International Professional Racquetball Organization . . . Sanctioned by IRA

# 2nd ANNUAL

# TANNER

# PRO-AM RACQUETBALL TOURNAMENT

Memphis State University
Memphis, Tennessee
December 19, 20. 21, 1975

SOUVENIR
PROGRAM $1.00

# The "XL Bill Schmidtke" racquet is longer, lighter, with extra power.

*Bill Schmidtke, consistent tournament winner and two-times IRA singles champion.*

The XL Bill Schmidtke racquet is a full nineteen inches long, three-quarters of an inch longer than any other racquet in the Ektelon line. Yet it weighs only 275 grams, which makes it the lightest racquet in the Ektelon line. It is this unique combination of length and lightness that allows you to drive the ball with extra power. And that extra three-quarters of an inch can give you just that much more edge in a close racquetball game.

Bill Schmidtke says that with the longer, narrower face, there is less tendency to hit "off center." The sweet spot increases in size.

The XL is built with a deep-channel aluminum frame, developed by Ektelon. There is a tough nylon bumper that can be shortened to adjust racquet-swing weight. The XL is strung with the highest-quality, heat welded nylon string. Special tooling is used to precision form the metal eyelets to reduce string breakage. The top portion of the frame is slotted to increase head flexibility and so provide better ball control. The frame is anodized a rich black. The grip—in choice of black leather or rubber—is available in 4-1/8", 4-5/16" and 4-1/2" sizes. Every XL comes with a lined vinyl racquet cover.

**One Year Guarantee**
The XL Bill Schmidtke, like all Ektelon racquets, carries a one-year guarantee against frame breakage, and against any defects in materials or workmanship.

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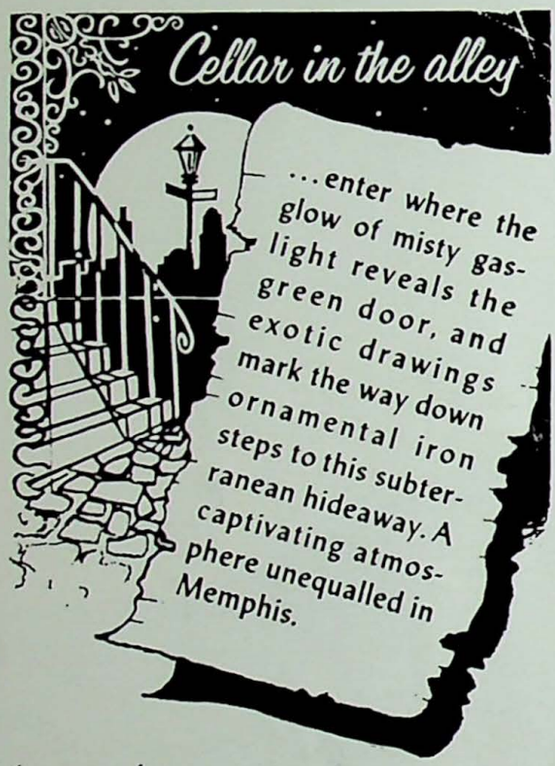


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# a message from the Sponsor....

Welcome back to Memphis and our Second Annual National Racquetball Tournament. What a great year it's been for this sterling sport and for its host city. As Memphis continues to gain prestige on the national sport scene, we are especially proud of its roll in the increasing popularity of racquetball among the ranks of professional sports. In a remarkably short span this game has experienced an astonishingly rapid growth both as a competitive and leisure sport.

Our local racquetball association boasts the largest enrollment of any chapter in the International Racquetball Association in the United States. The strength and enthusiasm of this membership has made it possible for Memphis to serve as a host city for one of six internationally recognized tournaments. A field of 250 players, pros and amateurs have gathered from all over the United States to join our own nationally rated local contingent to make this another outstanding tournament.

We at Tanner are proud to serve again as the sponsors of this event and hope we may continue to contribute toward the growth of this outstanding sport of racquetball.

William B Tanner

# *Commitment to Excellence*

Think of our company in human terms, as a group of people who research, manufacture and market Lipton products. . .each with a common commitment to excellence.

What does excellence mean? It means constant checks and improvements to assure the best quality products possible for the consumer. It means increasing the skills of our employees on-the-job, and offering the kind of assistance that will encourage their further career development. It means excellence in management to run a profitable operation that will provide capital needed to create new and better jobs which stimulate general economic growth within the community.

Our interest in people reaches beyond our facilities and into the areas where we work and live. Being a good neighbor is just as important to us as being a good manufacturer. We fully recognize the need for excellence in both.

**Thomas J. Lipton, Inc.**

# City of Memphis
Tennessee

WYETH CHANDLER
MAYOR

December 2, 1975

GREETINGS . . .

Participants in the International
Racquetball Association Tournament

It gives me great pleasure to welcome the participants to the Tanner Pro-Am Racquetball Tournament to be held here in our city December 19 through December 21, 1975.

We recognize each of you to be top professionals in this excellent sport. This tournament holds special note in view of the fact that our city is now the headquarters for the International Racquetball Association.

I hope that your association continues its growth and is successful in the promotion of racquetball competition. Please rest assured that our city and this office in particular will do everything possible to make your stay a pleasant and productive one.

Yours very sincerely,

Wyeth Chandler

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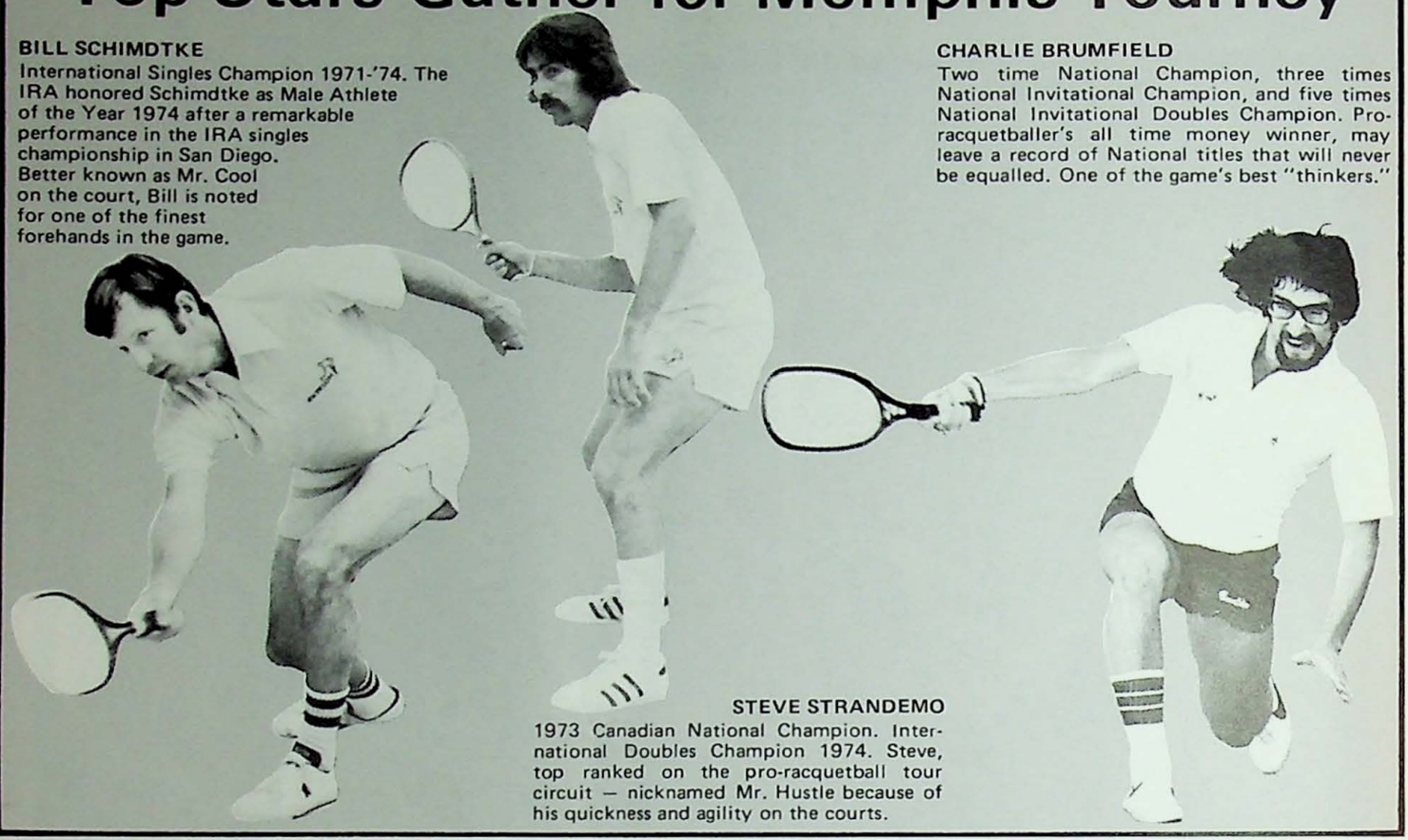
# Top Stars Gather for Memphis Tourney

**BILL SCHIMDTKE**
International Singles Champion 1971-'74. The IRA honored Schimdtke as Male Athlete of the Year 1974 after a remarkable performance in the IRA singles championship in San Diego. Better known as Mr. Cool on the court, Bill is noted for one of the finest forehands in the game.

**CHARLIE BRUMFIELD**
Two time National Champion, three times National Invitational Champion, and five times National Invitational Doubles Champion. Pro-racquetballer's all time money winner, may leave a record of National titles that will never be equalled. One of the game's best "thinkers."



**STEVE STRANDEMO**
1973 Canadian National Champion. International Doubles Champion 1974. Steve, top ranked on the pro-racquetball tour circuit — nicknamed Mr. Hustle because of his quickness and agility on the courts.


Pick
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Winner
from
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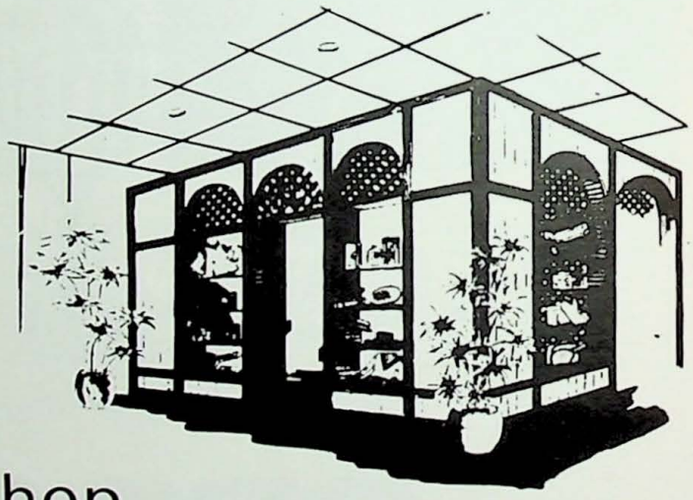

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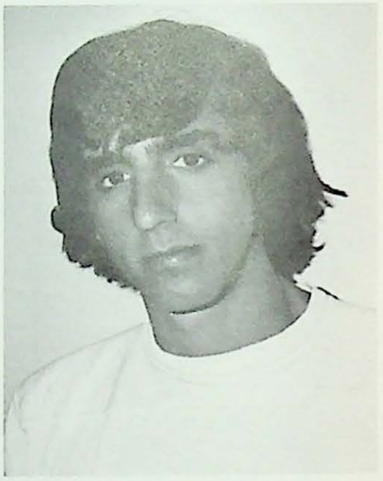
## More top stars in Tanner Racquetball Annual Event

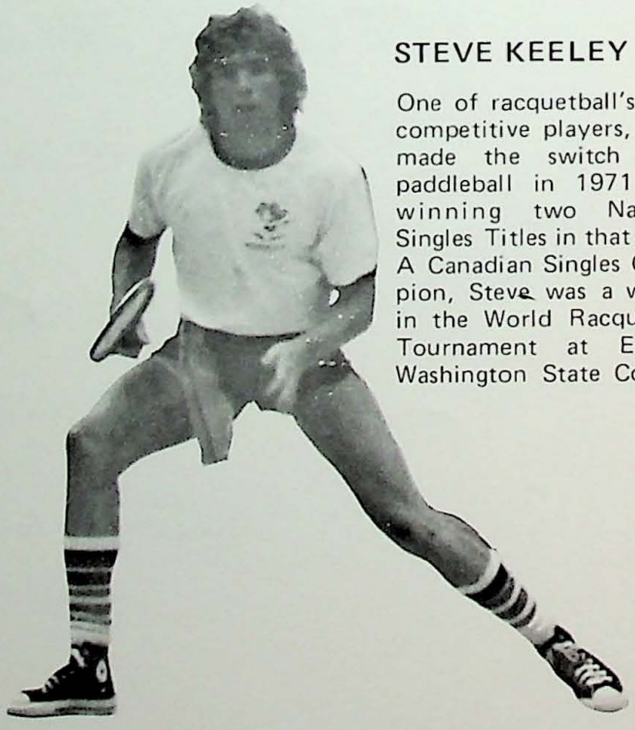
DAVEY BLEDSOE

Davey along with Mike Zeitman serve as tournament directors this year for the Tanner Pro-Am. A top player himself, Bledsoe has been rated by experts as having one of the fastest games, and outstanding potential as a future racquetball champ.



JERRY HILECHER

Inter-Collegiate Singles Champion 1973. A 1974 IRA Singles quarter-finalist, Jerry is outstanding in the game as a hard hitter with a tough forehand to match.



STEVE KEELEY

One of racquetball's most competitive players, Steve made the switch from paddleball in 1971 after winning two National Singles Titles in that sport. A Canadian Singles Champion, Steve was a winner in the World Racquetball Tournament at Eastern Washington State College.

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*Smith Schippers*

Officers and Directors

*Max & Bensdorf*

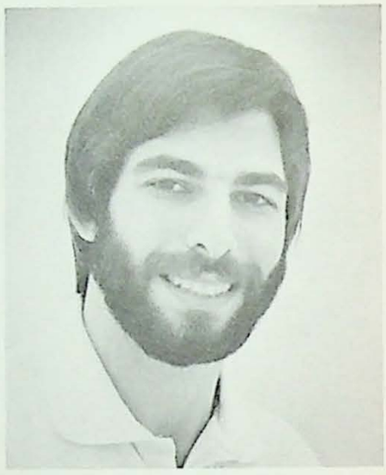
*Welcome to Memphis*
*and the Tanner Pro Am.*

# The Memphis Racquetball Association

## Women, and Amateur Players, Important facets of Tanner Tournament

### PEGGY STEDING

Without a doubt one of the top women racquetball players. Peggy has won IRA singles and doubles twice, Canadian singles once and went undefeated with a perfect score in the San Diego Women's Invitational Singles Championship!



### MIKE ZEITMAN

Mike has won two National Doubles Championships and defeated many top players in racquetball. Look at the rankings and you'll find Mike among the top ten all time and also listed as one of the fastest players in the game.

### STEVE SEROT

Steve as a young player has reached the semi-finals in over one hundred consecutive tournaments since 1971. He is ranked as one of the top five men players and listed as one of the top ten-all time heavys.

### JOHN HENNON

A native of Chattanooga, Tn. John has been noted as a top player in Tennessee. Hennen teamed with Davey Bledsoe to win the Open Doubles Championship in the Southeastern Regionals.

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TOM McKIE
Executive Director
Res. Ph. (901) 767-8906

DEAR RACQUETBALL PLAYERS AND SUPPORTERS

The International Racquetball Association welcomes you to the Second Annual Tanner Pro-Am Racquetball Tournament. As the inaugural event on our second pro-circuit the Association feels the Tanner Pro-Am will showcase the growth and popularity of racquetball and the exceptional skills of our best players. The I.R.A. is dedicated to promoting racquetball and the Pro-Am circuit, we feel, is one such outstanding means of promotion.

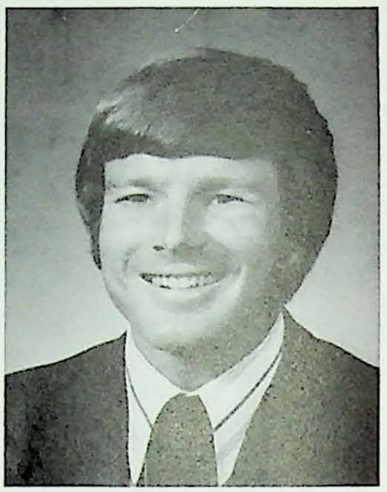
We welcome your support be it as a player, spectator, or contributor. If we can be of any help to you concerning racquetball please call on us.

Our thanks also go to Mr. Bill Tanner and his staff for all of their untiring efforts toward the success of this event.

Sincerely,

Tom McKie

Tom McKie
Executive Director



Tom McKie, Executive Director, International Racquetball Association

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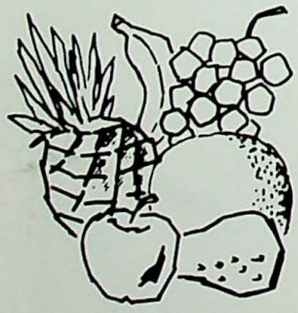

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# Greetings from our President

Dear Racquetball Players and Guests,

It is again my sincere pleasure to welcome you to the second annual Tanner open. Since our last tournament, Bill Tanner has been elected vice-president of the International Racquetball Association. Our association is fortunate to have access to the talents of such a man as Bill, with his energy and his dedication to the game.

I wish every participant the best of luck. Further I hope that all the racquetball players in and around the city of Memphis get word of this tournament which gives them the opportunity to witness some of the finest racquetball that will be played anywhere, anytime.

My thanks again to Bill Tanner and to our host facility, Memphis State University. We've had many fine local and national tournaments at Memphis State. All the spectators enjoy not only the excellent facility but the fine personnel that makes them possible.

Good luck to everyone.

DeWitt M. Shy
President

# Memphis IRA President Greets Players and Guests

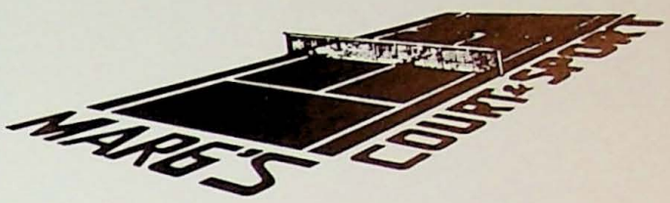
Your Memphis Racquetball Association, officers and members, welcome "you all," Pro's, A & B players, ladies and especially you first time tournament players to the 2nd Tanner Pro-Am. A warm welcome is also extended to guests, friends and family members of the players.

Many thanks to those dozens of people who worked very hard to make this tournament successful and run as smoothly as it does.

Ask a MRA member or your club pro, school instructor, or someone where you play, about the new Memphis Metro Racquetball League.

Life Is A Joy

Sincerely,
Memphis Racquetball Association
Jack Fulton, President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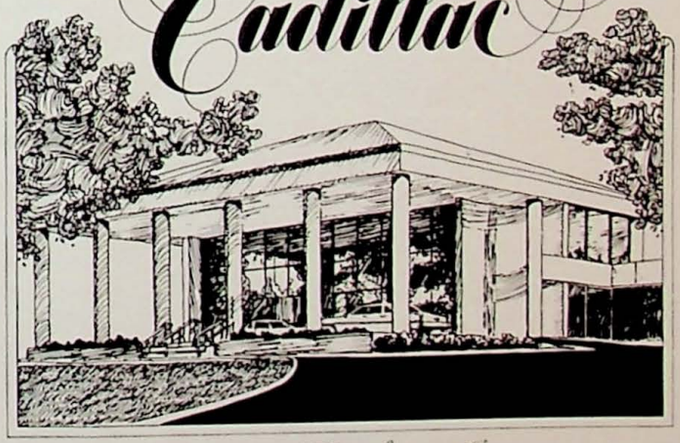

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# Facts About Racquetball

—— Racquetball is played on a handball court (enclosed, 40 feet long by 20 by 20) with basic handball rules and scoring. The ball is slightly larger and softer than a handball, and the players hit it with a stringed racket about 18 inches long. This saves wear and tear on the palms, although sometimes a player is "waffle-faced," or struck flush by an opponent's racket. . .accidentally, of course.

—— A player receiving service must be a minimum of five feet behind the short line awaiting service? Once the server has struck the ball he may move forward but at no time may he encroach over the short line with either body or racquet to strike the ball. Penalty is a point for the server.

—— You can leave the court only with the referee's permission? This is true even during the time between the first and second game. If a third game is necessary, you can leave at your own discretion. Leaving the court without permission after the referee's warning results in forfeiture of the entire match.

—— You may bounce the ball only three times while in the server's box and must strike the ball on the third bounce? Accidentally dropping the ball while in the server's box counts as one bounce. Resultant penalty for excessively bouncing the ball — handout.

—— If the server swings and misses the ball entirely while attempting to serve the resultant call is a handout?

—— Any player who catches the ball on the fly, regardless of his position on the court, shall be called for an out? This means that in a doubles match, those of you in the service box awaiting your partner's service, may not catch the ball if it is inadvertently hit at you by your partner. You may use your racquet or let the ball strike you, but you may not catch it. The call is a handout.

—— The server has only ten seconds to put the ball into play?

—— The duration of a time-out (towel) is only thirty seconds? In case of an injury, the injured player has a cumulative total of fifteen minutes in which to recover. If he is unable to do so, he shall forfeit the match.

*continued on page 23*

# GET TO KNOW THE V FORCE

## STINGER

Designed for the beginning to intermediate player, Stinger is built to take the punishment while giving great playing characteristics. Durable aluminum frame and one-piece molded rubber grip give heft and weight. Natural brushed aluminum with blue bumper strip. Heavy duty strings for long life. A great value at an affordable price.

## VANTAGE

A modified teardrop head shape for larger sweetspot. Lightweight but rigid frame for quick response with control. Carbon black aluminum with white bumper strip for great looks. Choice of rubber or leather grips in several sizes. Best all around racquet value for players of any caliber.

## ELIMINATOR

Best racquet on the market. Full teardrop shape gives largest string area and sweetspot in the game. Superb balance and feel. Minimal rotational torque and vibration. Best string for long life, power, and finesse. Steding model in copper-gold . . . Muehleisen model in deep bronze. Grip choices in several sizes of rubber and leather. The choice of champions.

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# Information for All Players

**HOSPITALITY**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Thursday | Dec. 18 | 6:00 - 11:00 P.M. |
| Friday | Dec. 19 | 8:30 - 11:30 P.M. |
| Saturday | Dec. 20 | 8:30 - 11:30 P.M. |

**REGISTRATION**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Thursday | Dec. 18 | 6-10 P.M., Holiday Inn Hospitality Room |
| Friday | Dec. 19 | All Day, Memphis State University |

All players must present their I.R.A. membership card at registration.

**HOSPITALITY – (food)**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Friday | Breakfast 9-10:30 A.M. | Lunch 11 A.M. - 2 P.M. |
| Saturday | | Lunch 11 A.M. - 2 P.M. |
| Sunday | | Lunch 11 A.M. - 2 P.M. |

Meals are free only to players. For guests, prices are: breakfast and lunch – $2.00/each.

**TICKETS**

Players will be given a free pass to all events except those on the glass court. All of these reserved seats will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis. If you, as a player, want one of these seats, you must pay for them. We can seat approximately 400 people. The tickets are priced as follows:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| $25 | Reserved Seats | 3 days |
| $ 8 | General Admission | 3 days |
| $ 3 | General Admission | 1 day |

**LOCKERS**

Locks and lockers will be issued upon registration at M.S.U. We urge you to clean out your locker at the end of each day. A $3.00 deposit is required on your locks and will be refunded upon return of your lock.

Compliments

**Tri-State General Food Supply Inc.**

30 E. Carolina Ave.
Memphis, Tennessee

# Tanner Tourney

# Player Checklist

PLAY STARTS as follows:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Friday | Dec. 19 | 9 A.M. |
| Saturday | Dec. 20 | 10 A.M. |
| Sunday | Dec. 21 | 10 A.M. |

OFFICIATING

We need as much help as possible from all players in this area. All players are requested to officiate at least two matches.

CONSOLATION

Consolations will be played in all divisions. All rounds will be 31-point matches.

We are expecting over 250 single entries. We need your HELP AND COOPERATION to make this the greatest and by far the most successful tournament we have conducted.

If you have any questions, you can contact either the Holiday Inn – Holiday City or Memphis State University:

Holiday Inn - Holiday City
3728 Lamar Avenue
Memphis, Tennessee 38118
Ph: 901-363-1300

Memphis State University
630 Echles at Spottswood
Memphis, Tennessee 38152
Ph: 901-454-2816

The IRA and International PRO are mindful of the need for continued help and cooperation of all elements of our sports industry, and urges the membership to show its appreciation through the support and patronage it can give to these companies and individuals.

MICHAEL D. ZEITMAN
DAVEY L. BLEDSOE
TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS

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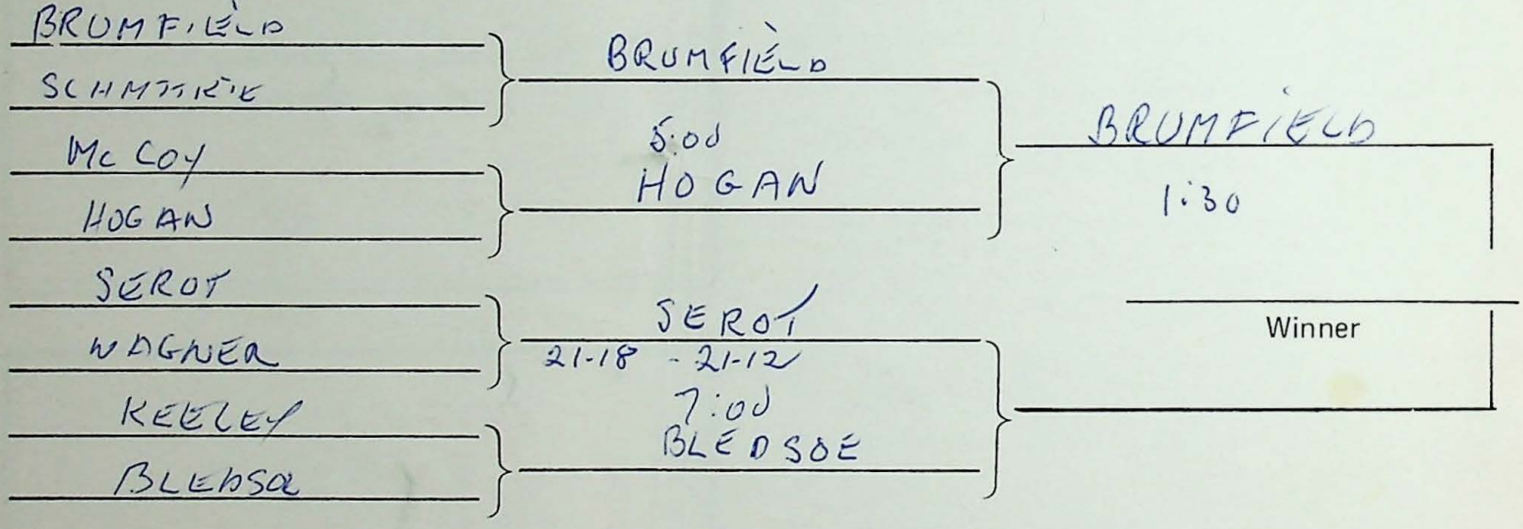
# The Holiday Inn Racquetball Tour

WELCOME TO THE 2nd ANNUAL TANNER TOURNAMENT!

On this and the following pages are brackets for the finals, semifinals, and quarterfinals. We hope they will add to your enjoyment of this event.

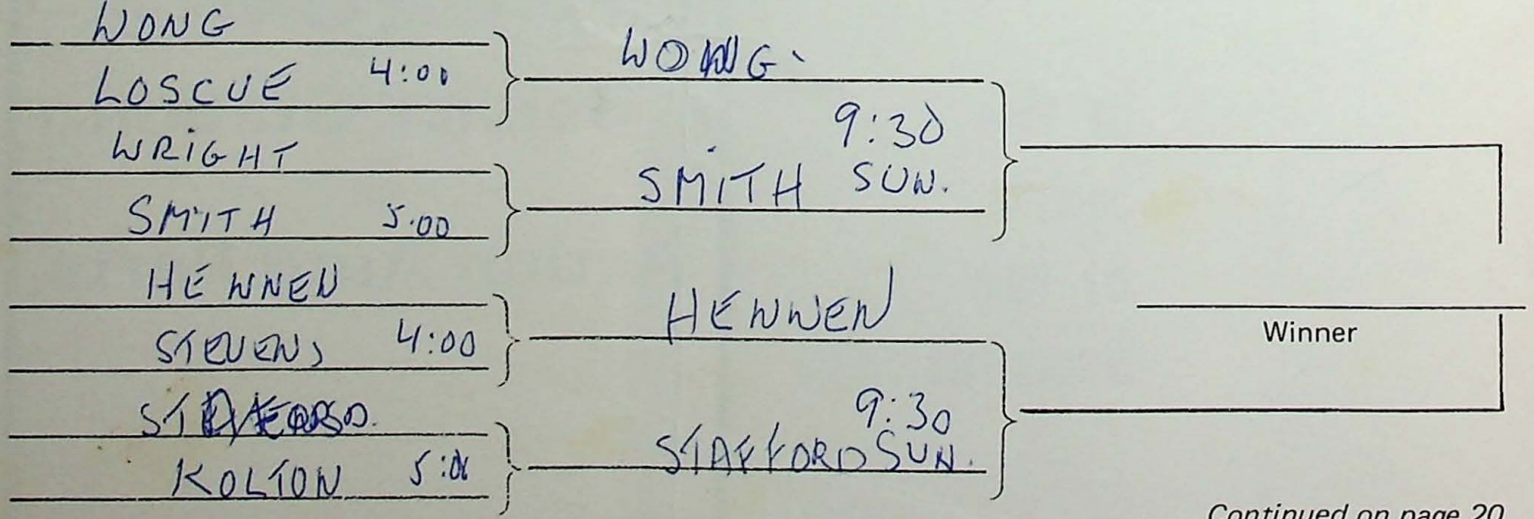
## MEN'S PRO SINGLES

1974 Champion — Steve Strandemo




## MEN'S OPEN

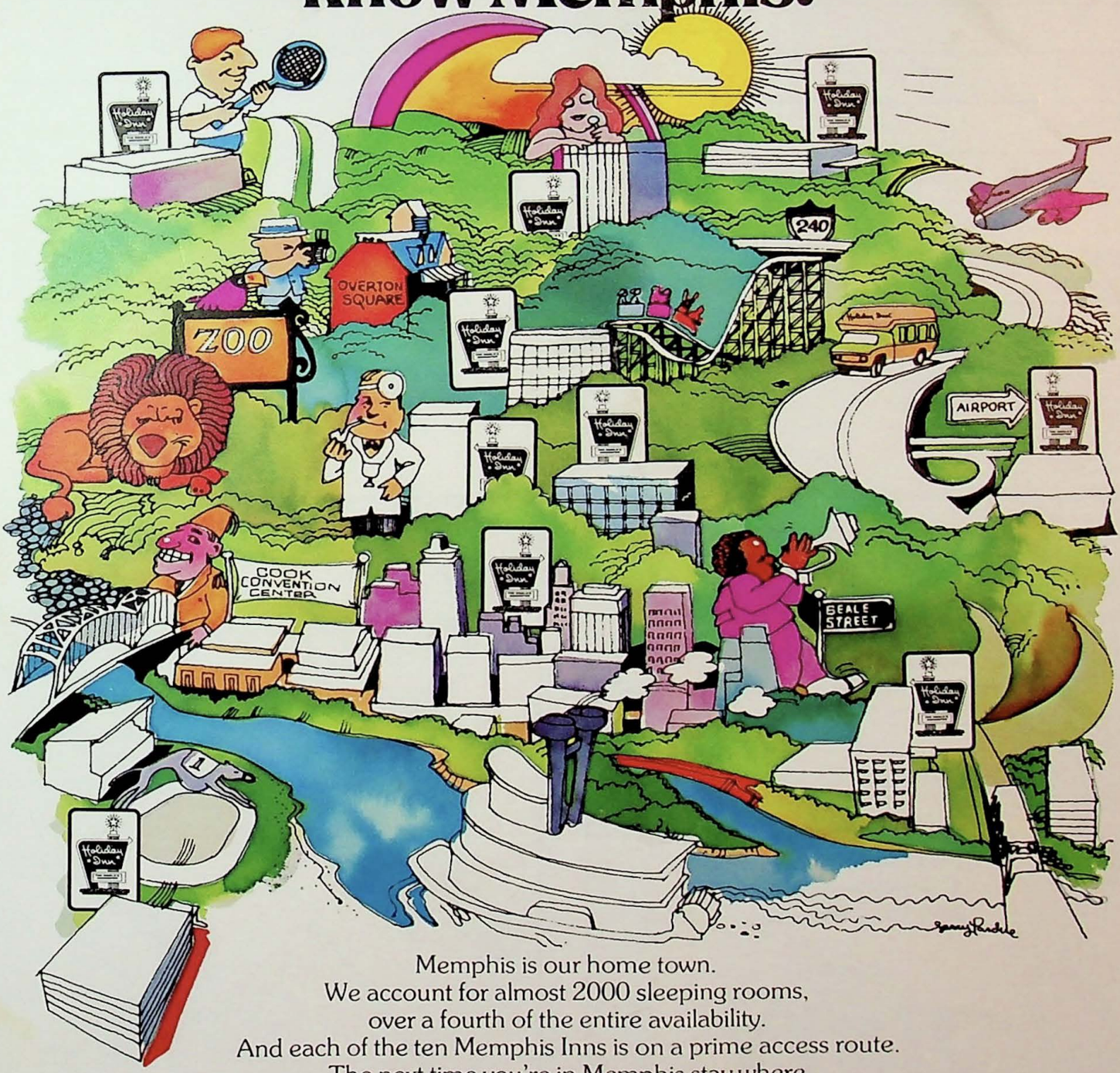
1974 Champion — Johnny Hennen




*Continued on page 20*

Vic WEIDERHOFFER

# When you know you're coming to Memphis, come to the people who know Memphis.

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Holiday Inns, Inc.
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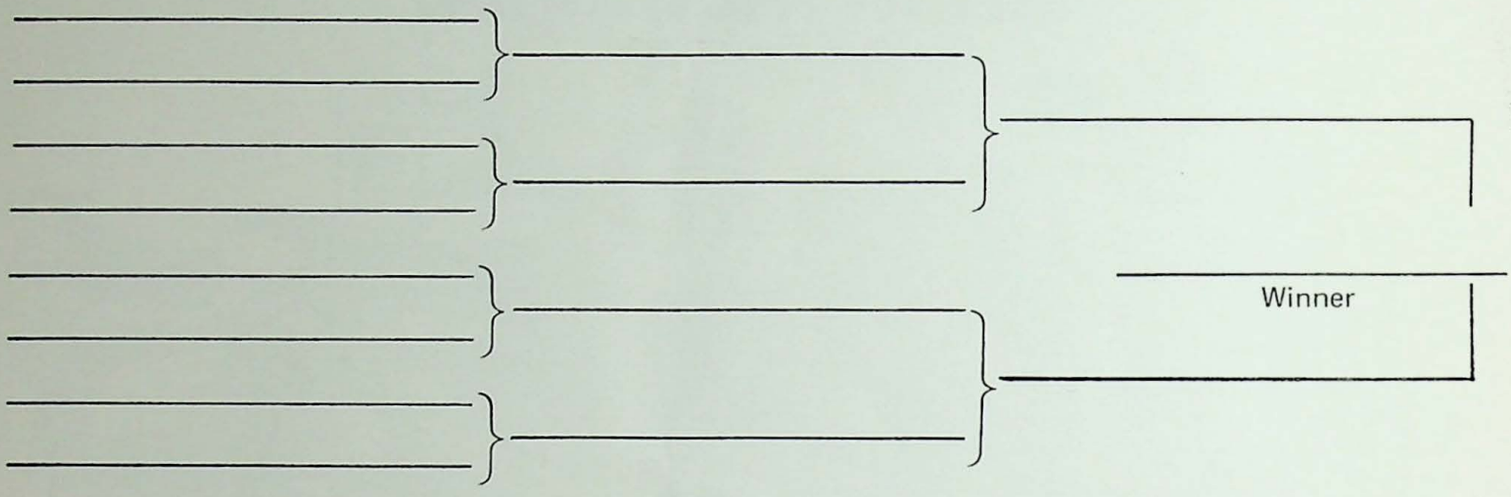
Memphis, TN 38116

# Holiday Inn Racquetball Tour...

SENIORS

1974 Champion — Charlie Garfinkel

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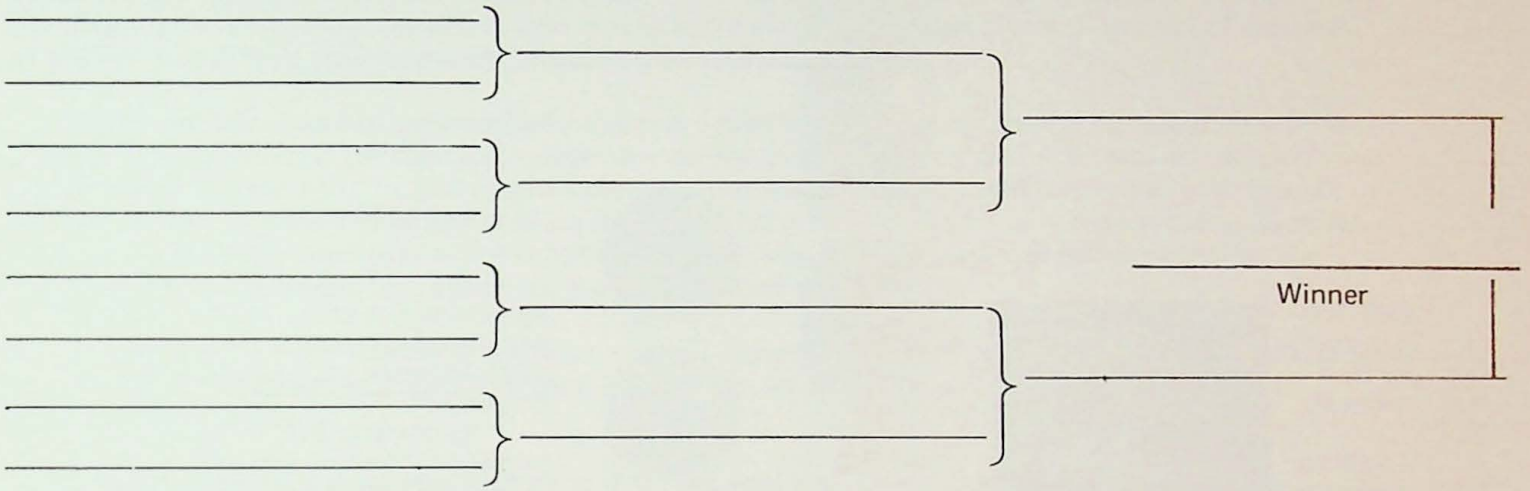
MASTERS

1974 Champion — Glenn Turpin



Good Luck to all participants in the Tanner National Pro-Am Racquetball Tournament. The Backwall invites you to catch the Cleveland Pro-Am April 8-11.

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Grisanti's
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Welcomes you to Memphis and the Tanner Racquetball Tournament.

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# Introducing a racquetball that will top any ball you've ever played.

AMF Voit is rolling out its hot new Roll Out™ racquetball.

Here's an I.R.A.-approved ball that will out-bounce, out-rebound, out-perform any ball around.

Prove it to yourself with a good old-fashioned drop test. Those extra inches of bounce promise the liveliest game you've ever played.

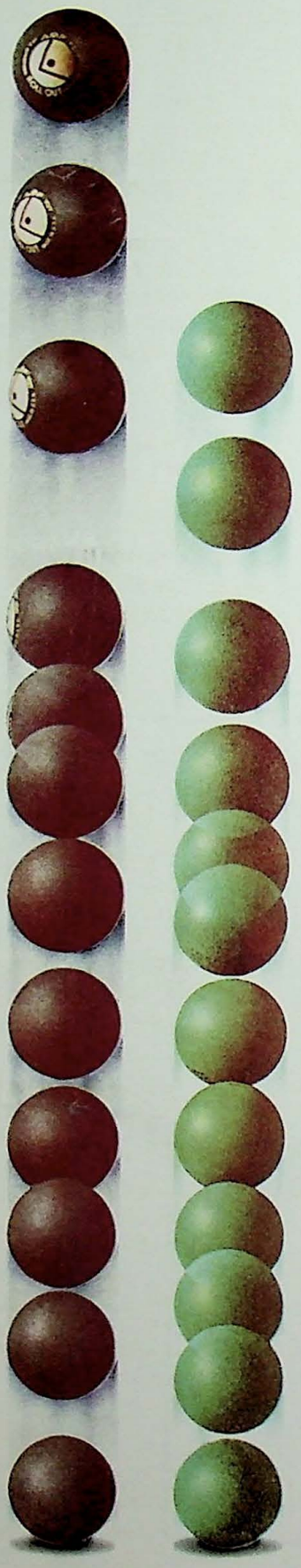
But the Roll Out is more than just a hot ball. For one thing, it's more accurate because it's rounder. Hold it up against the ball you've been using and you'll see the difference immediately. Other balls tend to bulge at the "poles" which makes them bounce erratically and wobble in flight. Which can mess up your best shots.

The Roll Out ball, on the other hand, is formed in precision molds which produce not only a rounder but also a better balanced ball because the wall thickness is more uniform.

The result is a precision ball that lets you play your very best game.

The Roll Out is also tops in durability. Super strong seam construction virtually eliminates the major cause of ball failure.

Exhaustive comparison testing proves the point. Using a modified pitching machine set to deliver balls at 90 mph against a concrete target, we measured the failure rate of the Roll Out ball against two versions (green and black) of the most popular ball in use today. The results were outstanding: after 500 repetitions, 81 percent of the green balls had broken. And the black version was just slightly better with a failure rate of 56 percent.



By comparison, only a scant 8 percent of the Roll Out balls failed prior to 500. Concrete proof that the rugged Roll Out ball will be around long after the others have split.

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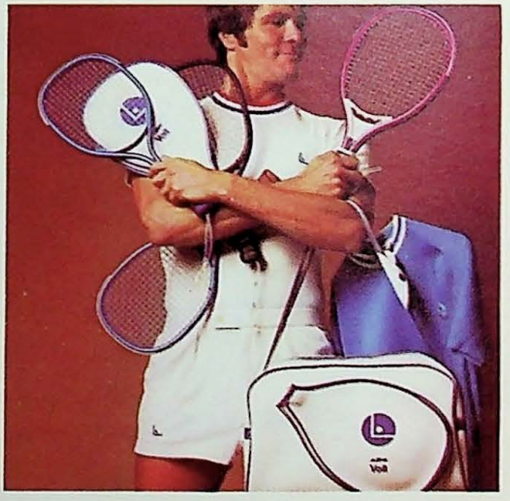

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AMF Voit

"Facts about Racquetball" continued from page 14

—— You must give your opponent not only an unimpeded view of the ball, but also a direct path to the ball? It should not be necessary for your opponent to run around you (or your partner, in doubles) to reach the ball. Failure to do so shall result in a hinder call and, if in the judgment of the referee, you had an opportunity to do so and failed, then you should be called for an avoidable hinder resulting in either loss of point or handout whatever the situation.

You are also at all times obligated to permit your opponent a free and uninhibited swing at the ball. As participants in a national tournament, you should be aware at all times of the location of the ball and the direction it is traveling; therefore, you should make every reasonable effort to get out of the path of the ball and permit your opponent unobstructed movement towards it.

—— Bodily contact does not automatically indicate a hinder? This hinder should be called only if, in the judgment of the referee, the contact impedes the ability of the receiving player to get into proper position to strike the ball. In that regard a player whose backswing is impeded may call interference as soon as contact is made and before striking the ball. This is the only call a play may make — all other calls are made at the discretion of the referee. A player who fails to make this call is bound by the results of his swing, unless the referee has seen the contact and calls it.

—— A crotch ball on the front wall is always an out? However, the very reasoning that makes this ball an out indicates that a rear wall crotch on service is in play, as is a three wall serve that strikes the crotch on the third wall.

—— A ball that leaves the court after hitting the front wall shall be considered dead and the ball replayed? However, a player who hits the ball out of the court while attempting to hit the back wall first shall be penalized with either loss of service or point, as the case may be.

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# "Top Notch"

The following rankings are the final results of ratings from fifteen experts across the country. These fifteen people have had the opportunity to see all of the players from coast to coast. So, they are quite valid. That doesn't mean they won't be changed a year from now.

As for the balloting itself, it could not have been closer. In some of the closer balloting, Steve Keeley and Steve Strandemo tied at No. 3 on the list of the best players today. Jim Austin and Craig McCoy tied for fifth on the best backhand list. Bill Thurman and Davey Bledsoe tied for fifth for players with the best serves, and Keeley and Strandemo again tied for No. 3 in ceiling game department. Charlie Brumfield edged Dr. Bud Muehleisen by one vote; as the game's best doubles player.

Final rankings were taken right from the players own balloting. We are not releasing the experts names, as they do value their lives, and some have families.

Look at the rankings, and discuss them with your friends. We know there are some surprises, but that's what racquetball is all about. Isn't it?

**5 Top Men Players**

1. Charlie Brumfield
2. Steve Serot
3. Steve Keeley
4. Steve Strandemo
5. Bill Schmidtke

**3 Top Women Players**

1. Peggy Steding
2. Jan Pasternak
3. Jan Campbell

**5 Best Forehands**

1. Bill Schmidtke
2. Dr. Bud Muehleisen
3. Charlie Brumfield
4. Jerry Hilecher
5. Steve Keeley

**Honorable Mention** — Serot, Strandemo, and Roderick

**5 Best Backhands**

1. Steve Serot
2. Steve Keeley
3. Charlie Brumfield
4. Steve Strandemo
5. Jim Austin (tie)
5. Craig McCoy (tie)

**5 Smartest Players.**

1. Charlie Brumfield
2. Dr. Bud Muehleisen
3. Steve Strandemo
4. Bill Dunn
5. Steve Keeley

**Honorable Mention** — Schmidtke and Garfinkel

**5 Players with Best Serves**

1. Charlie Brumfield
2. Dr. Bud Muehleisen
3. Bill Dunn
4. Steve Strandemo
5. Davey Bledsoe (tie)
5. Bill Thurman (tie)

**Honorable Mention** — Bill Schmidtke and Steve Keeley

**5 Best Return of Serves**

1. Charlie Brumfield
2. Steve Serot
3. Steve Strandemo
4. Steve Keeley
5. Bill Dunn

**Honorable Mention** — Craig McCoy

**5 Players with Best Ceiling Games**

1. Charlie Brumfield
2. Bill Dunn
3. Steve Keeley (tie)
3. Steve Strandemo (tie)
5. Steve Serot

**Honorable Mention** — Craig McCoy

**5 Fastest Players**

1. Davey Bledsoe
2. Steve Serot
3. Charlie Brumfield
4. Steve Strandemo
5. Mike Zeitman

**Honorable Mention** — Roderick, Keeley, Thurman, and Wagner

**Five Hardest Hitters**

1. Steve Serot
2. Jerry Hilecher
3. George Rudysz
4. Mike Zeitman
5. Bill Thurman

**Honorable Mention** — Brumfield, McCoy, and Bledsoe

**5 Players with Best Potential**

1. Craig McCoy
2. Davey Bledsoe
3. Marty Hogan
4. Richie Wagner
5. Eric Campbell

**5 Best Sportsmen on the Court**

1. Steve Keeley
2. Bill Schmidtke
3. Charlie Garfinkel
4. Craig McCoy
5. Kenny Wong

**Honorable Mention** — Austin, Dunn, and Muehleisen

**5 Best Doubles Players**

1. Charlie Brumfield
2. Dr. Bud Muehleisen
3. Steve Serot
4. Mike Zeitman
5. Craig McCoy

**Honorable Mention** — Charlson, Thurman, Strandemo

**Top Ten — All Time**

1. Charlie Brumfield
2. Bill Schmidtke
3. Dr. Bud Muehleisen
4. Steve Serot
5. Steve Keeley
6. Craig Finger
7. Steve Strandemo
8. Paul Lawrence
9. Ron Rubenstein
10. Mike Zeitman

**Honorable Mention** — Hilecher, Porco, and Garfinkel

Honorable Mention was only included in the categories where the players warranted enough votes to be rated.


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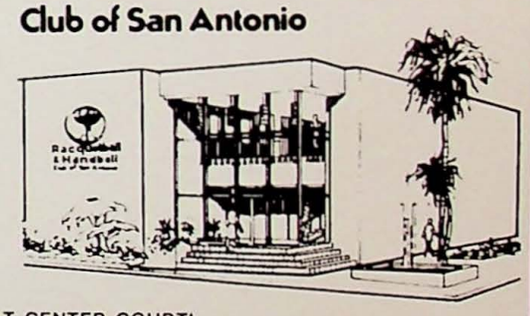

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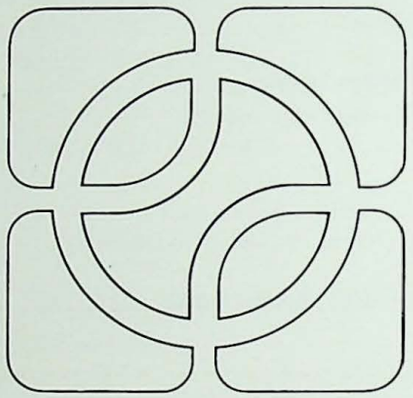

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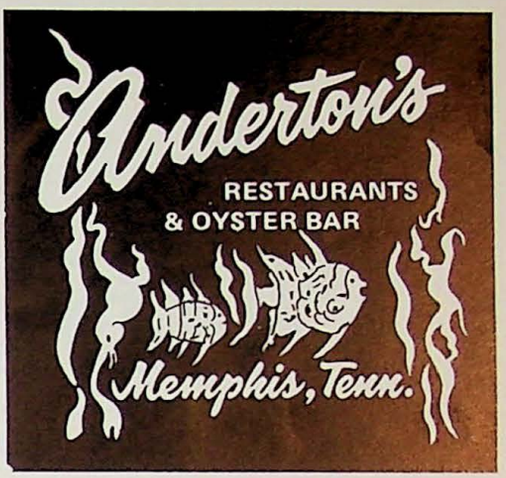
## Practice makes Perfect

Why should a racquetball player spend time practicing such fundamental skills as serving, stroking, shot-making, backwall play and footwork? Psychological studies indicate that over-learning needs to take place before an individual can execute a motor skill correctly, i.e. the skill must be practiced until it becomes part of his neuromuscular pattern.

No amount of knowledge and understanding of the game can substitute for the practicing of these fundamental skills. They should be practiced until they can be performed automatically. The racquet should feel natural in the hand and literally become a part of the player. The use of repetitive drills is an excellent way of developing these skills. In this way contact between racquet and ball will be coordinated to permit good timing and stroking.

For efficient learning to take place make your practice sessions meaningful by having a plan of attack and following it intently. To relieve the monotony that often accompanies repetitive drills, try to imagine or simulate actual playing conditions. However, do not practice when tired. For best results, work progressively mastering the easier drills before moving on to more complex.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November 14-16

Memphis Pro-Am
(Local Sponsor: Wm. B. Tanner Co., Inc.)
Memphis, Tennessee
December 19-21

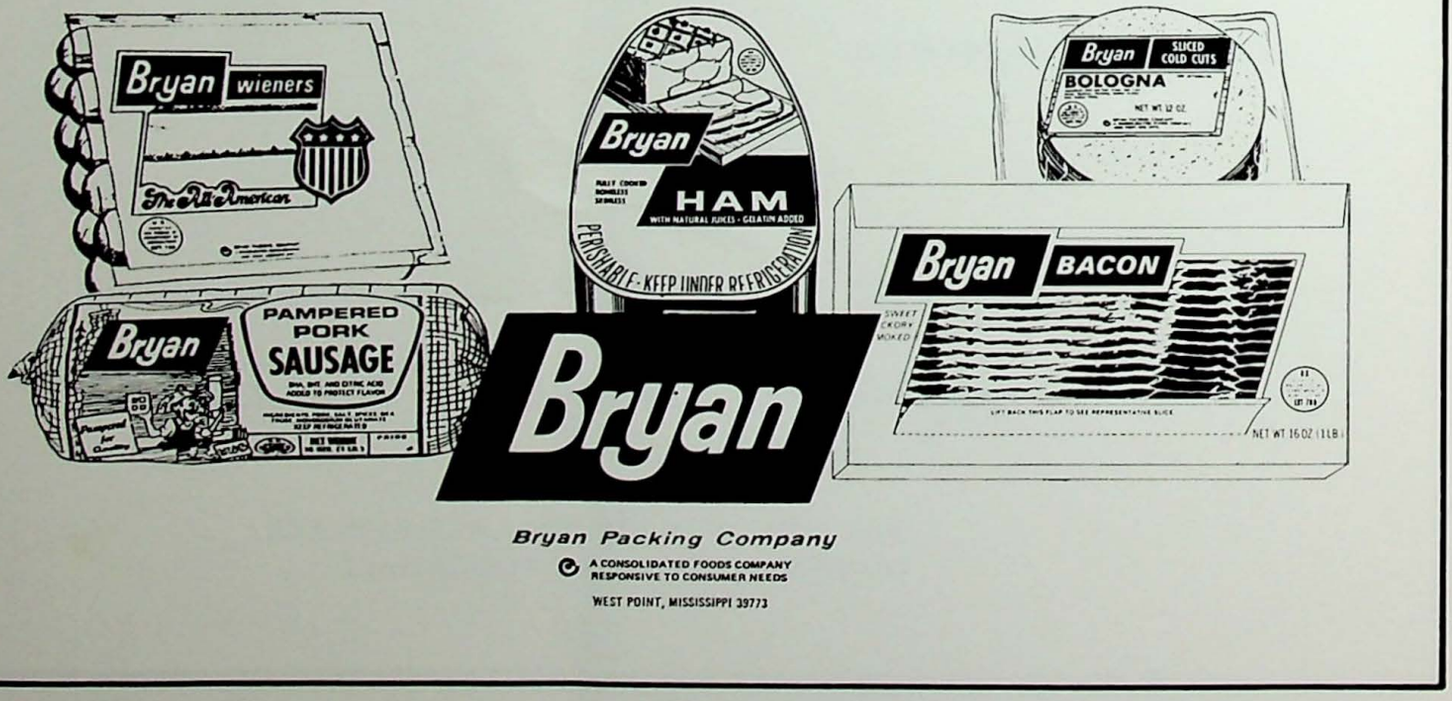
St. Louis Pro-Am
St. Louis, Missouri
January 8-11

San Antonio Pro-Am
(Local Sponsor: Racquetball & Handball Club of San Antonio)
San Antonio, Texas
February 12-15

San Francisco Pro-Am
(Local Sponsor: Supreme Courts)
San Francisco, California
March 11-14

Cleveland Pro-Am
(Local Sponsor: The Back Wall)
Cleveland, Ohio
April 8-11

International Racquetball Association Pro-Am Singles
Chattanooga, Tennessee
May 27-30



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# Up and Coming

From a modest beginning in Connecticut in the early 1950's, racquetball has enjoyed an enormous growth. The International Racquetball Association estimates that in the last 5 years the racquetball-playing public expanded to half a million. And what a diversified public it attracts – doctors, lawyers, wallpaperers, wrestlers, housewives, even former roller skating stars, running the gamut from kids to seniors. . .a testimony to the sport's universal appeal.

1974 was the year that saw racquetball begin to emerge from the ranks of obscure amateur sports. Now in 1975 we find that racquetball has finally come of age. The sport. . .the equipment. . .the players, particularly the players have developed such a degree of finesse, accompanied by superb physical conditioning and stamina placing the game of racquetball in the light of professionalism.

Racquetball needs exposure to the American people and for exposure on a wide scale, television coverage must be utilized. Television executives have expressed their interest to become even greater with an outstanding pro-circuit. . .even a pro-celebrity tournament.

Indeed greatness is a goal. Eight top players in the world have signed contracts with the IRA and a spectacular series of six pro-amateur tournaments have made the 1975 season a great one. Racquetball has had an exciting history and an even brighter future is before us. . ."You ain't seen nothin' yet. . ."

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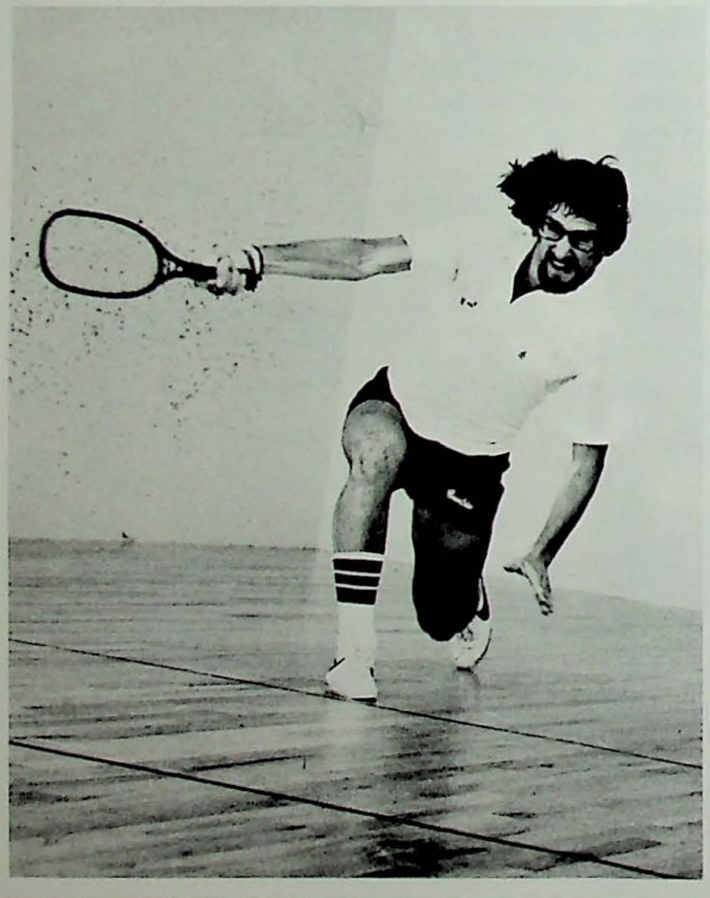

The CHAMPION'S VIEW

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## Tournament Tips

A guide to help assure that
your tournament runs smoothly

1. **Appoint someone from your group to act as the tournament director.**
2. **Inform meeting attendees of your tournament in pre-convention mailings.**
3. **At the same time that hotel rooms are booked, reserve your courts at the hours you will need them.**
4. **Find out how a medical emergency on the courts can be handled.**
5. **Alert everyone as to what time the tournament begins and about when you expect it to be over.**
6. **Design the tournament to give participants maximum playing time.**
7. **Award prizes that are meaningful and have lasting value to the winners.**
8. **Arrange for food and beverages.**


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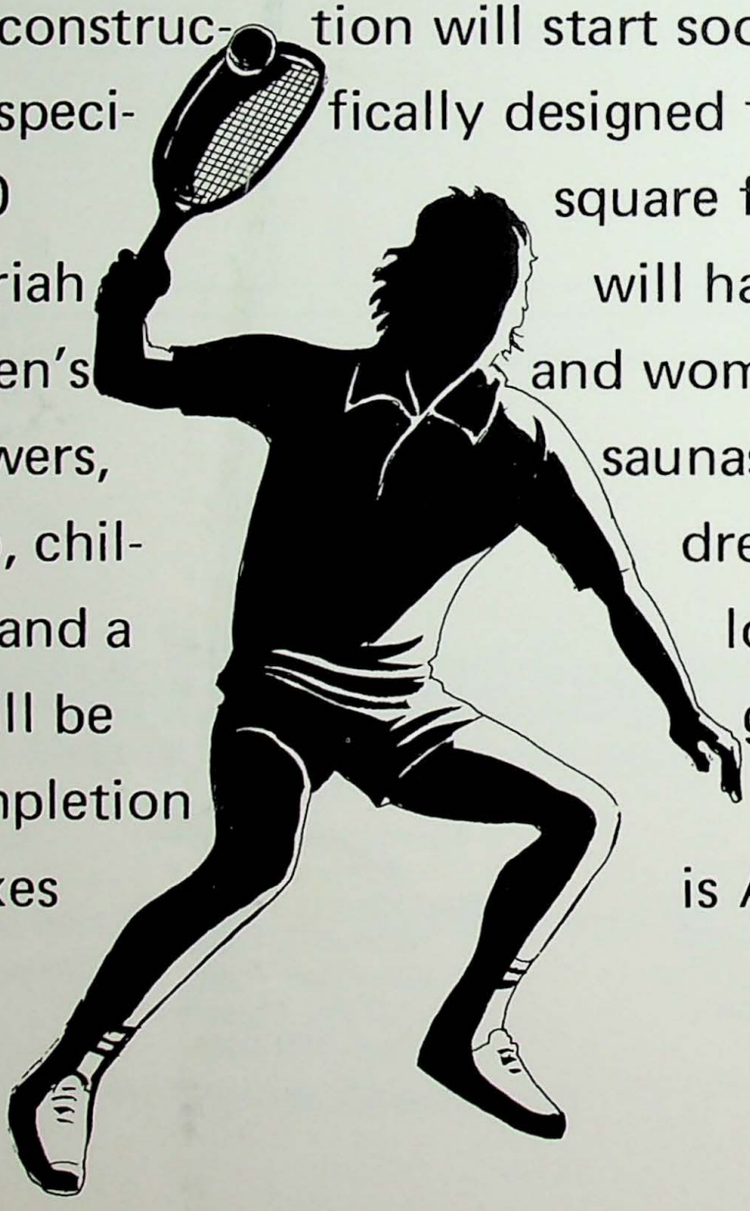

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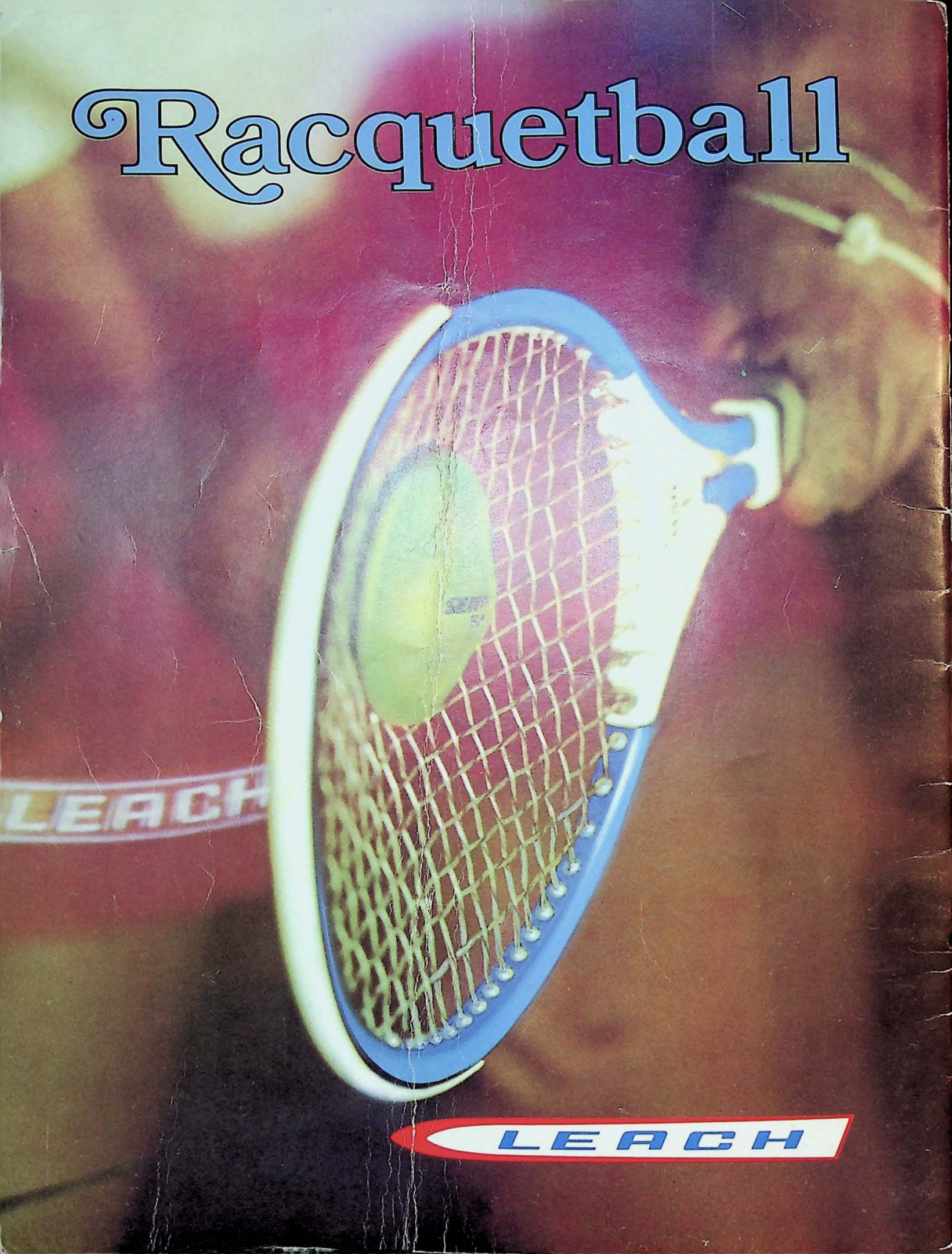
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