 courts feature a complete observation area. With the daytime hours primarily used by women, Ocean Racquetball has a completely supervised area with games, toys and TV.

Both the mens' and womens' fully carpeted areas have full size lockers and separate, oversized saunas. The club also plans a completely outfitted exercise and physical fitness room for warm-up and cool-down use.

There is also a refreshment area and a large lounge for racquetball parties. Ocean Racquetball plans a limited membership, individual, family, corporate and group categories.

East Brunswick, NJ

The Wyndmoor Tennis and Racquetball Club, the first facility of its kind in central New Jersey, is opening soon near the civic center in the town of East Brunswick.

Wyndmoor, which has three racquetball courts, also features saunas, water-massage showers, whirlpool, gym, full locker room facilities and pro shop. Further information may be obtained by calling (201) 257-7507.

Holland, OH

Proceeds from grand opening tournaments at the Spring Meadows Court Club in Holland, Ohio, went to the North Western Ohio Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and the North Western Ohio Multiple Sclerosis Society.

The facility, at 6834 Spring Valley Drive, drew more than 600 members during its opening week in October. Group memberships range from the Owens-Corning Fiberglass Corporation to the entire congregation of Holland Free Methodist Church.

The 10-court club also has exercise areas, carpeted locker rooms and saunas and whirlpools for both men and women, along with a lounge and snack area, pro shop and nursery.

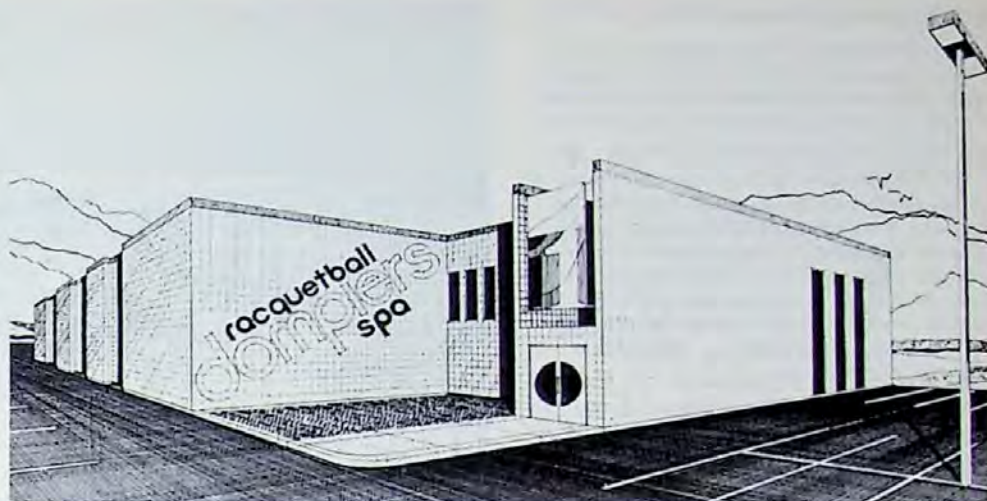
Club owners are Manager George Miller, a Toledo handball champion; Assistant Manager and Head Pro Dave Revenaugh, former director of YMCA handball and racquetball programs, and Gary Yunker, Bill Kepp, Norm Revenaugh and Mike Kachenmeister.

Franklin, OH

Co-owners Mark and Ralph Schirmer announce the early 1978 opening of the Middletown Racquetball Club located at 4343 S. Dixie Hwy., Franklin, Ohio. The Club features eight air conditioned racquetball/handball courts, saunas, whirlpool, locker rooms, weight rooms, lounge, nursery and a fully equipped pro shop.

Middletown offers a full schedule of racquetball activities including instruction, parties, leagues and tournaments for all ability levels.

Charter Memberships, corporate and business memberships are available. For information call (513) 423-7626.



Anchorage, AK

"When it's cold, the snow is deep, and it's been dark for a month the body tends to hibernate and quickly atrophy. The warm-up remedy? . . . well racquetball, of course." The advice is from Dan Dompier, owner and manager of Alaska's first complete racquetball, spa, and exercise complex.

Completion of the combination spa and sports center was an exciting dream for builder and owner Dan Dompier, who came to Alaska 3 years ago from San Diego. A racquetball/handball devotee who participated in tournaments prior to the move he found indoor facilities of racquetball/handball and exercise clubs very limited. Seeing the need for indoor sports in Alaska, Dompier developed plans for a combination racquetball and spa club.

Construction of the facility, can be attributed to the very determined efforts of Dompier and three partners, who faced the problem of building a structural slab on soil that was less than ideal. The slab is crucial because of the limited tolerances of racquetball/handball courts. Building on damp soil was a problem compounded with ten feet of peat, muskeg, and

other unclassified soil materials. Architect Galen Grant, suggested an auger-cast method used successfully in marginal soils by Denali Drilling of Anchorage. With this method, 250 auger-cast piles 30 feet deep secured the foundation to make it structurally sound.

With a solid ground, construction was started and the 14-court Anchorage club was scheduled to open in late November. Each officially approved courts, for either racquetball or handball, has observation areas for guests and spectators. For tournaments and demonstrations there is a glassback court with a viewing capacity for over 80 persons.

The \$1.2-million project includes duplicate men's and women's facilities complete with gymnasium and therapy pool on both first and second floors, saunas, steam baths, jacuzzis, and shower and locker rooms for members.

The 20,000 sq. ft. club, located at 630 East Tudor Road, has additional features which include day lockers for the public, Pro Shop, luxurious lounge areas, and heated tiles in the locker room to maintain a constant and comfortable environment.



Rockville, MD

Racquetball came to Montgomery County with the October opening of this new \$1.3 million dollar facility. Courts Royal North, located at 11650 Nebel St., adjacent to the White Flint Mall in Rockville, Maryland, offers 15 air-conditioned

courts, pro shop, carpeted locker rooms, saunas, whirlpool, sun room, exercise area, attended nursery and carpeted lounge. Courts Royal Group operates two clubs in Northern Virginia. This is the first in Maryland.

Montgomery County, MD

Courts Royal North, brings racquetball to Montgomery County, MD. This newest and largest Courts Royal facility and the first to be constructed in Maryland, has 15 regulation racquetball courts, each individually air-conditioned.

Conveniently located at 11650 Nebel St., in Rockville, the new \$1.3 million dollar facility is adjacent to the White Flint Mall. Constructed on one acre of ground, the 25,800 square foot building features a fully stocked pro shop, carpeted locker rooms, saunas, whirlpool, sun room exercise area, attended nursery and carpeted lounges.

Courts Royal North offers individual, family and corporate memberships.

The Courts Royal Group has grown in just four years into the largest racquetball organization in the east. Courts Royal's first club opened in Merrifield, VA., and was quickly followed with new clubs in Alexandria and Richmond.

Architect for the project is Brown & Page of Alexandria, Virginia. General Contractor is Courts Royal North Limited Partnership. General Partners are Col. W. H. Cuenin, USMC (Ret.), Maj. Gen. R. D. Bohn, USMC (Ret.) and D. W. Konz.

Courts Royal North is a member of the Courts Royal Group, headquartered at 7623 Fullerton Road, Springfield, VA.

The newest Fox Racquetball Club will open in Northeast Philadelphia this March.



Southampton, PA

Fox Racquetball Clubs, Inc. has started construction of a new 11-court racquetball club in Northeast Philadelphia, with opening planned for March. The Fox organization presently operates an eight-court club in Southampton, PA, a suburb of Philadelphia, featuring separate whirlpools, saunas, and carpeted locker rooms for both men and women, pro shop, and a professionally staffed nursery. The Southampton Club is located on Second Street Pike and Jaymor Road across from the Redwood Village shopping center.

The newest Fox Club will be located in the

Neshaminy Interplex next to the Hilton Inn, which is located in Northeast Philadelphia off Roosevelt Blvd. and Old Lincoln Highway. The club will have one glass wall exhibition court with seating for 200 spectators and separate exercise areas for men and women.

Members who join one Fox Club will have privileges at the clubs located within 15 minutes driving time of each other. Both clubs will offer womens daytime leagues and special programs for junior members.

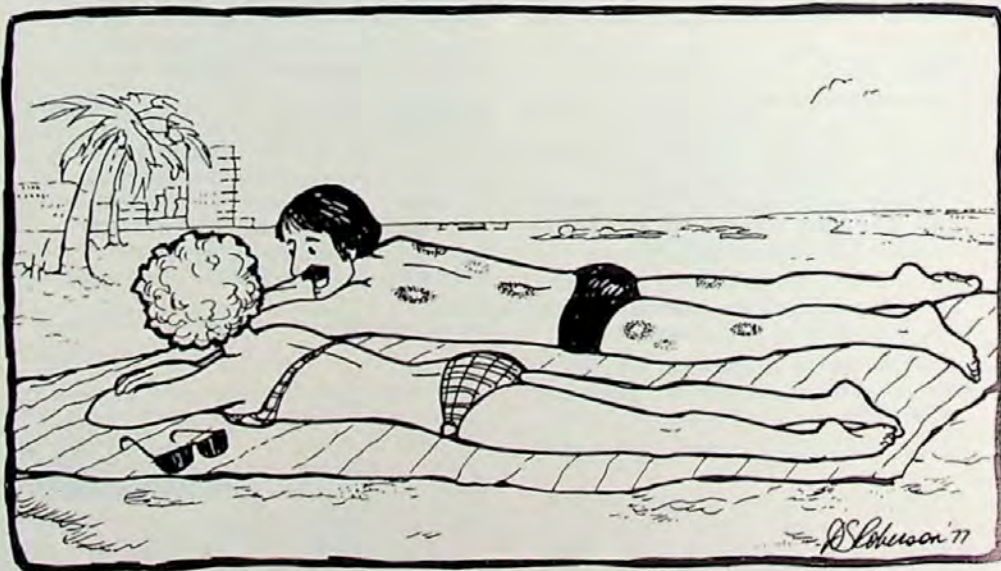
For more information call or write Bill Allen at the Southampton Club, (215) 322-8080.

Newtown, PA

The Newtown Racquetball Club, scheduled to open Jan. 1, is the newest and most unique recreational facility in Bucks County, PA, devoted solely to racquetball/handball enthusiasts. Each of the 11 courts has sliding glass viewing walls, one of the courts has a glass front wall that players can see as they enter the lobby and two courts features glass rear walls and glass doors.

In addition to the pro shop, free nursery, separate sauna and steam rooms for men and women, the club offers an exercise room and two large lounges, one with an immense fireplace accented by a 40-foot skylight.

Plans for a four court addition to the all brick club are underway due to the tremendous response from the area.



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CHARLES HUBBARD
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Bobby Toft, nine, reminds his brother, Chris, seven, that their father, Robert, Sr., is one of the owners of Buck County's newest racquetball center.



Atlanta, GA

With the opening of the million dollar Racquetball Centre, located at I-75 and I-285, in the Interstate North Office Park, Atlanta will have the finest in racquetball and fitness facilities.

Joseph Pisciotto, architect for more than three dozen facilities across the country, says his design for the Racquetball Centre creates an environment of comfort and luxury. Complementing the club's structural benefits, David, Inc., a leading Atlanta environmental designer, is creating a decor combining the plush with the practical, in the lounge and locker areas and in the spa.

The new club, scheduled to open in January, features 12 championship racquetball/handball courts, all with a second floor viewing gallery. Two of the courts have glass back walls with a large permanent spectator area which leads to the handsomely appointed lounge, offering a comfortable place to watch television, enjoy a sandwich and drink from the bar and to relax with friends.

"There is a big demand for a first class racquetball and handball club in Atlanta," says Bob Siegel, director of the Racquetball Centre. "I have had the opportunity to play in many facilities across the country, and we have tried to incorporate the best features of those in our Racquetball Centre."

Spacious carpeted locker rooms contain separate spa facilities which include private showers, redwood saunas, large whirlpool baths and a steam room. Each locker room is equipped with personal grooming aids, including hairdryers. The Racquetball Centre offers both laundry service and rental lockers.

The club has a fully equipped pro shop, excellent conditioning facilities and a supervised children's play room with games and television.

The club pro offers private and group instruction, and the Racquetball Centre conducts special programs, including clinics, leagues, tournaments and exhibitions by the nation's top players.

The Centre houses the newest branch of the Athletic Center of Atlanta (ACA), the area's best and most comprehensive Nautilus fitness and training center. The ACA offers each member an individual medically prescribed and supervised conditioning program for strength, flexibility and endurance.

Individual and family memberships are available to the Racquetball Centre at low annual rates. In addition, the CENTRE and Athletic Center of Atlanta are offering a special combination rate for membership in both fitness centers.

Club hours are 6:30 a.m. - 11:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. on the weekend. For information on joining the Racquetball Centre, call (404) 955-4191. Checks made payable to the Racquetball Centre can be mailed to 440 Interstate North Parkway, Atlanta, Georgia 30339.

Glenwood Springs, CO

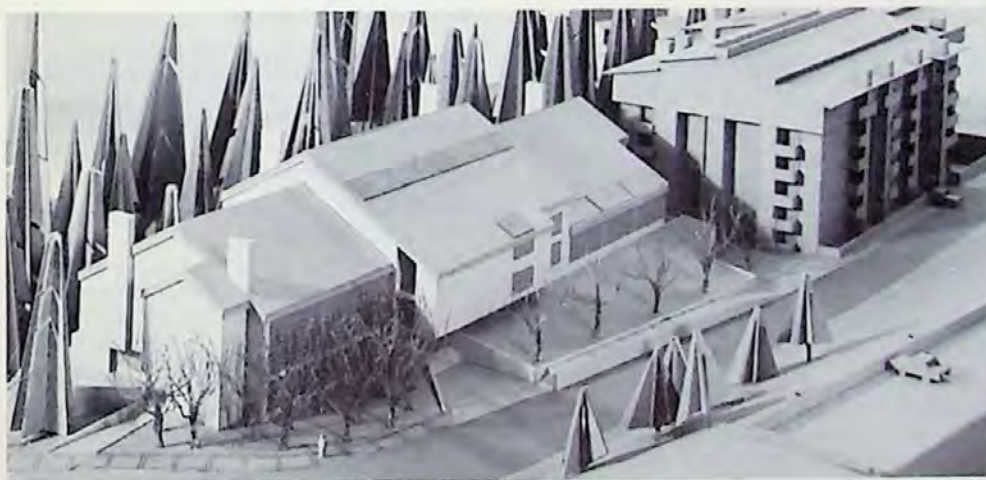
Site Preparation and construction on the new Athletic Club has begun at the Glenwood Hot Springs Lodge and Pool. Completion of the club in the spring of 1978 will mark the end of a million dollar plus phase of expansion which has included enlarged bathhouse facilities, additional sunbathing area, a new kiddie pool with an accompanying recycling fountain and a new Maintenance building.

Norman Hammar, manager of the famous tourist center, has announced that the new club will include indoor whirlpools using the 105° degree

Hot Springs mineral water, sauna, weight-fitness room, racquetball-handball courts with spectator viewing area, carpeted Locker facilities, steam room, restaurant and lounge.

The Athletic Club will provide a variety of formal and informal programs to help members keep fit.

Architect for the Athletic Club is Joseph E. Krabacher. Construction financing on the lobby, north bank and kiddie pool is by the First National Bank in Glenwood Springs. Financing on the Athletic Club will be by the Bank of Glenwood in Glenwood Springs.



Vail, CO

Six racquetball/handball courts will be part of Vail's Athletic Club, which is slated for March completion in the famous Colorado Ski and summer resort.

The Athletic Club will include a squash court, a large exercise room for conditioning classes, a workout room with weight machines, and a 66-ft. indoor lap pool. There will be separate health facilities for men and women with massage rooms, whirlpool baths, saunas and steam rooms. The Club's facilities will be available to members and guests of the new VAIL CLUB

hotel, which is under the same roof as the athletic club, and to member lodges and condominium associations on a daily basis. Out-of-town memberships also are invited.

Vail's largest solar energy plant, over 3,000 sq. ft., will be installed on the south facing roof of the multi-purpose building. The flat plate air-to-water system, manufactured by Solaron Corp. of Denver, will heat domestic hot water for both hotel and athletic club as well as the indoor swimming pool.

Groundbreaking for Racquetball West's luxurious sports and fitness facility are (left to right) Charlie Brumfield, Culver City Vice-Mayor Richard Brundo, Culver City Chamber of Commerce President John Henry and Mike Chaet, owner and executive vice president of Racquetball West.



Fox Hills/Marina Del Ray, CA

Five-time National Racquetball Champion Charlie Brumfield was on hand Sept. 17 for the ground-breaking ceremonies at Racquetball West, a new fun and fitness center in the Fox Hills/Marina Del Ray area.

Others attending the groundbreaking were Richard Brundo, vice mayor of Culver City and member number seven of Racquetball West; Roger Cowen, former All-American at Stanford University and member number one; and Mike Chaet, owner and executive vice president. Two stewardesses, Sonya Kidian of TWA and Debbi Allsbrook of Continental Airlines, also attended the dedication to promote Racquetball West's Stewardess League. Racquetball West will sponsor the National Stewardess Racquetball Championship in 1978.

Racquetball West, which is slated to open in late February, already has 125 members of its expected 900.

The 17,000-square-foot complex will have nine racquetball/handball courts with a spacious viewing gallery facing two glass backwall courts, and the Los Angeles' area's first front wall glass exhibition court. Other amenities will include a luxurious spa area for both men and women with jacuzzis, steamrooms and Swedish ice plunge.

The complex's fitness center will feature computerized fitness and nutritional guidance programs and fully equipped exercise areas with professional instruction.

Racquetball/handball teaching clinics, using videotape, will also be available to all members.

The club will be located at 6666 Green Valley Circle in Culver City near Fox Hills Mall. Complete information may be obtained by writing Mike Chaet at the Green Valley Circle address or by phoning him at (213) 670-0244.

Irvine, CA

The Irvine Clubhouse & Private Racquetball Club for men and women, announced its plan for construction at its October groundbreaking. Owned by Howard Melfi, general manager, and the Curtis family of Irvine the racquetball and health club facility is being developed at a total cost of \$1,100,000.

"Our prime location in the business center of Orange County will provide excellent recreation and fitness facilities for the surrounding companies," said Melfi.

The expected opening date for the 12 court facility is January, 1978. The health-oriented club is designed for both men and women, featuring equal spa amenities. The large weight and exercise room provides all the latest circuit training equipment. The club includes a dining balcony overlooking its 4½ acre jogging park.

The Irvine Clubhouse is opening its membership sales with reduced pre-opening initiation fees and special rates for women and students.

Purchased from the Irvine Industrial Complex by the Curtis investors the land sale was concluded in early September. The site is located at 17850 Skypark Blvd., just north of Main Street in the city of Irvine.

Kalamazoo (and area), MI

Sports Illustrated Court Clubs, Inc., the Southfield-based racquetball chain in which publishing giant Time, Inc. is a stockholder, opened three new clubs in October and broke ground on six others.

The nine clubs contain a total of 117 racquetball courts and represent a combined investment of approximately \$10 million.

Design of the new clubs, influenced by continuing attitude surveys of present Sports Illustrated Court Club members, includes co-ed whirlpools, saunas, extra-large day-nursery facilities, glass-walled courts, luxury touches in locker areas and facilities for parties.

"Our clubs are workingperson's country clubs," says chairman Craig Hill.

All the new clubs had two-day grand openings featuring racquetball demonstrations, teaching clinics and "Beat the Pro" tournaments with nationally-ranked Steve Keeley, author of *The Complete Book of Racquetball*.

Clubs opened in:

Kalamazoo, 315 Turwill Lane, next to West Main Mall, (616) 382-4111. Club manager: Jim Cloud, a former Parchment High School teacher and coach, more recently a businessman and ranking racquetball amateur from Evanston, Ill. Assistant manager: Paula Van Valkenburgh, a graduate of Western Michigan University. Lansing, 5000 Marsh Road, Okemos, (517) 349-5500. This club had 600 members enrolled prior to opening. Club manager: Jon McClory, previously executive director of Northwest Activities Center in Detroit. He played varsity football at Central Michigan University and four years of semi-pro football. Assistant manager: Larry Jakinovich, previously a phys ed teacher and coach in St. Clair Shores and Grosse Pointe

schools and a racquetball instructor in suburban Detroit clubs. A graduate of Michigan State University he played pro hockey for the Chicago Cougars of the WHA.

Flint, 3237 Beecher Road, behind IBM Building, (313) 733-3000. Manager: Kim Poli, formerly with the Kalamazoo (Portage) Sports Illustrated Court Club.

All managers and assistant managers are graduates of Sports Illustrated Court Clubs' Off-the-Wall University, an intensive four-week training program in management, customer service and techniques of racquetball instruction.

Sports Illustrated Court Clubs now under construction are in Belleville, Lansing and Saginaw, Mich.; Fort Wayne and South Bend, Ind., and Youngstown, Ohio.

Present clubs are in Ann Arbor, at 2111 Golfside, Ypsilanti, and Kalamazoo, 6529 S. Westnedge, Portage.

Nearly all the new clubs will be tri-level with a tiered third level to provide better viewing of games in progress.

The deluxe Belleville club is designed as a potential site for major tournaments. It will have one completely glass-walled court. An amphitheatre viewing area overlooking the all-glass court will include a luxurious bar and lounge.

The Belleville club will have 12 courts; all the other clubs now under construction will have 15 courts.

Sports Illustrated Court Clubs plan to start at least 15 more clubs over the next 12 months. Its goal is 100 clubs by the end of 1981 — representing an overall investment of \$125 million.

Judy Thompson, director of women's activities and teaching pro at both clubs, teaching her nine-year-old-daughter, Barbara, the rudiments of the game.



Quad Cities, IL and IA

Gary and Dan Whitaker recently opened two Courtside Racquetball Clubs in the Quad Cities area. Gary is general manager and in direct charge of North Courtside in Bettendorf, IA, and Dan manages South Courtside in Moline, IL. Assisting the brothers as director of women's activities and teaching pro at both clubs is Judy Thompson of Davenport.

Highlighting the September grand openings at the two clubs were performances by Charlie Brumfield. Charlie was in his glory as people packed in to attend two separate clinics and watch him play local champ, Ken Smith, and club pro, Judy Thompson. Judy also played Pam Prina of Illinois in an exhibition.

Members of the local press slugged it out at a media tourney, another opening event. The men's winner was Bill Allee, sports writer for the *Rock Island Argus*, and Carol Le Beau, newscaster for WOC-TV, Davenport, won the women's division.

Gary Whitaker, general manager of Courtside Clubs and manager of North Courtside in Bettendorf, IA.



Dan Whitaker, manager, South Courtside, Moline, Ill.



Milwaukie, OR

Milwaukie (OR) Racquetball Club features 10 championship racquetball and handball courts, sunken Jacuzzi whirlpool and sauna, completely equipped pro shop, weight and exercise room and other popular amenities. More than 1,300 memberships were issued before the facility opened last spring.

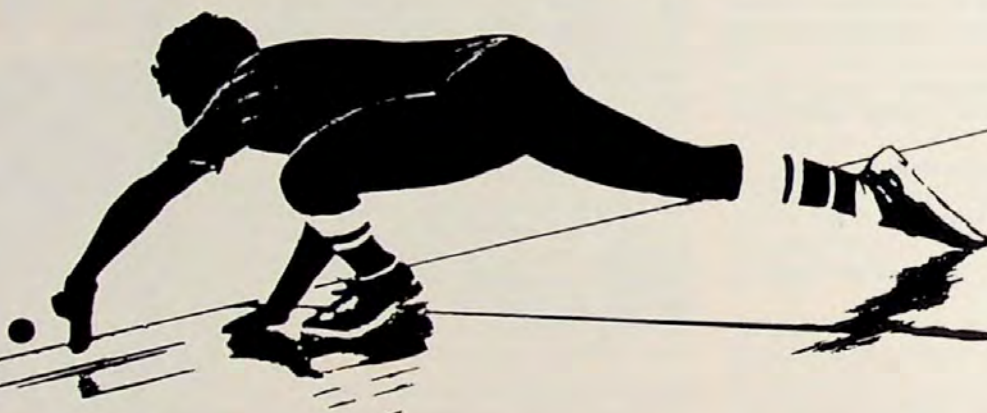
Sorry We Forgot You

Below is an additional list of racquetball facilities that have been brought to our attention since we published the Directory of Court Clubs last March.

The Commerce Club
11340 W. Olympic Blvd.
West Los Angeles, CA 90064

Babylon Racquet Club
400 Babylon Rd.
Horsham, PA 19044

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Women In Racquetball



The Twenty Minute Baptism

Your first crack at it you'll probably find refereeing more grueling than stepping on a court against Peggy Steding or Shannon Wright.

As Tournament Player Martha Byrd explains in our featured story on refereeing in this section of *Women in Racquetball*. "When I play, I can accept what happened and forget it. When I referee, I'm responsible for two people—I have to please two people plus myself."

Though the percentage of women referees is still small compared to the number of men who judge racquetball games, more and more women are refereeing in-club and traveling league games, and even tournament matches. So the chances are that if you're playing competitively, you'll take your turn as referee.

To learn what it's like to be a novice referee we stood at the rail the day

Gayle Rovnick climbed up on the official stool, picked up her pen, put the score card in front of her, looked down on the court and called "Play ball" for the first time.

"I felt overwhelmed with so much going on," Gayle said after the match. "The game seemed so much longer than any game I've played. I can't believe it was only 20 minutes."

With her initiation behind her Gayle plans to referee more. "The power and control doesn't fill any particular need of mine, but I think refereeing is a responsibility we all have."

Now it's your turn. Read our *Refereeing Guide*, follow the experts' advice and take the plunge into refereeing. Before long you'll like being a decision-maker. And you'll do your part for women's racquetball.

Gayle Rovnick, left, refereeing for the first time at a B level match in the Chicagoland league, gets help from veteran ref, Judy Ripp.



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Refereeing Basics

Guidelines from the Pros

by Shannon Wright with David Northcutt

Shannon Wright is the 1977 Singles and Doubles national professional women's champion. David Northcutt, who's been playing racquetball for the last four years, is the author of *A Game with Charlie Brumfield*, which appeared in *National Racquetball* in May of 1976.

Refereeing is fast becoming an integral part of women's racquetball. Thousands of women are playing their first tournament and 10 times as many are involved in league play.

This article has two purposes. First it is designed to improve the player's knowledge of refereeing. Second I hope it will upgrade the general level of women's refereeing. If women are to gain prestige in our sport, they must improve their refereeing skills as well as their playing abilities.

Making the Call

The main job of the referee is to make all judgemental decisions. As a referee you must constantly anticipate the possibility of short serves, screen balls, hinders, skips, double bounces and any number of situations that may occur in a racquetball match.

Due to the speed of the game initially these decisions will be difficult to call quickly and accurately. However as you gain experience and expertise in refereeing, these calls will become almost second nature.

Don't be shy about refereeing. Shout out that score. Call out hinder balls. It's noisy on the courts, so make sure that the players can hear you. Make quick, decisive calls. Don't hesitate.

Controlling the Pace

The second job of the referee is to control the pace of the match. Before each point begins the referee must call the score loudly and clearly. She should not call the score too quickly after the finished point. This could cause one of the players to be rushed. She must remember that there are at least 10 seconds before the server must put the ball back into play. Calling the score too early could give the server an advantage. A good referee will wait until both players are ready and then call the score. Remember to call the server's score first.

Consistency

Being consistent is of the utmost importance. Consistency will insure an even break for both players and will earn you respect as a good referee.

Consistency means that, in a given situation, the referee will always make the same call. For example if a server hits a drive serve and you call it short, the next time a serve is hit in

What Some Other Pros Say about Refereeing

Peggy Steding

I like to referee. I do about 50 matches a year - both pro and amateur. I've refereed softball, volleyball and basketball and I think racquetball is toughest because it's hard to see things - it's a fast pace in a small space - and because so many of the calls are judgement calls.

My first refereeing experience was for men, and I've found that even if men don't like my call, they don't argue with me. I think it's easier to referee men's matches because men tend to move well and get out of each other's way. Women want to move, but they're not as good at leaving room for the other player.

The most difficult part of refereeing for me is judgements on hinders. Skip balls aren't a

problem because most of the time you can hear if the ball skipped or not.

My advice to beginning referees is that (1) You should only referee a match if you're neutral. Don't referee one where you lean toward one player; (2) Make the call. Everyone makes a mistake, everyone's human, nobody's perfect; (3) Don't back down or you'll get a reputation for being the kind of ref whose mind can be changed easily.

- Arthur Shay photo



Even if men don't like a call, they don't argue with me.

the same spot you again call it short. If you are inconsistent, situations arise where tempers get short, spectators get vocal and you get nervous and unsure. Some referees are better than others at making consistent calls. The more you practice, the more consistent you become.

Part of this consistency comes from concentrating on the ball. Don't be gazing into the next court to see how your friend is doing in her match. Pay attention to your job. Control the game and watch the ball.

Knowing the Rules

Being knowledgeable about the rules is a must for all good referees. Quick decisive calls made with an authoritative tone will command the respect of the players and spectators. The rules of racquetball are not really complicated, but you must study them and know them well.

If you do not know all the rules, it is an excellent idea to have a rule book on hand while refereeing.

Practice Refereeing

As with your game practice is the key to improving your refereeing. One of the most effective ways of improving, aside from actually doing it, is to watch a good referee at work. Check yourself with that person. Would you make the same call in a given situation? Do you call the score as loud and clear? Are your calls made quickly? Do you command as much respect from the players? Are you paying as much attention to the match? Are you controlling the match as well as she does? These are things you can work on during tournaments, league play or a game at the local club.

Rehearsing the Part

Rehearse to yourself as you watch the matches. Let it be you who is making the calls. Let it be you who calls the score. And if you make a bad call, no harm, you're only talking to yourself, right? It's much better to make a bad call during rehearsal, than to suffer embarrassment during the live performance.

Don't stop with one match. When you're at a tournament or league competition, take full advantage of the knowledge around you. Watch and analyze several referees at different levels of play.

Improving Your Game — Noting Shots that come in Pairs

Certainly a plus to refereeing is that it can improve your overall game. While you're standing in the gallery, watching the players below, you will see particular patterns unfold before your eyes. When refereeing some people experience a revelation in terms of their own game styles which so excites them they are reluctant to stay and finish refereeing the match. By all means do finish your job, but remember what you have learned. You'll see that certain shots seem to give most people a hard time, while others affect only some. Analyze these shots and patterns of play as you referee.

You will also find that certain shots almost always come in pairs. For

— Arthur Shay photo



Kathy Williams

I'd rather watch than referee, because refereeing makes me nervous, but it's not bad since I've been playing so much. The pressure's always there to do your best, whether it's refereeing racquetball, volleyball or basketball. I've done all three. But no matter what the game you have to make your call and live or die with it.

There aren't any questions in my own mind when I'm refereeing except when I don't see something. Occasionally before you can make your call the players will help with that call by automatically returning to their server or receiver positions. However you can't count on that aid because once the players realize that you're waiting for them, they'll both always go to the server's position.

The more skilled the players the easier they are to referee, whether they're men or women. One thing, though, is that women are more honest. It really aggravates me trying to referee a wild Ubangi — a man who thinks he knows everything. He goes out

there with the attitude 'What does this dame know about racquetball?' If men don't know me, there's trouble. Everything's fine if they know who I am.

I'd say skips are the hardest thing to call because the ball is so fast and hard. Usually the person who hit the ball can tell if the ball skipped. Hinders don't give me any trouble because I have that subject set in my mind — from watching a lot of games and a lot of refs.

I think a woman should be at least a B player before she starts to referee and she should begin refereeing matches where the players are beginners. She'll gain confidence after that first match.

I'd tell a woman — anyone — who's starting to referee to (1) Be open-minded. Admit you can make a mistake and let the players help you; (2) If you see the players are taking advantage of you, be firmer. I'd sum that up by suggesting that a ref be firm in her calls, but open-minded enough to admit that she is wrong occasionally.

It's hard to referee a wild Ubangi — a man who thinks he knows everything.

example garbage serves almost always initiate ceiling ball returns. Overhead pinches and low hard drives off the backwall almost always initiate down the line kills. Pick up on these patterns so that you can anticipate the movement of the ball. By analyzing these situations you will begin to realize which shots are most effective in particular situations, thus increasing your percentages of winning more rallies.

Indicators for Good and Bad Shots

There are several indicators that can help you make the proper call in certain instances. One is the sound the ball makes as it strikes the front wall. For example if the ball makes a thud or squeaky type noise you can be sure the ball skipped in. Normally the ball has a definite "whap" when it hits the front wall. Compare the two sounds until you can readily differentiate between the two. Developing this skill may take a little more time than other aspects of refereeing, but it's worth it.

Another indicator is unusual movement of the ball. If, on a kill shot attempt, you see the ball oscillate across the floor, you can be sure it skipped into the floor and picked up a spin. Some shots angle sharply off the front wall. A good referee will suspect a skip ball, or, if on a serve, a side wall first serve.

Doubles

Refereeing doubles is one of the toughest refereeing jobs there is simply because of all the varying circumstances. The tempo increases along with the number of people making for many more hinders and screen balls. As the players jockey for position, they sometimes brush each other or bump into each other. Many times contact is made, yet no hinder is required. In order for you to acquire the ability to decide what is the proper call for those particular players, you must simply watch a lot of racquetball.

Difficult Calls

There are several situations that are extremely difficult to call. In these situations it is important to remember that you're only human. Error is possible, but don't let that prevent you from making the call you feel is correct. Sometimes catching a double bounce return can be next to impossible because the player may be blocking your vision of the ball. Here is a situation where the sound of the ball may clue you in as to whether the shot was good or bad. Screens or shadow balls are sometimes hard to determine. If a player hits the ball right back at herself, your call will depend on the other player's position. If she is on the opposite side of the court, obviously a screen call would be inappropriate. Again, practice is necessary to perfect your ability to correctly call these shots. Watch referees at all levels of play when you can.

Distinction between regular and avoidable hinders can sometimes be difficult. Here again the call will



— Arthur Shay photo

Martha Byrd

I love to referee. I've had bad referees — I've had blind referees. So I know how it shouldn't be done. If the two people you're dealing with know they can depend on you, there's no problem.

I think refereeing is harder than playing. When I play, I can accept what happened and forget it. When I referee, I'm responsible for two other people — I have to please two people plus myself.

I find doubles especially hard to referee — there's so much going on. In singles the hardest call is the double bounce in the front court. You have to depend on the integrity of the player when his body is between you and the ball. Sound is important. I put a lot into sound — a skip-in makes a distinctive sound. Your eyes can fool you. Sometimes you can hear what you can't see.

Sometimes you have to speak before you think.

I think women are easier to referee because their play is slower. Men can do strange, distracting things like diving around the court.

I've refereed karate matches which, in many ways, are like racquetball: two people; a scoring system; the referee who's controlling the people, is acting as catalyst, is under pressure to help the match. The only thing is you're dealing with feet and arms, not a racquet and a ball.

I learned to referee racquetball by watching referees at the nationals. I brought back what I learned to Gainesville (FL), refereed for my friends, told other people how to referee. Now we have a system in our local tournaments where everyone who wins a match has to keep score for the next match. We have a 10-year-old girl who does a good job.

be dependent upon the skill level of the players and the situation. A novice or C player who hits the ball directly back at herself, and is unable to move in a way that her opponent can have a fair shot at the ball will probably draw a regular hinder. The same situation for an open or professional level player would most likely draw an avoidable hinder.

Intimidation

Some people are good at intimidating others, but don't let that happen to you while you're refereeing a match. Remember, you're in charge. Once, when I was refereeing a match between Charlie Brumfield and Davey Bledsoe, Brumfield went for a kill shot and the ball skipped in. I called "skip ball." Brumfield turned toward me with a look of horror and shouted, "Shannon, how could you call that?" "That's the call Charlie," I said. He turned around and got ready to

receive the serve. My heart skipped a beat and my knees felt weak, but that didn't interfere with my making the correct call.

Summary

Remember to make quick, accurate calls. Set the pace of the match. When you're refereeing, you're in charge. Be as consistent with your calls as possible. Get to know all the rules. Memorize them if you can. Practice your refereeing as often as you can. Rehearse refereeing at tournaments and league play. Become familiar with the indicators of shots. Listen for the sound and watch for strange angles.

Practice these techniques and you will become a much respected referee. Apply the knowledge of shots to your own game and you will become a better player. With this combination your enjoyment of the game will increase tremendously.

Clinics Teach Refereeing Rudiments

Shannon Wright, who has explained refereeing to a women's league in California, and Bill Feigen, who has reviewed rules with league players in Illinois, agree that clinics are the best way to launch women into refereeing duties.

This past fall Feigen, head of the Illinois State Racquetball Association refereeing committee, spent two hours with women from 12 clubs discussing rules and answering questions. The refereeing clinic, held just before league play began, was the first in the area for non-tournament players. Feigen, who urges women to referee ("Why should they depend on men?"), suggests that if you're a would-be referee, you should:

- (1) Learn basics of the game.
- (2) Acquaint yourself with the rules. Ask for a rulebook at your club desk.
- (3) Observe referees. You get a feeling for the rhythm of the game and kinds of calls by watching the referee, not the players.
- (4) Referee a game that falls somewhere between beginner and intermediate level. The action is slower and players who are unsure look to the referee for guidance, in contrast to advanced players who often try to dominate or intimidate the referee.

To be a good referee you don't necessarily have to be a good player. In fact many good players are bad referees. More important is how much racquetball you've been around. There are many people who've watched a lot of matches who could referee if they wanted to - like some of the mothers and fathers of players.

You should learn to referee in steps. Start by (1) calling the score, then add (2) shorts and sideouts, (3) skips and double bounces, etc. Hinders are the last thing to learn. The ultimate is learning to call avoidable hinders.

The most important part of being a good referee is the ability to open your mouth quickly. Make the call cleanly and quickly. You sometimes have to speak before you think. And you can't get emotionally involved in the game. Someone has to stay cool.

Bill Feigen steps into a court with 35 women who want to learn what they can about refereeing before they take on the job for the first time. Four Flags Court Club, in Niles, IL, was host to the clinic.



Hello Racquetball, Goodbye 133 Pounds

You've seen them in all the magazines. The ad shows two pictures side by side with the first picture depicting the woman before her tremendous weight loss, and the second as she looks today — a slimmer, more attractive version of the first photo. A story goes along with each picture, describing how the weight was gained, and how, through some leading dietary aid, the individual lost weight and became a new person.

But here's a story with one major difference. This woman lost weight and had fun doing it. She did it by playing racquetball.

Cindy Shields, from Crete, IL, is 24 years old and a travel agency manager. She always was athletic and competitive in high school. *"I quit the varsity swimming team in my sophomore year, because it was too demanding on my social life and other interests,"* Cindy says. Like anyone who stops exercising regularly Cindy started putting on weight. As time and pounds crept on she eventually got up to 265 pounds.

Like anyone else Cindy needed a reason to stop gaining weight — a motivation to get her back into shape. *"My sister was the answer,"* Cindy says. *"She asked me to be her bridesmaid. At first I started the usual, boring calorie counting, but I*

wasn't satisfied. Finally a friend suggested that I take up the game of racquetball." Cindy joined OMNI 41 Health/Racquetball Club in Schererville, Ind., in November of 1976, signed up for beginner racquetball lessons with her friend and eventually took intermediate lessons.

"I saw right away how much fun racquetball is — mainly because I could play it at my own pace. I also saw how I replaced my spare time sitting around and snacking with going to the club and playing racquetball."

Cindy Shields achieved her goal to lose weight before her sister's wedding by sticking to a daily diet of 800 calories and playing an hour or two of racquetball four or five times a week. She lost 133 pounds in less than a year!

Also, through racquetball, she has met new friends, she's taken second place in OMNI 41's open B tournament and she is one of OMNI's better women players on their traveling team.

What a success story. Cindy has proven what can be done when diet and exercise go hand in hand — especially when there's a racquet in hand.

—Len Sporman
Jan Riskin



An old ID card is the only visible trace of Cindy Shields when she weighed 265 pounds.

This is the form that helped Cindy shed 133 pounds.



Playing Tip #5

Make the court twice as wide and the wall crasher would still feel that the sides were closing in on her. That's because she insists on squeezing up to the wall instead of learning the wall-hugger return that Jean Sauser is explaining in this playing tip from *Inside Racquetball for Women*.

Sauser, top-ranking pro who heads the teaching program at SkyHarbor Court Clubs in Northbrook and Highland Park, IL, wrote *Inside Racquetball for Women* with Arthur Shay, nationally-known photographer.

Their volume of mistakes and corrections, published by Contemporary Books, is available now at clubs and bookstores in paperback and hardcover.

Wall Crashing Mistake:

If getting a ball that is floating up or down the side wall means physical pain to you, you are a wall crasher. This means that you run directly into a wall to hit a wall-hugging ball or that you pivot and press your shoulder into the side wall to scrape the ball off it. This can result only in bruises and misdirected returns, most of which never get back to the front wall. If you get too close to the wall and swing full force, you can also break your racquet as you chip plaster and the ball away from the wall.



Correction

The distance from your shoulder to the top of your racquet is approximately three feet. This means that you shouldn't have to be closer to the side wall than three feet, or an arm and a racquet length's distance from it. When a ball is hugging your forehand or backhand side wall, your stride after the ball should never take you closer than those three feet. Now set your body up and gently return the ball down the same wall. There is no sense in trying to do more than that with it. Leave it on the wall for your opponent to struggle with. This is the most effective return in this case.

Practice by standing an arm's length from the side wall. With your off-hand, hold the ball on the side wall at a point higher than your head. Then let the ball drop or slide down the wall and return it with a light stroke that barely grazes the side wall as you hit the ball. Keep your distance while you practice this, and soon the wall-hugger return will be as simple to make as any other return in the court.



Who's Playing Racquetball?

Susan Hollman: Miss America Hopeful

Will a racquetball player be the next Miss America?

Yes, says Susan Hollman of Lake Oswego, Oregon, just outside of Portland. Susan, a 21-year-old with a dazzling smile and a warm, natural charm, is about to begin the round of local, regional and state competitions that she hopes will lead her to Atlantic City next September for the 1978 Miss America pageant.

Susan met racquetball a year ago when she became sales rep for her brother, Joe, an A player, a builder and the inventor and distributor of the Hollman Court System of interlocking wall panels.

Since Joe taught Susan to play racquetball, she's been at it three or four times a week "because I love the game and because I think it's the best way to stay trim, to keep spirits up and even to improve your walk—it helps you with balance and posture."

Susan thinks these assets will help carry her through the contests that could make her Miss America.

Susan's had her eye on that goal since her father asked her to represent the Knights of Columbus in a beauty contest in their home town of Hillsboro, Oregon, where she grew up on a farm with her 12 brothers and sisters.

And a visit to the '77 pageant made the title seem more than a dream. Assisting Harvey Thomas, a freelance photographer from nearby Forest Grove, Oregon, Susan sat in on rehearsals, took pictures of Miss Oregon and even talked with the judges to learn what they look for in a winner.

"When you watch the pageant on T.V., the contestants seem unreachable," Susan says. "But they're just people. Being there I could see myself on the stage. I just knew I had a chance."

So do we, Susan. We'll be watching for you.

Bert Parks, who might be singing "There she goes, Miss America" to Susan Hollman next September, gives the tall brunette an encouraging hug at the 1977 pageant.



Susan wears her racquetball T-shirt as she drums up business for the fire department's emergency services booth at the Washington County fair (below).



Susan hopes the balance she learns on the hardwood floor will lead her to the pageant runway.

Who's Playing Racquetball? We're looking for women racquetball players who have unusual careers or interests. Please send your suggestions to Carol Brusslan; National Racquetball; 4101 Dempster St.; Skokie, IL 60076.



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Racquetball

Regionals Combine with Pro Tour

Again, I would like to emphasize the U.S.R.A. regional tournaments starting this month and continuing through the month of March. The entry form for the 10 regional sites is included in this issue.

As a change of pace, we are combining several of our U.S.R.A. Regional Championships with the Colgate-Leach-Seamco pro tour events. Having a regional tournament as early as January will simply mean that players will win a trip to the nationals earlier in the year. The intent is to have quality events. The excitement generated by the pro tour and the normally large accompanying amateur draws at these tournaments will eliminate having to acquire additional regional sites and will create better and more colorful championships.

100 Trips to Regional Winners

Ten trips for each regional is an unheard-of offering in the history of our game; that's 100 trips in all. Seventy of these will be round-trip. Of the 50 round-trips awarded strictly to the junior players, the prize includes all lodging and meal costs at the National Juniors Championships/next summer.

A true representation of the country can thus be guaranteed at the 1978 National Championships in Belleville, Mich., (Detroit) and the National Juniors site which will be announced at a later date. In past years, the National Championships have been a good representation of the country, but in 1978, it should be the absolute best. In this fashion the regional events enhance the quality of the nationals. At the same time, the regionals are a

means of providing the next best thing to a National tournament to one of the 10 particular regions. Since some tournament players cannot travel the sometimes great distance to a national tournament, we can bring a similar type event much closer to them.

Complainers Take Note

Occasionally after a given tournament participants write letters of complaint about one aspect of a tournament or another. In my opinion every player in an event should contribute to make the event as successful as possible. This may only involve showing up on time for a match or simply being cooperative enough to referee someone else's match.

Since it is virtually impossible for any amateur or pro tournament to provide enough referees for all matches, all large racquetball tournaments must rely on the cooperation of the players. Ask anyone who has ever run a tournament how much time and effort goes into the planning and actual administration of the tournament! Most veteran tournament chairmen are the first to volunteer their assistance at someone else's event because they know how much help is needed.

Those who most often complain have never administered or planned a tournament and are therefore quick to criticize if their every need is not fulfilled. What they do not realize is that they are only one person in an affair that involves numerous other players, a club, a tournament committee, hospitality provisions, equipment,



Terry Fancher

officiating, publicity and numerous other considerations. All of this for a normally low entry fee considering the extent of a tournament and the amount of time involved. Some hosts spend a year of preparation for one event.

So before you become critical of any event, ask yourself if you contributed anything as a participant to make your sport and your tournaments as successful as possible. Have you done your share or have you just made someone else's job more difficult?

Welcome Aboard!

After months of careful consideration, the Arizona Racquetball Association has affiliated with the U.S.R.A. We welcome its members and look forward to a long and fruitful relationship in support of its amateur racquetball programs.

The A.R.A. publishes an attractive newsletter entitled *Crosscourt* and has an active contingent of players and racquetball promoters. We are looking forward to our February 15-19 pro tour stop and U.S.R.A. Regional Championships at the Arizona Athletic Club.

I would also like to welcome the U.S.R.A. Delaware Racquetball Association and Bruce Hotmer who is taking on the duties of affiliation. The only remaining states we need for a complete 50 are Hawaii, South Dakota, Utah and Tennessee.



Arizona Joins U.S.R.A. during "Bubbling Caldron"

The Arizona Racquetball Association board of directors, meeting at the Phoenix Athletic Club during the "Bubbling Caldron" doubles tourney, unanimously agreed to merge with the U.S.R.A. We can expect great happenings from this "marriage" — Arizona is fast becoming the racquetball mecca of the Southwest. With the organization of the U.S.R.A., coupled to the innovative ideas of the A.R.A., we shall see the groundwork for a strong state organization.

Bob Hurckes, interim president of the A.R.A., will continue to head the state body. A superb organizer Bob has spent many hours along with Les Reill (board director) and Chuck Hallock (acting U.S.R.A. chairman) to smooth out the details. Although the procedure for affiliation is very simple, much time was taken to insure that this merger was in the best interests of A.R.A. members. To paraphrase a commercial message, "when it's right, you know it."

We would like to encourage state members to write in their comments (wants, needs, ideas, etc.) so we can be genuinely representative of our amateur state R/B'ers. We also need *dedicated* individuals to attend our area committee meetings and GET INVOLVED! Those persons wishing to do so can call Bob Hurckes at 992-9420 or Chuck Hallock at 967-0001 to learn when the next meeting will take place.

—Chuck Hallock



Meet Your State Chairmen

Dirk Burgard — Idaho

Our U.S.R.A. Idaho state chairman is young and enthusiastic. Being a former San Diegan, he is well aware of the growth and possibilities available to our sport. Dirk began playing while enrolled in junior high school in the beautiful southern California city.

"I watched other players and learned from them and my own mistakes. It was so much fun I couldn't stop playing and then began entering every tournament I could get to," says Dirk. His involvement and interest stems from his job as racquetball and physical fitness instructor at the YMCA in Idaho Falls. He is an aggressive salesman of the sport and has very positive impressions about the game and its future.

"Racquetball is by far one of the best sports around. It can give the player a great form of exercise with maximum physical benefits and is very enjoyable at the same time. It doesn't take a great deal of time away from one's daily demands and takes only a short time to learn the basics. Maybe they will make a movie on a racquetball player like the movie *Rocky*."

The state racquetball association in Idaho is just beginning to grow. Six very good tournaments have been held with players coming from four different states. Dirk wanted us to thank these players for participating and promoting the game even more in his area. He also is working on more interstate events and is coordinating them so both in-state and out-of-state players can participate. The state association also is working on a state ranking system for players within the boundaries of Idaho. They also are assisting all racquetball players to improve their skills with local ladder play clinics, and a newsletter.



Tom Jones, vice president, and Dirk Burgard, chairman, try some Idaho-style racquetball.

Dirk gets plenty of able assistance from his committee members Tom Jones, vice president of the state association, and Rusty Broughton who serves as secretary. They share the same goals for the development of Idaho racquetball and its facilities. Tom and Rusty help coordinate the functions of the organization to include membership drives, tournaments, ladders and general business.

To sum up this state chairman's sentiments, "I basically get involved just because I want to get more people involved in a sport that is very good for mental and physical health. I also feel that tournaments are enjoyable and are a great learning experience."

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Tom Lancaster — New Hampshire

Often our U.S.R.A. state chairmen evolve out of active participants who finally decide that someone is needed to promote racquetball in their area and who have enough initiative to form an association. Such is the case with our New Hampshire state chairman Tom Lancaster.

Tom attended Hofstra College, Hempstead, N.Y., and is currently employed by the H. D. Lee Co., Inc. as a sales representative. Tom and his wife, Sally, have three children — Heather, two, Billy, eight and Timmy, 11.

Tom, a respectable handball player, was introduced to racquetball by friends. As Tom says, "I became addicted. I only wish my ability would increase in proportion to the amount of weight I have lost (122 pounds) since taking up the game."

"Racquetball will experience the same rapid growth here in the northeast as it has elsewhere, because it supplies a vigorous workout in a relatively short period of time, thus making it adaptable to almost anyone's schedule," Tom says. His schedule is certainly a busy one, but he will always find time to help with any job relating to racquetball.

Tom feels that juniors are an integral part of racquetball growth. "I hope that in the near future the school systems will add racquetball to their P. E. programs. We are a new organization and hope to promote the sport by concentrating on the young people in the state."

Tom has selected competent assistants, for he feels that "the state chairman is only as good as the people I work with. Without everybody nothing gets done." Aiding Tom is Bill LeFrancois, vice chairman. "Besides



being the best in the state and one of the top ten in New England," Tom says, "he is a take-charge person whom you can rely on to get the job done. So is his wife Teri, who is our staff secretary, and Dave Krueger the states treasurer."

"The Granite State Racquetball Association exists because of interested people who are planning on running at least two tournaments a year that will be so well done that the players will make them 'must' stops. The game is fun and physically rewarding and we intend to promote it with that in mind." We at the U.S.R.A. are in agreement with Tom.



Book Review

by Terry Fancher

Psychology of Sport, by Dorcas Susan Butt (Van Nostrand Reinhold, \$6.95)

About the Author

Dorcas Susan Butt has been a clinical psychologist and is the author of numerous professional articles on personality measurement and sports psychology. She is Associate Professor of Psychology at the University of British Columbia where she has taught since completing her Ph.D at the University of Chicago in 1967.

As a former international tennis player Dr. Butt played in the All-England Championships at Wimbledon. She was also Canada's top ranked women's player in 1960, 1961, and 1967. She was vice-president of the Canadian Lawn Tennis Association in 1972 and captain of Canada's national women's tennis team from 1970 to 1972.

This study of sport is an intriguing overview of athletics in our modern society. Playing the devil's advocate against the favorable arguments for sports participation in this country, the author cites many persuasive examples directly contradicting this popular feeling. The case studies used in this well-written work are used to argue her point. Most are related to the biggest names in sports in our recent history such as Babe Ruth, Joe Namath, Tom Seaver and Billy Jean King.

Dealing with the psychological implications of sports she uses these athletic heroes to demonstrate the negative as well as positive aspects of sports participation. Many of these aspects are clearly shown to be detrimental to the athletes depicted and the society which eagerly watches them at work.

In modern day racquetball as we know it players are in a unique position. They are taking part in a game that is really only ten years of age and has the characteristics to become the most popular sport of our time. Fast action, a

USRA State Affiliates

If your state is not represented in the list of affiliates in this issue, and you wish to become involved, please contact Terry Fancher at U.S.R.A. headquarters.

multi-dimensional court, a lively ball, and extreme competitiveness among most serious players are all ingredients which make up our game. Popularity is heightened by the fact that almost anyone can learn to play quickly. Playing at close quarters to our opponent enhances the chance for outbursts of temper.

Anyone who has witnessed or competed in a racquetball tournament can sense the possibility of temperament becoming a problem, not only at the professional level but also at the amateur level. Outbursts and flare-ups too often accompany tournament action. Are we going to go the way of other contemporary sports? Do we want our champions to be known for their temper tantrums rather than their playing excellence?

Hopefully our sport will avoid developing the disturbing character traits of aggressiveness, egocentricity, and poor individual insight. Reading the book's intimate insights into the lives and careers of Bobby Fisher, Lance Rentzel or Babe Ruth is enough to convince us that sports can bring out unfavorable personality traits by extremely competitive situations. But attributes much of today's problem in sports to the commercialism of modern athletics. Promoters and sports merchants are often only out to make a dollar according to the author. Any negative after-effects are rarely considered.

The drive to win and the resultant strain it often causes can tax a gifted athlete's ability to view things in proper perspective, can warp his or her perceptions, and effect their success as human beings. To think, all of this just as a result of trying to master a skill or win a game. It's a rather frightening picture that the author paints for us; let's hope the history of racquetball will not reflect undesirable personality traits in its best players and over achievers.



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Newsletters

Another Sign of Strong State Associations

State association newsletters that chairmen have been sending to my office prove that these groups are growing and gaining strength. The publications are another benefit of belonging to a state association — and we all know that benefits bring in members.

The newsletters cover everything from logo contests to membership drives. They give timely information on upcoming events, such as tournaments and meetings, and they list officers to contact for volunteer help with the state association. (Remember *all* state associations rely on their volunteer assistance. Why not join and contribute some time to help your state association grow stronger?)

Here are excerpts from two excellent newsletters I've received recently:

From Colorado's Rollout

CRA/USRA Affiliation Benefits Players, Clubs

CRA rolls once again!! After some 2½ years of trying to make the CRA a viable organization for racquetball players in Colorado, we now have an alive and growing organization that has much to offer racquetball players and clubs. The main reason CRA is moving again is our new affiliation with the United States Racquetball Association (USRA). Another reason is a core group of dedicated CRA'ers who are chairpersons for a number of committees.

CRA affiliated with the USRA on July 19, 1977. This was after a key CRA meeting on July 11 at which a new board of directors was confirmed. The new board voted to affiliate with the USRA due to the large number of benefits to CRA members and clubs.

Some of the benefits of USRA affiliation are: any CRA member is also a USRA member, USRA will furnish guidelines for CRA/USRA sanctioned tournaments, equipment manufacturers (like Seamco and

Leach) will provide shirts and balls for our state tournaments, 12 dozen balls will be supplied for ANY CRA sanctioned tournament, every CRA member will receive the USRA monthly National Racquetball Magazine, CRA racquetball news will be published in the National Magazine.

The CRA membership cost is now \$9 per year — an increase, sure, but well worth it!! In the final analysis, the success of CRA will still depend on the support of its members. Each of the committees formed will need volunteers to get their job done. Please do read about the CRA committee structure and contact the chairperson of the committee you would like to work on.

I want to thank all those people in Colorado who volunteered time and money in the beginnings of the CRA. Without their help we would probably be looking at another 2½ years of floundering. The CRA is at last a solid organization with a direction and a purpose.

—CRA President, John Mooney

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From Georgia's USRA Newsletter

Racquetball Mania Spreads

It is no secret — our nation is going crazy over racquetball. The population masses are taking to this sport because it combines entertainment with physical exercise, for a fairly inexpensive price.

The racquetball club has come to be the focal point of racquetball. For a nominal charge, people can join a racquetball club and pay court charges to play the sport. Racquetball clubs are different from golf and tennis country clubs, where members strictly pay a certain fee, whether they play or not. In racquetball, members can set their own pace physically and financially. This arrangement is a dream-come-true for the average Joe who wants to stay, or get, into shape; live longer; and have fun doing his thing.

Few people ever dreamed that racquetball would take off as fast as it has. Four years ago, Chicago had two or three clubs for racquetball. Now there are some fifty racquetball clubs spread across the city.

These clubs have done almost as much for racquetball as has our own USRA Organization, but we all need each other to keep racquetball growing. The USRA provides the leadership for and promotion of the sport. The club, then, takes these leadership and promotional ideas and puts them into action, so that we all can enjoy the sport to the fullest.

Another contribution of the racquetball club is the social atmosphere it creates before, during and after the game. I have spotted and met as many good-looking, fit and trim women playing racquetball as I have encountered in any singles bar.

Tournament Results

Reporters, take note: Help make our typesetter happy by sending us your tournament results typed double or triple (preferred) space with one-inch margins all around.
Thank you.

Arizona

Over 200 players competed in the first annual Two Fingers AAC Invitational Racquetball tournament Sept. 22-25 at the Arizona Athletic Club in Tempe.

Results:

Men's Open: Bobby Bolan def. Don Thomas 16-21, 21-18, 11-8; Mike Grisz - 3rd.

Men's B: George Ohlinger def. Bill Raby 21-17, 14-21, 11-6; Eugene Burns - 3rd.

Men's C: David Kahn def. Jim Barrett 21-11, 21-13; Joe Hrach - 3rd.

Men's Novice: Nelson Neff def. Randy Haymes 21-6, 21-17; Cloyce Clark - 3rd.

Women's Open: Ann Thompson def. Heidi Lehman 21-5, 21-4; Mackstaller - 3rd.

Women's B: Tammy Zucco def. Darlene Lankford 21-3, 21-5; Chris Munk - 3rd.

Women's C: Sue Hendrick def. Naida Axford.

Women's Novice: Dawn Hebert def. Nancy Goldberg 21-14, 21-20; Lorraine Harrington - 3rd.

Juniors: Rudy Ramirez def. Cliff Fiore 21-12, 21-9; Pat McAvin - 3rd.

Seniors: Mike Aubrey def. Phil Grace 21-8, 21-20; Paul Banales - 3rd.

Masters: Hal Price def. Ron Stulik 21-3, 21-7; Peter Farina - 3rd.

Georgia

The First Annual Budweiser Atlanta Open Racquetball Tournament was held Oct. 21-23, at COURTHOUSE I in Atlanta, GA. A record 210 entrants from nine states competed for trophies in six divisions.

In the Men's Open division top seeded Steve Mondry of San Diego, CA., defeated fifth seeded Jim Bailey of Havdick, NC., 21-20, 5-21, 11-3 in an outstanding display of racquetball. In the semi-final round, Johnny Hennen was forced to forfeit his match with Mondry in the first game due to a shoulder injury. Bailey defeated Keith Dunlap from Memphis 21-9, 21-20.

The Women's Open division saw top seeded Lucy Hardison beat second seeded Mildred Gwinn 21-5, 21-16 in the finals. Hardison defeated Eva Metcalf 21-2, 21-10, and Gwinn defeated Dianne Crowe 21-11, 13-21, 11-3 in the semi-final matches.

Bill King from Radford, VA., top seed in the Men's Senior division, defeated Tom Cannon from Chattanooga, TN, 21-7, 21-9 to capture the title.

In the Men's B division, Scott Clark from Blacksburg, VA, defeated Charles Watrous in an excellent match 17-21, 21-13, 11-5.

Novice winners were Atlantans Woody Burckhalter and Darcy Rais in the Men's and Women's divisions respectively.

Missouri Juniors

Allendale's second open junior racquetball tournament was held the weekend of August 12-14, and what a difference a year makes! There were more entries in each division, the entries came from farther away, and the level of play was better. Two things remained the same, though: the great sportsmanship shown by the players and fans, and the fun time everyone had.

The 13-under finals matched two excellent players — John Gerson (Prairie Village, KS) and John Fisk (Leawood, KS). During many points each player made seemingly impossible saves, keeping all the fans excited and cheering after each point. In the most exciting of the final matches John Gerson prevailed in the tiebreaker, 19-21, 21-18, 11-4, after trailing 13-18 in the second game. David Berger (Mission Hills, KS) defeated Matt Lombardi (Kansas City, MO) in a well-played third place struggle, 21-14 and 21-15. Doug Lyle (Overland Park, KS) took the consolation finals from Chris Nichols (Santa Fe, NM), 21-14, 21-16. Doug, a good athlete, had learned to play only two weeks prior to the tournament.

Two 13 year olds entered the 15-under division, and both made it to the finals. Bill Parodi Jr. (Topeka, KS) entered only the 15-under division, and was easily the class of the field, as he swept through the tournament without losing a game. In his age group this year Bill has lost only to the number two player in the country. His opponent in the finals was John Gerson, winner of the 13-under division. Parodi had his toughest match in the finals, winning 21-8, 21-19, coming back from 16-19 in the second game. Brett James (North Platte, NE) won third place from Dix Wellington (Belton, MO) 21-15, 21-5, and Art Davis (Belton, MO) was a 21-15, 21-14 winner in the consolation match with Robin Parodi of Topeka, KS.

The 17-under division was also won by the youngest entrant, as 14-year-old Scott Wicks (Hutchinson, KS) came out on top of 17-year-old Gary Tobin (Overland Park, KS) in the finals, 21-17, 21-18. Although it was a close match, this was Wicks' easiest win, for Scott won via the tiebreaker in all his previous matches. Tim Roberts (Overland Park, KS) met Jerry Goldstein (Prairie Village, KS) for third place, with Roberts coming out on top, 21-12, 21-15. Rex Newcomer (Shawnee Mission, KS) was the consolation champ, beating Jeff Underwood (Belton, MO) 21-10, 21-7, in the finals.

With 50 entries from 16 cities, this was quite a large junior tournament. Yet, there were no problems at all. Although 99 per cent of the matches were refereed by the juniors themselves, there was not a single complaint or loss blamed on the refereeing; nor was there ever a shortage of volunteers to referee. Seven year old Tim Parodi, the youngest entrant in the tournament, refereed more than his share, and did as well as anyone. (Tim also won a match in the 13-under division, before losing to an "old man" — ten year old Danny Wayne.)

Ten girls entered the tournament, even though there were no separate divisions for the girls (there will be next year). Those who entered gave

good accounts of themselves, either winning matches, or playing well when they lost.

Tentative date for next year's tournament is the weekend of August 4, 5, & 6. For more information, contact Allendale Racquetball Center, 14601 Holmes, Kansas City, MO 64145.

New Jersey



Ray Capitanelli was men's open winner in October at the New Jersey State Tournament. Steve Elia took second place in the men's event. Women's winners were Gerry Rudysz, first place, and Sally Ann Devlin, second.

New Jersey

The new Kangaroo Courts in Bricktown, NJ, was host to players from all over the state Sept. 3 - Oct. 1 at the first U.S.R.A. New Jersey State Singles and Doubles tournament.

One player in the Open event clearly was the best in the field and deserving of the first state title. He was Ray Capitenelli, who plays out of the Paterson YMCA. Seeded number one Capitenelli breezed through the Open, never losing a game and never being pushed. He did it not only with a strong power game, but also with an excellent array of other shots in a thrilling semi-final match. The runner-up in the Open Singles was a 17-year-old student from North Jersey, Steve Elia. In the semi-finals he met a very tough and determined Gary Nurczyk, seeded number three, with the scores being 21-14, 17-21, 11-9. It appeared that Elia was in command, but Nurczyk, playing a gutsy game, forced it to three. Elia then went on to win the tie-breaker and enter the finals. In the finals Capitenelli shot his way over Elia 21-14, 21-9. Third place in the Open went to second seed John Farrell. Kieth Wentz won the consolation round.

This was the first tournament for the 12 women who entered the Women's Singles event. Gerry Rudysz, the number one seed, became the first New Jersey state women's champion. Sally Ann

Devlin defeated Connie Serkin in a thrilling semi-final match. In the finals Rudysz defeated Devlin 21-14, 21-16. Third place went to Connie Serkin. The consolation was won by Cira Nickerson, who had only played three months.

The B Singles was the largest category, with more than 30 joining in the action. The finals match was a case of David and Goliath — only Goliath won with Don Betz defeating Jeff Serkin 21-10, 21-14. Betz' excellent combination of kills and passes proved to be too much for the aggressive Serkin. Bob Backer captured third place and Terry Bogan took the consolation.

The Men's Senior Singles, with the biggest draw of the competition, produced some hot and heavy play ending with Fred Lettec the winner. Lettec, in his first tournament and after only one year of play, beat Joe Mace 21-20, 21-19 in a 90-minute match. Third place went to John Sergentanis, and Backer captured the consolation.

The tournament was a tremendous success, due in part to the hosts, Don Burke and Jack Henry, general managers of the Kangaroo Courts. Frank Pescatore, New Jersey's U.S.R.A. director of events, ran the tournament.

—Frank Pescatore

Vermont

The first annual Pro-Am Oktoberfest Racquetball Tournament sponsored by Burlington Lincoln-Mercury and Foxxx Pools of Vermont took place Oct. 14, 15 and 16 at the Court Club in South Burlington, Vt.

Jerry Hilecher of San Diego, currently ranked Number Five in the country, posted a comeback win over 17-year-old Mike Yellen of Southfield, Mich., to take the \$1,000 first place money. Yellen took the first game with a score of 21-19. Hilecher came back to win the second 21-20, and Hilecher pulled out the tiebreaker 11-8.

In the open doubles Yellen and Seve Mondry of San Diego took the final when Hilecher was forced to retire with severe leg cramps. Hilecher was teamed with Jerry Zuckerman of St. Louis, MO.

Paul Adams of Portland, ME, defeated Jeff Haddam of Avon, Conn., 21-8 and 21-19 for the B singles title. In the C singles Burlington's Peter Hawks defeated Peter Meyer of New York 21-5, 21-7. Steve Veilleux of Canton, N.Y. edged Steve Larrabee of Portland, ME, for the juniors title. Mary Dee of Burlington won over Karen Bednarski also of Burlington in the women's division. First prize for the women was \$75, and second was \$25.

Quarter-finals: J. Hilecher d. B. Burnett 21-4, 21-8; S. Mondry d. D. Moore 21-8, 21-6; M. Yellen d. P. Lazure 21-2, 21-6; J. Zuckerman d. M. McDonough 21-16, 21-15.

Semi-finals: J. Hilecher d. S. Mondry 19-21, 21-5, 11-4; M. Yellen d. J. Zuckerman 21-14, 21-18.

Finals: J. Hilecher d. M. Yellen 19-21, 21-20, 11-8.



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Washington

Dr. "Bud" Mueheisen won the open singles and doubles in the fourth World Racquetball Championship Aug. 4-7 at Eastern Washington University in Cheney, WA. In the Open Singles, Dr. "Bud" made it through his Red League round robin play with no losses and only one scare; that coming from Portland's Bob Lund (21-18). The win provided him the opportunity to play Houston's Jim Austin in the Sunday Open Singles Championship. Jim also was undefeated in the Blue League. This was the setting of a superb match since Jim had just recently dethroned Dr. "Bud" as USRA senior singles champion. It was a "sweet" win for Dr. "Bud" as he won 21-12, 15-21, 11-7. Morgan Sayes defeated Bob Lund in the third and fourth place battle. Dr. "Bud" also went home with the first place doubles trophy as he teamed with Dave Retter of Spokane. They easily defeated Trey and Morgan Sayes of Salt Lake 21-7, 21-8.

The senior division turned out to be a real "dog scrap" with Jim Austin, Bill Candratow, Pat Colombo, Bob Peterson, Mark Wayne, and Dean Steiner fighting hard to get into the finals. Although he placed fifth in the round robin competition, Spokane's Dean Steiner found that he could play with the best as he defeated Bill Candratow and Pat Colombo in back-to-back games. After it was all over, however, Jim Austin flew home to Texas with the first place Silver Casserole. Bill Candratow was second (21-18, 21-16), Bob Peterson was third and last year's defending champion, Mark Wayne settled for fourth, (14-21, 21-17, 11-7).



Bud Mueheisen hits a backhand in front of Jim Austin in the fourth World Racquetball Championship in Cheney, Wa.

Bob McNamara defeated doubles partner Charley Jackson 21-8, 21-12, for the first and second place playoffs in the master's division. Pat Whitehill, tournament director, beat Edmonton's Duncan Stockwell 21-12, 21-3 for the third place trophy. Jackson and McNamara also placed third in the strong Open Doubles final by defeating Bob Lund and Ron Starkman.

The Women's Open was a weaker division this year than in the past World Tournaments with the absence of Peggy Steding, Jennifer Harding,

Janell Marriott and Alesa Moore. However, the play was vigorous and evenly matched in the round robin play and the Sunday playoffs. Vici Panzeri defeated Gina Baird in a hard fought first and second place battle on Sunday, 15-21, 21-15 and 11-9. Lynn Murdock was third and Marilyn Tonaka placed fourth.

The B - C play produced winners from Washington State and British Columbia with Wendell Talaber of Vancouver, B.C., winning the B-1 Division; Rick Murphy of Skykomish, Wa., winning the B-2 Division; Lou DeRosa of Trail, B.C., winning the C-1 Division and Jim Jackson of Spokane, winning the C-2 Division. The Women's B singles was won by Dorothy Patent of Missoula, Mt., and the B and C doubles even was won by Wayne Smyth and Wendell Talaber of Vancouver, B.C.

We are preparing to host the 1978 World Racquetball Championships so plan now to attend. The dates will be August 3, 4, 5, and 6. Looking forward to seeing you next year!!

Washington

The third annual Tumwater Valley Racquetball Season Opener Oct. 21-23 was won by top-seeded Jeff Watson winning the Men's Open championship 21-9, 3-27, 11-9 over John Bernhardt. Watson cruised into the finals after being pushed in the quarter finals by Larry Treemantle 21-16, 21-18, and then beating Jim Miller in the semis 21-6, 21-1. Bernhardt, the third seed, battled through a tough lower bracket slipping by Gary Forrest in the semis 21-14, 20-21, 11-3, and trimming Lyn Ratliff in the quarters 21-11, 21-14. Forrest had beaten second seeded Dan Buehler in the quarters 21-18, 21-19 to advance to the semis.

Brad Furlong, who edged out Doug Tanabe in the consolation match, won the Men's B title nipping Mike Dahl in the finals 4-21, 21-20, 11-6.

In the Men's C it was Steve Wilson showing the form that will make him a threat in future tournament play, beating Tucker Thompson 21-14, 21-4. In the semis it was Thompson beating Jim Holstine 21-15, 18-21, 11-6, while Wilson edged Bill Key 21-15, 21-19. Key then beat Holstine for third and Chuck Clark clipped Don Dybeck.

Bill Key beat Henry White 21-4, 21-14 to gain the Seniors/Masters title.

The B-C Doubles team of Will Graham and Rick Murphy beat Russ Gies and Jeff Eberle.

In the Women's Intermediate (the Open division was not held for lack of players) Kris Lindskog beat Elaine Mannaku in a thrilling three-game match 21-10, 18-21, 11-10, coming back from 1-10 in the tiebreaker.

In a division originally intended to be filled for light, fun play the Mixed Doubles drew incredibly tough teams. Jim Miller and Pat DeNeui won the championship 21-11, 21-4 over 16-year-old Mark Thompson and 15-year-old Leslie Lindskog.

Notes of the tourney: A racquetball clinic put on Sunday morning by Jerry Hilecher and Jennifer Harding was a highlight of the weekend. Thanks go to Leach Industries for their T-shirts and to Seamco for their supply of 558 balls.

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Utah

The fourth annual Rocky Mountain Racquetball Championships — otherwise known as the Wild Bunch Open — were held Oct. 20 - 22 in Salt Lake City, UT. Two hundred and twelve entries from six states competed in five singles and two doubles classifications.

In the Open Singles Trey Sayes, 1974 Open Singles champion, and semi-finalist and tournament director in 1975 and 1976, returned to capture the title he lost to Dave Charlson of San Diego in 1975. Bill Dunn of San Francisco, Open Singles champion for 1976, elected not to return to defend his title. Trey defeated his brother, Morgan, 1976 Utah State Champ 21-11, 16-21, 11-2 in the finals Paul Boman defeated Gary Mazeroff, New Mexico State champion, for third place.

In the B Singles Roger Moore defeated ol' Luzell Wilde 21-16, 21-17 in the finals for the B title. Luzell, who is 58 years old, often has difficulty finding competition in the older age division, and so competes in B Singles events much to the chagrin of competitors who are 40 years younger. Philosophy Professor Paul Haanstadt used his head in defeating Burt Sanchez for third place.

16 year old Robert Rankin, an aspiring concert pianist, managed to get his priorities in order and captured his first racquetball title by defeating Kevin Keller 21-11, 21-8 in the C Singles. Bruce Crowther defeated Bill Vickery for third place.

In the Senior Singles Air Force Sergeant, Bob McNabb, utilizing his soft corner pinches and deft push passes, swept by Jerry Hodson 21-6, 21-16. Hodson pulled the upset of the tournament by beating top-seed, Rick Warner, in the Semi-finals 21-3, 21-17.

Police Academy student, Lorraine Killpack, left the range long enough to compete in her first tournament and returned to the range with a first-place win over USU student, Marianne Lambert, 21-16, 21-9 in the Women's B Singles. Sibling rivalry came to a head in a titanic two-hour struggle for third place, when Mellisa Koerner eked out a win over her sister, Bobby Anne, 21-19, 13-21, 11-5.

In the Novice Singles university student, Robert Malheiro, squeaked by Air Force Captain, Herb Martin, 21-18, 18-21, 11-7. Third place was awarded to Marianne Lambert, who rebounded from her loss in the finals of the Women's B



Trey Sayes, left, defeated his brother, Morgan, to win the Wild Bunch Open.

division and wrought havoc upon the dome of law professor, Mike Zimmerman, 21-4, 21-13.

Trey and Morgan Sayes continued to dominate Rocky Mountain doubles play by defeating Drew Stoddard and Paul Boman for the Open Doubles title. Third place was garnered by the unlikely team of Janell Marriott and New Mexico's very own Steve Stribling, over the dynamic duo of Gary Mazeroff and Eric Sanchez. Bob McNabb, playing in his last B Division event, teamed with Tom Nystrom to defeat the cousins Hodson, Gene and Jerry, 11-21, 21-3, 11-7, for the title B Doubles. Third place was captured by Professor Paul Haanstadt and Dave Bernacki over Bob Nicholas and Dr. Cliff Goff.

California

The Naval Support Activity Los Angeles-Long Beach hosted the third annual All Services Racquetball Invitational Tournament for military personnel and women dependents, from September 30 through October 2. Forty-five men and women participated in six categories: Men's Novice, Men's Intermediate and Women's Open Singles and Doubles divisions. The tournament was a true double elimination competition with players in the losers' bracket in each division playing numerous matches in attempting to capture titles.

Players from the Marine Corps Base, Twenty-Nine Palms, stole the show along with seven of the awards. Major Gary Meyers and his touring "racquetball sergeants" proved to be favorites for this tournament. Major Meyers defeated ENS Jim Stavridis, USS HEWITT in the finals, after splitting the previous two matches played in the Men's Intermediate Singles division. Marine Corps Base, Twenty-Nine Palms, took first and second place in Men's Intermediate Doubles with Major Meyers and MSGT John Ewadinger defeating MSGT Ray Lopez and SGT Ron Sanzone for first place honors.

The Marines came through in Men's Novice, capturing the one and two spots, with SSGT Douglas Pearson defeating GYSGT Doug Bell, both of MCB Twenty-Nine Palms. Naval Support Activity hopefuls performed well in Novice Doubles, with HM2 Armando Galarza and CW02 Raynold Rangle, NAVSUPACT Dispensary taking first over Naval Regional Dental Clinic players DT1 Skip Wheeler and DT2 John Garrett.

For the first time the All Services Racquetball Invitational Tournament included two divisions for women. After starting slowly, with only seven women players, the excitement grew rapidly. First place in women's doubles was won by Karen Nussman and SN Sandy Rehwinkel over Jan Slack and Cecile Harvey.

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Illinois

The Courts on 22, a racquetball and tennis club located on Half Day Road (Route 22) in Bannockburn, IL., hosted an open racquetball tournament September 16 - 18, attracting over 200 players in eight divisions. Hope Weisbach, head racquetball pro at the club, organized the tournament and was assisted by Bill Feigen, veteran tournament player, and Greg Goluska, club manager, and his staff.

The 14 man Open draw was headed by Bob Deuster who is beginning to make a habit of coming in first. Bob was very effective, winning each of his three matches in two games. He eliminated Dan Bertolucci in the quarters, 21-6, 21-11, Dan having come off a tough 11-8 tie-breaker win over Loren Stern. In the semi's he downed an impressive Bob VanTuyle 21-17 in the first game, and locked it up 21-2 in the second game when Van Tuyle began skipping. Deuster remained hot as usual and took the finals in two straight over his normally tough opponent Ric Dern, 21-1, 21-19. Ric couldn't find the rhythm in game one, but he caught fire in the second and almost sent it into a tie-breaker. Dern, the number two seed, had reached the finals with hard-fought victories over Steve Butler, 21-18, 12-21, 11-2, and Jim Scheyer, 21-15, 21-18. Bob Van Tuyle came back smoking in the match for third place, dropping Scheyer 21-5, 15-21, 11-8. The consolation bracket was won by Graham Moore, 21-19, 21-15 over Dave Millazo.

Hope Weisbach, number one seed in this field of 11, won the Women's Open in the tournament she had worked so hard to organize. In her semi-final match she faced Ade Crabtree who had won an intense first round match from Judy Ripp of Evanston, 21-19, 21-20. Ade was fired up and played very aggressively in game one, but Hope got hot near the end and won 21-15, followed by a 21-8 win in game two, thanks to a more consistent kill shot and quicker floor game. The championship match was a repeat as Hope took about half the game to overcome the pressure being applied by Sheryl Weiss of Evanston. At 14-12 Hope started rolling them out and didn't stop until the match was over, 21-12, 21-7. Sheryl was tired from grueling wins over Debbie Darlington, 20-21, 21-14, 11-8 and Barbara Edelstein, 21-20, 21-11, and just could not maintain the pace. Edelstein defeated Crabtree for third place, 21-12, 15-21, 11-2. In the consolation bracket Judy Ripp made a strong comeback to take top prize 12-21, 21-10, 11-5.

The Men's Senior division had one of the larger draws, a field of 31. Shelly Clar, perennial contender for numero uno, fell short this time at the hands of Lee Duda from Chicago. Duda, better known as "Zippity" to his friends, maintained his poise after blowing a 20-11 lead in game one, and came back to win it, 20-21, 21-9, 11-7. Duda did it with wins over Tom Monk 31-13 in the first round, 21-14, 21-7 over Lee Baldwin in

the second round, 21-8, 21-14 over Tim Plum in the quarters, and 21-15, 21-16 over number three seed Tom Street in the semi's. Shelly had no trouble getting to the finals as he blasted Al Mazz 21-5, 21-4 in the second round, overcame Ron Paul 21-18, 21-11 in the quarters and knocked out Saul Sandoval 21-9, 21-14 in the semi's. In the match for third place a diving Tom Street came up short, "falling" to the steady-hitting Saul Sandoval, 21-16, 21-19. Tom was body-surfing all over the court to get Saul's dumps and passes, but he couldn't get enough of them. It has been rumored that Al Shetzer, Tom's business and racquetball partner, is starting a fund to design and build a surfboard on wheels to make it easier for Street to get around the court for those tough shots.

The consolation bracket was won by Tom Monk over Dan Day, 21-20, 21-11.

There were some exciting matches in the Men's B division, starting with the upset of number one seed Spencer Karlin who lost to Marty Kalin in a close contest. Unseeded Stuart Rothstein, who, when allowed to use his forehand, is a one-man demolition squad, went all the way to the number one spot. In the quarter-finals of this 42 man draw, Rothstein beat Bob Abruscato 21-9, 21-9. He had a tougher match in the semi-finals when he faced Jim Harper of Evanston. Jim junk served Stuart to his backhand and kept him off-balance in the first game, 16-21. In a thrilling second game, Stuart, who manages to be everywhere at the same time, held on for a 21-20 win. In the tie-breaker it was all Rothstein, 11-2. Marshall Waldo was his opponent in the finals, and Marshall, extremely fatigued from his marathon semi-final win over Rob Farkas 21-15, 4-21, 11-10, gave it a valiant try but couldn't keep away from Rothstein's forehand and succumbed 21-14, 21-10. The match for third place was a battle to see which player could stay on his feet the longest, and Jim Harper outlasted Rob Farkas, 21-16, 21-19. In the consolation bracket Spencer Karlin bounced back from his upset loss and went all the way to defeat Joe Penkrot for the championship, 21-6, 21-11.

Colleen Shields, number two seed, had only one tough hurdle as she shot her way to the Women's B title in this field of 17. Winning her first two rounds 31-6 over Ros Beaham and 21-14, 21-16 over Kay Camp, Colleen came up against Pat Lodygood who put up a real fight before succumbing 21-12, 16-21, 11-2. In the finals Colleen was very sharp as she dispatched Claudette Loizzo 21-17, 21-12. Claudette had upset number one seed Jackie Jost in the semi's, 21-17, 21-12. Jackie was awarded third place when Pat Lodygood had to default. Mary Carlson took first place honors in the consolation bracket.

The Men's C division drew the greatest number of participants, and number one seed Marc Sloten came through the field of 51 unscathed. Playing a deliberate, controlled passing offense, Marc scored victories over Bob Howard, 31-18, Tony Minorini, 21-4, 21-4, Tracy Powell, 17-21, 21-4, 11-1 in the quarters, Jim Verhaege by injury

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default, and a final victory over Brent Ayre, 21-11, 21-7. Ayre worked his way through the lower bracket with wins over Martin Olsen, 31-11, Bob Roden, 21-12, 21-9, number two seed Jim Cartwright in a thrilling 19-21, 21-18, 11-5 quarter-final match and a narrow 21-12, 21-20 win over Gary Meisner in the semi's. Meisner was awarded third place when Verhaege was unable to play. John Rapp took the consolation bracket honors with a 21-12, 21-7 victory over Howard Tolchin.

Unseeded Kip Kendler surprised many in the Women's C 19 entry-event as she doggedly pursued the top prize, only to fall short in the championship match, 21-16, 21-20 to Joan Rogers of Evanston. Joan, indefatigable on the court, just kept hitting the ball hard when her kill shot wasn't working, and the combination wore her opponents down. She scored a first round victory over Sue Cherry, 31-8, nipped Cathy Nemeth in the quarters, 21-13, 21-20, surprised Mary Precht in the Semi's, 21-8, 21-8, and then scored her impressive come-from-behind win in the finals. She trailed Kip 11-20 in game two, but slowly worked her way back and the pressure mounted on both players. Joan just kept digging and Kip couldn't get that last rollout, so Joan captured the title. Kip had scored tremendous pressure wins in the quarter's and semi's over number one seed Pat Kellinski 19-21, 21-11, 11-3, and number four seed Mary Brosius 18-21, 21-5, 11-9, but the third one in a row was too much for her. Brosius defeated Precht for third place, 21-12, 21-5. The consolation bracket was won by Penny Polarinahis, a first round loser to Mary Precht.

A field of 17 Juniors went at it tooth and nail, and when the dust cleared, number one seed Andy Witt was on top once again. The intense young competitor was not headed until the finals, as he cruised to victories over Mark Baum, 31-11, Marc O'Donnell, 21-3, 21-5, and Brad Shanks, 21-6, 21-5. In the finals Dan Murray from Janesville gave Andy all he could handle in two games, which they split, 19-21, 21-19, but Andy collected himself and put great pressure on Dan in the tie-breaker when he got off to a fast start. Dan could not recover as Andy took it 11-1. Dan, the number two seed, also had a clear path to the finals with wins over Jeff Hacker, 31-9, Chris Warning, 21-5, 21-5 and Tom Keefe, 21-10, 21-17. Keefe wrested third place honors from Brad Shanks 21-3, 21-11. The consolation bracket was won by Gordon Gallagher of Evanston in a closely contested match with Jack Newman.

— Jim Harper

Florida

On the Labor Day weekend (Sept. 3-5) the Brevard Racquetball Association and Patrick Air Force Base sponsored what they believe to be the first racquetball tournament for the benefit of muscular dystrophy. The unique feature of this tournament was that, other than the direct cost of running the tournament, all proceeds went to the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

After the tournament, Mike Mojer, president, Brevard Racquetball Association, traveled to Daytona Beach and presented a check for \$518 to the Jerry Lewis Telethon.

Tournament Results:

Open Doubles: Randy Hines (Ft. Lauderdale) and Gerry Sherlock (Melbourne) defeated Erroll Potter (Jacksonville), and Jim Adkins (Daytona Beach); 3rd Place Percy Philman (Rockledge) and John Brugger (Melbourne) defeated Mike Mojer (Patrick AFB) and Don Donoghue (Orlando).

"B" Doubles: Jeff Leon and Joe Icaza (Ft. Lauderdale) defeated Bill Prescott and Tim O'Rourke (Ft. Lauderdale); 3rd Place — John Hadaway and Scott Hunziker (Ft. Lauderdale) defeated Russell Latimer and Ted True (Patrick AFB).

Open Consolation: Dale Hasner and Roy Kingery (Palm Bay) defeated Herb Nathan (Satellite Beach) and John Hinkamp (Melbourne).

"B" Consolation: Nathan and Hinkamp defeated Gio Tomasini and Allen Sobel (Orlando).

Gerry Sherlock and Randy Hines.



Wisconsin

Each entry in the seventh annual Janesville, WI, Fall Open Oct. 14-16 received a warm-up jacket at the tournament directed by Tom Murray, with Helen Murray serving as hospitality director.

Jim Wirkus won the championship by defeating Clyde Senters 21-9, 21-19. Wirkus consistently rolled out his forehand and backhand shots during game one. In game two Senters began rolling out several himself, and had a 19-15 lead until Wirkus killed six straight shots to win.

For third place Ken Frank, of Madison, defeated Bill Schultz, of Madison, 21-11, 21-16.



Jim Wirkus meets and defeats Clyde Senters in the Janesville, WI Fall Open.

Kentucky

Steve Sulli sauntered through the field of the Wordtec Open, held the weekend of Oct. 21-23 in Louisville, pretty much unmolested. Steve, not pressed too much by anyone, handled Ron Johnson, Indianapolis, 21-13, 21-10 in the finals. The issue was not much in doubt as Johnson, who has been stretched in each of his previous matches, simply could generate no consistent attack against the stocky dynamo.

Sulli came through his half defeating Tom Marr, Hal Broderson, Bob Dabney, and Fred Michels with the loss of only one game. Johnson, ever the geriatric gymnast, defeated Dave Brown, Louisville, 9-21, 21-19, 11-10 in the second round after Dave had squandered four match points. Johnson then beat John Barrett, Champaign, 21-20, 21-18 and Dave Fleischaker before bowing Sunday afternoon to Sulli. The finals may have been an anti-climax.

Not only were the host Kentuckians treated rudely in the Open, but also in the Women's Open. Ingrid Montecino, the Indiana State champ, completely dominated the field, easily defeating Holly Rentz, Lexington, in the final, 21-4, 21-4. Lynn Simon, Louisville, was third,

defeating 12-year-old wunderkind Bobbi Brennan, of Frankfort, who herself is getting stronger and stronger. This was a very strong field with Trish Morpew and Lu Ann Gifford, both of Ohio, beginning to come on. Jane Pritchett, of Anderson, In., continues as a force to be reckoned with.

Bob Slick of Aurora pulled out a tight B finals over Mike Lykins of Ashland in a match nobody could quite believe was between two B players. Was Kentucky never to get into the win column?

But wait! The cavalry, in the name of Len(ny) Wilson, saved the day. He defeated "best dressed" Tom Street, Chicago, convincingly in the finals. Tom, color coordinated to the nth degree, and Len had what many believe to be the loudest collision of the tourney. Each was laid out on court for about 10 minutes. Each received suitable servings of female sympathy. It must not have helped. Tex Boggs defeated Bill Emnett for third. Both Kentucky players — finally.

In the Masters, Don Detjen and Ike Gumer played another inevitable final. This time Don came out on top.

We had a C division both in men's and women's play. It was, by far, the largest tourney ever held in Kentucky, with 211 entrants. We occupied eight courts at the Louisville YMCA for 38 weekend hours. It was super. Thanks to everyone who had a hand.

Results

Men's Open - Quarters: Sulli d. Dabney 21-12, 21-13. Michels d. Gilbert 21-14, 12-21, 11-6. Fleischaker d. Knauer 21-8, 21-14. Johnson d. Barrett 21-20, 21-18.

Semis: Sulli d. Michels 21-15, 10-21, 11-2. Johnson d. Fleischaker 21-19, 21-9.

Finals: Sulli d. Johnson 21-13, 21-10.

Third: Fleischaker d. Michels 21-7, 5-21, 11-3.

Women's Open - Quarters: Rentz d. Ernst 21-10, 21-5. Brennan d. Pritchett 21-20, 12-21, 11-6. Simon d. Morpew 21-18, 21-14. Montecino d. Gifford 21-12, 21-4.

Semis: Rentz d. Brennan 21-12, 21-8. Montecino d. Simon 21-16, 21-14.

Final: Montecino d. Rentz 21-4, 21-4.

Third: Simon d. Brennan 21-10, 21-11.

Men's B - Quarters: Klntworth d. Jones 21-12, 21-20. Slick d. Marcum 21-16, 17-21, 11-7. Marr d. Layne 21-9, 13-21, 11-10. Lykins d. Harper 21-15, 21-11.

Semis: Slick d. Klntworth 21-14, 21-8. Lykins d. Marr 21-8, 21-13.

Finals: Slick d. Lykins 9-21, 21-13, 11-8.

Third: Klntworth by default.

Men's C - Quarters: Sword d. Crowder 10-21, 21-13, 11-7. Wierwille d. Thomas 21-15, 21-9. Edwards d. Logan 11-21, 21-17, 11-9. Sanders d. Mylar 21-11, 21-3.

Semis: Wierwille d. Sword 21-12, 21-1. Edwards d. Sanders 21-20, 21-13.

Finals: Wierwille d. Edwards 21-20, 21-18.

Third: Sword d. Sanders 21-19, 21-16.

Seniors - Quarters: Wilson d. Huff 21-9, 21-13. Boggs d. Travis 21-16, 21-16. Emnett d. Solomon 21-9, 12-21, 11-9. Street d. Barasch 21-8, 21-13.

Semis: Wilson d. Boggs 21-12, 21-9. Street d. Emnett 21-9, 15-21, 11-6.

Finals: Wilson d. Street 21-6, 21-14.

Third: Boggs d. Emnett 21-12, 12-21, 11-5.

Masters - Quarters: Detjen d. Tresslar 21-6, 19-21, 11-0. Jones d. King 21-14, 21-6. Whipple d. Daines 21-9, 21-9. Gumer d. Stogsdlil 21-11, withdrew.

Semis: Detjen d. Jones 21-17, 21-16. Gumer d. Whipple 15-21, 21-6, 11-3.

Finals: Detjen d. Gumer 21-16, 21-10.

Third: Jones d. Whipple 21-9, 21-12.

Women's C - Quarters: Grosz d. Holien 21-14, 21-12. Ellett d. Slavin 21-11, 4-21, 11-4. Fenton d. Spires 8-21, 21-16, 11-9. Fisher d. Stapleton 13-21, 21-6, 11-6.

Semis: Grosz d. Ellett 21-9, 21-8. Fisher d. Fenton 21-7, 12-21, 11-3.

Finals: Grosz d. Fisher 21-12, 21-7.

Third: Fenton d. Ellett 21-10, 21-11.

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Beyond The **pen**

Whether they call themselves "Golden Oldies," "Oldies but Goodies" or "Grateful to Feel Strong Enough to Hold a Racquet" senior players are following the teens and twenties crowd onto racquetball courts.

This report from Oregon's Bruce Kelly kicks off a new feature we will run from time to time in *National Racquetball*. Send us news and clear black and white photos of over 35 players, and we'll consider the material for this section.

Racquetball has its own Golden Oldies, and they're not "Stardust," "Moonlight Serenade" and "Chattanooga Choo Choo."

Nationally ranked Jennifer Harding attracted a sizable crowd when she put two Golden Oldies into play at the opening of the Milwaukie (OR.) Racquetball Club. The over-55 players were Dr. Lawrence Bernard and Bruce Kelly.

Dentist Bernard has spent much of the past 15 years personally directing and financially supporting AAU Men's Basketball, Volleyball, Baseball, and Bowling teams, as well as Women's Softball teams. Primarily through his efforts many of the teams won regional and national titles.

Maestro Kelly, Portland business and civic leader, is founder and director of The New Oregon Singers. The 60-voice entertainment chorale has travelled to every continent on goodwill tours for the United States and has presented performances before Princess Grace in Monaco and the Queen of Thailand in Bangkok.

So, the scene was set! . . . Dr. Bernard, a former state ranked handballer, vs. Maestro Kelly, a former seeded state badminton player. Both converted, dedicated and new believers in the upstart game of racquetball. Both were in top form. Two games to 21 with a third game 11 point tie-breaker.

The match began! It was apparent that the proficiency level was far from shabby. A dazzling array of low drive serves, ceiling balls, cross court passing shots, corner pinch shots and z-balls delighted the spectators, who cheered for their favorite.

The intense pace continued until 40 minutes later Kelly had the game 21-12.

Two minutes rest? What's time to a senior citizen? No times out in the first

game and now wanting no more than a towel-off before the second game? What are these men made of? Younger men might have faltered!

Game two began, the score seesawed, the initiative ebbed and flowed as did the banter from player to player, player to audience and back again. No times out! Forty-two minutes and game two went to the dentist 21-19. Two games, an hour and twenty-two minutes of sparkling play. Golden masters definitely do have their place in this new sport that is sweeping the country. . . But I digress . . . For neither player would settle for one game each. Club manager Milt Sharp quietly ask if he should send for the emergency disaster unit or stand by with oxygen.

On to the third game tie-breaker, more cheers from the audience, more gamesmanship from the players intermingled with their innovative play. The end came close. It had been a fascinating encounter which either could have won . . . The 11th point was an ace wall hugger to the backhand of Dr. Bernard.

Yahoo! The maestro felt like singing!

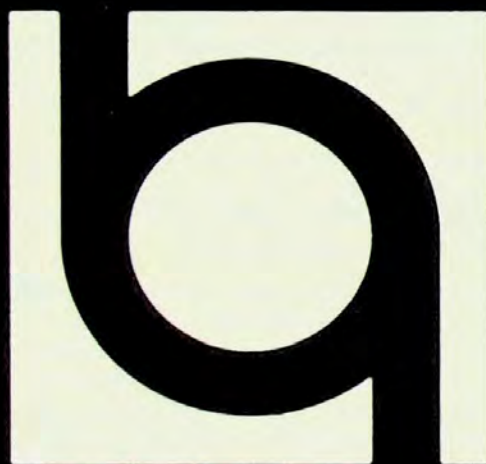
The dentist felt down in the mouth, as Kelly's last zinger ricocheted round the court. Isn't that where a dentist should be anyway?

Yes, Golden Oldies and Golden Masters are here to stay! ●

— Bruce Kelly

Jennifer Harding, center, nationally ranked racquetball pro, matched up Lawrence Bernard, left, and Bruce Kelly for an exhibition tussle at the new Milwaukie, OR., Racquetball Club.





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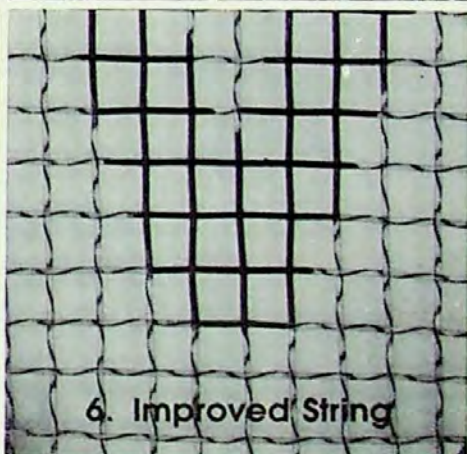
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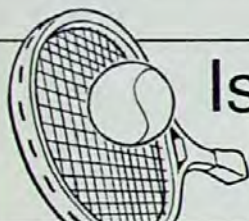
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Racquetball

In The News!

Starting with this story from *The Chicago Tribune* of Oct. 19, 1977, we'll be giving *National Racquetball* readers a chance to see what the general press is saying about our sport. Let us know if your town's paper carries racquetball news you think would interest players in other parts of the country.



Is tennis a match for racquetball?

In Venture



Reprinted, courtesy of the Chicago Tribune



A new boss of the racquets in Chicago

by Mike Conklin

Judy Calvey, A tennis novice at the time, tried it and liked it. Now she does it all the time.

Bob Breckenridge, a tennis pro, also tried it and liked it. Now he gives instruction in it.

Jeff Kaiser, a tennis club manager, predicted it would never last. Now he's in the business.

Even Nelson Campbell, a Chicago District Tennis Association (CDTA) official, gave it a whirl once just to see what all the fuss was over. He thought it was fun — but that's as far as he'll commit himself.

So what's causing all the stir?

It's Racquetball, probably the nation's — and surely Chicagoland's — fastest-growing indoor sport.

In just five years racquetball has replaced tennis as the Chicago area's No. 1 racquet sport.

Figures do not always tell the story in these debates because it isn't easy to distinguish the serious players from those who pick up a racquet once or twice a year.

But just for the record: CDTA president Pat Freebody says there are about 100,000 Chicagoland tennis players who can be considered more than casual; Chuck Leve, United States Racquetball Association (USRA) national director, says there are approximately 125,000 to 150,000 here in his sport.

Tennis definitely has the edge in local facilities, considering the number of places to play for free in park districts and schools. However, racquetball is getting close in the number of private clubs that have mushroomed in the city and suburbs. In addition, some tennis clubs have added racquetball courts to cash in on the popularity.

Perhaps more significant than current numbers are projections for the future.

Tennis has leveled following a period of phenomenal growth both nationally and in Chicago.

"I would be very surprised if someone said it is not," Freebody said.

"Everybody agreed it was bound to happen. Until this year, there didn't seem to be any slackening. But '77 was the first year people began saying: 'Oh, oh, not everyone's showing up for court time.' "

Tennis experienced its greatest overall growth from 1972 through 1975 — and possibly 1976. In the last nine years, it has gone from 8 million to 36 million participants with the help of television, big tournaments, scholastic competition, and pro circuits and leagues.

"Tennis is still awfully big, but it's definitely at a plateau," said Campbell, CDTA publicist and head man at River Trails Tennis Club.

"Lessons were down this year throughout the Chicago area," he added. "I think there are fewer partially because those who haven't chosen what they want to do might be going to racquetball. "It's winning a lot of converts among those looking for a winter sport."

In fact, racquetball is winning converts so fast the association can barely keep count.

"The tennis industry recognizes that racquetball is digging into its market," Leve said. "We downplay that almost to the point of ignoring it because we were helped by tennis. Tennis made this country racquet conscious over the last 10 years."

The USRA, the sport's biggest and most influential organization, has been around since 1968, when it held its first national tournament in Milwaukee. The private clubs have been on the scene here only since 1972; before that most of the action was on YMCA and college courts.

Nevertheless, the sport's growth doubled every year from 1970 to 1973. Two years ago a Nielsen survey showed there were 2.9 million players, and by the end of 1977 it is estimated there will be 6 million.

"We're still in our big growth years in this area . . . and there are so many

areas where it hasn't even begun," said Leve. "It's for sure we haven't leveled off."

There are a number of reasons racquetball is bumping tennis as Chicagoland's No. 1 racquet sport, while leaving handball and many others in its wake.

Judy Calvey, manager of the Apple Corps, an educational materials store in Skokie, probably sums it up best. "I took tennis lessons and played once or twice a week for about a year," she said. "I found you have to be very good at tennis before you get anything out of it.

"I think I'm getting a lot more exercise playing racquetball. It's such a simple game to get into, and it's easy to find people at your own level. I've converted a lot of my friends because they were getting pretty discouraged with tennis, too.

"You can really play a vigorous game of racquetball without much experience. You get a lot more exercise than you'd get chasing tennis balls all over the court."

Most club managers and pros think racquetball's simplicity is what is so appealing to those taking up the sport.

"It's so much quicker to learn," said Warren Smith of The Right Club in Schaumburg. "We found that some simply couldn't develop the necessary skills for tennis, and when we put them in a racquetball program they loved it. They could play immediately. It didn't take the time it takes to develop skills in tennis.

"You can tell the sport is going to be a big success by the number of clubs going up."

There are 45 racquetball clubs in the Chicago area, according to Leve, and "about 10 to 15 opened in the last year."

In the case of Jeff Kaiser's Lakeshore Racquet Club in Chicago, it was a matter of adding the courts to an established tennis facility.

"We'll be opening nine courts real soon in addition to our 10 already existing for tennis," he said. "We haven't had to sell at all. We just put a few ads in the paper and on the radio for our racquetball, and we were afraid for a while we'd have to turn people away. We haven't opened our racquetball doors yet and already 2,000 will take advantage of our introductory offer.

"You can just feel the intensity in this sport. It's like tennis was five years ago. I originally predicted a couple of years ago I thought the sport wouldn't make it. Boy, was I wrong."

Most of those who come to racquetball from tennis are beginners. "I'm sure those who've invested a lot of time and money in tennis aren't about to switch," explained Turk Glazebrook, pro at the Court of the Phoenix, a new club being resurrected from an old warehouse near De Paul University.

"The game can sell itself to people from any background," Glazebrook said. "It's good enough to stand on its own feet."

Racquetball, which has little going for it like tennis in the way of junior programs, gets most of its strength from young adults interested in fitness, competition, and the amenities offered in many new clubs such as coed sundecks, whirlpools, saunas, restaurants, cocktail lounges, and plush locker facilities.

"In the end, the sport just seems to epitomize the American way of doing things," said Leve. "It's hard and fast, and then you move on to the next thing you want to do that way.

"Racquetball has taken a lot of the best aspects of other racquet sports without their limitations. Once you start playing, all the good exercise and emotional release you want occurs within an hour compared to the four hours of golf or who knows how much time at tennis.

"You're right back on the job in no time." ●

National Racquetball

EXTRA!

Bledsoe, Wright Sign With Wilson

Wilson Sporting Goods Co. is pleased to announce that Davey Bledsoe and Shannon Wright have joined the Wilson racquetball advisory staff. Bledsoe is currently the 1977 NRC Men's Singles champion and Wright is 1977 Women's professional champion.

Bledsoe, on the signing of his contract with Wilson, said "I am pleased to be associated with Wilson, the number one sporting goods manufacturer. I feel Wilson's entry into the fastest-growing sport in America is an indication that racquetball will soon reach a level of national prominence."

Ken Harkness, general manager of Wilson Racquet Sports, said "Wilson is particularly pleased to have the two number one singles champions on its staff."



Ken Harkness, left, and
Davey Bledsoe

USRA Amateur Prize Money Limit Raised to \$1,000

The U.S. Racquetball Association has announced that effective immediately, the maximum amount of prize money that can be earned by a player and still allow that player to retain his or her amateur standing is \$1,000.

The USRA only recognizes prize money earned at tournaments sanctioned by the National Racquetball Club (NRC). Currently the only pro tournaments with the NRC sanction are included on the Colgate-Seamco-Leach pro tour.

The USRA feels that with the prize money awarded on that tour being double this season over last, that many amateurs are winning small amounts of prize money that could have made them "pros" using the \$500 rule as in the past.

"We feel the \$1,000 limit will be a good rule," said USRA spokesman Terry Fancher. "Once a player wins more than that, he or she must be designated a professional and will thereby be ineligible for USRA events for one year."

Man of the Year Award Goes to Racquetball Champ

Jim DiVito, who directed Chicago's first professional racquetball tournament in 1974, was honored recently at a dinner naming him Duncan YMCA's Man of the Year.

DiVito, park supervisor for the Chicago Park District, was commended for promoting sports in Park District programs. He has encouraged men and women of all

ages to play handball and racquetball in Park District facilities.

DiVito won the 1975 and 1976 Illinois State Masters (45 and over) and USRA National Golden Masters (55 and over) doubles championships with Sam Rizzio. DiVito was national singles champion in the Golden Masters in 1975 and second place winner in 1976.

YOOHOO Spells Victory in Ft. Lauderdale

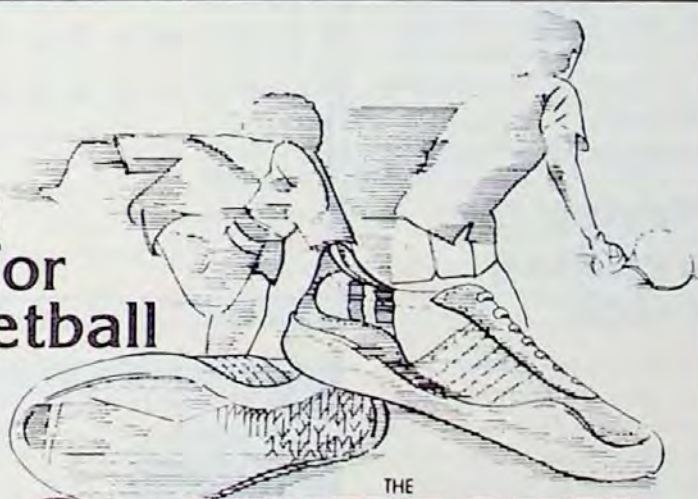
"Yoohoo" is the victory cry of a group of men and women playing at Ft. Lauderdale's Supreme Court Sports Center. The players began using the call whenever they scored a point or a victory and soon it became traditional for the loser to buy a "Yoohoo" chocolate drink for the winner of a match.

That informal endorsement of the beverage led the local Yoohoo bottling company to sponsor a group of Supreme Court players at tournaments in nearby towns. Dressed in yellow and blue T-shirts imprinted with the Yoohoo trademark and quaffing a case of the drink, the Supreme Court team has been piling up victories and expects more wins in 1978.

A story in the November Glamour

Chicago TV's Channel 7 newsreporter, Rosemarie Gulley, was one of more than 700 people who wrote to U.S. Racquetball Association asking for an official rule book after a story appeared in the November issue of *Glamour* magazine. The article, calling racquetball "one of the latest additions to the racquet sports family — growing in popularity throughout the country," informed *Glamour* readers that a third of the five million players are women and explained the basics of the game. *Glamour* is one of many national publications — including *Time*, *Horizon* and *Sports Illustrated* — that have given editorial coverage to Racquetball.

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Playing the Wedding Match

Off to a traditional start minutes after the marriage ceremony Mack Hathaway beat his bride, Sue, in the match following their June wedding at the Dayton (OH) Court House. Miamisburg Mayor Robert Mears officiated.



Racquetball Puzzle

by Gordon Gallagher

Gordon is a 16-year-old player who works at the Evanston (Ill) Court Club after school and on weekends.

The Rules: Find the words in the puzzle going in any direction (horizontal, vertical or diagonal) forwards or backwards. Circle them as you find them and find as many as you can.

GOOD LUCK!!

The Words

Ace
Backhands
Ceiling shot
Crotch ball
Dink
Donut
Drive serve
Forehands
Garbage (serve)
Kill shot
Lessons
Lob (serve)
Long
Novice
N.R.C.
Pain
Pass (shot)
Photon
Pro
Racquetball
Rollout
Seeded
Short
Skip
Three walls
U.S.R.A.
Z ball
Pinch shot

O R P B A C K H A N D S B A L
C R N E G A B R A G R D K O O
C K O R E H C N A F I C N I B
R I V T U O L L O R V G F E P
O L I P A S S I H G E R I S H
T L C J S E E D E D S H O R T
C S E S N O S S E L E E T H F
H H I L E C H E R K R C U O O
B O Y O C C M A R S U A N G R
A T O H S G N I L I E C O A E
L Y N C H N O T O H P K D N H
L L A B T E U Q C A R N N F A
A M L T O H S H C N I P A I N
B S M A I L L I W H P L O N D
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winning racquetball

Arthur Shay with Chuck Leve

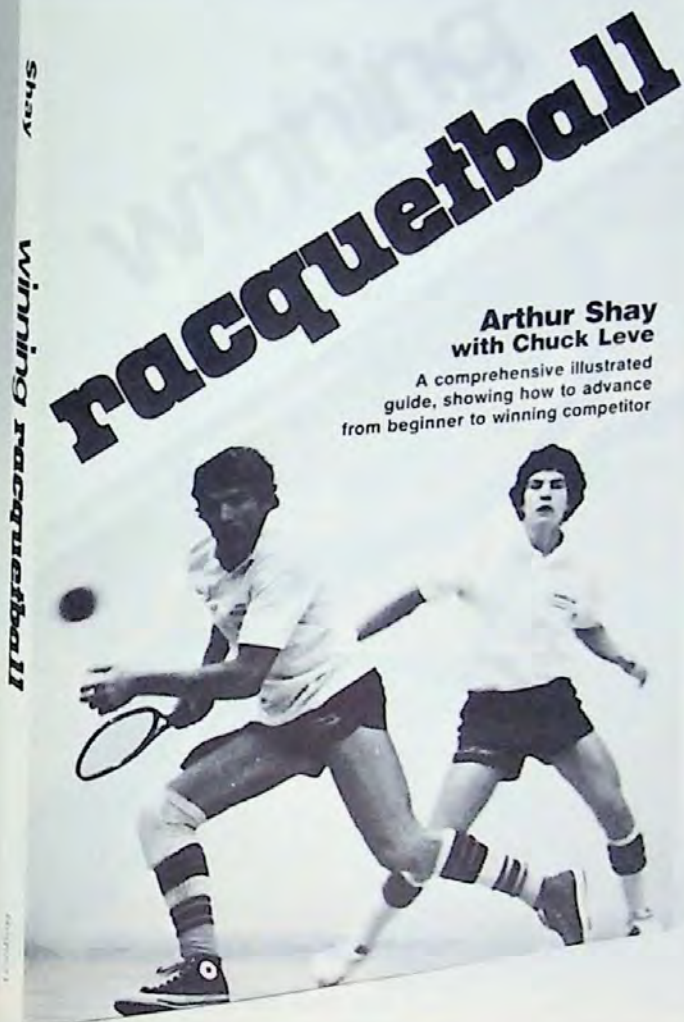
Winning Racquetball is intended for beginning players seeking shortcuts to racquetball competence as well as those who have achieved the competence required to enter local club tournaments and last at least a round or two.

Building on the basics, Shay and Leve cover such areas as the mental attitudes required to win tournaments; how to get into supershape for racquetball; how to use your limitations (fatigue, for example) as advantages; and how to play against someone who is trying to out-psych you. There are winning suggestions for every department of play.

Proven racquetball winners, such as Steve Keeley, Steve Serot, Sue Carow, Kathy Williams, Charlie Brumfield, Bill Schmidtke, Ron Rubenstein, and racquetball's 19-year-old superstar Marty Hogan, are photographed in action and quoted throughout to illustrate the points made in the text.

Winning Racquetball will lead the racquetball enthusiast to the level of competence and beyond into tournament excellence.

Arthur Shay is a former *Life* and *Time* writer and *Sports Illustrated* photographer. He is the author-photographer of thirty-one books. Chuck Leve is the author of *Inside Racquetball* and the National Director and editor of *National Racquetball* magazine, the official publication of the United States Racquetball Association and the National Racquetball Club, Inc.



Foreword by Robert W. Kendler, President, United States Racquetball Association

Please send me _____ copy(ies) of WINNING RACQUETBALL at \$4.95 each plus 50¢ postage and handling for each book ordered. Illinois residents kindly add 5% sales tax; California residents please add 6% sales tax. NO CASH OR C.O.D.'s accepted—please send check.

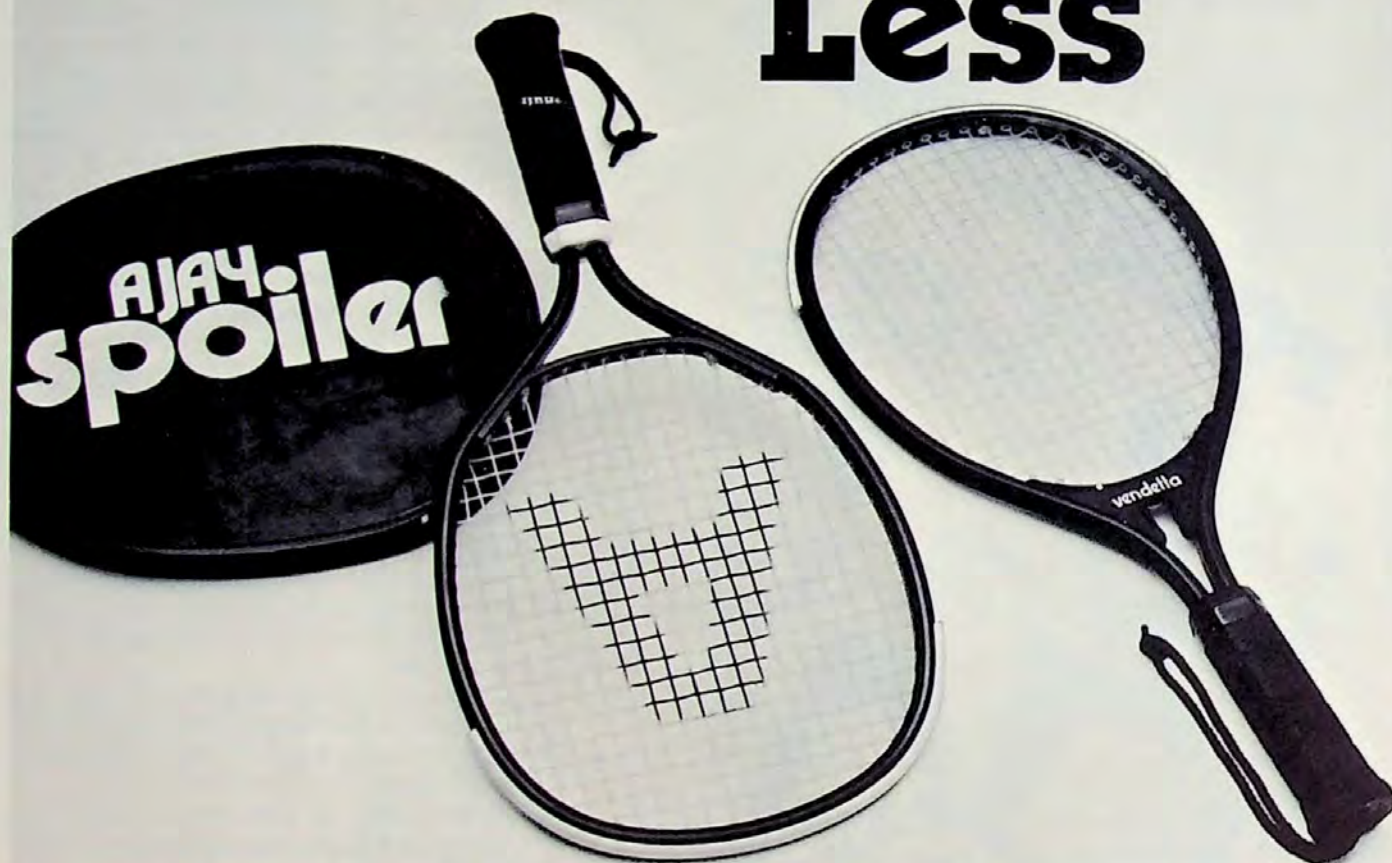
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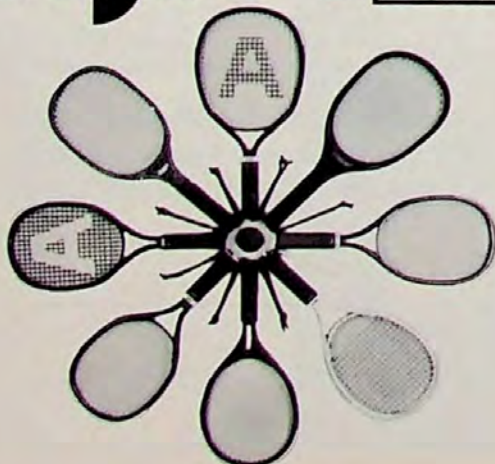
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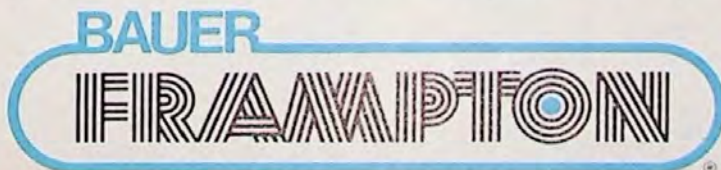
How to find investment security in a racquetball court.

Protect yourself. Don't invest in racquetball construction which may cost less today but which falls apart in a year or so. Talk to us. We provide complete consultation services, answer all your questions and help you plan your investment so you and your partners

know what's going on and what to expect every step of the way.

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also provides ceiling and total lighting and glass capability. You can find investment security and high profit return from your racquetball courts when you let Bauer Frampton build your courts and help plan your project. Call or write for complete information.



Referee Chuck Leve keeps Brum and Hogan loose with pre-match chatter while checking game balls.



Hogan lines up a back wall plum in the finals.



Photos of the New York pro tournament #2 by Arthur Shay.



Put A Tent Over It



Marty Hogan is a lot like Muhammed Ali, — you never know when he's serious, when he's fooling around or when he's in trouble.

At the season's second stop on the Colgate Pro Tour, held in Westbury, NY., a stone's throw away from the Big City, Hogan again topped the ladder, stopping arch-rival Charlie Brumfield in the finals.

But this win was different from many of his past wins — Hogan had to work for this one. He was forced to three games in the quarter-finals and semi-finals by Craig McCoy and Jerry Hilecher. In the finals, Hogan topped Brum 21-14, 21-19, in a match that could easily have gone three.

"No way," said Hogan. "*I had a plane to catch.*" Such flippancy is standard procedure for the brash, 19-year-old kingpin of racquetball. He's the best, he knows it and he literally dares anybody to stop him.

The difference between Hogan, and his female counterpart, the distinguished and humble champion Peggy Steding, is like night and day. Steding almost apologizes for winning, which she did again in New York. Hogan never apologizes for anything.

Against Hilecher in the semi's, Hogan played perhaps the best single game of racquetball a player can ever play. He was so dominating, so perfect with his execution, that the able Hilecher could barely dent the scoreboard 21-3.

And then in a display that showed less class than a B grade hooker, Hogan played with the intensity of a clown, giving no effort and making a mockery of the second game, which he lost 21-20.

In the tie-breaker Hogan the Hooligan turned it on again, stopping Hilecher 11-1.

"*You're a (blank),*" said Hilecher, who hails from the same St. Louis area, and

Marty Hogan won the tour's second stop, as usual, except this time he was more of a clown than a champion as he was "forced" to three games twice.

Hogan playing his games, demanding a call from the linesmen.



has known Marty for years. "You may be the best player, but you're by far the lowest person."

Identical was Hogan's day earlier win over McCoy, who played a tough first game and lost 21-14. Hogan acted like a buffoon in the second, which McCoy won easily 21-14, much to the delight of the fans. But Marty came back to take the tie-breaker 11-6.

"If this joker is the best racquetball has to offer," said a first time viewer in the gallery, "then they've got a long way to go. I'd never bring my kids to see that jerk."

Hogan's antics aside, it was a super tournament, co-sponsored by Leach and Seamco, with \$15,000 in total prize money. And despite the showmanship Hogan cashed in a \$4,000 first place check for his weekend's work.

Brumfield, who made it two trips to the finals in a row this season, was a good

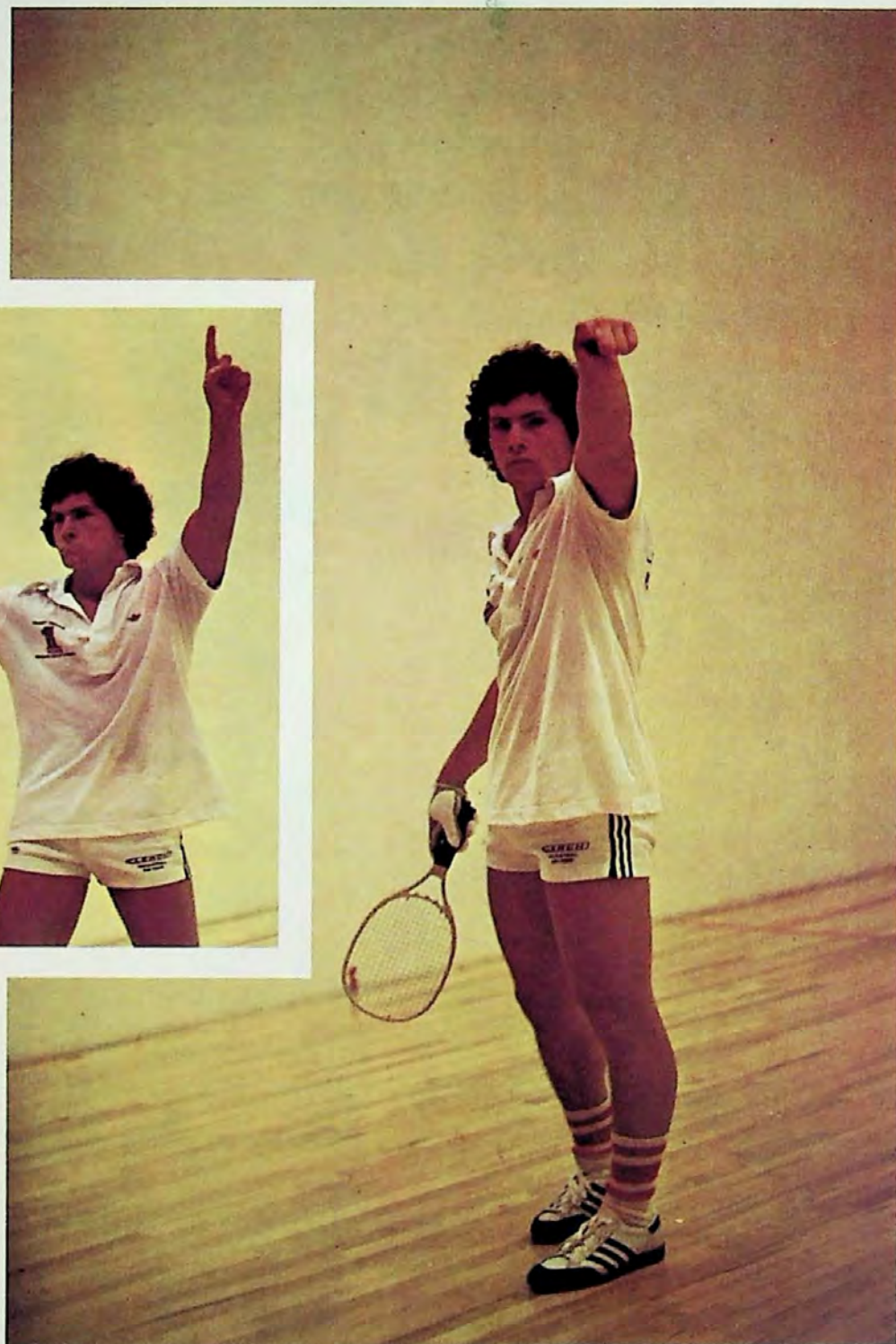
match for Hogan. The wily veteran still knows how to think his way much farther than his shots will take him.

But Hogan's shots are too much. Taking an early 8-4 lead, Brumfield was caught by Hogan at 11 and before one could barely look up, it was 17-11 Hogan. To note how well this kid can play, in the six point inning that tallied the points Brumfield did not commit a single error.

A pass right, two backhand kills, a forehand kill into the right corner, an ace to the right and another backhand kill made up the flurry.

Brumfield made up two for 17-13, but Hogan balanced them with two of his own and won going away, 21-14.

"I called a time out at 17-13," said



The familiar pose, r.b.'s number one ready to unleash his power.

Brumfield, "to let him know that I could come back, that I wasn't out of it. It didn't do a bit of good."

Game two was give-and-take throughout, with Brumfield shooting more and hitting harder than anybody could recently recall. The result was more pressure on Hogan, but a few more errors than usual by Brum.

The two were tied at 9, 11, and 13 before Charlie was able to spring to a 17-15 lead on two passes, one a cross court drive right, the other a down the line, left. Hogan put him out and, perhaps with his eye on the clock proceeded to run five straight and take the game away.

Point 16 was a pass right, 17 came on a Brumfield skip off the back wall with his backhand, 18 a forehand right corner kill, 19 another Brum backhand, back wall error and 20 a perfect V pass to the left.

Brumfield finally regained serve but could not score and on the first try, Hogan notched match point passing Brum perfectly down the right line on an off-the-back wall set up.

It seems that Hogan delights in turning it on and off, raising expectation of foes and fans, and then coming back with the ferocity of an animal with his back to the wall. Such was the case against Hilecher in the semi's.

Jerry is one of the few players who can cause consternation in Hogan's mind. With a booming serve and reputation for "getting hot," Hilecher, when he's on, can beat them all. Thus Hogan usually goes in playing hard from the start against his home town rival.

Serving first Hogan tallied four times right out of the blocks, lost and regained, serve and scored twice more for a 6-0 lead. Again he lost and regained the serve without losing a

point, and in this third inning, he scored five more for a commanding 11-0 advantage before the first drop of sweat dripped onto the hardwood court.

Somewhere in there an Hilecher time out went unnoticed. The play was all Marty — with only one Hilecher error giving any aid at all, and that one came on point 10.

Playing hard Hilecher held Hogan five times on 11, but was able to manage only two points of his own. Like the kid holding back the dike Hogan unleashed a flurry of kills that brought him an easy 21-3 victory.

Do the fans come to see Hogan's superlative play or his shallow shenanigans? He gave them plenty of both in game two.



Bledsoe awaits back wall set up as Brumfield prepares to cover.

Starting quickly again he raced to a 12-5 lead from a 6-4 advantage, with marvelous shotmaking, super serves and general total racquetball excellence.

In the face of overwhelming odds Hilecher came back, notching some of his own deep court killing along with some key Hogan errors making it 10-13.

Marty re-grouped and made it 17-11 and the match seemed over. But when Jerry regained the serve, the showboating began, as Hogan seemingly closed his eyes as if to say, *"this is my day, I am invincible,"* and proceeded to hit three straight into the floor.

As they say a blind hog finds an acorn once in a while, and Hogan found his with a key, overhead 39 foot kill to take a 20-15 lead.

Amid his climbing the walls, mock anger, blasting the ball between rallies, and total obnoxiousness Hogan continued to make a mockery of the game. Showing an obvious lack of concern as to whether his shots went in or not, he continued to shoot every ball, like a would-be slugger taking batting practice.

Hilecher continued to serve and reap the benefits. When it reached 19-20, Jerry slipped in a perfect Z serve to the forehand side for an ace and 20-all, whereupon he called time out, a bit of psychology of his own.

Once back in Jerry drove another serve to Hogan's touted forehand, and Marty obliged by shooting — and missing — again. Second game to Hilecher 21-20.

As racquetball sage's know anything can happen in the tiebreaker. All of anything, in this case, was all Hogan, who made believers of any who might have cared, and proved that he can turn it on and off at will.



Marty tallied on four straight kill shots to take a 4-0 lead in the first inning, forcing Hilecher to a strategic time out. When play resumed, so too did Hogan, spicing it up with two aces after an Hilecher error for a 7-0 advantage.

Jerry tried to come back, scoring on a pass right, but before he could even begin to climb the mountain, Hogan put him out and scored three more to take the insurmountable 10-1 lead.

Moments later Hilecher, more in frustration than common sense, shot the serve, a gorgeous kill shot, except that it travelled only 37 feet, making it a skip ball error and the match point for Hogan.

The upper bracket semi-final was equally as exciting in a very different sort of way, as former champ Brumfield went up against current national champ, Davey Bledsoe, who had emerged from the most difficult of any of the top four, stopping Ben Koltun in the 16's and Steve Serot in the quarter-finals.

It was a well played and good match, with Brumfield coming out on top 21-19, 21-17. Each game was different, as Brum hung on to win the first, and came from behind to capture the second.

After being down 9-5 in the first Brumfield ran nine of the next 10 points

to take a 14-10 lead, scoring almost exclusively on passes or Bledsoe errors. Charlie increased the lead to 19-13, but had seen the last Bledsoe error.

Serving well and shooting better Davey began to run a few and Brumfield had to earn this game, finally doing so after Bledsoe closed to within one at 19-20.

But Brumfield took a forehand off the back wall and drove a wide angle pinch, right wall-front wall for the game winning kill.

Bledsoe broke open a close second game to emerge a 15-9 leader mid-way, but his own errors caught up with him late. Brumfield made it 14-15, thanks to two freebie skips, and after three scoreless innings took the lead 17-16 and then 20-16, thanks to three more Bledsoe errors.

The 21st point was delayed 90 seconds by three consecutive Bledsoe time outs which amounted to either superb psychological warfare or silly kid's stuff, depending on your point of view. In any event three shots into the rally, Brumfield struck a perfect cross court pass from the left wall with his forehand and the match was over.

Hogan was up to his usual games in the quarters as McCoy went down to Marty for the second consecutive tournament. This time the scores

Notes . . . With the N.R.C.'s new system of drawing, many interesting and difficult matches come early. Recipients of such hard luck included Strom, Chase and Mike Zeitman, who has yet to show the form that made him a strong force on tour for four years. Mike succumbed to Serot in the first round 21-18, 21-7 . . . Bledsoe had as tough a draw as a number two player could, going up against Koltun, Serot and Brumfield. Neither of the first two were easy and had to take the edge off Davey's game . . . One of last year's promising rookies, Charlie Rish, is another who's game has yet to come around, as he dropped a disappointing decision to Jones 21-11, 21-14 in the 32's . . . Our thanks to owners Abe Shames

and Tony Boccaccio of the Health 'n Sports Racquetball Club, our able host, who provided the best hospitality seen around tournaments in a long while . . . Great assistance from Barry Shames who took it upon himself to referee as many matches as one could during the weekend . . . Also to Paul Lazure, Ron York, Phil Stepp, Fred White, Tom Flannery, Jim Pruitt, Peter Hawks and Al Sietelman for their aid during the week . . . Pruitt will be hosting a women's only pro tour stop later in the season at his new club just outside of Philadelphia . . . Amateur winners included Gary Berberet in the Men's A, and Dena Rassenti in the Women's A.

Always the most fun, - getting the money. As Hogan and Brumfield accept congrats from club owner Abe Shames, the other V.I.P.'s include (l. to r.) owner/manager Tony Boccaccio, Seamco's Don McAuliffe, Marv Konowitz and Dick Bendin; and (far r.) Leach's Charlie Drake.



where much closer than a month previous, as Craig forced Hogan to three 21-14, 10-21, 11-6.

Of the top eight McCoy seems to be the ripest to move up a notch, and nothing he did against Hogan proved otherwise.

"I learn more every time I play him," said McCoy, who by N.R.C. rules cannot meet Hogan in the next tournament, except in the semi-finals or finals. "I'll jot down some of the things that happened and figure out how to combat them next time around."

What happened is that Hogan just had a bit too much firepower for McCoy, whose rapid improvement has him ranked fifth on tour.

Hilecher, also in an upper bracket quarter, was having his hands full with Steve Keeley, who continues his methodical revitalization back to the top eight.

After an easy 21-7 first game win, in which Jerry's big serve was as big as ever, Keeley came back to make a match of it in the second.

There were ties at 7, 8, 11 and 15 as each player scrambled for points. Further ties at 18 and 19 left the game in doubt until Hilecher noticed his final ace of the night, a drive serve that caught the crack behind the short line left. That made it 20-19 and 21 came moments later on a perfect pass left for the match.

In the lower bracket Jay Jones faced Brumfield and could give Charlie only one good game — the first — and even that was more show than action as Brumfield held a 19-10 advantage at one time.

The final tallies were 21-17, 21-3, as Brumfield tuned up for later efforts.

The fourth quarter was a re-match of Milwaukee pitting Serot against Bledsoe, in the most entertaining match of the round. Bledsoe came out on top, evening the year's score between the two, but it took a great effort 21-12, 20-21, 11-2.

Davey ran seven points in the 15th inning to make a 13-12 lead into a 20-12 lead and seal the first game, and when trailing 20-17 in the second he

made a run at the match, only to come up short on a reversed appeal by the two linesmen.

The tie-breaker held none of the excitement of the flashy second game, as Bledsoe's passing shots continually got by Serot early, and backhand errors late sealed the match.

None of the quarter-finalists needed three games to emerge out of the round of 16, as none of the matches came near to being upset material.

Better action was found in the round of 32, as hungry qualifiers continue to make life miserable for the top 16.

McCoy stopped Ron Strom 21-20, 21-19 in a duel of southpaws and Jerry Zuckerman stopped Steve Chase 21-15, 21-20 for his first entry into the 16's.

Disappointments continue to include Richard Wagner, whose ranking slipped another few notches after a round of 16 loss to Keeley, and John Lynch, who was expected to make a big move this season, but has barely been competitive.

Wagner lost most of the summer past attempting to change his smooth stroke to power and finally gave it up, but the time lost still needs to be made up. Lynch, earning more money away from the tour, is on the verge of retirement.

Men Results (Qualifiers): Lazure, Mondry, York, Stepp, Bertolucci, Stephens, Hemphill, Danzig.

(First Round): Hogan d. Lazure 21-16, 21-4; Yellen d. Mondry 21-18, 20-21, 11-9; Fleetwood d. Berberet 21-20, 21-10; McCoy d. Strom 21-20, 21-19; Wagner d. York 21-3, 21-9; Keeley d. Stafford 21-10, 21-7; Schmidtke d. Fancher 21-16, 21-17; Hilecher d. Stepp 21-8, 21-7; Brumfield d. Bertolucci 21-4, 21-2; Lynch d. Stephens 21-12, 21-2; Jones d. Rish 21-11, 21-14; Morrow d. Hemphill 21-3, 21-10; Serot d. Zeitman 21-18, 21-7; Zuckerman d. Chase 21-15, 21-20; Koltun d. Drake 21-6, 21-5; Bledsoe d. Danzig 21-1, 21-1.

(Second Round): Hogan d. Yellen 21-17, 21-15; McCoy d. Fleetwood 21-17, 21-11; Keeley d. Wagner 21-16, 21-14; Hilecher d. Schmidtke 21-16, 21-8; Brumfield d. Lynch 21-10, 21-2; Jones d. Morrow 21-17, 21-17; Serot d. Zuckerman 21-16, 21-8; Bledsoe d. Koltun 21-14, 21-15.

(Quarter-finals): Hogan d. McCoy 21-14, 10-21, 11-6; Hilecher d. Keeley 21-7, 21-19; Brumfield d. Jones 21-17, 21-3; Bledsoe d. Serot 21-12, 20-21, 11-2.

(Semi-finals): Hogan d. Hilecher 21-3, 20-21, 11-1; Brumfield d. Bledsoe 21-19, 21-17.

(Finals): Hogan d. Brumfield 21-14, 21-19.

With National Champ Shannon Wright absent former champ Peggy Steding grabbed her second straight tour win.



Women Pro (Qualifiers): Ingle, Greer, Pommerich, Davis.

(First Round): Steding d. Ingle 21-1, 21-2; Pasternak d. Walton 21-19, 21-16; Carow d. Sauser 21-16, 21-4; Green d. Byrd 21-16, 21-12; Harding d. Schmidt 21-14, 21-14; Hoff d. Greer 9-18, injury default; Williams d. Pommerich 21-10, 21-14; Marriott d. Davis 21-5, 21-2.

(Quarter-finals): Steding d. Pasternak 21-10, 21-16; Green d. Carow 21-19, 14-21, 11-4; Harding d. Hoff 21-14, 21-7; Marriott d. Williams 21-3, 13-21, 11-4.

(Semi-finals): Steding d. Green 21-11, 21-16; Marriott d. Harding 19-21, 21-5, 11-6.

(Finals): Steding d. Marriott 21-18, 19-21, 11-9.

In a tournament that reflected the increasing parity on the women's pro tour, only the victory by Peggy Steding gave much resemblance to recent seasons. Of the final seven matches in the tournament four were decided by tie-breakers, including the championship encounter.

That final was a match to behold as a rejuvenated Janell Marriott gave her all against Steding only to come up just a bit short 21-18, 19-21, 11-9.

It was a disappointing loss for Marriott, who has struggled in her quarter and semi-finals wins just to reach the big one with Steding. Janell had bested good friend Kathy Williams 21-3, 13-21, 11-4 and then Jenny Harding 19-21, 21-5, 11-6 to rate a shot at the eventual champ.

Marriott tried to capture the first game the hard way, falling behind 15-9 after a 7-all tie, then 17-10 and 20-11. A forehand re-kill got her the serve and

Steding readies for a forehand back wall attempt against Green in the semi's.

two kills, an error and a V-pass made it 15-20. When Peggy regained the serve, she couldn't score and Janell went for more.

A forehand kill into the left corner made it 16-20 and after a Steding error on a Z serve to the backhand it was 17-20.

But again Peg couldn't score the big one and Janell came back with an ace to the crack at the backhand short line for 18-20, only to have Steding fly kill a backhand and put the side out.

Finally on her fourth attempt, Steding took the game with a forehand cross court kill, 21-18.

Down 3-10 in the second game Marriott again came back, rallying for six points, all of her own making — three kills and three passes. Shortly thereafter she tied it with a backhand, left corner kill.

From there the two ladies traded points, six exchanges at 10-all, and ties at 12, 14 and 15. Finally Janell put some daylight between them with four quick points to 19-15, only to have Steding re-group and come storming back with two kills and two passes for a 19-all tie.

A crucial error trying to fly shoot a Z serve to her backhand cost Steding the 20th point, and 21 came moments later on a perfect ace by Marriott — a Z to the forehand, 21-19.

In the tie-breaker Steding broke a 4-all deadlock with three points in the third inning, but Marriott came back with three of her own over two innings and a 7-all tie. There they stayed for two times each, until Steding re-killed a forehand and hit a winning pass down the left wall, followed by an ace drive serve to the right and 10-7.

Marriott hung in, made it close with two winning shots to 9-10, but Steding finally brought home the big check with a forehand back wall kill off a ceiling shot, 11-9.



The semi-finals were a contrast, as Steding continued her domination over Sarah Green 21-11, 21-16 in the upper bracket and Marriott struggled through Harding in the lower.

Steding raced to an early 8-1 first game lead, one which Green could never make up, trailing throughout. The narrowest the margin ever got was 15-11.

The second game was far different as Green broke from a 7-all tie to run seven of her own and take a seemingly commanding 14-7 advantage. But the crucial point of the match came next, one that took away all of Sarah's steam.

Serving at 14-7 a rally ensued in which the play became congested in center court. No hinder was called on a slight contact play as Peggy rolled the ball out in the right corner. Green questioned the no-call, and Steding, rather than take a disputed point called for a re-play of the rally, even though the point was hers.

The psychological effects were devastating on Green, as she never regained her momentum and watched Steding slowly erode her lead 9-14 and 12-15. Then Peggy ended with a flourish running nine straight, three kills, three passes and three errors by Green to the 21-16 win.

Notes . . .

Wright was absent due to illness and was expected back on tour in full force by mid-November . . . Flashy Karin Walton, who's first pro performance found her in Milwaukee, couldn't repeat as Pasternak stopped her in the first round 21-19, 21-16. Jan's game is steadily improving over last year's disastrous season . . . Carow continues to relish the other gals taking her lightly, and one of these days will surprise one of the big ones. She stopped neighbor Jean Sausser 21-16, 21-4 in the first round, a disappointing loss for Jean . . . Sorry to see Marci

Greer, still in the amateur ranks but improving everytime out, go out with a knee injury against Hoff in the first round. Marci held an 18-9 first game lead at the time of the injury, which was another in a series of chronic knee ailments . . . The Marriott-Williams match was the first time the two had met in over three years . . . Player to watch as the season progresses is Gainesville, Florida's Martha Byrd, whose speed and quickness needs only some confidence to move her up.

Marriott prepares to blast away as Harding covers.



If anything derogatory can be said of the rapidly improving Harding, it could be her lack of sustained concentration, a fault shared by many of the top players.

In the lower bracket semi-finals, Harding blew 13-3 and 15-5 leads against Marriott in game one, only to come back and take the game after an 18-all tie, 21-18.

The game was like two halves — the first to Harding, the second to Marriott, with sudden death going to Harding.

Not so in the second as Marriott jumped to an early 10-2 advantage and stayed there, extending to 14-5, then 19-5 and finally out.

Harding jumped out in front on the tie-breaker running five straight her first time in, using Z serves to the backhand to elicit weak returns. But again she couldn't hold the advantage, as Marriott, using hard drives to the backhand scored six to take the 6-5 lead.

The momentum had swung and although Jenny held three times at 10-5, finally Marriott scored the winner, a pass right cross court off a back wall set up for the 11-6 victory.

Two of the four quarter-finals went three games, as Green fought off the dogged Sue Carow 21-19, 14-21, 11-4 and Marriott bested Williams 21-3, 13-21, 11-4.

The other two quarters were uneventful, as Steding stopped Jan Pasternak 10 and 16, and Harding eliminated Rita Hoff 14 and seven. ●

Pro Tour Upcoming Events

January 11-15

Gresham Court Club, Gresham, Oregon (Portland), Men Pro Only.

January 19-22

Court Sports of Omaha, Omaha, Nebraska, Women Pro Only.

February 15-19

Arizona Athletic Club, Tempe, Arizona (Phoenix).

March 15-19

San Antonio RB/HB Club II, San Antonio Texas

March 30-April 2

King of Prussia Racquetball Club, King of Prussia, Pennsylvania (Philadelphia), Women Pro Only.

April 5-9

Aurora YMCA, Aurora, Illinois (Chicago), Men Pro Only.

June 17-24

Sports Illustrated Court Club, Belleville, Michigan (Detroit), National Championships.



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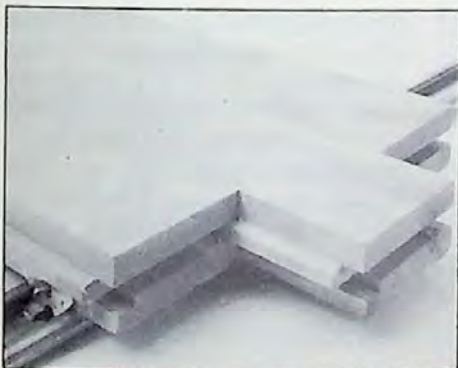
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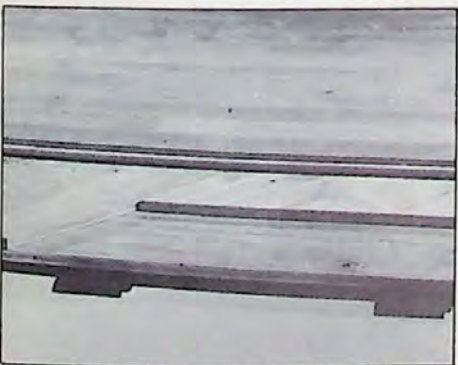
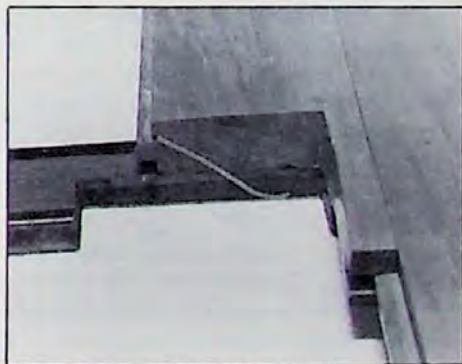


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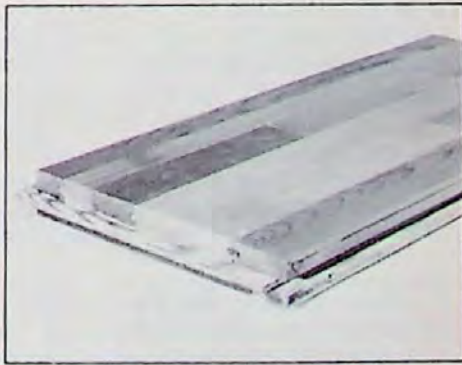
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Racquetball Pumps HDL Through Arteries

And Improves Health 22 Other Ways

by Thomas V. Pipes

Thomas Pipes is a clinical exercise physiologist with the University of Southern California's Human Performance Laboratory. He is also on the staff at the Courtyard of Escondido. He is a consultant on sports medicine for many professional athletes, including the touring racquetball pros.

Chronic and degenerative diseases associated with the cardiovascular and pulmonary systems are the major causes of serious illness and death in the United States. Cardiovascular diseases alone affect nearly 25 million Americans, causing over one million deaths each year and costing individuals, private industry and government \$30 billion annually. To reduce these devastating economic and human losses, comprehensive disease prevention and early treatment programs are essential.

Most individuals consider themselves to be healthy until they experience some overt sign of illness. However with chronic degenerative diseases (coronary heart disease, obstructive lung disease or cancer) the individual generally is unaware that the disease process is smoldering and slowly progressing from a minor affliction to one of major proportions.

As each of us grows older the frequency and rate of these undetected disease processes accelerate.

However we can identify certain recognizable individual characteristics or risk factors frequently associated with chronic degenerative diseases. These risk factors include obesity, smoking, physical inactivity, increased blood pressure, increased blood fat and abnormal electrocardiographic results at rest and under the stress of exercise.

Fortunately early detection and proper treatment of many diseases can reduce their occurrence and intensity. Alteration of factors associated with the disease process or the individual's resistance to the disease can either prevent the development of disease or delay it for many years. These corrective measures include changes in dietary habits, increases in habitual activity, abstinence from cigarette smoking and improved ability to handle psychological stress.

The Importance of Physical Activity

Patterns of modern living have channeled the average man into an increasingly sedentary existence. Man, however was designed and built for movement, and it appears that physiologically he has not adapted well to this reduced level of activity. Regular exercise is necessary to develop and maintain an optimal level of good health, performance and appearance. Exercise can increase an individual's physical work capacity by increasing muscle strength and stamina. This enhances the function of the lungs, heart and blood vessels. Exercise increases the flexibility of joints and improves the efficiency or skill of movement. For many adults with sedentary occupations, physical activity provides an outlet for job-related tensions or mental fatigue. It also aids in weight reduction and control, improves posture, contributes to a youthful appearance and increases general vitality.

Racquetball and HDL

Finally we have some evidence that physical activities such as racquetball are truly beneficial in the prevention of heart disease. A substance, high density lipoprotein (HDL), has been found to increase in the blood with increased activity. Why is HDL important? HDL has been found to remove the fats that so to speak, "clog up your plumbing." Specifically HDL reduces the amount of fat stored in coronary arteries (vessels that supply blood and oxygen to the heart). So physical activity is the best way to lower the amounts of fat that can clog and eventually close the arteries.

Active individuals have fewer heart attacks than their less active counterparts. Furthermore if an active individual does suffer an attack, it will be less severe and his chances of

Editor's Note: Before getting into a vigorous racquetball routine the American Heart Association recommends a doctor's check-up for men and women who think they're "risks." The category includes people 30 to 40 years old, those who have been sedentary and those with a family history of heart disease.

survival are greater. Appropriate activity will reduce the frequency and severity of heart attacks by improving the capacity and efficiency of the heart, blood vessels and lungs, as well as favorably altering blood chemistry, blood pressure and body weight.

More than 50 percent of lower back pain or discomfort is due to poor muscle tone and flexibility of the lower back and inadequate abdominal muscle tone. In many instances this disability could be prevented or corrected by proper exercise. And finally much of the degeneration of bodily functions and structures associated with premature aging seems to be reduced by frequent participation in a program of proper activity such as racquetball.

Physiological Basis of Physical Activity

An individually prescribed program of exercise designed to supplement the normal daily activities of most adults is essential for good health. There is a sound physiological basis for such a program. Inactivity results in reduced efficiency and function of the cardiovascular, respiratory and muscular systems, while increased physical activity, such as racquetball, improves the efficiency and performance of these systems. Prolonged or endurance types of activities such as racquetball, bicycling, swimming, jogging and tennis, have been demonstrated to do most for vital body systems.

The physiological changes which generally occur as a result of increased activity are summarized here. The magnitude of change in each of these measurements is dependent on the types of activity pursued, the frequency and duration of play and the degree of effort put into the activity.

Physiological Changes Resulting from Racquetball

HEART

Reduced Resting Heart Rate
Reduced Heart Rate for Submaximal Work

Increased Rate of Heart Rate
Recovery after Playing
Increased Blood Volume Pumped per Heart Beat (Stroke Volume)
Increased Size of Heart Muscle (Hypertrophy) Non-Pathologic
Increased Blood Supply to Heart Muscle
Increased Strength of Contraction

Blood Vessels and Blood Chemistry

Reduced Resting Blood Pressure
Reduced Risk of Hardening of Arteries (Arteriosclerosis)
Reduced Serum Lipids, Cholesterol and Triglycerides
Increased Blood Supply to Muscles
Increased Blood Volume
More Efficient Exchange of Oxygen and CO₂ in Muscles

Lungs

Increased Functional Capacity for Playing
Increased Blood Supply
Increased Diffusion of Air

Metabolic Function

Reduced Body Fat Content
Increased Muscle Mass
Reduced Strain Resulting from Psychological Stress
Increased Maximal Oxygen Uptake

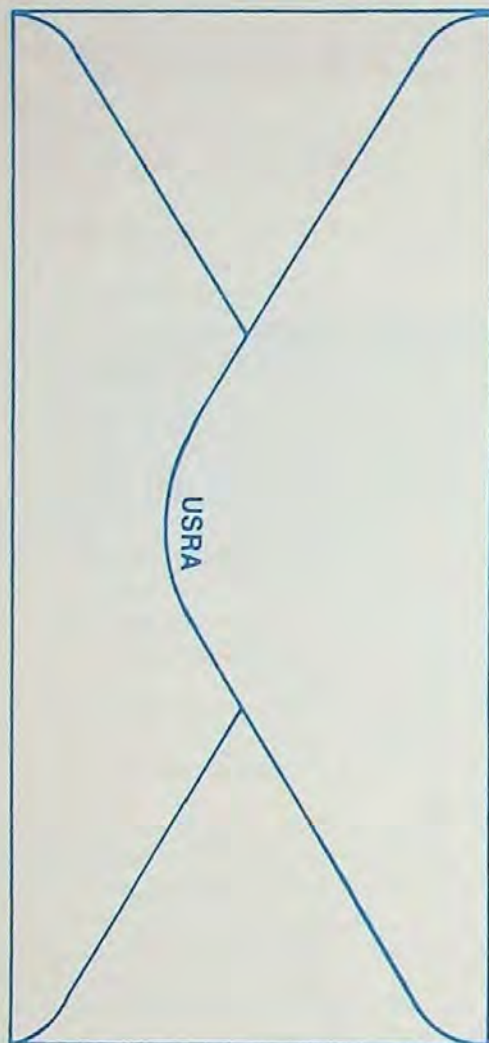
Psychological Factors

Improved Self Image
Increased Personal Satisfaction
Improved Sense of Well Being

General Guides to a Physical Activity Program

When an inactive individual begins a physical activity program, there are several very basic and important factors which need to be considered. The following guides are included to assist you in maintaining a successful and enjoyable activity program.

1. Go slow. Your fat and flab took years to accumulate and won't disappear overnight.
2. Exercise intensely for at least 20 minutes at a time.
3. Exercise at least three times a week.
4. Work at 60 to 75 percent of your maximum heart rate (your "prescribed heart rate") for best conditioning results. To find yours consult your physician or take 220 and subtract your age, then multiply it by .6. Check this rate every five minutes during your first few active games.
5. Select a regular time for exercise and make it a part of your schedule. Early morning is preferred by most working people, but many favor before lunch or dinner. These times also serve as a good appetite suppressor.
7. Be cautious and skeptical of rapid weight loss diets or effortless exercise claims. Fast weight reduction is seldom permanent and there's no way to get in shape without work.
8. Warm up thoroughly before playing racquetball or any activity and cool off gradually afterward to avoid risk of serious injury such as a pulled hamstring.
9. Keep in tune with your body. Don't push yourself beyond comfortable limits, and don't walk off the court at the first sign of perspiration. ●



Dear Mr. Kendler:

You may be aware that Radio Station W-A-I-T salutes a man each day in recognition of his outstanding contribution to his community in the field of human relations.

We extend our congratulations to you on being named recipient of the "Humanitarian Award" by the American Jewish Committee, and we are pleased to inform you that you have been selected "Man of the Day" for Friday, October 21, 1977. We will publicly express the community's appreciation by honoring you in a broadcast salute twice during that day — at approximately 7:40 AM and 5:10 PM.

Frederick G. Harm
General Manager, W-A-I-T, Chicago

Dear Chuck:

I would like to compliment the N.R.C. on their selection of a tremendous tournament floor manager — Dan Bertolucci. To find someone to take on this responsibility at any tournament is usually quite a task, but to find a person who can do it efficiently and pleasantly is truly a feat.

It seems to me that he was there every day of the tournament from morning until night, leaving in the evening with the same smile he brought with him at the start of the day. He was always a pleasure to talk to, very helpful and at the same time really seemed to have things under control.

I think people like Dan are the key to successful tournaments (especially since it's so difficult to turn him down when he asks you to referee!).

Good choice.

Dena Rassenti
Montreal

Gentlemen:

Being a racquetball player for only 14 months, and working hard at this time to become a high B player at the age of 35, I'm proud of the N.R.A. and all it stands for.

I accepted the invitation to the first pro open in West Allis, Wisconsin, and was seated between Charlie Drake, and Joe Ardito. The Hilechers and Marty Hogan's mother were seated nearby. To be able to watch such greats as Hogan and Brumfield, Steding and Green in the finals and countless other stars throughout the four day tournament was a highlight in my quest to become a highly regarded racquetball player.

I want to thank the N.R.A. for reading my note and accepting me as a subscriber. I'm looking forward to all pro tours. When available please send information on time and place of tours throughout the 77-78 season.

Jerry lafollo

See the November issue for a complete tournament schedule. —ED.

To Nick Longhurst:

Just a note to thank you for the wonderful article on our Supreme Court-Van Nuys racquetball club. Both Wayne Rogers and I are especially appreciative of the time and consideration you afforded us in preparing this outstanding feature.

Hope to see you soon.

Lewis N. Wolff
Los Angeles, CA.

Dear Carol:

Almost two months after Sandy Coffman's seminar of August 27, we at Courtside Racquetball Clubs of Bettendorf, IA., and Moline, IL., have decided the \$115 for a day of ideas was well invested.

Sandy told it all!! And what a job this professional person did! Sandy not only passed along her creative ideas on promoting a successful women's program, but she instilled in many of us a kind of enthusiasm that is necessary for maintaining an excellent program. We must remember, these are not "ideas" by themselves — but ideas which have been tried and tested within Sandy's programs and have been SUCCESSFUL! Thank you Sandy Coffman!

Judy Thompson
Bettendorf, IA.

Dear Bob:

If ever a man's spirit filled a room and shone more brightly than the highest intensity lamp, that phenomenon occurred last night in the Grand Ballroom of the Marriott Lincolnshire Resort.

Even the videotape, a marvelously innovative idea for capturing the sights and sounds of the evening, will not record the prayerful, respectful and admiring mood of the near-capacity audience.

Bob, your presence was felt in a way that could have been surpassed only if you had been there to walk among us, offering that special kind of Kendler warmth and charm.

Richard did his parents proud by the way he sought to fill the shoes of a giant. I think you will be pleased with the results.

Your gracious comments about Joel Hillman accurately described the central, indeed singular, contribution he made to the undoubted success of the dinner. He was superb.

Bob, it has been a rare privilege for me to be associated, even if only for a brief time, with you and your fine family. I hope you have an early and complete recovery.

Irving Rothman
Chicago, IL.

Dear Mr. Kendler:

A small note to thank you for the interesting and enjoyable conversation. It will always be a memorable experience having met a man who has done so much not only from his mind, but from his heart. Being honest and fair in all of your dealings is the same philosophy by which I was raised.

I wish I could even partially express how good it feels to meet someone who is so giving, expecting nothing in return but to accomplish his purpose.

Susan C. Hollman
Lake Oseego, OR.

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I'D RATHER BE RACQUETBALLING



U.S. RACQUETBALL ASSN., 4101 DEMSTER ST., SKOKIE, ILL. 60076

Television Update: We Did It!

I don't know about you, — but I thought it was fantastic.

The first truly national broadcast of racquetball was shown by the Public Broadcasting System November 27, 1977. Many, many of you saw it, and I would hope you agree with me, that the show proved to the world that racquetball is a viable television commodity.

There was action, excitement and skill. Emotion, humor, and drama was also depicted. Slow motion made the play even more beautiful, and the commentary done by Fred Lewis and Charlie Brumfield was superb.

We at the USRA/NRC are proud to have been able to bring this show to you. With only a dozen or so professional tour stops each season, television is the only medium that can bring the top players to the racquetball masses. That was accomplished with the November 27 airing.

Many long hours of hard work went into the show, as you can surely imagine. Our number one ally was Kent Johnson, from KOCE-TV Huntington Beach, California. Kent was the show's producer/director and the job he did was monumental.

Initially Kent had to organize the show, make arrangements for taped interviews, set up the staff, choose what to shoot and what not to, coordinate all efforts and then finally direct the coverage from inside the KOCE truck.

After the matches were over, the second portion of Kent's work began, — editing almost four hours of tape to fit into a cohesive and smooth one hour

production. The fact that the editing was done primarily in the midnight to dawn time frame, made the job that much more miraculous.

National Racquetball's Nick Longhurst, our west coast contributing editor was of invaluable assistance, doing much of the writing and re-writing of scripts for introductory pieces and voice over applications. Nick was able to call upon his experience with the British Broadcasting Company (BBC) and was totally in command of his responsibilities.

It was Nick who was able to arrange for James Franciscus to come aboard for the introduction and some voice over work. Franciscus added that touch of credibility that only a well known celebrity can.

Additionally, Nick spent the same long hours in the editing room as did Kent, giving aid and comfort in an extremely stress-filled period.

Our hats are off to E.O. Rodeffer and Chuck Hohl, the men behind King's Racquetball Court, our superb host of the tournament. Without the planning, investment and cooperation of King's this show would never have begun, much less shown nation-wide.

KOCE, their staff and their belief in racquetball was another indication that the media is finally sitting up and taking notice of racquetball. John Gregory and Paul Corbin worked hard and long to iron out the details, funding and budgeting of the program. They were glorious in their cooperation and we couldn't have even started without them.



Now it's up to you, the racquetball public. If you enjoyed the show, if you want to see more racquetball on television, then let us know. You are our voice. It is *you* who will be the final determining factor as to whether or not more racquetball hits the tube.

If, for some reason, you did not see or enjoy the broadcast, or if it wasn't carried in your locale, we want to know that as well. This was racquetball's first attempt, — and if we made mistakes, we want to know about them, and eliminate them in the future.

My final thought on the subject is another thank you, — to Bob Kendler, who foot the bill for the entire show. Not only was Bob the man who underwrote the cost of broadcasting, but he spent equally as much promoting the show to ensure that everybody with even a fleeting interest in racquetball was made aware of its airing.

This is the first of our monthly schedule for *National Racquetball*. With the number of issues doubled per year, we will certainly need double the cooperation from all you racquetballers who might have interesting material for publication.

If you've got an interesting comment on something happening in our sport, write us and we'll print your letter. If you've got a revolutionary new method of hitting a kill shot, let us know and we'll print your instructional article. If racquetball saved your life, let us know, it would most likely make a good first person profile.

Our magazine is *your* magazine. It is *for* you and *about* you. That's why we want to hear *from* you. ●

NEW NRC OFFICIAL GLOVE!



**The Champion
Model 610 Is
Endorsed By The Professionals!**

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The Model 610 racquetball glove by Champion features a "wrap around" wrist with adjustable Velcro fastener for perfect comfort. A thin selected doeskin palm gives you a confident feel. Eastman's Kodel terrycloth back and Helanca stretch finger inserts are included for extra comfort and style. So choose the glove of the professionals the Champion Model 610 Racquetball glove.

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First there was wood. Then aluminum. Then glass-filled. And now, graphite.

And no one needs to tell you what graphite can do for a sport. Or sales.

And in the hottest, fastest-growing sport in the world, graphite is bound to be dynamite.

It's priced and designed to move, both off your shelves and on the court.

For starters, the Graphite-Performer is an incredible 250 grams light. Yet still packs the power of a heavier racquet.

It's rigid enough to virtually eliminate vibration and excess

flexing. Yet still keeps the control of glass-filled.

Its unique narrow-throat, one-piece construction (you won't find anything like it anywhere else) actually turns the entire string area into the sport's "biggest, sweet spot."

And it feels great.

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The sport's most innovative racquet from the sport's most innovative name.

The competitively priced and designed Leach Graphite-Performer.

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